

**Working Table: Ecosystem Conservation**

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**Co-Chairs:**

- **Alaine Camfield**, Manager, Priority Places Initiative, Canadian Wildlife Service / Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), Canada.
- **José Ernesto Carmona Gómez**, Director de Conservación de los Ecosistemas y Adaptación al Cambio Climático, Ecosistemas, Instituto Nacional de Ecología y Cambio Climático (INECC), México.
- **Debbie DeVore**, Chief, Division of Natural Resources, National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), United States.

**Facilitator:**

- **Mexico: Isabel Selene Benítez Avila**, Directora de Conservación de Ecosistemas y Adaptación al Cambio Climático, INECC, ([isabel.benitez@inecc.gob.mx](mailto:isabel.benitez@inecc.gob.mx)/ (55) 54246400 Ext. 13364).
- **United States: Xiomara Labiosa**, Division of Natural Resources, FWS NWRS, ([xiomara\\_labiosa@fws.gov](mailto:xiomara_labiosa@fws.gov) /571-329-7813).

**Venue and Meeting Location:**

- Hilton San Diego Mission Valley Hotel, 901 Camino Del Rio S, San Diego, California 92108

**Trilateral Committee Priorities for 2021-2024**

- Climate Change (Connectivity)
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Human Dimensions
- Technology Innovation for Conservation
- Zoonotic Diseases

**ECWT Priorities for 2024**

- Coordination for Ecosystem Conservation
- Grassland Conservation
- Landscape Conservation and Climate Change
- Pollinator Conservation
- Equity and Diversity in Conservation

**MONDAY, April 29, 2024**

<b>9:00 – 10:15am PT</b>	<p><b>Opening Remarks and Introductions – Dr. Daphne Carlson</b>, Division of International Conservation Manager, US Fish and Wildlife Service</p> <p><b>Welcome Blessing – Ana Gloria (Martha) Rodriguez</b>, Cross Border Partnership Advisor, Climate Science Alliance</p> <p><b>Plenary Session Theme</b> – “Safeguarding Our Biodiversity: Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLC) Wisdom, Environmental Justice, and Ecosystem Defense”</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> <b>Canada – Paulette M. Fox</b>, MSc. Environmental Science; President, Harmony Walkers Inc. <b>Mexico – Mtro. Marcos Shilón Gómez</b> – Director of Dialogue with Indigenous Peoples of Mexico Ministry of the Interior</p>
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28th Meeting of the Canada/Mexico/United States  
 Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management  
 April 29 – May 02, 2024

	<b>United States - Will Madrigal, Jr.</b> – Tribal Capacities and Partnerships Program Manager, Climate Science Alliance
<b>10:15 – 10:45am PT</b>	Panel Discussion: IPLC on Biodiversity Conservation – Guest Speakers and Panelists
<b>10:45 – 11:00am PT</b>	<i>Break</i>
<b>11:00 – 11:45 am PT</b>	Q&A with Guest Speakers and Panelists: Environmental Justice & Ecosystem Defense
<b>11:45 – 12:15pm PT</b>	Call to Action and Closing Remarks
<b>12:15 – 12:30pm PT</b>	Networking and Follow-up
<b>12:30pm PT</b>	Plenary Session Concludes

**Tuesday, April 30, 2024**

<b>9:00 – 10:15am PT</b>	<p><b>AGENDA ITEM 1:</b> Welcome, Introductions, Adoption of the Agenda, 2023-2024 Action Item Report (AIR) and Country Updates</p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS:</b> Co-chairs – José Ernesto Carmona Gómez (INECC), Alaine Camfield (ECCC), Debbie DeVore (FWS).</p> <p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b> Welcome and introductions of new and returning participants to the working table. Provide an orientation to the table’s business for the week and each country co-chair will present a short country report with relevant information to the Ecosystem Conservation Working Table (ECWT), including any expectations for the week’s proceedings. Report on major accomplishments or challenges from the AIR and any outstanding actions from the previous meeting.</p> <p><b>BACKGROUND:</b> Standard agenda item to present and underline relevant events that have occurred in each of the three countries and build consensus that ensures full participation. The AIR is used to record decisions and monitor progress. Working tables review the previous year’s AIR at the beginning of each annual meeting.</p> <p><b>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adoption of the agenda.</li> <li>• Monitor progress on action items and agreements.</li> <li>• Identify issues and challenges in accomplishing action items.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>10:15 – 10:30am PT</b></p>	<p><i>Break</i></p>
<p><b>10:30 – 11:30am PT</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Theme: Trilateral Coordination for Ecosystem Conservation</u></b></p> <p><b><u>AGENDA ITEM 2:</u></b> Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) Ecosystems Conservation Work Updates</p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS:</b> <b>Lucie Robidoux</b> and Antoine Asselin-Nguyen (CEC), and numerous others, including from organizations in Canada: Environment and Climate Change, Agriculture and Agri-Food, Fisheries and Oceans, Infrastructure, National Research Council, Natural Resources, Parks; in Mexico: Semarnat (Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources), Conabio (National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity), CONANP (National Commission of Natural Protected Areas), Conapesca (National Aquaculture and Fisheries Commission), INECC (National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change), Profepa (Attorney General for Environmental Protection); and in the United States: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.</p> <p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b> This session will provide an overview of recently completed, ongoing and upcoming collaborative work, including updates on CEC efforts on Grasslands and Migratory Bird conservation, Marine Protected Areas, Marine Litter and Ghost Gear reduction, and Nature-based Solutions, highlighting aspects of the work focussed on integrating Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility (JEDIA). Newly developed material and tools will be introduced, along with overarching CEC approaches and tools relevant to conservation.</p> <p><b>BACKGROUND:</b> The CEC seeds, builds and supports North American collaboration for the conservation and management of terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems and wildlife, by developing and implementing trinational collaborative projects with government, local communities, non-governmental organizations, and researchers. The Trilateral Committee meetings provide an invaluable space for the CEC to be informed of recent and upcoming national conservation priorities, efforts, and products, share information about its efforts, and identify potential synergies.</p> <p><b>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exchange information to create connections between CEC Ecosystems work, Trilateral objectives, and ecosystem conservation in the three countries.</li> <li>• Disseminate products and discuss ways to share them with partners.</li> <li>• Discuss opportunities for future trinational collaboration.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>AGENDA ITEM 3:</u></b> Committee of the North American Intergovernmental Committee on Cooperation for Protected Areas (NAPA) work update</p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS &amp; CONTACTS:</b> <b>Cynthia Martinez</b>, Chief, National Wildlife Refuge System, USFWS (Presenter); Gilles Seutin, Chief Ecosystems Scientist, Parks Canada; Jose Feliciano González Jiménez, General Director for Institutional Strengthening and International Affairs, Mexico’s National Commission of Natural Protected Areas, CONANP; Adam Hanson, NAPA Facilitator, WILD Foundation</p>

**DESCRIPTION:** An update on NAPA activities over the past year and plans for 2024. The Executive Committee of the North American Intergovernmental Committee on Cooperation for Protected Areas (NAPA) signed an updated Memorandum of Understanding in November 2023 outlining a framework for continued cooperation and coordination among the United States, Canada and Mexico to guide collaborative management, sustainable and responsible use, protection, conservation, and presentation of protected areas across our shared continent. Learn more at [www.napacommittee.org](http://www.napacommittee.org)

**BACKGROUND:** The North American Committee on Cooperation for Protected Areas Conservation (NAPA) includes the six largest North American land and resource management agencies: Canada—Parks Canada Agency (PCA); Mexico—Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP); United States—Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service (USFS); Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the National Park Service (NPS). The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is an official partner. Through the NAPA collaboration, participating organizations exchange ideas, experiences, best practices, and innovative solutions to enhance stewardship of North America’s conservation lands.

The NAPA member agencies recognize that protected areas play a critical role in conserving biodiversity and supporting human health and well-being. They provide recreation, education, and research opportunities and support the economy by providing resource benefits, ecosystem services, tourist destinations, and ecological resilience.

**REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** Share information between the NAPA and the Trilateral ECWT—two distinct bodies both interested in trinational collaboration for ecosystem conservation in North America.

**AGENDA ITEM 4:** Trilateral Island Initiative: Conservation and Restoration of the Islands of Canada, the United States, and Mexico

**COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** **Annie Little (NPS)**, Gilles Seutin (Parks Canada), Federico Méndez Sánchez (Conservación de Islas), Gregg Howald (Advanced Conservation Strategies), Patty Baiao (Island Conservation), Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Nick Holmes (The Nature Conservancy), Eric VanderWerf (Pacific Rim Conservation), Lindsay Young (Pacific Rim Conservation)

**DESCRIPTION:** This agenda item focuses on a collaborative trilateral effort to conserve and restore marine island ecosystems, including seabird populations. Following the signing of the Letter of Intent (LOI) at the 2014 Trilateral Committee meeting, the three countries have been collaborating on multiple issues of shared interest related to island conservation. The Trilateral Island Working Group will update the Ecosystem Conservation Working Table on the status of current collaborative efforts, including ongoing projects, new priorities, and efforts to further the LOI. We will highlight island conservation efforts that in particular relate to the 2024 priorities. This year also represents the 10-year anniversary since the signing of the Letter of Intent.

