

Registration Form

ACI Latin America and Caribbean Green Airport recognition 2025



Submission deadline: September 5, 2025

ACI-LAC will send an acknowledgment of receipt via email after receiving each form.

• Participating Airport Information

Name: Vitória Airport

Airport Group (if applicable): Zurich Airport Brasil

Full name: Anderson da Silva Pinheiro

Position: Engineering, Maintenance, Infrastructure and Sustainability Manager

Email: meioambiente@zurichairportbrasil.com

Project's name: Safe Skies – Quero-quero Bird Protection

Project website (if applicable):

• Official/Alternate Representative for ACI-LAC

Signature of the official/alternate representative for ACI-LAC:

Full name: Artemis Papanika

Position: COO

Email: artemis.papanika@zurichairportbrasil.com

• Recognition conditions

I accept that the information provided (executive summary and graphics/images) be published at the discretion of ACI-LAC.



Biodiversity and Nature-Based Solutions (NbS)

The **Green Airports Recognition 2025** offers a valuable platform for airports across Latin America and the Caribbean to showcase their successful efforts in biodiversity preservation and the implementation of Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) within the aviation sector. Initiatives may include (but not limited to) wetland restoration and creation, restoring ecosystems, and leveraging NbS for carbon removal. Examples of eligible practices range from in-house horticulture and airport nurseries, plantation for carbon reduction and community benefits, ecological rejuvenation of wetlands, marine life conservation efforts led by airports, and basket of measures for biodiversity.

Important note: Projects currently under implementation are eligible, provided they are mature enough to produce measurable, quantitative outcomes in accordance with the evaluation criteria. Participating airports or airport groups may submit only one (1) project

- **Evaluation**

Each application evaluated must meet the following recognition criteria:

- 1. Involvement of the airport's senior management**

Demonstrate active participation and endorsement from airport senior management during any phase of the project's development or implementation.

- 2. Sustainability Benefit**

Detailed description of the sustainability benefits of the project/program supported by quantitative data and objective sustainability indicators where possible.

Indicate the level to which the project contributes to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

- 3. Stakeholder Engagement**

Present evidence of collaboration with internal teams and external partners—such as government agencies, NGOs, community groups, or industry stakeholders—in the planning and execution of the initiative

- 4. Innovation**

Demonstrate that the project/program exceeds standard industry practices.

In addition, ACI-LAC will present a *Special Recognition* to the project demonstrating exceptional achievement. To be eligible, the participating airport must hold accreditation at any level within the Airport Carbon Accreditation (ACA) program.

The weighting of the criteria for special recognition is indicated below:

1. Involvement of the airport's senior management (20%)
2. Sustainability Benefit (30%)
3. Stakeholder Engagement (30%)
4. Innovation (20%)

- **Instructions to participate.**

Complete and submit the form with the project information in MS Word and send to fmedela@aci-lac.aero before **September 05, 2025**.

1. Summary Executive (maximum 350 words)

Please include an Executive Summary of the project in a maximum of 350 words. In case your project meets the criteria of the ACI-LAC *Green Airport Recognition*, this Executive Summary will be included in the Best Environmental Practices Document that seeks to promote best practices that minimize the impact of airports on the environment, in addition to recognizing the achievements of airports in the region in their environmental projects.

Vitória Airport has implemented the **Safe Skies – Quero-Quero Bird Protection Project**, an innovative wildlife management initiative focused on monitoring, capturing, and relocating the “Quero-Quero” (*Vanellus chilensis*), one of the most frequent bird species in Brazilian airports and a significant risk factor for aircraft collisions.

The program is based on daily wildlife inspections combined with a geo-referenced mapping grid, allowing precise identification of critical areas for potential bird strikes. To address these risks, specialized capture methods, including snare mats and falconry—are applied by licensed professionals under full authorization from environmental agencies.

All captured individuals undergo veterinary assessments to ensure proper health conditions before release. Each bird is ringed with official CEMAVE/ICMBio bands, contributing to the national biodiversity database and supporting scientific research on the species’ dispersal and ecological behavior. Relocation occurs in safe areas outside the airport’s operational zone, carefully selected for suitable conditions such as open fields and forage availability, ensuring that the species continues to thrive without compromising flight safety.

