

NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION ACT GRANTS

AWARDED JULY 11, 2017

Project Name UNDERSTANDING & REDUCING BIRD COLLISIONS

Location (State/County) PA-ALLEGHENY, PA-WESTMORELAND

Congressional District PA-ALLEGHENY-12,14,18, PA-WESTMORELAND-18, PA-WESTMORELAND-9,12,14

Grantee Organization CARNEGIE INSTITUTE

Project Officer Lucas DeGroot

Grantee Email DeGrootL@CarnegieMNH.org

Partner Name CON-AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY, CON-ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE WILDLIFE CENTER, OTH-CARNEGIE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Grant Award Amount \$31,427.00

Proposed Match Amount \$113,900.00

Project Description Through the proposed project, we will further our understanding of the causes and consequences of bird-building collisions and use this new understanding to reduce bird mortality through outreach, education, and collision reduction measures. Our efforts will include monitoring collisions at commercial and residential buildings, installing collision-reducing measures and quantifying post-installation collision rates, tracking the survival of post-collision and free-ranging Neotropical migrants using nanotags and Motus tracking stations, and determining how the physical characteristics of glass interacts with the environment to influence collision rates at buildings and in an experimental flight tunnel.

Project Name U.S.-MEXICO GRASSLAND BIRD CONSERVATION XV

Location (Country) Mexico CHIH-CHIHUAHUA, COAH-COAHUILA, DGO-DURANGO

U.S. CO-LARIMER, CO-WELD

Congressional District CO-LARIMER-2, CO-WELD-4

Grantee Organization BIRD CONSERVANCY OF THE ROCKIES

Project Officer Erin Strasser

Grantee Email erin.strasser@birdconservancy.org

Partner Name LOC-CITY OF FORT COLLINS NATURAL AREAS PROGRAM

Grant Award Amount \$200,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$600,000.00

Project Description This project will continue work funded by the NMBCA since 2002 to conserve high-priority and declining grassland bird species of western North America. The proposed actions build on the broad scientific foundation and capacity established by Bird Conservancy of the Rockies (BCR) and partners to conserve and enhance habitat for declining grassland birds across their migratory range, including: identification of important areas, habitat conditions, threats and limiting factors, and collaborating with landowners in critical areas to implement best management practices and restore habitat for Sprague's Pipit and 27 other declining grassland species. Thanks in part to NMBCA support,

we have worked with 22 landowners to improve management and habitat on 240,000 acres of desert grasslands and shrublands in the Valles Centrales and Janos priority conservation areas in Chihuahua, Mexico. In this next phase we will 1) expand work with landowners in the Valles Centrales and Janos priority areas to improve habitat for Sprague's Pipit and other grassland birds on at least 10,000 acres of grasslands and shrublands, 2) advance research on limiting factors for overwinter survival and winter movement patterns of grassland birds in the Chihuahuan Desert and 3) protect 3,800 acres of grassland and shrubland from surface disruption due to oil and gas development (i.e., roads, well pads, traffic, etc.) for a period of 20 years within a large conservation area (>55,000 acres) in northern Colorado that supports breeding populations of Mountain Plover and 19 other high-priority grassland bird species, and continue a long-term monitoring effort to inform management and conservation of their populations in the region. Through these actions, we expect to increase populations of Sprague's Pipits and other high priority species, including Baird's Sparrow and Chestnut-collared Longspur on project sites in Chihuahua over the next 5-10 years. The proposed activities will be conducted in cooperation with broad network of regional partners in Mexico and the U.S. for maximize impact, efficiency and synergy.

Project Name STRENGTHENING CONSERVATION ACTIONS FOR GOLDEN-CHEEKED WARBLER WINTER HABITAT II

Location (Country) Guatemala and Mexico

Grantee Organization FUNDACION DEFENSORES DE LA NATURALEZA

Project Officer Raquel Leonardo

Grantee Email rleonardo@defensores.org.gt

Partner Name CON-FUNDACION DEFENSORES DE LA NATURALEZA, CON-PRONATURA SUR, A.C.

Grant Award Amount \$170,579.00

Proposed Match Amount \$511,738.00

Project Description All objectives and activities of this project were identified by the Alliance for the Conservation of Mesoamerica's Pine-Oak Forests in its recently updates Conservation Plan for the Pine-Oak Forests and the Migratory Bird *Dendroica chrysoparia* (now *Setophaga chrysoparia*). In previous projects, partners have gathered knowledge and experience of working in the ecoregion. Recent analyses of the GCWA's potential range have highlighted the importance of broadening the scope and verifying the new information generated about the species' distribution within the five countries located in the ecoregion, in order to have reliable records of the species in sites which have not yet been confirmed as GCWA winter range. The recent floral characterization in the GCWA habitat provides the basis for the establishment of pilot projects that contribute to the recovery and conservation of the GCWA's winter habitat, contributing in turn to the national restoration strategies that are being constructed in Guatemala and Mexico.

Project Name STRENGTHENING CAPACITY FOR CARIBBEAN SHOREBIRD CONSERVATION

Location (Country) Regional project in Caribbean

Grantee Organization BIRDSCARIBBEAN [FORMERLY SCSCB]

Project Officer Dr. Lisa G. Sorenson

Grantee Email Lsoren@bu.edu

Partner Name CON-BIRDSCARIBBEAN [FORMERLY SCSCB], FED-CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE, CON-CARIBBEAN RESEARCH & MANAGEMENT OF BIODIVERSITY FOUNDATION, CON-DUTCH CARIBBEAN NATURE ALLIANCE, CON-SOCIEDAD ORNITOLOGICA PUERTORRIQUENA, INC (SOPI), CON-STICHTING NATIONALE PARKEN BONAIRE (STINAPA BONAIRE), CON-WILD CONSCIENCE

Grant Award Amount \$133,645.00

Proposed Match Amount \$402,459.00

Project Description This project will improve the long-term survival of shorebirds and their habitats across the flyway by building local capacity in the Caribbean to identify priority sites and monitor them through promoting the Caribbean Waterbird Census and providing training in its methods; promoting practical measures for shorebird conservation through small grants; and increasing support for conservation of shorebirds and their habitats in the region by increasing awareness through several annual education programs that reach multiple target audiences (e.g., community members, stakeholders, hunters, decision-makers, developers, etc.).

