



FIRST ANNUAL WORKSHOP  
EL CARMEN – BIG BEND  
CONSERVATION CORRIDOR INITIATIVE

MONTERREY, MEXICO  
APRIL 29-30 2006

SUMMARY  
DOCUMENTS

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UNIDOS PARA LA CONSERVACION

## 1. A VISION FOR YEAR 2016

It is April 29<sup>th</sup> 2016 and we are back together to celebrate the achievements that have taken place in the last ten years after the first annual workshop that took place in Monterrey, Mexico in 2006.

The achievements we are celebrating include:

- This has become a model, a source of pride between our two countries
- Large percent of degraded habitat restored
- Big wildlife migration corridor from central Coahuila to border
- Huge public and private funding to support the initiative
- Landowners and government working together, collaborating
- School children are required to take one week stay in a wilderness area
- Enough water to sustain habitat in region and for human needs
- Largest bighorn population between countries
- Plan for people to move freely between countries in 10 years (2026)
- Legal shield for area: No developer can destroy or touch what has been done
- Solid liaison between natural scientists and politicians/ conservationists
- Committed societies in both countries have shown us the importance of conservation
- Area is re-wilded, big animals
- No exotic plants or animals
- Thriving ecotourism on both sides of the border
- Green wall that unites U.S. & Mexico
  - o Immigration buffer
  - o Drug buffer
  - o Water
- Compact signed among state governments – security, ecological presentation – plan
- Studies show land, water, grass restoration – leads to funding
- Private, public and government working together in a functional mode
- Ranching continues to be economically viable with hunting, ecotourism
- New legislation
  - o Conservation easements
  - o Idle land subsidy
  - o Greater security for private land
  - o Innovations to make the above possible
- Successful, diversified sustainable program for wildlife
- Similar initiatives are taking place outside Mexico and Texas
- Corridor is a model of strict enforcement of wildlife regulation
- Communities have been involved in project from the start. They are trained and provided job opportunities
- Wildlife sanctuary entrance, where wildlife can be seen. Can hear the lobo/wolf howl.

## 2. ROUNDTABLES

### COLLABORATION Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> 2006

TABLE 1: COLLABORATION IN THE AREAS OF TOURISM, RIPARIAN BUFFERS, EXOTIC SPECIES, DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK

**Participants:**

- Tyron Fain, The Rio Grande Institute
- John King, Big Bend National Park
- Cristina Mittermeier, CI
- Carlos Manterola, UPC
- Rosendo Treviño, USDA, NRCS
- Ernesto Enkerlin, CONANP
- Billy Pat McKinney, Cemex – El Carmen
- Conn Nugent, J.M.Kaplan Fund
- Scout Boruff, TPWD
- Vance Martin, The Wild Foundation

**General goal of international collaboration** will be to create **more positive and productive working relationships** that will protect and promote the El Carmen/Big Bend Corridor and the stakeholders who steward its land and natural resources.

To generate an “**enabling structure**”

**Goals**

- To create allies in non conservation sectors who understand and support the initiatives
- Generate official protocols of accord and active cooperation that address legal, political, economical, scientific, social and health issues.
- Create transparent, inclusive strategies and actions
- Raise money from International Development Agencies, etc, other corporations
- Target opinion leaders (media, politicians, business and international development)
- Work toward formal legislation or policies as appropriate
- Local meetings to let ALL stakeholders know what is going on,
- Cross border business relationships that address economic benefits of a successful El Carmen/Big Bend Initiative
- Educational training programs for schools, researchers, professionals
- Work towards collaboration that is officially sanctioned.
- Establish political protocols, mandates, letters of intent, etc.,
- Strategic shielding of the project to prevent it from being eroded over the years.

## TOURISM

One of the conditions is that tourism pivots around the common vision for the region and not the other way around

### FIRST STEPS

1. General policy of cooperative tourism and a binational strategy
2. Development of a pilot project in a specific site
3. Demonstrate that tourism on both sides of the border benefits everyone.
4. Transparency at all levels,
5. Involve local and high level leaders. This helps establish protocols, concerns, routes of cooperation, needs, resource sharing.

### NEXT STEPS

1. Zoning
2. Determine what kind of use and access is appropriate.
3. Designate a small area for visitation that takes national security issues into account
4. Tiered approach of visitation usage allowances.
  - a. Park model
  - b. Back country camping on trails
  - c. Wilderness visitation,

## RIPARIAN

Collaboration between the countries when it comes to riparian areas along the Rio Grande.

More restoration is needed but there already is a very good model.

Restoration in collaboration with CONANP/Big bend and Texas Wildlife has already been very successful.

- Re-vegetation
- Control using appropriate herbicides and eradication techniques
- International Boundary Water Commission. They are allowing the crews to work on both sides of the border.

Some of the institutions on both sides need to expand their authorities and areas of action to accommodate international cooperation.

It would be helpful to remove some of the systemic barriers, including legislative or regulatory adjustments to reduce the amount of red tape.

