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Organization of American States

Biodiversity and Sustainable Land Management

Department of Sustainable Development

Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI-FEMCIDI Phase II)

The Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) supports OAS member States in the design and implementation of policies, programs and projects oriented to integrate environmental priorities with poverty alleviation, and socio-economic development goals. DSD supports the execution of multiple-country projects in such diverse areas as integrated water management, renewable energy, land-titling, natural Hazards-climate change adaptation, biological diversity and environmental law and policy.

WHMSI

WHMSI builds on migratory species efforts to significantly enhance the conservation of shared migratory species throughout the Americas. This done by strengthening institutional and human capacity, political commitment, international cooperation, and public-private partnerships at regional, national and local levels.

FEMCIDI

One of WHMSI's main characteristics and the framework used to protect the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species is contextualized through multiple capacity building case studies supported by the FEMCIDI fund of the Organization of American States which provides financing for development projects to OAS member states in their efforts to reduce poverty and inequity providing opportunities through capacity building of human resources and strengthening of institutions.

Increasing Capacity for Caribbean Wetlands Conservation: SCSCB Caribbean Waterbird Census (CWC) Training Workshop - GS/OAS FEMCIDI, SCSCB.

The Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds (SCSCB) Working Groups (including Monitoring, Migratory Birds, Waterbirds and Seabirds) have been working since 2003 to identify gaps in regional monitoring strategies for birds. These include weaknesses in every step of the monitoring process, from the availability of trained field biologists to the use of the results of monitoring in regional and national policy and conservation and protected areas management. The overall goal of this project is to initiate and promote a coordinated regional bird monitoring network as a means to improve science-

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based conservation planning and adaptive management of birds and habitats in the region.
In Phase II of this project, SCSCB has been working towards establishing the Caribbean Waterbird Census (CWC), a region-wide waterbird and wetland monitoring program. The objectives of the CWC are to:

- Promote inventories, surveys and censuses of waterbirds and their habitats in all Caribbean countries.
- Encourage broadbased participation in waterbird counts including NGOs, governmental agencies, Institutions, communities and volunteers.
- Ensure that as many internationally and nationally important wetland sites as possible are conserved and monitored.
- Increase awareness of conservation issues related to wetlands and waterbirds and what can be done to address these issues.

Twenty-two participants from 16 Caribbean islands took part in the SCSCB's four-day CWC Training Workshop in Negril, Jamaica 22-25 February. The purpose of the workshop was to provide persons from across the Caribbean with equipment, materials, training and skills in waterbird and wetland monitoring protocols so that they can design and implement their own monitoring program (or improve/expand programs that are in place), participate in CWC annual counts, train and mentor others, and form the basis of a regional waterbird monitoring network. Participants were prospective national and site coordinators for the CWC. They included executive directors of NGOs in charge of protected areas, ornithologists, and conservation biologists employed to governments and NGOs, protected area managers and volunteers, all of whom share a common interest in learning monitoring methodologies to more effectively conserve and manage migrant and resident waterbirds and their habitats.

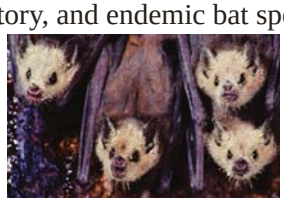
The workshop provided training in implementing the CWC, including how to design and implement surveys, levels of monitoring and CWC protocols, waterbird identification, count training tools and habitat monitoring, field sessions to practice survey methods, data entry and analysis, and presenting results to decision-makers. Participants were also guided in the development of projects and preparation of proposals to implement monitoring on their islands. SCSCB recently received funding for a Small Grant program to support these applications and will be able to distribute funds for up to ten projects to be implemented in 2010-2011.

Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds

Latin American Network for the Conservation of Bats (RELCOM). December of 2009, Costa Rica.

RED LATINOAMERICANA PARA LA CONSERVACIÓN DE LOS MURCIÉLAGOS

Biociencia in conjunction with RELCOM trained 25 experts attended at La Tirimbina Reserve in Costa Rica in bat conservation. The meeting designed a capacity-building program to provide each of the 11 Latin American country teams with tools and methodologies to establish Research, Conservation, and Environmental Education Plans highlighted by 15 years of successful work on bat conservation in Mexico. Each country then designs a bat conservation program according to their specific needs. Additionally, the participants drafted and approved the Declaration of Costa Rica that lays the groundwork for a Latin American strategy for bat conservation. The strategy aims for the conservation of ecologically and economically important species of bats, including those species that are conservation priorities such as endangered, migratory, and endemic bat species.



