

## **North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative Science Needs Assessment**

### **Request to Partners and Partnerships to Identify Priority Conservation Science and Capacity Needs and Existing Projects**

**Need:** In order to make informed decisions about priorities for additional science and technical projects and capacity, the North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) is compiling current information on both priority conservation science needs identified by existing partners and partnerships and ongoing or planned capacity and projects that are addressing these needs.

This request is specific to needs and projects that are landscape or regional in scope, are focused on informing management decisions and actions (including habitat protection, restoration and management, policies and regulations, and targeted outreach) and address major threats and uncertainties to sustaining natural or cultural resources.

Specific LCC science components include the following:

Ecological Planning: Compile, organize and provide information from existing partners and partnerships on status, trends, threats and limiting factors for priority fish, wildlife and plant species and cultural resources; agree on objectives for these species and resources; and assess their relationship to limiting factors, habitats and landscapes to provide a scientific basis for conservation actions.

Conservation Design: Provide tools and information to guide decision makers and inform conservation actions to more effectively address threats, limiting factors and uncertainties and efficiently achieve objectives under current and predicted future conditions and link site-scale actions to landscape and regional scale goals.

Demonstration Projects: Support implementation actions designed to test, validate and improve information, science, and tools developed by the LCC to enhance the ability of our lands and waters to sustain fish, wildlife, plant and cultural resources.

Monitoring and Evaluation: Facilitate monitoring of populations, resources, habitats and landscapes designed to assess the effectiveness of conservation, assess progress towards common goals and guide future planning and actions based on the results.

Research: Facilitate and support priority research activities based on needs identified by partners that test key assumptions in planning and design and inform future planning; provide guidance to Climate Science Centers; and work with partners to coordinate ongoing research initiatives on priority conservation issues.

Information Management: Compile, organize and make available existing information, data, science and tools developed by LCC partners in scales and formats identified by partners.

**General Questions Addressed through this Request:**

1. What are the highest priority science needs identified by your organization or partnership to inform management decisions in the North Atlantic LCC (or Northeast)?
2. For each need identified, is the need best met through funding projects (usually contracted and shorter term) or by adding capacity (usually additional staff and longer term)?
3. What recently completed, ongoing or planned projects and capacity are addressing regional or landscape scale applied science needs of your organization or partnership?

**Uses of Information Collected:**

1. Information will be compiled, analyzed, and presented to the North Atlantic LCC Steering Committee at the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference in April.
2. Information will be used to define initial priorities for FY 2011 North Atlantic LCC funding (depending on when initial projects need to be selected).
3. Information will be used at a Regional Conservation Workshop sponsored by the North Atlantic LCC planned for spring 2011 that will synthesize the first five years of the NEAFWA RCNs as well as initial LCC projects and seek input from partners on highest priorities for next steps.
4. Information and results of the workshop will be used by the North Atlantic LCC to guide decisions on future projects, staff and technical teams needed to address the goals of the LCC.

**Options for Providing Specific Information on Needs and Projects:**

1. You can simply email or send existing project descriptions or lists and we will use those to enter information into a database. The fields that we are trying to fill in are listed in the attached documents. We may need to follow up with you to fill in those fields.
2. You can fill out information on needs and projects using the attached word file for each project either electronically or by hand and submit by email or mail.
3. You can fill out information on needs for multiple projects in the attached excel spreadsheet and submit by email.
4. You can enter projects into forms in an Access database (in development – should be available on the SharePoint site by mid-late January).

**Deadline: The deadline for submitting information on needs and projects is Friday, February 18, 2011.**