

# *Wildlife Without Borders*

## Latin America and the Caribbean

The Latin America and the Caribbean region is renowned for its incredible diversity. In this part of the Western hemisphere, an amazing assortment of unique cultures live in dramatic landscapes that range from tropical rainforests to arid deserts, from island paradises to snowy mountaintops. These habitats are also home to a stunning mixture of wildlife including tapirs, jaguars, macaws, manatees, giant anteaters and countless others. The broad diversity of wild places and creatures makes Latin America and the Caribbean one of the most environmentally important regions on the planet.

Unfortunately, the breathtaking habitat and wildlife of Latin America

and the Caribbean are exposed to a number of serious threats. The region's growing population and widespread poverty have led to increased demand for already limited natural resources such as land, food and water, resulting in increasing pressure on the region's resplendent national parks and other designated protected areas. Additionally, recurring natural disasters place still more stress on these delicate ecosystems.

Wide-ranging environmental issues are not constrained by national borders, and neither are their solutions – addressing these problems requires both an international and interdisciplinary effort. The Wildlife Without Borders Program for Latin

America and the Caribbean builds on the region's single most valuable natural resource: people. Over the past 29 years, the program has provided invaluable support to the region's emerging efforts to conserve and manage biodiversity. By supporting human and institutional capacity building in protected areas and buffer zones, the program strengthens the ability of local people and organizations to manage and conserve species, habitats and ecological processes.

The program collaborates with non-governmental organizations, research centers, communities and other groups to strengthen the protection of these areas as effectively managed landscapes benefiting species of regional concern, and to deliver high-quality conservation training programs to key audiences associated with protected areas in the region. The audiences include area managers, administrators, park guards and rangers; outreach and education specialists; local community leaders (living in and around protected areas); graduate students working on projects in and around protected areas; and stakeholders who influence protected areas. The projects of the WWB-LAC Program focus on high priority ecosystems associated with flagship, endangered or migratory species of regional concern.

By informing, training, and empowering new generations of conservation leaders, the WWB-LAC program helps the region's conservation community ensure that the protection and stewardship of biodiversity will be available for generations to come.



**Tapir**

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***The Wildlife Without Borders – Latin America & the Caribbean program has supported conservation projects since 1990, granting over \$9.6 million in direct funding to conservation partners who provided over \$36 million in matching funds. Supported projects include:***

- Providing long term support to the innovative Master’s Degree Programs in Wildlife Management offered by universities in Argentina, Costa Rica and Brazil. These programs use a highly applied and interdisciplinary approach to train regional specialists in wildlife management and conservation.
- Funding the annual RESERVA program, a 62-day course that trains natural resource conservation professionals from leading conservation organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean. RESERVA provides essential training in the management of parks, reserves, and sanctuaries.
- Supporting an innovative “Training for Trainers” workshop in Ecuador to increase local capacity for providing protected area management training throughout the Andes-Amazon region.
- Strengthening the participation of local indigenous leaders in the management of Bolivia’s Pílon Lajas Biosphere Reserve and forming alliances for the implementation of the area’s management plan.
- Providing capacity-building workshops on protected area creation and management for municipalities and local communities in and around the pine-oak forests of the department of Huehuetenango, Guatemala.
- Promoting the management of urban nature reserves in Patagonia and other regions of Argentina, through technical training workshops and projects focused on the management of invasive species.
- Increasing the scope and effectiveness of conservation initiatives in the Caribbean region by providing practical training in conservation methods as well as opportunities for natural resource managers, educators and scientists.
- Supporting local forest restoration training activities around the Poço das Antas Biological Reserve in Brazil, home to the largest known remaining population of endangered Golden Lion Tamarins.

<b>Latin America &amp; the Caribbean Program Funding History from 1995 to 2007</b>	
Total Number of Grants Awarded	428
Total Funds Distributed Through Grants	\$9,612,676
Total Partner Contributions Leveraged by Grants	\$36,267,833
Total Number of Countries that Received Program Support	33
Total Number of Conservationists Trained	2,750



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***Giant anteater***