

**XVII Meeting of the Canada/Mexico/U.S. Trilateral Committee for Wildlife
and Ecosystem Conservation and Management**

**Santa Fe, New Mexico
May 14-18, 2012**

AGENDA – EXTENDED (FINAL 5.9.12)

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WORK TABLE: EXECUTIVE TABLE (ET)

Co-Chairs: Martín Vargas Prieto, Director General for Wildlife, Direction General for Wildlife, SEMARNAT, Mexico, and Dan Ashe, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S.

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Room: *Hacienda*

9:00 – 10:00 am: Welcome Ceremony-Remarks by Delegation Leaders & Introduction of Delegations (see Schedule of Events)

10:00-11:00 am: Presentations: “Conservation, Collaboration & Partnerships” (chaired by Dr. Gaby Chavarria) - see Schedule of Events).

11:00-11:15 **Health Break**

11:15am

AGENDA ITEM 1: Welcome – Adoption of the Agenda

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Executive Table (ET): Martín Vargas Prieto, Director General for Wildlife, SEMARNAT, Mexico; Dan Ashe, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. & Trilateral Coordinating Committee (TCC): Leonel Urbano-MX, Valencia Richardson & Melida Tajbakhsh-U.S.).

DESCRIPTION: Welcome remarks by Dan Ashe, Director U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service & adoption of the agenda.

BACKGROUND: The hosting Co-chair greets Head of the Mexican Delegation and other table participants. Any modifications to the agenda are noted.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Adoption of the agenda.

SUBMITTED BY: TCC

11:25am

AGENDA ITEM 2: Country Updates

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: ET: Martín Vargas Prieto, Director General for Wildlife, Direction General for Wildlife, SEMARNAT, Mexico, and Dan Ashe, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. & TCC (Urbano-MX, Richardson & Tajbakhsh-U.S.).

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

BACKGROUND: Executive Table Co-chairs use this opportunity to exchange information relevant to natural resource management and biodiversity conservation taking place in their countries, which might be of interest to the other country.

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

SUBMITTED BY: TCC

12:05 pm

AGENDA ITEM 3: 2011-2012 Action Item Report (AIR)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: ET: Martín Vargas Prieto, Director General for Wildlife, Direction General for Wildlife, SEMARNAT, Mexico , and Dan Ashe, Director , U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. & TCC (Urbano-MX, Richardson & Tajbakhsh-U.S.)

DESCRIPTION: Review progress of action items agreed upon and recorded by the working tables at the 2011 annual meeting.

BACKGROUND: Every year, at the annual meeting, the ET reviews the report from the working tables on the status of the activities (action items) they agreed to accomplish throughout the year. This is an opportunity for the ET to make sure that the tables are working effectively and efficiently, provide guidance, as needed, and assess the success of the TC in achieving its overall goals and objectives.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Endorsement of the 2011-2012 AIR

SUBMITTED BY: TCC

RELATED DOCUMENT: 2011-2012 Action Item Report (AIR)

12:30 pm

AGENDA ITEM 4: California Condor-Proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico (SEMARNAT) and the U.S. Fish And Wildlife Service (USFWS) endorsing the project to reintroduce California Condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*) into the Sierra de San Pedro Martir (SSPM), Baja California, México.

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Michael Brady, USFWS- California Condor Recovery Program; John McCamman, California Condor Coordinator, USFWS; Eduardo Peters, Margarita Caso, Karina Santos del Prado and Elvia de la Cruz, INE-SEMARNAT; Luis Fueyo and Oscar Ramírez, CONANP.

DESCRIPTION: The signing of this MOU refers to a successful and unique project in the recovery of a species that was extirpated from Mexico and now is distributed back into its territory. The recovery of the California condor in Mexico is a commitment by the SEMARNAT and the USFWS to the Trilateral Committee, which has always supported this project and whose meetings each year have included its results, always positive in terms of growth of the condor population and in terms of strengthening the bi-national collaboration. However, despite nine years of successful collaboration, this bi-national effort has not been formalized in a legal instrument.

BACKGROUND: The project to reintroduce the California condor in the SSPM has achieved successful outcomes since its inception in 2002 until 2012. In April 2012, twenty-eight California condors fly over the SSPM. The development of the project over nine years of intensive management in the field, it became possible thanks to broad support and bi-national agency.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Mexico proposes in the Executive Table the signing of a MOU between the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of the United Mexican States (SEMARNAT) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior of the United States of America endorsing the project reintroduction California Condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*) in SSPM, Baja California, México. A work schedule is also proposed, in case the signature is considered.

SUBMITTED BY: National Institute of Ecology and CONANP, SEMARNAT, Mexico

1:00pm - Lunch (onsite-Canyon Patio)

2:00pm

**AGENDA ITEM 5: Landscape Conservation Cooperatives - Expanding Collaboration
Presentation by Dan Ashe, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Dr. Gabriela Chavarria, Science Advisor to the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

DESCRIPTION: Share with Mexico, how the landscape conservation cooperatives (LCCs) are providing a forum for Mexico and Canada, States, Tribes, Federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, universities and other conservation partners to work together on common goals for natural and cultural resources by developing scientific information. The LCCs network consists of 22 cooperatives operating at different functional levels, three of the LCCs (California LCC, Desert LCC, and Gulf Coast Prairie LCC expand into Mexico. They have started to work with Mexican partners at the federal and state levels. Invitation to Mexico to continue to engage and work together with LCCs to avoid duplication, share resources and joint efforts to protect species on the landscape.

BACKGROUND: The landscape conservation cooperatives (LCCs) provide a vehicle for States, Tribes, Federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, universities and other conservation partners to agree on common goals for natural and cultural resources. LCCs jointly develop the scientific information and tools needed to prioritize and guide more effective conservation actions toward these goals.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:

Work on points of contact at the regional and federal level to increase coordination and communication.

SUBMITTED BY: USFWS

3:00 pm

AGENDA ITEM 6: Presentation by Mexico on the new National Strategy for Invasive Species & Mexico's List of Priority Species.

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Patricia Koleff, National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO)

DESCRIPTION: Provide an overview of the environmental sector's efforts to attend the problem of invasive species in Mexico and the preparation of the List of Priority Species for Mexico.

BACKGROUND: In 2010, Mexico presented its National Strategy for Invasive Species. The document identifies the crosscutting actions and the strategic objectives needed to attend to the issue in a coordinated manner by the different stakeholders. The document was the result of the contribution of over 45 specialists and was further improved through a national consultation process during which over 200 people gave their opinion. Mexico is currently working in the implementation process through a 6 million USD GEF project that will begin later this year. Previous collaborative efforts with US and Canada (through CEC projects and NAISIN), have also been essential to move forward towards the strategic goals of the National Strategy. Additionally, as part of these activities, but set in a parallel process, the ministry of environment is working on the development of a set of criteria to develop the official list of invasive species for Mexico. This criteria and the subsequent pre-screening method are currently being tested by a group of over 50 specialists that are reviewing over 1200 species. Once the results of each group are available, the experts will discuss the outcome and if necessary, refine the methodology. For the invasive species that pose the highest risk, detailed Risk analyses will be carried out to reinforce the

results obtained during the prescreening.

The Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) in accordance with Article 61 of the General Law of Wildlife (LGVS), is developing a list of priority species for conservation in Mexico, in order to promote the development of projects for its conservation and recovery, and with it, that of ecosystems, habitats and species with which they are associated.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Information purposes.

SUBMITTED BY: National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO), National Commission for Protected Areas (CONANP), Mexican Direction General for Wildlife (DGVS)

3:45 pm – Health Break

4:00 pm

AGENDA ITEM 7: National Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Development of Mexican Islands

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Edward M. Peters Recagno, Margarita Caso Chávez y Karina Santos del Prado Gasca, National Institute of Ecology (INE-SEMARNAT). Alfonso Aguirre Muñoz, Island Conservation (GECI).

DESCRIPTION: The National strategy for conservation and sustainable development of Mexican islands, coordinated by the National Institute of Ecology (INE), was presented in March 27, 2012. This strategy was developed as a comprehensive long-term public policy tool for Mexico, in order to preserve the islands, to strengthen and consolidate major achievements, and to integrate priority projects with the participation of authorities, social and economic sectors. This strategy aims to strengthen national sovereignty, guide conservation and restoration efforts, as well as management and sustainable development in island ecosystems, improve life quality of its inhabitants, facilitate cross working between agencies and local, regional and national participation, create shared responsibility between government agencies, civil society and academic and private sectors, and contribute to the fulfillment of international commitments arising from United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (CONVEMAR) and the Convention on Biological Diversity. Collaborative work, characteristic in islands conservation, will find solid basis for its long-term development in the National strategy for conservation and sustainable development of Mexican islands.

BACKGROUND: Overall coordination of the strategy was given by the INE and the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT), the Ministry of Interior (SEGOB), the Navy (SEMAR) and Island Conservation (GECI), who integrated a Coordinating Committee which included, in addition, The Nature Conservancy and the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI). It also convened a National Advisory Committee made up of about 80 people from various government agencies, civil society, social organizations, academic institutions and foundations. Mexico recognizes the great value of biodiversity in the islands, which allowed one of the most important advances in eradication of introduced species in the world, with the cooperation of executive and legislative agencies, the civil society organizations work, and national and international donor support from public and private sectors. The federal government has declared 32 protected areas that conserve biodiversity and ecosystems in 2,488 islands. It has significant progress in developing the catalog of the Mexican islands, an inter-sectorial effort coordinated by the SEGOB, involving several government agencies (SEMARNAT, Ministry of Communications and Transports, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, SEMAR and INEGI) and the National Autonomous University of Mexico.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Information purposes.

SUBMITTED BY: Martín Vargas Prieto, Direction General for Wildlife, SEMARNAT, México and National Institute of Ecology (INE-SEMARNAT)

4:30 pm

AGENDA ITEM 8: Bi-National Seabird Restoration Effort Launched on the Baja California Pacific Islands (Global Lessons).

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Annie Little, USFWS and Dr. Alfonso Aguirre Muñoz, Grupo de Ecología y Conservación de Islas, A.C.

DESCRIPTION: In November of 2011, the Montrose and Luckenbach Trustee Councils and Government of Mexico announced a \$4 million dollar award to a U.S-Mexico partnership to implement a comprehensive five-year seabird restoration program on seven Baja California Pacific Islands.

BACKGROUND: A partnership comprised of the National Audubon Society, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Grupo de Ecología y Conservación de Islas (GECI), and the Mexican Fund for the Conservation of Nature will implement the seabird restoration program. This partnership will strengthen an ongoing successful conservation program conducted by GECI and the Government of Mexico on these islands over the past 15 years. Restoration activities will include social attraction, habitat restoration, reduction in human disturbance, and environmental education.

The target islands are located in the northwestern portion of Mexico. These islands support a diverse group of breeding seabirds and are known for high levels of biological diversity. Most of the seabird colonies in Mexico form part of a larger population that breeds, forages, and disperses into California. Improvement of nesting grounds on these islands will create more stable and viable populations of seabirds in both the United States and Mexico.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Purpose is to update the Trilateral Committee on bi-national efforts to promote seabird conservation and restoration in Mexico.

SUBMITTED BY: Annie Little, USFWS Region 8 Ecological Services, Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office

5:00 pm – Adjourn

6:00 – 8:00 pm – Heads of Delegation Private Dinner (offsite-see Schedule of Events)

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Room: *Hacienda*

9:00-9:20 am: Thematic Session: “Climate Change, Vulnerability Assessments & Adaptation Management Efforts” (Room: Canyon Patio) – Introduction by Dan Ashe, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service & Acknowledgement of participation from U.S. Tribal Leaders.

9:30-11:00 am - Room: Hacienda

AGENDA ITEM 9: Executive Table Meeting with Co-chairs

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Executive Table & Working Tables Co-chairs

DESCRIPTION: This year, two main items require discussion by the Executive Table and the Co-

chairs:

1. Assessment of the effectiveness of the tables in incorporating the three priority themes to guide the work of the Trilateral Committee agreed upon at the 2011 meeting (see Agenda Item No. 10);
2. Assessment of the effectiveness of the tables new approach in applying the “Oaxaca Agreement” (“Act Locally, Think Globally”) to agenda development (see Agenda Item No. 11).

BACKGROUND: This meeting between the Executive Table and the Co-chairs is a relatively new feature of the Trilateral Committee meeting. It was incorporated in 2009 to provide an opportunity for the Executive Table and the Co-chairs from all the tables to exchange ideas. This exchange can include “housekeeping” issues (i.e. effectiveness/efficiency of the annual meeting), agenda coordination, discussion of issues of concern/interest, and the development and sharing of a strategic vision for the future of the Trilateral Committee. This year, this meeting is of particular importance as it provides the Executive Table an opportunity to get input from all the co-chairs regarding the future of the Trilateral Committee (in the wake of Canada’s significant reduction in participation).

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: A common vision by the Executive Table and the Co-chairs on the strategic direction of the Trilateral Committee, its effectiveness and efficiency. Specifically:

1. An assessment of the effectiveness of the tables addressing the three priority themes (see Agenda Item 10), as well as an agreement on whether to keep these or replace them for other priority themes; and
2. An agreement among the Executive Table and the Co-chairs regarding whether to turn the Trilateral Committee into a U.S.-Mexico Bi-lateral Committee, since Canada has significantly reduced their involvement. Also an agreement on the structure and functional aspects of such a new Committee.

SUBMITTED BY: TCC

11:00 am

AGENDA ITEM 10: Assessment of the effectiveness of the tables in incorporating the three priority themes to guide the work of the Trilateral Committee agreed upon at the 2011 meeting

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: ET: Martín Vargas Prieto, Director General for Wildlife, SEMARNAT, Mexico, and Dan Ashe, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. & TCC (Urbano-MX, Richardson & Tajbakhsh-U.S.)

DESCRIPTION: The ET needs to evaluate the effectiveness of working tables incorporating the three Priority Themes agreed upon at the 2011 meeting into their agendas. The ET will also assess if setting three-year cycle priorities to guide the work of the tables promotes crosscutting applications.

BACKGROUND: At the 2006 annual Trilateral Committee meeting, the ET decided to set five top cross-cutting priority themes every five years to guide the work of the working tables. In 2011, the first five-year cycle expired and the ET decided to switch to a three-year cycle (2012-2014). Working Tables were tasked with addressing the following priorities during this time period:

1. Climate Change with a Focus on Adaptation
2. Landscape & Seascape Conservation-Including Connectivity and Area Based Conservation Partnerships

3. Monitoring & Measuring Effectiveness in Conservation Action

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Endorsement of the work of the tables *vis a vis* the priority themes-as reflected in their agendas. Decision on whether these three priority themes are still relevant, and if so, to continue with them, or to replace them with other priority themes.

SUBMITTED BY: TCC

RELATED DOCUMENT: 2012 Agendas

11:45 am – Health Break

12:00 pm

AGENDA ITEM 11: Review the “Oaxaca Agreement” on how to address bilateral issues at the Working Tables (“Act Locally, Think Globally”), particularly in the wake of Canada’s significant reduction in involvement, and decide on a path forward for the Trilateral Committee.

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: ET: Martín Vargas Prieto, Director General for Wildlife, SEMARNAT, Mexico, and Dan Ashe, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. & TCC (Urbano-MX and Richardson & Tajbakhsh-U.S.)

DESCRIPTION: The ET will review the effectiveness of the table’s new approach in applying the “Oaxaca Agreement” (“Act Locally, Think Globally”) to agenda development, particularly given Canada’s significant reduction in involvement.

BACKGROUND: In the past few years, increasingly, working tables have been incorporating bilateral (US-MX) items into their agendas. This is most notable in the Species of Common Conservation Concern table. Canada expressed some concerns about this. To address this, at the 2011 annual meeting in Oaxaca, Mexico, the Executive Table instructed all the tables to include an analysis of the global lessons of bilateral issues when these are addressed at the working tables (the so called “Oaxaca Agreement”). In the wake of Canada’s significant reduction in involvement, this approach needs to be revised and a new path forward for the Trilateral needs to be established regarding format, structure, and operational aspects.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Assessment of the effectiveness of the tables in using this approach to deal with U.S.-Mexico bi-lateral issues. Decision whether or not to continue using this approach, particularly in the wake of Canada’s significant reduction in involvement and participation in the Trilateral Committee.

SUBMITTED BY: TCC

RELATED DOCUMENT: Working Tables 2012 Agendas

1:00 pm - Lunch

2:00 pm

AGENDA ITEM 12: Presentation on Kemp’s Ridley Sea Turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*) Collaborative Conservation Efforts

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: SEMARNAT and USFWS

DESCRIPTION: The Letter of Intent signed by SEMARNAT and USFWS on September 22, 2011 is a non-binding agreement that basically states that our institutions will cooperate to implement a range of conservation actions for the Kemp's ridley in Mexico. The important and serious issue to address is how to honor this agreement in the face of USFWS budget reductions and to ensure safety of Mexico and U.S. project personnel and the transport of needed equipment for the camps given the deteriorating security conditions in the State of Tamaulipas.

BACKGROUND: The Mexico Institute of Fisheries established a bi-national project with USFWS in 1978 to protect nesting females and eggs on the main nesting beaches at Rancho Nuevo in the State of Tamaulipas. During the past 20 years, the U.S. side of the effort has been organized and implemented by the Gladys Porter Zoo under a grant with USFWS. CONANP is now the lead institution for the ridley project in Mexico. The success of the bi-national program is evident and demonstrated by an increasing trend of nesting females beginning in the mid 90's. During the 2011 nesting season, 20,600 nests were recorded with 7000 nesting females estimated in one arribada. This is from a low of 700 nests in 1983 at a time when arribada events had ceased! The US FWS, NMFS and CONANP also recently completed the first Bi National Kemp's Ridley Recovery Plan which was signed by both governments at a ceremony in Mexico City in September 2011. SEMARNAT required a Letter of Intent document to be signed before it could legally sign the Bi National Recovery Plan (attached). CONANP has been able to maintain and increase funding during last two years while FWS has reduced its funding from 200k in 2010 to 100 k in 2011 and 2012. Additional security concerns due to the drug cartel war going on in the State of Tamaulipas makes travel to the turtle camps risky posing challenges for transporting ATVs and personnel to Rancho Nuevo especially from the U.S. The Consulate in Matamoras recently denied country clearance for FWS to travel to Rancho Nuevo or even attend a meeting in Victoria to conduct business with CONANP regarding field camp operations.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Decision to continue the collaboration and commitment with adequate funding support. Address increasing security concerns for individuals working in the field camps and ability for safe personnel travel and secure transport of ATVs and other equipment between U.S. and Rancho Nuevo.

SUBMITTED BY: USFWS

RELEVANT DOCUMENT: Letter of Intent
Bi-national Recovery Plan

2:20 pm

AGENDA ITEM 13: Morelet's Crocodile

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Janine Van Norman, USFWS, Martín Vargas Prieto, Director General for Wildlife, SEMARNAT, México; Dan Ashe, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S.

DESCRIPTION: Status of the 12-month Finding on a Petition and Proposed Rule to Delist Morelet's Crocodile Due to Recovery

BACKGROUND: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is considering a proposal to delist Morelet's crocodile (*Crocodylus moreletii*) throughout its range due to recovery under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Conservation actions by the three range countries of Mexico, Belize, and Guatemala have eliminated or significantly reduced the threats to the species to point that it is no longer endangered or threatened. Wild populations have increased substantially

since restrictions on commercial harvest and trade were instituted in the 1970s. Species experts now widely characterize Morelet's crocodile populations as healthy.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service hopes to have the final rule published in the Federal Register on or about April 27, 2012.

SUBMITTED BY: Janine Van Norman, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

2:40 pm

AGENDA ITEM 14: Update on Cooperative Conservation in the Big Bend-Rio Bravo Borderlands of the U.S. and Mexico.

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Gary Mowad, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Big Bend Conservation Cooperative Signatories: Bill Wellman, Superintendent, Big Bend National Park, National Park Service (NPS); Joy Nicholopoulos, Acting Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2 (USWFS); Max Ethridge, Regional Director, U.S. Geological Survey, Central Region (USGS); Carter Smith, Director, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; CEC Project Contacts: Alejandro Posadas, SEMARNAT; Larry Sperling, DOI; Aimee Roberson, USFWS; Jeff Bennett, NPS; Carlos Sifuentes, CONANP (overall, we are working with over 30 collaborators in the U.S. and Mexico, including governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, private landowners, and corporations).

DESCRIPTION: Building on successful cooperative conservation projects in the Big Bend Region of the Chihuahuan Desert, three agencies within the Department of the Interior (DOI) - the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the National Park Service (NPS), and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) - along with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in the Fall of 2010 establishing the Big Bend Conservation Cooperative (BBCC). Although the MOU was initially signed by only these four parties, it was created with the intention of providing a platform for the growth of a much larger emerging bi-national conservation partnership. With the participation by Mexican agencies such as the Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas (CONANP), the Secretaria De Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT), the Instituto Nacional de Ecología (INE), and the Comisión Nacional del Agua (CONAGUA) the BBCC developed and implemented an Action Plan in 2011 containing 12 specific goals. The Executive Table requested an update on the progress made over the last year towards accomplishing the 12 goals in the BBCC Action Plan.

BACKGROUND: The BBCC MOU is intended to strengthen cooperative working relationships in the Big Bend-Rio Bravo region of the northern Chihuahuan Desert in the U.S. and Mexico, and to advance the conservation of natural resources. Over the last year, the parties to the MOU worked with other conservation partners on several projects in the Big Bend-Rio Bravo region which have resulted in demonstrable, on-the-ground conservation and progress towards accomplishing the Action Plan goals below. Projects have included the control of exotic species such as salt cedar and giant river cane along the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo; efforts to re-establish the endangered Rio Grande silvery minnow; and the restoration of grassland areas. Conservation partners are also working together to assess and address the effects of climate change through adaptive management of natural resources and to develop an environmental flows program to improve the health and resiliency of the Rio Conchos and the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: The purpose of the presentation is to update the Executive Table on the progress made over the last year towards accomplishing the 12 goals in the BBCC Action Plan.

