

MIGRATORY BIRD WORKING TABLE – ACTION ITEM REPORT
XX Trilateral Committee Meeting
San Diego, California U.S.
April 13-17, 2015

The Working Table conducted its working session on April 13 - 17, 2015. The following Action Items were agreed upon and address the current priorities of the Trilateral Committee. The results achieved have been updated to reflect actions undertaken as of May 2016.

A. Climate Change with a Focus on Adaptation			
Action	Responsible Party	Due	Date Completed
NOTE: most of the action items below, especially those under landscape and seascape conservation, contribute to addressing climate change adaptation, especially by gathering, managing and analyzing data on how and where birds distributed, how this might be affected by changes in climate, and by addressing other threats to birds that will increase their resilience to climate change. Thus climate change is a lens applied to all other areas, rather than having any specific action items.			
B. Landscape and Seascape Conservation Including Connectivity and Area Based Conservation Partnerships			
Action	Responsible Party	Due	Date Completed
<p>Action Item 1- Landscape Scale Grassland Bird Conservation: The Migratory Bird Working Table agrees that grassland birds are one of the highest priorities for conservation action, in view of their very rapid declines. Of particular concern is loss of critical wintering areas for many species in Mexico, but threats elsewhere also need to be addressed. The MB table is identifying ways to move forward on this issue, and seeks assistance from the Executive to address this problem.</p> <p>In addition, the Migratory Bird Program will be funding a grassland investment audit of Neotropical Migratory Bird Grants that have been given in an attempt to target investments more strategically in the future.</p>	Co-chairs, with support of Arvind Panjabi (RMBO)	1 July 2015	On-going
Goals: Support efforts to advance cooperative, landscape scale grassland bird conservation, including highlighting progress and next steps identified by the CEC and RMBO, PIF V Workshop, USFWS Focal/Surrogate Species Programs, and regional initiatives and determine the need for Trilateral committee members to support, endorse, and implement activities identified in these plans.			
Requested Action from ET (if any):			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need your leadership and help to implement existing plans • Actively engage agency counterparts in Agriculture, Energy, Water • Address policy gaps detrimental to grasslands 			



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- Seek greater public-private funding and synergies
- Engage conservation leaders to identify next steps and move forward
 - Hold strategy meeting within next 3-6 months

MB table chairs will come forward with more specific plans in the near future.

Results: The method of engagement was to pursue a workshop of Federal Entities operating in the Chihuahua Grasslands. The workshop is still pending due to a lack of resources to convene it, although several important steps were advanced – including drafting a letter of invitation and engaging the Executive Table in this initiative. In 2016, it is critical to maintain and consolidate the trinational commitment to support the organization of the workshop in order to set the elements for a coordinated long term strategy to protect wintering grasslands in México, with the support of different actors. The threats have not diminished in Chihuahua and land use change is continuing in the Valles Centrales. The FWS Migratory Bird program is funding a grassland investment audit of Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act and North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grants that have been given in the Chihuahuan Grasslands, in an attempt to target investments more strategically in the future. The initial data review of over 50 projects is complete and the contractor is in the process of interviewing and meeting with Project Officers for some of the more recently funded projects. The intention is to use information gathered in the interviews to inform a workshop of interested parties and stakeholders to advance the development of the Chihuahuan Grasslands wintering grounds conservation business plan.

Action	Responsible Party	Due	Date Completed
<p>Action Item 2 - Trinational NABCI: Trinational NABCI. Will convene in 2015/2016 in order to serve as an effort to expand bird conservation throughout Western Hemisphere.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check in at 6 month co-chair meeting. Shoot for kickoff at 2016 Trilateral. • To organize an informal meeting with members of the trinational committee that will be attending the trilateral meeting in Ottawa, to review past goals, visions, mechanisms, and future objectives (including the Saving our Shared Birds)– 	<p>NABCI coordinators</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

Goals: To clarify the roles, responsibilities, and strategic focus of this existing conservation partnership.

Requested Action from ET (if any): None

Results: This action item was a topic of discussion at the February 2016 US NABCI Committee Meeting. Highlights from the meeting report on NABCI’s Role in Full Life Cycle Conservation: With our State of North America’s Birds report calling for renewed investment in conservation across borders, the Migratory Bird Treaty Centennial highlighting the importance of international cooperation for bird conservation, and our Demographics Monitoring report emphasizing full life cycle monitoring, NABCI evaluated its tri-national

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charge and assessed its role in international conservation. We committed to reinvigorating our tri-national partnership by initiating a discussion about collaboration opportunities with Mexico and Canada’s NABCI Committee representatives at the Trilateral meeting in Ottawa in May. US NABCI established an international subcommittee to coordinate with Canada and Mexico on North American bird conservation issues, as well as to solidify our plan to support hemispheric conservation efforts and partnerships.

