

Wildlife Without Borders-Latin America and the Caribbean
Summary of Projects 2001

Total FWS Funding: \$930,812.00

Total Leveraged Funds: \$3,187,310.00

The “**Management of El Tundo Natural Reserve in Loja, Ecuador**” was assisted by the construction of a perimeter fence, enhancement of park ranger facilities, staff training in public extension and conservation techniques, and environmental education outreach to local farmers, schoolchildren and teachers living around the reserve. In partnership with Fundacion Ecologica Arcoiris. FWS: \$8,000.00; Leveraged funds: \$8,810.00.

A “**Conservation Strategy for the Great Green Macaw and its habitat in Northern Costa Rica**” included a third year of training for field biologists in wildlife and habitat conservation and management. A new group of ten field biologists were selected to serve as project interns for 2 to 4 months each. They were trained in applied research design, radio-telemetry, geographic information processing, and the management of natural resources for the conservation of the Great Green Macaw (*Ara ambigua*) in the Sarapiquí region of Northern Costa Rica. In partnership with the Centro Científico Tropical. FWS: \$15,000.00; Leveraged funds: \$65,800.00.

“**Protection and management of the endangered Antigua racer (*Alsophis antiguae*)**” was the topic of a protected area management planning workshop and training for biologists and managers from government agencies and non-governmental organizations in Antigua, both funded under this Award. In partnership with the Environmental Awareness Group. FWS: \$8,950.00; Leveraged funds: \$73,930.00.

The “**Ramsar Small Grant Program**” provides funding for high priority wetland conservation projects throughout Latin America. FWS funding under this award helped assist two projects. The first project was designed to help the Parque Nacional Laguna Blanca, located in Argentina, improve the educational center, train interpretive personnel and produce an educational pamphlet. The second project supported the preparation of a management plan for the Huacarpay wetland in Peru. In partnership with the Society of Wetland Scientists. FWS: \$11,000.00; Leveraged funds: \$40,500.00.

“**Issues 19 and 20 of Ciencias Ambientales journal**” provides a forum for relevant issues of interest to both the general public as well as to students and managers engaged in conservation. Issues 19 and 20 addressed Environmental Education and Wetlands, respectively. In partnership with Fundacion UNA. FWS: \$5,000.00; Leveraged funds: \$17,110.00.

The “**Wetland Restoration Case Studies Report**” was produced under this award. This 30-40 page report was designed to help federal agencies, states, local governments, land trusts, and non-governmental organizations restore wetlands of domestic and international significance. In partnership with the Association of State Wetland Managers. FWS: \$12,000.00; Leveraged funds: \$3,250.00.

“**Environmental Education in Dominica**” was the focus of a project, carried out in partnership with the Forestry and Wildlife Division of Dominica, which produced environmental based materials for use and distribution by local teachers. These educational materials, used in schools and communities throughout the island, helped spread the important message that local people should conserve the wildlife of Dominica. In partnership with the Brevard Zoo. FWS: \$4,010.00; Leveraged funds: \$3,904.00.

The “**13th Latin American Decision-Makers Course**”, held in Costa Rica each year, focused on

ecological principles for sustainable development in Latin America. In partnership with the Organization for Tropical Studies. FWS: \$25,000.00; Leveraged funds: \$35,480.00

“Graduate programs in Wildlife Ecology and Management and Environmental Education” agreement provided funding for graduate scholarships, short courses, materials, computer center upgrades, operational costs of the graduate programs, computer upgrades in the two laboratories, Environmental Education program, and BIODOC obtaining unpublished and published references. Graduate students were from Venezuela and other Latin American countries. In partnership with ASOMUSEO. FWS: \$51,140.00; Leveraged Funds: \$219,430.00

“Regional Program in Wildlife Management for Mesoamerica & the Caribbean” (PRMVS) project provided funds to support the following: awarding of scholarships to graduate students; librarian, secretarial and telecommunication services as well as PRMVS’ operational costs; upgrading of the biological documentation center’s (BIODOC) computer facilities while promoting the geographic information systems laboratory; and BIODOC obtaining unpublished and published references. Graduate students were from Costa Rica and other Latin American countries. In partnership with Fundacion UNA. FWS: \$58,900.00; Leveraged Funds: \$503,526.00

“Decentralized Geographic Information Processing and Spatial Data Analysis for Wildlife and Reserve Managers” was provided via technical training for over 60 professionals using a Windows version of CAMRIS offered at four international workshops held in Costa Rica (2), Puerto Rico (1) and Chile (1). In partnership with Research and Preservation for Costa Rica. FWS: 55,225.00; Leveraged funds: \$67,316.00.

