



WORKING TABLE – ACTION ITEM REPORT
XXIII Trilateral Committee Meeting
Shepherdstown, West Virginia, USA
April 9-12, 2018

This document serves as a report of the CITES Working Table on the actions agreed at the XXII Trilateral Committee Meeting, May 15-19, 2017. The CITES Working Table will not meet during the XXIII Trilateral Committee Meeting.

Emergency Permitting for Marine Mammals			
Action	Responsible Party	Due	Date Completed
Action Item 1 – NAR agreed to organize a conference call within the next month to continue to discuss; points of contact were identified for each country	USA to organize	June 30, 2017	January 9, 2018
Goals: Discuss development of a streamlined process for issuing permits, under emergency situations, for the movement of live marine mammals for veterinary and/or conservation purposes. Additional consideration of the movement of other endangered wildlife.			
Requested Action or Support from ET (if any): N/A			
Results: A conference call was held between the appropriate authorities in Mexico and the United States to discuss permitting under an emergency situation. It was agreed that an MOU between the relevant agencies of Mexico and the United States to address emergency permitting was the best way forward to accomplish these goals. The United States will draft a MOU for review and consideration by Mexico.			
Follow-up on CoP17 outcomes and preparation for 2018 CITES meetings			
Action	Responsible Party	Due	Date Completed
Action Item 1 – NAR to have conference call in July in preparation for Animals Committee and Plants Committee meetings to determine regional positions	US	July 15, 2017	
Goals:			
Requested Action from ET (if any): N/A			
Results: The region has continued to work together in preparation for CITES meetings and on the development			

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of regional positions, where possible. The region is actively involved in chairing and participating as members on CITES working groups in all three committees. The region is also now coordinating in preparation for the 2018 CITES meetings and CoP18, which will be held in May 2019.

Action	Responsible Party	Due	Date Completed
Action Item 2 - Appendix- I & II listing of <i>Abronia</i> spp.; Mexico has prepared identification guide and CA/US will seek funds to translate	US/CA	May 2018 (deadline for AC30 working documents)	Ongoing

Goals: Develop a final version of the *Abronia* ID guide, and make it available in English, French, and Spanish.

Requested Action from ET (if any): N/A

Results: At the 29th meeting of the Animals Committee (AC29, July 18-22, 2018; Geneva), Mexico presented an updated version of the draft ID guide (AC29 Doc. 19 (Rev. 1)). Canada provided a French translation of the *Abronia* spp. identification guide and the United States is still seeking funds for the English translation of the guide.

Totoaba

Action	Responsible Party	Due	Date Completed
Action Item 1 – Following the totoaba trilateral (China, Mexico, United States) meeting scheduled for August 2017, preparation of a report for submission to the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee; Mexico will continue to take the lead on the totoaba CITES Decisions	MX	September 28, 2017	September 28, 2017

Goals: Report on progress in implementing Decisions 17.145-17.151 on *Totoaba*

Requested Action from ET (if any): Continued commitment from CA/MX/US to support conservation and enforcement efforts for totoaba and vaquita

Results: China, Mexico, and the United States jointly submitted a document for consideration at SC69 on the trilateral meeting on “Combating Illegal Trafficking of Totoaba (*Totoaba macdonaldi*) Fish,” which was held in Ensenada, Mexico, in August 2017 (Document SC69 Doc. 65.2). The document described the objectives of the meeting, summarizes experiences shared by representatives, and included eight action items that were agreed by the three countries at the meeting. Those commitments included: creating a contact group to strengthen

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cooperation to combat trafficking in totoaba; establishing ongoing comprehensive training programs for identification of the species, trafficking routes and *modus operandi* in the three countries; and developing trilateral education and public awareness strategies. The Secretariat also submitted a separate document to SC69 reporting on the progress achieved in addressing this conservation issue (Document SC69 Doc. 65.1).

Collaboration between NAR and the Commission on Environmental Cooperation

Action	Responsible Party	Due	Date Completed
Action Item 1 – Promotion of the five action plans produced	CA/MX/US	Ongoing	

Goals: Develop and implement a follow-up CEC project to the North American to strengthen Appendix-II implementation for selected species.

Requested Action from ET (if any): Take note of the progress in the implementation of the project.

Results: The three countries are participating in the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC)-funded project, “Supporting Sustainable Trade of CITES Species,” to support sustainable trade of CITES species in the North American region. On May 17, 2017, within the framework of the XII meeting of the Trilateral Committee in Ensenada, Mexico, the CEC launched the five action plans derived from the project.

