EMP Working Group
Regional Preserve Implementation Assessment (2005)

The Regional Preserve Implementation Assessment identifies major action items and tasks associated with adopted Federal Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) and State of California Natural Community Conservation Planning (NCCP) Plans by jurisdictions within the County of San Diego as well as other conservation lands that contribute to the San Diego regional preserve system. Each jurisdiction and permitting agency is charged with specific requirements and responsibilities as outlined in the individual Implementing Agreements associated with the permits. The *TransNet* Environmental Mitigation Program's (EMP) Regional Habitat Conservation Fund may contribute to the costs of acquisition, management, and monitoring as outlined in these implementing agreements as well as for the management and monitoring associated with other conserved lands that contribute to the San Diego regional preserve system. It is not intended that the implementation of a regional funding process associated with the *TransNet* EMP in any way replaces or substitutes local funding responsibilities for acquisition, management, or monitoring requirements associated with a jurisdiction's Implementing Agreement.

TASKS	IMPLEMENTING AGENCY(S)	COMPLETION	REGIONAL FUNDING ELIGIBILITY? (yes, no, partially)
I. REGIONAL COORDINATION			
1. Research alternative governance structures for a regional monitoring entity.		Ongoing – SD Foundation /grant to CBI	YES
2. Identify an organization or organizations (regional monitoring entity) to perform regional coordinating responsibilities.			YES
3. Establish an implementing structure and provide resources for its functions.			YES
4. Define the specific roles and functions of the regional monitoring entity.			YES
5. Identify specific partnerships that would facilitate functions of the regional monitoring entity.			YES

TASKS	IMPLEMENTING AGENCY(S)	COMPLETION	REGIONAL FUNDING ELIGIBILITY? (yes, no, partially)
II. REGIONAL DATA BASES			
A. HabiTrak Conserved Lands Databases (for NCCP permitted jurisdictions)			
1. Define baseline conservation for each jurisdiction.	Permitted jurisdictions	Completed for permitted jurisdictions	NO
2. Input baseline conservation into HabiTrak.	Permitted jurisdictions	Completed for permitted jurisdictions	NO
3. Input acquisitions, mitigation banks, conservation easements, and other conserved lands into HabiTrak and review for accuracy.	Permitted jurisdictions	Annually	NO
4. Prepare jurisdiction's annual reports.	Permitted jurisdictions	Annually	NO
5. Compile all HabiTrak input and create updated, seamless conserved lands database.	Wildlife Agencies	Annually	YES
6. Review HabiTrak inputs (spatial and non-spatial) for accuracy and distribute to jurisdictions, SANDAG, wildlife agencies, etc.	Wildlife Agencies	Annually	YES
B. HabiTrak Annual Reporting Application			
7. Maintain HabiTrak.	SANDAG, Wildlife Agencies	On-going	YES
8. Recode HabiTrak to a web-based, centralized system.	CDFG	On-going – CDFG funding	YES
9. Train jurisdictions in use of HabiTrak.	SANDAG	On-going –LAG to SANDAG	YES

TASKS	IMPLEMENTING AGENCY(S)	COMPLETION	REGIONAL FUNDING ELIGIBILITY? (yes, no, partially)
C. Conserved Lands Database (for non-NCCP lands)			
10. Determine and input conserved lands.		Annually	YES
11. Combine NCCP conserved lands and non-NCCP conserved lands databases.		Annually	YES
12. Prepare subregional and regional maps and reports.		Annually	YES
13. Provide conserved lands database to SANDAG to update land ownership database.		Annually	YES
II. CONT'D			
D. Habitat Preserve Planning Area Databases			
14. Update and maintain subarea plan boundaries and regional habitat preserve planning area boundaries (MHPA/PAMA/FPA) due to subarea plan annexations/de-annexations, subarea plan refinements, boundary adjustments, and additions of major and minor amendment areas.	Wildlife Agencies	Annually or as needed	YES
15. Based on changes to the subarea and habitat preserve planning area boundaries adjust jurisdiction-specific conservation targets accordingly.	Wildlife Agencies	Annually	YES
16. Provide updated databases and conservation goals to jurisdictions, wildlife agencies, and SANDAG.	Wildlife Agencies	Annually	YES
E. Ownership Database			
17. Maintain land ownership database.	SANDAG	Annually	YES
F. Species Databases			
18. Maintain USFWS/DFG endangered/sensitive species database.	Wildlife Agencies	On-going	NO
19. Maintain regional species database including covered species.		Annually	YES
20. Maintain GIS database of major exotic species locations.			YES
21. Maintain GIS database of covered species locations and population sizes, monitoring status, management status, etc.			YES
22. Develop protocols and a methodology for tracking species loss and gains and prepare summary maps and reports.			YES
G. Vegetation Databases			
23. Choose and agree on a regional vegetation classification system, hierarchy, and			YES

TASKS	IMPLEMENTING AGENCY(S)	COMPLETION	REGIONAL FUNDING ELIGIBILITY? (yes, no, partially)
cross walk (Sawyer vs. Holland).			
24. Map vegetation and species distributions for conserved lands.	Jurisdictions, Wildlife Agencies	Annually	PARTIALLY
25. Incorporate updated vegetation and species databases into regional database.		Annually	PARTIALLY