“U.S. Decision-Makers Course” agreement supported the 2001 course, *Interdependence: Economic Development and Environmental Concerns in Tropical Countries* held in Costa Rica in May 2001. Funds covered honoraria of coordinators and guest speakers, in-country travel, faculty and participant airfare, food and lodging, communications, supplies, administration and accounting expenses. In partnership with the Organization for Tropical Studies. FWS: \$25,000.00; Leveraged Funds: \$25,000.00.

“Wildlands Managers Course” agreement provided financial support to train professionals responsible for the care of Latin America’s protected areas in a two-month field based reserve management course. It was centered at Palo Verde National Park, Costa Rica because the park’s internal and external factors provided an insightful experience in management and ecology. Limited travel to several contrasting locations in Costa Rica provided participants with additional exposure to various management challenges. In partnership with the Organization for Tropical Studies. FWS: \$65,000.00; Leveraged Funds: \$48,597.00.

“Masters Program in Wildlife Management at the National University of Cordoba” project was funded to support the following: scholarships for graduate students, staffing services and operational costs of CZA’s biological documentation center, computer software, educational and training materials, information exchanges, capacity building, equipment maintenance, travel expenses of professors and students from Cordoba and Tucuman; production and publication of a book exploring Mar Chiquita; and living expenses of a visiting professor who taught graduate-level courses and collaborated research efforts in Mar Chiquita and other important sites. In partnership with the Centro de Zoologia Aplicada. FWS: \$77,750.00; Leveraged Funds: \$165,980.00

“SCO’s Bi-annual Meeting and *El Pitirre* Publication” agreement funded registration fees, travel, meals, and lodging of 12 participants from the Caribbean islands. The award also covered publication of three issues of the newsletter *El Pitirre* and the expense of the meeting rooms for the biannual meeting

held in Cuba in July 2001. In partnership with the Society of Caribbean Ornithology. FWS: \$18,040.00; Leveraged Funds: \$17,590.00.

“Graduate Program in Wildlife Ecology & Management, Park Rangers Training Course and the Wildlife Managers Training Course” project supported education, information exchange, in-country capacity building, and technology transfer among biologists, managers, and rangers. Training was conducted at The University of Minas Gerais. Funds covered equipment maintenance, field work materials, secretarial services, and administrative costs. More than 70 natural protected areas in Brazil have benefited from this venture. In partnership with Fundacao Biodiversitas. FWS: \$70,000.00; Leveraged Funds: \$1,257,000.00.

“U.S. National Ramsar Committee” agreement provided financial support to assist wetland conservation activities at Ramsar sites. A series of small grants were awarded to U.S. Ramsar sites in need of educational materials, signage, trail construction and maintenance, community outreach, educational programs, etc. The goal was to strengthen their abilities to do wetland conservation and increase local awareness of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. In partnership with the Terrene Institute. FWS: \$26,000.00; Leveraged Funds: \$12,500.00.

V International Congress of Wildlife Management in Amazonia and Latin America” agreement provided support for the meeting held in Colombia in September 2001 which promoted information exchanges among wildlife biologists and managers in Amazonia and Latin America. The award funded local student participation; brochures, posters, and other informative materials needed for the Congress; and graduate students from wildlife programs. In partnership with Fundacion Natura. FWS: \$5,000.00; Leveraged Funds: \$37,700.00.

“Reducing the agricultural and human health impacts of vampire bats in Caura, Venezuela” included educating communities on the economic and ecological benefits of bats, and implementing various control measures. Funds supported the production and distribution of educational materials for schools and community centers, training local people in trapping and identifying bats, and monitoring vampire bat populations. In partnership with Bat Conservation International. FWS: \$6,242.00; Leveraged Funds: \$41,496.00.

“Wetland Ecology and Management Training of Wildlife Biologists and Managers in Chile and Other Latin American Countries”, as well as promoting the conservation of wildlife and wetland habitats throughout the Western Hemisphere included support for the publication *“El Beneficio de los Humedales en la Región Tropical”*; *“Manual para la Conservación y Manejo de Humedales en la Región Tropical”* draft manual; travel, materials, communications, and other activities related to national and international courses, workshops, and meetings. In Partnership with the Centro Neotropical de Entrenamiento en Humedales. FWS: \$10,000.00; Leveraged Funds: \$35,500.00.

“Implementing a National, Interagency Strategy to Monitor Pesticide Use and Its Impact on Migratory Birds and Other Wildlife in the Pampas Region of Argentina’s Agricultural Areas” included the following activities: map development, public outreach, and training of wildlife biologists and technicians involved in implementing standard procedures for monitoring and documenting pesticide use and wildlife mortalities. In partnership Fundacion ArgenINTA. FWS: \$33,000.00; Leveraged Funds: \$388,800.00

“Shade Coffee Environmental Education Materials” were produced and distributed to raise public awareness throughout Latin America of the international shade coffee program. Information was dispersed on International Migratory Bird Day 2001 with the financial support of this award. In

partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. FWS: \$5,000.00; Leveraged Funds: \$11,100.00

“Translation of “South American Camelids” project was funded to print and share the translated version of the book from Spanish into English. In partnership with the Academia Nacional de la Historia. FWS: \$2,500.00.

