Conservation Priorities in the Colorado River Delta:
What is missing from the MSCP

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In the Delta in Mexico, a network of 15 Priority Areas, totaling 850,000 acres, has been identified. Proper management of these areas will ensure the long-term persistence of the Delta diversity of plants and animals.
Experts analyzed:

What can be done to protect and enhance the remaining Delta?

What are the natural areas that remain worthy of conservation?

Why do they merit conservation?

What threats can be eliminated or mitigated based on opportunities in each area?
Map of the possible Riparian Corridor

Andrade Mesa

Cerro Prieto

Rio Hardy

Riparian Corridor

Cienega de Santa Clara

El Indio

El Doctor

Coastal and Estuarine

El Borrascoso

Marine vaquita

Protection areas (264,438 acres)

Restoration areas (584,958 acres)
General Conclusions

• Sufficient information already exists about the ecosystems of the Colorado River Delta to begin action on conservation priorities.

• The principal threat to the Delta and Upper Gulf ecosystems is the lack of dedicated freshwater inputs.

• Each of the ecosystem types in the Colorado River Delta has distinct attributes, values, and water needs, but all are linked though their dependence on the hydrologic regime of the Colorado River.
Restoration efforts in Mexico: what MSCP should consider

Community-based restoration projects: an example of local stewardship for the restoration and conservation of the Colorado River Delta
Campo Mosqueda

- 15 acres of mesquite at the Mosqueda Family property
- Approximately 1,000 trees on drip irrigation
- The Mosqueda family is expected to plant another 5-10 acres in the near future
Cucapá El Mayor - Campo Flores
Campo Muñoz

2-acres site, with mesquite, ironwood, and palo verde
Campo Ramona

3-acres site of mesquite
El Tapon Project
by AEURHYC, A.C.
Colorado River
Riparian Corridor
Next steps in restoration efforts in Mexico

- Develop a comprehensive restoration strategy and plan (research, participatory process)
- Establish a federal designation of a Restoration Zone for the riparian corridor and Rio Hardy
- Initiate restoration demonstration projects in the riparian corridor (1,500-acre site)
- Increase support for El Tapon project and other efforts in the Rio Hardy
- Support AEURHYC, a local, community-based organization that is leading restoration efforts
Conclusions

- There are incredible resources and restoration efforts in Mexico showing that, with a small amount of money (a lot less than the MSCP’s $626 million), restoration and conservation of natural systems can take place.

- Until the U.S. and Mexican federal governments greatly increase their commitment and collaboration, the health of these ecosystems cannot be assured, and large-scale improvements in ecosystem health will remain unattainable.
Thank you