



Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative Update

Fourth WHMSI Meeting

The meeting will gather governmental wildlife officials and representatives from non-governmental organizations and conventions interested in international dialogue and cooperation on this issue.

This meeting builds on four prior hemispheric events. First, the leaders at the 2001 Summit of the Americas called for advancing conservation of plants, animals, and ecosystems through “the development of a hemispheric strategy to support the conservation of migratory wildlife throughout the Americas.” Second, the 2003 Western Hemisphere Migratory Bird Conference in Chile brought together for the first time in 40 years governmental wildlife agency representatives from throughout the hemisphere. The Conference participants identified priority needs, agreed to develop a cooperative hemispheric initiative to conserve shared migratory species, and established an Interim Steering Committee to facilitate work toward this end. Subsequently, the second Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Conference took place in Costa Rica in 2006. Participants outlined a hemispheric plan for capacity building relevant to migratory species conservation in the region. The Third Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Conference was held in Asuncion, Paraguay in 2008. At this meeting, further steps were taken towards establishment of a permanent forum for the conservation of migratory wildlife, and thematic sessions were held on topics of interest to the region, including adaptation to climate change, marine turtle conservation, and migratory bird conservation.

The Fourth Meeting of the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative will be held in Miami, Florida from December 6-9, 2010. Additional details regarding the venue for this event will follow shortly.