

ECOSYSTEM CONSERVATION WORKING TABLE – ACTION ITEM REPORT
XX Trilateral Committee Meeting
San Diego, California
April 13–17, 2015

The Working Table conducted its working session on April 13-16, 2015. The following Action Items were agreed upon and address the current priorities of the Trilateral Committee.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Landscape and Seascape Conservation Including Connectivity and Area Based Conservation Partnerships ○ Climate Change with a Focus on Adaptation 			
Action	Responsible Party	Due	Date Completed
Action Item 1. US/Mexico Collaboration in Binational Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCC)	ECWT Co-chairs and Desert LCC Staff: Genevieve Johnson, Aimee Roberson; Margarita Caso, INECC; CONABIO, CONANP	US/MX meeting to develop TORs for Desert LCC by September 1, 2015; Draft TORs for ECWT discussion at 2016 Trilateral meeting	On going
Goals: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Generic Terms of Reference for Mexico and Canada participation in binational LCCs. The Trilateral Committee meeting will become the official venue for LCC discussions amongst MX and the US. 2. Explore opportunities of trilateral interest and collaboration in Landscape Scale Conservation Design 3. Share planning models and design examples 4. Facilitate collaboration between INECC, CONANP, and Desert LCC connectivity studies 5. Increase binational collaboration in other border LCCs (e.g. Gulf Coast Prairie LCC) 			
Requested Action or Support from ET (if any):			
Results: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A draft of the Terms of Reference for Mexico’s participation in the Desert LCC is being circulated among the different agencies involved (USFWS, BLM, INECC, CONABIO and CONANP). 2. A binational coordination meeting was held in INECC’s headquarters on Wednesday, September 30, 2015. Participants included representatives from USFWS (R2 and International Affairs), BLM, INECC, CONABIO, and CONANP. During the meeting parties explored opportunities for collaboration, defined goals, objectives and products; redefined DLCC’s geographic boundaries, agreed to have a balanced and equal Steering committee representation and participation to satisfy both countries; shared planning models and design examples utilized by both countries; discussed funding alternatives; and preferred channels of communication. 3. The Desert LCC Steering Committee pre-approved seats for Government of Mexico representatives from SEMARNAT, CONANP, CONABIO, CONAGUA, CONAFOR, and INEGI (INECC already has a seat) in order to mimic similar US Federal Government seats. 			

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Action	Responsible Party	Due	Date Completed
Action Item 2 – Wildlife Without Borders – Mexico	INECC, USFWS-AIA Mexico Branch	By the end of Trilateral 2016	8/1/2015
Goals: 1. Support development of a new strategic framework for the WWB-MX program to address capacity building and integrated lands management for biodiversity conservation and management in Mexico focused on Mexico’s conservation priorities.			
Requested Action from ET (if any): None			
Results: 1. A new Strategic framework and a Notice of Funding Opportunity to support binational conservation activities through the WWB-MX grants program were developed. The process included three open discussion tables lead by INECC with representatives from SEMARNAT, CONABIO, CONANP and PROFEPA.			
o Landscape and Seascape Conservation Including Connectivity and Area Based Conservation Partnerships			
Action	Responsible Party	Due	Date Completed
Action Item 3 – CONANP Training for Conservation Program “Formando para la Conservación”	CONANP, USFWS	Ongoing	Ongoing
Goals: 1. Continue to support CONANP’s training program for Park Rangers			
Requested Action from ET (if any): None			
Results: In FY2015, Wildlife Without Borders – Mexico provided an additional \$70,000 to the Mexican Fund for the Conservation of Nature and CONANP to continue with the implementation of the “Training for Conservation” program. The additional funds will support the delivery of 2 additional regional training workshops for 80 park rangers, achieving the project goal of training CONANP’s 416 park rangers one year ahead of schedule. Workshops’ topics include: conflict management, biodiversity conservation, first aid response, use of equipment, rescue techniques, NPA patrolling and species monitoring. Other activities supported include the participation of a Mexican park ranger in the upcoming World Park Ranger Congress (May 21 to 27, 2016) and the University of Colorado Park Ranger Training course (May 27 to June 5, 2016).			
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Conservation Partnerships			
Action	Responsible Party	Due	Date Completed
Action Item 4 - Invasive Species	Michael Hoff, USFWS; Patricia Koleff, CONABIO	Ongoing; Annual Report at 2016 Trilateral	Binational and trinational collaboration is ongoing
Goals:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Continue collaborative Trilateral and Bilateral Risk Assessments for high-risk species (with an emphasis on aquatic invasive species) to identify and minimize risk of establishment and impact of invasive species in North America. 			
Requested Action from ET (if any):			
Results:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Share new and emerging issues and explore opportunities for technology transfer Develop and share control and containment tools Ecosystem modeling (economic impacts, regional impacts, information sharing, return on investment) Engage key players including: NOAA, DFO, USGS, USFWS, INECC, CONABIO, CONAPESCA, INAPESCA, PROFEPA, SEMARNET, SENASICA, Environment Canada, Parks Canada, North American Invasive Species Network (NAISN) Annual Report on Trinational Risk Assessment Team Activities This topic was not addressed at the ECWT this year. 			
o Monarch Butterfly Conservation			
Action	Responsible Party	Due	Date Completed
Action Item 5 – Continental Monarch Butterfly Conservation	USFWS, CONANP, CWS	By the end of Trilateral 2016; ongoing	This project is ongoing
Goals:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provide support to trinational working group to facilitate development and delivery of the <i>Tri-National Framework for Monarch Conservation</i> (as addendum and update to the 2008 North American Monarch Conservation Plan to North American Leaders at their 2016 Summit. Facilitate formation of Trinational Monarch Science Partnership Facilitate development and implementation of Trinational Monitoring Framework Collaborate on binational and trinational monarch conservation projects (Wildlife Without Borders grant projects, CEC projects, other). Share Fiscal Year 2016 monarch conservation activities, commitments and accomplishments. 			
Requested Action from ET (if any): Continued endorsement of trinational monarch conservation activities			
Results: The USFWS, CEC, Mexico’s National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP),			



