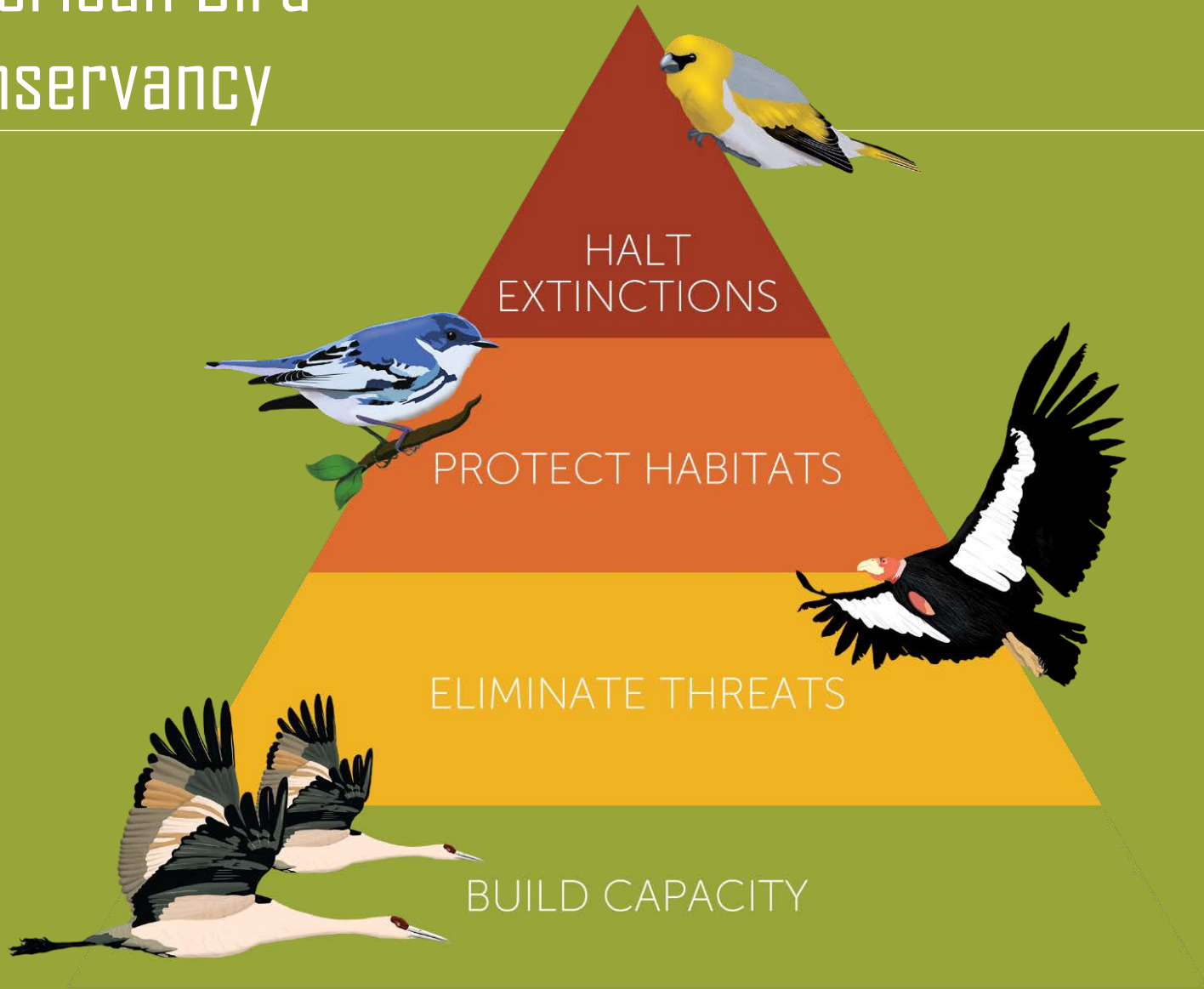




Protecting Migratory Birds Using Conservation Business Plans

David Younkman
Vice President, Western Region
American Bird Conservancy

American Bird Conservancy



Protecting wild birds and their habitats throughout the Americas



Conservation Business Plans

Today

1. What are Conservation Business Plans and how are they different?
2. Partners in Flight Business Plans: Status and Challenges
3. How can you use these Plans?



Components of a Conservation Business Plan



Components of a Conservation Business Plan

- Conservation Goals
- Priority Actions/Measurable Results
- Resource Needs
- Performance Measures

(National Fish and Wildlife Foundation)

