

WORK TABLE: EXECUTIVE TABLE (ET)

Co-Chairs: Sue Milburn Hopwood, Director General - Canadian Wildlife Service; Jorge Maksabedian de la Roquette, Director General for Wildlife - SEMARNAT, & Dan Ashe, Director - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Wednesday, April 15, 2015

Room: Cortez 2

9:00 am: Plenary Session – Monarch Butterfly Conservation in North America

11:00 am: Pen and Pad Press Teleconference with the Executive Table Co-chairs

11:30 pm: Adjourn

11:30-12:45pm: Lunch

1:15- 6:00 pm: Site Visit San Diego National Wildlife Refuge and Tijuana Slough

6:00 -7:00 pm: Reception

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Room: Cortez2

9:00 am

AGENDA ITEM 1: Welcome – Adoption of the Agenda

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Executive Table (ET): Sue Milburn Hopwood, Director General – Canadian Wildlife Service, Jorge Maksabedian de la Roquette, Director General for Wildlife, SEMARNA; Dan Ashe, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. & Trilateral Coordinating Committee (TCC): Debbie Martin-CAN, Leonel Urbano-MX, Valencia Richardson-U.S.).

DESCRIPTION: Welcome remarks by Dan Ashe, Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and adoption of the agenda.

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

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Adoption of the agenda

SUBMITTED BY: TCC

9:05am

AGENDA ITEM 2: Country Updates

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: ET: Sue Milburn-Hopwood, Director General, Canada Wildlife Service, Jorge Maksabedian de la Roquette, Direction General for Wildlife, SEMARNAT, Mexico, and Dan Ashe, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. & TCC (Debbie Martin-CAN, Leonel Urbano-MX, Valencia Richardson-U.S.).

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

BACKGROUND: Executive Table Co-chairs use this opportunity to exchange information relevant to natural resource management and biodiversity conservation taking place in their countries, which might be of interest to the other countries.

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

SUBMITTED BY: TCC

10:00 am

AGENDA ITEM 3: Celebrating the 2016 Centennial of the Migratory Bird Treaty/ Convention

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Charles M Francis (Canada), Brad Bortner (USA), Humberto Berlanga (Mexico)

DESCRIPTION: 2016 will be the Centennial of the signing of the Migratory Bird Convention between the USA and Canada, and also the 80th anniversary of the signing of a similar treaty between USA and Mexico. Celebrating these anniversaries will provide a valuable opportunity to reflect on the successes of these conventions/treaties, to promote our efforts for migratory bird conservation programs in all three countries, and also to renew our commitments to bird conservation. Efforts are already underway in the USA and Canada to identify potential activities for celebrating the Centennial. In addition, a trilateral State of North America's Birds report is in preparation for release in 2016.

BACKGROUND: The Conventions were signed against a background of major conservation concerns for migratory birds in all three countries. Many species, including geese, herons and egrets, had declined dramatically due to over-exploitation. Subsequently, there have been many conservation successes, including a world-class system for managing migratory game bird harvest and restoration of many other species that were being over-exploited. Nevertheless, many other species are now becoming of conservation concern, and there is a need to renew public and political interest in bird conservation, to ensure effective conservation action for the future.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: To inform the Executive Table about some of the planned activities and to identify areas where multiple countries can work together to celebrate these anniversaries and use them to further bird conservation.

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR: Charles M. Francis / Basile Van Havre

SUBMITTED BY: Charles M. Francis / Basile Van Havre

10:15 am

AGENDA ITEM 4: Signing of a Letter of Intent on Bird Banding between Canada, USA and Mexico LOI

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Humberto Berlanga (Mexico), Bruce Peterjohn (USA), Charles M Francis (Canada)

DESCRIPTION: Since the early 1900s, Canada and the USA have been collaborating in the managing of a joint bird-banding program. The present Letter of Intent has been developed to support the development of a compatible banding system in Mexico that would increase our knowledge of the ecology, distribution, demography and movements of birds in all three North American countries and the linkages among them. Canada and the USA have been working together to support Mexico in various ways for several years, and this Letter of Intent would support and strengthen that cooperation.

