

A NAWMP/NSST Coordination Meeting with Mexican NAWMP Partners was held on December 2-3, 2009 in Mexico City, Mexico. The purpose of the meeting included:

- Review of the Mexican “Strategy for the Conservation, Management and Sustainable Use of Waterfowl and their Habitat in Mexico (Strategy)”

This strategy represents the Mexican commitment and contribution to NAWMP. The vision of their Strategy builds on a hierarchical approach from continental to national and regional levels for establishing objectives based on trends, abundances, and species compositions. Objectives relate to habitat and harvest.

- Review status and needs for improving Mid-winter waterfowl inventory in Mexico
- Review Mexican wetland inventory efforts that relate to landscape change assessment and improved wetlands management planning
- Develop fundamental & means objectives list from the Mexican perspective for the NAWMP Revision

The results of the exercises for the last bullet above follow:

Draft Mexican NAWMP Objectives for NAWMP Revision Process:

Dear friends,

Based on the meeting held a few months ago, we are sending you this first draft aimed to launch the filtering of Plan objectives for waterfowl management in North America and was based on the advances brought about by colleagues from the United States.

As discussed, this draft may represent a useful document to analyze what is really needed in Mexico and to see where there is agreement with our northern neighbors. This sets out five goals that could be considered equivalent to fundamental (or general) objectives, and allows setting specific objectives (means objectives) to meet each goal, and actions to meet each objective. We tried focus on overarching themes identified at the meeting at DGVS and indicate similarities with the targets proposed from the exercises in the United States, which I indicated in parentheses after each goal, objective or action.

This gives more understanding to what is desired and can be polished by all more easily. It only lacks participation by the actors involved in each action and the estimation of costs and time to convert to a full program, but I think it will be a long-term affair.

If you look carefully, this work is more or less equivalent to the “Strategy” published by the DGVS. The details entail how to combine national objectives with those of Canada and the U.S.. I think this is where the negotiation comes from Roberto & his group. On the other hand, it is obvious that this exercise is too large for inclusion in the NAWMP. But, it may provide a sensible mechanism to assess priorities for Mexico. Remember that the United States above all else is advanced in aspects of traditional uses, study and resource management that are regarded as unimportant aspects to them today, but for us are basic. For instance, counts for them are at the point of defining the precision with which they perform, while for us is a new topic is just developing.

You can also consider merging objectives and goals which we propose to you for doing so at your disposal in continued exercises. Also included is an extra goal (VI) in which one considers the possibility that the Plan take into account the homogenization of techniques and methods for the study, management, maintenance and use of waterfowl and their habitat considering the characteristics and information needs in each country.

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MISSION: To promote conservation action and sustainable management of wetlands as critical habitat for migratory and resident waterfowl in North America, which lead to increased waterfowl populations to ensure their conservation, sustainable use and long term environmental and goods and services they create for different levels of society in each of the three countries.

VISION: Through NAWMP wetlands of North America are conserved and restored, while preventing continued deterioration, to provide more and better habitat for waterfowl which affects the growth of their populations and ensures maintaining goods and services for the people of Canada, Mexico and the United States.

HABITAT MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION

GOAL I. Ensure long-term conservation of wetlands in North America and establish the measures to carry out restoration projects in those exhibiting deterioration. (5, 10, 14), as essential elements of the landscape that will maintain healthy populations of waterfowl for the benefit of society.

Objective I.1. Analyze and classify the conditions that protect wetlands, prioritizing the work and activities required to support restoration and conservation.

Action I.1.1 Develop a characterization of wetlands.

Action I.1.2 Identify the conservation problems facing wetlands.

Action I.1.3 Develop action programs for restoration and conservation of wetlands, including the required infrastructure (29).

Objective I.2. Determine through studies where long-term wetlands conservation may be achieved through environmental service payments or other participatory strategy.

Action I.2.1 Identify wetlands considered "indispensable or essential" for waterfowl.

Action I.2.2 Determine landowner attitudes toward, and willingness to cooperate for, conservation of wetlands.

Action I.2.3 Identify how potential participants wish to or could participate (study of values and attitudes towards conservation).

Objective I.3. Develop a needs assessment of both financial and participation in the restoration and conservation of wetlands that might have an approach in the short, medium and long term.

