

## TDA Simulation

The *Rio Pobre* forms the boundary between the dry nations of *Pesón* and *Dólaro*. With little local groundwater, *Rio Pobre* is their primary source of drinking water and irrigation.

Over several decades, decreasing rainfall and increasingly urban population in the more prosperous *Dólaro* has lead to growing municipal water diversions from the river. Meanwhile *Pesón*, with its less stringent environmental and labor laws, has become the agricultural breadbasket both for nations by increasingly intensive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

Across the *Rio Pobre* basin, migrant herders, called “*Tororos*,” and the indigenous *Cactistas* people freely cross the border without regard to their respective nations of origin; many don’t even speak fluent Spanish. Now, the mouth of *Rio Pobre* often runs dry in summer months. *Castistas* and *Tororos* are getting sick from water-borne disease, and fish are dying upstream. What can be done?

With catalytic support from the Fund for Environmental Green (FEG) and co-finance from TLC, an international NGO, a transboundary project is creating a draft Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) for the *Rio Pobre*. The project’s Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) has called the present meeting in order to obtain stakeholder input – and hopefully consensus – for prioritizing common concerns as the focus of a future, larger “SAP” project.

After 2 days working together, those stakeholders attending this meeting who could stay until now are:

- (1) “Pato” PASTILLA (CTA/facilitator),
- (2) Sr(a). SALUD (*Dólaro* Ministry of Health and Nature),
- (3) Sr(a). MAÍZ (*Pesón* Ministry of Agriculture and Environment),
- (4) Kris KROSS (TLC regional program manager),
- (5) Mxmrdž (representative from *Cactistas* community).

Along with those who already left, these participants have created a preliminary list of their concerns:

- Conflicts in the rational use of the water, water scarcity
- Modifications of the ecosystem, habitat and biodiversity loss
- Point-source (municipal sewage)
- Diffuse pollution (urban and agricultural runoff)
- Modified land use and soil degradation
- Deteriorating human living conditions and loss of cultural resources

In order to complete a quality TDA before this phase of the project ends, “Pato” believes that only stakeholders’ top 2-3 priority concerns should be included in the current TDA. (Lesser concerns could be addressed in a later iteration of adaptive management.) Participants have thus been informed of the CTA’s aim to have them together select their top 2-3 concerns now, in the final few minutes of this stakeholder meeting, and before the building closes and everyone is sent home.

**“Pato” PASTILLA** (CTA/facilitator): You have very little time and resources to develop this TDA. A quick list of just a 2-3 concerns, acceptable to ministries from both nations, could be addressed in the TDA report using current resources. This prioritized list would also help you deliver the TDA report to FEG before project funds are depleted next year. Otherwise, you may lose your job. (Meanwhile, remembering your grandparents were *Tororos*, you believe this water pollution is not their fault.)

**Sr(a). SALUD** (*Dólaro* Ministry of Health and Nature): You are concerned that *Cactistas* from *Pesón* are showing up in *Dólaro*’s government-supported clinics with waterborne diseases. You do not want an outbreak of their disease in *Dólaro*. It’s time to stop *Pesón*’s farmers and *Tororos* herds from polluting the *Rio Pobre*.

**Sr(a). MAÍZ** (*Pesón* Ministry of Agriculture and Environment): Water for irrigation is in very scarce supply as *Dólaro* cities get larger, take from the *Rio Pobre*, and return polluted sewage to the river. They cannot expect *Pesón* to produce food for all of their people if they ruin your water first.

**Kris KROSS** (TLC regional program manager): An aquatic ecologist, you love spending time in and around streams, helping wildlife, and fishing in your free time. You hope this project helps protect the lands next to this watershed’s best fishing streams before fish disappear forever. If not, you may return to Europe or move to some other region of the world with better fishing potential.

**Mxmrzdű** (*Cactistas* community): The sacred waters of the “*Rio Pobre*,” as newcomers call it, are sick. Farms and irrigation channels and barren cities are poisoning the fish and animals you eat, harming your people. You read and speak **very little Spanish**, but think these people should help relieve the causes of this growing sickness in your river and villages. Will they listen, will they *understand* you?