



CONSERVING THE YUCATÁN PENINSULA

THREATS/ CHALLENGES: It is estimated that as many as 1.5 billion neotropical migratory birds from approximately 200 species depend on habitat on the Yucatán Peninsula during migration each year. Urbanization, tourism development, fire and agricultural expansion threaten habitat on the Yucatán Peninsula.

IMPORTANCE OF SITES: The Yucatán Peninsula is one of the most important areas for migratory birds in the Neotropics. Each spring, the Peninsula is filled with millions of migrant birds that rely on the habitat to nearly double their body weight before attempting the 12 to 18 hour, trans-gulf migration to the Gulf Coast of the United States.

From 2009-2012, American Bird Conservancy (ABC) and its partner Amigos de Sian Ka'an (ASK) have advanced the development of the Yum-balam – Sian Ka'an Biological Corridor in northern Quintana Roo State as part of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor. Many migratory birds and local wildlife species including jaguar are found in this region. Conserving habitat in the Yum Balam – Sian Corridor is crucial for maintaining habitat used by wintering and migrating birds



Aerial photo of San Mateo Ake (Amigos de Sian Ka'an)

**... THE YUM BALAM — SIAN CORRIDOR IS
CRUCIAL FOR MAINTAINING HABITAT USED
BY WINTERING AND MIGRATING BIRDS.**



PROJECT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES:

Project Goal: Maximize the amount of habitat available for wintering or stop-overs of migratory birds within the Yum Balam – Sian Ka'an Biological Corridor.

1. **Objective:** Acquire at least 1,500 acres to create a new reserve.
2. **Objective:** Maintain 5,000 acres of migratory bird habitat in private reserves.
3. **Objective:** Protect at least 5,000 acres through environmental service payment programs and conservation agreements.
4. **Objective:** Reduce number of uncontrolled forest fires by 50%.



PARTNER DESCRIPTION: Founded in 1986, Amigos de Sian Ka'an is one of the leading NGOs in Mexico dedicated to environmental conservation and sustainable development. Amigos de Sian Ka'an operates the newly established Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve in Quintana Roo, Mexico.

The work of Amigos de Sian Ka'an is based on the best available scientific information. They work to promote public policies in favor of the environment as part of design standards, ordinances and urban development. They have been successful in getting new National Protected Areas decreed.

