

# Partners for Fish and Wildlife

## *Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands*



photo: USFWS



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### Photos (top to bottom)

*The treasure of the Caribbean.*

*Shade coffee restoration: before.*

*Shade coffee restoration: after.*

*Protected cactus reintroduction.*

The future of the nation's fish and wildlife depends on the private landowners. Since 1999, the Service's Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program helps accomplish its mission in the Caribbean by offering technical and financial assistance to private landowners to **voluntarily** restore important fish and wildlife habitats on their land.

The Caribbean Islands compose one of the most diverse ecosystems within the United States. Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands provide great opportunities to protect and restore tropical forests ecosystems, neotropical migratory bird wintering grounds, and habitat for more than 75 federally listed species and a wealth of endemic species.

### Partnership Opportunities on Private Lands

*Habitat Improvement:*

- Voluntary participation.
- Wetlands and associated uplands.
- Migratory birds habitat including shade coffee plantations.
- Endemic species habitat.
- Threatened, endangered and candidate species habitat.

*Technical Assistance to:*

- Private landowners.
- U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- Department of Natural and Environmental Resources.
- Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources.
- Other Federal and State agencies.
- Corporations.

- Private conservation organizations.
- Academia.
- Communities.

### Acres Restored from 1999-2008:

- Wetlands..... 627 acres
- Upland ..... 3,637 acres
- Riparian..... 22 miles
- Agreements..... 125
- Interagency Agreement. 1

### Questions and Answers

*What is Partner for Fish & Wildlife (PFW) Program?*

The PFW is an incentive-based and non-regulatory conservation program aimed to restore, improve and protect fish and wildlife habitat on private lands through alliances between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, others organizations, and individuals, while leaving the land in private ownership.

*Who are the Partners?*

Anyone can be a partner: farmers, ranchers, city dwellers, local agencies, private organizations, corporations, government agencies, educational institutions, and anyone interested in the conservation of wildlife habitat on private lands.

*Why is Partners for Fish & Wildlife important to you?*

- The PFW works to assists you fulfill your conservation goals.
- One-on-one in partnership with local Service biologist.
- Provides assistance on other programs that may be available for conservation.
- If we can't help you, we try to find some who can.

*Contact us!*

A phone call or letter initiates the process. The landowner works directly with the Service biologist to design and implement the project that will be based on the landowner's goals for the benefits of our trust species.