Project Name SAVING WOOD THRUSH WINTER HABITAT IN TROPICAL ATLANTIC FORESTS

Location (Country) Costa Rica

Grantee Organization GUANACASTE DRY FOREST CONSERVATION FUND (GDFCF)

Project Officer Eric Palola

Grantee Email palola@gdfcf.org

Partner Name OTH-EPPLEY FOUNDATION, CON-GUANACASTE DRY FOREST CONSERVATION FUND (GDFCF), PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), SCH-QUEEN MARY UNIVERSITY, OTH-WEGE FOUNDATION

Grant Award Amount \$62,150.00

Proposed Match Amount \$589,517.00

Project Description GDFCF will conserve wintering grounds habitat of Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*, WOTH) and other neotropical migrant birds with which WOTH is typically associated through a project that (1) focuses on new and intensive monitoring, (2) manages land with local communities and (3) determines and analyzes diet with unprecedented resolution. These actions and information will inform current and future conservation management in these mid-elevation Atlantic rainforests.

Project Name SAVING KEY HABITAT FOR MIGRATORY LANDBIRDS IN THE PARAGUAYAN CHACO

Location (County) Paraguay

Grantee Organization GUYRA PARAGUAY: CONSERVACION DE AVES

Project Officer Viviana Rojas Bonzi

Grantee Email especies@guyra.org.py

Partner Name FED-CONSEJO NACIONAL DE CIENCIA Y TECNOLOGIA (CONACYT) PARAGUAY, CON-GUYRA PARAGUAY: CONSERVACION DE AVES, PRO-SWIRE PACIFIC OFFSHORE, CON-WORLD LAND TRUST

Grant Award Amount \$104,790.00

Proposed Match Amount \$358,960.00

Project Description The Gran Chaco Americano is a vast, relatively flat, wooded region occupying south-

eastern Bolivia, western Paraguay and northern Argentina. In Paraguay, it covers the lands west of the Paraguay River and is characterized by tropical savannas, dense thorn-scrub forest and more open vegetation in areas with sand dunes. Due to increased deforestation rates in the past decade, the Paraguayan Chaco is undergoing a rapid change, with the remaining forest patches being so small that they are essentially islands in an entirely man-made landscape. Lack of a regional vision regarding land use management and land protection is one of the main problems to get to a sustainable balance of the use of the Chaco. Many Neotropical Migrants depend on the Paraguayan Chaco during migration and overwintering including 14 species of Neotropical Migratory Landbirds that depend on the forests in the Chaco and of which several are in steep decline. Rapid action is required as a recent analysis of economic drivers indicated a realistic possibility that all suitable land will have been transformed for cattle production by 2025. Guyra Paraguay will advance long-term conservation of Neotropical Migratory Landbirds in the Paraguayan Chaco through targeted habitat management and protection, support for more effective land-use planning, and public outreach. To achieve this, Guyra Paraguay aims to: 1) improve management and effective protection of Neotropical Migratory landbird habitat in six protected areas in the Paraguayan Chaco; 2) assess and evaluate the impact of land use change in the Paraguayan Chaco on Neotropical migratory landbird species through, monitoring, data compilation and analysis; 3) stimulate sustainable land use and strategic land planning by working with local stakeholders (authorities, ranchers, land owners) and, 4) raise awareness and built support for the conservation of the Paraguayan Chaco and its migratory species.

Project Name REFORESTING CRITICAL WINTERING HABITAT VII

Location (Country) Ecuador and Peru

Grantee Organization AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY

Project Officer Philip Tanimoto

Grantee Email ptanimoto@abcbirds.org

Partner Name CON-AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY, CON-ASOCIACION ECOSISTEMAS ANDINOS (ECOAN), CON-FUNDACION JOCOTOCO

Grant Award Amount \$199,050.00

Proposed Match Amount \$719,551.00

Project Description The Andean reforestation project supported by NMBCA since 2008 has catalyzed conservation gains for neotropical migratory birds that extend far beyond the number of trees planted and acres restored which have been the hallmark of this project since its beginning. While habitat restoration on both productive and protected lands is extremely important, the relationships formed and trust developed with local communities involved in this project has resulted in the initiation of habitat protection projects that have the opportunity to multiply gains for wintering migratory birds across larger landscapes. In northern Peru, local communities who first learned about ECOAN and ABC through the reforestation project and demonstration plots approached ECOAN to help them secure legal protection for ~60,000 acres of community-owned land, and to manage this land for conservation (including activities such as tree planting and implementing agroforestry systems). In Ecuador, local coffee cooperatives and municipalities have approached Jocotoco and ABC to implement shade coffee

systems, as well as reforest riparian areas and steep slopes for ecological benefits. With new NMBCA support, this coalition of partners will 1) improve 662 acres in southern Ecuador and northern Peru as habitat for migratory birds through the planting of 147,861 native trees and shade coffee shrubs, 2) protect 8.97 acres through land acquisition at Tapichalaca Reserve in Ecuador, 3) manage Tapichalaca Reserve for conservation, 4) advance and build capacity for community-based conservation zoning for 60,107 acres in northern Peru, and 5) host a best practices exchange for reforestation and community engagement in Peru for all project partners. The project benefits the Cerulean Warbler, Canada Warbler, Olive-sided Flycatcher and another 20 additional Neotropical migrant species.

Project Name RECOVERING CRITICAL HABITAT FOR BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER

Location (Country) Paraguay

Grantee Organization GUYRA PARAGUAY: CONSERVACION DE AVES

Project Officer Rodrigo Zarate

Grantee Email rzarate@guyra.org.py

Partner Name CON-GUYRA PARAGUAY: CONSERVACION DE AVES, CON-MANOMET, INC, FED-MINISTERIO DE OBRAS PUBLICAS Y COMUNICACIONES (MOPC)

Grant Award Amount \$145,055.00

Proposed Match Amount \$501,760.00

Project Description Guyra Paraguay will implement a mitigation plan, that includes restoring 54 ha of critical habitat for Buffbreasted Sandpiper and other priority shorebirds within the Asunción Bay through re-creation of mudflats (28 ha), restoration of grasslands (15 ha) and shoreline habitat (11 ha). The project will also develop a good governance mechanism to facilitate more effective implementation of the reserve management plan; and develop and implement a community engagement strategy to reduce disturbance to shorebirds. All activities will be carried out through an NGO-local/national government coalition, which was established during the previous funded project by the NMBCA, with technical guidance provided by Manomet Inc./WHSRN Executive Office.

