



# Identification of Continental Scale Threats to Species at Risk



**Trilateral Meeting for Wildlife and Ecosystem  
Conservation and Management:  
Species of Common Conservation Concern  
Working Table**

**Ottawa, Canada  
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# Overview

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- Today's objectives
- Why a strategic approach is needed
- Overall goals and objectives
- Approaches and starting points
- Decision needed
- Next steps



# Today's Objectives

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- Reach consensus on the need for such a project
- Decide on general direction for overall project goals and objectives
- Initiate subgroup to decide on a process for undertaking the project
- Gather specific advice from participants on current gaps



# Why Strategically Identify Continental Scale Threats to SAR?

Growing need for international cooperation in a context of:

- Increasing numbers of invasive species and new diseases
- Increasing incidences of mysterious die-offs
- Climate change and ocean acidification
- Globalized trade : globalized threats
- Limited government resources for wildlife



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# Why Strategically Identify Continental Scale Threats to SAR?

Benefits of a Strategic Approach:

- Identify gaps and opportunities
- Growing public interest in seeing results
- New tools to support an analysis
- Evidence that cooperation works

Threat #	Threat description
1	Residential & commercial development
1.1	Housing & urban areas
1.2	Commercial & industrial areas
1.3	Tourism & recreation areas
2	Agriculture & aquaculture
2.1	Annual & perennial non-timber crops
2.2	Wood & pulp plantations
2.3	Livestock farming & ranching
2.4	Marine & freshwater aquaculture
3	Energy production & mining
3.1	Oil & gas drilling
3.2	Mining & quarrying
3.3	Renewable energy
4	Transportation & service corridors
4.1	Roads & railroads
4.2	Utility & service lines
4.3	Shipping lanes
4.4	Flight paths
5	Biological resource use
5.1	Hunting & collecting terrestrial animals



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# Links to SCCC Mandate

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A key objective of the Trilateral Committee is to:

- Identify priority actions, and opportunities for conserving and managing species and ecosystems in North America

A key objective of the SCCC Working Table is to:

- Identify and address priority management and habitat restoration actions and outreach opportunities for shared species of concern



# Links to SCCC Context

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Since 2011 the SCCC Working Table has addressed:

- 17 individual species
- 14 groups of species
- 3 specific threats (disease, invasive species and climate change)
- 9 information sharing/ process sharing initiatives
- Almost 30% of topics were included every year
- An average of 4 new topics were added each year



# What are the 4 most important topics to add next?

*Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans:*  
Salamander Chytrid Disease

**IN COLD BLOOD:  
INVESTIGATING  
SEA LION  
DEATHS**



**Scientists  
continue to  
study  
unprecedented  
seabird deaths**

Acidic waters killing off millions of scallops along the West Coast





# Project Goal

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To advise the member agencies of the Species of Common Conservation Concern Working Table of the Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management on:

- strategic identification of priority threats and associated species of conservation concern that would benefit from international cooperation