**BACKGROUND:** Over the last decade, multiple bilateral and trilateral island restoration projects have been initiated. In order to further encourage coordination and collaboration on

	<p>island projects, a Trilateral Island Working Group was created in 2012. This group developed the LOI that was signed by the three countries at the 2014 Trilateral Meeting in Querétaro, Mexico. The LOI documents that the three countries intend to engage in cooperative bilateral and trilateral activities to promote sustainable environmental policies and practices in support of island conservation. The Working Group will discuss achievements, priorities, and updates of recent collaborative efforts related to island conservation.</p> <p><b>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</b> We seek continued endorsement by the Trilateral Committee of collaborative conservation efforts on islands in Canada, United States, and Mexico.</p>
<p><b>11:30 – 11:50am PT</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Theme: Landscape Conservation</i></b></p> <p><b>AGENDA ITEM 5:</b> Proyecto CONECTA, Conservación del paisaje por medio del aprovechamiento sostenible. (CONECTA Project, Landscape Conservation through Sustainable Use)</p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS:</b> <b>Diane Lope</b>, Ernesto Carmona (Instituto Nacional de Ecología y Cambio Climático (INECC))</p> <p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b> Amidst the ongoing challenge to face climate change while encouraging sustainable livelihoods, Mexican Government together with the Mexican Fund for Nature Conservation has implemented the project “Connecting Watershed Health with Sustainable Livestock and Agroforestry Production” (CONECTA, acronym in Spanish) co-sponsored by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) with the support of the World Bank. Grounded on a landscape approach, CONECTA targets watersheds vulnerable to climate change and affected by soil erosion with the objective to improve integrated landscape management and promote climate-smart production practices across the rural areas of in the states of Chiapas (South), Chihuahua (North), Jalisco (West), and Veracruz (East).</p> <p>Led by key national institutions, CONECTA provides an opportunity to coordinate efforts to address the dual challenge of food security in the context of climate change. The actions carried out are expected to promote productive environmental practices to increase the forest area under sustainable landscape management and improve livelihoods, water quality, and biodiversity; all developed with a gender perspective and differentiated attention to indigenous peoples and Afro-descendant populations. Last but not least, CONECTA promotes food production with low greenhouse gas emissions, which contributes to meeting the commitments made by Mexico as one of the signatories to the Paris Agreement while simultaneously helping to address the great challenge of food security.</p> <p><b>BACKGROUND:</b> CONECTA develops as part of the 7th reposition portfolio of the GEF Trust Fund. The five-year implementation of the project (2021-2026) is the responsibility of the National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change (INECC, acronym in Spanish), in charge of technical leadership, which forms CONECTA's Technical Committee, and FMCN, responsible for the fiduciary aspects. Three regional funds support the implementation: Gulf of Mexico Fund (Fondo Golfo de México, A.C.) in Veracruz; FONNOR, A.C. (the Northwestern Fund) in Jalisco; and El Triunfo Conservation Fund (Fondo de Conservación El Triunfo, A.C), in Chiapas. In addition, nine federal agencies participate in the project through the Coordinating Committee, which seeks to scale CONECTA's impact by aligning public and private investments.</p>

	<p><b>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development and promotion of integrated landscape management.</li> <li>• Strengthening business skills for sustainable livestock and agroforestry.</li> <li>• Conservation, restoration, and implementation of climate-smart production practices in livestock and agroforestry landscapes.</li> </ul>
<p><b>11:50 - 12:10pm PT</b></p>	<p><b>AGENDA ITEM 6:</b> Parks Canada’s National Program for Ecological Corridors</p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS:</b> <b>Felix Lorrain Landry</b>, Ecosystem Scientist Ecological Corridors, Protected Areas Establishment Branch, Parks Canada</p> <p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b> The presentation will provide an update on key program elements of Parks Canada’s National Program for Ecological Corridors, including criteria and recognition for corridors, mapping of national priority areas for corridors, support for on-the-ground efforts, and information about currently funded projects.</p> <p><b>BACKGROUND:</b> While protected and conserved areas play a crucial role in preserving essential ecosystem functions, habitats and species, it is understood that for ecosystems to be healthy and resilient, they must be connected. The creation of ecological corridors is a crucial – and growing – part of global conservation.</p> <p>Parks Canada’s National Program for Ecological Corridors was funded in 2021 as part of a suite of nature-based solutions to fight climate change and halt and reverse biodiversity loss. The Ecological Corridors Program focuses on strengthening the network of protected and conserved areas across the mid- to southern latitudes in Canada and catalyzing action in support of corridor initiatives. Ecological corridors contribute to several goals and targets under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and Canada’s National Adaptation Strategy.</p> <p>To advance the program, Parks Canada collaborated and engaged with many levels of government, Indigenous partners and organizations, experts, stakeholders and the public. After two years of engagement, research, learnings from pilot projects, and extensive analyses, several key program elements are ready to share with colleagues. Next steps of program implementation are expected in early 2024.</p> <p><b>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</b> Provide an update on work to-date and next steps on the Parks Canada National Program for Ecological Corridors; and seek feedback on opportunities for collaboration and learning with North American colleagues for this program.</p>
<p><b>12:10 - 12:30pm PT</b></p>	<p><b>AGENDA ITEM 7:</b> Regulations and Planning Policies Update for the National Wildlife Refuge System</p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS:</b> <b>Julie Henning</b>, Debbie DeVore (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)</p> <p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b> Many of the planning and natural resource regulations and policies guiding the National Wildlife Refuge System (Refuge System) were developed more than 20 years ago. Much has changed since then, and there is a need to consider climate change and other anthropogenic forces more explicitly and effectively in Refuge System management. This includes effects people have on the environment that cause and increase habitat loss and degradation, invasive species, nonnative disease, pollution, etc.</p>

	<p>Additionally, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is incorporating landscape planning and design into its policies to plan for the plausible future conditions of national wildlife refuges ensuring the Refuge System is resilient and can adapt to large-scale ecological transformation caused by climate change and other anthropogenic changes.</p> <p><b>BACKGROUND:</b> The National Wildlife Refuge System is the land base program within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, that encompasses 571 refuges and over 95 million acres of land in the United States. Refuge planning sets the broad vision for refuge management and determines goals, objectives, strategies and actions to ensure refuges are managed consistently with a refuge’s purposes; the National Wildlife Refuge System’s mission and goals; the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act, as amended; the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA, for Alaska refuges); and all other applicable laws and regulations.</p> <p><b>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and promote integrating landscape conservation into management actions.</li> <li>• Incorporate climate resiliency into priority species, habitats, and ecosystems.</li> </ul>
<p><b>12:30 – 2:00pm PT</b></p>	<p><i>Lunch</i></p>
<p><b>2:00 – 2:20pm PT</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Theme: Grasslands - Joint Session with the Migratory Bird Table</b></p> <p><b><u>AGENDA ITEM 8 (Mig Bird Table Item 7):</u></b> Understanding drivers of grassland change in Canada</p> <p><b>COLABORADORES y CONTACTOS:</b> <b>Ronnie Drever</b>, Senior Conservation Scientist, Nature United, Cedric MacLeod, Executive Director, Canadian Forage and Grassland Association, Carolyn Seburn, Manager of Priority Sectors Initiative, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) (carolyn.seburn@ec.gc.ca)</p> <p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b> Under the Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund, ECCC is funding foundational science to develop baselines and projections for the grassland ecosystem in Canada. Through partnerships with organizations such as Nature United and the Canadian Forage and Grassland Association, we are bringing together grassland experts to evaluate grassland inventories to identify historical baselines for grasslands and develop projections of grassland change, drawing from historical baseline data, along with socio-economic, behavioral and policy data. The intent is to improve the state of knowledge on natural climate solutions in Canada and identify where and how best to implement greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation activities to support Canada’s GHG emissions reduction target while gaining biodiversity benefits.</p> <p>Nature United and the Canadian Forage and Grassland Association will present on research and collaboration efforts to date and future work plans.</p> <p><b>BACKGROUND:</b> ECCC’s Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund (NSCSF) is a \$1.4 billion ten-year fund (2021-2030) to reduce 5-7 megatons of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions annually by reducing ecosystem conversion, improving management of natural areas and increasing restoration. Activities funded under NSCSF are expected to achieve co-benefits for biodiversity and human well-being. Targeted ecosystems include grasslands, wetlands, peatlands and forest.</p>

	<p><b>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awareness of grassland research and monitoring efforts in Canada</li> <li>• Identify potential to share information and learnings with partners in the US and Mexico, including through the Central Grasslands Roadmap</li> </ul>
<p><b>2:20 – 2:40pm PT</b></p>	<p><b><u>AGENDA ITEM 9 (Mig Bird Table Item 8):</u></b> Applying the Waterfowl Model to Conservation of Grassland Birds</p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS:</b> <b>Neal Niemuth</b>, USFWS Habitat and Population Evaluation Team; Kevin Barnes, USFWS Habitat and Population Evaluation Team; Heath Hagy, USFWS Habitat and Population Evaluation Team; Mike Estey, USFWS Habitat and Population Evaluation Team</p> <p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b> Species richness and abundance of both breeding waterfowl and breeding grassland birds are highest in the northern Great Plains, affording a unique opportunity to assess the response to conservation efforts by two bird groups with different population trajectories and levels of conservation delivery. Largest increases in populations of breeding waterfowl occurred in areas of the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture (PPJV) with high levels of waterfowl conservation delivery. Population trends for grassland birds in the PPJV were inconsistent, but changed dramatically when population trends were considered separately for dryland species and species associated with moist soils and wetland margins. Dryland species showed uniform declines across the PPJV, but grassland birds associated with moist soils and wetland margins showed substantial increases in the same geographies where duck populations increased.</p> <p>Additional analyses show that proportions of populations in the PPJV that are protected are highest for grassland bird species that use moist soils and wetland margins and that waterfowl conservation has benefitted millions of individuals of grassland birds. Our findings suggest that conservation of grassland birds across the continent would benefit from the same efforts that have benefitted waterfowl populations: high levels of focused, long-term conservation delivery that are guided by use of species-specific, population-based spatial models and decision-support tools that consider biological value, cost, risk of habitat loss, and intended treatments. For most breeding species, current monitoring, planning, and modeling efforts are sufficient to identify species and geographic areas in need of additional conservation delivery and to support targeted delivery of specific conservation treatments. The waterfowl conservation model provides extensive infrastructure, expertise, and experience that can greatly benefit conservation efforts for grassland birds, but improved communication and integration of efforts are necessary to improve outcomes for both species groups.</p> <p><b>BACKGROUND:</b> The 2019 “Billion Birds Report” demonstrated that population trends for North American bird groups 1970-2017 are bookended by grassland birds, which showed the greatest loss of individuals from ten breeding biome groups, and waterfowl/wetland birds, which were the only breeding biome group to show a population increase during the analysis period. Positive trends for waterfowl populations were attributed to management actions, leading multiple scientists and conservation leaders to advocate waterfowl management as a model for conservation of other species, particularly grassland birds.</p> <p><b>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</b></p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support proven strategies and tools that can guide conservation delivery for grassland birds.</li> <li>• Support the need to transition grassland bird conservation efforts from planning to delivery.</li> <li>• Identify people and organizations responsible for successful waterfowl conservation whose insights can benefit conservation of grassland birds.</li> <li>• Promote further communication and demonstration of proven concepts and tools to support conservation delivery for grassland birds.</li> <li>• Support development of conservation funding and delivery systems in areas of high risk, high biological value, and low levels of protection to benefit breeding grassland birds across North America.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2:40 – 3:00pm PT</b></p>	<p><b>AGENDA ITEM 10 (Mig Bird Table Item 9):</b> Improving Economic Valuations for Protection and Stewardship of Prairie Grasslands of Canada</p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS:</b> <b>Karl Zimmer</b>, Stewardship Unit, Prairie Region, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Office of the Chief Appraiser of Canada, Canadian Cattle Association, Alberta Beef Producers, Southern Alberta Land Trust, Alberta Conservation Association, Rural Municipality of Reno, Saskatchewan Stock Growers Foundation</p> <p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b> Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), alongside its partners, have been working to provide a greater suite of options that better represent the true economic costs related to both voluntary avoidance of habitat conversion and voluntary stewardship actions that support species at risk. This includes an exploration of novel economic valuation approaches that align better with land manager’s daily economic considerations and decision making. It is hoped this would enable enhanced economic incentives that increase cooperation and participation in land securement and management of private and public grasslands.</p> <p>Specifically, ECCC would like to share information related to several economic valuation approaches it is investigating under two new pilot programs. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• examining policy options that support short-term conservation easements that support increased payments for irreplaceable habitats under a sales approach appraisal framework;</li> <li>• exploring alternative land appraisal techniques including 1) the income approach to determine easement value based on the potential income a piece of property could generate if not restricted; 2) the cost approach where lands are valued based on the expected cost it would take to replace habitat to its current condition if it was lost to conversion; and</li> <li>• Testing land stewardship reimbursements to high performing land managers based on established municipal land tax mill rates and rangeland community descriptions.</li> </ul> <p><b>BACKGROUND:</b> Federal data sources indicate Canada is losing on average 1% of native grasslands annually to conversion to more intensive land uses like annual cropping. Native grasslands are now identified as the most endangered ecosystem in North America which is implicated in the severe declines of many grassland species including several already listed as “threatened” or “endangered” under the <i>Species at Risk Act</i> in Canada.</p> <p>Perpetual conservation easements have been successful in other parts of the country to reduce the threat of land conversion, but there has been very low uptake of these traditional</p>