Conservation Business Plans emphasize measurability of results



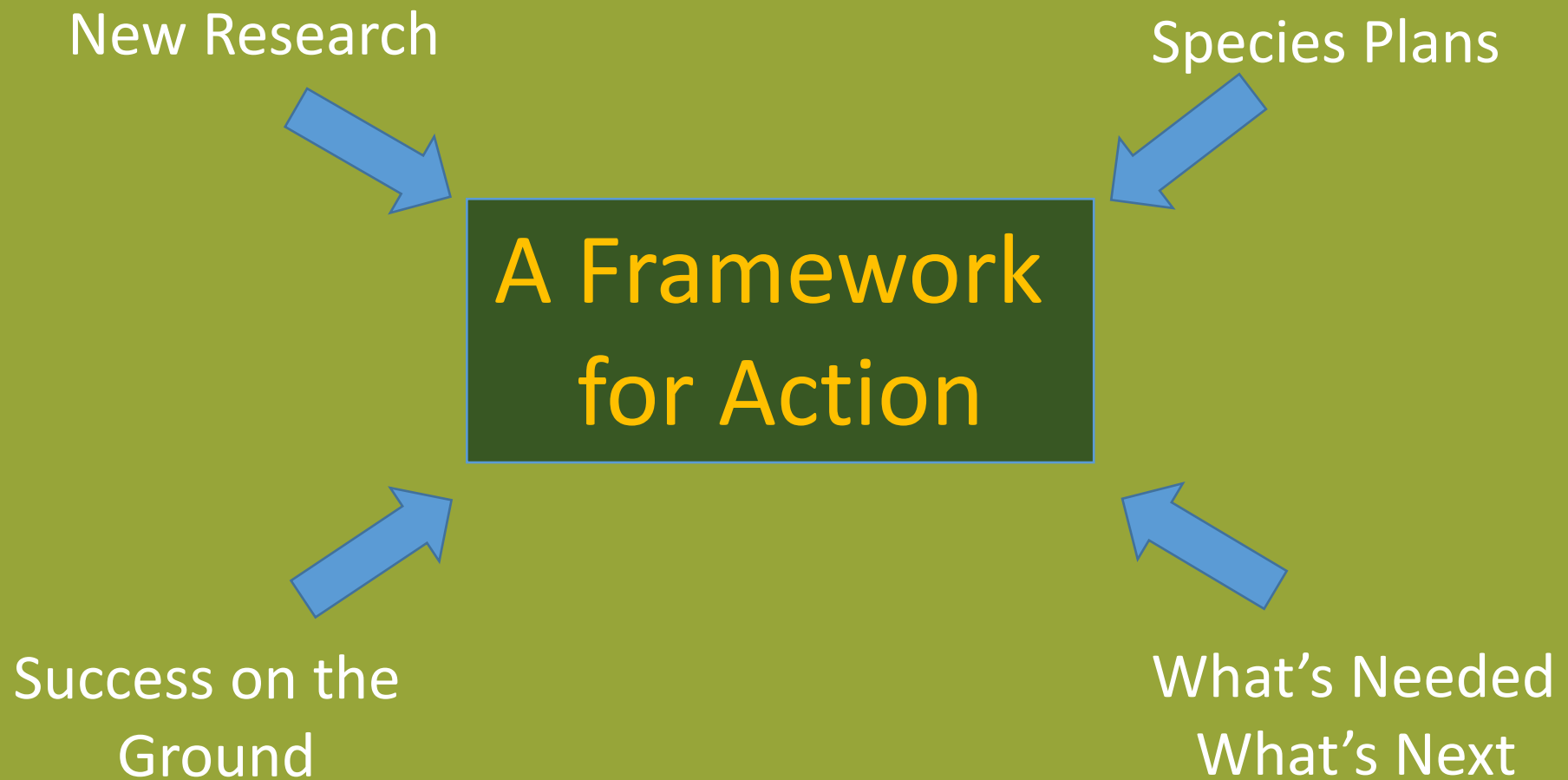
Conservation Business Plans



"Planning at Different Scales" Brad Bortner

Conservation Business Plans

A Gathering Place



A Funder's Dilemma

A Funding Program Perspective

The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act

Hundreds of needy species

Limited financial resources

Vast demand

Un-prioritized lists of priorities

Lack of measurable goals linked to populations

Hard to measure return on investment

Are we making a difference?



