Border Biodiversity
APRIL 1-30, 2023

Next Generation Sonoran Desert Researchers and collaborating partners on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border rallied for the fifth annual Border BioBlitz in April 2023. The community set out to document the rich biodiversity living along the border and to bear witness to hundreds of species affected by the border wall. Using smart phones and the iNaturalist app, more than 100 community members recorded 1,532 species within 5 kilometers of the international boundary. Data was collected between Rancho San Bernardino, Sonora and the Tijuana Estuary, California.
DATA FROM ALONG THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER

The international boundary runs through the Sonoran Desert and a variety of coastal, grassland, shrubland, and forest ecosystems in western North America. Border infrastructure including walls, vehicle barrier, roads, sensors, and lights disrupt habitat and the natural movement and behavior of hundreds of borderland species. More than 10 teams focused along the border to gather observations.

Species Along the Border
recorded in 2023

- 813 Plants
- 21 Fungi
- 33 Mammals
- 164 Birds
- 23 Reptiles
- 9 Fishes
- 30 Arachnids
- 373 Insects
- 31 Mollusks

SAN BERNARDINO NATL WILDLIFE REFUGE
CORONADO NATL FOREST
ORGAN PIPE CACTUS NATL MONUMENT
JACUMBA MOUNTAINS
OTAY MOUNTAINS
TIJUANA
SAN DIEGO