

ZOOM REPORT

Third Regional Dialogue on Bird Conservation

Quick Summary

The Third Regional Dialogue on the Conservation of Migratory Birds between Canada and Chile brought together experts from various organizations to discuss shorebird conservation initiatives and the implementation of the Conserva Aves initiative. Participants presented the continental strategic framework for the conservation of Pacific Flyway shorebirds, which covers 14 countries and 50 species, as well as progress under the Conserva Aves initiative, which has already supported the creation of 179 conservation sites across Latin America, covering more than 3 million hectares. Chilean representatives discussed the implementation of Conserva Aves in their country, including collaboration with organizations such as Fundación Cosmos and the Chilean Network of Bird and Wildlife Observers, with plans to launch calls for proposals in the coming weeks. The Canada–Chile Action Plan for Shorebird Conservation 2026–2030 was also presented. The Action Plan is framed under the Environmental Cooperation Agreement between the two countries and aims to protect endangered migratory species through the creation and management of subnational protected areas.

Next Steps

- **Ivo Tejada and the ROC team:** Finalize the structuring of the Conserva Aves initiative in Chile, in coordination with national and global partners, and publish the call for proposals in the coming weeks.
- **Ivo Tejada and the ROC team:** Evaluate submitted proposals through a two-stage process (approximately 3–4 months) to select the first initiatives to be implemented in Chile by the last quarter of 2026.
- **Ivo Tejada and Fondo Naturaleza:** Provide technical and financial support to the selected initiatives in Chile, particularly in governance and financing, and collaborate on the implementation of protection frameworks aligned with Law 21.600.
- **Jorge Tomásceovich and FNC:** Continue supporting the implementation of Conserva Aves in Chile, focusing on areas that require reinforcement, including implementation, governance, and management plans, particularly in wetlands.

- **Conserva Aves team (Alfonso, David, Ivo, Jorge, FNC, etc.):** Systematize and communicate project results across the hemispheric network, identifying opportunities for collaboration and financing to scale up the initiative.
 - **Isabel Angarita and Jeisson:** Continue collecting input from partners on the implementation of continental and sub-continental strategic frameworks, monitor progress, and support the identification of collaboration and financing opportunities.
 - **David Bradley:** Continue expanding and strengthening the Motus network in Chile and the region, working with local partners to install new stations and promote data sharing for shorebird conservation.
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Summary

Canada–Chile Action Plan 2026–2030

Cynthia, Policy Advisor at Environment and Climate Change Canada, chaired the meeting and thanked participants for their attendance. Crystal Novak, Director of Trade Cooperation and Engagement at Global Affairs Canada, presented background information on migratory bird conservation and highlighted the importance of regional collaboration, noting progress made through previous dialogues with Chile and other Latin American countries. The presentation of the Canada–Chile Action Plan for Shorebird Conservation 2026–2030 was announced, and progress under the Conserva Aves initiative was discussed, including Canada’s contribution of \$15 million over three years. The meeting then moved into the first session, featuring presentations by Jason Samulio, Anisalora Garita, and other experts on shorebird conservation in the Pacific region and Central America.

Continental Avian Conservation Strategy

Jeisson presented the Pacific Flyway shorebird conservation strategy for the Americas, explaining that it covers 50 species migrating from the Arctic to southern Chile, across 14 countries. Isabela Angarita presented the continental strategic framework covering the interior regions of North and South America, highlighting how it aligns with national plans such as Chile’s, and how frameworks at different scales complement one another. Jeisson also described the seven strategic lines of the Pacific strategy and emphasized the importance of coordination among different stakeholders, citing examples of benefits such as a basic training program that reached nearly 400 people across 19 Latin American countries.

Conserva Aves and Environmental Protection

Alfonso presented the Conserva Aves initiative, which was launched four and a half years ago through the collaboration of 50 organizations and supports Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant organizations, and local communities in the creation and expansion of subnational protected areas in Latin America. The initiative aims to support the establishment of at least 100 subnational protected natural areas covering at least 2 million hectares, and has already implemented 179 projects over four years, covering nearly 3 million hectares and recording more than 1,800 bird species. David explained the Motus Wildlife Tracking System, a collaborative network that uses small transmitters to track birds and other animals, with over 62,000 animals tagged and a network of automated stations that collect data accessible to all through a public platform.

Implementation of Conserva Aves in Chile

Ivo presented progress on the implementation of the Conserva Aves initiative in Chile, explaining that Fondo Naturaleza acts as the RedLAC partner and leads the calls for proposals, while ROC serves as the BirdLife partner, providing methodological and technical support. It was emphasized that Chile has specific characteristics, with Fundación Cosmos acting as a local donor, and that the new protected areas regulatory framework established through Law 21.600 creates opportunities to support the development and implementation of management plans in protected areas. Ivo indicated that the structuring phase is nearing completion and that the call for proposals is expected to be launched in the coming weeks, followed by a 3–4 month evaluation process, with the aim of launching the first initiatives toward the last quarter of 2026.

Discussion on Conserva Aves Implementation in Chile

Participants discussed the implementation of Conserva Aves in Chile, with Ivo explaining that the focus is on protection categories under Law 21.600, as well as on supporting private initiatives outside protected areas. Experts confirmed that several shorebird species are included as focal species within the program, and discussed the possibility of involving Chilean scientists specializing in shorebird ecology in future projects. David proposed organizing a research symposium on the action plan at the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group meeting in La Paz, Mexico, and FNC suggested participating in Chile Day in Toronto as an opportunity to showcase conservation work.