

CFDA 15.640

Wildlife Without Borders- Latin America & the Caribbean
Summary of Projects 2003

Total FWS Funding: \$696,760.00 Total Leveraged Funds: \$4,026,486.00

“**West Indian Whistling Duck and Wetlands Conservation Project**” provided support for the Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds and the West Indies Whistling Duck Working Group in their efforts to conserve whistling ducks and their wetland habitats in the Caribbean. Project activities included the translation and distribution of the *Wondrous West Indian Wetlands: Teacher’s Resource* book, training workshops on its use in the Bahamas, Cayman Islands, Antigua/Barbuda, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, and Cuba, and work on a field guide to the flora and fauna of West Indian wetlands. In partnership with the West Indian Whistling Duck Working Group. FWS: \$50,000.00; Leveraged funds: \$111,500.00.

The “**2003 Neotropical Ornithological Congress**” was held October 5-11, 2003 in the Puyehue National Park, Chile, which included 6 full days of scientific sessions, including symposia on specific subject areas, general paper sessions, and poster sessions. The goal of the meeting was to share scientific knowledge about Neotropical birds and to provide an opportunity for both formal and informal discussions of the conservation of these birds and their habitats. In partnership with the Neotropical Ornithological Society. FWS: \$10,000.00; Leveraged funds: \$169,580.00.

This “**Graduate Program in Wildlife Ecology and Management**” provides graduate-level training in wildlife ecology and management to students from Latin America and the Caribbean. Over 60 students from Argentina, and countries such as Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay, Brazil, Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia and Peru, have been admitted to the graduate program, of which 29 have graduated, 15 defended their theses during 2003-2004, and 11 started their thesis work in 2003. In partnership with Centro de Zoología Aplicada. FWS: \$50,000.00; Leveraged funds: \$83,560.00.

“**RESERVA Program, XXII Edition**” provided 2 months of training in geographic information systems, conservation biology, survey sampling procedures for plants, birds, mammals, and insects, social research aspects, valuation and measurement of biological diversity, environmental impact assessment, environmental economics, environmental law, and management of forestlands to 16 reserve managers from Latin America and the Caribbean. The training was conducted at Ria Celestun, Ria Lagartos, and Calakmul biosphere reserves in the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico. In partnership with Ducks Unlimited de México, A.C. FWS: \$30,000.00; Leveraged funds: \$88,000.00.

“**Ciencias Ambientales y Ambien-tico**” are a semi-technical journal and a magazine on environmental issues in Latin America and the Caribbean. This project supported the editing, printing and distribution of No. 23 and No. 24 of “Ciencias Ambientales” and Numbers 105-116 of Ambien-tico. Both publications are dedicated to environmental issues at national and regional levels, such as forest fragmentation and deforestation, illegal trade of wildlife, and sustainable use of natural resources by indigenous communities.

This “**Graduate Program in Environmental Sciences**” covers a wide array of topics, including statistics, ecology, natural resources economics, environmental contaminants, conflict resolution, and environmental impact assessment among others. In partnership with Universidad Nacional Agraria de la Selva, Perú. FWS: \$10,000.00; Leveraged funds: \$49,459.00.

“**Conservation of Arequita Park, Uruguay**” includes training for park rangers in activities related to the conservation and protection of the park’s habitat of the endemic species *Tillandsia*

arequitas and the forest of *Phytolacca dioica* as a singular feature of mountain forests, in recreational use and community outreach. In partnership with the Asociación de Guardaparques del Uruguay. FWS: \$24,999.00; Leveraged funds: \$25,040.00.

A “**Study on the Feasibility of Creating Protected Forests on Private Lands**” gathered and evaluated information from private Chilean landowners on their willingness to establish protected areas under specific incentives. The project results were shared in workshops, meetings and publications. This project included the participation of 10 organizations that are part of the Public-Private Working Group on Temperate Forest Conservation in the Lakes District, Chile, as well 60 landowners who are participating in the Promotion Program of CIPMA-GEF. In partnership with the Centro de Investigación y Planificación del Medio Ambiente. FWS: \$13,100.00; Leveraged funds: \$13,100.00.

