

# Work Table: Executive Table

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## Co-Chairs:

- **Basile van Havre, Director General, Domestic and International Biodiversity, Canadian Wildlife Service;**
- **José Luis Pedro Funes Izaguirre, General Director of Wildlife, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT), Mexico;**
- **Bryan Arroyo, Assistant Director International Affairs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S.**

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## WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2017

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**8:30-11:30am**      **Fieldtrip**

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**11:30-12:00pm**      **Back to the Hotel**

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**1:00-2:15pm**      **Lunch**

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**2:15-5:30pm**      **Plenary Session**

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## THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2017

Room: Salon Alcapulco

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**9:00-9:05am**      **AGENDA ITEM # 1: Welcome – Adoption of the Agenda**

### **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS**

Executive Table (ET): Basile van Havre, Director General, Domestic and International Biodiversity, Canadian Wildlife Service; José Luis Pedro Funes Izaguirre, General Director of Wildlife, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources SEMARNAT, Mexico, and, Bryan Arroyo, Assistant Director International Affairs, USFWS, U.S.

Trilateral Coordinating Committee (TCC): Kelly Torck, Canada; Leonel Urbano Gutierrez, Mexico, and Valencia Richardson, U.S.

### **DESCRIPTION**

Welcome remarks by José Luis Pedro Funes Izaguirre, General Director of Wildlife and adoption of the agenda.

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## **BACKGROUND**

The hosting Co-chair greets Head of the Canadian and American Delegations and other table participants. Any modifications to the agenda are noted.

## **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES**

Adoption of the agenda.

## **SUBMITTED BY**

TCC

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**9:05-10:00am**

## **AGENDA ITEM # 2: Country Updates**

### **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS**

ET: Basile van Havre, Director General, Domestic and International Biodiversity, Canadian Wildlife Service; José Luis Pedro Funes Izaguirre, General Director of Wildlife, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, SEMARNAT, Mexico; and, Bryan Arroyo, Assistant Director International Affairs, 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, “with” AFWA and U. S. state wildlife agencies will also present an overview of their international collaborations.

### **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

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vision and a common agenda.

**SUBMITTED BY**

TCC

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**10:00-10:20am**

**AGENDA ITEM # 3: Implementation and Monitoring of Cooperative Instruments Signed in the Framework of the Trilateral Committee (Letters of Intention and Memorandum of Understanding)**

**COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS**

ET: Basile van Havre, Director General, Domestic and International Biodiversity, CWS; José Luis Pedro Funes Izaguirre, General Director of Wildlife, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, SEMARNAT, Mexico; and, Bryan Arroyo, Assistant Director International Affairs, USFWS, U.S.; MBWT: Charles Francis, CWS.

**DESCRIPTION**

Within the framework of the Canada-Mexico-United States Trilateral Committee for the Conservation and Management of Wildlife and Ecosystems, a series of collaboration instruments have been signed with a view to ratifying the commitment of the participating countries to continue collaborating on specific issues Conservation and management of wildlife in North America, in this context, it is necessary to evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of these agreements, which is why it is necessary to establish a mechanism for evaluation and monitoring.

**BACKGROUND**

Since 2014, within the Trilateral Canada-Mexico-United States Committee, 5 collaboration instruments have been signed: 1) Letter of intent in the subject matter of conservation and restoration of the insular ecosystems of the Mexican United States, the United States of America and Canada, signed in the City of Querétaro on May 28, 2014; 2) Memorandum of understanding between the Fisheries and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior of the United States of America and the Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources of the United Mexican States on cooperation actions for the recovery of the California Condor in the territory of United Mexican States, signed in the City of Queretaro on May 28, 2014 ; 3) Letter of intent to promote development of a coordinated approach for bird banding in the United Mexican States, the United States of America, and Canada, signed in San Diego California on April 16, 2015; 4) Letter of intent related to efforts to promote conservation of bats

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in the United Mexican States, the United States of America, and Canada, signed in San Diego California on April 16, 2015; 5) Letter of intent related to the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats in the United Mexican States, the United States of America and Canada, signed in Ottawa, Canada on May 18, 2016.

### **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES**

The Executive Table shall establish a mechanism for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness and feasibility of collaboration agreements signed within the Trilateral Committee.

### **SUBMITTED BY**

Mexico

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**10:20-10:40am**

**AGENDA ITEM # 4: Mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for well-being**

### **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS**

National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO), General Direction of Wildlife (DGVS).

