



Council Teleconference

October 16, 2017 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm (Eastern)

Primary Meeting Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NABCI-Canada website: formation of a communications subcommittee• Review proposed NABCI-Canada Priorities• Resolving Council quorum challenges for future face-to-face meetings
Reference Documents (links to all other relevant meeting material are found in table below)
NABCI-Canada Terms of Reference – most up to date version is from 2008 https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B6hp8zvW9mrpRkQyY2ZiTE53OTQ

Time	Purpose	Agenda Item	Lead
1:00pm – 1:15pm	Admin	1. Opening remarks a. Attendance b. Review of action items and RODs from May 29, 2017 c. Review and approval of today's meeting agenda	B. McLean
1:15pm – 1:25pm	Info	2. NABCI-Canada update – A bird's-eye view of this past year (pun intended)	V. Aponte
1:25pm – 1:40pm	Discussion/ Decision	3. NABCI-Canada Website Revamp a. Formation of a Communications Subcommittee to review and oversee website revamp <i>Decision required: Whether to establish the Communications Subcommittee</i>	V. Aponte
1:40pm – 2:30pm	Discussion/ Decision	4. NABCI-Canada priorities a. U.S. NABCI Priorities b. Presentation of results from NABCI-Canada Priorities Working Group <i>Decision required: Identify where NABCI-Canada can make a difference and provide other suggestions of priorities missing from list</i>	J. Scarl S. Price
2:30pm – 2:45pm	Info/ Decision	5. Round table a. NABCI-Canada participation at the 2018 IOC in Vancouver (S. Price) <i>Decision required: Whether or not to pursue this as a valuable opportunity</i> b. NABCI-Canada as ex-officio member on NAWCC (Canada) Council (B. McLean) <i>Purpose: Identification of most appropriate representative</i> c. Others	All
2:45pm – 2:55pm	Discussion	6. NABCI-Canada Council Quorum a. Is a face-to-face feasible given current membership? <i>Preferred outcome: NABCI-Canada Council members propose next steps to address quorum challenges</i>	B. McLean
2:55pm – 3:00pm	Admin/ Decision	7. Closing remarks a. Timing of next NABCI-Canada Council teleconference	B. McLean

RECORD OF DECISIONS

NABCI-Canada Council Teleconference Meeting (October 16, 2017)

Lead	Item	Status
	DECISIONS	
	General consensus on the formation of a Communications Subcommittee	COMPLETE
	<p>Priorities list needs to be refined to present priorities at similar scales to facilitate the ranking exercise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Refining NABCI-Canada Priorities Questionnaire has been sent to NABCI-Canada Council members.</i> - <i>Results from questionnaire are to be presented at the January 19, 2018 teleconference</i> 	COMPLETE
	Face-to-face topic was deferred because there is no imminent need for a face-to-face meeting	DEFERRED TO A LATER DATE
	ACTIONS	
Council	<p>NABCI-Canada Council members to provide suggestions for members of Communications Subcommittee to NABCI Coordinator by October 27, 2017</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Cameron Mack (Wildlife Habitat Canada) and Steven Price (Bird Studies Canada) have already provided contact information of one person from each of their respective organizations who will serve on the subcommittee. Additional members are always welcome.</i> 	COMPLETE
Council	NABCI-Canada Council to provide feedback on current draft list of priorities to guide the Priorities Working Group work by November 3, 2017.	COMPLETE
Council	<p>NABCI-Canada Council members to share information about their attendance at IOC and any of their potential involvement in the congress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Marie-France Noel (NABCI-Canada Coordinator) has received support from her director to attend the congress.</i> 	ONGOING
Council / NABCI Coordinator	<p>Communicate with NABCI-Canada Coordinator if interested in playing the role of NAWCC-Canada ex-officio member, by 27 October, 2017.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>No one has come forward therefore; the NABCI-Canada coordinator (Marie-France Noel) will play this role.</i> - <i>Marie-France has attended the latest NAWCC-Canada teleconference in December.</i> 	COMPLETE
Priorities Working Group	<p>Work on framing the priorities at a consistent scale of detail and involvement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>The results of the exercise can be found in the priorities framework Excel spreadsheet embedded in the Refining</i> 	COMPLETE

