



ABC's Approach to Songbird Conservation and Potential for Zoo Collaboration



Holly Robertson
International Development Officer
hrobertson@abcbirds.org

speaker notes in italics



ABC's Approach



Conservation Framework

Halt Extinctions

- Focus on the 269 bird species in the Americas that are EN or CR

Conserve Habitats

- Improving habitat conditions for migratory and resident birds on the U.S. Watch List

Eliminate Threats

- Free-roaming cats, pesticides, and collisions with windows and wind turbines

Build Capacity

- Support science, build partnerships, raise funds

Our strategy, our conservation framework. Span pyramid, but International Division really works at the top.

*With a focus on efficiency and working in partnership, we take on the toughest problems facing birds today, innovating and building on sound science to **halt extinctions, protect habitats, eliminate threats, and build capacity** for bird conservation.*

We work throughout the hemisphere to improve habitat conditions for migratory and resident birds identified on the [U.S. WatchList](#), such as the [Least Tern](#), [Black-capped Petrel](#), [Cerulean Warbler](#), and [Greater Sage-Grouse](#).

Halting Extinctions

**ALLIANCE FOR
Zero Extinction**

Identifies last sites on Earth that contain species (birds and other groups) ranked as Endangered or Critically Endangered by IUCN.



AZE has identified 63 species of birds in the Americas. ABC is advancing protection for 29 of them, or almost half. We also work to protect habitat for another 54 out of 134 bird species (40%) identified by scientists as species so seriously and immediately threatened that if we don't act, they will soon be added to the AZE list.

The Americas

Palila



Blue-headed Quail-Dove



269 CR or EN in Latin America & Caribbean

- 79 Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE)

ABC has worked, or is working, on ~105 (38%) of the most endangered species

ABC also works on the rarest in the USA, like this Palila of Hawaii.

At least 12 bird species in Latin American and the Caribbean have gone extinct in the wild since the 1700s and more species are declining towards extinction. IUCN ranks approximately 279 bird species in Latin America and the Caribbean as Critically Endangered, Endangered, or Vulnerable and 24 of these have no known wild populations and may already be extinct (or await rediscovery). Including three species that seem to have disappeared from northeastern Brazil in just the last few years. Of surviving species: 79 are recognized by the Alliance for Zero Extinction as restricted to a single site; 70 species represent conservation “emergencies” with wild populations numbering less than 100, or a total wild population less than 500 and without any single stable subpopulation numbering more than 100; and 30 surviving species are both AZE and emergency species.

*Caribbean species: Bahama Oriole, Bahama Nuthatch, Bahama Swallow (**3 species** at 2 sites); **7 Cuban species** at min. 3 sites [Cuban Kite, Zapata Rail, Zapata Sparrow, Zapata Wren, Gundlach’s Hawk), BHQDove, Giant Kingbird; **Imperial Amazon, Black-capped Petrel**; **5 more species** on Hispaniola [White-fronted Quail-Dove, Ridgway’s Hawk, Bay-breasted Cuckoo, Hispaniolan Crossbill, La Selle Thrush] at at min. 3 sites...; **Grenada Dove; Jamaican Blackbird; St. Lucia Black Finch, White-breasted Thrasher, Whistling Warbler, Trinidad Piping-Guan; Puerto Rico (3 species at 3 sites)***

