

U.S.-Mexico Border: Environmental Initiatives

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Pechanga
Pauma
Pala
Rincon
San Pasqual
Mesa Grande
Barona
Capitan
Viejas
Sycuan
Jamul
La Posta
Campo
La Jolla
Torres-Martinez
Los Coyotes
Santa Ysabel
Inaja
Ewilaapaayp
Manzanita
Quechan
Cocopah

Entities shaded in orange are U.S. tribal communities located in the border region.

Las entidades en anaranjado son comunidades tribales de los E.U. localizadas en la región fronteriza.

Presentation Overview

- **The United States and Mexico have over 40 years of environmental cooperation**
 - **August 14, 1983 – La Paz Agreement signed by Presidents Ronald Reagan and Miguel de la Madrid**
 - **Agreement between the United States of America and the United Mexican States on Cooperation for the Protection and Improvement of the Environment in the Border Area**
 - **October 27, 1992 – Enterprise for the Americas Initiative Act PL102-532 and EO 12916 establish the Good Neighbor Environmental Board**

La Paz Agreement – Article 1

- **“to establish the basis of cooperation between the Parties for the protection, improvement, and conservation of the environment and the problems which affect it, as well as to agree on necessary measures to prevent and control pollution in the border area, and to provide the framework for development of a system of notification for emergency situations.”**

La Paz Agreement – Articles 2-7

- 2: Both parties pledge to “cooperate in the solution of problems of mutual concern in the border area”;**
- 3: “Conclude specific arrangements for the solution of common problems in the border area” to be appended to the LPA as annexes;**
- 4: Border area is defined as 100 km (62 miles) north and south of the international boundary**
- 5: Coordination to address problems of air, land, and water pollution**
- 6: Pursue coordinated measures in a practical, legal, institutional, and technical manner**
- 7: Assess projects that will have a significant impact on the border environment**

La Paz Leadership

- **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)**
- **Mexican Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT)**



Program Partners

States

- ADEQ – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
- CALEPA – California Environmental Protection Agency
- CDPH-COBH – California Department of Public Health's California Office of Binational Border Health
- NMED – New Mexico Environment Department
- TCEQ – Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- Secretaria de Medio Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable Baja California
- Procuraduria Ambiental del Estado de Sonora
- Comision de Ecologia y Desarrollo Sustentable de Estado de Sonora

Others

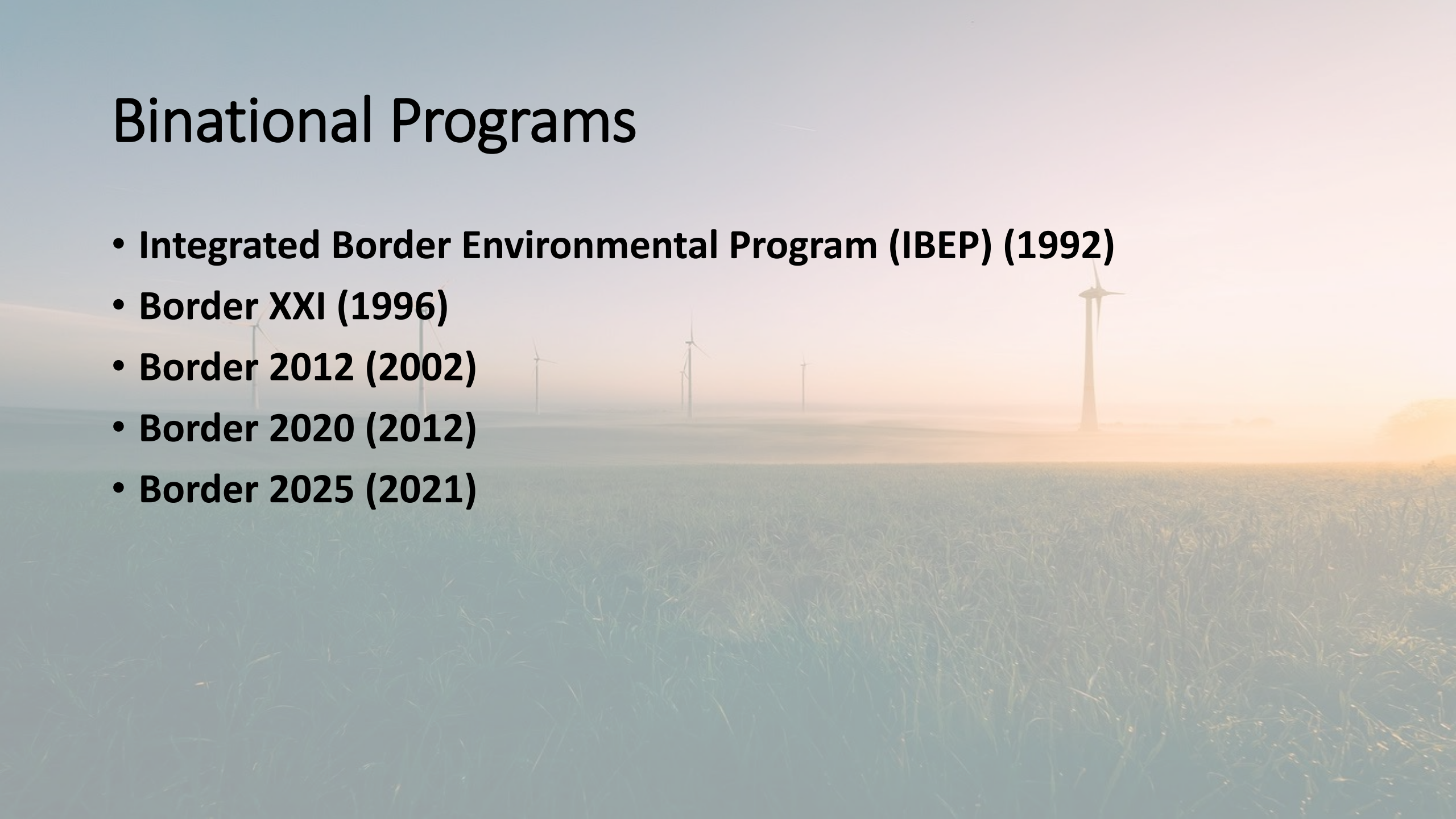
- Consejo Consultivo para Desarrollo Sostenible
- North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation/ Comision para la Cooperacion Ambiental de American del Norte
- Comision Nacional de Agua
- Good Neighbor Environmental Board
- International Boundary and Water Commission / Comision Internacional de Limites y Aguas
- U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services
- NADBank
- Procuraduria Federal de Proteccion al Ambiente
- Secretaria de Salud
- U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission

1985-90 Annexes

- **Annex 1 – support of IBWC Minute 270 to address binational sanitation problems from the Tijuana River sewage flows**
- **Annex 2 – joint coordinated response to pollution emergencies from the transport of hazardous and toxic substances**
- **Annex 3 – required reporting of the commerce of hazardous and toxic substances**
- **Annex 4 – regulated copper smelters in the Arizona-Sonora border**
- **Annex 5 – binational monitoring and policy/programs to address air pollution flows; established the JAC in El Paso - Cd. Juarez**

Binational Programs

- **Integrated Border Environmental Program (IBEP) (1992)**
- **Border XXI (1996)**
- **Border 2012 (2002)**
- **Border 2020 (2012)**
- **Border 2025 (2021)**



Border 2025

- **Goal 1: Reduce Air Pollution**
- **Goal 2: Improve Water Quality**
- **Goal 3: Promote Sustainable Materials Management and Waste Management, and Clean Sites**
- **Goal 4: Improve Joint Preparedness for and Response to Hazardous Environmental Emergencies**

Successes

Arizona-Mexico Commission

- Development of the Commission's Water and Environment Committee
- Sustained communication during COVID-19 pandemic
- 2024, Sonora-Arizona Strategic Environmental Plan

Tijuana River and Support for IBWC Minutes

- Facilitated EPA, NADB and other U.S. & Mexican agencies collaboration to find solutions to the Tijuana River and sewage problems
- Helped with Minute 320 which established the binational framework on trash and sedimentation
- Provided the mechanism for the current rehab of the International Sewage Treatment Plant and Tijuana's municipal sanitation system (Minute 328, July 19, 2022).

Successes

El Paso JAC

- True regional collaboration in the management of the tri-state airshed
- Development of the Binational Air Quality Fund (BAQF) held at NADB

Rio Grande River Water Quality

- TCEQ Harlingen held quarterly binational meetings that led to a two-year study of the sources of salinity in the Lower Rio Grande – UT Austin and UNAM

Successes

Mexico-United States Joint Contingency Plan

- **Binational Joint Contingency Plans for the 15 sister cities**
- **Set notification and communication protocols for hazardous materials, fires and floods**

GNEB – 21st Report




- Four comment letters on environmental issues and innovations in the border region
- First letter – drinking water access and potential technological solutions in the Texas border region
- Second letter -- transportation infrastructure and aligning new technologies in border states
- Third letter – 40th anniversary of the La Paz Agreement
- Fourth letter – border tribal/local/regional governments' capacity and resiliency in the borderlands.
- 21st report will bring the four letters together for a discussion on current environmental conditions and innovations in the border region



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A photograph of a wind farm in a grassy field during sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. Several wind turbines are visible in the distance, their silhouettes softened by the haze. The foreground is filled with tall, green grass.

Thank you for your time and
attention.

Any questions?