

MB-FWS-Migratory Birds NAWCA 2025 Mexico Grants Announcement Title: F25AS00006 – NAWCA 2025 Mexico Grants

Submission Deadline: May 13, 2024 (due at 11:59 PM, U.S. Eastern Time)

Program Authorizing Legislation: North American Wetlands Conservation Act (16 USC Ch. 64)

SOLICITATIONS: The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) program does not use social media or contact individuals by phone to solicit, review, or make awards. Government staff will NOT call or message you requesting money in order to be eligible for an award. Please report any information and documentation that you have related to such incidents to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (https://www.ic3.gov) and your local law enforcement authorities.

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DESCRIPTION OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY AND AWARD INFORMATION

The NAWCA Mexico program promotes partnerships between public agencies and groups interested in: a) protecting, improving, restoring, and managing an appropriate distribution and diversity of wetland ecosystems and other habitats for wetlands-associated migratory birds and other fish and wildlife in North America; b) maintaining and improving the current distributions of wetlands-associated migratory bird populations; and c) maintaining an abundance of waterfowl (ducks, geese, and swans) and other populations of wetlands-associated migratory birds consistent with the objectives of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, Waterbird Conservation Plan for the Americas, Partners in Flight Bird Conservation Plan, and other international obligations contained in the treaties and migratory bird conventions and other agreements with Canada, Mexico, and other countries.

Proposals to the NAWCA Mexico program should demonstrate how the activities of partners would encourage sustainable and effective programs for the long-term conservation of wetlands-associated migratory birds. NAWCA funds wetlands conservation projects that include one or more of these: a) the acquisition of property containing wetlands ecosystems and associated habitats, including water rights, where the acquired land will be administered for its long-term conservation and for the benefit of migratory birds, fish, and other wildlife that depend on it; b) restoration, enhancement, or management of wetlands ecosystems and associated habitats, where these activities will be conducted on lands and waters that will be administered for their long-term conservation and for the benefit of migratory birds, fish, and other wildlife that depend on them; or c) in Mexico only, activities that involve technical training, education, sustainable-use studies, or organizational infrastructure- building needed to develop or strengthen wetlands conservation and management capabilities.

A proposal may request up to \$1,000,000 in grant funds.

I. Applying for a NAWCA Mexico Grant

This funding opportunity is advertised on grants.gov. However, you <u>must</u> apply directly within GrantSolutions, https://home.grantsolutions.gov/home/; do not apply through Grants.gov. To apply, you must first set up a GrantSolutions account, including obtaining the correct user roles within the system. At a minimum, you will need to assign the following two roles within GrantSolutions: "Grantee Principal Investigator" (PI/PD, the project officer or lead) and "Grantee Administrative Officer" (ADO). You must include a project summary in GrantSolutions. This summary should include the total number of acres affected, project location (i.e., Mexican states in which activities take place), benefits to birds, and main activities. You may copy the proposal summary from the first page or your proposal narrative but note that there is a 4,000-character limit. You must also fill out the Standard form (SF)- 424 forms in GrantSolutions. Below are instructions on completing SF-424 forms. The narrative portion (your proposal) and supporting

documentation should be attached to your GrantSolutions application.

II. Standard Form 424 Instructions

20. Is Applicant Delinquent on any Federal Debt?

All applicants <u>must</u> submit a completed Application for Federal Assistance SF-424 form with their proposal application. The address on the SF-424 (#8d) <u>must</u> match the address associated with the Unique Entity ID number (#8c) in SAM.gov! See also the special NAWCA instructions at the end of this paragraph.

In addition to the basic SF-424, applicants need to fill out one of the accessory forms. If the project includes construction activities among other activities, SF-424 C is mandatory. If the project does not include construction activities, then SF-424 A is mandatory. If your project consists of a mix of construction and non-construction activities, then complete SF-424 C. Fill out the SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities Form only if you have lobbying activities to disclose. If you are not a U.S. Federal applicant, fill out the SF-424 forms in GrantSolutions. If you are a U.S. Federal applicant, download the SF-424 forms here: https://www.grants.gov/forms/forms-repository/sf-424-individual-family

The following instructions for completing the SF-424 for a NAWCA application supersede those on the back of the SF-424!

CELL NUMBER and TITLE	INSTRUCTIONS
1. Type of Submission	Check "Application"
2. Type of Application	Check "New"
3. Date Received	Enter date completing SF-424
4. Applicant Identifier	Leave blank
5. a. Employer Identification	Leave blank
5. b. Federal Award Identifier	Leave blank
6. Date Received by State	Leave blank
7. State Application Identifier	Leave blank
8. Applicant Information (a-f)	Complete all required information in sections a-f
9. Type of Applicant	Complete for your organization
10. Name of Federal Agency	Enter "DOI-U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service"
11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number	Enter "15.623" and "North American Wetlands
and Title	Conservation Fund"
12. Funding Opportunity Number/Title:	Enter "F25AS00006" and "NAWCA 2025 Mexico Grant"
13. Competition Identification Number/Title:	Will automatically fill in from #12
14. Areas Affected by Project	Enter only information for "Counties and States" that the
	tract(s) are included in; if tract(s) are unknown, then list
	all counties within the project area or indicate 'statewide'
	if applicable
15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project	Enter title of proposal
16. Congressional Districts of Applicant/Project	Enter information for a and b.
17. Proposed Project Start and End Dates	Enter proposed project start and end dates.
18. Estimated Funding	Do not include non-match \$. In "a", include only
	NAWCA grant \$. In "b-e", include only matching partner
	\$. For "e-Other", include private organizations, etc. Leave
	"f-Program Income" blank
19. Is Application Subject to Review by State EO	Required to answer but only applicable to states
12372 Process?	

Required to answer

21. Authorized Representative

SIGNATURE AND DATE REQUIRED by the authorized representative of the applicant organization. We will not accept a typed signature.

After you complete your application in GrantSolutions, email the application confirmation number, your proposal, and all supporting documents to both U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Bird Habitat Conservation (FWS/DBHC) at dbhc@fws.gov and to SEMARNAT/DGVS at lurbano@semarnat.gob.mx and miguel.flores@semarnat.gob.mx. If you send us a proposal by email but do not submit your application through GrantSolutions, your proposal will not be eligible.

Grantsolutions.gov, Grants.gov, and SAM.gov are free websites. Do not pay for your registration and do not provide any information to any scammers who may contact you.

Your project must comply with the NAWCA Mexico Grant Administration Standards: https://www.fws.gov/media/mexico-nawca-grant-administration-standards-north-american-wetlands-conservation-act

An unofficial, courtesy translation, "Lineamientos para la Administración de Subsidios" is available at https://www.fws.gov/media/normas-para-la-administracion-de-subvenciones-nawca-mexico

To review NAWCA Mexico Eligibility Criteria and for frequently asked questions, visit: https://www.fws.gov/service/north-american-wetlands-conservation-act-nawca-grants-mexico

III. Steps to apply for a grant opportunity in GrantSolutions

Getting Started: All applicants/grantees must be registered in GrantSolutions: https://home.grantsolutions.gov/home/. Visit the GrantSolutions page. Applicants must first request (Getting Started - Request A User Account) and properly set up their GrantSolutions account, including obtaining the correct user roles within the system. Please watch the applicant and Grant Recipient training videos: https://stig-home.grantsolutions.gov/home/grantsolutions-self-registration/.

New Applicant Requests in GrantSolutions: New users apply here: https://home.grantsolutions.gov/home/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Grant-Recipient-User-Account-Request-Form-2021-1.pdf or here: https://www.grantsolutions.gov/gsrstatic/registration/initiate-request. Submit the form without filling in the requested "grant number".

Help desk: Please send all GrantSolutions related help desk questions/issues to help@grantsolutions.gov. If you do not receive a response or if the response did not resolve the issue, please ask that the ticket be "escalated to Tier 2 or 3".

Very important: enter all requested information under GRANTEE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (PI/PD) and the GRANTEES ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (ADO). Do not forget the username and the correctly spelled email address.

Applying for this grant announcement, after your organization's account is set up: Your application will consist of a Proposal Narrative, Project Summary, Partner Contribution Statements, a SF-424 ("Application for Federal Assistance"), SF-424 A or C, an Excel spreadsheet of your proposal narrative budget, and a project shapefile or .kmz file. Your shapefile cannot be uploaded to GrantSolutions and must be sent to the FWS email address; the subject line should be your project title and the GrantSolutions' application number. The GrantSolutions' application number will start with FWS-MB202XXXXXXX. The NAWCA Mexico grant program's formal name and announcement number are found on the first page of these instructions.

IV. Steps to register in SAM.gov

Registering in GrantSolutions requires an active SAM.gov registration.

- 1. You must have an active System for Award Management (SAM.gov) registration to apply through GrantSolutions.gov, to receive an award, and to be able to receive funds. We strongly encourage applicants to initiate this process at least 6 weeks before our deadline, because it can be a complex process. If your organization is registered with SAM.gov but your status is not listed as "active", you must update your registration prior to submitting an application. You must renew and revalidate the SAM registration at least every 12 months and ensure that all information is up to date.
- 2. If you encounter problems with SAM or GrantSolutions, contact the GrantSolutions or SAM help desks directly:
 - GrantSolutions Help Desk Phone: 1-866-577-0771 or 202-401-5282 Email: help@grantsolutions.gov
 - Sam.gov Federal Service Help Information: https://www.fsd.gov/gsafsd_sp or U.S. calls: 866-606-8220 International calls: +1 334-206-7828

V. Bilingual glossary for NAWCA Mexico

English	Spanish	Notes
	Aves terrestres	These are mostly passerines.

	no son ni anátidos ni playeros	There is no single word that translates "waterbirds" into Spanish. The term "aves acuáticas", as used by most professionals in Latin America, is not synonymous with "waterbirds" as used in the USA (where it includes rails, marsh birds, wading birds, and marine birds, but excludes waterfowl and shorebirds). Rather, that Spanish term includes all birds dependent on wetlands or marine habitats, i.e., it does not exclude waterfowl or shorebirds. According to the 2012 "Desarrollo de la Base Metodológica para el Inventario Nacional de Humedales de México (citing CONANP), an "ave acuática" is any bird that depends ecologically on a wetland area.
waterbirds	migran desde los EE.UU.	These include, for example, egrets and herons. Note that the species normally described by this term in the USA are not identical to the species described by this term in Mexico. This is because "colonial" refers to breeding colonies. Neotropical migrants that nest colonially in the USA do not congregate during their non-reproductive season, i.e., during their stay in Mexico (and therefore are not called "colonial" by Mexican professionals). Conversely, resident species that do congregate and breed in Mexico (and therefore are called "colonial" by Mexican professionals) are generally not neotropical migrants.
Waterfowl	Anátidos (patos, cisnes, gansos)	Unlike in the USA, "anátidos" is a subset of "aves <u>acuáticas</u> ". Some Mexican publications use the term "aves <u>acuáticas</u> " to indicate "waterfowl", but this is not common practice in Latin America.
Wading birds	Aves vadeadoras	
Shorebirds		Unlike in the USA, "aves playeras", in Latin America, is considered to be a subset of "aves <u>acuáticas</u> ".
Marine birds	Aves marinas	
Wetlands	Humedales	
Uplands	Tierras altas adyacentes a los humedales	

VI. Scoring Criteria

The following four categories are used to assess the proposal's activities, objectives and goals in relation to the North American Wetland Conservation Act (the Act) and its application in Mexico:

A. Resource Description (30 points)

One of the purposes of the Act is to maintain current or improved distributions of wetland associated migratory bird populations. This category looks at the bird populations affected to determine to what degree and magnitude the activities of the proposal affect this purpose.

Priority Migratory Waterfowl (see list here)	10 points
Priority Migratory Shorebirds (see list here)	5 points
Priority Migratory Waterbirds (see list here)	5 points
Priority Migratory Landbirds (see list here)	5 points
Other Birds/Wildlife (including MX endemic and listed species)	5 points

B. Project Location (25 points)

Another stated purpose in the Act is to protect, enhance, restore, and manage an appropriate distribution and diversity of wetland ecosystems and habitats. This category evaluates the context of how the proposal fits into the landscape efforts, and if work being completed is appropriate and effective for the proposed sites, as well as whether or not the work contributes to meet migratory bird biological needs and contributes to the greater benefit of ecosystem importance.

