

AMERICAS FLYWAYS INITIATIVE

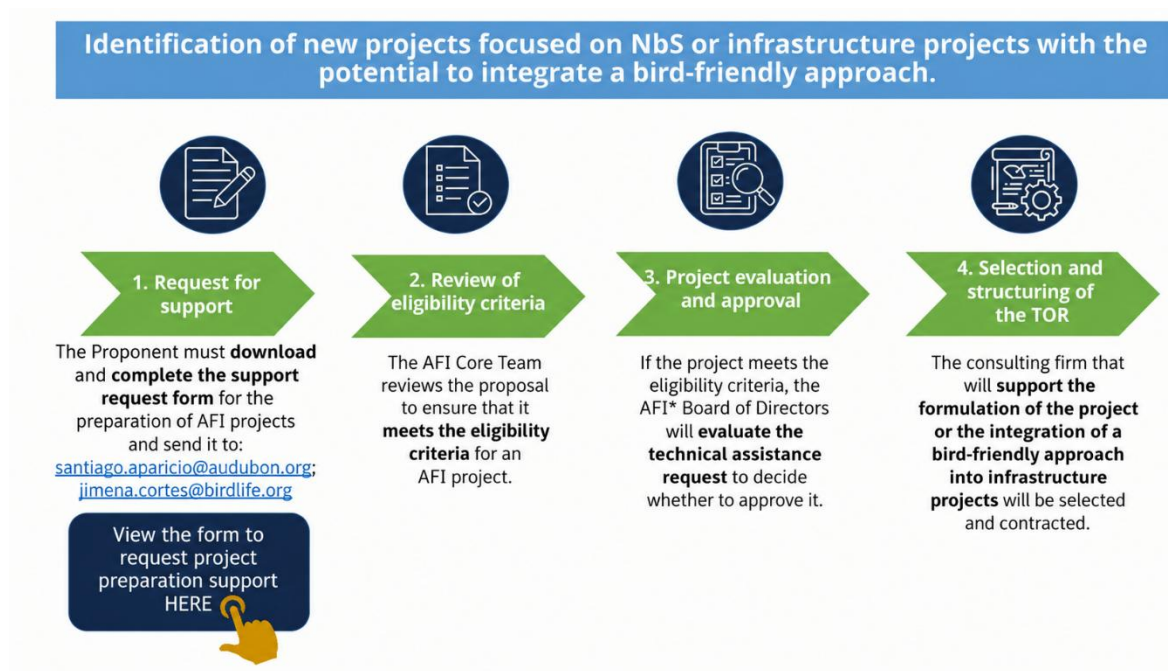
Step-by-step process for identifying, evaluating, and selecting projects eligible to receive technical assistance for their development

AFI aims to promote the protection, conservation, and restoration of sites that are key to biodiversity through the identification, development, and implementation of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) projects, as well as the integration of a bird-friendly approach into infrastructure projects.

To this end, progress is being made in identifying and selecting projects that:

1. Contribute to the conservation of migratory birds and biodiversity
2. Contribute to human well-being and economic development
3. Promote collective and inclusive action and community participation
4. Facilitate the achievement of measurable results through monitoring and evaluation
5. Ensure sustainable and responsible environmental and social management

As part of the process for identifying and prioritising projects, the following steps have been established:



* The AFI Board of Directors comprises one representative each from Audubon, BirdLife International and CAF.

Projects selected by the AFI Board of Directors may receive technical assistance to:

- a. Advance project formulation and/or the development of pre-investment studies, which may include technical feasibility, enabling conditions, the detailed financial model and/or optimal capital structure. The aim is to strengthen the foundations and remove obstacles to facilitate the transition to the financing stage.
- b. Integrating a bird-centred approach into infrastructure projects.

In both funding windows, a review will be carried out of CAF's social and environmental safeguards, as well as the strengthening of AFI's objectives, criteria, mechanisms and strategies for the conservation of focal species of migratory birds and biodiversity.

Proposals applying for AFI support under these two windows (Step 2 of the new project identification process) must meet the following eligibility criteria:

Criteria	Description
1. Type of AFI intervention	The project is aligned with at least one of the AFI intervention areas: Nature-based Solutions (NbS) 1. Restoration, conservation and protection of ecosystems 2. Coastal zone management to promote sustainability and climate resilience 3. Sustainable and bird-friendly agriculture and aquaculture. Bird-friendly infrastructure¹ 4. Integrated solid waste management 5. Water security (access to safe water, sanitation and irrigation) 6. Linear infrastructure: urban and rural roads; power distribution lines; pipelines; telecommunications towers and lines. 7. Urban infrastructure: buildings, educational and healthcare facilities, etc. 8. Infrastructure for clean energy generation. Click HERE to view the guidelines for structuring projects that scale up and integrate nature-based solutions and bird-friendly, safe infrastructure.
2. AFI-SbN eligible sites	For NbS projects, it must be ensured that the project is located within an AFI-eligible site (see Webmap here). The locations shown are indicative and are continuously updated to reflect the most relevant sites for migratory birds. Note: If the project is not located within the map of strategic sites, but there is technical evidence supporting the relevance of the area, please include the corresponding justification in the form. This justification must align with the same parameters used in the prioritization process. In other words, the area must be recognized by at least one conservation initiative, overlap with hemispheric priority areas, contain trigger species, and meet either the irreplaceability criteria or the threshold of 1% of the hemispheric population. Please note that the criteria concerning overlap with hemispheric priorities does not apply to austral trigger species.

¹ If it is determined that the proposal involves infrastructure interventions with the potential to cause irreversible alterations to the integrity of migratory bird habitats, it would not qualify for consideration as an AFI project.

Criteria	Description
3. AFI-Eligible Infrastructure Sites	An infrastructure project is not required to be located within an AFI-eligible site. However, if it coincides with one, its level of irreplaceability (high, medium or low) must be checked on the Webmap. • If the site is classified as having medium or low irreplaceability, a preliminary risk analysis for habitat integrity must be carried out, including a proposal for mitigation measures. • Projects located on sites with high irreplaceability will not be eligible for support, as these areas are a high conservation priority due to their unique ecological value.
4. Potential impact	The proposal identifies potential positive impacts on the conservation, protection and regeneration of biodiversity, such as: protecting or restoring key habitats, reducing bird mortality, halting and reversing biodiversity loss, and creating conditions that increase bird populations, of other species and the health of ecosystems (positive nature), and ensuring compatibility with migratory routes, as well as impacts relating to mitigation and adaptation to climate change.
5. Contribution to international frameworks, national policies, the SDGs and the BIO-CAF agenda	The proposal aligns with and contributes to the fulfilment of the targets set out in international frameworks (the Kunming–Montreal Biodiversity Framework, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals), national policies (the National Biodiversity Strategy and/or the National Bird Conservation Strategy, the Nationally Determined Contribution to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change), the Sustainable Development Goals and the Programme Lines of the BIO-CAF Agenda 2020–2026.
6. Estimated project size	The proposal states that the estimated cost range for the project is between: USD 5M–25M; USD 25M–50M+; and USD 100M or above.
7. Type of applicants	Proponents may include institutions from the public and private sectors, multilateral organizations, development agencies, commercial banks, investment funds, and other financial institutions that CAF deems eligible in accordance with its internal analysis and policies.