

PROYECTO DE AVES PLAYERAS MIGRATORIAS

Conectando comunidades
de América

MIGRATORY SHOREBIRD PROJECT

Connecting communities
of the Americas



STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-2033

BACKGROUND OF THIS DOCUMENT

This strategy document presents the VISION, GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES of the Migratory Shorebird Project (MSP) for the next 10 years. The ideas were collected and discussed during three online sessions in May 2022, attended by 28 people: MSP partners from different countries, donors and researchers. The discussions focused on the Vision and Objectives of MSP, as well as the priority activities, impacts and results we want to achieve in three themes: (1) science, (2) communication and (3) conservation actions.

INTRODUCTION

Many shorebird populations are declining in the Western Hemisphere. The conservation of migratory birds, like shorebirds, that depend on flyways across continents, such as the Pacific Americas Flyway, requires international coordination and collaboration. In addition, robust data and information taken with standardized methods is required to support decision-making.

To achieve this, it is necessary to join local or national conservation and research efforts on a flyway scale. The Migratory Shorebird Project brings together local, regional and national partners across 13 countries to build capacity for and to implement a research, monitoring, and conservation network along the Pacific Americas Flyway.

In each of 13 countries, the MSP seeks to ensure thriving shorebird populations by leading the monitoring and applied science of non-breeding shorebirds, facilitating the exchange of experiences and knowledge to implement conservation actions for shorebirds and their habitats, strengthening the capacities of network partners to influence decision-making, and increasing the commitment of key stakeholders in shorebird conservation.

VISION

A coordinated research, monitoring, and conservation network across the Pacific Americas Flyway that provides essential information on non-breeding shorebird populations and their habitats to guide and measure the success of conservation strategies from local to flyway scales to reverse declines and ensure thriving and resilient shorebird populations.



GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

G1 – Knowledge of trends in distribution and abundance of non-breeding shorebird populations and the impact of hypothesized threats to their populations, at survey areas and sites, in regions and along the Pacific Americas Flyway has increased and contributes to decision making.

O1.1 Quantify trends in distribution and abundance of non-breeding shorebird populations in survey areas and sites, within regions and along the Pacific Americas Flyway

A1.1.1 Quantify flyway scale trends for >15 species of shorebirds and hotspots of change at local or regional levels.

A1.1.2 Identify and coordinate researchers and working groups that support the analysis of shorebird trends and distributions.

A1.1.3 Disseminate the results of shorebird population trends through scientific publications, conference presentations and other opportunities that allow them to contribute to decision making.

A1.1.4 Use MSP data and results to guide the designation of protected areas and Ramsar and important sites (WHSRN) at local, regional, and Hemispheric scales.

O1.2 Critically evaluate specific hypotheses of threats (including human cause disturbance, habitat loss, climate change, and predators) impacting non-breeding shorebird populations to inform conservation decisions and actions

A1.2.1 Review, update, and share research questions/hypotheses about threats at the site, region or country level to answer management or conservation actions and impacts (i.e., update the MSP Hypothesis Matrix).

A1.2.2 Use MSP data to understand the effects of management or conservation actions implemented to mitigate threats.

A1.2.3 Share the results on the impact of human disturbance and habitat change among partners, stakeholders, and the shorebird conservation community through presentations, publications and other communications.

A1.2.4 Quantify the threats that are affecting non-breeding shorebirds at the site, region or country level.

A1.2.5 Expand MSP conservation actions to sites with the greatest threats to non-breeding shorebirds and/or their habitats.

A1.2.6 Evaluate non-breeding shorebirds as indicators of threat reduction at sites.

A1.2.7 Share results in or join decision-making spaces.

G2-Shorebirds and their habitats are considered indicators of ecosystem services and benefits among local communities, producers, government agencies, and other stakeholders along the Pacific Americas Flyway.

O2.1 Quantify the ecosystem services provided by non-breeding shorebird habitats at site, regional, and Flyway scales.

