

Wildlife Without Borders- Latin America & the Caribbean Summary of Projects 2006

32 Grants Total FWS Funding: \$579,654 Total Leveraged Funds: \$2,086,824

Training Wildlands Managers and Environmental and Natural Resources Decision-makers to Support Integration of Wildlands with a Sustainable Landscape. In partnership with the Organization for Tropical Studies. This project will support two courses to strengthen the capacity of wildlife managers, administrators, and decision makers to conserve and manage ecosystems and biological diversity in Latin America and the Caribbean. FWS: \$40,000. Leveraged Funds: \$98,095.

Strengthening the Network of Volunteers for Jaguar Conservation in Argentina. In partnership with Fundacion Vida Silvestre Argentina. This project will consolidate and improve upon a network of volunteers to collect regional information and distribution of the jaguar in the Upper Parana Atlantic Forest of Argentina, Paraguay and Brazil. Project activities will include consolidation and expansion of the network, communication and outreach, training of collaborators, identification and zoning of areas with jaguar-human conflicts, and the development of protocols for channeling information and conservation actions. FWS: \$10,000. Leveraged Funds: \$14,570.

Cockscomb Jaguar Project: Address Problem Felids in Belize. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society. This project promotes the conservation of jaguar and puma in Belize and devises workable solutions whereby healthy populations of big cats and livestock can both be accommodated. This will be done by working with the Belizean government and NGO community to implement a standardized problem cat protocol that includes creating and providing technical advice to a new “Jaguar Council” that will be authorized to resolve problem cat issues and to train personnel to respond to reports of problem cats. FWS: \$10,009. Leveraged Funds: \$42,668.

Environmental Education in Indigenous Communities of Bosawas. In partnership with Saint Louis Zoological Park. This project supports the development and implementation of an environmental education program to facilitate the management of natural resources by indigenous communities of the Bosawas Biosphere Reserve, in northeastern Nicaragua. The Recipient will develop a user-friendly, bilingual, curriculum guide in Miskito and Spanish, and conduct two intensive workshops to train secondary school teachers responsible for teaching local students. FWS: \$24,227. Leveraged Funds: \$29,105.

Lowland Tapir Conservation Workshop: Population and Habitat Viability Assessment, Brazil. In partnership with Houston Zoo. This project will gather, systematize, and discuss all the relevant data on lowland 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. FWS: \$5,000. Leveraged Funds: \$38,000.

Capacity Building and Field Implementation: Creating a Sustained Effort to Locate Populations of Darwin's Fox and Guigna in Chile. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Network. This project will build capacity in the form of two camera trapping workshops at the Universidad Austral in Valdivia. Students attending the workshops will place and monitor camera traps in the rainforest of reserve Valdiviana Costera, in order to survey wildlife in the region, and in particular, look for evidence of threatened and critically endangered small cat species of Guigna and Darwin's fox. Evidence of these species would be a significant discovery and support the need to create a fully protected area or national park in this region. FWS: \$9,776. Leveraged Funds: \$13,600.

Andros Iguana Outreach Campaign, Andros Island, the Caribbean. In partnership with Zoological Society of San Diego. This project will increase local support for measures that contribute to iguana conservation and restoration. This will be accomplished through teacher-training workshops, transportable education kits on iguana conservation, production and distribution of an Andros iguana poster, and support of the Andros iguana themed community events and activities. FWS: \$9,884. Leveraged Funds: \$19,773.

Building Capacity to Care for Sick and Injured Sea Turtles: Standard Guidelines and Criteria for the Wider Caribbean Region. In partnership with Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network (WIDECAS). This project will develop technical manuals to enable professional training of local trainers in (1) first response procedures (what-to-do/what-not-to-do when a sick or injured sea turtle is encountered in the field), (2) veterinary/clinical care, and (3) basic husbandry during short-term recovery and rehabilitation. Each manual will propose standard guidelines and criteria, drawing upon the best practices of professionals active in the region, as well as data forms, species identification guides, photos and descriptions of options and procedures for first-response, treatment and rehab/care, and a list of Wider Caribbean Region contacts. FWS: \$24,040. Leveraged Funds: \$33,115.

High Andean Polylepis Forest Conservation: an International Congress, Alliance Building and Community Participation. In partnership with American Bird Conservancy. The purpose of this project is to exchange information about Polylepis forest ecology and management through the II International Congress on Polylepis Forest Ecology and Conservation in Cuzco, Peru. The Congress will promote the exchange of scientific information and practical knowledge about Polylepis forests among Andean regions. FWS funds will be used to secure the participation of participants from Bolivia and Peru. FWS: \$5,000. Leveraged Funds: \$25,000.

