

Text by Ana Luna*
Illustrated by Ricardo Figueroa**

THREATENED SPECIES OF COMMON CONCERN



Canada, the United States, and Mexico share ecosystems that are home to land and marine species that freely cross national borders, and they can only be protected with tri-national collaboration.



Pink-footed shearwater

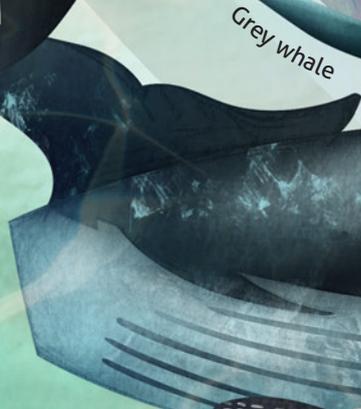
Short-tailed albatross



Killer whale



Blue whale



Grey whale



Sea otter



Leatherback sea turtle

Hawksbill sea turtle

Shared threatened marine species include mammals (the blue whale, the grey whale, the killer whale, and the sea otter) and birds (the pink-footed shearwater, the short-tailed albatross, the Pacific green turtle, the hawksbill sea turtle, and the leatherback sea turtle or luth).

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These species depend on the continued availability of habitats for breeding and feeding, as well as transit corridors and stopping-off points along their migratory routes.

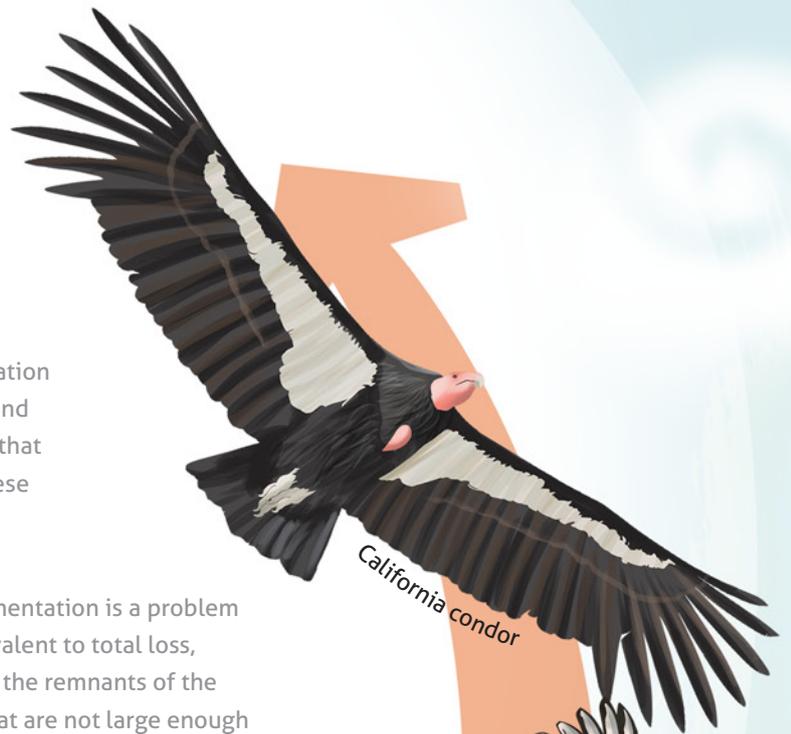
Climate change, the fragmentation of habitats, invasive species, and contamination exert pressure that affects the conservation of these native species.

Land habitats are destroyed by factors such as the conversion of natural habitats to agricultural or urban use (the use of pesticides or urbanization), changing the course of rivers, or extraction of water from waterways.

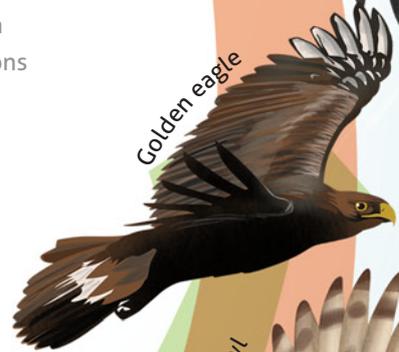
The introduction of invasive species is the biggest threat for biodiversity continuity, since they compete with native species for both space and food, propagate diseases, and upset ecosystems' natural processes.

Fragmentation is a problem equivalent to total loss, since the remnants of the habitat are not large enough to maintain viable populations of some species.

Climate change will intensify the danger. With time, species will respond to climate pressures by moving north and to higher elevations to more acceptable habitats, but they will not always be successful.



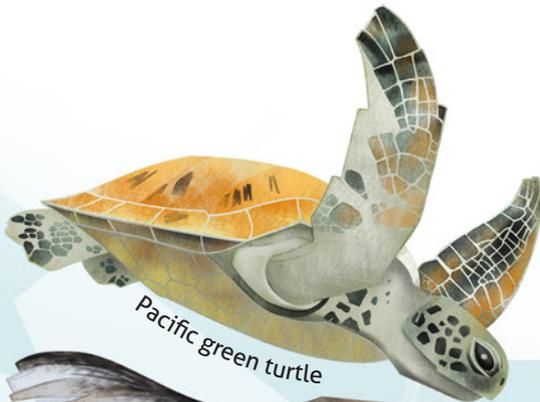
California condor



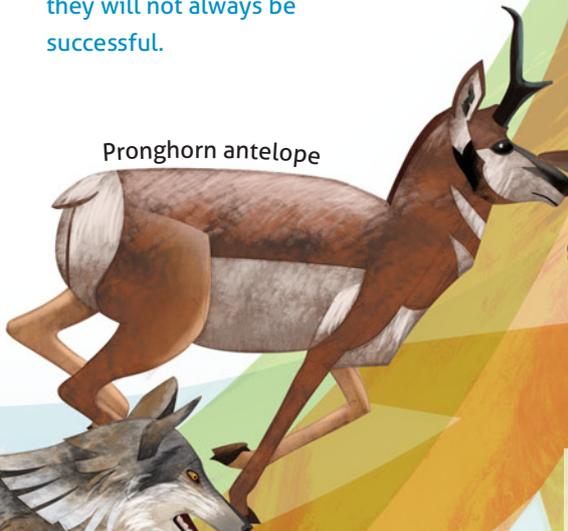
Golden eagle



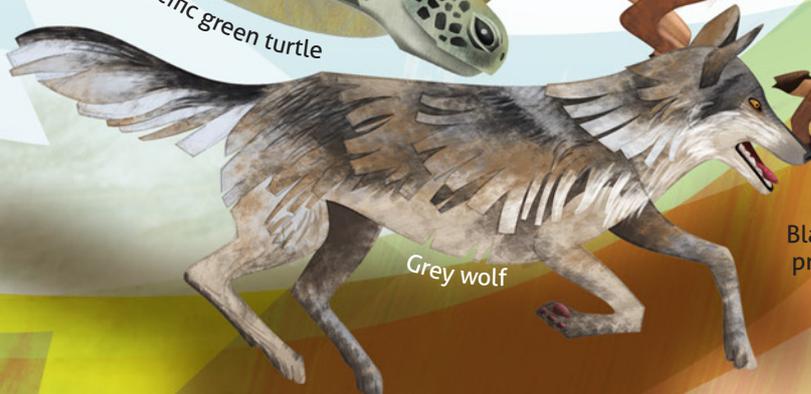
Burrowing owl



Pacific green turtle



Pronghorn antelope



Grey wolf



Black-tailed prairie dog

Shared threatened land species include both birds (the burrowing owl, the California condor, and the golden eagle) and mammals (the black-tailed prairie dog, the grey wolf, and the pronghorn antelope).