

CFDA 15.640
Wildlife Without Borders- Latin America & the Caribbean
Summary of Projects 2005

Projects: 26

Total FWS Funding: \$518,955 Total Leveraged Funds: \$2,151,502

“Organization for Tropical Studies –Modifications 1 & 2: U.S. Decision Makers Course” supported the OTS U.S. Policymakers Course “Conservation and development in tropical countries: Insights and implications.” The course is conducted over one-week and is designed for professionals whose work affects public policies relevant to environment and development in the tropics. The 20-25 participants include staff from the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, Congressional Committees, U.S. Government Departments and Agencies, and the private sector (including not-for-profit organizations and businesses). The course uses Costa Rica as a base for examining a range of issues related to the balance of economic development and the use, management and conservation of nature. In partnership with the Organization for Tropical Studies. **FWS Funding: \$25,000.00/\$7,000.00; Leveraged Funds: \$12,750/\$28,522.**

“Master of Science in Biodiversity Conservation” provides support for student scholarships to enter into this new academic program to begin in August 2005. This graduate program at the Universidad Mayor will be the first of its kind in Chile. It takes an interdisciplinary approach to conservation, applying the fields of natural science (basic and applied) and social science. It will utilize faculty in biology, botany, zoology, veterinary medicine, agronomy, forestry, economics, anthropology, and sociology, among others, to advance alternative, viable approaches to conservation and wildlife management problems. In partnership with Universidad Mayor. **FWS: \$10,000.00; Leveraged Funds: \$225,000.00**

“Regional Planning for Spectacled Bear Conservation in the Central Andes of Colombia” develops the biological basis for a zoning proposal for the Central Range of the Colombian Andes that ensures the conservation of the spectacled bear. This will be accomplished by: 1) Generating a geographically explicit habitat model of the spectacled bear in the region; 2) Conducting a threats analysis inside and outside of protected areas; 3) Identifying areas that require conservation action, and 4) Building capacity among Park staff to evaluate and monitor presence of spectacled bears in their areas. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society. **FWS: \$20,773.00; Leveraged Funds: \$32,616.00.**

“Support for the Park Ranger Qualification Course (Curso de Guardaparques) and for the Management Course in Natural Protected Areas (Curso AMUC)” provides support for the two courses, conducted in partnership with the Forest State Institution of Minas Gerais (IEF/MG) and the Fundação Biodiversitas. The Park Ranger course instills a complete conservation philosophy, targeting social, economical and environmental issues that may be faced by the Rangers, such as industrial development, poverty, population growth, land invasions and different kinds of social pressures. The 2005 Park Rangers course will qualify 50 Park Rangers from Brazil and abroad. The main purpose of the AMUC course is to qualify professionals in management of

natural protected areas in Brazil and other countries of Latin America conferring them the title of specialist. The participants get to know the basic concepts of management and conservation of the protected areas' rules and legislations and environmental policies, as well as how to integrate the natural area with its vicinity. In partnership with Fundação Biodiversitas. **FWS: \$47,325.00; Leveraged Funds: \$100,701.00.**

“Implementing the Action Plan for the Conservation of the Montserrat Oriole” conducts habitat management and other management manipulations, such as rat control and predator deterrence techniques, to increase the reproductive success of the endangered Montserrat Oriole (*Icterus oberi*), and continue applied research and monitoring efforts so that adaptive management can be used for conservation. FWS contribution will cover the cost of fieldwork equipment and materials needed for management actions. In partnership with American Bird Conservancy. **FWS: \$5,000.00; Leveraged Funds: \$6,050.00.**

“Evaluacion y Conservacion de la Biodiversidad en Paisajes Fragmentados de Mesoamerica” will support the publication of a book about the effects of forest fragmentation on biological diversity conservation in Mesoamerican landscapes. Twenty-two authors will contribute research information for this book. The book, which will be published in Spanish, will be distributed throughout the Mesoamerican region. In partnership with Fundauna. **FWS: \$7,000.00; Leveraged Funds: \$30,000.00.**

