

**WORK TABLE: EXECUTIVE TABLE (ET)**

**Ver. 3.26.18**

**Co-Chairs:** Sue Milburn Hopwood, Assistant Deputy Minister – Canadian Wildlife Service; Jose Luis Pedro Funes Izaguirre, Director General for Wildlife – SEMARNAT, Gregory Sheehan, Principal Deputy Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**Thursday, April 12, 2018**

**Room: The Gallery**

*9:00 am*

**AGENDA ITEM 1: Welcome – Adoption of the Agenda**

**COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Executive Table: Sue Milburn Hopwood, Assistant Deputy Minister – Canadian Wildlife Service; Jose Luis Pedro Funes Izaguirre, Director General for Wildlife – SEMARNAT, Gregory Sheehan, Principal Deputy Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Gloria Bell, Acting Assistant Director, International Affairs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**DESCRIPTION:** Welcome Remarks by Gregory Sheehan, Principal Deputy Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and adoption of the agenda.

**BACKGROUND:** The hosting Co-chair greets heads of Mexican and Canadian delegations and other table participants. Any modifications to the agenda are noted.

**REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** Adoption of the agenda

**SUBMITTED BY:** Trilateral Coordination Committee (TCC): Valencia Richardson-U.S., Leonel Urbano-Mexico, Coral de Shield-Canada

*9:05 am*

**AGENDA ITEM 2: Country Updates**

**COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Executive Table: Sue Milburn Hopwood, Assistant Deputy Minister – Canadian Wildlife Service; Jose Luis Pedro Funes Izaguirre, Director General for Wildlife – SEMARNAT, Gregory Sheehan, Principal Deputy Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Gloria Bell, Acting Assistant Director, International Affairs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**DESCRIPTION:** Heads of Delegation give a presentation (20 min. each) on major developments in their countries which might be of interest to and/or have an impact on a tri-national level (i.e. legislations, policies, regulations, budgets, strategic priorities, agreements, conventions, programs, projects, etc.)

**BACKGROUND:** The Executive Table Co-chairs use this opportunity to exchange information

relevant to natural resource management and biodiversity conservation taking place within their respective countries that may be of interest to the other two countries.

**REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** Exchange of information that helps understand challenges and/or opportunities in the other countries to promote a shared vision and a common agenda

**SUBMITTED BY:** TCC

*10:00 -10-15 am - Break*

*10:15 am*

**AGENDA ITEM 3: Incidental Take of Migratory Birds**

**COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Executive Table: Sue Milburn Hopwood, Assistant Deputy Minister – Canadian Wildlife Service; Jose Luis Pedro Funes Izaguirre, Director General for Wildlife – SEMARNAT, Gregory Sheehan, Principal Deputy Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Sheldon Jordan, Director General, Wildlife Enforcement Branch.

**DESCRIPTION:** The Heads of Delegation are invited to share information on the management of the incidental take in migratory birds within their national context and collectively discuss what is known about the impact of incidental take (what species, how many, and whether there are any population level impacts), existing science gaps, successes in prosecution, and best management practices in North America.

**BACKGROUND:** Canada and the United States recently had an opportunity to meet bilaterally and discuss recent actions with respect to Migratory Birds. Given the importance of these issues and the North American relevance, Canada proposed continuing discussions in the context of the Trilateral meeting.

**REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** An exchange of information and better understanding of the impact of incidental take on migratory birds including a debrief from the Migratory Bird Working Table (5 min.) and 1 presentation per country (max 15 min.)