Scarlet Macaw Conservation in the Mayan Biosphere Reserve, Peten, Guatemala. In partnership with Asociacion de Rescate y Conservacion de Vida Silvestre (ARCAS).

The purpose of this project is to conduct the following activities: (1) environmental education in support of scarlet macaw conservation; (2) networking and coordination of the Macaw Without Borders initiative; and (3) training to support the enforcement of wildlife trade laws and regulations. FWS: \$5,000. Leveraged Funds: \$12,000.

Wildlife Management Master's Program. In partnership with Centro de Zoología Aplicada. This grant will support the Master Program in Wildlife Management at the Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Argentina. This program has received support from USFWS since 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. Grant funds will cover scholarships, thesis work, travel expenses for thesis directors, secretarial services for the program, part of maintenance expenses, and the Biological Documentation Center. FWS: \$74,000. Leveraged Funds: \$80,420.

Institutional Strengthening of CNEH-Peru and Capacity-building for the Communities of the San Pedro de Vice Manglares. In partnership with Centro Neotropical de Entrenamiento en Humedales. The purpose of this agreement is to provide partial funding for the recently founded Neotropical Center of Training in Wetlands (CNEH) Peru Chapter. CNEH-Peru will act at both the local and country level to coordinate activities that create and promote a network of institutions working to conserve the natural resources of Peru with an emphasis on wetlands. Funding will be used to: 1) institutionally strengthen the CNEH-Peru chapter; 2) provide background data necessary to initiate the declaration of the San Pedro de Vice Mangroves as a Ramsar site (design and presentation of the technical form); and 3) detect the requirements needed for training and capacity building with the local communities. The San Pedro de Vice wetland is the last mangrove of the South Pacific. Located in the Sechura river delta, department of Piura in northern Peru, the wetland is currently threatened by poor management and planning. FWS: \$5,000. Leveraged Funds: \$51,630.

Strengthening the Capacity of Key Players for Wetlands Conservation in the Americas. In partnership with Centro Regional Ramsar (CREHO). This grant will provide support for the following: 1) a workshop focused on providing capacity building on conservation of the wetlands of the Americas for key stakeholders. The workshop objective is to train and increase scientific, analytical and methodological skills of technical and policy personnel among English-speaking Ramsar Convention Contracting Parties in the Western Hemisphere, institutions and other key actors in the management and wise use of wetlands; 2) investigation into how Ramsar resolutions, guidelines, and recommendations are used; and, if used, to what extent are they considered useful; and 3) transfer the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative's website from USFWS to CREHO, who will then maintain the website. FWS: \$39,149. Leveraged Funds: \$72,333.

Capacity Building in the Management of Nature Reserves and other Protected Areas. In partnership with Colorado State University. The purpose of this project is to provide partial support for the attendance of one Latin American protected area manager

(including international travel) at the 2006 annual Wildlands and Protected Area Management short course at Colorado State University. This intensive 34-day training course, held in Spanish, is designed for mid-level professional and technical personnel who are interested in improving the management of protected areas in their countries. The course is designed for personnel who work for government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and in the private sector, in the field of protected areas planning and management. FWS: \$6,000. Leveraged Funds: \$0

RESERVA Program, 25th Edition. In partnership with Ducks Unlimited de Mexico, A.C. This grant provides partial support for the XXV session of Reserva, a 62-day course that will train sixteen professionals in issues of natural resource conservation. The target audience is professionals who are currently working directly on these issues, but cannot participate in formal training. Trainees are currently working at leading conservation organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean. The course takes place at the Ria Celestun Biosphere Reserve, in Yucatan, Mexico. FWS:\$30,000. Leveraged Funds: \$88,800.

Partnership for Conservation and Education in the Galapagos Islands. In partnership with Ecology Project International. The purpose of this project is to partner with Ecology Project International, FUNDAR Galapagos, the Galapagos National Park Service, seven Galapagos Island high schools, and five U.S. high schools to provide a conservation education program and scientific training for Galapagos youth, and to support applied conservation in the Galapagos Islands. FWS: \$10,000. Leveraged Funds: \$197,000.

Participatory Community Awareness Program for the Endangered White-whiskered Spider Monkey, as a Flagship Species for its Last Refuge: the Cristalino State Park. In partnership with Fauna and Flora International. The main goal of this project is to engage local communities in conserving the white-whiskered spider monkey through participation and implementation of an awareness educational campaign in the Cristalino State Park and buffer zones in northern Mato Grosso, Brazil. FWS funds will be used to (1) support Escola da Amazonia courses at schools in the buffer zone communities of Alta Floresta and Novo Mundo; (2) assist selected students to design their own awareness programs; and (3) launch and evaluate the initial phase of the Coata community awareness program. FWS: \$10,000. Leveraged Funds: \$25,531.

