



## AFWA IR 2019-2020 Committee Work Plan

### Worksheet

**Guidelines:** Each AFWA Committee, Subcommittee and Workgroup is required to review their charge and develop a work plan at the AFWA Annual Meeting and submit to John Lord, Operations Director, [jlord@fishwildlife.org](mailto:jlord@fishwildlife.org) by October 1. The purpose of the work plan is to improve communication and effectiveness of committee work and enable committee chairs and the Executive Committee to evaluate their status annually.

<b>Committee Work Plan</b>		
<b>Date: September 2019</b>		
<b>Committee Name: International Relations</b>		
<b>Co-Chair: Rick Jacobson</b>	<b>Co-Chair: Travis Ripley</b>	<b>Staff: Deb Hahn</b>
<b>Committee Charge:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop AFWA positions on all appropriate international matters including agreements, treaties, conventions, regulations and initiatives such as International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and its specialists groups and especially on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Fauna and Flora (CITES)</li> <li>• Further Canadian and Mexican involvement, develop relations with Central and South American and Caribbean nations, and explore contact with other nations across the globe.</li> <li>• Monitor and participate, as needed, in the relevant Conventions, agreements and treaties such as the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Ramsar Convention, Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN), IUCN, etc.</li> <li>• Serves as AFWA's source, sounding board and integrator of information and discussion about international issues.</li> </ul>		
<b>Changes to the Charge:</b>		
<b>List Major Activities and Objectives Accomplished During the Last Year:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Represented State agencies and where applicable Provinces and Territories in CITES at the Animals and Standing Committees in 2018 and the Conference of the Parties (CoP) in 2019 (see Work Group activities below).</li> <li>2. Supported the 32 states participating in Southern Wings.</li> <li>3. Attended and helped guide the development of the IUCN U.S. National Committee related to its June meeting and development of working groups and priorities.</li> <li>4. Actively participated in debates and initiatives of the IUCN Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group.</li> <li>5. Participated in the 2019 Trilateral Committee meeting in Canada</li> <li>6. Engaged with partners on issues and positions around the CBD Global Biodiversity Framework.</li> <li>7. Participated in the WHSRN Hemispheric Council meeting.</li> </ol>		

8. Engaged with partners on issues and positions leading up to CBD CoP14.
9. Began providing input into CMS Conference of the Parties (CoP) documents with a focus on migratory bird conservation and lead ammunition.
10. Engaged with U.S. State Department on the SPAW Protocol and development of positions/resolutions for Ramsar CoP13.
11. Attended the Canadian Wildlife Directors Committee (CWDC) meeting in October 2018 and continued to share information and input requests with them related to the Trilateral, CBD, IUCN, CITES, etc.
12. Attended the Joint Management Committee in December 2018

**List Activities and Objectives that Will be Accomplished in the Coming Year:**

1. Participate in 2020 CITES Animals, Joint Plants and Animals and, Standing Committee meetings as needed.
2. Engage in the discussions around the 2020 CBD CoP14 and development of the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework.
3. Support engagement with the CBD’s Advisory Committee on Subnational Governments.
4. Engage in the review of motions and proposals for the 2020 IUCN World Conservation Congress.
5. Review documents as they appear on the CMS website for the 2020 CMS CoP.
6. Help guide the IUCN U.S. Committee as a member of the Executive Committee.
7. Engage on issues at the Trilateral Wildlife Committee (April/May 2020).
8. Engage with partners on cross border conservation issues as needed.
9. Engage with USFWS’s Mesoamerican initiative as appropriate.
10. Support Southern Wings and seek to engage new financial partners.
11. Engage with WHSRN, America’s Flyway Framework, and the related flyway investment strategies.
12. Engage with the CWDC and other Canadian partners on the conventions, treaties and initiatives.
13. Attend the Joint Management Committee meeting if it occurs.
14. Communicate IR Committee issues to other Committees and AFWA members via the AFWA Communications Strategy in cooperation with Patty Allen.