SUBMITTED BY: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

3:15 pm

AGENDA ITEM 15: Biodiversity Projects funded in North America by the CEC – NAPECA Fund

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: See list of projects, attached.

DESCRIPTION: Eighteen winning projects were chosen from 500 proposals received last year. The successful projects span the eco-regions of North America and support environmental action at the community level from the sub-arctic tundra, to the grasslands of the Great Plains to the tropical forests of Mexico. Projects address issues ranging from the effects of climate change on Woodland Caribou and the Athabaskan Peoples in Canada, to citizen-powered air quality testing in Louisiana, and protecting the health of women and children through the adoption of better clean energy cook stoves in Mexico. The 18 projects were selected based on their significance for addressing community and North American environmental issues, their innovation and technical or scientific approaches, their emphasis on promoting partnerships and demonstration of a plan to produce clear and tangible results. The projects represent an extremely broad base of hands-on groups and organizations representing tribal nations indigenous peoples, community organizations, environmental groups and academic institutions. See complete list of projects, attached.

BACKGROUND: In 2009, the CEC Council, the environment ministers of the three NAFTA countries, recognized that addressing environmental problems across North America can only be accomplished by partnering and engaging extensively with stakeholders and the public in all three countries and by promoting a sense of shared responsibility and stewardship for the environment. With this in mind, the Council, Canada's Environment Minister Peter Kent, Mexico's Secretary of the Environment and Natural Resources Juan Elvira Quesada and US Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa P. Jackson, directed the CEC to establish a new grant program, the North American Partnership for Environmental Community Action (NAPECA) to build partnerships at the community level to encourage innovative and model environmental initiatives to support the CEC's priorities: Healthy communities and ecosystems, encourage climate change activities through the transition to a low carbon economy, and advance innovative projects that could assist in the goal of greening the economies of the three NAFTA Parties.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: The NAPECA program seeks to support efforts at the grassroots level. The objective is to empower and build the capacity of local peoples and organizations to affect their health and environmental quality. See attached list of projects for specific outcomes expected of each.

SUBMITTED BY: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

RELATED DOCUMENTS: List of Projects & Collaborators and Contact

3:45 pm – Health Break

4:00 pm

AGENDA ITEM 16: Presentation on North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) & Migratory Bird Working Table Collaboration Successes.

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Marcia Pradines, USFWS and Allison Vogt, AFWA

DESCRIPTION: Update on recent successes and current challenges facing the trinational NABCI committees

BACKGROUND: Since 1999, The NABCI Trinational Committee has worked to move continental bird conservation forward through close coordination of each country's NABCI committee efforts. Specific tri-national efforts include continental grasslands conservation and the development and implementation of trinational State of the Birds reports.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Information purposes

SUBMITTED BY: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

4:30 pm

AGENDA ITEM 17: 2013 Trilateral Committees Meeting

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Executive Table (ET): Martín Vargas Prieto, Director General for Wildlife, Direction General for Wildlife, SEMARNAT, Mexico, and Dan Ashe, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, US & TCC (Urbano-MX and Richardson & Tajbakhsh-US).

DESCRIPTION: In attention to Canada's notification of withdraw from hosting the annual Trilateral Committee meeting, the issue of which country hosts the 2013 meeting has to be decided, as 2013 was Canada's turn to host the 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: Decision regarding the venue and date of the 2013 annual meeting.

SUBMITTED BY: TCC

5:00 pm – Adjourn

6:00 – 8:00 pm – Executive Table dinner with U.S. State Agencies (see Schedule of Events)

WORK TABLE: ECOSYSTEM CONSERVATION

Room: Kiva A

Co-Chairs: Jeffery Rupert, Chief Branch of Wildlife Resources, National Wildlife Refuge System, DOI/USFWS, USA and Luis Fueyo Mac Donald, Presidente Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas CONANP, México

Table priorities for 2011 – 2012 Agenda:

- Invasive species management with a focus on capacity building and training - marine and terrestrial
- Vulnerability assessments for climate change (marine and terrestrial)
- Adaptation strategies for responding to climate change (marine and terrestrial)
- Project funding and financing with a focus on international grant opportunities
- Transboundary landscape conservation

Tuesday, May 15

11:00- 11:45 am

AGENDA ITEM 1: Welcome, Introductions, and Adoption of the Agenda; 2011-12 Action Items Report; and Country Updates

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Co-chairs – Jeff Rupert (USFWS), Mariana Bellot Rojas (CONANP); Canada TBD

DESCRIPTION: Welcome and introductions of new and returning participants to the working table. Approve and adopt the agenda. Review AIR and any outstanding actions from the previous meeting, and identify challenges. Each country co-chair or representative present a short country report with relevant information to the ECWT.

BACKGROUND: Standard agenda item to build consensus and ensure full participation. Action item reports (AIRs) are used to record decisions and monitor progress on work. Tables review AIRs at the beginning of each annual meeting. Co-chairs present and underline relevant events occurred in each of the three countries.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:

- Approval of any changes to the agenda.
- Adoption of the agenda

- Monitor progress on action items and agreements. Identify issues and challenges in accomplishing action items

SUBMITTED BY: Co-chairs

BREAK 11:45-12:00 NOON

12:00-12:30 pm

AGENDA ITEM 2: Rat Eradication to Promote Ecosystem Restoration on the Island Refuges of Palmyra Atoll in the Pacific and Desecheo in the Caribbean

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Jenny Ericson, USFWS National Invasive Species Program Coordinator, Greg Howald, Island Conservation (confirmed)

DESCRIPTION: Rat Eradication to Promote Ecosystem Restoration on Island Refuges

BACKGROUND: The removal of introduced species from wildlife refuges is critical to the restoration of wildlife habitat and the protection of threatened species. Island Conservation, a non-profit organization dedicated to preventing extinctions by removing invasive species, is a partner with the Service in restoration projects on Palmyra Atoll in the Central Pacific Ocean southwest of Hawaii and Desecheo Island NWR located west of Puerto Rico.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Information sharing and identification of opportunities for collaboration

SUBMITTED BY: Greg Howald, Island Conservation; Jenny Ericson, USFWS National Invasive Species Program Coordinator

12:30-1:00 pm

AGENDA ITEM 3: A Binational Partnership to Eradicate Rats & Restore the Ancient Murrelet in Haida Qwaa in British Columbia

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:

Laurie Wein
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DESCRIPTION: In 2009, Parks Canada Agency and the Haida Nation, in partnership with the US-based Luckenbach Trustee Council and non-governmental partners, initiated a 5-year program to restore nesting seabird habitat in Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve (Haida Gwaii, British Columbia).

The program aims to restore seabird habitat and associated ecosystem processes, through eradication of invasive rats, on 4 islands within the park reserve, including islands that are culturally significant to the Haida (the First Nations people of Haida Gwaii). In 2011 rat eradication was completed on two islands, and will be followed by active restoration using social interaction and artificial burrows to encourage re-colonization by Ancient Murrelets, Cassin's auklets and Fork-tailed and Leach's Storm petrels.

In 2013, Parks Canada proposes to undertake the first aerial broadcast eradication of invasive rats in Canada, and will target larger islands within the park reserve. Building on successful international collaboration between US and Canadian federal agencies (Parks Canada and NOAA) and with non-governmental partners (Island Conservation and Coastal Conservation), Parks Canada is seeking to strengthen international collaboration with US federal agencies and organizations who are interested in collaborating on such restoration work in Canada.

BACKGROUND: Approximately 1.5 million seabirds from 12 species nest on the islands of the Haida Gwaii archipelago. Surrounding marine waters also support millions of migratory species that nest within the Pacific Northwest region and to Alaska and beyond. The archipelago supports 50% of the global population of ancient murrelets, globally significant populations of Cassin's auklets and rhinoceros auklets, and nationally or regionally significant nesting populations of Fork-tailed storm-petrels, Leach's storm petrels and pigeon guillemots.

Invasive species are the priority threat to seabird populations and other ecosystem processes on Haida Gwaii and within the Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve and many seabird colonies has suffered significant declines or have been extirpated by introduced predators. Parks Canada and the Haida Nation, who share the cooperative management of the park reserve, are committed to active management of invasive species to improve ecosystem resilience and have committed \$1.5 million to restore ecosystem processes on selected ecologically and culturally significant islands.

A partnership between Parks Canada and the Haida Nation, Island Conservation, Coastal Conservation and the Luckenbach Trustee Council to eradicate rats from two islands with the park reserve using a bait station approach was completed in 2011. Building on this successful international collaboration, Parks Canada plans to undertake the first aerial broadcast eradication in Canada (2013) to remove invasive rats from larger islands within the park reserve.

The upcoming aerial broadcast eradication will target two larger islands (~720 ha) that are critical buffers for adjacent rat-free islands where viable populations of several seabird species still flourish. These islands support high levels of biological diversity and endemism and are high priorities for restoration in Canada.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: This agenda item will provide an overview to the Trilateral Committee of Parks Canada's invasive rat eradication program and will showcase opportunities for increased international collaboration for ecosystem restoration in Canada.

SUBMITTED BY: Laurie Wein, Parks Canada – Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve

LUNCH 1:00-2:00 pm

2:00 -2:30 pm

AGENDA ITEM 4: Monitoring Salt Cedar Leaf Beetle in the Rio Grande and Conchos in Mexico's Chihuahuan Desert

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Eduardo Peters, Margarita Caso and Pablo Zamorano (Instituto Nacional de Ecología); Carlos Sifuentes (Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas); Alberto Lafón (PROFAUNA A.C.)

DESCRIPTION: The use of biological agents to control populations of invasive species has been considered a viable option; however, negative experiences have been registered and negative impacts on native flora and fauna have occurred, because the species used as biological control are also exotic species, and have the potential to become invasive. So far, the available information on their potential to affect other species is limited, and frequently only some variables are considered during the pilot phase of testing a biological control.

During the past four years, even before the presence of the beetle (*Diorhabda* spp.) in Mexican territory had been detected, the National Institute of Ecology in collaboration with PROFAUNA A.C., CIECO-UNAM and CONANP had established a monitoring program on the progress of the biological control in Mexico and its possible impact on native flora. The results of this monitoring program are presented in this forum, but the outreach of this effort has been limited by lack of human and financial resources.

BACKGROUND: Along the Rio Grande the species known as salt cedar (*Tamarix ramosissima*) and its different varieties *T. chinensis*, *T. gallica*, and tamarisk (*Tamarix aphylla*), are widely distributed on the banks of the river, displacing the native species of aquatic environments of the genus *Fraxinus*, *Populus*, *Salix*, *Sapindus*, *Bacharis* and several and grasses.

The negative effects of *Tamarix* spp. on these environments and their biodiversity have led to the adoption of strategies for its control and eradication, including mechanical, chemical and biological agents and their possible combinations.

Since 2000, U.S. organizations have developed strategies for the control of *Tamarix* spp. using biological agents, which represent a relatively easy and inexpensive option against this invasive species. In this case, several species of beetle of the genus *Diorhabda* have been used, a species which in its natural environment in Asia and Eastern Europe feeds from salt cedar.

In 2009, the USDA released the biological control along the Rio Grande. The control species has moved faster than expected, and there are reports in the Mexican side, that it has consumed not only *T. ramosissima*, but also, and in the same proportion, *T. aphylla*. This has led to the monitoring of the biological control and its possible effects on non-target species.

RESULTS: Were monitored margins of the Rio Grande from Ojinaga to the town of Benito Juarez (122 km) and margins of the Conchos River from its confluence with the Rio Grande upstream (200 km) to the Presa Luis L. Leon (El Granero), to observe the distribution of the beetle and the effect it has on *Tamarix*. We determined the degree of herbivory on base at a rate of five categories according to the degree of defoliation due to the presence of the beetle at the time of monitoring. Obvious damage was found on the effects of frost (- 14 ° C) for the month of February 2011 on *Tamarix aphylla*. It detects the presence of the beetle to the town of Benito Juarez in the Santa Elena Canyon APFF and the margins of the Conchos River to the town of Herrera (Falomir). In general the degree of herbivory on *Tamarix* tested is high (60 - 79% of defoliation) to Excellent (80 - 100% defoliation). *Tamarix* individuals that were located away from the river, had no presence of beetles, or this was minimal and in some cases only remnants of it, dumb or larvae dry. So far there has been no damage by the beetle native flora, despite the abundance that occurs in some areas, in all cases was spotted feeding on species of *Tamarix*. There is, at least within the Chihuahuan desert flora phylogenetically close to the genus *Tamarix*. Biological control by the beetle has had a major social impact on those living in rural communities on the margins of the Rio Grande and Conchos. We recommend a diffusion campaign on the beetle and the effects it causes especially in the Sabines (*Tamarix aphylla*) to inform the population and thus has knowledge and can (if any) reporting beetle damage on native flora. We recommend the design of permanent monitoring stations at strategic locations along the Rio Grande and Conchos, which continuously provide data on the feeding behavior of the beetle (*Diorhabda* spp). It requires the development of a control program for the recovery of *Tamarix aphylla* trees (Sabine) affected by the beetle.

DATE COMPLETED: November 2011

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: We seek the support of the Committee to recognize the need to allocate resources to implement a bi-national monitoring program and other of diffusion of the progress and impacts of biological control released by the U.S. in the Rio Grande.

SUBMITTED BY: Margarita Casso, INE

2:30 -3:00 pm

AGENDA ITEM 5: Invasive Alien Species: Official List for Mexico

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: CONABIO, CONANP, INE, SGPA

DESCRIPTION: The List of invasive alien species is currently being developed in order to establish mechanisms to prohibit its import and entry to Mexico.

BACKGROUND: On April 6th 2010 the amendments to articles 80 and 85 of the General Law of Ecological Equilibrium and Environmental Protection and articles 3o, fr. XVII, 27 Bis y 27 Bis 1 of the General Law of Wildlife were published. These amendments establish that the Environmental Secretariat must publish a listing of invasive species subject to regulation and establish agreements to prevent the entry of such species and manage those that are already established in the country.

In order to comply with these legal dispositions, CONABIO, CONANP and INE organized a two-day workshop in May 2011 with a group of 50 academic experts with different areas of expertise and from all around the country. The objective of the workshop was to develop a pre-screening procedure and a set of criteria to evaluate exotic species and determine those that should be included in the official listing of invasive species subject to regulation. This prescreening procedure was obtained after reviewing several methods used around the world and developing a version that could be used in Mexico.

During the workshop, five groups of experts were formed according to the different taxonomic groups to be evaluated. CONABIO had a list of 1290 potentially invasive species which was used as the basis to begin the analysis, several additional lists were also received from the workshop participants and each group was sent a list of species that they were to evaluate. The groups are currently meeting separately and analyzing their list of species according to the criteria that the experts agreed on using for the evaluation. Once the results of each group are available, another workshop will be organized in order to discuss the outcome and if necessary, refine the methodology. For the invasive species that pose the highest risk, detailed Risk analyses will be carried out to reinforce the results obtained during the prescreening.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:

- Report to the Trilateral Committee advances in the publication of the list of invasive conservation species and the implications of its publication.
- Establish mechanisms of cooperation between the agencies involved in North America for the implementation of measures coordinated on region level.

SUBMITTED BY: INE, CONABIO & CONANP

3:00-3:30 pm

AGENDA ITEM 6: Binational Monitoring Program for the Cienega de Santa Clara

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: CIAD-GUAYMAS LABORATORIO DE CIENCIAS AMBIENTALES, UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA, UABC-MEXICALI PRONATURA NOROESTE, INE

DESCRIPTION: We are showing the results about the condition of the Santa Clara wetland before and after the impacts of the desalination plant in Yuma. We have included result for water quality, health conditions of the fauna and the monitoring of the vegetation of the wetland.

BACKGROUND: In 2010, the United States government through the Bureau of Reclamation began the operation of the Yuma desalination plant with a capacity of 30% over a period of one year. The desalination plant in Yuma, Arizona (DPY) is a reverse osmosis plant was built between 1980 and 1990 to treat sewage of drain MODE. This plant has not operated in its entirety due to high operating costs. However, drought in the western United States has generated interest from the states of the lower Colorado River basin (Arizona, Nevada and California) in the reactivation of the DPY to use the water upstream. The operation of the plant to 100% without any mitigation measures would mean serious damage to the Santa Clara Wetland (SCW) as they receive very little water and high salinity. This scenario would be devastating, has been able to change thanks to the strong involvement of NGOs and the negotiation of the governments of Mexico and the United States to try to preserve the best possible SCW. The result was the negotiation of the operation of the DPY to 30% with mitigation measures regarding the replacement of water from other agricultural drains on the U.S. side and the Mexican side, and the establishment of a monitoring program to record possible environmental changes by the operation of the plant.

The base line of the Santa Clara wetland was obtained from the studies doing between 2006 to 2009. The results of this period, before the impacts of Yuma desalination plant in 2011, showed right salinity levels for the establishment of *Typha domingensis* and low levels of toxic organic products and heavy metals on the wetland. However, water levels on the west part of the wetland could be reduced if the Yuma desalination plant beginning to operate in 2011.

Results: From the quality water results, topography and bird censuses, we have been founded that salinity of the wetland was higher during desalination Yuma plant (DYP) operation and without the replacement of water from other sources. However, if all the period of operation of DYP is taken in account, it was not founded differences with the water levels obtained on the baseline. During DYP operation, metals and organic products levels in fish tissues was normal, nutrient concentrations in water was not incremented but changes in vegetation densities was observed compared with the images of July 2010. During 2010, before DYP operation was estimated a population of 5,438 Yuma Clapper Rail in the wetland that not changed a lot compared with the three previous years.

Date completed: October 2011

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Support for working between Mexico and the United States in a scheme set medium-term monitoring, as well as possible mitigation actions that are required in the CSC.

SUBMITTED BY: Margarita Casso, INE

3:30-3:45 pm

AGENDA ITEM 7: Weeds Across Borders 2012 - “Meeting the Challenges of the Future,”
April 24-27, 2012, Grand Oasis Cancun Resort, Cancun, Mexico

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Georgia Born Schmidt, CONABIO; Stephen Darbyshire, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada; Jenny Ericson, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Francisco Espinosa Garcia, UNAM-National University of Mexico; Elizabeth Galli-Noble, Center for Invasive Plant Management; Isabel Gonzalez, CONABIO; Patricia Koleff, CONABIO; Cory Lindgren, Canadian Food Inspection Agency; Gina Ramos, US BLM; Emily Rindos, Center for Invasive Plant Management

DESCRIPTION: Report on the WAB 2012 conference

BACKGROUND: Weeds Across Borders (WAB) is a biennial trilateral conference covering the interests of professionals and organizations involved in North American weed management and regulation. Composed of an affiliation of organizations from Canada, Mexico, and the United States with a common interest in sharing information and promoting weed management throughout North America, the conference has rotated between the three countries since its inception in 2002. The purpose of the conference is to exchange information and promote awareness of the ecological, economic and social impacts of invasive species throughout North America. The topic of weeds is treated from a regional focus placing emphasis on common problems and cooperation among countries and institutions taking into account that cooperation across jurisdictional borders is essential for the prevention and control of non-native plants. 2012 Session Topics include:

- Policy making, regulations, and border control
- Plant diversity (importance and uses)
- Genetically modified organisms, weediness, and resistance
- Economic and health impacts
- Environmental and biodiversity impacts
- Climate change modeling
- Early detection and rapid response
- Invasion ecology
- Management and control
- Education and awareness

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Information sharing and identification of opportunities

for collaboration.

SUBMITTED BY: Co-chairs

BREAK 3:45-4:00 pm

4:00 – 4:30 pm

AGENDA ITEM 8: Report on Big Bend/Rio Bravo Conservation Cooperative - Collaboration for Transboundary Landscape Conservation

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Jeffery Bennett, National Park Service; Gary Mowad, USFWS; USGS; Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; Carlos Sifuentes, CONANP; Commission for Environmental Cooperation

DESCRIPTION: Progress report on cooperative conservation in the Big Bend-Rio Bravo borderlands of the U.S. and Mexico. Discussion of challenges and accomplishments.

BACKGROUND: Big Bend National Park and Río Grande Wild and Scenic River in the United States and the Protected Areas of Reserva de la Biosfera Maderas del Carmen, Área de Protección de Flora y Fauna Cañon de Santa Elena, Área de Protección de Flora y Fauna Ocampo, and Monumento Natural Río Bravo del Norte in Mexico together are one of the largest and most significant ecological complexes in North America. The National Park Service, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Geological Survey, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department recently agreed to form the Big Bend Conservation Cooperative (BBCC). The BBCC is working with more than 30 conservation partners in the US and Mexico to formalize and organize a developing binational partnership, tentatively named the Big Bend-Río Bravo Conservation Cooperative (BBRBCC), to foster healthy ecosystems and communities along the border by increasing the resilience of ecosystems at risk

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:

- Progress report.
- Identify opportunities for cooperation and collaboration

SUBMITTED BY: ECWT co-chairs

4:30 – 5:00 pm

AGENDA ITEM 9: Impact of Physical Barriers in Shared Populations and Ecosystems: the Case of the Border Fence between Mexico and the US

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Eduardo M. Peters, Margarita Caso, Karina Santos del Prado Gasca, Andrea Martínez Ballesté and Pablo Zamorano (Instituto Nacional de Ecología) y Carlos López González y Nalleli E. Lara Díaz (Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro).

DESCRIPTION: Using historical information and monitoring with camera traps, traces, and

flights, to detect the presence of several wildlife species (birds, carnivores, herbivores, rodents and lagomorphs) that live in the border region between Mexico and U.S., this year (2012), we are looking to find the corridors more used by these species in the Sonora and Chihuahua states. With this information, we will propose actions to mitigate the impacts of physical barriers in the border region for the conservation of the wildlife species metapopulations.

