

XXII Meeting of the Canada/Mexico/U.S. Trilateral Committee for
Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management
Shepherdstown, WV, April 9-13, 2018

Working Table: Ecosystem Conservation (ECWT)

Co-Chairs:

- **Margarita Caso**, Directora de Conservación de los Ecosistemas Instituto Nacional de Ecología y Cambio Climático (INECC), Mexico;
 - **Paola Massyel Garcia Meneses**, Subdirectora de Vulnerabilidad y Adaptacion de las Comunidades Biologicas, INECC (Co-Chair Support)
- **Noah Matson**, Acting Chief, Division of Natural Resources and Conservation Planning, National Wildlife Refuge System, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S.
- Co-Chair from Canada – *In Absentia*

Facilitator:

- **Michael Gale**, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Michael_gale@fws.gov, 571.982.2158 (cell)

Location:

National Conservation Training Center (NCTC), 698 Conservation Way, Shepherdstown, WV, USA

All meetings of the Ecosystem Conservation Working Table will take place in the Instructional East Building in Room 105.

Webex Connection Information:

Remote connection is available for presentations requiring remote participation. To connect to the audio, please use the information below (Please note we are limited to 20 lines – please advise the Facilitator, Michael Gale, Michael_gale@fws.gov if you plan to participate and for what items:

Conference Call:

Mexico +001-866-295-6360
USA and Canada 866-692-3582

Passcode: 94563633#

Trilateral Committee Priorities 2014-2017

- Climate Change with a Focus on Adaptation
- Landscape and Seascape Conservation
- Wildlife Trafficking
- Monarch Butterfly Conservation

Working Table Priorities for 2017-2018

- Grassland Conservation
- Monarch Butterfly Conservation

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MONDAY, April 9, 2018

8:30-8:45	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 1: Welcome, Introductions, Adoption of the Agenda</u></p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Co-chairs and Facilitator – Margarita Caso (INECC), Noah Matson (FWS), Michael Gale (FWS)</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Welcome and introductions of new and returning participants to the working table. Provide an orientation to the table’s business for the week. Approval and adoption of the agenda.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: Standard agenda item to build consensus and ensure full participation.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Approval of any changes to the agenda. ▪ Adoption of the agenda
8:45–9:00	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 2: 2017-18 Action Item Report (AIR)</u></p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Co-chairs and Facilitator – Margarita Caso (INECC), Noah Matson (FWS), Michael Gale (FWS)</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Report on major accomplishments or challenges from the Action Item Report (AIR) and any outstanding actions from the previous meeting.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: The AIR is used to record decisions and monitor progress on work. Working tables review the previous year’s AIR at the beginning of each annual meeting.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Monitor progress on action items and agreements. Identify issues and challenges in accomplishing action items.</p>
9:00–9:15	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 3: Country Updates</u></p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Co-chairs and Facilitator – Margarita Caso (INECC) and Noah Matson (FWS)</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Each country co-chair presents a short country report with relevant information to the ECWT.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: Standard agenda item to present and underline relevant events that have occurred in each of the three countries.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Information only. Countries should aim to provide an overview that gives context to the week’s discussions.</p>
9:15–9:30	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 4: Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) Ecosystems Program</u></p>

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	<p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Lucie Robidoux, Commission for Environmental Cooperation</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: The Ecosystems Program of the CEC works closely with communities to improve and restore the integrity of terrestrial and marine ecosystems and to enhance rural and urban environments. This session will overview their active projects.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: The CEC Ecosystem Program has a long-standing collaborative relationship with the EWCT, particularly in the areas of grasslands conservation, marine conservation, and Monarch butterflies.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Provide information to create connections between CEC projects and ecosystem conservation work in the three countries.</p>
<p>9:30–9:45</p>	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 5:</u> Grasslands Conservation Resources from the CEC</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Sarah Heiberg, Commission for Environmental Cooperation (Remote)</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: The CEC has developed the Grasslands Best Management Practices (BMP) Online Tool, which is a geospatially searchable, trilingual website with over a hundred local, regional and national best practices for the sustainability of North American grasslands and rural communities.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: This tool was developed as part of a CEC project in 2015. The brief presentation will also overview the North American Grasslands Alliance Framework, which was developed through a participatory process coordinated by the CEC (including 72 participants from three countries) and resulted in a framework for governments, landowners and conservation organizations to work together to protect and sustainably use native grasslands, and a series of infographics on the North American Ranching industries, beef cattle trade and grasslands.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Provide a background for CEC work in grasslands conservation (in preparation for the plenary) and to overview available online resources.</p>
<p>9:45-10:15</p>	<p><i>Break</i></p>
<p>10:15-11:00</p>	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 6:</u> NAWPA North American Grasslands Demonstration Project</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Patrick Comer, NatureServe; Parks Canada, CONANP, BLM, NPS, USFS, FWS, USGS</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: The purpose of the project was for the North American Inter-Governmental Committee on Cooperation for Wilderness and Protected Areas Conservation [FWS, BLM, NPS, USFS, Parks Canada, and the National Commission for Protected Areas (CONANP) of Mexico] (NAWPA Committee) and other partners to collaboratively articulate, visualize, and take concrete actions to achieve conservation</p>