II. CONT'D			
H. Other Databases			
26. Map monitoring locations for all levels of monitoring.			YES
27. Maintain and update fire history database for conserved lands.		Annually	YES
28. QA/QC regional data layers (i.e., species, vegetation, fire history).		Annually	YES
29. Maintain copies of all GIS layers in consistent format at one location so all data from jurisdictions and agencies are compiled, updated, and accessible.			YES
30. Maintain and update BIOS.	CDFG	Ongoing	PARTIALLY
31. Maintain GIS database of management units and land managers.		Ongoing	YES
32. Collect and input climate data to warehouse.			
33. Collect and input road-kill data to warehouse.			
34. Peer review regional database structures.			
III. REGIONAL BIOLOGICAL MONITORING PROGRAM			
A. Plans, Protocols, Data Collection			
1. Inventory existing species monitoring and research programs.	SDSU	Ongoing	YES
2. Continue the work begun in the pilot studies for remote sensing – develop feasible remote sensing/monitoring protocols and implement at a larger scale.		Ongoing	YES
3. Identify needs for and acquire imagery based on results from pilot studies.		Ongoing	YES
4. Refine monitoring protocols for preserve-level and regional-level monitoring based on peer review.	Wildlife Agencies, Land Managers	Ongoing	YES

TASKS	IMPLEMENTING AGENCY(S)	COMPLETION	REGIONAL FUNDING ELIGIBILITY? (yes, no, partially)
5. Train regional managers, technicians, and volunteers on how to collect monitoring data.			YES
6. Revise MSCP Monitoring Plan for plants, animals, and habitats.	USGS, USFWS, SDSU	Ongoing	NO
7. Review and revise MHCP Monitoring Plan, as necessary.			NO
8. Write MSCP North Monitoring Plan.	County of San Diego		NO
9. Write MSCP East Monitoring Plan.	County of San Diego		NO
III.A. (CONT'D)			
10. Create and maintain a San Diego regional monitoring plan; revise subregional monitoring plans as necessary.			YES
11. Coordinate San Diego Monitoring with the South Coast Ecoregion and the Border region.			PARTIALLY
12. Update and revise monitoring plans as needed (goals, objectives, protocols, sampling design, indicators, stressors, etc).			NO
13. Sponsor regional and ecoregional monitoring workshops.	Wildlife Agencies		PARTIALLY
14. Determine attributes/structure for climate database and input data.			YES
15. Determine attributes/structure for road-kill database and input data.			YES
16. Develop data warehouse to store and display monitoring data (BIOS).		ongoing	PARTIALLY
17. Create and maintain a digital library of all monitoring documents (e.g., reports; studies) (BIOS).			PARTIALLY
18. Coordinate field data collection for biological monitoring across the NCCP lands in San Diego County.			YES
19. Maintain a master schedule of monitoring efforts, and annually identify monitoring priorities.			YES
20. Implement monitoring plans and protocols.	Land Managers		NO
21. Conduct post catastrophic event monitoring (e.g. wildfires, flooding).			YES
B. Science Advisors			
1. Establish and fund a scientific review group.			YES
2. Review and comment on monitoring protocols.			YES

TASKS	IMPLEMENTING AGENCY(S)	COMPLETION	REGIONAL FUNDING ELIGIBILITY? (yes, no, partially)
3. Provide technical input on short-term and long-term management and monitoring priorities.		Ongoing	YES
4. Review and comment on monitoring reports.		Ongoing	YES
5. Assist in identifying outside funding sources.		Ongoing	YES
6. Based on monitoring results, recommend modifications to management policies.		Ongoing	YES
III.B. (CONT'D)			
7. Develop a process for compiling and analyzing data at the subregional and NCCP regional scales.			YES
8. Develop conceptual ecological models to help identify monitoring components, stressors, and management responses.			YES
9. Use baseline data and conceptual models to identify spatial and temporal scales relevant for monitoring.			YES
10. Contribute data from research projects, and direct students to research projects that contribute to the monitoring and management program.		Ongoing	YES
11. Identify methods for restoring degraded habitats and ecological processes through independent research.			YES
12. Using a regional perspective, make recommendations regarding priorities for management and monitoring. These recommendations may form the basis for management directives issued by the wildlife agencies.			YES
13. Make recommendations for prioritizing funds for management and monitoring, consistent with the management and monitoring priorities above.			YES
14. Provide relevant information for the wildlife agencies and EMP technical and policy committees to use in prioritizing acquisitions.			YES
IV. DATA STORAGE AND ANALYSES			
A. Centralized Data Warehouse			
1. Develop process to input and maintain the regional databases.			YES
2. Develop QA/QC protocols and assign QA/QC responsibilities.			YES

TASKS	IMPLEMENTING AGENCY(S)	COMPLETION	REGIONAL FUNDING ELIGIBILITY? (yes, no, partially)
3. Input existing monitoring data (BIOS).	Wildlife Agencies		YES
4. Establish guidelines for submittal of annual data, including data forms/digital files and digital or hard copy maps.			YES
5. Maintain archive (hard copy, electronic) of field notes, data forms, maps, etc.			YES
6. Provide maps, as needed, for management and monitoring efforts.			YES