“Making Management of Sea Turtle Rookeries and Conservation of Dry Tropical Forests Work in Panama’s Pacific Coast” preserves the dry tropical forest in the Azuero region, Panama — home to endangered flagship species and buffer of 16 turtle nesting beaches — through community-level training, local capacity building, joint protection activities and outreach. The following activities will be conducted under this grant agreement: (1) Training in dry tropical forest management for a minimum of 30 landowners and 100 local inhabitants; (2) Bilingual nature tourism training for 20 local trainees; (3) Training in RARE’s Nature Guidance Training Program for one staff member; (4) Training for 120 local trainees in cooperative ecotourism-related ventures; (5) Joint patrolling and monitoring of tropical dry forest areas; (6) Presentation of project results in the local and national media, government and civil society; and (7) Project monitoring and follow-up activities with stakeholders. In partnership with Fundacion Panama. **FWS: \$20,000.00; Leveraged Funds: \$146,139.00.**

“Determinacion del Riesgo Epidemiologico Asociado a la Quitridiomicosis Cutanea en Especies de Anfibios de la Cordillera de Merida, Venezuela” conducts an epidemiological study to determine the major risk factors for transmission of a cutaneous disease caused by the fungus *Batrachchytrium dendrobatiodis* to endemic amphibians in Venezuela. Field and laboratory work will be conducted using a geographic information system to integrate data on: (1) Distribution and abundance of North American Bullfrogs (*Rana catesbeiana*), which carries the disease without apparent effects to adult and larval stages, and other native species; (2) Prevalence and intensity of infection in bull frogs and native species; and (3) Spatial distribution of water bodies, vegetation, altitudinal gradients and climatic patterns in the study area. This study is part of the National Strategy for the Conservation of the Venezuelan Amphibians conducted by the National Biodiversity Office of the Venezuelan Ministry for the Environment and natural resources. In partnership with Instituto Venezolano de Investigaciones Cientificas. **FWS: \$14,935.00; Leveraged Funds: \$136,369.00.**

“Wildlands Management for the Brazilian Amazon-OTS Course” brings together protected areas managers from the State of Amazonas for a 4-week intensive and itinerant field course covering wildlife management fundamentals. The course will be modeled on OTS successful

Wildlands course in Costa Rica and will also draw on recent experience in delivering nationally customized versions of this training in Peru. Overall the course will improve the capacity of wildlands managers in the State of Amazonas, Brazil to manage and conserve protected areas and foster the longer term delivery of analogous training by Brazilian institutions, particularly those located in the Amazon.. In partnership with Organization for Tropical Studies. **FWS: \$30,000.00; Leveraged Funds: \$64,647.00.**

“Strengthening the Capacity of Incidence of the Ramsar Regional Center (CREHO)” increases management capacity to promote and implement the Ramsar Convention, and the national priorities of the Convention Contracting Parties in the Americas, related with training and strengthening of Ramsar sites management and other wetlands in general. Grant funds will specifically support the expansion of activities of the Center, by engaging the services of a development officer, who will seek funds for projects as well as the long term operation of the Center, conduct outreach activities to increase knowledge in the region about the center, write proposals, and compile information for outreach materials. This project will be executed in Panama, but its impact is regional and will reach the 27 countries members of the Ramsar Convention in the Americas. In partnership with Centro Regional Ramsar. **FWS: \$20,000.00; Leveraged Funds: \$21,250.00.**

“Maned Wolf Workshop – Population and Habitat Viability Assessment” develops an action plan for preserving the maned wolf throughout its native range, which encompasses six South American countries. The Action Plan will outline specific recommendations for conservation, research and management, and will be created by bringing together the top maned wolf conservationists and researchers in the world in Sao Rogue de Minas, Brazil, for an intense 5-day workshop compiling all available information and data about the maned wolf across its range, then developing and prioritizing problems for the species and goals for addressing them, then finally developing actions to accomplish these goals. In partnership with Instituto Pro Carnivoros. **FWS: \$4,500.00; Leveraged Funds: \$25,145.00.**

“NewsLink Website for Migratory Bird & Wetland Issues” supports the on-line newsletter that provides migratory bird and wetland news and information as well as offers a website platform bringing these issues together. It will offer links between the two fields through the information it disseminates and the information it hosts. Organizations and agencies with an interest in bridging migratory bird & wetland gaps will be invited to join. In partnership with Association of State Wetland Managers. **FWS: \$5,000.00; Leveraged Funds: \$10,713.00.**

