

**XXIII Border Governors' Conference  
Environment Work Table  
Summary of Achievements 1997-2005**



**Torreón, Coahuila  
July 15, 2005**

## INTRODUCTION

The Environment Work Table Summary of Achievements 1997-2005 is an attempt to review general progress made towards fulfillment of items included in the Environment Section of the annual Border Governors' Conference Joint Declaration since 1997. As a result of joint, cooperative and individual state efforts, **70** out of **72** issues included in the Border Governors' Conference Joint Declarations since then have had a positive outcome.

Activities undertaken by the environmental agencies of the ten U.S.-Mexico border states are presented in a condensed manner in this document. Detailed information pertaining individual states' activities in the border region may be obtained at:

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>Arizona</b>         | <a href="http://www.azdeq.gov">http://www.azdeq.gov</a>   |
| <b>Baja California</b> | <a href="http://www.bajacalifornia.gob.mx/ecologia/portal.htm">http://www.bajacalifornia.gob.mx/ecologia/portal.htm</a>                                       |
| <b>California</b>      | <a href="http://www.calepa.ca.gov">http://www.calepa.ca.gov</a>   |
| <b>Chihuahua</b>       | <a href="http://www.chihuahua.gob.mx">http://www.chihuahua.gob.mx</a>   |
| <b>Coahuila</b>        | <a href="http://servidor.seplade-coahuila.gob.mx">http://servidor.seplade-coahuila.gob.mx</a>   |
| <b>New Mexico</b>      | <a href="http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us">http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us</a>   |
| <b>Nuevo León</b>      | <a href="http://nl.nl.gob.mx/?P=medio_ambiente">http://nl.nl.gob.mx/?P=medio_ambiente</a>   |
| <b>Sonora</b>          | <a href="http://www.sonora.gob.mx">http://www.sonora.gob.mx</a>   |
| <b>Tamaulipas</b>      | <a href="http://www.tamaulipas.gob.mx/gobierno/secretarias/sec_obras/dir_med_amb">http://www.tamaulipas.gob.mx/gobierno/secretarias/sec_obras/dir_med_amb</a> |
| <b>Texas</b>           | <a href="http://www.tceq.state.tx.us">http://www.tceq.state.tx.us</a>   |

**BORDER GOVERNORS' CONFERENCE**  
**Environment Work Table**

**Summary of Achievements 1997-2005**  
**Outline**

Items from the Environment Section of annual Border Governors' Joint Declarations since 1997 have arranged in different sub-sectors, as follows:

| <b><u>Sub-sector</u></b>           | <b><u>Page</u></b> |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>WATER</b>                       | 1                  |
| <b>AIR</b>                         | 3                  |
| <b>HAZARDOUS &amp; SOLID WASTE</b> | 6                  |
| <b>CROSS-MEDIA TOOLS</b>           |                    |
| I. Capacity Building               | 8                  |
| II. Environmental Education        | 10                 |
| III. Environmental Health          | 12                 |
| IV. Environmental Information      | 13                 |
| V. Pollution Prevention            | 16                 |
| VI. Public Outreach                | 17                 |
| VII. Research / Technology         | 18                 |
| <b>POLICY &amp; PLANNING</b>       |                    |
| I. BECC/ NADB                      | 19                 |
| II. Funding                        | 22                 |
| III. Legal Framework               | 26                 |
| IV. Program Development            | 27                 |
| V. Ten State Coordination          | 29                 |

| Declaration Item (BGC #, Year)  | Outcomes   |
|---|--|
| <p>1. To establish programs for pollution prevention and reduction, recycling, reuse and <u>water conservation</u> throughout the region (XV, 1997).</p>  | <p>All ten states have undertaken efforts in water conservation, which include water conservation campaigns in all water use sectors, education programs for children, projects for the sustainable development of watersheds and initiatives for drought management. Additionally, technical assistance on the development and implementation of industrial wastewater monitoring and pretreatment programs has been provided to interested Mexican states by their cross-border US state.</p>  |
| <p>2. Protect shared water resources in the border region by encouraging appropriate state and federal agencies to promote conservation policies for all water use sectors (XVIII, 2000).</p>   | <p>Within the Border 2012 framework, states are working with federal authorities to identify opportunities for improvement in overall water and wastewater system efficiencies in the border cities.</p>   |
| <p>3. Promote water conservation and water quality improvement methods for addressing border water issues, including the designation of a “Border Water Conservation Day,” in recognition that a clean and sufficient supply of water is key to the sustainable development of the border region (XIX, 2001).</p> | <p>All ten states have declared March 22 as “Border Water Conservation Day”. Within the Border 2012 framework, states are working with federal authorities to assess significant shared and transboundary surface waters and achieve a majority of water quality standards currently being exceeded in those water.</p> <p>Actions undertaken by states for the conservation and sustainable development of the water resources in the border region include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Issuance of local water conservation ordinances.</li> <li>✚ Implementation of cooperative binational industrial wastewater treatment and monitoring programs.</li> </ul>  |
| <p>4. We governors agree that water should be a priority issue in the binational agenda and will work jointly to identify measures of cooperation on drought management, conservation and sustainable management of the water resources in the border region (XIX, 2001).</p>                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Implementation of wastewater sanitation projects.</li> <li>✚ Development of master plans to maximize the efficiency of potable water, wastewater and wastewater treatment services.</li> <li>✚ Development and implementation of drought management plans.</li> <li>✚ Strengthening institutional capacity.</li> <li>✚ Training courses on water conservation and sustainable use of water for elementary school teachers.</li> <li>✚ On-going outreach campaigns on the importance of water conservation, including design and distribution of brochures, posters, coloring books for children and manuals on the use and conservation of water.</li> <li>✚ Development of multi-sectorial action plans, including local and state governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector.</li> <li>✚ Conducting education campaigns for the public and elected officials regarding the appropriate treatment and uses of greywater and recycled water.</li> </ul> |

| Declaration Item (BGC #, Year)  | Outcomes  |
|---|---|
| 5. Coordinate and promote local or state management systems to conserve and optimize water use (XX, 2002).  | <p>Actions undertaken by states include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Development of guides to well owners for the protection of drinking water sources.</li> <li>✚ Implementation of pilot projects to test methods to remove arsenic from drinking water.</li> </ul>  |
| 6. The governors agree on the need to encourage a water conservation and management program (XX, 2002).   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Development of stormwater management plans.</li> <li>✚ Implementation of erosion control demonstration projects in river basins.</li> <li>✚ Certification of projects directed to improve water and wastewater treatment to border residents.</li> <li>✚ Development of a wastewater policy for the above ground use of reclaimed domestic wastewater ("reclaimed wastewater") to ensure protection of public health and the environment.</li> <li>✚ Implementation of projects to develop best management practices for the reuse and land application of dairy wastewater to protect ground water quality and human health.</li> </ul> |
| 7. Request that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT) host a U.S.-Mexico strategic planning session to address management issues of shared water resources in the border region and provide additional funding for expanded monitoring of shared watersheds (XXI, 2003). | <p>This issue was turned to the Water Sub-Committee.</p>  |