Geographic Location (landscape context)	5 points
Value of Wetlands (<u>Ramsar Map</u>)	5 points
Mexico Regional/Local Impact	3 points
Key Wetlands for Waterfowl (see map here)	3 points
Key Wetlands for Shorebirds (<u>see map here</u>)	3 points
Key Wetlands for Waterbirds (see map here)	3 points
Key Wetlands for Landbirds (We have not included a map, but you may include one in your proposal, e.g., WHSRN (https://whsrn.org/whsrn-sites/map-of-sites/), CONABIO (http://avesmx.conabio.gob.mx/Mapa.html) or BirdLife (BirdLife Data-zone). You may also describe abundance, occurrence, seasonality, percent of total population of species, and relative importance of site in the region or country.)	3 points

C. Project Description (30 points)

This category evaluates the types, benefits, longevity and goals of the proposed activities to illustrate comprehensive and complete implementation. It also considers how the activities address the current and potential future conditions for habitat and migratory birds.

Goals/Tracts Work Plan -project explanation and benefits -quantification of deliverables (e.g., number of acres) -longevity/duration of work/benefits (e.g., years that project is anticipated to function effectively) -goals for each component of the proposal (e.g., enhance habitat for species X, or promote working lands and grazing to prevent habitat loss, etc.) -budget/tract (i.e., what is the cost for each project as described)	20 points
Threats (i.e., reasons that the project is needed)	5 points
Climate Change	3 points
Special Considerations (e.g., unique aspects of the project)	2 points

D. Partnerships (15 points)

The Act encourages partnerships in delivering conservation, recognizing the importance of leveraging funds and gaining broad acceptance and participation in conservation efforts

Community Participation	3 points
Number and Degree of Participation of Partners	5 points
Match Ratio	3 points
Unique Social Aspects of the Project	4 points

PROPOSAL FORMAT GUIDELINES

Alert for returning applicants: We have made significant changes in 2024 guidelines; please read the following and the <u>Important Changes</u> sections carefully.

Format requirements

- 1. All elements of the proposal, except shapefiles, should be <u>combined into one, single PDF</u> file. Do not protect it with a password. The filename should be unique and include the acronym of the applicant organization.
- 2. Set the paper size to 8.5×11 inches. Single space and left-justify the text. Do not use headers, footers, or borders. The font should be no smaller than 11 points and in "Arial" (not "Arial narrow"). Page margins should be 1 inch (side, top and bottom).
- 3. Each page of the proposal must be numbered consecutively, locating the number on the bottom right.
- 4. All proposal sections must be numbered and organized according to the numbering and organization indicated in the instructions.
- 5. Do not include text from the instructions, other than the title of sections.
- 6. The cover page should not be in tabular format; do not include any type of borders or

- other design.
- 7. The location information on the cover page under 7.A. must be given as latitude and longitude (in decimal degrees). These coordinates must be precise (at a minimum, provide a central point).
- 8. The cover page must include two tables: 7.B. Priority location and 10. Table of Resources. Do not add other priority lists in table 7.B.
- 9. All measurements should be in metric units and their equivalents in the United States (hectares/acres, kilometers/miles, meters/feet, etc.). Please use this conversion factor: 1 hectare = 2.47 (U.S.) acres.
- 10. Budget tables must show only U.S. dollars and indicate the rate of exchange at the time the proposal was developed.
- 11. The text in the maps, especially in the legend, should be in English wherever possible.

I. Cover Page

(See suggested Cover Page format.)

II. Project Summary

The proposal summary is the principal part on which points are given to each proposal. The summary should give the information necessary for evaluation by the reviewer who needs to understand the purpose of the proposal and the most important details. The rest of the proposal should contain more in-depth information to provide answers to whatever questions remain after review of the summary. It is suggested that the summary be developed after the rest of the proposal has been written so that the author can reflect on all details before writing the summary.

The Project Summary should begin on the second page after the Cover Page and should not exceed a maximum of two pages. If you exceed this page limit, the text will be deleted. This summary should describe how you would conduct the activities of the proposal and the explanation for how they would be implemented. See the suggested-summary format below. Provide in-depth information in Section III. Proposal, the last five pages of the proposal.

Throughout the proposal, hectares/acres that are affected by more than one objective must be presented in parentheses to avoid double counting. For example, if a project will protect 800 hectares/1,976 acres through an easement and, among these same acres, restore (400) hectares/ (988) acres, presentation of the hectares/acres to be restored using parentheses will indicate that these hectares/acres are already included in the number of hectares/acres that will be protected. If other hectares/acres will be restored or enhanced that are not included in the hectares/acres already indicated for protection, then those are additional hectares/acres and should not be in parentheses. Please use this conversion factor: 1 hectare = 2.47 (U.S.) acres.

A. Summary of Objectives

List the objectives. In-depth descriptions of each objective and activity are provided in the work plan within section III.

B. Table of Components

This table should present details of the cost of each component with NAWCA funds (in U.S. dollars) and partners/match (in U.S. dollars) as well as the pertinent hectares/acres and responsible party. Please use this conversion factor: 1 hectare = 2.47 (U.S.) acres.

COMPONENT/ACTIVITY	NAWCA	Match	Has./Acres	Responsible
			1 ha = 2.47 acres	Partner
Protection Ranch 1 (conservation agreement in this phase)	\$	\$	200/494	Grantee
Protection Ranch 2 (easement in this phase)	\$	\$	800/1,976	Partner 1
Enhancement Ranch 1	\$	\$	(200)/(494)	Grantee
Management Ranch 2	\$	\$	(800)/(1,976)	Partner 1
Restoration Ranch 2	\$	\$	(400)/(988)	Partner 2
TOTALS	\$	\$	XXX	

C. Wetland Values (briefly describe)

- 1. What is the importance of the wetland and the project area for migratory birds?
- 2. What are the expected benefits for priority migratory birds?
- 3. What are the biological and socioeconomic values of the wetland? For example, you could refer to publications by RAMSAR, such as the one found at: https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/rpb values of wetlands e.pdf

D. Does This Proposal Relate to Any Previous NAWCA/NMBCA Projects In the Area?

If yes, in two sentences or less, describe how this phase will build on previous NAWCA or NMBCA-funded projects in the area. Do not list all the titles of previous projects.

III. The Proposal

This section should begin on the fifth page and should not exceed five pages (pages 5-9). If this number is exceeded, it will be reduced. Attachments are considered additional pages, not counting toward the total page number.

A. Description of Migratory Bird Resources and Other Wildlife

a. Migratory Birds: Indicate up to 10 priority species <u>each</u> of waterfowl, shorebirds, waterbirds, and landbirds (maximum of 40 species). Include scientific name and English common name. For each species, highlight the cross-border migration where it occurs, the anticipated numbers of the species in the project area, the location within the project area that the species occurs, the period of their life cycle of use, and the benefits the species will receive from completing the

proposed project. See attached priority species lists for <u>waterfowl (anatids)</u>, <u>shorebirds</u>, <u>waterbirds</u>, and <u>landbirds</u>.

Priority Species	Numbers/ Breeder, Migrant	Benefits of project for priority species	Geographic extent/impact
Migratory Waterfowl (anatids) [Insert species list]			
Migratory Shorebirds [Insert species list] Migratory Waterbirds (not including anatids or shorebirds) [Insert species list]			
Migratory Landbirds [Insert species list]			

- b. Other wetland dependent species: Indicate up to 5 priority species that live in the project area, including resident birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and plants. Include scientific name and English common name. For each species, highlight the anticipated numbers of the species that will benefit, the location within the project area in which the species occurs, and the benefit the species will receive from completing the proposed project. If you are citing an endangered or priority species, specify where it is listed as endangered or as priority by citing the publication; for example, the Mexican endangered species list:
 - https://dof.gob.mx/nota_to_imagen_fs.php?codnota=5173091&fecha=30/12/201
 0&cod_diario=234368
 - https://www.fws.gov/program/endangered-species
 - https://partnersinflight.org/species/

Other Species	Numbers/ Breeder, Migrant	Benefits of project for Mexico & Endangered species	Geographic extent/impact; where listed?
Mexico Priority Species: [Insert species list]			
Endangered Species: [Insert species list]			

B. Project Location

Briefly describe the importance of the wetland and upland habitat for migratory bird conservation. List the priority wetlands and associated uplands for waterfowl, waterbirds, shorebirds, and landbirds (e.g., palustrine emergent, estuarine intertidal, riverine, cropland, grassland, forest). If any international, regional or local conservation plans have ranked the location as a high priority, please explain. You may refer to additional maps, such as those from WHSRN (https://whsrn.org/whsrn-sites/map-of-sites/), CONABIO (https://avesmx.conabio.gob.mx/Mapa.html) and BirdLife (BirdLife

<u>Data Zone</u>) or any others that are relevant to your project. You may describe the value of the wetlands to local communities, such as benefits related to clean water, agriculture, fishing, recreation, eco- tourism, or **any other benefits, beyond those already described for priority species.**

C. Project Description

- a. The goals, objectives, activities, and products should be identified and explained in terms of foreseen benefits.
- b. Goals, objectives, activities, products and work plan should be presented in the "Work Plan Format".
- c. Describe the activities that will be completed <u>within a two-year timeframe</u> with the funds provided (both match and grant funds) and in accordance with the budget tables
- d. Indicate the activities that will be conducted and relate them to the planned goals and objectives (e.g., negotiate easements, conduct biological inventories, monitoring activities, environmental education, develop environmental education materials, management activities, protection and restoration activities).
- e. Present the activities that you will develop and the approximate timing and when they will be concluded. The accomplishments will be based on the date of the start date of the project (date of FWS award + 90 days, etc.). It is unnecessary to reference specific dates since the start date cannot be determined prior to an award. Circumstances do exist, however, when the start date may be prior to the beginning of the grant agreement. See the section on Pre- agreement Costs.
- f. Provide a detailed description of the activities, including which partner is responsible for each activity as well as requirements that must be completed by personnel and equipment, products that will be generated, etc., indicating the methods and procedures that will be utilized to each end.
- g. The objectives should correspond to the cost categories indicated in the budget tables.
- h. If you are acquiring land (i.e., buying a tract or obtaining an easement with match or grant funds), protecting land through another legal mechanism, or restoring, enhancing or managing habitat (including fencing and controlling invasives), you must include a tract table in your proposal. All rows of the tract table must be completed, and you should include separate columns for each activity in each tract (enhancement, restoration, fencing, invasives control, etc.). The tract table must include the duration of the activity (the longevity of the work), in years. For example, you might state, "fences will last 20 years" or "the treatment for invasive plant control will be effective for 5 years" or "the easement is valid for 99 years". If applicable (e.g., for invasive plant control), also include (in the "duration" row) how many retreatments are planned during and after the project period. See Annex G and the "Suggested Tract Table Format".
- i. Describe what type of activities were carried out on each tract before this project with NAWCA or NMBCA funds or match; if a tract was never affected by NAWCA or NMBCA (under grants to any organization), at any time, specify this. We suggest that you include a map of previous NAWCA and NMBCA project areas and tracts.

- j. Long-term protection: NAWCA supports land protection for the long-term, with a minimum period of 10 years for the legal mechanism that offers the protection, where the 10 years of protection start after the initiation of the grant project. Funds may not be utilized for restoration or enhancement if there is no underlying, long-term, legal mechanism to protect the tracts (properties) involved. For example, restoration/enhancement is eligible on tracts protected by 10-year conservation agreements. Therefore, restoration/enhancement on tracts that are protected solely by 5-year Payment for Ecosystem Services agreements (PES, or PSA in Spanish) is not eligible, even if the PES agreements have an option for renewal. Short- term agreements may be eligible as management funded by match, but not as the qualification for the underlying legal mechanism.
- k. Describe the long-term goal, beyond the period of implementation of this project. You should describe how the project will be continued (sustainable) after the NAWCA project ends. If additional support will be needed in the future, include that information in this section of the proposal. If the present proposal is one of several phases, explain the role of the NAWCA support.

