



This is an example of a NMBCA annual report format that you could use as a starting point for your report. This is not a template nor is it a required format; other ways of reporting may also be appropriate. Final reports should have similar information, but should show 100% completion of all activities and objectives.



The Shorebird Recovery Project for Patagonia, South America. Río Negro, Santa Cruz and Tierra del Fuego, Argentina; Tierra del Fuego, Chile

*USFWS Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act
Project Number 5148
Agency Award Number F11AP...*

Grantee's Project Officer: **[Name of your grant coordinator]**

Performance Period 06/09/2011 to 06/08/2013

Annual Report for period ending 06/08/2012

Submission date: **[Check your grant award for the deadline]**

I. Narrative [Instructions: *A concise narrative showing accomplishments under each objective. List each objective and evaluation criterion from your proposal, briefly describe the accomplishments under each objective, and state that this objective was 100% accomplished or, if not 100%, why not.]*

OBJECTIVE 1. Site-based Conservation, 40% complete

a). Shorebird conservation actions implemented from the Site Management Plan for Bahía Lomas, Chile including legal protection status.

The Management Plan for Bahia Lomas was accepted by the Ministry of Environment of Chile in July 2011 and defines the actions, strategies and programs required for the effective conservation of the area. Strategic objective 6.2.1 of that Plan prescribes that "In 2013, Bahia Lomas will have legally recognized protection and administration." Our first planned activity toward Objective 1a is to carry out two workshops, one in Santiago, Chile and the other in Punta Arenas to define the legal figures to achieve that protection and administration, and during the reporting period we accomplished the needed planning and invitations for the former. Our vision was to invite experts of varying backgrounds and outlooks, (mostly scientists and public service professionals, decision makers and environmental institutions) to present and analyze advantages and disadvantages of possible forms of protection for the area, and possible management models. (This first workshop, entitled "Defining a legal protective / administrative figure for Bahia Lomas," was held in September 2012 in Santiago, Chile, shortly after the close of the reporting period). A second workshop is scheduled for the last week of November 2012, in the city of Punta Arenas, to present the figure initially to discuss, achieve consensus and validation of that initial figure with local actors and stakeholders in the area.

The Strategic Management Plan's objective 6.2.3 says that "By 2016, no habitat or species at Bahia Lomas will be threatened / damaged by accident and / or environmental emergencies from oil spills near the Ramsar site." This is critical in that, there are several operations of the National Petroleum Company (ENAP) near Bahia Lomas. Given this priority objective, we have subcontracted with our partner, the University of Santo Thomas, to undertake a formal "risk assessment study and construction of vulnerability indicators" for Bahia Lomas.

To this end we have worked with professionals from the Division of Natural Resources, Waste Risk Assessment, of the Ministry of Environment and technical staff of ENAP to prepare the terms of

reference of this study. We have thus far held meetings with three consulting firms to discuss methodological proposal for implementation. The main achievements so far are: 1) subcontracting the Center for Applied Ecology, CEA as the consultant and 2) the launch of the study that will, among other things: a) create the vulnerability indicators that will measure management effectiveness relating to the main sources of environmental risk, and b) offer recommendations / management measures for these sources of risk and vulnerability identified. At the time of writing this report, the consultant team is finalizing the collection of data needed to produce the risk baseline.

b) Reduced levels of anthropogenic threats at the 4 WHSRN sites in Patagonia

The "Vuelo Latitud 40" nature center (Flight Latitude 40) at the San Antonio Bay (Argentina) WHSRN site is one of the key operational bases to promote behavioral change and reduce threats to shorebirds and their critical habitats in Patagonia. Through the present project, our partner, Inalafquen Foundation, is strengthening the operation and effectiveness of the Center. One of the most important results thus far is the creation of a business plan for VL40, a strategic contribution to its effective management and especially its economic sustainability. Further progress was made on design of the Center's flora interpretation trail, including design and installation of themed signage, design and printing of brochures for self-guided interpretation, new interpretation technologies and appropriate equipment, design and printing of booklets, banners, and posters and capacity-building training of staff and volunteers.

