

# **Council Session, Council of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation**

**Dallas, 12-13 June 2000**

We, the environment ministers of Canada, Mexico and the United States, members of the Council of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation, have met for our annual regular session on 12 and 13 June 2000 in Dallas to review and direct the program activities of the Commission and receive input and advice from the Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC), and also from members of our national advisory bodies and the public.

## **7. Conservation of Biodiversity**

7.1 Canada, Mexico and the United States are not only increasingly linked through economic, social and cultural exchanges, but also share many ecosystems and migratory species. Existing strategies for biodiversity conservation in the region are not coping with the impacts caused by ever-increasing levels of development. Nor are they likely to address adequately the relatively new problems of climate change and increased numbers of invasive species. Both problems threaten ecosystem health, biodiversity and their benefits to society.

7.2 Therefore, the Parties agreed in 1999 to initiate trilateral cooperation aimed at conserving species of common concern. In close cooperation with the Canada/Mexico/US Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management, and reflecting both the need and opportunity for working on a regional scale, the Parties will focus initially on 17 species of common concern. These species are:

### **Species of Common Conservation Concern (SCCC)**

#### **Mammals**

- Black-tailed prairie dog
- Sonoran pronghorn
- Lesser long-nosed bat
- Mexican long-nosed bat
- Mexican black bear
- Gray wolf

#### **Birds**

- Ferruginous Hawk
- Peregrine Falcon
- Loggerhead Shrike
- Piping Plover

- Mountain Plover
- Northern Spotted Owl
- Mexican Spotted Owl
- Golden-cheeked Warbler
- Whooping Crane
- California Condor
- Burrowing Owl

7.3 We agree to carry out concerted action for developing habitat conservation initiatives and establishing international species conservation teams, and are seeking public comment on the proposed action plans.

7.4 We recognize that marine and coastal resources are essential for the social and economic well-being of our three countries, providing food, raw materials for industry, new medicines to improve health, unparalleled recreational experiences and much more. These resources are experiencing greatly increased pressures as the result of rapid population growth and accompanying development. Moreover, these critical marine and coastal resources are threatened by the potential sea level rise that would accompany unchecked climate change.

7.5 We are committed to the protection of marine biodiversity, through the establishment of a marine protected areas network, mapping marine ecosystems, addressing the threats of invasive species, and reducing the impact of land-based activities on the marine environment.

7.6 We are committed to increase information exchange to support conservation and expand use of the North American Biodiversity Information Network (NABIN) as a key mechanism for sharing information, and for modeling the potential ecosystem effects of climate change and the continental range of invasive species.