

CFDA 15.640

Wildlife Without Borders-Latin America & the Caribbean
Summary of Projects 2002

Total FWS Funding: \$719,867.00 Total Leveraged Funds: \$1,350,393.00

“**West Indian Whistling Duck and Wetlands Conservation Project**” activities included facilitating teachers and natural resource personnel throughout the West Indies in conducting environmental education and public outreach on the importance and value of West Indian wetlands, with the objectives of achieving conservation of both wetlands and West Indian whistling ducks. In partnership with the West Indian Whistling Duck Working Group. FWS: \$50,000.00; Leveraged funds: \$50,000.00.

The “**Participation of Experts to the International Partners in Flight Conference and the Wildlife Populations Surveys Team Meeting**” was facilitated by the funding provided under this award. This effort provided experts in Latin American and Caribbean bird conservation an opportunity to improve their knowledge, improve their access to information and regional contacts, and participate in valuable discussions with colleagues. The participation in these two meetings allowed them to inform others about their work and problems encountered, and contributed to discussions related to regional and flyway projects. In partnership with Ducks Unlimited, Inc. FWS: \$4,850.00; Leveraged funds: \$6,275.00.

The “**U.S. Decision-makers Course**” (OTS Course 2002-08) offered one week of training to 20 senior staff members from Capitol Hill, other branches of government, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector on conservation and the loss of biological diversity, parks and protected areas, wildlife policy, tropical forest management and use, ecosystem services and financial mechanisms. The “**Latin American Decision-Makers Course**” (OTS Course 2002-06) offered two weeks of training to 20 people on a number of important topics, including conservation and wildlife management, ecology and biology, environmental economics, biological diversity and prospecting, commerce and the environment, environmental planning, impact assessment, and tourism. Both courses are held in Costa Rica each year. In partnership with the Organization for Tropical Studies FWS: \$52,000.00; Leveraged funds: \$60,880.00.

The “**Field Methods in Tropical Ecology and Conservation Training Program**” was a three week course that trained 15 Latin American wildlife biologists in conducting fieldwork and conserving biological resources in the region. Participants included representatives from government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and universities from Mexico and Central and South American countries. The course topics covered included tropical ecology, conservation biology, and wildlife population and habitat management. In partnership with the International Center for Tropical Ecology, University of Missouri-St. Louis FWS: \$12,584.00; Leveraged funds: \$30,444.00.

The “**Technical and Academic Training of Biologists and Managers in Brazil**” was supported by funding for the Graduate Program in Wildlife Ecology & Management and the Park Guard course at the Federal University of Minas Gerais, as well as the completion of the Brazilian Red List of Threatened Plants. Award funds covered scholarships, course materials, field courses, equipment, and the presentation of 113 MS and 3 PhDs. In partnership with the Fundacao Biodiversitas FWS: \$75,600.00; Leveraged Funds: \$98,100.00.

“**Ramsar Support Grant Program for the Latin America & Caribbean**” aided three high priority

wetland conservation projects in Paraguay, Columbia, and Brazil. The nominations of the Paraguayan portion of Palmar de las Islas and Fuquene Lagoon as Ramsar sites were collaborated with the Fundacion Desdel Chaco and the Fundacion Humedales de Columbia respectively. Outreach efforts of the Ministerio do Meio Ambiente of Brazil included educating children on three National Parks in Brazil, the importance of protecting wetlands, and the role of the Ramsar Convention. In partnership with the Society of Wetland Scientists. FWS: \$16,500.00.

“El Pitirre Bulletin” enhanced communications among ornithologists in the Caribbean and conveyed information such as conservation efforts, events, employment opportunities, publication reviews, and organization activities. It also served as a forum for regional conservation issues, problems and solutions. The award covered supplies and the publication, printing, and dissemination of three *El Pitirre* issues. In partnership with the Society of Caribbean Ornithology. FWS: \$10,000.00; Leveraged Funds: \$5,325.00.