To replicate the successful experience and impact of VL40, at other WHSRN sites, two new centers were launched with the present project:

- 1) the Rio Gallegos Estuary [Argentina] Environmental Interpretation Center, was inaugurated in December 2011. It is a major initiative of our partners, the local NGO *Ambiente Sur*. The support of this NMBCA project allowed the design and installation of a total of 80 m² of interpretive material; design and printing of 1000 information booklets; the acquisition of basic equipment (40" LCD screen, sound system, desktop computer and 50 chairs); and a well-attended ceremonial opening event with good press. The most important achievement is here then the opening and operation of the Centre.
- 2) On April 20, 2012 on the Chilean side of Tierra del Fuego (Patagonia) opened the Centro Bahía Lomas Bay, co-managed by Manomet and our partners, University of Santo Tomás and the Municipality of Primavera. The center serves as a forum and platform for the promotion and implementation of activities in science, education, and local development associated with the conservation of the Bahía Lomas WHSRN site. Through the present NMBCA-funded project enabled us to recruit human resources necessary for the operation of the Centre during its first year. (Sub-contracting a Center Director and two in-house staffers/monitors). The respective contracts were signed during April 2012, with supervision of these human resources in under the charge of the University of Santo Tomás.

c). Capacity-building for "good governance" at the 4 WHSRN sites in Patagonia

On 11 and 12 October 2012 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, we will hold a first-ever course entitled "Governance for the effective management of shorebirds and their habitats." The activity aims to democratize governance concepts and provide participants with the conceptual and operational tools needed to develop good governance practices at WHSRN sites. It will be taught by experts , both of the Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano (FFLA). The course is tailored to the needs of key players and stakeholders involved in conserving WHSRN sites in Patagonia, a total of about 30 people, comprising local conservation managers (local WHSRN partners) and decision

makers in Chile and Argentina. To date, progress has been made in defining the course content and agenda and the formal invitation to participants, including all aspects of coordination and logistics necessary for their participation). Since our proposal was submitted, two new sites have joined WHSRN, the "Wetlands of eastern Chiloé" [Chile] and the Valdes Peninsula [Argentina]. As a result, our target for this capacity-building project now has expanded from four to six sites in Patagonia.

OBJECTIVE 2. Building the Science Foundation; 30% complete

First reporting of recent-historic shorebird data (seasonal abundance, condition, biometry, disturbance regimes) for two sites in Argentina.

The research team of our partner, Inalafquen Foundation, has systematized historical shorebird records at two WHSRN sites, "Bahia de San Antonio" and "Atlantic Coast Reserve of Tierra del Fuego", both critical sites for Red Knot in Patagonia, Argentina. So far available data have been collected, evaluated and analyzed, and spreadsheets have been created. A progress report for the San Antonio Bay site was received in July 2012/

Measurement of food availability (invertebrate community abundance and body size) for shorebirds feeding in the tidal flat of the Bahía Lomas, Chile.

In parallel with the above historical work, our partners in the Faculty of Science of the University of Santo Tomas (Chile) have progressed in developing a program of seasonal sampling of invertebrates in the Bahia Lomas WHSRN site. So far, the sampling strategy has been designed and the first series of field samples taken by field expeditions conducted during January (spring-summer) 2012 and August 2012, (autumn-winter).

OBJECTIVE 3. Success measures (results monitoring), 30% complete

Updated evaluation of state-pressure-response status for San Antonio Bay, Argentina and Río Gallegos, Argentina

As we had foreseen, the political and technical teams responsible for the administration of both areas changed during the first half of 2012. Knowing this, we scheduled the start of the participatory exercises for applying the WHSRN Site Assessment Tool at the two sites for November 2012. No other progress was made during the reporting period.

Seasonal monitoring of knots, godwits and other shorebirds at Bahía Lomas, Chile

The research team of the Faculty of Science of the University of Santo Tomas has advanced in the seasonal monitoring of *rufa* Red Knots in Bahia Lomas using aerial and ground surveys. At present, terrestrial surveys have defined the diversity and abundance of birds in a spring-summer campaign (January 2012) and a autumn-winter survey (September 2012). Aerial surveys (with logistical support from ENAP coordinated through Manomet's Southern Cone office) have also been completed for spring-summer (January 2012) and were also accomplished with fall-winter (August 2012) flights, again, shortly after the reporting period.

