

# Lower Rio Grande/Rio Bravo Binational Ecosystem Group

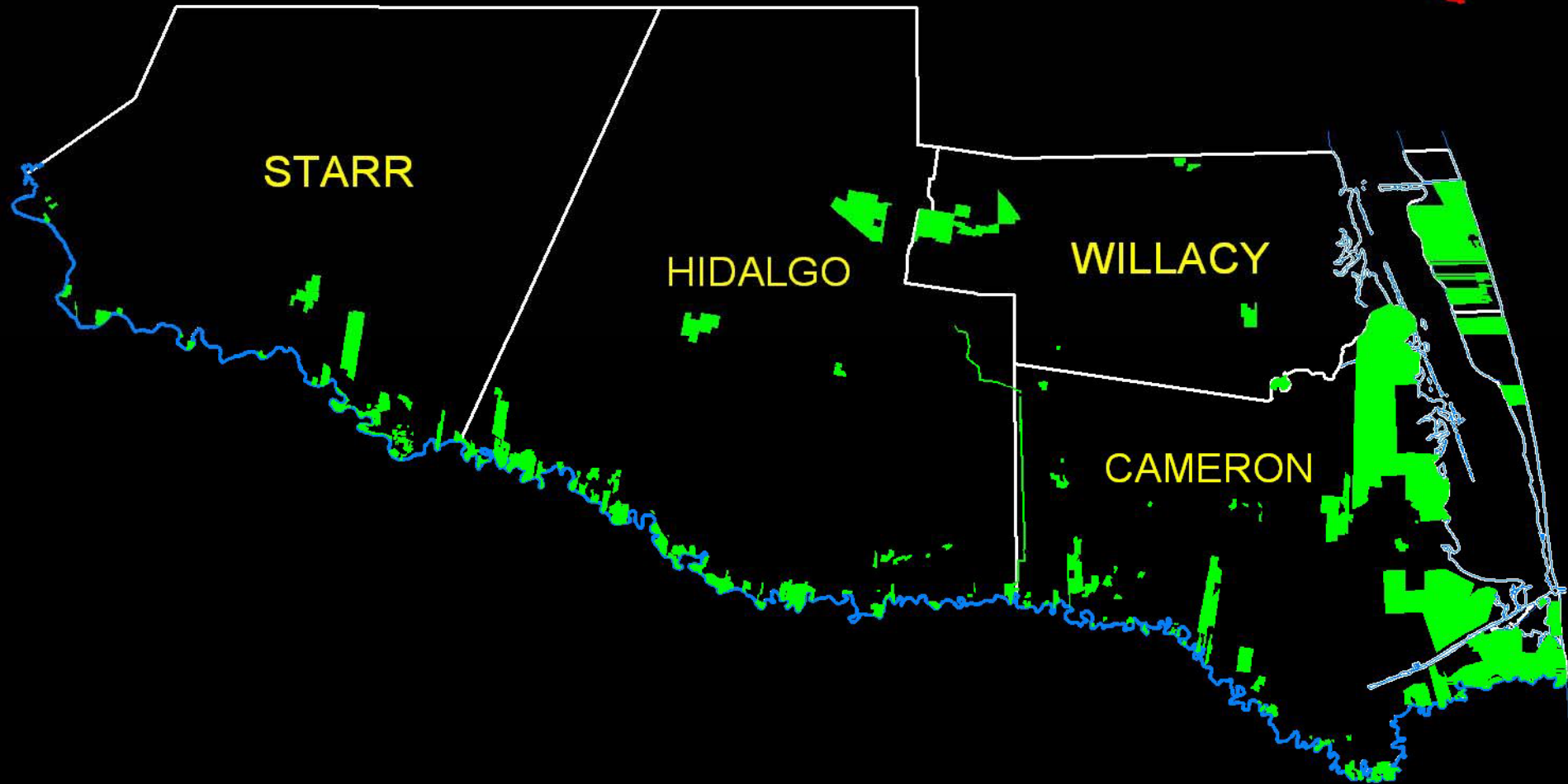


Ernesto Reyes  
Fish and Wildlife Biologist  
Ecological Service



The mission of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

# South Texas Refuge Complex



# Lower Rio Grande Valley Biotic Communities

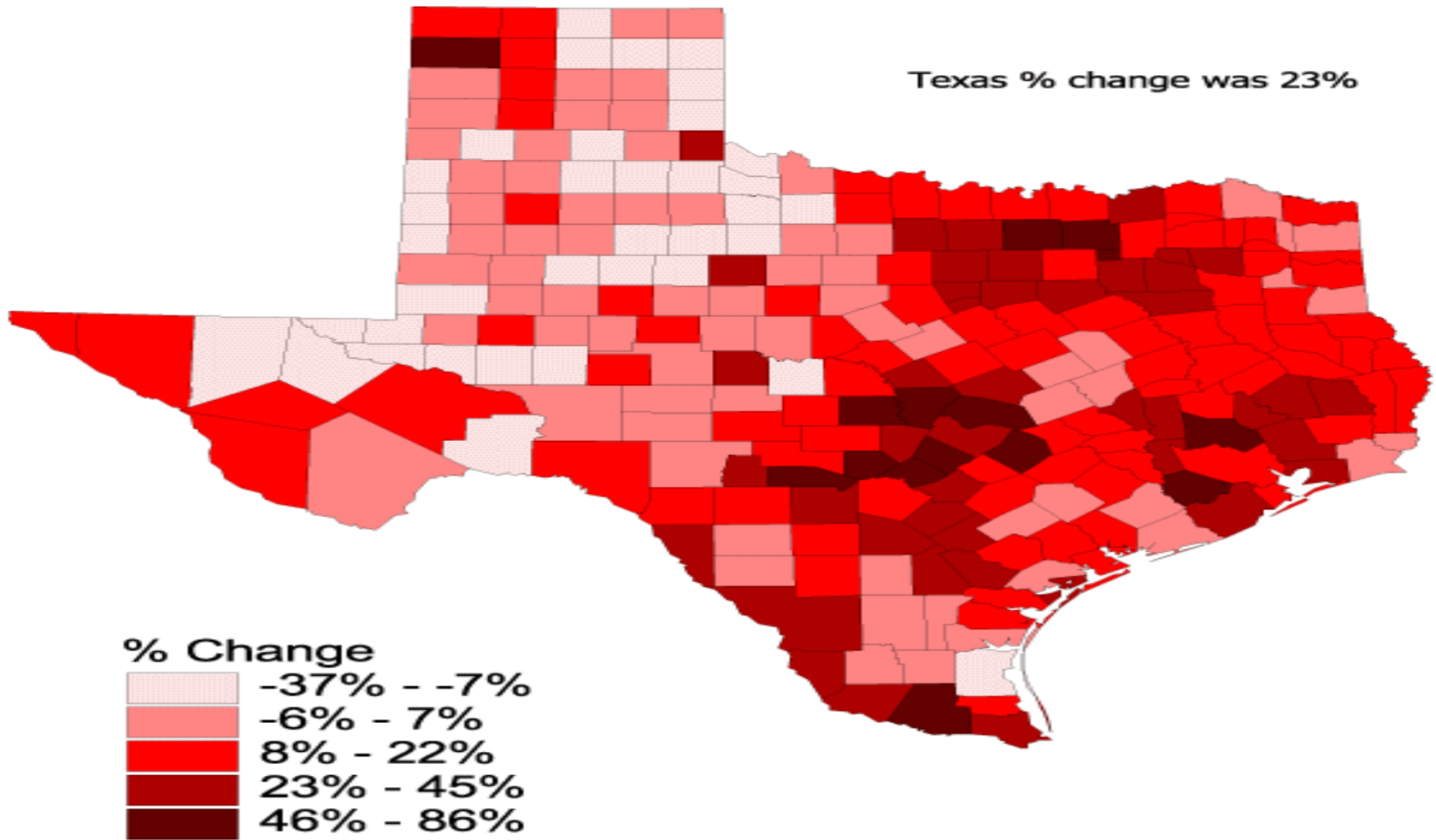


- Since 1920, more than 95% of native vegetation in the Rio Grande Valley (Delta) has been converted to agriculture and urban sprawl.
- More than 90% of the riparian habitat in the LRGV has been converted to agriculture and urbanization.
- It is estimated that more than 98% of the subtropical region has disappeared .