“**Developing Capacity for Ornithological Research and Avian Conservation in the Caribbean**” included activities aimed at increasing the ability of Caribbean ornithologists, resource managers, and conservation organizations to conserve the birds of the Caribbean and their habitats, and to build networks and partnerships for achieving conservation synergies in the region. Some activities undertaken were: the meeting of the board of the SCSCB in Nassau in May 2003; the Society’s general meeting in Tobago in July 2003; meetings of the white-crowned pigeons and Caribbean parrot working groups; and media and avi-tourism workshops. In partnership with the Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds. FWS: \$28,840.00; Leveraged funds: \$26,205.00.

“**Ecological Monitoring and GIS Development for Adaptive Management of Brownsberg Nature Park, Suriname**” included improving management by setting up a comprehensive database to manage and analyze ecological monitoring data, making management recommendations to park managers in a timely manner, advancing the technical capacity of park personnel; and distributing information gathered through monitoring efforts to researchers, as well as park visitors and the general public. In partnership with the Foundation for Nature Conservation in Suriname (STINASU). FWS: \$10,000.00; Leveraged funds: \$74,000.00.

Support for the “**Research Fellowships in Conservation Biology in the Central Andes of Colombia**” covered partial costs of providing undergraduate and graduate student fellowships through the EcoAndina program, which has been a very effective training system with a high rate of information transfer on landscape ecology, biodiversity issues, habitat fragmentation and conservation of threatened species. The long-term strategy of this program is reflected in the design of policies and strategies oriented towards conservation of threatened species and implementation of the Regional System of Protected Areas of the Central Andes region of Colombia. In partnership with Fundación EcoAndina. FWS: \$6,000.00; Leveraged funds: \$16,000.00.

The “**Field Methods in Tropical Ecology and Conservation Training Program**” provides students and professors in Guatemala and other Central American countries with the theory and practice of scientific methodology and research needed for species and ecosystem conservation and management. This 3-week intensive program has been designed for Latin American professionals and upper level university students in the areas of biology, ecology, conservation, natural resource management and related disciplines. FWS funds will be used to cover the cost of 15 course participants from Guatemala and other Central American countries. In partnership with the International Center for Tropical Ecology, University of Missouri-St. Louis. FWS: \$17,771.00; Leveraged funds: \$23,050.00.

The “**U.S. and Latin America Decision-Makers**” project consisted of two courses, both held in Costa Rica, for senior staff members of government agencies and non-governmental organizations that are responsible for decision-making in environmental issues. The U.S. Decision-Makers Course emphasizes interdependence among nations, economic development, and environmental concerns. The Latin America Decision-Makers Course emphasizes the use of

ecological principles to promote sustainable development and address environmental concerns. In partnership with the Organization for Tropical Studies. FWS: \$50,000.00; Leveraged funds: \$66,700.00.

“Conservation of Cavernous Systems in the Paraguana Peninsula and Associated Chiroptera” instigated the establishment of a management plan for caves in the Paraguana Peninsula, Nicaragua particularly “El Pico”, which is at risk due to effects of tourism and urban development. Activities also included environmental education efforts that emphasized the ecological and socioeconomic values of bats and their habitats. The project represents a partnership between several government agencies and NGOs in Venezuela and United States. In partnership with Bat Conservation International. FWS: \$25,000.00; Leveraged funds: \$25,000.00.

“Building the Community-based Conservation Movement to Protect Biodiversity in Latin America” included support for 6 small grants focusing on the management and conservation of biodiversity in Honduras, Brazil and Peru. In partnership with Global Greengrants Fund. FWS: \$15,000.00; Leveraged funds: \$937,678.00.

“Small Grants in Latin America & the Caribbean”, consisting of 10 projects focusing on the management and conservation of birds and their habitats in Latin America and the Caribbean, were funded by this award. In partnership with the American Bird Conservancy. FWS: \$16,000.00; Leveraged funds: \$22,000.00.

“Eco-Exchange/Ambien-Tema” is a bilingual bulletin in which information is given about conservation projects in Latin America and the Caribbean. **“Eco-Index”** is a paper-free bilingual almanac and database about projects in Latin America and the Caribbean. This project covered part of the cost for the production of both products. In partnership with Rainforest Alliance. FWS: \$25,000.00; Leveraged funds: \$149,500.00.

