

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Comisión Federal para la Protección
contra Riesgos Sanitarios

Protección es salud



Salud

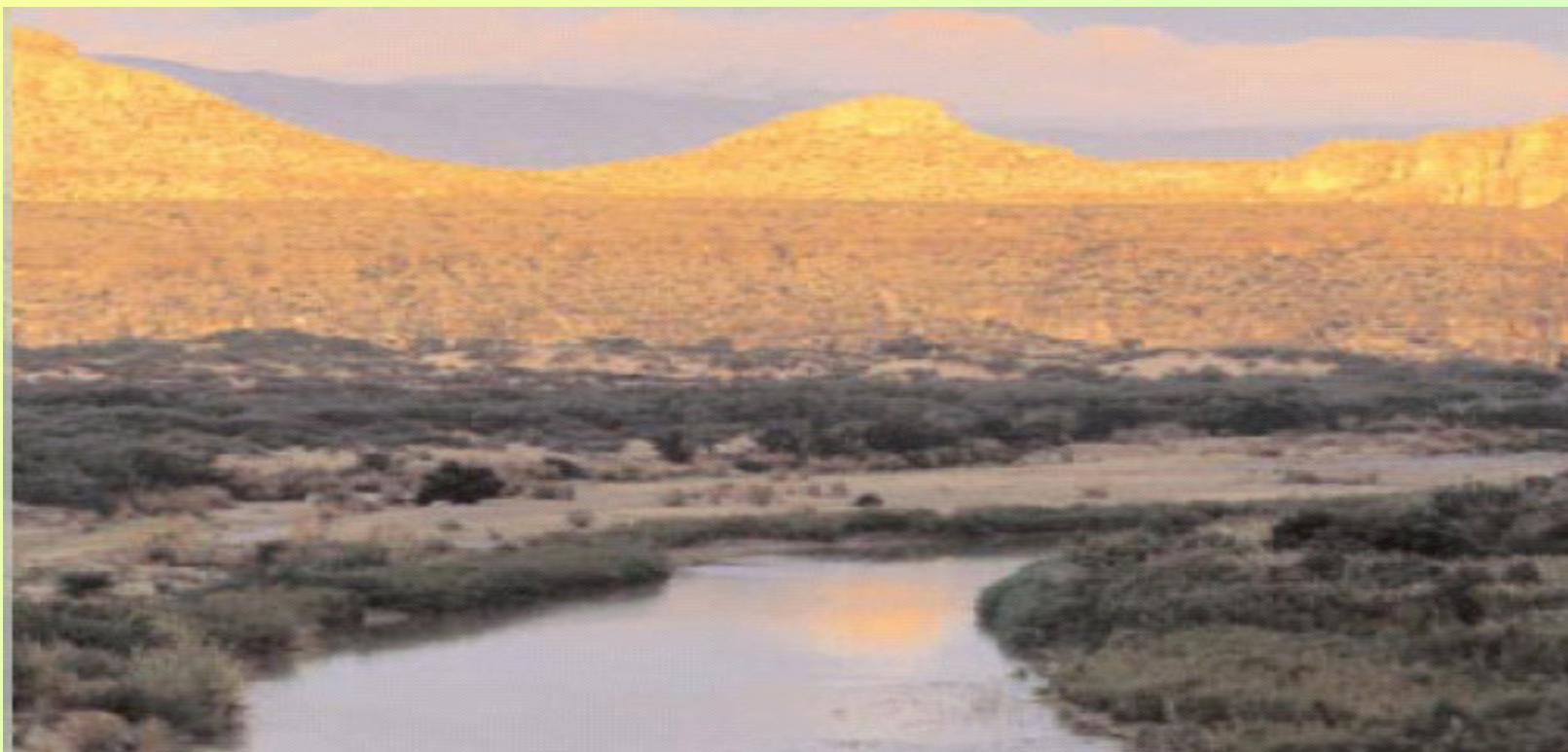
**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH WORKGROUP
ANNUAL MEETING**

