

<b>Progression of Signed Sister City Plans</b> Figure 17		<b>Type of indicator:</b> Response
		<b>Goal and Objective: 5.1</b>
<i>Description</i>	Number of sister city joint contingency plans signed by both countries and updated between 1998 to 2005	
<i>Importance of the indicator/purpose</i>	<p>Chemical emergencies do not respect international boundaries. The United States (U.S.) and Mexico have long recognized the need for close cooperation in preparing for and preventing hazardous substance releases along the U.S. / Mexico Border Area. In 1983, in La Paz, Baja California, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Mexico's Secretaria de Medio Ambiente, Recursos Naturales y Pesca (SEMARNAT) signed the Agreement on Cooperation for the Protection and Improvement of the Environment in the Border Area, otherwise known as the "La Paz Agreement" or the "1983 Border Environmental Agreement."</p> <p>Annex II of the La Paz Agreement addressed requirements for responses to emergencies and created a Joint Response Team (JRT). The JRT is chaired by EPA and SEMARNAT. The JRT made of Federal, State, and Local partnerships from both the United States and Mexico, recommended that Sister City contingency plans be created at the local government level. Binational Sister City Plans provide the mechanism for locals to address issues or concerns, and allow appropriate recommendations in decisions that will affect both communities along the border. Fourteen sister city pairs were originally identified by the JCP along the U.S.-Mexico border. At a later date an additional sister city pair was added for Rio Bravo/Weslaco.</p>	
<i>Units of measure</i>	Number of plans written / exercised (one plan denotes unit of one (1) each.)	
<i>Concepts and definitions</i>	<p><u>La Paz Agreement</u> - The binational environmental plan between the U.S. &amp; Mexico designed for cooperation between the two countries to prevent, reduce, and eliminate sources of air, water, and land pollution in the zone extending 100 kilometers (62.5 miles) along each side of the international boundary.</p> <p><u>Joint Contingency Plan (JCP)</u> - The JCP is the federal mechanism for chemical emergency advisory / notification and cooperation between the U.S. and Mexico in response to a polluting incident that may pose a significant threat to both parties or that affects one party to such an extent as to justify warning the other party or for asking assistance.</p> <p><u>Sister City Contingency Plans (SCP)</u> - Binational Sister City Plans provide the mechanism for local governments to address emergency advisory / notification and cooperation between the U.S. and Mexico and allows appropriate recommendations in decisions that will affect both communities along the border.</p> <p><u>Exercises</u> - A simulation conducted to improve coordination, communication, and facilitation of contingency planning.</p>	
<i>Coverage</i>	1998-2005. U.S.-Mexico border region	
<i>Calculation</i>	For each year, sum the number of signed SCPs for that year and previous years. Exclude double counting SCP updates.	
<i>Sources of information</i>	<p>Data provided by EPA's Emergency Preparedness and Response Border-Wide Workgroup (BWWG). SCPs available at this site: <a href="http://yosemite.epa.gov/oswer/ceppoweb.nsf/content/ip-bilateral.htm#mexicoborder">http://yosemite.epa.gov/oswer/ceppoweb.nsf/content/ip-bilateral.htm#mexicoborder</a>;</p> <p>PROFEPA, 2005. Dirección General de Inspección de Fuentes de Comunicación</p>	
<i>Sources of further information</i>	<p>EPA's Bi-Lateral Programs including Mexico: <a href="http://yosemite.epa.gov/oswer/ceppoweb.nsf/content/ip-bilateral.htm">http://yosemite.epa.gov/oswer/ceppoweb.nsf/content/ip-bilateral.htm</a></p> <p>McAllen / Reynosa Binational Exercise of 2005: <a href="http://www.epaosc.net/site_profile.asp?site_id=961">http://www.epaosc.net/site_profile.asp?site_id=961</a></p> <p>EPA's Emergency Preparedness and Response Border-Wide Workgroup (BWWG): <a href="http://www.epa.gov/usmexicoborder/epr_bwwg.htm">http://www.epa.gov/usmexicoborder/epr_bwwg.htm</a></p>	
<i>Limitations of the indicator</i>	The number of SCPs reflects the number of binational plans participated by EPA-SEMARNAT; does not reflect other local, state, or federal binational plans.	