Action I.3.1 Based on conservation programs, determine the sums required to restore and conserve wetlands.

Action I.3.2 In accordance with priority and importance of wetlands, establish conservation goals set for periods of time and consider possible consequences.

Action I.3.3 Take into consideration the priorities and timing for the possible actors that may on one hand support required funds and the other the development of specific conservation efforts for each recovery project. (7)

Action I.3.4 Increase conservation and enhancement of nesting, migration and wintering waterfowl habitat. (21, 26)

Objective I.4. Establish a monitoring program for the restoration and conservation of wetlands.

Action I.4.1 Determine actions and monitoring procedures to ensure proper function and/or modification.

Action I.4.2 Select indicators that will yield reliable monitoring results.

Action I.4.3 Apply these activities to all actions performed to measure its success or failure and eventually implement an adaptive management plan for its improvement.

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

GOAL II. Establish mechanisms to generate the basic information needed to improve understanding of ecological mechanisms that cause changes in the abundance of waterfowl and their habitat.

Objective II.1. Conduct research and studies that support the understanding of the factors that influence the presence, distribution and abundance of waterfowl at hemispheric, country and/or regional levels.

Action II.1.1 Identify research needs required to manage habitats and waterfowl populations.

Action II.1.2 Promote implementation of proposals to research institutions to resolve the questions posed.

Action II.1.3 Search out funds to support the required research and disseminate results.

Action II.1.4 Make a selection of the best proposals and establish agreements and/or the respective contracts.

Objective II.2. Undertake landscape analysis and modeling to support the studies of determinants that influence the presence of waterfowl populations at different sites.

Action II.2.1 Agree to research needs required to determine the type of analysis and models to simulate the relationship between habitats and waterfowl populations.

Action II.2.2 Invite research institutions to implement proposals to resolve the questions posed.

Action II.2.3 Search out funds to support the required research and disseminate results.

Action II.2.4 Make a selection of the best proposals and establish agreements and/or the respective contracts.

Objective II.3. Disseminate the results of studies on population dynamics of waterfowl.

Action II.3.1 Analysis of different media and vehicles for disseminating results of population dynamics studies of waterfowl.

Action II.3.2 Develop formats for distribution according to the aim pursued (video, pamphlets, posters, environmental education exercises, others).

Action II.3.3 Seek the resources to develop different types of materials for dissemination.

Action II.3.4 Distribute and disseminate the messages developed in areas deemed of greatest interest and impact for knowledge, conservation and sustainable use of waterfowl.

Objective II.4. Apply resource management results in a manner that supports its own sustainable use.

Action II.4.1 Analyze the ways in which waterfowl are distributed and to determine the factors accounting for the distribution.

Action II.4.2 Based on results obtained, develop scenarios for the distribution of waterfowl to determine variations for their use.

Action II.4.3 Develop regional use rates according to the conditions that determine desired population levels.

HUMAN DIMENSIONS

GOAL III. Enhance the culture and knowledge of waterfowl by promoting public environmental education and hunter ethics by ensuring their participation in natural resource conservation and habitat. (16, 17)

Objective III.1. Develop an environmental education program on waterfowl with different sections that apply to different sectors. (31)

Action III.1.1 Develop specific material that will provide different sectors of society improved knowledge and awareness of waterfowl.

Action III.1.2 Search out the logistical and financial support for the design of education programs about waterfowl and their habitats.

Action III.1.3 Seek more suitable ways for carrying out distribution and effect of environmental education programs developed so as to have a multiplier effect.

Objective III.2. Increase the ethics of those who possess, use and study waterfowl.

Action III.2.1 Train technicians at different levels of both government and UMAS.

Action III.2.2 Develop responsible hunting courses.

Action III.2.3 Distribute ecological information to agricultural areas where waterfowl may suffer a problem.

Objective III.3. Carry out activities to promote increased participation and public interest for waterfowl and their habitats. (16, 17)

Action III.3.1 Promote wetland clean-up campaigns.

Action III.3.2 Develop audiovisual tools to enhance awareness of goods and services that waterfowl provide and distribute in areas near waterfowl habitats.

Action III.3.3 Promote fundraising campaigns for the waterfowl and their habitats.

