

Work Table: Executive Table

Co-Chairs:

- **Sue Milburn Hopwood**, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, Canadian Wildlife Service, Canada;
- **Dra. Yolanda Aurora Alaniz Pasini**, Advisor to the Undersecretary of Management for Environmental Protection, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT), Mexico;
- **Dan Ashe**, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2016

8:30-11:30am	Field Trip to Gatineau Park
12:00-1:30pm	Lunch and Travel to the Museum
1:30-5:30pm	Plenary Session: Migratory Birds (Museum of Nature)
6:00-7:00pm	Reception (Museum of Nature)

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2016

Room: Ontario

9:00-9:05am	<u>AGENDA ITEM 1: Welcome – Adoption of the Agenda</u> <i>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS</i> Executive Table (ET): Sue Milburn-Hopwood, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, CWS, Canada; Dra. Yolanda Aurora Alaniz Pasini, Advisor to the Undersecretary of Management for Environmental Protection, SEMARNAT, Mexico; and, Dan Ashe, Director, USFWS, U.S. Trilateral Coordinating Committee (TCC): Kelly Torck, Canada; Leonel Urbano Gutierrez, Mexico, and Valencia Richardson, U.S. <i>DESCRIPTION</i> Welcome remarks by Sue Milburn Hopwood, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister of the Canadian Wildlife Service and adoption of the agenda. <i>BACKGROUND</i> The hosting Co-chair greets Head of the Mexican and American Delegations and
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other table participants. Any modifications to the agenda are noted.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES

- Adoption of the agenda.

SUBMITTED BY

TCC

9:05-10:00am

AGENDA ITEM 2: Country Updates

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS

ET: Sue Milburn-Hopwood, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, CWS, Canada; Dra. Yolanda Aurora Alaniz Pasini, Advisor to the Undersecretary of Management for Environmental Protection, SEMARNAT, Mexico; and, Dan Ashe, Director, USFWS, U.S.

TCC: Kelly Torck, Canada; Leonel Urbano Gutierrez, Mexico, and Valencia Richardson, U.S.

DESCRIPTION

Heads of Delegation give a presentation (18 min. each) on major developments in their countries (i.e. legislations, policies, regulations, budgets, strategic priorities, agreements, conventions, programs, projects, etc.) which might be of interest to and/or have an impact on a tri-national level. U.S. States bordering Mexico will also present an overview of major developments in their region.

BACKGROUND

Executive Table Co-chairs use this opportunity to exchange information relevant to natural resource management and biodiversity conservation taking place in their countries and which might be of interest to the other countries.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES

- Exchange of information that contributes to an enhanced understanding of the challenges/opportunities in the other countries, and promotes a shared vision and a common agenda.

SUBMITTED BY

TCC

10:00-10:20am

AGENDA ITEM 3: Developing a Vision for the conservation of North America's Birds and their habitats

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS

Charles Francis, Manager, Migratory Birds Monitoring, Canadian Wildlife Service; Brad Bortner, Chief, Division of Migratory Birds and Habitat, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S.; and, Humberto Berlanga, Coordinador del Programa NABCI/ICAAN y Temas de Vida Silvestre, Comisión Nacional para el

Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO).

DESCRIPTION

The Executive Table signed a Letter of Intent related to the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats in the Mexican United States, the United States of America and Canada at the Plenary Reception yesterday. The purpose of this discussion is to provide an overview of the key elements of the LOI, and in particular to highlight proposed approaches to developing and implementing a Vision for the conservation of birds.

BACKGROUND

2016 marks the 100th anniversary of the signing of a convention between Canada and the USA and the 80th anniversary of the signing of a treaty between Mexico and the USA for bird conservation. Conservation efforts over the past century have seen many significant gains for birds, but there are new and emerging threats that are now leading to declines and concerns for many species, as highlighted in the report on the State of North America's Birds 2016.