	<i>NABCI-Canada Priorities Powerpoint deck (and provided again at the January 19, 2018 teleconference)</i>	
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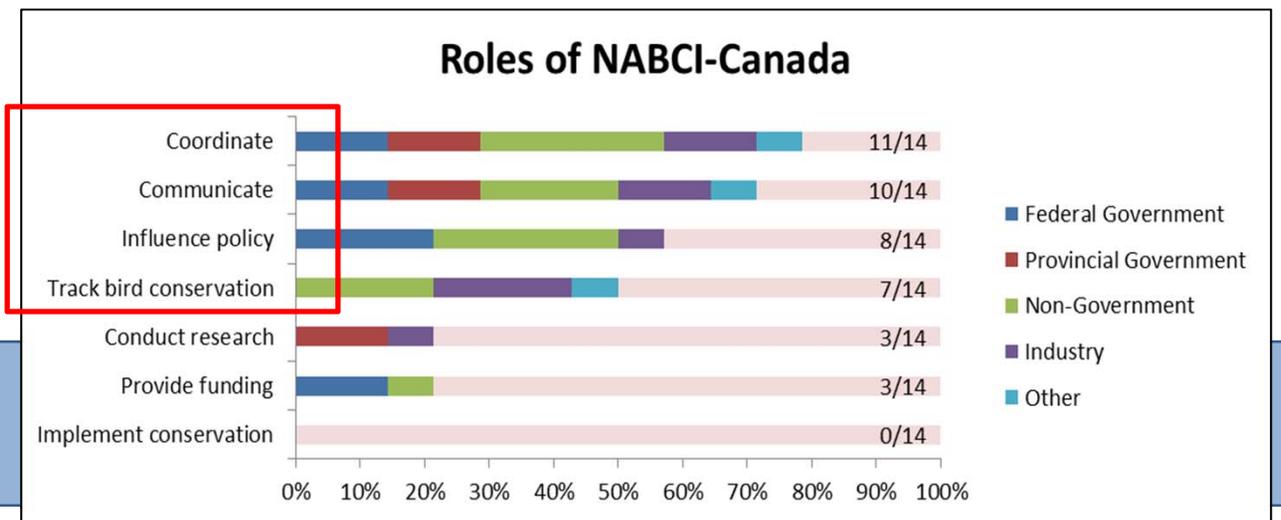


NABCI-Canada Highlights since November 2016

NABCI-Canada Council Teleconference
October 16, 2017

NABCI-Canada Roles

- Consultation with council in January and February 2017
- 14 responses and 11 phone interviews
- Results report
 - Feedback helped NABCI-Canada:
 - Narrow down its roles
 - Understand its capacity
 - Learn from the past to improve future efforts



Launch of the NABCI-Canada Newsletter

- 2017 winter, spring and summer editions
 - Fall 2017 edition coming
- Newsletter includes:
 - Updates on NABCI-Canada
 - Information relevant to the bird conservation community
 - A “story from the field”



NABCI-Canada Website Update

- March 2018 expected launch
- Focus of website:
 - Central source of information on bird conservation in Canada (primarily) and internationally
 - Online repository of NABCI-Canada related products and meeting documents
 - “Members only” embedded sharepoint site (login will be required)
- Communications Subcommittee required (to be discussed later in this meeting)

NABCI-Canada Executive Meetings

- Occur monthly or bimonthly (8 meetings to date)
- Ensure that progress on establishing NABCI-Canada's strategic direction continues between full Council meetings