D. Partnerships

- Describe any community participation or lack thereof.
- Briefly state any particularly significant or unique benefits provided by the proposal partnerships.
- Highlight the number and degree of participation of the partners. If any partner is not providing match, describe how they are partnering with you.
- Is there a partner who is providing a large or unusual match amount?
- What are some unique social aspects of the project (e.g., recreational access to the area, open to schools, socioeconomic benefits)?

E. Climate Change

- Explain how threats from climate change in the project area were taken into consideration as you developed this proposal.
- Describe the resilience of the project habitat that you intend to protect, restore or enhance, in terms of climate change.
- Describe the environmental elements or aspects of the habitat at the project site that will persevere for the long term in spite of climate change.

F. Threats

Describe the threats to the project area and explain how the project will address these threats. Describe the urgency of the project. This section should also describe the importance of the project in terms of migratory bird habitat conservation for the long-term in the context of climate change by providing responses to the following items.

- Classify the vulnerability of the project site proposed in this proposal as High, Medium or Low.
- Explain and provide citations for the basis of the information presented in the previous four responses (academic references, reports or other documentation).

G. Special Considerations

Document any special circumstances that distinguish this project from others. The space should be left empty if there are no special considerations. Do not repeat text that previously presented in other sections of the proposal. The information provided should concentrate on the necessity and immediacy of conducting the project. For example, the information could:

- describe those special circumstances, such as the importance and opportunity to conduct a project (threatened habitat, critical condition, pressure on a particular species in a category of risk, etc.); or,
- describe the existing and proposed levels of protection (without protection, Federal lands, protection category of the area, etc.); or,
- describe other actors working in the area and linkages of the project with these actors.

IV. Budget

This section should include a global budget and a budget justification. (See the <u>Suggested Format</u>).

The rules for the management and use of NAWCA funds are equally applicable to the matching contributions. See also the Mexico NAWCA Grant Administration Standards at Mexico NAWCA Grant Administration Standards North American Wetlands Conservation Act and the eligibility criteria at https://www.fws.gov/media/north-american-wetlands-conservation-act-mexico-grant-proposal-eligibility-criteria-processes.

A. Budget Table and Budget Justification Instructions

- 1. Please number each line item to correspond with the items in the Work Plan.
- 2. The budget table should include the name of the project; the year for which funding is requested; the date of submission (which will be changed with each new version submitted).
- **3.** Express all costs in U.S. dollars.
- **4.** The budget table must be organized by objective and activities. All costs should be linked clearly to an activity under one of the objectives of the project. Provide a detailed description of the costs of major activities for each project objective indicated in the work plan indicating what source of funds will pay for each aspect (NAWCA and each partner).
- **5.** The cost estimates <u>should be reasonable and necessary</u> for the adequate and effective accomplishment of the project objectives. Efficient use of funds is advantageous.
- **6.** Indicate the type of funds to be used by each one of the partners for each line item in cash and in-kind.
- **7.** When a project is part of a larger project or program or a phase of multiple phases, indicate it in the cover letter/email submitted with the proposal. The costs indicated within the proposal should reflect only the cost of this project's activities (i.e., not combining other phases).

- **8.** Use the best estimates possible for each cost, such as per diem, monthly or annual salaries, etc. The formulas used to make these cost estimates should be included in the budget justification.
- **9.** Proposals that request substantial funds for payment of salaries, more than 30% of the budget, will not be considered favorably.
- **10.** Do not include cents. You should round up the number to whole dollars. For large numbers (over one thousand) do not use the format "10.000." Please use the format "10,000" (i.e., use a comma instead of a period).
- 11. Ineligible match and grant costs: Law enforcement is not eligible (see <u>Management of Protected or Restored/Enhanced Properties</u>). Miscellaneous and contingency (unforeseen) costs are not allowed. Food costs are not allowed, except the cost of: 1) meals and refreshments when paid by the host of a conference or similar event where the primary purpose is the dissemination of technical information, and 2) per diem, or actual cost of meals, during travel directly related to specific project objectives. Maintenance of a physical structure that was a funded with grant or match in a prior NAWCA or NMBCA project is ineligible. Duplicative work is ineligible.
- **12.** Other ineligible costs are listed in the "2 CFR 200" ('Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards'), found at https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2014-title2-vol1/pdf/CFR-2014-title2-vol1-part200.pdf, particularly under "Subpart E—Cost Principles".
- **13.** The budget table should include grid lines and should not include any highlights or colored text.
- **14.** Include subtotals by objective.
- 15. Avoid empty columns or columns that only show zero dollars.
- **16.** Do not include links in the table.
- **17.** To limit the number of columns, match from partners that provide less than 15% individually can be grouped into a single column. Show partners providing more than 15% in separate columns. When partners have been grouped together, they should be identified in another table that lists just partners and their total contributions.
- **18.** Partners may include nongovernmental organizations, municipal organizations, private and local entities, universities and research centers and similar international organizations. Mexican State and Federal entities may apply for funding only if they have mechanisms specifically designed to receive funding from the U.S. government. All grant and match funds must be spent in Mexico (including administrative or indirect costs).
- **19.** The costs for preparing or translating the proposal and project reports may be included as part of the administration costs.
- **20.** Verify that all sums in the budget table are correct. If the amounts in the tables are not correct or do not correspond to the amounts in other tables of the proposal (cover page, components table), the proposal may be rejected.
- 21. Vehicles and other equipment: Requests for equipment that will outlive the project period, such as new vehicles, are discouraged and may lower the competitiveness of your proposal. Used, or leased, vehicles, for example, may be more appropriate. Vehicle purchases must be well justified. When determining the value of a used vehicle you must apply its value during its use on project-related activities. (If the

vehicle is not used 100% of the time on the project, you cannot use 100% of its current value.) The vehicle must be used only for the project as long as it is needed, whether or not the project continues to be supported with US Federal funding in the future. Any vehicle purchased with grant funding is subject to our regulations for the purchase of equipment; for example, equipment with a unit cost above USD5,000 is subject to additional requirements.

- Please review the guidance in the "Eligibility Criteria and Processes": https://www.fws.gov/media/north-american-wetlands-conservation-act-mexico-grant-proposal-eligibility-criteria-processes
- Please review additional guidance in the 2 CFR 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards: https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200?toc=1
- 22. Budget Justification table: In a separate table, describe the budget line items and equipment costs that are \$5,000 or higher, labeled as in the budget table. This table should describe both NAWCA and match costs. Show how you arrived at the cost estimate, such as formulas used to calculate costs, hourly rates, monthly or annual salaries, quotes for contracts, etc. Also include the "Required Indirect Cost Statement" in this table (see item 23. Required Indirect Cost Statement, below). See the Budget Justification Format.
- 23. Administrative and Indirect cost rates: Indirect costs are allowed only if you have an official "Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate" (NICRA) exists with an agency of the U.S. Government (your "cognizant" agency). You may also use part of your indirect costs as in-kind matching contributions. You should provide a copy of your approved Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement with your proposal. Exception: You may claim 10% or less in indirect costs without setting up a NICRA (use statement 6 below). If the above does not apply, you may use "direct" costs; these must be directly attributable to the project (use statement 8 below).

Required Indirect Cost Statement: Recipients that do not have an approved indirect cost rate cannot charge indirect costs to their Federal award. **All applicants** (except individuals applying for funds separate from a business or non-profit organization they may operate) **must copy into the budget justification narrative one of the following statements (1 – 8),** and attach to their application any required documentation identified in the applicable statement:

"We are:

- 1. A U.S. state or local government entity receiving more than \$35 million in direct Federal funding each year with an indirect cost rate of [insert rate]. We submit our indirect cost rate proposals to our cognizant agency. A copy of our most recently approved rate agreement/certification is attached.
- 2. A U.S. state or local government entity receiving less than \$35 million in direct Federal funding with an indirect cost rate of [insert rate]. We are required to prepare and retain for audit an indirect cost rate proposal and related documentation to support those costs.
- 3. A [insert your organization type; U.S. states and local governments, please use

- one of the statements above or below] that has previously negotiated or currently has an approved indirect cost rate with our cognizant agency. Our indirect cost rate is [insert rate]. [Insert either: "A copy of our most recently approved but expired rate agreement is attached. In the event an award is made, we will submit an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency within 90 calendar days after the award is made." or "A copy of our current, approved rate agreement(s) is attached."]
- 4. A [insert your organization type] that has never submitted an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency. Our indirect cost rate is [insert rate]. In the event an award is made, we will submit an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency within 90 calendar days after the award is made.
- 5. A [insert your organization type] that has never submitted an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency and has an indirect cost rate that is lower than 10%. Our indirect cost rate is [insert rate; must be lower than 10%]. However, in the event an award is made, we will not be able to meet the requirement to submit an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency within 90 calendar days after award. We request as a condition of award to charge a flat indirect cost rate of [insert rate; must be lower than 10%] of [insert a clear description of the direct cost base against which your rate is charged (e.g., salaries; salaries and fringe benefits; or modified total direct costs). However, please note that your organization cannot charge indirect costs in excess of the indirect costs that would be recovered if applied against modified total direct costs as defined in 2 CFR 220.68]. We understand that we must notify the Service in writing immediately if we establish an approved rate with our cognizant agency at any point during the award period.
- 6. A [insert your organization type] that has never submitted an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency and has an indirect cost rate that is 10% or higher. Our indirect cost rate is [insert your organization's indirect rate; must be 10% or higher]. However, in the event an award is made, we will not be able to meet the requirement to submit an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency within 90 calendar days after award. We request as a condition of award to charge a flat de minimis indirect cost rate of 10% of modified total direct costs as defined in 2 CFR 200.68. We understand that we must notify the Service in writing immediately if we do establish an approved rate with our cognizant agency at any point during the award period. We understand that additional Federal funds may not be available to support an unexpected increase in indirect costs during the project period and such changes are subject to review, negotiation, and prior approval by the Service.
- 7. A [insert your organization type] that is submitting this proposal for consideration under the [insert either "Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit Program" or "Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit Network"], which has a Department of the Interior-approved indirect cost rate cap of [insert program rate]. If we have an approved indirect cost rate with our cognizant agency, we understand that we must apply this reduced rate against the same direct cost base as identified in

our approved indirect cost rate agreement. If we do not have an approved indirect cost rate with our cognizant agency, we understand that the basis for direct costs will be the modified total direct cost base defined in 2 CFR 200.68 "Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC)". We understand that we must request prior approval from the Service to use the MTDC base instead of the base identified in our approved indirect cost rate agreement, and that Service approval of such a request will be based on: 1) a determination that our approved base is only a subset of the MTDC (such as salaries and wages); and 2) that use of the MTDC base will still result in a reduction of the total indirect costs to be charged to the award. In accordance with 2 CFR 200.405, we understand that indirect costs not recovered due to a voluntary reduction to our federally negotiated rate are not allowable for recovery via any other means.

- 8. A [insert your organization type] that will charge all costs directly."
- 24. Program Income: If your project will generate program income (e.g., fees for services, rental of property, sale of fabricated items, royalties for copyrights): (1) describe how the income will be generated, (2) estimate the amount of income during the project period, (3) describe how the funds will be used, (4) create a column to list program income and the budget line items to which you will add the income. Income earned during the project period of an approved award shall be retained by the recipient and used in at least one of the following ways: 1) added to the funds requested from USFWS for the project in addition to those committed by the recipient/other partners, and later used to conduct additional activities that will further the project objectives; or, 2) used to finance the non-Federal share of the project.
- 25. Conflict of Interest Disclosures: Applicants must notify the Service in writing of any actual or potential conflicts of interest that are known at the time of application or that may arise during the life of this award, in the event an award is made. Conflicts of interest include any relationship or matter, which might place the recipient, the recipient's employees, or the recipient's subrecipients in a position of conflict, real or apparent, between their responsibilities under the award and any other outside interests. Conflicts of interest may also include, but are not limited to, direct or indirect financial interests, close personal relationships, positions of trust in outside organizations, consideration of future employment arrangements with a different organization, or decision-making affecting the award that would cause a reasonable person with knowledge of the relevant facts to question the impartiality of the applicant, the applicant's employees, or the applicant's future subrecipients in the matter. Applicants must notify the Service in writing in their application if any key project personnel, including subrecipient and contractor personnel, are known to be related to, married to, or have a close personal relationship with any Federal employee in or associated with the program to which you are applying for funding or who otherwise may be involved in the review and selection of the application. Upon receipt of such a notice, the Service program in consultation with their Ethics Counselor will determine if a conflict of interest exists and, if so, if there are any possible actions to be taken by the applicant to reduce or resolve the conflict. Failure to disclose and resolve conflicts of interest in a manner that satisfies the Service

may result in the project not being selected for funding.

