



PROJECT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

GEF COUNCIL SUBMISSION

AGENCY'S PROJECT ID:
GEFSEC PROJECT ID:
COUNTRY: Americas Hemisphere
PROJECT TITLE: Cooperation in Conservation:
 Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative
 (WHMSI)
GEF AGENCY: UNEP
OTHER EXECUTING AGENCY(IES): General
 Secretariat of the Organization of American States
DURATION: 5 years
GEF FOCAL AREA: Biodiversity
GEF OPERATIONAL PROGRAM: OP 1-4
GEF STRATEGIC PRIORITY: BD 1,2, & 4
Pipeline Entry Date: July 2006
ESTIMATED STARTING DATE: June 2006
IA FEE:

FINANCING PLAN (US\$)	
GEF PROJECT/COMPONENT	
Project	5,000,000
PDF A	0
PDF B	0
PDF C	0
Sub-Total GEF	5,000,000
Co-FINANCING*	10,000,000
GEF Agency	0
Government	5,804,783
Bilateral	0
NGOs	2,335,000
Others	1,860,217
Sub-Total Co-financing:	10,000,000
Total Project Financing:	15,000,000
FINANCING FOR ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES IF ANY:	
LEVERAGED RESOURCES IF ANY:	

*Details provided under the Financial Modality and Cost Effectiveness section

CONTRIBUTION TO KEY INDICATORS OF THE BUSINESS PLAN: Regional Cooperation

RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S):

<i>Max Puig GEF FP Dominican Republic</i>	<i>Date: February 3, 2006</i>
<i>Marcia Philbert-Jules GEF FP St Lucia</i>	<i>January 12, 2006</i>
<i>Yves-Andres Wainright GEF FP Haiti</i>	<i>December 15, 2005</i>
<i>Ricardo Ulate GEF Focal Point Costa Rica</i>	<i>October 12, 2005</i>
<i>Earl Nesbitt GEF FP Trinidad and Tobago</i>	<i>November 8 2005</i>
<i>Alfredo Molinas, GEF FP Paraguay</i>	<i>February 24, 2006</i>
<i>Roberto Elissalde, GEF FP Uruguay</i>	<i>March 29, 2006</i>

Approved on behalf of the (*United Nations Environment Programme UNEP*). This proposal has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the standards of the GEF Project Review Criteria for work program inclusion

Ahmed Djoghlafe
 IA/ExA Coordinator
 Date: (Month, Day, Year)

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Explanation of Acronyms Used in the Text

BioNet	The Global Network for Taxonomy
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CHM	Clearing-House Mechanism
CIDS	Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Development (of OAS)
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna
CMS	Convention on Migratory Species
CNEH	Centro Neotropical de Estudios para Humedales
COP	Conference of Parties (of CBD)
CREHO	Centro Regional Ramsar para la Capacitación e Investigación sobre Humedales para el Hemisferio Occidental
CRIA	Centro de Referencia em Informacao Ambiental
DAAD	German Academic Exchange Service
EA	Enabling Activity
GBIF	Global Biodiversity Information Facility
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GISP	Global Invasive Species Program
GROMS	Global Register of Migratory Species
IABIN	Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network
IAC	Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles
INBio	Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad – Costa Rica
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature – The World Conservation Union
NABCI	North American Bird Conservation Initiative
NAFTA/CEC	North American Free Trade Agreement / Commission on Environmental Cooperation
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
OAS	Organization of American States
OP	Operational Programme
OTS	Organization for Tropical Studies
PDF	Project Development Facility (of GEF)
Ramsar	The Convention on Wetlands (not an acronym)
REMIB	The World Information Network on Biodiversity
SPAW	Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean (Cartagena Convention)
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service

WHMSI	Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative
WHSRN	Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network
WIDECAST	Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

1. PROJECT SUMMARY

a) Project rationale, objectives, outputs, and activities.

This hemispheric project encompassing 35 nations addresses issues from several mandates, endorsements and resolutions by the countries in the Western Hemisphere, including the 1940 Western Hemisphere Convention and the 2001 Summit of the Americas. In response to a call from the Heads of State of the Western Hemisphere countries to "*advance hemispheric conservation of plants, animals and ecosystems through...the development of a hemispheric strategy to support the conservation of migratory wildlife throughout the Americas*", wildlife directors responsible for the management of flora and fauna and other senior officials have developed the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI). WHMSI is building country capacity to conserve and manage migratory wildlife. It improves hemispheric communication on conservation issues of common interest, provides training in priority areas, strengthens the exchange of information needed for informed decision-making, and provides a forum to address emerging issues such as new threats to migratory species, or the connections between wildlife disease and human diseases. Through the proposed project, all countries in the Western Hemisphere will benefit from strengthened cooperation among nations and other stakeholders on migratory species conservation – the animals in question range throughout the Americas.