NABCI Vision for Bird Conservation

- Finalized and endorsed by Council in the spring 2017
- Action items for NABCI at 2017 Trilateral
 1. NABCI is the body responsible for advancing the vision
 2. Compile list of international partnerships that focus on bird conservation and identify their potential roles in implementing the Vision
 3. Develop short-term (~2 year) and medium-term (~10 year) action plans to support Vision implementation

Reconnecting with our Partners

- Coordinator participation at NAWCC (Canada) staff face-to-face (August 2017)
- JV and NABCI coordinators face-to-face meeting, the first in many years! (August 2017)
- Coordinator will attend EHJV board meeting in St. John's, NL (November 2017)
- Close working relationship with U.S. NABCI coordinator (and attendance at US NABCI meetings)



Identifying NABCI-Canada Priorities

Initial process:

- Consolidated information found in SONAB, State of Canada's Birds, and CWS bird technical committee reports (NABCI role: coordination)
- Formed a **Working Group at the end of August 2017** made up of representatives from P/Ts, Feds, Industry and ENGOs
 - Draft Report (to be discussed later)

Welcoming Marie-France back!

After October 23, 2017:

- Contact Marie-France Noël:
marie-france.noel@canada.ca
- I will be helping to support the transition





Background

The North American Bird Conservation Initiative works to encompass the full life-cycle needs of resident and migratory birds across the continent. The Canadian portion of the initiative (NABCI-Canada) aims to deliver the full spectrum of bird conservation in our country, through regionally-based, biologically driven, landscape-oriented partnerships. In Canada, NABCI members include federal, territorial and provincial governments, conservation NGOs, private sector organizations, representatives from Habitat Joint Ventures, and partners from Canada's four major bird initiatives: the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, Partners in Flight International, the Canadian Shorebird Conservation Plan and the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan.

In the spring of 2017, the NABCI-Canada Council decided on four roles it will take on in the next five to ten years: 1) Coordinate; 2) Communicate; and 3) Influence Policy and 4) Track Bird Conservation. Communication is central to NABCI-Canada given these roles, and redeveloping NABCI-Canada's website is a pivotal step to ensure that key resources are easily accessible within the bird conservation community. Through Environment and Climate Change Canada, NABCI-Canada Council will contract the services of a Web Developer/Designer to redesign the NABCI website (www.nabci.net) to reflect the goals, objectives, target audiences, and key messages.

The website will have four potential primary purposes. The first is to serve as a way for interested parties to learn how to get involved in bird conservation and with the NABCI partnerships. The bird conservation community is complex, and this website aims to guide individuals involved with conservation to resources relevant to their work (e.g., links to relevant bird conservation initiatives). The second is to provide a space for NABCI-Canada products (e.g., the State of the Birds reports and newsletter) and an online clearinghouse for documents related to the NABCI-Canada Council and its subcommittees (e.g., Council membership list, meeting agenda and minutes, etc.). The third function will be to serve as a sharepoint site with a members-only login area where internal documents will be shared amongst NABCI-Canada Council and ex-officio members. The fourth potential utility of the website could be to host a platform for tracking and illustrating bird conservation activities in Canada, likely using a

platform resembling [Esri Story Maps by ArcGis](#), aligning well with the role of tracking bird conservation.

Website Redesign Scope of Work

ECCC, on behalf of the NABCI-Canada Council, will contract a web designer/developer to perform the following tasks:

- Develop two refreshed logo concepts
- Develop the new site hierarchy, look and layout using Search Engine Optimization (SEO)-optimized WordPress platform, with clear intuitive navigation
- The website will include:
 - o 20–30 pages
 - o French and English sites
 - o Automated member sign-up and members-only login area
 - o Newsletter subscription option for visitors
 - o Backwards compatibility to at least Windows 7
- Final website will be responsive and mobile-friendly, a major requirement for sites to be ranked highly by Google
- Communications delivery:
 - o Analysis of content provided and rewriting
 - o Organization of information to make the information accessible to the public
 - o Provision of final content written accessibly for web and maximizing SEO
- Upload to server (host) and delivery of final live site
- Provide one training session to up to three ECCC staff on how to use WordPress to update website content in order to ensure that future website maintenance can be accomplished by ECCC staff independently

Timeline

To date, the NABCI-Canada coordinator has reviewed two quotes from distinct web developers and selected one of them, and has drafted the Statement of Work for the contractor.