B. Matching Funds

- 1. The proposal must list a total matching contribution <u>in cash</u> that is at least equal to the amount requested from NAWCA Mexico; that is, as a minimum, one dollar in matching contributions for each one dollar requested from NAWCA (\$1:\$1). Any additional "in-kind" match will serve only to increase the total match ratio after the minimum 1:1 cash match ratio is met. (Such in-kind match may increase the proposal's score). In the NAWCA Mexico program, "cash" means funds disbursed for goods or services. Old match may be considered cash.
- 2. Old match is any contribution made prior to the grant application, up to two years before January 1 of the year that FWS receives the application. Old match must have a direct relationship with the proposed project and the applicant must have documentation that demonstrates such a direct relationship. Documentation of old match must be readily available at the time of application.
- 3. Matching contributions originating from U.S. government Federal agencies cannot be used as match. None of the matching contributions, whether in cash or in-kind, should have an origin in U.S. Federal funds; i.e., the funds should not have been received from the U.S. Federal government under any other previous grant or contract.
- **4.** Match contributions from entities not located in Mexico (except US Federal entities) are eligible, as long as they are spent in Mexico.
- **5.** The value of whatever equipment has been purchased with U.S. government Federal funds under previous contracts or grants cannot be used as matching contributions in new application to NAWCA or vice versa. This means that equipment purchased with U.S. government funds cannot be included as in-kind match.
- 6. Our reporting and documentation requirements apply to all match-funded activities. Grantees must maintain detailed accounting of receipts and expenditures of their own and of all partner organizations' matching funds and in-kind match. (This includes match already contributed, either by your organization or by your partners, before the time the proposal was submitted.) All match records must identify the specific NAWCA grant to which they contributed. Reports summarizing these accounting records must be maintained by the grantee and must be submitted as part of the final report. Detailed records (including all supporting documentation) may be requested for review at any time, up to three years after the final report was received by FWS; therefore, grantees must keep all project records for at least 3 years after FWS acknowledges receipt of the complete final report. Any match that is not supported by adequate documentation may be disallowed. Records for in-kind match must explain and show how the values of in-kind contributions were determined (for example, number of hours of volunteer time contributed, basis on which the hourly rate was calculated, rental rates for meeting space and vehicles, records of actual calculations for valuing in-kind contributions). The rates for volunteer or staff services must be consistent with those paid for similar work in the labor market in which the grantee competes for the type of service and skill. The value of donated equipment cannot exceed the fair market value of equipment of the same age and condition at the time of donation. The value of loaned equipment

- cannot exceed its fair rental value. The value of donated facilities cannot exceed the fair rental value of comparable facilities in the same locality.
- 7. <u>Additional match requirements</u> are described in the eligibility criteria at https://www.fws.gov/media/north-american-wetlands-conservation-act-mexico-grant-proposal-eligibility-criteria-processes.
- 8. Matching contribution commitment letters are required from all partners, including your organization. Attach copies of these letters as an annex. Please do not forget a letter of matching contribution commitment from your own organization. (Also see below, Match Letter Format.) Partner with matching contribution commitment letters that do not meet these requirements cannot be included as partners in the application and the proposal can be rejected if there is not sufficient match. Letters must:
 - be on official stationery, with logos or information of the organization such as letterhead, name, and contact information, in PDF format;
 - be addressed to the applicant organization and <u>not</u> to the USFWS or SEMARNAT (because the letters represent a commitment between organizations and partners who will conduct the project, while the grant agreement will be between USFWS and the applicant);
 - include the partner's name, title, signature and date;
 - include the name of the project or proposal which it supports;
 - indicate the amounts committed in support of project, corresponding to those indicated in the proposal budget, indicating cash contributions and in-kind contributions, as well as the purposes for which the funds are committed;
 - include the period during which these funds will be available, with specific dates, for example June 2019 through May 2021;
 - indicate how the amounts or values of the matching contributions were estimated, if the contribution is in-kind;
 - specify what activities in the project will be funded by this contribution; and
 - state that the match contribution, whether cash or in kind, does not originate from US Federal funds and have not been (and will not be) used to match any other US Federal grant project.

V. Types of Projects

A. Land Protection Projects

Protection projects are those projects planning to acquire properties or land rights, or to implement other legal mechanisms, to protect property for the long-term conservation of migratory bird habitat, such as concessions, contracts, leases, easements, conservation agreements, private reserves, or ejido reserves. These mechanisms are eligible only if they cover a period of at least 10 years (10 years starting after the initiation of the grant project).

In protection (acquisition, easement), restoration, or enhancement projects, the applicant commits to achieve conservation (acquisition, restoration, or enhancement) of a specific number of hectares/acres before the end of a specific grant (project) period (1 or 2 years). Long-term protection of those hectares must include the monitoring and

management of the habitat for as long as the legal protection lasts. This means that you must manage in perpetuity all hectares that were acquired or are in a protected area. You must manage all hectares that were protected through any other legal mechanism—which must be for at least 10 years—for the duration of the commitment made in the underlying legal protection mechanism (e.g., managed for 15 years of a 15-year concession).

The number of acres under each category that directly affects habitat (protection through a legal mechanism, restoration, enhancement and management) in the tract table must be the same as the acres in the summary, table of components, description of objectives, maps, and shapefiles. Ensure that every acquisition, establishment of legal mechanism, restoration, enhancement and management that has a concrete objective in terms of acres is listed in the tract table. Each tract listed must have a corresponding polygon in one of the maps; use the same name for the polygons on the map and the tract table.

Legal documentation is required for protection proposals, including a deed ("escritura"), map, and appraisal. Any tract you acquire (with grant or match) must be appraised by an independent real property appraiser licensed or certified in Mexico in accordance with Mexican appraisal standards, if they exist, or with International Valuation Standards, when such appraisals are available and financially feasible. Otherwise, you must use the most widely accepted business practice for property valuation in Mexico and provide to the awarding DOI bureau or office a detailed explanation of the methodology used to determine value. For additional information, refer to Section 6 and 7 of the NAWCA Mexico grant guidelines at Mexico NAWCA Grant Administration Standards. (An unofficial, courtesy translation, "Lineamientos para la Administración de Subsidios", is available at: Normas Para La Administración De Subvenciones NAWCA Mexico)

Reporting responsibility for tract acquisitions, SF-429 Real Property Status Report forms (applies to fee or easement acquisitions): Before acquiring a property with grant funds (but not match funds), i.e., before you make a payment and sign the deed or easement documents, you must obtain prior approval from us by sending the following documents: (a) tract appraisal and (b) the "SF-429-B Real Property Status Report ATTACHMENT B (Request to Acquire, Improve or Furnish" and "SF-429 Cover Page (Real Property Status Report)". You can download these forms from the Grants.gov "Post Award Reporting Forms" page at https://www.grants.gov/forms/forms-repository/post-awardreporting-forms. When you submit the final project report, you must include the "SF-429-A Real Property Status Report ATTACHMENT A (General Reporting)" and "SF-429 Cover Page (Real Property Status Report)" for all grant and match acquisitions (fee and easements). After the grant has closed, you will have to continue submitting the SF-429-A to us regularly: annually for acquisitions with a duration of less than 15 years and every five years for those greater than 15 years. If you wish to transfer or dispose of the property, you must include the "SF-429-C Real Property Status Report ATTACHMENT C (Disposition or Encumbrance Request)" with the "SF-429 Real Property Status Report (Cover Page)" with your request for disposal instructions from us.

B. Restoration or Enhancement

"Restoration" is the implementation of activities, such as manipulation of the physical, chemical or biological characteristics of a site, with the goal of returning natural/historic functions to a former or degraded habitat, e.g., a wetland. Restoration can further be defined as either re-establishment (returning natural/historic functions to a former wetland resulting in a gain in wetland acres) or rehabilitation (repairing natural/historic functions of a highly degraded wetland resulting in no gain in wetland acres). "Enhancement" is the implementation of activities that modify a degraded habitat to improve its functioning; for example, manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a wetland site to improve specific functions of the wetland. Proposals whose objectives are to restore or enhance habitats that do not have underlying legal protection mechanisms for the long-term cannot be considered for funding. Funds (grant or match) may not be used for restoration or enhancement if there is no underlying. long-term, legal protection for every hectare. Restoration and enhancement are considered unique and different activities under NAWCA. The hectares to be accomplished under each should be described separately in every section, including "Purpose" (on the cover page), "Table of Components", and "Tract Table" (Annex G). If a tract will be both restored and enhanced, the number of hectares to be enhanced (that are also restored) should be shown in parenthesis.

Similarly, a hectare that is enhanced or restored that is (or was) also acquired should be shown in parenthesis. This includes hectares that were restored or acquired in prior phases or other projects funded by NAWCA or NMBCA (including grants to any organization). For example: "We will restore 100 hectares, of which (50) hectares will also be enhanced during the project period." "We will restore (100) hectares that were acquired as a 500-hectare easement on Ejido Primero during Phase I of this project."

C. Management of Protected or Restored/Enhanced Properties

Long-term protection and restoration of properties requires management and administration activities. Such activities are those implemented to maintain habitat conservation of properties purchased or otherwise protected with NAWCA funds or matching contributions under a NAWCA grant, including but not limited to control and manipulation of water levels, mechanical or chemical control of vegetation, monitoring of the property, repairs and limited initial maintenance, maintenance of fencing and signage. Other activities will be considered but without guarantee of being approved. Management must continue for the duration of the underlying, legal protection mechanism; for example, if you obtained a 15-year concession, you must manage that tract for at least 15 years. Maintenance of a physical structure that was a funded with grant or match in a prior NAWCA or NMBCA project is not an eligible activity. Grantees and partners are responsible for repairing or replacing structures, regardless of whether they fail prematurely or deteriorate sooner than expected. For example, if the construction of a levee was paid for during a NAWCA grant 15 years ago and the useful life of that levee should have been twenty years, you cannot include the cost of repairing or replacing it.

NAWCA <u>does not fund law enforcement</u>, and your proposal must not include law enforcement contributed as match or non-match. Law enforcement is defined as the

actions by people in a position of authority who enforce laws, investigate crimes, and make arrests. For example, you may not include the training or salaries of park guards who have the authority to enforce laws. On the other hand, your project may include training for local citizens and community monitoring to detect and report infractions to the authorities (e.g., a neighborhood watch, "vigilancia comunitaria").

D. Development of Infrastructure

This includes action-oriented research, population monitoring, development of GIS information, capacity building, etc. For research and monitoring projects, explain how the information will be used by government agencies or your partners for long-term planning, how accessible it is to the public, who the users will be and how the project will result in conservation of wetlands or birds. Describe how you will share the data and information that is produced by your project with the public or with other key organizations and government agencies. Whenever possible and reasonable, bird survey data should be made public, for example by uploading it to eBird (https://ebird.org/home) or AKN (https://avianknowledge.net/). Note that the cost of entering data (during the grant period) to publicly accessible databases may be included in the project budget. If you will not be uploading data to a public repository, explain why not. If you are training lay people to conduct the monitoring, explain how you will (a) ensure the quality of their contributions and (b) encourage their engagement beyond the grant period. If you will band birds, describe how you will collaborate with the US Bird Banding Laboratory (BBL, https://www.usgs.gov/labs/bird-banding-laboratory) and the Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO; https://www.gob.mx/conabio). Describe the bands you will be using, whether you have a U.S. "Federal Bird Banding and Marking Permit", where you will submit banding data (e.g., to the BBL Information Manager for Banding Operations, https://www.usgs.gov/software/bandit-software), and whether you adhere to a code of banding ethics (e.g., https://www.usgs.gov/labs/bird-banding-laboratory/banders-codeethics).

