



CLP Career Placement Final Report

Assessing the Impact Across BLI Americas Programs: Data Analysis and Community Strategy Testing

Host country, site location and the dates of the placement: Birdlife Americas regional Office. Dates: September 2025-January 2026

Names of any institutions involved in organising the project or participating: Birdlife

The overall aim summarised in 10–15 words: Develop a dashboard to visualize Birdlife Americas' conservation impact and analyse grassland bird species monitoring data.

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Date which the report was completed: 9-Jan-2026

Project Partners & Collaborators

Please list and acknowledge all of the project's collaborators, including individuals, organisations and government departments. Please provide a brief description of how each was involved in the project.

- *BirdLife International – Americas Secretariat.*
- *BirdLife Partners in the Southern Cone (Aves Argentinas, Guyra Paraguay, Aves Uruguay)*
- *Jocotoco Conservation Foundation (Ecuador)*
- *Birds Canada*
- *Grassland Alliance regional network*

1. Background

Please provide a brief summary of what you are trying to address through your Career Placement, and the overall purpose of the project to put the report in context.

The Career Placement addresses the need to better integrate and interpret conservation data generated across Birdlife International's partnership in the Americas, in order to produce meaningful and comparable indicators of conservation impact. While large amounts of information are collected through species monitoring and project activities, these data are often fragmented across programs and partners, limiting their use for regional-level assessment and strategic planning.

The overall purpose of the project is to strengthen how ecological and conservation data are compiled, analysed, and communicated to support evidence-based decision-making. Through contributions to a regional impact dashboard and to the analysis of bird monitoring data from the Grassland Alliance initiative, the placement helps align project-level monitoring with regional conservation priorities and promotes more effective use of data to guide conservation actions and future investments.

2. Key Activities - Summary of Objectives, Activities and Outputs

Please list the key objectives of the Career Placement and for each objective list the activities that have been carried out across the whole placement to help you meet each objective. Provide details on the outputs of each activity.

Activities	Outputs
<i>Compiled and reviewed existing datasets from Birdlife Americas programmes and partner organizations, including species records, habitat indicators, and conservation actions</i>	<i>An initial list of different variables that could be included in the dashboard.</i>
<i>Standardized data formats and reviewed indicator definitions in coordination with technical staff to ensure consistency across programmes.</i>	<i>A list of indicators to develop the dashboard classified in the following groups: sites, systems, species, social, policy, administration and communications indicators.</i>
<i>Participated in discussions with programme managers to prioritize key indicators aligned with the Regional Implementation Plan.</i>	<i>A list of definitions to support the use of key indicators from the before mentioned groups.</i>
<i>Design and programming the code for the dashboard in R software using shiny app tools.</i>	<i>An interactive dashboard that includes different sections corresponding that grouped the selected indicators, calculations, figures and interactive maps.</i>

<i>Data extraction from databases of different bird species to complete the necessary information that will be included in a platform to monitoring, evaluating and learning for the southern cone grasslands alliance.</i>	<i>Excel file completed with the required information of each species.</i>
<i>Meeting with team members from different areas involved in dashboard for Birdlife Americas to present the Dashboard proposal</i>	<i>Power point presentation to introduce the dashboard design and traits.</i>

Please include any specific metrics, or outcomes where possible (e.g., species monitored, people engaged, reports written, conservation actions taken).

Outcomes	Number	Additional Information
<i>Surveys conducted</i>	<i>0</i>	
<i>Area of habitat mapped/restored</i>	<i>0</i>	
<i>Stakeholders/communities engaged</i>	<i>0</i>	
<i>Publications or media produced</i>	<i>0</i>	
<i>Other (specify): Regional impact indicators and dashboard inputs developed</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1 regional framework + multiple datasets</i>
<i>Other (specify): Meetings and presentations</i>	<i>8</i>	
<i>Other (specify): Reproducible code</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Easy to update with new data in the future.</i>

3. Broader Influence and Visibility

Have your activities or work been shared beyond your team or project (e.g., in media, conferences, or publications)? Please describe.

Although the main outputs were technical and intended for internal use, the work was shared with staff from multiple programmes within the Birdlife Americas Secretariat and with selected partner organizations through coordination meetings and technical consultations. The datasets and indicator frameworks developed are being incorporated into regional monitoring, reporting, and donor communication processes, extending the influence of the work beyond the immediate project team.