Renewed conservation efforts are needed to build on the successes of the past to address the current and emerging challenges to migratory birds. Prime Minister Trudeau and President Obama recently committed to develop "a vision for migratory bird conservation for the next 100 years." The LOI serves as a step towards developing and implementing this vision, but further action is required to achieve the vision.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES

- Identification of appropriate levels and mechanisms of engagement between the Trilateral countries and the CMS.

SUBMITTED BY

Migratory Birds Working Table

10:20-10:40am

AGENDA ITEM 4: Improving Collaboration between the Trilateral and the Convention on Migratory Species

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS

Charles Francis, Manager, Migratory Birds Monitoring, Canadian Wildlife Service; Brad Bortner, Chief, Division of Migratory Birds and Habitat, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S.; and, Humberto Berlanga, Coordinador del Programa NABCI/ICAAN y Temas de Vida Silvestre, Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO).

DESCRIPTION

This will be a discussion between the Executive Table, the Migratory Birds Working Table, and one or more representatives from the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), including the Executive Director, Bradnee Chambers. The aim is to identify appropriate ways our three countries should collaborate with the CMS, without necessarily signing onto the convention. The Trilateral Committee and the CMS have related and overlapping mandates, but with membership in different geographic areas. The Trilateral includes the USA, Mexico and Canada. The CMS is a global convention with 120 member countries, mostly in Europe, Africa, central Asia and parts of Central and South America—but none of the North American countries. There are several potential conservation benefits to collaboration between the Trilateral and the CMS. For example, the CMS engages many Latin American countries, where significant numbers of Canadian birds spend the winter, and could be an effective mechanism to achieve conservation outcomes for those species. The CMS has also developed a number of Agreements and MOUs that are potentially relevant to North American countries.

BACKGROUND

The CMS is a framework agreement developed under the United Nations Environment Program in 1979. The Conference of the Parties meets every 3 years, most recently in Ecuador, in November 2014. The next meeting is planned for 2017, in the Philippines. Non-signatory countries can participate in the COP as observers.

Various legally binding Agreements and less formal Memoranda of Understanding have been developed within the framework of the CMS. Several that are relevant to North America include the Agreement for the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels, MOUs on South American grassland birds, Pacific cetaceans, turtles and sharks. Non-CMS countries that are range states may ratify agreements or sign on MOUs. For example, the USA is currently a signatory to three of these MOUs.

The CMS also identifies migratory species of conservation concern through Appendices I and II of the convention. Several migratory birds of conservation concern in North America are on these appendices including Bobolink, Buff-breasted and Semipalmated Sandpipers, Cerulean, Canada and Kirtland's Warblers, and many seabirds. Parties to the CMS have certain obligations to protect these species which could lead to conservation benefits from a North American perspective.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES

- To identify appropriate levels and mechanisms of engagement between the Trilateral countries and the CMS.

SUBMITTED BY

Migratory Birds Working Table

10:40-11:00am

AGENDA ITEM 5: Discussion on a vision for hemispheric coordination of bird conservation.

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS

Charles Francis, Manager, Migratory Birds Monitoring, Canadian Wildlife Service; Brad Bortner, Chief, Division of Migratory Birds and Habitat, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S.; and, Humberto Berlanga, Coordinador del Programa NABCI/ICAAN y Temas de Vida Silvestre, Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO).

DESCRIPTION

This will be a discussion, following from the previous two agenda items, on expanding and adapting the model of collaboration for the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats in North America to enable a hemispheric approach. Many migratory bird populations are in decline due to threats faced at various times in their annual life-cycle throughout the Western Hemisphere. Neither one country acting alone, nor the bird conservation community on its own, can deliver upon the conservation needs for birds and their habitats. We need to forge strategic international relationships with many different stakeholders (governments, industry, non-governmental organizations) and develop approaches that match bird conservation objectives with the broader interests of all stakeholders to ensure implementation of actions that benefit migratory birds and their habitats. Conservation Business Plans / Investment Strategies are potential approaches to bring together these objectives.