**Water Sub-Committee.** A Water Sub-Committee was created in 2003 within the organizational structure of the Border Governors' Conference. The Water Sub-Committee is developing a work plan among the ten border States to identify and promote water related initiatives, and facilitate the permanent exchange of data and information regarding surface and ground water along the border, emphasizing the extreme phenomena of drought and water excess.

| Declaration Item (BGC #, Year)   | Outcomes  |
|--|---|
| <p>8. To promote programs in the United States and Mexico that curtail emissions in motor carriers and private vehicles, and encourage both countries to take constructive measures to upgrade their respective emissions and compliance standards (XV, 1997).</p> | <p>The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Mexican Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT) implemented the Border Air Quality Strategy (BAQS). The BAQS seeks to ensure a reduction in air pollution for the benefit of border residents. Recognizing that pilot projects could spur the progressive development of innovative air quality approaches, the BAQS builds on existing efforts by helping to improve exchange of information and encouraging coordinated planning, management and innovation.</p> <p>States are working with federal and local governments to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Characterize truck emissions at the US-Mexico border.</li> <li>+ Reduce diesel emissions through engine retrofits.</li> <li>+ Develop diesel emissions control and mitigation programs for mobile sources and non-road diesel engines.</li> <li>+ Use alternative fueled vehicles.</li> <li>+ Develop, improve and harmonize engine standards and fuel quality standards.</li> <li>+ Strengthen vehicle inspection and maintenance programs.</li> </ul> |
| <p>9. Support the implementation of infrastructure projects so as to contribute to the improvement of air quality along the border (XVI, 1998).</p>  | <p>The ten border states are involved in joint initiatives with the US and Mexican federal governments and local governments to increase the knowledge about pollution sources on both sides of the border, establish monitoring networks in key areas, conduct emission inventories, build local capacity through training, develop public education and outreach programs for clean air, introduce control measures to reduce air pollution, and explore the possibility of implementing cross-border emission reduction credit programs.</p> <p>Coordination with other federal authorities such as the Departments of Commerce and Transportation to further the goal of obtaining resources for binational projects directed toward reducing trans-boundary air pollution has been initiated by states.</p>  |

| Declaration Item (BGC #, Year)   | Outcomes  |
|--|---|
| <p>10. Request that the federal governments of both countries allocate funding to implement environmental infrastructure projects related to air quality along the border, in support of local government air quality corrective strategies for mobile sources (vehicles) and area sources (unpaved roads) that contribute to air pollution, in order to protect the health of border residents and visitors (XVII, 1999).</p> | <p>The Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC) and the North American Development Bank (NADB) expanded their respective mandates to include projects that improve air quality. Significant progress has been made by BECC and NADB in the development and financing of projects for air quality improvement along the border, especially street paving projects in areas with high PM10 concentrations. Other air quality projects currently under review relate to installation of emission control equipment for stationary sources.</p> <p>BECC received grants from EPA to conduct a pilot program for street paving with rubberized asphalt and to conduct a program for monitoring and inventorying emissions from diesel powered vehicles. The NADB approved a total of US \$37,120 million for air quality improvement projects.</p>   |
| <p>11. Work with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT), and the Western Governors' Association (WGA) to develop projects which improve air quality in the U.S.-Mexico border region (XX, 2002).</p>  | <p>Actions undertaken by states include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Active participation in respective regional programs such as the Air Quality Management Programs for Tijuana, Mexical and Ambos Nogales, the Joint Advisory Committee for the Improvement of Air Quality in the Paso del Norte Airshed, and the NAFTA Corridor.</li> <li>✚ Active participation in the development of a border region emissions inventory.</li> <li>✚ Development and implementation of state-to-state pilot scale vehicle emissions inventory projects.</li> <li>✚ Research activities focusing on regional pollution, visibility and transport of air pollution.</li> <li>✚ Training to build capacity on certification for air quality monitoring.</li> <li>✚ Development of paving projects.</li> <li>✚ Development of alternatives to decrease emissions from the brick manufacturing industry.</li> <li>✚ Organization of conferences on air quality issues.</li> </ul> |
| <p>12. Promote the development of an environmental strategy for new electrical generation plants in the border region with the goal of protecting air quality, and, where possible, conserving water resources in the region (XX, 2002).</p>   | <p>This issue was turned to the Energy Work Table.</p>  |

| <b>Declaration Item (BGC #, Year)</b>   | <b>Outcomes</b>   |
|---|---|
| 13. Promote the availability and use of ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel in border communities aimed at reducing air pollutants and, thus, improving air quality in the border region (XXII, 2004). | <p>The Environment Work Table U.S. Co-Chair sent a letter to the U.S. Secretary of State requesting that the topic of introducing ultra-low sulfur diesel be discussed at the Bi-National Commission meeting that took place in October 2004. Such discussions took place, however funding for making the required modifications to Mexico's refineries has not been appropriated.</p> <p>Mexican states have hold meetings with representatives from Petróleos Mexicanos and appropriate federal authorities to request that the border region be a priority area for the distribution of ultra-low sulfur diesel.</p> |