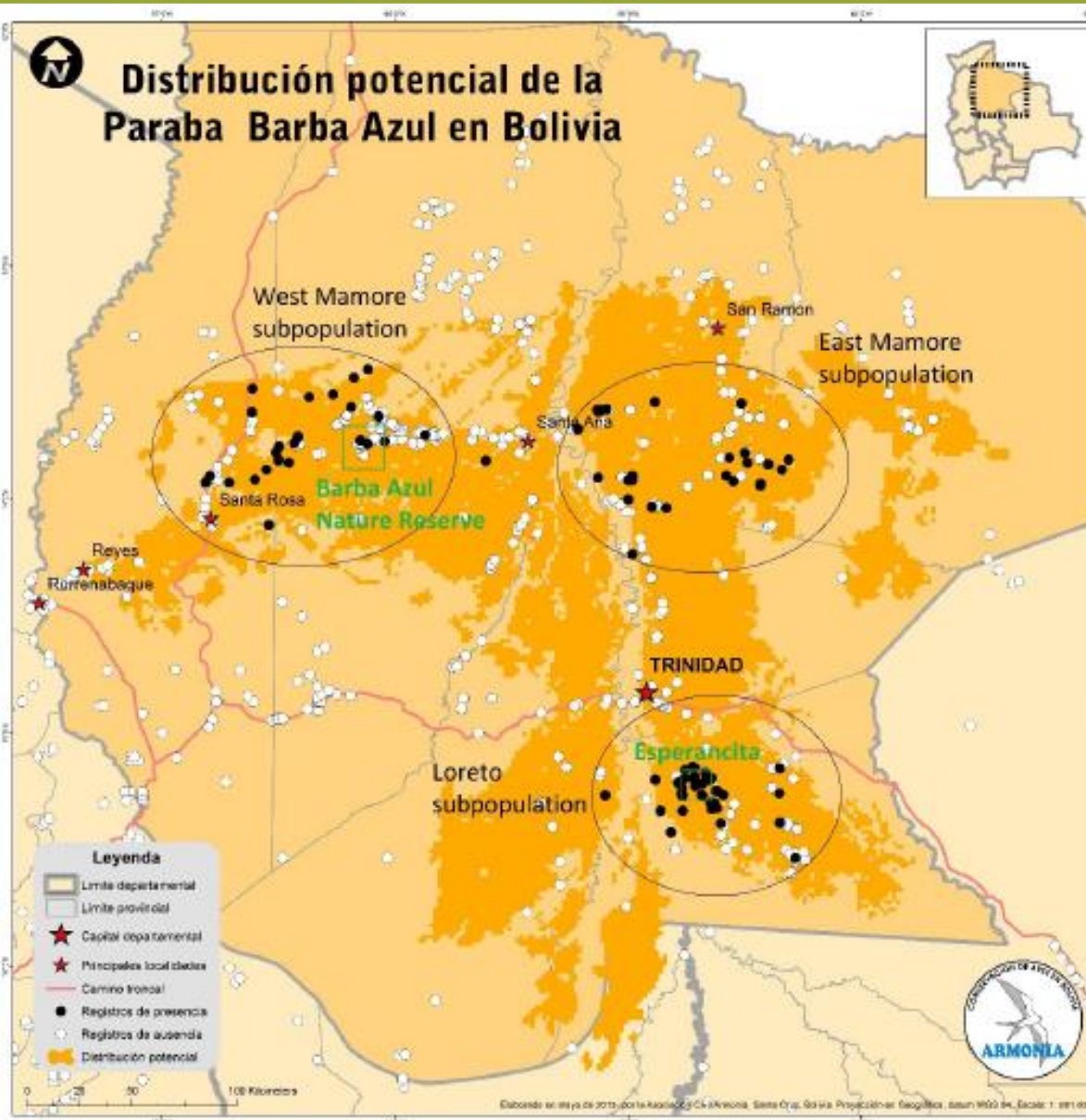
Land Protection

- 14 Countries (Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Panama, Dominican Republic, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay)
- 80 Reserves
- Almost 1 million acres

