

WORK TABLE: EXECUTIVE TABLE (ET)

Co-Chairs: Niall O’Dea, Associate Assistant Deputy Minister – Canadian Wildlife Service; Maria de los Angeles Palma Irizarry, Director General for Wildlife – SEMARNAT; Aurelia Skipwith, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks - Department of the Interior

Thursday, April 11, 2019

9:00 am - Start

AGENDA ITEM 1: Welcome – Adoption of the Agenda

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Executive Table: Niall O’Dea, Associate Assistant Deputy Minister, Canadian Wildlife Service; Maria de los Angeles Palma Irizarry, Director General for Wildlife, SEMARNAT; Aurelia Skipwith, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks - Department of the Interior; Eric Alvarez, Assistant Director, International Affairs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

DESCRIPTION: Welcome Remarks by Niall O’Dea, Associate Assistant Deputy Minister, Canadian Wildlife Service, and adoption of the agenda.

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

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Adoption of the agenda

SUBMITTED BY: Trilateral Coordination Committee (TCC): Valencia Richardson-U.S., Miguel Flores Mejia, Leonel Urbano-Mexico, Angèle Cyr, Carolina Caceres-Canada.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Country Updates

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Executive Table: Niall O’Dea, Associate Assistant Deputy Minister, Canadian Wildlife Service; Maria de los Angeles Palma Irizarry, Director General for Wildlife, SEMARNA; Aurelia Skipwith, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks - Department of the Interior; Eric Alvarez, Assistant Director, International Affairs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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

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conventions, programs, projects, etc.) In addition to the U.S. Country Update, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) and States Agencies will give a presentation (15 min) on international collaborations for 2018-2019 (i.e. The Convention on Biological Diversity, Monarch Butterfly Conservation, Southern Wings, Joint Ventures, Trapping Work with Canada etc.)

BACKGROUND: The Executive Table Co-chairs use this opportunity to exchange information relevant to natural resource management and biodiversity conservation taking place in their countries that are of interest to their trilateral partners.

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

SUBMITTED BY: TCC

10:10 am - break

AGENDA ITEM 3: Trilateral Efforts for Monarch Butterfly Conservation – Highlighting Science and Innovative Technology and Monarch Ultra Project

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Ryan Drum, Wildlife Biologist, USFWS; Georgina O’Farrill, Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC); and Suzanne Pittenger-Slear, President, Environmental Concern Inc., Jessica J. Lister, PWS, GISP, Vice President of Restoration, and Carlotta James, Monarch Ultra Productions.

DESCRIPTION & BACKGROUND: The U.S. proposes to have a discussion about trilateral conservation efforts for the Monarch butterfly and to showcase examples that align with the new Trilateral Committee Priorities (e.g. Technology Innovation for Conservation and Integrating Human Dimension). The discussion would include:

- Innovative Technology for Monarch Conservation, Ryan Drum, USFWS, and Georgina O’Farrill, CEC (20 min.)
- Monarch Ultra Project (example of public engagement in monarch conservation), Suzanne Pettinger-Slear, Environmental Concern Inc. (20 min.)

BACKGROUND: Monarch conservation has been a longstanding priority and shared effort of the Trilateral Committee. Trilateral coordination on monarch conservation continues through the Trilateral Committee via the Ecosystems Conservation Working Table (ECWT) and through projects funded by the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC). Since the Trilateral meeting in San Diego in April of 2015, the three countries have worked together through a trilateral framework for monarch conservation along with the following collaborative actions, which have all been achieved or completed:

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- Setting a near-term target for the eastern population: 225 million monarchs occupying an area approximately 15 acres (6 ha) in the Mexican overwintering grounds by 2020.
- Creating a Trinational Monarch Science Partnership to coordinate priority research, monitoring, information sharing and tools development; and
- Working together on three monarch projects through the CEC, 1) *Engaging Farmers and Landowners to Support Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Conservation* (\$300K) and Monarch Flyway, 2) *Communication, Participatory Conservation, and Education Programs* (\$300K), and 3) *Science for Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Conservation* (\$412K)

A significant component of monarch conservation is the use of innovative technology and tackling the science, data stewardship, and monitoring issues inherent in all three countries. Through the Trinational Monarch Science Partnership (TMCSPP), a number of cutting-edge technologies and research methods have been applied, including the use of isotope analysis to better understand natal origins and using LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) techniques to assess monarch butterfly overwintering populations. Additionally, the TMCSPP, working with the CEC and the Montreal Insectarium, have developed a Trinational Monarch Knowledge Network as a platform for researchers in all three countries to share data and research information related to monarch conservation.