Solution: Conservation Business Plans for Migratory Birds

- New Science

- connectivity, genetics, limiting factors

- Increasing Pressures

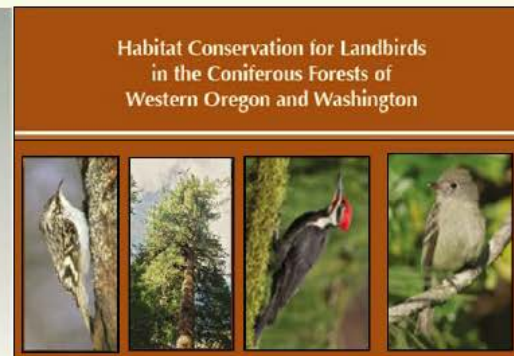
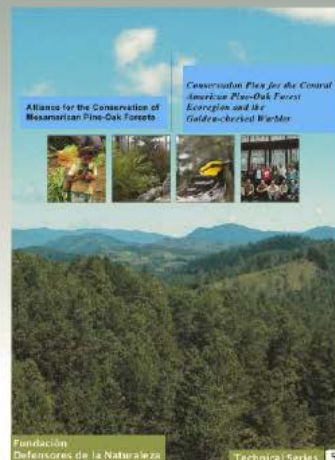
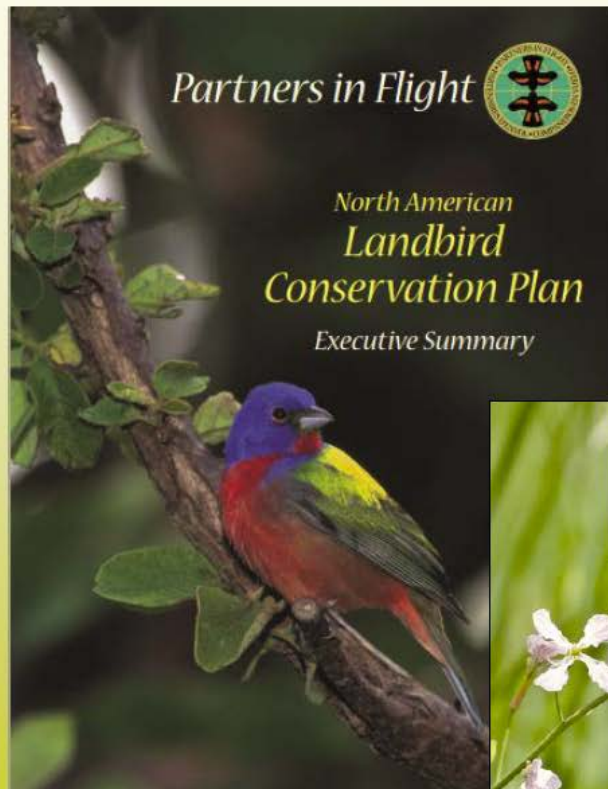
- habitat loss, climate change, anthropogenic threats

- Limited Funds

- Decreasing bird populations

It is time to act

Priority & Representative Species



Environment Canada / Environnement Canada



Bird Conservation Strategy for Bird Conservation Region 5: Northern Pacific Rainforest

February 2013



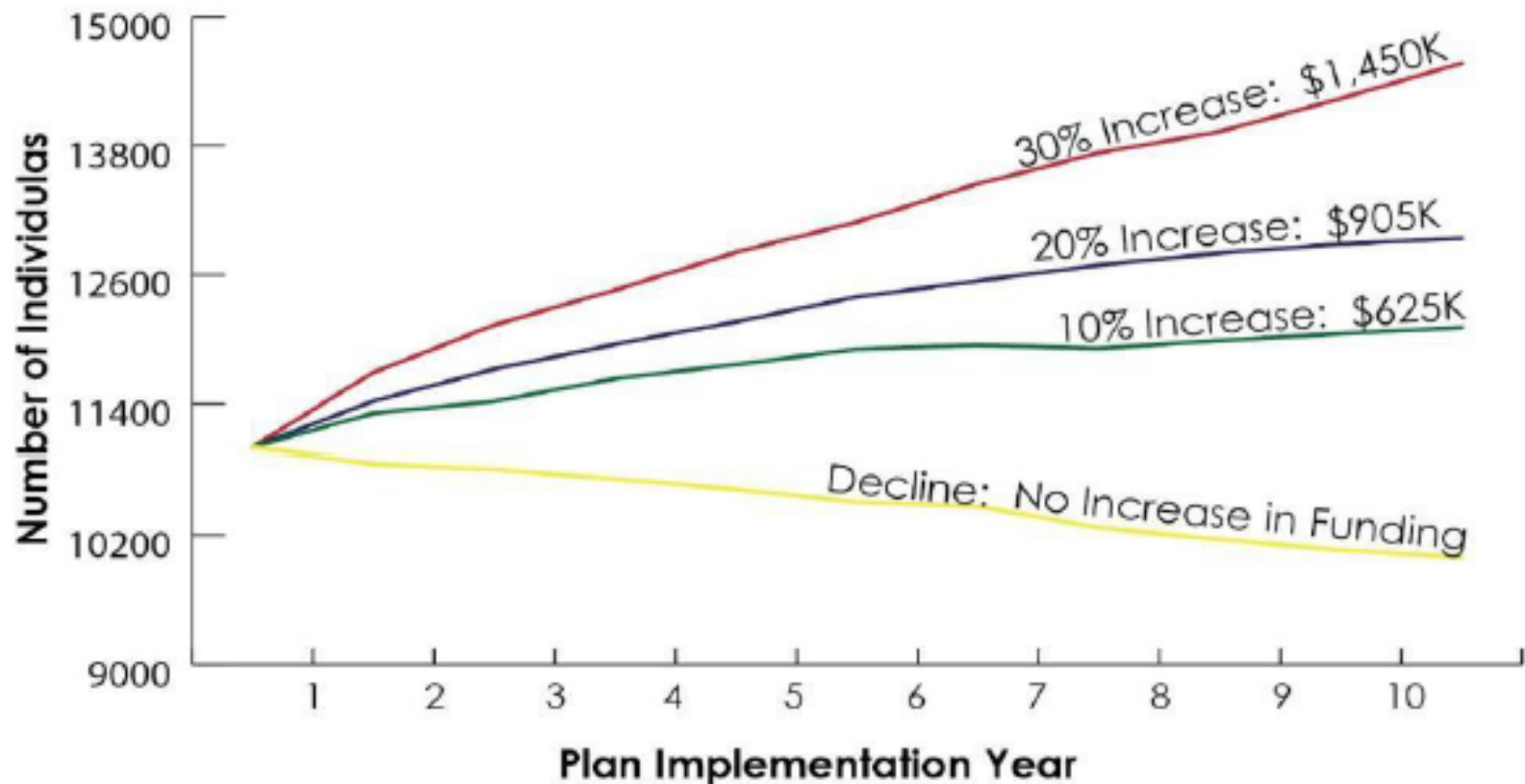
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Building on Previous Planning



