

# NORTH AMERICAN ENGAGEMENT ON INVASIVE SPECIES

FEBRUARY 19, 2019

## BACKGROUND

Over the course of 2015 and 2016, staff from the NISC Secretariat liaised informally with counterparts in Canada and Mexico to lay the groundwork for more formal cooperation and coordination between the three countries. This effort was formally recognized in the outcomes of the North American Leadership Summit of June 2019, which called for the establishment of a “trilateral working group to explore the development of a high level joint Strategy and Action Plan identifying key areas for collaboration, including under the CEC, and to initiate a survey of existing transboundary invasive alien species projects and initiatives.” This was followed by a Summit between Presidents Obama and Peña Nieto in July 2016, where they stated their intention to “further the North American invasive alien species strategy and action plan by developing a plan to address the introduction of invasive alien species, identify non-native species of particular concern, and protect vulnerable shared ecosystems.” These elements were thereby incorporated into the NISC 2016-2018 Management Plan.

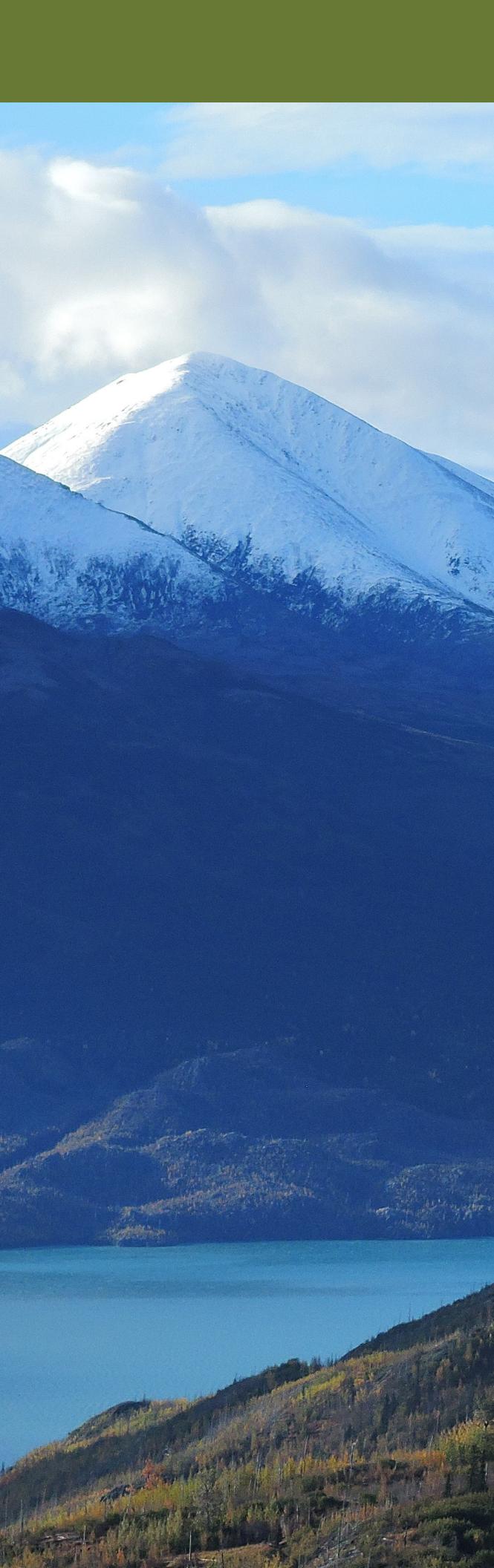
☞ **Action 2.5.3** of the 2016–2018 NISC Management Plan calls for collaboration on invasive species in North America with specific calls to:

1. Establish a trilateral working group to explore the development of a joint Strategy and Action Plan identifying key areas for collaboration, including under the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC), and
2. Initiate a survey of existing transboundary invasive species projects and initiatives.

## TRILATERAL WORKING GROUP

In October 2016, participants from the three governments formalized the development of a working group including two representatives from each country as represented by the Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO – Mexico), Environment and Climate Change Canada, and the National Invasive Species Council Secretariat (NISC Secretariat – United States). The trilateral working group convened through semi-regular conference calls, as well as occasional face to face meetings (Ottawa and Montreal 2016; Savannah 2017). These efforts also included engagement with:

- Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management: updates and engagement at annual meetings;
- Commission on Environmental Cooperation: updates and engagements, including a joint proposal on development of a trilateral invasive alien species strategy with a component for data mobilization and prioritization associated with North American islands (not funded); and
- Trilateral Island Initiative: engagement in a NISC-sponsored project on data mobilization and prioritization of islands and invasive species for eradication and control.



## OUTPUTS

During this period, the NISC Secretariat supported the development of a number of products to advance North American collaboration on invasive species, including:

*North America Multilateral Invasive Species Project Inventory:* the inventory aims to survey recent and/or ongoing initiatives regarding invasive species management that share two or more government project leads from Mexico, the United States, and Canada. The effort was led by the NISC Secretariat and facilitated through the trilateral working group and other partners. The survey identified sixty-three initiatives and includes information on their scope, target invasive species, impacts, and lead contacts.

*Data Strategy to Guide Cooperation in Advancing the Eradication of Invasive Vertebrates from North American and Arctic Islands:* the data strategy was developed by Island Conservation for the NISC Secretariat to assess, collate, and mobilize available data to inform decision-making. The project includes summaries of data for both North American and Arctic islands, a prioritization tool to help guide decision-making related to invasive vertebrates on islands, and a roadmap for the planning and implementation of projects for the eradication of invasive vertebrates on islands.

*North American Invasive Alien Species Strategic Priorities:* building on the above products and similar planning efforts in the Arctic, the NISC Secretariat identified possible components of a North American Invasive Alien Species Strategy and Action Plan that could serve as a basis for future collaboration among the three countries.



For more information, please contact the NISC Secretariat at [invasive\\_species@ios.doi.gov](mailto:invasive_species@ios.doi.gov) or visit [www.invasivespecies.gov](http://www.invasivespecies.gov).