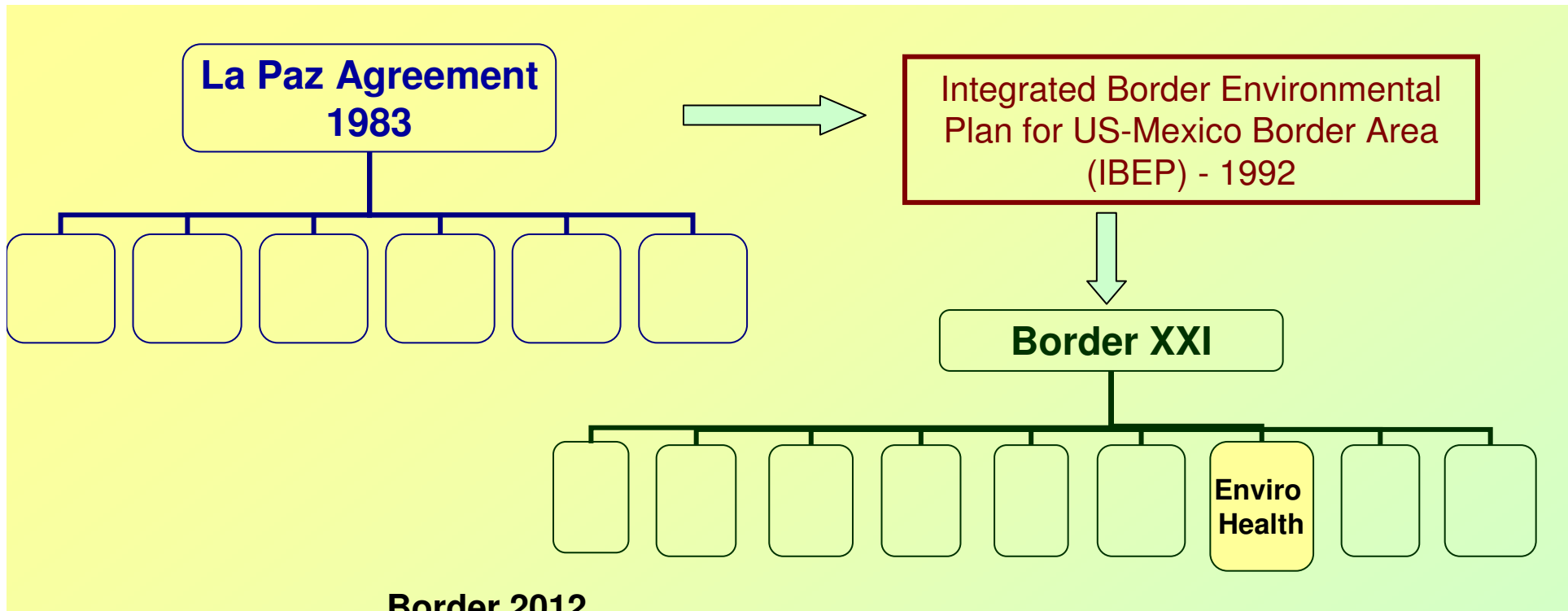
**ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND
PROGRESS TOWARD 2005
PRIORITIES**

16-17 Marzo 2006



**US-Mexico Border Health Commission
and
Border 2012-Environmental Health Workgroup
BUILDING ALLIANCES**





Border 2012



Environmental Health Workgroup: Who we are

Our Focus Areas:

- Surveillance
- Research
- Training
- Communication



The efforts of the environmental health workgroup support the activities of the other Border 2012 workgroups by providing scientific and health expertise.



Mission Statements

USMBHC Mission Statement

To provide international leadership to optimize **health** and quality of life along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Border 2012 Mission Statement

To protect the environment and **public health** in the U.S.-Mexico border region.....

EHWG Mission Statement

To identify and address, in a binational framework, environmental factors that pose the highest risk to **human health**.....



Goals of the Environmental Health Workgroup:

1. **AIR:** evaluate respiratory health indicators in children to assess air quality improvements in border communities.
2. **WATER:** evaluate gastrointestinal illness indicators to assess water quality improvements in border communities.
3. **PESTICIDES:** complete an assessment and pilot program to determine the feasibility of a binational system for reporting acute pesticide poisonings; reduce pesticide exposure by educating 36,000 farm workers on pesticide risks and safe handling, including ways to reduce home exposure.
4. **CAPACITY BUILDING:** establish a "distance-learning", post-graduate degree program to support advanced training on environmental health; extend current efforts in binational environmental health training for 100 health care providers each for pesticides and water.



Accomplishments and progress

EHWG actions to meet its objectives

- Develop an action plan with indicators as a major element
- EHWG co-chairs will appoint a U:S: and Mexico facilitators for each group
- Representatives from Air and Water Policy Forums and from each border environmental health taskforces, and PAHO



Accomplishments and progress

EHWG will apply the strategy model to:

- Align current indicators efforts (by taskforces, workgroups, etc)
- Identify commonalities and
- Delineate major data/information gaps
- Prioritize the linkages toward which efforts and resources should be directed



Accomplishments and progress

EHWG Actions done

- Review of data sources in both sides of the border
- Ongoing and completed environmental health projects
- Possible indicators for environmental health problems in different areas: air, water, pesticides
- Strengths and gaps identification



Accomplishments and progress

Results

- Baja California, Chihuahua, Sonora, Coahuila, and Tamaulipas reported projects:

Baja California – 1 looking for toxicological effects of PMs

New Mexico-Sonora-Chihuahua – 1 looking for binational registry for diseases

Texas-Chihuahua/Nuevo Leon-Tamaulipas – 3 looking for respiratory diseases



Accomplishments and progress

Strengths and Gaps

- Comprehensive Epidemiological Surveillance System in Mexico
- Rutinary obligatory reported diseases (weekly)
- Non optimal information:
 - asthma vs. asthma attacks
 - Gastro-intestinal diseases (mostly food borne diseases)



Toward 2005 priorities

What we want to do?

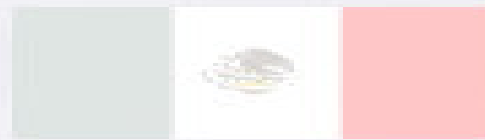
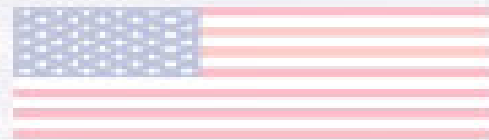
- Identify *priorities* by region
- *Research, Surveillance, Monitoring* (air, water, pesticides, capacity building)



Toward 2005 priorities

What we want to do?

- Have at least *2 priorities* by region
- Identify which is the *best approach* to address priorities (ie, air/water monitoring, Surveillance for specific diseases, etc)
- *Strength relationship* among regional responsible



BORDER 2012: U.S.-MEXICO ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM

Mission

..... to protect the environment and public health in the U.S.-Mexico border region, consistent with the principles of sustainable development