BACKGROUND: At the Shared Species Table during the 2008 Trilateral meeting, the interest to study the impacts of the border wall between Mexico and U.S frontier on the ecosystems and shared species was born. That year, INE began collaborations with the Ecology Institute of UNAM and the Autonomous University of Queretaro to identify the impacts of the border wall on the populations of bison (2008), pronghorn (2009) and black bear (2010). These researches showed negative impacts of the border wall in the studied populations.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: We are looking for the Trilateral committee support to promote collaborations between the countries for the conservation of the common ecosystems and species of Mexico and U.S. Also, we require technical support from the committee to evaluate the results of previous studies of physical barriers presented in these meetings.

SUBMITTED BY: INE

5:00 – 5:15 pm

AGENDA ITEM 10: Report on the Texas/Tamaulipas/Nuevo Leon Borderlands Corridor Project

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:

- Pronatura Noreste
- Agencia de Protección al Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales, Gobierno del Estado de Nuevo León
- Parques y Vida Silvestre de Nuevo León, Gobierno del Estado de Nuevo León
- Secretaria de Desarrollo Urbano y Ecología, Gobierno del Estado de Tamaulipas
- Comisión Estatal de Vida Silvestre, Gobierno del Estado de Tamaulipas
- Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas (CONANP)
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)
- Rio Grande Joint Venture
- South Texas Refuge Complex, USFWS
- Alamo Ecological Service Suboffice, USFWS

DESCRIPTION: Report on Cerro Picachos-Rio Grande Corridor Project.

BACKGROUND: The Cerro Picachos-Rio Grande Corridor Project is a binational interagency effort to develop the Cerro Picachos-Rio Grande Wildlife Corridor and facilitate approval and implementation of the April 2010 Memorandum of Understanding for the binational management plan entitled, "Management And Conservation of Flora and Fauna from the Ecosystem Located In the Region of the Lower Rio Grande Valley / Rio Bravo".

Habitat fragmentation is one of the major threats to biodiversity along the border in the Lower Rio Grande Valley and Northeastern Mexico. High rates of habitat loss and habitat fragmentation are the consequences of agriculture, grazing, urbanization, land development, international bridges, highway construction, Border Patrol Operations and the 70 miles of Border Fence impacting the South Texas Refuge Complex along the Lower Rio Grande. Increasing levels of air and water pollution associated with the growing human population imperil the region's ecosystems and its endangered plant and animal species. Conservation of this unique environment and its wildlife requires cooperation at the Federal, State and local level between the United States and Mexico, between the State of Texas and the States of Tamaulipas and Nuevo Leon, Mexico, and local NGO's.

This proposal is to implement conservation and restoration of habitat for neotropical migratory birds, butterflies, bats and the endangered ocelot and jaguarundi using Tamaulipan thornscrub close to the Rio Grande and its tributaries in Nuevo León and Tamaulipas along this corridor. The information gathered will be used to identify critical sites for biodiversity conservation adding to and complementing information about sites previously identified in the Tamaulipan Thornscrub Ecoregional Plan (a product of PRONATURA, and The Nature Conservancy). The work also proposes to implement of long term legal land protection activities at key land holdings in the region. These include the development of a private landowner network in the biological corridor in Northeastern Tamaulipas and Nuevo Leon between Cerro Picachos and the Lower Rio Grande. The Alamo River is between the Sierra Picachos (State Natural Protected Area) of Nuevo León and Las Ruinas (a tract of the Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR) in Texas.

The Rio Grande is the most important river in the region and much of the biodiversity of this region and associated with the river or its tributaries. The project area (biological corridor) runs between the Alamo River from the Cerro Picachos, southwest of the South Texas/Tamaulipas, Mexico Border to the Lower Rio Grande River in the northeast. This area is selected due to richness of species and because (the northwest and southeast part of the area) is a large cleared zone for agriculture and grazing. The water of the Alamo River is very important in providing habitat for resting, breeding and wintering birds and can provide corridors for other species. In August 2009, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Pronatura Noreste conducted a three day site visit assessment of the Alamo River corridor and concluded that it is a very viable wildlife corridor. The long-term intent of this binational corridor is to reconnect the this biological corridor between

the Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR with the Cerro Picachos Natural Protected Area. This corridor is also important to deal with climate change and serves as an alternate route away from the coastal corridor along Laguna Madre corridor.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Report on the accomplishments, challenges, and planned activities to implement the Binational MOU. The Alamo Ecological Services suboffice and South Texas Refuge Complex, USFWS, seeks the endorsement of the Trilateral Committee to continue working with our governmental and non-governmental partners at local, state, and Federal levels in México and the U.S. to conserve and recover listed and sensitive species of mutual concern and migratory birds throughout their ranges in South Texas, Tamaulipas, and Nuevo Leon, Mexico.

SUBMITTED BY: Ernesto Reyes, Alamo Ecological Service Suboffice, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service;

5:15 – 5:30 pm

AGENDA ITEM 11: Report on Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge/Laguna Madre and Delta del Rio Bravo Flora y Fauna Protected Areas Sister Protected Area (SPA) Project

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:

- Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas (CONANP)
- Pronatura Noreste
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)
- Rio Grande Joint Venture
- Laguna Atascosa NWR, USFWS
- Alamo Ecological Service Suboffice, USFWS

DESCRIPTION: Report on Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge/Laguna Madre and Delta del Rio Bravo Flora y Fauna Protected Areas Sister Protected Area (SPA) Project.

BACKGROUND: The Laguna Atascosa NWR/Laguna Madre SPA project is an interagency effort to facilitate transboundary wildlife conservation and promote linkages for common species between the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge in south Texas and Laguna Madre and Delta del Rio Bravo Flora y Fauna Protected Areas in northeast Mexico.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Report on accomplishments, challenges, and planned activities. The Alamo Ecological Services suboffice and Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, USFWS, seeks the endorsement of the Trilateral Committee to continue working with our governmental and non-governmental partners at local, state, and Federal levels in México

and the U.S. to conserve and recover listed and sensitive species of mutual concern and migratory birds throughout their ranges in South Texas, Tamaulipas, Mexico along the Laguna Madre.

SUBMITTED BY: Mitch Sternberg, South Texas Refuge Complex, USFWS, Ernesto Reyes, Alamo Ecological Service Suboffice, USFWS

Wednesday, May 16

9:00 – 10:00 am

All Delegates

AGENDA ITEM 12: Thematic Session: Wildlife Conservation in a Climate-Altered Future: Assessing Vulnerability, Managing for Change

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Dr. Bruce Stein, Director, Climate Change Adaptation, National Wildlife Federation

DESCRIPTION: Wildlife Conservation in a Climate-Altered Future: Assessing Vulnerability, Managing for Change

BACKGROUND: Rapid climate-driven changes profoundly affect our ability to conserve fish and wildlife and the habitats on which they depend. Preparing for and coping with the effects of climate change (climate change adaptation planning) is emerging as the overarching framework for conservation and natural resource management. Developing and implementing effective adaptation strategies first requires an understanding of the potential impacts of climate change on our natural world. Climate change vulnerability assessments provide two essential contributions to adaptation planning. Specifically, they help in identifying which species or systems are likely to be most strongly affected by projected changes; and understanding why these resources are likely to be vulnerable, including the interaction between climate shifts and existing stressors.

Determining which resources are most vulnerable enables managers to better set priorities for conservation action, while understanding why they are vulnerable provides a basis for developing appropriate management and conservation responses. Dr. Stein's presentation will focus on the following:

- The Death of Stationarity and Conservation's Shifting Paradigm
- Climate Impacts on Wildlife and Ecosystems
- What is Climate Change Adaptation?
- Managing for Change: Resistance, Resilience, and Transformation
- A Framework for Adaptation Planning and Implementation
- Vulnerability Basics: Sensitivity, Exposure, and Adaptive Capacity
- Practical Considerations for Conducting Vulnerability Assessments
- Intentionality in Adaptation and Key Characteristics of Climate-Smart Conservation
- Working Across Geographic and Political Boundaries to Respond to Climate Change

- Emerging Tribal Approaches to Climate Adaptation
- Envisioning Conservation in a Climate-Altered Future

This presentation is based on the work of an expert workgroup on climate change vulnerability assessment convened by the National Wildlife Federation in collaboration with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and their January 2011 publication “Scanning the Conservation Horizon – A Guide to Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment”. The Service National Conservation Training Center has developed a training course based on this guidance document.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Transfer of technical information and training

SUBMITTED BY: Jeff Rupert, US co-chair

10:00-11:00 am

All Delegates

AGENDA ITEM 13: Tribal Panel Discussion on Climate Change

11:00 – 11:45 am

AGENDA ITEM 14: Introduction to Vulnerability Assessment Models

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Bruce Stein, National Wildlife Federation; John Schmerfeld, USFWS; Nancy Green, USFWS

DESCRIPTION: Overview of the Models for Assessing Climate Change Vulnerability of Species and Habitats

BACKGROUND: The need for information about the vulnerability of species and habitats to climate change has resulted in development of an array of methods that can be used. For many conservation practitioners, it can feel daunting to identify and chose among the different approaches. This presentation will give an overview and compare and contrast the main methods now available for both species-based and habitat-based vulnerability assessments. It also will include a discussion of how various models address and characterize confidence/uncertainty in the vulnerability assessment results, so that this information can be factored into conservation planning and management in the face of a changing climate.

This presentation is based on: (A) the work of an expert workgroup on climate change vulnerability assessment convened by the National Wildlife Federation in collaboration with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and their January 2011 publication “Scanning the Conservation Horizon – A Guide to Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment”, and a related training course developed by the Service’s National Conservation Training Center; and (B) scientific publications and reports regarding various models and how they have been and are being used for vulnerability assessment of species and habitats.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Transfer of technical information and training.

SUBMITTED BY: Jeff Rupert, US co-chair

BREAK 11:45-12:00 noon

12:00-12:40 pm

AGENDA ITEM 15: Climate Adaptation Strategy for Protected Areas in Mexico

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Andrew Rhodes, CONANP

DESCRIPTION: Presentation on CONANP's Climate Adaptation Strategy for Protected Areas in Mexico

BACKGROUND: Climate change represents a growing threat to the natural and human capital worldwide. Therefore, the National Commission for Protected Areas (CONANP) joins the Mexican Government in its effort to guide conservation policies and actions in a context where climate change is not only a threat, but also an opportunity for Protected Areas (PA). Preserving ecosystems and increasing the surface under protection and sustainable management are no doubt the best approaches to reducing the causes and effects of climate change. In 2009, the cross-cutting policy instrument "Climate Change Special Program" (PECC in Spanish) was published. This instrument commits Federal Government institutions to national climate change mitigation and adaptation objectives and goals for 2009-2012. Some of the PECC objectives establish specific actions for PAs, such as preservation and increased connectivity of priority ecosystems and their biodiversity. In this context, and according to the strategic objectives of the "National Program for Natural Protected Areas" 2007-2012, CONANP presents the "Climate Change Strategy for Protected Areas" (ECCAP in Spanish). The ECCAP enlists strategies and action lines with the goal of mitigating climate change, identifying priority measures for adaptation, and establishing guidelines for CONANP's management decisions. Nevertheless, the ECCAP recognizes the importance of incorporating key stakeholders in such processes, as well as strengthening technical and institutional capacities in climate change issues. The vision for ECCAP is to safeguard Mexico's natural patrimony to face the effects of climate change by transforming protected areas into effective adaptive and mitigating instruments with society's involvement. ECCAP is intended to be a dynamic instrument that guides CONANP's actions and decisions at a local, regional and national level, allowing the convergence of resources and assistance of government, academic and social institutions.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Transfer of technical information. Evaluation of opportunities for collaboration.

SUBMITTED BY: CONANP

LUNCH 1:00-2:00 pm

2:00-3:00 pm

AGENDA ITEM 16: Climate Wizard and Conservation Planning (via Web conference and speakerphone)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Chris Zganjar, The Nature Conservancy

DESCRIPTION: Hands-on demonstration of the Climate Wizard tool Using Selected Protected Areas in Mexico, Canada, and the US

BACKGROUND: Climate Wizard, a tool developed through collaboration between The Nature Conservancy, The University of Washington, and The University of Southern Mississippi, enables technical and non-technical audiences alike to access leading climate change information and visualize the impacts anywhere on Earth. The first generation of this web-based program allows the user to choose a state or country and both assess how climate has changed over time and to project what future changes are predicted to occur in a given area. Climate Wizard represents the first time ever the full range of climate history and impacts for a landscape have been brought together in a user-friendly format. With Climate Wizard (<http://www.climatewizard.org/>) you can:

- view historic temperature and rainfall maps for anywhere in the world,
- view state-of-the-art future predictions of temperature and rainfall around the world, and
- view and download climate change maps in a few easy steps.

Chris Zganjar is a climate ecologist and information specialist with The Nature Conservancy and one of the developers of Climate Wizard (with Evan Girvetz). Mr. Zganjar will demonstrate use of Climate Wizard using selected sites in the US, Mexico, and Canada.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: transfer of technical information and training; hands on demonstration of the Climate Wizard tool using selected sites in Mexico, the US, and Canada

SUBMITTED BY: Jeff Rupert, US ECWT co-chair

3:00-3:45 pm

AGENDA ITEM 17: Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Strategies for Protected Areas in the Mojave and Sonoran Desert – A Cooperative Project between NatureServe and the USFWS for the Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: USFWS; NatureServe; NPS; BLM; CEDES; Andrew Rhodes, CONANP; Desert Botanical Garden

DESCRIPTION: Report on the Cooperative Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Strategies Project between NatureServe and the Desert LCC: Approach, Challenges, Expected Project Results & Timeline

BACKGROUND: NatureServe is working with the Desert LCC and a number of federal, state and NGO partners in the U.S. and Mexico, to conduct a climate change vulnerability assessment of protected areas in the Mojave and Sonoran Deserts. The vulnerability assessments will focus on ten major upland terrestrial and riparian ecosystem types as well as selected characteristic

plant and animal species in each protected area. This novel analysis, which pilots a nascent Habitat Climate Change Vulnerability Index approach, will draw largely on data that either already exists or is being developed as part of NatureServe's contribution to the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Rapid Ecoregional Assessments in the region and BLM plant vulnerability assessments. The results will identify climate change threats by ecosystem type and group protected areas by common threats. Protected areas that will be evaluated include National Wildlife Refuges, Wilderness Areas, National Parks, protected areas managed by BLM and by state agencies, and protected areas in Mexico as defined by the National Commission for Protected Natural Areas (CONANP). NatureServe will engage directly with protected area managers and ecologists in both the U.S. and Mexico. First, a survey will assess the climate change threats and information needs that managers perceive as most important. Second, in a workshop setting, project participants will use the outcomes of the vulnerability assessments to assist managers in understanding primary climate change effects likely to occur and to identify the probable time frame of these effects, and then formulate potential strategies for responding to these effects. Third, the results of the vulnerability assessment will be used by protected area managers to develop pragmatic adaptation strategies. This project will contribute to the Desert LCC's mission of enhancing communications among agencies to facilitate achieving individual agency missions and goals through landscape scale approaches to resource conservation and stewardship. The vulnerability assessment and resulting adaptation strategies will be disseminated by the Desert LCC and NatureServe through a written report, webinars, and meeting presentations.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Information Sharing and identification of opportunities for collaboration

SUBMITTED BY: Jeff Rupert, US ECWT co-chair

BREAK 3:45-4:00 pm

4:00 – 4:45 pm

Joint Session with Migratory Bird Table

AGENDA ITEM 18: Developing a Management Model of the Effects of Future Climate Change on Species

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Elena Babij (USFWS) and Gary Langham (National Audubon Society)

Description: This project explores both climate change and how birds may respond to those changes. The analysis is being conducted on the more than 600 species of birds. Bird distribution data is being obtained from Audubon's Christmas Bird Count (CBC) and the North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS). The climate dataset encompasses 3 major emission scenarios and 16 different climate models, some with multiple runs, yielding a total of 112 different predictions of the future.

BACKGROUND: This information is critical to the design and implementation of management and conservation strategies that will help ecosystems and species adapt to current and future climate change. Birds are a useful means to study the current and potential effects of climate change on ecosystems, because they are excellent environmental indicators, are easy to study, and respond predictably to changes in the environment. At landscape scales, birds can provide useful insights into how ecosystems are and will be affected by climate change. Measures taken to conserve bird habitats and populations will result in the conservation of many other species, habitats, and ecosystems.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Discuss collaboration and interest in continuing work.

SUBMITTED BY: Elena Babij

AGENDA ITEM 19: Climate Change Issues in the Southwest & the Southwest Climate Change Initiative for AZ, CO, NM & UT (To Be Confirmed)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: SWCCI partners include The Nature Conservancy, Wildlife Conservation Society, Climate Assessment for the Southwest, Western Water Assessment, and the National Center for Atmospheric Research.

DESCRIPTION: Climate Change Issues in the Southwest & the Southwest Climate Change Initiative

BACKGROUND: The Nature Conservancy initiated the SWCCI in 2008 to provide guidance to conservation practitioners and land managers in climate change adaptation planning and implementation on more local scales. This project specifically aims to: (1) further develop and expand our impacts assessment protocol to adjacent states in the Southwest (AZ, CO, and UT), and (2) apply a vulnerability assessment tool being developed by the U.S. Forest Service and an adaptation planning framework developed by a Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS) working group to a series of case-study sites in the four states. The case studies will provide opportunities to further test and refine each component of the overall framework, by building on new research, strengthening existing partnerships, and laying the foundation for future innovation, including on-the-ground application and testing of adaptation strategies. Together, these field-tested tools will be useful in developing conservation action and monitoring plans (e.g., a climate change module in TNC's CAP process), forest and fire plans, and in building a regional learning network, all crucial to meeting the challenges posed by climate change for conservation.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Information Sharing. Explore opportunities for collaboration.

SUBMITTED BY: Jeff Rupert, US co-chair

Thursday, May 17

9:00-10:00 am

AGENDA ITEM 20: Synthesizing Science and Engaging the Public on Impacts of Climate Change on Marine Biodiversity through the North American Marine Protected Area Network (Joint Session with Shared Species Table)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Mary Rothfels, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada; Doug Yurick, Parks Canada, Canada; Vladimir Pliego, CONANP, Mexico; Jerry Schubel, Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers (US, Canada and Mexico); Karen Richardson, Commission for Environmental Cooperation

DESCRIPTION: NAMPAN – the North American Marine Protected Areas Network – seeks to brief the Trilateral on its two current projects as well as seek input on future directions for new projects. One current project concerns community-based education and the role of North American marine protected areas in sustaining healthy oceans and coastal communities. The other is a synthesis of scientific information on how climate change is impacting the ranges and distributions of marine species. Both components will support the design and management of marine protected areas (MPAs) and MPA networks in North America. As well, NAMPAN partners are thinking ahead and will solicit ideas for more ambitious CEC marine biodiversity projects for the future.

BACKGROUND: Over the past decade, Canada, Mexico and the United States have worked together to establish a North American Marine Protected Areas Network (NAMPAN). This international network of MPAs, which extends along both coasts of North America, helps connect and protect ecologically and economically important areas by sharing effective conservation approaches across similar sites and by collaborating to address common issues and challenges (see www.cec.org/nampan).

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Feedback from Trilateral participants on next steps and potential future project areas for NAMPAN and CEC on marine biodiversity protection.

SUBMITTED BY: Lauren Wenzel, NOAA Marine Protected Areas Center, 301-563-1136
Lauren.wenzel@noaa.gov

10:00-10:30 am

AGENDA ITEM 21: Environmental Monitoring in Coastal and Marine Ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Collaborators: National Institute of Ecology (INE), Center for Scientific Research and Higher Education (CICESE), National University of Mexico (UNAM), Research and Advanced Studies Center of the National Polytechnic Institute of Mexico (Cinvestav - Mérida), the Metropolitan University (UAM- Iztapalapa), The National Water Commission (CONAGUA), The Mexican Petroleum Institute (IMP). Contacts: National Institute of Ecology (Edward M. Peters, Víctor Gutiérrez Avedoy and Margarita Caso).

DESCRIPTION: The beginning of long-term monitoring in the Mexican portion of the Gulf of Mexico is presented. The project began in 2010 with the establishment of a baseline for the

assessment of environmental impacts derived from the BP oil spill. This baseline was completed in 2011 and in 2012 the long-term monitoring began; the main objective is to identify and evaluate long-term impacts of this spill or other oil spills that may occur in the area, as well as other impacts associated with climate change.

This has been a collaborative work between the major research institutions in the country and several government agencies.

BACKGROUND: An oil spill from the sea-floor resulted from the April 20th, 2010 Deepwater Horizon drilling rig explosion 50 nautical miles southeast of the Mississippi River Delta, in the northern Gulf of Mexico. This event has been rated as one of the biggest disasters in the oil industry.

There is great uncertainty and various models that present different scenarios for the evolution of the oil spill. However, the connection between the Gulf coastal regions due to the Loop Current and eddies that flow from it is well known.

Given this situation, it was essential to gather samples and in situ observations to assess the damage that this spill will have on the delicate ecological balance and environmental health of Mexican Gulf coast, acknowledged for its great diversity of species and ecosystems, such as breeding areas of marine species and refuge and breeding areas for seabirds and turtles.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Support is requested for the continuation of monitoring and to work on a joint monitoring scheme between Mexico and the United States.