	<p>conservation easements by landowners in the grasslands ecoregion of Canada. ECCC research suggests one reason for this is current valuation methods, generally using the sales comparison approach, are perceived by landowners to undervalue the impact easement restrictions have on either current or future economic opportunities. Likewise, landowners are hesitant to accept permanent restrictions over concerns the restrictions will impede them or subsequent owners from accessing economic opportunities that may be required to sustain their operations.</p> <p>Additionally, stewardship and management of these lands are resulting in public benefits that are often coming at a cost to the private land managers. ECCC, alongside its partners, have been working to provide a greater suite of options that better represent the true economic costs related to voluntary avoidance of habitat conversion. This also includes development of tools with greater flexibility in order to increase the uptake of conservation easements while also supporting strong stewardship of habitat to accelerate long term protection and management of privately and publicly owned grasslands.</p> <p><b>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharing of alternative models for incentivizing species at risk and grassland conservation</li> <li>• Seeking shared alignment with other jurisdictions to improve access to non-government funding sources</li> <li>• Learn from other jurisdictions regarding their success and failures of similar programs.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3:00 – 3:20pm PT</b></p>	<p><b><u>AGENDA ITEM 11 (Mig Bird Table Item 10):</u></b> A conservation investment strategy for grassland-dominated habitats of the binational Tamaulipan Brushlands ecoregion.</p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS &amp; CONTACTS:</b> <b>Jesús Franco</b>, Rebekah Rylander, Karen Chapman, Rio Grande Joint Venture / American Bird Conservancy; Carlos Barriga, Pronatura Noreste.</p> <p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b> In the Tamaulipan Brushlands ecoregion native grasslands are more and more uncommon. Most of this habitat is a mosaic of non-native grasses, woody plants and native grasses. The grasslands, as well as properly managed prairies on working lands, of this ecoregion are a critical wintering habitat for migratory grassland birds including Long-billed Curlew, Sprague’s Pipet, Buff-breasted Sandpiper and Mountain Plover. A coalition of U.S. partners (state, federal, NGO, academics, and private landowners) have joined forces with Mexican partners (NGO, state government, and private landowners) on the development of a conservation investment strategy - an overarching, landscape-level initiative that can be used by regional partners to help guide their grassland management efforts and investment in south Texas and northeast Mexico. This strategy will allow partners improve their ability to prioritize, implement, and evaluate grassland habitat conservation actions in this ecoregion.</p> <p><b>BACKGROUND:</b> Linking the U.S. and Mexico across the Rio Grande this ecoregion is one of the most biologically diverse regions in North America. It is mostly flat to gently rolling with higher hills and cliffs along the Rio Grande and is covered mostly with a dense growth of low to medium thorny trees and brush. In some areas live oak woodlands are interspersed with grasslands and brushlands. Impacts of humans have been severe on these habitats effectively reducing the quality, quantity, and connectivity of grassland and grassland-dominated habitats of the ecoregion, key resources for migratory bird species as well as for other grassland dependent wildlife.</p>

	<p><b>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</b> Inform the Committee about this binational initiative, consider how to increase participation by Mexican partners for the conservation of shared ecoregion and migratory bird species, and discuss potential additional collaboration opportunities. More specifically: 1) commitment from the two countries to elevate grasslands of this ecoregion as a binational priority and signing of an MOU to formally recognize this shared priority, and 2) when the Strategy is complete, endorsement and dedication of staff and resources to achieve measures of success.</p>
<p><b>3:20 – 3:35pm PT</b></p>	<p><i>Break</i></p>
<p><b>3:35 – 3:55pm PT</b></p>	<p><b><u>AGENDA ITEM 12 (Mig Bird Table Item 11):</u></b> The JV8 Business Plan to Recover North America’s Central Grasslands</p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS &amp; CONTACTS:</b> <b>Jennie Duberstein</b>, Sonoran Joint Venture, Andy Bishop, Rainwater Basin Joint Venture, Mike Carter, Playa Lakes Joint Venture, Karen Chapman, Rio Grande Joint Venture, Ali Duval, JV8 Manager, Jim Giocomo, American Bird Conservancy, Lauri Hanauska-Brown, Prairie Pothole Joint Venture, Robert Perez, Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture, Jeff Raasch, Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept., Barry Robinson, Prairie Habitat Joint Venture, Catherine Wightman, Northern Great Plains Joint Venture (cwightman@ducks.org)</p> <p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b> The <a href="#">JV8 Central Grasslands Conservation Initiative</a> (JV8) is one of multiple efforts in the Central Grasslands working to address the loss of grassland habitat, wildlife species, and the impacts to communities and economies, to maintain this iconic biome. The <i>JV8 Business Plan to Recover North America’s Central Grasslands: Strategies, Funding, and Partnerships Needed to Save One of the World’s Most Endangered Ecosystems</i> is a bold and ambitious blueprint that supports and scales up grassland habitat collaboration. This collaboration includes the <a href="#">Central Grasslands Roadmap</a>, the biome-wide effort that is bringing together eight sectors with a shared vision, common principles, and collaborative priorities for the many people and organizations living and working on the Central Grasslands.</p> <p>The purpose of the business plan is to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Orient and enhance wide-ranging and diverse JV partnerships across multiple nations to address grassland habitat and migratory bird loss.</li> <li>2. Identify conservation outcomes, geographic focus, and implementation strategies to address cropland conversion and woody shrub encroachment.</li> <li>3. Communicate the costs and funding required to scale up effective conservation of the Central Grasslands through an iterative process of learning and adaptation.</li> </ol> <p><b>BACKGROUND:</b> The JV8 vision is that the grasslands from Canada to Mexico support stable, thriving, and diverse communities of birds, other wildlife, and people into the future. Our mission is to engage and expand <a href="#">Migratory Bird Joint Venture</a> (JV) partnerships across North America for the stewardship of native grassland ecosystems.</p> <p>JV8’s role is to support stewards and stakeholders working across the Central Grasslands to deliver proactive, voluntary grassland habitat conservation using western science and Indigenous knowledge. JV8 focuses on supporting and strengthening local and regional partnerships to stem grassland habitat loss and negative impacts to migratory birds.</p>

	<p><b>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss potential sources of financial and institutional support across Canada, the U.S.A., and Mexico for Business Plan implementation and for scaling up successful grassland conservation efforts among Joint Venture partners and beyond.</li> <li>• Continued support by the parties of the Trilateral Committee and Work Groups for collaborative conservation efforts for the central grasslands of North America.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3:55 – 5:00pm PT</b></p>	<p><b><u>AGENDA ITEM 13 (Mig Bird Table Item 12):</u></b> How to support the recommendations made in the Grasslands Conservation Letter of Intent</p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS &amp; CONTACTS:</b> <b>Katie Nuessly</b>, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Adam Hanson, WILD Foundation, Alaine Camfield, Canadian Wildlife Service, Arvind Panjabi, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, Christian Artuso, Canadian Wildlife Service David Borre Gonzàlez, Programa Mèxico, USDA Forest Service, Debbie DeVore, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Jo Anna Lutmerding, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Kristin Madden, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Irene Ruvalcaba Ortega, Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, Maggie Hanna, Central Grasslands Roadmap Margaret Francis, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Paulette Fox, President of Harmony Walkers Inc., Rob Doster, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Tammy VerCauteren, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, Valencia Richardson, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Vicente Rodríguez, Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad Xiomara Labiosa, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</p> <p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b> Provide recommendations on how to support the recommendations made in the Grasslands Conservation Letter of Intent. Discuss opportunities to support the communities and the partnerships doing grassland conservation work.</p> <p><b>BACKGROUND:</b> After the Trilateral Committee Grasslands Conservation Letter of Intent was signed, a team of grassland conservation professionals was gathered to find and detail ways to support the recommendations outlined by the letter. The Grasslands LOI Implementation Team met over the past six months and have compiled a list of actions that support the communities and partnerships engaging in grassland conservation.</p> <p><b>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share recommendations with co-chairs and other Trilateral meeting participants.</li> </ul>

