

## **XXIV Annual Meeting of the Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management**

Plenary Session— Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019

*Theme: Human Dimensions and Public Engagement*

### **Human Dimensions and Public Engagement for improved North American wildlife and ecosystem conservation and management**

Successful wildlife and ecosystem conservation and management inherently involves wildlife, habitats, and people. Most 21<sup>st</sup> century conservation challenges are complex in nature and cannot be addressed effectively without considering the social, cultural, political, and economic factors that are inextricably linked to both the status of wildlife populations and ecosystems, and the feasibility of conservation actions. As a result, a socio-ecological approach, integrating social and natural science, is needed to understand complex conservation contexts, and to develop, implement, and evaluate conservation and management actions.

**Human Dimensions** of natural resource management is an interdisciplinary field that is both *science* and *application* (Manfredo 2008; Bennett et al. 2017). It is concerned with how people value wildlife and their habitats, and how they affect or are affected by natural resource management decisions. It draws on the many social sciences, including psychology, sociology, anthropology, and economics, to examine questions related to people and their relationship to the natural environment. As a practice, human dimensions provides the social science needed to develop more effective conservation decisions and actions.

Applying social science to improve **Public Engagement** strategies is a prime example of the varied applications of human dimensions (Decker, Riley, Seimer 2012). Public participation is the *process* of involving the public in problem solving or decision-making and uses public input to make sustainable decisions (International Association of Public Participation). There are varying degrees of engagement between subject matter experts and stakeholders that range from information exchange (minimal impact) to consultation and on to collaboration (greater impact) and beyond.

Human dimensions provides the tools and information necessary to identify and understand stakeholders and affected audiences and how best to engage them so that outcomes will be more efficient, equitable, and sustainable. An important element of engagement is effective communication. This can involve translating complex science into compelling messages that inspire individual actions and build connections to conservation. There several principles of effective public engagement that, when understood and applied, lead to improved understanding of stakeholder interests and behaviors, effective communication, increased trust, more effective working relationships, and ultimately improved conservation outcomes.

### **Break-out Discussions**

After a series of presentations demonstrating the application of human dimensions and public engagement in all three countries, participants will break into groups for a 30-minute discussion around two key questions:

- What are the challenges and opportunities for integrating human dimensions and public engagement into wildlife conservation and management?
- What are potential areas for trilateral collaboration in these same areas?

Each group will share key ideas with the whole group and have an open discussion for 45 minutes.

## AGENDA

<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Dynamics</b>	<b>Speakers</b>
9:00 – 9:15	Opening: Indigenous Elder Blessing and general welcome	Elder TBD <b>Carolina Caceres</b> of Canadian Wildlife Service
9:15 – 9:30	Introduction to Human Dimensions and Public Engagement Plenary Theme	<b>Christine Browne</b> , Social Science Lead, USFWS
9:30 – 9:45	Canadian Biosphere Reserves as an example of Human Dimensions in conservation approaches	<b>Monica Shore</b> Executive Director of the Canadian Biosphere Reserve Association
9:45 – 10:00	The NatureHood Program of Nature Canada: Connecting Communities to Nearby Nature as an example of Public Engagement in conservation approaches	<b>Bob Peart</b> Chair of Nature Canada and NatureHood Program-Pacific
10:00-10:15	Update to the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (2018) – incorporating human dimensions into the continent’s framework for waterfowl conservation and management	<b>Ken Richkus</b> , Migratory Birds, USFWS (introduction) <b>Dave Case</b> President, DJ Case & Associates
10:15-10:30	Nature of Americans Report – a national initiative to understand and connect Americans and nature	<b>Dave Case</b> President, DJ Case & Associates
10:30 -11:00	The Communitary Bird Monitoring Network of México	<b>Humberto Berlanga</b> La Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO)
11:00 – 11:15	Break	
11:15 – 11:45	Breakout Groups	
11:45 – 12:30	Open Discussion with Panel	
12:30 – 1:45	Lunch	
1:45 – 4:00	Group who intends to participate in the Field Trip will assemble at hotel, and depart on foot to Victoria Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary	<b>Jacques Sirois</b> (President of the Friends of Victoria Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary)
6:00 – 8:00	Opening Reception at Robert Bateman Centre (across the street from Hotel)	Welcome from the three Trilateral Committee Co-Chairs or their designates