Environmental and Cultural Flows for the Colorado River in Mexico



INSTITUTE

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Foto: Bill Hatcher, Sonoran Institute

Our Mission

To connect people and communities with the natural resources that nourish and sustain them



SONORAN institute

Foto: Francisco Zamora Sonoran Institute



Colibrí cabeza roja (Anna's Hummingbird) Francisco Zamora, Sonoran Institute

Our Vision



A Colorado River Basin where rivers flow, landscapes are healthy, and all communities thrive.

Outline:

- 1. Historic Delta the need for restoration
- 2. Binational restoration efforts agreements and implementation
- 3. What is next? challenges and opportunities



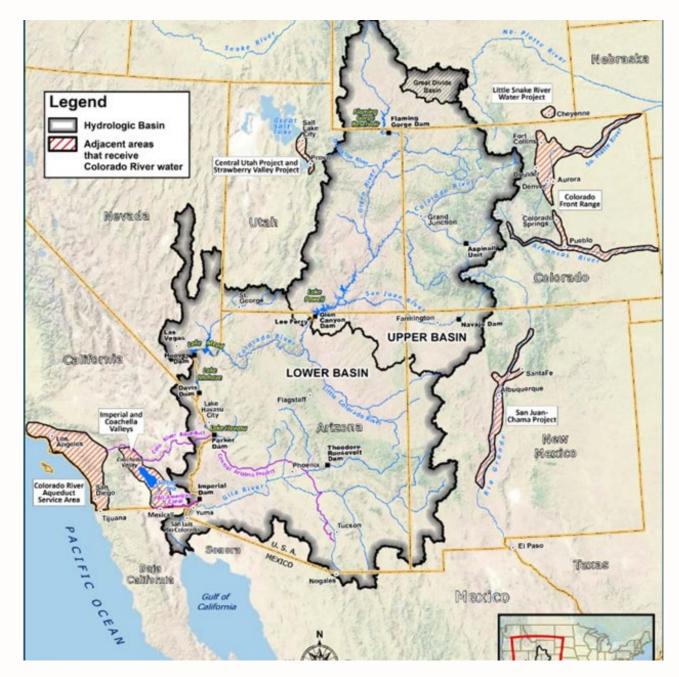
1. HISTORIC DELTA – THE NEED FOR RESTORATION