**SUBMITTED BY:** Canada

*11:00 am*

**AGENDA ITEM 4: Executive Table meeting with Work Table Co-chairs and Facilitators**

**COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Executive Table: Sue Milburn Hopwood, Assistant Deputy Minister – Canadian Wildlife Service; Jose Luis Pedro Funes Izaguirre, Director General for Wildlife – SEMARNAT, Gregory Sheehan, Principal Deputy Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Gloria Bell, Acting Assistant Director, International Affairs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**DESCRIPTION:** The Executive Table meets with all Co-chairs and Facilitators to get a report

on working table's progress and highlights as well as their input on technical/thematic priorities. The Agenda of this meeting includes (1) "Housekeeping issues (i.e. effectiveness/efficiency of annual meetings; (2) Coordination of agendas and discussion of issues of concern and/or interest; and (3) Development and sharing of a strategic vision for the future of the Trilateral Committee.

**BACKGROUND:** The meeting between the Executive Table and Co-chairs/Facilitators was incorporated as a permanent feature of the annual meeting in 2000 to provide a mechanism for the Executive Table to get direct input from the working table Co-chairs and Facilitators regarding technical issues as well as administrative issues to enhance the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the Trilateral Committee. It also provides a mechanism for the tables to exchange information, coordinate activities and avoid working independently.

**REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** The Executive Table to listen to Co-chairs and Facilitators regarding progress, highlights, priorities, and suggestions

**SUBMITTED BY:** TCC

*12:00-1:15 pm – Lunch*

*1:15 pm*

**AGENDA ITEM 5: Discussion on the Effectiveness and Efficiency of the Trilateral, Long-term Goals and Functionality of the Working Tables**

**COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Executive Table: Sue Milburn Hopwood, Assistant Deputy Minister – Canadian Wildlife Service; Jose Luis Pedro Funes Izaguirre, Director General for Wildlife – SEMARNAT, Gregory Sheehan, Principal Deputy Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Gloria Bell, Acting Assistant Director, International Affairs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**DESCRIPTION:** The Executive Table will discuss means of maximizing the effectiveness and efficiency of the Trilateral Committee, decide the strategic direction for the next 20 years and enhancing the functionality of the current working tables. The goal is to ensure that the activities of the Trilateral Committee facilitate and enhance coordination, cooperation, and the development of partnerships among our wildlife agencies as well as other associated and interested entities in Canada, Mexico and the US regarding projects and programs for the conservation and management of biodiversity of mutual interest.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Trilateral Committee was established via a Memorandum of Understanding in 1995 by the wildlife agencies of Canada, Mexico and the United States of America. Since its inception, the parties have collectively addressed wildlife and habitat conservation and management in an adaptive, efficient, and comprehensive manner.

In 2009, the Executive Table implemented the Three-Year Work Plan as a tool for Working

Tables to enhance the strategic direction their activities, projects and programs. The document also complemented each Working Table's Terms of Reference (ToR). Subsequently, the tool was discontinued at the request of the Co-chairs given its duplicative nature and valuable elements of it were merged with the Action Item Report. In addition, the Executive Table established overarching Trilateral Committee Priorities and charged the tables with developing the annual agenda based upon them. This year, the Trilateral Committee Priorities will be determined for 2018-2021 and part of this process includes a preliminary review/discussion of the following objectives:

- 1) Ensure that Trilateral Committee operations are maximized in terms of effectiveness and efficiency;
- 2) Provide long term goals to ensure that there is effective and strategic planning, monitoring, and evaluation of Working Tables' activities; and
- 3) Enhance the functionality of Working Tables in order to continue advancing the biodiversity conservation agenda in the North America bioregion.

The Executive Table should decide whether the Trilateral Committee needs to implement new measures to enhance the overall effectiveness and efficiency of its operations, current working tables are functioning well in their current capacities, and how the long term goals will affect the strategic direction of this forum.

**REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** The Executive Table to consider developing a Trilateral Committee Strategic Vision 2019-2029 and the Working Tables will update their Terms of Reference accordingly.