BACKGROUND: Bird-banding has, for many years, been one of the most important methods for understanding the behavior, ecology, demography and movements of birds. Recoveries of banded birds have provided valuable information linking breeding, migration and wintering grounds. They are critical for estimating harvest and survival rates used to manage waterfowl harvest, as well as understanding limiting factors in non-game bird conservation. The value of bird-marking programs continues to grow as new types of markers, such as color bands and various types of radio / satellite transmitters are used. Effective international coordination is essential to ensure that markers are used effectively, field programs are coordinated, and data are shared.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: To address any specific questions from the Executive Table about the proposed Letter of Intent before they sign it at a joint ceremony.

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR: Humberto Berlanga, Charles M. Francis

SUBMITTED BY: Charles M. Francis

10:30 am

AGENDA ITEM 5: LOI Bat Conservation

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Rodrigo Medillin (Mexico), Charles Francis

(Canada), Jeremy Coleman (USA)

DESCRIPTION: Letter of Intent on Bat Conservation

BACKGROUND: This is a letter of intent for Canada, the USA and Mexico to work together to promote the conservation of bats in North America. Bats are among the most diverse groups of mammals in North America, but they are now facing many threats, and several species are now considered threatened or endangered in one or more countries. The LOI is intended to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of conservation efforts by increasing communication, coordination and cooperation among government agencies, environmental non-government organizations, academia, industry and others within each of Mexico, the USA, and Canada to address threats to bats.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Signature of LOI by Executive Table

SUBMITTED BY: Canada, Mexico and the U.S.

10:45 am

AGENDA ITEM 6: Update on the Implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service providing for cooperation in the recovery of the California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*).

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:

John McCamman, California Condor Coordinator, U.S. FWS, john_mccamman@fws.gov

Jesus Lizardo Cruz Romo, CONANP, jcruz@conanp.gob.mx

Dr. Juan Arturo Rivera Rebolledo, Director General, Dirección General de Zoológicos y Vida Silvestre, Mexico City, jarturorivera.sma@gmail.com

Dr. Mike Wallace, San Diego Zoo Global's Institute for Conservation Research, mwallace@sandiegozoo.org

DESCRIPTION: Following many years of discussion, the governments of Mexico and the U.S. entered into a Memorandum of Understanding in 2014 providing for cooperative actions furthering the recovery of California condor, including sharing of information, strategies, expertise, public information, educational material and training between and among the recovery programs for this species. This agenda item is to update the executive table concerning implementation of this MOU.

BACKGROUND: Starting in 2002, San Diego Zoo Global's Institute for Conservation Research began a condor reintroduction program in cooperation with the Environment and Natural Resources Ministry (SEMARNAT), the National Institute for Ecology and Climate Change (INECC) and the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP) in Mexico and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the U.S. Condors were introduced into Sierra de San Pedro Martir, a protected land in Baja California and a part of the condor's historic range. As of this writing, there are 29 condors in the wild in San Pedro Martir managed in cooperation by the government of Mexico and San Diego Zoo's Institute for Conservation Research. The

governments of the U.S. and Mexico formalized the cooperative nature of the recovery effort in San Pedro Martir in an MOU signed at the 2014 Trilateral Committee meeting. Since that time, an additional six condors have been transferred and are being prepared for release at San Pedro Martir, two habituated condors that are no longer suitable for release were returned to the U.S. for placement in the Phoenix Zoo, and two female condors were transferred to the Chapultepec Zoo in Mexico City to supplement the two males previously transferred. These four birds will be the basis of a new captive breeding program centered at the Chapultepec Zoo to supplement the San Pedro Martir free-flying population. In addition, condor field staff in Mexico have participated in field meetings and training with their U.S. counterparts, and zoo-based staff have participated in several trainings at various program partner organizations in the U.S.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Update the executive committee regarding the condor recovery program, particularly as to implementation of the MOU.