SUBMITTED BY: National Institute of Ecology

10:30 am-1:00 pm

AGENDA ITEM 22: ECWT Closeout and Preparation of Final Report to the Executive Table

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: ECWT co-chairs and table participants

WORK TABLE: LAW ENFORCEMENT

Co-Chairs: William Woody, Chief of Law Enforcement, Office of Law Enforcement, USFWS, USA
Adriana Rivera - Underattorney for Natural Resources Federal Attorney for Environmental Protection –
Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente (Profepa), México; and Sheldon Jordan, National
Director, Wildlife Enforcement, Enforcement Branch, Environment Canada, CWS

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Room: Juniper

AGENDA ITEM 1: Welcome – Adoption of the Agenda

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Sheldon Jordan, Wildlife Enforcement Division, Environment Canada (EC WED), Canadian co-chair; Adriana Rivera, Deputy Attorney for Natural Resources, Federal Attorney for Environmental Protection (*Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente*—Profepa), Mexican co-chair; William C. Woody, Chief of Law Enforcement, US Fish and Wildlife Service (US FWS), United States co-chair

DESCRIPTION: Welcome and introduction of new participants to the working table. Approval and adoption of the agenda.

BACKGROUND: Introduction of the agenda topics and other general considerations for the meeting, including adjustments to the agenda.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Approval and adoption of the agenda, including upcoming changes and modifications.

INVITEES: Marco Antonio Heredia Fragoso, CEC Environmental Law Program Manager

SUBMITTED BY: All

AGENDA ITEM 2: Review the need to establish a new 3-5 year strategic plan for the NAWEG

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Sheldon Jordan, Wildlife Enforcement Division, Environment Canada (EC WED), Canadian co-chair; Adriana Rivera, Deputy Attorney for Natural Resources, Federal Attorney for Environmental Protection (*Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente*—Profepa), Mexican co-chair; William C. Woody, Chief of Law Enforcement, US Fish and Wildlife Service (US FWS), United States co-chair

DESCRIPTION: This presents an opportunity for the NAWEG leadership to identify direction in a long term commitment.

BACKGROUND: The leadership in all three countries has changed over the last two years and the old strategic plan has ended or will soon end.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Approval and adoption of the terms of a new

strategic plan and/or the identification of a working team that will begin to develop a new plan.

INVITEES: Marco Antonio Heredia Fragoso, CEC Environmental Law Program Manager

SUBMITTED BY: Environment Canada

AGENDA ITEM 3: Training on Covert Computer Investigations and Intelligence and identifying operational areas that are needed by all three countries

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Sheldon Jordan, EC-WED, Canadian co-chair; Adriana Rivera Profepa, Mexican co-chair; William C. Woody, USFWS-US co-chair

DESCRIPTION: Discuss the results of the training sessions held in March 2012 and the possibility that trained personnel may transfer knowledge in their country, in order to have a greater number of trained persons. All of our organizations are going through attrition which requires new staff members to gain this expertise.

- Adoption of possible other areas to be explored that may include reptile skin identification and/or the exchange of staff into another country to gain specialized experience.

INVITEES: Marco Antonio Heredia Fragoso, CEC Environmental Law Program Manager

BACKGROUND: These training are based on the model established by the Canadian special investigations team (Intelligence), in addition to the intelligence training held in December 2010 in Mexico City. The Covert Computer training will be provided by a world renowned contract instructor.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Trilateral agreements with respect to the evaluation of results, identification of areas of interest to undertake joint actions, and the development of a specific training model to replicate training in Mexico.

SUBMITTED BY: All

AGENDA ITEM 4: Update and inform about the results of the established Accredited Wildlife Law Enforcement Training Program in Mexico

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Sheldon Jordan, EC-WED, Canadian co-chair; Adriana Rivera Profepa, Mexican co-chair; William C. Woody, USFWS-US co-chair

DESCRIPTION: PROFEPA and the Mexican National Institute for Penal Sciences (INACIPE) will inform the results of the accredited course for wildlife inspectors in Mexico.

The new strategies followed in the certification program, such as the use of virtual classrooms and a practical case led by specialists (Colombia prosecutor) will be discussed.

INVITEES: Marco Antonio Heredia Fragoso, CEC Environmental Law Program Manager
INACIPE representative to be confirmed (Mexico)

BACKGROUND: The first multi-module session developed by Profepa and INACIPE resulted in 41 certified federal inspectors. The second session was created as a **Theoretical-Practical Certificate of Continuing Education for Wildlife Experts.**

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Assessment of the curriculum and identification of themes, subjects and activities where Canadian and US experts could leverage.

SUBMITTED BY: PROFEPA

AGENDA ITEM 5: Building Forensic Capacities in North America.

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Sheldon Jordan, EC-WED, Canadian co-chair; Adriana Rivera Profepa, Mexican co-chair; William C. Woody, USFWS-US co-chair

DESCRIPTION: The results of Crime Scene training held in Oaxaca, Mexico, in February 2012 will be discussed.

INVITEES: Marco Antonio Heredia Fragoso, CEC Environmental Law Program Manager

BACKGROUND: Mexican forensic medicine experts visited the Fish and Wildlife Service laboratory at Ashland, Oregon, in 2008. The activity will be based on this experience, seeking to reach agreements to build the Parties' forensic capacities at a regional level. Theoretical and practical training on crime scene investigation.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:

- Evaluation of training on crime scene investigation
- Implementation of joint actions in the area of forensics

SUBMITTED BY: PROFEPA

AGENDA ITEM 6: Implementation of Intelligence-Led Law Enforcement Model in North America

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Sheldon Jordan, EC-WED, Canadian co-chair; Adriana Rivera Profepa, Mexican co-chair; William C. Woody, USFWS-US co-chair

DESCRIPTION:

- Submission of results obtained in the EC-WED action plan.
- Implementation of the action plan proposed by Environment Canada under the agreements reached at Laredo.

- Discussion of steps needed to develop a series of protocols and procedures to share information and intelligence between law enforcement actors and key actors in respective regions.
- Discussion of options to develop intelligence-based products with respect to high-risk species in trade, to lead inspections and investigations.
- Submission of results from the implementation of the action plan proposed by Environment Canada.

INVITEES: Marco Antonio Heredia Fragoso, CEC Environmental Law Program Manager

BACKGROUND: Memorandum of Understanding signed by the heads of the three law enforcement agencies in 2010; action plan submitted by Environment Canada.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:

- Establishment of a joint action program.
- Could lead to developing operational plans towards identifying targets (for example, across North American inspection blitzes) to increase enforcement results.
- Import and export data sharing and targeting injurious and exotic species, and shark fin and sea turtles.
- Focus on the relatively new U.S. Lacey Act amendments that regulate the import and export of illegally harvested timber and timber products.

SUBMITTED BY: PROFEPA and the U.S.

AGENDA ITEM 7: Marine Species Workshop

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Sheldon Jordan, EC-WED, Canadian co-chair; Adriana Rivera Profepa, Mexican co-chair; William C. Woody, USFWS-US co-chair

DESCRIPTION: Discussion of the possibility of supporting an information exchange workshop aimed at detected illegal shipments of protected marine species.

INVITEES: Marco Antonio Heredia Fragoso, CEC Environmental Law Program Manager

BACKGROUND: Environment Canada was requested by Fisheries and Oceans Canada to support the development of a workshop on this issue, under the auspices of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:

Trilateral agreement on the workshop dates, format, and number of participants.

SUBMITTED BY: Environment Canada

AGENDA ITEM 8: Expansion of Law Enforcement Cooperation in Collaboration with Other Regional Enforcement Groups

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Sheldon Jordan, EC-WED, Canadian co-chair; Adriana Rivera Profepa, Mexican co-chair; William C. Woody, USFWS-US co-chair

DESCRIPTION:

- Exchange of information generated by the three countries under a general intelligence-sharing plan, which would result in a program to support preventive, rather than reactive, actions, perhaps based on global law enforcement agency partnerships.
- Linking and alignment of regional law enforcement efforts with global biodiversity strategies, including the global coordination work by CITES with INTERPOL and access to genetic resources included in the CDB.

BACKGROUND: Report on participation at the 2011 and 2012 INTERPOL International Summit on Environmental Crime.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:

- Collection of information created in a North American Action Plan.
- Trilateral agreement through NAWEG, interaction with other international institutions.

INVITEES: Marco Antonio Heredia Fragoso, CEC Environmental Law Program Manager

SUBMITTED BY: All

AGENDA ITEM 9: Investigation into the Illegal Wildlife Trade via Electronic Tools (e-Commerce).

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Sheldon Jordan, EC-WED, Canadian co-chair; Adriana Rivera Profepa, Mexican co-chair; William C. Woody, USFWS-US co-chair

DESCRIPTION:

BACKGROUND: Present counterparts with the cooperation between Profepa and the e-crime prevention area of the Federal Police's Scientific Division.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:

- Implementation and exchange of information on the issue.
- Identification of tools that may be used to fight the illegal traffic of wildlife species.
- Exchange of experiences on actions against this kind of crime.

INVITEES: Marco Antonio Heredia Fragoso, CEC Environmental Law Program Manager
Federal Police

SUBMITTED BY: PROFEPA

AGENDA ITEM 10: Improvement of notice mechanisms for irregular cross-border movements.

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Sheldon Jordan, EC-WED, Canadian co-chair; Adriana Rivera Profepa, Mexican co-chair; William C. Woody, USFWS-US co-chair

DESCRIPTION: To ensure that regional mechanisms to give notice of irregular cross-border movements fall within the procedures and protocols established in CITES.

This would more effectively handle cases of irregular cross-border movements and ensure chains of custody aligned with the procedures established in CITES.

BACKGROUND: Procedures and protocol established in CITES.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:

- Development of mechanisms to improve the mechanisms to detect irregular cross-border movements.

INVITEES: Marco Antonio Heredia Fragoso, CEC Environmental Law Program Manager

SUBMITTED BY: PROFEPA

AGENDA ITEM 11: Climate Change and Future Challenges for Conservation to law enforcement agencies in North America

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Adriana Rivera. Profepa - Mexican co-chair, USFWS-US co-chair, Sheldon Jordan EC-WED Can co-chair.

DESCRIPTION:

BACKGROUND: The co-chairs agreed to focus on North American species impacted by climate change. They also agreed that increased poaching and habitat destruction could severe the consequences of such impact in already fragile species.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:

- List of species of interest to North America and the identification of potential activities to be addressed in this theme.

Invitee: Marco Antonio Heredia Fragoso. Project manager. CEC-Environmental law.

Submitted by: All

WORK TABLE: MIGRATORY BIRDS

Co-Chairs: Brad Bortner, Chief, Division of Migratory Bird Management, USFWS, USA; Basile Van Havre, Director, Population Conservation Management, CWS/EC, CAN; and Humberto Berlanga, Coordinador de NABCI/ICAAAN – México Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO)

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Room: Kiva B

Welcome

11:00-11:45

AGENDA ITEM 1: Welcome, Introductions, and Adoption of the Agenda (10 min)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Co-chairs – Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Brad Bortner (FWS), Basile Van Havre (CWS)

DESCRIPTION: Welcome and introductions of new and returning participants to the working table. Approval and adoption of the agenda.

BACKGROUND: Standard agenda item to build consensus and ensure full participation.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:

- Approval of any changes to the agenda.
- Adoption of the agenda

SUBMITTED BY: Co-chairs

AGENDA ITEM 2: 2011-12 Action Items Report (10 min)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Co-chairs

DESCRIPTION: Report on major accomplishments or challenges from AIR [that are not on the current agenda] and any outstanding actions from the previous meeting.

BACKGROUND: Action item reports (AIRs) are used to record decisions and monitor progress on work. Tables review AIRs at the beginning of each annual meeting.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Monitor progress on action items and agreements. Identify issues and challenges in accomplishing action items.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Country Updates (30 min)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Co-chairs – Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Brad Bortner (FWS), Basile Van Havre (CWS)

DESCRIPTION: Each country co-chair or representative present a short country report with relevant information to the MBT.

BACKGROUND: Standard agenda item to present and underline relevant events occurred in each of the three countries.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Information only

SUBMITTED BY: Co-chairs

11:45-12:00 Break

12:00-1:00

AGENDA ITEM 4: Cooperative Mexican Golden Eagle Population Surveys and Management Activities (30 min)

COLLABORATORS AND CONTACTS: Humberto Berlanga, Brian Millsap, Robert Mesta, Jeff Haskins, Lorenzo Rosenweig (FMCN)

DESCRIPTION: Presentation of the results of a U. S./Mexico Golden Eagle Population Survey and Management Meeting held in Mexico City on January 13, 2012. Discussion to be led by Berlanga and/or Rosenweig.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOME: Strategic collaboration/endorsement of the project by Migratory Bird Work Table.

SUBMITTED BY: Jeff Haskins

AGENDA ITEM 5: Incidental Take: Country Updates (30 min)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Co-chairs

DESCRIPTION: Each country will update the status of their approach to addressing incidental take of migratory birds under the Migratory Bird Convention.

BACKGROUND: As the federal department responsible for the Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994, Environment Canada is proposed to amend the Migratory Birds Regulations under the Act to introduce new policy tools to improve their approach to managing incidental take of migratory birds and conserving migratory bird populations. EC will share and update on this approach and progress to date. The U.S. will discuss their current approach and potential plans for the future, followed by a discussion of Mexico's approach.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Update of current efforts and plans.

SUBMITTED BY: Co-chairs

1:00-2:00 Lunch

2:00-3:00

AGENDA ITEM 6: Collaboration on minimizing adverse wildlife impacts of Wind Energy Development (45-60 min)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Co-chairs

DESCRIPTION: With expanded commercial wind development, there is a heightened need for improved hemispheric collaboration to evaluate and minimize adverse impacts on wildlife. Each country will share efforts that occurred since the last meeting, including reporting on progress or impediments. The Table will focus on developing methods to share information on a continental-scale in the following areas of focus 1) shared mortality information, 2) migration corridor and chronology, and 3) evaluation of transmission corridors and wind projects.

BACKGROUND: USFWS is documenting a growing level of collision mortality of raptors, Birds of Conservation Concern, and other avifauna at commercial wind facilities within the U.S. In many cases, these instances are a result of voluntary reporting by companies, thus representing minimum estimates of mortality. Through sharing of mortality statistics between Canada, Mexico and the U.S., we can begin to better understand cumulative impacts on birds at a continent-wide scale and better focus our efforts on species-specific solutions. EC has conducted a national estimate of annual mortality using post-construction monitoring reports provided by wind proponents, and has prepared a scientific manuscript to submit for publication in the near future. The same type of analysis could be applied across the continent and would allow a better comparison among studies, by ensuring consistent methodology, and would also provide a defensible continent-wide estimate of mortality. In collaboration with the wind industry and other partners, EC has also developed a database for pre- and post-construction monitoring data. There would be great value in consolidating the information from all three countries into a shared database.

To better understand how migratory birds are using migration corridors or moving in broad fronts, the three countries will find ways to share information on migration corridor use and timing. This is critical not only because of increased development, but also because the effects of climate change are modifying corridor use and migration chronology. During the last few years, Environment Canada has been conducting research using marine radars, weather radar and acoustic sensors to better understand how birds migrate in and around the Great Lakes and what factors elevate the risk of collision mortality. With researchers in Canada and the United States considering similar techniques to address the issue, collaboration is important so that we complement and replicate, but not duplicate efforts.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:

- Agreement to develop a shared database from carcass searches and incidental reports for birds and bats at wind turbines that can be used to assess bird mortality on a continent-wide scale.
- Agreement to collaborate and share information on projects aiming to define the locations and use of migration corridors and broad fronts, as well as a chronology timeline on species-specific use of these corridors and fronts.

- Agreement to develop a database that includes project-specific locations of commercial wind turbines and associated infrastructure such as power lines, as available.
- Consolidate the available information on direct and indirect effects to Bald and Golden Eagles in a single, shared database.

SUBMITTED BY: Albert Manville (USFWS), Charles Francis (CWS); Rafael Villegas Patraca (Institute of Ecology, Mexico)

3:00-5:00 (3:45-4:00 Break)

NABCI

Part I. Landscape-scale Conservation: Grasslands

3:00-3:45

AGENDA ITEM 7: Coordinated Grassland Bird Conservation in the Eastern US and Canada (45 min)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Katie Koch (FWS), Tom Will (FWS)

DESCRIPTION: USFWS initiated a discussion in September 2011, with representatives from throughout the Eastern United States, to develop a framework for identifying where (east of the Rocky Mountains (USA and Canada), Mexico, Central and South America), when, and how to sustain and restore grassland bird populations at multiple landscape scales that integrates life cycle events during the breeding, migration, and wintering grounds. During the workshop, we developed a first prototype of a structured framework that will allow managers, scientists, and decision makers to integrate management efforts with human dimensions and create partnership opportunities to deliver the most effective conservation actions at local, regional, and national scales. This framework should transcend administrative boundaries and allow us to learn faster about where grassland birds are most limited, which actions are most effective in conserving and sustaining grassland bird populations, and where we should implement actions to elicit the greatest bird response. While this first iteration focused on birds that breed east of the Rocky Mountains, it is intended to be adaptable to other geographic regions.

BACKGROUND: Grassland birds are among the fastest and most consistently declining birds in North America. Many reasons for these declines have been suggested, the most prominent being the loss of perennial grassland habitats. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 declared that all migratory birds and their parts (including eggs, nests, and feathers) are fully protected, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is the federal agency with trust responsibility for these species. Executive Order 13186 mandates that the USFWS coordinate, develop, and implement bird conservation activities with other Federal agencies. In addition, many state wildlife agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are charged with protecting and enhancing natural resources in concert with multiple public uses on their respective lands. To achieve grassland bird conservation goals, commitments of resources for conservation and management decisions are made at several spatial scales (i.e., national, regional, and local levels). Decisions for grassland bird conservation are also made at different temporal scales; many decisions are made annually, some are irregular, and others are one-time decisions. Unfortunately, decisions for natural resource management are made more difficult by

uncertainty. A myriad of monitoring programs and management plans have been developed, but they afford limited opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of and prioritize future conservation and management actions to achieve grassland bird population objectives. Therefore, a revised program of strategic conservation delivery is needed to successfully conserve and restore grassland bird populations.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Brief all three countries on the efforts since (and including) the September 2011 structured decision making workshop at the National Conservation Training Center and to formally engage representatives from Canada and Mexico in emerging activities (i.e., workshops, monitoring efforts, modeling exercises, etc.) and in working as part of a coordinated network across the full life cycles of grassland birds.

SUBMITTED BY: Katie Koch (FWS)

3:45-4:00 Break

4:00-4:15

AGENDA ITEM 8: Chihuahuan Grassland Coordinated Conservation (15 min)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Arvind Panjabi (RMBO) & Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO)

DESCRIPTION: Recent progress in bird conservation in the Chihuahuan Desert Grasslands region of Mexico has come about largely through collaborative efforts of many partners. The Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (RMBO), together with the University of Nuevo Leon and several other Mexican and U.S. partners, has been conducting regional wintering bird monitoring across this region since 2007. Grants made through the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act have played a key role in several efforts in this region as well. The Chihuahuan Desert Grasslands Conservation Regional Alliance has recently completed a Master Plan that can serve as a tool to guide future collaborative conservation efforts.

BACKGROUND: The Chihuahuan Desert Grasslands region of Mexico are epicenters of wintering bird abundance for species that breed in the US and Canada. Although much has been accomplished to date, investment in and support for future are key to reversing declines in wintering bird habitat throughout the region.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Brief the Migratory Birds Table on progress to date and seek support and feedback from the Trilateral on plans for future coordinated conservation in the region.

SUBMITTED BY: Arvind Panjabi, International Program Director, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory; Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO); Robert Mesta (USFWS); Mary Gustafson (American Bird Conservancy)

4:15-5:00

AGENDA ITEM 9: North American Bird Conservation Initiative's Role in Landscape-scale conservation with the Corporation for Environmental Cooperation

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Co-chairs, Allison Vogt (AFWA), Sarah Wren (CWS)

DESCRIPTION: Recent funding support from the Corporation for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) has initiated the development of a trinational partnership for grasslands conservation. The partnership is intended to serve as a forum for those active in grasslands conservation in the US, Mexico, and Canada to meet and share their ongoing work, challenges, and opportunities for improved collaboration. The vision and broad goals for the partnership will be shared followed by a discussion of opportunities to best leverage and coordinate ongoing grassland efforts of the three countries.

BACKGROUND: The CEC has previously funded efforts to develop Grassland Priority Conservation areas in the central US, Canada, and Mexico and has coordinated on-the-ground monitoring and conservation work in those areas. A project funded in 2011 includes the development of a trinational partnership, continued monitoring of grassland birds, and dissemination of best management practices to promote sustainable production on grasslands.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Provide direction on development and direction of trinational grasslands partnership.

SUBMITTED BY: Allison Vogt (AFWA), Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), and Sarah Wren (CWS)

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

11:00-1:00

Continue Grasslands as needed

Climate Change

AGENDA ITEM 10: Detecting climate change impacts on birds and their habitats in the Sonoran Joint Venture region and beyond (30 min)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Jennifer Duberstein, Carol Beardmore, Robert Mesta, Sonoran Joint Venture; Grant Ballard, Sam Veloz, Geoff Geupel, Dennis Jongsomjit, Point Reyes Bird Observatory; Leo Salas, and Elva Ivonne Bustamante Moreno, Mexican National Commission for Protected Areas.

DESCRIPTION: In this project we are developing a the foundation for monitoring environmental change in the Sonoran Joint Venture (SJV) region by identifying where and what to monitor in order to evaluate climate change impacts as they relate to birds and their habitats. In order to accomplish this we will be developing the tools to understand and detect climate change effects, identify areas and species at greatest risk, and how to increase capacity for making conservation decisions for bird populations and habitats.

BACKGROUND: Bird populations and their habitats have been experiencing the detrimental effects associated with a changing climate throughout North America. Within the SJV area our intent is to; identify areas with the greatest predicted change in future climate, relate this to associated change in bird species distribution and diversity, share data and results, determine monitoring priorities, and inform and evaluate monitoring and management.