American Oystercatcher Business Plan

Projected American Oystercatcher Population Size



Building on previous planning

Atlantic Flyway Shorebird Business Strategy

ATLANTIC FLYWAY SHOREBIRD BUSINESS STRATEGY

A Call To Action
Phase I



February 2013

Atlantic Flyway Shorebird Business Strategy - Components

• Major Threat Categories:

Habitat Loss & Change
Human Disturbance
Predation
Hunting
Knowledge Gaps

• 15 Focal Species:

American Golden Plover	American Oystercatcher
Greater Yellowlegs	Lesser Yellowlegs
Marbled Godwit	Piping Plover
Purple Sandpiper	Red Knot
Red-necked Phalarope	Ruddy Turnstone
Sanderling	Semipalmated Sandpiper
Snowy Plover	Whimbrel
Wilson's Plover	

• Specific activities/projects ➡



Building on previous planning



Partners in Flight V

August 2013

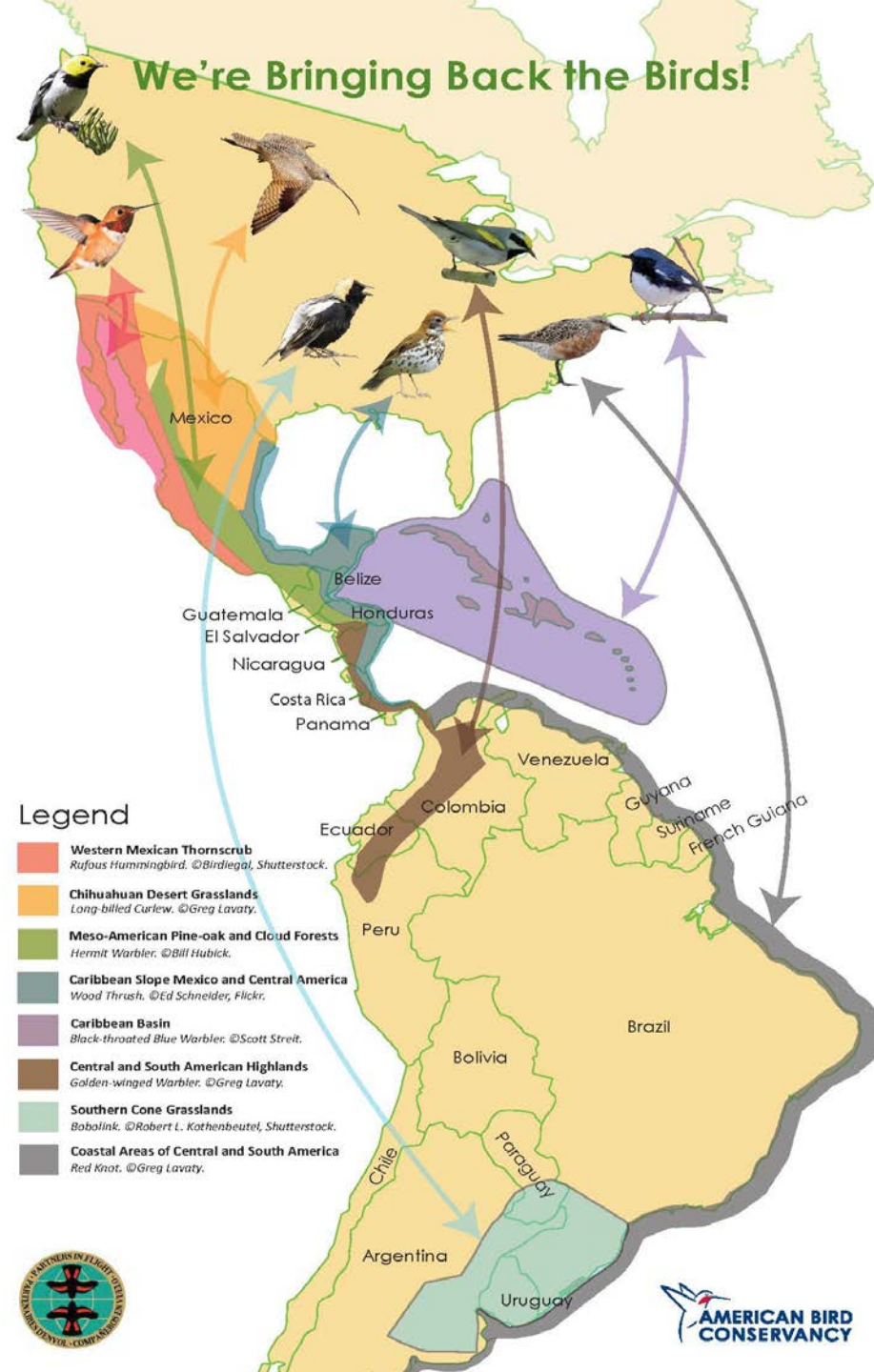
- Blueprint for Migratory Bird Conservation
- Full Life Cycle Approach
- “Doable” Projects with Measureable Results
- Complex and Ambitious
- Iterative approach



