

## Plenary Session

Monday June 13, 2022  
12:30 – 2:00pm EST

“Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion – What does conservation mean  
to you?”

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*Culture takes diverse forms across time and space. This diversity is embodied in the uniqueness and plurality of the identities of the groups and societies making up humankind. As a source of exchange, innovation and creativity, cultural diversity is as necessary for humankind as biodiversity is for nature. In this sense, it is the common heritage of humanity and should be recognized and affirmed for the benefit of present and future generations*

*UN Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity*  
*Identity, diversity and pluralism*

*Article 1 – Cultural diversity: the common heritage of humanity*

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- Many different communities and groups exist that may have differing perceptions of what conservation is and what this would result in – we can't reflect all groups in this meeting but would like to acknowledge this diversity.
- What does conservation mean to diverse communities (e.g. Indigenous peoples, youth, related to the climate crisis, etc.)?
- What barriers exist for various groups wanting to engage in the environmental / biodiversity field?
- The natural-resource profession relies on volunteers and interns who are typically compensated at levels far below minimum wage to carry out many research, management, and conservation activities.
- Barriers propagate limitations to who can participate in this field, leading to a stagnated concept of conservation and potential outcomes. We need diversity of perspectives.
- In some areas including in Mexico, environmental defenders are being attacked – strategies are being developed to address and tackle this.
- How can Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) initiatives help to rectify this and overcome these challenges? What kind of opportunities exist for increased engagement?
- How to forge a positive JEDI-inclusive path for conversation and action going forward – potential collaboration, outcomes, actions for the 3 countries?

### References

[Whitaker, D. M. \(2003\) The use of full-time volunteers and interns by natural-resource professionals, Conservation Biology, 17\(1\), 330–333.](#)

[Fournier AMV, Holford AJ, Bond AL, Leighton MA \(2019\) Unpaid work and access to science professions. PLoS ONE 14\(6\)](#)

26<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Canada/México/US Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem  
Conservation and Management

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Agenda

Timeframe	Topic	Speakers
12:30-12:40 pm	Welcome and Introduction	<b>Tara Shannon</b> , Assistant Deputy Minister, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada (5 min)  <b>Matthew Strickler</b> , Deputy Assistant Secretary, Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior (live) (5 min)
12:40-1:00 pm	<b>Mexico</b>	<b>Mitzy Violeta Cortés</b> , Indigenous Futures, San Sebastián, Tecomaxtlahuaca, Oaxaca
1:00-1:20 pm	<b>US</b>	<b>Nanea M. Valeros</b> , Public Affairs Officer, Pacific Islands - External Affairs, US Fish and Wildlife Service  <b>Dwane A. Binns</b> , Refuge Manager and Wildlife Biologist - San Diego National Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1:20-1:40 pm	<b>Canada</b>	<b>Valérie Courtois</b> , Indigenous Leadership Initiative, Indigenous Guardians Program

1:40-2:00 pm	Panel Discussion and Q&A with speakers and audience perspectives (20 minutes)	Moderator <b>Tara Shannon</b>
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