Phase 1. Data and Modelling. Identify and gather environmental data, produce models of predicted climate change, identify and gather existing bird distribution data, model current bird distribution, and model future bird distributions based on climate scenarios.

Phase 2. Tool Development. Determine priority species, habitats, ecosystems, and regions for monitoring, develop/recommend standardized monitoring/data collection protocols, design interactive web portal to make data and results accessible to land managers and scientists.

Phase 3, Capacity Building and Training. Train managers and scientists to undertake coordinated bird monitoring, implement standardized monitoring/data management protocols, and improve ability to adapt management strategies and inform decision making.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOME: Endorse project by providing project information to interested/potential collaborators.

SUBMITTED BY: Robert Mesta, Sonoran Joint Venture

AGENDA ITEM 11: Great Lakes Full Life Cycle Species Vulnerability Assessments (45 min)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Peter Marra (Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute); Bruce Peterjohn (USGS Bird Banding Lab); John Sauer (USGS); Kim Hall (The Nature Conservancy); Tom Will (USFWS).

DESCRIPTION: Full life cycle connectivity information provides the framework for vulnerability assessments integrating extinction risk probability, species life history traits, subpopulation seasonal biogeography, migration routes, and seasonal downscaled climate data. We plan to pair 25 species of conservation concern with 25 more common species to explore effects of difference in data richness and conservation status on results. Using examples from Great Lakes breeding populations, we demonstrate how using migratory connectivity and seasonal climate data matched to the appropriate geography changes the outcome of a vulnerability analysis and its relevance to management decisions.

BACKGROUND: Current science has demonstrated the sensitivity of birds to changing climatic events, but virtually all work has been conducted in the breeding season, even though the majority of migrants spend most of their time in the non-breeding season. Intensive long-range studies have demonstrated that non-breeding season events can have carry-over effects thousands of miles away in the breeding season, directly affecting arrival, first-egg dates, and reproductive success. Thus full life cycle analyses are critical, as most other approaches likely underestimate the vulnerability of migratory birds by focusing on only one component of the annual cycle. The

Great Lakes project results will inform regional management by highlighting both local and distant drivers of vulnerability and will provide a model for accounting for the added complexities of migratory species within multi-taxa assessments. The analysis can also be applied to other species, such as waterfowl and fish.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:

- Discussion and adoption of the full life cycle framework for all migratory bird studies and conservation actions, especially for climate vulnerability assessments.
- Participation of Canada, México, and the U.S. in filling gaps in species connectivity information by facilitating the use of new technologies, such as stable isotopes, genomics, and geolocators.
- Discussions of potential collaborations for completing final three years of bird banding recovery mapping project.

SUBMITTED BY: Tom Will, USFWS

1:00-2:00 Lunch

2:00-3:00

AGENDA ITEM 12: The Veracruz River of Raptors Projects: 20 years of gathering data on migratory raptors (30 min)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Co-chairs – Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Ernesto Ruelas (Field Museum); Laurie Goodrich (Hawk Mountain Sanctuary) and Caroline Goldman (Hawk Watch International) and Elisa Peresbarbosa (Pronatura Veracruz).

DESCRIPTION: Few projects in Mexico have a long term (20 years) monitoring data set from migratory birds, combined with a banding station such as the Veracruz River of Raptors Project (VRR). This project was founded in 1991 by Pronatura Veracruz, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary and Hawk Watch International, and has generated monitoring data on 30 species of raptors, three aquatic and four terrestrial birds using the Veracruz flyway. Each fall, more than five million raptors and hundreds of thousands of aquatic birds migrate through Central Veracruz including most of the world's population of three species of North American raptors, Broad-winged Hawk, Swainson's Hawk and Mississippi Kite, as well as most of the Turkey Vultures nesting in western and central Canada. Through this project the coastal plain of central Veracruz, Mexico, has been confirmed to host the largest concentration of raptors in the world and important concentrations of many other birds.

BACKGROUND: The Veracruz River of Raptors project conducts annual monitoring and banding, environmental education, ecotourism, and land conservation within the corridor. Birds from Canada, United States, and Mexico benefit from the project's efforts. Data generated in this project have been used in demographic analyses at continental level, directly contributing to international knowledge on the population status of migratory raptors (Bildstein *et al* 2008 and Ruelas *et al* 2010). The Veracruz River of Raptors is one of only a few sites providing information on long-distance migrants such as Mississippi Kites and Swainson's Hawks as well

as southern species. The annual updates on trends give conservationists an opportunity to focus their efforts and to track regional changes in populations. The monitoring data also allows us to assess the status of raptors within the flyway and share the results with the public. Veracruz data are being used by the Raptor Population Index, a project of The Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA), Bird Studies Canada, HawkWatch International and Hawk Mountain, that has been instrumental in developing critical indices of raptor population status. The effort and mechanism already in place thanks to the support of dozen of partners is of high importance for the evaluation of raptor and water bird populations in the context of climate change for the benefit of the three countries.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Provide information and receive feedback from the co-chairs to support the continuity and long term operation of the project.

SUBMITTED BY: Conabio, Pronatura Veracruz, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary and Hawk Watch International.

AGENDA ITEM 13: USGS Bird Banding Lab and Bird Banding Coordination in North America (15 min)

COLLABORATORS: Lesley Howes (CWS), Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Roberto Aviña Carlín (DGVS), Maria Araujo (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department), Jeff Haskins (FWS), Bruce Peterjohn (U.S. Geological Survey)

DESCRIPTION: Provide an update on collaborative efforts between the Canadian Bird Banding Office (BBO) and the USGS Bird Banding Lab (BBL) including development of a new cooperative agreement between the two programs. Update recent coordination activities within Mexico regarding the development of a Mexican Bird Banding Program. Explore opportunities for developing collaborative efforts between the BBL, BBO and Mexico regarding bird banding activities across North America.

BACKGROUND: The MOU between the Canadian Bird Banding Office and the USGS BBL has been updated and is undergoing final approval and awaiting signature within both countries. Biologists in Mexico are continuing coordination activities designed to define the structure and function of a proposed Mexican Bird Banding Program. Until this program becomes operational, some coordination may be needed with the BBL in order to facilitate ongoing banding efforts in Mexico. These efforts include banding doves in Northeast Mexico using BBL bands under the State of Texas master station banding permit and with authorization from Mexico's DGVS, some waterfowl banding occurring under a permit issued to Ducks Unlimited of Mexico, and the Monitoreo de Sobrevivencia Invernal (MOSI) program of the Institute for Bird Populations. The coordination of banding efforts in Mexico may require a cooperative agreement between Mexico and the BBL. This agreement will also support various conservation and management initiatives including Mexico's participation in the Flyway System.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Trilateral Committee supports the development of a Mexico-USGS Bird Banding Lab cooperative agreement and ongoing cooperation between Canadian and US bird banding programs.

SUBMITTED BY: Bruce Peterjohn (U.S. Geological Survey)

3:00-3:45

AGENDA ITEM 14: Climate Change and Migratory Species (30 min)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Elena Babij (USFWS)

DESCRIPTION: Discuss progress on the development of a framework and guidelines for addressing the unique challenges faced by migratory species. Migratory species, by travelling large distances, being subject to a wide range of environmental influences and relying on a wide range of natural resources, are likely to be affected by climate change at some point in their life cycles.

BACKGROUND: Work is currently ongoing with partners to identify the challenges and data needs to effectively manage migratory species in light of climate change. An initial part of this effort is to review existing efforts/models that have been developed to specifically address migratory species and develop recommendations for broader application.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Seek collaboration and participation by Mexico and Canada on the Migratory Species and Climate Change Working Group.

SUBMITTED BY: Elena Babij (USFWS)

3:45-4:00 Break

4:00-4:45

AGENDA ITEM 15: Developing a Management Model of the Effects of Future Climate Change on Species. (45 min) [open session to other tables, ECWT]

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Elena Babij (USFWS) and Gary Langham (National Audubon Society)

DESCRIPTION: This project explores both climate change and how birds may respond to those changes. The analysis is being conducted on the more than 600 species of birds. Bird distribution data is being obtained from Audubon's Christmas Bird Count (CBC) and the North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS). The climate dataset encompasses 3 major emission scenarios and 16 different climate models, some with multiple runs, yielding a total of 112 different predictions of the future.

BACKGROUND: This information is critical to the design and implementation of management and conservation strategies that will help ecosystems and species adapt to current and future climate change. Birds are a useful means to study the current and potential effects of climate change on ecosystems, because they are excellent environmental indicators, are easy to study,

and respond predictably to changes in the environment. At landscape scales, birds can provide useful insights into how ecosystems are and will be affected by climate change. Measures taken to conserve bird habitats and populations will result in the conservation of many other species, habitats, and ecosystems.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Discuss collaboration and interest in continuing work.

SUBMITTED BY: Elena Babij

AGENDA ITEM 16: Invasive Species on Islands (30 min)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Alfonso Aguirre (GECI), Jennifer Wheeler (FWS),

DESCRIPTION: Explore collaboration opportunities to address the tri-national threat of introduced vertebrates to shared and priority seabirds on islands. The prioritization and leveraging of funds from multiple sources could be a useful model to replicate for other ecosystems and projects. For instance, the development of key performance measures that funders have been able to justify for continued support is an approach conservationists and managers can replicate for other species and projects.

BACKGROUND: Introduced vertebrates on islands pose a threat and inhibit recovery of seabirds on numerous Mexican, U.S., and Canada islands, as well as on islands that host seabirds that occur in North America only while foraging at sea. Successful eradication and control projects, of increasing complexity and scope, indicate that introduced vertebrates on islands is a tractable threat. To facilitate these projects, federal wildlife agencies can work together to increase awareness, cooperation and funding opportunities.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Share successful strategies for leveraging funding and showcasing return on investment for replication in other priority areas of conservation.

SUBMITTED BY: Jennifer Wheeler (USFWS) & Humberto Berlanga

Thursday, May 17, 2012

9:00-10:00

NABCI

Part II. Organizational Structure

AGENDA ITEM 17: State of the Birds Reports (30 min)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Co-chairs, Allison Vogt (NABCI)

DESCRIPTION: The North American Bird Conservation Initiatives (NABCI) Committees in Canada, Mexico, and the US are each undertaking the development of State of the Birds Reports. Canada will provide an overview of their report released in May 2012, Mexico will update on the status of their report, and the US will present on efforts to implement recommendations from the

2011 report on public lands and waters and preparations for a 2013 report on Private Lands.

BACKGROUND: The US NABCI Committee has released three State of the Birds reports each year between 2009 and 2011. Mexico and Canada are each preparing for the release of their first report.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Updates on each of the country-specific State of the Birds reports and discussion of opportunity to collaborate on future Tri-national scale report.

SUBMITTED BY: Allison Vogt (NABCI)

AGENDA ITEM 18: Advancing Flyway or Full Life-Cycle Conservation (30 min)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Co-chairs

DESCRIPTION: Examination of the state of integration and coverage of existing mechanisms for collaborative conservation of migratory species crossing international borders, including the current assessment of the Convention on Migratory Species.

BACKGROUND: Flyway-scale conservation – meaning full life-cycle conservation efforts for migratory species across political borders – is a concept embraced and forwarded by international migratory bird initiatives (NAWMP, PIF, WHSRN/Shorebird plans, Waterbird Conservation for the Americas, NABCI).

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Determine means by which federal wildlife agencies will continue to support flyway-scale conservation through existing mechanisms and potentially new instruments.

SUBMITTED BY: Garry Donaldson (CWS)

10:00-11:00

AGENDA ITEM 19: NAWMP Revisions (15 min)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Co-chairs, Michael Kreger (USFWS) & Roberto Aviña (DGVS)

DESCRIPTION: Update on progress for the revision of The North American Waterfowl Management Plan.

BACKGROUND: In 2009, the North American Waterfowl Management Plan Committee began planning efforts for the next periodic update of the Plan. The scope of this update is so substantial that it is being considered a revision to the original plan. Significant stakeholder input has been solicited and additional feedback collected. The revision committee is currently working on a draft for review by the Flyway committees at their summer meetings. A final version is slated for release in early 2012.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: None – Update only.

SUBMITTED BY: Co-chairs

AGENDA ITEM 20: Southern Wings Program

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Deborah Hahn (AFWA)

DESCRIPTION: Southern Wings Program – The objective of the Program is to provide a mechanism to support and facilitate State Fish and Wildlife Agency participation in conservation projects that support the conservation of shared migratory bird species in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Program is a cross-cutting tri-national issue that contributes to the Landscape and Seascape Conservation Including Connectivity and Area Based Conservation Partnerships priority.

BACKGROUND: The Program started in 2009. Since 2009, they have contributed to project the Colorado River Delta, Saltillo grasslands in Mexico, Yucatan Peninsula, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, and Colombia. Twenty-five states have participated.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Inform the Committee about the Program and consider how to increase participation by Mexican and Canadian partners for the conservation of shared migratory bird species.

SUBMITTED BY: Deborah Hahn (AFWA)

11:00-12:00

AGENDA ITEM 21: Migratory Bird Table Strategy (30 min)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Co-chairs

DESCRIPTION: In 2010, each Table's Strategic Plan expired. The ET is not mandating the use or update of a Strategic Plan. The Action Item Reports would be the one required document per year. However, each Table may choose to update and use a Strategic Plan as an additional tool. Does the Migratory Bird Table choose to update the three-year strategic plan? If so, what are our major goals and objectives?

BACKGROUND:

The previous Strategic Plan (2008-2010) had the following goals, with associated action items:

- Birds and Global Climate Change,
- Incidental Take of Birds,
- Birds & Manmade Structures,
- Themes for Migratory Bird Discussions,
- Birds & Contaminants,
- North American Flyway System,
- Passerine Harvest & Trade, and

- Partnership Opportunities for Birds.

Due to major themes in previous years, we suggest that the major goals be modified to include:

- Birds & Climate,
- Flyways,
- Incidental Take (includes collisions),
- Landscape-scale Conservation (new focus),

Partnerships, as a previous goal, as well as "capacity building," can fall into any/all of these and could be an underlying principle rather than a major goal. Action Items and Agenda topics could be asked to fall into one of these major themes.

SUBMITTED BY: Co-chairs

AGENDA ITEM 22: Review of Action Items and Theme for 2013

AGENDA ITEM 23: Other Business

11:45-12:00 Break

12:00-1:00 Finalize Executive Table Report and presentation

WORK TABLE: SPECIES OF COMMON CONSERVATION CONCERN

Co-Chairs: Bryan Arroyo, Assistant Director-Fisheries and Habitat Conservation, USFWS and Omar Eduardo Rocha Gutiérrez, Subdirector de Manejo y Desarrollo de Poblaciones, DGVS-SEMARNAT, México

Monday, May 14th

Room: Kiva C

(9:30 am – 12 pm)

AGENDA ITEM 1: Welcome, Introductions, and Adoption of the Agenda (30 min)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Co-chairs – Bryan Arroyo (FWS), Omar Eduardo Rocha Gutierrez (DGVS-SEMARNAT), Susan Humphrey (CWS)

DESCRIPTION: Welcome and introductions of new and returning participants to the working table. Approval and adoption of the agenda. Brief discussion of Action Item Reports.

BACKGROUND: Standard agenda item to build consensus and ensure full participation.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:

- Approval of any changes to the agenda.
- Adoption of the agenda
- Understanding of process for completing AIRs

SUBMITTED BY: Co-chairs

AGENDA ITEM 2: Black-Footed Ferret Recovery: Continued black-footed ferret reintroduction efforts in Mexico, Canada, and the United States (*ongoing project previously presented to SCCT, trilateral project in Mexico, Canada, and the United States*) (30 min)

COLLABORATORS & PRINCIPAL CONTACTS: Rurik List, Chairman, Dept. Env. Sciences, CBS Universidad Autonoma, rlist@prodigy.net.mx; Katherine Patterson, Supt., Grasslands Nat. Park, Parks Canada, katherine_patterson@pc.gc.ca; Pete Gober, Black-footed Ferret Recovery, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, pete_gober@fws.gov.

DESCRIPTION: The recovery of the black-footed ferret requires reestablishment of the species across a wide distribution of its historical range in Mexico, Canada, and the United States.

BACKGROUND: The continued success of previous black-footed ferret reintroduction efforts in Mexico, Canada, and the United States relies on continued information sharing and collaborative efforts.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: The maintenance, management, and development of additional black-footed ferret reintroduction sites continue to be necessary for the recovery of the species.

SUBMITTED BY: Pete Gober, Black-footed Ferret Recovery Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 190, Wellington, CO 80549, 970/897-2730 x224, Fax: 970/897-2943, Mobile: 720/626-5260

AGENDA ITEM 3: Grassland and black-tailed prairie dog conservation. (*This is a*

continuation project.) (30 min)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Arizona Game and Fish Department, Dirección General de Vida Silvestre-SEMARNAT, Sonora Commission of Ecology and Sustainable Development (CEDES), Bureau of Land Management, USFWS, Arizona State Land Department, and the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

DESCRIPTION: The collaborators to this project propose to continue working at reintroducing black-tailed prairie dogs to the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Las Cienegas National Conservation Area, in southern Arizona, and training efforts in survey methodology and other important wildlife management practices for collaborators in Mexico. Mexican and U.S. partners will initiate the development of a comprehensive regional conservation plan for this species and attempt to translocate black-tailed prairie dogs from Sonora and/or Chihuahua to augment existing populations in Arizona over a five-year period, if deemed necessary by cooperating partners.

BACKGROUND: After nearly 50 years absence from the Arizona landscape, black-tailed prairie dogs can once again be found on the Las Cienegas. On October 2008, the Arizona Game and Fish Department in cooperation with the Arizona State Lands Department and the Bureau of Land Management released 73 prairie dogs on about 10 acres. Two additional translocation efforts were completed on September-October 2010 by releasing more than 100 prairie dogs.

The goal of this effort is to establish a self sustaining population which will contribute to the overall national conservation effort for black-tailed prairie dog conservation. By establishing prairie dog populations, habitats for other grassland dependent species like mountain plovers, burrowing owls and black-footed ferret will be created and thus preclude the need to list the species. The desire is to establish populations with the closest genetic make up of those that were previously present in Arizona.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: We seek the endorsement of the Trilateral Committee to augment reintroduction efforts for the black-tailed prairie dogs by translocating animals from Sonora and/or Chihuahua into Arizona, if deemed necessary by cooperating partners; provide training to collaborators in Mexico on trapping techniques and survey methodology; assist Sonora in the protection of remaining prairie dog colonies; and hold a meeting with Mexican and U.S. partners to initiate the development of a comprehensive binational conservation plan for this species.

SUBMITTED BY: Bill Van Pelt, Eric Gardner, and Francisco Abarca, Arizona Game and Fish Department; Rogelio Molina, Cristina Melendez, Eberardo Sánchez, CEDES

AGENDA ITEM 4: Sonoran Pronghorn Recovery (*ongoing binational project*) (30 min)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Sonoran Pronghorn Recovery Team, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Dirección General de Vida Silvestre-SEMARNAT, Pinacate Biosphere Reserve-CONANP, Endangered Species Office-CONANP, Sonora Commission of Ecology and Sustainable Development (CEDES), USFWS – Arizona Ecological Services, and Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge (CPNWR).

DESCRIPTION: To work toward recovery of the Sonoran pronghorn range wide, the collaborators propose to continue binational monitoring (including telemetry) efforts, continuing a captive breeding program within the CPNWR, implementing actions for a second wild population in Arizona, and conducting training efforts in survey methodology and other important wildlife management practices for collaborators in Mexico. In addition, collaborators plan to hold a meeting with Mexican and U.S. partners to initiate the development of a

comprehensive binational conservation plan for this species. Partners will explore the possibility of sending some pronghorns to Sonora. This agenda item is an update on progress made on binational conservation activities.

BACKGROUND: Sonoran pronghorn are endangered in both the U. S. and Mexico. As part of a binational effort in recovery, partners have implemented several successful binational efforts aimed at recovery of the subspecies in both countries. These activities include: conducting range-wide surveys in both countries on a two-year interval, equipping Sonoran pronghorn with GPS-based telemetry collars in Mexico and the U.S. on several occasions, implementing a captive breeding program in Arizona to provide offspring to augment wild populations in Arizona and Sonora, as well as to establish a second population in Arizona, and providing training efforts in survey methodology and other important wildlife management practices for collaborators in Mexico. These initiatives have been supported by the Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management for more than a decade.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: We seek the endorsement of the Trilateral Committee to continue working on binational monitoring and telemetry work for the Sonoran pronghorn; maintain a captive breeding program within the CPNWR; provide training on survey methodology to collaborators in Mexico; establish a second wild population in Arizona; initiate plans for sending some pronghorns to Sonora; and hold a meeting with Mexican and U.S. partners to initiate the development of a comprehensive binational conservation plan for this species

SUBMITTED BY: Francisco Abarca, Eric Gardner, John Hervert, and Jill Bright, Arizona Game and Fish Department; Jim Atkinson, Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge and Erin Fernandez, Arizona Ecological Services Office, USFWS; Rogelio Molina, Cristina Melendez, Eberardo Sánchez, CEDES; Federico Rodríguez and Izar Izaguirre, CONANP.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Pure-gene Bison and Pronghorn reintroduction to historic range in Northern Mexico (30 min)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Antonio Esquer, Laura Paulson, Juan Bezaury Creel

DESCRIPTION: The El Uno Ecological Reserve is located in the municipality of Janos, Chihuahua in the center of the Janos Valley, which are part of the Chihuahuan Desert ecoregion, and constitute a continuous system of semi-arid grasslands that stretch along the border region of Arizona, New Mexico, Sonora and Chihuahua. Some of the most expansive remnants of desert grassland habitat are found in the Janos Valley, which harbors the largest complex of black-tailed prairie dog colonies (*Cynomys ludovicianus*) remaining in the world and over 250 species of birds. Four of the priority species for conservation identified by the Mexican Government also occur in this area: Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), Pronghorn (*Antilocapra americana*), Black bear (*Ursus americanus*) and Bison (*Bison bison*).