This information will have co-benefits for other national planning exercises



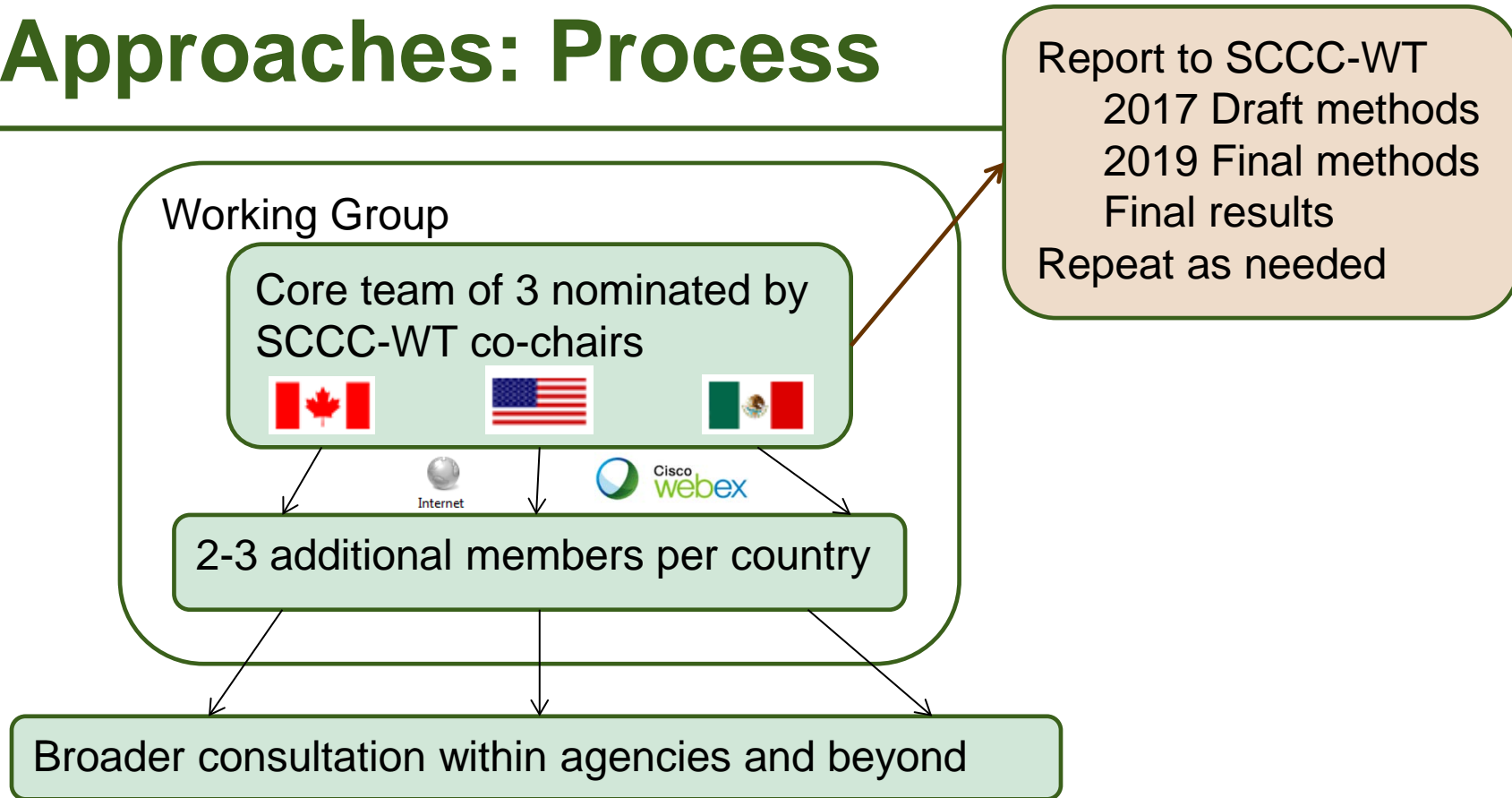
# Project Objectives

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- a) Develop a strategic and evidence-based approach to identifying priority threats and associated species, as well as opportunities for bi-national or tri-national cooperation.
- b) Apply the approach to identify key gaps in the work of the Species of Common Conservation Concern Working Table (and other tables?)
- c) Apply the approach to identify opportunities to rationalize the current work of the Species of Common Conservation Concern Working Table.
- d) Update and apply the approach as needed over time.



# Approaches: Process



\* See draft Terms of Reference for more details on process.



# Approaches: Proposed Methods

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- Focus on practical methods using existing data sources:
  - Existing within nation threat and action priorities
  - Existing within nation species priorities
  - IUCN-CMP Standardized Threat Classification
  - Existing networks for identifying emerging issues
  - Other existing tools
- Early thought on considerations:
  - Does this threat require cross-border management or research?
  - What species does it effect?
  - Is it a priority?
  - Is there an opportunity to improve it's management?



# Approaches: Proposed Methods

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- Review existing systems used by participating jurisdictions
  - Prioritization schemes and criteria
  - Threat priority lists
  - Species priority lists
  - Tools to identify emerging issues
- Assemble existing knowledge base
  - Sources of information on:
    - Threat distributions and rates of change
    - Cross-boundary threats
    - Emerging issues, etc
- Look for consistent approaches and gaps
  - Identify common interests
  - ...

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# Today's Decisions

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- Reach consensus on the need for such a project
- Decide on general direction for overall project goals and objectives
- Initiate subgroup to decide on a process for undertaking the project
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# Next Steps

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1. Set up sub-group to:
  - i. Decide what working group will look like
  - ii. Finalize goals and objectives
  - iii. Decide on first year deliverable
  - iv. Report back to table co-chairs by end of September
2. Initiate working group and development of methods.



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