“Community Organization and Environmental Education for the Protection of Sea Turtles” project targeted a number of communities to educate on the environment and conservation threats faced by sea turtles and other endangered marine wildlife in the southern Pacific coast of Guatemala. The funds supported bimonthly meetings with local associations, the distribution of educational materials, field trips, beach cleanups and turtle releases. ARCAS also launched a national-level media campaign about conservation efforts. In partnership with the Asociacion Rescate y Conservacion de Vida Silvestre FWS: \$14,000.00; Leveraged Funds: \$15,535.00.

“Graduate Program in Wildlife Ecology and Management” provided assistance for students at the National University of Cordoba, Argentina and short courses in managing natural protected areas for park rangers. FWS funds covered scholarships, thesis work, administrative services, internships, visiting professors, educational literature, materials, fieldwork, communications, and the publication and distribution of training manuals. In partnership with the Centro de Zoologia Aplicada, Universidad de Cordoba. FWS: \$52,500.00; Leveraged Funds: \$118,920.00.

“Small Grants Program” promoted projects in the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, and Peru. FWS funds covered local research, monitoring, and establishing an education and outreach program for neotropical migrants and endemic bird species in Sierra Bahoruco; engaging local landowners and farmers in the Cerro Blanco Reserve area in the conservation of Great Green Macaws and their habitats; protecting the Bearded Wood Partridge thru education outreach in the Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve area; and recovery of the endangered White-winged Guan, Grey-bellied Comet, and Tumbesian forests preservation.

In partnership with the American Bird Conservancy FWS: \$25,000.00; Leveraged Funds: \$19,355.00.

“Training of Government Officials in Environmental Sciences” focused on capacity building for the management and conservation of natural resources thru training in environmental laws and regulations, and fostering partnerships between private and public sectors in Chile. Topics ranged from strategic development planning and conflict resolution to environmental impact assessment. A total of 392 hours of training were offered to 33 government officials, representing diverse municipalities and agencies in Chile. In partnership with the Universidad Catolica del Norte. FWS: \$8,526.00; Leveraged Funds: \$44,595.00.

“Tikay Wasi Environmental Education Program” provided instruction through three courses for schoolteachers and municipal officials targeting communities in the coastal areas of Peru. For the courses, APECO received the collaboration of local organizations, communities, schools and universities.

During 1993-2002, APECO networked with environmental educators, which resulted in the development of more than 100 ecological projects in different communities of Peru. In partnership with the Asociacion Peruana para la Conservacion de la Naturaleza. FWS: \$10,000.00; Leveraged Funds: \$32,000.00.

“XXI Reserva Course” provided support for the training of wildlife managers specializing in natural protected areas throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. The course was conducted at the Ria Celestun Biosphere Reserve in Mexico. The trainees expanded their knowledge in the following areas: conservation biology, GIS; sampling techniques, evaluation of biological diversity; social sciences research; environmental education, impact assessment, economics, law and legislation; land management; environmental and strategic planning; and fundraising. Funds were also used for technical support of designated sites. In partnership with Ducks Unlimited de Mexico, A.C. FWS: \$30,000.00; Leveraged Funds: \$58,221.00.

“Ciencias Ambientales” semi-technical journal, featured two volumes dedicated to the conservation of wetlands and their components, as well as biological prospecting and commerce. The award covered production and distribution of 2000 journal copies throughout the Neotropical region. In partnership with Fundacion UNA. FWS: \$5,000.00; Leveraged Funds: \$16,370.00.

“Environmental Education on the Protection of Condors and Their Habitats” project fostered conservation education efforts in Cordoba, Argentina through workshops and conferences targeting youth in the general public. The goal was to generate active involvement in protecting threatened or endangered wildlife and their habitats. Educational and photographic materials, fieldwork, and foundation staff support were achieved because of funding. In partnership with Fundacion Condor. FWS: \$5,000.00; Leveraged Funds: \$3,000.00.

“Training for Belize Program Staff Members” in ornithological concepts and bird banding techniques, as well as conservation projects through the Birds Without Borders (*Aves Sin Frontera*) program was supported by the award. Activities included research, monitoring, public outreach, capacity building, and conservation education. The objective of this training was to promote the assessment of bird populations, and allow Belizean researchers to conduct more independent comprehensive research. In partnership with the Zoological Society of Milwaukee. FWS: \$2,387.00; Leveraged Funds: \$2,811.00.