Action	Responsible Party	Due	Date Completed
<p>Action Item 3 – Tri-national planning task force. Get a task force to draft a paper to capture the vision and role of the Tri-national/Hemispheric Bird Conservation Planning Approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group would review existing conservation and delivery mechanisms and report out proposed path forward on 6 month MBWT co-chair call • Will review extent to which conservation business plans can be the template for delivery of on the ground actions. • Co-chairs responsible for picking names 	Co-chairs	Dec. 2015	Ongoing
Goals: To increase communication and coordination among existing conservation partnerships throughout the hemisphere to increase conservation efficacy.			
Requested Action from ET (if any): n/a.			
Results: Although the proposed trinational task force was not convened, progress on planning was made in conjunction with the State of North America’s Birds report, and this will be a major theme of the 2016 Trilateral Migratory Bird Table discussions. Prime Minister Trudeau and President Obama made a commitment to develop a Vision for migratory bird conservation over the next 100 years, and the Centennial celebrations are creating considerable momentum towards these goals.			
<p>Action Item 4- Bird Banding Coordination in North America. Table will work to ensure that LOI is signed to support Mexico developing a viable bird-banding program that is coordinated with USA and Canada. Will then assist banding programs in all 3 countries to implement activities under the LOI</p> <p>To develop a work plan for the implementation</p>	Co-chairs B. Peterjohn H. Berlanga & DGVS staff	April 2015	August, 2015 Work plan Draft

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of the LOI			
Goals: To increase our ability to manage shifting populations and changing landscapes adaptively by providing and allowing for data management, consultation, guidance, and coordination among the three nations to develop a North American banding effort.			
Requested Action from ET (if any): Sign LOI (done)			
Results: LOI Signed in San Diego, April, 2015. There has been little progress in developing a workplan for implementation of the LOI, due to budget constraints in Mexico. Efforts will be continued in 16/17 to develop a workplan that can be presented to the Trilateral in 2017.			
Action	Responsible Party	Due	Date Completed
Action Item 5- Expansion of the Breeding Bird Survey to México: Migratory Bird Working Table endorses this effort and would like to foster joint programs and encourage recruitment of expertise. Should explore ways to use LCCs to help support BBS as a monitoring component.	Co-chairs	Ongoing	N/A
Goals: To increase our ability to manage shifting populations and changing landscapes adaptively by strengthening this effort tri-nationally. The looking at developing cooperative monitoring efforts across all three countries.			
Requested Action from ET (if any): n/a			
Results: The BBS continues to operate as a trinational program, though further efforts are still needed to support monitoring efforts in Mexico. A symposium celebrating the 50 th anniversary of the BBS is being organized for the NAOC in August 2016.			
Action	Responsible Party	Due	Date Completed
Action Item 6 - Share the Business Plan Guidelines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share existing business plans and guidelines with all three countries. • Consider adding IUCN threats taxonomy to guidelines. • Broaden development discussion beyond US 	David Younkman	2016	2015/2016
Goals: Share the standards of good conservation planning among all 3 countries.			
Requested Action from ET (if any): n/a			
Results: Limited progress in sharing business plans, but a workshop on Conservation Business Plans is being organized by ABC/OAS in Guadalajara México (May, 2016). An update on the current state of CBPs was presented at the US NABCI committee, prepared by David Younkman of the American Bird Conservancy.			

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Action Item 7 – Island conservation effort Review the island conservation action plan and engage in coordination with the other tables.	Co-chairs Alfonso Aguirre (GECI) and Annie Little (USFWS)	2016 Revised Action Plan	May 2016 Draft revised/updated AP

Goals:

Requested Action from ET (if any): no specific action requests

Results: on going efforts – will report back to Trilateral in 2016

Action	Responsible Party	Due	Date Completed
Action Item 8 – Institutionalize MoSI in México A draft document is in place and the details are currently being worked out with the goal of signing a letter of intent this year. The LOI will be signed to implement stations on a permanent basis.	Steven Albert, Assistant Director, The Institute for Bird Populations, Point Reyes Station, CA, tel: 505-870-3735 Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO)	2016 Sign LOI	

Goals:

Requested Action from ET (if any): None at this time

Results: ongoing efforts; process delayed by lack of resources

C. Wildlife Trafficking

Action	Responsible Party	Due	Date Completed
NO ITEMS IN THIS CATEGORY			

Goals:

Requested Action from ET (if any):

Results:

Other MBWT Priorities

D. Human induced mortality management, data management and monitoring

Action	Responsible Party	Due	Date Completed
Action Item 1- Establish a page on the Trilateral	Co-chairs	August 30, 2015	