Project Name PROTECTION OF PRIORITY HABITATS IN THE CHIHUAHUAN DESERT

Location (Country) Mexico CHIH-CHIHUAHUA, COAH-COAHUILA

Grantee Organization PROTECCION DE LA FAUNA MEXICANA, A.C. (PROFAUNA)

Project Officer Miguel Angel Cruz Nieto

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Partner Name FED-COMISION NACIONAL DE AREAS NATURALES PROTEGIDAS (CONANP), CON-PROTECCION DE LA FAUNA MEXICANA, A.C. (PROFAUNA)

Grant Award Amount \$139,662.00

Proposed Match Amount \$421,613.00

Project Description The project's desired result (10 years) is to increase by 15% the abundance of three focal species: Mountain Plover, Long-billed Curlew and Sprague Pipit. These species are extremely

faithful to their wintering grounds and are strongly dependent on the prairie dog colonies that provide them with short grasslands. The prairie dogs have been eradicated from more than 75% of their original distribution range by agriculture and overgrazing. The specific impacts are: (1) Improve the protection of the Janos Biosphere Reserve, Chihuahua, through the formalization of the Advisory Council and update its Conservation Program to achieve 526,482 ha, zoned and regulated in the first and only Federal Protected Natural Area dedicated to preserve the grasslands in Mexico; (2) Acquire and manage 200 ha of grasslands occupied by prairie dogs in El Tokio (Coahuila); (3) Habitat protection through an Environmental Management Unit tool, from grasslands adjacent to prior location; (4) Implement 20 community projects in the Janos Biosphere Reserve, including the Campo Limpio Campaign to annually collect and finally confine 2 tons of pesticide containers that contaminate water sources used by birds, and (4) Prepare a capture protocol for the prairie dogs and two proposals for the translocation and connectivity of colonies to create specialized habitat for these three focal species in the Janos Biosphere Reserve and El Tokio, The result obtain the desired increase in the population of the focal species.

Project Name PROTECTION & MONITORING OF CERULEAN & GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLERS IN COLOMBIA II

Location (Country) Colombia

Grantee Organization FUNDACION PROAVES

Project Officer Alonso Quevedo

Grantee Email aquevedo@proaves.org, mparada@proaves.org

Partner Name CON-FUNDACION PROAVES

Grant Award Amount \$85,676.00

Proposed Match Amount \$257,028.00

Project Description ProvAves will detail their plan to directly protect 25 sites in Colombia and monitor populations of CERW and GWWA. Importantly, with NMBCA support they will strategically expand Colombia's current protected area network with major expansions augmenting the area of El Dorado reserve by 187 acres, this reserve is considered an area critical for passage and wintering migrants entering northern South America. With NMBCA support, their experienced team will directly manage 92,339 acres in 25 sites, support the restoration of 1,718 acres at 7 sites important for GWWA and CERW populations. In 2017, Fundacion ProAves will continue the monitoring of GWWA and CERW inside the reserves and to analyze and evaluate the data gathered from 2016 generating more information to reevaluate their status in and around the bird reserve network.

Project Name PROTECTING HABITAT FOR WOOD THRUSH: NICARAGUA & HONDURAS

Location (County) Nicaragua and Honduras

Grantee Organization AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY

Project Officer Andrew Rothman

Grantee Email arothman@abcbirds.org

Partner Name CON-AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY, SCH-UNIV. DE LAS REG. AUTO. COSTA CARIBE NICARAGUENSE (URACCAN), SCH-UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL DE AGRICULTURA DE HONDURAS (UNA),

CON-WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY (WCS)

Grant Award Amount \$199,959.00

Proposed Match Amount \$600,878.00

Project Description To address the threats migratory birds face during their full-life cycle, American Bird Conservancy is identifying priority landscapes, called Birdscapes, at the scale required to impact land use and provide measurable change to populations of Watchlist species. This project will direct investment to two priority Birdscapes in Nicaragua and Honduras. Non-sustainable land use practices and inadequate management of protected areas in the Birdscapes are reducing habitat available to wintering migrants, particularly Wood Thrush and Golden-winged Warbler. This project will address these threats by working with local communities to implement silvipasture practices and agro-forestry production systems on more than 600 ha of land; create conservation agreements to ensure effective management of 42,000 ha of forest; and train guards and law enforcement officials in effective enforcement operations for the benefit of the 22,252-ha Saslaya National Park. Altogether, this project will positively impact more than 65,000 ha of critical habitat for migratory birds.

Project Name NETWORK OF RESERVES OF CRITICAL HABITATS FOR NMB, WESTERN SIERRA MADRE

Location (County) CHIH-CHIHUAHUA

Grantee Organization PROTECCION DE LA FAUNA MEXICANA, A.C. (PROFAUNA)

Project Officer Miguel Angel Cruz Nieto

Grantee Email miguelangelnieto100@gmail.com

Partner Name FED-COMISION NACIONAL DE AREAS NATURALES PROTEGIDAS (CONANP), CON-ECO-HUELLA A.C., CON-PROTECCION DE LA FAUNA MEXICANA, A.C. (PROFAUNA), CON-UNIDAD DE MANEJO FORESTAL GALVAN

Grant Award Amount \$199,606.00

Proposed Match Amount \$613,160.00

Project Description The birds of the Sierra Madre Occidental are seriously threatened as a result of the badly planned forest exploitation that has been carried out on a large scale while avoiding the management of biodiversity for many decades. The most dramatic effects are represented by the Imperial Woodpecker (considered extinct), the thick-billed parrot and the Sierra Madre Sparrow (close to being critically endangered). We are taking advantage of the new national forest exploitation policy that takes into account the management of biodiversity to significantly decrease these threats. Therefore, this proposal focuses on: (1) Protecting critical habitat for Neotropical Migratory Birds through a mix of legal mechanisms like Forest Segregation, Ejidal Reserves defined by Mexican laws (60,000 ha), (2) Implementation of best practices for the management of biodiversity (at a landscape, site and species level) in more than 500 thousand hectares of forests. (3) Restoration of 900 ha of degraded ecosystems through reforestation and works to control erosion to favor the recovery of habitat and populations of Neotropical migratory birds. The project will benefit the populations of 105 species of Neotropical migratory birds, 19 of which are of concern for the USFWS, and complete groups of birds that depend on cavities such as trogons and woodpeckers.