The goal of this 5-year, US\$15 m project (\$5m GEF, \$10m co-financing) is to build upon existing WHMSI and other migratory species efforts to significantly enhance the conservation of shared migratory species throughout the Americas by strengthening institutional and human capacity, political commitment, international cooperation, and public-private partnerships at regional, national and local levels.

Project objectives include to:

- Build country capacity to conserve and manage migratory wildlife and its habitat, enforce national wildlife laws and meet international obligations.
- Strengthen wildlife administration through training of trainers programs.
- Raise public awareness of the ecological, economic and cultural importance of migratory species and the need to conserve them.
- Promote coordination and partnerships to facilitate information sharing, monitoring and research.
- Exchange scientific and technical expertise through collaborative projects and other efforts to build capacity in human and technological resources;
- Facilitate the sharing of resources available for network-building to more effectively build partnerships among what might otherwise be isolated national implementations.
- Ensure coordination with other regional efforts such as WHSRN, SPAW MPAs Training Program, NABCI, REMIB, INBio, CRIA, Humboldt-Colombia, DISCOVERLife, Species Analyst, AndinoNet and CariNet, CREHO, and WIDECAS, as well as global efforts such as CMS, Ramsar, CBD, CITES, GBIF, and BioNet.
- Digitize and translate relevant data to allow searching and retrieval and increase the amount of migratory species information available to all interested stakeholders.

The **output/outcomes** of the project will include:

- Assessment of capacity building needs for the conservation and management of transboundary migratory species at the hemispheric and subregional levels.
- Implementation of multi-year capacity building plan that measures progress by people trained, skills acquired, institutional strengthening, long-term sustainability, and replicability to other regions. Because of the wide spectrum of levels at which training must be delivered, the project will use a delivery system structured around “training the trainers” courses. Types of training to be conducted include short courses on wildlife management, environmental education and social aspects of conservation, in-service training, protected area management, graduate programs, learning-by-doing workshops, and distance learning, all with a focus on transboundary migratory species. Elements of the plan include institutional support; scholarships, internships and mentoring; faculty and student exchanges; outreach and electronic information exchange; and institutional networking.
- A cadre of experienced trainers that will be not only essential for the actual expansion of the training programs but can also serve in other advisory roles, including peer mentoring, for addressing local and national issues and contexts.
- Increased efficiency of, and access to, existing capacity building programs
- Systematization of existing training materials, with a focus on migratory species and transboundary biodiversity issues.
- Facilitation of collaborations with other relevant intergovernmental fora and international initiatives such as those of CMS, Ramsar, IAC (Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles), SPAW Protocol to the Cartagena Convention, CBD, IABIN, The Global Register of Migratory Species (GROMS), the NAFTA/CEC North American Conservation Action Plan, World Heritage, Regional Seas, UNESCO MAB, and IUCN Commission on Protected Areas, among others.
- Coordination of migratory species aspects of key related conventions (e.g. Migratory Species, Ramsar, Cartagena’s SPAW Protocol, Desertification, Climate Change, World Parks Congress outcomes, IAC).
- Information exchange and improved decision making (at national and regional levels) about biodiversity and endangered species, as well as fragile natural areas and ecosystems that provide ecosystem services.
- Promotion of legal initiatives and incentives to assist with improved migratory species conservation in the Americas.
- Identification of new methods to counter threats to migratory species, including inadequate land use planning and oversight, overexploitation, habitat degradation and loss, invasive species, fisheries bycatch and climate change, among others.
- Increased visibility of successful national and regional initiatives (such as NABCI, the MesoAmerican Biological Corridor, Path of the Panther, WWF Reduction of Sea Turtle Bycatch in the Eastern Pacific, WWF Trans-Atlantic leatherback conservation, the collaborative research and management activities of the WIDECAS network, etc.)
- Contributions to implement road map developed to assist the process of the CBD/WSSD 2010 reduction in biodiversity loss target.
- Increased fundraising revenues during the five years of the project, to demonstrate financial sustainability beyond the life of the project.

