

XXII Annual Reunion of the Canada/México/US Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management

Plenary Session

Wednesday May 17th, 2017

14:15 to 17:30hrs

**“Mainstreaming Biodiversity for Well-being in North America”
Concept Note**

Background

1. Mainstreaming conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into sectoral and cross sectoral plans implies that biodiversity must be considered part of the functioning of the productive sectors, which seek to reduce, avoid and mitigate negative impacts, and generate positive effects on biodiversity and ecosystem services. In this way, it contributes to sustainable development and the provision of essential services for human well-being is assured.
2. Within the framework of the United Nations Biodiversity Conference (Cancun, 2016), Mexico established as a central theme of the meeting the integration of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into sectoral and cross-sectoral plans with emphasis on agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism sectors, and aligned with “The Cancun Declaration on Mainstreaming the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for Well-Being”.
3. Additionally, the Conference adopted a decision to consider four additional sectors: energy and mining; infrastructure; manufacturing and processing industry; and health.
4. Mexico has promoted that mainstreaming conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is approached in various forums such as FAO, OMT, CITES, IPBES, bilateral collaboration, with the participation of key actors from government, academia, NGO's, local and indigenous communities, and the private sector.

Importance of Biodiversity Mainstreaming within the framework of the Trilateral Committee

5. Taking into account the three objectives of the Trilateral Committee: a) to provide a continental perspective on the management, conservation and sustainable use of biological resources; b) contribute and preserve the ecological integrity of the North American ecoregions; and c) promote the capacity building and cooperation within cross-sectorial activities in the three countries for the conservation of biodiversity that will in turn contribute to the reduction and mitigation of the threats on shared species and ecosystems of North America; mainstreaming biodiversity in various productive sectors represents a unique opportunity to strengthen the efforts that this Trilateral Committee has promoted through its working tables.

6. Without a doubt, the Trilateral Committee has achieved progress in collaboration with the productive sectors of the three nations, where the work surrounding the conservation of pastures in North America, or the joint work for the conservation of the migratory processes of the monarch butterfly stand out. We now have the opportunity to broaden this collaboration to create synergies that will benefit and improve the effects in wildlife conservation in North America.

Dynamics and expected outcomes of the Plenary Session

7. Following an introductory presentation on biodiversity mainstreaming, and the highlights of the agreements achieved at the UN Biodiversity Conference, each country will present an example of Biodiversity Mainstreaming implementation at the national level, followed by a high level round table focused on discussing challenges and opportunities. Based on this context, each of the working tables will reflect on perspectives on how biodiversity mainstreaming can support their objectives, and will identify with which productive sectors and actors this will be achieved.
8. Through this, the Plenary Session is expected to identify collaboration opportunities with other sector in order to implement or strengthen actions that will contribute to maintain and improve the conservation status of ecosystems on several levels, measures on restauration and management, habitat and population conservation of species at risk of common interest; as well as their link with natural protected areas, corridors, and sanctuaries for species, with the participation of key actors of diverse sectors, among which the agricultural, forestry, tourism, and infrastructure sectors stand out.

Work programme

Timeframe	Dynamics	Description
14:15-14:35	Introduction to Biodiversity Mainstreaming (BM)	Highlights on the BM concept, and the agreements of the UN Biodiversity Conference (Cancun, 2016) - Presented by: Hesiquio Benitez (CONABIO)
14:35-15:35	BM success cases	Presentations by: a) Canada: Basile Van Havre, Canadian Wildlife Service b) EUA: [TBD] c) Mexico: [TBD]
15:35-16:35	High level round table	The Heads of Delegation will reflect on challenges and opportunities of BM within the Trilateral Committee framework. - Bryan Arroyo (EUA), Sue Milburn (Canada), and José Luis Funes (México). - Facilitator: Hesiquio Benitez (CONABIO)
16:35-17:30	Perspectives of the working table	Each table will analyze and respond (in 10 minutes): <i>How does the mainstreaming of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity support the objectives of the working table, and which are the main sectors and key actors to achieve this with?</i>