BACKGROUND

There are a number of overlapping and interconnected bird conservation initiatives and partnerships throughout the Western hemisphere such as the North American Bird Conservation Initiative, Partners in Flight, the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, the Convention on Migratory Species, the Americas Flyways Framework and BirdLife International, among others. Collectively they contribute to building partnerships and collaborations that help to address the needs of at least some migratory birds at one or more stages of their life cycles. Nevertheless, migratory bird populations continue to face many threats, and many species are still declining, indicating a need for renewed efforts and more effective coordination that reaches all the stakeholders necessary to sustain these shared species.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES

- To receive feedback and endorsement on a proposed path forward for engaging other countries to develop approaches for successful coordination of bird conservation actions in the Americas.

SUBMITTED BY

Migratory Birds Working Table

11:00-11:15am

Break

11:15-12:00pm

AGENDA ITEM 6: Invasive Alien Species – North American Collaboration

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS

Kelly Torck, Manager, National Biodiversity Policy, Canadian Wildlife Service; Bruno Paris, Canadian Wildlife Service; Stas Burgiel, U.S. National Invasive Species Council; Ana Isabel González Martínez, CONABIO.

DESCRIPTION

Canada, the U.S. and Mexico have developed strategic plans and/or have put in place national coordination bodies to deal with invasive species. Each country will provide a brief update of their work. Canada will present recent accomplishments under the Invasive Alien Species Strategy for Canada, including the work underway by a Federal-Provincial-Territorial IAS Task Force and the outcome of a national workshop on IAS held at the end of February. This Trilateral meeting is an opportunity to share information and discuss potential areas for enhanced collaboration at the continental level. Although a substantial amount of work has already been accomplished or is underway, opportunities exist for furthering U.S-Canada-Mexico collaboration on invasive alien species. General areas of future collaboration might include, for example, raising the profile of the invasive alien species issue in international frameworks and through regional initiatives, sharing scientific and technical information (e.g., risk analyses), and promoting transboundary projects, including for species of concern detected at borders or along pathways.

BACKGROUND

Invasive alien species are considered the second greatest threat to biodiversity worldwide, after habitat destruction. This impact is increasing as numbers of non-native species continue to rise and their distributions continue to expand. Climate change and expanding global trade are expected to continue to increase risks and impacts of invasion. An Invasive Alien Species Strategy for Canada was released by federal, provincial and territorial resource ministers in September 2004. This strategy seeks to protect Canada's aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, and their native biological diversity and domestic plants and animals from the risks of invasive alien species. Several complementary strategies focusing on specific sectors or jurisdictions have since been developed in support of the national strategy. In 2015, the Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers responsible for Conservation, Wildlife and Biodiversity agreed to establish a task force to support future collaborative efforts to fight against invasive alien species in Canada. There is a growing interest for cooperation and collaboration on invasive alien species prevention and management at the continental level. For example, in a recent review and status report on invasive plant management and Greater Sage-Grouse conservation, the US Western

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies noted that “The lack of a continental, national or regional framework to address invasives consistently across political boundaries hampers the ability to be effective against the invasive threats at broad landscape scales.” Participants at a North American conference in Fall 2014 recommended the development of a North American Invasive Species Framework. The conference also recommended holding a bi-annual North American Invasive Species Forum. The next Forum is to be held in Winter-Spring 2017 and hosted in the U.S.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES

- To provide an update on each country’s strategic direction for invasive species management
- To discuss and explore opportunities for enhanced collaboration regarding IAS between the 3 countries

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTORS

Kelly Torck, CWS; Stas Burgiel, U.S. National Invasive Species Council; Ana Isabel González Martínez, CONABIO.

SUBMITTED BY

Canada

12:00-12:15pm

AGENDA ITEM 7: 13th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity – Mainstreaming Biodiversity

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS

CONABIO (Nélida Barajas Acosta, Coordinadora de Temas Sustantivos COP13 y Hesiquio Benítez Díaz, Director General de Cooperación Internacional e Implementación) y General Wildlife Direction.

