

Conservation Action Plan | 2015-2025

Arid Borderlands



The SJV and Conservation Planning

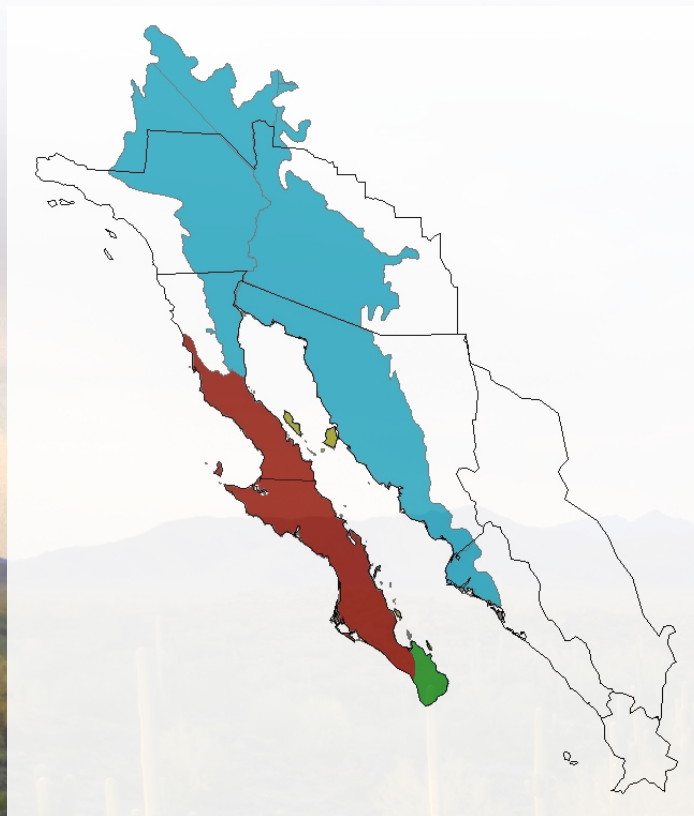
The Sonoran Joint Venture (SJV) is a partnership of diverse organizations and individuals working to conserve the unique birds and habitats of the southwestern United States and northwestern Mexico. We bring together partners from both sides of the border to integrate the goals and objectives of existing bird conservation plans into a single, strategic effort that addresses the needs of our area. To learn more about our conservation planning process, visit <http://sonoranjv.org/OpenStandards>.

Conservation Vision

Our long-term vision is a healthy, vibrant landscape for the unique birds, habitats, and people of the southwestern United States and northwestern Mexico.

The Arid Borderlands

This region primarily includes Mojave, Sonoran, and Vizcaino desertscrub and the many wetland and island habitats associated with approximately 5,500 miles of coastline.



The Arid Borderlands includes Bird Conservation Regions 33, 40, 41, and 42.

What We Want to Conserve

Our top conservation priorities in the Arid Borderlands are desertscrub, mesquite bosque, riparian, desert grasslands, islands, freshwater and coastal wetlands. Priority birds include Craveri's Murrelet, Reddish Egret, Le Conte's Thrasher, Bendire's Thrasher, Costa's Hummingbird, Gila Woodpecker, Belding's Yellowthroat, and Rufous-winged Sparrow.



Belding's Yellowthroat | Amy E. McAndrews/Creative Commons

Conservation Targets

These are species, communities, or ecological systems that represent and encompass the biodiversity found in the Arid Borderlands.

Conservation Target	Current Condition
Freshwater wetlands/birds	Poor
Riparian and mesquite bosque/birds	Poor
Desert shrublands/birds	Fair
Desert grasslands/birds	Fair
Islands/birds	Fair
Desert washes & shrublands/birds	Good
Coastal wetlands/birds	Good

Goals for Arid Borderlands

- Protected large trees, columnar cacti, and yucca with potential for cavity nesting birds
- Managed and protected remnant desert grasslands
- Maintained existing acres of xeric riparian habitat in Mexico
- Protected and restored freshwater wetlands
- Protected, restored, and increased closed canopy riparian woodlands
- Protected and restored coastal habitat
- Islands free of introduced mammals
- Beach nesting birds protected from trampling by tourism groups, fishers, and boaters

Conservation Challenges

Conservation challenges are primarily human activities that immediately affect what we are trying to conserve. The following are the most serious and in need of immediate action.