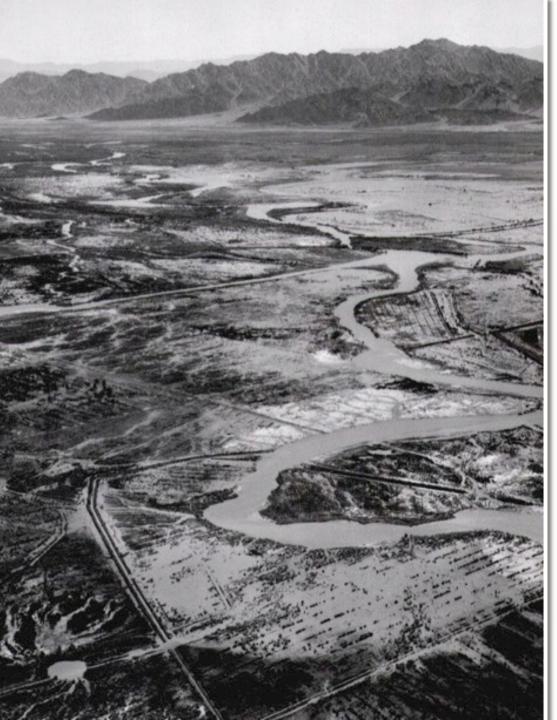
Colorado River basin

2 countries: México y USA

7 states in USA 2 states in México

No water allocation for the Delta in Mexico





Historic Delta

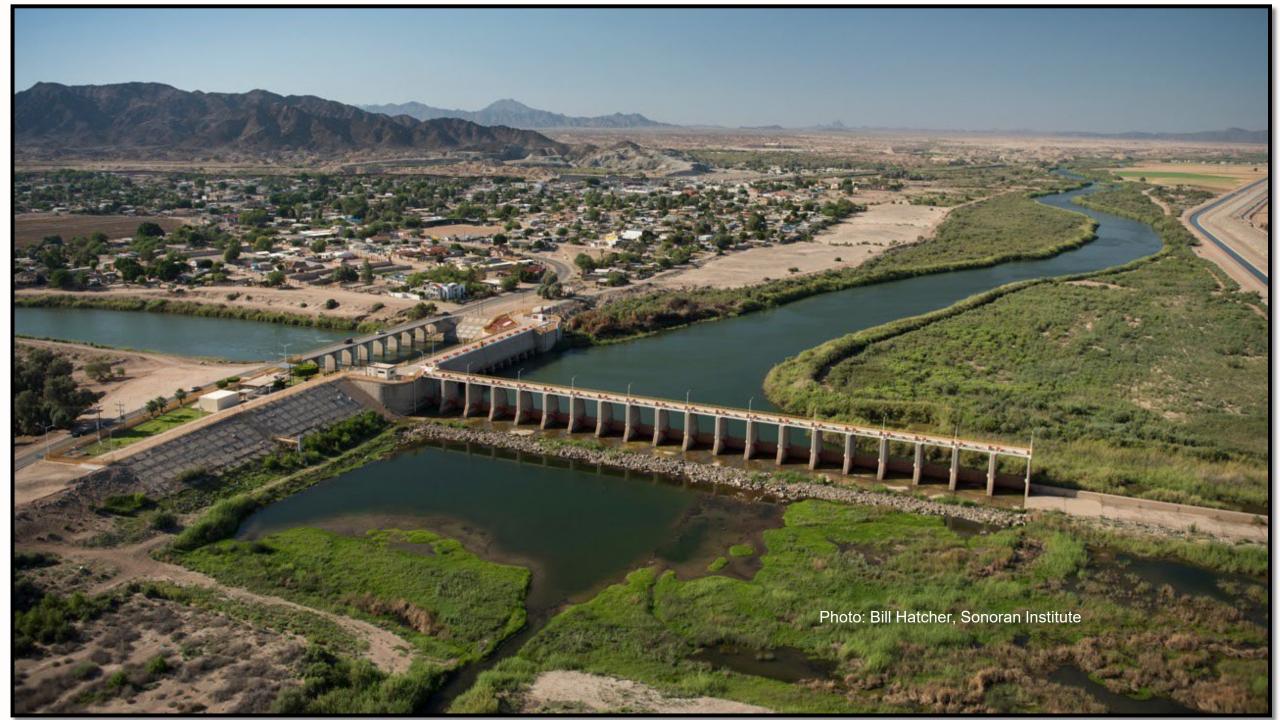


Images curtesy of IBWC



Morelos Dam and Colorado River, February 7, 1956 Photo: Curtesy Albert Flores, IBWC.









2. Binational restoration efforts – agreements and implementation

Minute 319: A five-year agreement (2012-2017)

Minute 323: A nine-year agreement (2017-2026)



