The Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan (SDCP) in 2020

Pima County programs and initiatives implementing the vision of the SDCP to balance the protection of natural and cultural heritage with maintaining a vibrant and economically sound community.

Origins of the SDCP: [CLICK HERE](#). Click [HERE](#) for a timeline of SDCP accomplishments and projects.

### Conservation Lands System
- Implements the biological goal of the SDCP
- Identifies areas of high biological diversity, important riparian areas, and essential wildlife movement corridors
- Distinguishes areas suitable for conservation & for development
- Establishes conservation requirements for discretionary land development in CLS
- Guides open space acquisitions
- Informs County recommendations for mitigating federal/state projects

### Multi-species Conservation Plan (MSCP)
- Resolves endangered species issues with County and private development
- Certificate of Coverage Program for private sector development
- Ecological Monitoring Program for County conservation lands
- Science and Technical Advisory Team, US Fish and Wildlife provide oversight
- Annual compliance reporting of all actions to US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Relies on mitigation lands allocated from County conservation lands

### 2004 Open Space/Habitat Protection & 2006 RTA Bond Programs
- Funded Open Space and Ranch acquisitions to County Conservation Lands
- Funded study for and protection of wildlife crossings in transportation corridors
- Provided natural habitats to allocate for MSCP mitigation
- Acquired properties in important riparian corridors

### Conservation Lands Program
- Managed per BOS Conservation Lands Policy
- Placement and enforcement of Restrictive Covenants
- Provide & promote public recreation opportunities
- Required biennial property inspections
- Acquisition and maintenance of working ranches
- Invasive species management programs
- Research, inventory, and monitor biological and cultural resources
- Native Plant Nursery
- Environmental Education and Conservation Programs
- Management of three Mountain Parks

### Regulatory Tools
- Riparian Protection & Mitigation Ordinance
- Native Plant Preservation Ordinance
- Environmentally Sensitive Roadway Design
- Removal of Rubbish, Trash, Weeds, Filth and Debris Ordinance
- Protection of Cultural Resources Policy
- Historic Landmark and Zone Ordinance
- Erosion Hazard Areas and Building Setbacks
- Open Space Buffer Overlay Zone Ordinance
- Site analysis for proposed rezoning
- Analysis of development on water supply and infrastructure

### Sustainable Operations & Economic Development
- BOS Sustainability and Climate Resolutions: 2007-84, 2017-39, and 2017-51
- Sustainable Action Plan for County Operations
- Tucson 2030 District
- Pima Prospers Comprehensive Plan
- Economic Development Plans
- Smart Transportation, Mobility on Demand

### Cultural Resource & Historic Preservation
- Priority cultural resource sensitivity maps
- County project review and site inventory
- Historic built environment site preservation
- Certified Local Government designation
- Cultural Resources monitoring - AZ Site Steward Program management
- Cultural interpretation, public programming

### Ranch Conservation
- Manage and lease 15 working ranches
- Promote sustainable ranching and agricultural practices in southern Arizona
- Ranch Education Program
- Pima County Range Management Standards and Guidelines