



Sierra de Miahuatlán

Project title: Sierra de Miahuatlán

Location: Mexico

Coordinates: Villa de Tututepec- 16.1312° N, 97.6087° W; San Juan Lachao 16.1578° N, 97.1245° W

Size: 4,942 acres

Grant Amount: \$40,000

Date: 2025

Partners: American Bird Conservancy

Summary and Background:

The Sierra de Miahuatlán, located in the southern Mexican state of Oaxaca, is part of the Sierra Madre del Sur mountain range. This region features a wide range of ecosystem types, including tropical deciduous forests, cloud forests, pine-oak forests, and montane forests. These diverse habitats are shaped by the region's complex topography and climatic gradients, with elevations ranging from around 500 to over 3,000 meters above sea level. The climate varies accordingly, with lower elevations experiencing warm, dry conditions and higher elevations characterized by

cooler, more humid weather, especially in the cloud forests where mist and frequent rainfall support unique vegetation. Less than 10% of this area is under protection.

The Sierra de Miahuatlán is recognized for its impressive biodiversity and ecological significance. It serves as a refuge for endemic and threatened plants, birds, mammals, and amphibians. Avian diversity in the Sierra de Miahuatlán is exceptionally rich, with the region serving as habitat for both migratory and resident species, including the endemic and Endangered Oaxaca Hummingbird and the migratory Broad-tailed Hummingbird.

Despite the importance of this area for biodiversity, there are currently no protected areas in the region. ABC has been working with our partner CONBIODES (Conservación Biológica y Desarrollo Social) to establish at least two voluntary community protected areas (ADVCS) that would total more than 4,000 acres to protect the species of birds that are using the habitat in this region. These protected areas would be in the ejidos/communities of Villa de Tututepec and San Juan Lachao. CONBIODES, and the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas, have been engaging with these two communities on the topic of protected area creation and they are primed to pursue the next steps in this process. Funds from the Tropical Forest Forever Fund would be used to support CONBIODES in working with the communities to advance the creation of these protected areas and submitting the application for certification to the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas in Mexico. Part of the application process includes documenting the biological diversity of the proposed protected areas and preparing a management plan.

List of Neotropical Bird Species using the Project Site:

Broad-tailed Hummingbird has officially been observed in the project area. eBird checklists from around the area indicate usage by other neotropical migrants, but we do not currently have survey data from the region.

List of Other Bird Species of Concern or Focus:

Oaxaca Hummingbird (Endangered), Ocellated Quail (Vulnerable), White-throated Jay (Vulnerable), Olive Warbler, White-eared Hummingbird, Crescent-chested Warbler, Cordilleran Flycatcher, and Red Warbler.

Property Protection Plan:

Protection plans for the property would be elaborated on in the management plan created with community participation.