SUBMITTED BY: U.S. (McCamman) and Mexico (Cruz)

11:15 am

AGENDA ITEM 7: Update Conservation and Restoration of the Islands of Canada, the United States, and Mexico

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Annie Little (USFWS), Patrick Nantel (Parks Canada), Alfonso Aguirre (Conservación de Islas), Gregg Howald (Island Conservation), Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Eduardo E. Inigo-Elias (Cornell)

DESCRIPTION: This agenda item focuses on a collaborative trilateral effort to conserve and restore island ecosystems. Following the signing of the Letter of Intent (LOI) at the 2014 Trilateral Committee meeting, the three countries have been jointly developing a Plan of Action for the trilateral island initiative. We will present the progress to date on the Plan of Action including goals, objectives, priorities, and strategies. In addition, we will update the Executive Table on: 1) the status of current collaborative island restoration projects, and 2) our efforts to promote the LOI and seek funding for future projects.

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 LOI identifies the development of a Plan of Action aimed at strengthening cross coordination, setting priorities, and identifying collaborative projects. The Working Group is currently focused on developing the Plan of Action.

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

SUBMITTED BY: Annie Little, USFWS

11:30am

AGENDA ITEM 8: Vaquita Marina and Totoaba

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Rafael Pacchiano (SGPA-SEMARNAT), Luis Fueyo (CONANP), Jorge Maksabedian (DGVS), Joel Gonzalez and Karla Acosta (PROFEPA), and Isabel Camarena (CONABIO).

DESCRIPTION: Totoaba (*Totoaba macdonaldi*): Mexico seeks the region's advice and collaboration to tackle totoaba's ongoing illegal trade (driven mainly by its market value in China) and its impact on both totoaba and vaquita species.

Vaquita (*Phocoena sinus*): Update on the implementation of the No Fishing Agreement (including gillnet ban, enforcement, compensation to fishing sector) in the upper Gulf of California.

BACKGROUND: Totoaba is a fish endemic to Mexico; its value in the international market developed in response to the demand for its gas bladder (to which aphrodisiac and medicinal properties are attributed), exported to Asia (mainly China and Japan occasionally via USA). Due to the collapse of its populations driven by over exploitation and habitat degradation, its fisheries stopped in 1975 (through the establishment of a national ban which is still in force), and since 1977 it has been listed under CITES Appendix I. Additionally, the species is officially listed as 'endangered' under Mexican and the USA's domestic legislation (respectively, NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2010 since 1991, and the *Endangered Species Act* since 1979); the latter prohibits exports and imports of the species from the USA.

In 1992, Mexico established a Technical Committee for the protection of totoaba and vaquita, the latter is subject to by catch from the totoaba fishery and from shrimp and finfish gillnet fisheries. Amongst its main outcomes, in 1993: the upper Gulf of California and the Colorado River Delta is formally granted a Biosphere Reserve status under the national system of protected natural areas (ANP by its acronym in Spanish); and an Official Standard (now NOM-024-SEMARNAT-1993) is published, which establishes requirements for fishing gear to avoid totoaba harvest and vaquita bycatch. Despite the above, the totoaba is still subject to illegal harvest and trade and the vaquita population has declined precipitously.

Mexico's Federal Government has financed several initiatives and studies to update the scientific and technical knowledge on totoaba and to improve its conservation status. These have served as the basis of decision making processes at both national and international spheres; for example, within the framework of CITES periodic review process, Mexico's recommendation to retain the species listed in Appendix I was successfully endorsed by the Animals Committee (see AC17 Inf. 6; Hanoi 2001). The latest initiative was launched in 2014 and is being led by the Mexican CITES Enforcement Authority (PROFEPA), in coordination with relevant marine authorities; its aim is to improve the surveillance and law enforcement regarding totoaba's [illegal] harvest and trade.

