



Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative Update

May 2008

Dear WHMSI colleagues:

The Third Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI) Conference will take place July 22-25 2008 in Asuncion, Paraguay. Below you will find some general information about the Conference, as well as other news relevant to WHMSI. If you have questions or comments about any of these issues, please contact me at herb_raffaele@fws.gov or any member of the Interim Steering Committee.

Sincerely,

Herb Raffaele
Chair, Interim Steering Committee

Third WHMSI Conference

The Third Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Conference will be held in Asuncion, Paraguay, July 22-25, 2008, at the Yacht & Golf Paraguay, hosted by the Paraguayan Ministries of Environment and Tourism, and Guyra Paraguay. The Conference will bring together government wildlife officials and representatives from non-governmental organizations and conventions with interest in international dialogue and cooperation on migratory species. The objectives of the event are to update activities since the 2006 Conference in Costa Rica, to take further steps towards establishment of a permanent forum for the conservation of migratory wildlife, and to conduct thematic sessions of interest to the region, including issues such as adaptation to climate change, marine turtles conservation, and migratory birds conservation. The Conference is open to all WHMSI partners. Additional information will be provided to participants in the upcoming weeks. If you have any questions about the Conference, please contact Alberto Yanosky (yanosky@guyra.org.py) with copy to Cristina Morales (cristinam@guyra.org.py). A draft of the agenda is included at the end of this update.

WHMSI Capacity Building Proposal to OAS-FEMCIDI

One of WHMSI's priority focus areas is capacity building. In 2006, WHMSI submitted a proposal to the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) to support capacity building activities for migratory species conservation in the Western Hemisphere. The proposal incorporated a capacity building implementation plan developed at the 2006 WHMSI Conference in Costa Rica. The GEF eventually

withdrew its support for regional initiatives such as WHMSI. However, in 2007 the United States and Trinidad and Tobago submitted major elements of the capacity building proposal to the Organization of American States (OAS)'s FEMCIDI program. The proposal focuses on a selection of capacity building activities extracted from the earlier effort. A number of WHMSI government and NGO partners have also submitted letters of support for the proposal, which is now in its last stages of approval. If this funding becomes available, there will be time dedicated to discussing this project at the upcoming Third WHMSI Conference in Paraguay.

Migratory Species Directories

One of the recommendations from the Second WHMSI Conference in 2006 was to "Request WHMSI focal points in each country to develop and circulate a directory of organizations that relate to WHMSI for his/her country." The objective of this recommendation is to create national networks on migratory species for the sharing of information.

In August 2007, the WHMSI Interim Steering Committee followed up with WHMSI governmental focal points to compile such lists. To date, directories have been compiled for Mexico, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Nicaragua. We congratulate these countries for providing such important information and suggest other countries to send their directories to Marina Ratchford at marina_ratchford@fws.gov by June 15th 2008. National directories will be posted on the WHMSI website, added to the WHMSI distribution list, and announced in an upcoming WHMSI update.

Western Hemisphere Bird Banding Network

An early priority of WHMSI, recognized at the First Conference in Chile in 2003, pertained to establishing a mechanism hemisphere-wide for cooperation and coordination on bird banding. The Western Hemisphere Bird Banding Network (WHBBN) is a voluntary network established in 2006 to facilitate data management and develop mechanisms for coordinating bird marking efforts, data reporting and data sharing within the Western Hemisphere. WHBBN provides an approach to solve some of the priority needs identified by WHMSI. The Network also addresses the need for broader international coordination of bird marking throughout the world for tracking bird movements as expressed by many world banding schemes at the past International Ornithological Congress. The mission of the Network is to promote communication internationally among people and institutions marking and/or managing bird marking data in the Western Hemisphere through voluntary sharing of data, information, resources, tools and expertise regarding bird marking program and project management, towards the support of bird science, conservation, and management across Western Hemisphere countries. Three workshops have been held in Central America, North America and the Caribbean, involving 24 countries, 6 banding programs and 101 people. The Network is open to all people and organizations interested in addressing or remaining informed on bird marking issues in the Americas.

Please visit the WHBBN website at www.RAAHO.net for more information on how you can get involved. For more information, please contact Maria Isabel Moreno, Chair, Fundación Proaves (mmoreno@proaves.org).

MOUs with Partners:

Following upon a plenary decision at the Second WHMSI Conference in 2006 to strengthen relations with partner organizations, Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) were signed with a number of important organizations active in the field of wildlife conservation:

- U.S. Committee of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (U.S. NABCI)
- Secretariat of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena, Colombia)
- Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN)
- Ramsar Regional Center for Training and Research on Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere (CREHO)
- Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds (SCSCB)

A draft MOU with the International Institute for Wildlife Conservation and Management (ICOMVIS) at the National University of Costa Rica is currently being reviewed.