“ABC’s Small Grants Program” agreement provided funds for the following projects: (1) Reserved zone of Laquipampa, last stand for the white-winged guan (\$2,000.00); (2) Birds as indicators of the conservation value of, piedmont forest in Bolivia and Argentina (\$5,000.00); (3) Conservation of the Black-breasted Puffleg and the high Andean forests of Yanacocha, Pichincha, Ecuador (\$4,300.00); and (4) The identification of priority sites for conservation action in the Paraguayan Atlantic Forest (\$5,500.00). In partnership with the American Bird Conservancy. FWS: \$16,800.00; Leveraged Funds: \$7,150.00

“Osprey mortality quantification” project focused on osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) mortalities in fish farms in Colombia and other countries in the region. The following activities were supported: a meeting and preliminary assessment, surveys, and travel accommodations of participants and researchers. Government and non-governmental organizations in the United States, Colombia, and other countries collaborated on activities. In partnership with ALCOM. FWS: \$50,000.00; Leveraged Funds: \$7,963.00

“Reserve Manger Training Course (RESERVA XX)” agreement provided support for technical training needed to address conservation and management issues in the natural protected areas of Mexico and other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. The goal was to foster in-country capacity building, education, information exchange, and technology transfer. Topics ranged from geographic information systems to social aspects of conservation. Funds were used for course instructors, materials, and travel, lodging, and meals of course participants. In partnership with Ducks Unlimited de Mexico, A.C. FWS: \$25,000.00; Leveraged Funds: \$82,369.00.

“Sea Turtle Ecotourism Planning Guide” project based in the U.S. and Caribbean supported the publication and distribution of the guide in English and Spanish versions. In partnership with the Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network (WIDECAST). FWS: \$6,000.00; Leveraged Funds: \$58,158.00

“SPAW Protocol Database Website” agreement supported the completion of the programming needed to establish and operate a website-embedded database about wildlife species protected under the SPAW protocol. The website serves as an important information exchange tool for the management and conservation of wildlife in the Wider Caribbean. In partnership with Monitor International. FWS: \$3,200.00; Leveraged Funds: \$7,343.00

“CAMRIS” agreement provided decentralized geographic information processing and spatial data analysis training for wildlife and reserve managers using the new Windows version of the geographic information system (GIS) known as CAMRIS (Computer-Aided Mapping Resource Inventory System). Funding also supported efforts in the development of the newsletter (CAMRIS Currents) and web page (www.camris.com). This year four international workshops were conducted in Costa Rica (2), Puerto Rico (1), and Chile (1). In partnership with Research and Preservation for Costa Rica, Inc. FWS: \$55,225.00; Leveraged Funds: \$67,316.00

“Conservation Biology Training Modules and Educational Resources” were prepared for professional biologists, undergraduate, and graduate students. The modules were developed and tested in three

Bolivian cities with professors (trainees) representing universities in those designated areas. Funds supported translation services from English to Spanish, educational materials, travel, and in country training activities. In partnership with the American Museum of Natural History. FWS: \$36,683.00; Leveraged Funds: \$37,088.00

“Partners in Flight and North American Bird Conservation Initiative” agreement provided funds to support the American Bird Conservancy (ABC’s) ongoing work to conserve neotropical migratory birds through its three major conservation networks: Partners in Flight and North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI); the ABC Policy Council; and the Pan American Roundtable, an international network meeting. In partnership with the American Bird Conservancy. FWS: \$10,000.00

“Conservation of Buff-breasted Sandpipers” project utilized an integrated education and research approach for its “train-the-trainers” workshop. Educators gained knowledge in the following areas: history of migratory shorebirds; Shorebird Sisters School program; networking with partners along the shorebirds migration pathway; and students/researchers partnerships. Funds were also used to establish coordinators in Chile, Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay to assist students in conservation efforts and information sharing via the Shorebird e-mail list server. In partnership with the Asociacion Ornitologica del Plata. FWS: \$30,000.00; Leveraged Funds: \$60,400.00

“Training and Development of Mexican and Caribbean Ornithologists” project’s purpose was to provide additional training in academic theory and field methodology, and to assist ornithologists in building their organizations capacity to achieve quality bird conservation programs in their countries. Funds supported translation and distribution of educational materials, student aid, and wildlife resource conservation forum participation. In partnership with The Ornithological Council. FWS: \$20,000.00.