**SUBMITTED BY: ET**

*2:30 pm*

**AGENDA ITEM 6: Discussion on the New 2018-2021 Trilateral Committee Priorities**

**COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Executive Table: Sue Milburn Hopwood, Assistant Deputy Minister – Canadian Wildlife Service; Jose Luis Pedro Funes Izaguirre, Director General for Wildlife – SEMARNAT, Gregory Sheehan, Principal Deputy Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Gloria Bell, Acting Assistant Director, International Affairs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**DESCRIPTION:** The Executive Table needs to review the current three-year priorities (2015-18) of the Trilateral Committee (\*) and decide whether to set new priorities and which ones.

(\*) Climate Change with a Focus on Adaptation, Landscape/Seascape Conservation including Connectivity and Area-based Conservation Partnerships, Wildlife Trafficking, and Monarch butterfly Conservation.

**BACKGROUND:** From its inception, the Trilateral Committee's work was largely driven by the working tables with little input from the Executive Table. In order to achieve a more strategic approach, in 2007, the Executive Table decided to issue three-year cycle overall strategic priorities to guide the work of the tables. In order to implement this, both, agenda and Action

Item Report formats require the tables to link each activity with a strategic priority. The priorities identified for the period 2015-18 are up for review. The TCC has requested input from Co-chairs and Facilitators and some of the suggestions include:

- (1) Sustainable use of wildlife and local community involvement
- (2) Integrated landscape level approaches to multi-species conservation,
- (3) Urban Conservation,
- (4) Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use

More are being developed and will be presented to the Executive Table for review/approval.

**REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** Discuss/adopt the 2018-2021 Trilateral Committee strategic priorities (Working Tables revise their ToR accordingly for 2019)

**SUBMITTED BY: TCC**

*3:15 pm – Break*

*3:30 pm*

**AGENDA ITEM 7: Determine well defined criteria and guidelines for (Memorandums of Understanding and Letters of Intent) under the Trilateral Committee**

**COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Executive Table: Sue Milburn Hopwood, Assistant Deputy Minister – Canadian Wildlife Service; Jose Luis Pedro Funez Izaguirre, Director General for Wildlife – SEMARNAT, Gregory Sheehan, Principal Deputy Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Gloria Bell, Acting Assistant Director, International Affairs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**DESCRIPTION:** The Executive Table needs to decide whether to continue endorsing the development of these instruments generated/proposed by the tables, or to establish some criteria to decide which ones are accepted and exactly what instrument is more suited to a particular need.

**BACKGROUND:** The Trilateral Committee was established in 1985 by the wildlife agencies of the three countries to replace prior instruments (the *U.S.-MEX Joint Committee for Wildlife Conservation* and the *U.S./Canada/Mexico Tripartite Agreement on the Conservation of Wetlands and their Migratory Birds*). The goal was to facilitate collaboration and cooperation and address wildlife and habitat conservation and management in a coordinated, comprehensive manner in the region. Technically, activities endorsed by the Trilateral Committee have the endorsement/support/commitment of the parties, thus reducing the need to create new instruments. A number of active and proposed MoUs and LoIs have either been signed or are proposed to be developed and signed under the Trilateral Committee.

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 by and between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior of the United States 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 in 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. The Species of Common Conservation Concern Table proposed the signing of a Joint Letter of Intent for Bison Conservation, between Canada, the U.S. and Mexico.

In order to avoid un-controlled development/signature of these instruments, the Executive Table needs to decide whether to set criteria/guidelines to determine when these instruments are needed.

#### **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:**

The ET would like status reports from the parties involved in current MOU's and LOIs.

- 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
  
- 2) Memorandum of Understanding by and between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior of the United States 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
  
- 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
  
- 4) Letter of Intent related to efforts to promote conservation of bats in United Mexican States, the United States of America, and Canada
  
- 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
  
- 6) Update on the extent of Monarch Conservation Cooperation (e.g. CEC collaboration)

The Executive Table issues criteria and guidance to the tables to determine when these instruments are needed and in which specific format.