Environmental Education and Capacity Building- Haiti. In partnership with Fondation pour la Protection de la Biodiversite Marine (FoProBiM). The purpose of this project is to empower local grassroots organizations to conserve and manage natural resources using conflict resolution mechanisms. The recipient will establish local teams of stakeholders and provide training through basic courses in environmental sciences, conflict resolution techniques, and community meetings to exchange ideas about resource use and conservation of coastal areas; and reprint and distribute 2,500 copies of an abridged version of Haiti's environmental laws. FWS: \$5,000. Leveraged Funds: \$52,550.

12th AMUC Course. In partnership with Fundacao Biodiversitas. The purpose of this

grant is to provide partial support for two technical training courses delivered by the Instituto Estadual de Florestas de Minas Gerais. The current course will train 23 professionals for a period of three months. Grant funds provide students with room and board as well as materials for the courses. The Park ranger course provides professional qualification to employees from diverse operational positions in parks and other protected areas. Both courses are delivered at the Rio Doce State Park located in the Brazilian Atlantic Rainforest. FWS:\$40,000. Leveraged Funds: \$57,998.

International Institute for Wildlife Management and Conservation (PRMVS). In partnership with FUNDAUNA. The purpose of this agreement is to provide partial funding for the master program of the International Institute for Wildlife Management and Conservation (ICOMVIS) at the Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica. The Institute trains professionals in theoretical and practical aspects of wildlife management and biological conservation. The Master's degree program comprises 27 months, including 15 months in courses and 12 months for thesis work. Most field training and thesis work take place in protected areas in Costa Rica. Grant funds will support 18 partial scholarships (living stipends, medical insurance, course credit charges), as well as support for visiting professors, field courses, job search assistance for graduates, and the Biological Documentation Center. FWS: \$45,022. Leveraged Funds: \$479,852.

Ricord's Iguana Education Initiative- Dominican Republic. In partnership with International Iguana Foundation. The purpose of this project is to assist, through training and fieldwork, in the long-term sustainability of the biodiversity of three significant conservation areas in the Dominican Republic, providing particular emphasis on the conservation and recovery of Ricord's iguana and Rhinoceros iguana. FWS funds will be used to cover capacity building workshops; ecological assessments of iguana populations in Pedernales, Lago Enriquillo, and Isla Cabritos; and contribute to the development of management policies and practices to conserve *Cyclura* iguanas. FWS: \$8,600. Leveraged Funds: \$97,512.

Protecting Jaguars in the Brazilian Pantanal. In partnership with Jaguar Conservation Fund. The purpose of this project is to protect the jaguar population within privately owned properties in the Brazilian Pantanal through a long-term species monitoring program combined with social benefits to the local human population. This will be accomplished by meeting the following goals: (1) investigating jaguar activity and movement patterns, habitat use, home-range, and prey abundance; (2) raising information on population demography, structure and density; (3) evaluating population growth, life expectancy, and predation impact upon domestic livestock; and (4) testing and implementing social program strategies to solve the conflicts between jaguars and the local ranchers. FWS: \$15,000. Leveraged Funds: \$174,560.

USDM Conservation and Development in Tropical Countries: Insights and Implications-Course. In partnership with Organization for Tropical Studies. The goal of this project will be the pre-course reconnaissance, recruitment and logistics preparations for the U.S. decision-makers course on environmental policy in tropical countries. Based on the findings from the pre-course preparations, the course will bring approximately twenty U.S. decision- makers to Costa Rica for training in key concepts and issues in

conservation, particularly those issues with connections to the U.S. such as shared migratory and flagship species and their habitats. Training will be field-based, experiential, itinerant, and structured around brief visits to sites and existing projects. FWS: \$6,000. Leveraged Funds: \$10,190.

Sharing Information through the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI) Pathway and Eco-Index. In partnership with Rainforest Alliance. The purpose of this project is to continue to promote, maintain and expand the WHMSI Pathway. The Web site is designed to keep those involved in WHMSI – plus all other conservationists and stakeholders – well informed about what each is doing to conserve migratory species and their habitats. The Pathway allows users to see what tools and projects are available by “needs” categories identified at the Chile conference, with links to full project profiles in English and Spanish (and Portuguese for projects in Brazil) that are included in the Eco-Index. FWS: \$15,000. Leveraged Funds: \$2,020.