Objective III.4. Stimulate interest in both consumptive and non-consumptive uses of waterfowl so as to preserve their traditions. (4, 2, 23)

Action III.4.1 Promote hunting as a recreational activity and public ownership of those consumer goods provided.

Action III.4.2 Promote non-consumptive activities of the natural resource.

Action III.4.3 Search out strategies for legal use by traditional users of the resource.

MAINTAIN WATERFOWL POPULATIONS

GOAL IV. Maintain waterfowl populations in perpetuity favoring the recovery of those that are depleted to the point that their numbers represent considerable danger to the heritage of North America. (14)

Objective IV.1. Minimize negative effects on waterfowl populations caused by disease, predation and contaminants. (12, 27)

Action IV.1.1 Train technicians at different levels, and at UMAS, in detecting and treating waterfowl health issues.

Action I.IV.2 Assemble teams at minimum at regional levels, and the materials necessary to attend to wildlife contingencies in order to respond quickly to problems that arise.

Action I.IV.3 Diagnose wetlands condition and pay specific attention to contaminants.

Objective IV.2. Promote and develop programs that enhance waterfowl habitat conservation (7)

Action IV.2.1 Analyze the relative importance of habitat to waterfowl population density and prioritize conservation actions thereof.

Action IV.2.2 For endemic waterfowl, determine their nesting habitat to promote their protection.

Action IV.2.3 Promote the treatment of wastewater from both domestic and agricultural use and industrial.

Objective IV.3. Minimizing deleterious effects of harvest on those species with low populations. (9)

Action IV.3.1 Determine which waterfowl species have tended to decline, historically and currently, under hunting pressure to avoid the decline of their populations.

Action IV.3.2 Promote a culture of proper identification and selection of species among hunters through printed materials and training workshops.

Action IV.3.3 Develop administrative measures to reduce the number of animals collected from species with low population.

CONSUMPTIVE AND NON-CONSUMPTIVE USE

GOAL V. Ensure the use of waterfowl in a sustainable manner with appropriate promotion and monitoring.

Objective V.1. Provide the opportunity for both consumptive and non-consumptive uses to different sectors of society. (2, 4, 23)

Action V.1.1. Analyze the possibilities for national and regional uses of waterfowl.

Action V.1.2. Establish registration programs for areas where natural resource use is promoted.

Action V.1.3. Support and promote ecotourism activities (observation, photography, painting, etc.) in communities associated with the presence of waterfowl use and conservation.

Objective V.2. Promote maximum hunting opportunity for all sectors of society. (2)

Action V.2.1 Analyze the needs and traditions of waterfowl resource use.

Action V.2.2 Promote legal harvest strategies at the country level through federal UMAS or other scheme.

Action V.2.3 Create a registration system for areas currently experiencing illegal use.

Objective V.3. Develop policy and economic frameworks to promote the legal use of waterfowl in areas near wetlands.

Action V.3.1 Identify those wetlands and their waterfowl populations that may constitute priority for establishing UMAS.

Action V.3.2 Advise on procedures for proper registration of units.

Action V.3.3 Develop better waterfowl resource management and the possible financial return from the proper use of the resource.

Objective V.4. Provide an effective monitoring system for waterfowl and their habitats.

Action V.4.1 Search out technical and policy alternatives that foster care in several other waterfowl locations.

Action V.4.2 Establish informational strategies that reduce poaching.

Action V.4.3 Implement participatory monitoring models.

APPROVAL AMONG THE THREE COUNTRIES

GOAL VI. DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNICAL SUPPORT, CAPACITIES AND ABILITIES OF THE VARIOUS ACTORS INVOLVED IN MANAGEMENT, CONSERVATION, AND USE OF WATERFOWL AND THEIR HABITATS IN A MANNER THAT PROMOTES UNDERSTANDING THE SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES OF EACH COUNTRY AND THEIR FORMS OF ADMINISTRATION.

Objective VI.1. Elaborate on a diagnosis of the conditions under which waterfowl and their habitats are managed in Canada, USA and Mexico.

Objective VI.2. Determine the differences and possible ways to overcome existing shortcomings in each country to reach coherent management efforts for waterfowl and their habitats.

Objective VI.3. Support training, financing and advisory needs identified in each country.