### **DESCRIPTION**

Biodiversity mainstreaming implies that conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is integral to the functioning of productive and service sectors, aiming to reduce, prevent and mitigate the negative impacts, and promote its positive ones, in order for ecosystems to be healthy, resilient and to ensure the provision of essential services for human well-being.

### **BACKGROUND**

As host country of the 13th Conference of the Parties to the Convention of Biological Diversity (Cancún, December 2016), Mexico proposed the “Mainstreaming Biodiversity for well-being” as the core topic, with emphasis on the following sectors: agriculture, fisheries, forestry and tourism. This led to the adoption of a CBD Decision on mainstreaming

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with specific actions for the four sectors proposed, as well as a follow up instruction for the COP should to consider at its fourteenth meeting, the mainstreaming of biodiversity into four additional sectors: energy and mining; infrastructure; manufacturing and processing industry; and health.

The COP was preceded by the High Level Segment, in which Ministers and representatives from sectors other than the environmental participated. During this event, intersectorial dialogues were held with the aim of promoting the integration of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into the four sectors proposed by Mexico. The participants in this Segment adopted “The Cancun Declaration on Mainstreaming the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for Well-Being”.

### **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES**

Mexico proposes this agenda item with the intention to:

- a) Share successful experiences from the North American region on addressing the topic at the national level (Mexico will present its experience on the work done concerning institutional coordination for the elaboration of the 4 sectoral strategies (agriculture, fisheries, forestry and tourism) to mainstream biodiversity into their programs and action plans;
- b) Define if the region will start to address the topic by focusing on a specific sector (e.g., agriculture in grasslands); and,
- c) Identify the next steps to continue working in this matter.

### **SUBMITTED BY**

Mexico

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**10:40-11.00am**

*Break*

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**11:00-11:15am**

**AGENDA ITEM # 5: Continental Scale Bison Conservation**

### **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS**

Trilateral Bison Team:

Glen Plumb, U.S. National Park Service

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Steve Torbit, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Micheline Manseau, Parks Canada

Jose Bernal Stoopen, Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas

Keith Aune, Chair, IUCN North American Bison SSG (United States)

## **DESCRIPTION**

The Bison Team wishes to continue working together on the recovery and reintroduction of American bison into its historical range, and the translocation of herds that would improve the genetics of the species. In order to facilitate the implementation of such work, the Bison Team has developed a Trilateral Letter of Intent in an effort to strengthen the conservation of wild ranging bison and preserving its genetic diversity at the continental scale.

## **BACKGROUND**

At the 2016 SSCCC Working Table, the Bison team agreed to develop a letter of intent that would lead the three countries to formally implement their ongoing efforts for the conservation and management of the species, and strengthen the existing collaboration between the three countries in the subject matter.

## **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES**

We seek the support of the Executive Table in signing such Letter of Intent during the Trilateral Committee Meeting, and its endorsement for the formal implementation of trilateral activities on bison conservation at a continental scale.

## **AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR**

Glenn Plumb, National Park Service and Jose Bernal Stoopen, CONANP.

## **SUBMITTED BY**

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Mexico

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**11:15-11:35am**      **AGENDA ITEM # 6: Binational Condor Reintroduction Program**

**COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS**

CONANP/USFWS/San Diego, Zoo/Chapultepec Zoo

**DESCRIPTION**

The National Commission for Natural Protected Areas (CONANP) and, as Mexico's National Coordinator for the recovery of the condor, wishes to continue working with appropriate U.S. government and non-government institutions in the recovery of this iconic species, under the transboundary binational partnership that was presented by the USFWS last year, in the transition plan.

**BACKGROUND**

In 1999, the U.S. and Mexico governments initiated discussions to reintroduce California Condors to Mexico, selecting the Sierra de San Pedro Martir National park as the area where birds would be released.

In 2002, a binational program to restore the California Condor was established, and in 2012, the first wild chicks fledged in Mexico were confirmed since the 1930's. During this entire period, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service supported the operation of the program in Baja California. However, last year the USFWS informed CONANP its decision to transfer the ownership of Condors in Baja California, and presented its Transition Plan establishing, among others, an automatic transfer of ownership at first import to Mexico for each subsequent bird sent for release.

The Plan also calls for the development to enable management of breeding and releases of birds within Mexico, including responsibility for permits to transfer samples for genetic management purposes into/from U.S.A.

**REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES**

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In response to the delivery of the above transition plan, CONANP would like to present to the Executive Table an updated work plan based on the proposed transition actions included in the FWS Transition Plan.

### **AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR**

Jose Bernal Stoopan, Office of Priority Species for Conservation, National Commission for Natural Protected Areas (CONANP)

### **SUBMITTED BY**

Mexico

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**11:35-11:55am**      **AGENDA ITEM # 7: Update on the Development of a North American Invasive Alien Species Strategy and Action Plan**

### **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS**

Canada: Kelly Torck, Environment Canada, Kelly.torck@canada.ca,  
Mexico: Ana Isabel Gonzalez, CONABIO, agonzalez@conabio.gob.mx;  
Patricia Koleff, CONABIO, pkoleff@conabio.gob.mx, United States: Stas  
Burgiel, National Invasive Species Council (NISC) Secretariat,  
Stanley\_burgiel@ios.doi.gov

### **DESCRIPTION**

Discussion of ongoing efforts to develop a North American Invasive Alien Species Strategy and Action Plan and next steps for integration with the Trilateral Committee's processes and priorities.

### **BACKGROUND**

At its 2016 meeting the Trilateral Committee's Executive Committee considered a proposal to develop a North American Invasive Alien Species Strategy and Action Plan. The resulting recommendation was to further consider both substance and how it would be advanced (e.g., as a working table or through some other coordination mechanism) and to report back to the Executive Table. Since that time, the call for such a Strategy and Action

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Plan has received further support including in the outcomes of the 2016 North American Leadership Summit, which recommended the formation of a working group for its development. That working group has been formed with representatives from the governments of the three countries. It has continued work on content and is exploring options for coordination and outreach to the Commission on Environmental Cooperation as well as the North American Invasive Species Forum (May 2016).

### **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES**

Guidance on integrating with Trilateral Committee Processes and priorities, as well as means to officially recognize the Strategy and Action Plan and commitment by the three countries upon its completion.

### **SUBMITTED BY**

Stanley Burgiel, National Invasive Species Council Secretariat, t: 202-208-4163; e: stanley\_burgiel@ios.doi.gov

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11:55am-  
12:15pm

### **AGENDA ITEM 8: The migratory birds vision, implementation plan; Conservation of North American Birds and Bird Banding LOI**

### **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS**

Charles M Francis (Environment and Climate Change Canada), Brad Bortner (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO)

### **DESCRIPTION**

One of the key activities being undertaken through the LOI on bird conservation signed last year, has been development of a shared Vision for bird conservation over the next century. A draft Vision was developed in December, and widely circulated for comment. Those comments have been addressed, and a revised version is available for presentation at the plenary of the trilateral, and will be officially posted in the near future by the three NABCI committees. We would now like to present to the Executive Table, so of our ideas for next steps towards achieving this Vision, particularly for engaging additional countries in the Western Hemisphere.

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## **BACKGROUND**

A Letter of Intent for bird conservation was signed by the Executive Table in May 2016 “related to the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats in the United Mexican States, the United States of America and Canada.” This LOI highlighted several key activities of the three agencies including: continue and expand cooperation in regional, bilateral and trilateral activities in support of migratory bird and habitat conservation; participate in and support collaborative initiatives related to bird and habitat conservation; work cooperatively to seek mechanisms to improve communication and coordination with agencies and organizations throughout the Western Hemisphere; and develop a shared vision and strategy for migratory bird conservation in the Americas over the next 100 years.

## **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES**

To obtain input from the Executive Table on proposed approaches for implementing the Vision, especially for engaging other countries throughout the Western Hemisphere.

## **SUBMITTED BY**

Charles M. Francis, Brad Bortner, Humberto Berlanga

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12:15am-  
12:35pm

**AGENDA ITEM # 9: Activities being undertaken under the LOI on Bat Conservation**

## **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS**

Charles M Francis (Environment and Climate Change Canada), Jeremy Coleman (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), Rodrigo Medellin (Mexico)

## **DESCRIPTION**

Activities under the LOI are being coordinated through the North American Bat Conservation Alliance (NABCA), an informal alliance among federal, state/provincial and local government agencies; regional bat working groups; non-government organizations; industry; individual scientists and biologists; and concerned members of the public interested in bat

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conservation. The NABCA steering committee is chaired by representatives appointed by each of the 3 countries (Charles Francis, Jeremy Coleman, and Rodrigo Medellin), with additional members from all 3 countries. A part-time coordinator has been engaged through short-term contracts from Environment and Climate Change Canada, but a longer-term strategy is needed to support a coordinator to enhance effectiveness.

