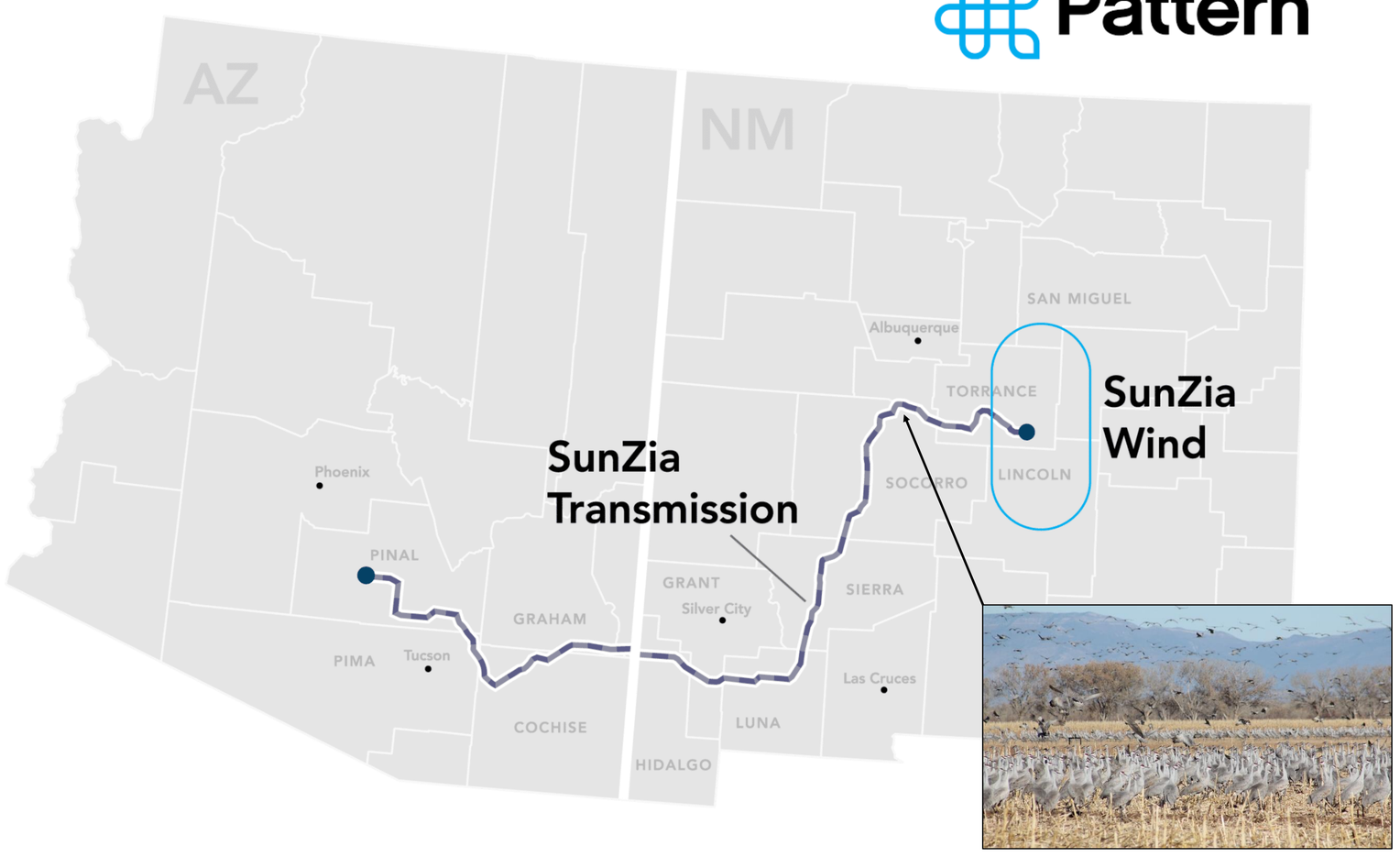
Strategic stakeholder engagement and application of international standards leads to a replicable and scalable model of wildlife mitigation for renewable energy and transmission projects in the U.S.

