

Summary of Projects Currently Approved for Funding

12 Grants Grand Total FWS Funding: \$272,835 Grand Total Partner Funds: \$1,866,423

“Master Degree Program in Wildlife Management for Latin America, ICOMVIS Institute,” Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica. Funded by the Wildlife Without Borders-Latin America and the Caribbean program since its inception, this masters degree program trains Latin American students in both the theoretical and practical aspects of wildlife management. Field training and thesis work takes place in protected areas such as nature reserves and national parks in Costa Rica and/or other Latin American countries. To date, 158 students have graduated from this program and are currently leading projects and conservation initiatives in government agencies, universities and NGOs all over Latin America. This grant provides support for 18 partial scholarships, visiting professors, field courses, and thesis work by students. Two additional short courses focused on protected areas management will be supported by this grant. Grant for \$57,380; matching contribution of \$540,913 by the National University of Costa Rica, the German Academic Exchange Program, and others.

“Training of Stakeholders in Urban Protected Areas of Argentina for Improved Management of Invasive and Problem Species,” Aves Argentinas. This project aims to promote and encourage the management of urban nature reserves. The grant will support a three-day course for 30 key people from these areas, with a focus on controlling the invasion of exotic plants. The grant will also support three small projects-selected competitively focused on the management of invasive exotic species, resulting in incentives for continuing this line of action. Grant for \$9,240; matching contribution of \$22,420 by Aves Argentinas.

“Conservation and Development in Tropical Countries: Insights and Implications-OTS Course 08-8,” Organization for Tropical Studies OTS. In May 2008, OTS will bring senior staff members from Capitol Hill, other branches of government, NGOs, and the private sector to Costa Rica to participate in the U.S. Decision Makers Course. Lectures from local and international instructors, site visits, and facilitated discussion periods will examine key concepts and issues in conservation. Group work will further challenge the participants to incorporate new information and experiences toward resolving a problem or exercise. Major objectives include providing: 1) information that increases participants’ knowledge and understanding of the value, function, and pressures upon biodiversity; 2) specific training on the links between the U.S. and tropical developing countries in terms of shared species, dependence on common global systems, contribution to pressures upon wildlife, and innovative mechanisms for conserving nature; 3) direct, positive experiences with tropical biodiversity to underscore the value of, and need for, conservation efforts beyond the borders of the U.S. Grant for \$27,175; matching contribution of \$43,959 by the Organization for Tropical Studies.

“Support to the Graduate Program in Ecology, Conservation and Wildlife Management (ECMVS of the Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil,” Fundação de Desenvolvimento à Pesquisa (FUNDEP). USFWS will continue to support the Graduate ECMVS Program, funding

field and laboratory equipment, field courses, and student scholarships for the Master's degree program. Grant for \$39,000; matching contribution of \$1,082,120 by the Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil and others.

“13th Course for Administrators of Protected Area Managers (AMUC Course),” Instituto Terra Brasilis, Brazil. The Conservation Units Administration and Management (known as AMUC by its Portuguese acronym) course has trained more than 230 professionals from 150 organizations and government agencies from all 27 states of Brazil as well as Costa Rica, Honduras, Uruguay, Colombia, El Salvador, Chile, Argentina, Mexico, Ecuador, the Dominican Republic, Panama and Mozambique. The 2-month course's main goal is to train professionals in aspects of protected areas management, including social studies, Environmental Law, ecology, cartography, land use planning, scientific methods, waste management, security, administration, communication, environmental education and ecotourism management. Grant for \$30,000; matching contribution of \$32,500 by the IEF – Brazil.

“Park Wardens Course,” Instituto Estadual de Florestas (IEF)-Minas Gerais Brazil. This course will strengthen the ability of Brazilian federal and state park rangers to conserve protected areas in Brazil, providing them with fundamental skills training in an applied learning environment. Grant for \$18,040; matching contribution of \$28,443 by the IEF – Brazil.

“Integrated Training Courses for Graduate-level Wildlife Management Students and Protected Areas Decision Makers,” Nature Serve. The goal of this initiative is to train students, faculty and decision-makers to analyze the distribution of high priority species within and around Latin American protected areas and utilize the results from a Central American case study in development of sound environmental policies for biodiversity conservation in a sustainable development framework. Grant for \$30,000; matching contribution of \$17,600 by NatureServe and the National University of Costa Rica.

“Strengthening of the Southern Node of Training Based on the National Strategy for Training in Protected Areas,” Ayuda para Vida Silvestre Amenazada Sociedad Zoologica de Frankfort Peru (AVISA SZF Peru). This project will strengthen the park guard library series and help the performance of park guards and specialists of the different protected areas of south-eastern Peru. Four training courses will be held: Introduction for New Park Guards, Mapping in Protected Areas, Biological Monitoring, and Effective Communication and Conflict Resolution. Grant for \$15,000; matching contribution of \$13,500 by the Frankfurt Zoological Society.

“Capacity Building for Co-Management of Pilon Lajas Biosphere Reserve and Indigenous Territory, Bolivia,” Wildlife Conservation Society. This project will support protection of the Pilon Lajas Biosphere Reserve and Indigenous Territory, strengthening this protected area's Administration and the Tsimane Mosenen Regional Council's ability to effectively manage and conserve Pilón Lajas by building capacity and forming alliances with and among the indigenous population, the protected area administration and local and regional actors for the implementation of the area's management plan. Grant for \$20,000; matching contribution of \$42,800 by Wildlife Conservation Society and others.

“General evaluation of the Course of Administration and Management of Protected Areas and Park Wardens Course,” Instituto Terra Brasilis. This initiative will support an evaluation of the content, delivery and impact of the AMUC and Guarda-Parques courses with technical assistance and support for meetings with course alumni and other stakeholders. Grant for \$15,000; matching contribution of \$33,088 by the Instituto Terra Brasilis.

“Update and Maintenance of a Database of Graduates from Latin American Training Programs,” Asociacion Latinoamericana de Conservacion y Manejo de Vida Silvestre-ALCOM. This grant will support the update and maintenance of the ALCOM database of graduates of academic and technical training programs funded by the Wildlife Without Borders-Latin America and Caribbean program. The grant also supports a biannual electronic newsletter distributed among the graduates, and the ALCOM website. Grant for \$12,000; matching contribution of \$9,080 by ALCOM.

-FWS-