E. Training and Environmental Education

This includes programs of environmental education, workshops related to the conservation of wetlands and migratory birds, wetland courses for technicians and field staff and further development of other staff who work in the area wetlands. You must provide an estimate of the number of participants and maps of the areas where these types of activities will be conducted.

F. Sustainable Use

This includes activities that will conserve wetlands in the long-term such as the implementation of economic alternatives, e.g., some types of Units for Management and Sustainable Use (UMA).

VI. Proposal Annexes

Please number and name each Proposal Annex with the appropriate name.

Annex A.1: Impact on Cultural and Historic Sites

State whether or not the activities of the project will modify, alter or affect the historical or cultural Mexican heritage (archaeological zones, historic monuments, etc.), and indicate if the project will be conducted at a World Heritage site or in a site registered on a national list of historic sites. Explain the impact relative to applicable laws.

Annex A.2: Evaluation and Monitoring

Describe how you will monitor and evaluate the project to ensure the completion of all the activities implemented by all partners. This description should contain specific information on the elements of the plan for monitoring and evaluation and include specific indicators. Describe how you will evaluate the success of activities. To say only that reports will be written is not sufficient.

Provide detailed description of the indicators of project progress and success to determine the effectiveness of each project activities. For example, for reforestation, one indicator of success should be the survival rate of seedlings. It is not sufficient to state that reforestation was conducted on an established number of hectares or how many trees were planted.

Annexes A.1 and A.2, combined, cannot be more than one page.

Annex B.1: Maps

(Annex B.1.a. general map, and Annex B.1.b. map of site/ranch/property, etc.). At a minimum three maps must be included:

- one that shows where the project is located within the country.
- one that shows all the activities proposed at the project site and,
- one that shows the GIS polygons of properties that are intended for protection, restoration, or enhancement, and that demonstrates the total scope of the project.

All maps should include a designated project area boundary polygon. The project area is a larger, defined area that encompasses the project's tract(s). A project area can best be described as follows:

- area that is part of a wetlands conservation plan;
- areas in the same wetlands system (e.g., watershed or river basin);
- areas that are managed to meet the same wetlands objectives;
- areas that are in close proximity;
- areas that provide direct benefits to each other; or
- defined administrative boundaries, such as municipality, city, ejido, etc.

Please keep in mind that if your project is funded and a tract needs to be substituted, then the substitution tract(s) must be located within the defined project area boundary.

Annex B.2: Spatial Data/GIS Shapefiles

Shapefile Component Requirements and Format
Please provide a single GIS shapefile that was used to create the maps. The shapefile

submitted should use a GCS_WGS_1984 projection and the attribute table should contain a name for each polygon which corresponds to a tract listed in the proposal tract table.

- Only one GIS shapefile should be submitted for each proposal. The shapefile must be a polygon(s), not points or lines.
- Submit the shapefile as a .zip file. The submitted shapefile should have these file extensions, at minimum: .shp, .dbf, .shx, .prj, .xml. Any other extensions that are submitted are extra, but do not delete these.
- The shapefile must contain multiple polygons representing the overall project area and location of each of the tracts involved in the project.

The attribute table should **very closely resemble the tract table**, with a few exceptions. The shapefile should contain the Project Name, Total Acreage (you do not need to break out the wetland/upland acres), and Project Area entry. The other fields are mandatory and should follow these field property *suggestions*:

- OBJECTID automatically assigned.
- Shape Polygon. If your shapefile is in Polygon ZM format, please convert it to a standard Polygon.
- PROJ NAME Text; Length: default. Project title used on Cover Page.
- TRACT_ID Text; Length: default. Tract ID should match the ID used throughout the proposal and Tract Table. You may leave this field entry blank for the Project Area.
- ACTTYPE Text; Length: default. List the activity per tract. You may leave this field entry blank for the Project Area.
- TRACT_NAME Optional. Text; Length: default. You may leave this field entry blank for the Project Area.
- ACREAGE Double; Default Precision and Scale. Total acreage of wetland and upland components. You may leave this field entry blank for the Project Area.
- FUNDING Text; Length: default. Funding category (Grant, Match). You may leave this field entry blank for the Project Area.
- STATE –Text; Length: default. Full or abbreviated state name(s).
- LATITUDE Double; Default Precision and Scale
- LONGITUDE Double; Default Precision and Scale
- HOLDER Text; Length: default Final Title Holder. You may leave this field entry blank for the Project Area.

Any additional attribute fields submitted will be considered extra information.

Shapefile Submission

As part of the application package, email the GIS shapefile as a .zip file to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Bird Habitat Conservation (FWS/DBHC) at dbhc@fws.gov and to SEMARNAT/DGVS at lurbano@semarnat.gob.mx and miguel.flores@semarnat.gob.mx. In lieu of ArcGIS, applicants may utilize another GIS application package capable of creating spatial data (Google Earth, QGIS, etc.).

However, before submitting these files please contact the NAWCA coordinator for submittal and data quality guidance.

Annex C: Photographs

A minimum of two photographs must be provided with captions that link to the work plan or objective number. Please include aerial and terrestrial views if possible. These photographs should include the photographer credits as well as the name and area of the project. If the project involves restoration or enhancement, photos should include sites that will be restored/enhanced and that will be photographed again after the work is completed to present before-and-after pictures in the Final Report. These before-and-after photos should, when possible, be photographed using the same geographic coordinates, at the same hour of the day and in the best season to represent the before-and-after effect.

Annex D: Phase Reports

If this is a subsequent phase of a previous project, please add photos of the results of the prior phase(s), especially habitat restoration and enhancement results. (See the suggested Report Format.)

Annex E: Match Letters

See the suggested Match Letter Format.

Annex F: Letters of Cooperation and Support

Letters of acknowledgment are required from all owners of tracts where restoration, enhancement or management activities will take place. In addition, it is to your benefit (but not required) to include letters of support from people who will provide important services and from local organizations in the area of the project (mayor, ejido, community leaders, etc.).

Annex G: Tract Tables

These tables must be completed for all projects that intend to protect, restore, enhance or manage properties or to create wetlands (see the suggested <u>Tract Table Format</u>). Proposals that do not provide this information will not be accepted.

Annex H: SF424 Forms and Attachments (SF424 A or C)

Copies of these forms submitted via GrantSolutions must be provided as part of the proposal package.

Annex I: Organizational Capacity

This only applies to new applicants or for applicants who have never received or not received a NAWCA grant in more than five years. Provide your responses to these questions in one page maximum:

- 1. Legal status and year of incorporation.
- 2. Years of experience in the environmental conservation sector.
- 3. Links with community and level of community involvement. Describe the mechanisms included in the project to ensure local participation in the

- development and implementation of the project.
- 4. State whether you have received U.S. Federal funds before, and from what source.
- 5. What is your organizational annual budget?
- 6. How many full-time employees does your organization have?

Annex J: Overlap/Duplication Statement

All applicants must provide a statement that addresses if there is any overlap between the proposed project and any other active or anticipated projects in terms of activities, costs, or time commitment of key personnel. If any overlap exists, applicants must provide a description of the overlap in their application. Applicants must also state if the proposal submitted for consideration under this program is/is not in any way duplicative of any proposal that was/will be submitted for funding consideration to any other potential funding source (Federal or non- Federal). If such a circumstance exists, applicants must detail when the other duplicative proposal(s) were submitted, to whom (entity name and program), and when funding decisions are expected to be announced. If at any time a proposal is awarded funds that would be duplicative of the funding requested from the Service, applicants must notify the Service point of contact for this funding opportunity immediately.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

I. Keys to Developing a Successful Proposal

- 1. If the proposal is approved, all the information and materials presented with the proposal will become part of the official contract between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service/DBHC and the applicant and as such will be available in public files.
- 2. Applicants who have never applied to NAWCA for funding must provide additional information. See Annex I.
- 3. The proposal must be submitted in English. Please also submit a copy in Spanish to SEMARNAT/DGVS at lurbano@semarnat.gob.mx, with copies to miguel.flores@semarnat.gob.mx and dbhc@fws.gov. The Spanish version will be considered a subordinate version of your proposal; the English version submitted through GrantSolutions will be the official version. (Please do not include the Spanish version in your GrantSolutions application package.) If you only send a Spanish version, your proposal will not be considered. The cost of translation can be included in the budget as an administrative cost.
- 4. Describe how you will share any data and information that is produced by your project with the public or with other key organizations. Whenever possible and reasonable, bird survey data should be made public, for example by uploading it to eBird (https://ebird.org/home) or AKN (https://ebird.org/home).
- 5. If your project sites are in the states of Baja California, Baja California Sur, Sonora, Sinaloa, Nayarit, or in the Sierra Madre Occidental Bird Conservation Region of Chihuahua and Durango (BCR 34 https://nabci-us.org/resources/mexico-bird-conservation-region-map/), then we suggest that you submit a copy of your proposal as a courtesy to the Sonoran Joint Venture. To email the Sonoran Joint Venture

- Coordinator, visit: https://sonoranjv.org/about/sjv-staff/.
- 6. If your project sites are in states that border the southern frontier of the Rio Grande (Chihuahuan Desert and Tamaulipas Brushlands Bird Conservation Regions; part of the states of Tamaulipas, Nuevo Leon, Coahuila, Chihuahua, Durango, San Luis Potosí, Zacatecas, Guanajuato or Querétaro), we suggest that you send a courtesy copy of your proposal to the Rio Grande Joint Venture. To email the Rio Grande Joint Venture Coordinator, visit: https://rgjv.org/contact-us-2/.
- 7. Projects must comply with the NAWCA Mexico Grant Administration Standards: https://www.fws.gov/media/mexico-nawca-grant-administration-standards-north-american-wetlands-conservation-act
 - An unofficial, courtesy translation, "Lineamientos para la Administración de Subsidios" is available at https://www.fws.gov/media/normas-para-la-administracion-de-subvenciones-nawca-mexico
- 8. You must include a project summary in GrantSolutions; we explain how in these instructions.
- 9. In the section, "Description of Migratory Bird Resources and other wildlife", you may indicate up to 10 priority species each for waterfowl, shorebirds, waterbirds, and landbirds.
- 10. Note changes in the section, "Other wetland dependent species", and the new list, "Priority migrant, wetland-associated shorebirds, waterbirds and landbirds listed in the U.S. Endangered Species Act (June 2021) or on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Birds of Conservation Concern (2021)".
- 11. Match letters must include all items listed, and state that the match contribution does not originate from US Federal funds and have not been used to match any other US Federal grant project.
- 12. Letters of support are required from all owners of tracts where restoration, enhancement or management activities will take place; see Annex F.
- 13. All proposals must include a "Required Indirect Cost Statement".
- 14. Proposals that do not comply with requirements and formats will not be considered.
- 15. Do not include numbers, hectares, acres, or other measurements in the title. However, if the proposal is for a new phase of a previous NAWCA project, please give the proposal the same name as in the previous phase and add the Roman numeral that pertains to the phase, at the end of the title (e.g., "IV").
- 16. Carefully consider the proposal's goals and objectives. In NAWCA, "goals" are the ultimate results of this project (after the two years of the grant project), while the "objectives" are the intermediate steps necessary to reach that end and will be completed before the end of the two-year grant project. The activities are the actions necessary to complete those objectives: activities > objectives > goals. There should be fewer goals in comparison to objectives and a lot less in comparison to the number of activities. These concepts are the key for the evaluators to understand the intent of the proposal. Include a single table that presents the goals, objectives, and activities. See the suggested Work Plan Format.
- 17. Carefully review the scoring criteria (see <u>Scoring Criteria</u>) that we use to initially rank proposals, and consider each criterion as you develop the various sections of your proposal. As you write your proposal narrative, use the subheadings and sections

- from these instructions; this will help reviewers give you a score for every criterion.
- 18. The number of acres under each category that directly affects habitat (protection through a legal mechanism, restoration, enhancement, and management) in the tract table must be the same as the acres in the abstract, table of components, description of objectives, maps, and shapefiles. Ensure that every acquisition, establishment of legal mechanism, restoration, enhancement, and management that has a concrete objective in terms of acres is listed in the tract table. Each tract listed must have a corresponding polygon in one of the maps; use the same name for the polygons on the map and the tract table.
- 19. Correctly classify any restoration (of habitat that has disappeared or is severely degraded) and enhancement (of habitat that still exists and functions) activities.
- 20. Your cash match must be at least as high as your grant request; in-kind match does not count towards this minimum.
- 21. If a match letter does not include every element listed in the match letter section, that match is not eligible.
- 22. The cost for buying, maintaining, or using drones or similar equipment is not allowed.
- 23. Double-check your arithmetic. All totals and subtotals on the first page, in the table of resources, table of components and match letters must be identical to those in the budget.
- 24. Include the correct version of your indirect cost statement, even if you do not claim indirect costs.
- 25. The proposal PDF should include the narrative and all annexes, in a single PDF file, in the same order as that given in these instructions. Show the submission date at the top of the first page. Only shapefiles should be attached separately.
- 26. Keep your registrations up to date in GrantSolutions.gov and SAM.gov for the next 12 months; if your proposal is selected, these must be active.