Vaquita: The tiny vaquita porpoise (*Phocoena sinus*) of the northern Gulf of California, Mexico, is the world's most endangered cetacean species. A [July 2014 report](#) of the International Committee for the Recovery of the Vaquita (CIRVA) indicated that the vaquita's decline toward extinction has accelerated recently, with likely fewer than 100 remaining. Vaquitas die from entanglement in gillnets used to catch shrimp and finfish in legal fisheries, which primarily serve markets in the United States. In addition, however, as noted above, there has been a resurgence in an illegal fishery for totoaba (*Totoaba macdonaldi*), also endemic to the northern Gulf of California. This fishery, which involves large-mesh gillnets exceptionally lethal for vaquitas, is driven by the high price and demand for totoaba swim bladders [in China](#).

New measures announced by the Government of Mexico on 27 February 2015 include expansion of the protected area for vaquitas to encompass their entire range, a two-year ban on all gillnets within this area, except for a limited corvina fishing season, coordinated inspections and surveillance to enforce the ban, support for alternative fishing methods, and compensation to the fishing communities. These measures are expected to enter into force in April 2015.

These measures implement recommendations of International Committee for the Recovery of Vaquita (CIRVA) and the Species Conservation Action Plan (PACE) of the vaquita.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:

Totoaba: Formalization of a regional approach to tackle the totoaba problem and its impact on vaquita, grounded on:

- a. Regional collaboration between relevant Authorities (CITES and others) to improve the enforcement of the applicable international and domestic legal framework. This should be focused mainly on the exchange of information, experiences, and lessons learnt by the countries. And,
- b. A strong regional commitment to provide financial, technical and diplomatic support regarding current and future activities ultimately aimed towards the successful conservation of totoaba.

Vaquita: Identify opportunities for collaboration on the implementation and enforcement for the no gillnet fishing area for shrimp, finfish and totoaba and the development of new alternative fishing gears for shrimp and finfish with zero vaquita bycatch.

Discuss the possibility of working together, including through a possible “Sustainable Fishing Communities” meeting to identify alternative gear, alternative fisheries, and economic opportunities for the affected communities of the upper Gulf of California. This will include work to identify and encourage legal and sustainable trade streams for fisheries products from gears with zero vaquita bycatch to enter U.S. markets.

SUBMITTED BY: Mexico

12:30pm

AGENDA ITEM 9: Trilateral Migratory Grassland Bird Conservation

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Brad Bortner (US Fish and Wildlife Service), Charles Francis (Environment Canada), Arvind Panjabi (Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory)

DESCRIPTION: Grassland birds are among the most rapidly declining birds in the continent, with many species representing serious conservation concerns. Last year, the MB table highlighted to the Executive Table the urgent need for action to conserve key grassland areas in central Chihuahua, especially in Valles Centrales, that are rapidly being converted to agriculture. These areas represent critical habitat for several migratory grassland bird species; continued loss of habitat in these areas could undermine continental efforts to conserve these species. The MB table has identified additional needs for improving effectiveness of trilateral grassland bird conservation efforts, including increased commitments toward science, coordination and on-the-ground delivery of conservation efforts across the three countries.

BACKGROUND: Grasslands in Chihuahua, Mexico are globally important to declining migratory grassland birds, supporting roughly half the wintering populations Sprague's Pipit, Chestnut-collared Longspur and Baird's Sparrow, in addition to endangered species such as Aplomado Falcon and Mexican Pronghorn. A recent scientific study identified the current rate of cropland expansion in Chihuahua (~6%/yr) and the associated impact on grasslands and birds. At this rate, the most important grasslands will be completely lost from some critical areas by 2025 (i.e., in Valles Centrales), unless the destruction is slowed. The study also highlighted that the legal land-use change process, including approval of permits and payment of mitigation fees, was rarely followed in Chihuahua resulting in a loss of over \$43M USD in revenue earmarked for conservation. Although more recent data are not available, observations in 2014-2015 indicate cropland expansion and grassland loss are continuing at similar rates in Valles Centrales and elsewhere, including inside Natural Protected Areas.