Amendments on appropriation bill (?)

## EXOTICS

Define which ones

- Feral
- Plants
- Insects
  
- a) Bilateral legislation agreement
- b) More coordination of existing bodies on both sides
- c) Drastic measures
- d) Collaboration and agreement between the two countries
- e) Common policy
- f) Education process
- g) Broader use of existing mechanisms like APHIS (annual plant health inspection service)
- h) Produce a joint statement of recommendation by participants to this meeting
- i) Address the promotion of conflicting development strategies by some governmental agencies in Mexico, like the introduction of exotic fish, grasses outside of protected areas that can easily get out of hand
- j) Increased communication among agencies.
- k) Common policies on invasive-exotic species
  
- Prevention of future introduction
- Enforcement
- Establish a sanitation belt
- Controls to keep some plagues out.
- Areas of zero tolerance

Border environmental cooperation. We need to understand this is a long process. You cannot address the entire watershed but there should be areas that we can keep exotic-free and their needs to be collaboration to accomplish that.

## CATTLE

- A) Management agreement between agencies
- B) Move slowly into alternatives for cattle in areas where livestock is not appropriate
- C) Holistic management practices
- D) Devise financial incentives to promote more ecological management of the land
- E) Develop standards and guidelines for grazing
- F) Incentives should be there to account for the opportunity cost of ecosystem services
- G) Buy out cattle

### Comments:

- Exotics: Bring them in because we want, foreign. Invasive: we don't have control and could be native.
- In the US there is no tolerance for exotics in the Big Bend and Texas Parks & Wildlife parks, but there exist some examples of exotics.
- Basically exotics in both counties are not desirable. It is a problem. Policies exist but it is hard for the government to control them.

- If you do not have the same policy in both countries regarding exotic species you can't accomplish anything.
- The thing with exotics is it is a big issue. Most exotics today were purposely introduced and now the damage is not understood. The government doesn't have enough money to stop exotics.
- In Mexico we have a problem of aquaculture where they introduce exotic species funded by government.
- We need to be consistent between borders.
- For exotics and invasives we have to go back to education.

## TABLE 2: ENDANGERED SPECIES, POACHING, WILDLIFE

### Participants:

- James King, TNC
- Vanessa Pérez-Cirera, WWF
- Dan Roe, Cemex
- Matt Chambers, Texas State University
- Oscar Meade, Rancher
- Valer Austin, Rancher
- Jaime Rojo, ASM

### ENDANGERED SPECIES

1. Cooperative cross – border management plan.
  - Shared information
  - Common logo
  - Agreed set of common rules
  - Flexibility for the different conservation models and practices
1. Inter governmental agreement that commits:
  - US:
    - a. Funding
    - b. Incentives on good land management practices
    - c. Building capacities
  - MEXICO:
    - a. Strict enforcement
    - b. Incentives on good land management practices
    - c. Alternatives (ecotourism, ecosystem services, hunting)

**TABLE 3: COLLABORATION ACROSS BORDERS, EXOTICS,  
ENDANGERED SPECIES, DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK.**

**Participants:**

- Susana Rojas, Pronatura
- Javier Lascurain, Unidos para la Conservacion
- Vidal Davila, National Park Service
- Esteban Brenes, World Wildlife Fund
- Armando Verduzco, Rancher
- Adrian Varela, Rancher
- Dorothy Ibes, Texas State University
- Hernando Cabral, The Nature Conservancy
- Carlos Servin, Rancher

**EXOTICS**

1. The control of exotics should take place on both sides of the border at the same time.
2. Creation of an alert system (with the participation of the different sectors) to prevent the entrance of exotics converted in plagues. [????]
3. Training program aimed at rural communities to detect exotic species in time. Inform the authorities (mechanism for both countries, for example, telephone)
4. Natural Protected Area in OCAMPO

**ENDANGERED SPECIES**

1. Integral program to sensitize the communities. Pride campaign.
2. Ensure that there are the correct sanctions and their execution. Furtive [????] hunters – PROFEPA
3. Creation of a fund to remunerate ranchers in case of livestock attacks.
4. Promote with SEDENA the existence of security control points in the entire region.
5. Standardized monitor system for species that incorporates people from the different communities.
6. UMAS – hunting use
7. Natural Protected Area in OCAMPO.

**LIVESTOCK**

1. Creation of a control system and eradication of feral species (e.g., donkeys)
2. Controlled corridors with drinking troughs for livestock on the Rio Bravo.
3. Control system for diseases that attack the wild species (e.g., rabies and brucellosis)
4. Promote fences and water troughs (Cattle grazing area rotation)
5. Promote holistic cattle ranching and productive diversification.

**COMMENTS:** Identify areas. Zone out the areas. (Ernesto Enkerlin)

**QUESTIONS:** Big Bend. On the Mexican side a lot of watering is being done.

Our policy is not toward restoring water; our policy is that we will maintain natural ecosystems. There need to be very specific goals. If there was a native species that we need to bring back and we can only do it by having artificial support then we would do it. There are waterholes built for endangered fish.

