



# COMPENDIUM OF CANADA'S ENGAGEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS AND INSTRUMENTS

## *Letter of Intent related to efforts to promote Conservation of Bats in the United Mexican States, The United States of America, and Canada*

### **SUBJECT CATEGORY:**

Biodiversity/Ecosystems

### **TYPE OF AGREEMENT / INSTRUMENT:**

Multilateral

### **FORM:**

Cooperative Arrangement

### **STATUS:**

- Signed by Canada April 16, 2015
- Ongoing cooperative arrangement through a Letter of Intent

### **LEAD & PARTNER DEPARTMENTS:**

**Lead:** Environment and Climate Change Canada

**Partners:** US Fish and Wildlife Service, Mexican Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos

### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:**

#### **Web Links:**

- [NABCA Agreement text](#)
- [North American Bat Conservation Alliance](#)

#### **Contacts:**

[ECCC Inquiry Centre](#)

### **COMPENDIUM EDITION:**

January 2020

### **PLAIN LANGUAGE SUMMARY**

Canada, USA and Mexico agreed to work together to conserve bats.

- North America has more than 150 species of bats.
- They eat billions of insects each year, including many crop pests.
- Many bats are threatened by disease, loss of habitat or hitting wind turbines.
- We will work together to find ways to protect bats from these threats.

### **OBJECTIVE**

To strengthen cooperation, coordination and information sharing related to the conservation and management of all bat species in Canada, the USA and Mexico.

### **KEY ELEMENTS**

Enhanced communication and information exchange on issues related to bat conservation.

Improved continental scale monitoring to identify population trends of bats and generate information needed to set priorities and evaluate conservation actions.

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

This agreement is expected to achieve common understanding of priority threats facing bats, and to promote more effective ways to address threats by sharing information among countries.

### **CANADA'S INVOLVEMENT**

Several species of bats are listed under the Species at Risk Act in Canada. Development of recovery strategies and action plans for these species will benefit from the agreement.

Canada appoints one of the co-chairs to the North American Bat Conservation Alliance (NABCA), an informal alliance established to support the goals of the agreement by promoting communication among

entities in all three countries engaged in bat conservation.

## **RESULTS / PROGRESS**

### ***Activities***

NABCA, with support from all three countries, consulted with >200 bat biologists across North America to develop a regionally prioritized list of threats to North American bats.

A Wiki page has been developed to share information on strategies for addressing priority threats (<http://batconservationalliance.wikidot.com/>).

All three countries are preparing an assessment of the State of North America's Bats.

### ***Reports***

A summary report on the results of the threats assessment is in preparation for scientific publication.

Canada reports back on progress each year through the Trilateral Committee.

### ***Results***

The North American Bat Conservation Alliance was formed in 2015, and engages many bat conservation experts throughout North America every year. The Steering Committee meets 3-5 times per year.