September 2017	Seek approval from NABCI-Canada Executive to move ahead with project. Identify key individuals within NABCI, as well as external partners or contractors if necessary, to develop content for website. Proposal: Create an <i>ad-hoc NABCI-Canada communications subcommittee to review and oversee web revamp.</i>
Mid-November 2017	Sign contract with chosen web designer/developer.
Spring 2018	Website is finalized and approved to go live.



NABCI-CANADA PRIORITIES

DRAFT LIST

OUTCOME OF THE PRIORITIES WORKING GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Purpose

The purpose of this work is for Council members to determine **where NABCI-Canada can make a difference in bird conservation in Canada**. Council input in this process is integral to its success given that the priorities that emerge will be those that Council members will be working to advance through the NABCI-Canada partnership.

Context

In May 2017, Council members decided that the **identification of NABCI-Canada priorities** was the next key action item for NABCI-Canada. The list of priorities is not meant to be comprehensive but rather should reflect key issues where NABCI-Canada could make a difference in bird conservation in Canada. The NABCI-Canada coordinator and the Executive Council have developed an approach to selecting priorities that would inform its work plan and guide the actions of partners. The four roles that the NABCI-Council has chosen to take on (coordinate, communicate, track bird conservation and influence policy) are being integrated into this exercise. For information on how the list was drafted, see Appendix B.

Draft list of priorities

Next to each priority, in square brackets, you will find the NABCI-Canada role(s) it falls under (see table below for a list of the four roles). For a more detailed description of NABCI-Canada's roles, refer to Appendix A.

COOR	Coordinate
COM	Communicate
TBC	Track Bird Conservation
IP	Influence Policy

1. Define conservation priorities for birds which practitioners and policy makers should heed and NABCI-Canada should promote [TBC, IP]:
 - a. Ensure that the State of North America's Birds and State of Canada's Birds reports continue to be written periodically. Identify timelines and process, complete reports/updates, and communicate the results. [COOR, COM, TBC]
 - b. Coordinate preparation and release of the next edition of State of Canada's Birds report, probably for release in 2018. (It could be timed for the IOCongress2018). [COOR, COM, TBC]
2. Produce a State of Bird Conservation in Canada report. [COM]
(This report could help improve our understanding of how conservation for other species is benefiting birds.)

3. Share stories from the field [COM]:
 - a. Showcase examples of innovative and successful conservation work that partners are implementing. [COM, IP]
 - b. Showcase/identify best practices and interesting pilot projects showing conservation progress for bird groups at high risk: grasslands, shorebirds, seabirds, and aerial insectivores. [COM, IP]
4. Identify and promote best international policies and practices on invasive species, particularly for wetlands, grasslands and islands/seabirds. [COM, IP]
5. Coordinate the protection of a network of protected areas throughout the Western Hemisphere. [COOR]
(The biggest threat to birds is habitat loss/degradation, so protecting habitat, stewardship or proper sustainable land management, should have the biggest impact on bird populations.)
6. Facilitate the protection of 50% of the Boreal forest [COOR, IP]:
 - a. Convene a forum, lobby decision makers, and raise public awareness to advance “Boreal Forest needs half”. [COM, IP]
7. Facilitate a conservation solution for former Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) lands to retain last vestiges of habitat for grassland birds. [COM, IP]
8. Lend support (pressure, communications, science) to efforts to protect key sites (IBA, WHSRN, MBS, etc.) for shorebirds in Canada. [COM, IP]
9. Coordinate a Western Hemisphere Migratory Birds Treaty. [COOR, IP]
10. Examine implications of international trade mechanisms that affect our birds and advocate for improvements (through tri-national mig. Bird table?), e.g., NAFTA, others. [COM, IP]
11. Influence farming policies so as to encourage habitat conservation. [IP]
12. Identify mechanisms for mobilizing resources towards all-bird conservation. [COOR, IP]
13. Influence policies so as to contribute to the prevention of the further decline of species. [IP]
14. Enhance knowledge of species occurrence and distribution, especially species for which information is lacking. [COOR]
(Land managers are seeking information on what bird species they may expect to encounter on their land.)

