

Tri-national Projects Prospectus

The Tri-national Committee of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) is seeking to fund up to 5 continentally important, Tri-national Projects, to promote and further bird conservation efforts in Mexico, the United States, and Canada. The Committee envisions that the proposals will be ambitious in breadth and scope, demonstrating the critical need and benefits for international partnerships to achieve significant accomplishments in migratory bird conservation. The Committee further expects that each project will deliver between \$2-3 million in migratory bird conservation benefits, with a total of up to \$10-15 million to be expended over a 3-5 year period.

1. Background

Members of the NABCI Tri-national Committee identified the securement of funds for implementing **trinationally coordinated projects facilitated by NABCI** as one of their priority goals for the next five years. Key to achieving that goal is the development of proposals for projects that demonstrate the benefits of working tri-nationally for the conservation of migratory birds throughout their lifecycle. Building from priority bird regions in Mexico, the continentally important projects will outline activities to be undertaken in the three countries that are necessary to conserve shared species throughout their ranges.

NABCI Trinational Committee members focused on five sites in Mexico that are not only important priorities for Mexico, but also represent critical areas for avian species that migrate to the United States and Canada. The five sites include: Laguna Madre, Marismas Nacionales, Chiapas, Yucatan, and Janos. Information from long-term migration monitoring studies has been used to identify the key linkages between sites in Mexico, the United States and Canada. Efforts are now underway to link the appropriate experts in the three countries to expand the current Mexican proposals to encompass activities that benefit the priority bird species throughout their migratory pathway in North American. These projects will be linked with existing or emerging efforts including: WHMSI, the Security Prosperity and Partnership initiative, and the Mexico Meso-American Biological Corridor initiative.

2. What we have

- a. Mexican Proposals – proposals have been developed for the 5 Mexican project sites (Laguna Madre, Marismas Nacionales, Chiapas, Yucatan, and Janos). These proposals were developed during workshops that were held in April 2006, which included key partners from the 5 Mexican project sites, NABCI Coordinators and other partners from Canada and the United States.
- b. Bird Linkages – Pete Blancher (Environment Canada) developed linkage maps that demonstrate on a broad scale where the priority birds migrate to in Mexico, the United States, and Canada. Along with that, spreadsheets were developed that

show which BCRs and JVs in the US and Canada are critical for the survival for the priority species.

- c. Tri-national project documents – documentation of progress to date has been developed, and presented to Tri-national Committee members.

3. What we need

- a. U.S. and Canadian components of proposals – with the initial completion of the 5 Mexican components of the Tri-national Projects, the Committee is now seeking companion components from Canada and the United States. Canadian and U.S. joint ventures and other partnerships are being paired with appropriate Mexican projects and invited to submit proposals that will complement and build upon Mexican components, and provide important building blocks towards completion of the Tri-national Projects.
- b. Continued refinement and strengthening of Mexican proposals – the proposals developed during the April 2006 workshops are considered draft proposals. They will be refined and improved through consultation and collaboration with U.S. and Canadian partners as those respective components are included.
- c. Completed Tri-national Project Proposals
- d. Funding commitments

4. Funding

- a. The Tri-national Committee is seeking funding in the amount of \$10-15 million over a 3-5 year period to support these projects.
- b. It is anticipated that the majority of funding will be utilized to support projects in Mexico. U.S. and Canadian components of the Tri-national projects should be developed in a complementary fashion, building upon and strengthening the Mexican project components.
- c. The Canada/Mexico/U.S. Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management (Trilateral Committee) has been requested to promote the Trinational NABCI program development as a priority for funding under the Security and Prosperity Partnership.
- d. Other potential sources for funding include the following.

Corporations

Oil Corporations (Laguna Madre) – could do a joint discussion with an NGO like TNC

Wildlife Habitat Council (David Wesley)

NGOs

TNC

Teddy Roosevelt Foundation

Birdlife International

States

Regional Associations

Federal
SPP
Forest Service
DoD

5. Successful Tri-national projects should:

- a. Demonstrate clear goals and objectives.
- b. Demonstrate critical linkages in bird conservation among Mexico, the United States, and Canada, including benefits for priority migratory bird species, as well as a habitat
- c. Be compelling and ambitious – we anticipate that each project will accomplish \$2-3 million in bird conservation benefits, including but not limited to habitat conservation (securement through acquisition, easement, lease, etc.), habitat restoration and enhancement activities, capacity and partnership building, improved monitoring capabilities, education and outreach activities.
- d. Demonstrate conservation of priority bird species and habitats in Mexico, Canada and the United States. Proposals should demonstrate how they contribute to the population and habitat objectives of the continental bird conservation plans under the umbrella of NABCI (Landbird Conservation Plan, NAWMP, U.S. Shorebird Plan, N.A. Waterbird Conservation Plan)
- e. Demonstrate synergistic collaboration among partners in the 3 countries.
- f. Be sustainable, building capacity for long-term bird conservation.

6. Next Steps

- a. Selected U.S. and Canadian joint ventures develop proposals based on information from Mexican proposals and species linkages. U.S. and Canadian joint ventures were selected based on the relative conservation importance for priority birds as identified in Mexican proposals, and/or an already ongoing partnership with a Mexican project site.
- b. U.S. and Canadian proposals should use the attached format, which provides a general format for the completed Tri-national project proposals.
- c. Convene meetings of Mexican, U.S. and Canadian partners in autumn 2006 to finalize proposals.
- d. Mexican regional alliances should refine proposals to identify key habitat conservation priorities.

Attachments:

Mexican proposal
Bird linkage maps and spreadsheets.
General format for proposal development