



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

### *Letter of Intent to Promote Development of a Coordinated Approach for Bird Banding in the United Mexican States, the United States of America, and Canada*

**SUBJECT CATEGORY:**

Biodiversity / Ecosystems

**TYPE OF AGREEMENT / INSTRUMENT:**

Canada – United States- Mexico

**FORM:**

Letter of Intent

**STATUS:**

- A Letter of Intent between Canada, the USA and Mexico was signed in April 2015
- Ongoing: The USA and Canada have had a shared agreement on bird banding since 1923

**LEAD & PARTNER DEPARTMENTS:**

**Lead in Canada:** Environment and Climate Change Canada

**Partners:** U.S. Geological Survey; Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad, Mexico

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:****Web Links:**

- [Bird Banding](#) website

**Contacts:**

[ECCC Inquiry Centre](#)

**COMPENDIUM EDITION:**

July 2022

**PLAIN LANGUAGE SUMMARY**

Bird banding is an important research tool used by ornithologists in the scientific study and monitoring of wild birds. Uniquely numbered metal bands placed on the leg of the bird allow tracking of individual birds throughout their lifetime as well as tracking of bird movements globally. Bird banding provides data vital for ornithological research, monitoring and conservation by contributing to basic scientific knowledge about birds and the environments in which they live. Bird banding studies help to monitor bird populations and ecosystem health, set waterfowl hunting regulations and protect endangered species.

Mexico, the United States and Canada share a large number of migratory species of birds that require cooperation to ensure appropriate management for their long-term protection and conservation. Effective, well-coordinated bird banding programs are necessary to generate reliable information for the design, implementation and evaluation of management and conservation actions to protect migratory bird populations.

**OBJECTIVE**

Provide a specific framework for Canada and the USA to cooperate with Mexico in the development of a Mexican Bird Banding Program that would be well coordinated with the existing USA and Canadian banding programs so that bird banding, marking, and encounter data can be readily used for the conservation and management of bird populations in each country.

**KEY ELEMENTS**

Information, technical guidance and assistance will be provided to Mexico in all aspects of establishing and running a bird banding program including the development of a data management system, information related to the purchasing of bird bands, copies of documents, operational procedures and materials and other available information useful for establishing an operational bird banding program. Shared standards for bird capture and marking; coordinated reporting and outreach; enhanced analysis and use of data will benefit all programs.

## **EXPECTED RESULTS**

The Agencies intend to engage in cooperative activities to promote and expand dialogue, exchange experiences and information, and provide technical assistance to develop platforms, databases and websites to ensure that a Mexican bird banding program will be comparable and compatible with existing programs in the USA and Canada.

## **CANADA'S INVOLVEMENT**

Canada and the USA have operated a joint North American bird-banding program under various MOU and agreements for the past century, starting in 1923.

This new agreement aims to expand this cooperation to include Mexico. This is important to Canada because it supports ornithological research, conservation and management of birds that breed in Canada and migrate south through Mexico.

The Canadian Bird Banding Office will advise the Mexican collaborators on a variety of technical issues associated with the implementation and operation of a national bird banding office to support the establishment of the Mexican Bird Banding Program. These cooperative efforts will also facilitate development of compatible data management processes that will allow for transferring banding data and other information among the banding offices. Canada will also share training and other materials that are relevant to Mexico.

## **RESULTS / PROGRESS**

Cooperative efforts will facilitate development of compatible data management processes that will allow for transferring banding data and other information among the banding offices.

With guidance and assistance from the USGS and ECCC, the intent is to ensure compatibility among the Mexican, USA, and Canadian banding programs so that bird banding, marking, and encounter data can be readily used for the conservation and management of bird populations in each country.

Building long-term partnerships will promote and enhance the development of coordinated bird banding and marking activities and promote the conservation and management of North American bird communities.

## **Reports**

There are no reports associated specifically with this agreement.

## **Results**

The USA and Canada banding offices continue to provide advice, as requested, to their Mexican counterparts.

Some small-scale banding projects are currently operating in Mexico.

Banding data, including from Mexico, are widely used by researchers throughout North America, and have been used in thousands of scientific publications, as well as contributing to conservation and management of migratory birds.