# Population Growth

Percent Change in Population:  
1990 to 2000

Texas % change was 23%



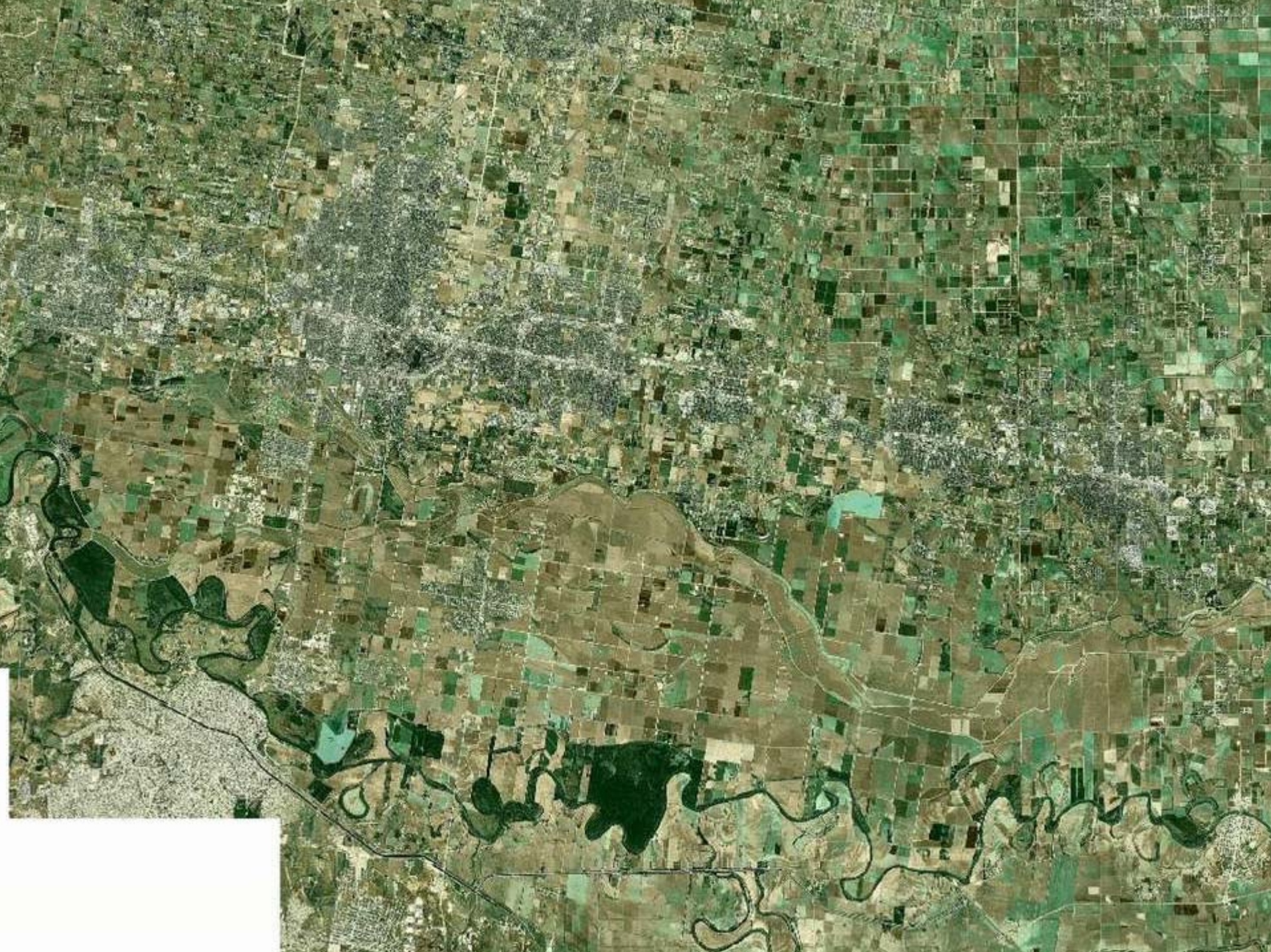
Source: Texas State Data Center

- Today, the border region is home to more than 11.8 million people with 6.3 million in the U.S. and 5.5 million in Mexico within 60 miles on either side of the border.