Project Name MONITORING & SECURING CRITICAL HABITAT FOR SPRAGUE'S PIPIT IN ALBERTA

Location (Country) Canada AB-ALBERTA

Grantee Organization ALBERTA FISH & GAME ASSOCIATION

Project Officer Don Watson

Grantee Email watsondon@shaw.ca

Partner Name CON-ALBERTA CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION, CON-ALBERTA FISH & GAME ASSOCIATION, FED-ENVIRONMENT CANADA HABITAT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM, CON-TD FRIENDS OF THE ENVIRONMENT FOUNDATION (TD FEF)

Date approved

Grant Award Amount \$32,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$96,000.00

Project Description Since 1989, Operation Grassland Community (OGC) has worked in collaboration with stakeholders to restore and adaptively manage native prairie for the benefit of endemic prairie birds while supporting diverse socio-economic interests. In the past four years (2013-2016), they implemented a ranch-wide monitoring and adaptive management methodology called 'Land EKG' on 10 large ranches across Alberta's grassland region in areas of medium-high suitability for Sprague's pipits and other prairie endemics and their work in 2014-16 was funded in part by the NMBCA, enabling them to add 7 new ranches to an initial 2013 pilot project on three ranches. In 2017-2018 they will intensify adaptive management work on 10 of these ranches, 1 new ranch has been added in 2016 with 3 additional ranches to be added in 2017 for a total of 14 ranches. In addition to grazing management strategies, partners will actively improve habitats through removal of encroaching shrubs, employment of moveable fencing projects, and reseedling of previously cultivated lands to native grasses. Through resulting improvements and increases to habitat quality/quantity, they will effectively increase utilizable patch sizes to the recommended minimum of 360 acres, thus decreasing fragmentation effects on breeding pipits. These activities successfully address causes of the main threats to Sprague's pipits of habitat loss and degradation.

Project Name MIGRATORY LANDBIRD CONSERVATION IN SINALOAN TDF II

Location (Country) Mexico SIN-SINALOA

Grantee Organization CONSELVA, COSTAS Y COMUNIDADES, A.C. (CONSELVA)

Project Officer Sandra Concepcion Guido Sanchez

Grantee Email sandra.guido@conselva.org

Partner Name OTH-CENTRO DE INVESTIGACION EN ALIMENTACION Y DESARROLLO (CIAD), FED-COMISION NACIONAL DE AREAS NATURALES PROTEGIDAS (CONANP), FED-COMISION NACIONAL FORESTAL (CONAFOR), CON-CONSELVA, COSTAS Y COMUNIDADES, A.C. (CONSELVA), STA-SECRETARIA DE DESARROLLO SOCIAL Y HUMANO, SCH-UNIVERSIDAD DE GUADALAJARA, COSTA SUR

Grant Award Amount \$59,373.00

Proposed Match Amount \$218,388.00

Project Description Project objectives are threefold: Objective 1 aims to maintain in good conservation status 2,606 hectares of priority habitat, tropical dry forest (TDF), for NMB populations. The activities include strengthening community surveillance of critical habitats during the winter period (November -

March); monitoring of the NMB will allow to evaluate results of this conservation effort. Objective 2 focuses on strengthening local capacity for bird monitoring, leading to a generational renewal necessary to ensure the maintenance of conservation efforts in the long term. For this purpose, a process of selection of young people and adults is proposed, who will be given mentorship in the field and sessions with experts who will evaluate results. Objective 3 aims to build knowledge and interest in the local population for the NMB through environmental education work in primary and secondary schools focused on the development of school projects that relate quality of habitat with richness of birds. Also children of this locality will be connected with those of another area in the United States in which a shared migratory bird population exist. The results of all this work will be presented at a public event in Concordia, the capital city of the municipality.

Project Name MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION THROUGH COFFEE FARMING

Location (Country) Venezuela

Grantee Organization PROVITA

Project Officer Jon Paul Rodriguez

Grantee Email jprodriguez@provitaonline.org, marvelo@provitaonline.org

Partner Name CON-AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY, FED-INSTITUTO VENEZOLANO DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTIFICAS (IVIC), CON-PROVITA, FED-SMITHSONIAN MIGRATORY BIRD CENTER

Grant Award Amount \$31,570.00

Proposed Match Amount \$95,035.00

Project Description Partners will achieve Bird Friendly certification of 200 hectares of shade coffee farms in a mega diverse region of the Venezuelan Andes that forms part of a wildlife corridor between national parks and a natural monument. This project will promote preservation of natural and cultural heritage, bolster sustainable livelihoods and support conservation across 1200 hectares of many species of migratory and resident birds and other wildlife. Scalability potential is estimated over 20,000 hectares.

Project Name JE CANYON RANCH

Location (State/County) CO-LAS ANIMAS

Congressional District CO-LAS ANIMAS-4

Grantee Organization COLORADO CATTLEMENS AGRICULTURAL LAND TRUST

Project Officer Erik Glenn

Grantee Email eglenn@ccalt.org

Partner Name STA-GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO

Grant Award Amount \$200,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$1,950,000.00

Project Description This project will permanently eliminate development opportunities on 48,817 acres of shortgrass prairie grassland habitat and riparian areas. This property is used extensively by several

species of Neotropical migratory birds. This project focuses on two primary objectives, (1) permanently protect 48,817 acres of grassland habitat and riparian areas; and (2) incentivize additional conservation opportunities with neighboring landowners. These objectives will be met through the acquisition of a permanent conservation easement on the JE Canyon Ranch. Neighboring landowners often initiate projects following the completion of a successful conservation transaction. CICALT intends to use the JE Canyon Ranch transaction as a demonstration project for this region.