| Declaration Item (BGC #, Year)  | Outcomes  |
|---|---|
| <p>14. To establish programs for <u>pollution prevention and reduction, recycling, reuse</u> and water conservation throughout the region (XV, 1997).</p>   | <p>The ten border states environmental agencies set November 15 as “Border Recycling Day”. Actions undertaken by states include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Creation of local centers for recycling materials, including household waste.</li> <li>✚ Development of recycling programs for waste tires, used oil, beverage containers, food waste.</li> </ul>   |
| <p>15. Designate November 15 as “Border Recycling Day” during which each border community will implement programs and disseminate information to promote this activity (XVI, 1998).</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Implementation of recycling programs for state agencies.</li> <li>✚ Introduction of incentives for the development of recycling markets.</li> <li>✚ Development of educational campaigns for school children on waste reduction and recycling.</li> <li>✚ Technical assistance to business owners and local communities to set up and operate successful waste reduction programs.</li> <li>✚ Organization and participation in conferences and workshops to promote waste reduction and recycling.</li> <li>✚ Issuance of awards and certificates to individuals, community organizations, schools, business and industry representatives to recognize efforts and accomplishments towards waste reduction and recycling.</li> </ul>  |
| <p>16. Request that the North American Development Bank (NADBANK) and the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC) as well as federal agencies on both nations, work within their existing charters and in collaboration with state governments, to resolve used-tire disposal problems and allocate funding to address industrial solid waste, biomedical, and hazardous waste facilities in the border region (XVII, 1999).</p> | <p>Since November 1999, the NADB has implemented the Solid Waste Environmental Program (SWEP) to address municipal solid waste and waste tire issues. In November 2000, as a consequence of the Banks’ mandate expansion, the Solid Waste Project Development Program (SWPD) was launched. The SWPD provides technical assistance to municipal solid waste management projects. None of these programs addresses biomedical wastes. Involvement of BECC/NADB also included organizing the first bi-national workshop on scrap tire management on the border. With grant funding from EPA, BECC has been supporting a pilot program for street paving with rubberized asphalt and a project for the use of scrap tires as an alternative fuel.</p> <p>EPA is developing waste tires GIS maps for the US-Mexico border, which will include tire piles locations and size. Within the Border 2012 framework, states are working together with the EPA and SEMARNAT to clean up three of the largest sites with abandoned waste tires in the border region, to improve institutional and infrastructure capacity for the management of hazardous waste and toxic substances (including the implementation of demonstration projects), and to develop a binational policy of clean-up and restoration of abandoned sites contaminated with hazardous waste or materials.</p> |

| <b>Declaration Item (BGC #, Year)</b>   | <b>Outcomes</b>   |
|---|---|
| <p>17. Request that the federal authorities and the border states continue exchanging information and experiences related to hazardous waste disposal facilities with the intention of protecting the health and well-being of inhabitants, ecosystems, and natural resources in the border region (XVII, 1999).</p>  | <p>On December 1, 1999 EPA and SEMARNAP executed a "Consultation Mechanism" which formalizes the exchange of information regarding existing and proposed hazardous waste facilities in the border region.</p> <p>The four US states have been engaged in cooperation regarding hazardous waste inspections activities along the border.</p> <p>Border 2012 planned activities include the evaluation of current hazardous waste tracking systems in the United States and Mexico, and the development and consolidation of the link between both tracking systems.</p>  |
| <p>18. Request that Mexico's Secretariat of the Environment, Natural Resources and Fisheries (SEMARNAP) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) develop a binational program with state input for environmentally sound handling and management of pesticides, fertilizers and toxic substances used in agriculture and livestock industries in order to protect public health (XVIII, 2000).</p> | <p>Initiatives undertaken by states for the sound management of pesticides and toxic substances include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Demonstration projects for border pesticide poisoning tracking systems.</li> <li>✚ Pesticide safety courses for farmworkers and residential inspectors.</li> <li>✚ Inventories of environmentally-related disease databases.</li> <li>✚ Workshops to conduct a cross-jurisdictional pesticide certification program.</li> <li>✚ Pesticide collection and disposal.</li> <li>✚ Development of projects to report border pesticide use.</li> <li>✚ Education and public outreach activities to reduce children's exposure to environmental contaminants, with a particular emphasis on pesticide use at schools and daycare facilities.</li> </ul> <p>Within the Border 2012 framework, states are working with federal authorities to explore the feasibility of harmonizing a binational system for reporting acute pesticide poisonings.</p> |
| <p>19. Identify integrated strategies for waste tire management along the border, in coordination with appropriate federal authorities, to promote adequate management and recycling, and to reduce health and environmental risks (XX, 2002).</p>  | <p>Actions undertaken by states include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Cooperation with the private sector to explore possibilities for tire recycling.</li> <li>✚ Development of inventories of waste tire generation.</li> <li>✚ Organization of workshops and conferences, in coordination with federal authorities and local governments, to exchange information and discuss comprehensive strategies for waste tire management.</li> <li>✚ Development of technical standards and permit requirements for waste tire facilities.</li> <li>✚ Research and development supporting markets for tire-derived products.</li> </ul>  |

| Declaration Item (BGC #, Year)  | Outcomes   |
|---|--|
| <b>I. Capacity Building (1 of 2)</b>  |  |
| 20. To promote training in hazardous waste transportation, handling and disposal (XV, 1997).  | The state environmental agencies have been engaged in:<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Monitoring and inspection activities.</li> <li>✚ Providing technical assistance and information on hazardous waste issues to other governmental agencies, industry, academia, non-governmental organizations, and the general public.</li> </ul>  |
| 21. Support training and contingency programs for immigration and customs personnel regarding the handling of hazardous waste materials and use (XVI, 1998).  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Workshops on pollution prevention to maquiladoras and the electronics industry.</li> <li>✚ Workshops on the requirements of the U.S. and Mexico for the importation and exportation of hazardous waste.</li> <li>✚ Outreach educational seminars to the U.S. and Mexican border industry involved with management of trans-boundary hazardous waste shipments.</li> <li>✚ Working together with U.S and Mexican federal authorities to provide training and technical assistance to U.S. Customs and Aduana officials for identifying shipments of trans-boundary hazardous waste.</li> </ul> |
| 22. Request that the federal authorities of both countries, in accordance with de Border XXI Coordination Principles, document signed by the Ten States and both federal governments, continue funding the binational training and coordination activities organized by environmental enforcement support institutions, particularly the Western States Project and the Southern Environmental Enforcement Network, and <u>ensure state access to their training activities</u> (XVII, 1999). | <p>The Western States Project and the Southern Environmental Enforcement Network have received further funding for their activities.</p> <p>Binational meetings supported by the Western States Project have included state representation from both sides of the border.</p>  |

| Declaration Item (BGC #, Year)   | Outcomes  |
|--|---|
| <b>I. Capacity Building (2 of 2)</b>   |   |
| <p>23. Request that the North American Development Bank (NADBANK) and the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC) organize and finance the development of decentralized water and wastewater operator certification programs for all border states (XVII, 1999).</p>  | <p>In 1999 the North American Development Bank launched the Utility Management Institute (UMI), a training program aimed at providing practical instruction in the financial administration and planning of water utilities. The basic program was expanded in 2001 to allow for on-site programs targeted to a single large utility or a regional group of utilities. Since its inception, a total of 813 water and wastewater utility professionals, representing 124 border communities in Mexico and the United States, have received training.</p> |
| <p>24. Enhance emergency preparedness among sister cities along the border by updating or developing sister city emergency response plans and <u>supporting community needs for additional binational training and equipment</u> in preparation for chemical emergencies, fires and emerging threats (XX, 2002).</p> | <p>Emergency response plans for the 14 sister cities have been completed. At least half of the sister cities with completed plans have conducted exercises.</p> <p>Within the Border 2012 framework, states are working with federal authorities to explore ways of obtaining and providing necessary personal protective and response equipment for local emergency responders, and to provide training for Mexican emergency responders by US specialists through a binational program.</p>   |