“State Agencies Involvement in Service Programs in Mexico and Latin America” project provided assistance to state wildlife agencies for participation in U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service activities related to their work in Mexico as well as treaties or agreements which the Service is responsible for implementing. Activities included participation in the Annual Canada/Mexico/U.S. Trilateral Committee meeting; monitoring a minimum of two Service related projects in Mexico; and other pertinent joint ventures. In partnership with the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. FWS: \$50,000.00.

“Environmental Education Materials on the Birds of Jamaica” agreement’s purpose supported the production 1,000 copies of the booklet “The Birds of Jamaica-A Celebration” and 1,000 copies of Jamaica’s thirty endemic birds’ poster. The environmental education materials highlighted the significance and challenges of Jamaica’s threatened and endangered birds. In partnership with BirdLife Jamaica. FWS: \$5,612.00; Leveraged Funds: \$2,005.00.

“The Caatinga Heperxerofila (costal dry forest) of Northern Rio Grande” project goal was to publish and distribute 1000 copies of the monograph “A caatinga heperxerofila do Rio Grande do Norte, sus caracterizacao e estrategias para a sua conservacao” (The hyperxerophytic caatinga of Northern Rio Grande) to professors, students, and resource managers in the region. In partnership with Academia de Ciencias do Estado de Sao Paulo. FWS: \$3,000.00.

“V Congress of the Mesoamerican Society for Biology and Conservation” agreement provided support to organize a workshop and roundtable symposium at the V Congress of the Mesoamerican Society for Biology and Conservation in El Salvador; assistance to a University of Memphis graduate student; and advanced GIS training for a Moises Bertoni Foundation technician. The award fostered opportunities for technology transfers, information exchanges, and partnerships. In participation with

Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

FWS: \$30,000.00; Leveraged Funds: \$118,695.00.

“Eco-Index Web Site” agreement facilitated information exchange efforts through the Eco-Index web site. Shared data included a paper-free bilingual (English and Spanish) almanac of conservation projects by NGOs in the Western Hemisphere; publications; for journalists and FWS-supported initiatives and projects in Latin America and the Caribbean; monthly updated database; and “What’s New” page (www.eco-index.org/new) containing an assortment facts. In partnership with Rainforest Alliance. FWS: \$10,000.00; Leveraged Funds: \$120,800.00.

“Local Capacity Building at the Rio Escalante Chacocente National Wildlife Refuge” in Nicaragua agreement facilitated refuge management enhancement to protect a major Olive Ridley Sea Turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) nesting area and remnant dry coastal forest. Funding was used for training, and the production and distribution of environmental education materials on sea turtles at schools in local communities surrounding the refuge. In partnership with the Community Conservation, Inc. FWS: \$3,500.00; Leveraged Funds: \$4,200.00.

“International Partners in Flight Workshop” agreement provided funds to assist Latin American ornithologists with travel expenses and conference fees to participate in the International Partners in Flight Workshop held March 20-24, 2002 at the Asilomar Conference Center near Monterey, California. In partnership with Point Reyes Bird Observatory. FWS: \$10,000.00; Leveraged Funds: \$10,000.00.

Funds for a **“Project Assessment in Costa Rica and Mexico”** were provided to Mr. Marc Weitzel, Project Leader, Hopper Mountain NWR Complex to: assess the current year’s FWS-sponsored “Wildlands Management in the Tropics” course, given by the Organization for Tropical Studies; participate in a coordination meeting with RESERVA partners in Merida, Mexico; and conduct an assessment of the current year’s RESERVA course, given by Ducks Unlimited of Mexico, A.C. In partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge Complex. FWS: \$5,700.00.

“The Pacific Leatherback Nest Protection Project” helped protect leatherback nests and increase leatherback hatchling production on Playa Langosta at Las Baulas National Park during the period of October 2001 to March 2002. In partnership with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 4. FWS: \$5,000.00.

“The Hawksbill Nest Protection Project” helped protect hawksbill nests and increase hatchling production at El Cuyo, Celestun and Holbox nesting beaches in the state of Yucatan during the period of May to September of 2001. In partnership with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 4. FWS: \$5,000.00.

“Information exchange between Loxahatchee N.W.R. and Isla Contoy National Park” was facilitated by Ms. Maricarmen Garcia, Deputy Manager, Isla Contoy National Park in Cancun, Mexico visiting the United States in order to gain additional information on developing quality environmental education exhibits at Isla Contoy. Her trip included visits to a number of sites around south Florida including Loxahatchee, Hobe Sound and Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuges, Everglades National Park, Biscayne National Park, Big Cypress Natural Preserve and several of the local nature centers. She met with the Loxahatchee National History Association, who had recently completed a similar project, and the public use staff at the aforementioned facilities to discuss the creation of visitor/nature centers. FWS: \$1,100.00