## REWILDING

### Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> 2006

TABLE 1: HOW CAN WE PROTECT AND  
MAINTAIN WILDLIFE CORRIDORS?

**Participants:**

Rodolfo de los Santos, *Rancher*  
Rafael García-Zuazua, *Unidos para la Conservacion*  
Raymond Skiles, *Big Bend National Park*  
Bonnie McKinney, *Cemex-El Carmen*  
Rodolfo Dirzo, *Stanford University*  
Ramón Pérez Gil, *Fundacion Gonzalo Rio Arronte*  
Patricio Robles Gil, *Agrupacion Sierra Madre*  
Mario Padilla, *Rancher*  
Roberto Zambrano, *Pronatura*

1. Identification of corridor links in a chain, biologically and socially.
2. Not only focusing on charismatic species because of diverse conservation needs of different species.
3. Protection of riparian corridors and waters.
4. Approaches to effective protection. Mosaic of alternatives: purchase – compensation, easements, Memorandums of Understanding etc.
5. Environmental awareness and education (kids and adults)
6. Human – wildlife conflicts
7. Communication
8. Pilot programs, to induce involvement
9. Viable meta-populations, ecological processes including microorganisms
10. Involvement of scientific community, biological – social
11. Monitoring and periodic evaluations “Your barometer”

TABLE 2: WHAT SHOULD THE POLICY  
TOWARDS NATIVE AND EXOTIC SPECIES BE?

**Participants:**

Alejandro Falcón, *Rancher*  
Inés Arroyo, *FAUNAM*  
Alejandro Espinosa, *Cemex*  
Maria Araujo, *TPWD*  
Jose Ramón Villar, *Fundacion para el Manejo Holistico de Mexico A.C.*  
Guillermo Osuna, *Rancher*



**Fauna:** No tolerance for exotic species. due to competition (habitat, food) spread of disease.

**Flora:** Give priority to native species. Introduce exotic species. Only with prior research studies

**Policy: Reintroduction**

- Only native species. (close to area)
- Ensure proper habitat.
- Have stakeholder consensus
- Preferably as part of a regional plan (long term), have proper resources to keep the plan
- Support from the community where the animals are going to be released

**TABLE 3: HOW CAN WE MOST EFFECTIVELY  
USE ENCLOSURES**

**Participants:**

Carlos Osuna Saenz, *Rancher*

Sandra Osuna, *Rancher*

Felipe Holschneider, *Rancher*

Jaime Maher, *Texas State University*

Luis Horacio Salinas, *Rancher*

Juan Bordes, *Rancher*

Martin Gutierrez, *Pronatura*

Hernan Rocha, *Rancher*

Fernando Elizondo, *Rancher*

Danae Azuara, *Unidos para la Conservacion*

Considering there is a law in Mexico that prohibits enclosures that stop natural flow of wildlife we agreed:

1. There is need of enclosures for reintroductions or translocations.
2. Enclosures should be species specific, permanent and a source for releasing wildlife back into the wild.
3. Enclosure should be used for quarantine, and in critical periods after translocations like: adaptation period, breeding season (to protect from predators), seasons of resource shortages, to decrease group dispersion.
4. Enclosures should be used according to legislation in order to get permits, taking in account established quarantine periods, enclosure periods.
5. Enclosures should be used as a tool to carry out more effective translocations for a population to have better chances of survival, establishment and growth.
6. A simultaneous habitat management should be done in order to do reintroductions so animals have the conditions and resources necessary to establish populations.
7. Need to have legal framework in order to be able to have enclosures inside preserves for conservation management programs (more flexibility).

8. Animals in enclosures should not be hunted or used for any other proposes other than rewilding or conservation objectives.

Comments:

- Policy for temporary enclosures within protected areas. (Ernesto Enkerlin)
- There are a lot of enclosures. (Carlos Manterola)
- Enclosures have been helpful. (Garza, Guillermo Osuna)
- There are a lot of technical aspects. A program of this caliber needs scientists, have sites as laboratories. Involve scientists. We need scientist in social aspects too. Rodolfo Dirzo

Questions:

- Is re-wilding only happening in Mexico? No, there are some re-wilding programs in Texas too. In Arizona they are doing a program with Turkeys coming from Mexico.
- Issues of exotics in Mexico. We don't need any exotics. There are no laws in Texas about bringing exotics into the ecosystem.
- Are there any regulations for non-native grasses? Like in the case of wildlife, education is the most important tool. Raise the level of awareness. There are sufficient grass species in the area already.