15. Track progress towards achieving targets found in the BCR strategies and facilitate cross-jurisdictional cooperation to implement the strategies [COOR, TBC]:
 - a. Identify and promote examples of Bird Conservation Regions being used as a basis for agency/member work, particularly where BCRs were used across jurisdictional boundaries, e.g., by natural resources agencies, companies or certification systems. [TBC]
16. Develop a protected areas tracking system that covers the entire Western Hemisphere (analogous to the Natura2000 in Europe). [TBC]
17. Monitor habitat change in Canada as it may be directly correlated with detecting patterns and changes to population trends. [COOR]
18. Develop a comprehensive tracking system of conservation action in Canada, using Open Standards terminology, and linked to BCR strategies and recovery documents, and able to generate progress reports, and supports adaptive management. [TBC]
19. Build new and strengthen existing linkages and working relationships with institutions, organizations and experts to implement joint bird conservation initiatives. [COOR]
 - a. Work with the Joint Ventures to assist them in moving towards all-bird conservation [COOR]
 - b. Establish a Western and Eastern Boreal Forest Habitat Joint Venture. [COOR]
(Canada has a great responsibility for the Boreal that needs to be properly addressed. The PHJV already supports a Western Boreal JV; with this as a priority, we are proposing to elevate it to its own autonomous status.)
 - c. Establish an Arctic Habitat Joint Venture. [COOR]
(The main issue in the Arctic is climate change.)

In the future, we may wish to refine the priorities so as to explicitly link them back to the consolidated list from the reports (Appendix C) and to describe the priority level and timeline within which the priorities are expected to be accomplished.

Appendix A. NABCI-Canada roles and associated functions

COOR: Coordinate, NABCI-Canada will:

- Offer guidance on bird conservation in Canada
- Facilitate partnerships between governments, industry and ENGOS
- Integrate the separate bird initiatives
- Coordinate bird conservation at the national and international level to ensure that it is efficient and harmonious

COM: Communicate, NABCI-Canada will:

- Use various media platforms to communicate about the state of bird conservation and what is being done for birds to the bird conservation community and the general public, at the national and international scale

TBC: Track Bird Conservation, NABCI-Canada will:

- Be a central repository of information and resources on bird conservation
- Track progress on bird conservation actions at the national level

IP: Influence Policy, NABCI-Canada will:

- Promote BMPs
- Influence policy that affects birds in Canada and/or internationally

Appendix B. How the list was drafted

1. The NABCI-Canada coordinator consolidated the recommendations found in the 2016 State of North America's Birds and 2012 State of Canada's Birds reports, as well as the ECCC bird technical committees' research and monitoring priorities reports and extracted a consolidated list of recommended conservation actions, categorizing them following the Conservation Measure Partnership (CMP) version 2.0 standardized actions classification.
2. The NABCI-Canada Executive endorsed the process and recommended that a working group comprised of representatives of industry, environmental non-government organizations, and federal, provincial and territorial governments review and refine the list, and identify gaps.
Priorities Working Group Members:
 - Steven Price (President – Bird Studies Canada)
 - Jon McCracken (Director of National Programs – Bird Studies Canada)
 - Andrew Couturier (Senior analyst – Bird Studies Canada)
 - Ken De Smet (Species at Risk biologist – Wildlife and Fisheries Branch, Government of Manitoba)
 - Judith Kennedy (Bird Conservation Biologist and Unit Head – Canadian Wildlife Service)
 - Tara Shea (Director – Towards Sustainable Mining, Mining Association of Canada)
 - Lead: Veronica Aponte (interim NABCI-Canada Coordinator – Canadian Wildlife Service)
3. The Priorities Working Group held its first teleconference on September 20, 2017; members were tasked with providing 2-3 examples of priorities linked to NABCI-Canada's four roles, based on the information found in the consolidated list (Appendix C).
4. A draft list of examples emerged from the follow-up teleconference on October 2, 2017. This draft list of priorities will be presented to NABCI-Canada Executive during their next meeting on October 13, 2017. Recommendations received from the Executive will be incorporated and the draft list will be presented to the Council during the teleconference scheduled for October 16, 2017.
5. Council input will be incorporated into a final draft list that each Council member will use to rank their top priorities, taking into account the potential impact and feasibility of the priority. The Priorities Working Group will evaluate these rankings to attempt to narrow the list to a subset of priorities for NABCI-Canada to advance.