| Declaration Item (BGC #, Year)  | Outcomes   |
|---|--|
| <b>II. Environmental Education (1 of 2)</b>   |  |
| <p>25. To support the creation and implementation of educational programs on environmental health which benefit the inhabitants of the region (XV, 1997).</p>   | <p>Actions undertaken by states include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Development of school materials and training programs on environmental protection and improvement.</li> <li>✚ Distribution of free packets containing reproducible materials for educating others on taking action to improve the environment.</li> </ul>  |
| <p>26. Strengthen educational programs that can prevent environmental contamination in the border region through coordination with local, state and federal governments, and the industrial and academic sectors (XVI, 1998).</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Development and distribution of brochures, posters and flyers on issues such as wastewater treatment, water efficiency, flood management, rainwater collection, air quality, waste reduction and recycling.</li> <li>✚ Outreach campaigns through partnerships with local governments, the private sector, academia, and non-governmental organizations on issues such as pollution prevention, school recycling, water conservation and waste reduction at households, and environmental crime prevention.</li> <li>✚ Development of community cleanup programs in coordination with local governments, community organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector.</li> <li>✚ Development of award and recognition programs.</li> <li>✚ Organization of conferences and workshops.</li> </ul> |
| <p>27. Work with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT) and appropriate public health agencies to reduce environmental risks that affect the health of children and to <u>develop a border-wide environmental education strategy</u> (XXI, 2003).</p> | <p>The ten states submitted a request to the Border 2012 National Coordinators to develop a borderwide environmental education strategy (BEES) within the Border 2012 Program. The BEES is being designed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Create a broad effort to linking environmental education groups along the length of the border.</li> <li>✚ Provide support to local initiatives by facilitating the exchange of information, strategies for binational collaboration, training opportunities, and best practices models.</li> <li>✚ Lead to the identification of environmental education indicators within Border 2012.</li> </ul>   |

| Declaration Item (BGC #, Year)   | Outcomes  |
|--|---|
| <b>II. Environmental Education (2 of 2)</b>  |   |
| 28. Promote the <u>use of environmental education tools</u> and the implementation of research studies aimed at identifying health risks for children that are correlated to environmental conditions in the border region (XXII, 2004). | Actions undertaken by states include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Extensive collaboration among agricultural, health, education and environmental agencies to establish train-the-trainer programs for schools.</li> <li>✚ Development of Environmental Education, Training and Communication Plans.</li> <li>✚ Development of environmental education curricula for school children.</li> <li>✚ Promotion of environmental education tools through Internet.</li> </ul> |

| Declaration Item (BGC #, Year)  | Outcomes  |
|---|---|
| <b>III. Environmental Health</b>  |   |
| <p>29. To support “Ten Against TB” (TATB), a binational collaboration comprised of the ten border states, to develop and implement binational strategies to reduce the spread of tuberculosis in the region (XV, 1997).</p>   | <p>Being this a matter of public health, it was turned to the Health Work Table.</p>  |
| <p>30. To support “Agua para Beber” (Drinking Water), a community-based program aimed at reducing illness by improving water quality through hygiene education and water purification activities in the border areas lacking safe drinking water (XV, 1997).</p>  | <p>In 1998, federal and state governments jointly started the implementation of the Program “Clean Water at Home” . This program aims to educate small border communities on the relationship between basic water sanitation and water borne diseases. Efforts are focused on the importance of water quality improvement, source protection, introduction of wastewater collection systems, promotion of adequate food management, and development of sanitation certification programs.</p>                   |
| <p>31. Work with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT) and appropriate public health agencies to <u>reduce environmental risks that affect the health of children</u> and to develop a border-wide environmental education strategy (XXI, 2003).</p> | <p>As part of the Border 2012 Program, states have an active participation in environmental health Task Forces within their respective Regional Workgroups. Health local and state agencies provide input or are Task Force members.</p> <p>Environmental health Task Forces focus their efforts on education and outreach activities, research studies, and identification of strategies to reduce environmental risks that affect the health of children.</p>   |
| <p>32. Promote the use of environmental education tools and the <u>implementation of research studies aimed at identifying health risks for children</u> that are correlated to environmental conditions in the border region (XXII, 2004).</p>   | <p>States, in conjunction with academic institutions, have developed risk assessment and local epidemiological studies to identify the effects of pollutants on the health of border residents. Research efforts on asthma triggers have been conducted.</p> <p>States are also conducting activities to enhance public awareness and understanding of environmental exposure conditions and health problems. Children’s environmental health outreach efforts in border communities have been carried out.</p> |

| Declaration Item (BGC #, Year)   | Outcomes   |
|--|--|
| <b>IV. Environmental Information (1 of 3)</b>  |  |
| <p>33. To support the implementation of a borderwide electronic information network, develop a geographic information system (GIS) database, and pursue compatible methods for information sharing in cooperation with existing programs (XV, 1997).</p>                             | <p>All six Mexican states have incorporated the use of geographic information systems (GIS) as a tool for environmental management, thus making easier the exchange of information with their respective U.S. states counterparts.</p> <p>All ten states have developed environmental GIS databases and utilized GIS capabilities for multiple purposes, such as: assessment of potential groundwater contamination, analysis of border communities' vulnerability to hazards, evaluation of potential air pollution episodes, sustainable land use management, planning for sustainable development.</p>  |
| <p>34. Strengthen the implementation and the compatibility of geographic information and electronic links for the purpose of having similar tools to support the planning and monitoring of environmental and public health issues (XVI, 1998).</p>                                  | <p>The Southwest Consortium of Environmental Research and Policy (SCERP) conducted projects to create integrated GIS along the border of neighboring U.S.-Mexico communities, as well as transborder training and education activities on the use of GIS technology in border environmental studies. SCERP applied GIS projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ Analysis and modeling of the effects of land use change on hazardous materials sources.</li> <li>✦ Estimation of vulnerability of human populations to hazardous materials incidents.</li> <li>✦ Modeling of sediment movement of chemical contaminants through water and soil.</li> <li>✦ Modeling the geographic location and potential movement pathways of toxic air pollutants and their relationships to human populations.</li> </ul> |
| <p>35. Support and promote actions that lead to the establishment of a unified Geographic Information System (GIS) for the border region to facilitate binational planning, data analysis, and joint problem resolution for environmental and infrastructure issues (XXI, 2003).</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ Ecological characterization and database development for areas of ecosystem concern on the U.S.-Mexico border such as the Tijuana River Watershed, the Lower Colorado Delta, the Upper Santa Cruz Basin, the San Pedro River Basin and the Rio Conchos/ Rio Grande Riparian Area.</li> </ul>  |