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	<p>objectives for Grassland Priority Conservation Areas (GPCA) based on grassland types, associated species, threats, relative cost of conservation action, and other factors.</p> <p>The NAWPA grasslands demonstration project identified and outlined conservation goals for targeted grassland habitats and species within temperate grasslands of the Great Plains, extending from the Canadian Prairies south to Mexico through the Chihuahuan Desert. The analysis evaluated historical loss of grasslands, representation in protected status and connectivity, and species' rarity, endemism and rapid decline, among other factors. This project will help the NAWPA agencies to more accurately identify additional priority conservation areas and focus coordinated efforts to better protect grasslands.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: In 2013 the NAWPA Committee agreed to examine the adequacy of the North American conservation estate, considering key attributes of ecological representation, connectivity and resilience. Working with temperate grasslands as a pilot area, analyses concentrated on twelve major grassland ecosystem types that occur across the Great Plains and Chihuahuan Desert regions. The analyses considered the distribution and historic trend in coverage for each grassland type, identification of key at-risk species associated with grassland types, and the layout and coverage of protected areas within the current and historic distribution of each grassland type. Spatially explicit analyses then led to the identification of priority Grassland Potential Conservation Areas that would complement existing conserved areas to enable a maximal representation the grassland diversity into a connected and resilient network. These areas could become a focus for conservation actions to secure or restore grassland habitat, through various mechanisms and programs (e.g., stewardship incentives, tax credit, protected area establishment) by NAWPA participating agencies and other conservation interests.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update the ECWT on status of the grassland project • Exchange of information and increased understanding of challenges and opportunities in each country • Identify potential transferable and/or replicable projects, strategies, and contacts • Discuss opportunities for future collaboration and next steps for collaboration <p>SUBMITTED BY: Nancy Roeper, USFWS, National Wilderness Coordinator</p>
11:00-11:30	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 7: Methodological proposal to assess current and future vulnerability to change climate in Mexico: the case of endemic, priority and endangered species.</u></p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Dr. Víctor Manuel G. Sánchez-Cordero Dávila, Francisco Javier Botello López, (IB, UNAM) Margarita Caso Chávez and Luisa Alejandra Domínguez Álvarez (INECC)</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: During 2017, the Institute of Biology of the UNAM had the task of making a methodological proposal to determine the vulnerability of endemic, priority and endangered species defined by the national instruments. One of them is the NOM 059 - SEMARNAT 2010, and priority species the latter defined in the Official Journal of the</p>

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	<p>Federation.</p> <p>The result was: 1) an analysis of the literature on how the evaluation of sensitivity, exposure and adaptive capacity worldwide has been addressed by different institutions; 2) the methodological proposal of the vulnerability assessment of species under climate change scenarios in a semi-automatic way 3) Result of the application of the methodology for 206 species in the context of climate change. The following criteria were used to define the conceptual framework considering to assess vulnerability to climate change (IPCC, 2007) is: Vulnerability = (Exposure + Sensitivity) - Adaptive capacity.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: During 2017 the Institute of Biology of the UNAM, had the task of making a methodological proposal to determine the vulnerability of endemic, priority and endangered species defined by the national instruments. One of them is the NOM 059 - SEMARNAT 2010, and priority species the latter defined in the Official Journal of the Federation. In order to serve as inputs for the National Atlas of Vulnerability to Climate Change, the databases to be used should be official, national representation and updatable.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discuss opportunities for trilateral work in areas of common interest - Identify care initiatives, projects, strategies and contacts <p>SUBMITTED BY: INECC</p>
11:30-12:00	<p>AGENDA ITEM 8: National Atlas of Vulnerability to Climate Change in Mexico</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Paola M. García Meneses paola.garcia@inecc.gob.mx and Margarita Caso Chávez margarita.caso@inecc.gob.mx</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Vulnerability can be defined as the degree of susceptibility or inability of a system to face the adverse effects of climate change, climate variability and extreme events. Vulnerability is a function of the exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity of the system. The ANVCC consists of a series of maps that show the current and potential territorial vulnerability of the Mexican Republic to the impacts of climate change, based on historical data and future scenarios. This tool aims to raise awareness of the territorial vulnerability related to the climate to contribute to decision-making in the area of adaptation to climate change in the context of development planning. The information found in the ANVCC covers four major themes: population, infrastructure, economic activities and natural capital. In the assessment of territorial vulnerability to climate change, climate, social, environmental and economic information is integrated.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: In order to develop, consolidate and modernize the instruments necessary to reduce vulnerability to climate change, INECC, in accordance with its Institutional Program and with the Special Climate Change Program 2014-2018 (PECC by its Spanish acronym), is the entity in charge of the development of the National Atlas of Vulnerability to Climate Change (ANVCC). The main objective of the ANVCC is to disseminate the assessment and distribution of climate-related territorial vulnerability and contribute to decision-making on adaptation for development planning.</p>

