

Duane Pool USA
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The CEC has been a catalyst for bringing stakeholders together in broad efforts to facilitate cumulative conservation strategies. The threats and scale of environmental issues have changed since the agreements were implemented. Disruptions of ecological services has far outpaced the investments to restore services, curtail losses, and protect species. Though the CEC has had a strong positive impact, losses continue to accumulate. For example, national policies and commodity prices have made the opportunity cost grassland conservation management decision a poor second or even third best use. It is no wonder migratory species that connect countries and habitats are continuing to decline (for most). Accelerated efforts especially in the identification of key migratory habitats that are facing the greatest losses and those at greatest risk combined with level of use by species will help focus the limited resources so they impact the most important habitats and have the greatest outcomes in terms of delaying the loss of biodiversity.

The second key direction is to understand and articulate the value of these important habitats and biodiversity. What are the costs species and habitat loss?

Third, focus on species and habitats that transcend countries borders. Such as grasslands which face similar and distinctly different threats in each country yet service MANY shared species between the countries. This has two justifications for a commerce perspective; first don't pillage your own natural capital unfairly to get a market advantage over the other signatories, and second, don't stimulate actions that reduce the capacity and population stability of shared species just because it serves one countries economic advantage or purpose.