Partners in Flight V

- Eight linked geographic areas
- Clear targets and measurable objectives
- Strategies and Actions
- Portfolio of Projects

Eight Linked Geographies



Partners in Flight V



250 experts, 100 organizations, 13 countries

Focal Bird Species



Threats



HERMIT WARBLER

BREEDING: THINER TREES BELOW THRESHOLD CANOPY COVER - (FOREST MANAGEMENT)

MIGRATION: REFRIGERANT HABITAT (MIDMOUNT?)

THREAT: FIRE SUPPRESSION / CLIMATE / GRASSING - DEGRADATION OF MOUNTAIN MEADOWS

THREAT: MANAGEMENT THAT DECREASES CANOPY STRUCTURE (ANY/LOWERS)

MESO: ESP. HIGHER ELEV. THREAT: EXPANSION OF AGRICULTURE UPSLOPE (LOW, UPPER...?)

SOLUTIONS: - RESEARCH: MICA NEEDS? FALL & SPRING? - CURET: PLANTING THAT DISCOURAGE OFFSHORE WILDERNESS - BROWER: PROTECT POLICY RE. DESIGNED COEXISTENCE - LAND OWNERSHIP POLICY IN CA. (HONOLULU)

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD

THREATS: Climate Change - Phenology

MICA: Direct Mortality, Pollinators

PACIFIC NW: Fire Suppression

(BROWER): Center-centric mgmt

WINTERING: Changing Fire Regime

BREEDING: Mismanaged Grazing - Willow Types

ALL SEASONS: Altered Hydrology

SOLUTIONS: "Restoring the Winter Landscape"

Re-seeding post disturbance

Less water snoring planting (Gulf of Mexico)

Manage grazing in riparian wetlands (Gulf)

Education

10

Gulf-Caribbean Slope of Mexico & Central America Linked to Eastern Deciduous Forest

WINTERING GROUNDS

DIRECT THREAT: Expansion of subsistence agriculture into forested areas of Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua.



Threat to Bird Populations	Impact on Bird Populations
Habitat Loss	Reduced Carrying Capacity
Habitat Fragmentation	
Habitat Alteration	Reduced Habitat Suitability Altered Food Resources

CONSERVATION ACTION:

- Strengthen management of indigenous territories within Honduras and Nicaragua.
- Implement land titling.
- Support economic diversification.
- Improve and coordinate forestry and agriculture incentives.
- Create incentives for land and forest protection and sustainable production.



Partners in Flight V

Contents of a Business Plan

- Situation Analysis
- Conservation Targets and Goals
- Threats Analysis and Conceptual Model
- Strategies and Actions
- Portfolio of Projects w. Funding Needs
- Implementation Plan
- Evaluation and Monitoring
- Human Infrastructure: Committees and Meetings



Partners in Flight V

Results

- Eight draft plans
- Continued Working Group Meetings – north and south
- Endorsement by America's Flyway Framework
- Initial project implementation
- Continuing challenges



Challenges and Objectives: What We Need

- Revise and Update Plan Format & Framework
 - Finalize First Versions
 - Strengthen and Expand Leadership
 - Voluntary Effort
- Accessible Plans
- Portfolio of Projects & Funding
- Regular Gathering of Experts



Getting to Basecamp



Getting to Basecamp

Bringing Back the Birds



Science

Objectives and Strategies

Pilots

Conservation at Scale

Monitor & Evaluate



Science	Objectives and Outcomes	Strategies and Actions	Pilots	Base Camp	Implement at Scale	Monitor and Evaluate
1. Population status : baseline for target species 2. Population distribution/ core habitats & connectivity 3. Species-Habitat relationships 4. Limiting factors identified 5. Threats analysis 6. DHCs/BMPs developed 7. Human dimensions/socio-economics	1. Population objective 5. Threat Reduction Obj. 6. Habitat Objectives 7. Human behavior change; economic incentives; policy	✓ <i>Select priorities to work on</i> ✓ <i>Develop strategies</i> ✓ <i>Define projects and actions</i> ✓ <i>Address objectives & outcomes</i> 4. Target Core Habitats-Where? 5. Select Priority Threats -What? 6. Habitat Management - How?	✓ <i>How to implement</i> ✓ <i>Leverage points for expansion</i> ✓ <i>Costs and how to fund/finance</i> ✓ <i>Effectiveness for birds; cost-benefit</i> ✓ <i>Incentive/barriers for scaling up</i> 4. Test PAs for migrants 5. Pilot threat reduction projects 6. Pilot PAs, BMPs and habitat protection projects 7. Public acceptance; costs and financing estimated	Quantified and Proven Way Forward	✓ Develop budget , financing mechanisms and timeline 5. Reduce critical threats (full life cycle) 6. Ensure Adequate Habitat at scale (full life cycle) 7. Continue to build needed Enabling Conditions (full life cycle)	1. Population change 4. Demographic analysis; Understand vital rates 5. % Threats reduced 6. % Habitat improved; population response 7. Funding secured; public support increased; policies in place ✓ <i>Project results/success</i> ✓ <i>Progress toward Objectives</i> ✓ <i>Refine/Improve</i> ✓ <i>Next steps identified</i>

