

## CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY

North America hosts a wealth of spiritually cherished, economically important, and ecologically essential landscapes and seascapes. A great deal of North American biological diversity, however, is in peril. Although most problems affecting the North American environment are on the national level, certain others are shared by two of the three countries, and the effects and consequences of some have the potential to affect the entire continent.

### Goals

In the context of increasing economic, trade and social links, the Conservation of Biodiversity program promotes cooperation among Canada, Mexico and the United States in furthering the conservation and sustainable use of North American biodiversity. With the direction and guidance from Council, the program will start implementing the “Strategic Plan for North American Cooperation in the Conservation of Biodiversity,” a long-term agenda to catalyze trilateral conservation action at the North American level, by:

- promoting the conservation and maintenance of regions of continental ecological significance [Ecologically Significant Regions (ER)];
- promoting the conservation of North American migratory and transboundary species [Migratory and Transboundary Species (MT)];
- facilitating data and information sharing across North America and promote integrated monitoring to increase understanding of the state of North American biodiversity [Assessment and Information Sharing (AI)];
- facilitating communication, networking, identification and sharing of best practices, priorities and opportunities for education and training [Capacity building and training (CT)];
- promoting collaborative responses to common threats facing North American ecosystems, habitats and species [Responding to Threats (RT)]; and
- identifying and evaluating potential collaborative opportunities for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use that arise from the expansion of regional trade [Biodiversity Conservation and Trade (BT)].

### Program Initiatives

The CEC establishes a forum for coordinated, continental solutions to key conservation challenges, as well as providing a more targeted geographical focus and interdisciplinary approach to conservation activities. The implementation of the program is described in further detail under the following work plan:

#### North American Biodiversity Conservation Strategies

- Strategic and Cooperative Action for the Conservation of Biodiversity in North America

#### Stewardship for Shared Terrestrial and Marine Ecosystems and Transboundary Species

- North American Bird Conservation Initiative
- Terrestrial Species of Common Conservation Concern
- Marine Species of Common Conservation Concern
- North American Marine Protected Areas Network
- Closing the Pathways of Aquatic Invasive Species across North America

#### Improving Information on North American Biodiversity

- North American Biodiversity Information Network