



SOUTH ATLANTIC

LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVE

Strategic Plan

Revised: January 6, 2016

VISION

A landscape that sustains the nation's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations

MISSION

Facilitate conservation actions that sustain natural and cultural resources, guided by a shared adaptive blueprint, by:

- Facilitating an inclusive and cross-jurisdictional collaborative for landscape conservation planning and action
- Linking broad-based efforts to create a shared conservation blueprint for South Atlantic LCC partners
- Identifying and filling the research gaps of the partners that enable creation of the Blueprint
- Working across jurisdictional boundaries at new and larger temporal and spatial scales
- Using an interdisciplinary approach that addresses the interconnectedness of systems and society
- Focusing on protection, maintenance and restoration of healthy ecosystems on a landscape basis
- Building resilience into ecological systems for long-term sustainability by anticipating future change

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. Do not duplicate the effective work of others
2. Consider and respect each participating organization's unique mandates and jurisdictions
3. Add value to landscape scale conservation partnerships
4. Be transparent in South Atlantic LCC decision-making
5. Focus on developing shared landscape level priorities that lead to implementable strategies
6. Develop and rely upon best available science
7. Understand the attitudes, values and beliefs of stakeholders, partners and public sectors
8. Continuously improve and refine products to ensure ongoing effectiveness

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

1. Provide a blueprint for enhancing South Atlantic LCC conservation planning and investments.

- a. Champion this vision for conservation as a shared focus among a broad audience
- b. Prioritize applied research that fills gaps in the Blueprint
- c. Establish priorities with measurable targets to conserve and enhance natural and cultural resources while considering the socio-economic benefits to the community
- d. Link the South Atlantic Blueprint to other LCCs and partnerships to achieve a seamless North American conservation network
- e. Develop response models that incorporate change and uncertainty into the Blueprint

2. Provide support for conservation investment decisions

- a. Develop a formal process for understanding and responding to the needs and requirements of (LCC members) key partners
- b. Provide support that spans decision-making needs from policy makers to local managers
- c. Provide decision support tools that identify ecosystem services and economic benefits of conservation investments
- d. Provide online tools, data and models that support non-technical users
- e. Facilitate understanding and effective use of available conservation planning and decision support tools

- f. Support new monitoring and research efforts across spatial scales to improve the Blueprint and related decision-support tools
- g. Assist conservation managers in planning for change
- h. Facilitate implementation of the Blueprint

3. Facilitate collaboration to maximize conservation investment

- a. Encourage and optimize conservation partnership investments in the South Atlantic
- b. Promote cross-LCC integration of research, monitoring, and conservation efforts
- c. Coordinate conservation actions that integrate and enhance existing partnerships
- d. Identify and help resolve the barriers and constraints to effective partnering
- e. Facilitate regular information exchange among South Atlantic LCC partners
- f. Identify and communicate priority shared science needs to DOI Climate Science Centers
- g. Facilitate external communication
- h. Foster innovative public-private partnerships by speaking with one voice

4. Promote data integration and sharing

- a. Evaluate and identify existing data and interoperability standards, and promote best practices
- b. Work across agencies and groups to align diverse data sets
- c. Provide guidance and facilitate linking spatially explicit data and models to the Conservation Blueprint
- d. Identify best locations to store the integrated data sets from multiple partners
- e. Maximize use of relevant monitoring, research and information

5. Evaluate and report progress

Mission Accomplishment Reporting

- a. Determine the adequacy of available information to assess current and future conservation targets
- b. Identify and collect data on indicators of success for South Atlantic LCC conservation targets
- c. Assess monetary and non-monetary value of conservation outcomes

- d. Report progress on meeting shared landscape conservation goals, resources needed to meet those goals and societal benefits when goals are met

Operational Effectiveness Reporting

- e. Establish administrative metrics and benchmarks to indicate South Atlantic LCC operational effectiveness
- f. Coordinate annual feedback sessions with stakeholders and partners
- g. Report on South Atlantic LCC progress toward implementing strategic plan, updating as necessary

6. Business Processes

- a. Support National Network efforts to develop consistent approaches and communicate successes
- b. Develop additional partnership processes to ensure effective collaborative governance and transparency

7. Communications

- a. Inform broad audience about South Atlantic LCC happenings
- b. Inform general and targeted audiences about what the South Atlantic LCC is
- c. Inform stakeholders how they get their needs met by the Cooperative