Collaboration and vision











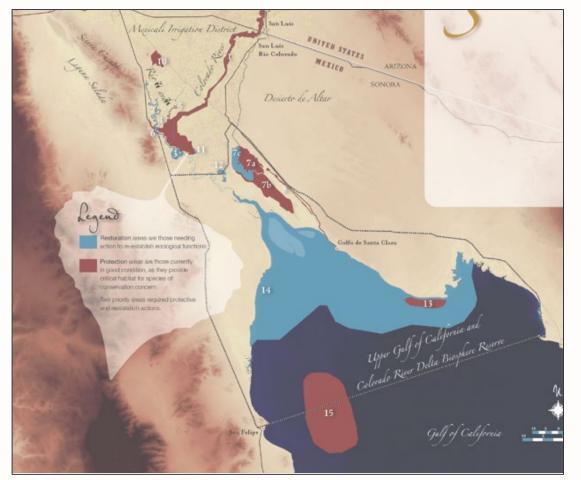




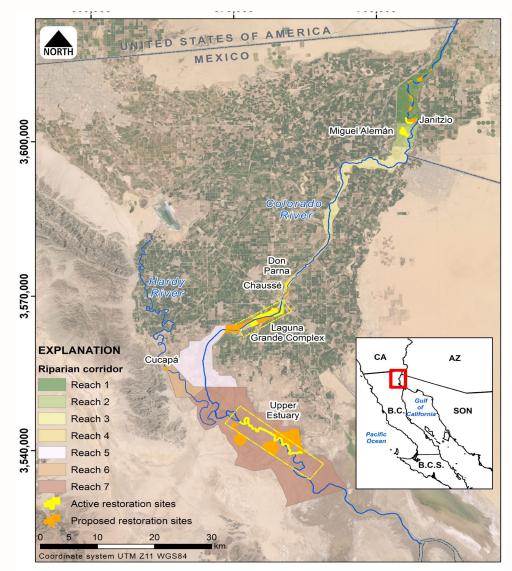


2002





MAP OF THE POSSIBLE



Ongoing restoration efforts



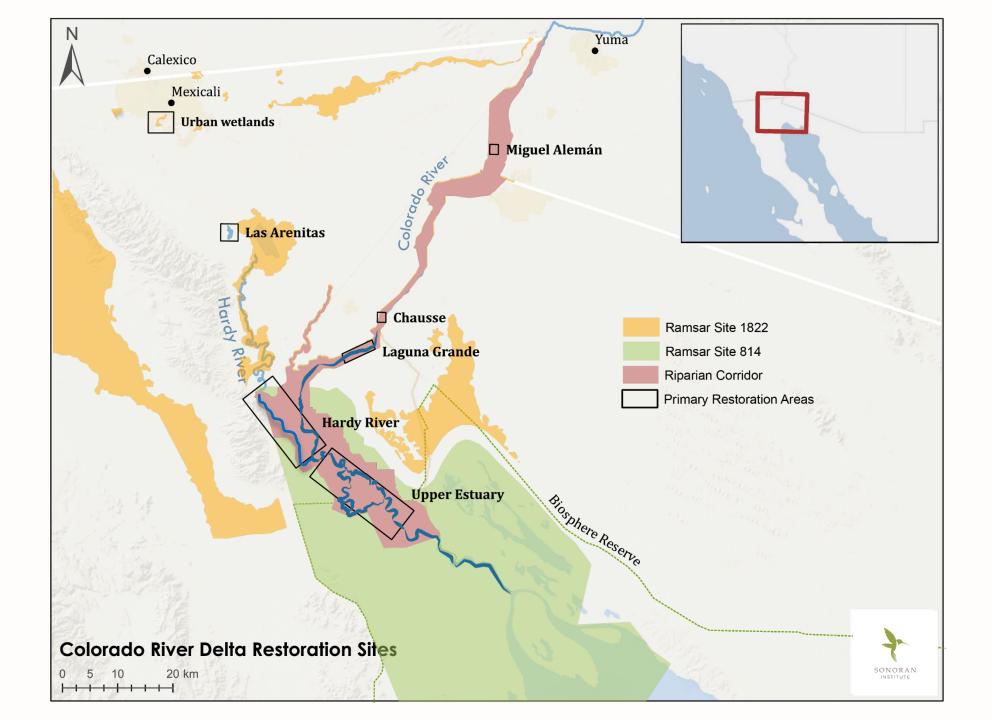




Foto: Francisco Zamora Sonoran Institute

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Day 5 of the pulse flow (2014)