“Enhancing In-country Capacity for Avian Conservation and Research in the Caribbean” supports the 15th meeting of the Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds, which will take place on the island of Guadeloupe. Ornithologists, wildlife and conservation professionals, resource managers, students, and other interested parties from around the Caribbean (and the US) will attend. The primary objective for the meeting is to provide a forum for thematic discussions of inter-island conservation issues through workshops, symposia, round-table discussions and working group meetings. Urgent conservation issues and problems common to all islands will be chosen as topics for a number of themed discussions and workshops. Participants will have the opportunity to share ideas and methods for resolving these issues; results of discussions will be synthesized and recommendations will be made. In partnership with Society of the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds. **FWS: \$10,000.00; Leveraged Funds: \$10,000.00.**

“SCGIS International Scholars Program” facilitates the educational and conservation capacity of developing countries utilizing GIS technologies for natural resource conservation. Grant funds

will cover scholarships for six Latin American participants to attend four weeks of intensive GIS and remote sensing conservation training and major GIS conferences. Following the training, participants are provided with used laptops loaded with the necessary GIS software to continue their work upon returning to their home country. In partnership with The Society for Conservation GIS. **FWS: \$18,000.00; Leveraged Funds: \$241,460.00.**

“Parque Ecologico Nueva Juventud, San Andres, Peten, Guatemala” creates a demonstration area and education center for the environment for locals and travelers, and serves as a center for grass-root activities for the sustainable use and conservation of natural resources. FWS funds will be used for the environmental education center, interpretive trail, and a workshop for the community of San Andres. In partnership with Volunteer Peten. **FWS: \$5,000.00; Leveraged Funds: \$72,880.00.**

“Galápagos Islands Conservation Education Program” provides a conservation education program and scientific training for Galápagos youth and supports applied research, in partnership with the Ecology Project International (EPI), the Charles Darwin Research Station (CDRS), the Galápagos National Park Service (GNPS), five Galápagos Island high schools, and three USA high schools. The project involves 100 high school students and teachers from these eight high schools. Students will be brought to research sites within Galápagos National Park where they will camp for a week at a time. Once on-site the students will work as volunteers for the CDRS, participating in an intensive scientific research project on Galápagos fauna. The data collected by EPI student participants will be used by CDRS to monitor population trends in the local wildlife. In partnership with Ecology Project International. **FWS: \$14,942.00; Leveraged Funds: \$146,652.00.**

“Baird’s Tapir Conservation Workshop” supports a Baird’s Tapir Conservation Population and Habitat Viability Assessment workshop in Belize, Central America. The goal of the workshop is to gather, systematize and discuss all the available data and information on Baird’s tapirs (population demographic parameters – e.g. age structure, birth rates, mortality, dispersal, and other biological data, the species current status and distribution, threats to survival across its range, available habitat, etc.) and use this information to develop specific recommendations for research, management and conservation priorities for the species. In partnership with Houston Zoo. **FWS: \$5,000.00; Leveraged Funds: \$30,000.00.**

“Watershed Approach to Environmental Education in Southern Belize” develops a watershed management strategy for the Maya Mountain Marine Corridor (about 1 million acres) stretching from the Maya Mountains to the Barrier Reef. Specific objectives are to: (1) Increase the awareness among community members about the importance of managing the watershed; (2) Inform community members about regulations pertaining to endangered species and protected areas; and (3) Exchange information about sustainable agricultural and forestry practices in the region. An educational curriculum will be developed for primary and secondary schools. Additionally, education and outreach efforts will be conducted via a weekly radio program and visits to the communities. In partnership with Toledo Institute for Development & Environment. **FWS: \$15,000.00; Leveraged Funds: \$36,443.00.**

“Bird Ecology and Conservation in Southern South America: Theory and Practice” supports a 2-week course providing high-level training to wildlife biologists and managers in the use of methodological and analytical tools for bird communities in areas of endemism (Puna, Yungas, Chaco), expanding their theoretical background in avian ecology in the Neotropics, providing a regional view of conservation challenges, familiarizing participants with the avifauna of Argentina, Chile, Bolivia, Paraguay, and Brazil, and providing an intellectual learning

experience to participants from various Latin American countries. The FWS course support will defray course cost and provide funding for 15 participants. In partnership with University of Missouri, St. Louis. **FWS: \$8,693.00; Leveraged Funds: \$8,949.00.**