II. Important Changes from the Prior Cycle

- We streamlined the instructions and eliminated or changed the order of several sections.
- We clarified instructions for the Standard Form 424, project abstract, project location and benefits, partnerships, description of prior phases, organizational capacity, and more.
- We eliminated budget table B.
- We updated the waterfowl species/population continental priorities, following the NAWMP Species Prioritization 2023 Revision.

III. Other Information

The following information is important to understand the NAWCA Mexico program.

- The English version of these application instructions is the official version. A Spanish translation is provided as a courtesy.
- There are eligibility restrictions for in-kind and "old" match. Review the NAWCA Mexico Eligibility Criteria for more information about match.

- The acreage conversion factor is 1 hectare = 2.47 (U.S.) acres.
- Maintenance of a physical structure that was a funded with grant or match in a prior NAWCA or NMBCA project is not an eligible activity. Grantees and partners are responsible for repairing or replacing structures, regardless of whether they fail prematurely or deteriorate sooner than expected. For example, if the construction of a levee was paid for during a NAWCA grant 15 years ago and the useful life of that levee should have been twenty years, you cannot include the cost of repairing or replacing it.
- Duplicative work is not an eligible activity. If you propose an activity on a tract that is or was previously part of a NAWCA or NMBCA project, by any grantee organization, you must show that the activity does not duplicate activities that were part of the other project. For example, if NAWCA match funds paid for the restoration of a wetland site in 2009, you cannot propose restoration on the same site in 2022. You could propose a different activity, e.g., treatment of noxious weeds, on the same site. You need to explain that you will not duplicate work on specific tracts, describe how the new activity is complementary, and include a map of current or previous NAWCA and NMBCA project work by any organization in the area (see C. Project Description, and section 12 of the Tract Table Guide). Unless it is clear to us that an activity is not duplicative, we will not allow it in a project. If you are acquiring land, protecting land through another legal mechanism, or restoring, enhancing or managing habitat, you must include a Tract Table. We added a more thorough explanation of the information needed in the Tract Table. The table must include the longevity of the work and any retreatments during and after the project period.
- Restoration and enhancement are considered unique and different activities under NAWCA; the hectares to be accomplished under each should be described separately. If a tract will be both restored and enhanced, the number of hectares to be enhanced (that are also restored) should be shown in parenthesis. (See "Definitions of project types", "Purpose/Project Type", "Components table", "Tract table").
- Proposals should demonstrate how the activities of partners will encourage the <u>long-term</u> conservation of wetlands-associated migratory birds.
- Restoration/enhancement can only occur on tracts that are protected by a long-term legal mechanism, and the duration of both the legal mechanism and of the restoration/enhancement should be made explicit in the Tract Table. Long-term protection means a minimum of 10 years after the start of the grant project.
- Any tract that you acquire with grant or match must be appraised by an independent real property appraiser licensed or certified in Mexico in accordance with Mexican appraisal standards.
- Grantees have a perpetual reporting responsibility for tract acquisitions; see the instructions for SF-429 Real Property Status Report forms (applies to fee or easement acquisitions).
- Law enforcement is not eligible as a grant or match cost.

IV. Suggested Formats

A. Suggested format for Proposal Summary
PROPOSAL SUMMARY EXAMPLE BEGINS HERE

I. COVER PAGE NAWCA MEXICO PROGRAM 202X

1. SAM.gov Number (UEI): xxxxxxx 2. Submission Date: 5/xx/202x 3. Version 1

- **4. Project Title:** (less than 80 characters (including spaces), include unique location if possible, but do not use names of private individuals)
- for example: "Rancho La Laguna Wetland Restoration, Tamaulipas"
- **5. A. Applicant**: *(only one entity)* **5.B. Organization Type**:
- **6.** Responsible Party/Point of Contact (only one) and contact information: (name, work address, telephone numbers, email addresses; include the names and emails for both the GrantSolutions ADO and PI).

7. Project Physical Location

A. Project site information (not location of the office) including city, state, latitude/longitude (decimal degrees).

7. B. Priority of the location (Do NOT include other designations)	Site number on
	map
Ramsar map can found at the Ramsar website.	e.g., 4
Waterfowl Map	10
Shorebird Map	20
Waterbird Map	19
Landbirds (We have not included a map, but you may include one in your proposal, e.g., WHSRN (https://whsrn.org/whsrn-sites/map-of-sites/), CONABIO (https://avesmx.conabio.gob.mx/Mapa.html), and BirdLife (BirdLife Data Zone). You may also describe abundance, occurrence, seasonality, percent of total population of species, and relative importance of site in the region or country.)	(No map)

8. <u>Project Abstract</u>: Explain in 2-3 sentences. For example: This project will protect 7,000 hectares of wetlands and uplands through fee acquisition; enhance and restore 300 hectares of wetlands (within the same 7,000 hectares acquired); develop 2 wetland management plans; deliver 3 training workshops on sustainable management for 70 people; evaluate the migratory waterfowl populations at 2 wetlands.

Note: Restoration and enhancement are considered unique and different activities under NAWCA. The hectares to be accomplished under each should be described separately in every section, including "Purpose/Project type" (on the cover page), "Table of Components", and "Tract Table" (Annex G). If a tract will be both restored and enhanced, the number of hectares to be enhanced (that are also restored) should be shown in parenthesis. Similarly, a hectare that is

enhanced or restored that is (or was) also acquired should be shown in parenthesis. This includes hectares that were restored or acquired in prior phases or other projects funded by NAWCA or NMBCA (including grants to any organization). For example: "We will restore 100 hectares, of which (50) hectares will also be enhanced during the project period." "We will restore 100 hectares that were acquired as a (500-hectare) easement on Ejido Primero during Phase I of this project." (See also the section on definitions.)

9. Total funds request from NAWCA + Total M	atch = Project To	tal		
USDNAWCA + USD	Match = U	Tota		
			Total \$250,000 \$200,000 \$300,000 \$50,000	
10. Table of Resources (in USD) (Exchange	rate:			
Source	Cash	ln-kind	Total	
NAWCA	\$250,000		\$250,000	
Applicant (name)	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$200,000	
Partner 1 (name)	\$300,000		\$300,000	
Partner 2, etc.		\$50,000	\$50,000	
Match Total (do not include NAWCA \$)	\$400,000	\$150,000	\$550,000	
11. Number of Previous NAWCA Projects to this a	applicant:			
			_	
12. Has funding been solicited or will be solicited			Federal	
Government?yesno. From another org	ganization?ye	sno.		

II. PROJECT SUMMARY

B. COMPONENTS TABLE

COMPONENT/ACTIVITY	NAWCA	Match	Has./Acres	Responsible Partner
Protection, Tract 1 (conservation agreement)	\$	\$	200/494	Grantee's name
Protection, Tract 2 (easement)	\$	\$	800/1,976	Partner 1 name
Enhancement, Tract 1	\$	\$	(200)/(494)	Grantee
Management, Tract 2	\$	\$	(800)/(1,976)	Partner 1
Restoration, Tract 2	\$	\$	(400)/(988)	Partner 2
TOTALS	\$	\$	xxx	

Note about this table: If a tract will be both restored and enhanced, the number of hectares to be enhanced (that are also restored) should be shown in parentheses. Similarly, a hectare that is managed, enhanced or restored that is (or was) also acquired should be shown in parenthesis. This includes hectares that were restored or acquired in prior phases or other projects funded by NAWCA or NMBCA (including grants to any organization).

B. Suggested Formats for Tables

1. Suggested format for the work plan

Objective 1: Conduct negotiations that result in the establishment of an 800-hectare reserve easement before the end of the project period.

Objective 1: Grant amount USD\$x,xxx. Match amount USD\$xx,xxx

Activities	Award date + X days	Organization responsible	Expected Product/Result with metrics, when possible, e.g., number of hectares
1. 10 workshops with ejidatarios	100 days	[name of organization]	3 agreements signed between [organization A] and Ejido A, B, C. 90 ejidatarios trained in x.
2. 6 meetings with interested parties	100 days	[name of organization]	6 work plans signed between Organization A, B…
3. Baseline study			Study concluded and approved
4. Developing and completing legal documents that make 800-hectare easement official			800-hectare easement legal document, signed, recorded and notarized before the end of the project period.
etc.			

2. Suggested format for budget table (budget by objective)

All objective and activities listed in the proposal must be included in a line item. The line items shown are merely examples, you may use different line-item titles. See instructions about combining partners match columns here.

Organization name:								Date:			
Project name:								Exchai rate:	nge		
	NAWCA	App	licant	_	ne of ner #1		ne of ner #2	_	ne of ner #3	Total Match	Total
Objectives		Cash	In-Kind	Cash	In-Kind	Cash	In-Kind	Cash	In-Kind		
I. Land Purchase											
1.Personnel											
2.Equipment											
3.Contracts											
4 etc. [You may use different line item titles]											
Subtotal											
II. Restoration											
1.Personnel											
Subtotal											
III. Environmenta I Education											
										·	

Subtotal						
IV. Monitoring						
Subtotal						
V. Administrative Costs or Indirect Costs						
GRAND TOTAL						

3. Suggested format for the Budget Justification

Organization name: xxxxxxxx	Date: (all amounts in USD, exchange rate \$:\$ on 5/1/202X)
Objective 1.1. Equipment: computers	s, 4x\$1,500=6000; to equip field office
Objecive 2.1. Contracts: 5 workshops	s, 5 x \$1,000=5,000; to train 1,000 teachers at 2,000 schools. Type
of contract, personnel rates, etc.	
Objective 2.2. Per diem: 20 trips for 5	people, 100x\$1,000=100,000; meeting participation in México City
[Every line item over USD5,000 sh	nould have a justification.]

4. Suggested format for tract table (lands, parcels, properties, protected areas), with examples

TRACT TABLE A	Project Name:		
Project Duration: 2021- 2023	City and State: Pueblo 1, Durango		
	Tract 1: Protection	Tract 1: Restoration	Tract 2
1. Tract ID/Name	Corral Tres	Corral Tres	Corral Uno
2. Type of Activity (only during this project period)	Easement acquisition	Wetland restoration	
3. Type of Wetland	Estuarine	Estuarine	
4. Wetland Acres	100 has/247 acres	(11) has/(27.17)ac	
5. Upland Acres	0	0	
6. Riparian miles	0	0	
7. Protection mechanism (indicate if it is implemented during this project period)	Easement (Servidumbre) implemented during this project period	All (11) restoration hectares are within a new Easement implemented during this project period.	
8. Duration of protection or activity: from [year] to [year] [or "perpetuity"]	The easement will last 99 years: from 2021 to 2120	The restoration will last 20 years: from 2023 to 2043	
9. Final Title Holder	NGO ABC (servidumbre); Rancho DEF (landowner)	Rancho DEF will manage the (11) restored hectares for 99 years	
10. Property location	State of Durango	State of Durango	
11. Funding Source	USD \$5,000 NAWCA + USD \$40,000 CONAFOR	NAWCA USD \$20,000	
12. Previous activities funded by NAWCA, NMBCA, or match (to any organization)	Riparian areas on this tract were restored by CONANP with match funding in 2003, under the NMBCA project titled "Ejido Primero	There has never been restoration, enhancement or management activities on the (11) hectares that will be restored.	

Songbird Conservation".	

