

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

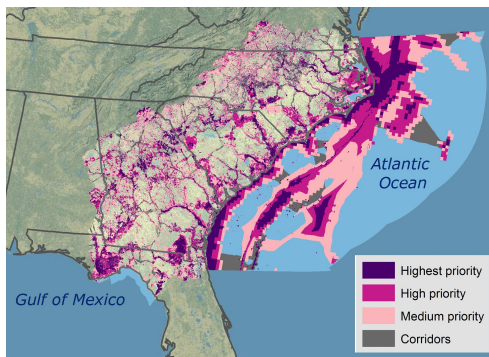


Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, Clint/Flickr

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST YEAR

THE RELEASE OF CONSERVATION BLUEPRINT 2.1

In August, the South Atlantic LCC released Version 2.1 of the Conservation Blueprint, a living spatial plan that identifies opportunities for shared action. Blueprint 2.1 uses the current condition of terrestrial, freshwater, marine, and cross-ecosystem indicators to prioritize the most important areas for natural and cultural resources across the South Atlantic region. Through a connectivity analysis, it also identifies corridors that link coastal and inland areas and span climate gradients. Blueprint 2.1 uses similar data-driven methods and maintains the fine spatial scale of the previous version, but incorporates improved data for many indicators, particularly in the marine, freshwater aquatic, and urban environments.



★ Improving the
Blueprint

FUNDING PRESCRIBED FIRE IN LONGLEAF PINE

The Blueprint continues to help bring prescribed fire funds to the South Atlantic! This year, the Department of Interior Wildland Fire Resilient Landscapes program awarded \$980,000 to support prescribed burning in priority longleaf pine focus areas across the region, for a total of \$1.75 million over two years. The South Atlantic LCC is using the ecosystem indicators to measure the program's positive impact.

★ Supporting
Blueprint uses

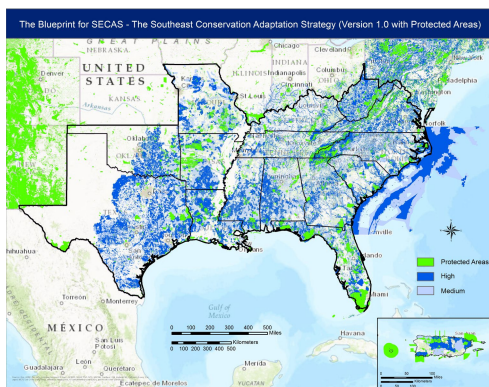


John Maxwell/U.S. FWS

THE SOUTHEAST CONSERVATION ADAPTATION STRATEGY

2016 was an exciting year for the Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy (SECAS):

- » Website launched at secassoutheast.org
- » Leadership summit held at the Southeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) annual meeting
- » SECAS Blueprint 1.0 released, combining the South Atlantic Blueprint with other LCCs' spatial plans; available on the Southeast Conservation Planning Atlas at seregion.databasin.org



★ Collaborating
across LCCs

Following the summit, the state SEAFWA Directors and federal agencies of the Southeast Natural Resources Leadership group renewed their support for SECAS. The six Southeast and Caribbean LCCs, Southeast Climate Science Center, and Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership also committed to continuing to participate and updating the Blueprint annually for the fall SEAFWA conference.

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

WHO WE ARE

The South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) is a partnership of federal, state, nonprofit, and private organizations dedicated to conserving a landscape capable of sustaining the nation's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.

Our region spans parts of six states, from Virginia to Florida, including U.S. waters to 200 miles offshore. We're part of a broader LCC Network of 22 cooperatives across North America and the U.S. Pacific and Caribbean Islands.

WHAT WE DO



We work together to design and achieve a vision for the future, the Conservation Blueprint



We develop shared measures of ecosystem health known as indicators



We track progress toward sustaining our lands and waters through the State of the South Atlantic assessment

LEARN MORE

Get involved and get in touch at:
southatlanticlcc.org

FROM THE COORDINATOR



"The South Atlantic LCC gains its strength from the diversity of its partnership. In 2016, that diversity led to significant accomplishment by using the Blueprint to guide conservation actions. The highlights listed in this report are just a few of the important actions that your cooperative helped facilitate throughout the 2016 calendar year."

—MALLORY G. MARTIN

SENTINEL LANDSCAPE DESIGNATED IN EASTERN NC

In July, 33 counties in eastern North Carolina were federally designated as a Sentinel Landscape to preserve conservation lands, working farmland, and forests adjacent to military training grounds. The South Atlantic LCC helped support the designation with the Conservation Blueprint and is recognized as a collaborating organization.



NC Forest Service



Supporting
Blueprint uses

INDICATORS REVISED FOR BLUEPRINT 2.1

The South Atlantic LCC improved many indicators in 2016 for the Blueprint 2.1 revision, including:

- » A new imperiled aquatic species indicator better captures areas important for at-risk aquatics. Freshwater aquatic and waterscapes indicators are now applied only within the active river area.
- » Low-urban historic landscapes added an intermediate score for urban historic sites. To address equity of access, urban open space now emphasizes areas lacking nearby protected lands.
- » An update to marine mammals incorporates seasonality and uncertainty. Coastal condition now incorporates more recent data from both the 2010 and 2006 National Coastal Condition Assessments.



Improving the
Blueprint

MEETING JOINTLY WITH PENINSULAR FLORIDA LCC

In June, the steering committees of the South Atlantic and Peninsular Florida LCCs met jointly in St. Augustine, FL to celebrate success, plan at broader scales, and coordinate conservation efforts across their boundaries in the Southeast United States. Two particular cross-boundary opportunities include SECAS and an increased focus on the high priority Big Bend region of Florida.



Collaborating
across LCCs

THE SOUTH ATLANTIC URBAN CONSERVATION SUMMIT

As part of a project to improve the integration of the natural and built environments in the Blueprint, the South Atlantic LCC and American Planning Association hosted in an urban conservation summit in Atlanta in September. More than 25 urban planners and conservation professionals discussed challenges and barriers to incorporating natural resource conservation into urban planning, setting priorities, collaboration opportunities, and metrics for measuring success.



Improving the
Blueprint

SPREADING THE WORD ABOUT THE BLUEPRINT

The South Atlantic LCC maintained the monthly Third Thursday Web Forum and Triangle and Climate Researchers' Brown Bag lunch and took advantage of opportunities to build awareness and knowledge of the Blueprint. Staff presented at the Ecological Society of America conference, spoke at a South Atlantic Fishery Management Council meeting, and held trainings for the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, among many other examples.



Promoting
the Blueprint

AS OF 2016...



450+ people from 130+ organizations have actively contributed to Blueprint development



The Blueprint has been used in 25 different projects, with 19 more in progress



Your cooperative has hosted 50 Third Thursday Web Forums to involve and inform the community

THE STEERING COMMITTEE



Rick Durbrow,
Chair



Jon Ambrose,
Vice Chair



David Viker



Rick Lint



Cynthia Jester



Robert Abernethy



Ben Wigley



Kevin Brice



Beth Stys



Kyle Briggs



Breck Carmichael



Cale Godfrey



Geno Olmi



Ken Rice



Vacant



Jared Teutsch



Roger Pugliese



Mary Boatman

Current as of December 31, 2016