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	<p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discuss opportunities for trilateral work in areas of common interest - Identify care initiatives, projects, strategies and contacts <p>SUBMITTED BY: INECC</p>
12:00-13:15	Lunch
13:15-14:00	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 9: Building Knowledge, Tools and Capacity for MPA Managers on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation</u></p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Lauren Wenzel, NOAA Marine Protected Areas Center; Lucie Robidoux, Commission for Environmental Cooperation; Pilar Jacobo, CONANP; Chantal Vis, Parks Canada.</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: US and CEC leads on marine issues will present on the status and key findings from the past two years of work to develop knowledge, tools and capacity for MPA managers to more effectively manage in a changing climate. Presentations will be followed by discussion to identify opportunities for broader collaboration.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: CEC has been working for several years to develop knowledge and tools to assist MPA managers in understanding and addressing climate impacts. This presentation will address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the final products of the Blue Carbon project, which focused on science and mapping blue carbon habitats (mangroves, seagrasses and salt marshes); • the development of a rapid vulnerability assessment tool and application in two shared seascapes; • current work to develop a coastal and marine adaptation toolkit to help managers identify and apply appropriate management actions; and • efforts to establish the North American MPA Network (NAMPAN) as an independent regional MPA network that can support ongoing collaboration among MPA managers. <p>Discussion with the group will focus on ways in which ongoing work on a coastal adaptation toolkit and on developing NAMPAN as an independent network can complement and support Trilateral objectives. This work fits under the Ecosystem Table’s focus on Climate Change, Adaptive Management, Landscape Design and Vulnerability Assessments, as well as having linkages to Transboundary Wildlife Populations and Ecosystem Connectivity, Island Ecosystem Conservation, and Wetland and Coastal Conservation.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update group on recent CEC marine projects. • Share completed climate products and discuss ways to share them with marine and coastal practitioners. • Discuss ongoing projects (coastal and marine adaptation toolkit and NAMPAN) and ways in which they can best support Tri-lateral objectives. • Discuss opportunities for future collaboration and next steps for trilateral collaboration

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	<p style="text-align: center;">SUBMITTED BY: Lauren Wenzel, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)</p>
<p>14:00-14:45</p>	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 10: Mobilizing Invasive Alien Species Data to Empower Decision Makers</u></p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Jamie K. Reaser and Stas Burgiel (NISC Secretariat) and Stinger Guala (USGS/BISON); Patricia Koleff and Ana Isabel Gonzalez Rodriguez (CONABIO); Kelly Torck (ECCC); Island Conservation and Trilateral Islands Initiative coordinators.</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Presenters will outline the current status, gaps, and needs for mobilizing non-native species occurrence data across North America to inform decision-making on invasive species in a timely and accurate manner. The presentation will include an overview of past and present efforts to mobilize non-native species occurrence data, with an initial emphasis on North American islands. The session will advance previous discussions under the Trilateral Committee on an Atlas of Islands at Risk in North America, as well as the development of a North American Invasive Alien Species Strategy and Action Plan (NAIAS-SAP).</p> <p>BACKGROUND: Recognizing the need to better prioritize invasive alien species information, governments and non-governmental organizations have been mobilizing information at various scales, into various information systems, to meet various goals. Ideally, these efforts could be mined, integrated, and built upon to better empower decision making needs relevant to invasive alien species at the regional scale. To further this possibility, the National Invasive Species Council (NISC) Secretariat has partnered with USGS' Biodiversity Serving Our Nation (BISON) team to enable access to U.S. invasive alien species occurrence data and contracted Island Conservation to pilot data collection efforts for islands in North America and the Arctic. The work by BISON and Island Conservation catalyze new opportunities for collating and applying these data in a manner that benefits natural resource managers and policy decision-makers. The anticipated outputs include data mobilization strategies, a prioritization schema for eradication work on islands, risk assessment inputs, and maps to assist with planning.</p> <p>CONABIO, ECCC, and a range of other governmental and non-governmental partners across Canada, Mexico, and the U.S. have already recognized the particular vulnerability of island ecosystems to invasive alien species and commitment, in various ways, to addressing this challenge. For example, Mexico has already established clear priorities and criteria for island restoration, as evidenced in its National Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Development of Islands. Their experience could help inform prioritization efforts in the U.S. and Canada, as well as in the development of a tri-national prioritization scheme for islands.</p> <p>The proposal herein is intended to advance discussions from the 2017 Trilateral Committee meeting, where the co-chairs endorsed the development of a database and atlas to identify island ecosystems at risk. The use of islands as a pilot can also support broader efforts across the three countries to mobilize additional non-native species information. In addition to the North American efforts already mentioned, the U.S. and Canadian components of the project would also support implementation of the Arctic</p>