**WEDNESDAY, May 1, 2024**

<p><b>9:00 – 9:20am PT</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Theme: “Seeds” of Success to Ensure Ecosystem Conservation</b></p> <p><b><u>AGENDA ITEM 14:</u></b> Restoring Endemic Life in the Heart of Mother Earth by Nigigua Children</p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS:</b> <b>Isabel Enríquez González Saravia</b>, Semarnat-CECADESU, Mtra. Sandra Montero Beristain, Directora del Preescolar Indígena Netzahualcoyotl, en el estado de Puebla.</p>
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**DESCRIPTION:** On April 26, 2021, the Secretariats of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) and Public Education (SEP) signed an agreement to promote environmental education programs in public schools for elementary, middle, and high school students. On September 14, 2022, SEMARNAT and SEP made a call to public schools throughout the country to participate on the Schools with an Environmental Trajectory Program. The objective of this program is to recognize and strengthen communities that have carried out or currently carry out actions in any of the following categories: agroecological systems and food sovereignty; environmental education; healthy eating and biocultural food heritage; territory and community; common goods; responsible consumption of water and energy; and solid waste management. The call focused on public schools that serve minority groups such as Indigenous and Afro-Mexican communities as well as underrepresented rural communities and marginalized urban areas primarily located in municipalities with a higher climate vulnerability.

The Netzahualcoyotl Indigenous Preschool won first place with the project title “Los niños ngigua restaurando la vida endémica en el corazón de la madre tierra”. For this project, the students collected, growth, and planted endemic seeds in the semi-arid ecosystem of San Marcos Tlacoyalco. The experience contributed to the students comprehensive learning and teach them about inclusivity and environmental justice.

**BACKGROUND:** The Netzahualcoyotl Indigenous Preschool is located within the Biosphere Reserve of Tehuacán – Cuicatlán which is a rural semi-arid Natural Protected Area. There are 156 students (74 men and 82 women) all are 95% bilingual in Ngigua language and Spanish. In 2017, we started a project called “*El Tlachiado de San Marcos Tlacoyalco*” in which the elders teach the youngest members of the community about the medicinal use of plants like the *pulque* and the ecological importance of other plants like the *maguey*. As a result, a second project called “*Conservemos los diferentes magueys de San Marcos Thlacoyalco*” was started.

In August 2018, we had our first collection of endemic seeds to start our seed bank. We successfully collected seeds from *jacaranda*, *cacti*, *maguey*, *pulquero*, among others. Unfortunately, there was fire at the San Juan Sacabasco hill in 2019 and we decided to donate the first batch of the seeds that germinated from our project to help the *Comisariado Ejidal de San Marcos* with the restoration. In August 2021, we had our first planting of endemic pollinator-friendly plants and students also started collecting seeds during the fall semester.

On April 22, 2021, the auxiliary President of San Marcos Tlacoyalco designated a restoration and conservation area for the students to work on, and on June 10, 2022, we had our second planting of endemic pollinator-friendly plants.

**REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:**

- Awareness
- Promote conservation, protection of endemic species
- Support diversity and inclusion

**\*\*Spanish version\*\***

**PUNTO 14 DEL ORDEN DEL DIA:** Los niños ngigua restaurando la vida endémica en el corazón de la madre tierra

**COLABORADORES Y CONTACTOS:** Isabel Enríquez González Saravia, Semarnat-CECADESU, Mtra. Sandra Montero Beristain, Directora del Preescolar Indígena Netzahualcoyotl, en el estado de Puebla.

**DESCRIPCIÓN:** En el marco del convenio de colaboración entre las Secretarías de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (Semarnat) y de Educación Pública (SEP), firmado el 26 de abril de 2021, se han impulsado programas de educación ambiental en instituciones educativas de nivel básico, media superior y superior. El 14 de septiembre de 2022 la Semarnat y la SEP invitaron a las escuelas públicas de todo el país a participar en la convocatoria Escuelas con Trayectoria Ambiental. El objetivo de ese programa es reconocer y fortalecer a comunidades educativas que hayan realizado y/o realicen acciones en alguna de las siguientes materias: Sistemas Agroecológicos y Soberanía Alimentaria; Educación Popular Ambiental; Alimentación Saludable y Patrimonio Biocultural Alimentario; Territorio y Comunidad; Bienes Comunes, Agua y Energía; y Consumo Responsable, Gestión y Manejo de Residuos Sólidos. La convocatoria se centró en escuelas públicas, prioritariamente las ubicadas en municipios considerados con vulnerabilidad climática y que atienden a población indígena, afromexicana, de comunidades rurales o marginadas de áreas urbanas.

La escuela Preescolar Indígena Netzahualcoyotl ganó primer lugar con su proyecto “Los niños ngingua restaurando la vida endémica en el corazón de la madre tierra” por contribuir en la recolección y siembra de semillas endémicas, así como su cuidado y trasplante en los cerros y terrenos temporales de San Marcos Tlacoyalco, ecosistema semiárido con el objetivo de aportar al aprendizaje y formación integral de la comunidad educativa y la comunidad en general inculcando así la inclusión y justicia ambiental.

**CONTEXTO:** El preescolar se encuentra dentro de la ANP-Reserva de la Biosfera Tehuacán – Cuicatlán, zona semiárida y rural. La matrícula escolar es de 156 aprendientes 74 hombres y 82 mujeres de los cuales todos son bilingües en un 95% de la lengua ngingua (popoloca) y español. En el 2017 se inicia trabajando el proyecto el “El Tlachicado de San Marcos Tlacoyalco” en consecuencia los abuelitos y sabios del comunidad despertaron el interés de los niños al descubrir datos interesantes como el uso medicinal del pulque además de explicarles la función que cumple el maguey y se aborda el segunda proyecto denominado “Conservemos los diferentes magueyes de San Marcos Tlacoyalco”

Y en agosto del 2018 se inicia con la primera recolecta de semillas endémicas de: cazahuate, cactus (biznaga ganchuda, biznaga de piñita, asiento de suegra) tronador, tepemezquite, jarilla, maguey de mescal, pulquero, cucharilla cardón, teteche, jacaranda, zotolin en los diferentes cerros y ramales para crear nuestro primer banco de semillas y en consecuencia se siembra, germinan y cuidar nuestras plantas endémicas. Hubo un incendio forestal se decidió donar en Julio de 2019 se dona la primera producción al Comisariado Ejidal de San Marcos Tlacoyalco para la reforestación del cerro de San Juan Sacabasco. En agosto del 2021 se toman las semillas endémicas del “banco de semillas 2018” y se inicia la siembra y cuidado de plantas endémicas en un modelo híbrido y al mismo tiempo se inicia la colecta durante el ciclo escolar. Y se inicia la siembra de las plantas endémicas polinizadoras.

El 22 de abril 2021, Día mundial de la Madre Tierra les asignan un área del cerro por parte del presidente auxiliar de San Marcos Tlacoyalco para su restauración y conservación y el día 10 de junio, Día mundial del Medio Ambiente se siembran la producción que ya

	<p>alcanzo su crecimiento para trasplantarla en su habitat así como las plantas endémicas polinizadoras.</p> <p><b>RESULTADOS ESPECÍFICOS SOLICITADOS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recolecta de semillas endémicas, siembra, germinación y cuidado para su crecimiento y trasplante para la reforestación (principalmente en zonas erosionadas) y conservación desde un enfoque cultural Ngigua.</li> <li>• Creación de un banco de semillas endémicas y nativas de ecosistemas semiáridos de importancia biocultural (medicinales y alimenticias).</li> <li>• Participación de alumnas, alumnos, maestras, madres y padres de familia, así como la comunidad.</li> </ul>
<p><b>9:20 – 9:40am PT</b></p>	<p><b>AGENDA ITEM 15:</b> Update on Canadian National Native Seed Strategy Framework, and Next Steps</p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS:</b> <b>Holly Bickerton</b>, Species at Risk Biologist, Canadian Wildlife Service, Jordan Becker, Habitat Ecologist, Canadian Wildlife Service</p> <p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b> We will provide an update on the National Native Seed Strategy Framework for Canada, which has been led by the Canadian Wildlife Federation, a non-profit, together with a collaborative of native seed and plant experts nationwide. We will present key findings and recommendations from this report, as well as next steps and opportunities for international collaboration.</p> <p><b>BACKGROUND:</b> Several strategic conservation commitments of the Government of Canada center on habitat restoration, including commitments to multiple targets within the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the Bonn Challenge, and the IUCN International Decade on Restoration. At the same time Canada, like other countries, faces a critical shortage of native seeds necessary to undertake restoration of degraded lands. The Canadian Wildlife Federation has completed the framework as advice to government, to inform a National Native Seed Strategy to increase seed supply both sustainably and ethically. We will present the results of this work and identify key next steps.</p> <p><b>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</b> Identify areas for cross border collaboration in advancing mutual seed supply available for restoration. Discuss the challenges that others face in sourcing native seed for restoration, and their experience in identifying solutions, e.g. shifting procurement policies to reflect the longer timeframes for restoration projects.</p>
<p><b>9:40 - 10:00am PT</b></p>	<p><b>AGENDA ITEM 16:</b> National Seed Strategy for Rehabilitation and Restoration</p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS &amp; CONTACTS:</b> <b>Tom Brumbelow</b>, Dave Walker, Patricia De Angelis, Kara Dziwulski, Elizabeth Krone, Kelly Thomas, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</p> <p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b> The National Seed Strategy outlines a collaborative, science-based effort to increase the native plant supply for ecological restoration across America, supports climate change adaptation, builds ecosystem resilience, and helps to sustain the long-term health and prosperity of future generations.</p> <p>This session will include an update on implementation of the National Seed Strategy within the Department of the Interior, discussion of the relevance of native plant materials to ecosystem conservation, climate-change adaptation, and nature-based solutions.</p>

	<p><b>BACKGROUND:</b> The National Seed Strategy was developed in 2015 by the federal agencies of the Plant Conservation Alliance (PCA), with nonfederal collaborators, as a national coordinated approach to increase native seed availability for stabilization, rehabilitation, and restoration treatments on public and private lands impacted by natural disaster, invasive species, and habitat loss.</p> <p>With the support of funds from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Department of the Interior, including the US Fish and Wildlife Service, is developing and investing in projects to collect and produce native seed for conservation and restoration. Challenges remain as natural disasters and ongoing development lead to loss of native plant populations with unique genetic diversity and adaptive capacity, and as climatic envelopes shift.</p> <p><b>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</b> A desired outcome following presentations and discussions for this agenda item would be an improved understanding of the challenges each nation faces in supplying native plant material for restoration, unique strategies to address those challenges, and opportunities to cooperate where ecoregions span our borders.</p>
<p><b>10:00 – 10:15am PT</b></p>	<p><b>Open discussion and Q&amp;A</b></p>
<p><b>10:15 – 10:30am PT</b></p>	<p><i>Break</i></p>
<p><b>10:30 – 10:45am PT</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Theme: Climate Change</b></p> <p><b>AGENDA ITEM 17:</b> Parks Canada’s Blue Carbon Atlas: an evidence-based approach to quantifying salt marsh and eelgrass carbon in Parks Canada-administered places</p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS:</b> <b>Marlow Pellatt</b>, Parks Canada – Lead blue carbon science</p> <p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b> Tidal salt marshes and eelgrass meadows are two types of blue carbon ecosystems that are of great interest due to their potential effectiveness as carbon sinks. Understanding carbon flux and sequestration in blue carbon ecosystems is critical when assessing their role in climate change mitigation. Carbon stocks are also important to understand because they represent the level of permanency of carbon in the system but are a liability if they are at risk of mobilization.</p> <p>Blue carbon stocks and sequestration rates in northern latitude coastal regions are being shown to be considerably lower than in many tropical and sub-tropical systems, but there is still a tendency within the blue carbon research and conservation community to overestimate values in Canada. Parks Canada is taking an evidence-based approach to quantify blue carbon by mapping and quantifying carbon stocks, carbon accumulation rates, and greenhouse gas fluxes in salt marsh and eelgrass ecosystems on the Pacific, Atlantic, and Hudson Bay coasts. This empirical, field-based approach to estimate coastal carbon dynamics is critical for government decision making and sound scientific information for the people of Canada.</p> <p><b>BACKGROUND:</b> Parks Canada has been the Government of Canada working group representative for the Commission for Environmental Cooperation Blue Carbon Working Group and the Marine Protected Area Resilience Working Group. The interaction of North American experts in these working groups has enhanced the Government of Canada’s</p>



	<p>approach to understanding blue carbon dynamics. CEC meetings on blue carbon have been held in Canada, Mexico, and the United States of America. A trinational meeting on blue carbon is in development for late-spring 2024 in Vancouver, BC.</p> <p>CEC support toward blue carbon science has assisted in the development of several reports related to blue carbon ecosystem mapping, quantification, conservation, and management. There have been three thesis and three scientific publications related to blue carbon (including Pacific Rim National Park Reserve), and the <a href="#">North American Blue Carbon Map (2021)</a> as part of the CEC Environmental Atlas.</p> <p><b>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</b> Provide an update on work to-date and next steps on Parks Canada’s Blue Carbon Atlas; and seek feedback on opportunities for collaboration and learning with North American colleagues for this work.</p>
<p><b>10:45 – 11:00am PT</b></p>	<p><b>AGENDA ITEM 18:</b> Overview of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Climate Change Action Program</p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS:</b> <b>John Schmerfeld</b>, Sara Ward, Jason Goldberg, US Fish and Wildlife Service</p> <p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b> Climate change is a threat multiplier affecting everything we see on the landscape. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will provide an overview of the Climate Change Action Program, or CCAP, which is a unified approach to climate change across all USFWS programs and regions. It provides a foundation for the USFWS’ climate response and helps us prioritize strategies to maximize adaptation, resiliency, and mitigation potential.</p> <p><b>BACKGROUND:</b> CCAP is helping the USFWS accomplish success such as developing improved technical tools for staff to more effectively to ecosystem transformation, and more fully integrating climate change into employee training. Our efforts have yielded such accomplishments as the Resist-Accept-Direct Framework (RAD), a neutral approach to helping managers address ecological transformation. We are also working on policies to help the USFWS better address conservation introductions that may be needed to support species that are unable to move on their own to avoid climate change, and guidance to address what happens to sequestered carbon generated through activities with USFWS partners.</p> <p><b>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information sharing on tools and resources for climate change response.</li> <li>• Increase partnerships and collaborations.</li> <li>• Awareness</li> </ul>
<p><b>11:00 – 11:15am PT</b></p>	<p><b>AGENDA ITEM 19:</b> Climate change adaptation processes in Oaxaca, Mexico</p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS &amp; CONTACTS:</b> <b>Tzinnia Carranza López</b>, Espacio de Encuentro de las Culturas Originarias, A.C. (EECO)</p> <p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b> The presentation highlights the main results, activities and lessons learned from one project that was implemented from December 2021 to June 2023 in five highly vulnerable municipalities to climate change in the State of Oaxaca, Mexico, emphasizing participatory, gender, intercultural, intersectionality, and human rights approaches</p>

	<p><b>BACKGROUND:</b> The project was designed and led technically by the National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change (INECC), and implemented by Espacio de Encuentro de las Culturas Originarias, A.C. (EECO), a local NGO, and financed by the French Development Agency (AFD).</p> <p><b>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</b> Exchange of experiences of good practices among the countries and how the elements are taken up in the design of politics and actions for adaptation to climate change.</p>
<p><b>11:15 – 11:30am PT</b></p>	<p><b>AGENDA ITEM 20:</b> Incorporation of Nature-based Solutions practice into agency operations</p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS &amp; CONTACTS:</b> <b>John Schmerfeld</b>, Sara Ward, Lyric Buxton, Matthias Benko, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</p> <p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b> Presidential Executive Order <i>Strengthening the Nation's Forests, Communities, and Local Economies</i> (EO 14072) and White House report, <i>Opportunities to Accelerate Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) for Climate Progress, Ecosystems, Equity, &amp; Prosperity</i> (Whitehouse NBS Roadmap) outline the importance and urgency for the incorporation of NBS practice into normal agency operations. NBS are actions to protect, sustainably manage, or restore natural or modified ecosystems to address societal challenges.</p> <p><b>BACKGROUND:</b> NBS simultaneously provide benefits for people and the environment such as increased carbon storage, improved ecosystem and community resilience, and enhanced protection of assets. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s expansive responsibilities position the agency to lead on deployment of NBS nationally and internationally. We are poised to build on its demonstrated success in delivering resiliency and adaptation (Hurricane Sandy, Gulf Restoration) and mitigation (natural climate solutions on National Wildlife Refuges) projects and science tools (ecosystem carbon flux visualization tools) through NBS.</p> <p>The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service wants to work alongside and learn from Indigenous knowledge holders to enhance and restore nature. Expanded partnerships with Native peoples can improve ecosystem resiliency while promoting leadership, economic opportunity, community health, and food security.</p> <p><b>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information sharing</li> <li>• Awareness</li> <li>• Expand partnerships</li> </ul>
<p><b>11:30 – 12:30pm PT</b></p>	<p><b>Climate Change Open Discussion</b></p>
<p><b>12:30 – 2:00pm PT</b></p>	<p><i>Lunch</i></p>
<p><b>2:00 – 2:20pm PT</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Theme: Decision Support Tools</b></p> <p><b>AGENDA ITEM 21:</b> National Atlas of Climate Change Vulnerability</p>

	<p><b>COLLABORATORS &amp; CONTACTS:</b> <b>Diana Lope</b>, Ernesto Carmona, Luis Martinez, Yusif Nava, Instituto Nacional de Ecología y Cambio Climático</p> <p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b> The National Atlas of Climate Change Vulnerability is a visual, geographic instrument to assess potential vulnerability across the country. Guided by the methodology proposed by Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change vulnerability, is approached as a function of the character, magnitude and speed of climate variation to which a system is exposed, its sensitivity and its adaptive capacity (IPCC, 2007): <math>V=E+S-CA</math> where E (exposure) refers to climate threats affecting the vulnerable object (current and future), S (sensitivity) refers to susceptible conditions of the vulnerable object, and AC (adaptive capacity) is about the existing institutional capacities to address impacts potentials of climate change.</p> <p>Grounded on the concept of ‘attribution’, the tool consists of offering systematized information and a series of maps that show the current and projected territorial vulnerability of the Mexican Republic to the impacts of climate change, based on historical data and future scenarios. The tool targets the following vulnerabilities: 1) of human settlements due to floods; 2) of human settlements due to landslides; 3) of the population due to potential increment on the distribution of the dengue mosquito; 4) of livestock production due to floods and hydric stress; 5) of fodder production due to hydric stress. Since the Atlas focuses on analyzing specific problems related to climate, allowing to measure differential vulnerability according to current climatic conditions and projected climatic scenarios, it has been used for decision-making across sectors</p> <p><b>BACKGROUND:</b> In accordance with the Mexican General Law on Climate Change, and the cross-sectorial Especial Program on Climate Change, the National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change (INECC) is the Government agency in charge of this Atlas, a tool useful for the identification of adaptation concerned actions. In this way, the Atlas contributes to the countries compliance with the strategies and lines of action present in both, the National Determined Contributions (NDC) and the National Climate Change Strategy (ENCC).</p> <p><b>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment of differentiated vulnerability/ies according to both current climatic conditions and projected climatic scenarios.</li> <li>• Contributing to decision and policymaking across sectors, among other:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Agriculture and fishery.</li> <li>○ Welfare programs.</li> <li>○ Disaster prevention.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• A tool used for across analysis for environmental laws compliance, as in the case of:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Environmental impact manifestations (EIM)</li> <li>○ Land use change petitions</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In the formulation of specific recommendations that aim to strength public policy concerned with adaptation to climate change.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2:20 – 2:40pm PT</b></p>	<p><b>AGENDA ITEM 22:</b> Beneficial management practices for ecosystem carbon in protected and conserved areas</p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS:</b> <b>Karen Richardson</b>, Marlow Pellat, Adam Collingwood, Alison Cassidy, Gilles Seutin,</p>