BACKGROUND: Because of its importance for biodiversity, the Janos Valley has been identified as a priority site for conservation. In 2005, The Nature Conservancy acquired a 46,000 acre ranch and created the El Uno Ecological Reserve as a regional platform site for grasslands restoration, wildlife management, community education, scientific research and sustainable ranching. In 2009 the Mexican federal government declared the 1.3 million-acre (500,000 hectare) Janos Biosphere Reserve, encompassing El Uno at its center. The Conservancy is using El Uno as a platform to demonstrate how ranching and grassland conservation can be compatible. We are introducing cattle grazing at the reserve to test different grazing models and implementing grass banking, native seed production, prescribed fire and invasive species control.

In collaboration with the Mexican federal government, the El Uno Ecological Reserve is serving a platform for the reintroduction and repopulation of native species such as bison and pronghorn, whose grazing patterns restore grasslands, create habitats and provide food for other species. In November 2009, 23 bison were donated to El Uno by Wind Cave National Park as part of a binational partnership with government agencies, NGOs and universities, to restore the presence of pure-gene bison in the Chihuahuan Desert. These bison will be used as the foundation for the establishment of conservation herds throughout their native historic range in Northern Mexico. Currently, 30 bison inhabit the El Uno grasslands and this number is expected to grow to at least 45 individuals by the end of 2012.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Position the work of The Nature Conservancy and partners in El Uno before the Trilateral Committee and identify opportunities to manage and maintain the bison herd, introduce a pronghorn herd (*Antilocapra americana mexicana*), towards wildlife compatible sustainable cattle grazing models and achieve the project's medium and long term goals.

SUBMITTED BY: Laura Paulson

(12 - 1 pm) LUNCH

(1 - 3 pm)

AGENDA ITEM 6: PACE: Berrendo, pronghorn population analysis and design of aerial method to monitoring populations in Northern Mexico. (update) (30 min)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: National Institute of Ecology (Edward M. Peters, Margarita Caso Chávez, Karina Santos del Prado Gasca and Alejandra Domínguez Alvarez). CONANP (Oscar Ramírez and Lizardo Cruz).

DESCRIPTION: The PACE: pronghorn includes actions in all pronghorn home range in Mexico. On 2009 and 2010, pronghorn were captured in New Mexico and translocated to Coahuila, to reinforce the populations. As well the Peninsular pronghorn has a very consolidated program implemented in El Vizcaíno Biosphere Reserve, Baja California Sur, but during 2010 and 2011 expanded to the NPA Valle de Cirios in Baja California; during the meeting will be presented an update of the 2011 actions.

During 2010 and 2011, INE supported studies about the distribution and status of pronghorn in Chihuahua, Coahuila and Sonora, effects due to the border fence and change of land use. These studies have shown the importance to establish biennial monitoring programs to identify population changes, and therefore implement measures and management actions to reduce the risk with this specie.

BACKGROUND: In Mexico, three subspecies are recognized in small isolated groups, the Mexican pronghorn (*A. a. mexicana*) in Coahuila and Chihuahua states; Sonoran pronghorn (*A. a. sonorensis*) in Sonora State and peninsular pronghorn (*A. a. peninsularis*) in Baja California Peninsula. At the early of the twentieth century, it was estimated a population of 2,395 individuals, but at the end of the century, the geographical distribution of pronghorn had decreased and their abundance in Mexico fell to 81.9%. Currently, it is estimated that there are fewer than 1,200 individuals in small isolated populations, including those who have been reintroduced.

Originally, the pronghorn was distributed from southern Canada and the prairies of central and western U.S. to central and northwestern Mexico, including Baja California peninsula to

southern Mexican Plateau in the Hidalgo and Queretaro states. Its population in the Great Plains of North America has been estimated in 400 million individuals; however, hunting, fragmentation and habitat loss has brought the species close to extinction in Mexico, being one of the most endangered terrestrial mammals in the country. That is why this species was included in the "endangered" category on the NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2010, and on international conventions including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Due to interest in the conservation and recovery populations of pronghorn, have been developed several researches. Training and bi-national meetings have laid the theoretical and practical bases for the management of the species and included: an article entitled "Program for US-Mexico cooperation of pronghorn: a review" (Ramirez *et al.*, 1999). Also, noteworthy, are the 23 times that the event "Biennial Pronghorn Antelope Workshop" has been organized and the recent "Pronghorn Symposium" occurred in 2006. In this events was exposed, shared and exchanged results about researches finished or in progress, works that address issues of population genetic, population dynamics, biology, ecology, hunting use, monitoring, reintroduction, habitat quality, among others.

Other actions that have been carried out include a multidisciplinary collaboration with academic and governmental sectors that have working on the monitoring of pronghorn's populations.

There are also records relating to the reintroduction of pronghorn in Mexico in historical distribution sites such as San Luis Potosi, Coahuila, Sonora and Baja California (Valdés and Manterola, 2006).

SPECIFIC OUTCOME REQUESTED:

- Update about implementation of PACE
- TC support projects and enhance the participation of partners in both sides of the border.
- Staff training and exchange information about techniques and methods about pronghorn monitoring.
- The Trilateral Committee support for the biennial study.

SUBMITTED BY: Edward M. Peters Recagno, Margarita Caso Chávez, Karina Santos del Prado Gasca and Alejandra Domínguez Alvarez, from National Institute of Ecology (Instituto Nacional de Ecología) & Oscar Ramírez, Víctor Sánchez and Lizardo Cruz, CONANP

AGENDA ITEM 7: Mexican Wolf Recovery in the United States and Mexico (30 min)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: USFWS (New Mexico Ecological Services Office), Mexican Wolf Recovery Team, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Xochimilco, Dirección General de Vida Silvestre (Semarnat), Dirección de Especies Prioritarias para la Conservación-CONANP, Arizona Game and Fish and Department, U.S. Forest Service, White Mountain Apache Tribe, USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services, San Carlos Apache Tribe, and others.

DESCRIPTION: We propose to continue to work with our governmental and non-governmental partners at local, state, and Federal levels in México and the U.S. to recover Mexican wolves in the U.S. and México. Specifically, this year we propose to: (1) Complete a draft recovery plan for the Mexican wolf, (2) Implement recovery actions for the Mexican wolf, and (3) Collaborate with Mexico on management of the captive breeding population of Mexican wolves in the U.S. and Mexico

BACKGROUND: In February 2011, the USFWS convened the Mexican Wolf Recovery Team,

consisting of scientists, agencies, tribes, and stakeholders to develop a revision to the 1982 Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan. Participants from México participate on both the Science and Planning Subgroup and the Agency Subgroup of the Recovery Team. The Recovery Team is currently developing recovery goals, criteria, and actions that will lead to the recovery and delisting of the Mexican wolf. We anticipate a draft recovery plan in 2012. We collaborate with México to manage the 52 captive breeding facilities in the United States and México, which house approximately 300 wolves for eventual release into the wild. All of these wolves are managed in accordance with the Mexican Wolf Species Survival Plan. We collaborate with México on the implementation of recovery actions for the Mexican wolf in the United States and Mexico.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: We seek the endorsement of the Trilateral Committee to work with governmental and non-governmental partners at local, state, and Federal levels in México and the U.S. to conserve and recover Mexican wolves.

Specifically, we request endorsement of our proposal to continue to work with the Mexican Wolf Recovery Team to develop the draft Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan, implement recovery actions for Mexican wolves in the U.S. and México, and continue collaboration on management of the captive Mexican wolf population.

SUBMITTED BY: Sherry Barrett & Oscar Ramirez

AGENDA ITEM 8: PACE: Lobo Mexicano (30 min)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Oscar Ramírez, Carlos Castillo, Mario Cirett, Lizardo Cruz, Fernando Gavito CONANP; Sherry Barret, Maggie, Dwire, John Oakleaf, USFWS. Martín Vargas, Fernando Cortés, DGVs. Patricia Koleff, Barbara Ayala, CONABIO.

DESCRIPTION: Update of the PACE: Mexican Wolf.

BACKGROUND: In 2008, assessments for reintroduction of the Mexican Wolf were made taking in mind prey availability and social perception in six potential sites. It was determined that the northern Sierra Madre Occidental is the area with the best ecological and social conditions for the reintroduction of the specie. Since 2009 several attempts have been made to reintroduce specimens in the northern Sierra Madre Occidental; finally on October 2011, the first group of Mexican Wolves was released in the Sierra Madre Occidental. A project status up date will be presented during the meeting.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: We request to the Trilateral Committee to continue supporting recovery and reintroduction program in Mexico, exchange of technology, information and experience among the various agencies that have worked with wolves in the past.

SUBMITTED BY: Oscar Ramírez, Fernando Gavito, Lizardo Cruz (CONANP)

AGENDA ITEM 9: Northwestern Jaguar Recovery (ongoing binational project) (30 min)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: USFWS (Arizona and New Mexico Ecological Services Office) and USFWS-led Binational (Mexico – U.S.) Jaguar Recovery Team (including CONANP [Priority Species and ANPs], Comisión de Ecología y Desarrollo Sustentable del Estado de Sonora, SAGARHPA, Universidad de Querétaro, Naturalia, Arizona Game and Fish and Department, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Panthera, Northern Arizona University, Arizona State University, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, USDA/APHIS-Wildlife Services, Customs and Border Protection, the Tohono O’odham Nation, and others)

DESCRIPTION: We propose to continue to work with our governmental and non-

governmental partners at local, state, and Federal levels in México and the U.S. to conserve and recover jaguars.

Specifically, this year we propose to:

- 1) Develop a draft recovery plan for the jaguar, with emphasis on jaguars in western and northwestern México and southwestern U.S.; and
- 2) Implement recovery actions for the jaguar, including a) monitoring jaguars along the Arizona and New Mexico border with Mexico; and b) conducting other projects to help mitigate the effects of the U.S. – México border fence and other border infrastructure on jaguars.

BACKGROUND: In January 2010, the USFWS made the decision to develop a formal recovery plan for the jaguar and we are currently in the process of carrying out this effort. In 2010, we convened a binational recovery team for jaguars with participants from México and the U.S. In 2011, we held two meetings of the Jaguar Recovery Team at which we conducted a Population Viability Analysis (PVA) and Population and Habitat Assessment (PHVA). Using information from the meetings and the PVA and PHVA, the Jaguar Recovery Team and the USFWS developed a recovery outline for the jaguar. The Team will meet again in early 2012 to continue to develop a draft recovery plan which should be completed by fall 2012.

Additionally, the USFWS has been working with Customs and Border Protection to develop projects to help offset the effects of border infrastructure project on listed species, including the jaguar. The first project, jaguar survey and monitoring along the and New Mexico border with Mexico, will begin in 2011.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: We seek the endorsement of the Trilateral Committee to work with governmental and non-governmental partners at local, state, and Federal levels in México and the U.S. to conserve and recover jaguars, including developing a recovery plan and implementing recovery actions for jaguars with emphasis in western and northwestern México and southwestern U.S.

SUBMITTED BY: Erin Fernandez, Scott Richardson, Jean Calhoun, and Steve Spangle, Arizona Ecological Services Office, USFWS and the Jaguar Recovery Team

(3-3:15 pm) BREAK

(3:15 -5 pm)

AGENDA ITEM 10: Ocelot Recovery and Translocation (*ongoing binational project*) (30 min)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:

Dirección General de Vida Silvestre (DGVS)

Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO)

Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas (CONANP)

Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente (PROFEPA)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

State of Tamaulipas

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)

Arizona Game and Fish Department

The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México

Universidad Autónoma de Queretaro

Instituto Tecnológico de Ciudad Victoria

Texas A&M University-Kingsville

Northern Arizona University
 University of Arizona
 Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium
 Gladys Porter Zoo
 Tamatan Zoo, Ciudad Victoria

DESCRIPTION: This project supports the Species of Common Concern Work Table's goal of management and conservation of small and isolated populations at risk. The endangered ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*) is in need of binational conservation efforts to ensure its continued existence in the U.S. and Mexico. Project collaborators propose increasing the genetic heterozygosity of ocelots in Texas by translocating animals from Mexico to Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge in South Texas and to collaborate with U.S. and Mexican institutions to increase our knowledge about ocelot populations in Mexico and Arizona.

BACKGROUND: The ocelot is considered to be in danger of extinction in the U.S. and Mexico. The U.S. Endangered Species Act categorizes the ocelot as Endangered throughout its range (Arizona, Texas, Mexico, Central and South America). There are now three known breeding populations currently remaining in Texas, and these populations are extremely vulnerable to drought, disease and in-breeding. Translocation of ocelots from Mexico to Texas is identified in the draft Ocelot Recovery Plan as a necessity to lower the risk of extinction of the Texas population. Although ocelots are rather abundant in Sonora and have been recently documented in Arizona, whether a breeding population exists in Arizona is unknown.

Although hopeful that we will be able to continue efforts to study ocelots in Tamaulipas, extenuating circumstances have forced the Recovery Team to consider studying other ocelot populations in Mexico as potential sources of ocelots for translocation events. CONABIO has requested certain parameters be met when considering translocation of ocelots from Mexico and the Team will meet those obligations in order to translocate ocelots from Mexico to Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge (LANWR) in Texas, as soon as possible. The Ocelot Recovery Plan is expected to be finalized in 2012 after the review of the second draft revision is completed. Long-term recovery efforts will focus on reducing road mortality, increasing available habitat, and supporting partnerships.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Trilateral Committee endorsement to coordinate and implement the recovery actions of the Ocelot Recovery Team within the framework of the strategic plans of the Trilateral Committee as well as within the framework of all legal requirements and procedures in each country.

SUBMITTED BY: Mitch Sternberg, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Maria Araujo, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

AGENDA ITEM 11: PACE: C6ndor de California. Status of the Binational Project for the Reintroduction of the California Condor in the San Pedro Martir Sierra, Baja California, Mexico. (30 min)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Michael Wallace-and Michael Mace, The Zoological Society of San Diego (ZSSD); Jesse Grantham, USFWS- California Condor Recovery Program; Jos6 Bernal Stopen, Direcci6n General de Zool6gicos y Vida Silvestre de la Ciudad de M6xico (DGZVS); Eduardo Peters; Margarita Caso y Elvia de la Cruz-INE-SEMARNAT. Oscar Ram6rez, Gonzalo de Le6n, Lizardo Cruz, CONANP

DESCRIPTION: Condors releases in San Pedro M6rtir National Park in Baja California, Mexico, originated in 2002. To date thirty-four birds have been transferred from Los Angeles

and San Diego Zoos to the Sierra de San Pedro Mártir (CONANP-SEMARNAT). To date twenty five birds are being released in the sky of Baja California, in 2010 four birds have been transferred to the release site in San Pedro Mártir. All birds are being continuously monitored by a Mexican specialised biologist team with the telemetry and satellite transmission techniques. Monitoring and care activities in the release site have been supported since 2002 by INE, CONABIO (SEMARNAT), USFWS through the Wildlife Without Borders Program, and the Zoological Society of San Diego. All the Condor recovery actions were included in the PACE: Cóndor de California, which was elaborated by INE and CONANP in coordination with experts. The PACE operation will be in charge of CONANP, but with participation of all the stakeholders at Federal level, including NGO's, US agencies and local government.

An update of the California condor annual health exams, reproduction and survival in San Pedro Mártir, and communication and outreach in collaboration with Chapultepec Zoo will be presented during the meeting.

BACKGROUND: California condors were once numerous in Mexico, but disappeared from the landscape by the 1930's. In an effort to reintroduce condors back into their historic range, a condor release site was set up in San Pedro Mártir National Park in Baja California, Mexico. As with the US program, the Baja project is a long-term process that includes government and non-government entities from both the US and Mexico.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: That Trilateral Committee recognise the California Condor Reintroduction Program in Sierra de San Pedro Mártir, Baja California, as a model to follow in the bi-national co-operation and to continue Trilateral endorsement of the project that includes the display and education program at Chapultepec Zoo in Mexico City.

SUBMITTED BY: US Fish & Wildlife Service, Jesse Grantham; Zoological Society of San Diego, Michael Wallace and Michael Mace; Dirección General de Zoológicos y Vida Silvestre de la Ciudad de México, José Bernal Stopen; and Instituto Nacional de Ecología- SEMARNAT, Eduardo Peters, Margarita Caso y Elvia de la Cruz. Oscar Ramírez, Gonzalo de León and Lizardo Cruz, CONANP.

AGENDA ITEM 12: Light-footed Clapper Rail Captive Propagation Program Ten Year Report (30 min)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Brian Collins USFWS, Michael Mace Zoological Society of San Diego, Laurie Conrad SeaWorld of San Diego, Dr. Richard Zembal Light-footed Clapper Rail Study and Management Team

DESCRIPTION: The history of the rail recovery program began in 1979 with some of the first life-history studies of the species. Annual population surveys began in 1980 with a focus on habitat use and resources available to these endangered birds. The Light-footed Clapper Rail lives in fragmented and historically reduced coastal salt marsh habitats in southern California and northern Baja California, Mexico. The rail is seen by many as a focal species for conservation and restoration efforts aimed at coastal salt marsh habitat throughout southern California wetlands. It is nearly entirely dependent on salt marsh habitats for its survival and is largely non-migratory, so when southern California salt marshes disappear (and about 90% of them have already been lost to development), the rails disappear as well. So, the species is endangered primarily because of habitat loss, but it has other problems as well. These include; a vulnerability to predation, especially by non-native introduced predators, environmental contaminants present in some marshes because of urban runoff or past land uses, lack of appropriate upland habitat surrounding coastal salt marshes, etc. The list of its problems is a

long one and the solution to its conservation needs will be complex and require long-term creative management efforts.

BACKGROUND: During the past ten years, we have developed a captive breeding protocol for the species. We have learned a great deal about the developmental biology of the species. We have created opportunities to observe the behavior of rail families in captivity that serve as a lens into the secret lives of the species in the wild. We have augmented the wild population in California and based on some tantalizingly brief observations of banded birds in the wild (as well as limited radio tracking of a percentage of released birds), we know that some percentage of our captive bred birds have contributed their genes to the wild population. We have continued to conduct monitoring activities to obtain an estimate of the breeding potential in the wild population in California and we were gratified to see the results of the 2011 census, the second largest population survey estimate since U.S. rangewide monitoring of the species began in 1979 (in 2011, ~441 breeding pairs in 21 wetlands; R. Zembal et al report in prep). We have taken steps towards conducting truly rangewide binational surveys and management for the species by reaching out to Mexican biologists and Institutions (the LFCR captive breeding program is endorsed by the Canada, Mexico, US Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management), but have not yet effectively implemented actions in Mexico to accomplish this goal.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Endorsement of the Shared Species Table for the continuing endorsement of a binational study and management effort aimed at recovering the species throughout its range.

SUBMITTED BY: Brian Collins, Refuge Manager, San Diego Bay and Tijuana Slough National Wildlife Refuges, USFWS, 301 Caspian Way, Imperial Beach, CA USA, 91932 (619) 575.2704 x. 302

Tuesday, May 15th

9:00 – 10:00 am: Welcome Ceremony-Remarks by Delegation Leaders & Introduction of Delegations (see Schedule of Events for location)

10:00-11:00 am: Presentations: “Conservation, Collaboration & Partnerships” (see Schedule of Events for location).

(11-11:45 am) Room: Kiva C

AGENDA ITEM 13: Implementation of the North American Rabies Management Plan (20min)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: North American Rabies Management Team : Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies; Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies; Canadian Rabies Committee; Canadian Food Inspection Service; Environment Canada; Cornell; Mathematical Biosciences Institute at The Ohio State University; University of Alaska – Fairbanks; Mexico Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Husbandry, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA), National Service for Health, Safety and Food Quality (SENASICA); Mexico Ministry of Health (SALUD), National Center for Epidemiology Surveillance and Disease Control (CENA VECE); Ministere des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune due Quebec; Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico (SEMARNAT); Navajo Nation; Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources; Provincial Health New Brunswick; Public Health

Agency of Canada; Statistical Center for HIV/AIDS Research and Prevention; Texas Department of Health Services; Thomas Jefferson University; United States Animal Health Association; United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services and International Services; United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México; Westminster College; Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources; Alliance for Rabies Control

DESCRIPTION: Despite remarkable precedents and achievements in the rabies management field, greater accomplishments are possible through trilateral cooperation. The establishment of a North American Rabies Management Plan (Plan) represents a key step in facilitating planning processes by which mutual border rabies control and prevention goals and objectives can be identified and better met among Canada, Mexico, Navajo Nation, and the U.S. Plan architecture has been formed and will continue to be shaped with input from each country through representatives in the fields of public health, agriculture and wildlife management. Rabies management creates the interface that requires integration of these areas of responsibility. This Plan establishes a protocol for rabies management in North America by assessing and defining the needs, priorities, and strategies required to control and eventually eliminate terrestrial rabies and to determine methods for managing bat rabies virus variants.

BACKGROUND: The North American Rabies Management Plan is designed to provide direction and serve as a catalyst for cooperative rabies management actions at the continental level. Key components of this Plan include routine communications on policies and rabies status, exchange of scientific and technical information, and collaboration on surveillance and control projects along the immediate borders of the three countries. The North American Rabies Management Plan, therefore, is designed to foster international cooperation involving governments at all levels, indigenous groups, nongovernmental organizations, corporations, universities, and private citizens. Success of the Plan depends on effective partnerships among all segments of society that have a role in rabies management. This Plan can be easily modified to adapt to change as a function of planning processes among bordering states and provinces and at the federal level. The ultimate function of the plan is to provide a framework and forum for constructive interaction among the states and provinces and federal levels of Canada, Mexico, and the U.S. to address challenges jointly and, thus, better ensure that long-term rabies management goals are met within each country and in North America.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:

- Continued support of the North American Rabies Management Plan
- Increased border surveillance between Mexico and the US.
- Participation by Canada in the impacts of climate change on rabies spread associated with Arctic foxes
- Cross border participation in bat surveillance for rabies titers and impacts of climate change on bats especially vampire bats.