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	<p>Invasive Alien Species Strategy and Action Plan.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update the ECWT on the status of existing non-native species data mobilization efforts. • Highlight application of these efforts to North American islands. • Identify other opportunities and interested partners across the three countries in mobilizing data and/or applying it in decision support tools, including a prioritization scheme. • Discuss next steps for trilateral collaboration, as relevant to a North American Invasive Alien Species Strategy and Action Plan and more specifically to a database and atlas for North American island ecosystems at risk. <p>SUBMITTED BY: Stas Burgiel, Asst. Director for Policy and Program Coordination, National Invasive Species Council Secretariat</p>
<p>14:45-15:30</p>	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 11: Trilateral Island Initiative: Conservation and Restoration of the Islands of Canada, the United States, and Mexico</u></p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Annie Little (USFWS), Patrick Nantel (Parks Canada), Gilles Suetin (Parks Canada), Federico A. Méndez (Conservación de Islas), Gregg Howald (Island Conservation), Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Eduardo E. Iñigo-Elias (Cornell Lab of Ornithology)</p> <p>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 Ecosystem Conservation Table on the status of current collaborative efforts, including ongoing projects, workshops, exchanges, and efforts to promote the LOI.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: In the last five years, several bilateral and trilateral island restoration projects 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.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: We seek continued endorsement by the Trilateral Committee of collaborative conservation efforts on islands in Canada, United States, and Mexico.</p> <p>AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR(S): Annie Little (USFWS) and representatives from Canada and Mexico (TBD)</p> <p>SUBMITTED BY: Annie Little, USFWS</p>

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15:30-15:45	<i>Break</i>
15:45-16:15	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 12: Impacts of Land Use/Land Cover Change and Extreme Climatic Events in Arid and Semiarid Ecoregions in Mexico</u></p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Paulina Pontifes Cortés pontifes.pa@gmail.com, Paola M. García Meneses paola.garcia@inecc.gob.mx, Laura Gómez Aíza laura.gomez@inecc.gob.mx, Alejandro Monerroso Rivas aimrivas@gmail.com and Margarita Caso Chávez margarita.caso@inecc.gob.mx</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: The goal of this project is to develop a methodology to evaluate vulnerability in the five arid and semiarid ecoregions in Mexico (Sonoran, Chihuahuan, Tamaulipan, Mexican high plateau and Tehuacán-Cuicatlán valley), considering two driving forces: land use/ cover change (LUCC) and climate change (CC). We analyze the current exposure to droughts, low temperatures, floods and tropical cyclones between 2002 and 2011 in those areas, and calculate the LUCC to same period. Also we review specialized literature and determined the main tendencies in temperature a precipitation for each ecoregion. The results shows at what level LUCC or CC are main drivers to each ecoregion and this could be useful in land policy and planning.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: This work was born of the interest of knowing the baseline in relation to climate change and its impacts in the arid and semi-arid areas of Mexico. It was funded by the UNDP / Canada platform.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Sometimes ago, Mexico and USA have been worked together to define some important themes in the desert landscapes, collaborating in the DLCC initiative. We believe this and maybe other initiatives are prioritize because these regions are very sensitivity to climate change. Hence we could be impulse sound collaboration between both countries to incentive climatic adaptation measures with ecosystem approach in those shared regions.</p> <p>SUBMITTED BY: INECC</p>
16:15-16:45	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 13: La Junta de Dos Ríos – Landscape Conservation Design in the Río Grande and Río Conchos Basins</u></p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Matt Grabau, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Genevieve Johnson, Bureau of Reclamation; María Elena Rodarte Garcia, Mexico’s National Commission for Natural Protected Areas; Jeff Bennett, National Park Service; Russell Martin, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; Maria Alfaro, Wildlife Department, Chihuahua State Government; Alfredo Rodriguez, World Wildlife Fund; Arvind Panjabi, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies; Louis Harveson, Borderlands Research Institute, Sul Ross State University; Kevin Urbanczyck, Rio Grande Research Center, Sul Ross State University.</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Conservation partners in the U.S. and Mexico are working together to conserve grassland, riparian, and aquatic habitats in the Chihuahuan Desert borderlands region around the confluence of the Río Grande/Bravo and its tributary, the Río Conchos, <i>la</i></p>

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	<p><i>junta de dos ríos</i>. The landscape of the <i>Dos Ríos</i> region includes some of the largest tracts of unfragmented land in North America with large ranches and protected areas preserving some of the highest levels of biodiversity and endemic species among the world’s arid ecosystems. One method for addressing multiple uses on the landscape is through landscape conservation design. Landscape conservation design is a collaborative process for planning conservation actions to ensure the sustainability of ecosystems and their benefits for current and future generations. The purpose of such a planning process is to collaboratively develop measurable objectives for biologic goals (such as biodiversity, habitat connectivity) and socio-ecologic goals (ecosystem functions that benefit human communities, such as productive rangelands and clean water), assess what is needed to collectively accomplish shared goals and objectives, and to develop decision support tools to help prioritize conservation actions.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: For many years, federal and state governments and others have recognized the value of natural places along the border in our region. Within the last 30 years several major land-management-planning efforts have been completed for the project area. In 2001, the Texas Center for Policy Studies prepared hydrologic analysis for the Rio Conchos basin. Since 2016, the World Wildlife Fund and local partners completed the “Manejo Integrado de la Cuenca del Río Conchos,” for water and biodiversity conservation in the Rio Conchos basin. In 2014, the Commission for Environmental Cooperation facilitated a process in which local partners developed the Conservation Assessment for the Big Bend-Río Bravo with input and assistance from landowners, academics, non-governmental organizations, and governments. The questions and challenges above are far-reaching, span numerous prior planning efforts, and cross-jurisdictional boundaries across two countries. An increasing awareness of the benefits healthy ecosystems provide to people and the connectedness of landscapes has encouraged landowners, agencies, and public organizations to broaden long-term planning solutions. Without broad-scale planning, we risk damaging grasslands that support the wildlife and livestock so important to the ranching and tourist economies. We also risk damaging the areas that recharge aquifers critical for municipal and agricultural water supplies. We risk losing the quality of life that sustains us. These challenges illustrate the need for natural resource and land managers, landowners, and communities to work collaboratively on long-term planning.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update the ECWT on status of the Dos Ríos Landscape Conservation Project initiated by the Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative. • Exchange of information and increased understanding of challenges and opportunities associated with the project. • Discuss opportunities and next steps for collaboration. <p>SUBMITTED BY: Aimee Roberson, Río Grande Joint Venture, Coordinator, aroberson@abcbirds.org</p>
17:00-18:00	Country Delegation Preparatory Meetings
18:00-19:00	Dinner
19:00-20:00	Welcome reception