	<p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b> What are beneficial management practices to maintain or enhance ecosystem carbon sequestration and storage in Canada’s protected and conserved areas (PCAs), while also considering co-benefits (e.g., nature-based solutions for adaptation, biodiversity conservation, cultural values) and caveats for potential negative consequences (e.g., afforestation, landscape homogenization/biodiversity loss)? Parks Canada will present preliminary results from a review of literature on carbon management in forested ecosystems.</p> <p>This work follows a systematic approach to screen relevant recommendations for interventions to maintain or enhance ecosystem carbon within protected and conserved areas, including actions related to active management, conservation, and restoration. This literature search was supplemented with a review of grey literature, focused primarily on North America. We will provide an overview of the methodology for this work and our preliminary results, which aim to synthesize key recommendations for interventions, while identifying relevant case studies and gaps in the literature.</p> <p><b>BACKGROUND:</b> Ecosystems have a crucial role as nature-based climate solutions for mitigation through the sequestration and storage of carbon. While recent research has focused on estimating the distribution and dynamics of carbon over space and time, much less is known about the role of management in enhancing carbon sequestration and storage in different types of ecosystems. To address these gaps, Parks Canada is building a Carbon Atlas Series to assess and map carbon stocks and dynamics in major ecosystems across Canada’s national parks. Parks Canada recently completed a report on forest carbon stocks and emissions in 31 parks from 1990-2020, and are working on generating estimates for peatlands, grasslands, and blue carbon ecosystems.</p> <p>In addition to describing the distribution of carbon in our parks, there is a clear need for accessible and synthesized guidance to inform active management practices for enhancing and conserving ecosystem carbon across multiple ecosystem types. Our objective is to provide evidence-informed recommendations for effectively managing carbon within the protected areas we steward on behalf of current and future generations of Canadians.</p> <p><b>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharing results from literature review</li> <li>• Discussion on building on this work for other ecosystems</li> <li>• Seeking feedback on how best to communicate this work</li> </ul>
<p><b>2:40 – 3:00pm PT</b></p>	<p><b>AGENDA ITEM 23:</b> Coastal Wetland Assessment for National Wildlife Refuges Impacted by Sea Level Rise Using GIS Tools</p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS:</b> <b>Kris Metzger</b>, Brian Klingbeil, Mindy Rice, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</p> <p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b> We highlight why compiling and integrating multiple spatial datasets relevant to potential changes in coastal wetlands resulting from sea level rise is critically important for prioritizing threats, identifying opportunities, and managing limited resources for the National Wildlife Refuge System. Compiling this data for all refuges with coastal wetlands in the conterminous USA can allow decision support at multiple spatial scales and organizational levels and reveal patterns that may facilitate previously unexplored collaborations and engage new stakeholders. For example, not all refuges are projected to suffer losses in estuarine wetland habitat when potential for migration is considered. However, those refuges with estuarine wetland that maintain or gain area in response to sea</p>

	<p>level rise, do so at the expense of other habitat types, such as uplands and freshwater wetland. This may encourage stakeholders who value uplands or freshwater habitats and the species they support to take greater interest in the potential effects of sea level rise.</p> <p>Rates of sea level rise also differ among NWRs. Some refuges are projected to reach 0.5 m sea level rise in the next 15 years, while others will not see that level of change until the end of the century. Understanding the rates of change and how they differ, should greatly influence the timing and prioritization of actions within regions and across the refuge system. Lastly, mapping current and historical wetland stability, sourced from freely available satellite imagery, offers insight into the specific locations that may remain wetland in the face of sea level rise and can inform where resources are more likely to provide a lasting impact as opposed to areas that are likely to convert into open water. Examples presented will be specific to the National Wildlife Refuge System. However, data and opportunities exist to apply this type of decision support more broadly.</p> <p><b>BACKGROUND:</b> Sea level rise poses a global threat to coastal wetlands and the wildlife that depend on these habitats. Coastal wetlands vary widely in their potential to adapt to sea level rise, but adaptation occurs via two general processes. The first process entails maintaining stability by building wetland elevation locally through biogeomorphic feedbacks. The second process involves the landward migration of wetlands into adjacent lands. The outcomes of these processes relative to spatially explicit rates of sea level rise can be viewed as representing vulnerability and opportunity for protected areas. Linking these coastal wetland processes with the timing and potential vegetation changes associated with specific sea level rise scenarios can offer a way to prioritize areas for acquisition, monitoring, or restoration efforts while also providing a rigorous scientific foundation for climate informed decision making.</p> <p><b>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highlighting that this type of information is critical for decision frameworks such as Resist-Accept-Direct and scenario planning.</li> <li>• Discussion on best ways to link projections of habitat change to changes in species distributions for coastal species.</li> <li>• Identify ways we could consider time lags between loss of existing coastal wetland and conversion of other habitats into wetlands via migration.</li> <li>• Discussions on what to do when your protected wetland is projected to become open water.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3:00 – 3:15pm PT</b></p>	<p><b>Discussion / Q&amp;A session</b></p>
<p><b>3:15 – 3:30pm PT</b></p>	<p><i>Break</i></p>
<p><b>3:30 – 3:45pm PT</b></p>	<p><b><u>AGENDA ITEM 24:</u> Climate Adaptation in the National Wildlife Refuge System</b></p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS:</b> <b>Kris Metzger, Jaron Ming</b>, US Fish and Wildlife Service</p> <p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b> This session will describe how the field of climate adaptation has been developed with specific application to natural resource management and explore why this work is reliant on participatory engagement and/or full co-production between scientists and managers. We’ll illustrate how climate adaptation practice is linked to climate</p>

	<p>adaptation science through climate services, which includes training and capacity building; decision support tool and data visualization development; rapid-response and longer-term technical assistance; and partner engagement through working groups, workshops, deep dives, and communities of practice.</p> <p><b>BACKGROUND:</b> Climate adaptation is a burgeoning priority for natural resource policy and management that centers on planning, projecting, and preparing for climate change effects on water, species, ecosystems, disturbance regimes, infrastructure, cultural resources, and human socio-economic systems. However, the urgent threat of climate change means that we must implement climate adaptation practices now, while we’re still defining the field and coping with uncertainty about future conditions and resource impacts.</p> <p><b>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</b> Participants will gain a deeper appreciation for the challenges and opportunities of co-production and its importance for addressing a changing climate with a high level of uncertainty in its impact on natural resource management.</p>
<p><b>3:45 – 4:05pm PT</b></p>	<p><b>AGENDA ITEM 25:</b> Sites: a suite of user-friendly online tools to facilitate conservation decisions</p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS &amp; CONTACTS:</b> <b>Dr. Richard Schuster</b>, Director of Spatial Planning and Innovation, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Dr. Joseph Bennett, Associate Professor, Institute of Environmental and Interdisciplinary Science and Department of Biology, Carleton University</p> <p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b> We will present Sites, which is a suite of tools supporting conservation practitioners’ decision-making processes. Sites was co-developed by the Nature Conservancy of Canada and Carleton University, to help prioritize actions to protect biodiversity.</p> <p>Sites consists of two main tools: Where to Work and What to Do. The Where To Work tool uses spatial datasets and optimization algorithms to suggest priority sites based on criteria chosen by its users. Where to Work also provides a visual interface and report output, to facilitate conservation decision-making. The What To Do tool is a complementary application that helps practitioners identify and choose among stewardship actions to help ensure biodiversity is protected in a portfolio of sites.</p> <p>Sites was developed to support the shared interests of all conservation planning practitioners by applying evidence-based and user-friendly online tools that everyone can use. Sites is free to use and designed to be accessible to practitioners from a variety of backgrounds.</p> <p><b>BACKGROUND:</b> Decisions of where and how to protect and steward lands are always difficult, especially where high biodiversity overlaps with many competing interests. Research has shown that decisions can sometimes be biased, favouring certain environments or stakeholder groups. Thus, it is vital that conservation resource allocation decisions be made as effectively and transparently as possible. Our partnership between the Nature Conservancy of Canada and Carleton University was formed to address this challenge, through open source and open access decision support tools.</p> <p><b>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information sharing about web-based conservation prioritization tools.</li> <li>• A discussion on the appropriate use of optimization tools for decision facilitation in conservation, and the role these tools can play in supporting more qualitative decision processes.</li> <li>• A discussion on data needs of tools, and emerging data sources.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4:05 – 5:00pm PT</b></p>	<p><b><u>AGENDA ITEM 26:</u></b> Trinational Bison and Grassland Conservation Workshop convened by NAPA</p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS &amp; CONTACTS:</b> Brendan Moynahan, Chief, Wildlife Conservation Branch Chair, DOI Bison Working Group National Park Service; Eduardo Ponce, Director of Conservation Project Monitoring Strategies, Mexico’s National Commission of Natural Protected Areas, CONANP; Gregory Wilson, Bison Ecologist, Parks Canada; Mark Chase, Chief Natural Resource Program Center, FWS; Xiomara Labiosa, Biologist, National Wildlife Refuge System, FWS; Debbie Devore, Deputy Chief, Division of Natural Resources and Planning, FWS, Cynthia Martinez, Chief, National Wildlife Refuge System, USFWS; Gilles Seutin, Chief Ecosystems Scientist, Parks Canada; Jose Feliciano González Jiménez, General Director for Institutional Strengthening and International Affairs, CONANP; Ray Sauvajot, Associate Director, Natural Resource Stewardship and Science; <b>Adam Hanson</b>, NAPA Facilitator, WILD Foundation</p> <p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b> To explore the potential role of the North American Committee on Cooperation for Protected Areas Conservation (NAPA) and its member agencies in advancing trinational grassland and bison conservation efforts and to identify specific outcomes and priority actions that can be pursued to complement efforts underway under the Trilateral.</p> <p><b>BACKGROUND:</b> The North American Committee on Cooperation for Protected Areas Conservation (NAPA) is a trinational mechanism for collaboration amongst Canada, Mexico, and U.S. agencies responsible for protected areas conservation, including Canada—Parks Canada Agency (PCA); Mexico—Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP); United States—Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service (USFS); Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the National Park Service (NPS). The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is an official partner. Together, NAPA member agencies manage 15% of the North American continental landmass. The NAPA Committee includes agency heads from all the member and partner organizations forming an Executive Committee, a Steering Committee of executives from each agency, and working groups. Through the NAPA collaboration, participating organizations exchange ideas, experiences, best practices, and innovative solutions to enhance stewardship of North America’s conservation lands.</p> <p>This workshop seeks to support collaboration and coordination of workplans under both the Grassland Letter of Intent (LOI) and the anticipated new Bison LOI. Grasslands and bison are emblematic species and habitats of North America, facing significant conservation challenges that require coordinated action across borders. Trilateral Committee on Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management (Trilateral) is in the process of finalizing a formal LOI to be signed by the three nations to endorse focused and purposeful advancement of bison conservation, such that species conservation, recovery, and ecocultural restoration is considered a continental scale. Additionally, a Trilateral working group was assembled with participants from the Migratory Birds, Ecosystem, and Species of Common Conservation Concern Working Tables, with the intention of developing an Implementation</p>

	<p>Plan as follow-up to the Grassland Conservation LOI signed during last year’s Trilateral meeting.</p> <p>Leveraging NAPA and Trilateral efforts presents an opportunity to enhance cooperation, share knowledge and resources, and develop coordinated strategies for conservation.</p> <p><b>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</b> Share information between the NAPA and the Trilateral ECWT—two distinct bodies both interested in trinational collaboration for ecosystem conservation in North America.</p>
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**THURSDAY, May 2, 2024**

	<p align="center"><i>Theme: Joint Session on Monarchs with Species Table</i></p>
<p><b>9:00 – 10:15am PT</b></p>	<p><b><u>AGENDA ITEM 27:</u></b> Trinational Monarch Butterfly Updates and Opportunities for Collaboration</p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS:</b> <b>Ryan Drum</b>, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Gloria Tavera, Comisión Nacional Areas Naturales Protegidas, Greg Mitchell, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)</p> <p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b> The reestablishment of the Trilateral Scientific Group for Monarch Butterfly conservation allowed all participants to present and learn of updates on the species efforts in each country, including updates on regulatory processes and listing status, new scientific developments, conservation efforts, plans and strategies, recommendations and/or opportunities for collaboration.</p> <p>For the United States, this will include a brief update on listing Status under the Endangered Species Act and an overview of ongoing conservation plan implementation and updates on the California overwintering population. For Canada, this will include updates on the federal listing status and conservation targets, and for Mexico it will include updates on 2023-2024 overwintering population numbers and related habitat management and protection activities.</p> <p>The group will provide an update from the February 2024 Trinational Monarch Conservation Science Partnership meeting and discuss shared priorities and strategic actions and/or targets.</p> <p><b>BACKGROUND:</b> During the 2023 Trilateral meeting, the Monarch Butterfly conservation issue was transferred from the Ecosystems Conservation to the Species Conservation working table allowing the group an opportunity to address these efforts on a single-species approach to identify new specific challenges and developments. As a result, representatives from the three lead agencies (USFWS, CEC and CONANP) agreed to meet in Mexico on February 6, to re-establish the trilateral scientific group, giving all parties a chance to resume discussions held in 2015 on issues, such as: Conservation economy, habitat restoration and conservation, research and monitoring, law enforcement, social participation and environmental education, coordination, and funding strategies.</p> <p><b>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convene senior executive governmental leadership to re-evaluate, coordinate, and re-energize trinational monarch commitments and shared priorities.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct a scientific evaluation to prioritize a connected trans-national network of climate-resilient protected areas, public lands, and other conservation areas throughout the migration corridor from the Mexican overwintering area to the core breeding range. Focus our work in these priority areas.</li> <li>• Work with CEC to identify and pursue potential \$ resources to support re-convening the Trinational Monarch Conservation Science Partnership – annually, if possible.</li> <li>• Produce a 5-Year science-based Monarch Conservation Action Plan that aligns and unifies conservation efforts, recovery plans and targets across the 3 countries – ensure that we are seeing the full picture and doing enough collectively to successfully conserve the migration phenomenon.</li> </ul>
<p><b>10:15 – 10:30am PT</b></p>	<p><i>Break</i></p>
<p><b>10:30 – 10:45am PT</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Theme: Joint Session on Pollinator Conservation with Species Table</i></b></p> <p><b><u>AGENDA ITEM 28:</u></b> <i>Actualizaciones sobre la conservación de polinizadores nacionales y coordinación trinacional</i></p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS:</b> <b>M. C. Israel Lorenzo Felipe</b>, Director de Diversificación Productiva/SADER-ENCUSP, Dra. Sol Ortiz García, Directora General de Políticas, Prospección y Cambio Climático, SADER</p> <p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b> The National Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable use of Pollinators (The Strategy) is a joint effort between the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, and various Institutions and Secretariats of the Government of Mexico. The Strategy is based on the National Biodiversity Strategy of Mexico and its action plan (2016-2030), which includes actions to increase pollinator knowledge and their conservation status to identify areas of importance and maintain and restore the integrity of ecosystems and incorporate the value of pollinators into production chains.</p> <p><b>BACKGROUND:</b> The general objective of The Strategy is to guide the policies and work of the productive and environmental sectors in relation to the conservation of the ecosystem services provided by pollinators, to contribute to the sustainable development and food security of the country. The Strategy will focus on the following areas: Scientific and Technological Knowledge, Traditional Knowledge and Exchange of Experiences, Social Participation and Education, Standards and Regulations, Planning and Budget, Valuation of Pollinators and its Habitats, Landscape Connectivity, Biocultural Aspects and Promotion of Sustainable and Biodiversity Friendly Production.</p> <p>As a result of this effort the Working Group for the Implementation and Monitoring of The Strategy was formed in 2023. Some of the members of this working group are SADER, SEMARNAT, SEP, SENASICA, INIFAP, CONABIO, CONANP, CONAFOR, INECC, SIAP, INCA (Rural), CONAHCYT, INEGI, SNICS, CIEco (UNAM), CONAZA, CIATEJ, INECOL, INPI, el Colegio de Postgraduados y la UNAM.</p> <p><b>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• INEGI: An update of the assessment of the valuation of pollination services</li> <li>• SADER: development of an agenda for research needs on pollinators</li> <li>• CONABIO: creation of a repository of updated information focusing on pollinators/inventory of pollinators and associated plants/promoting of citizen</li> </ul>

	<p>science projects for monitoring pollinators and the effects of different threatening factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• INECOL: Monitoring of native bees in natural areas</li><li>• SEP: Workshops for the conservation of pollinators</li></ul> <p><b>**Spanish version**</b></p> <p><b><u>PUNTO 28 DEL ORDEN DEL DIA:</u></b> Actualizaciones sobre la conservación de polinizadores nacionales y coordinación trinacional</p> <p><b>COLABORADORES Y CONTACTOS:</b> <b>M. C. Israel Lorenzo Felipe</b>, Director de Diversificación Productiva/SADER-ENCUSP, Dra. Sol Ortiz García, Directora General de Políticas, Prospección y Cambio Climático, SADER</p> <p><b>DESCRIPCIÓN:</b> La Estrategia Nacional para la Conservación y Uso Sustentable de los Polinizadores (ENCUSP) es un trabajo coordinado entre la Secretaría de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural (SADER), con diversas Instituciones y Secretarías del Gobierno de México. La ENCUSP, tiene como base la Estrategia Nacional sobre Biodiversidad de México y su Plan de Acción 2016 – 2030, la cual incluye acciones para incrementar el conocimiento acerca de la polinización y el estado de conservación de los polinizadores; para identificar áreas de importancia y mantener y restablecer la integridad de los ecosistemas, y para incorporar el valor de este servicio a las cadenas productivas.</p> <p><b>CONTEXTO:</b> El objetivo general de la ENCUSP, es orientar las políticas y el trabajo de los sectores productivo y ambiental en lo relativo a la conservación de los servicios ecosistémicos que brindan los polinizadores, a fin de contribuir al desarrollo sustentable y a la seguridad alimentaria del país. La Estrategia cuenta con los siguientes ejes, cada uno con objetivos y acciones específicas: Conocimiento Científico y Tecnológico, Conocimientos Tradicionales e Intercambio de Experiencias y Saberes, Participación Social y Educación, Normatividad y Regulación, Instrumento de Planeación y Presupuesto, Valoración de los Polinizadores y sus Hábitats, Paisaje, Conectividad y Aspectos Bioculturales y Fomento a la Producción Sustentable y Amigable con la Biodiversidad.</p> <p>Entre las Instituciones y Secretarías colaboradoras se conformó el Grupo de Trabajo para la Implementación y Seguimiento de la ENCUSP (GTISE), teniendo para 2023 la participación activa de: SADER, SEMARNAT, SEP, SENASICA, INIFAP, CONABIO, CONANP, CONAFOR, INECC, SIAP, INCA (Rural), CONAHCYT, INEGI, SNICS, CIEco (UNAM), CONAZA, CIATEJ, INECOL, INPI, el Colegio de Postgraduados y la UNAM.</p> <p><b>RESULTADOS ESPECÍFICOS SOLICITADOS:</b> A continuación, se presentan algunas de las acciones que se realizaron Instituciones y Secretarías del Gobierno de México para la ENCUSP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• INEGI: Resultados de la actualización de la valoración del servicio ecosistémico de la polinización.</li><li>• SADER: Elaboración de agenda de necesidades de investigación en polinizadores.</li><li>• CONABIO: Conformación de un repositorio de información actualizada enfocando en polinizadores/Inventario de polinizadores y plantas asociadas/Impulso a proyectos de ciencia ciudadana para el monitoreo de polinizadores y los efectos de diferentes factores de presión.</li></ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• INECOL: Monitoreo participativo de abejas nativas en áreas naturales.</li> <li>• SEP: Talleres para la implementación de jardines para la conservación de polinizadores.</li> </ul>
<p><b>10:45 – 11:00am PT</b></p>	<p><b><u>AGENDA ITEM 29:</u></b> USFWS Center for Pollinator Conservation: Updates and Reflections</p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS:</b> <b>Ryan Drum</b>, Senior Scientist – Center for Pollinator Conservation, Melissa Burns, Center for Pollinator Conservation US Fish and Wildlife Service</p> <p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b> In December 2022, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service launched the Center for Pollinator Conservation. Working collaboratively to address declining pollinator populations in North America, Center for Pollinator Conservation is a place for land managers, decision and policy makers, scientists, program leaders and others to explore, coordinate and share best practices and approaches. We will provide updates for the key pillars of the Center for Pollinator Conservation: Collaboration, Applied Science, and Engagement.</p> <p><b>BACKGROUND:</b> Pollinators provide vital benefits to people and wildlife - keeping animals and plants that we depend on thriving while bringing us food and supporting the economy. The scientific and conservation communities have documented a steep decline of pollinator populations, including the decline of the American bumble bee by 90%, the monarch butterfly by 80%, and the Allen’s hummingbird by 88%. Pollinators face big challenges, like climate change, pesticide exposure, and habitat loss. Monarch butterfly and pollinator conservation have a successful history of tri-national collaboration stemming from Trilateral Committee efforts.</p> <p><b>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</b> Shared awareness of ongoing/future efforts taking form in the United States, opportunities for early input and engagement to help shape the Center for Pollinator Conservation, and exploration of trilateral nexus to co-design future trinational endeavors for pollinator conservation.</p>
<p><b>11:00 – 11:15am PT</b></p>	<p><b><u>AGENDA ITEM 30:</u></b> Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) “<i>Advancing Pollinator Conservation throughout North America</i>” updates</p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS:</b> <b>Antoine Asselin-Nguyen</b> and Lucie Robidoux, (Commission for Environmental Cooperation - CEC), and numerous others, including from organizations in Canada: Environment and Climate Change (Gregory Mitchell), Agriculture and Agri-Food (Steve Javorek), in Mexico: Conabio (Stephanie Espinosa and Yosuky Villegas, National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity), and Ryan Drum in the United States: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</p> <p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b> This session will provide an overview of the recently completed CEC collaborative work project “<i>Advancing Pollinator Conservation throughout North America</i>”, including publications such as the <i>State of Knowledge on North American Pollinator Conservation</i> and <i>North American Native Bee Inventories and Monitoring: Programs, Practices and Considerations for Practitioners</i>, the communications campaign <a href="#">People for Pollinators</a> and technical work on <i>Geospatial Tools for North American Native Bees Inventories and Monitoring - Strategic Recommendations and Mapping Priority Areas</i>, including work on the <a href="#">Bee Tool of North America</a>.</p>