DESCRIPTION

Mexico will host the thirteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 13), the Eight to the Cartagena Protocol (COP-MOP 8), and the Second to the Nagoya Protocol (COP-MOP 2). These meetings will be held from 4th-17th December 2016 in Cancun, Quintana Roo.

- As the core topic of the COP 13, Mexico proposes “mainstreaming of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for well-being in sectoral and inter-sectoral plans, programs and policies”.
- Biodiversity Mainstreaming aims to reduce, prevent and mitigate negative impacts –and generate positive effects on biodiversity and ecosystem services; focusing on productive activities in order to contribute to sustainable development. The main sectors of focus are: Forestry, Fisheries, Agriculture, and Tourism.
- Almost ten thousand representatives of CBD Parties, observers, international organizations and relevant stakeholders, will meet in Cancun, to negotiate

agreements and commitments to strengthen the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the compliance with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets.

- Around 200 Ministers of Environment and other sectors from all over the world, will meet in a high-level dialogue to analyze success case studies on national governance focused on mainstreaming biodiversity in plans, programs and policies.
- Side events- such as expositions, presentations, exhibitions, fairs and forums- will be held (Business, Civil Society, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, Cities and Subnational Governments, among others)

BACKGROUND

During CBD COP-12 (Pyeongchang, Korea) by unanimous decision Mexico was elected as the host of COP13 in 2016.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:

- a) Broadcast Mexico as host of the next COP13 in all Trilateral Tables and progress on COP13 preparations.
- b) Identify useful examples (or case studies) that will facilitate the mainstreaming in the four elements described above.

SUBMITTED BY: Mexico

12:15-1:00pm

AGENDA ITEM 8: Recovery Plan for the Vaquita

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS

NMFS (Nina Young), INECC (Lorenzo Rojas Bracho), DGVS .

DESCRIPTION

In 2008, the Mexican Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources put in place the Action Plan for the Conservation of Vaquita, Comprehensive Strategy for the Sustainable Management of Marine and Coastal Resources in the Upper Gulf of California (PACE-Vaquita) under their Program for the Conservation of Species at Risk. This document established specific goals and action with target dates and budget allocations aimed at recovering the vaquita. Also in 2008, the Commission for Environmental Cooperation under the North American Agreement for Environmental Cooperation issued the Vaquita North American Conservation Action Plan. This document recommended a list of key tri-national collaborative conservation actions, priorities and targets. In April 2015, the President of Mexico announced the Strategy on the Comprehensive Care of the Upper Gulf, that includes a two year ban to gillnets (and longlines). Given this recent action by Mexico and the aging action plans, a new recovery plan that builds upon and charts a new course for vaquita recovery is needed.

BACKGROUND

The tiny vaquita porpoise (*Phocoena sinus*) of the northern Gulf of California, Mexico, is the world's most endangered cetacean species. A July 2014 report of the International Committee for the Recovery of the Vaquita (CIRVA) indicated that the vaquita's decline toward extinction has accelerated recently, with likely fewer than 100 remaining. Vaquitas die from entanglement in gillnets used to catch shrimp and finfish in legal fisheries, which primarily serve markets in the United States. In addition, however, there has been a resurgence in an illegal fishery for totoaba (*Totoaba macdonaldi*), a large, endangered, and CITES Appendix I listed fish species also endemic to the northern Gulf of California. This fishery involves the use of large-mesh gillnets which are exceptionally lethal for vaquitas. Fisheries research indicates that the Totoaba population was starting to rebound by the early 21st century following 20 years of legal protection. Unfortunately, the signals of recovery were rapidly detected by fishermen and a rampant illegal fishery and trade re-emerged fuelled by the high price and demand in Honk Kong and Chinese markets for the large and highly sought-after Totoaba swim bladders (or buche).

Law enforcement authorities in the U.S. and Mexico have been cooperating on border enforcement efforts to combat this recent acceleration in the illegal trade, which is considered to be responsible for the recent precipitous decline in vaquitas, but the take of totoabas and entry of their swim bladders into illegal trade continue due to high prices.