Project Name JAMES BAY SHOREBIRD CRITICAL STOPOVER RESOURCES

Location (Country) Canada ON-ONTARIO

Grantee Organization TRENT UNIVERSITY

Project Officer Dr. Erica Nol

Grantee Email enol@trentu.ca

Partner Name CON-BIRD STUDIES CANADA, FED-CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE, FED-ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE CANADA, NAT-MOOSE CREE FIRST NATION, STA-ONTARIO MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES & FORESTRY, SCH-TRENT UNIVERSITY

Grant Award Amount \$167,887.00

Proposed Match Amount \$564,785.00

Project Description The Hudson Bay Lowlands have experienced changes in climate and hydrology since the 1980s, and changes in this region are expected to continue at a faster rate than temperate and tropical regions. At an important subarctic shorebird staging area (the southwestern James Bay coast), partners propose to identify critical shorebird stopover resources and habitat, assess changes in prey resources and shorebird morphology since the 1980s, evaluate the importance of the James Bay coast to local breeding shorebirds on southbound migration, estimate Red Knot passage populations, and determine drivers of Red Knot annual survival with a long-term goal of designating the southwestern James Bay coast as a Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network Site of International Importance. This study will identify stopover risks for a suite of shorebirds including NMBCA migrants of concern: Semipalmated Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Dunlin, Hudsonian Godwit, Lesser Yellowlegs, and Whimbrel with emphasis on endangered Red Knots to fill knowledge gaps in Recovery Plans. Trent University will conduct this research with 6 partner organizations and local community members from Moose Cree First Nation and local students that directly participate in research.

Project Name IMPROVING & CONS CRITICAL BIRD HABITAT ON ANTIGUA & BARBUDA'S OFFSHORE ISLANDS

Location (Country) Antigua and Barbuda

Grantee Organization ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS GROUP

Project Officer S.K. Natalya Lawrence

Grantee Email oicp@eagantigua.org; skn_h@yahoo.com

Partner Name CON-ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS GROUP, CON-FAUNA & FLORA INTERNATIONAL (FFI), FED-GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA & BARBUDA, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S)

Grant Award Amount \$135,287.00

Proposed Match Amount \$533,550.00

Project Description The uninhabited offshore islands of Antigua and Barbuda, in the heart of the Eastern Caribbean flyway, form the Offshore Islands IBA and Redonda IBA and provide vital habitats for some 122 Neotropical migrants and 61 Birds of Conservation Concern. However, birds in both IBAs face severe threats from predatory rats and other invasive aliens. This project aims to measurably increase the area of safe habitat for migratory and resident birds within both IBAs, and to increase local and national capacity to manage critical bird habitat. Previous support from USFWS NMBCA enabled the EAG to restore and protect several key islands in the Offshore Islands IBA. Phase II will (1) remove alien mammals from 3 more strategic islands (Smith, Maiden West and Redonda) to boost the national area of alien predator-free habitat from 206 to 360 acres; (2) Train at least 30 individuals from Civil Society, Government and Private Sector to sustainably manage bird habitats on the offshore islands and; (3) establish the Redonda IBA as a major new protected area (up to 580 square miles). This project brings significant match funding and will strengthen relationships among the NGO, Government and private sector to meet national, regional and international commitments to conserve birds and protect bird habitat.

Project Name IMPLEMENTING GOLDEN-CHEEKED WARBLER CONSERVATION PLAN IN CHIAPAS III

Location (Country) Mexico CHIS-CHIAPAS

Grantee Organization PRONATURA SUR, A.C.

Project Officer Claudia Macias Caballero

Grantee Email cmacias@pronatura-sur.org

Partner Name CON-ASES. APLICADA A BOSQUES E INVEST ESPECIAL PARA SILV (ABIES), CON-CENTRO DE FORMACION PARA LA SUSTENTABILIDAD MOXVIQUIL, A.C., CON-PRONATURA SUR, A.C.

Grant Award Amount \$149,930.00

Proposed Match Amount \$467,400.00

Project Description The project focuses on reducing Golden-cheeked Warbler (GCWA) habitat pressure due to deficient forest management practices in the State of Chiapas, the northernmost winter area for the species. Since 2014 changes in the State Forestry Regulation establish the requirement of including conservation measures and biodiversity indicators in any forest management action. Thus, forestry authorities such as SEMARNAT, CONAFOR and CONANP are willing to develop tools that dictate the guidelines to follow for the evaluation and authorization of forest management programs under conservation criteria. This is a great opportunity to assure a more sustainable forest management in the whole state. During Phase II of this project Pronatura Sur developed the guide: Best Management Practices for Sustainable Forestry and Biodiversity Conservation, which includes parameters related to the habitat use of GCWA. In this Phase III partners will train at least 30 forestry technicians (from government agencies, NGO and forestry communities) in the use and implementation of this guide, in order to assure the sustainable management of 70,270 ha of pine-oak forests (GCWA wintering habitat) that are currently under forest management in Chiapas. Partners will also assure the sustainable management of 1,000 ha of pine oak forest in 3 communities of the Sierra Madre of Chiapas, through sustainable production of resin. Additionally they will build community capacity through training,

equipment, social organization structure, and open commercialization channels for the resin production. Finally, they will build upon the success achieved in Phase I of this project when they trained Bilingual Teachers of Elementary Schools in the Highlands of Chiapas for the use of The Tale of Chipilo in outreach and environmental education with children and youth. These teachers already know how to use the tale for promoting conservation of GCWA and its wintering habitat. However, to reach indigenous communities they will translate the tale into Tzotzil and will provide this new version to at least 15 teachers so they can start using it for conservation with children and youth. About half of the wintering habitat of the GCWA in Chiapas are located in Indigenous Communities, so the impact of using this tale in conservation will highly benefit from this translation.

Project Name GREEN HILL RANCH ACQUISITION PROJECT

Location (State/County) IA-MILLS, IA-POTTAWATTAMIE

Congressional District IA-MILLS-3, IA-POTTAWATTAMIE-3

Grantee Organization THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Project Officer Graham McGaffin

Grantee Email gmcgaffin@tnc.org

Partner Name CON-THE NATURE CONSERVANCY IN IOWA

Grant Award Amount \$200,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$600,000.00

Project Description The Nature Conservancy in Iowa (TNC) will acquire the 506-acre Green Hill Ranch, in the nationally significant Loess Hills region of western Iowa. The Loess Hills is an area with extensive grassland and savanna woodland habitat important for breeding birds and migrating species. The Green Hill Ranch acquisition is a rare opportunity to acquire and protect a significant amount of land and habitat in the Loess Hills, just outside the Omaha-Council Bluffs metropolitan. The project will build upon conservation successes by TNC and partners and establish a complex of conserved lands in the southern Loess Hills.