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TUESDAY, April 10, 2018

9:00–10:00	Welcome Ceremony; Remarks by Delegation Leaders (Auditorium)
10:00-10:15	<i>Break</i>
10:15-11:00 Room 111	<p><i>Joint Session with Migratory Birds Working Table: Mainstreaming Grassland Bird Conservation</i> - Room change to Room 111</p> <p><u>AGENDA ITEM 14 (MB 10): Next Steps for Mainstreaming Grassland Bird Conservation</u></p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Ken Richkus (FWS), Charles M Francis (CWS), J. Ryan Zimmerling (CWS), Arvind Panjabi (Bird Conservation of the Rockies), Aimee Roberson (Río Grande Joint Venture Coordinator), Alicia Melgoza (Universidad Autonoma de Chihuahua), Guy Foulks (USFWS).</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Grassland birds remain one of the highest priority conservation issues from a tri-national perspective: many species of birds spend their whole life cycle travelling between Canada, USA and Mexico, but are experiencing dramatic population declines. Funding is being sought to implement the next steps.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: The Chihuahuan grasslands remain a conservation concern for the Trilateral Committee because several rapidly declining grassland birds are dependent upon these habitats for their survival. These habitats are threatened by conversion of rangelands to irrigated crops, which also affects the livelihood of ranchers and threatens the water resources in the region. Mainstreaming conservation of these habitats has the potential to benefit both birds and people. The mainstreaming concept engages multiple sectors (e.g., agriculture, water, biodiversity) in an effort to find common solutions that benefit all parties in the region. Mainstreaming can create a sense of responsibility not just from the conservation partners but also from other government and industry partners. A workshop is proposed to bring together these diverse sectors to explain the conservation urgency – both for birds and for people – and to work together to seek common solutions. CWS and FWS have committed to provide partial funding through collaboration involving NGOs and CONABIO.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Discussion sources of funding for implementing a 2018 workshop and how the tri-nations can coordinate for this workshop</p> <p>AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR(S): Humberto Berlanga</p> <p>SUBMITTED BY: Co-chairs – Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Ken Richkus (FWS), Charles M Francis (CWS), Arvind Panjabi (Bird Conservation of the Rockies)</p>
11:00-11:30	<u>AGENDA ITEM 15 (MB 11): Coordinating Conservation of North America’s Central Grasslands</u>

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COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Humberto Berlanga, Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO); Kristin Madden, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Russell Castro, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Jeff Raasch, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; Arvind Panjabi, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies; Mauricio de la Maza, Pronatura Noreste; Andrew Rothman, American Bird Conservancy; Jon Hayes, Audubon – New Mexico; Laura Paulson, Nature Conservancy – Mexico; Sonia Najera, Nature Conservancy – Texas; Alejandro Carrillo, Pasticultores del Desierto; Robert Potts, Dixon Water Foundation; Scott Somershoe, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Casey Stemler, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Judith Scarl, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies/ North American Bird Conservation Initiative.

DESCRIPTION: Grassland birds are in steep decline with nearly one third of them on the watch list for the North American Bird Conservation Initiative. And birds of the central grasslands that winter in the Chihuahuan Desert have declined 70% since 1970 – more than twice as much as other grassland birds (NABCI State of the Birds Report 2016). We know that one of the biggest threats to these birds and other grassland wildlife is habitat loss and degradation, which is also occurring at an alarming rate. Conservation partners across the continent are asking, what can be done to address this conservation crisis? Thankfully, there are numerous conservation assessment and planning efforts that have recently been completed or are currently being developed across North America’s Central Grasslands. These include: (1) The Northern Great Plains Business Plan completed by the National Fish and wildlife Foundation in September 2016; (2) the Grassland Bird Conservation Plan: A Full-Annual Cycle Plan for four Priority Grassland Birds currently being developed by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and partners; (3) the Chihuahuan Desert Grasslands Conservation Investment Strategy being developed by the Río Grande Joint Venture in partnership with the Intermountain West Joint Venture and the Sonoran Joint Venture; and (4) an assessment of native grasslands in the North American Great Plains to inform conservation delivery being developed by the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture in coordination with the and Northern Great Plains Joint Venture, Playa Lakes Joint Venture, Rainwater Basin Joint Venture, Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture, Rio Grande Joint Venture, USDA Farm Services Agency. In addition, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies passed a resolution to focus on grassland conservation during their September 2017 Business Meeting, and their Bird Conservation Committee approved the formation of a Grassland Work Group, which started its work in December 2016, hopefully providing a foundation for support of future grassland conservation efforts. Even some members of the U.S. Congress are concerned about native grassland conservation and introduced versions of the “American Prairie Conservation Act” in both the Senate and the House of Representatives in October 2017. While it is good news that conservation organizations and partnerships and some political leaders are turning their attention to the dire issue of grassland conservation, how can we ensure that we are working together across the continent in a coordinated fashion to maximize effectiveness and efficiency in achieving our shared grassland conservation goals?