In June 2017, the CEC Council approved funding for a second phase of the project that will implement actions identified in the Action Plans for turtles, sharks, tarantulas, and timber.

The first three-day tri-national workshop was held February, 26 – March 2, 2018 in Guadalajara, Mexico. The focus of this workshop was on the trade and identification of CITES-listed tarantulas (16 species). North American species of tarantulas are commonly exported as “spiderlings” and adults from Mexico to the United States and Canada. The workshop provided identification training on 16 focal tarantula species, built links among North America enforcement authorities to combat trafficking in these species, and stimulated collaborative conservation actions to ensure legal, sustainable, and traceable trade.

Future activities under this project: will include workshops on sharks, freshwater turtles and tortoises, and possibly timber species.

Action	Responsible Party	Due	Date Completed
Action Item 2 - Submission of document to the Animals and Plants Committees to inform them of the	MX (on behalf of the NAR)	May 19 and 23, 2017	May 23, 2017 (date published under

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availability of the action plans			AC29/PC23 website)
Goals: Showcase the project led by North America as a model to be replicated within other regions in order to strengthen the implementation of Appendix II.			
Requested Action from ET (if any): N/A			
Results: Mexico submitted the document, “Strengthening conservation and sustainable production of selected Appendix II species in North America - synergies with the Commission for Environmental Cooperation” to the 29 th Meeting of the CITES Animals Committee (AC29 Doc. 12) and the 23 rd Meeting of the CITES Plants Committee (PC23 Doc. 13) for discussion. The documents were well received and the project was commended.			
Action	Responsible Party	Due	Date Completed
Action Item 3 – Conference call with the three countries later in summer 2017 to discuss implementation of Phase 2 of CEC project	CAN/MX/US as Steering Committee members of the 2017-2018 CEC-CITES project	September 2017	September 2017
Goals: Agree on the selection of actions to be implemented during 2018 under the CEC project “Supporting Sustainable Trade of CITES Species.”			
Requested Action from ET (if any): N/A			
Results: In September 2017, representatives of the project Steering Committee met in Montreal, Canada, to prioritize activities from the Action Plans for turtles, sharks, tarantulas, and timber. The Steering Committee prioritized 17 of the 70 recommended actions in the Action Plans. Seven of these 17 actions call for species workshops to be held during 2018. Much of the work carried out in this project is undertaken by independent and private consultants engaged by the CEC, based on advice from the Project’s Steering Committee.			
Sea cucumbers			
Action	Responsible Party	Due	Date Completed
Action Item 1 – Three countries will focus and exchange information on the species of sea cucumbers that occur in North America, the Caribbean, and northern South America; seek money for a workshop in 2018 to discuss the sustainable use	CA/MX/US looking to seek funds to support workshop MX/US to take lead; possible sources of funding: CAFTA-DR,	To be determined	Underway

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and international trade in sea cucumbers; by fall 2017, Mexico will share a template for the organization of the workshop and topics to be addressed	FAO		
Goals: Develop a draft agenda (and steps to follow) for the development of the Sea Cucumber Workshop.			
Requested Action from ET (if any): N/A			
Results: Mexico circulated a draft proposal for a sea cucumber workshop with a detailed budget to the United States and Canada. Unfortunately, sufficient funds have not yet be found to support such a workshop. The sustainable harvest of and trade in sea cucumbers is still of importance to the Region and we will continue seeking resources to support this work, in collaboration with other potential partners such as FAO.			
Wildlife Trafficking			
Action	Responsible Party	Due	Date Completed
Action Item 1 – United States to share future Notices of Funding Opportunity with Canada and Mexico for grant opportunities under the Combating Wildlife Trafficking (CWT) program	US	Ongoing	Ongoing
Goals: Increase awareness of funding opportunities for combating wildlife trafficking.			
Requested Action from ET (if any): N/A			
Results: All notices of funding opportunity related to CWT are posted on the Service’s webpage at www.fws.gov/international .			
Abalone			
Action	Responsible Party	Due	Date Completed
Action Item 1 – Call from Mexico to Canada and the United States to consider listing shared species of abalone in Appendix-III; Mexico to seek information from South Africa regarding their experience with the Appendix-III listing of <i>Haliotis midae</i>	CA/MX/US		Underway
Goals:			



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Requested Action from ET (if any): N/A
Results: