

# The Strategic Conservation Assessment of Gulf Coast Landscapes (SCA) Project

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The SCA project consists of a suite of three geospatial tools that allow users to explore land conservation opportunities in the Gulf Coast Region using their own priorities.



Getting feedback on the tools from stakeholders.

### Benefits of the SCA Tools:

- User-defined weighting - allows you to evaluate different lands for conservation based on your own priorities
- RESTORE goal framework - allows for alignment with larger Gulf-wide conservation priorities
- Developed in collaboration with 650+ stakeholders - data measures and tool function meet users' needs
- Consistent Gulf-wide datasets - allows you to scale your efforts or seek collaborations across regions or states

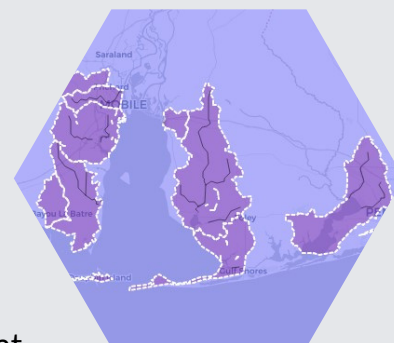
## CONSERVATION PLANNING INVENTORY TOOL (CIT)

**Purpose:** The CIT is a spatially-explicit inventory and assessment of existing local and regional conservational plans and shared priorities across the Gulf Coast Region.

**Applications:** Proposal preparation, land use planning, project justification

### Tool Features:

- 600+ plans that include aspects of land conservation (i.e., acquisition, easement, and stewardship)
- Select the spatial scale, time frame, and priorities you want a conservation plan to cover
- Explore and download plans on an interactive map or in a tabular format



A search for watershed-level plans along the AL/FL coastline.

**Link to Tool:** <http://sca-cit.herokuapp.com/>

## CONSERVATION VISUALIZATION TOOL (CVT)

**Purpose:** The CVT allows users to tune priorities in a visual environment to identify optimum areas for land conservation and to help inform strategic investments at individual watershed and regional scales.



Mapped priorities allow you to visualize the best areas for conservation.

**Applications:** Conservation visioning, land use planning (e.g., site selection), proposal preparation

### Tool Features:

- Select and weigh conservation goals using 26 data measures grouped under the RESTORE goal framework
- Mapped results allow you to see which areas best fit your goals

**Link to Tool:** <http://sca-cvt.herokuapp.com/>

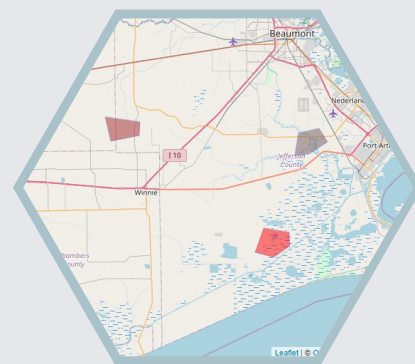
## CONSERVATION PRIORITIZATION TOOL (CPT)

**Purpose:** The CPT is a flexible mapping and analysis tool that allows the user to self-select weights and data layers that best describe their own conservation goals. Quantifiable results provide the user with objective, transparent assessments of land conservation potential.

**Applications:** Proposal preparation, land use planning (e.g., land acquisition/conservation easements), evaluation among proposals

### Tool Features:

- Single Project and Multi-Project analysis modes allow you to evaluate ecological and socioeconomic co-benefits for up to 10 areas of interest based on your organization's priorities.
- Prioritize areas based on 26 data measures that reflect the five RESTORE goals (Habitat, Water Quality & Quantity, Living Coastal & Marine Resources, Community Resilience, Gulf Economy)
- Multicriteria Decision Analysis (MCDA) simulation to explore the results of project prioritization using up to 100,000 random weighting schemes.



*Comparing three areas of interest along the Texas coast.*

**Link to Tool:** <http://sca-cpt.herokuapp.com/>

**Link to Tutorials:** <https://www.quest.fwrc.msstate.edu/sca/help-docs.php>

## CONSIDERATIONS:

- Project footprint must be larger than 1 sq. km due to hexagon size
- Tools are based on available data (may not represent all potential priorities)
- Constraints that may impact multiple goal categories have not yet been addressed
- CPT can accommodate up to 10 conservation project areas at one time

*This project was funded with support from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Cooperative Agreement F17AC00267, as part of the Council-Selected Restoration Component 2015 Funded Priorities List of the Gulf Ecosystem Restoration Council.*

## MORE INFORMATION:

For more information on the SCA tool suite, visit our website:

<https://www.quest.fwrc.msstate.edu/sca-project.php>

For detailed information on tool documentation, visit our Gitbook:

<https://scatoolsuite.gitbook.io/sca-tool-suite/>

If you have questions or concerns please contact: [scaprojectgulf@gmail.com](mailto:scaprojectgulf@gmail.com)

**USE THE TOOLS:**