Wildlife Mitigation for the Largest Clean Energy Project in U.S. History: A Case Study in the Southwest

Pattern



SunZia

- 3.5-gigawatt wind energy generation facilities in central New Mexico
- 550-mile high-voltage transmission line connecting to the grid in Arizona
- Largest renewable energy project in the history of the western hemisphere

Stakeholder Engagement

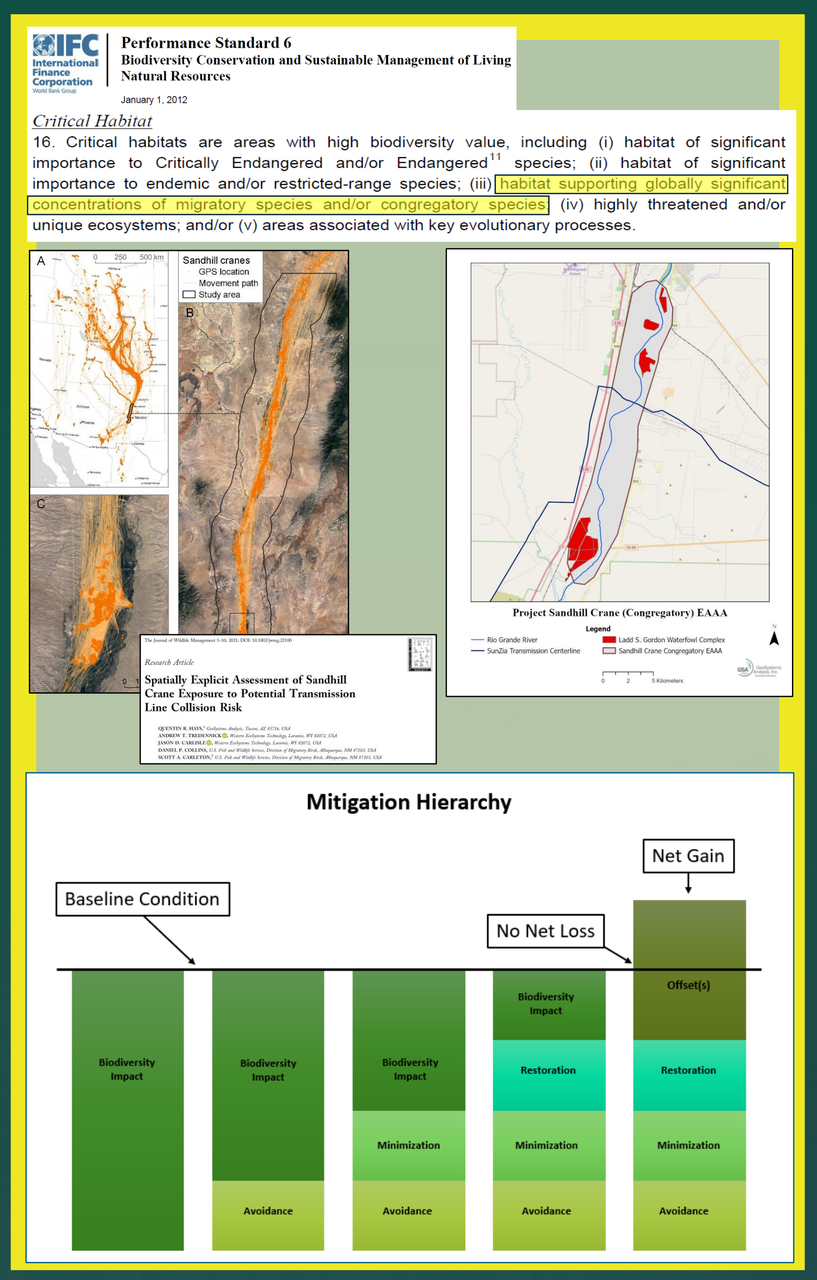
- Intentional approach
- Recurring meetings, transparency and data sharing, responsiveness to requests
- Regional and national environmental groups
- Local and state-level environmental groups
- State and federal agencies

