

**DECLARATION OF INTENT  
FOR THE  
CONSERVATION OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS AND THEIR HABITAT  
BETWEEN  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT OF CANADA,  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND  
THE SECRETARIAT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE  
UNITED MEXICAN STATES**

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT OF CANADA, THE SECRETARIAT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, hereinafter referred to as the Participants,

**DESIRING to facilitate the conservation of North American birds and their habitats, and**

CONSIDERING that birds constitute an important element of biological diversity;

CONSIDERING that populations of many birds have declined significantly over the past century, to the point that regional extirpation or overall extinction looms as a likelihood for a number of species;

CONSIDERING that loss or deterioration of needed habitat is at the root of many of these declines, although other anthropogenic factors also play a role;

CONSIDERING that continuing human population growth and increasing impacts on lands and waters create the potential for further deterioration of conditions for many birds into the future;

CONSIDERING that birds are an important resource for humans, specifically, culturally and for food, pest control, sport, bird watching, among others and that they must be managed sustainably;

CONSIDERING that the Participants share concern, interest and responsibility for the birds that form part of the natural heritage of each country;

CONSIDERING that the ranges of many birds include more than one country and that individual birds of many species use habitats in several countries during their life cycle, meaning that birds do not recognize international boundaries and are truly an international resource;

CONSIDERING that the conservation of many of the birds of any country depends on conditions and actions occurring in other countries;

CONSIDERING that collaboration and joint participation is necessary among all nations sharing those species and their habitats;

CONSIDERING that joint efforts implemented in a well-planned manner can be expected to result in a benefit to all countries involved;

CONSIDERING that there is a strong commitment of the Participants and their public and private partners to bird conservation;

CONSIDERING that the Participants have strong legal and policy mandates to conserve birds under various conventions, treaties, protocols, and other international agreements, as well as domestic legislation and agreements, in particular the various migratory bird conservation treaties and their subsequent modifications;

CONSIDERING that the Participants recognize the importance of conservation achievements derived from programs, partnerships and collaborative initiatives among entities from Canada, the United Mexican States, and the United States of America, such as the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) and that it is necessary to build upon the successes of these initiatives; and

CONSIDERING that the North American Bird Conservation Initiative has given impetus to the concept of partnering among all bird conservation efforts in North America,

hereby declare their intentions as follows:

## 1. PURPOSE

To cooperate to conserve native North American birds throughout their ranges and habitats, and ultimately to collaborate with all Participant nations regarding bird conservation.

## 2. OBJECTIVES

a) To strengthen and consolidate current frameworks and establish mechanisms for improved coordination and implementation of actions oriented to integrated conservation of native birds;

b) To recognize the long-standing contributions of existing bird conservation efforts, on local, national and international scales, and to collaborate with them to build and broaden partnerships including linkages among public agencies, private organizations, landowners, businesses, indigenous groups, communities, and individuals across international boundaries to achieve integrated bird conservation;

c) To promote bird conservation in and among geographic regions based upon sound science, habitat types, ecosystem components, management issues, and successful conservation approaches;

d) To promote the recognition that birds respond to conditions at the landscape level throughout their population ranges and that integration across landscapes can provide the greatest benefit for the broadest array of species and, ultimately, biological diversity;

e) To utilize the conservation of birds and their habitats to foster the conservation of biological diversity more broadly;

f) To promote the use by appropriate mechanisms of the best available scientific and local knowledge so that conservation initiatives can be based on the best available information and experience;

g) To facilitate collaboration, communication and sharing of information among the Participants and other interested partners including, where appropriate, the planning, implementation, evaluation of projects, and practical application of knowledge;

- h) To promote the development of capacities both human and institutional, to achieve and sustain bird conservation;
- i) To promote sustainable land-use and land management practices, traditional and modern, most compatible with bird conservation;
- j) To promote the incorporation of bird conservation objectives into existing and future development and management practices and programs;
- k) To promote environmental education activities and broadening of public awareness regarding the need for bird conservation; and
- l) To encourage nations beyond North America to become involved in, or to become formal Participants in, this Declaration of Intent (DOI) considering the incorporation of their bird species and conservation concerns.

### 3. IMPLEMENTATION

- a) Each Participant engages in activities under this DOI in accordance with the laws and regulations of its country;
- b) Each Participant engages in activities under this DOI at its own expense;
- c) New Participants are welcome to append their signatures and to become fully engaged in activities under this DOI;
- d) The Participants recognize the value of existing structures such as national bird conservation initiatives, NABCI national committees, councils, and coordinators and other mechanisms to achieve the above objectives;
- e) The Participants will work to identify appropriate mechanisms to coordinate implementation of the international aspects of this DOI;
- f) The Participants may consider modifications as necessary to facilitate the inclusion of new Participants; and
- g) The Participants recognize that it is far beyond their capacities alone to achieve effective bird conservation. The Participants, therefore, encourage other entities - national, international, regional, local, governmental, non-governmental, academic, business, among others - to collaborate in the implementation of this DOI and to confirm that collaboration through a letter of cooperation, or other appropriate mechanism.

### 4. FINAL CLAUSES

- a) The Participants intend to begin the activities described in this Declaration as of date of signature;
- b) The Participants intend to review this DOI every five years or more frequently, as they may consider appropriate;
- c) This DOI may be modified in writing by the joint decision of the Participants;
- d) Any Participant may withdraw from participation in activities under this DOI at any time, and

should give written notification to the other Participants three months in advance of the date of its withdrawal;

e) The Participants intend to consult with one another regarding completion of cooperative actions initiated prior to the withdrawal by a Participant from engagement in such activities;

f) This DOI does not give rise to any rights or obligations among the Participants under international law.

Signed at \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ of the year two thousand five, in three originals, each in the French, Spanish, and English languages.

For the Department of the Environment of Canada

Stéphane Dion  
Minister of the Department of the Environment of Canada

Signed at \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ of the year two thousand five, in three originals, each in the French, Spanish, and English languages.

For the Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources, United Mexican States

\_\_\_\_\_  
Alberto Cárdenas-Jiménez  
Secretary of the Environment and Natural Resources

Signed at \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ of the year two thousand five, in three originals, each in the French, Spanish, and English languages.

For the Department of the Interior of the United States of America

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gale A. Norton  
Secretary of the Interior