- Long-term institutionalization (beyond life of the project) of training programs supported by the capacity building plan.
- Digitalization and translation of relevant data to allow searching and retrieval and increase in the amount of migratory species information available to stakeholders.

Activities:

The WHMSI Focal Points, representatives of international and multinational organizations and initiatives, and migratory species experts have decided that it is not necessary to request PDF project preparation funds as the project is sufficiently well developed to go to the full project proposal stage. After an extensive consultative process, the following proposal was developed for submission to the GEF Council that outlines the technical requirements for implementing the proposed activities.

The following table indicates specific activities, as pertinent to the conservation and management of transboundary migratory species, that will be undertaken during the project:

Note: some of these activities have already been initiated as part of the project development phase

Proposed Project Activities and Timetable

Project Activity	GEF	Completion of Activity
<p>1. Development of the hemispheric network</p> <p>This process will ensure that the implementation of WHMSI is responsive to the needs of the target communities. Activities:</p> <p>a. Review and compile background documentation on issues, projects, and other topics relevant to existing capacity building initiatives in the region, their effectiveness and follow-up with graduates; identification of institutions and experts which might fill gaps in training needs, and exploring new mechanisms for capacity building (such as distance learning) and financial sustainability in the region.</p> <p>b. Fully engage WHMSI participants, both individual and organizational, as well as other appropriate experts, including representatives of other relevant GEF-funded projects, in defining the specifics of a broad-based, hemispheric capacity building initiative. Include assessing capacity gaps, to precisely focus WHMSI capacity building efforts and tailor them to the hemisphere's highest priority needs.</p> <p>c. Define the specific types and levels of training most needed in the Hemisphere, including their subject and audiences, duration, delivery mechanisms, key training components, potential attendees, and institutions which might offer and/or complement such trainings.</p> <p>d. Convene follow-up meetings as appropriate on a sub-regional or hemispheric scale of WHMSI participants and other experts to better refine capacity building needs and delivery mechanisms for WHMSI and expand the partnership base for delivering specific capacity building programs.</p> <p>e. Finalize a report with the outputs from the requirements definition process.</p>	<p>30,000</p> <p>40,000</p> <p>15,000</p> <p>60,000</p> <p>30,000</p>	<p>Jan 2007</p> <p>Mar 2007</p> <p>Mar 2007</p> <p>Jun 2007</p> <p>Jan 2008</p>
SUBTOTAL	175,000	
<p>2. Institute collaborative partnerships with other initiatives and organizations</p> <p>Proposed activities will ensure that WHMSI development is complementary to and supportive of other initiatives, helping to meet the objectives of those initiatives as well as its own. Activities:</p> <p>a. Conclude formal Memorandum of Cooperation, as appropriate, with global treaties and accords (e.g. Ramsar, CMS, CBD) and hemispheric agreements (e.g. IACPCST,</p>	20,000	Jan 2008

Project Activity	GEF	Completion of Activity
<p>SPAW Protocol, NAFTA/CEC) defining collaboration with WHMSI.</p> <p>b. Establish partnerships with successful national and sub-regional capacity building initiatives, so they may be linked into the hemisphere-wide network.</p> <p>c. Develop MOUs including formal agreements where necessary, with other relevant initiatives including WHSRN, GROMS, CREHO, IAC, NABCI, and many others.</p> <p>d. Develop explicit working relationships, including agreements for training and information-sharing, with international and national academic institutions, private enterprise, and NGOs.</p>	<p>5,000</p> <p>15,000</p> <p>15,000</p>	<p>June 2007</p> <p>Jan 2008</p> <p>Mar 2008</p>
SUBTOTAL	55,000	
<p>3. Implement capacity building plan</p> <p>The capacity building plan will be implemented through a demand driven grant award process. Matching grants will be awarded to institutions with proven abilities to lead training courses in the priority areas identified by countries and NGOs/Conventions at the 2006 Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Conference. A Request for Proposals (RfP) process will be initiated to seek proposals from institutions that seek to further WHMSI objectives. A technical review committee will be formed to evaluate proposals for grant financing based on pre-established criteria.</p> <p>a. Based on an understanding of user needs and the findings obtained under items 1 and 2 above, develop a multi-year capacity building implementation plan; include estimates of the resources required for each stage of implementation. This will require convergent efforts to provide for: (i) the availability of trained technical personnel; (ii) strengthening of national and regional institutions involved in training and environmental management; and (iii) means to recover and transfer useful traditional knowledge/skills, combining these with new knowledge, in order to empower local communities to share in the management of their resources.</p> <p>b. Implement multi-year capacity building implementation plan. <u>See above (page 20)</u> for an outline of the capacity building implementation plan, the types of training needed, and elements to be included. Specific needs and method of delivery were identified at the 2006 WHMSI Meeting in Costa Rica. Implementation will be through a Request for Proposals process that will seek collaborative partnerships to deliver the demand driven capacity building programs.</p>	<p>40,000</p> <p>4,000,000</p>	<p>March 2007</p> <p>Throughout project</p>