4. Skills and Knowledge Gained (100-200 words)

Outline the new technical, analytical, or soft skills you have developed.

During this Career Placement, I strengthened my skills in data integration, indicator development, and regional-scale impact assessment. I gained experience in compiling and standardizing heterogeneous datasets from multiple programmes and partner organizations, and in translating ecological data into indicators suitable for dashboards and institutional reporting. I also improved my understanding of monitoring and evaluation processes within large conservation partnerships, including how project-level data contribute to regional strategies and donor reporting.

Also, I improved my communication and coordination skills by working with diverse technical teams, facilitating agreement on data standards and reporting needs. The placement also enhanced my project planning, time management, and ability to work independently while contributing to collaborative, multi-institutional initiatives.

Finally, I was able to apply my programming knowledge into a specific aim, and share it with the team members to be able to update the dashboard in the future.

5. Skills You Hoped to Develop

What skills would you have liked to develop but did not get the chance during this placement?

I had hoped to gain more direct experience with the technical implementation of the dashboard, including database architecture and automated data pipelines, as well as more advanced visualization and user-interface design. While I contributed to defining indicators, data structures and reporting needs, the placement focused more on data preparation and conceptual design than on software development. I also would have liked to participate more directly in field-based monitoring activities with partners, but the placement was primarily office-based and focused on regional data integration. These remain important areas for my future professional development.

6. Challenges Faced and Lessons Learned

Were there any notable challenges or learning moments? How did you address them?

A key challenge was understanding how a large and diverse international organization operates within a short time frame, including how different programmes and partners interact. Guidance from my supervisors was essential in helping me navigate these structures and move forward effectively. Another challenge was compiling and processing data from multiple sources with different formats and standards, which required additional time for validation and harmonization. These experiences highlighted the importance of clear data standards, good communication, and flexibility when working with regional-scale datasets in complex institutional settings.

The second challenge was to adapt to new aims when we had some difficulties to acquire some specific data. Thanks to the good communication and team work we were able detect a need, and change the aim to continue working very productively.

7. Feedback from Your Host Organisation

Have you received any feedback on your work? Please summarise any key points.

Yes, I received continuous feedback through regular virtual meetings and ongoing communication with my supervisors. Feedback highlighted the quality of the data preparation and indicator development work, and included suggestions to improve documentation and align outputs with institutional reporting needs.

8. Reflections on Working with Your Host Organisation

What have you learned about conservation work in your host organisation or context?

Working with Birdlife and the possibility of this placement showed me how conservation in large international organizations relies strongly on coordination, shared standards, and collaboration among partners. I learned that integrating data across projects is essential for setting regional priorities and supporting strategic decision-making. I also gained insight into the need to balance technical rigor with practical constraints such as timelines and data availability when working across countries and programmes.

9. Collaboration and Networking

Have you connected with:

- CLP alumni or other placements?
- External partners, stakeholders, or donors?

Describe any collaboration or networking highlights.

During the placement, I did not have direct collaboration with other CLP placements or alumni through project activities. However, I am part of a CLP WhatsApp group for alumni and current participants, which provides a channel for information sharing and staying connected to the wider CLP network. I also participated in a CLP Wildlife Trade training, which broadened my understanding of conservation challenges related to this topic. While active collaboration did not take place during this placement, these connections create opportunities for future networking and potential collaboration within the CLP community.

10. Support from CLP

Do you need any specific support from CLP (e.g., mentorship, training, networking opportunities)?

Additional training on programme coordination and team management would be very valuable, particularly for developing leadership skills within multi-institutional conservation projects. Training related to fundraising and project proposal development for conservation initiatives would also be highly beneficial. These types of support would help strengthen my capacity to take on coordination roles in future conservation programmes.

11. Overall, how was your whole CLP Career Placement experience? Do you have any suggestions for CLP to make this programme even better?

Overall, the Career Placement was a very positive and valuable experience, providing insight into regional conservation work and strong mentorship support. As a suggestion, occasional in-person meetings or training events for placements and alumni could further strengthen networking and peer learning, although I understand that this would involve additional costs and logistical challenges.