Base Camp South - Chihuahua Business Plan



Gathered Science and BMPs - Led by Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory
Mapping Core Habitats - RMBO, Pronatura Noreste, Grassland Coalition

Chihuahua Grasslands



Secured funding and develop partnerships –
ABC, PronaturaNE, RMBO, La Hediondilla Ejido, Grassland Coalition, others

Chihuahua Grasslands – Begin Pilot Projects

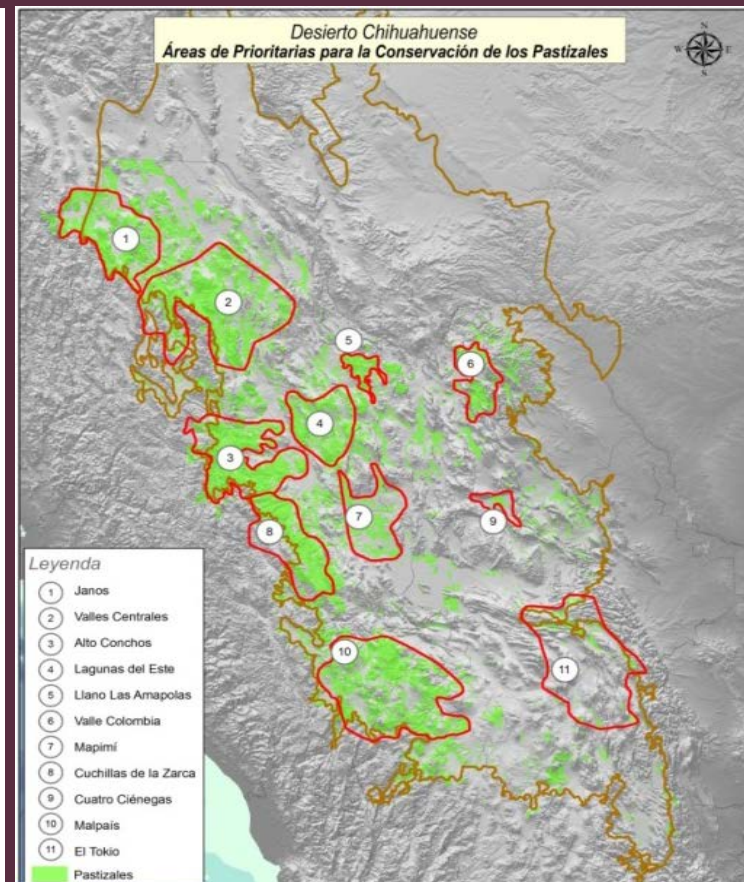
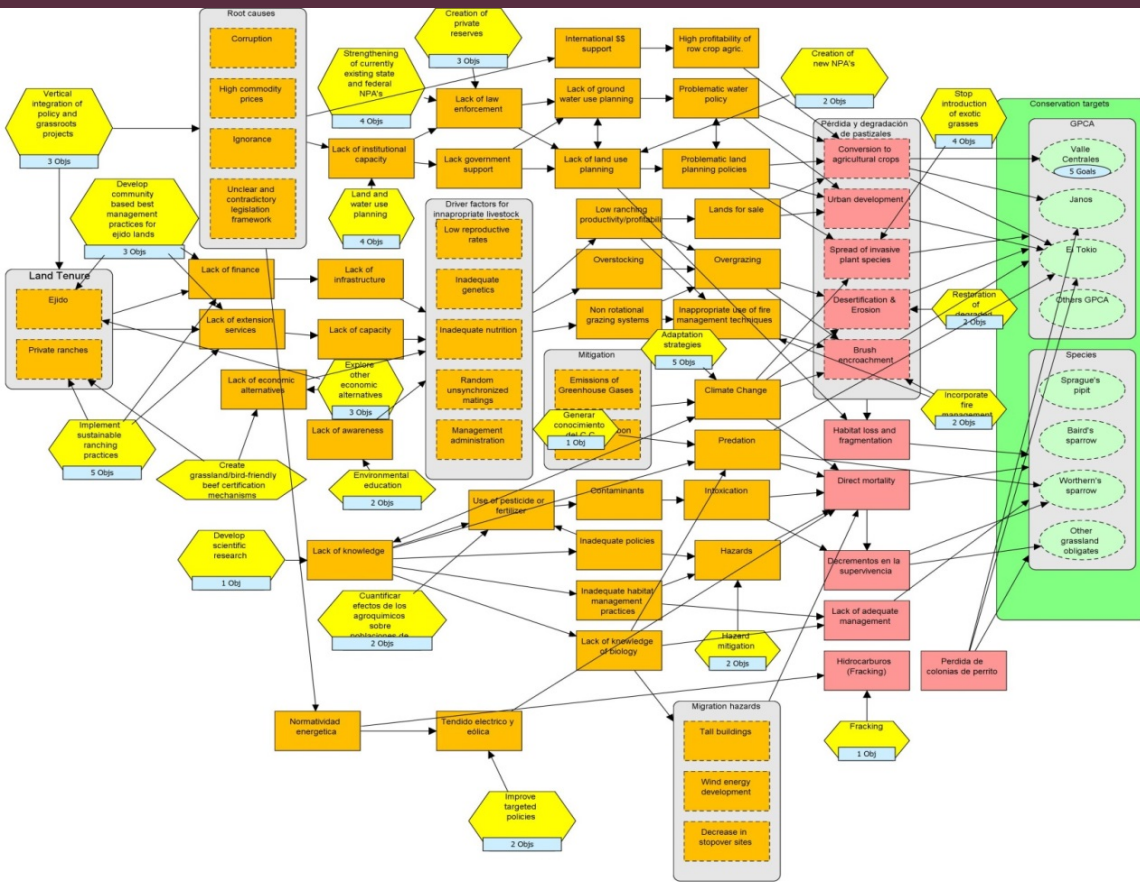


