

WORK TABLE: CITES

Co-Chairs

- Canada – Basile van Havre, Director of Population Conservation, Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS)
- Mexico – Laura Gomez, Directora de Aprovechamiento de la Vida Silvestre, SEMARNAT
- United States – Rosemarie Gnam, Chief, Division of Scientific Authority, US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

This year's agenda was developed based on the following criteria identified in the 2013-2014 Action Items Report. Special consideration was given to wildlife trafficking.

Executive Table Priorities 2014-2017

- Climate change with a focus on adaptation
- Landscape and seascape conservation, including connectivity and area-based conservation partnerships
- Wildlife trafficking
- Monarch Butterfly Conservation (New)

Working table priorities for 2015-2016

1. Improving regional cooperation on CITES implementation
2. Follow-up on intersessional work from CITES Committee meetings and the Conference of the Parties
3. Wildlife trafficking (seek a session with the Law Enforcement Table to discuss wildlife trafficking)

Monday, April 13, 2015

Room: TBD

7:00-9:00am Breakfast

8:00-9:00am Registration

9:00am-1:00pm (10:00-10:15am Break)

AGENDA ITEM 1: Welcome, Introductions, and Adoption of the Agenda; 2014-15 Action Item Report; and Country Updates

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Co-chairs – Basile van Havre (CWS), Laura Gomez (SEMARNAT), Rosemarie Gnam (FWS).

DESCRIPTION: Welcome and introductions of working table participants, and approve and adopt the agenda and working program.

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

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Approval of any changes to the agenda; adopt the agenda and working program; identify issues and challenges in accomplishing action items.

SUBMITTED BY: Co-chairs

AGENDA ITEM 2 (Priority 1.1): Strengthening conservation and sustainable production of selected CITES Appendix-II species in North America

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: CA, MX, US

DESCRIPTION:

BACKGROUND: Canada, Mexico (leading the effort), and the United States are working on a regional project on “Strengthening conservation and sustainable production of selected CITES Appendix II species in North America.” This project has been submitted to the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) for funding.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:

SUBMITTED BY: MX/US

AGENDA ITEM 3 (Priority 2.x): Evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade (AC/PC)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: CA, MX, US

DESCRIPTION: There will be a Second Meeting of Advisory Working Group on the Evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade. The dates for the meeting are April 27 – May 1, 2015, to be hosted by the US Fish and Wildlife Service at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. Carolina Caceres and Rosemarie Gnam are the North American Working Group Members to this Advisory Group and Carolina co-chairs the Working Group with Noel McGough.

BACKGROUND: The Conference of the Parties instructed the CITES Animals and Plants Committees to oversee an evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade. You can find full details of the current status of this evaluation on the CITES website at: (<http://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/ac-pc/ac27-pc21/E-AC27-PC21-12-01.pdf>)

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: CA, MX, and US to provide input for consideration at the Advisory Group Meeting.

SUBMITTED BY: CA

AGENDA ITEM 4 (Priority 2.x): Periodic Review (AC/PC)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: CA, MX, US

DESCRIPTION: The Periodic Review working group has shared views of the structure and approach to this process, based on lessons learned. The working group has currently been tasked with more specifically considering possible revisions to the Resolution and providing input by March 31. The Region could consider the input provided and provide further comments or advice.

BACKGROUND: A working group on the Periodic Review was struck by the Animals and Plants Committee and is jointly chaired by Hesiquio Benitez and Carolina Caceres.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Opportunity to share views on the progress thus far within this working group and provide regional views.

SUBMITTED BY: CA

1:00-2:15pm Lunch

2:15-5:00pm (3:45-4:00pm Break)

AGENDA ITEM 5 (Priority 2.x): Annotations (SC)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: CA, MX, US

DESCRIPTION: Update on the status of the work. Discussion of work program (based on the working group terms of reference) and how to accomplish the highest priority issues by CoP17.

BACKGROUND: At CoP16, the Parties adopted several Decisions related to Annotations, including Decision 16.162, which directs the Standing Committee to establish a working group on annotations. The working group was not officially formed until SC65 and is now working to prepare documents for SC66 and CoP17.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Development for strategy/timeline for work to be accomplished by SC66 and CoP17.