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<p>website where conservation measure documents and recommended guidelines could be posted that have been developed by each of the countries to facilitate sharing information. Note that page needs to indicate that documents are being posted for sharing, but have not necessarily been officially endorsed by all 3 countries. Most such documents would be voluntary beneficial management practices.</p> <p>The website could also direct readers to other on-line resources that provide easy access to effective best practices.</p> <p>If the TC organizing team is in charge of Trilat.org, we will compile a basic set of tools and guidelines to start with the process</p>			
<p>Goals: Share guidelines documents among three countries to take advantage of experiences gained in each country, and to make the information more broadly available</p>			
<p>Requested Action from ET (if any): Support and promote the use of the Trilateral Website as an information sharing tool</p>			
<p>Results: not yet done – to be revisited during 2016 Trilateral Meeting</p>			
Action	Responsible Party	Due	Date Completed
<p>Action Item 2 - Trinational vetting of conservation measures that address systemic threats. Need to identify practices that have been found to be helpful to reduce threats to birds from various sources with emphasis on reviewed documents.</p> <p>Comments – Recommend that in addition to posting the practices, proven practices that reduce risk be publicized. Also identify practices that could be helpful but require further research.</p>	<p>Charisa Morris (US) with assistance from Charles Francis (CA), Rafael (MX)</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Goals: To increase trilateral conservation capacity by developing, sharing, and implementing conservation measures that reduce bird take that results from anthropogenic actions.</p>			
<p>Requested Action from ET (if any): none at this time</p>			
<p>Results: ongoing – to be discussed at 2016 Trilateral Meeting</p>			

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Action	Responsible Party	Due	Date Completed
<p>Action Item 3 - Trinational Management of Migratory Bird Data Needs and Tools. The working group will continue to gather information on identification of priority data to be made more readily available, data management standards in each country, and best tools for sharing data. All these questions need to be put together and brought back to the co-chairs in six months. Following review and discussion of the questions, the co-chairs will decide what to discuss at next year’s meeting.</p>	<p>Chair & US Lead: Emily Silverman; Canadian Lead: Charles Francis; Mexican Lead: Vicente Rodriguez.</p>	<p>August 2015</p>	
<p>Goals: Team will clarify a path forward (including obstacles) for determining 1) Tri-national sharing and/or management of data, 2) Scope of “data” under consideration, 3) Highest priority data for the migratory birds program.</p>			
<p>Requested Action from ET (if any): n/a</p>			
<p>Results: Efforts in Canada and U.S. focused on making government data available through respective domestic open-government open-data initiatives; efforts in Mexico impacted by lack of capacity/resources. Propose revisiting efforts for trinational cooperation in 2017.</p>			
Action	Responsible Party	Due	Date Completed
<p>Action Item 4 - Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). The Migratory Bird Working Table recognizes the value of AKN as a tool for improving data management and sharing. Need to review the list of databases utilized for migratory bird management by the trilateral and consider which might be part of AKN. If there is an interest for trilateral data management by AKN, questions about the network and data sharing agreements should be sent to AKN.</p>	<p>Data management team (Silverman, Francis, Rodriguez) and AKN team (Katie Koch and Leo Salas)</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Goals: Need to consider how this tool fits into the broader trinational data management requirements for migratory birds.</p>			
<p>Requested Action from ET (if any): n/a</p>			
<p>Results: AKN continues to be a valuable repository for non-government data. Efforts in Canada and USA currently focused on exploring respective federal government open-data initiatives for posting data. Efforts in Mexico limited by lack of capacity and resources</p>			

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E. Other MBWT Priorities			
Action	Responsible Party	Due	Date Completed
Action Item 1 - Overabundant Geese. CWS will keep USA and Mexico informed of results on ongoing evaluations, and also of any plans to undertake additional control measures for light geese	Charles Francis	unknown	
Goals: Canada is seeking opportunities for collaboration with its US and Mexican counterparts in addressing this wildlife management challenge.			
Requested Action from ET (if any): n/a			
Results: Ongoing research into impacts of over-abundant geese on Arctic ecosystems; no plans to undertake any additional control measures at this time.			
Action	Responsible Party	Due	Date Completed
Action Item 2 – Celebration of 2016 Centennial of U.S./Canada treaty. U.S. FWS to develop a strategy for celebration of centennial together with some Canadians on team. Canada and Mexico will each develop ideas (note that will be 80 th anniversary of U.S. – Mexico treaty) and share with each other and U.S. team	Rachel Levin, Jennifer Duberstein Humberto Berlanga	Ongoing	Ongoing in 2016
Goals: To enhance awareness of the conservation needs of North American birds			
Requested Action from ET (if any): MBWT requesting that ET consider a focus on migratory birds as a theme for the 2016 Trilateral (Canada, May 2016), and use the Trilateral as a focus for a number of events to promote the centennial and hence bird conservation efforts.			
Results: Migratory Birds accepted as focal theme of 2016 Trilateral, including a special Plenary session on migratory bird conservation. Many other efforts underway in USA and Canada to celebrate centennial, with national coordinators reciprocally involved in planning sessions.			
Action	Responsible Party	Due	Date Completed
Action Item 3- Trinational State of the Birds Report. Trinational team to work to develop report in time for release in May 2016. Team includes participants from all 3 countries, including NABCI Trinational leads.	Charles Francis (lead), Humberto Berlanga, Bob Ford and others	August 2016	ongoing
Goals: Determine how to best secure high-level government support for bird conservation. Release report under trinational NABCI and/or trilateral			
Requested Action from ET (if any): MBWT requesting that ET consider ways to release the report that will maximize its profile with public and policy makers and thus reinforce Trilateral efforts for bird conservation, potentially in conjunction with 2016 Trilateral meeting.			
Results: Done; report has been prepared and will be released as part of Trilateral meeting			