Key achievements since implementation include:

- 42% reduction in Quero-Quero presence in critical zones;
- 86% decrease in bird strike incidents with the species in the last semester;
- 78 individuals captured, ringed, and relocated in the first half of 2025, with a success rate above 90% in preventing their return to risk areas;
- 25 airport staff members trained in wildlife management protocols, enhancing institutional capacity and awareness.

By integrating habitat management, innovative capture practices, and applied research, the Safe Skies Project represents an initiative that is both effective and replicable in other airports. Its major strength lies in balancing aviation safety with biodiversity conservation.

2. Project Background (maximum 150 words)

Please describe the background of the project or program (Why was it necessary to develop this project/program?)

Bird strikes are a significant operational risk in aviation, with potential impacts on safety, financial costs, and flight efficiency. At Vitória Airport, the Quero-Quero birds (*Vanellus chilensis*) was identified as the species with the highest frequency of occurrence in critical operational areas, mainly due to its preference for grasslands and nesting in open fields. Traditional mitigation measures were not sufficient to control the species' behavior and population dynamics.

In this context, the **Safe Skies Project** was designed to proactively address bird strike risks while maintaining biodiversity protection. The initiative aligns with national regulations, ICAO safety guidelines, and Zurich Airport Brasil's sustainability commitments, which emphasize operational safety, environmental stewardship, and stakeholder engagement.

3. Project scope **(maximum 50 words)**

Describe the area of implementation of the project, for example: area of operations, terminal, the entire airport, etc ; as well as agents involved in it: airport staff, other *stakeholders* , NGOs , environmental groups, etc.

The project covers the entire operational area of Vitória Airport, including runways, taxiways, and surrounding safety zones. Stakeholders include the wildlife management team, airport operations, environmental authorities, scientific institutions, and the airport community, all working together to ensure both safety and biodiversity conservation.

4. Project Description **(maximum 100 words)**

Describe how the project was implemented.

The **Safe Skies Project** integrates continuous monitoring, geo-referenced mapping, and specialized capture techniques to reduce bird strike risks. Licensed professionals, supported by veterinarians, conduct daily inspections and apply authorized methods such as snare mats and falconry. Captured Southern Lapwings undergo clinical evaluations, receive official identification rings, and are relocated to ecologically suitable areas outside airport grounds. Training sessions for staff and awareness campaigns for the airport community ensure knowledge transfer and long-term effectiveness. Furthermore, the program also contributes to scientific research.

5. Project results and benefits **(maximum 300 words)**

Describe the results of the project highlighting its achievements. Please emphasize data, for example: cost savings, recognized environmental benefits, evidence of innovation, etc.

The Safe Skies Project has delivered measurable outcomes that significantly reduce wildlife hazards at Vitória Airport. A **42% decrease in Quero-Quero presence** in critical areas has been recorded, along with an **86% reduction in bird strike incidents** involving the species in the last semester. In just six months of 2025, **78 birds were captured, ringed, and relocated**, with more than **90% effectiveness** in preventing recurrence in operational zones. The project has strengthened institutional capacity, with **over 25 staff members trained** in advanced wildlife management techniques. By formally banding each bird, the initiative contributes to the national biodiversity database and supports ongoing research on dispersal and population dynamics, ensuring broader ecological benefits beyond the airport environment. Furthermore, it has fostered close collaboration with environmental agencies, scientific

institutions, and the airport community, reinforcing Zurich Airport Brasil's role as a pioneer in integrating ecological conservation into aviation operations.

This initiative demonstrates that safety and environmental responsibility can coexist, providing an innovative model for other airports in Latin America and the Caribbean. By mitigating operational risks while advancing biodiversity protection, the *Fauna Safe Project* positions Vitória Airport as a regional reference in sustainable wildlife management.

6. Graphics and Images (maximum 4)

Include a maximum of 4 graphs, including tables or photographs, with a brief description. This information will also be included in the Best Environmental Practices Document.