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Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), and Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) met in Mexico City, February 22-26 for concurrent and joint meetings of the CEC monarch projects steering committee, the Tri-National Monarch Science Partnership, and a closeout session with representatives of the Trilateral HLWG.

Tri-national Science Partnership Accomplishments: In addition to the February meeting, the Tri-national Monarch Science Partnership convened regular conference calls and webinars over the past year. The Science Partnership has: 1) developed a charter and formed a trinational coordinating committee, 2) shared domestic research agendas, 3) agreed upon trinational research priorities, and 4) begun discussion on the coordination and development of the Trinational Monitoring Framework.

CEC Project Accomplishments: The three countries are working on two monarch projects funded by the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) in the 2015-2016 Operational Plan – Project 12: *Engaging Farmers and Landowners to Support Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Conservation* (\$300K) and Project 13: *Monarch Flyway: Communication, Participatory Conservation, and Education Programs* (\$300K). The projects must be completed by June 30, 2017. The purpose of Project 13 is to develop a trinational communications strategy that supports fostering citizen and local community-based initiatives and educational programs for Monarch conservation. The Project 13 steering committee convened in Mexico City in February and developed: 1) a proposal for a coordinating committee, 2) draft communication strategy, and 3) draft "migration calendar" that would serve as the framework for the communications strategy - tying major outreach opportunities to points in the migration. Project 12 focuses on building partnerships to promote monarch conservation in priority habitats along the migratory route in all three countries. The CEC steering committee convened a meeting in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico on May 11-13, 2016 bringing together key partners in Northern Mexico and Texas from the agriculture and transportation sectors, urban and citizen-based initiatives, and federal and state protected areas to identify collaborative conservation opportunities. A similar workshop is planned for Canadian and US partners in August and September.

Wildlife Without Borders-Mexico Projects: In FY2015, USFWS International Affairs Program (AIA) supported the project “*Developing the Skills of Young Community Promoters to Monitor Biological Variables in the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve,*” (in partnership with Geoconservacion, A.C. and CONANP). The goal is to develop a training program for community technicians that creates employment opportunities and provides information to guide actions aimed at increasing the Reserve’s resilience to climate change. Through this project, Geoconservacion, A.C. and CONANP 1) implemented four hands-on training workshops for 15 young leaders on flora, fauna and ecosystems health data collection, ecology, forest management, conflict resolution, and environmental education; 2) organized three exchange of experiences visits to Calakmul, Tehuacan-Cuicatlan, and El Ocote Biosphere Reserves; 3) designed and distributed six illustrated guides of flora and fauna; and 4) produced a manual for biological and environmental monitoring. This project is still ongoing.

In FY2016, AIA is supporting the work of two Mexican NGOs’ projects: Alternare, A.C. two year project “*Sustainable Productive Projects as a Comprehensive Strategy to Ensure the Conservation and Recovery of Natural Resources in the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve*” and the Ecosistemica, A.C. project

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“*Environmental Education for the Conservation of the Monarch Butterfly in the Central Part of Mexico*” targeted at flyway habitats in the Mexican states of Aguascalientes, Guanajuato, San Luis Potosi and Zacatecas.

Progress on Report for NALS: The trilateral working group is working to finalize the report on the Trilateral Framework for delivery at the next NALS, June 29 or 30 in Ottawa.

- **Climate Change with a Focus on Adaptation**
- **Landscape and Seascape Conservation Including Connectivity and Area Based Conservation Partnerships**

Action	Responsible Party	Due	Date Completed
Action Item 6 – Blue Carbon and North American Marine Protected Area Network	Arianna Sutton Grier and Lauren Wenzel, NOAA	By the end of Trilateral 2016	May 16-19, 2016

Goals:

1. Report on CEC North America’s Blue Carbon project
2. Update on NAMPAN
3. Continue to explore opportunities of trilateral interest and collaboration
4. Share examples of habitat restoration, adaptation and conservation, including green infrastructure and Blue Carbon, in coastal areas
5. Share examples/lessons learned including valuation of ecosystem services and return on investment
6. Potential participants: DFO, Parks Canada, CWS, NOAA, US National Marine Protected Areas Center, USFWS, INECC, CONANP, Coastal America Partnership

Requested Action or Support from ET (if any):

Results:

Share information on related projects included in CEC Proposed 2015-2016 Operational Plan: Marine Protected Area: Strengthening Management Effectiveness and Supporting Coastal Community Resilience (\$300K) and North America Blue Carbon: Next Steps in Science for Policy (\$620K).