



International Working Group Charter

INTRODUCTION

The Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) is a self-directed, non-regulatory, regional partnership formed and directed by resource management entities; public, private, and tribal entities in the Mojave, Sonoran, and Chihuahuan deserts and Sky Island/Sierra Madre Occidental regions of the southwestern United States and northern Mexico. The primary goal of the Desert LCC is to identify the science needs of Desert LCC partners related to climate change and ecosystem threats at broad spatial scales (regional or Desert LCC-wide), and facilitate the development, integration, and application of scientific information into adaptation strategies and other decision support systems that will inform resource management decisions.

PURPOSE

Approximately two-thirds of the Desert LCC is located in Mexico, encompassing all or parts of 11 Mexican States and approximately one third of the total land mass of Mexico. If the Desert LCC is to meet its primary goal, it is imperative that Mexico is engaged as a full-time partner in the Desert LCC and this presents the Desert LCC with a formidable challenge. The Desert LCC International Working Group (WG) was formed to address this challenge by identifying and working with Mexican partners to develop an effective bi-national strategy to initiate and maintain the goals and objectives of the Desert LCC over a large and diverse landscape.



GOALS

1. Ensure that Mexico is an active partner in the Desert LCC.
2. Identify common issues related to Critical Management Questions, as defined through the Science Working Group, and incorporate science needs into Desert LCC processes.
3. Include input and participation in Desert LCC climate change conservation discussions and relevant projects to identify common climate change objectives between U.S. and Mexico partners.
4. Develop strategies to fulfill shared science priorities and fund and develop Desert LCC bi-national climate change conservation initiatives.
5. Exchange and share climate change science-based products and methodologies being developed in the U.S. and Mexico.
6. Maintain close coordination and collaboration with Mexican partners on Desert LCC bi-national climate change conservation initiatives.
7. Develop outreach and educational materials (bi-lingual) to promote the Desert LCC in Mexico.
8. Develop logistical and monetary strategies to support travel by to and from Mexico to attend Desert LCC meetings.
9. Support at least one Desert LCC international coordination meeting in Mexico each year.
10. Identify and reach out to institutions and individuals in Mexico working on climate change.
11. Support the Spanish translation of Desert LCC guidance, technical, and educational materials when appropriate.

LEADERSHIP

The International WG was established by the Desert LCC Steering Committee to address the additional coordination needs required to engage and maintain Mexico as a full-time partner in the Desert LCC. The International WG is co-led by the two Desert LCC Coordinators and a U.S. and Mexican liaison in order to maintain a continuous communication loop between the Steering Committee and the International WG.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership includes Steering Committee members, dedicated staff and partners from the U.S. and Mexico that have experience or an interest in working on bi-national conservation initiatives. Ideally, membership will include a range of organizations from several sectors (i.e., federal and state governments, non-profits, academia, etc.), as well as individuals with expertise or management responsibilities across the Desert LCC geographic area in Mexico.

DECISIONMAKING

The International WG is charged with making recommendations to the Steering Committee relative to Desert LCC climate change conservation initiatives and issues that affect both the U.S. and Mexico.

Recommendations put forward to the Steering Committee are made by International WG consensus. All International WG members will have equal status (1 vote) during all deliberations.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The International WG may meet up to twice a year. The International WG participates in scheduled informational conference calls.

MODIFICATIONS AND EFFECTIVE DATE

This Charter becomes effective as of the date approved by the Desert LCC Steering Committee. This Charter may be subsequently amended or supplemented by the Desert LCC Coordinators and the International WG through a process of notification and comment by the Desert LCC Steering Committee.