## RANCHERS Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup> 2006

Participants:

- Guillermo Osuna – Rancho Las Pilas
- Sandra Holschneider – Rancho El Sombrero
- Fernando Elizondo – Rancho Guadalupe
- Carlos Osuna – Rancho Las Antonias
- Carlos Osuna Sr. – Rancho Las Antonias
- Juan Pablo Bailleres – Rancho Margaritas
- Rodolfo de los Santos – Rancho El Cimarron
- Guillermo Osuna del Villar – Rancho Las Pilas
- Ramon del Villar – Fundacion para el Manejo Holistico, A.C.
- Juan Bordes – Rancho Margaritas
- Valer Austin – Rancho El Coronado
- Jesus Armando Berduzco – Rancho Media Luna y Rancho El Negro
- Carlos Servin - Rancho Sierra San Vicente

## DECLARATION

1. We, as ranchers, recognize that the fragmentation of the land, in general, goes against conservation.
2. Promote the implementation of common management strategies focused on the conservation of the land
3. Search for alternative economic resources from NGOs and other sources to promote and support conservation actions (ex. Conservation projects like providing water points for the wildlife)
4. Seek compensation and recognition for the ecosystem services that ranchers provide. Good conservation programs should be compensated.
5. The ranchers propose that as a group we all adopt and support the vision as it appears in the brochure “El Carmen – Big Bend, Conservation Corridor Initiative” that was given to us.

## THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN CONSERVATION Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup> 2006

### Participants:

- John King, Big Bend National Park
- Alejandro Espinosa, CEMEX
- Vidal Dávila, National Park Service
- Rosendo Treviño, United States Department of Agriculture

## DECLARATION

1. Support long-term cooperative conservation of biodiversity, ecosystem services, and natural and cultural values across boundaries. Examples would include tamarisk removal/native plant restoration projects. Also include any wildlife projects. Creating resource islands along the Rio Grande corridor.
2. Promote landscape-level ecosystem management through integrated bio-regional land-use planning and management. One of the first steps for the El Carmen-Big Bend Conservation Corridor Initiative could be to develop a comprehensive, stakeholder-driven land use plan for all the areas involved.

3. Build trust, understanding, and cooperation between and among countries, communities, agencies, and other stakeholders. Use the planning process to get partner “buy-in” and develop and strengthen relationships.
4. Share biodiversity and cultural resource management skills and experience including cooperative research and information management. One approach might be to try to plug this initiative into existing programs like the Chihuahuan Desert Network Inventory and Monitoring program. Develop bi-national resource management training programs.
5. Promote access to, and equitable and sustainable use of natural resources, consistent with national sovereignty. Develop an appreciative understanding of the different land use ethic and practices, economic and political realities, differing land ownership models, roles of respective governments entities, etc. One size does not have to fit all as long as the underlying philosophy and conservation objectives mesh.
6. Enhance the benefits of conservation and promote benefit sharing across boundaries among stakeholders. Strive for win-win. Understand that partners can benefit from other partner’s successes.
7. Work together to break down systemic barriers (i.e. border crossing closure in Big Bend NP). Help to put systems in place to facilitate more effective bi-national cooperation i.e. special dispensation for cross border travel for park managers and staff, CEMEX and Mexican Protected Area staff.
8. Work to develop an empowered constituency. National Park areas belong to us all and as such we have shared stewardship responsibility. Can the same “ownership” philosophy be applied to lands within the El Carmen-Big Bend Conservation Corridor Initiative? Market the Initiative at all levels in both countries. Gain support at all levels – private landowners, government officials and entities, environmental organizations, commodity groups, etc.
9. Allocate resources - staff, equipment, money, etc. – to the initiative. If we don’t it will be yet another” paper initiative.
10. Focus on what unites us rather than what divides us. There are obviously areas where we are “different” - i.e. language, customs, laws, levels of professional standards, amount of available resources, levels of authority, etc. Don’t let those barriers derail the Initiative. Keep our eye on the ball. Focus on the jointly agreed upon outcomes and work incrementally toward accomplishing those.
11. Have a plan. Work the plan. This might include things like: identifying and promoting common values. Involving and benefiting local stakeholders. Obtaining and maintaining support of decision makers. Promoting coordinated and cooperative activities. Achieving coordinated planning. Developing cooperative agreements. Working towards funding sustainability. Monitoring and assessing progress.

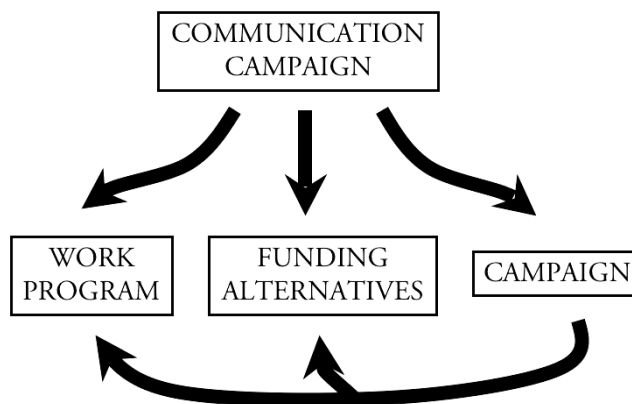
## FINANCING FOR A LONG TERM FUND

Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup> 2006

### Participants:

- James King – The Nature Conservancy
- Esteban Brenes – World Wildlife Fund
- Lorenzo Rosenzweig – Fondo Mexicano para la Conservacion de la Naturaleza
- Carlos Manterola – Unidos para la Conservacion
- Raymond Skiles – Big Bend National Park
- Ramon Perez-Gil – Fundacion Gonzalo Rio Arronte
- Oscar Meade – Rancho Margaritas
- Rafael García-Zuazua – Unidos para la Conservacion
- Dorothy Ibes – Texas State University
- Jaimie Maher – Texas State University