Guide for Prep	paring Tract Tables:
1. Tract	Ranch/ejido name, location, identification of property. Each tract must
ID/Name	have a correlated shapefile and be shown on the map as a polygon.
2. Type of	Acquisition, easement, restoration, enhancement, wetland creation,
Activity (only	fencing, invasives control, etc. If there is more than one activity in a
during <u>this</u>	single tract, each activity must be shown in a separate column. This
project period)	refers only to activities carried out during this project period. Do not list
	activities accomplished prior to this project. These activities improve
	habitat on a specific tract. "Restoration" is the implementation of
	activities that return the habitat to a state as it once was. Enhancement
	is the implementation of activities that modify the degraded habitat to
	improve its functioning. Restoration or enhancement for <u>tracts that do</u>
	not have legal protection mechanisms for the long- term (at least 10
	<u>vears) are ineligible</u> as grant or match funding.
3. Type of	Lacustrine, Palustrine, Marine, Estuarine, Riparian, etc.
Wetland	
4. Wetland	Hectares/acres specific only to the activity (not for the whole tract
Acres	acquired). Please use this conversion factor: 1 hectare = 2.47 (U.S.)
C. I.III	acres.
5. Upland Acres	Hectares/acres. Please use this conversion factor: 1 hectare = 2.47 (U.S.) acres.
6. Riparian	Kilometers/miles
miles	1 11011101010/1111100
7. Protection	The legal protection mechanism can be an acquisition (purchase of a
mechanism	tract), easement, contract, conservation agreement, ZOFEMAT,
(indicate if it is	concession, national protected area, or Unidad de Manejo Ambiental.
implemented	The legal mechanism must protect the tract (all hectares) for at least 10
during <u>this</u>	years into the future. <u>Short-term agreements may be eligible as</u>
project period)	
	underlying legal mechanism. If the activity is restoration/enhancement/
	creation, explain what the underlying protection is. Indicate if the
	protection will be implemented during this project period or with old
	match; show the year in which it was signed. If the underlying protection
	is already in place (not part of this grant), indicate this and include the
	year it started.
	For an acquisition, easement, or other legal mechanism, state the
protection or	duration, e.g., "Federal Protected Area will last in Perpetuity", or "the
activity: from	easement is valid for 99 years: from 2021 to 2120". For an activity such
[year] to [year]	,
[or	longevity of the work), in years. For example, you might state that
"perpetuity"]	fences will last 20 years" or "the treatment for invasive plant control will

	be effective for 5 years". If applicable (e.g., for invasive plant control), also include (in the "duration" row) how many retreatments are planned during and after the project period. For all restoration and enhancement, indicate the type and duration of the underlying legal mechanism that protects the tract, and the year it starts and ends.
9. Final Title Holder	NGO name or private person, ejido, etc., who will hold the title at the end of the project period.
10. Property	Latitude/longitude in decimal degrees or central point.
11. Funding Source	Origin of funds for this activity, e.g., "USD \$5,000 NAWCA + USD \$40,000 CONAFOR"
12. Previous activities funded by NAWCA, NMBCA, or match (to any organization)	Describe what type of activities were carried out on each tract before this project with NAWCA or NMBCA funds or match; if a tract was never affected by NAWCA or NMBCA (under grants to any organization), specify this. Include a map of previous NAWCA and NMBCA project areas and tracts. Duplicative work is not an eligible activity. If you propose an activity on a tract that is or was previously part of a NAWCA or NMBCA project, of any grantee organization, you must show that the activity does not duplicate activities or objectives that were part of the other project. For example, if NAWCA match funds paid for the restoration of a wetland site in 2009, you cannot propose restoration of the same site in 2022. You could propose a different activity, e.g., enhancement, on the same site. You need to explain that you will not duplicate work on specific tracts and must include a map of current or previous NAWCA and NMBCA project work by any organization in the area (see C . Project Description). Unless it is clear to us that an activity is not duplicative, we will not allow it in a project.

5. Suggested format for progress reports [one page]

Project Name:	Agreement Number:	Performance Period:
Project	Total Project Cost:	NAWCA \$:
Coordinator:		MATCH \$:
Objectives	Progress (% Complete)	Benefits/Results/Metrics
Objective I Objective 1a:	(Percent complete)	[Very short explanation, 1-3 sentences. Include the metrics you listed in each objective, e.g., 100
Objective 2a:	100%	hectares were restored.]
Objective II Objective 1a:	95%	

C. Match Letter Requirements

These letters must be addressed to the applicant organization and not the USFWS or SEMARNAT, because the letters represent a commitment between organizations and partners who will conduct the project, while the grant agreement will be between USFWS and the applicant. Each partner letter must include the items listed below

within the letter; letters that arrive without this information will not be accepted, which will jeopardize consideration of the proposal if the cash match is less than 1:1. (See IV.B. Matching Funds for description of in- kind match and other explanations.)

- a) Proposal Name and type of support provided
- b) Organization Name and Contact Person
- c) Organization's role in project
- d) Amount of cash and in-kind match
- e) Dates during which match will be made available
- f) Match type (cash/in-kind) and how the value of in-kind match was determined
- g) Statement that the match contributions do not originate from US Federal funds and have not been (and will not be) used to match any other US Federal grant project
- h) What the match will pay for
- i) For proposals that include land protection, the partner who will be the final title holder after the Project ends must certify that they will implement the long-term management plan for the property
- j) Name of person responsible
- k) Title
- I) Signature
- m) Date

V. Reference Material for Proposal Writers

NAWCA Mexico Application Checklist

I. Cover Page

- Sam.gov number (UEI)
- o Submission Date
- Version Number
- Project Title and Duration
- Applicant Organization and Organization Type
- Responsible Person Contact Information
- Project Physical Location
- Priority of Location
- Project Abstract (including hectares and acres)
- Funds Requested + Match = Total
- Table of Resources
- Number of Previous Projects
- Other financing
- MOS Funds Request (if applicable)

II. Project Summary

- Objectives Summary
- Table of Components
- o Wetland Values and Importance for Migratory Waterfowl
- o Previous NAWCA/NMBCA Projects

III. Proposal Description

- Description of Natural Resources (Migratory Birds, Other Wildlife)
- Project Location
- o Goals, Objectives, Activities, Products, Benefits Foreseen (Work Plan)
- Partnerships
- o Climate Change
- Main Threats
- Special Considerations and Regional Context

IV. Budget

- Global Budget Table
- Cost Justification

V. Attachments

- o Impact on Cultural and Historical Sites (Annex A.1)
- Evaluation and Monitoring (Annex A.2)
- Maps (Annex B.1)
- Spatial Data/GIS Shapefiles (Annex B.2)
- Photographs (Annex C)
- Progress Report (if project is continuation/added phase) (Annex D)
- Match Letters (Annex E)
- Support or Cooperation Letters (Annex F)
- Tract Information (Annex G)
- o SF424 A or C (Annex H)

- New Applicant Capacity (if applicable) (Annex I)Overlap/Duplication Statement (Annex J)

NAWCA Purpose

NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION ACT (NAWCA):

Summary of purposes and types of projects

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) was established by the U.S. Congress in 1989, to protect and restore migratory waterfowl populations, wetlands and associated ecosystems, while promoting cooperation between the public and private sectors.

The Act established a Council to assist the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in the evaluation of project proposals for recommendation to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, who approves, rejects or conditions financial assistance awards on behalf of the United States Government. Projects should focus on the conservation of North American species and should observe the stipulations in the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) and the Tripartite Agreement for the Conservation of Migratory Birds and their Habitats (Inter- institutional agreement signed in 1982 by Canada, Mexico and the United States), that have as their objectives the restoration and long-term management of migratory birds and their habitat.

The purposes of the Act include:

- 1. Protecting, improving, restoring, and managing an appropriate distribution and diversity of wetland ecosystems and other habitats for *wetlands-associated* migratory birds and other fish and wildlife in North America;
- 2. maintaining and improving the current distributions of *wetlands-associated* migratory bird populations; and
- 3. maintaining an abundance of waterfowl (ducks, geese, and swans) and other populations of wetlands-associated migratory birds consistent with the objectives of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, Waterbird Conservation Plan for the Americas, Partners in Flight Bird Conservation Plan, and other international obligations contained in the treaties and migratory bird conventions and other agreements with Canada, Mexico, and other countries.

Act "Project" Definition

Under the Act, a wetland conservation project is defined as:

- 1. The securement of a wetland ecosystem through the purchase or protection of land;
- 2. The restoration or management of wetlands that are conducted on lands and waters whose administration is for long-term conservation; and/or
- 3. Technical training, development of management and conservation infrastructure, and studies for the sustainable use of wetland resources.

Proposals should integrate the conservation of the biological diversity of Mexico with the sustainable use of natural resources by local communities. Act funds should not be used exclusively for research.

List of Priority Waterfowl (Anatids)

The Continental Priority list of waterfowl species/populations originates from the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) Species Prioritization 2023 Revision.

Duck Species	Continental Priority
Cinnamon Teal (Spatula cyanoptera)	HIGH
Lesser Scaup (Aythya affinis)	HIGH
Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos)	HIGH
Mottled Duck (<i>Anas fulvigula</i>)	HIGH
Northern Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>)	HIGH
American Wigeon (Mareca americana)	MEDIUM
Blue-winged Teal (Spatula discors)	MEDIUM
Bufflehead (Bucephala albeola)	MEDIUM
Canvasback (Aythya valisineria)	MEDIUM
Gadwall (<i>Mareca strepera</i>)	MEDIUM
Green-winged Teal (Anas crecca)	MEDIUM
Masked Duck (Nomonyx dominicus)	MEDIUM
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (Dendrocygna autumnalis)	LOW
Fulvous Whistling-Duck (Dendrocygna bicolor)	LOW
Mexican Duck (<i>Anas diazi</i>)	LOW
Northern Shoveler (Spatula clypeata)	LOW
Redhead (Aythya americana)	LOW
Ring-necked Duck (<i>Aythya collaris</i>)	LOW
Wood Duck (Aix sponsa)	LOW
Goose Species/Populations	Continental Priority
Greater White-fronted Goose - Pacific Flyway (<i>Anser albifrons sponsa</i>)	HIGH
Lesser Snow Goose - Mid-Continent (Anser caerulescens caerulescens)	HIGH
Greater White-fronted Goose - Mid-Continent (Anser albifrons gambelli)	MEDIUM
Pacific Brant (Branta bernicla nigricans)	MEDIUM

List of Priority Migrant, Wetland-Associated Shorebirds, Waterbirds, and Landbirds

These lists of species/taxa originate from the U.S. Endangered Species Act (June 2021) or on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Birds of Conservation Concern (2021).