“Publication of *Manejo de Fauna Silvestre Neotropical*” by Juhani Ojasti project served as a tool for graduate and undergraduate students concentrating in wildlife ecology and management to gain theoretical and practical experience. Funds were used to cover part of the publication and distribution expenses for 1,200 copies. The project was conducted in Latin America. In partnership with the Smithsonian Institution. FWS: \$3,000.00; Leveraged Funds: \$3,000.00.

“Field Guides of the Common Birds of Metropolitan Areas in Latin America”

The Recipient produced and distributed a series of Field Guides of the Common Birds of Metropolitan Areas in Latin America. The field guides highlighted common bird species in metropolitan areas in Brazil, Ecuador, and Venezuela, and were published in Spanish, Portuguese, and English. The goal was to reach a wide audience of people, not just people interested in birds, by providing easy to understand information and high-quality illustrations of birds commonly seen in backyards, city parks, plazas and other public areas. In partnership with National Audubon Society. FWS: \$10,000.00; Leveraged Funds: \$46,000.00.

“Promoting Biodiversity Conservation in Protected Areas in Bolivia” project supported biological diversity conservation thru integrated management. Core areas in the Bolivian Andes a provided a

variety of ecosystems ranging from rainforests and grasslands to glacial ice fields for studying. The funds were utilized for posters, brochures, highlighting biological resources in the core areas, implementation of an ecotourism promotion plan, and engaging the community in capacity building. In partnership with American Museum of Natural History. FWS: \$15,000.00; Leveraged funds: \$23,194.00.

“Training Workshops on Wetlands and Waterfowl Monitoring Methods” project supported workshops in Latin America and the Caribbean, and a graduate student’s thesis focusing on the management and conservation of the Upper Paraguay River Basin. Workshops spanning 2-3 days were conducted in Dominican Republic, Belize, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Colombia on performing standardized waterfowl population surveys in wetland habitats. In partnership with Ducks Unlimited, Inc. FWS: \$19,000.00; Leveraged Funds: \$122,104.00.

“9th Annual Reunion of Latin American Sea Turtle Specialists” was held in Miami, Florida as a component of the Twenty-Second Annual Symposium on the Biology and Conservation of Sea Turtles. FWS funds covered travel expenses and translation services for Mexican and Central and South American participants. As an extension of the symposium, presentations and workshops focusing on the latest sea turtle conservation concepts complimented information sharing among participants. In partnership with the Annual Symposium on the Biology and Conservation of Sea Turtles. FWS: \$15,000.00; Leveraged Funds: \$43,000.00.

“Nicaragua Project for Migratory Bird Education” consisted of a 4-day migratory bird conservation education workshop conducted in Nicaragua. American and Nicaraguan experts coordinated the development of an education program targeting three local communities. During the workshop, information was shared about Nicaragua’s culture, education system, and America’s model bird education programs. In partnership with the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Inc. FWS: \$10,000.00; Leveraged Funds: \$10,000.00.

“Ramsar Directory CD and Booklet for COP 8” project located in the Netherlands, provided an updated CD-based Directory of the list of official Ramsar sites under the Ramsar Convention for the 8th Conference of the Parties (COP-8) held in Valencia, Spain, November 2002. The award facilitated a means of using the web based tool to obtain built in reports, summaries, statistics and a booklet production. In partnership with Wetlands International. FWS: \$10,000.00; Leveraged Funds: \$10,000.00.

The purpose of supporting the **“Ramsar Small Grants Program”** was to build Wildlife Habitat Council’s capacity to accomplish its mission and assist wetland conservation activities at Ramsar sites. The Recipient awarded a series of small grants to U.S. Ramsar sites needing aid for educational materials, signage, trail construction and maintenance, community outreach, educational programs, travel expenses etc. The goals were to strengthen the wetland conservation abilities of the sites, raise local awareness of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, strengthening the U.S. Committee’s financial and human resource base. In partnership with the Wildlife Habitat Council. FWS: \$25,000.00; Leveraged Funds: \$12,500.00.