- A2.1.1 Identify Ecosystem Services (ES) and multiple benefits non-breeding shorebird habitats in different sites, regions, or countries.
- A2.1.2 Improve the partners capacity in the evaluation of ES and in the identification of multiple benefits associated with non-breeding shorebird habitats.
- A2.1.3 Propose how non-breeding shorebirds may be indicators of both ecological and other benefits for communities (e.g. resilience to SLR, incomes from tourism, etc.).
- A2.1.4 Conduct science and workshops (ecological and social) to evaluate ES in some sites.
- A2.1.5 Create an inventory of ecosystem services provided by non-breeding shorebird habitat for sites, regions and the Flyway.
- A2.1.6 Share information on multiple benefits and ecosystem services for communities.

O2.2 Identify nature-based adaptation strategies that will make human communities, producers, and shorebirds habitats resilient to storms and sea-level rise-SLR as well as to increased sedimentation and flooding of coastal wetlands due to deforestation, increased rainfall and other up watershed factors.

- A2.2.1 Quantify the vulnerability of non-breeding shorebird habitats and local communities to storm surges and SLR, as well as to increased rainfall in the upper parts of the watersheds.
- A2.2.2 Document the change in coverage and availability of non-breeding shorebird habitats due to SLR, coastal storms, and flood events at sites.
- A2.2.3 Identify sites with capacity to adapt to SLR or that can mitigate impacts of flood events and help to develop adaptation strategies.
- A2.2.4 Share information on adaptation strategies of coastal communities and habitats.

G3-Increased human capacity and Migratory Shorebird Project data, results and existing network lead to implementation of conservation actions to benefit shorebirds and human communities.

O3.1 Use data, results, protocols, communication, outreach channels, and other resources of the network to inform conservation action.

A3.1.1 Design and implement, with a social communication professional, a communication strategy for MSP.

A3.1.2 Identify results, success stories, products or networking learnings to develop communications that inform science-based conservation action.

A3.1.3 Maintain a repository of slides, corporate image, pictures, resources (eg. protocols, papers, ...) and communication tools ready to use.

A3.1.4 Communicate MSP results that fulfill plans, or international goals (BDC, Ramsar, SDO etc.).

A3.1.5 Publish the findings and actions of MSP in different media outlets (social networks, scientific articles etc.) and present the results at conferences, workshops and other gatherings of potential stakeholders for shorebird conservation.

A3.1.6 Improve the internal communication of the MSP network (communication mechanism, networks, regular meetings, exchanges of experiences or visits).

O3.2 Increase the capacity of the partners in the MSP network to conduct applied shorebird research and conservation implementation.

A3.2.1 Develop resources and implement the necessary training to improve the capacity of the MSP partners in communication, analysis and application of MSP data to guide conservation actions, evaluation and identification of multiple benefits in the sites, and approaches for influencing local and regional policies and decision-making

A3.2.2 Strengthen the network of MSP with new stakeholders, sectors, sites, volunteers and researchers.

A3.2.3 Identify plans, strategies etc., at the local, national or hemispheric level where MSP can contribute information on trends or impacts of threats or conservation actions.

A3.2.4 Expand the MSP framework to other seasons, habitats (sandy beaches, rocky coasts), sites, and regions to support other monitoring and conservation initiatives.

O3.3 Develop and implement a financial sustainability strategy for the MSP that keeps the network active and achieving the goals and objectives of this strategy.

A3.3.1 Update the MSP operating Budget.

A3.3.2 Make a database of current and potential MSP donors and collaborators who can support financially and technically.

A3.3.3 Promote the impact of results of the MSP in terms of ecological benefits, informed decision-making, and capacity building, among work networks and donors.

A3.3.4 Country-leads write proposals to support the research and monitoring efforts of their organization.

A3.3.5 Seek opportunities to diversify funders (e.g. corporations, wealthy individuals) and funding approaches (e.g. crowdsourcing, small grants programs like MSP+).