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The following two case studies were developed by these institutions:

World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

WWF works to preserve the diversity and abundance of life on Earth and the health of ecological systems by (i) protecting natural areas and wild populations of plants and animals, including endangered species; (ii) promoting sustainable approaches to the use of renewable natural resources; and (iii) promoting more efficient use of resources and energy and the maximum reduction of pollution. WWF's goal is to conserve 19 of the world's most important natural places and significantly change global markets to protect the future of nature by 2020. (http://www.worldwildlife.org/who/index.html)

MANOMET through the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN)

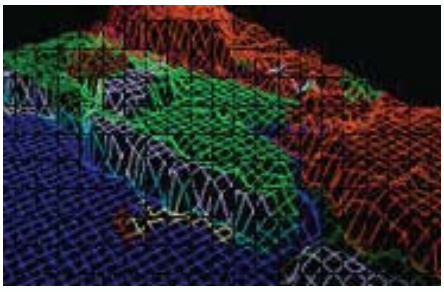
Manomet (Center for Marine Science) seeks to conserve natural resources for the benefit of wildlife and human populations, on leverage change. "Shorebirds are among nature's most ambitious, long-distance migrants. But their numbers are dropping quickly with some species projected to go extinct within our life time. Protecting these birds is an important international conservation priority that requires proactive and coordinated efforts within each of the countries these birds fly through during their vast, pole to pole migrations. WHSRN's mission is "to conserve shorebirds and their habitats through a network of key sites across the Americas."
WHSRN Mission

Climate Change Adaptation Workshop for Shorebird Conservation in the Southern Cone Rio Gallegos, Argentina, October 21-24 of 2009.

During the capacity-building initiative developed in Rio Gallegos, Argentina, thirty-three attendees from the five WHSRN sites in the Southern Cone met. The sites represented were San Antonio Oeste, Río Gallegos, Reserva de la Costa Atlántica de Tierra del Fuego, Laguna Mar Chiquita, in Argentina, partners of Península Valdés, Argentina (site to be nominated in the near future as a WHSRN Site of Regional Importance) and Bahía Lomas, Chile

Participants gathered to discuss the impacts of climate change on shorebirds and to determine the best ways of dealing with this relevant natural issue. The agenda's main point was to train people in the use and implementation of simulation scenerio tools on adaptation and mitigation of climate change.

This workshop resulted in a summary of experiences and exchange of ideas. One of the main outputs is the translation to Spanish of the Sea Level Affecting Marshes Model (SLAMM) manual, one of the more commonly-used tools to simulate and predict the dominant processes involved in wetland conversions and shoreline modifications during long-term sea level rise due to climate change.



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Adaptation to Climate Change for Marine Turtles - GS/OAS FEMCIDI, WWF, MANOMET and WHSRN. Junquillal, Costa Rica, Nov 27-29 of 2009.

During a capacity-building project focused on Adaptation to Climate change for marine turtles, 17 marine turtle conservation practitioners, from the Pacific and Caribbean coasts of Costa Rica, attended at two-day workshop at Junquillal Beach, Costa Rica. The two-day training activity, hosted by WWF, built capacity to incorporate climate change adaptation into ongoing conservation projects and shared tools for vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning. The workshop included presentation of WWF's Adaptation to Climate Change Toolkit and training in practical monitoring methods. Participants discussed different adaptation measures and how they can now move forward with integrating climate change into their individual projects at sea turtle nesting and foraging areas around Costa Rica. In addition, the participants formed an adaptation support network to share tools, experiences and information as they begin to implement adaptation plans.

Adaptation to Climate change Toolkit: Coasts

"The Adaptation to Climate Change Toolkit: Coasts" is a series of tools and resources on climate change adaptation for marine turtle habitats, including coastal managers, conservation practitioners, scientists and educators.

The problem: impacts and vulnerability

Climate change has the potential to affect sea turtles and their habitats in numerous ways. This section includes a review of the impacts of climate change on marine turtle and a study of sea-level rise at Playa Grande, Costa Rica and the implications for management of this area.

The solutions: adaptation measures and manuals

There are many opportunities to act to reduce the vulnerability of sea turtles and coastal habitats to a changing climate. The 'Adaptation to climate change: options for marine turtles' report describes the results of research into what action can be taken now to help hawksbill turtles cope with climate change.

Want to know more?

For more information about vulnerability and adaptation, this section includes a comprehensive resources document and other relevant publications.

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