New measures for protection of the vaquita, announced by the Government of Mexico on 27 February 2015, include expansion of the protected area for vaquitas to encompass their entire range and a two-year ban on all gillnets and longlines within this area except for a limited corvina fishery. Coordinated inspections and surveillance are proposed to enforce the ban and support is to be provided for alternative fishing methods and compensation to the affected fishing communities. These measures entered into force in April 2015. The measures follow, to a large degree, the CIRVA recommendations which called upon the Government of Mexico to take immediate action to eliminate gillnets from the vaquita's entire range and to accompany this measure with strong enforcement action.

In addition to cooperation on cross-border enforcement, U.S. agencies have been part of international efforts over many years to assist Mexico in its work to assess the status and trends of this species as well as to develop, test and put into use alternative fishing gear to replace entangling gillnets. It has been well recognized by the international recovery team and other multinational organizations (IWC, IUCN) that the gillnet ban will only be successful if fishermen are given the opportunity to develop alternative livelihoods. CIRVA recommends, as has done in the past, to increase efforts to develop and introduce alternatives to gillnet fishing in communities affected by enforcement of the

exclusion zone (especially finfish). Technical and in the field support could be convenient.

The continued bycatch of vaquita in illegal fishing for totoaba and outcomes of population monitoring have increased fears that the vaquita is on the brink of extinction. Without concerted action the vaquita will almost certainly follow the Yangtze River dolphin (baiji) and become the second cetacean species, of only around 90, brought to extinction in the 21st century. Recovery plans for this species are outdated and in need of updating, including a set of specific actions to be taken over the next five years to prevent the extinction of this species.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES

Request that the Trilateral Committee endorse and request that the International Committee for the Recovery of the Vaquita update existing recovery and action plans and provide to the Trilateral Committee meeting in 2017, one recovery plan for the vaquita. Also, request that the Trilateral Committee consider additional recommendations based on its discussions to prevent the extinction of vaquita.

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTORS

Nina Young

SUBMITTED BY: U.S. and México

1:00-2:15pm

Lunch

2:15-3:15pm

AGENDA ITEM 9: Executive Table and Co-chairs Joint Session

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS

ET: Sue Milburn-Hopwood, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, CWS, Canada; Dra. Yolanda Aurora Alaniz Pasini, Advisor to the Undersecretary of Management for Environmental Protection, SEMARNAT, Mexico; and, Dan Ashe, Director, USFWS, U.S.

WT Co-chairs

LEWT: Sheldon Jordan, Director General, Wildlife Enforcement Division, Environment and Climate Change, Canada; William Woody, Chief, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement; and, Joel Gonzalez, Director General, Inspection and Monitoring Wildlife and Marine Resources Coastal Ecosystems, Mexico.

MBWT: Charles Francis, CWS; Humberto Berlanga, Coordinador del Programa NABCI/ICAAN y Temas de Vida Silvestre, Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO); Brad Bortner, Chief, Division of Migratory Birds and Habitat, USFWS.

SCCWT: Mary-Jane Roberts, Director, Species at Risk Management, CWS; Dr. José Francisco Bernal Stoopen, Director de Especies Prioritarias para la Conservación, Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas (CONANP); Dr. Gabriela Chavarria, Forensic Science Branch Chief, USFWS.

ECWT: Grant Hogg, Director, Habitat Conservation Management, CWS; Margarita Caso Chávez, Directora de Conservación de los Ecosistemas Instituto Nacional de Ecología y Cambio Climático (INECC); Shannon Smith, USFWS.

CITES: Basile Van Havre, Acting Director General, Domestic and International Biodiversity, Canadian Wildlife Service;

DESCRIPTION

The Executive Tables meets with the Co-chairs from all the tables to discuss general issues about the Trilateral Committee. This is the only opportunity the Executive Table has to discuss with the Co-chairs any issues related to the functioning of the Trilateral Committee to make sure that it remains effective, efficient, relevant and strategic. It is also an opportunity for each working table to highlight their accomplishments and request advice or input from the Executive Table.