The Don Oso Project: Andean Bear Research, Awareness, and Protection in Southeastern Ecuador. In partnership with Round River Conservation Studies. The purpose of this project is to study and protect large and potentially isolated populations of the Andean bear within the Nudo del Azuay region in southeastern Ecuador. FWS funds will be used to: (1) determine the status and distribution of Andean bears in the Mazar and Dudas watersheds; (2) measure the genetic diversity of the bear population; (3) strengthen local conservation and protection through education and involvement of local farmers in the project; (4) identify high quality habitat and protect and restore movement corridors; (5) address the problem of livestock depredation through the development of a compensation fund and conduct research on depredation; and (6) build local and regional support for the proposed Mazar Wildlife Reserve and other private lands conservation initiatives. FWS: \$15,000. Leveraged Funds: \$33,298.

Increasing SCSCB's Capacity to Provide Leadership in Avian Conservation in the Caribbean. In partnership with Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds. The purpose of this project is to hold a board meeting in Jamaica to review and update the Society's Strategic Plan, continue developing the website, and produce promotional materials for fund raising. FWS: \$18,720. Leveraged Funds: \$60,320.

Support for the Natural Resources of the Peruvian Yunga Amazonica Development Program. In partnership with Universidad Nacional Agraria de la Selva. The project will train 5 professors from the Universidad Nacional Agraria de la Selva (UNAS) in Tingo Maria, Peru, on issues related to environmental geography and natural resources management. The training will take place at the Institute of Geography of Mexico's National Autonomous University (UNAM). Additionally, 20 professionals from the Peruvian Amazon Yungas region will be trained in natural resources management at UNAS and a georeferenced database of priority wetland areas will be developed. Products will include 25 trained professionals in natural resources management with emphasis on wetlands, a graduate course on the same topic, the acquisition of GIS software, a georeferenced database with priority areas for conservation, and the creation of a Network for the Peruvian Amazon Yungas. FWS: \$10,000. Leveraged Funds: \$25,500.

Bird Ecology and Conservation in Southern South America: Theory and Practice
Optional Extension: Analysis of Ecological Communities. In partnership with University of Missouri, St. Louis. The purpose of this project is to conduct 2 graduate-level courses in partnership with the International Center of Tropical Ecology at the University of Missouri and the national University at Tucuman, Argentina. The goal of this project is to strengthen the capacity of students and professionals to become more effective field ecologists and conservation biologists. Through this course training is provided in both methodological and analytical issues in bird community ecology, expanding the theoretical background with respect to avian ecology in the neotropics and South American countries, such as Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, and Paraguay. The course will be offered at the National University of Tucuman and will have 15 participants. FWS: \$5,000. Leveraged Funds: \$5,859.

The West Indian Whistling-duck and Wetlands Conservation Project. In partnership with West Indian Whistling-Duck Working Group. This project will deliver region-wide outreach and education about the functions and benefits of wetlands, using the Whistling Duck as a flagship for conservation. The recipient will deliver wetland education training workshops in two to three countries, continue supporting project partners in the region, produce Landbirds of the Caribbean identification cards, and develop the project website. FWS: \$44,000. Leveraged Funds: \$179,200.

Conservation and Management of Guanacos in Northern Patagonia. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society. The goal of this project is to evaluate effects of management actions aimed at reducing poaching and using wool of wild guanacos in the Payunia-Auca Mahuida landscape of Argentina. The specific one-year objectives are: 1) to determine efficacy of oil-trail closings in reducing access by poachers; 2) to implement a monitoring program to evaluate effects of closing oil trails on guanaco abundance; 3) to determine stress generated by capture and shearing of wild guanacos; 4) to evaluate survival of guanacos that are captured and sheared; and 5) to implement a monitoring program to determine the effect of capture and shearing on population recruitment and size. FWS: \$15,000. Leveraged Funds: \$15,600.

Building Conservation Leadership in Bolivia: Strengthening Post-graduate Training in Wildlife Management and Conservation in Cochabama & La Paz. In partnership with Wildlife Trust. The purpose of this project is to partner with Wildlife Trust, BIOTA, the Universidad Mayor San Andres, and Universidad Mayor San Simon to design, develop and implement postgraduate programs in biodiversity conservation and wildlife management in Bolivia. To begin this endeavor, funds will partially support a conservation capacity building needs assessment workshop in Bolivia during 2006. This will be used as one key step in the design of a future post graduate program in conservation biology and wildlife management. FWS: \$10,230. Leveraged Funds: \$28,500.

Strengthening Conservation and Management Initiatives for the Antillean Manatee in Belize. In partnership with Wildlife Trust. The purpose of this project is to reduce boating's impact on manatees while building capacity within Belize, particularly among community based organizations, to conserve the Antillean manatee. This will be

accomplished by meeting the following goals: (1) reducing manatee injuries and mortalities from boat collisions; (2) educating and raising awareness within selected local communities about living with manatees to foster support of management actions; and (3) building capacity with local groups for long term conservation. FWS: \$9,997. Leveraged Funds: \$22,225.