Identifying Measures of Performance and Achieving Conservation Targets

The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act

IMPACT Program

IMPACT
Identifying Measures of Performance and Achieving Conservation Targets (IMPACT) is an effort targeting groups of highly threatened Neotropical migratory bird species, with the goal of achieving a measurable biological improvement in these species over the next 5-10 years.

Twenty-five to 30 percent of grant funding from the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act is dedicated to the IMPACT program. IMPACT program projects must demonstrate and measure the improvement they have made in priority species’ populations, or improve information on the factors limiting these and other threatened species’ populations. Projects not accepted for IMPACT program funding remain eligible for funding through the core NMBCA grants program.

A Strategy for the Future
The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act Advisory Group led the development of the IMPACT program, which began funding projects in 2012 and may run through 2022. The group will use the results of the IMPACT program to determine a strategy for the future direction of the NMBCA program.

2012-2020 IMPACT Program Grants

- **Grant Funds:** $7,057,764
- **Matching Funds:** $25,947,488
- **Match Ratio:** 3.6 to 1
- **Projects:** 55
- **Countries:** 15

The Core Program
The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act grants program conserves Neotropical migrants for the benefit of the American people. It provides financial resources to conserve 386 species of Neotropical migratory birds throughout the Western Hemisphere. Since 2002, the grant program has awarded more than $75 million in grants, matched 3.6-to-1 by non-federal partners, affecting 5 million acres across 36 countries.

The core NMBCA program complements the IMPACT program by maintaining a funding source for all Neotropical migratory species and addressing broader, more difficult to measure conservation outcomes.

Golden-Cheeked Warblers are one of 13 species prioritized for support through the IMPACT program of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act. Credit: Steve Maslowski/USFWS
Projects

Projects funded through the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act IMPACT program must demonstrate an improvement in conservation status for a priority species in a measurable way, or increase conservation knowledge about factors limiting less well-understood species’ populations. Long-term goals may include:

- increase a species’ reproductive success on a portion of its breeding grounds as measured by local or regional surveys;
- improve the population trend of a species as measured by the North American Breeding Bird Survey;
- improve the survival of a species on a portion of its wintering grounds (used by a significant percentage of the population); or
- reduce the most significant threat to a target species in a locality or region.

IMPACT program projects will show targeted conservation results within 5-10 years, keeping priority species from decline and complementing long-term investment strategies.

2020 Project Examples

U.S.-Mexico Grassland Bird Conservation XVIII

This project will continue work to conserve high-priority and declining grassland birds of western North America. This work includes identification of important areas, habitats, threats and limiting factors for grassland birds on their Chihuahuan Desert wintering grounds, and landowner collaboration in critical areas to implement best practices, secure conservation agreements, and restore habitat for declining grassland species.

Conserving Bicknell’s Thrush on Canadian Breeding Ground VI

This project builds upon relationships with timber companies to identify and implement strategies that mitigate both mortality and habitat degradation, conduct research on the use of timber industry habitat, and continue range-wide surveys to evaluate the success of conservation actions over the medium- and long-term.

Priority Areas

Caribbean
Meso-American Pine-Oak Forest
Gulf Coast-Caribbean Central American Lowlands
Central-South American Highlands
South American Grasslands
Chihuahuan Grasslands
Gulf of Mexico/Caribbean
Atlantic Flyway/Pacific Flyway Shorebirds

The IMPACT program focuses on 27 highly threatened species. These species were chosen both for their urgent conservation need and for our partners’ capacity to monitor them and measure population-level results.

How To Apply

IMPACT Program applications follow the same deadlines and submission process as the core NMBCA program, but there are additional requirements. Proposals must clearly address the most important factors limiting growth or stability in populations of targeted species. Proposals should show clear cause-and-effect linkages between the proposed one- to two-year grant period objectives and activities and the identified long-term goals for improved population status. For detailed instructions visit https://www.fws.gov/birds/grants/neotropical-migratory-bird-conservation-act/how-to-apply.php

More Information

For more information, contact Guy Foulks, NMBCA Program Coordinator, at 703/358-1944 or Guy_B_Foulks@fws.gov.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of Bird Habitat Conservation
5275 Leesburg Pike MS-MB
Falls Church, Virginia 22041 USA
+1 703/358-1784
neotropical@fws.gov

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