

**JOINT DECLARATION BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR (DOI) OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE SECRETARIAT OF ENVIRONMENT,
NATURAL RESOURCES AND FISHERIES (SEMARNAP) OF THE UNITED MEXICAN
STATES TO ENHANCE COOPERATION IN THE COLORADO RIVER DELTA**

Considering that the protection and conservation of the Colorado River's riparian areas and other associated resources are a common concern for both the United States of America and the United Mexican States;

Taking into account a long history of cooperation on environmental and natural resources matters of mutual interest between the two nations;

Calling into mind the obligations that both Parties have undertaken pursuant to Article 5 of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands regarding international cooperation on the management of shared wetlands and river basins;

Recognizing the need to develop strategies that are respectful of national sovereignty and each nation's rights to utilize the resources of the Colorado River;

Recognizing the increasing efforts of non-governmental organizations and communities on both sides of the border to preserve the Colorado River Delta; and

Recognizing the benefit of cooperative actions in such fora as the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) Colorado River Delta Task Force.

DOI and SEMARNAP jointly declare with respect to the Colorado River Delta, the river and its associated habitats they intend to:

1. Strengthen cooperative action and mechanisms, to improve and conserve the natural and cultural resources of the Colorado River Delta, including the river and associated wetland habitats;
2. Support the IBWC's Colorado River Delta Task Force in its effort to identify physical and hydrological conditions of the Delta;

3. Coordinate their respective policy related to the conservation of natural resources in the watershed;
4. Coordinate with other organizations, including Federal and state agencies, water users, and non-governmental organizations;
5. Undertake research on biologic conditions of the region and joint studies on transboundary species with emphasis on endangered and threatened species;
6. Develop and exchange compatible information systems to assist policy makers, local land managers, and the public in general in making informed stewardship decisions;
7. Develop strategies of environmental sustainability; and
8. Formulate programs for public participation and environmental and natural resources management training.

Implementation of this Joint Declaration shall be consistent with all applicable provisions of treaty, compacts and law of both Parties governing the waters of the Colorado River.

Signed in Washington, D.C., in duplicate, this eighteenth day of May 2000 in English and Spanish languages.

**FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**FOR THE SECRETARIAT OF
ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES
AND FISHERIES OF THE UNITED MEXICAN
STATES**

