Mexico's Most Polluted Rivers

The New River: the most severely polluted river of its size within the United States. The New River receives contamination from agricultural drainage, raw sewage and industrial waste.

Three-quarters of the Tijuana River watershed is located within Mexico. Mexico currently lacks water treatment processing standards and garbage programs, this combined with increasing population, has resulted in large amounts of human and industrial sewage, plastics and other forms of garbage accumulating in the river.

The Lerma River: Basin is the lifetime of the city of Toluca, the capital of the State of Mexico, with approximately 1.5 million inhabitants living in the metropolitan area and 2.5 million living throughout the basin. Little or no emphasis on wastewater treatment or recycling has been imposed upon waste emitting economic activities.

The Rio Bravo (Rio Grande) is one of North America's longest rivers with a length of 3,034 kilometers. Five major Mexican-Spanish colonial cities along the river continue to grow, the Rio Grande becomes more polluted from the disposal of garbage, sewage and agricultural wastes, including pesticides, into the river.

The Rio Conchos basin is one of the most important river systems in the arid region of northern Mexico. The river has been converted into the biggest collection system for contaminated agricultural and municipal wastewater. This pollution threatens the fresh water supply to surrounding urban areas.

The Contazonico River mouth is one of the most commercial and industrial ports in the Gulf of Mexico. The river is among the world's most contaminated rivers, this is due to the lack of environmental laws protecting public water, and the presence of the polluting petrochemical industry of Mexico.

Data retrieved from WWU and ESRI, 2008 River Data. See resource page World Mercator Projection.