BACKGROUND: This agenda item follows and builds on several presentations related to conservation of grasslands and grassland birds given during a joint session of the Trilateral Committee’s Migratory Bird and Ecosystem Conservation Tables in 2017.

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	<p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the current status of several grassland conservation assessment and planning efforts across North America’s central grasslands. • Exchange of information and increased understanding of challenges and opportunities associated with grassland conservation. • Discuss opportunities and next steps for trilateral coordination and collaboration. <p>SUBMITTED BY: Aimee Roberson, Río Grande Joint Venture</p>
<p>11:30-11:45</p>	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 16 (MB 12): South Texas Grassland Restoration Incentive Program: Habitat Restoration and Landscape Connectivity for Monarch Butterflies and Grassland Birds in South Texas</u></p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Humberto Berlanga, Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO); Kristin Madden, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Russell Castro, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Jeff Raasch, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; Arvind Panjabi, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies; Mauricio de la Maza, Pronatura Noreste; Andrew Rothman, American Bird Conservancy; Maria Jose Villanueva, World Wildlife Fund; Iliana Pena, Audubon – Texas; Laura Paulson, Nature Conservancy – Mexico; Sonia Najera, Nature Conservancy – Texas; Alejandro Carrillo, Pasticultores del Desierto; Robert Potts, Dixon Water Foundation.</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: The South Texas Grassland Restoration Incentive Program is a multi-organization partnership led by the Rio Grande Joint Venture aimed improving monarch butterfly and grassland bird habitat enhancement in key areas. The Grassland Restoration Incentive Program promotes land management practices that maintain and or produce suitable grass-dominated habitat for wildlife, including monarch butterflies in the core of their migratory route through south Texas. With support from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation’s Monarch Butterfly Conservation Fund, we developed this program to provide technical and financial assistance to landowners conducting approved grassland enhancement practices on their property. The Grassland Restoration Incentive Program has already been successfully implemented for several years by the Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture in central and northern Texas and Oklahoma. By assisting private landowners in South Texas, the Rio Grande Joint Venture is adding another important ‘stepping stone’ along the Monarch migratory flight path while also enhancing habitat for grassland bird species.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: For many years, monarch butterfly and birds that depend on diverse grasslands and grass-dominated shrublands throughout Texas and northern Mexico have been steadily declining. Many factors have contributed to these population declines, but the primary cause is loss of habitat. In South Texas, these losses are partially due to invasive non-native grasses, the increase of dense shrublands, and fire suppression. These factors have had a significant impact on multiple species of pollinators, such as monarch butterflies, as well as many grassland birds. Rio Grande Joint Venture partners are working together to address these population declines in various ways and the National Fish and Wildlife Fund’s Monarch Butterfly Conservation Fund has been an important source of funding for this. The South Texas Grassland Restoration Incentive Program is one example.</p>

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	<p>Another example is Rio Grande Joint Venture partner Pronatura Noreste working in Mexico on monarch conservation activities including habitat restoration, community outreach and education, and monitoring.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update the ECWT on status of the development of the South Texas Grassland Restoration Incentive Program led by the Río Grande Joint Venture. • Exchange of information and increased understanding of challenges and opportunities associated with monarch butterfly and bird habitat restoration. • Discuss opportunities and next steps for trilateral collaboration. <p>SUBMITTED BY: Aimee Roberson, Río Grande Joint Venture</p>
<p>11:45-12:00</p>	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 17 (MB 13): Trilateral Island Initiative: Conservation and Restoration of the Islands of Canada, the United States, and Mexico</u></p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Annie Little (USFWS), Patrick Nantel (Parks Canada), Gilles Suetin (Parks Canada), Federico A. Méndez (Conservación de Islas), Gregg Howald (Island Conservation), Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Eduardo E. Iñigo-Elias (Cornell Lab of Ornithology)</p> <p>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 Migratory Birds Table on the status of current collaborative efforts, including ongoing projects, workshops, exchanges, and efforts to promote the LOI.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: In the last five years, several bilateral and trilateral island restoration projects 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.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: We seek continued endorsement by the Trilateral Committee of collaborative conservation efforts on islands in Canada, United States, and Mexico.</p> <p>SUBMITTED BY: Annie Little (USFWS) and representatives from Canada and Mexico</p>
<p>12:00-13:15</p>	<p><i>Lunch</i></p>
<p>13:15-14:00</p>	<p><i>Monarch Butterfly Conservation</i></p>

