



AFWA International Relations Committee 2024-2025 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 early October. 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 2024		
Committee Name: International Relations		
Co-Chair: Ryan Brown	Co-Chair: Christie Curley (Ontario)	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 specialist 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. • Serve as AFWA’s source, sounding board and integrator of information and discussion about international issues. • Increase the diversity of voices informing discussions, positions, and products. 		
Changes to the Charge:		
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 (see Work Group activities below). 2. Supported the 41 states participating in Southern Wings through advancing new projects, developing new avenues for participation, developing SWAP full life-cycle conservation templates and tools, conducting webinars, and helping finalize the annual cycle conservation online guide. 3. Participated in the 2023 and 2024 IUCN US National Committee Annual Meeting and US Regional Conservation Forum. 4. Engaged with CWDC on international issues at their September 2023 meetings. Developed a new and more targeted communications strategy for regular electronic updates. 		

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Actively participated in debates and initiatives of the IUCN Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group. 6. Reviewed NMBCA migratory bird proposals. 7. Engaged with the partners and on positions of the CBD Advisory group on Subnational governments. 8. Engaged with U.S. State Department on CMS, IUCN, etc. 9. Participated in the 2024 Trilateral Wildlife Committee and developed the AFWA/State Agency international report. 10. Attended and developed positions for the CMS CoP. 	
<p>List Activities and Objectives that Will be Accomplished in the Coming Year:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participate in the 2025 Standing Committee meetings. 2. Help drive action on wildlife conservation through continued engagement in the implementation of the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework (GBF) including participation at SBSTTA meetings as needed. 3. Review and engage with membership about IUCN motions. Make recommendation on text based on input from members. Share recommendations with the US State Department, Canadian government, and other partners. 4. Support engagement with the CBD’s Advisory Committee on Subnational Governments. 5. Help guide the IUCN U.S. Committee as a member of the Executive Committee. 6. Engage on issues at the 2025 Trilateral Wildlife Committee. 7. Engage in and influence outcomes from the CMS CoP. 8. Follow and engage as needed in WHO’s One Health approach and with U.S. State Departments works on a new international disease instrument and the zoonotic disease working group. 9. Engage with partners on cross border conservation issues as needed. 10. Engage with other AFWA staff on policy and legislation around pandemics and wildlife use, trade and consumption, as needed. 11. Support Southern Wings and seek to engage new financial partners. 12. Engage with WHSRN, America’s Flyway Framework, and the related flyway investment strategies. 13. Engage with the CWDC and other Canadian partners on the conventions, treaties and initiatives. 14. Attend the Joint Management Committee meeting if it occurs. 15. Communicate IR Committee issues using updates documents. 	
Comments:	
Workgroup Work Plan	
Date: September 2024	
Workgroup Name: CITES Technical Work Group	
Members: Gordon Batcheller: Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Carolyn Caldwell: Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies	Staff: Deb Hahn

Buddy Baker: Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Stewart Liley: Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies	
<p>Workgroup Charge:</p> <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 because of policies adopted under international conventions (i.e., CITES). 6. To support sustainable use principles and the tenets of the North American Model internationally. 	
<p>Changes to Charge: None</p>	
<p>List Major Activities and Objectives Accomplished During the Last Year:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Disseminated information on CITES and gathered information from the state agencies on CITES issues to inform USFWS positions in preparation for the Animals Committee. 2. Participated in 2023/2024 Federal CITES Interagency Coordination meetings. 3. Participated in the CITES Animals Committee meetings. 4. Participated in International Relations Committee meetings at the North American Wildlife & Natural Resources Conference and the AFWA's Annual Meeting. 5. Provided a meeting summary of CITES related matters and update the state Directors at their respective regional association meeting and to division and section chiefs, and other state staff. 6. Contracted to develop a turtle trade assessment for US native turtle species. 7. Participated in an international working groups. 	
<p>List Activities and Objectives that Will be Accomplished in the Coming Year:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prepare for, develop positions on important issues, and participate in the 2025 Standing Committee meetings as needed. 2. Disseminate information on CITES and gather information from the State, Provincial, and Territorial agencies on CITES issues to provide input to the USFWS and Canadian Wildlife Service when applicable. 3. Meet 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 by the United States government related to treaty implementation and the upcoming CoP20 in 2025. 4. Meet once a year with the Provinces and Territories (likely at CWDC) to discuss important and relevant CITES issues. 	

5. Communicate regularly with CWDC to discuss issues of importance and relevance to the State, Provincial and Territorial agencies.
6. Participate in US CITES Interagency Coordination meetings.
7. Provide an annual summary of CITES-related matters and update the State, Provincial, and Territorial directors at their respective regional association meeting(s), and other state agency staff, and through the CWDC.
8. Participate in International Relations Committee meetings at the North American Wildlife & Natural Resources Conference and the AFWA Annual Meeting.
9. 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.
10. 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.

Describe any Changes you Anticipate to the Work Group: N/A

Date Workgroup Formed: 1994

Expected Termination Date: ongoing

Comments