Project Name GALLEY RANCH CONSERVATION EASEMENT

Location (State/County) CO-MONTROSE

Congressional District CO-MONTROSE-3

Grantee Organization COLORADO CATTLEMENS AGRICULTURAL LAND TRUST

Project Officer Courtney Bennett

Grantee Email cbennett@ccalt.org

Partner Name CON-COLORADO CATTLEMENS AGRICULTURAL LAND TRUST, STA-GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S)

Grant Award Amount \$100,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$508,500.00

Project Description Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust will permanently protect 705 acres of

diverse habitat on the southwestern flank of the Uncompahgre Plateau in southcentral Montrose County with a conservation easement. Habitat on the Property includes ponderosa pine gambel oak forest, gambel oak shrublands, sagebrush meadows and irrigated hayfields. These habitat types are used extensively by several species of Neotropical migratory birds. The project is the third phase of the Galley Family's Conservation Legacy which started in 2012 with the conservation of 297 acres, followed by the conservation of an additional 180 acres in 2013. The focus of the project is to permanently protect the remainder the Galley Ranch. By successfully completing this conservation easement, CCALT will have conserved 1,182 acres of private land located in the Uncompahgre National Forest. Conservation of the ranch will contribute to the ecological integrity of the national forest by ensuring that the Property cannot be subdivided for second home development. This project objective will be met through the acquisition of a permanent conservation easement on 705 acres of the Galley Ranch.

Project Name CONSERVING BICKNELL THRUSH WINTERING HABITAT IV

Location (Country) Dominican Republic

Grantee Organization AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY

Project Officer John Tschirky

Grantee Email jtschirky@abcbirds.org

Partner Name CON-AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY, CON-FUNDACION LOMA QUITA ESPUELA, FED-MINISTERIO DE MEDIO AMBIENTE Y RECURSOS NATURALES, CON-SOCIEDAD ORNITOLOGICA DE LA HISPANIOLA

Grant Award Amount \$100,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$333,119.00

Project Description Bicknell's Thrush (BITH) concentrate on their wintering grounds in the Dominican Republic (DR). With past NMBCA support, significant progress has been made in identifying, protecting, managing and restoring critical DR BITH habitat; this project builds and expands upon those advances. With NMBCA funding, we will: 1) conduct critically needed management activities in areas of key habitat for BITH and other migratory birds by providing equipment, infrastructure, and guard training; 2) restore 20 Ha of forest within Loma Quita Espuela Scientific Reserve (LQESR); 3) monitor presence, abundance and distribution of BITH and migratory birds on ten established forest plots and conduct habitat specific searches for BITH in Bahoruco using Vermont Center for Ecostudies' protocol; and 4) support a Field Supervisor to supervise and train guards at Domingo Fuerte National Monument (MDFNM). With matching funds, we will: 1) renew a cooperative management agreement with the Ministry of the Environment for the 3,350 Ha MDFNM; 2) conduct management activities that include training of a dozen staff; 3) protect 208 Ha in LQESR through compensation agreements made with landowners; 4) restore 20 Ha in the buffer zone of LQESR as part of the Plan Vivo program; 5) enforce laws preventing illegal forest cutting using proven strategies and protocols employed in Sierra de Bahoruco National Park; and 6) conduct at least ten community outreach meetings to build support for forest protection.

Project Name CONSERVING BEACH-NESTING & MIGRATORY SHOREBIRDS IN JAMAICA BAY, NY

Location (State/County) NY-KINGS, NY-QUEENS

Congressional District NY-KINGS-8, NY-QUEENS-5

Grantee Organization NEW YORK CITY AUDUBON SOCIETY

Project Officer Susan Elbin

Grantee Email selbin@nycaudubon.org

Partner Name CON-AUDUBON NEW YORK, LOC-NEW YORK CITY DEPT OF PARKS & RECREATION, SCH-NEW YORK UNIVERSITY, CON-ROCKAWAY WATERFRONT ALLIANCE

Date approved

Grant Award Amount \$22,738.00

Proposed Match Amount \$72,082.00

Project Description New York City Audubon Society will execute its beach-nesting and migratory shorebird program, which aims to protect these birds and their habitats in New York City. Funding will help support migratory and beach-nesting shorebird monitoring, a city-wide Shorebird Blitz, citizen science horseshoe crab monitoring, beach outreach in local communities, an education program centered around shorebirds, and 2 beach cleanups. Partners will expand their research into the migration of Semipalmated Sandpipers using VHF NanoTag technology, filling in important information gaps, and conduct research on productivity of Piping Plovers and American Oystercatchers nesting in close proximity. All activities seek to increase knowledge of how birds use New York City as nesting and stopover habitat, to improve habitat, and to increase awareness and stewardship for these birds.

Project Name CONSERVATION PLANNING FOR SIERRA DE BAHORUCO

Location (Country) Dominican Republic

Grantee Organization VERMONT CENTER FOR ECOSTUDIES

Project Officer John Lloyd

Grantee Email jlloyd@vtcostudies.org

Partner Name CON-ASOCIACION DOMINICANA DE FOTOGRAFOS DE LA NATURALEZA INC, CON-BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL, CON-GRUPO JARAGUA, FED-MINISTERIO DE MEDIO AMBIENTE Y RECURSOS NATURALES, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), CON-VERMONT CENTER FOR ECOSTUDIES, OTH-WENDLING FOUNDATION

Grant Award Amount \$79,530.00

Proposed Match Amount \$242,829.00

Project Description Sierra de Bahoruco National Park (PNSB) is the largest terrestrial protected area in Hispaniola and one of the largest in the West Indies. This park's forests host a remarkable assemblage of endemic and migratory birds, and they provide critical overwinter habitat for the globally Vulnerable Bicknell's Thrush. However, PNSB is under serious threat, particularly its cloud and broadleaf forests that provide the most valuable avian habitat. Key threats include large-scale agricultural expansion and wood harvest for charcoal and other uses, especially on the park's southern slope. To address the problem, the Ministry of the Environment of the Dominican Republic assembled in June 2015 a Technical Committee to draft a Strategic Conservation Action Plan for PNSB. The Technical Committee began the planning process in 2016, but additional funding is required to complete this effort. Partners' objectives

are: 1) complete the Strategic Conservation Plan for PNSB following the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation, and 2) provide additional systematic training in Open Standards methods to build needed capacity for results-based natural resource management in the Dominican Republic.