Support for the **“Graduate Program in Ecology, Conservation, and Wildlife Management”**, located in Brazil, included funding for field and laboratory equipment for field courses and to cover part of the cost of expanding computational capacities for networking infrastructure and web services. In partnership with Fundacao Biodiversitas. FWS: \$30,000.00; Leveraged funds: \$1,070,590.00.

“Protecting Wetlands of International Significance” was a project to build upon and add Latin American and Caribbean components to two existing on-going ASWM projects: Wetlands Newslink and an International Workshop for Protecting Wetlands of International Significance. Activities included the development of a Latin American and Caribbean e-mail contact list, the distribution of the free newsletter to these contacts, and the workshop, held in Wichita, Kansas in September 2004. In partnership with The Association of State Wetland Managers, Inc. FWS: \$5,000.00; Leveraged funds: \$25,000.00.

“Strengthening the Public Wildlife Management System in Coquimbo, Chile” was assisted by the third version of a certificate program for Chilean environmental managers designed to train government officials in environmental issues; standardize knowledge and criteria concerning the environment in scientific terms and the ad hoc Chilean law; and strengthen collaboration between public and private sectors for the management and conservation of natural resources in Chile. In partnership with the Universidad Católica del Norte. FWS: \$19,627.00; Leveraged funds: \$42,167.00.

“Involving Latin Americans in Waterbird Science and Conservation” included supporting the participation of 10 Latin American scientists and managers to the 2003 Waterbird Society Meeting in Cuiaba, Brazil. The meeting is an international gathering of scientists and managers for the purpose of exchanging information about the biology and conservation of waterbirds and

the management of coastal, oceanic, and wetland habitats. In partnership with The Waterbird Society. FWS: \$10,000.00; Leveraged funds: \$18,760.00.

Support for the “**Graduate Program in Conservation and Wildlife Management for Latin America**”, located in Costa Rica, covered the cost of scholarships and medical insurance for several graduate students. In partnership with Fundación UNA. FWS: \$30,000.00; Leveraged funds: \$366,655.00.

“**Wildlands Managers in the Tropics: A Course for Latin American Managers**”, held in Costa Rica each year, is offered to a group of 15 to 20 managers from the region. Training is provided in ecological principles, site-based planning, migratory bird conservation, habitat restoration, business administration, conflict resolution, informatics and environmental outreach, and geographic information systems and other technologies. In partnership with the Organization for Tropical Studies. FWS: \$40,000.00; Leveraged funds: \$71,200.00.

The “**Tik’ay Wasi Environmental Education Program**” includes three courses on environmental education for coastal areas in Peru. These courses benefit students, teachers, government officials, and other groups of stakeholders with interest in the conservation of coastal ecosystems. The courses covered ecology, sustainable development, conservation, and a wide variety of activities promoting education through the arts, teaching, and active participation of citizens. In partnership with APECO. FWS: \$10,000.00; Leveraged funds: \$32,000.00.

Support for “**ABC’s Policy Council and International Networking**” helped cover costs associated with two meetings of the Policy Council, production and distribution of the newsletter “*Bird Calls*”, projects on the protection of horseshoe crabs and seabirds at longline fisheries, and bird kills at communication towers, and international networking activities including the Pan American Roundtable, Conservation Counterparts, and the “Partnership for Zero Extinctions”. In partnership with American Bird Conservancy. FWS: \$7,500.00.

The “**Environmental Resource Center**”, promotes biodiversity conservation and co-management of the Portland Bight Conservation Area, Jamaica, by conducting environmental education efforts and providing library and educational services to local communities and works to increase the capacity of the Center to offer better services to local communities, including school children and adults in need of literacy classes. In partnership with the Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation. FWS: \$8,000.00; Leveraged funds: \$20,853.00.

Support for the “**Wildlife Management Program at Universidad de los Llanos Ezequiel Zamora**” in Venezuela, covered part of the cost of scholarships and thesis work of students in the graduate program. In partnership with ASOMUSEO. FWS: \$10,000.00; Leveraged funds: \$257,940.00.