### Financial sustainability for the CBBI (name proposed by participants)



### FEEDBACK FROM THREE

“Institutional set up is a key factor for the success of the capital + fundraising campaign”

#### 1. Work plan outline (*The dream in 10 – 15 years*)

- Wildlife corridors operational
- Exotic /invasive /feral issues
- Protected areas
- Restoration (Rewilding)
- Ownership consolidation
- Ejido owners integrated

- Monitoring of health of the ecosystem (score card)
- Scientific link (large scale lab)
- Knowledge management community in place (best sharing)
  - Shared regional vision on all specific programs
  - First class communication strategy.

## **2. Institutional arrangement** (Principle- *If you build it they will come*)

- Participatory Design of the regional funding entity (medium – long term)
- Short term funding by direct mechanisms available.

## **3. Funding Schemes** (*Legality- Sky is the limit*)

- Trust Funds
- Hunting Fees
- User Fees
- Direct donations
- Stakeholders
- Government (Bilateral or multilateral)
- Earned income
- NGO collaboration

### 3.DECLARATORIA DE ENTENDIMIENTO (SPANISH)

## EL CARMEN – BIG BEND CONSERVATION CORRIDOR INITIATIVE

### DECLARATORIA

Los participantes en la reunión denominada “El Carmen – Big Bend, Iniciativa de corredor de conservación”, reunidos en la Ciudad de Monterrey, Nuevo León el 29 y 30 de abril de 2006, declaramos que:

#### CONSIDERANDO

1. Que la investigación actual demuestra que la gran mayoría de sitios destinados a la conservación son de área reducida, los cuales representan un valor para la conservación, sin embargo, no son capaces de mantener de forma integral la biota y los procesos ecológicos que corresponden a la zona. Para esto se requieren áreas extensas y manejadas con un enfoque de paisaje;
2. Que la región conocida como “El Carmen - Big Bend” localizada en los estados de Chihuahua y Coahuila en el norte de México y en el estado de Texas en los Estados Unidos, incluye una diversidad de ecosistemas que representan una zona de gran importancia biológica y a la vez reconocida a nivel internacional como una de las 20 ecorregiones de mayor importancia de la conservación y entre las 35 más amenazadas del mundo y es una de las pocas que aún mantienen su condición de area silvestre.
3. Que la zona “El Carmen - Big Bend”, además de su importancia biológica, carácter silvestre y grado de amenaza, representa un área que aporta servicios ecosistémicos (de provisión, de regulación y culturales) de gran importancia para la sociedad de ambos países;
4. Que los propósitos de conservación en la región son compatibles con actividades económicas y productivas sustentables de la región, tales como: ecoturismo, aprovechamiento cinegético o ganadería;
5. Que si bien los ecosistemas y la biodiversidad no reconocen fronteras las divisiones geopolíticas, éstas representan un reto y una

- oportunidad para el trabajo de colaboración en el logro de una visión de conservación integral;
6. Que existe un grupo de propietarios y pobladores de la zona que por mucho años han reconocido la vocación y el gran valor de sus terrenos para la conservación;
  7. Que se cuenta con el interés de grupos y organizaciones conservacionistas de ambos países así como de la comunidad conservacionista internacional por apoyar los esfuerzos de conservación en la zona;
  8. Que para garantizar los esfuerzos de conservación a largo plazo es necesario establecer mecanismos financieros, legales e institucionales en la zona.

### MANIFESTAMOS

1. Nuestro interés en construir una estrategia regional para la conservación de la zona y la consolidación de un corredor de conservación entre “El Carmen - Big Bend”.
2. Que la zona, sirva como modelo de integración de visiones comunes e involucre a propietarios, pobladores locales, organizaciones de la sociedad civil de ambos países, gobiernos a sus diferentes ámbitos y fuentes de financiamiento.
3. Que el corredor de conservación entre “El Carmen - Big Bend” deberá basarse en el respeto de los derechos de propiedad y en el reconocimiento de la heterogeneidad existente en la región.
4. La necesidad de fortalecer esquemas de desarrollo y programas de incentivos, tales como: el pago por servicios ambientales u otros mecanismos de compensación que brinden beneficios directos a los propietarios y comunidades de la zona sin dañar las condiciones naturales de los ecosistemas.