Shorebirds

Silorebilas	
American Avocet	Recurvirostra americana
American Oystercatcher	Haematopus palliatus
Piping Plover	Charadrius melodus
Wilson's Plover	Charadrius wilsonia
Snowy Plover	Charadrius nivosus
Whimbrel (Atlantic)	Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus (Atlantic)
Long-billed Curlew	Numenius americanus
Hudsonian Godwit	Limosa haemastica
Marbled Godwit	Limosa fedoa
Ruddy Turnstone (Atlantic)	Arenaria interpres morinella
Red Knot	Calidris canutus
Dunlin (Atlantic)	Calidris alpina hudsonia
Pectoral Sandpiper	Calidris melanotos
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Calidris pusilla
Short-billed Dowitcher	Limnodromus griseus
Solitary Sandpiper	Tringa solitaria
Wandering Tattler	Tringa incana
Lesser Yellowlegs	Tringa flavipes
Willet	Tringa semipalmata

Waterbirds

Aechmophorus occidentalis
Aechmophorus clarkii
Rallus obsoletus (Baja/Sonora)
Rallus elegans
Laterallus jamaicensis
Leucophaeus pipixcan
Larus heermanni
Larus occidentalis
Larus livens
Larus californicus
Sternula antillarum
Gelochelidon nilotica
Chlidonias niger
Sterna forsteri
Thalasseus sandvicensis
Thalasseus elegans

Black Skimmer	Rynchops niger
Wood Stork	Mycteria americana
Great Blue Heron (Great White)	Ardea herodias occidentalis
Little Blue Heron	Egretta caerulea
Reddish Egret	Egretta rufescens

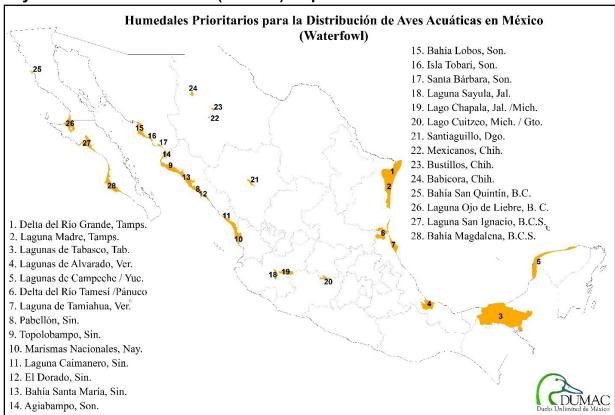
Landbirds

White-crowned Pigeon	Patagioenas leucocephala
Yellow-billed Cuckoo (Western)	Coccyzus americanus (Western)
Mangrove Cuckoo	Coccyzus minor
Black-billed Cuckoo	Coccyzus erythropthalmus
Black Swift	Cypseloides niger
Swallow-tailed Kite	Elanoides forficatus
Northern Harrier	Circus hudsonius
Whiskered Screech-Owl	Megascops trichopsis
Short-eared Owl	Asio flammeus
Willow Flycatcher (Southwestern)	Empidonax traillii extimus
Bell's Vireo (Baja)	Vireo bellii pusillus
Tricolored Blackbird	Agelaius tricolor
Prothonotary Warbler	Protonotaria citrea
Canada Warbler	Cardellina canadensis

Key Wetlands: Map of Ramsar Sites

Please visit the interactive map at: Servicio de Información sobre Sitios Ramsar.

Key Wetlands for Waterfowl (Anatids) Map



[Produced by DUMAC in 2018.]

Key Wetlands for Shorebirds Map



[Produced by DUMAC in 2018.]

Key Wetlands for Waterbirds Map and List



[Produced by Pronatura in 2012. The identification of priority areas for the conservation of waterbirds is based on the criteria of congregations (A4) proposed by Birdlife where the population threshold is ≥1% of the world population of each priority species as indicated in *Waterbird Population Estimates* (Delany and Scott 1986); Devenish et al, 2009: IBAs Americas; and Birdlife's, World Birds Database (WBDB).]

Key Areas for Waterbirds that Migrate to Mexico, With Estimated Populations

Map Number	Site Name	Migratory Species	Estimated Population
		1) Phalacrocorax penicillatus (Brandt's Cormorant)	20,000
1	Bahía Magdalena-Almejas	2) Gelochelidon nilotica (Gull-billed Tern)	40
		3) Thalasseus maximus (Royal tern)	1,300+
		1) Rynchops niger (Black Skimmer)	800+
		2) Podiceps nigricollis (Eared Grebe)	20,000+
2	Delta del Río Colorado y Alto	3) Aechmophorus occidentalis (Western Grebe)	1,800+
2	Golfo	4) Pelecanus erythrorynchos (American White Pelican)	3,000+
		5) Larus livens (Yellow-footed Gull)	600+
		1) Gelochelidon nilotica (Gull-billed Tern)	25+
3	Bahía Lechuguilla-Ohuira-Las	2) Rynchops niger (Black Skimmer)	500
	Glorias	3) Sterna forsteri (Forster's Tern)	3,000+
		1) Gelochelidon nilotica (Gull-billed Tern)	50
4	Lagunas Superior-Inferior	2) Rynchops niger (Black Skimmer)	500
•	J	3) Chlidonias niger (Black Tern)	20,000
		1) Mycteria americana (Wood Stork)	2,000+
5	Mar Muerto	2) Pelecanus erythrorynchos (American White Pelican)	2,000+
		3) Chlidonias niger (Black Tern)	5,000+
		1) Mycteria americana (Wood Stork)	2,000+
6	La Encrucijada	2) Pelecanus erythrorynchos (American White Pelican)	2,000+
•		3) Anhinga anhinga (Anhinga)	300+
		4) Chlidonias niger (Black Tern)	5,000+
		1) Mycteria americana (Wood Stork)	100,000+
		2) Rynchops niger (Black Skimmer)	2,857
		3) Pelecanus erythrorynchos (American White Pelican)	7,143
7	Laguna de Tamiahua	4) Anhinga anhinga (Anhinga)	50,000+
		5) Eudocimus albus (White ibis)	5,000+
		6) Chlidonias niger (Black Tern)	4,500+
		7) Thalasseus maximus (Royal tern)	1,000
		1) Mycteria americana (Wood Stork)	100,000+
	Humedales de Tecolutla	2) Pelecanus erythrorynchos (American White Pelican)	150,000+
8		3) Anhinga anhinga (Anhinga)	50,000+
		4) Eudocimus albus (White ibis)	5,000+
		5) Chlidonias niger (Black Tern)	4,500+
		1) Mycteria americana (Wood Stork)	1,000+
9		2) Pelecanus erythrorynchos (American White Pelican)	150,000+
	Lagunas El Llano-La Mancha	3) Anhinga anhinga (Anhinga)	50,000+
•		4) Eudocimus albus (White ibis)	5,000+
		5) Chlidonias niger (Black Tern)	4,500+
		6) Thalasseus maximus (Royal tern)	1,400+
		1) Mycteria americana (Wood Stork)	50,000+
10	Humedales de Alvarado	2) Pelecanus erythrorynchos (American White Pelican)	100,000+
		3) Anhinga anhinga (Anhinga)	60,000+

		4) Eudocimus albus (White ibis)	5,000+
		5) Chlidonias niger (Black Tern)	4,500+
		1) Mycteria americana (Wood Stork)	1,000+
11		2) Pelecanus erythrorynchos (American White Pelican)	1,800+
	Laguna de Sontecomapan	3) Anhinga anhinga (Anhinga)	10,000+
		4) Eudocimus albus (White ibis)	5,000+
		5) Chlidonias niger (Black Tern)	4,500+
		1) Egretta thula (Snowy Egret)	1,100+
		2) Egretta caerulea (Little Blue Heron)	1,100+
		3) Mycteria americana (Wood Stork)	100,000+
12	Pantanos de Centla	4) Gelochelidon nilotica (Gull-billed Tern)	250+
12	r antanos de Centia	5) Pelecanus erythrorynchos (American White Pelican)	1,800+
		6) Anhinga anhinga (Anhinga)	50,000+
		7) Eudocimus albus (White ibis)	5,000+
		1) Egretta thula (Snowy Egret)	2,025
13	Complejo de Humedales del	2) Porzana carolina (Sora)	143
13	Noroeste de Chihuahua	3) Pelecanus erythrorynchos (American White Pelican)	4,500
		1) Egretta thula (Snowy Egret)	3,000
14	Laguna de Babícora	2) Porzana carolina (Sora)	750
14	Laguna de Babicora	3) Nycticorax nycticorax (Black-crowned Night.Heron)	1,200
45	Dahia Tadas Camtas	1) Rynchops niger (Black Skimmer)	40+
15	Bahía Todos Santos	2) Aechmophorus occidentalis (Western Grebe)	2,764
40	Dalefa da Cara Osintía	1) Rynchops niger (Black Skimmer)	40+
16	Bahía de San Quintín	2) Pelecanus occidentalis (Brown Pelican)	5,000+
17	Santa Rosalillita	1) Phalacrocorax penicillatus (Brandt's Cormorant)	25,210
40	Complejo Lagunar Ojo de	1) Rynchops niger (Black Skimmer)	336
18	Liebre	2) Chroicocephalus Philadelphia (Bonaparte's Gull)	5,000+
19	Complejo Lagunar San Ignacio	1) Pelecanus occidentalis (Brown Pelican)	5,000+
20	Bahía de La Paz	1) Rynchops niger (Black Skimmer)	57
21	Bahía Santa María	1) Sterna forsteri (Forster's Tern)	10,000+
		1) Rynchops niger (Black Skimmer)	120
22	Ensenada Pabellones	2) Sterna forsteri (Forster's Tern)	10,000+
23	Bahía de Ceuta	1) Sterna forsteri (Forster's Tern)	3,000+
		1) Pelecanus erythrorynchos (American White	6,000 -
24	Sistema Lagunario Huizache-	Pelican)	10,000
	Caimanero	2) Sterna forsteri (Forster's Tern)	3,000+
25	Maris Nacionales	1) Pelecanus erythrorynchos (American White Pelican)	5,000
		2) Sterna forsteri (Forster's Tern)	10,000+
26	Lagunas del Playón de Mismaloya	1) Chlidonias niger (Black Tern)	5,000+
27	Laguna Cuyutlán	Pelecanus erythrorynchos (American White Pelican)	8,500
20	Sistems Court - Observer	1) Gelochelidon nilotica (Gull-billed Tern)	19
28	Sistema Coyuca-Chautengo	2) Rynchops niger (Black Skimmer)	170
29	Lagunas de Chacahua- Pastoría	1) Rynchops niger (Black Skimmer)	100
30	Playa Linda-Río Suchiate	1) Mycteria americana (Wood Stork)	2,000+
	. Aya Emaa i no odomato	2) Chlidonias niger (Black Tern)	5,000+

31	Laguna Madre	1) Egretta thula (Snowy Egret)	2,000
32	Laguna Tampico	1) Egretta thula (Snowy Egret)	1,000
32	Laguria Tampico	2) Egretta rufescens (Reddish Egret)	500
33	Laguna de Términos y Champotón	1) Pelecanus erythrorynchos (American White Pelican)	1,500
34	Los Petenes	1) Pelecanus erythrorynchos (American White Pelican)	7,500
35	Sisal-Chuburna	1) Rynchops niger (Black Skimmer)	900
36	Ría Lagartos	1) Rynchops niger (Black Skimmer)	1,000
37	Laguna Santiaguillo	1) Egretta thula (Snowy Egret)	1,725
38	Laguna de Chapala	1) Pelecanus erythrorynchos (American White Pelican)	3,000
39	Laguna Cuitzeo	1) Pelecanus erythrorynchos (American White Pelican)	9,000
40	Lago de Texcoco	1) Podiceps nigricollis (Eared Grebe)	15,000
41	Sistema Lagunar Playas de Catazajá	1) Pelecanus erythrorynchos (American White Pelican)	2,850
42	Isla Natividad	1) Phalacrocorax penicillatus (Brandt's Cormorant)	2,250
43	Archipielago Salsipuedes	1) Podiceps nigricollis (Eared Grebe)	100,000+
44	Bahía de los Ángeles - Ángel	1) Podiceps nigricollis (Eared Grebe)	100,000+
44	de la Guarda	2) Chroicocephalus philadelphia (Bonaparte's Gull)	800+
45	Sistema Arrecifal Veracruzano	1) Pelecanus erythrorynchos (American White Pelican)	2,088
45		2) Chlidonias niger (Black Tern)	28,710
		3) Thalasseus maximus (Royal tern)	2,000
46	Presa Falcón	Pelecanus erythrorynchos (American White Pelican)	1,894
	Complejo de Presas de Río Fuerte Sinaloa	1) Aechmophorus occidentalis (Western Grebe)	150
47		2) Pelecanus erythrorynchos (American White Pelican)	7,500
	Fuerte Sirialoa	3) Chroicocephalus philadelphia (Bonaparte's Gull)	2,250
		4) Chlidonias niger (Black Tern)	15,000
		1) Podiceps nigricollis (Eared Grebe)	6,000
		2) Aechmophorus occidentalis (Western Grebe)	300
48	Sistema de Presas de Sinaloa	3) Pelecanus erythrorynchos (American White Pelican)	7,500
		4) Chroicocephalus philadelphia (Bonaparte's Gull)	2,250
		5) Chlidonias niger (Black Tern)	15,000
49	Presa de Zumpango	1) Pelecanus erythrorynchos (American White Pelican)	4,350
50	Presa de Guadalupe	1) Pelecanus erythrorynchos (American White Pelican)	3,300
51	Presa Temascal y Cerro de	Aechmophorus occidentalis (Western Grebe) Pelecanus erythrorynchos (American White	5,000+
	Oro	Pelican)	1,800+