

# The Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy

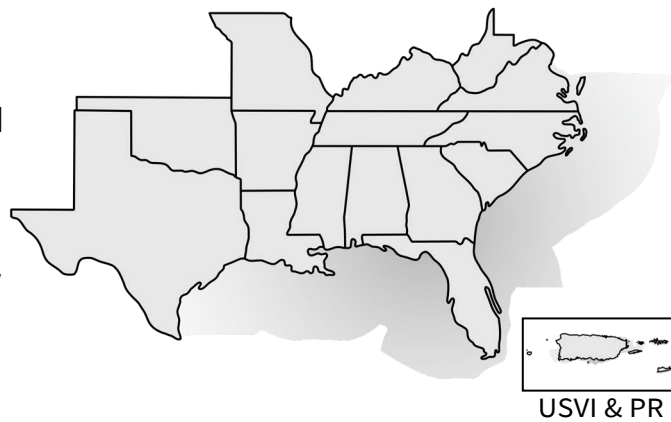
## SECAS



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### A Bold Vision

A connected network of lands and waters that supports thriving fish and wildlife populations and improved quality of life for people



### An Ambitious Goal

A 10% or greater improvement in the health, function, and connectivity of Southeastern ecosystems by 2060

### A Blueprint for Action

A data-driven spatial plan that helps accelerate conservation action in the places where it will make the biggest impact



*“For more than a decade, SECAS has been a regional force for voluntary collaborative conservation, working across*

*jurisdictions while recognizing individual conservation missions to achieve the landscape conservation outcomes needed to sustain ecosystems and communities.”*

—Robert Boyles, Director of the SC Dept. of Natural Resources & Chair of the SECAS Executive Steering Committee

### Who We Are

SECAS is a regional conservation initiative that spans the Southeastern United States and Caribbean. SECAS was started in 2011 by the states of the Southeastern Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) and the federal Southeast Natural Resource Leaders Group.

SECAS emerged as a response to the unprecedented challenges facing our natural and cultural resources, like urban growth and climate change. We see these challenges as an opportunity to coordinate conservation action and investment around a shared strategy.

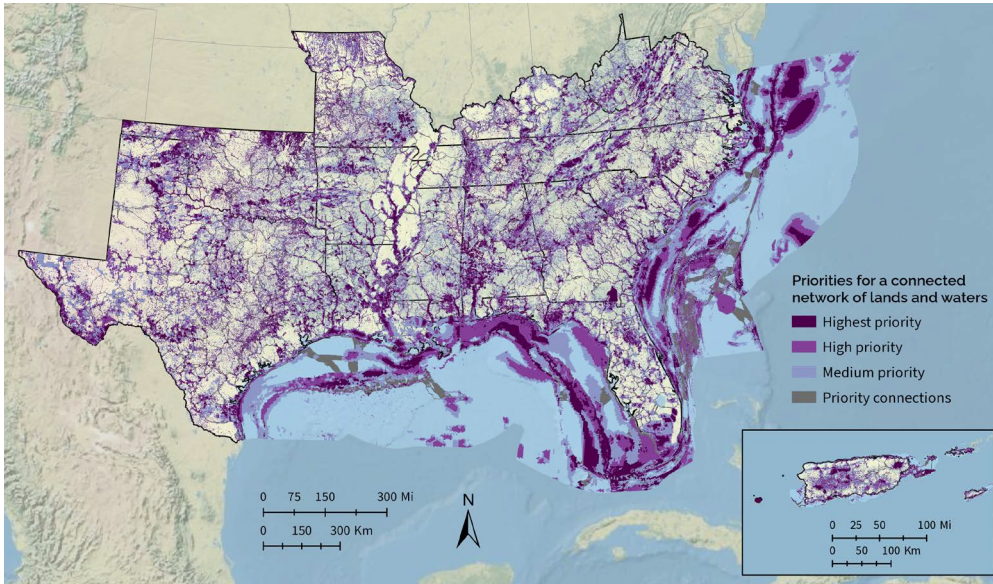
### What We Do

- We bring together state, federal, nonprofit, and private organizations around a shared vision for the future.
- We track regional metrics of ecosystem health, function, and connectivity to report annually on progress toward achieving the SECAS 10% goal.
- We develop the Southeast Conservation Blueprint, a spatial plan that identifies priority areas for a connected network of lands and waters.

### Latest Accomplishments

- SECAS expanded the Blueprint in the U.S. Caribbean and offshore Gulf and Atlantic waters, using consistent methods and data regionwide.
- SECAS continued work with SEAFWA’s Wildlife Diversity Committee to help states align their Wildlife Action Plan revisions and support collaborative conservation across jurisdictions.
- SECAS added the National Alliance of Forest Owners and invited the Rivercane Restoration Alliance to serve as two new Points of Contact.

# The Southeast Conservation Blueprint



Blueprint Version 2023 identifies priority areas for achieving the SECAS vision of a connected network of lands and waters. Get started at [secassoutheast.org/blueprint](https://secassoutheast.org/blueprint).

The Southeast Conservation Blueprint is the primary product of SECAS. The Blueprint is more than just a map. It's a living spatial plan to achieve the SECAS vision of a connected network of lands and waters across the Southeast and Caribbean. The Blueprint identifies priority areas based on a suite of

natural and cultural resource indicators representing terrestrial, freshwater, and marine ecosystems. A connectivity analysis identifies corridors that link inland, coastal, and marine areas and span climate gradients. You can use these underlying layers to find your part of the Blueprint!

- The Blueprint identifies potential areas for a range of conservation actions, like landowner incentives, management, education, or protection.
- It's a work in progress that regularly incorporates new data, partner input, and information about on-the-ground conditions.
- The Blueprint provides a regional perspective and is intended to be used in combination with local data and knowledge.

## Get Help Using the Blueprint

Staff are available to answer questions and help you use the Blueprint to support a proposal or inform a decision. Your experience will guide future improvements and ensure the Blueprint reflects on-the-ground conditions.

We also welcome feedback on the Blueprint data and methods!

- Find contact information for Blueprint user support staff at [secassoutheast.org/staff](https://secassoutheast.org/staff)
- Or, contact Alex Lamle at [alexandria\\_lamle@fws.gov](mailto:alexandria_lamle@fws.gov) and she'll put you in touch with the best person to help

## For More Information

- Visit [secassoutheast.org](https://secassoutheast.org)
- Subscribe to the monthly newsletter at the bottom of any page of the SECAS website
- Contact the SECAS Coordinator: Amanda Sesser [amanda\\_sesser@fws.gov](mailto:amanda_sesser@fws.gov)

## Who's Using the Blueprint?



Credit: Rua Mordecai

The Blueprint helps identify potential longleaf corridors in North Carolina.

The Blueprint is helping 400+ people from 180+ organizations bring in new funding and inform decisions, including:

- A state wildlife agency seeking funds to protect coastal wetlands and improve public access
- A broad coalition of military and conservation partners establishing a new Sentinel Landscapes Partnership
- Longleaf pine conservation partnerships prioritizing restoration and management efforts
- A nonprofit supporting the reauthorization of a critical conservation funding source at its state legislature
- A Council of Government helping a town refine its comprehensive plan
- A local African American community organization communicating the natural resource benefits of a cultural heritage trail
- A watershed partnership developing a land protection strategy