Project Name CONSERVATION OF CHIHUAHUAN DESERT SHORT GRASSLANDS

Location (Country) Mexico CHIH-CHIHUAHUA, COAH-COAHUILA, DGO-DURANGO, NL-NUEVO LEON, SLP-SAN LUIS POTOSI, ZAC-ZACATECAS

Grantee Organization PRONATURA NORESTE, A.C.

Project Officer Dr. Adrian Varela

Grantee Email avarela@pronaturane.org

Partner Name CON-EJIDO LA CARBONERA, CON-EJIDO PUERTO MEXICO, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), CON-PRONATURA NORESTE, A.C., FED-RESERVA DE LA BIOSFERA DE MAPIMI (CONANP)

Grant Award Amount \$137,151.00

Proposed Match Amount \$411,675.00

Project Description The Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*) and the Mountain Plover (*Charadrius montanus*) are considered two priority species for conservation in North America, due to the fact that the short grasslands that they depend upon are highly threatened. Pronatura Noreste, A.C. has organized and coordinated with different universities, government sectors, private organizations to implement deliberative workshops to preserve grasslands and species that are of binational interest, and as a result of this effort have successfully published the Business plan to conserve the wintering grounds of the Sprague's Pipit (SPPI) that was created during the V Partners in Flight reunion, and also The conservation Plan for the Mountain Plover (MOPL). According to these plans, the GPCA El Tokio stocks 8.3% of the MOPL world population and it's a habitat with the highest density of SPPI (8.6 ind./km²). On the other hand, the GPCA Mapimí was recognized during 2009 as the most important GPCA for housing 900-1000 grasslands birds by km². Through this project partners seek to continue the implementation of conservation actions, enhancement, management and restoration of the short grasslands in the Chihuahuan Desert which favor the presence of SPPI and MOPL. This will be achieved by protecting lands through a Private Conservation Reserve agreement, the management of two federal NPA with a volunteering approach; the soil restoration through conservation works, sustainable livestock management and the establishment of a sustainable goats livestock model.

Project Name CONSERVATION COAST BIRDSCAPE IN CARIBBEAN GUATEMALA

Location (Country) Guatemala

Grantee Organization FUNDACION PARA EL ECODesarrollo Y LA CONSERVACION (FUNDAECO)

Project Officer Marco Vinicio Cerezo Blandon

Grantee Email m.cerezo@fundaeco.org.gt

Partner Name CON-AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY, CON-FUNDACION PARA EL ECODesarrollo Y LA CONSERVACION (FUNDAECO)

Grant Award Amount \$156,691.00

Proposed Match Amount \$531,179.00

Project Description For 26 years, FUNDAECO has promoted the declaration and management of protected areas in Guatemala. The Caribbean Guatemala sub system of protected areas is one of the most successful in Guatemala, in terms of ensuring habitat protection and community participation and benefit from the protected areas. Today, the existing protected areas provide safe stop over and wintering habitat for over 95 species of migratory birds; however, recent studies show that migratory birds of a diverse set of habitats in their wintering grounds, including agroforestry systems. Through this project, FUNDAECO will closely collaborate with the American Bird Conservancy in the promotion of land restoration in areas within or outside existing protected areas, in order to support sustainable production measures that contribute to the creation of migratory birds' habitat and increase the economic benefits for local producers. In the medium term, The Conservation Coast Birdscape could become a model for management at the landscape level that ensures bird conservation while improving opportunities for producers and communities, and activates the local economy.

Project Name CONSERVATION ACTION FOR CERULEAN WARBLER IN CANADA II

Location (Country) Canada-ONTARIO

Grantee Organization BIRD STUDIES CANADA

Project Officer Steven Price

Grantee Email sprice@birdscanada.org

Partner Name CON-BIRD STUDIES CANADA, FED-CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE

Grant Award Amount \$55,700.00

Proposed Match Amount \$168,100.00

Project Description Nearly 100% of Canada's Cerulean Warbler population (approximately 500 pairs) breeds in two areas in Ontario: the Frontenac Arch and the Carolinian Region. The Frontenac Arch supports Canada's largest population (over 300 pairs) and is the only remaining area with extensive tracts of mature deciduous forest upon which the species depends. The Carolinian Region supports a smaller but significant Canadian population (80 pairs) in the remnant Carolinian Forest in southern Ontario. This area is under the immediate threat of forest destruction and fragmentation from active timber harvest and the region is identified, in the Management Plan for the Cerulean Warbler in Canada, as a high conservation priority. The proposed project aims to immediately improve the Cerulean Warbler's conservation status in Canada, focusing primarily on the Carolinian Region where the species is most threatened, but also working with stakeholders in the Frontenac Arch to ensure this population remains stable. Project objectives are to: 1) work with landowners in the Carolinian Region, to reduce threats and to conserve or enhance habitat for Cerulean Warbler and other mature forest-dependant birds at risk; 2) work with partners to maintain or enhance the habitat available for Cerulean Warbler and; 3) implement a long-term recovery monitoring to identify threats, to prioritize sites for conservation, to track recovery and to monitor project success.