SUBMITTED BY: CA

AGENDA ITEM 6 (Priority 1.3): Regional conservation strategy for Atlantic sturgeon

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: CA, MX, US

DESCRIPTION: Atlantic sturgeon distribution is trans-boundary between Canada and the United States (US). Under Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP14) range States need to provide mutually agreed-to meat and caviar quotas, based on a total catch quota, to the CITES Secretariat. Furthermore, all range States must cooperate in the development of a Regional Conservation Strategy and Monitoring/Enforcement Regime upon which those quotas are based.

BACKGROUND: Canada and the US are working on the Regional Conservation Strategy for Atlantic sturgeon. US indicated to Canada that further work is needed to fully understand the effect of the Saint John River fishery on US origin fish.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Update on the status and discussion on possible timelines and next steps.

SUBMITTED BY: CA

AGENDA ITEM 7 (Priority 2.x): e-Permitting

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: CA, MX, US

DESCRIPTION: Since CoP12, the Parties have been discussing e-Permitting since CoP12 (2002). While there has been some progress, there are currently more questions than answers. This agenda item is intended provide an opportunity for the Region to discuss what has happened with e-Permitting and the direction each country is likely to take on this issue.

BACKGROUND: The Parties have been discussing e-Permits since CoP12 (2002), and a number of Decisions have been adopted over the years that call on the Secretariat and the Standing Committee to identify avenues for addressing this issue. Two versions of the E-Permits Toolkit have been developed, primarily to address the technical aspects and computer language needs for establishing e-Permit systems that can communicate between Parties.

However, very little has been discussed about the logistics of establishing e-Permitting systems and how the Parties will utilize such systems. Questions about validation of permits, use of e-Permits for re-exports, and data security have not been discussed. While the technical aspects of developing an e-Permit system are relatively straightforward, the cost and utilization of such a system may well be more than many Parties can handle. To further complicate the discussion,

President Obama signed an Executive Order mandating that all US Federal agencies adopt a “one window” Customs system within the next 2 years. In accordance with this Order, the US Management Authority will work to establish such a system in the coming years.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: All three countries are represented on the Standing Committee Working Group on e-Permitting. We would like to begin discussions on what requirements each country has with regard to accepting e-Permits and how to implement such changes in the coming years.

SUBMITTED BY: US

AGENDA ITEM 8 (Priority 1.4): Implementation of CITES timber species listings

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: CA, MX, US

DESCRIPTION: Discussion of challenges encountered in implementing the new tree listings and ways to address those challenges as well as support from the North American region that can be provided to ensure full and meaningful implementation of the recent listings.

BACKGROUND: A number of tree species have recently been included in the CITES Appendices, in Appendices II and III. These species occur in several of the CITES regions and are subject to different challenges.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Improved regional understanding of challenges in implementing the new tree listings, and discussion of ways to address those challenges within the North American region.

SUBMITTED BY: CA

AGENDA ITEM 9 (Priority 1.2): Implementation of recent CITES marine species listings

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: CA, MX, US

DESCRIPTION: Discussion of efforts by the CA, MX, and US to implement the recent listings of five shark species and the manta ray in Appendix II. These discussions will focus on the making of non-detriment findings, legal acquisition and establishing a chain of custody, available identification techniques for sharks, outreach efforts to the fisher and trader community in the North American region, and permit processing within the region.

BACKGROUND: At CoP16, Parties listed several commercially-harvested shark species in Appendix II for the first time: oceanic whitetip shark, three species of hammerhead sharks (scalloped, great, and smooth), and porbeagle shark. Also listed in Appendix II was the manta ray. These listings became effective in September 2014.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Collaboration among the CA, MX, and US to effectively address the challenges associated with the implementation of these marine species listings.

SUBMITTED BY: US

5:00pm **Adjourn**

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Room: TBD

7:00-9:00am **Breakfast**

8:00-8:45am **Registration**

9:00-10:30am **Welcome Ceremony; remarks by delegation leaders**

1:00-2:15pm **Lunch**

2:15-5:30pm (3:45-4:00pm Break)

AGENDA ITEM 10 (Priority 2.x): Relationship between CITES and UNEP (SC)

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: CA, MX, US

DESCRIPTION: Update on the current status of these discussions and development of a regional approach.