**Comments:**

**Workgroup Work Plan**

**Date: September 2019**

**Workgroup Name: CITES Technical Work Group**

**Members:**

Mike Bednarski - Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
 Carolyn Caldwell - Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
 Buddy Baker - Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
 Jim deVos - Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

**Staff: Deb Hahn**

**Workgroup Charge:**

1. To inform State, Provincial, and Territorial fish and wildlife agency directors of policy developments affecting conservation at an international (i.e., through CITES) scale.
2. To formulate and advocate for policy positions reflecting the interests of State, Provincial and Territorial fish and wildlife agencies in international forums.
3. To formulate and advocate for federal policies (e.g., U.S. and Canadian) that reflect State, Provincial, and Territorial fish and wildlife agency interests.
4. To provide biological and administrative information to assist the federal governments in executing their international responsibilities.
5. To minimize unnecessary oversight and restrictions to State, Provincial and Territorial fish and wildlife agency authority as a result of policies adopted under international conventions (i.e., CITES).
6. To support sustainable use principles and the tenets of the North American Model internationally.

**Changes to Charge:****List Major Activities and Objectives Accomplished During the Last Year:**

1. Developed positions for (e.g., American eel, turtle, snake conservation, traceability, and CITES Strategic Vision) and participated in the 2018 Animals and Standing Committees and the 18<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties.
2. Disseminated information on CITES and gathered information from the state agencies on CITES issues to inform USFWS positions in preparation for the CITES meetings.
3. Participated in 2019 Federal CITES Interagency Coordination meetings.
4. Met in a full day with the USFWS in Washington DC to discuss issues of importance to the state fish and wildlife agencies and provide feedback concerning proposals and positions being developed for United States government related to treaty implementation.
5. Participated in International Relations Committee meetings at the North American Wildlife & Natural Resources Conference and the AFWA's Annual Meeting.
6. Communicated with International Relations Committee Co-Chairs during the CITES CoP, Animals and Standing Committee meetings to keep them up to speed on issues.
7. Provided an annual summary of CITES related matters and update the state Directors at their respective regional association meeting.
8. Met twice, with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to discuss issues of importance to the state fish and wildlife agencies and provide feedback concerning proposals and positions being developed for United States government related to treaty implementation.
9. Participated in the "Trinational trade and enforcement workshop to support the legal and sustainable trade in turtles/tortoises" organized by the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) held in October 2018. Reviewed and provided extensive recommended revisions for the CEC's workshop report.

<p>10. Assisted with and participated in the USFWS' Ginseng Webinar in August 2019 to finalize the recommendations of the 4 work groups and identify next steps of the State Ginseng Coordinators.</p>	
<p><b>List Activities and Objectives that Will be Accomplished in the Coming Year:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prepare for, develop positions on important issues, and participate in the 2020 CITES Animals, Joint Plants and Animals and, Standing Committees meetings as needed.</li> <li>2. Respond to USFWS Federal Register notices for issues of importance concerning CITES matters in 2020 as needed.</li> <li>3. Disseminate information on CITES and gather information from the State, Provincial, and Territorial agencies on CITES issues to provide to the USFWS and Canadian Wildlife Service when applicable.</li> <li>4. Meet twice annually with the USFWS to discuss issues of importance to the state fish and wildlife agencies and provide feedback concerning proposals and positions being developed for United States government related to treaty implementation.</li> <li>5. Meet once a year with the Provinces and Territories (likely at CWDC) to discuss important and relevant CITES issues.</li> <li>6. Communicate regularly with CWDC to discuss issues of importance and relevance to the State, Provincial and Territorial agencies.</li> <li>7. Participate in US CITES Interagency Coordination meetings.</li> <li>8. Provide an annual summary of CITES-related matters and update the State, Provincial, and Territorial directors at their respective regional association meeting(s) and through the CWDC.</li> <li>9. Participate in International Relations Committee meetings at the North American Wildlife &amp; Natural Resources Conference and the AFWA Annual Meeting.</li> <li>10. Continue efforts to synthesize available turtle trade data to assist government regulatory agencies and turtle population biologists in making informed decisions and recommendations relative to state, national and international issues pertaining to turtle management, regulation, and trade.</li> <li>11. Continue to emphasize the importance of modernizing the USFWS's permitting system, including development of electronic permitting, to expedite permits for State agencies as well as constituents needing to ship CITES listed species or products internationally. Assist with improvements to the permitting process where possible.</li> <li>12. Develop a case study to provide information to state fish and wildlife agencies on turtle trade and conservation in the U.S. including the nexus with CITES implementation.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>Describe any Changes you Anticipate to the Work Group: N/A</b></p>	
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<p><b>Date Workgroup Formed: 1994</b></p>	<p><b>Expected Termination Date: ongoing</b></p>
<p><b>Comments</b></p>	

