

THEMATIC DISCUSSION GROUP ACTIVITY

Luis Fernando Abitia y Héctor Moya

In order to fulfill the objective of the seminar of identifying and documenting the possible environmental impacts that may be caused by the construction and establishment of the border fence, the seminar participants were divided into four thematic discussion groups:

- 1) Flora
- 2) Fauna
- 3) Physical environment
- 4) Legal framework

Each discussion group identified (1) the potential impacts that may result from construction of the fence, (2) the available scientific information, (3) the information that is lacking, (4) solutions to the information gaps, (5) possible solutions to the potential impacts, (6) groups that are working on the subject, and (7) the potential logistic and/or financial supports to implement the solutions identified (see attached table). The activity of the thematic discussion groups unfolded in the following manner:

1. Each member of the group identified individually the environmental impacts that may be generated by the construction and operation of the border fence.

2. The participants in each thematic group selected by consensus, from all the impacts identified individually, the ones that they considered to be more far reaching, and wrote them down in the Work Chart.
3. Once the impact was recorded in the Work Chart, it was discussed by the participants in each group and the rest of the headings in the chart were filled out.
4. A representative from each discussion group presented the results obtained in a full session, before all the seminar participants.
5. Finally, the results presented by each group were discussed as part of the same full session.

Work Chart 1

Discussion Group: _____ (Construction or Operation)	
Impact:	
Impact <i>(Describe the aspect(s) that will be influenced by this effect)</i>	
Available Information <i>(The available works or data on the problems described)</i>	
Gaps in research and information <i>(Identify the main gaps in information and research regarding the impact)</i>	
Solutions to the gaps in research and information <i>(The document or work materials that must be developed, promoted, researched or supported to resolve the effect)</i>	
Possible solutions to the potential impacts <i>(Describe the various real solutions that may be applied for the identified effect)</i>	
Groups that currently work on the subject or that may work on it <i>(Describe the working groups that have already made some progress on the problems mentioned)</i>	
Logistical support <i>(Potential national or international institutions that may lend academic, financial and logistical support to the project)</i>	