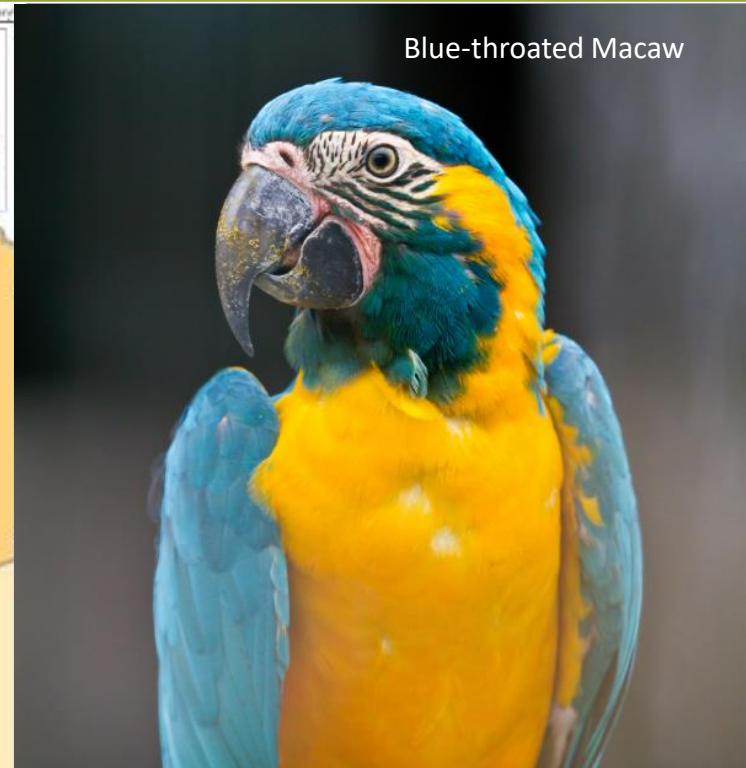


International portfolio...

Bolivia



Blue-throated Macaw



Buff-breasted Sandpipers



Bolivia

including the Jaguar, Puma, Maned Wolf, Ocelot, Giant Anteater, Black Howler Monkey and Crowned Eagle.



Habitat Restoration

- ABC has helped partners plant more than 5.5 million trees and plants since 2004.
- Within partner reserves and in broader working landscapes with local people

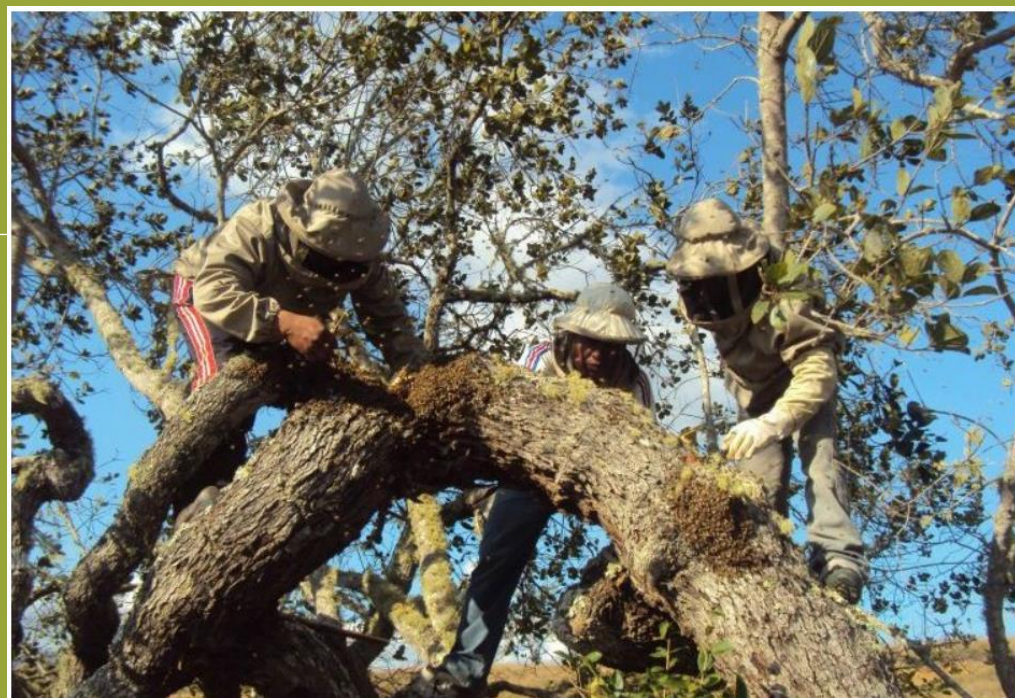


Vilcanota, N. Peru are largest Chihuahuan grasslands also large (still in Mig. Bird), Also Nicaragua corridor, Cerulean Warbler corridor, Small: Araripe Manakin in Brazil

Photo: Female Little Woodstar (VU) feeding on Limoncillo planted at Huembo, N. Peru. Photo by D.Lebbin/ABC

Communities

- Community Reserves
- Alternative Livelihoods
- Mitigating threats



Alternative livelihoods such as tourism, PES, honey. ABC must work with communities in order to....Honduran Emerald PES; Mexican ejidos....