Foto: Francisco Zamora Sonoran Institute



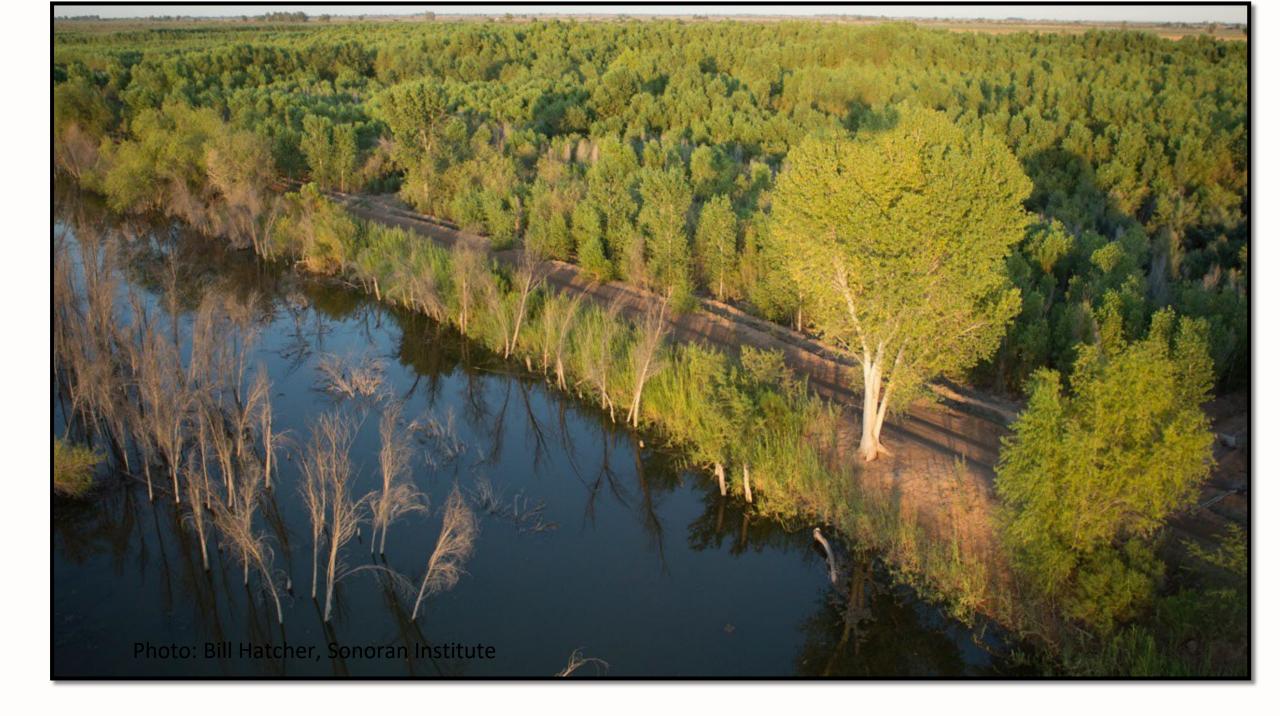
Foto: Francisco Zamora Sonoran Institute



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Foto: Francisco Zamora Sonoran Institute

CARPENT DE CONTRACTOR









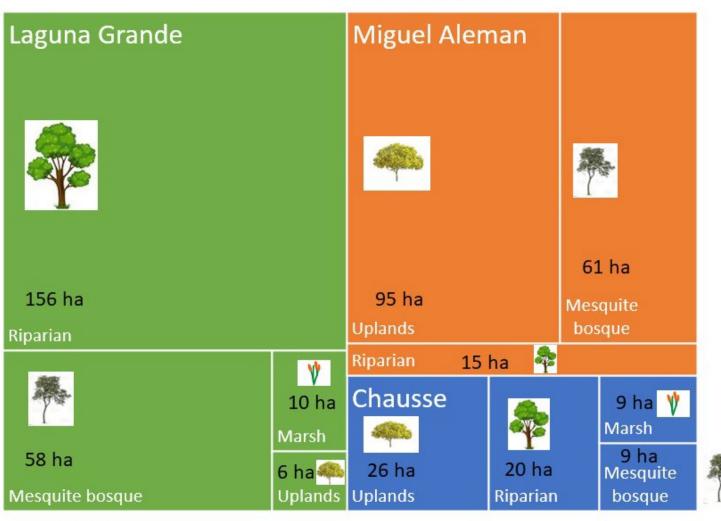
BLACK-TAILED GNATCATCHER PERLITA DEL DESIERTO

(PHOTO: GUADALUPE FONSECA, SONORAN INSTITUTE)