SUBMITTED BY: David Bergman, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services, 8836 N 23 Avenue, Suite 2, Phoenix, Arizona 85086; Phone 602 870-2081

Dennis Slate, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services, Concorde, New Hampshire, USA
 Charles Rupprecht, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia, USA
 Dennis Donovan, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Peterborough, Ontario, Canada
 Michael O'Brien, Department of Natural Resources, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
 Scott Bender, Navajo Nation, Chinle, Arizona, USA
 Ernest Oertli, Texas Department of Health Services, Austin, Texas, USA
 Luis Lecuona, USDA APHIS International Services, Mexico City, Mexico
 Dale Nolte, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services, Fort Collins, Colorado, USA

AGENDA ITEM 14: Anthropogenic impacts on marine mammals in the Gulf of California and the Pacific Coast of Baja California (25 min)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Luis Medrano González & María de Jesús Cuevas Vázquez, Laboratorio de Mastofauna Marina, Facultad de Ciencias, UNAM; Edward M. Peters; Margarita Caso & Leonel Álvarez, INE-SEMARNAT.

DESCRIPTION: Since 2004, the National Institute of Ecology (INE) and the Laboratory of Marine mammal fauna of the Faculty of Sciences of the National University of Mexico (UNAM), have conducted research on the humpback whale populations that migrate from the Northern portion of the Pacific ocean to Bahía de Banderas and the Revillagigedo Islands seeking breeding and nursery grounds. This research effort adds to the long history of nearly 30 years of data collection and information in the area.

Anthropogenic impacts on marine mammal species habitat have increased in recent decades, particularly in regions rich in marine species. The Gulf of California is one of the most biodiverse, productive and dynamic seas in the world. It harbors 33 to 36 species of marine mammals including the vaquita (*Phocoena sinus*) which is an endemic and at risk of extinction species.

The Pacific coast off Baja California is a biologically rich region. 36 to 39 species of marine mammals inhabit these waters, of which 30 to 33 are shared with the Gulf of California. This indicates that there is a great similarity between the mammalian fauna of the Gulf of California and the one from the Pacific coast off Baja California, both regions defined by the major biogeographical boundary between the northeast Pacific and the tropical eastern Pacific. In both regions live together -though not exclusively- all marine mammals of social, political and/or economic significance in Mexico, such as mysticete whales -which are a valuable resource for tourism-, and six species with some threat degree, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (2009), as well as several species that interact with coastal fisheries and industry.

Besides the vaquita porpoise, there are several isolated populations of marine mammals of ecological and social importance in the region, such as the fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*), the long-beaked common dolphin (*Delphinus capensis*) and the California sea lion (*Zalophus californianus*).

Although efforts have been made for several decades to preserve marine mammal fauna, in some cases, these have proved to be inadequate. That is why the knowledge on the distribution of marine mammals, on human activities as well as the interactions between them is essential in determining the anthropogenic impacts on these animals, in order to propose measures for their

conservation.

This project will determine the distribution of marine mammals in the Gulf of California and off the Pacific coast of Baja California, based on field data from transects. This information will contribute to a better understanding of the biodiversity and relations within the food chain in the region. The study of distribution of human population density and the activities at sea based on the economic and population census, will help determine the potential distribution of anthropogenic impacts on marine mammal fauna. Through this information the identification of priority areas will be possible in order to mitigate and minimize human impacts to marine mammals and contribute to their conservation.

BACKGROUND: The INE and the UNAM have been working jointly in determining abundance patterns and the spatial and seasonal distribution of marine mammal fauna related to oceanographic variables and environmental quality in the mouth of the Gulf of California and the Revillagigedo Islands, as well as in the identification of areas and species of marine mammals that require immediate conservation actions.

With respect to the population of humpback whales in Bahía de Banderas, the data base has been updated based on the monitoring data from 1982 to date and this information has been incorporated into a GIS. The interaction between tourism and humpback whales, the patterns of abundance, spatial and seasonal distribution and changes in the dispersion of the humpback whale put together from photo-identification of whale individuals has also been analyzed.

The identity of the wintering humpback whale population in Bahía de Banderas and surrounding waters has been determined using genetic demographic indicators. This has enabled to analyze changes in the abundance, distribution, reproduction and habitat use of humpback whales in the study area for the past 25 years, particularly in relation to the tourist observation activities. It has also allowed to propose a research and conservation national plan of humpback whales in Mexico, and to make recommendations to modify the "NOM-131-SEMARNAT-1998" that regulates the humpback whale watching tourism.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: We seek the approval of the Committee for a trilateral relationship in the conservation efforts of marine mammal species that coexist geographically in North America.

SUBMITTED BY: Edward M. Peters Recagno, Margarita Caso & Leonel Alvarez (National Institute of Ecology-SEMARNAT), Luis Medrano & Maria de Jesus Vazquez (Science Faculty, UNAM).

(11:45 am – 12 pm) BREAK

(12 – 1 pm) Room: Kiva C

AGENDA ITEM 15: SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION - NW Atlantic and North Pacific Loggerheads and Eastern Pacific Leatherbacks (30 min)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: CONANP (Oscar Ramirez, Laura Sarti), Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada (Mike James), USFWS (Earl Possardt)/NOAA Fisheries (Sheryan Epperly)

DESCRIPTION: Discussion of shared priorities related to Loggerhead Sea Turtles (NW Atlantic and North Pacific populations) and Eastern Pacific Leatherbacks

BACKGROUND:

Loggerhead Sea Turtles – North Pacific

North Pacific Loggerhead sea turtles forage in both Mexican and American waters. The United States has recently designated a distinct population segment for North Pacific Loggerheads as endangered. Fisheries bycatch has been identified as significant source of mortality. The United States and Mexico recognize this issue and have begun to address this in their respective waters. At the Trilateral, the United States and Mexico will exchange updates on their respective actions and discuss ways that they can collaborate together to conserve and recover North Pacific loggerheads.

Loggerhead Sea Turtles – Northwest Atlantic

Northwest Atlantic loggerhead sea turtles nest in the United States, and then forage along the Canadian East Coast. The United States has recently designated a distinct population segment (DPS) for the Northwest Atlantic as threatened. The United States and Canada will discuss this recent change in the United States and concerns about cumulative bycatch throughout the DPS, as well as discuss the status of the Northwest Atlantic listing under the Canadian Species at Risk Act. In addition, the United States and Canada will discuss recent cooperative research looking at post-hooking mortality for loggerhead sea turtles in longline fisheries and needed actions to reduce bycatch mortality.

Eastern Pacific Leatherbacks

Eastern Pacific Leatherbacks are listed as endangered under the Mexican and American law. This population is in significant decline, despite almost complete protection of the nesting beaches. The United States and Mexico will discuss the status of current regional and international efforts to recover Eastern Pacific leatherbacks and what more can be done.

SUBMITTED BY: Earl Possardt, USFWS

AGENDA ITEM 16: Monitoring of sentinel species in the Midriff region and north of the Gulf of California: the brown pelican and the California sea lion. (30 min)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Directorate of Ecosystem Conservation, National Institute of Ecology (INE)- Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) (Karina Santos del Prado ksantos@ine.gob.mx y Margarita Caso casom@ine.gob.mx) and Directorate of Flora and Fauna Protected Area Islands in the Gulf of California in Baja California, Natural Protected Areas Commission (CONANP)-SEMARNAT (Carlos Godínez cgodinez@conanp.gob.mx). **Collaborators:** University of California, Davis (Daniel W. Anderson for Brown pelican dwanderson@ucdavis.edu), National Autonomous University of Mexico (Gerardo Suzán for California sea lion gerardosuz@gmail.com), Africam Safari (Osvaldo Martínez omartinez@africamsafari.com.mx y Marco Benítez mbenitez@africamsafari.com.mx)

DESCRIPTION: SEMARNAT, via CONANP and the INE, coordinates a project to monitor the populations of brown pelican and California sea lion and his health condition in breeding colonies in the Midriff region and northern Gulf of California. Collaborating in this project US institutions (University of California, Davis for the monitoring of pelican brown), and Mexican institutions (National Autonomous University of Mexico, National Polytechnic Institute, University of Queretaro and Africam Safari).

BACKGROUND: The California brown pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis californicus*) and the California sea lion (*Zalophus californianus californianus*) are indicator or sentinel species. The

monitoring of their populations provides important information for decision-making in their distribution areas in Mexico that occur mostly in natural protected areas.

The Directorate of the Flora and Fauna Protected Area Islands in the Gulf of California in Baja California (CONANP) monitors breeding colonies of California sea lion since 1999. Since 2004, the Directorate of Ecosystem Conservation of INE joins the monitoring effort undertaken by CONANP, and wide monitoring to the nesting colonies of brown pelican and the health status of both sentinel species.

The California brown pelican is endangered species listed in the red list for Mexico, the NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2010, and is one of the six acknowledged subspecies of brown pelican. The estimated of total metapopulation within the geographical range of the California brown pelican subspecies (*Pelecanus occidentalis californicus*) as about $70,680 \pm 2,640$ breeding pairs. Little change in at least three decades is indicated in the total metapopulation south of the Southern California Bight (SCB) subpopulation, the northernmost population in the Pacific, but significant improvements in the breeding subpopulation size in the SCB reported elsewhere, support the present high numbers observed in this northernmost subpopulation. The largest breeding aggregation within the entire range (consisting of three immediately adjacent sub-colonies), at the San Lorenzo Archipelago in the Gulf of California, consisted of about 17,225 breeding pairs, or about 24.4% of the metapopulation in 2006. The whole Gulf of California subpopulation (GOC) keeps 43,350 breeding pairs that consist in the 61% of the metapopulation. Considering also that breeding recruitment from individuals originating in the Gulf of California was documented in the Southern California Bight (SCB) subpopulation of California brown pelicans during a period when SCB breeding colonies were severely declining and classified as “endangered” under the Endangered Species Act, the relevance of the region is manifested. Numbers later recovered, and recruitment of breeding birds into the SCB, from colonies with higher productivity in Mexico likely enhanced that recovery.

Natural variations in the estimated population levels seem to be related to the natural cycles of El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) phenomena where very low breeding populations (as low as no nesting in many areas) might be expected to occur in these same areas censused in 2006 at least 40% of the time. From the 2006 aerial survey, extensive commercial and sport-fishing activity, resort/tourist developments and associated human activities along the coastal areas and at offshore islands, and extensive aqua cultural (and to a lesser degree, agricultural) developments seen from the Río Colorado Delta region, Sonora, south at least through San Blas, Nayarit (the southern terminus of our 2006 aerial survey) may result in substantial loss of breeding habitat. Thus, our overall metapopulation estimate for *P. o. californicus* in 2006 was $195,900 \pm 7,225$ individuals.

The California sea lion is endangered species listed in the red list for Mexico, the NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2010. Its distribution occurs along the west continental coast of the Baja California peninsula, Pacific islands and in the Gulf of California. The northernmost colonies in the Mexican Pacific shared the population with the colonies of the California, US. In north of the Gulf of California, including the Midriff area, there are 22 cluster areas of California sea lions, 11 of them with reproductive activity. Into the Gulf of California the major population of California sea lions is concentrate in the Midriff, from Granito and Ángel de la Guarda islands to San Esteban island where the production of young individuals is about 8,000, that represents 82% of the total annual production in all the Gulf, that coincide with the major concentrate of big masses of fishes.

The reproduction colonies in the northernmost Gulf are located at San Jorge, Rocas Consag and El Coloradito (or Lobos) islands. In the Midriff region are located at Granito, Ángel de la Guarda (with 2 colonies: Los Cantiles y Los Machos), San Esteban, San Pedro Mártir and San Pedro Nolasco islands, and El Rasito and El Partido islets.

Some of these colonies show a population decline like Rocas Consag, El Coloradito, Granito, Los Cantiles, Los Machos, El Partido and San Pedro Nolasco. Also, there are 2 colonies in the Pacific that are in decline: Guadalupe Island and Cedros. Although the causes of population decline are not determined, it seems probably that include that of natural type like environmental variability (f.e. food availability), mortality by biotoxins, diseases and genetic variability, and those of anthropogenic impact like the ecological interaction with fishing (by food competition), the interaction with fishing arts, pollution, direct killing, human perturbation in colonies and introduced species.

The colonies that significant and at one time decline are in a relative small area in the Midriff and north of the Gulf of California. The variation in California sea lions abundance had not relationship with El Niño. The fact that colonies are cluster in a specific area, suggested local causes probably associated with prey availability. Some studies about food habits suggested that Pacific o Monterrey sardine (*Sardinops sagax*) is one of the most important preys in some colonies, encompasses until 63% of the diet.

The Pacific sardine is subject of very development fishing in the Gulf of California that increases in the 1970 decade. The biomass of capture is strong fluctuating along the time. The Pacific sardine occurs in almost all the Gulf of California during the reproductive fall season, but its concentrate around Midriff, including Ángel de la Guarda, in summer. There is a connection between the variation in sardine abundance in the Gulf of California and the decline annual production of young California sea lions, where the sardine is very important in California sea lion diet. The Pacific sardine is a key species in the call "centre of biological activity" located in the Midriff region.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: We request to the USFWS the support for continue the monitoring reproduction colonies of Brown pelican and California sea lion in Mexico. The request included financial resources to continue and to widen the monitoring over all distribution range of both species, capacity building in techniques and methods in population and health monitoring. We request coordination between SEMARNAT and the USFWS to share information.

(1 – 2 pm) LUNCH

(2 – 3:45 pm) Room: Kiva C

AGENDA ITEM 17: Conservation of the imperiled species of the Río Sonoyta watershed, Sonora/Arizona. (Ongoing binational project) (10 min)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: USFWS, SEMARNAT, CONANP-Reserva de la Biosfera del Pinacate y Gran Desierto de Altar (RBPNGDA) and Priority Species, DGVS, INE, CONABIO, Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD), Comisión de Ecología y Desarrollo Sustentable del Estado de Sonora (CEDES), University of Arizona, The Phoenix Zoo, Arizona-

Sonora Desert Museum, Monte Sonorense, La Ruta de Sonora Ecotourism Association, International Sonoran Desert Alliance, the Center for the Study of Deserts and Oceans, and National Park Service-Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument (OPCNM).

DESCRIPTION: We propose to continue our efforts to conserve the imperiled species of Río Sonoyta watershed, including the Sonoyta mud turtle (*Kinosternon sonoriense longifemorale*), longfin dace (*Agosia chrysogaster*), and Sonoyta [Quitobaquito] pupfish (*Cyprinodon eremus*). These efforts include monitoring populations of these species in Sonora and Arizona; monitoring and managing the three refuge populations of pupfish and dace in Sonora and two permanent and three temporary pupfish refuges in Arizona; working with the municipal government of Sonoyta, Sonora and others to incorporate and implement conservation measures for these species into the design of a proposed wastewater treatment facility in Sonoyta; managing and maintaining Quitobaquito Springs and Pond in Arizona; finalizing and implementing the Quitobaquito-Río Sonoyta Conservation Assessment and Strategy; and working toward the development and implementation of a community-based restoration and conservation plan for the Río Sonoyta for the benefit of native species and the local community.

BACKGROUND: The Río Sonoyta watershed and Quitovac, an extremely rare and threatened lowland desert stream and spring system in northwestern Sonora and southwestern Arizona, support the only wild populations of Sonoyta mud turtle and Sonoyta pupfish. In recognition of its importance, it is a designated Ramsar wetland of international significance. To address the many threats the Río and its species face, as described above, we have been and plan to continue developing and implementing a variety of conservation programs and projects.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: We seek the endorsement of the Trilateral Committee to continue and expand our efforts to conserve the imperiled species of Río Sonoyta.

SUBMITTED BY: Doug Duncan and Erin Fernandez, Arizona Ecological Services Office, USFWS; Federico Godinez and Izar Aguirre, RBPGEA; Cristina Jones and Ross Timmons, AGFD; Cristina Melendez, CEDES; Phil Rosen, University of Arizona; Mark Sturm and Tim Tibbitts, OPCNM

AGENDA ITEM 18: Native aquatic vertebrate conservation in the Río Yaqui basin, Sonora, Chihuahua, and Arizona (ongoing binational project) (10 min)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Universidad de Sonora (UNISON), University of Arizona, Naturalia, Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD), Comisión de Ecología y Desarrollo Sustentable del Estado de **Sonora** (CEDES), USFWS (Arizona Ecological Services Office [AESO], New Mexico and Arizona Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices [NMFWCO and AZFWCO], San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge), Texas Natural Science Center-University of Texas at Austin, Chuck Minckley, Desert Fishes Council, Marsh & Associates, LLC., SEMARNAT, DGVS, CONANP, Institute of Aquaculture of Sonora

DESCRIPTION: We propose to re-survey sites in the Río Yaqui basin that were initially surveyed by Hendrickson et al. 1980 for Fishes of the Río Yaqui basin, Mexico and United States [Ariz.-Nev. Acad. Sci. 15(3):1-106]. They surveyed 90 sites in México, and compiled information for about 70 other sites from museums and the literature. Since their surveys in 1978, fish surveys in the basin have been limited to surveys for Mexican trouts by Truchas Mexicanas (Hendrickson et al. 2006), work on Yaqui catfish genetics (Varela Romero), the Río Tutuaca (Brooks and Varela Romero), and private lands conservation efforts on Cajon Bonito and Rancho San Bernardino (Minckley). Wallace et al. and USFWS personnel have done amphibian and chytrid fungus surveys on the Río Aros and other tributaries to the Río Yaqui,

including drainages on the Northern Jaguar Reserve, and Rorabaugh (AESO) has compiled all herpetological records from 26 museums for the Río Yaqui basin in Sonora. In 2007, Rorabaugh and others surveyed for gartersnakes at 12 sites in western Chihuahua, including several of Hendrickson's sites, and made notes on fishes and non-native species. Information would also be gathered on other native aquatic species of concern such as leopard frogs, Tarahumara frogs, salamanders, turtles, and gartersnakes. Limited work has been done on the non-fish native aquatic species.

Many changes have occurred in the Río Yaqui basin since the 1978 surveys. Human activities and their impacts to aquatic ecosystems and their native species have increased in the basin since 1978. Of special concern is the increase in non-native fish, since they almost always pose threats to native fish and other native aquatic species. The distributions of the non-native American bullfrog and crayfish are also of conservation interest. Updated information on the distribution and relative abundance of both native and non-native species will greatly assist with conservation efforts for native Río Yaqui species by understanding threats and mitigating them with local stakeholders.

BACKGROUND: Though a small percent of the Río Yaqui basin lies within the United States, the 6 to 8 fish species that occurred there contributed a substantial portion of the basin's fish fauna; five of those occurred nowhere else in the U.S. Currently, five of these occur in U.S., four of which are listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. The Río Yaqui basin has the largest drainage area in the state of Sonora. Thus, the species there contribute greatly to the aquatic diversity of the state.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: We seek the endorsement of the Trilateral Committee to continue and expand our efforts to survey and conserve the imperiled native aquatic vertebrates of the Río Yaqui basin.

SUBMITTED BY: Doug Duncan and Erin Fernandez, AESO-USFWS; Jim Brooks, NMFWCO USFWS; Alejandro Varela, UNISON; Jeff Sorensen, Native Fish Program Manager and Francisco Abarca, AGFD

AGENDA ITEM 19: Conservation and capacity building for the conservation of amphibians in Sonora, Sinaloa, and Chihuahua (ongoing binational project) (10 min)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: USFWS, Naturalia, SEMARNAT, CONANP (including Priority Species and Áreas Naturales Protegidas of Northwestern México), INE, CONABIO, Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD), Comisión de Ecología y Desarrollo Sustentable del Estado de **Sonora** (CEDES), Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro, The Phoenix Zoo, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Africam Safari Zoo, The Nature Conservancy, and Biodiversidad y Desarrollo Armónico.

DESCRIPTION: We propose to continue our efforts to build capacity for amphibian conservation in northwestern México. Specifically, we plan to continue to teach our workshop titled "Inventory, Monitoring, and Conservation of Amphibians of Northwestern México, with Emphasis in Sonora," at Naturalia's Rancho Los Fresnos in northeastern Sonora, México. The workshop is designed for biologists and managers from Areas Naturales Protegidas in Sonora, Sinaloa, and Chihuahua, CEDES, and Mexican NGOs, as well as Mexican university biology students. It includes theoretical and practical sessions on the following topics: Diversity, Distribution, and Habitats of Northwestern México Amphibians; Identification of Northwestern México Amphibians; Threats to Northwestern México Amphibians; Survey Methodologies; Field Protocols for Preventing Spread of Disease and Invasive Plants and Animals; Long-term

Amphibian Monitoring Strategies for Reserves and other managed areas; Conservation Tools and Methods; and Captive management, including husbandry, headstarting, and propagation. We will also continue our field-oriented Amphibian Survey and Monitoring Techniques Workshop at Naturalia's Northern Jaguar Reserve or other sites, such as state reserves or other important protected areas, in Sonora as determined in cooperation with project partners. This workshop instructs Mexican biologists in techniques for detecting, identifying, and monitoring amphibians. As follow-up to the workshops, we will continue to support implementation of amphibian monitoring in protected areas in Mexico by conducting site visits to assist reserve biologists develop monitoring programs and by providing some of the necessary basic monitoring equipment to reserve staff.