BACKGROUND

Since 2009, the Executive Table and the Co-chairs meeting has provided an opportunity for the Executive Table and the Co-chairs from all the tables to exchange ideas. This exchange can include “housekeeping” issues (i.e. effectiveness/efficiency of the annual meeting), agenda coordination, discussion of issues of concern/interest, partnerships, and the development and sharing of a strategic vision for the future of the Trilateral Committee.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES

- A common vision by the Executive Table and the Co-chairs on the strategic direction of the Trilateral Committee

SUBMITTED BY: TCC

3:15-3:30pm

AGENDA ITEM 10: The California Condor

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS

Eric Davis, California Condor Coordinator, USFWS; Amanda Gonzales, Program Officer for Wildlife Without Borders (Mexico); Dr. Jose Bernal, Director of Priority Species, Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas (CONANP); Dr. Juan Arturo Rivera Rebolledo, Director General, General Direction of Zoos and Wildlife of Mexico City; Dr. Ignacio Vilchis, Associate Director of Applied Animal Ecology, San Diego Zoo Global’s Institute for Conservation Research; and, Dr. Mike Wallace, Conservation Program Manager, California Condor Baja Program at San Diego Zoo Global’s Institute for

Conservation Research.

DESCRIPTION: Following many years of discussion, the governments of Mexico and the U.S. entered into a Memorandum of Understanding in 2014 providing for cooperative actions furthering the recovery of California condor, including sharing of information, strategies, expertise, public information, educational material and training between and among the recovery programs for this species. This agenda item is to update the Executive Table concerning implementation of this MOU.

BACKGROUND: Starting in 2002, San Diego Zoo Global's Institute for Conservation Research began a condor reintroduction program in cooperation with the Environment and Natural Resources Ministry (SEMARNAT), the National Institute for Ecology and Climate Change (INECC) and the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP) in Mexico and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the U.S. Condors were introduced into Sierra de San Pedro Martir, a national park in Baja California and part of the condor's historic range. As of this writing, there are 33 free-flying condors in San Pedro Martir managed in cooperation by the government of Mexico and San Diego Zoo Global's Institute for Conservation Research. The governments of the U.S. and Mexico formalized the cooperative nature of the recovery effort in San Pedro Martir in an MOU signed at the 2014 Trilateral Committee meeting. Since this meeting, six condors have been transferred and released into the wild at San Pedro Martir, two habituated condors that are no longer suitable for release were returned to the U.S. for placement in the Phoenix Zoo, and two female condors were transferred to the Chapultepec Zoo in Mexico City to supplement the two males previously transferred. These four birds are now the basis of the captive breeding program centered at the Chapultepec Zoo to supplement the San Pedro Martir free-flying population. In addition, condor field staff in Mexico have participated in field meetings and training with their U.S. counterparts, and zoo-based staff have participated in several trainings at various program partner organizations in the U.S.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES

- Update the Executive Table regarding the condor recovery program, particularly as to the implementation of the MOU.
- To discuss options for improved and increased implementation of the MOU throughout the continue collaboration with CONANP on the management of the wild California condor population in Sierra de San Pedro Martir National Park and breeding in captivity program in Chapultepec Zoo.
- Advice from the Executive table regarding the current ban to the import and export of birds across the U.S.-Mexico border, as a result of the avian influenza outbreaks in the U.S.

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR

Ignacio Vilchis and Mike Wallace, San Diego Zoo Global's Institute for Conservation Research.

SUBMITTED BY

Amanda Gonzales, International Affairs Program of the USFWS, and Ignacio Vilchis, San Diego Zoo Global's Institute for Conservation Research.

3:30-3:45pm

AGENDA ITEM 11: Status Report on Trinational Monarch Conservation Activities

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS

TBD

DESCRIPTION

Progress report on trinational monarch conservation activities and commitments, including: Trinational Monarch Conservation Science Partnership and Trinational Monitoring Strategy, Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) Monarch Projects, and North American Leadership Summit Trinational Framework for Monarch Conservation Deliverables.