Appendix C. Consolidated Conservation Action Priorities taken from the State of North America's Birds (SONAB) and State of Canada's Birds (SOCB) reports, and CWS bird technical committees

1. Land / Water Management

1.1. Site/Area Stewardship:

- 1.1.1. Eradicate island invasives (e.g., rats and cats) (SONAB)
- 1.1.2. Manage habitat that more closely mimics patterns and schedules of natural disturbances (e.g., fire) (SOCB)
- 1.1.3. Manage water levels associated with hydroelectric projects to ensure ecological health and function (SOCB)
- 1.1.4. Plan urban and industrial development to conserve the natural landscape and avoid key areas for birds (SOCB)
- 1.1.5. Use comprehensive land-use planning and management to support the balance between conservation and economic growth spreading north (SOCB)
- 1.1.6. Develop land-use plans involving all stakeholders (SOCB)

1.2. Ecosystem & Natural Process (Re)Creation:

- 1.2.1. Actively restore forests to ensure that habitat loss is not permanent (SOCB)

2. Species Management

3. Awareness Raising

3.1. Outreach & Communications:

- 3.1.1. Encourage the collection of citizen-science data through the Community-Based Bird Monitoring Network (SONAB)

4. Law Enforcement & Prosecution

5. Livelihoods, Economic & Moral Incentives

5.1. Linked Enterprises & Alternative Livelihoods:

- 5.1.1. Support sustainable industries such as ecotourism and shade-grown coffee in wintering grounds (SOCB)
- 5.1.2. Manage tropical forest conservation to support the livelihoods of private landowners (e.g. Mesoamerican Biological Corridor program in Mexico) (SONAB)
- 5.1.3. Manage temperate forests to achieve conservation objectives and contribute to local economies (SONAB)
- 5.1.4. Use stewardship agreements, community-based urban planning and conservation programs that involve landowners to protect grasslands and wetlands (SOCB)

6. Conservation Designation & Planning

6.1. Protected Area Designation &/or Acquisition:

- 6.1.1. Protect at least 50% of the Boreal forest (SONAB)
- 6.1.2. Expand marine protected areas (SONAB)
- 6.1.3. Protect remaining native grasslands and create new ones in Canada (SOCB)
- 6.1.4. Protect remaining and restore native prairie and wetland habitat (SOCB)
- 6.1.5. Protect remaining old growth forests in intact watersheds (SOCB)

- 6.1.6. Protect areas that are most important for bird survival and most resistant to climate change (SOCB)
- 6.1.7. Protect remaining native habitats in the Caribbean and Central and South America (SOCB)
- 6.1.8. Continue to conserve tropical forests through the Natural Protected Areas System (SOCB)
- 6.1.9. Cooperate internationally to protect key sites needed by migratory birds throughout their migrations (SOCB)
- 6.2. Easements & Resource Rights:
- 6.3. Land/Water Use Zoning & Designation:
 - 6.3.1. Protect crucial shorebird habitat (identified by WHSRN) with zoning and policies from disturbance and development (SONAB)