### ACORDAMOS

1. Continuar compartiendo experiencias, construyendo conocimiento y estableciendo mecanismos de diseño, promoción y consolidación del corredor de conservación “El Carmen – Big Bend”.
2. Formar un grupo de trabajo incluyente (representantes de los sectores público, académico, sociedad civil, ejidatarios, propietarios, prestadores de servicios, empresarios y comunidades



- locales), encargado de la coordinación de acciones que permitan lograr objetivos comunes.
3. Sumar esfuerzos para explorar el establecimiento de mecanismos financieros para el corredor de conservación “El Carmen - Big Bend” que permita instrumentar las acciones necesarias y proteger las riquezas biológicas de la región.
  4. Fomentar e incentivar entre los propietarios actividades productivas que mantengan o mejoren las condiciones naturales de los predios y reduzcan el impacto de la acción del hombre en los ecosistemas.
  5. Impulsar entre los propietarios y ejidatarios el uso de instrumentos públicos y privados de conservación que permitan dar certeza jurídica a las acciones de protección a largo plazo, incluyendo esquemas tales como: servidumbres, certificación, UMA’s, ANP’s, etc.).
  6. Trabajar conjuntamente en reducir y mitigar las barreras políticas, legales, culturales y económicas que han limitado la consolidación de éste esfuerzo de conservación binacional.
  7. Buscar alianzas con actores locales, binacionales e internacionales claves que permitan fortalecer los esfuerzos de conservación de la región.
  8. Apoyar y promover procesos de valor agregado, tales como la certificación dentro de los predios ubicando capacidades de carga y mejores prácticas manejo.

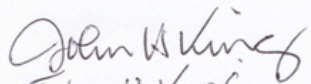
Este documento representa los intereses, preocupaciones y acuerdos básicos de los participantes, siendo un punto de partida para los trabajos y acuerdos específicos que lleven a la conservación de la región. Esta iniciativa busca mantener el estado silvestre del área en beneficio de las generaciones presentes y futuras.

Invitamos a contribuir y a participar a todos los actores que puedan tener un interés en la presente iniciativa.

This is a starting point document in progress. This is a project that is looking for the Benefit of not only for present generations but also for future generations. All the signers below agree that this is a document

Agree that this document captures the interest of the participants and recognizes the great diversity in this region and we welcome input and participation from additional stakeholders who might have an interest in the Initiative.

  
LORETO ROSEWENE

  
John H. King  
Superintendent  
Big Bend National Park


  
Rodolfo de los Santos Ag.