Migratory Bird Conservation Plan (MBCP)

- Collaborative plan to address direct and indirect impacts to migratory birds and their habitats
- Relies on equivalency analyses (habitat and resource)
- Centered on quantifiable impacts to vegetation communities

International Finance Corporation Performance Standard 6 (IFC PS6)

- Critical habitat assessment (CHA) following IFC PS6
- Follow-on biodiversity action plan (BAP)
- CHA found critical habitat triggered by congregatory sandhill cranes
- BAP calls for “net gain”



IFC International Finance Corporation World Bank Group

Performance Standard 6
Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

January 1, 2012

Critical Habitat

16. Critical habitats are areas with high biodiversity value, including (i) habitat of significant importance to Critically Endangered and/or Endangered[11] species; (ii) habitat of significant importance to endemic and/or restricted-range species; (iii) habitat supporting globally significant concentrations of migratory species and/or congregatory species; (iv) highly threatened and/or unique ecosystems; and/or (v) areas associated with key evolutionary processes.

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Research Article

Spatially Explicit Assessment of Sandhill Crane Exposure to Potential Transmission Line Collision Risk

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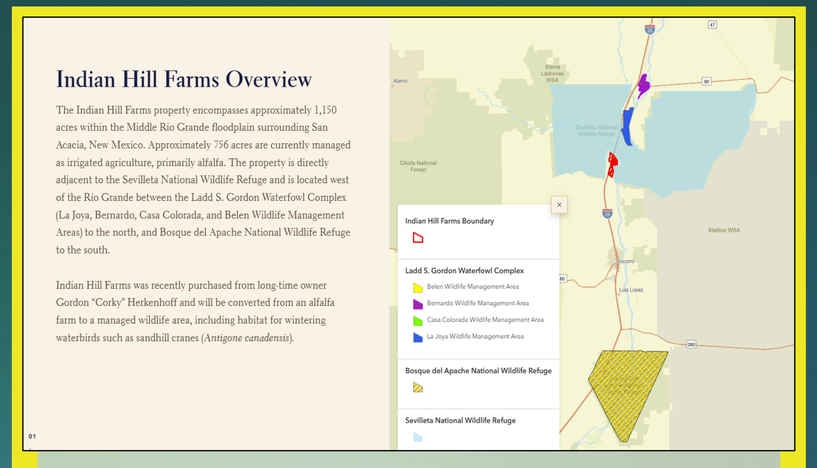
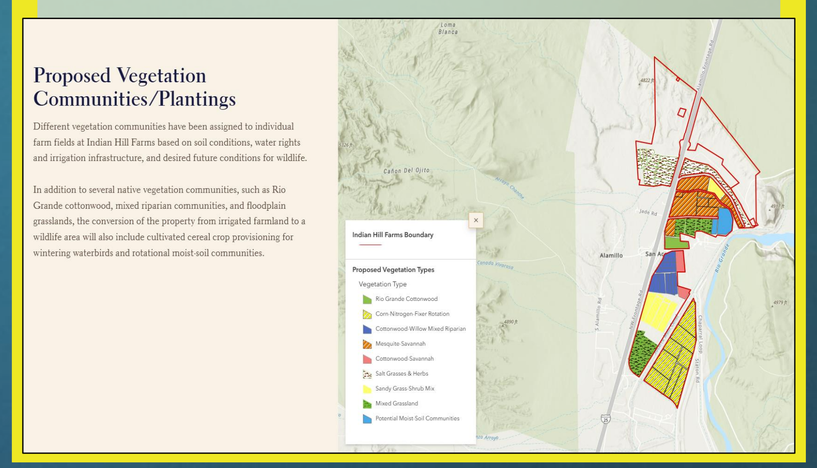


Indian Hill Farms, recently purchased by SunZia, will be converted from an alfalfa farm to wildlife habitat, including roosting and foraging habitat for wintering sandhill cranes, satisfying habitat replacement requirements under the MBCP and facilitating ‘net gain’ under the BAP.



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