| Declaration Item (BGC #, Year)  | Outcomes  |
|---|---|
| <b>IV. Environmental Information (2 of 3)</b>   |   |
| <p>36. To disseminate information regarding the content and technical management of environmental provisions of both countries, including procedures for protecting the environment and promoting the use of harmonized technical terms and methods by environmental agencies (XV, 1997).</p>   | <p>Since 1996, the ten border states environmental authorities come together at least twice year in the annual Ten State Retreat and in the Environment Work Table meeting at the annual Border Governors' Conference. One of the main goals of both meetings is to exchange information on environmental laws and regulations, successful programs, policy issues and technical aspects of environmental projects. Ten state environmental staff hold periodic conference calls to plan and follow-up joint activities.</p> <p>Additionally, all the states have developed state-to-state mechanisms to facilitate cooperative planning, to develop joint efforts to protect the environment, and to exchange information periodically.</p>                            |
| <p>37. Request that the federal governments of both nations ensure state access to hazardous waste databases (HAZTRAKS and SIRREP) to facilitate greater local awareness regarding the transboundary movement of industrial hazardous wastes and materials (XVII, 1999).</p>  | <p>Both federal governments recognized serious limitations in the HAZTRAKS and SIRREP information systems and they have been working to make both systems more useful. The EPA has established a nationally standardized manifest form to improve the tracking of hazardous waste shipments. The new forms will enhance reporting of international waste shipments (exports and imports) by identifying the port of entry/ exit. The Border Compliance Assistance Center is developing a new database containing manifest data for waste imports from Mexico. The data will be accessible from the Border Center website by July 2005. SEMARNAT is improving SIRREP capabilities by integrating hazardous waste import/ export formalities.</p>                         |
| <p>38. Promote sustainable development in the border region by documenting and publicizing successful, low-cost wastewater treatment, water conservation, water reuse, air quality, and solid waste management projects to facilitate future projects that will incorporate elements that have been proven successful (XVII, 1999).</p> | <p>Information on successful experiences related to low-cost wastewater treatment, water conservation, water reuse, air pollution abatement strategies, solid waste management, pollution prevention, energy production, and environmental education is shared among the environmental agencies of the ten states through the annual Ten State Retreat and the Environment Work Table meeting at the annual Border Governors' Conference. As a direct result, the ten states have set a common "Border Recycling Day" (November 15) and a common "Border Water Conservation Day" (March 22). In addition, all ten states have also implemented environmental award and recognition programs, and have engaged in multiple state-to-state environmental initiatives.</p> |

| Declaration Item (BGC #, Year)  | Outcomes   |
|---|--|
| <b>IV. Environmental Information (3 of 3)</b>   |  |
| <p>39. Request that both federal governments inform respective states in writing about proposed projects with potential transboundary environmental impact, and act immediately for the establishment of an international agreement, recognizing that the border states will coordinate and notify all affected states (XVIII, 2000).</p>                                 | <p>The states have worked on developing trans-boundary notification procedures based on state-to-state agreements. Full implementation will occur upon approval of a trans-boundary environmental notification program by the two federal governments.</p> <p>In addition, it will be necessary that the SEMARNAT provides Mexican states notification of federal projects that may have an impact on the environment in state territory. This has not yet happened for all six Mexican states.</p>  |
| <p>40. Establish a system between and among the ten border states, in coordination with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT), for transboundary notification of proposed projects with a potential environmental impact within the 100-kilometer border region (XIX, 2001).</p> | <p>At the 2001 Ten State Retreat, the ten border states environmental authorities met with representatives from the Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores (SRE), the SEMARNAT and the US EPA and expressed their desire to work jointly with the federal agencies to implement trans-boundary notification procedures.</p> <p>Mexican and U.S. states have had further talks with their respective federal authorities on this matter. The U. S. states recommended the implementation of a program that would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Include Mexican and U. S. states in the transfer of information.</li> <li>✚ Not impose on the states any additional or more stringent assessment of environmental impact that already exists in the respective states.</li> </ul> |

| Declaration Item (BGC #, Year)   | Outcomes  |
|--|---|
| <b>V. Pollution Prevention</b>   |   |
| 41. To establish programs for <u>pollution prevention and reduction, recycling, reuse and water conservation throughout the region (XV, 1997).</u>   | <p>Activities undertaken by states include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Establishment of permanent pollution prevention programs and partnerships for pollution prevention among industry and business representatives, and local governments.</li> </ul>  |
| 42. Join the efforts of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT), and the North American Commission on Environmental Cooperation to forge and participate in a U.S.-Mexico border states pollution prevention partnership to integrate pollution prevention in environmental protection. This effort to promote pollution prevention and cleaner production anticipates an increase in environmental innovation that results in a cleaner environment and stronger economy (XX, 2002). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Exchange of information on binational pollution prevention strategies and initiatives, including recognition programs for industry accomplishments.</li> <li>✚ Pollution prevention workshops, including facility tours to showcase successful pollution prevention projects.</li> <li>✚ Pollution prevention meetings to share information and exchange materials on successful waste reduction efforts, and to identify and resolve impediments to implement pollution prevention programs.</li> <li>✚ Environmental excellence awards to outstanding waste reduction initiatives.</li> </ul> <p>The states have received briefings on pollution prevention capacity goals of a partnership initiative developed by the US EPA, the SEMARNAT and the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC). The states have conveyed their interest in participating in the program as it takes a border region focus.</p> |
| 43. Promote the use of Environmental Management Systems (EMS) through a border-wide outreach program to include informational brochures, the use of agency web sites and the development of a publicity campaign. The key benefits of an EMS include: improved environmental performance, competitive advantages, improved compliance, reduced costs, improved public image, and a systematic approach to meeting environmental and business goals (XXII, 2004).   | <p>State environmental agencies are collaborating with industry associations to conduct outreach and training activities on the development and implementation of Environmental Management Systems (EMS) for small to medium size industries.</p> <p>States are also promoting recognition and award programs for high environmental industry performance, as well as programs for voluntary compliance with environmental regulations. Both types of programs incorporate EMS as a key tool for their implementation and success.</p>  |