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	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 18: Domestic Updates on Monarch Butterfly Conservation</u></p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Greg Mitchell (Environment and Climate Change Canada), Tom Melius and Ryan Drum (FWS), Ignacio Mifsut (CONANP)</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Each country will give 15-minute presentations on the status of domestic efforts towards conservation of the Monarch butterfly, including information about in-country planning and science efforts.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: For years, the EWCT has served as a forum for trilateral cooperation for monarch conservation, including for the sharing of information about in-country efforts and the work of the countries' High Level Working Groups for Monarch Conservation. Updates will center around areas of habitat conservation, coordination and leadership, science, planning, and outreach and education.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Provide information on progress and determine areas for further collaboration.</p>
14:00-14:45	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 19: Trinational Actions to Support Monarch Butterfly Conservation</u></p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Ryan Drum, Monarch Science Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Greg Mitchell & Keith Hobson, Environment & Climate Change Canada (ECCC), Ignacio March & Gloria Tavera, Comisión Nacional de Areas Naturales Protegidas (Conanp), Georgina O'Farrill and Lucie Robidoux, Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC), Monarch Joint Venture (United States), Xerces Society (United States), Correo Real & Profaua (Mexico), WWF-Mexico, Montreal Insectarium, and numerous interested Parties.</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Throughout North America, NGOs, citizen science organizations, researchers and local, state and federal government agencies have been working for over 10 years towards the conservation of the monarch butterfly (<i>Danaus plexippus</i>) and its habitat along its migratory routes. We propose to highlight the collaborative efforts to conserve this species since the publication of the North America Monarch Conservation Plan (NAMCP) in 2008. The CEC will provide a retrospective of regional actions and will highlight key collaborative efforts that have successfully showcase trinational commitment towards the conservation of monarch butterflies in North America. In addition country leads will give an overview of the in-country status, accomplishments, strategies and work plans related to the conservation of the monarch butterfly. Round tables on three key areas (habitat, outreach and research) will help establish further collaborative actions for the conservation of this North American iconic species.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: Monarch butterflies can fly up to 4500 kilometers from southern Canada to reach their most southerly wintering destination in Mexico. It takes only one generation—living up to nine months—to migrate from Canada or the northern United States to Mexico, but four generations to migrate north from overwintering sites, laying eggs and producing the succeeding generations on their way back.</p> <p>In 2007, the CEC Council instructed the Secretariat to support a multi-stakeholder</p>

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	<p>collaborative effort to develop a North American Monarch Conservation Plan (NAMCP). The action plan was published in 2008 and includes among other elements, a list of key trinational collaborative conservation objectives and actions. This action plan served as baseline for future monarch conservation work in North America which was further supported during in 2014, when Presidents Obama and Peña Nieto, and Prime Minister Harper met at the North American Leaders Summit and agreed “<i>to establish a working group to ensure conservation of the monarch butterfly</i>”. In May 2014, during the 19th Annual Meeting of the Canada-Mexico-United States Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management in Queretaro, Mexico, each country agreed to establish a national High Level Working Group (HLWG).</p> <p>Since 2008, major conservation efforts have been promoted including the establishment of the Monarch Conservation Science Partnership in 2016, the Trilateral Monarch Conservation Partnership in 2017 and the Trinational Mayor’s Monarch Pledge - a US initiative that was expanded to Canada and Mexico to engage mayors and local governments in monarch conservation actions.</p> <p>2018 represents a good opportunity to assess the trinational actions included in the NAMCP published 10 years ago, as well as an opportunity to learn from national achievements in this last decade. In addition, this year will showcase successful trinational collaborative and cooperative efforts.</p> <p>The Species of Common Concern Table of the Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management endorsed and actively supported our trinational work in 2014 and its validation in current and future actions is essential for the success of our joint efforts.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchange of information and fuller understanding of challenges and opportunities in each country • Identification of potentially transferable and/or replicable projects, strategies, and contacts • Identification of future opportunities for collaboration and next steps for trilateral collaboration <p>SUBMITTED BY: Georgina O’Farrill & Lucie Robidoux (CEC), Michael Gale and Ryan Drum (USFWS), Ignacio March (Conanp), Greg Mitchell and Keith Hobson (ECCC)</p>
<p>14:45–15:15</p>	<p><i>Break</i></p>
<p>15:15-16:00</p>	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 20: Mid-America Regional Monarch Conservation Strategy</u></p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Bill Moritz, Claire Beck, and Ed Boggess – Representing the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA)</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: The purpose of the Mid-America Monarch Conservation Strategy (Strategy) is to facilitate cohesive, coordinated conservation actions necessary to recover the eastern monarch butterfly population through establishment of regional and</p>