As a showcase example for public engagement related to monarch conservation, Environmental Concern Inc. (EC) is working in partnership with the Monarch Ultra team, which is making the first attempt to run across North America (Canada, United States, & Mexico) in order to raise awareness of monarch butterflies who make the migratory journey every year, and whose populations are in serious decline. A team of documentary film-makers, runners, and pollinator advocates will be telling the story of the flight of the monarch butterfly seen through the eyes of ultra-runners who will run the same distance of 4,300 km from southern Ontario to Mexico in the fall of 2019. EC is also developing a program, the Mini Monarch Ultras, for school-age children to raise awareness, connect human beings across North America, and to conserve pollinators by getting their school's involved.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: To share information about trilateral monarch conservation efforts that highlight two of the emerging priorities for the Trilateral Committee: innovative technology and human dimensions/public engagement. For the TMCSPP, demonstrate the value of the partnership to the Executive Table and seek continued support for leveraging the Trilateral Committee (specifically the ECWT) as a forum for continuing the partnership and future collaborative work. Additionally, Environmental Concern Inc. is requesting support of the Trilateral Committee for the Monarch Ultra and the Mini Monarch Ultra Programs, which is consistent with the 2018-2021 Trilateral Committee Priority - "Integrating Human Dimensions."

SUBMITTED BY: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Suzanne Pittenger-Slear, Environmental Concern Inc.

AGENDA ITEM 4: South Mountain Caribou in Canada

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COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Niall O’Dea (CWS)

DESCRIPTION: This agenda item focuses on a presentation of recent Canadian activities related to the conservation of South Mountain Caribou.

BACKGROUND: The Government of Canada is committed to the protection and recovery of southern mountain caribou and to fulfilling our obligations under our *Species at Risk Act* (SARA). Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) is working with the Government of British Columbia (BC), as well as Indigenous groups and other partners and stakeholders, to advance efforts to protect and recover caribou. The Government of Canada and British Columbia have reached two agreements in principle for immediate and long-term actions to stabilize and recover populations of southern mountain caribou. The draft agreements are now posted to the Engage BC site here, <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/caribou/section11> and affected stakeholders are invited to provide their comments until April 26, 2019.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: To share specific information on the management and conservation of South Mountain Caribou in Canada.

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR(S): Niall O’Dea (CWS)

SUBMITTED BY: Niall O’Dea (CWS)

12:30 pm – 2:00pm lunch

AGENDA ITEM 5: Trilateral Island Initiative: Conservation and Restoration of the Islands of Canada, the United States, and Mexico

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Annie Little (USFWS), Patrick Nantel (Parks Canada), Gilles Seutin (Parks Canada), Federico A. Méndez (Conservación de Islas), Gregg Howald (Island Conservation), Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Eduardo E. Iñigo-Elias (Cornell Lab of Ornithology), Jennie Duberstein (FWS)

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. We will update the Executive Table on the status of current collaborative efforts, including ongoing projects, workshops, exchanges, and efforts to promote the LOI. We will highlight in particular the 2019 Trilateral Committee priorities as it relates to conservation efforts on island ecosystems within the three countries.

BACKGROUND: In the last five years, several bilateral and trilateral island restoration projects

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were initiated. In order to further encourage coordination and collaboration on 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.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: We seek continued endorsement by the Trilateral Committee of collaborative conservation efforts on islands in Canada, United States, and Mexico.

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR(S): Annie Little (USFWS) and representatives from Canada and Mexico (TBD)

SUBMITTED BY: Annie Little, USFWS

AGENDA ITEM 6: Commission on Environmental Cooperation Trilateral cooperation to achieve species conservation, community engagement and legal and sustainable trade in North America – Summary of round table session

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: David Donaldson, Head of Unit, Commission for Environmental Cooperation and Georgina O’Farrill, Project Lead, Commission for Environmental Cooperation.