“Regional Wildlife Management Program for Mesoamerica and the Caribbean (PRMVS),” continues the graduate program at the Universidad Nacional (UNA) de Costa Rica. The objective of PRMVS is to train Latin American professionals in both theoretical and practical aspects of wildlife management and biological conservation. With this grant the Program will cover 6 partial scholarships (living stipends, medical insurance, and course credit charges) for the XVI promotion, continue to support 6 partial scholarships for the XV promotion, and initiate 6 new partial scholarships for the XVII Promotion. The funding will also include support for visiting professors, field courses, and to support graduate students and the BIODOC. In partnership with Fundauna. **FWS: \$58,791.00; Leveraged Funds: \$335,300.00.**

“Sharing Information About Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiatives through New Bilingual Web Pages and the Eco-Index” uses the Eco-Index Web site (www.eco-index.org) as the structure for creating new Web pages designed to keep those involved in the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI) – plus all other conservationists and stakeholders – well informed about what each is doing to conserve migratory species and their habitats. The new Web pages would follow the same organization as the tools matrix created at the 2003 Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Conference and allow users to see what tools and projects are available by category, with links to full project profiles in English and Spanish (and Portuguese for projects in Brazil) that are included in the Eco-Index. USFWS funding will cover partial salaries, translation, web design, travel, and communications expenses. In partnership with Rainforest Alliance. **FWS: \$22,249.00; Leveraged Funds: \$5,562.00.**

“Graduate Program in Wildlife Management at the National University Of Cordoba, Argentina” continues support for the graduate program, which began in 1992. The aim of the program is to train specialists in wildlife management and conservation, with a highly applied and interdisciplinary approach, including bioecological, social and economic aspects, and focusing on the subtropical and temperate environments in the southern portion of South America. FWS support will cover specifically the completion of the training by the group of students that started in August 2004, the ongoing work of related programs such as Parks for the future and BIODOC, and to assist in the maintenance of the Mar Chiquita Biological station. The support will cover the following expenses: scholarships for some students, thesis work, travel expenses for thesis directors, and secretarial services for the program. In partnership with Centro de Zoología Aplicada. **FWS: \$52,120.00; Leveraged Funds: \$80,420.00.**

“Environmental Magazines Ambientales and Ambien-tico and Environmental Photographic Gallery” assists in the publication of these magazines which promote scientific research in Costa Rican and Latin American environmental problems, conduct environmental education through the diffusion of research results and short essays about national and regional environmental problems, provide updated materials to teachers at the university and school levels, and increase the appreciation for the environment by the public through the establishment and maintenance of a gallery of environmental photographs. Activities will include (1) Monthly publication and circulation of the magazine Ambientico; (2) Semestral publication and circulation of the magazine Ambientales; and (3) Continued update of the Environmental Gallery of photos in Internet, with links to the two magazines and the Biodoc. FWS funding covers design, printing and web maintenance expenses. In partnership with Fundauna. **FWS: \$14,860.00; Leveraged Funds: \$39,284.00.**

“XXIV Reserva Course” trains 16 professionals from Latin America in subjects related to the conservation of natural resources. At the end of the 62-day course, participants obtain a Diploma in Conservation and Management of Natural Protected Areas. As a result of the course, the publication “Territory Ordering and Environmental Planning” will be available in print and online. The Reserva program has been taught for 15 consecutive years, with a total of 220 people trained from 22 countries in the region. As a result, personnel working in 804 protected areas in Latin America have increased their participation in conservation and management actions in those sites. FWS support will cover honoraria, airfare, hotel and meals and medical insurance for instructors, as well as materials and supplies. In partnership with DUMAC. **FWS: \$30,000.00; Leveraged Funds: \$88,000.00.**

“The West Indian Whistling Duck and Wetlands Conservation” provides funding for coordination of workshops and other activities throughout the Caribbean to raise public awareness about the functions and values of wetlands. The project also trains school teachers, government agency personnel and community leaders to increase their knowledge, skills, and commitment to make better decisions about wetland conservation and use. The main educational tool of the project is *Wondrous West Indian Wetlands: Teacher’s Resource Book*, which is available in English and Spanish. The funding assistance will be used to launch of the “Caribbean Environmental Educator of the Year” award program; publish a book rotafolio and other educational materials in Creole and the book in French; and conduct workshops throughout the Caribbean region, including the British Virgin Islands and Turks and Caicos Islands. In partnership with West Indian Whistling Duck. **FWS: \$44,000.00; Leveraged Funds: \$216,650.00.**

Total funded in FY05 includes two modifications to grants from FY04: A World Wildlife Fund grant with a \$1,367 adjustment, and a Wildlife Conservation Society grant with a \$2,440 adjustment.