IV. (CONT'D)			
B. Data Analysis and Reporting			
1. Determine how data will be analyzed.	Wildlife Agencies		YES
2. Review and analyze data both at the preserve-level and the regional level.			YES
3. Establish guidelines for data access.			YES
4. Compare relative costs of designs and how designs differ in spatial coverage, revisits over time, and over sampling to estimate error rates and make recommendations.			YES
5. Compile annual monitoring summaries from jurisdictions in a consistent format.			YES
6. Prepare 3-yr monitoring summaries.	Wildlife Agencies	Every 3 yrs	YES
C. San Diego Region Conservation Website			
1. Develop Regional web site.			YES
2. Manage and update website.		Annually	YES
3. Annual report summaries, including updated conserved land and preserve assembly maps, monitoring results, and management actions made available on website.		Annually	YES
V. LAND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM			
A. Management Plan Preparation			
1. Develop guidelines for preparing subarea framework and area-specific management plans.	Wildlife Agencies		YES
2. Develop and standardize preserve level monitoring guidelines to direct area-	Wildlife Agencies		YES

TASKS	IMPLEMENTING AGENCY(S)	COMPLETION	REGIONAL FUNDING ELIGIBILITY? (yes, no, partially)
specific management plans.			
3. Identify responsible agency(s) for management and monitoring of each preserve area.	Jurisdictions		YES
4. Identify conserved lands lacking baseline surveys.	Jurisdictions, Wildlife Agencies		YES
5. Identify conserved lands lacking habitat management plans.	Jurisdictions, Wildlife Agencies		YES
V.A. (CONT'D)			
6. Identify conserved lands lacking habitat managers.	Jurisdictions, Wildlife Agencies		YES
7. Conduct baseline surveys and prepare area-specific management directives for conserved lands.	Jurisdictions, Wildlife Agencies		PARTIALLY
8. Incorporate baseline survey information into regional databases.		Annually	YES
9. Identify and implement measures to monitor use of conserved lands (e.g. #'s of hikers, bikes, horses, # miles of trails, etc.) to direct area-specific management plans.			YES
10. Conduct compatibility studies to determine appropriate uses for each unit of the conserved lands.			YES
B. Adaptive Management Coordination			
1. Identify potential causes of species declines and appropriate management responses.			YES
2. Identify preserve level priorities for monitoring and management.		Annually	YES
3. Coordinate regional priorities among jurisdictions.		Annually	YES
4. Prioritize equipment needs and coordinate among jurisdictions.		Annually	YES
5. Identify/train biological monitors.		Annually	YES
6. Identify critical data gaps and prioritize them for funding.		Annually	YES
7. Coordinate monitoring roles and priorities with land managers.		Annually	YES
8. Summarize preserve-specific management actions in annual reports.		Annually	NO

Regional Preserve Implementation Assessment (cont'd)

TASKS	IMPLEMENTING AGENCY(S)	COMPLETION	REGIONAL FUNDING ELIGIBILITY? (yes, no, partially)
9. Compile and summarize jurisdictional management summaries into a regional report.		Annually	YES
C. Management Plan Implementation			
1. Fund on-site land managers and law enforcement.	Jurisdictions		PARTIALLY
2. Manage trails if approved and designated.	Jurisdictions		PARTIALLY
3. Control exotic and domestic species, both plant and animal.	Jurisdictions		PARTIALLY
4. Control erosion.	Jurisdictions		PARTIALLY
5. Fund preserve level monitoring.	Jurisdictions		PARTIALLY
6. Establish and maintain protective barriers (e.g. fencing).	Jurisdictions		PARTIALLY
7. Identify and install necessary signage.	Jurisdictions		PARTIALLY
8. Restore/enhance native habitats.	Jurisdictions		PARTIALLY
9. Prevent and clean up illegal dumping.	Jurisdictions		PARTIALLY
10. Address off-site impacts to conserved lands.	Jurisdictions		PARTIALLY
10. Identify/train biological monitors.		Annually	YES
VI. LAND ACQUISTION PROGRAM			
1. Determine land acquisition needs.			YES
2. Develop land acquisition priority criteria.			YES
3. Identify key acquisition sites for transportation mitigation and habitat conservation fund.			YES
4. Develop criteria for determining parcels available for mitigation, conservation, acquisition, etc.			YES
5. Develop a database of parcels available for mitigation and conservation.			YES
6. Identify available acquisition opportunities and recommend purchase to decisions makers.			YES
7. Identify responsible entity to own and manage land.			YES
VII. PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH			

Regional Preserve Implementation Assessment (cont'd)

TASKS	IMPLEMENTING AGENCY(S)	COMPLETION	REGIONAL FUNDING ELIGIBILITY? (yes, no, partially)
1. Identify and fund educational opportunities.			PARTIALLY
2. Install educational signs, kiosks, interpretive centers.			PARTIALLY