

# ACTION PLAN

## FOR THE CREATION OF THE BINATIONAL INTEREST CONSERVATION AREA BIG BEND/RIO BRAVO

### GOAL 1: REHABILITATION OF RIO BRAVO – ASSOCIATED ECOSYSTEMS

#### **Action: Restoration of riparian ecosystems of Rio Grande/Rio Bravo**

*The Rio Grande/Rio Bravo is the link that physically bonds both nations' protected areas, which is why the restoration of riparian ecosystems within the area of bi-national interest is of vital importance for both countries.*

	<b>Action Element</b>
1	Elaborate an evaluation of the conservation status of riparian ecosystems within the area of bi-national interest.
2	Identification and priority allocation for restoration actions of the ecosystem on both sides of the river
3	Development of priority restoration actions on both sides of the river

#### **Action: Control of exotic and invasive vegetation along the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo**

*The Rio Grande/Rio Bravo, the riparian zone and the river bank, have suffered alterations because of the presence of invasive and exotic vegetation that has replaced the native one. In several places, the exotic vegetation has even formed an area covered with dense vegetation resulting in a narrow canal, very different from what can be appreciated in historic photography.*

	<b>Action Element</b>
1	Coordinate an annual working plan for the management and control of exotic riparian vegetation.
2	Join efforts to control and eradicate exotic riparian vegetation with other regional initiatives such as NAISN.

**GOAL 2: RESTORE THE SILVERY MINNOW'S POPULATIONS IN THE RIO GRANDE/RIO BRAVO**

**Action: Increase efforts for the monitoring of the Silvery Minnow (*Hybognathus amarus* ), and include Mexico in such efforts.**

*The Rio Grande Silvery Minnow was for a long time one of the most common fishes of Rio Grande/Rio Bravo; nevertheless, it is now considered an endangered species and it is only found in small sections of the river in New Mexico. An important effort is currently being done for the restoration of this fish's populations in Rio Grande/Rio Bravo, specifically in the protected areas.*

	Action Element
1	Implementation of bi-national joint monitoring.

**GOAL 3: BI-NATIONAL COOPERATION FOR THE RESPONSE TO AND CONTROL OF WILD FAUNA DISEASES**

**Action: Develop procedures that allow bi-national cooperation for adequate monitoring and management of diseases in domestic and wild animal populations in protected areas on both sides of the border.**

*While the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo represents an international border in the geopolitical context, this is only a small barrier for the circulation of wild and domestic fauna, which is why it is essential to include both countries in any disease-control strategy.*

	Action Element
1	Execution of a bi-national meeting, where the issues regarding health and diseases of wild fauna are considered.
2	Memorandum of Understanding developed and signed.

**GOAL 4: DATA EXCHANGE (Geospatial, Threatened Species, Vital Signs, Protocols, etc.)**

**Action: Exchange scientific data between agencies and partners working on both countries' protected areas to facilitate the understanding and joint conservation efforts**

*Due to the variety of agencies and partners that carry out actions for natural resources conservation in both countries, it is necessary to establish a formal mechanism that facilitates the exchange of data, in order to avoid effort duplicity, as well as a mutual comprehension of existing conditions to effectively plan the application of conservation programs.*

	<b>Action Element</b>
1	Establish comparable inventory and monitoring protocols, as well as rules for data and analysis.
2	Annual meeting of partners in the academic field for scientific planning and coordination.
3	Web site

**GOAL 5: COORDINATION OF BI-NATIONAL MONITORING OF THREATENED SPECIES**

**Action: Coordinate bi-national programs for the protection and restoration of threatened species and other species of interest for each country**

*Like any other wild species, threatened ones do not recognize international borders, and therefore their management would be more effective if it was made at a bi-national level. Even if threatened species of plants are less mobile, international strategies for conservation could be an effective instrument for their protection and restoration.*

	<b>Action Element</b>
1	Execute and maintain bi-national monitoring, as well as annual working plans.
2	Exchange of inventory and monitoring protocols.

**GOAL 6: COORDINATE EFFORTS AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE PROTECTED AREAS OF BIG BEND/RIO BRAVO**

**Action: Coordinate efforts to mitigate and/or adapt to the effects of climate change in the protected areas of Big Bend/Rio Bravo**

*The impact of climate change is global, and even if its effects are a true concern for the protected areas of the Big Bend/Rio Bravo, the causes that originate it go far beyond this region. This is why, any program whose goal is to offset in an efficient way the effects of climate change in the protected areas, should consider greater efforts.*

	<b>Action Element</b>
1	Detection of mitigation and adaptation actions to face Climate change, in the context of this action plan.
2	Develop a plan for the protected areas of Big Bend/Rio Bravo, against Climate Change.