BACKGROUND

At the February 2014 North American Leaders Summit (NALS), the U.S., Mexico, and Canada agreed to “establish a working group to ensure the conservation of the monarch butterfly, a species that symbolizes our association.” The three countries agreed to establish a Trilateral Monarch High Level Working Group (HLWG) to lead and promote trilateral cooperation and to coordinate through the Canada/Mexico/U.S. Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management (Trilateral Committee) to develop a Tri-national Framework for Monarch Conservation to be delivered at the next NALS.

At the April 2015 Trilateral meeting in San Diego, the three countries reached tentative agreement on the following collaborative actions for the Tri-national Framework:

- Set a near-term population target for the eastern population of the monarch aligned with the target identified in the U.S. National Pollinator Strategy - 225 million monarchs occupying an area of approximately 15 acres (6 hectares) in the Mexican overwintering grounds by 2020;
 - Build upon the U.S. Monarch Conservation Science Partnership to create a Tri-national Monarch Science Partnership to coordinate priority research, monitoring, information sharing and tools development; and
 - Work together on two monarch projects funded by the Commission for
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Environmental Cooperation (CEC) in the 2015-2016 Operational Plan – *Project 12: Engaging Farmers and Landowners to Support Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Conservation* (\$300K) and *Project 13: Monarch Flyway: Communication, Participatory Conservation, and Education Programs* (\$300K).

The USFWS, CEC, Mexico’s National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP), Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), and Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) met in Mexico City, February 22-26 for concurrent and joint meetings of the CEC monarch projects steering committee, the Tri-National Monarch Science Partnership, and a closeout session with representatives of the Trilateral HLWG. The meeting concluded with the February 26th announcement by SEMARNAT, CONANP and the World Wildlife Fund-Telcel Alliance of the 2015-2016 eastern monarch overwintering population count. This past winter the population occupied 4.01 hectares, an increase more than three times last year’s 1.13 hectares. The increase is attributed to excellent weather conditions of monarch breeding and migrating in 2015.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES

- Update the ET on progress and challenges
- Support and endorsement of collaborative conservation efforts for Monarch butterfly.

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR

Monarch conservation team members from the U.S., Mexico, and Canada

SUBMITTED BY: U.S., Mexico, and Canada

3:45-4:00pm

Break

4:00-4:30pm

AGENDA ITEM 12: Conservation and Restoration of the Islands of Canada, the United States, and Mexico

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS

Annie Little, USFWS; Patrick Nantel, Parks Canada; Alfonso Aguirre, Conservación de Islas; Gregg Howald, Island Conservation; Humberto Berlanga, Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO); and, Eduardo E. Iñigo-Elias, Cornell University.

DESCRIPTION

This agenda item focuses on collaborative trilateral efforts to conserve and restore marine island ecosystems, including seabird populations. Following the signing of the Letter of Intent (LOI) at the 2014 Trilateral Committee meeting, the three countries have been jointly developing a Plan of Action for the Trilateral Island Initiative. The Plan of Action will be presented, including its

goals, objectives, priorities, and conservation outcomes. In addition, an update will be provided on the status of current collaborative efforts related to island conservation, including ongoing projects, workshops, exchanges, and efforts to promote the LOI.

BACKGROUND

In the last five years, several bilateral and trilateral island restoration projects were initiated. In order to further encourage coordination and collaboration on island projects, a Trilateral Island Working Group was created in 2012. This group developed the LOI that was signed by the three countries at the 2014 Trilateral Meeting in Querétaro, Mexico. The LOI details how the three countries intend to engage in cooperative bilateral and trilateral activities to promote sustainable environmental policies and practices in support of island conservation. The LOI identifies the development of a Plan of Action aimed at strengthening cross-coordination, setting priorities, and identifying collaborative projects.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES

- Support for the Plan of Action and continued endorsement of collaborative conservation efforts on islands in Canada, Mexico, and the U.S.

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR

Annie Little (USFWS) and representatives from Canada and Mexico (TBD)

SUBMITTED BY

U.S.