“Small Grants Program for Grassroots Conservation” venture promoted grassroots conservation groups in Bolivia and Ecuador. The goals were to engage indigenous communities in following a program of integrated development for protecting biodiversity and natural resources, defending the rights of the natives; provide start up funds for the organization, collaborate with bordering communities, address environmental challenges, and promote strategic planning. In partnership with the Global Greengrants Fund. FWS: \$10,000.00; Leveraged Funds: \$20,000.00.

“Conservation and Management of the Great Green Macaw” and their habitat in northeastern Costa Rica project was funded to support the implementation of a biological corridor to protect the region’s biological diversity. The award facilitated data collection, tailored land use practices for sustainability, success measures, corridor modifications, capacity building, and partnerships. In partnership with Centro Científico Tropical. FWS: \$6,000.00 Leveraged Funds: \$61,400.00.

“Hawksbill Conservation Program for the Pearl Keys” in Nicaragua grant supported conservation efforts for the endangered sea turtles and their habitats. The objective was to combat conservation threats by protecting nesting females, their eggs, and educating the community. Funds facilitated surveying, quantifying nesting activity, measuring hatching success, training, and employment opportunities for locals. The project has been successful and improved hatchling rates by 70 percent from 1999-2000. In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. FWS: \$16,583.00; Leveraged Funds: \$10,894.00.

Support for the **“Evaluation and control of the impact of vampire bats on the indigenous communities of the Caura River watershed”** implemented the third phase of a program to protect beneficial bat populations and habitats. Funds were used to conduct workshops, management training, and conservation education for the general public about the diversity and values of bats in tropical ecosystems. In partnership with Bat Conservation International. FWS: \$6,242.00; Leveraged Funds: \$36,496.00.

“Regional Program in Wildlife Management” The purpose of this agreement is to provide funds to the Recipient for the Regional Program in Wildlife Management for northern South America at the National University of Llanos Occidentales Ezequiel Zamora (UNELLEZ). This Agreement will provide funds for the continuation of two scholarships at the Recipient for the Regional Program in Wildlife Management for northern South America. Since 1989, over 50 students have received advanced training in wildlife ecology and management. In partnership with ASOMUSEO. FWS: \$10,000.00; Leveraged Funds: \$24,000.00.

“Disease Risk Training Workshop” was conducted over a three-day period at the Simon Bolivar Zoo in San Jose, Costa Rica to share information on disease risk assessment in wildlife conservation programs. The Regional Zoo Association (AMACZOOA) and the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG) collaborated efforts to promote the use of a specialized workbook addressing techniques for improving disease control and animal movements affecting wildlife conservation programs. In partnership with the Fundacion Pro Zoologicos. FWS: \$10,000.00 Leveraged Funds: \$10,430.00

“Wildlife Management Course” was the fourth edition of the *Wildlife Management in the Tropics* course offered to Latin American managers in San Jose, Costa Rica. The goal was to develop wildlife managers’ capacity to conserve protected areas and biological diversity in the region. Topics included: administration, ecology, environmental education, and Geographical Information Systems. To date 72 managers representing 16 countries have been trained. In partnership with the Organization for Tropical Studies. FWS: \$60,000.00; Leveraged Funds: \$77,878.00.

“Seabird Avoidance in Argentine Demersal Longline Fishery” project aided the implementation of the International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries and establishment of an onboard observer program. Government and non governmental organizations directed efforts to reduce seabird mortality and capacity building among local biologists and managers. In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. FWS: \$15,000.00; Leveraged Funds: \$153,000.00

“Regional Program in Wildlife Management for Mesoamerica & the Caribbean” project, located in Costa Rica, focused on providing academic training to Latin American students and professionals to conserve and manage biological resources. Funding covered a total of 12 scholarships from Promotions XII, XIII, and XIV; support for short and field courses; invitational professors, job placement in the field for graduate students; and joint projects between the Geographic Information Systems laboratory and the Biological Documentation Center. In partnership with Fundacion UNA. FWS: \$55,605.00; Leveraged Funds: \$37,427.00.