Governments and NGOs in Canada, USA and Mexico have recently increased their focus on migratory grassland birds and other grassland-dependent wildlife. With support from the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act and other funding partners, RMBO and other NGOs are now working directly with grassland owners to conserve and restore grasslands in the Valles Centrales. RMBO and university partners are also investigating the role of overwinter survival in population trends, and are expanding this research across the full annual lifecycle to identify limiting factors and develop strategies to effectively and efficiently increase population growth. These projects and similar activities are key elements of a grassland bird business plan currently being developed by conservation partners. However, the impacts of these and similar activities are limited by inadequate and diminishing funding. Greater investment from all sectors is needed to increase the scope of current efforts and begin 'moving the needle' for grassland bird conservation. Similarly, genuine coordination at regional and trilateral scales is needed to achieve a collective on-the-ground conservation impact and to address policy gaps to effectively conserve grasslands. Past successes in migratory bird conservation (e.g., Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Whooping Crane, California Condor, etc.) demonstrate that once limiting factors are identified, recovery can be achieved through targeted and well-coordinated actions.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:

1. To discuss whether progress has been made halting the loss of grasslands in Chihuahua, and ways that the three countries could work together at the executive level, and in collaboration with actors already involved in the region, to protect these habitats.
2. To discuss options for improved and increased implementation of conservation actions for grassland birds throughout their breeding, migration and wintering areas, including those that have already been identified as priorities through existing monitoring, research and conservation planning efforts.

SUBMITTED BY: Migratory Bird Working Table

1:00pm: LUNCH

2:15 pm

AGENDA ITEM 10: Executive Table and Co-chairs Joint Session

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Executive Table & Working Tables Co-chairs

DESCRIPTION: The Executive Tables meets with the Co-chairs from all the tables to discuss general issues about the Trilateral Committee. This is the only opportunity the Executive Table has to discuss with the Co-chairs any issues related to the functioning of the Trilateral Committee make sure that it remains effective, efficient, relevant and strategic.

BACKGROUND: Since 2009, the Executive Table and the Co-chairs meeting has provided an opportunity for the Executive Table and the Co-chairs from all the tables to exchange ideas. This exchange can include “housekeeping” issues (i.e. effectiveness/efficiency of the annual meeting), agenda coordination, discussion of issues of concern/interest, partnerships, and the development and sharing of a strategic vision for the future of the Trilateral Committee.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: A common vision by the Executive Table and the Co-chairs on the strategic direction of the Trilateral Committee

SUBMITTED BY: TCC

3:15pm

AGENDA ITEM 11: High Level Monarch Butterfly Working Group & ET Meeting

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: CWS, CONANP, USFWS

DESCRIPTION: Discussion on Development of the Trinational Action Plan for Monarch Conservation

BACKGROUND: At the February 2014 North American Leaders Summit (NALS), the leaders of the three countries agreed to establish a Tri-national Monarch Butterfly Working Group

(TWG) to address conservation of the monarch and its migration. The three countries agreed to coordinate through the Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management (Trilateral Committee) to develop a Trinational Action Plan for Monarch Conservation for delivery at the 2015 NALS sometime this fall (most likely in November).

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:

- Discuss the status of each country's strategy
- Discuss and identify trinational priorities and opportunities for collaboration
- Discuss a measureable population goal for the Trinational Action Plan
- Discuss the critical path forward and timeline for finalizing the Trinational Action Plan
- Discuss options for a Ministerial meeting on the Trinational plan prior to the NALs – possibly in conjunction with the regular session of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation Council in Boston, MA, July 14-15.

SUBMITTED BY: Canada, Mexico, and the U.S.

4:15pm

AGENDA ITEM 12: Ecosystem Threats by Asina Salamander Fungus

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Charles M Francis (Canada), David Hoskins (USA), TBD (Mexico)

DESCRIPTION: Recent studies have shown that a salamander fungus, *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans*, originating from Asia has established in Europe and is causing major population declines of many species of European salamanders. If this fungus gets introduced into North America, which has among the highest diversity of salamanders in the world, this could cause a conservation disaster. The purpose of the discussion will be to discuss options to reduce the risk that the fungus will establish in North America, including considering whether legislative controls to address salamander imports would be effective and, if so, whether they are needed in all 3 countries.