- 90% of the population resides in 14 paired sister cities with the rest living in small towns or rural communities.

- The population of Mexico border municipalities is expected to double in nine years.

- Over 35% of Texas border population lives in Poverty.



1,268 T & E species in the U.S.

82 T & E species in Texas

43 T & E species along Texas Border

20 T& E species in the LRGV

# Species Biodiversity in the Valley

Birds - 500

Butterflys – 300

Plants – 1,600

Endangered species - 20

Species of concern - 46

Río Bravo (Boca Chica) open



Río Bravo (Boca Chica) closed





International Bridges





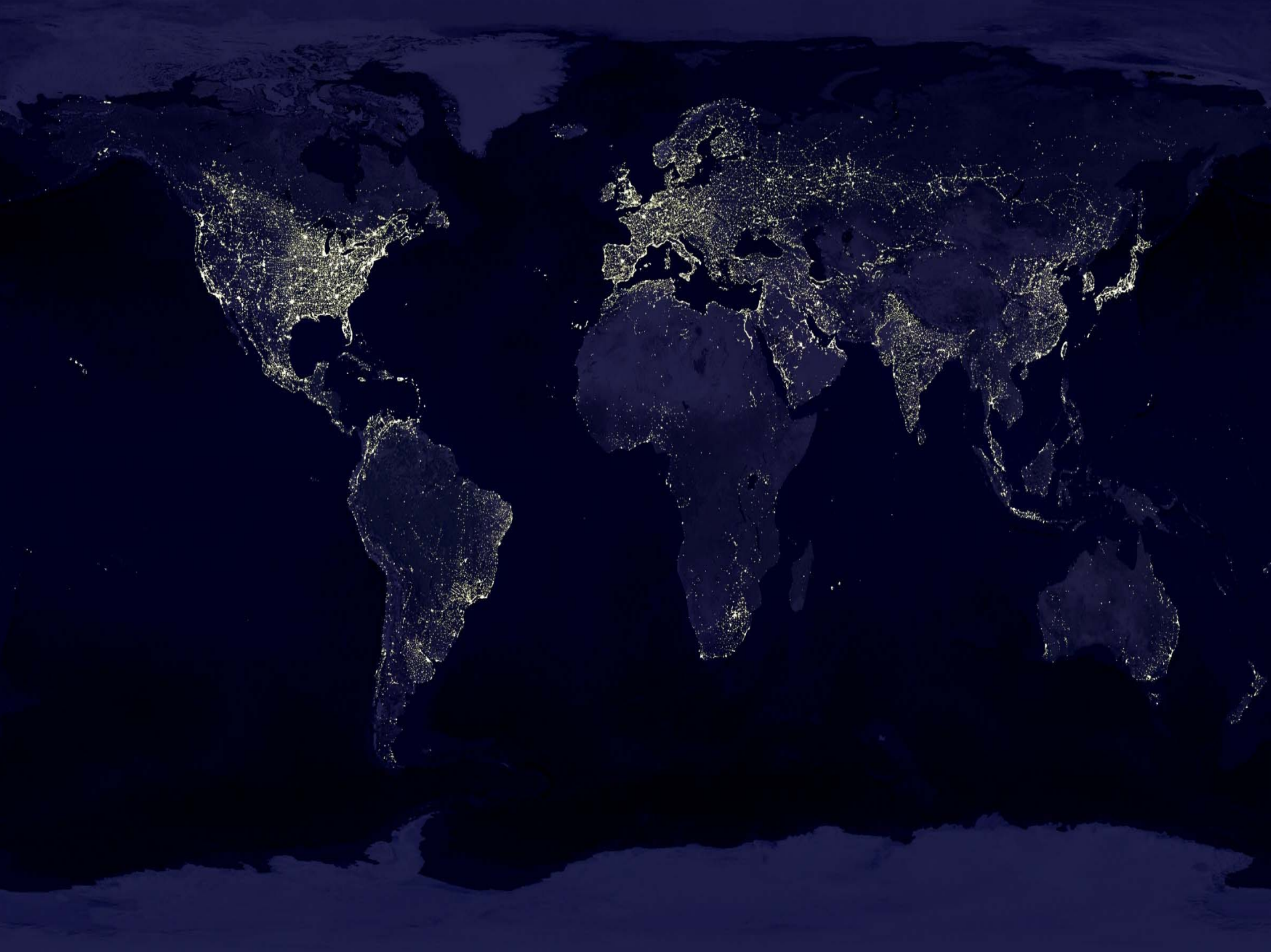
Border Patrol Drag Roads



Portable Lights



Permanent Lights





- On February 13-14, 2002, the Lower Rio Grande/Rio Bravo Ecosystem Group had a meeting in SPI.
- A small core group was put together with federal, state, and NGO's from South Texas and Northern Tamaulipas, Mexico to write an ecosystem management plan .
- The participating agencies of this core group are the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, The Nature Conservancy, SEMARNAT, SEDUE y PRONATURA.

The Lower Rio Grande/Rio Bravo Binational Ecosystem  
Group developed a Binational Ecosystem Management Plan  
in 2002

- 1. Problems
- 2. Ecosystem Boundary
- 3. Vision Statement
- 4. Description of Habitats
- 5. Objectives
- 6. Strategies
- 7. Specific Actions

# Water Conservation

Objective 1: Maintaining and improving the Quality of water

Strategy (1): Facilitate the appropriate water flow for aquatic wildlife and riparian areas

Strategy (2): Develop data to facilitate conservation of underground water resources

Strategy (3): Develop data to assure sufficient supply of water for management of wetlands

## Objective 2: Management and improvement of local species and habitat

Strategy (1): Maintain and improve the quality of subsurface water for the conservation of natural resources for fish and wildlife

Strategy (2): Manage and improve the quality of subsurface water for the conservation of fish

# Species and Habitats

Objective 1: Identify groups of local species including migratory birds, federally-listed, proposed, candidate and rare species

Strategy (1): Conserve and recover listed, proposed, candidate, and rare species

Strategy (2): Conserve and restore migratory bird habitat

Strategy (3): Management of non-native species

Strategy (4): Conserve and restore commercial fisheries

## Objective 2: Conserve and restore focal habitats

Strategy (1): Conserve and restore wetlands and Tamaulipan brush

Strategy (2): Conserve and restore native grasslands

Strategy (3): Connect and restore wildlife corridors along the Rio Grande River and north and south of the Texas-Mexico border.