The “**Neotropical Waterbird Monitoring Program: A Tool for Wetland Conservation within South American Communities**”, worked to enlarge the network of people concerned with and committed to waterbird and wetland conservation in South America; increase the ability of local individuals to foster wetland conservation within their communities; increase the knowledge on waterbirds and wetland habitats; monitor changes in waterbird distribution and abundance; identify key wetland sites, particularly those as “Wetlands of International Importance” under the Ramsar Convention; ensure that reliable data sets are available to local and regional resource managers and authorities and the Ramsar and Bonn conventions; identify wetland threats and problems; and provide the basis for waterbird population estimates. In partnership with Wetlands International. FWS: \$15,000.00; Leveraged funds: \$92,440.00.

“**Conservation Planning and Management for Endangered Species in Bolivia and the Andean Region**” included the generation of 2 educational modules for the university level on topics relevant to conservation and management of endangered species in Bolivia, a regional workshop that brought together university educators and practitioners in the field of biodiversity

conservation from across Bolivia to adapt the modules for use, facilitate the use of active teaching and learning techniques, and piloting the new modules and exercises to a combined audience of educators and practitioners. In partnership with the American Museum of Natural History. FWS: \$10,000.00; Leveraged funds: \$25,695.00.

“Promoting Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Resource Use in Protected Areas in Bolivia” included the enhancement of local interpretive facilities and programs by increasing the scientific content and incorporating local knowledge in interpretive exhibits and programs. Other activities included educational programs, poster contests and special events for local communities. In partnership with the American Museum of Natural History. FWS: \$15,000.00; Leveraged funds: \$26,486.00.

“Promoting Wetland Conservation in the Neotropics” included wetland conservation and management workshops in Peru, Bolivia and Argentina, the production and distribution of a wetlands manual, research regarding the implications of the U.S.-Chile Free Trade Agreement on wetland conservation in the region; and upgrades to the CNEH website (www.biouls.cl/cneh/). In partnership with Centro Neotropical de Entrenamiento en Humedales. FWS: \$15,000.00; Leveraged funds: \$48,950.00.

Funds contributed to the **“Ramsar Support Program”** supported a project to develop a management plan for Mar Chiquita, a new Ramsar site in Argentina, and a project to strengthen management initiatives for Ramsar wetland sites in Nicaragua. In partnership with the Society of Wetland Scientists. FWS: \$11,000.00; Leveraged funds: \$36,000.00.

The **“Conservation and Management of *Polylepis* Forest Fragments in the Cusco and Apurímac Departments of Southeastern Peru”**, was assisted by this project to plant *Polylepis* saplings at several locations, to monitor growth and survival at previously planted locations, to monitor bird populations throughout the sites, and to supply fuel-efficient clay stoves to several local communities. In partnership with the American Bird Conservancy. FWS: \$11,070.00; Counterpart: \$12,410.00.

“Coastal Wetland Conservation and Aquaculture—Finding a Balance” was the topic of a workshop held as part of the Waterbird Society’s meeting “Involving Latin Americans in waterbird science and conservation” that pulled together a diverse international group who discussed aquaculture practices, in particular shrimp farming, and its relationship to conserving the integrity of coastal wetlands. In partnership with Wetlands International. FWS: \$6,000.00; Leveraged funds: \$8,800.00.

“Shorebird Sister Schools Program” funding covered a variety of activities including the translation of a new brochure, the printing and distribution of a Spanish activity guide, travel for SSSP representatives to several pertinent conferences and the printing and distribution of shorebird ID cards. In partnership with the Shorebird Sister Schools Coordinator, FWS, Region 9. FWS: \$6,385.00.

“Chiriqui Beach Hawksbill Project” funding provided partial support for a project to establish a long-term hawksbill nest monitoring and protection program on Chiriqui Beach, Bocas del Toro, Panama. In partnership with the International Sea Turtle Coordinator, FWS, Region 4. FWS: \$20,000.00.

“Pacific Leatherback Project” funding provided partial support for a project to protect leatherback nests and increase leatherback hatchling production on Playa Langosta at Las Baulas National Park, Costa Rica, from October 2003 to March 2004. In partnership with the International Sea Turtle Coordinator, FWS, Region 4. FWS: \$3,300.00.