Threats – water policy, agricultural expansion, habitat loss

Pilot Projects – restore grasslands



Monterrey Workshop: Update Threats and Strategies



Miradi conceptual model

Applied to Core Habitat Areas

Monterrey Workshop: A Portfolio of Projects

	Group One - Beto	Group 2 - Mike	Group 3 - Mauricio
Fracking	\$ 25,000	\$ 15,000	20,000
Business Plans/Steering Committee	\$ 20,000	\$ 75,000	30,000
Environmental education/Public outreach	\$ 150,000	\$ 100,000	300,000
Certification	\$ 50,000	\$ 110,000	200,000
BMP private ranchers	\$ 650,000	\$ 1,200,000	1,000,000
Vertical	\$ 55,000	\$ 40,000	
Reach and work w/ ejidos	\$ 500,000	incl above in #6	400,000
Ground water	\$ 30,000	\$ 200,000	350,000
new National Protected Area	\$ 50,000	\$ 40,000	160,000
Restoration	\$ 50,000	\$ 40,000	600,000
Committee	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	Incl #3 above
State of Grassland report	\$ 30,000	\$ 40,000	60,000
Develop monitoring	\$ 350,000	\$ 100,000	350,000
Remote sensing			100,000
Species focused planning			50,000
Policy work			90,000
TOTAL	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 3,710,000