# Conservation Education

Objective 1: Increase public awareness of the value of natural resources

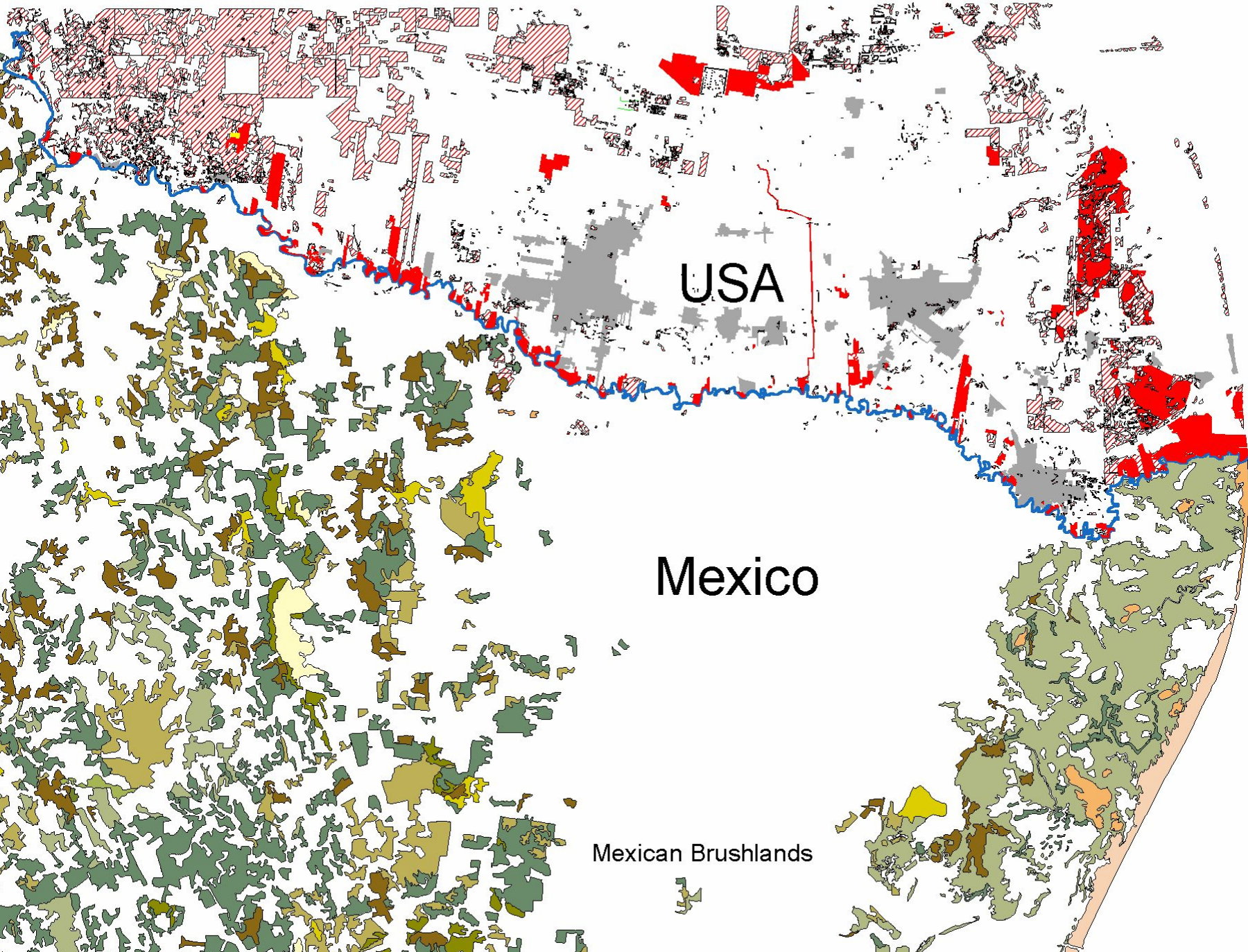
Strategy (1): Increase public awareness of the importance of wildlife to quality of human life

Objective 2: Promote outdoor recreation activities (Ecotourism)

Strategy (1): Promote outdoor recreational opportunities to increase public awareness and involvement in wildlife conservation

- The Binational Group is working together to establish a wildlife corridor on both sides of the border along the river.
- Establish wildlife corridors north and south of the border.
- Identify areas that need restoration to make these connections
- Establish conservation agreements