Eco-Index WHMSI Pathway

The Rainforest Alliance has launched the newly redesigned WHMSI Pathway. Visit [\[migratory\]\(http://www.eco-index.org/migratory\) to see the new design, and easy to use interface.](http://www.eco-index.org/mi-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

The WHMSI Pathway features:

- The “Projects & Tools” section, which matches priority migratory species conservation needs with the existing tools and projects that meet them. Each category is now organized by species and features collapsible menus so that you can find the information you are looking for more quickly and easily.
- A link to the list of more than 100 migratory species conservation projects available in the Eco-Index database.
- An archive of migratory species projects awarded as “Innovative Eco-Initiative of the Month”, “Best Lessons Learned”, and “Best Monitoring and Evaluation”.
- Brief reviews and links to migratory species conservation reports available online at no cost, and useful migratory species-related Web sites.
- Interviews with directors of projects related to migratory species conservation.
- A list of foundations and government agencies that fund migratory species and habitat conservation projects.
- An online subscription form for the WHMSI Pathway Bulletin. Please forward this link to any of your colleagues who would benefit from learning more about migratory species conservation through the WHMSI Pathway.

The intent is to make the WHMSI Pathway as useful a resource as possible. Please send any comments or suggestions to eco-index@ra.org.

New WHMSI Website

At the Second WHMSI Conference in 2006 in Costa Rica, participants asked that the WHMSI website be located at and updated by an independent organization. The Ramsar Regional Center for Training and Research on Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere (CREHO) in Panama offered to serve that role. CREHO has developed a draft version of the website, which was reviewed by the Interim Steering Committee. ISC comments are currently being incorporated into the new WHMSI website design, and we hope to be able to share the new site at the upcoming WHMSI Conference in Paraguay.

Nuevo Logo de WHMSI

El nuevo logo de WHMSI que aparece en estas noticias será discutido en la Tercera Conferencia WHMSI en Paraguay.

Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative – Third Hemispheric Conference

Purpose: To convene a meeting of Western Hemisphere governmental representatives and partner organizations interested in international conservation of migratory species.

Location: Asuncion, Paraguay

Dates: July 22-25 2008

Host: Government of Paraguay (Ministries of Environment and Tourism) and Guyra Paraguay.

Participants: Wildlife Directors from government agencies in all 35 countries of the Western Hemisphere; representatives from non-governmental organizations and international conventions interested in migratory species conservation in the hemisphere.

Conference's objectives and content: : The Third Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI) Conference will gather wildlife directors from the 35 countries in the Western Hemisphere, as well as representatives from non-governmental organizations and international conventions interested in migratory species. Conference objectives are:

- 1 - Facilitate coordination among migratory species initiatives, to foster synergies for better collaboration and more efficient use of resources, and to enhance Latin American participation in these initiatives.
- 2 - Conduct working sessions on priority hemispheric themes, including:
 - i. How to adapt habitats of importance to migratory species in the face of climate change
 - ii. Marine turtles conservation
 - iii. Migratory birds conservation priorities
- 3 - Refine the collaborative mechanism under which WHMSI functions.
- 4 - Update WHMSI activities undertaken since the previous meeting.

Draft Agenda:

Day 1 – Tuesday, July 22nd:

9am-10am: Welcome by Hosts

10am-10:30am: Introductions

10:30am-11:15am: Keynote Address (to be determined)

11:15am-11:30am: Coffee Break

11:30am-12:30pm: Updates since WHMSI 2

- Capacity Building Implementation Plan:
 - GEF proposal
 - New focus of Wildlife Without Borders-Latin America/Caribbean and Mexico Programs to address WHMSI priorities
 - Implementation of regional projects

12:30pm-2pm: Lunch

2pm-3:30pm: Updates since WHMSI 2

- Partnerships:
 - Signed Memoranda of Understanding
 - Outreach to other migratory species networks
 - Analysis of International Conventions and Regional Agreements as they pertain to migratory species and relation to WHMSI
- Outreach and Dissemination of Information:
 - WHMSI website

- Eco-Index WHMSI Pathway
- National migratory species directories
- WHMSI logo and brochure

3:30pm-4pm: Coffee Break

4pm-6pm: OAS Capacity Building Proposal:

- Update on proposal
- Review of capacity building needs for the conservation migratory species based on results from WHMSI 2
- Planning for subregional action plans to implement capacity building strategies (working groups)
- Identification of volunteer countries and NGOs to host and plan subregional capacity building workshops

Day 2 – Wednesday, July 23rd:

9am-10:30am: Dedication of Bahia de Asuncion as a Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) Site

10:30am-12:30pm: Asuncion City Tour

12:30pm-2pm: Lunch

2pm-6pm: Discussion of WHMSI Purpose and Organization structure (formerly named Terms of Reference)

Day 3 – Thursday, July 24th:

9am-3pm: Two concurrent thematic sessions:

1) Migratory Birds Conservation Priorities

Coordinator: TBD

2) Marine Turtles Conservation

Coordinator: Marco Solano and Belinda Dick:
citsecret@amnet.co.cr, contat@iacseaturtle.org

These sessions will include background presentations/case studies, group discussions and recommendations, incorporate input and buy-in of governments and NGOs, propose follow-up for potential joint projects.

3pm-4pm: Report to Plenary

4pm-6pm: Continue discussion of WHMSI Purpose and Organization structure (formerly named Terms of Reference), as needed.

Day 4- Friday, July 25th:

9am-5:30pm Plenary thematic session on “How to Adapt Habitats of Importance to Migratory Species in the Face of Climate Change”

Coordinator: Carlos Drews: cdrews@wwfca.org

3pm-4pm: Closing of Conference

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May 2008