Terreno de American Bird Conservation

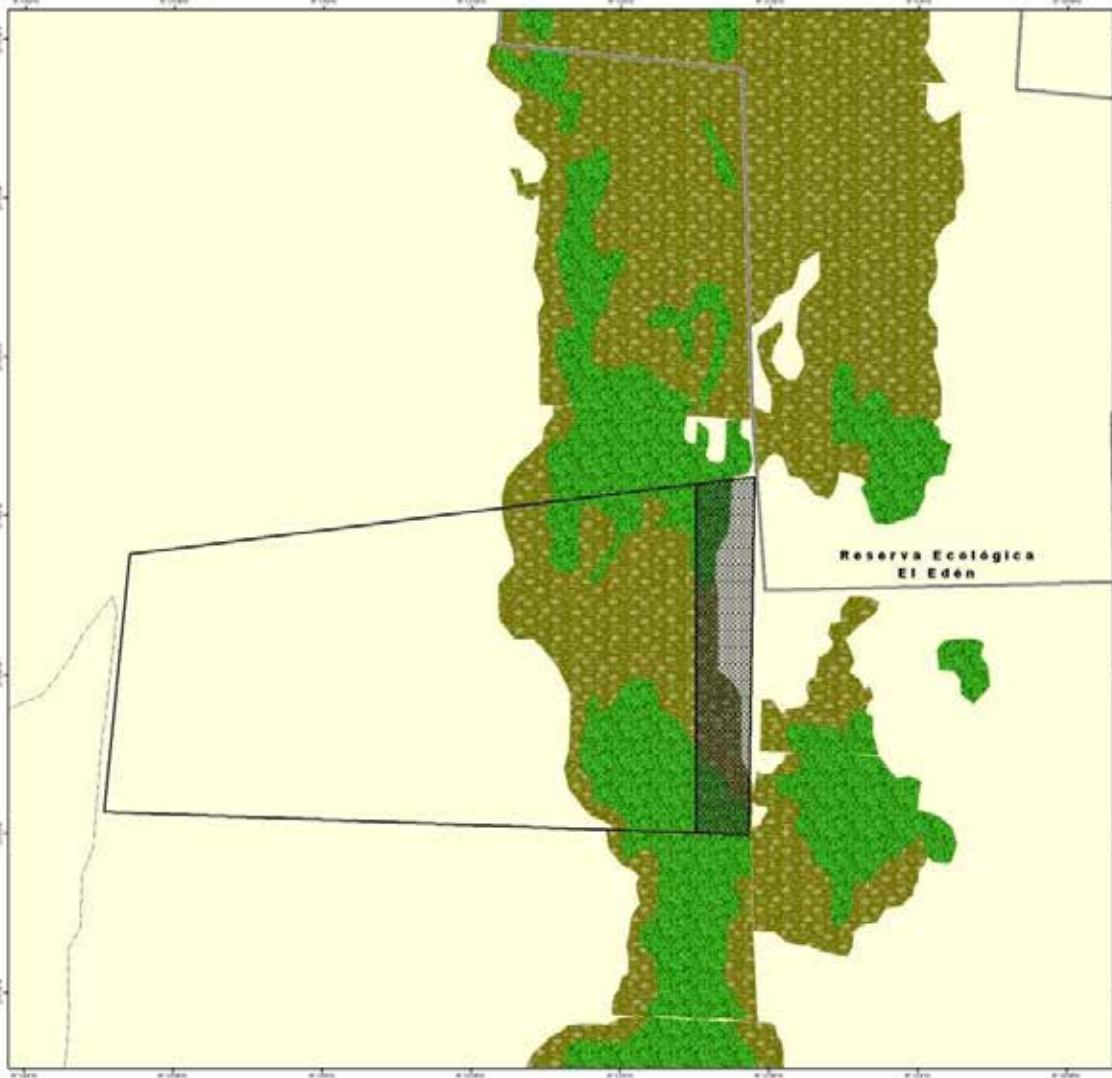


SIMBOLOGÍA

- Límites ANP
- Caminos
- Humedal
- Selva Baja inundable
- Límites ABC
- Límites NAWCA

Escala numérica: 1:15,000
 Sistema de Proyección geográfica: Datum WGS84

540 270 0 540 Metros



Putting up boundary sign at San Mateo Aké



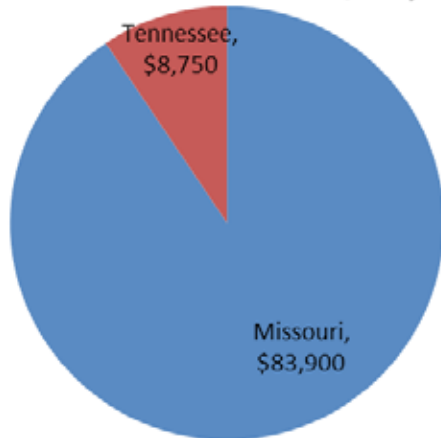


SPECIES OF CONSERVATION CONCERN:

Species, that have strong migration linkages to one or more U.S. States, and use the Yucatán Peninsula are **Reddish Egret**, Piping Plover, Swallow-tailed Kite, American Golden-Plover, **Snowy Plover**, **Wilson's Plover**, Long billed Curlew, **Red Knot**, **Sanderling**, Semipalmated Sandpiper, **Wood Thrush**, Blue-winged Warbler, Bay-Breasted Warbler, Prairie Warbler, **Prothonotary Warbler**, Swainson's Warbler, Canada Warbler, and Kentucky Warbler. There are also 11 species of birds endemic to the Yucatán Peninsula, including the Yucatán Nightjar, Yucatán Vireo, Yucatán Parrot, Yucatán Jay, and the Ocellated Turkey.

Bold = priority

Funds Contributed: \$92,650



SUMMARY: Southern Wings has supported the development of the Yum-balam – Sian Ka'an Biological Corridor in northern Quintana Roo State. The most important actions taken to date with Southern Wings funds include the following.

- ♦ Acquisition of 1,620 acres (646 hectares) to create San Mateo Ake Reserve. The property, which neighbors the El Eden Reserve, creates a protected area of over 5,400 acres. These reserves form an important protected area within the Yum Balam – Sian Ka'an Biological Corridor.
- ♦ Supported a guard to patrol 5,400 acres— both San Mateo Ake and the El Eden Biological Reserve. Patrolling has deterred illegal hunting and helped rapidly identify fires in the region to reduce their spread and impact.
- ♦ Established and implemented protocols to reduce the risk of fires and mitigate damage. The protocols successfully reduced damage from three fires in 2013 because of early response and coordination with the Mexican National Forestry Commission and the Forestry Institute of Quintana Roo.
- ♦ Restored 197.5 acres with native trees on San Mateo Ake that will provide significant benefit to priority migratory birds.