We also plan to continue to conduct amphibian inventories at various ranches and reserves in Sonora and Chihuahua to provide data to land managers to inform management and conservation decisions. During these inventories, we propose to document non-native predators (bullfrogs, fish, and crayfish) and to use non-invasive sampling techniques (by swabbing skin with cotton swab) to collect disease and skin microbe samples. Additionally, we propose to assess the status of the Chiricahua leopard frog (*Lithobates chiricahuensis*) and its primary threats in Sonora and Chihuahua to provide a baseline for conservation planning and actions, as well as conduct outreach and environmental education for local communities and ranchers about the imperiled status of the frog and the need to conserve the species and its habitat.

BACKGROUND: Fourteen of the 37 amphibian species that have been documented in Sonora are on México's list of species-at-risk; the Chiricahua leopard frog is on the U.S. endangered species list as well. A number of these species are thought to be declining; however, relatively little is known of their status in Sonora. To better understand their status, as well as to build capacity for amphibian conservation in Northwestern México, we have been conducting amphibian inventories for a number of years in Sonora to provide information to land managers, and for the last three years, we have taught an amphibian monitoring and conservation workshops. As described above, this year we will continue our amphibian survey and conservation capacity building efforts in Sonora, Sinaloa, and Chihuahua.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: We seek the endorsement of the Trilateral Committee to continue our efforts to monitor and conserve amphibians as well as build capacity for their conservation in Sonora, Sinaloa, Chihuahua.

SUBMITTED BY: Jim Rorabaugh and Erin Fernandez, Arizona Ecological Services Office, USFWS; Gerardo Carreón, Naturalia; Abigail King, Susan MacVean, Valerie Boyarski, Mike Sredl, and Thomas R. Jones, AGFD; Cristina Melendez, CEDES; Tara Sprankle, The Phoenix Zoo.

AGENDA ITEM 20: Binationa partnerships to recover and conserve listed and sensitive species of mutual concern in Sonora, Sinaloa, Chihuahua, and Arizona (Ongoing binational project) (15 min)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: USFWS (including Arizona Ecological Services Office, Sonoran Joint Venture, Arizona Fisheries Resources Office, Imperial National Wildlife Refuge, Cabeza Prieta NWR, Buenos Aires NWR, and San Bernardino NWR), SEMARNAT, DGVS, CONANP (including Priority Species, Reserva de la Biosfera del Pinacate y Gran Desierto de Altar, Reserva de la Biosfera del Alto Golfo de California y Delta del Río Colorado [RBAG], and El Bosque Nacional y Refugio de Vida Silvestre Los Ajos-Bavispe, Área de Protección de Flora y Fauna Sierra de Álamos-Río Cuchujaqui), INE, CONABIO, National Park Service-Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, U.S. Geological Survey, Arizona Game and

Fish Department, Comisión de Ecología y Desarrollo Sustentable del Estado de **Sonora**, University of Arizona, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Tecnológico de Monterrey, Universidad de Sonora, Naturalia, Africam Safari Zoo, The Phoenix Zoo, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Sky Island Alliance, Pronatura, Monte Sonorense, Biodiversidad y Desarrollo Armónico, Bat Conservation International, Sonoran Institute, La Ruta de Sonora Ecotourism Association, International Sonoran Desert Alliance, and the Center for the Study of Deserts and Oceans.

DESCRIPTION: We propose to continue working with our governmental and non-governmental partners at local, state, and Federal levels in México and the U.S. to conserve and recover listed and sensitive species of mutual concern and migratory birds throughout their ranges in Arizona, Sinaloa, Sonora, and Chihuahua.

Specifically, this year, we propose to:

- 1) Support the conservation efforts of land owners and managers in México by assisting with biological surveys on their ranches and reserves, as well as providing technical assistance on species conservation and recovery efforts, such as the reestablishment of species within their historical range;
- 2) Build capacity for conservation of the flat-tailed horned lizard through education, outreach, and collaborative development and implementation of a management plan in México for the species, in conjunction with a variety of State and Federal agencies in Arizona and California, Pronatura, and the RBAG;
- 3) Assist AGFD and other U.S. and Mexican partners conduct genetic studies on the pygmy-owl to inform conservation strategies for this species, as well as augment captive breeding and wild populations of pygmy-owls in the U.S. with owls from Mexico;
- 4) Support genetic research and status surveys for Mexican and narrow-headed gartersnakes; and
- 5) Support our partners in conducting Sonoran pronghorn monitoring and conservation in Sonora and Arizona, including holding a meeting with Mexican and U.S. partners to initiate the development of a comprehensive binational conservation plan for this species.
- 6) Work with Mexican partners and Arizona Game and Fish Department on recovery planning and implementation for the thick-billed parrot.
- 7) Work with Mexican partners to initiate captive breeding of masked bobwhite quail in Mexico
- 8) In addition to the aforementioned activities and those described in our other agenda items, we plan to work with our Mexican and U.S. partners on masked bobwhite, lesser long-nosed bat, black-tailed prairie dog, and Acuña cactus conservation and recovery efforts.

BACKGROUND: It is critical to work cooperatively with our Mexican and U.S. partners to conserve and recover the many listed and sensitive species that occur on both sides of the international border. These species include the Sonoran pronghorn, jaguar, ocelot, lesser-long nosed bat, black-tailed prairie dog, cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl, masked bobwhite, Mexican spotted owl, southwestern willow flycatcher, Yuma clapper rail, thick-billed parrot, Aplomado falcon, bald eagle, Sonoran tiger salamander, Chiricahua leopard frog, Tarahumara frog, lowland leopard frog, Sonoyta mud turtle, New Mexico ridge-nosed rattlesnake, Mexican gartersnake, narrow-headed gartersnake, flat-tailed horned lizard, desert tortoise, Quitobaquito pupfish, Río Yaqui fishes, Sonora chub, Gila chub, Gila topminnow, Acuña cactus, Canelo Hills Ladies'

Tresses, Tumamoc globeberry, Gentry indigo bush, Pima pineapple cactus, Cochise pincushion cactus, Nichol Turk's Head, Bartrom stonecrop, beardless cinchweed, and Huachuca water umbel. We have successfully been, and propose to continue, working with our Mexican and U.S. partners to monitor and conserve these species.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: The Arizona Ecological Services Office, USFWS, seeks the endorsement of the Trilateral Committee to continue working with our governmental and non-governmental partners at local, state, and Federal levels in México and the U.S. to conserve and recover listed and sensitive species of mutual concern and migratory birds throughout their ranges in Arizona, Sonora, Sinaloa, and Chihuahua.

SUBMITTED BY: Erin Fernandez, Cat Crawford, Doug Duncan, Julie Crawford, and Scott Richardson, Arizona Ecological Services Office, USFWS

AGENDA ITEM 21: Conservation and capacity building for the conservation of bats in northwestern Mexico. (*ongoing binational project*) (15 min)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: USFWS, Bat Conservation International, Naturalia, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Comisión de Ecología y Desarrollo Sustentable del Estado de Sonora (CEDES), Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro, University of Arizona, The Phoenix Zoo, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum (ASDM), CONANP (including Priority Species and Áreas Naturales Protegidas of Northwestern México), DGVS, INE, CONABIO.

DESCRIPTION: We propose to continue our efforts to build capacity for bat conservation in northwestern Mexico. Specifically, we will continue to teach bat monitoring and conservation workshops and conduct bat inventories at Naturalia's Los Fresnos Reserve and Northern Jaguar Reserve or other site, such as a State Reserve or other important protected area, and in Sonora. Additionally, we will continue to conduct site visits to Federal Reserves in northwestern Mexico to assist reserve staff establish bat monitoring protocols. The week-long field training, held for the last three years at the Northern Jaguar Reserve, is designed to train Mexican Reserve managers and biologists as well as local University students in bat identification and inventory techniques. The week-long workshop at Los Fresnos, designed for biologists and managers from Áreas Naturales Protegidas in northwestern Mexico, CEDES, Mexican NGOs, as well as biology students from the Universidad de Sonora and Centro de Estudios Superiores Del Estado de Sonora, includes both theoretical and practical sessions on a variety of topics, including natural history, distribution and identification of appropriate bat species, threats (including the emerging threat of white-nose syndrome and the need for monitoring and precautions), survey and monitoring techniques, and specific management tools and practices. In addition to building capacity for bat conservation in northwestern México, the workshop will also provide networking opportunities to Sonoran, Sinaloan, and Chihuahuan organizations to increase collaborations and viability of monitoring and other projects. As follow-up to the workshops, we will continue to support implementation of bat monitoring in protected areas in Mexico by conducting site visits to assist reserve biologists develop monitoring programs and by providing some of the necessary basic monitoring equipment to reserve staff.

We also plan to continue our bat conservation work in Ajos Bavispe and Alamos, Sonora with CONANP and PRONATURA.

BACKGROUND: Bats, many species of which are considered to be at-risk, are an integral part of ecosystems throughout the world and provide significant ecological services, such as pollination and seed dispersion. Maintaining their presence is critical to the health and function

of these systems; however, information on the distribution and status of many bats in northwestern México remains scarce with some exceptions. For example, the lesser long-nosed bat (*Leptonycteris curasoae yerbabuena*), listed as threatened by Mexico and endangered by the U.S., has been the subject of long-term monitoring and conservation in Sonora. To add to this and other bat survey and conservation efforts in northwestern Mexico, for the last five years, we have provided training to Mexican Reserve managers and biologists as well as University students in bat monitoring and conservation techniques and have conducted bat inventories at protected areas in Sonora to facilitate the conservation of bats in the region. As described above, this year we plan to continue our bat conservation capacity building efforts in northwestern Mexico, including conducting workshops and site visits to protected areas.

Our work in Alamos has included inventory and monitoring projects (Alamos area), protection of a *Leptonycteris curasoae yerbabuena* maternity colony (La Aduana), training of local biologists and reserve managers (CONANP and RRONATURA), and the presentation of educational talks and demonstrations to educators and schools (Alamos and surrounding area). We have provided educators with education and natural history material and biologists the equipment necessary for the fieldwork. We have discussed vampire bat issues and the current eradication programs with the local Cattle Rancher's Association.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: We seek the endorsement of the Trilateral Committee to continue and expand our efforts to monitor and conserve bats as well as to build capacity for their conservation in northwestern Mexico.

SUBMITTED BY: Scott Richardson, Erin Fernandez, and Jim Rorabaugh, Arizona Ecological Services Office, USFWS; Christa Weise, Bat Conservation International; Gerardo Carreón, Naturalia; Tim Snow, AGFD; Rodrigo Medellín, UNAM; and Karen Krebs, ASDM

AGENDA ITEM 22: Border Governors Conference Wildlife Table Update (15 min)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Arizona Game and Fish Department, California Department of Fish and Game, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Baja California Secretariat of Environmental Protection, Chihuahua Secretariat of Urban Development and Ecology, Coahuila Secretariat of Urban Development and Ecology, Parks and Wildlife of Nuevo León, Sonora Secretariat of Agriculture, Tamaulipas Wildlife Commission, Dirección General de Vida Silvestre-SEMARNAT and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

DESCRIPTION: This is a strategic and integrated update of the U.S.-Mexico Border Governors Conference (BGC) Wildlife Table to report on wildlife restoration, capacity building and related projects implemented among the 10 border states, which are located in the 3 U.S.-Mexico Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCC). In addition, the presentation will seek input from attendees on the 3 priority areas that the BGC Wildlife Table is considering for the September 2012- August 2013 cycle: (1) capacity building, (2) wildlife conservation education, and (3) cross border ecological corridors. Although the specifics of this discussion relate to the U.S. and Mexico, all 3 Trilateral countries will benefit from the discussions as the topics of capacity building, information exchange, and bi-national cooperation are relevant to all.

BACKGROUND: USFWS Landscape Conservation Cooperatives have been discussed during the last two Trilateral Committee meetings as geographic units for collaboration and partnerships. The U.S.-Mexico Border Governors Conference (BGC) is comprised of the 10 governors of the border states; the Wildlife Table is comprised of the wildlife directors those border states. The 10 border states are associated, at least in part, with 3 U.S.-Mexico Landscape

Conservation Cooperatives. Since its inception more than 25 years ago, the BGC has enhanced bi-national cooperation in the aforementioned areas. The Wildlife Table was established in 2004 as the decentralization process of wildlife management functions began in Mexico. Other BGC working tables include: Agriculture, Border Crossings, Economic Development, Energy, and Environment.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: The BGC Wildlife Table requests continuing support by the Trilateral Committee to use this forum for information exchange and intergovernmental coordination.

SUBMITTED BY: María Araujo, Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.

AGENDA ITEM 23: Update on Countries' Program for Endangered Species Conservation (30 min)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Oscar Ramírez, Lizardo Cruz CONANP, DGVS, INE,

DESCRIPTION: Update on PROCER and relevant actions executed during the year in the frame of the PACE's (Species Conservation Action Plans) of species at risk in North America (Vaquita, Sea Turtles, Mexican Wolf, Jaguar, Pronghorn, Bison, etc).

BACKGROUND: Since 2007, President Felipe Calderon announced the five Commitments for Conservation for this federal administration (2006-2012), one of which is the PROCER (Species at Risk Conservation Program); the PROCER works through the PACE, the Action Plans for recovery species at risk. The PROCER and the PACEs are coordinated by CONANP with the collaboration of all the stakeholders. In these years CONANP had finished the elaboration of some PACE and implemented actions with species of regional interest, including Mexican Wolf, Jaguar, Marine Turtles, Vaquita, and others. CONANP is also interested and is participating in regional collaborative efforts with other species (Black bear, California Condor, Prairie Dogs, etc).

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: To inform about the PROCER, update about PACE implemented and to establish specific cooperation actions within the Action Plans of these species, as well as to work within federal and state agencies, when applicable.

SUBMITTED BY: Oscar Ramírez & Lizardo Cruz (CONANP)

(3:45 – 4 pm) BREAK

(4 – 5 pm) Room: Kiva C

AGENDA ITEM 24: Invasive Alien Species List to prohibit its import and entry to Mexico. (30 min)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: CONABIO, CONANP, INE, SGPA

DESCRIPTION: The List of invasive alien species is currently being developed in order to establish mechanisms to prohibit its import and entry to Mexico.

BACKGROUND: On April 6th 2010 the amendments to articles 80 and 85 of the General Law of Ecological Equilibrium and Environmental Protection and articles 3o, fr. XVII, 27 Bis y 27 Bis 1 of the General Law of Wildlife were published. These amendments establish that the Environmental Secretariat must publish a listing of invasive species subject to regulation and establish agreements to prevent the entry of such species and manage those that are already established in the country.

In order to comply with these legal dispositions, CONABIO, CONANP and INE organized a two day workshop in May 2011 with a group of 50 academic experts with different areas of expertise and from all around the country. The objective of the workshop was to develop a pre-screening

procedure and a set of criteria to evaluate exotic species and determine those that should be included in the official listing of invasive species subject to regulation. This pre-screening procedure was obtained after reviewing several methods used around the world and developing a version that could be used in Mexico.

During the workshop five groups of experts were formed according to the different taxonomic groups to be evaluated. CONABIO had a list of 1290 potentially invasive species which was used as the basis to begin the analysis, several additional lists were also received from the workshop participants and each group was sent a list of species that they were to evaluate. The groups are currently meeting separately and analyzing their list of species according to the criteria that the experts agreed on using for the evaluation. Once the results of each group are available another workshop will be organized in order to discuss the outcome and if necessary, refine the methodology. For the invasive species that pose the highest risk, detailed Risk analyses will be carried out to reinforce the results obtained during the prescreening.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:

- Report to the Trilateral Committee advances in the publication of the list of invasive conservation species and the implications of its publication.
- Establish mechanisms of cooperation between the agencies involved in North America for the implementation of measures coordinated on region level.

SUBMITTED BY: INE, CONABIO & CONANP

Wednesday, May 16th

9:00-10:00 am: Thematic Session: “Climate Change, Vulnerability Assessments & Adaptation Management Efforts” (*Room: Canyon Patio*)

10:00-11:00 am: Tribal Leaders Information Sharing Panel – Climate Change (*Room: Canyon Patio*)

(11-11:45 am) Room: Kiva C

AGENDA ITEM 25: Managing the Effects of Climate Change on Wild Pollinators (45 min)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Jonathan Mawdsley, Ph.D the Heinz Center

DESCRIPTION: Animal pollinators are responsible for pollinating up to 90% of the world’s flowering plant species. Global climate change threatens to decouple the balance between plants and their insect pollinators. This in turn may affect the food sources of many other wild fauna. This presentation reports on lessons learned from field studies in South Africa related to the effects of climate change on plants and pollinators, recommendations for park and natural area managers, and methods for monitoring the effects of climate change on plant-pollinator interactions.

BACKGROUND: The Pollinator Conservation Project is a ten-year study which includes extensive field studies as well as meetings and workshops on pollinators and climate change in five South African national parks. Partners in this Project include The Heinz Center, key national parks, museum, research institute, and university in South Africa; The Smithsonian Institution, U.S. universities, and the Missouri Botanical Garden.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Seek the encouragement of the Trilateral committee for attention to be given to native pollinators in adaptation studies generated by Trilateral participants.

SUBMITTED BY: Antoinette Condo, U.S. Dept of State

(11:45 am – 12 pm) BREAK

(12 – 1 pm) Room: Kiva C

AGENDA ITEM 26: Southern Wings Program (30 min)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Deborah Hahn

DESCRIPTION: Southern Wings Program – The objective of the Program is to provide a mechanism to support and facilitate State Fish and Wildlife Agency participation in conservation projects that support the conservation of shared migratory bird species in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Program is a cross-cutting tri-national issue that contributes to the Landscape and Seascape Conservation Including Connectivity and Area Based Conservation Partnerships priority.

BACKGROUND: The Program started in 2009. Since 2009 they have contributed to project the Colorado River Delta, Saltillo grasslands in Mexico, Yucatan Peninsula, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, and Colombia. Twenty-five states have participated.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Inform the Committee about the Program and consider how to increase participation by Mexican and Canadian partners for the conservation of shared migratory bird species.

SUBMITTED BY: Deborah Hahn, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

AGENDA ITEM 27: Efforts to promote seabird conservation and restoration in Mexico (30 min)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:

Annie Little

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DESCRIPTION: The Montrose and Luckenbach Trustee Councils and the Government of Mexico will announce in late 2011 a \$4 million dollar award to a U.S-Mexico partnership to implement a comprehensive five-year program focused on restoring seabird populations on seven islands off the Pacific coast of Mexico. Improvement of nesting grounds in Mexico will create more stable and viable populations of seabirds in California and the Mexican States of Baja California and Baja California Sur.

BACKGROUND: With funding from the Montrose and Luckenbach Trustee Councils, a partnership comprised of the National Audubon Society, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Grupo de Ecología y Conservación de Islas (GECI), and the Mexican Fund for the Conservation of Nature will implement the seabird restoration program. This partnership will strengthen an ongoing successful conservation program conducted by GECI on these islands over the past 15 years. The Trustee Councils are comprised of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Park Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), California State Lands Commission, and California Department of Parks and Recreation.

The partnership will begin work in January 2012 on Coronado, Todos Santos, Martín, San Jeronimo, Natividad, Asunción, and San Roque Islands, targeting seabird species such as the California Brown Pelican, Cassin's Auklet, Ashy Storm-Petrel, and Xantus's Murrelet. These populations face threats from non-native species; nest and burrow destruction in high use areas; and disturbances from lights and other man-made structures.

Restoration projects will use decoys to increase social interactions and construct artificial nests to improve nesting opportunities. The partners will also conduct habitat restoration, reduce human disturbance and artificial light, and support environmental education in surrounding communities.

The target islands are located in the northwestern portion of Mexico, off of the Pacific coast of Baja California and Baja California Sur. These islands support a diverse group of breeding seabirds and are known for high levels of biological diversity. Seventeen species of seabirds breed on the islands, ten of which also breed on the California Channel Islands in the U.S. Most of the seabird colonies in Mexico form part of a larger population that breeds, forages, and disperses into California.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Purpose of this agenda item is to update the Trilateral Committee on efforts to promote seabird conservation and restoration in Mexico.

SUBMITTED BY: Annie Little, USFWS Region 8 Ecological Services, Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office

(1 – 2 pm) LUNCH

(2 -3:45 pm) Room: Kiva C

2-2:30 pm: Recap of key points from the presentations to date to include in Final Report to the Executive Table (all Table participants)

2:30-3:34 pm: SCCT Co-chairs meet to prepare final report

Thursday, May 17th

(9-10 am) Room: Kiva A

AGENDA ITEM 28: *(Joint Session with Ecosystems Table)* **North American Marine Protected Areas Network - Synthesizing Science and Engaging the Public on Impacts of Climate Change on Marine Biodiversity**

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:

Mary Rothfels, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada

Doug Yurick, Parks Canada, Canada

Vladimir Pliego, CONANP, Mexico

Jerry Schubel, Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers (US, Canada and Mexico)

Karen Richardson, Commission for Environmental Cooperation

DESCRIPTION: NAMPAN – the North American Marine Protected Areas Network – seeks to brief the Trilateral on its two current projects as well as seek input on future directions for new projects. One current project concerns community-based education and the role of North American marine protected areas in sustaining healthy oceans and coastal communities. The other is a synthesis of scientific information on how climate change is impacting the ranges and distributions of marine species. Both components will support the design and management of marine protected areas (MPAs) and MPA networks in North America. As well, NAMPAN partners are thinking ahead and will solicit ideas for more ambitious CEC marine biodiversity projects for the future.

BACKGROUND: Over the past decade, Canada, Mexico and the United States have worked together to establish a North American Marine Protected Areas Network (NAMPAN). This international network of MPAs, which extends along both coasts of North America, helps connect and protect ecologically and economically important areas by sharing effective conservation approaches across similar sites and by collaborating to address common issues and challenges (see www.cec.org/nampan).

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Feedback from Trilateral participants on next steps and potential future project areas for NAMPAN and CEC on marine biodiversity protection.

SUBMITTED BY: Lauren Wenzel, NOAA Marine Protected Areas Center; 301-563-1136; Lauren.wenzel@noaa.gov