BACKGROUND: The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) wrote a letter to Dan Ashe in November 2014 asking the USFWS to take prompt action to address this risk. The USFWS and Canada are both exploring options, including possible use of the Lacey Act (USA) and the Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act (Canada) to restrict imports of salamanders, using clauses related to restricting import of organisms that may harm native species. This fungus is similar to *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* which has caused devastating impacts on frog species throughout the world, including extinction of several tropical frogs. However, the salamander fungus thrives in cooler climates, and hence is a major concern in North America.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: To determine whether a trinational initiative is appropriate / necessary to limit imports of salamanders or other materials that may contain the salamander fungus into North America and, if so, to discuss possible legislative or other options.

SUBMITTED BY: Canada

4:45 pm

AGENDA ITEM 13: 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the CBD

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: CONABIO

DESCRIPTION: Mexico will host the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the CBD (December 4 to 17th, 2016; Los Cabos, Baja California Sur). The main topics to be addressed are the mainstreaming of biodiversity with the following departments:

- 1) Forestry,
- 2) Fisheries,
- 3) Agriculture, and
- 4) Tourism.

In parallel to the CoP13, the MoPs of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and of the Nagoya Protocol on access and benefit sharing will also be held in Mexico.

BACKGROUND: Last COP12, by unanimous decision Mexico was elected as the host of COP13.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:

- a) Broadcast Mexico as host of the next COP13 in all Trilateral Tables.
- b) Identify useful examples (or case studies) that will facilitate the mainstreaming in the four elements described above.

SUBMITTED BY: Mexico

5:00pm

AGENDA ITEM 13: 2016 Trilateral Committee Meeting

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Executive Table (ET): Sue Milburn Hopwood, Director General – Canadian Wildlife Service , Jorge Maksabedian de la Roquette, Director General for Wildlife, SEMARNAT and Dan Ashe, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service & TCC (L. Urbano-MX , V. Richardson –U.S. and D. Martin-CAN).

DESCRIPTION: The Trilateral Committee annual meetings are hosted on a rotational basis among the three countries. Mexico hosted the 2014 meeting in Querétaro, the United States is hosting this year and Canada will make an announcement with regard to the 2016 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: Canada will announce the date/location of the 2016 annual meeting.

SUBMITTED BY: TCC

5:10 pm

AGENDA ITEM 17: Closeout and Highlights Report (1-page) of Working Tables

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Executive Table (ET): Jorge Maksabedian de la Roquette, Director General for Wildlife, SEMARNAT, Mexico, and Dan Ashe, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, US & TCC (D. Martin, L. Urbano-MX and V. Richardson-U.S.).

DESCRIPTION: The 2014-2017 Trilateral Committee Priorities are Climate Change with a Focus on Adaptation; Landscape and Seascape Conservation Connectivity and Area Based Conservation Partnerships; Wildlife Trafficking and Monarch Butterfly Conservation. Each Working Table prepares a 1-page report highlighting its projects/activities in relation to the Trilateral Committee Priorities for the current year and proposed actions for the following year. The reports are submitted to the Executive Table at the conclusion of the sessions.

BACKGROUND: The Executive Table and working tables reviewed the annual in-situ reporting process and recognized the need to enhance its effectiveness and efficiency. As a result, the 1 page template was developed for working tables to use; the submission deadline for annual workplans (AIR) was extended allowing the tables more time to determine goals for 2016 and the Executive Table the opportunity to provide meaningful feedback. The tables have been empowered to endorse their projects.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Co-chairs and Facilitators submit 1-page reports using the new template, finalize and submit the 2015-2016 AIR 2 weeks after the conclusion of the annual meeting (DUE: May 1, 2015). The ET will review the 2015-2016 AIR's and provide feedback to the Working Tables 2 weeks post receipt (DUE: May 15, 2015)

SUBMITTED BY: TCC

5:45pm – Adjourn