Challenge	Priority
Climate change	Very High
Suburban development	Very High
Invasive plants	High
Introduced mammals (on islands)	High
Unsustainable water use	High
Unsustainable grazing	High
Breeding bird disturbance	High

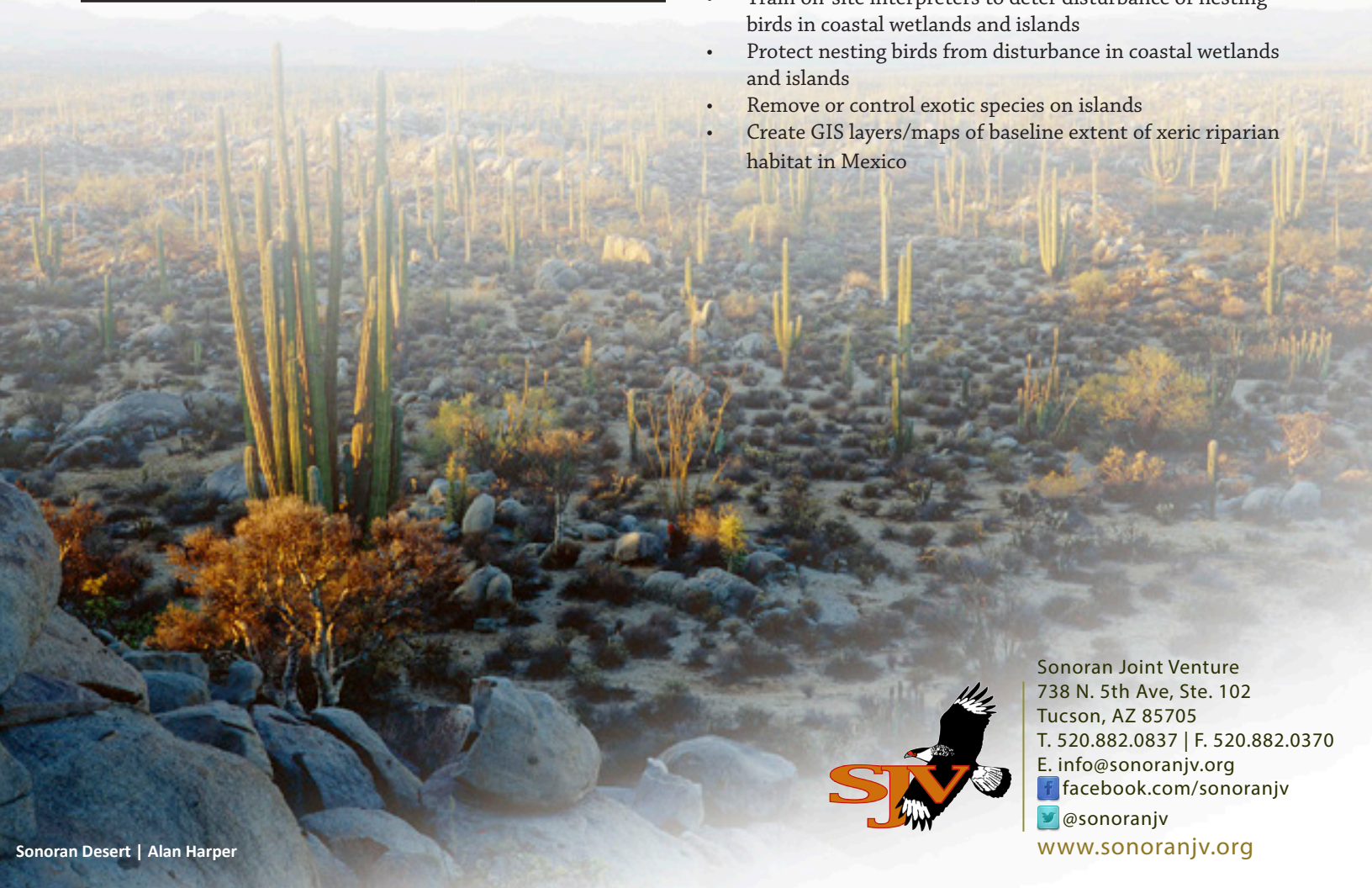


Costa's Hummingbird | Nathan Rupert/Creative Commons

Priority Conservation Strategies

Over the next ten years the SJV partnership will:

- Share effective outreach and policy actions
- Create mechanism for sharing successes and lessons learned from projects
- Increase access to Avian Knowledge Network and coordinated bird monitoring
- Facilitate and support linkages with conservation education networks.
- Create a binational habitat map
- Create incentives for planting with native species
- Remove or control non-native and invasive plants
- Develop seed sources for native grasses in Mexico
- Develop improved water management
- Develop improved grazing management
- Train on-site interpreters to deter disturbance of nesting birds in coastal wetlands and islands
- Protect nesting birds from disturbance in coastal wetlands and islands
- Remove or control exotic species on islands
- Create GIS layers/maps of baseline extent of xeric riparian habitat in Mexico



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