“Ecology and Conservation of Bahamian Rock Iguanas” agreement focused on joint efforts of the FWS and Bahamian authorities to study the ecology and promote the conservation of Bahamian Rock Iguanas in Andros, Bahamas. Selected topics included life history attributes, ecological requirements, demographics, and conservation threats. The award facilitated training of local wildlife managers and educational program development to increase public awareness of the state of rock iguanas and their habitats. In partnership with the John G. Shedd Aquarium. FWS: \$11,650.00; Leveraged Funds: \$36,460.00.

Funds were used to support the planning of **“A Series of Courses in Wetland Ecology for Natural Resource Managers”**. The planning, coordination and implementation of this 1-week course was done in coordination with staff of the University of Buenos Aires and the Fundacion Vida Silvestre, Argentina. The first course was offered in October 2002 at the University of Buenos Aires. In partnership with Mark Brinson. FWS: \$4,500.00; Leveraged funds: \$4,500.00.

The Division of International Conservation provided support for **“travel for personnel from Hopper Mountain NWR”** to travel to Costa Rica for one week to assess the current FWS sponsored **“Wildlands Management in the Tropics”** course, given by the Organization of Tropical Studies. This trip will include an evaluation of the current course, assistance in planning future courses and an overview of FWS related themes for course participants. In partnership with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hopper Mountain NWR Complex, Region 1. FWS: \$1,966.00.

“The Kirtland’s Warbler Recovery Team Meeting” was held in Nassau and Andros, Bahamas, February 24- March 2, 2002. The objectives of this international meeting were to evaluate the status of the Kirtland’s warbler and promote the conservation of its wintering habitats, and to evaluate an ongoing research and training program in the Bahamas for the conservation of wintering Kirtland’s warblers and associated species in the Bahamas. In partnership with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, East Lansing Field Office, Region 3. FWS: \$10,344.00.

“The Pacific Leatherback Protection Project” was coordinated with the Costa Rican Ministry of Environment and Energy and the Wildlife Conservation Society of Costa Rica. The objectives of this project were to protect leatherback nest and increase hatching production on Playa Langosta at Las Baulas National Park during the period between October 2002 and March 2003. In partnership with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Ecological Services, Regional Office, Region 4. FWS: \$5,000.00.

“The Hawksbill Nest Protection Project” was coordinated with Pronatura Peninsula de Yucatan, A.C. The objectives of this project were to protect hawksbill nests and increase hatchling production at El Cuyo, Celestun and Holbox nesting beaches in the state of Yucatan, Mexico during the period between May and September 2002. In partnership with FWS International Sea Turtle Specialist, Ecological Services, Region 4. FWS: \$5,000.00.

“The Seabird Training Workshop” was held in Culebra, Puerto Rico, in May of 2002. The objectives of this workshop were for the participants to: identify seabirds, their eggs, and chicks; Apply monitoring techniques such as colony and plot censuses, delineation of colony boundaries, marking nests and eggs, trapping and handling, banding, and measuring juvenile and adult seabirds; reduce observer-induced disturbance to nesting seabirds and their habitats; learn fundamental concepts about the biology, ecology, conservation, and management of colonially-nesting seabirds and their habitats. In partnership with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Caribbean Field Office, Region 4. FWS: \$7,650.00.

“Technical Assistance for a Crocodile Management Plan” was provided by supporting personnel from Loxahatchee NWR to travel to Belize to provide technical assistance to the Department of Forestry, Ministry of Industry, Environment and Natural Resources in June of 2002. Visits were made to Belize City, San Pedro and Amerigris Keys to conduct surveys for American crocodiles, identify and map potential crocodile nesting habitat and provide education to the public on living with crocodiles. In partnership with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, A.R.M. Loxahatchee NWR, Region 4. FWS: \$1,855.00.

“A Grasslands Conservation Symposium” was held as part of the annual meeting of the Wildlife Society held September 24-28, 2002. Support was provided for the participation of two representatives from Mexico. The objectives of the symposium were to: assess the status of declining grassland species and causes of decline in Mexico, US and Canada; develop a trinational conservation strategy for North American grasslands, drawing on working examples from each country; and have equal representation from each country. In partnership with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Grasslands Coordinator, Region 6. FWS: \$3,491.00.