

Regional Framework for Sustainable Use of the Rio Bravo

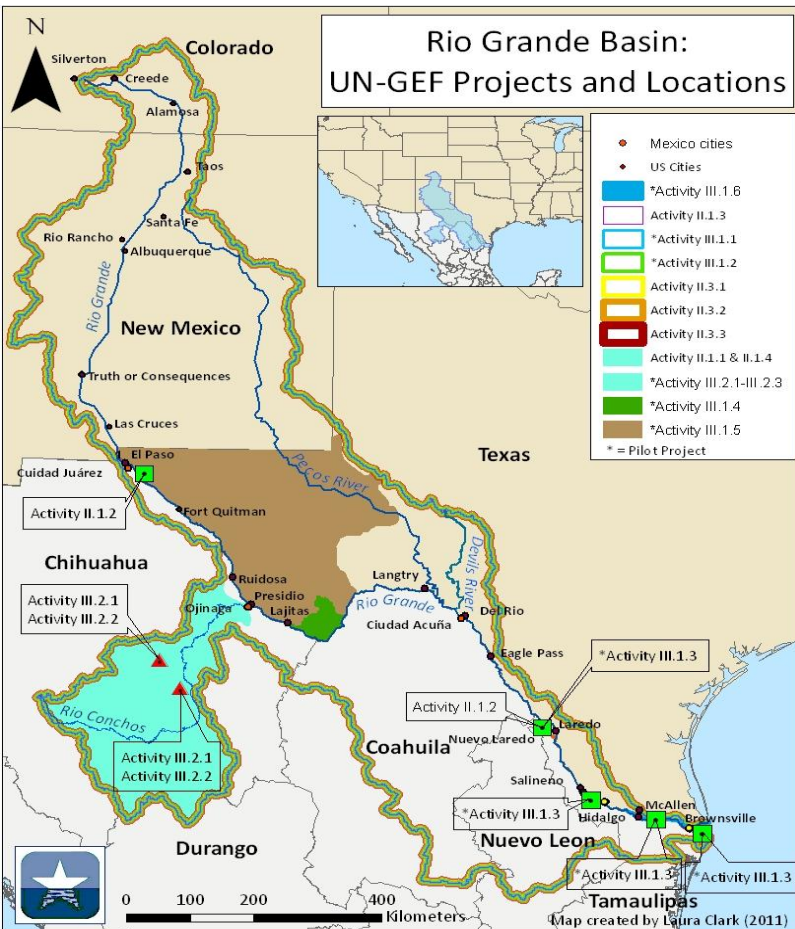


GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET



United Nations Environment Programme

Project Partners



- **Global Environment Facility**
- **United Nations Environment Programme**
- **MX Ministry of Environment (SEMARNAT)/
National Water Commission (CONAGUA)**
- **US Environmental Protection Agency**
- **Organization of American States**
- **Texas State University – River Systems
Institute (RSI)**
- **IBWC/CILA, DUMAC, WWF, USDA/Sul Ross,
USGS, USWFS, USBR, USBLM,
Border/Frontera 2012**

Approved by the GEF ~ January 1, 2011; Currently in Inception Phase

Objectives/ Expected Outcomes



- Improve understanding of the natural resource base and threats to the ecosystem in the basin
- Enhance understanding of stakeholders' Vision for the basin, legal and institutional frameworks, and options for joint basin-wide cooperation mechanisms and activities
- Equip US, MX with planning tools, including formulation and implementation of a comprehensive, bi-national, ecosystem-based action programme (SAP)
- Basin-wide ecosystem-based management approaches strengthened through knowledge gained through the successful completion of Pilot Projects
- Commitment from riparian countries for coordinated management of the water resources of the Basin



Key Results GEF-IW Workshop

Process

- Steering committee composed of US, MX Reps (EPA, SEMARNAT/CONAGUA), UNEP
 - Non-voting: International Boundary & Water Commission (IBWC/CILA), OAS and Scientific and Stakeholder Advisory Committee Chairs
- Main PCU components: MX PC, US Technical Advisor
- Website created, but now on hold
- Inception workshop planned, has been rescheduled
- Targeted Research Activities developed, in progress
- Pilot projects developed, but will be restructured



Processes leading to Stress Reduction

- Partnerships formed with NGOs, other US, MX Federal & State Agencies, UNIDO Gulf of MX LME
- Stakeholder Participation and Communication Plans drafted; efforts on-going
- Initial Targeted Research activities underway
- Recent addition of IBWC/CILA to negotiate political challenges
- Reviewing available methodology and examples for TDA, SAP

Environmental status

- Compilation of existing and newly collected data, Clearinghouse
- Identification of data gaps and potential data needs
- Concurrent restoration, conservation projects

Major challenges and constraints threatening successful delivery

- Developed and Developing nations with multiple environmental and social issues – difficult to coordinate
- Lack of political commitment at the MX Federal Level
- Changes in Political Administrations (MX & US)
- Lack of willingness to “share” data
- Discrepancies between interpretations of laws, regulations, policy
- Concern that management recommendations will not be adopted by both countries



Capacity Building Needs



- Data sharing and “standardization” between countries, including data storage and management
- Ecosystem modeling, analyses with bi-national data
- Incentives for increased collaboration and partnerships
- Appropriate allocation of “staff” and in-kind resources

Summary



- Time periods, cycles can be difficult to navigate and derail progress/processes
- Guiding methodologies, protocols (best practices) are needed and helpful
- Processes for securing involvement, commitment among countries are useful
- Mediating issues between nations is an issue
- Formalized relationships with similar projects are valuable

Questions?



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Thank you!