	<p><b>BACKGROUND:</b> The CEC seeds, builds and supports North American collaboration for the conservation and management of terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems and wildlife, by developing and implementing trinational collaborative projects with government, local communities, non-governmental organizations, and researchers, including this project titled “<i>Advancing Pollinator Conservation throughout North America</i>”. The Trilateral Committee meetings provide an invaluable space for the CEC to be informed of recent and upcoming national conservation priorities, efforts and products, share information about its efforts, and identify potential synergies.</p> <p><b>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exchange information to create connections between CEC Pollinator Conservation work, Trilateral objectives and pollinator conservation in the three countries.</li> <li>• Disseminate products and discuss ways to share them with partners.</li> <li>• Discuss opportunities for future trinational collaboration.</li> </ul>
<p><b>11:15 – 11:30am PT</b></p>	<p><b>AGENDA ITEM 31:</b> Update on pollinator support and conservation in Canada, the NGO perspective offered by Pollinator Partnership Canada.</p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS:</b> <b>Vicki Wojcik</b>, Pollinator Partnership Canada</p> <p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b> The Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management is invited to hear a brief presentation on the current status and capacity of pollinator support and conservation actions offered by NGOs in Canada. A comparative contrast will be given to concurrent efforts in the United States.</p> <p><b>BACKGROUND:</b> Pollinator Partnership Canada (P2C), a registered charity and nonprofit, has been operating in Canada for 10 years, expanding successful US cross-border pollinator projects and developing unique national initiatives. Working off the successful collaborative model of P2, P2C has aimed to establish partnership and understanding across stakeholder groups. Public engagement is also a key goal for P2C’s operations.</p> <p><b>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</b> Provide the members and attendees at the Trilateral with an updated status and understanding of P2C activities and overall non-governmental pollinator support activities in Canada.</p>
<p><b>11:30 – 12:30pm PT</b></p>	<p><b>AGENDA ITEM 32:</b> Update on Letter of Intent Related to Efforts to Promote Conservation of Pollinators in Mexico, the United States of America, and Canada. Presentation on the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC).</p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS:</b> <b>Vicki Wojcik</b>, Pollinator Partnership Canada, and Lora Morandin, Pollinator Partnership, with members of the North American Collaboration Task Force of the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign: Mylea Bayles, Bat Conservation International, Shannon Farmer, Pollinator Partnership/NAPPC, Maddie Dong, Pollinator Partnership, Maria del Coro Arizmendi, UNAM, <a href="mailto:Antoine.Asselin-Nguyen@cec.org">mailto:Antoine Asselin-Nguyen, CEC</a>, Erika Ortigoza, CONABIO, Stephanie Espinosa, CONABIO, Sophie Maass, Wildlife Habitat Council, Kimberly Winter, US Forest Service, Winter, Ryan Drum, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Barry Thompson, Rotary International</p> <p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b></p> <p>1. The Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management is invited to hear a presentation on the history and current activities of the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC), a tri-national collaborative working to address key pollinator issues across the continent.</p>

NAPPC's mission is to encourage the health of resident and migratory pollinating animals in North America. These goals are achieved through Task Forces that bring together stakeholders for cross discipline, short-term, project-oriented groupings designed to accomplish specific tasks. Recent work in the North American Collaboration Taskforce presented the idea of seeking greater alignment on pollinator issues between Canada, the United States, and Mexico through the Trilateral Committee.

2. The Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management is also invited to consider signing a Letter of Intent (LOI) related to efforts aimed at promoting the conservation of pollinators in Canada, Mexico, and the United States. Pollinator Partnership (P2), through the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC) and its North American Collaboration Task Force, that is being presented after initial review and consideration at the June 30th, 2023, Trilateral meeting.

This LOI seeks to encourage collaborative efforts among the three countries to protect and restore pollinator populations and their habitats, address threats to their survival, and promote sustainable practices.

By seeking the Trilateral Committee's endorsement, the Task Force aims to gain support and commitment from the governments of Canada, Mexico, and the United States to take ownership of this initiative. Endorsement by the Trilateral Committee would signify their agreement to work towards signing the LOI at the 2024 Trilateral Committee meeting.

While significant Trilateral collaboration is underway, this proposed LOI would cement cooperation between the three countries, facilitating advanced progress for pollinator conservation.

**BACKGROUND:** Pollinator Partnership (P2), a United States based nonprofit organization, is the administrator of NAPPC and for over 25 years has been promoting pollinators through collaborative conservation. P2 has staff throughout the US and Canada and many partners in Mexico. Through its Task Forces and annual conference, NAPPC has been convening partners in North America to address key issues related to pollinator conservation.

NAPPC partners have collaborated to achieve action on pollinator issues including:

- Raising public awareness and education and promoting constructive dialogue about pollinators' importance to agriculture, ecosystem health, and food supplies;
- Encouraging collaborative, working partnerships among participants, with federal, state, and local government entities, strengthening the network of associated organizations working on behalf of pollinators;
- Promoting conservation, protection and restoration of pollinator habitat;
- Documenting and supporting scientific, economic, and policy research.

Specific highlights of NAPPC projects over the past 25 years will be presented to engage new audiences at the Trilateral Committee.

Recognizing the critical role that pollinators play in maintaining healthy ecosystems and food security, the North American Collaboration Task Force has drafted a LOI for endorsement, following the initial presentation of consideration at the Trilateral on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

	<p>This first step would mark a significant milestone in the shared commitment to safeguarding pollinators and their vital contributions to our ecosystems and economies.</p> <p><b>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</b> NAPPC would request the endorsement of this LOI. Endorsing this LOI and advancing pollinator conservation efforts across North America would yield several benefits, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preservation of biodiversity: Protecting pollinators contributes to the overall conservation of ecosystems and ensures the resilience of native flora and fauna.</li> <li>• Food security: Maintaining healthy populations of pollinators is crucial for crop production and sustainable agriculture, supporting local and regional food supplies.</li> <li>• Public awareness and education: Collaborative initiatives on pollinator conservation can raise public awareness, promote citizen science involvement, and foster a culture of environmental stewardship.</li> </ul>
<p><b>12:30 – 2:00pm PT</b></p>	<p><i>Lunch</i></p>
<p><b>2:00 – 3:15pm PT</b></p>	<p><b>EXECUTIVE TABLE PREPARATION</b></p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS:</b> Co-chairs – Alaine Camfield (ECCC), José Ernesto Carmona Gómez (INECC), Debbie DeVore (FWS).</p>
<p><b>3:15 – 3:30pm PT</b></p>	<p><i>Break</i></p>
<p><b>3:30 – 4:30pm PT</b></p>	<p><b><u>EXECUTIVE TABLE:</u></b> Co-Chairs Report to Executive Table Co-Chairs.</p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS &amp; CONTACTS:</b> Co-chairs – Alaine Camfield (ECCC), José Ernesto Carmona Gómez (INECC), Debbie DeVore (FWS).</p> <p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b> The EWCT Co-Chairs will present highlights from the week’s discussions, including major themes and action items.</p> <p><b>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Highlight a summary from the discussions at the ECWT.</li> <li>▪ Present any proposals or outcomes for consideration by the Executive Table.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4:30 – 5:00pm PT</b></p>	<p><b><u>AGENDA ITEM 33:</u></b> Finalize EWCT Program of Work.</p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS:</b> Co-chairs and Facilitator – Alaine Camfield (ECCC), José Ernesto Carmona Gómez (INECC), Debbie DeVore (FWS).</p> <p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b> Summarize week’s proceedings. Prepare Action Item Reports (AIRs). Discuss any remaining issues and next steps for the three co-chairs 2025 Trilateral Committee Meeting and Closing.</p>