7. Legal & Policy Frameworks

- 7.1. Law, Regulations & Codes:
- 7.2. Policies & Guidelines:
 - 7.2.1. Encourage further reductions in acidifying emissions and other contaminants from industrial activities and vehicles (SOCB)
 - 7.2.2. Adopt best management practices for fisheries (e.g. Marine Stewardship Council), forestry (that consider natural patterns and disturbance regimes), agriculture, mining and oil and gas development (SONAB)
 - 7.2.3. Recognize the important ecosystem services that mangroves and saltmarshes provide through legislation to prevent further loss and encourage restoration (SONAB)
 - 7.2.4. Support and strengthen grassland policies (SONAB)
 - 7.2.5. Create multinational accords on plastic pollution (SONAB)
 - 7.2.6. Create new policies and programs that involve all sectors in preventing the total loss of the Chihuahuan grassland habitat (SONAB)

8. Research & Monitoring

- 8.1. Basic Research & Status Monitoring:
 - 8.1.1. Identify areas that are most important for bird survival and most resistant to climate change (SOCB)
 - 8.1.2. Cooperate internationally to identify key sites needed by migratory birds throughout their migration (SOCB)
 - 8.1.3. Generate foundational monitoring data and tracking data (CWS Seabird TC)
 - 8.1.4. Develop national and fine-scale habitat mapping to help with survey design and inferential aspects of population monitoring (CWS Landbird TC)
 - 8.1.5. Identify habitat changes which are most important to monitor (CWS Landbird TC)
 - 8.1.6. Improve basic state of knowledge on the distribution, status and trends of Inland Waterbirds in order to better inform decision-making and prioritization of conservation activities (CWS Inland Waterbird TC)
 - 8.1.7. Increase understanding of emerging threats (e.g. neonicotinoids) on bird populations (CWS Inland Waterbird TC)
 - 8.1.8. Determine reasons for steep population declines in aerial insectivores and shorebirds (CWS Bird TC)
 - 8.1.9. Understand survival and connectivity between breeding, staging and non-breeding habitats (CWS Bird TC)
 - 8.1.10. Improve and standardize bird population monitoring methods and incorporate new technologies (CWS Bird TC)
- 8.2. Evaluation, Effectiveness Measures & Learning:

- 8.2.1. Monitor catch effectively to ensure fisheries are sustainable and seabird bycatch is reduced (SONAB)

9. Education & Training

- 9.1. Training & Individual Capacity Development:
 - 9.1.1. Share best practices between countries (SONAB)
 - 9.1.2. Promote certified wood products (SONAB)

10. Institutional Development

- 10.1. Internal Organizational Management & Administration:
- 10.2. External Organizational Development & Support:
- 10.3. Alliance & Partnership Development:
 - 10.3.1. Expand international collaboration and funding for habitat management in Mexico's tropical forests (SONAB)
 - 10.3.2. Restore marine ecosystems through global cooperation (SONAB)
 - 10.3.3. Support international and national multi-jurisdictional engagement on issues related to marine conservation (CWS Seabird TC)
 - 10.3.4. Develop and expand current international partnerships to understand migratory connectivity and to integrate the migration and wintering seasons in full-cycle conservation efforts (CWS Bird TC)
 - 10.3.5. Through collaboration, especially with DFO and NRCAN, engage stakeholders, especially those linked to known direct and indirect anthropogenic threats to migratory birds (e.g. competition for prey resources, seabird incidental take, chronic and catastrophic oil spills) and in anticipation of increasing pressures on the marine environment (CWS Seabird TC)
 - 10.3.6. Engage industry sectors, including agriculture, forestry and mining in the conservation of aerial insectivores (CWS Landbird TC)
- 10.4. Financing Conservation:
 - 10.4.1. Collaborate with countries in South and Central America and the Caribbean to support forest conservation (SOCB)

Total number of recommendations: 41