Long-term protection of bird habitat can't be accomplished through land acquisition alone. Based on 20 years of working in Latin America and the Caribbean, we know that the best way to achieve lasting results for conservation is to build the capacity of our in-country partner organizations and to work closely with communities.

Species Expeditions

- Search for “lost species”
- Obtain data needed for conservation planning



Tachira Antpitta



Horned Curassow



Tolima Dove

Show photo of lodges; partner summit....could add additional slide with ecotourism revenue table

Photo: El Dorado Lodge (by BSk/ABC) April 2014

Trainings in preparing budgets, fundraising, board development, etc.

Help develop revenue-generating enterprises (e.g. tourism, coffee)

Scientific training to monitor conservation success

Fundraising support

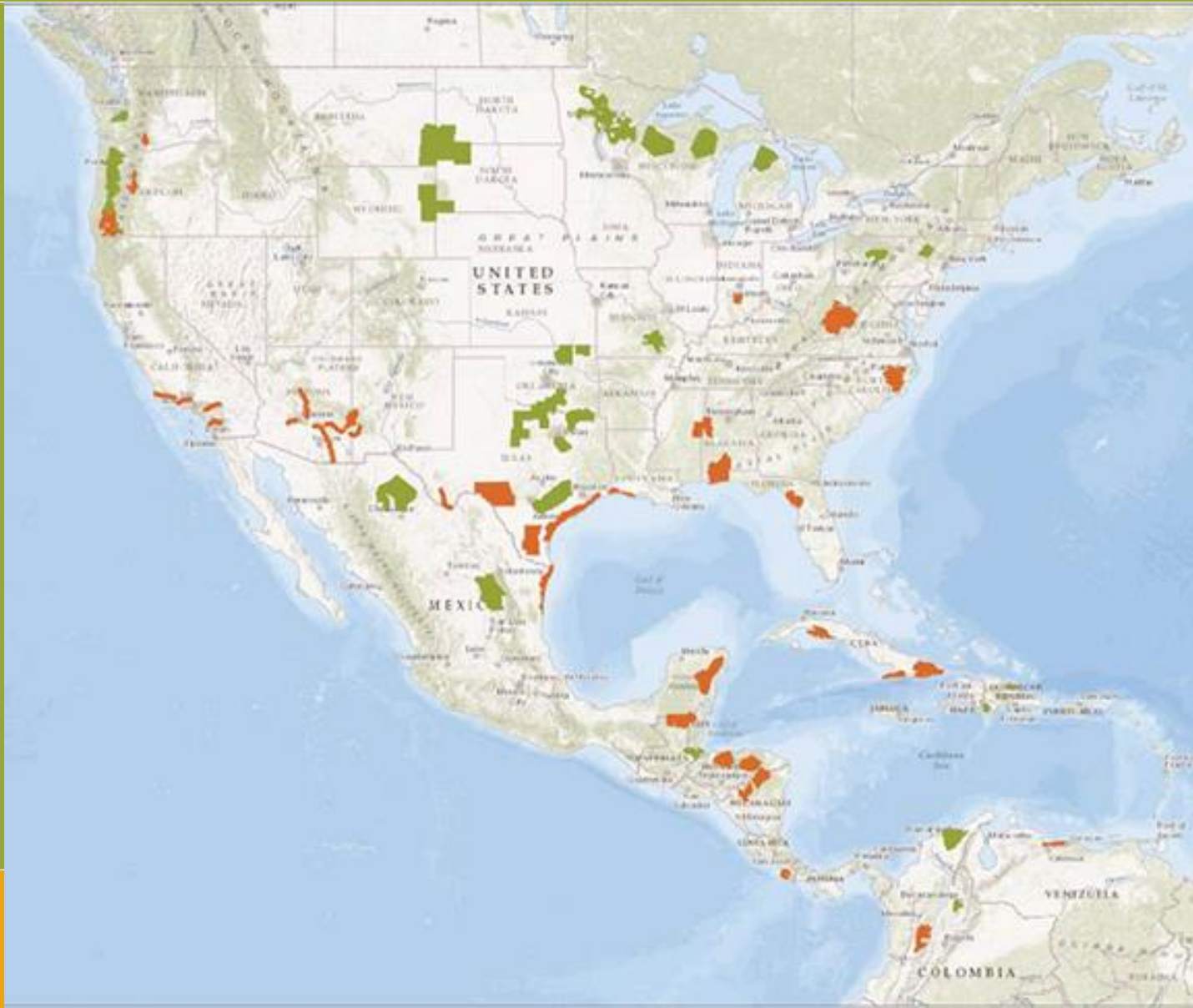
Conserving Habitat

Improve habitat conditions for migratory and resident birds identified on the U.S. WatchList, such as the Least Tern, Black-capped Petrel, Cerulean Warbler, and Greater Sage-Grouse.

AZE has identified 63 species of birds in the Americas. ABC advancing protection for 29 of them, or almost half. We also work to protect habitat for another 54 out of 134 bird species (40%) identified by scientists as species so seriously and immediately threatened that if we don't act, they will soon be added to the AZE list.



BirdScapes



We have defined more than 50 BirdScapes that take into account a combination of factors, including distribution and abundance of target species, land cover data, socioeconomic conditions, and more, to ensure that strategic conservation investment provides long-term benefits to the species that need it most.

BirdScapes benefit entire suites of birds, from grassland birds that breed on the Great Plains and winter in the Chihuahuan Desert grasslands of Mexico, such as Long-billed Curlew and Sprague's Pipit; to Gulf Coast birds like Black Skimmer, Wilson's and Snowy Plover, and Least Tern; to forest birds like Golden-winged Warbler, Cerulean Warbler and Wood Thrush.

BirdScapes achieve this integration, bringing together a broad range of expertise in economics; water use; bird-friendly (and income-producing) land uses; social dimensions; habitat management; protection and restoration; and—perhaps, most importantly—science.

Scientific knowledge of birds and migration has grown significantly in the past decade through a range of advancements, from Cornell Lab of Ornithology's eBird and miniature geolocators to climate science and resiliency. We are committed to applying cutting-edge scientific knowledge to design and maintain the most successful BirdScapes possible.

We consider the presence of existing and potential partner organizations an essential ingredient for success. In each BirdScape, we work with a spectrum of partners across nonprofit, commercial, academic, and government sectors that share our commitment to landscape-level conservation for migratory birds.

Together, we're building a future in which humans and migratory birds—and all of the many species that benefit when we conserve birds—can live and thrive together in all of the places they call home.