  
Guillermo Osuna Saez

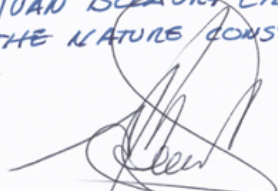
  
PATRICIA ROBLES


  
Guillermo Osuna Villar

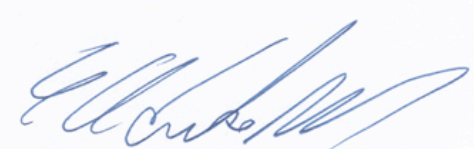
Vance G. Martin  
The Wild Foundation

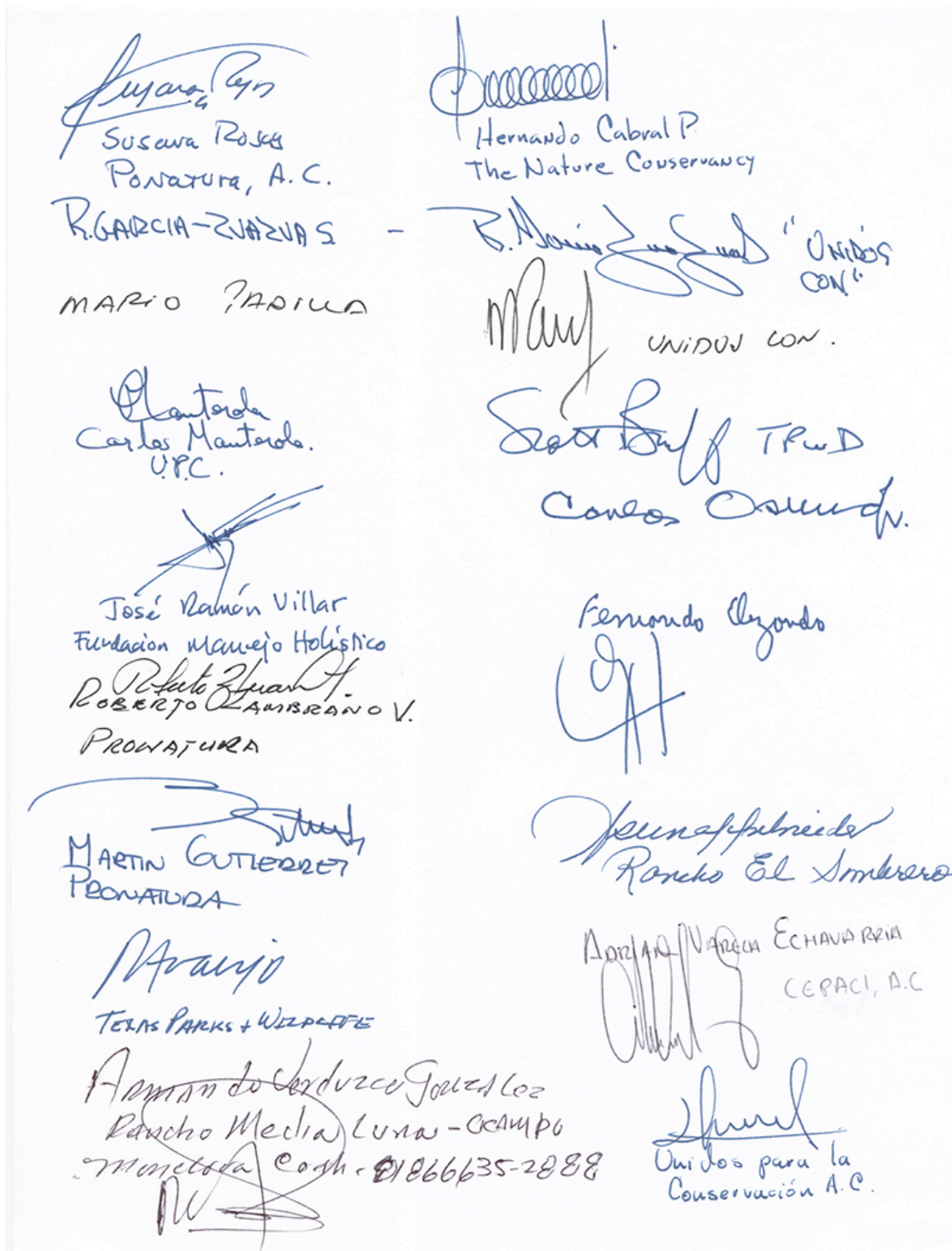
  
The Nature Conservancy - Texas

  
JUAN BEAUDRY CREEL  
THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

  
ARMANDO J. GARCIA  
CEMEX (CARMEN)

  
Omar Vidal  
WWF - Mexico

  
ERNESTO ENKELE  
CONANT  
Valer Austin  
Cuenca los ojos





*Lascurain*

Javier Lascurain

*Ty Sam*  
Tytus Fain

*Rosendo Treuiz III*

Rosendo Treuiz III

*Roberto Zurua*  
CEMEX ROBERTO ZURUA

Carlos Seguin E.

*Carlo Seguin*  
Sierra San Vicente.

Vidal Davila

Vidal Davila  
National Park Service  
Big Bend N. P. Tx.

Alejandro Espinosa  
CEMEX

*Billy Pat McKinney*  
CEMEX El Carmen -

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### 3.DECLARATION OF UNDERSTANDING (ENGLISH)

## EL CARMEN – BIG BEND CONSERVATION CORRIDOR INITIATIVE

### DECLARATION OF UNDERSTANDING

The meeting participants of “El Carmen-Big Bend Conservation Corridor Initiative” met in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon April 29-30, 2006 and wish to declare as follows:

#### CONSIDERING

1. That current research shows that the great majority of conservation sites are of limited size and, while valuable to conservation, they do not encompass the biota and ecological processes of the corresponding regions. Accordingly, there is a need for more extensive conservation areas that can be managed with a landscape ecology approach;
2. That the region known as “El Carmen-Big Bend,” located in the states of Chihuahua and Coahuila in northern Mexico and in the state of Texas in the United States, includes a diversity of ecosystems that represent a region of great biological significance and is internationally known as one of the 20 most important ecoregions for conservation, one of 35 most threatened in the world (hotspots), and one of the few remaining wilderness.
3. That the “El Carmen-Big Bend” region, in addition to its biological significance, wilderness and threatened status, represents an area that contributes ecosystem services (of supply, regulation and a cultural nature) of great importance to society in both countries;

4. That the conservation goals in the region are compatible with the sustainable economic and productive activities of the region such as ecotourism, hunting or ranching;
5. That while ecosystems and biodiversity do not recognize geopolitical borders, those boundaries present a challenge and opportunity for collaboration to fulfill a comprehensive conservation vision.
6. That for many years, a group of landowners and inhabitants of the region have recognized the suitability and great value of their lands for conservation;
7. That there is interest among conservation groups and organizations in both countries as well as in the international conservation community to support conservation efforts of the region;
8. That to guarantee conservation efforts in the long term, it is necessary to establish financial, legal and institutional mechanisms in the region.

