



AFWA International Relations Committee 2020-2021 Work Plan

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 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.

Committee Work Plan		
Date: September 2020		
Committee Name: International Relations		
Co-Chair: Rick Jacobson	Co-Chair: Travis Ripley	Staff: Deb Hahn
Committee Charge: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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) • Further Canadian and Mexican involvement, develop relations with Central and South American and Caribbean nations, and explore contact with other nations across the globe. • 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. • Serves as AFWA's source, sounding board and integrator of information and discussion about international issues. 		
Changes to the Charge: None		
List Major Activities and Objectives Accomplished During the Last Year: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Represented State agencies and where applicable Provinces and Territories in CITES meetings with USFWS and other partners (see Work Group activities below). 2. Supported the 39 states participating in Southern Wings. 3. Helped guide the IUCN U.S. Committee as a member of the Executive Committee. 4. Actively participated in debates and initiatives of the IUCN Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group. 5. Engaged with partners on issues and positions around the CBD Global Biodiversity Framework. 6. Engaged with partners on issues and positions leading up to CBD CoP14 till it was postponed. 7. Provided input into CMS Conference of the Parties (CoP) documents with a focus on migratory bird conservation and lead ammunition. 		

8. Engaged in online discussions and reviewed motions and proposals for the 2020 (now 2021) IUCN World Conservation Congress.
9. Engaged with the partners and on document of the CBD Advisory group work
10. Participated in Virtual CBD SBSTTA preliminary meetings
11. Engaged with U.S. State Department on CBD and IUCN on motions, positions etc. for meetings.
12. Develop an AFWA position paper on wildlife trade, use, and consumption as it relates to COVID and risks of future pandemics.
13. Helped bring an international and diverse perspective to our plenary.
14. Participated in the Edinburg process for subnational governments inclusion in the Post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
15. Participated in the CBD sustainable use consultation.

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

1. Participate in 2021 CITES Animals, Joint Plants and Animals and, Standing Committee meetings as needed.
2. Help drive action on wildlife conservation through continued engagement in the discussions around the 2021 CBD CoP15 and development of the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework (GBF).
3. Support engagement with the CBD's Advisory Committee on Subnational Governments.
4. Help guide the IUCN U.S. Committee as a member of the Executive Committee.
5. Engage on issues at the 2021 Trilateral Wildlife Committee.
6. Follow and actively engage in IUCN conversations around wildlife trade and consumption including developing emergency motions.
7. Ensure GBF targets maintain support of sustainable use and trade and livelihoods.
8. Follow and engage as needed in WHO's One Health approach.
9. Continue to engage in the IUCN motions process and cooperate with partners to understand each other's positions and support coordinated action where appropriate.
10. Consider what we need (e.g., a new treaty) to address biodiversity, wildlife health, human health or what is being called the One Health approach.
11. Engage with partners on cross border conservation issues as needed.
12. Engage a subset of Committee members to develop a policy brief for state and local levels about proposed trophy hunting bans.
13. Engage with other AFWA staff on policy and legislation around pandemics and wildlife use, trade and consumption.
14. Engage with USFWS's Mesoamerican initiative as appropriate.
15. Support Southern Wings and seek to engage new financial partners.
16. Engage with WHSRN, America's Flyway Framework, and the related flyway investment strategies.
17. Engage with the CWDC and other Canadian partners on the conventions, treaties and initiatives.
18. Attend the Joint Management Committee meeting if it occurs.
19. 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 2020	
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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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: None	
List Major Activities and Objectives Accomplished During the Last Year: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remained engaged and informed on CITES matters despite physical meetings being postponed, rescheduled or cancelled. 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 2020 Federal CITES Interagency Coordination meetings. 4. Met in a full day session 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. Developed and distributed a freshwater turtles and tortoises trade and conservation case study. 	
List Activities and Objectives that Will be Accomplished in the Coming Year:	

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prepare for, develop positions on important issues, and participate in the 2021 CITES Animals, Joint Plants and Animals and, Standing Committees meetings as needed. 2. Respond to USFWS Federal Register notices for issues of importance concerning CITES matters in 2021 as needed. 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. 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. 5. Meet once a year with the Provinces and Territories (likely at CWDC) to discuss important and relevant CITES issues. 6. Communicate regularly with CWDC to discuss issues of importance and relevance to the State, Provincial and Territorial agencies. 7. Participate in US CITES Interagency Coordination meetings. 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. 9. Participate in International Relations Committee meetings at the North American Wildlife & Natural Resources Conference and the AFWA Annual Meeting. 10. Continue efforts 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. 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. 12. Facilitate the development of the Freshwater Turtles and Tortoises Life History Trait Table with PARC Turtle Network and other experts. 13. Update and distribute a table of current Amphibian and Reptile State Regulations. 14. Participate in and assist with the development of materials to showcase the effectiveness and successes of the North American Model of Wildlife Management for upcoming CITES meeting. 	
Describe any Changes you Anticipate to the Work Group: N/A	
Date Workgroup Formed: 1994	Expected Termination Date: ongoing
Comments	