Green is active. Orange is planned



BirdScapes

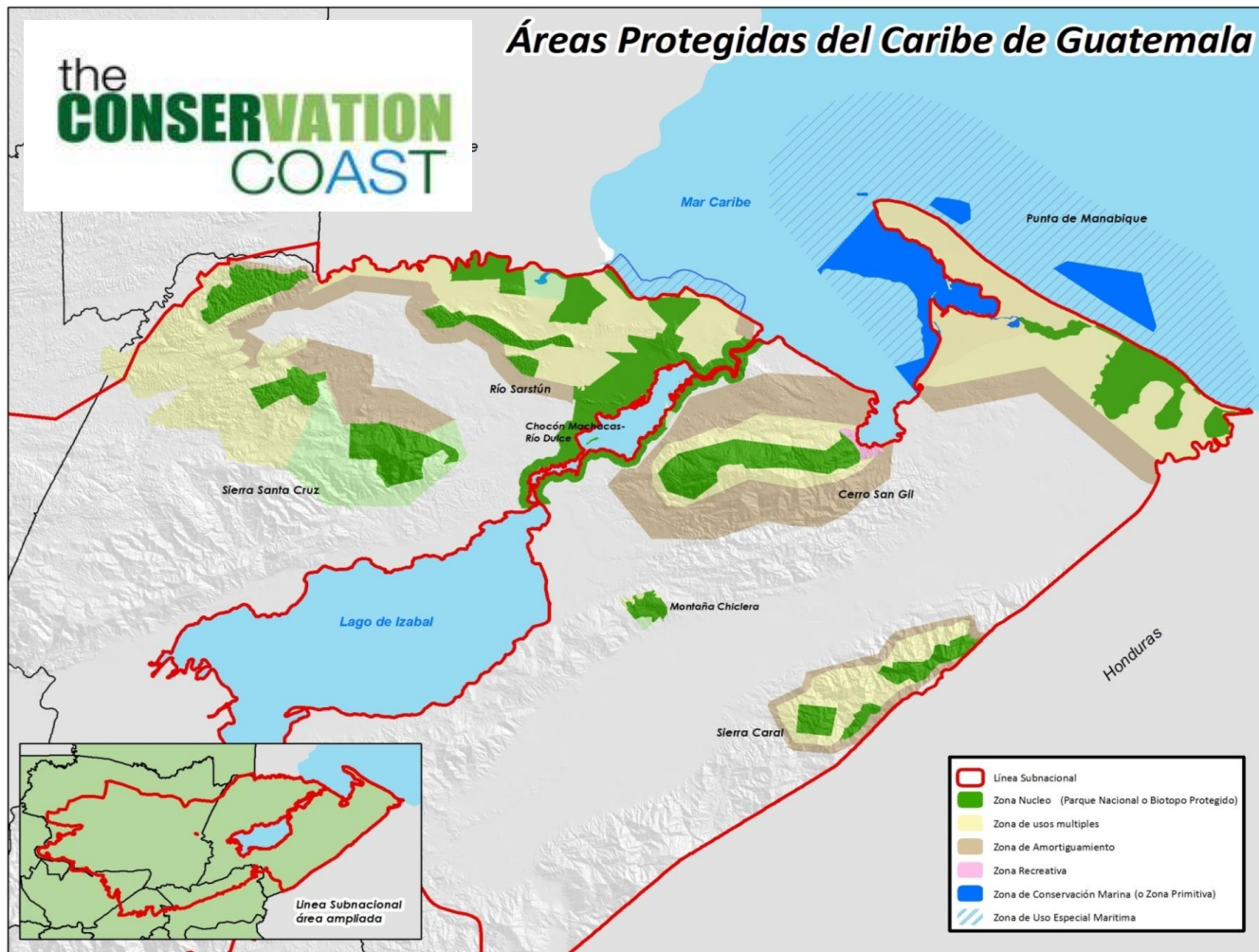
- Landscape Scale
 - Between 150,000 and 2.5 million acres in size
- Priority birds
- Threats and solutions defined
- Local capacity
- Inclusive of multiple land uses
 - Protected areas
 - Land in production
 - Restoration areas



ABC is introducing the concept of BirdScapes. These landscape-scale areas provide—or could provide—important contributions to sustaining or recovering one part of the full life-cycle of targeted migratory bird species. They are places where, we believe, pragmatic conservation action can do the most to benefit migratory birds. We also think BirdScapes can be an effective marketing tool Helping us attract more resources – public and private - to bird conservation.

Integrating conservation into productive landscapes. Impelenting better land use practices, more sustainable agriculture, cattle ranching etc.

Conservation Coast BirdScape



120 migrants.

Ecological Returns:

Restoration of 500 ha of degraded forest lands

Protection of 500 ha of existing forest

Local increase in abundance of three priority migratory bird species:

