

**Border 2012 Environmental Program National Coordinators Meeting**  
*May 22-24, 2007*  
*San Antonio, Texas.*

**Joint Communiqué**

The National Coordinators of the Border 2012 U.S.-Mexico Environmental Program and its partners jointly held the fourth annual meeting, from May 22 through 24, 2007, in San Antonio, Texas.

We continue to have the support and participation of the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Mexico's Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) and the Ministry of Health, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the governments of the 10 Border States and municipalities. We had the privilege of the attendance of representatives from the United States tribal governments, regional indigenous communities in Mexico, and bi-national institutions. We acknowledge the following institutions, which are committed to the environmental work that is being done throughout the border shared between Mexico and the United States: the Border Environmental Cooperation Commission (BECC), the North American Development Bank (NADB), the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC), the Good Neighbor Environmental Board (GNEB) and the Advisory Board for Sustainable Development (CCDS).

All participants reaffirmed their commitment to the mission of the program, to protect the environment and public health throughout the US-Mexico Border region according to the principles of sustainable development.

To achieve the Border 2012 goals and objectives, it is essential for actions to be translated into tangible, meaningful and measurable results. We would like to take this opportunity to recognize the completion of the "*State of the Border Region - Border 2012: U.S.-Mexico Environmental Program 2005 Indicators Report*," which provides information on the region's conditions to guide the decision-making process.

Through significant collaboration, effort and commitment, all Border 2012 partners worked together to prepare the U.S.-Mexico Environmental Program: *Border 2012 Implementation and Mid-term 2007 Report*, which describes the achievements, actions and investments made to accomplish the Border 2012 Program goal and objectives. The significant progress highlighted in this Report acknowledges the outstanding work that has been done in improving the quality of the environment for communities in the border region.

Furthermore, the Border 2012 Program establishes that the National Coordinators will periodically review available indicators and will report the outcomes to the Workgroups, Policy Fora, and the public, to help guide decisions related to future efforts.

The primary goal of this National Coordinators Meeting was a mid-term evaluation and review. The workgroup meetings focused on:


- assessing the need to strengthen or revise objectives and sub-objectives to enhance the program
- reviewing emerging issues that should be adopted by the Program;
- assessing whether accomplishments are being effectively evaluated

- potential improvements to the organizational structure, communication and local participation, and
- innovative approaches to leverage resources.

We thank the Ten Border States for having shared their recommendations. We also thank the border Tribes and indigenous communities for their vital participation in the Program, for their many efforts to improve the border environment, and for their thoughtful identification of environmental issues. We also recognize and thank the Workgroups, Policy Fora, and Task Forces for their efforts in facilitating ideas and recommendations to improve the Border 2012 Program.

Now it is the National Coordinators role, along with the support of partners and stakeholders, to create a document that reflects the refinements that strengthen the existing Border 2012 framework document. Over the next several months, a revised document will be presented to the Co-Chairs of the Border 2012 Program and partners, for review and comments. Our commitment is to present a final document for signature at the 2008 National Coordinators Meeting, to be held in Mexico.

We encourage border communities and stakeholders to continue to partner with us to improve the quality of life and the environment for all border communities. We wish to underscore the commitment of Mexico's Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency toward the progress and benefit of the border communities.



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U.S. National Coordinator



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Mexico National Coordinator