U.S. Brushlands

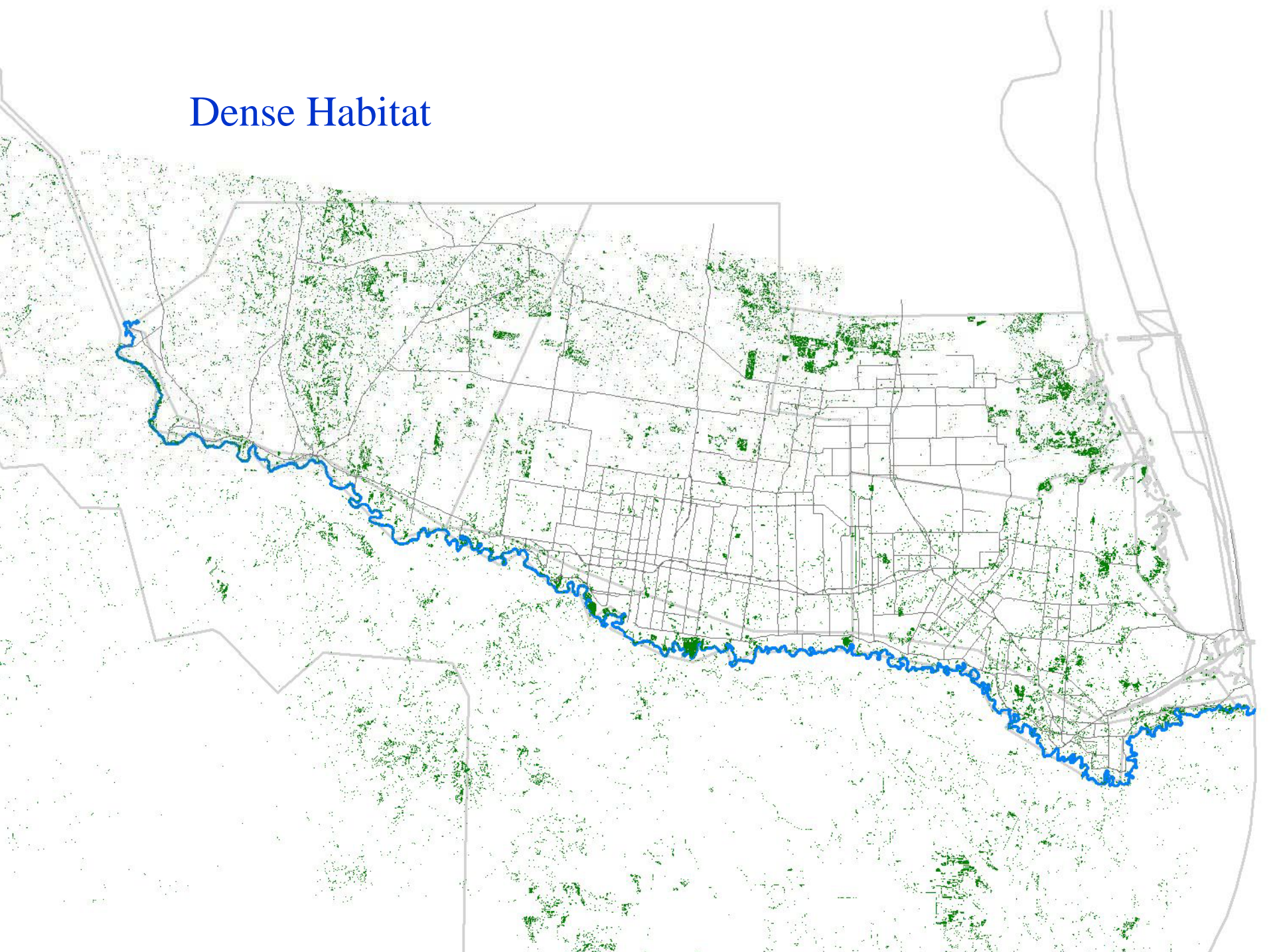


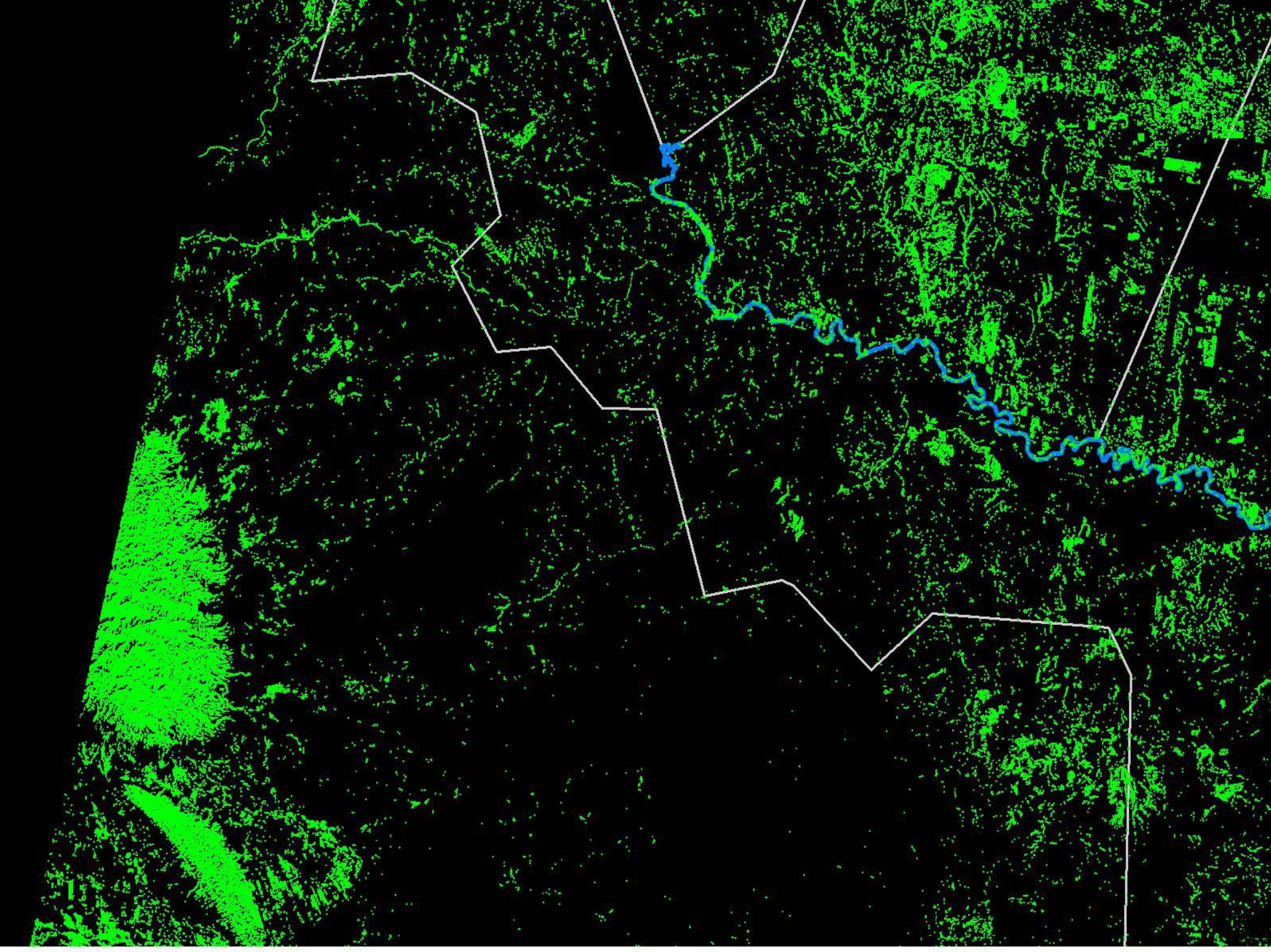
USA

Mexico

Mexican Brushlands

# Dense Habitat







Wildlife Corridor and Agriculture

# OCELOTE



Laguna Madre  
of Texas  
and Tamaulipas

# JAGUARUNDI





## Restoration needed along the Rio Grande River





# Overgrazed Areas that need Restoration



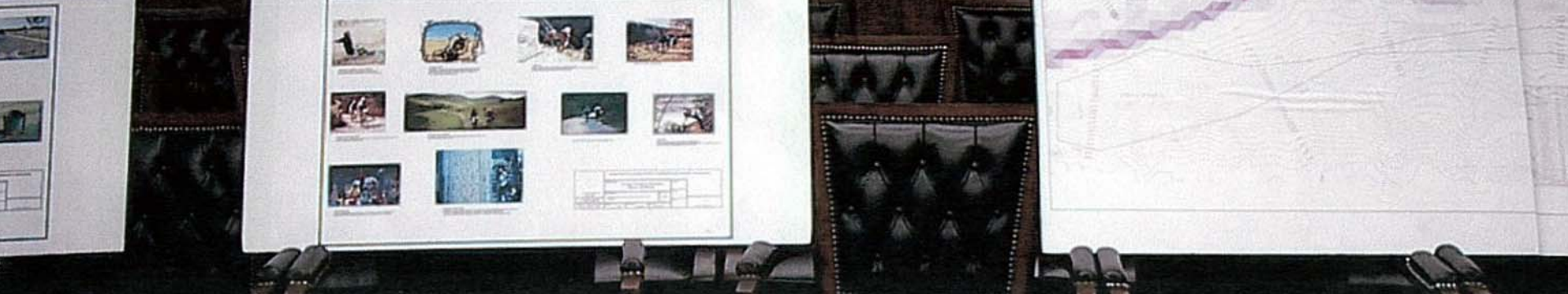
# Coastal Grassland







Conservation Agreements in Tamaulipas, Mexico



**PROYECTO: CORREDOR ECOLÓGICO-TURÍSTICO RIBERA DEL BRAVO**

**NUEVO LAREDO, TAMAULIPAS.**

**ESC. 1:750**



# Fire training in Ciudad Victoria, Tamaulipas, Mexico



# Fire Training at Chipinque Ecological Park in Monterrey, N.L. Mexico



# Creating a fire break in Monterrey





**Santa Ana**  
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



Environmental Education with Mexico