



The Canada/Mexico/U.S. Trilateral Committee



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Canada, Mexico, and the U.S. share a wide array of ecosystems, habitats and species. They also are linked by strong economic, social and cultural ties. However, existing strategies for natural resources conservation have not adequately addressed the regions increasing development, nor emerging problems such as climate change, toxic substances, and increased numbers of invasive species. To more effectively address priorities of continental significance and boost the concerted efforts of the three countries of the North America bioregion, the Canada/Mexico/U.S. Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management was established in 1996.

The Trilateral Committee assists coordination, cooperation, and development of partnerships among wildlife agencies of the three countries and other interested groups. It facilitates programs and projects for conservation and management of biological diversity and ecosystems of mutual interest. The Trilateral Committee implements the conservation priorities of each country; develops, implements, reviews, and coordinates specific cooperative actions; and facilitates communication on issues that span international boundaries. The Trilateral Committee is headed by the directors of the Canadian Wildlife Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Coordinating Unit for International Affairs of the Mexican Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT). At annual meetings, more than 100 experts address a broad array of biodiversity issues in eight primary areas: Executive; Law Enforcement; CITES; Shared Species; Biodiversity Information; Migratory Birds/Wetlands; Protected Areas; and Wildlife Without Borders-Mexico.

As a leading biodiversity conservation entity in North America, the Trilateral Committee, provides a unique and efficient

mechanism to address conservation and management of natural resources on a continental scale. Accomplishments include training of more than 100 Mexican wildlife law enforcement officers; developing a Trilateral web page; reintroducing extirpated Black-footed ferrets and pronghorn antelopes in Northern Mexico; assisting with the establishment of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative; implementing North America Wetlands Conservation Act grants; and under the Wildlife Without Borders-Mexico program implementing more than 150 projects on capacity building, ecosystem management, and information transfer.

Equally important are accomplishments that cannot be easily measured. The Trilateral Committee provides a forum to better understand the differing factors that influence national policies in each country. Together, the partner nations comprising the Trilateral Committee accept the challenges of developing a sustainable future for North America.

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Division of International Conservation
4401 N. Fairfax Dr. Suite 730
Arlington, Virginia 22203-1622 USA
Phone 703-358-1754
Fax 703-358-2849
<http://international.fws.gov/>
InternationalConservation@fws.gov**

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