4:30-4:45pm

AGENDA ITEM 13: Launching new strategic direction for Trilateral (2018-2021)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS

Executive Table (ET): Sue Milburn-Hopwood, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, CWS, Canada; Dra. Yolanda Aurora Alaniz Pasini, Advisor to the Undersecretary of Management for Environmental Protection, SEMARNAT, Mexico; and, Dan Ashe, Director, USFWS, U.S. Trilateral Coordinating Committee (TCC): Kelly Torck, Canada; Leonel Urbano Gutierrez, Mexico, and Valencia Richardson, U.S.

DESCRIPTION

To begin initial discussions in order to establish Trilateral priorities for 2018-2021 in time for the 2017 meeting. The Executive Table will review the 2014-2017 Trilateral priorities to determine if they are still relevant to the Committee or if new priorities need to be established. The 2018-2021 priorities will be

finalized at the 2017 Trilateral meeting.

BACKGROUND

The Trilateral Committee identified the following four priorities for the period from 2014-2017:

- Climate Change with a focus on adaptation
- Landscape and seascape conservation connectivity and area based conservation partnerships
- Wildlife Trafficking
- Monarch Butterfly Conservation

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES

- Initial review of the 2014-2017 priorities. If updated priorities are required, further discussion will be held at the mid-year call. 2018-2021 priorities will be finalized at the 2017 Trilateral.

SUBMITTED BY

TCC

4:45-5:00pm

AGENDA ITEM 14: 2017 Trilateral Committee Meeting

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS

ET: Sue Milburn-Hopwood, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, CWS, Canada; Dra. Yolanda Aurora Alaniz Pasini, Advisor to the Undersecretary of Management for Environmental Protection, SEMARNAT, Mexico; and, Dan Ashe, Director, USFWS, U.S.

TCC: Kelly Torck, Canada; Leonel Urbano Gutierrez, Mexico, and Valencia Richardson, U.S.

DESCRIPTION

The Trilateral Committee annual meetings are hosted on a rotational basis. The 2017 annual meeting will take place in Mexico.

BACKGROUND

Each year, the Executive Table commits to a specific meeting date for the following year in order to allow for adequate preparation time.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES

- Mexico will announce the date/location of the 2017 annual meeting.

SUBMITTED BY

TCC

5:00-5:15pm

AGENDA ITEM 15: Closeout and Highlights Report (1-page) of Working Tables

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS

ET: Sue Milburn-Hopwood, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, CWS, Canada; Dra. Yolanda Aurora Alaniz Pasini, Advisor to the Undersecretary of Management for Environmental Protection, SEMARNAT, Mexico; and, Dan Ashe, Director, USFWS, U.S.

TCC: Kelly Torck, Canada; Leonel Urbano Gutierrez, Mexico, and Valencia Richardson, U.S.

DESCRIPTION

The 2014-2017 Trilateral Committee Priorities are Climate Change with a Focus on Adaptation; Landscape and Seascape Conservation Connectivity and Area-Based Conservation Partnerships; Wildlife Trafficking; and, Monarch Butterfly Conservation. Each Working Table prepares a 1-page report highlighting its projects/activities in relation to the Trilateral Committee Priorities for the current year and proposed actions for the following year. The reports are submitted to the Executive Table at the conclusion of the sessions.

BACKGROUND

The Executive Table and working tables reviewed the annual in-situ reporting process and recognized the need to enhance its effectiveness and efficiency. As a result, the 1-page template was developed for working tables to use; the submission deadline for annual workplans (AIR) was extended allowing the tables more time to determine goals and the Executive Table the opportunity to provide meaningful feedback. The tables have been empowered to endorse their projects.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES

- Co-chairs and Facilitators submit 1-page reports using the template, finalize and submit the 2016-2017 AIR 2 weeks after the conclusion of the annual meeting. The ET will review the 2016-2017 AIRs and provide feedback to the Working Tables 2 weeks post receipt.

SUBMITTED BY

TCC

5:15pm

Adjourn