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	<p>state goals and strategies. This session will provide an overview of U.S.-based planning efforts to inform potential state and provincial collaborations and correlating efforts.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: The Strategy will identify actions at the state- and regional-level to enhance and sustain needed monarch habitat by adding milkweed stems and restored floral diversity to the American landscape east of the Rocky Mountains. The goal of this habitat restoration and enhancement is to support an average overwintering monarch population occupying six hectares in Mexico, as recommended by the Pollinator Health Task Force and the Monarch Conservation Science Partnership. The Mid-America Monarch Conservation Strategy is bringing together multiple state, federal, private, and non-governmental partners to plan and implement voluntary conservation activities that will result in a healthy, robust North American population of monarch butterflies.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Provide an overview and enable a discussion about connecting various monarch conservation planning efforts in all three countries.</p> <p>SUBMITTED BY: Tom Melius, Midwest Regional Director, FWS</p>
<p>16:00-16:30</p>	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 21:</u> National Park Service Update/Operation Butterfly Wings</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: NPS Chief Biologist Elaine Leslie and NPS International Affairs Coordinator Jon Putnam will provide updates from the National Park Service, and NPS Park Manager Chris Stein will present a 20-minute power point regarding the project <i>Operation Butterfly Wings</i>.</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: <i>Operation Butterfly Wings</i> is a landscape scale conservation effort to create pollinator habitat in three National Heritage Areas (NHAs) of the NPS Midwest Region. Using the model <i>St. Croix Valley Pollinator Partnership</i> (MN/WI), these three NHAs will create their own Pollinator Resolution and obtain Pollinator Pledges for partners to commit to creating pollinator habitat.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: In 2015, the <i>St. Croix Valley Pollinator Partnership</i> formed, led by USFWS, NPS, and USFS. In a short period of time, more than 100 organizations had signed individual pollinator pledges to create pollinator habitat. By signing these pledges, these organizations became part of the <i>St. Croix Valley Pollinator Partnership</i>. In 2018, this model project will be replicated in three National Heritage Areas of the NPS Midwest Region.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Operation Butterfly Wings has three outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Export the good work of the St. Croix Valley Pollinator Partnership to three National Heritage Areas of the NPS Midwest Region (see above). 2) Request Rotary International to engage Rotarian in Canada, USA, and Mexico to create small-scale pollinator habitat. 3) Explore the possibility of a tri-lateral <i>Sister Conservation Area Partnership</i> between the three countries. This is what we would like to discuss with all

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	<p style="text-align: center;">three countries at the Tri-lateral Meeting.</p> <p>SUBMITTED BY: Chris Stein, Acting Superintendent, Gettysburg National Military Park</p>
16:30-17:00	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 22: Using Ecosystem Function and Traditional Ecological Knowledge Together to Build Resilience and Adapt to Climate Change in North America</u></p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Paola M. García Meneses paola.garcia@inecc.gob.mx and Margarita Caso Chávez margarita.caso@inecc.gob.mx</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Under its 2015–2016 project, Using Ecosystem Function and Traditional Ecological Knowledge Together to Build Resilience and Adapt to Climate Change in North America, the CEC facilitated the exchange of tools, methodologies and assessments developed in Canada, Mexico and the United States to support the development of ecosystem-based, local adaptation in communities vulnerable to the effects of climate change. In particular for Mexico, Managing waste at the community level to increase resilience was carried out. We are going to present the results of this work in collaboration with USA and Canada.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: The goal of this project is to share tools that are available to indigenous communities in the three countries, and to pilot new ones, to assess ecosystem vulnerability, and to demonstrate and test the concepts of integrated riparian and/or water catchment management. The people and agencies engaged in this project gained experience from hands-on application of such tools. This project enabled to expand the application to provide support to other indigenous and local communities located within water catchments and riparian areas in need.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discuss opportunities for trilateral work in areas of common interest - Identify care initiatives, projects, strategies and contacts <p>SUBMITTED BY: INECC</p>
18:00-19:30	Dinner
19:30-21:00 The Gallery	Documentary Screening – “The Guardians” – about ejido communities in overwintering reserve for the Monarch butterfly in Mexico.

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WEDNESDAY, April 11, 2018

08:30-12:00	Field Trip
12:00-13:15	Lunch
13:15-17:30	Plenary Session

THURSDAY, April 12, 2017

9:00-10:30	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 23:</u> ECWT Business Meeting</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Co-chairs and Facilitator – Margarita Caso (INECC), Noah Matson (FWS), Michael Gale (FWS)</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Reserved for ECWT discussion, agenda follow-up, and preparation for meeting with the Executive Table. May include a discussion on <u>grasslands</u>.</p>
10:30-11:00	<i>Break</i>
11:00-12:00	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 24:</u> Working Table Co-Chairs Report to Executive Table Co-Chairs</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: EWCT Co-Chairs will present highlights from the week’s discussions, including major themes and action items.</p>
12:00-13:15	<i>Lunch</i>
13:15–15:00	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 25:</u> ECWT Business Meeting</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Co-chairs and Facilitator</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Reserved for ECWT discussion, agenda follow-up, and preparation for meeting with the Executive Table. May include a discussion on <u>monarchs</u>.</p>
15:00-15:30	<i>Break</i>
15:30-16:30	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 26:</u> Finalize EWCT Program of Work</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Co-chairs and Facilitator</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Summarize week’s proceedings. Prepare highlights and Action Item Reports (AIRs). May include session with the Executive Table on MOUs, LOIs.</p>
16:30	Adjourn