DESCRIPTION: In 2017, the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) published five action plans for promoting legal, sustainable and traceable trade in selected North American parrot, shark, tarantula, timber and turtle taxa that are listed in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). These five action plans were produced under the guidance of a steering committee composed of the CITES Authorities and law enforcement officials of Canada, Mexico and the United States. Since July 2017, the CEC has been implementing the most trilaterally relevant recommendations from the action plans. These implementation efforts are intended to engage a broad set of stakeholders—including governments at the state/provincial or local levels, local communities, producers, traders, investors, educational institutions, and consumers; and together, collaborate towards the conservation of priority species in North America.

BACKGROUND: Throughout North America, researchers, private industry, NGOs, law enforcement officials and local, state/provincial, and federal government agencies have been working towards the conservation and sustainable trade of priority species groups listed in CITES Appendix II (tarantulas, timber, sharks, turtles and tortoises). The objectives of this round table are to:

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1. **Highlight** trinational efforts through the presentation of selected CEC CITES project outcomes
2. **Share** the approach taken by CEC, The Pew Charitable Trusts, Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council and Wildlife Conservation Society to promote species conservation
3. **Identify** recommendations to promote the sustainable trade and conservation of the species through partnerships and public engagement, focusing on:
 - a. What other opportunities exist to promote species' conservation and sustainable trade?
 - b. How can partnerships and greater public engagement support these opportunities?

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Commission of Environmental Cooperation proposes this agenda item with the intention to inform the Executive Table of the results of the Trilateral round table session highlighting, sharing and identifying collaboration for the conservation and management of species and ecosystems in Canada.

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTERS: Georgina O’Farrill and David Donaldson.

SUBMITTED BY: TCC

3:15 am - break

AGENDA ITEM 7: Executive Table meeting with Work Table Co-chairs and Facilitators

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Executive Table: Niall O’Dea, Associate Assistant Deputy Minister, Canadian Wildlife Service; Maria de los Angeles Palma Irizarry, Director General for Wildlife, SEMARNAT; Aurelia Skipwith, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks - Department of the Interior; Eric Alvarez, Assistant Director, International Affairs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

DESCRIPTION: The Executive Table meets with all Co-chairs and Facilitators to get a report on working table’s progress and highlights as well as their input on technical/thematic priorities. The Agenda of this meeting includes (1) “Housekeeping issues (i.e. effectiveness/efficiency of annual meetings; (2) Coordination of agendas and discussion of issues of concern and/or interest; and (3) Development and sharing of a strategic vision for the future of the Trilateral Committee.

BACKGROUND: The meeting between the Executive Table and Co-chairs/Facilitators was incorporated as a permanent feature of the annual meeting in 2000 to provide a mechanism for the Executive Table to get direct input from the working table Co-chairs and Facilitators regarding technical issues as well as administrative issues to enhance the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the Trilateral Committee. It also provides a mechanism for the tables to exchange information, coordinate activities and avoid working independently.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: The Executive Table to listen to Co-chairs and Facilitators regarding progress, highlights, priorities, and suggestions.

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SUBMITTED BY: TCC

AGENDA ITEM 8: 2020 Trilateral Committee Meeting

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Executive Table: Niall O’Dea, Associate Assistant Deputy Minister, Canadian Wildlife Service; Maria de los Angeles Palma Irizarry, Director General for Wildlife, SEMARNAT; Aurelia Skipwith, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks - Department of the Interior; Eric Alvarez, Assistant Director, International Affairs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

DESCRIPTION: The Trilateral Committee annual meetings are hosted on a rotational basis among the three countries. The United States hosted the 2018 meetings and Canada is hosting this year. Mexico will make an announcement with regard to the 2020 annual meeting.

BACKGROUND: Each year, the Executive Table commits to a specific meeting date for the following year in order to allow for adequate preparation time.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Mexico will announce the date, proposed location and any other relevant information regarding the 2020 annual meeting.

SUBMITTED BY: TCC

5:00 pm - Adjourned