| Declaration Item (BGC #, Year)   | Outcomes   |
|--|--|
| <b>VI. Public Outreach</b>   |  |
| <p>44. To support the “Clean Border Project”, a cooperative effort with public and private sector sponsorship, in collaboration with industry, maquiladoras, other businesses and state agencies. The “Clean Border Project” would seek to establish and award system for outstanding support of environmental initiatives (XV, 1997).</p> | <p>All ten border states have implemented award and recognition programs either in individual state or in state-to-state fashion. Certificates or awards are issued, among other considerations, in recognition of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Noteworthy accomplishments in support of pollution prevention actions, implementation of environmental management systems, protection, conservation and improvement of the environment, as well as sustainable management of natural resources.</li> <li>✚ Outstanding efforts to integrate the value of environmental protection in the decision-making and the management practices of sustainable development.</li> <li>✚ Implementation of successful education campaigns.</li> </ul> <p>Development of recognition programs included establishing partnerships with industry, academia, local communities, non-governmental organizations, local governments and state education agencies.</p> |
| <p>45. Implement awards and recognition programs for outstanding private and public sectors initiatives to protect the environment (XVI, 1998).</p>  |  |
| <p>46. Implement recognition programs to encourage positive actions towards the protection, conservation and improvement of the environment and the quality of life in the border region, using current state-to-state models as a foundation (XIX, 2001).</p>   |  |

| Declaration Item (BGC #, Year)  | Outcomes  |
|---|---|
| <b>VII. Research / Technology</b>   |   |
| <p>47. To promote the development of low-cost environmental abatement and protection technologies to benefit the region's environmental infrastructure (XV, 1997).</p>  | <p>The Southwest Consortium of Environmental Research and Policy (SCERP) has developed research projects on low-cost technologies applied to water purification, wastewater treatment, wastewater reuse, waste reduction, energy reduction, and energy conservation, among other topics. States have been involved in the development of such projects. States have also been receptive to initiatives undertaken by the private sector.</p>  |
| <p>48. Promote ten state participation in project development, selection, and evaluation with respect to border environmental research projects and technical assistance activities proposed by academic and scientific institutions, such as the Southwest Center for Environmental Research and Policy (SCERP) and the US-Mexico Foundation for Science (FUMEC) (XVII, 1999).</p> | <p>Research institutions have begun integrating state environmental agencies in the development and selection of environmental projects along the border. Collaboration with the SCERP has improved significantly with academic applicants for research projects encouraged to coordinate with state representatives.</p> <p>The SCERP and academia have made several attempts to solicit input on research projects from states environmental agencies and have begun designing research projects in accordance with state recommendations.</p> <p>Ten state representatives actively participate in the SCERP Advisory Council.</p> |

| Declaration Item (BGC #, Year)   | Outcomes  |
|--|---|
| <b>I. BECC / NADB (1 of 3)</b>   |   |
| <p>49. To urge a more efficient and responsive Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC) and North American Development Bank (NADBANK), identifying ways to better allocate NADBANK's economic resources to meet the needs of border communities (XV, 1997).</p>  | <p>The states developed a proposal which included recommendations to strengthen the performance of the BECC and the NADB. The proposal called for an institutional reform that focused at least on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Clarifying the distinctive functions of the BECC and the NADB, eliminating duplicities.</li> <li>✚ Finding mechanisms for the NADB to use its available capital to finance environmental infrastructure projects along the border region.</li> <li>✚ Designing a comprehensive process of certification and financing which guarantees an adequate long term operation of environmental facilities in the border region.</li> </ul>  |
| <p>50. Request that federal authorities support border states' environmental agencies' recommendations regarding the coordination of environmental projects, and direct the NADBANK to accelerate funding of water, wastewater and solid waste projects (XVI, 1998).</p> | <p>The states recommended a unique Board of Directors for both institutions with adequate state representation. They also advised that a Business Process Review (BPR) should be carried out to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Identify overlaps, unattended issues, and policies and practices which generate inefficiencies in the certification and financing processes.</li> <li>✚ Eliminate duplicate requirements.</li> <li>✚ Facilitate applications management to small communities.</li> <li>✚ Institute a process of periodic reviews and accountability.</li> </ul>   |
| <p>51. We (the governors) propose that a letter be sent to the BECC and the NADBANK requesting that they meet with a facilitator and come to an agreement on how they both will meet specific needs outlined by the governors (XIX, 2001).</p>                           | <p>Other state suggestions were directed to enhance local participation in the planning and development of infrastructure projects, leverage resources to finance the development of environmental infrastructure projects, and implement initiatives to make competitive or subsidized interest rates available.</p> <p>The states submitted their recommendations to their respective federal authorities. Both federal governments agreed to adopt state recommendations. A BPR was conducted during 2003-2004 and then subjected to a 60-day public review. US and Mexican states each provided comments on different BPR recommendations. They also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Expressed their concerns regarding BECC/ NADB efforts to fully engage the border states in the development and future implementation of recommendations to improve the business processes within both institutions.</li> <li>✚ Supported the development of a complete set of standard operating procedures that reflects an integrated project cycle.</li> <li>✚ Supported the development of a single integrated financial strategy, strategic plan and business plan for both institutions as well as the development of a plan to evaluate performance and measure results of the BECC/ NADB.</li> </ul> |

| Declaration Item (BGC #, Year)  | Outcomes  |
|---|---|
| <b>I. BECC / NADB (2 of 3)</b>  |   |
| <p>52. Request that the federal governments of both countries increase participation by border state governments in the Boards of Directors of the North American Development Bank (NADBANK) and the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC) (XVI, 1998).</p>  | <p>The US and Mexican states each developed a mechanism and criteria for nominating a US state representative and a Mexican state representative to the BECC Board of Directors.</p> <p>The US and Mexican states each coordinated to develop a single nomination for consideration by each federal government for the BECC Board of Directors.</p>   |
| <p>53. Request that the governors of the border states be allowed to nominate their country's border state representatives to the Board of Directors of the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC), in accordance with the bilateral environmental side agreement of the North America Free Trade Agreement (XVII, 1999).</p> | <p>A new Mexican state representative to the BECC Board of Directors was appointed in 2000.</p> <p>The NADB Board of Directors had no state representation.</p> <p>Membership in the BECC/ NADB Joint Board of Directors approved in August 2004 includes a US border state and a Mexican border state representative. State representatives are appointed by the federal government of each country.</p> |
| <p>54. Request that the North American Development Bank (NADBANK) and the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC) include a state representative from each country on the U.S.-Mexico Infrastructure Coordination Committee in order to incorporate state interests (XVIII, 2000).</p>   | <p>State representatives have been invited to the U.S.-Mexico Infrastructure Coordination Committee meetings to provide input on specific environmental infrastructure projects affecting their respective states.</p>  |