Chihuahua Grasslands Results



Next: Expand to Scale, add Policy and Outreach

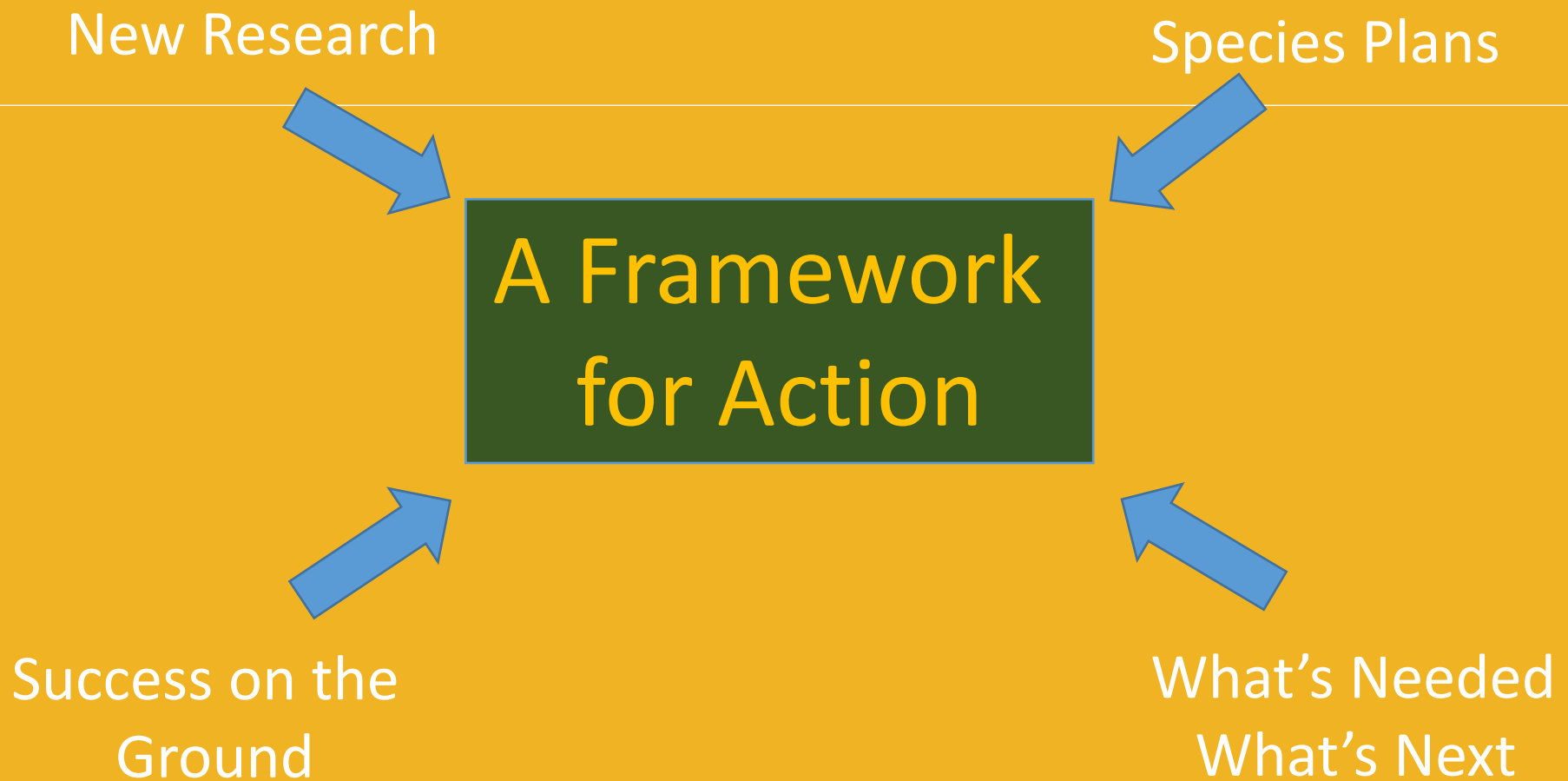


Summary: Conservation Business Plans

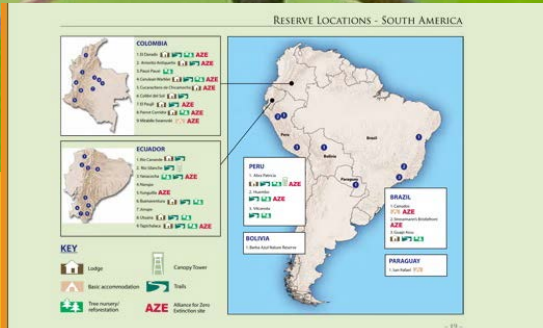
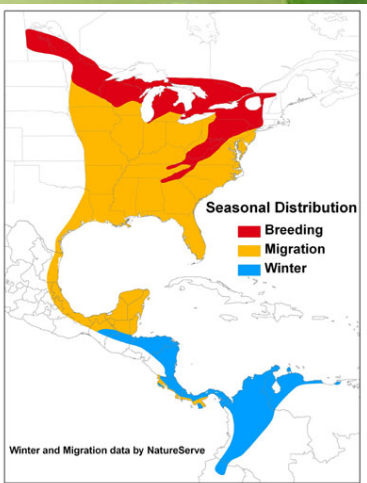
- Seeing results
- Challenges remain
- How can you use these plans?



1. Integrate your projects into existing Conservation Business Plans



Example: Golden-winged & Cerulean Warbler Plans feed into South/Central America Highlands Plan





2. Reach out to Working Group Leaders





3. Assist with Funding, Science, Policy & Conservation Actions





4. Get involved – the birds need you!



Get involved – the birds need you!

- **MX & C. AMERICA GULF-CARIBBEAN SLOPE** ⇔ EASTERN DECIDUOUS FORESTS, primarily Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plains
 - Randy Wilson (randy_wilson@fws.gov)
- **CHIHUAHUA DESERT GRASSLANDS** ⇔ WESTERN GREAT PLAINS and PRAIRIES
 - Mary Gustafson
mgustafson@abcbirds.org
 - Mauricio de la Maza
mmaza@pronaturane.org
- **CENTRAL and SOUTH AMERICAN HIGHLANDS** ⇔ APPALACHIAN and NORTHEASTERN HARDWOOD and MIXED FOREST REGIONS, north to the BOREAL REGION
 - Randy Dettmer
(randy_dettmers@fws.gov)
- **TROPICAL DRY FORESTS** ⇔ ARIDLANDS OF TEXAS and SOUTHWESTERN U.S.
 - Carol Beardmore
(Carol_Beardmore@fws.gov)
- **SOUTHERN CONE GRASSLANDS** ⇔ EASTERN N. AMERICAN GRASSLANDS (tallgrass and east) and ARCTIC TUNDRA
 - Rosalind Renfrew
(rrenfrew@vtcostudies.org)
- **CARIBBEAN** ⇔ EASTERN AND BOREAL FOREST REGIONS
 - Lisa Sorenson (lsoren@bu.edu)
 - Becky Keller BKeller@abcbirds.org
- **MESOAMERICAN PINE-OAK AND CLOUD FOREST** ⇔ WESTERN CONIFEROUS FOREST REGIONS of U.S. and Canada
 - John Alexander
(jda@KlamathBird.org)
- **PACIFIC SHOREBIRDS** ⇔ U.S. AND CANADA PACIFIC COASTAL areas
 - Andres, Brad
(brad_andres@fws.gov)

Working Group Leaders





**AMERICAN BIRD
CONSERVANCY**