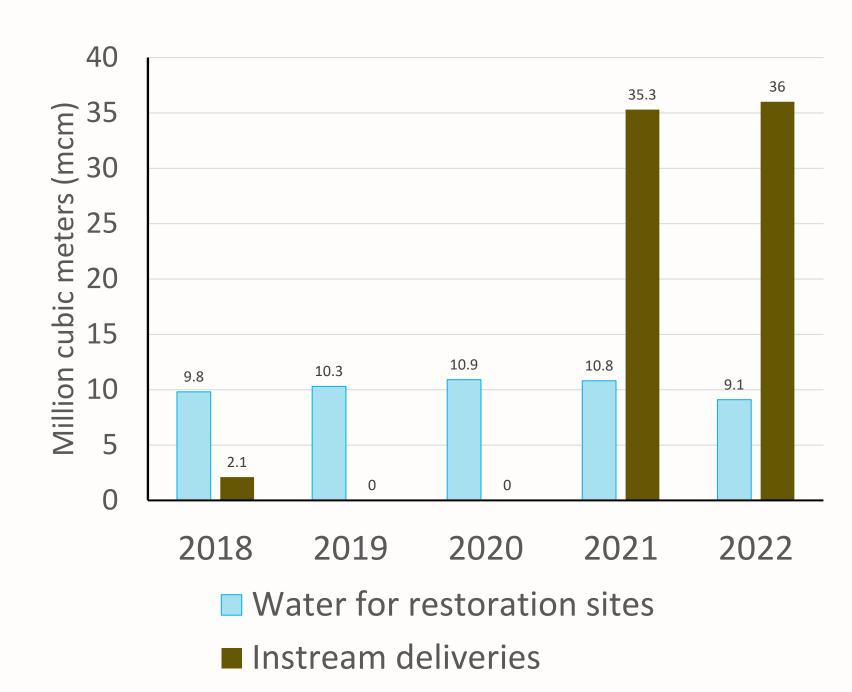
Habitats restored during Minute 319 and 323 (465 hectares/1,148 acres)

Chausse Laguna Grande Miguel Aleman

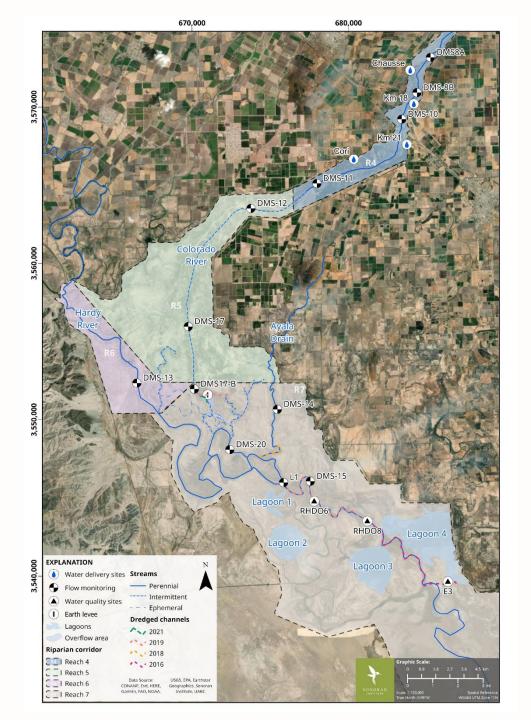


Source: Martha M. Gómez Sapiens, Karl W. Flessa, Roberto Real Rangel, and the Binational Science Team

Water deliveries



Source: Martha M. Gómez Sapiens, Karl W. Flessa, Roberto Real Rangel, and the Binational Science Team



In-channel flows 2021

Part of US-Mexico water commitment under Minute 323 Total volume: 35,000 af of water May 1st to October 10 (164 days)

Four delivery points

Extensive monitoring field work

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WATER DELIVERY AT KM18





WATER ARRIVING AT VADO CARRANZA















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Photo: Francisco Zamora, Sonoran Institute

UN RÍO SANO

Limpieza de Drenes

SIERRA CUCAPA -

2

RIO HARDY

EUA

MEXICO

RÍO COLORADO

Laguna Grande

11

El Río a Través del Tiempo El paso de los años y las constantes modificaciones del entorno ambiental y social han transformado significativamente al Rio Colorado durante los pasados 100 años. Aun frente a las adversidades, el Delta ha demostrado su gran capacidad de resiliencia.

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ACTA 319



3. What is next? challenges and opportunities

- Funding for maintenance and expansion of restoration sites
- Securing water for new sites (3,000 acres+) and in-channel flows
- New binational agreement
- Establishment and management of a protected area