| Declaration Item (BGC #, Year)   | Outcomes   |
|--|--|
| <b>I. BECC / NADB (3 of 3)</b>   |  |
| <p>55. The governors reiterate their interest in having adequate participation as members of the North American Development Bank and Border Environment Cooperation Commission joint Board of Directors, and ask their respective countries' federal governments to approve this motion (XX, 2002).</p>  | <p>Both federal governments have agreed to include a state representative from the United States and a state representative from Mexico in the BECC/NADB Joint Board of Directors.</p>   |
| <p>56. The U.S.-Mexico border Governors urge passage and implementation of additional initiatives to further enhance the effectiveness of the North American Development Bank (NADBANK) and the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC) in addressing infrastructure needs along the border. These [initiatives] include an increase in the BANK's Low-Interest Rate Lending Program, geographic expansion of the NADBANK/BECC jurisdiction in Mexico to 300 kilometers from the border, and the creation of a single Board of Directors to govern both institutions (XXI, 2003).</p> | <p>In an effort to better meet the needs of border communities by offering more affordable and competitive loans in the water, wastewater and solid waste sectors, the NADB established the Low Interest Rate Lending Facility (LIRF) in October 2001. To date the NADB has authorized a total of US \$ 103.85 million in loans.</p> <p>The <i>Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Mexican States Concerning the Establishment of a Border Environment Cooperation Commission and a North American Development Bank</i> was ammended in 2004 to allow for the geographic expansion of the NADB/ BECC jurisdiction in Mexico to 300 kilometers from the border and to create a single Board of Directors to govern both institutions.</p> |

| Declaration Item (BGC #, Year)   | Outcomes   |
|--|--|
| <b>II. Funding (1 of 4)</b>  |  |
| <p>57. To promote a change from federal to state and local management in the areas of environmental resources and programs. To encourage the reallocation of federal and international organization funds to individual Mexican and United States border States (XV, 1997).</p>  | <p>The Mexican Instituto Nacional de Ecología (INE) has provided funding to improve the environmental management capacity of the Mexican states' environmental agencies through the Northern Border Environment Program (Programa Ambiental de la Frontera Norte, PAFN).</p> <p>The SEMARNAT has initiated an effort aimed to decentralize environmental management functions to the state governments. This effort includes funding to strengthen the state environmental agencies' institutional capacity through the Environment Institutional Development Program (Programa de Desarrollo Institucional Ambiental, PDIA).</p> <p>U.S. federal support to the four U.S. states continues.</p> |
| <p>58. Request that the federal authorities of both countries, in accordance with de Border XXI Coordination Principles, document signed by the Ten States and both federal governments, <u>continue funding the binational training and coordination activities</u> organized by environmental enforcement support institutions, particularly the Western States Project and the Southern Environmental Enforcement Network, and ensure state access to their training activities (XVII, 1999).</p> | <p>The Western States Project and the Southern Environmental Enforcement Network have received further funding for their activities.</p> <p>Binational meetings supported by the Western States Project have included state representation from both sides of the border.</p>  |

| Declaration Item (BGC #, Year)  | Outcomes   |
|---|--|
| <b>II. Funding (2 of 4)</b>   |  |
| <p>59. Request that the Congress and the President of the United States restore the budget for the Border Environmental Infrastructure Fund (BEIF) to at least \$100 million per year, as projected by the North American Development Bank's (NADBANK) ten-year needs assessment, in order to address the substantial deficiencies in the border region and recognizing the progress achieved with these funds in previous years (XVIII, 2000).</p> | <p>Border state officials traveled with NADB staff to Washington, D.C. in May of 2001 to communicate to border congressional representatives and staff of the importance of the BEIF for environmental infrastructure projects in the border region. The BEIF was increased to US \$75 million for fiscal year 2000, a US \$25 million increase over the previous year's appropriations. Written communications have been sent to Congress and the President of the United States requesting that the BEIF budget be restored to at least US \$100 million.</p> <p>BEIF appropriations for fiscal years 2001 and 2002 amounted to US \$75 million (each year), and to US \$50 million in 2003-2005 (each year). In fact, because of the insufficient level of funding for BEIF over the past 3 years, the shortfall of funds for water and wastewater projects on the border has reached a critical level.</p> |
| <p>60. The U.S.-Mexico Border Governors also urge the incorporation of a minimum of \$100 million in the FY 2004 budget of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Border Environment Infrastructure Fund (BEIF), also known as the Border Water Infrastructure Fund (BWIF). This would more effectively address pressing border infrastructure needs of adequate potable water and wastewater treatment (XXI, 2003).</p>                        | <p>BECC/ NADB, in coordination with federal agencies from both countries, have established a new prioritization system to ensure the projects addressing the most critical human health risks are funded first.</p>  |

| Declaration Item (BGC #, Year)  | Outcomes   |
|---|--|
| <b>II. Funding (3 of 4)</b>   |  |
| <p>61. Request that the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) expand the scope of the Border Environmental Infrastructure Fund (BEIF) from water and wastewater, to include funding for municipal solid waste projects (XVIII, 2000).</p>   | <p>The scope of the BEIF has not been expanded.</p> <p>The NADB launched the Solid Waste Environmental Program. Funded with US \$5 million, this grant program provides financing that may be used for the construction and equipment components of solid waste projects, as well as for closure of substandard disposal sites. The NADB also assists communities in the planning and design of infrastructure projects in all environmental sectors in which the NADB operates through the Project Development Program.</p> <p>The BECC set up the Capacity Building Needs &amp; Solid Waste Technical Assistance Program. This program is funded with BECC's own funds and complemented by other sources, such as the Mexican Secretaría de Desarrollo Social. Through this program, the BECC has assisted 44 communities in the development of 48 solid waste projects.</p> |
| <p>62. Request that both federal governments explore establishing mechanisms to redirect existing revenues generated locally to support border environmental programs, recognizing that both nations have benefited from increased economic activity in the border region and that the resulting environmental challenges require additional funding (XVIII, 2000).</p> | <p>The states made the request to the applicable state treasury secretaries to assure that this issue was addressed.</p> <p>No significant new mechanisms to redirect existing revenues generated in the border region to support border environmental programs have been implemented.</p>   |