### WE DECLARE

1. Our interest in developing a regional strategy for the conservation of the area and the consolidation of a conservation corridor between “El Carmen-Big Bend.”
2. That the region serve as a model for the integration of common visions and involve property owners, local inhabitants, non-governmental organizations in both countries, funding sources and the different levels of government.
3. That the conservation corridor between “El Carmen-Big Bend” should be based on respect for private property rights and recognition of the heterogeneity that exists in the region.

4. The need to strengthen development schemes and incentive programs such as: payment for ecosystem services or other compensation mechanisms of direct benefits to the landowners and communities without damaging the natural conditions of the ecosystems.

## WE AGREE

1. To continue sharing experiences, building knowledge, and establishing design, promotion and consolidation mechanisms for the “El Carmen-Big Bend conservation corridor.”
2. To establish an inclusive work group (with representatives from the public and academic sectors, non-governmental organizations, local residents, landowners, service providers, entrepreneurs and local communities), in charge of coordinating actions to reach common objectives.
3. Combine efforts to explore the establishment of financial mechanisms for the conservation corridor “El Carmen-Big Bend” that allows the implementation of necessary actions to protect the biological richness of the region.
4. Provide encouragement and incentives for property owners to undertake productive activities that maintain or improve the natural conditions of their lands and reduce the impact of man’s action on the ecosystems.
5. Promote among landowners and local residents the use of instruments for public and private conservation undertakings that provide long term legal certainty of the protection actions, including schemes such as: conservation easements, certification, UMAs, ANPs, etc.).
6. Work jointly to reduce and mitigate the political, legal, cultural and economic barriers that have limited the consolidation of this binational conservation effort.

7. Seek alliances with key stakeholders, at the local, binational and international level that permit strengthening the conservation efforts of the region.
8. Support and promote value-added processes such as the certification of lands, identifying carrying capacity and better management practices.

This document representing the interests, concerns and basic understanding of the participants is a point of departure for the work and specific agreements that will lead to the conservation of the region. This initiative seeks to maintain the wilderness identity of the area for the benefit of present and future generations.

All the signers below agree that this document captures the interest of the participants and recognizes the great diversity in this region. We welcome input and participation from additional stakeholders who might have an interest in the initiative.



#### **4. COMMITMENTS TO ACTIONS TO BE COMPLETED BY THIS TIME NEXT YEAR**

##### **CONECO / Guillermo Osuna**

Specify goals more clearly and specifically.

- CONECO ranchers will meet and define goals and direction.
- CONECO will bring definite proposals for the whole group to the next annual meeting.

##### **THE NATURE CONSERVANCY - Mexico**

- Commit to technical studies to get the Mexican Presidential declaration for the Rio Bravo Natural Monument.
- Develop vision and plan IF full time person is working on project

##### **PRONATURA AND UNIDOS**

- Create legal reform for the consideration of use of land – requires a change to the Mexican constitution

##### **WWF**

1. Continue with eradication of salt cedar
2. Provide advice to finance GPR create 4/30/06

##### **WWF, CI, PRONATURA, UNIDOS, TNC, THE WILD FOUNDATION, CEPACE**

- Work with NGOs to recognize voluntary conservation efforts.

##### **PRONATURA, UNIDOS, TNC**

- Collaborate with landowners as legal advisors for land conservation in the long term. “Land solely dedicated to protecting wildlife has value”
- Ranchers need to be registered/ certified with the CONANP

##### **TY FAINAN**

- Project to identify ways that scientific and ecotourism groups can cross the border easily.
  - Mexican Foreign Ministry
  - Mexican State Department
  - Big Bend National Park
  - CONANP

##### **THE NATURE CONSERVANCY – West Texas**

- Explore and help ranchers to work up with organic markets in the US.
- Helping Texas Parks & Wildlife with inholding issues. Buy land.
- Help host 2007 meeting. Sponsor.

## **UNIDOS PARA LA CONSERVACION, CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL**

- Cooperate to support management plan in OCAMPO.

## **FMCN**

- Committed \$25,000 towards organization money for a team
- Establish a Bi-national team dedicated to protecting the El Carmen / Big Bend Region
- Will try to raise additional funds from other organizations
- Create a web page for the El Carmen / Big Bend Initiative. [www.imac.org](http://www.imac.org)

## **CEMEX**

- Create a plan for re-wilding El Carmen – Big Bend.

## **TNC, WWF, UNIDOS PARA LA CONSERVACION**

- Recognition of El Carmen wilderness area by NGOs. Work on a Mexican National Basis.

## **AGRUPACION SIERRA MADRE, Patricio**

Communication to stakeholders not present at the meeting

## **TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE**

- Bring U.S. political decisions makers to the next meeting.

## **MEXICAN FOUNDATION FOR HOLISTIC MANAGEMENT**

- Work with ranchers in Serranias del Burro to improve their grasslands management and cattle activities.

## **ALL**

“Run down the Rio Bravo once it is a declared a National Monument”

## **QUESTIONS**

How can we get to outside world?

Need a workshop – threats and strategies to address? Cost? Fund?