Project Name COMPREHENSIVE SHOREBIRD SURVEY OF SOUTHERN SOUTH AMERICA

Location (Country) Peru, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil

Grantee Organization MANOMET, INC

Project Officer Rob Clay

Grantee Email rclay@manomet.org

Partner Name FED-AREA DE PROTECAO AMBIENTAL DA BALEIA FRANCA, CON-AVES ARGENTINAS, CON-AVES URUGUAY, CON-BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL, CON-CENTRO DE ORNITOLOGIA Y BIODIVERSIDAD (CORBIDI), FED-CENTRO NAC. DE PESQUISA E CONS. DE AVES SILVESTRES (CEMAVE), CON-FUNDACION INALAFQUEN, FED-LAGOA DO PEIXE NATIONAL PARK, CON-MANOMET, INC, CON-RED DE OBSERVADORES DE AVES Y VIDA SILVESTRE DE CHILE (ROC), FED-REFUGIO DE VIDA SILVESTRE DA ILHA DOS LOBOS, CON-SAVE BRASIL

Grant Award Amount \$142,615.00

Proposed Match Amount \$431,293.00

Project Description Southern South America supports the majority of the hemispheric and global populations of a large suite of Nearctic migratory shorebirds. Robust hemispheric population estimates for many of these species are lacking, and this knowledge gap is impeding conservation efforts. The generation of improved population and trend estimates is therefore a critical conservation priority for both the Atlantic and Pacific Flyways. Project partners will build on recent survey efforts and a growing interest in shorebird conservation to address current knowledge gaps about nonbreeding shorebird populations by carrying out the first simultaneous ground-based survey of the entire coastlines of Peru, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, and southern Brazil in January 2018. Their efforts will target all Nearctic shorebirds, but will specifically provide much needed information about declining or poorly known species, such as: Hudsonian Godwit, Whimbrel, Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Sanderling, and Short-billed Dowitcher. The surveys will rely solely on volunteer observers and will only make use of open-access databases to ensure that public participation is high at each stage of the project. Volunteer observers will be trained through targeted workshops, and will form teams with trained professionals to undertake the surveys. Partners will collaborate and coordinate with national, regional, and local governments, as well as local NGOs and land managers to enable these organizations to become full participants and have complete access to all information generated by the project. Survey data will be used to inform conservation actions, including the identification of new IBAs; promoting the designation of new WHSRN sites and protected areas; revising existing management actions; and proposing new management actions. The survey will also be integrated with the Atlantic Flyway Shorebird Initiative and the Pacific Flyway Shorebird Conservation Strategy, both as a tool for setting targets and for monitoring progress and measuring success.

Project Name COMMUNITY FARMING FOR GRASSLAND BIRDS

Location (Country) U.S.

Location (State/County) VT-ADDISON, VT-CHITTENDEN

Congressional District VT-AT LARGE-1

Grantee Organization UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND

Project Officer Noah Perlut

Grantee Email nperlut@une.edu

Partner Name OTH-EPPLEY FOUNDATION, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), SCH-UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND, SCH-UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT, PRO-ZERO GRAVITY CRAFT BREWING

Grant Award Amount \$61,693.00

Proposed Match Amount \$185,133.00

Project Description The goals of this project are to implement several of the highest priority actions identified in the Prairie to Pampas Grassland Bird Conservation Business Plan. We propose to 1) to engage local land owners and managers with life-cycle data of individual Bobolinks breeding on their property; this interaction will result in changes in land management that rebalance farming and grassland bird needs; 2) to assess the annual life-cycle of individual Bobolinks by collecting data both while on the breeding grounds and through tracking devices for the entire annual cycle; and 3) to use a community-based approach integrating the Audubon volunteers and undergraduate students in collecting and disseminating these data; 4) establish a network of partners in South America with which to share information gained from this work.

Project Name AROS / YAQUI RIVERS HABITAT CONSERVATION V

Location (Country) Mexico

Grantee Organization NORTHERN JAGUAR PROJECT

Project Officer Diana Hadley

Grantee Email information@northernjaguarproject.org

Partner Name CON-CONCIENCIA Y EDUCACION AMBIENTAL A.C., CON-NORTHERN JAGUAR PROJECT

Grant Award Amount \$99,950.00

Proposed Match Amount \$387,975.00

Project Description This project is situated in the western foothills of the Sierra Madre Occidental in an area largely surrounded by the Aros and Yaqui rivers, and includes the Northern Jaguar Reserve and 12 neighboring private ranches. This is the only reserve in Mexico that protects large areas of Foothills Thornscrub and the only protected area for Neotropical migratory birds between Alamos and the Sierra Los Ajos. This project includes: protection of habitats for Neotropical migratory birds through land acquisition and reserve expansion supported by matching funds (5,000 acres); restoration of priority habitats for Neotropical migratory birds in riparian areas, grasslands, and thornscrub (18,000 acres); research to identify vegetation associations and resources that support high abundance and richness of Neotropical migratory birds to guide management, restoration, and land acquisition (58,450 acres); monitoring the status and trends of birds to assess results of past management (58,450 acres); and education and outreach to schools, landowners, and ranch managers to increase local knowledge of Neotropical migratory birds and guide residents in restoration and best management practices.

Project Name ALLIANCE FOR RESTORING RAINFOREST IN CANON DEL USUMACINTA

Location (Country) Mexico

Grantee Organization ESPACIOS NATURALES Y DESARROLLO SUSTENTABLE, A.C. (ENDESU)

Project Officer Josef Warman

Grantee Email warman@endesu.org.mx

Partner Name FED-COMISION NACIONAL DE AREAS NATURALES PROTEGIDAS (CONANP), CON-ESPACIOS NATURALES Y DESARROLLO SUSTENTABLE, A.C. (ENDESU)

Grant Award Amount \$198,370.00

Proposed Match Amount \$679,712.00

Project Description The project is located in the Cañón del Usumacinta (Usumacinta Canyon) National Protected Area (IBAs Sierra de Tabasco and Selva Lacandona). The region is home to over 300 species of birds, 30% of which are considered Neotropical migrants. Evergreen lowland rainforest in southern Mexico has disappeared from over 50% of its original distribution. While the Usumacinta Canyon still retains 40% of its natural forest cover, every year large areas of forest are lost as they are converted to open lands used for cultivation and non-sustainable livestock production. Since 2010, ENDESU has developed a habitat recuperation project which has managed to restore 1,640 hectares with support from PEMEX and the FMCN. The project incorporates a local alliance with a network of 100 landowners, aiming to (in 10 years) recuperate connectivity as well as ecosystem functions and services of the highly threatened rainforest ecosystems of the Usumacinta region. This project will add 500 hectares of overwintering habitat for Neotropical migratory birds as well as adding 30 new landowners to the network. The specific goals are: (1) To reach 2,140 ha of restored rainforest ecosystems on the banks of the Usumacinta River. This includes operating a community plant nursery capable of producing 50,000 plants from 40 different species yearly, as well as long-term conservation agreements with local landowners and (2) To create local capabilities and strengthen training regarding sustainable-forest-use, through best-use management practices, as well as disseminating knowledge among the local population regarding the value of Neotropical migratory birds and their habitat.