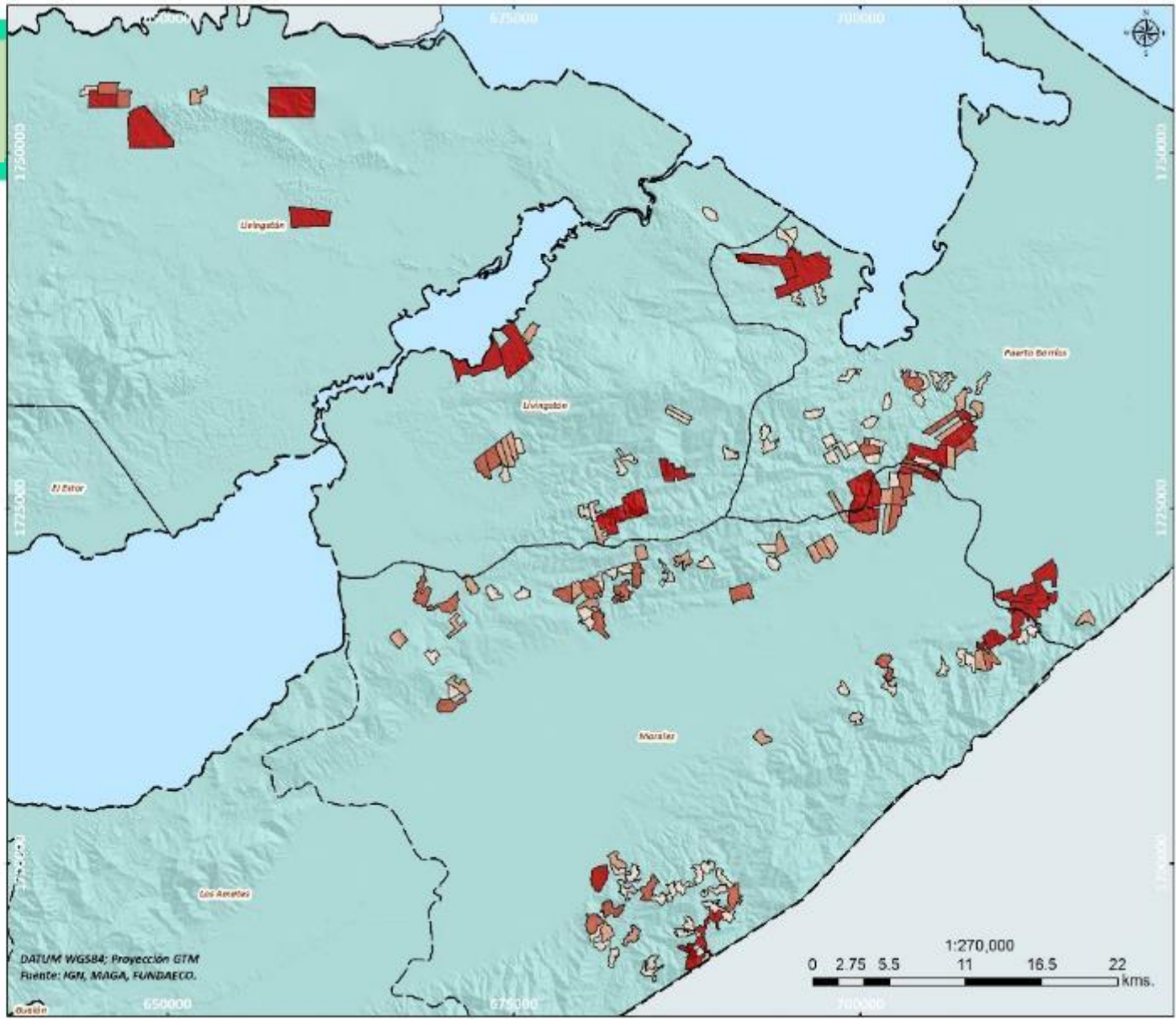
Wood Thrush

Kentucky Warbler

Worm-eating Warbler

Sequestration of X tons of Carbon (?)

154 Properties



over 18,000 hectares

- *Creation or expansion of five protected areas totaling 8,549 acres*
- *Routine patrols and bird monitoring*
- *Purchase of a 264-acre “BioCenter” to model agroforestry techniques to landowners*
- *Mapped private parcels suitable for agroforestry production*

Landowner Solutions/Agroforestry Systems



- Sustainable forestry management
- Development of agroforestry products
- Provide hábitat for migratory birds
- Supports local people

Ideas for Collaboration

- Zoos could provide match for Southern Wings program
- MOTUS towers, geolocators and other new technologies to better understand migration.
- Interpretation at the zoo, and promotion of bird-friendly products (shade grown coffee/chocolate).



Thank you!



Corners Limited
is the proud sponsor of the
2018 ASAG Workshops



Avian Scientific Advisory Group