BACKGROUND: The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) provides administrative support to the Convention by providing the Secretariat and by maintaining the CITES Trust Fund. There is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between UNEP and the CITES Standing Committee (SC), signed by the Executive Director (ED) of UNEP and the SC Chair. The MOU was most recently updated and signed in August (by the SC Chair) and September (by ED-UNEP) 2011.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: To share information available and regional views regarding the progress of these discussions.

SUBMITTED BY: CA

AGENDA ITEM 11 (Priority 2.x): Look alike listings

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: CA, MX, US

DESCRIPTION: Continued discussion of look-alike species during listing, de-listing, and review activities.

BACKGROUND: At the CITES North American Region in December 2010 (Montreal), one of the action items was to continue to explore avenues for clarifying the use of lookalike species in CITES and to discuss regionally.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Decisions and necessary follow-up regarding development of look-alike guidance/recommendations for CITES.

SUBMITTED BY: CA

AGENDA ITEM 12 (Priority 2.x): Consideration of projected decline in application of CITES listing criteria

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: CA, MX, US

DESCRIPTION: Canada will present the results of work on applying projected declines in the CITES listing criteria, for information and discussion among the three countries.

BACKGROUND: Canada contracted TRAFFIC to prepare a background document on interpretation of CITES listing criteria included in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP16) regarding projected decline in application of the CITES listing criteria. Interpretation of the criteria was a source of debate between Canada and the United States during CoP16.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Discussion and sharing of ideas for using the criteria when projecting decline.

SUBMITTED BY: CA

AGENDA ITEM 13 (Priority 2.x): CoP17 species issues

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: CA, MX, US

DESCRIPTION: Discussion of possible species proposals to submit for consideration at CoP17, and determination of regional priorities, collaboration, and approach.

BACKGROUND: On June 27, 2014, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published a notice in the *Federal Register* inviting the public to provide information and recommendations on animal and plant species that should be considered as candidates for US proposals to amend Appendices I and II at CoP17, which is tentatively scheduled for September 2016. In response to this

Federal Register notice, FWS received several recommendations for species that the United States should consider for the transfer, addition, or removal from the CITES Appendices. Canada and Mexico may also be in a similar planning/preparatory process for CoP17 and therefore, discussions are warranted.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Sharing species information/expertise and development for collaboration/timeline for work on species of interest to all three countries to be accomplished for CoP17.

SUBMITTED BY: US

AGENDA ITEM 14 (Priority 1.6): Capacity building

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: CA, MX, US

DESCRIPTION: Discussion of capacity building materials that are already available and what additional tools are needed within the region.

BACKGROUND: Development of capacity-building materials is an ongoing action item for the region. Our focus is on educational outreach concerning illegal wildlife trade in the region.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: A better understanding of educational outreach activities within each country and development of shared educational outreach products as necessary.

SUBMITTED BY: US

5:30pm **Adjourn**

Wednesday, April 15, 2015

Room: TBD

7:00-9:00am	Breakfast
9:00-11:00am	Plenary session: Monarch Butterfly Conservation in North America
11:00am-12:00pm	Pre-field visit program
12:00-1:15pm	Lunch
1:45-6:00pm	Field visit – San Diego National Wildlife Refuges

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Room: TBD

7:00-9:00am **Breakfast**

9:00am-1:00pm (11:00-11:15am Break)

AGENDA ITEM 15 (Priority 3.1): US Executive Order on Combating Wildlife Trafficking and other wildlife trafficking initiatives within the region

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: CA, MX, US

DESCRIPTION: Discussion of the current status of implementation of the US National Strategy, overlap with regional efforts, and areas for collaboration.

BACKGROUND: On July 1, 2013, President Obama issued an Executive Order on Combating Wildlife Trafficking. The Executive Order directs Executive Departments and agencies to take appropriate action within their authority, including the promulgation of rules and regulations and the provision of technical and financial assistance, to combat wildlife trafficking with the aim of assisting foreign governments with anti-wildlife trafficking activities, promoting and encouraging foreign governments to develop effective laws to prohibit the illegal taking of, and trade in, these species and to prosecute those who engage in wildlife trafficking, combating wildlife trafficking in the United States, and reducing demand for illegally traded wildlife, both in the United States and abroad.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:

SUBMITTED BY: MX/US

AGENDA ITEM 16 (Priority 4): Other issues

4.1. Canada

4.2. Mexico

4.3 United States

1:00pm **Adjourn**