To date, NABCA has developed a webpage ([www.batconservationalliance.org](http://www.batconservationalliance.org)) and engaged the bat conservation community at several working group meetings. The major accomplishment, to date, has been developing and prioritizing at a regional level, information on threats to bats in North America (a paper on the results is in preparation for publication). NABCA is also in the process of developing a web-based Wiki to share information on best practices for bat conservation: <http://batconservationalliance.wikidot.com>.

### **BACKGROUND**

A Letter of Intent was signed by the Executive Table in 2015 “related to efforts to promote conservation of bats in the United Mexican States, the United States of America, and Canada.” Over 150 species of bats are known to occur in North America, including many shared among the 3 countries. Unfortunately, many species populations are being adversely affected by threats including diseases (especially white-nose syndrome), mortality from wind farms, and direct persecution, with the result that some species are now endangered. Cooperation among the three countries could enhance sharing information on approaches to address these threats, and thus enhance the effectiveness of conservation actions.

### **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES**

To obtain suggestions from the Executive Table on approaches for enhancing activities being undertaken through the LOI, particularly for coordination of the North American Bat Conservation Alliance.

### **SUBMITTED BY**

Charles M. Francis, Canada

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12:35pm-  
12:55pm

**AGENDA ITEM # 10: LOI on North American Bird Banding program**

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## **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS**

Charles M Francis (Environment and Climate Change Canada), Brad Bortner (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO)

## **DESCRIPTION**

Bird-banding and marking is an important tool for understanding bird populations, and for planning and designing conservation activities. Canada and the USA have been working together for the past century on a joint bird-banding program, while Mexico has been developing a program. The LOI confirmed the intention of the Canadian Wildlife Service and the USGS Bird Banding program to support development of a program in Mexico. Canadian and US biologists have continued to provide support and advice to Mexico (CONABIO). However, due to budget constraints in Mexico, this program has been stalled in its development.

## **BACKGROUND**

A Letter of Intent related to Bird Banding was signed by the Executive Table in April 2015 “development of a coordinated approach for bird banding in the United Mexican States, the United States of America and Canada.” This LOI indicated the intention of the USGS and CWS bird banding offices to support Mexico in development of a bird banding program that would be effectively coordinated with that elsewhere in North America.

## **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES**

To advise the Executive Table on current barriers to implementing a bird-banding program in Mexico.

## **SUBMITTED BY**

Charles M. Francis, Humberto Berlanga, Brad Bortner

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**1:00-2:15pm**

*Lunch*

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**2:15-3:15pm**

**Joint Session of the ET with the Co-Chairs of the Working Tables**

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**3:15-3:35pm**

**AGENDA ITEM # 11: Trilateral Island Initiative: Conservation and Restoration of the Islands of Canada, the United States, and Mexico**

**2014-2017 TRILATERAL COMMITTEE PRIORITY:** (select at least one)

- Climate Change with a Focus on Adaptation
- Landscape/Seascape Conservation Including Connectivity & Area Based Conservation Partnerships
- Wildlife Trafficking
- Monarch Butterfly Conservation

**BINATIONAL/TRINATIONAL**

(specify one) Trinational

**COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS**

Annie Little (USFWS), Patrick Nantel (Parks Canada), Gilles Seutin (Parks Canada), Alfonso Aguirre (Conservación de Islas), Federico A. Méndez (Conservación de Islas), Gregg Howald (Island Conservation), Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Eduardo E. Iñigo-Elias (Cornell Lab of Ornithology)

**DESCRIPTION**

This agenda item focuses on a collaborative trilateral effort 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. We will update the ET on the status of current collaborative efforts related to island conservation, including ongoing projects, workshops, exchanges, and efforts to promote the LOI. We will also discuss development of the Plan of Action including goals,

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objectives, priorities, and conservation outcomes.

## **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 documents that the three countries intend to engage in cooperative bilateral and trilateral activities to promote sustainable environmental policies and practices in support of island conservation.

## **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES**

We seek continued endorsement by the Trilateral Committee of collaborative conservation efforts on islands in Canada, United States, and Mexico.

## **AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR(S)**

Federico A. Méndez (Mexico) or Gregg Howald (U.S.)

## **SUBMITTED BY**

Annie Little, USFWS

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**3:35pm**

*Adjourn*

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