| Declaration Item (BGC #, Year)  | Outcomes  |
|---|---|
| <b>II. Funding (4 of 4)</b>   |   |
| <p>63. Request that each federal government increase the appropriation from \$1.6 million to at least \$2 million from each country to the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC), through Mexico's Secretariat of Environment, Natural Resources and Fisheries (SEMARNAP) and the U.S. State Department, to improve the efficiency of the project approval process, including reevaluation of criteria and certification of projects proposed by the private sector (XVIII, 2000).</p> | <p>Combined U.S. and Mexican federal governments appropriations to the BECC amounted to US \$3.7 million for fiscal year 2001 and US \$3.8 million for fiscal year 2002.</p> <p>There have been no increases in the overall operating budget of the BECC. For fiscal year 2003 the level of funding for BECC's operating budget was US \$3.8 million. Identified funding for BECC's 2005 operating budget is US \$3.4 million.</p>  |
| <p>64. The governors agree on the need to ask both federal governments for funds to improve the hydraulic infrastructure on both sides of the border (XX, 2002).</p>  | <p>In August of 2002, the NADB Board of Directors approved the creation of a Water Conservation Investment Fund (WCIF) to provide grant funding for water conservation projects in the border region and allocated US \$80 million for this purpose. Since then 21 water conservation projects were certified by the BECC for funding through the NADB's WCIF. These projects brought much needed improvements in irrigation districts, thus contributing to significant water savings along the border region. In 2003 and 2004, the EPA provided US \$ 95 million in grant funds through the BECC and the NADB for critical safe drinking water and sanitation projects. Matching funds were provided for Mexican projects by the Comisión Nacional del Agua.</p> |
| <p>65. Request that the U.S. and Mexican federal governments establish a border air quality fund, administered through the North American Development Bank (NADBANK), to provide grants for transportation-related infrastructure projects that help remedy binational air quality concerns (XXI, 2003).</p>  | <p>No border air quality fund has been established within the NADB.</p> <p>The NADB approved a total of US \$37.12 million in loans for street paving projects in border communities along the U.S.-Mexico border. Street paving will greatly reduce vehicular dust and wind blown dust particles, thus improving air quality for local residents. Improved traffic flows will also reduce carbon monoxide concentrations.</p>  |

| <b>Declaration Item (BGC #, Year)</b>  | <b>Outcomes</b>   |
|--|---|
| <b>III. Legal Framework</b>  |   |
| 66. Request that both federal governments inform respective states in writing about proposed projects with potential transboundary environmental impact, and act immediately for the establishment of an international agreement, recognizing that the border states will coordinate and notify all affected states (XVIII, 2000). | At present trilateral negotiations among Canada, Mexico and the United States to reach an agreement on trans-boundary environmental impact assessment have shown no progress. |

| Declaration Item (BGC #, Year)   | Outcomes  |
|--|---|
| <b>IV. Program Development (1 of 2)</b>  |   |
| 67. Continue resource conservation efforts through wildlife exchange programs and cooperative activities and projects for border protected areas (XVI, 1998).  | Representatives from the ten state natural resource agencies meet once a year to share successful experiences related to protected areas and wildlife conservation. They have also engaged in state-to-state wildlife exchange programs and other cooperative initiatives, such as training and exchange of expertise oriented to build or strengthen institutional capacity.   |
| 68. Develop, in conjunction with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), the Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT) and interested municipalities, the next phase of the binational environmental program to implement the Principles of Coordination and to obtain federal funding within a structure that identifies regional priorities (XIX, 2000). | <p>In 2001, the ten state environmental agencies developed and presented a regionally based proposal for the next phase of the binational border environmental program. In 2002, state, US EPA and SEMARNAT representatives formed a drafting committee to develop the border program framework document. They also developed standard operating procedures for the border program coordinating bodies, and a response summary report for the border program public comment period.</p> <p>Finally, on April 4, 2003 federal and state governments jointly launched the Border 2012: U.S.-Mexico Environmental Program. Border 2012 emphasizes a bottom-up approach, anticipating that local decision-making, priority-setting, and project implementation will best address environmental issues in the border region.</p> |
| 69. Enhance emergency preparedness among sister cities along the border by updating or developing sister city emergency response plans and supporting community needs for additional binational training and equipment in preparation for chemical emergencies, fires and emerging threats (XX, 2002).   | <p>Emergency response plans for the 14 sister cities have been completed. At least half of the sister cities with completed plans have conducted exercises.</p> <p>Within the Border 2012 framework, federal authorities will be working with state and local authorities to revise the Joint Contingency Plan and the notification system between the United States and Mexico. These revisions will enhance binational preparedness and improve communications in the event of a polluting incident, and allow for effective binational cooperation to protect health, safety and the environment.</p>  |

**Wildlife Sub-Committee.** A Wildlife Sub-Committee was created in 2004 within the organizational structure of the Border Governors' Conference. The Wildlife Sub-Committee is currently developing joint activities conducive to facilitate communication, and identification and sharing of best practices, priorities and opportunities for conserving, enhancing and restoring wildlife resource and habitats in the border region.

| Declaration Item (BGC #, Year)  | Outcomes   |
|---|--|
| <b>IV. Program Development (2 of 2)</b>   |  |
| <p>70. <b>Execute the Border 2012: U.S.-Mexico Environmental Program via regional workgroups that address state and local priorities through partnerships with border communities, in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT) (XXI, 2003).</b></p> | <p>All ten states have been actively involved with the EPA and SEMARNAT in the implementation of the Border 2012 Program through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Co-chairing four Regional Workgroups: California-Baja California, Arizona-Sonora, New Mexico-Texas-Chihuahua, and Texas-Coahuila-Nuevo León-Tamaulipas.</li> <li>✚ Creating and participating in issue-oriented Task Forces within Regional Workgroups.</li> <li>✚ Participating in Borderwide Workgroups, Policy Forums, and other Task Forces .</li> <li>✚ Providing joint recommendations to Border 2012 National Coordinators to improve the effectiveness of the Program.</li> <li>✚ Providing input for the development of a set of binational indicators for the Program.</li> <li>✚ Developing projects and activities to achieve the goals and objectives of the Program.</li> <li>✚ Identifying border community leaders for project development and implementation.</li> <li>✚ Conducting outreach activities.</li> <li>✚ Facilitating local participation.</li> </ul> |

| Declaration Item (BGC #, Year)  | Outcomes  |
|---|---|
| <b>V. Ten State Coordination</b>  |   |
| <p>71. Request that the Southwest Center for environmental Research and Policy (SCERP) approve the incorporation of a state representative from each country to the Management Committee to be more responsive to the environmental needs of the border states (XVIII, 2000).</p> | <p>The SCERP charter establishes that Management Committee membership comes only from the universities that integrate the SCERP, not allowing state representation.</p> <p>However, ten state representatives actively participate in the SCERP Advisory Council.</p>                                       |
| <p>72. Strengthen and formalize the coordination mechanism among the environmental agencies of the Ten States, which was initiated with the support of the United States' Western Governors' Association (WGA), and encourage pursuit of continued funding (XVIII, 2000).</p>     | <p>Efforts have been made by the WGA and individual states to strengthen and formalize the ten state coordination mechanism. Since 2001 the U.S. EPA has provided funding for ten state coordination activities.</p> <p>On-going search for funds is needed to guarantee future ten state coordination.</p> |