**SUBMITTED BY:** TCC

4:15pm

**AGENDA ITEM 8: Implementation of the project “Supporting Sustainable Trade of CITES Species” under the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC).**

**COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Steering Committee members from Canada (Environment and Climate Change Canada), Mexico (Semarnat, Conabio, Profepa), United States of America (USFWS).

**DESCRIPTION:**

1. In June, 2017, the follow up project “Supporting Sustainable Trade of CITES Species” under the Commission for Environmental (CEC) was approved under the CEC 2017-2018 Operational Plan (with \$850,000 USD budget), in order to implement the main action plans for four of the priority species groups identified through the previous project (see background below).
2. In September 2017, the Steering Committee of the project agreed the main actions to be implemented throughout 2018. These are, in sum:
  - 2.1. Tarantulas: the development of an identification guide for the priority tarantulas; and to back to back workshops with the purpose of:
    - a) Promoting the participation of key stakeholders to develop recommendations related to the sustainable, traceable and legal trade of tarantulas.
    - b) Update and complete the IUCN assessments of priority tarantulas.
    - c) Establish the foundations of collaboration in matters related to enforcement to combat the illegal trafficking of tarantulas.This first workshop was recently held in Guadalajara (Mexico), from February 27th to March 2nd, and the outcomes and progress will be posted in the CEC website.
  - 2.2. Sharks: A consultancy to develop a species-specific shark compilation reporting plan; and two workshops related to the development of non-detriment findings as well as a trilateral training workshop for enforcement officers. The tentative dates for the enforcement workshop is in July 2018 (possibly Vancouver), whilst the NDF workshop is tentatively to be held in September 2018 (possibly Mexico).
  - 2.3. Turtles: A workshop to share information on conservation and trade, and establish a research and management plans; the development of a *Dermatemys* integrated conservation policy, and the development of priority turtle field studies.
  - 2.4. Timber: A workshop on NDF of priority timber species; and a regional timber trade workshop. Dates and venues to be determined.

**BACKGROUND:**

1. This project builds upon work conducted under the CEC Operational Plan 2015-2016 on “Strengthening Conservation and Sustainable Production of Selected CITES’ Appendix II Species in North America”. At the last meeting of the Trilateral Committee (Ensenada, 2017), the CEC launched the action plans that identified a total of 56 priority Appendix II species native to North America of five priority groups: i) sharks; ii) parrots; iii) tarantulas; iv) turtles; and v) timber species. The executive summary of the five action plans is available at:

<http://www3.cec.org/islandora/en/item/11710-planes-de-acci-n-de-am-rica-del-norte-para-un-comercio-sustentable-de-especies-es.pdf>

2. As a result of the agreements of the last meeting of the Trilateral Committee, the North American Region presented the outcomes of this project to the joint sessions of the 29th meeting of the Animals Committee and the 23rd meeting of the Plants Committee (AC29/PC23; Geneva, 2017) through document AC29 Doc. 12/PC23 Doc. 13:  
<https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/ac-pc/ac29-pc23/E-AC29-12-PC23-13.pdf>

**REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** The Executive Table is requested to take note of the progress achieved in the implementation of the 2017-2018 CEC project.

**SUBMITTED BY:** México

*4:30 pm*

**AGENDA ITEM 9: 2019 Trilateral Committee Meeting**

**COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Executive Table: Sue Milburn Hopwood, Assistant Deputy Minister – Canadian Wildlife Service; Jose Luis Pedro Funes Izaguirre, Director General for Wildlife – SEMARNAT, Gregory Sheehan, Principal Deputy Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Gloria Bell, Acting Assistant Director, International Affairs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**DESCRIPTION:** The Trilateral Committee annual meetings are hosted on a rotational basis among the three countries. Mexico hosted the 2017 meeting in Ensenada, the United States is hosting this year and Canada will make an announcement with regard to the 2019 annual meeting.

**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:** Canada will announce the date proposed location and any other relevant information regarding the 2019 annual meeting

**SUBMITTED BY:** TCC

*4:40 pm - Adjourned*