4. Stakeholder communication, education and public awareness, 55% complete

Increased public awareness and behavioral change at the 3 WHSRN sites in Argentina

To change attitudes, reduce threats and remove barriers to conservation, our partner, Inalafquen Foundation, has been implementing the second phase of its "Pride" at the San Antonio Bay WHSRN site. New educational and interpretative materials reinforce the campaign's iconic image (a Red Knot in various representations, including the fictional character of Fabien Rojizo). At the same time, a series of educational activities in the VL 40 nature center and in several area schools have successfully been planned and carried out. These include informative conversations about conservation of shorebirds and their habitats, workshops, and thematic reading guided field trips. Planning and scheduling for the presentation, beginning in November, of the innovative and original theater piece, "Violet's Dream" has advanced as well. This play's main theme—woven in the magical realism tradition of Latin American writers—is the importance of shorebird conservation.

First all-Patagonia shorebird festival

The first steps in creating an all-Patagonia shorebird festival have been to strengthen and expand existing work. In March 2012, the Third Shorebird Festival for San Antonio Bay, Argentina was held with great success. The festival's success required involving the formation and coordination of a broad alliance of local organizations, again led by our partner, Inalafquen Foundation. The festival this year had special emphasis on activities for students of varying educational levels. Among other things, we highlight the involvement of American writer, <http://www.deborahcramer.com/> who is currently working on a new book about the Red Knot. Organizers estimated the participation of 1,200 people in the various activities of the Festival.

It is also worth mentioning that the Río Gallegos Estuary Shorebird Festival is scheduled for the first week of November, 2012.

Digital strategy for removing barriers to human behavioral change threatening shorebirds and their habitats in Patagonia.

Planning and contracting for an outreach campaign using social networks to be called #avesplayeras were completed. The campaign was launched shortly after the close of this reporting period and we will report subsequently on its progress.

Narrative Summary Table

Objective (as listed in proposal)	Expected Output (as listed in proposal)	Description of activities completed during project period	Status of the objectives (0-100 % completion)	Description of problems encountered; or issues that need to be addressed; or decisions or actions to be taken; or additional outputs
OBJECTIVE 1. Site-based Conservation in Patagonia	Shorebird conservation actions from the Site Management Plan for Bahía Lomas lead to improved protection and reduced threats	1) Planning for Workshop: “Defining a legal figure for official protection & administration of Bahía Lomas”(completed after reporting period) and 2) subcontract issued for “Risk Assessment and Vulnerability Indicators.”	40%	Activities and fulfillment of objectives is on track
	Levels of anthropogenic threats are reduced at the 4 WHSRN sites in Patagonia	Activities to strengthen Vuelo Latitud 40 (San Antonio Bay) and launch of two new shorebird interpretation centers (Río Gallegos, Argentina & Bahía Lomas, Chile)	80%	Activities and fulfillment of objectives is on track
	Principles of “good governance” are implemented at the 4 WHSRN sites in Patagonia	Planning and invitations underway for workshop: “Governance for the effective management of shorebirds and their habitats	50%	The workshop will be taught in Buenos Aires on Oct 11 & 12. We originally had planned for key participants from the 4 WHSRN sites in Patagonia and have now expanded to 6 with the addition of 2 sites.
OBJECTIVE 2.	Decision-making	Progress report on	30%	Preliminary report received

Building the Science Foundation for conservation action	about shorebird conservation strategies is informed by trends in seasonal abundance, condition, biometry, disturbance regimes of shorebirds across past 15 years for two sites in Argentina	systematization of historical shorebird records at 2 WHSRN sites in Patagonia, Argentina.		for San Antonio Bay, Argentina.
	Limiting factors, if any, are identified for shorebirds at Bahía Lomas, Chile	Design of strategic invertebrate sampling at Bahía Lomas and first set of field sampling campaigns: spring-summer and autumn-winter, 2012.	30%	Activities and fulfillment of objectives is on track
OBJECTIVE 3. Success measures (results monitoring) for recovering shorebirds across the hemisphere	State-pressure-response status and changes are understood for San Antonio Bay, and Río Gallegos, Argentina and lead to effective conservation strategies		0%	Updating the WHSRN Site Assessment Tool at these sites has not been possible yet, because of turnover in the political and technical teams charged with managing the areas. Participatory workshops are now scheduled for November 2012
	Populations of knots, godwits and other shorebirds are known across the season at Bahía Lomas, Chile	Aerial and terrestrial censuses of <i>rufa</i> Red Knots have been completed for spring-summer and autumn-winter, 2012	30%	Activities and fulfillment of objectives is on track

OBJECTIVE 4. Stakeholder communication, education and public awareness	Increased public awareness leads to removal of barriers and positive behavioral change at the 3 WHSRN sites in Argentina	Second phase of the Pride campaign and 3 rd Shorebird Festival successfully completed at San Antonio Bay, Argentina	50%	Shorebird Festival at the Río Gallegos Estuary WHSRN sites is scheduled for November 2012
	First all-Patagonia shorebird festival			
	Digital strategy for removing barriers to human behavioral change threatening shorebirds and their habitats in Patagonia.	Agency identified and contract signed to create #avesplayeras campaign	10%	Campaign launched in August 2012, shortly after the close of this reporting period

II. Budget Comparison (all amounts are cash);

06/09/2011 to 05/30/2012

III. Signed and dated SF-425 (attached)

IV. List of relevant attachments that include the documentation for each outcome and product

APPENDIX I: Agenda for the workshop (held after the close of the reporting period) “Definición de las Figuras de Protección-Administración Oficiales de Bahía Lomas”

APPENDIX II: Plan de Negocios Centro Vuelo Latitud 40

APPENDIX III: Contents and agenda of the training course “Gobernanza para el manejo efectivo de aves playeras y sus hábitats”.

APPENDIX IV: Photo album (organized by objective)

LINKS ABOUT ADVANCES AND ACHIEVEMENTS:

Third Shorebird Festival at San Antonio Bay (on-line press articles)

- <http://www.rionegro.com.ar/diario/semana-de-las-aves-con-muchas-opciones-en-las-grutas-y-sao-840686-9545-nota.aspx>
- http://www.informativohoy.com.ar/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1103:poy6&catid=60:archivo

Inauguration of Centro Bahía Lomas

On-line press articles

- http://www.elpinguino.com/noticias/124431/Abre_sus_puertas_el_Centro_Baha_Lomas.html
- http://www.enap.cl/sala_de_prensa/detalle.php?no_noticia=359
- <http://www.mma.gob.cl/1257/w3-article-51143.html>
- http://www.radiomagallanes.cl/noticia.php?id_not=38877
- http://www.gobernaciontierradelfuego.gov.cl/n1072_04-05-2012.html

Prime-time national television coverage, 16 minutes:

- <http://www.13.cl/t13/reporteros/tesoro-ornitologico-en-tierra-del-fuego>

Videoclip of the Inauguration of the Center: <http://vimeo.com/49160363>

Inauguration of Centro Interpretación Ambiental Estuario del Río Gallegos

On-line press articles

- <http://noticiasaustral.com/2011/12/05/fue-inauguro-el-centro-de-interpretacion-ambiental-de-estuario-del-rio-gallegos/>
- http://www.soradigital.com/sitio/santacruz/item/1175qued%C3%B3_inaugurado_centro_de_interpretaci%C3%B3n_ambiental
- <http://www.naturalezaparaelfuturo.org/new/centros/rio-gallegos.asp> (Story & photo gallery)

- <http://www.whsrn.org/es/noticias/articulo-de-prensa/centro-de-interpretacion-abre-sus-puertas-en-rio-gallegos-argentina>
- http://eldiarionuevodia.com.ar/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=4469:comienzan-las-visitas-de-escuelas-al-centro-de-interpretaci%C3%B3n-del-estuario&Itemid=63&tmpl=component&print=1

Amateur Videos posted by visitors to the Center:

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0bd9mrROo-0>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0JDP2OZmqNk>

Aerial Census of Bahía Lomas

On-line press article

- <http://www.laprensaaustral.cl/cronica/en-humedal-bahia-lomas-se-realizo-censo-aereo-17070>