Project Activity	GEF	Completion of Activity
c. Define the details for creating a sustainable base of capacity building infrastructure that would remain in place beyond the funding life of this GEF initiative.	30,000	Mar 2009
SUBTOTAL	4,070,000	
4. Support sustainability, communication and coordination among participants		
a. Continue development and maintenance of an international WHMSI Web site and email communication groups.	60,000	Throughout project
b. Coordinate working groups addressing project activities.		
c. Keep all participating organizations informed of progress.	90,000	Throughout project
d. Convene meetings as appropriate of the WHMSI Steering Committee and full hemispheric meetings.	50,000	Throughout project
e. Coordinate capacity building programs by resource managers, scientists, policy-makers, and information specialists in the biodiversity community.	120,000	Throughout project
f. Prepare and distribute informational brochures for WHMSI participants summarizing findings and describing the outcomes of capacity building exercises.	50,000	Throughout project
g. Prepare and implement financial sustainability plan to assure long-term sustainability of the capacity building program of WHMSI.	10,000	Throughout project
	10,000	Mar 2009
SUBTOTAL	390,000	
5. Administration		
a. Provide project management and coordination, meeting logistics support, procurement and disbursement, measurement of time bound quantitative performance indicators, (see Annex B) and overall support to communication among participants. Administration costs in general are to be co-financed with the OAS.	240,000	Throughout project
b. Begin implementation of the strategy to establish a sustainable financial base for WHMSI capacity building.	30,000	Throughout project
c. Convene meetings as appropriate regarding implementation, oversight and technical review.	40,000	Throughout project
SUBTOTAL	310,000	
PROJECT REQUEST TOTALS	5,000,000	

b) **Key indicators, assumptions, and risks (summarized from Logframe)**

Key indicators of project success will be:

- Documented assessment of the capacity building needs for the conservation and management of migratory species in the Western Hemisphere
- Completion of a multi-year implementation plan on a hemispheric scale and implementation of plan’s components (level, content, tools, training methodology)
- A network of trainers within the hemisphere available to continue the multiplier effect of training well beyond the life of the project
- Significant improvement in collaboration and coordination between countries on migratory species
- A functional Web portal with access to operational capacity building programs and tools
- Memoranda of Cooperation or Understanding between WHMSI and other initiatives
- A detailed final report that indicates number of persons trained and impacts of trained personnel on improved migratory species management, decision making, and policy making at the national, regional, and hemispheric level
- Time bound quantitative indicators report that indicates how the project has enhanced sustainable growth, which includes promoting and integrating sustainable environmental management and improved decision making at the policy and financial level (See **Annex B** for framework)
- Methodology, documented implementation plan, and indicators as to success of the financial sustainability plan to demonstrate long-term sustainability of the capacity building program of WHMSI.

Critical Risks

Risk	Risk Mitigation Measure
Key partnership with leadership countries falters	The commitment of the US Fish and Wildlife Service and several key countries such as Canada, Chile, Costa Rica and Trinidad and Tobago to WHMSI has been consistent over the last years and there is support at a high level to WHMSI and specifically to provide training services.

Insufficient coordination between capacity building programs	One of the key objectives of the project will have the primary function of ensuring coordination between the capacity building programs.
Insufficient incentives for capacity building programs to adopt WHMSI training methodology	Consultations during project preparations have suggested there is strong demand for coordinated WHMSI training. The project however will need to be flexible and adaptable in recognizing incentives and disincentives and reacting to them.
Major parallel financing does not materialize	Parallel financing of matching grant training institutions will be documented in contractual agreements. Funding support required by the project can be very fungible so if funding does not materialize from one source, it can be readily substituted by funding from another.
Leadership, governance, and commitment of the Interim Steering Committee (ISC) weakens	Commitment of the ISC has been firmly expressed by the Countries, NGOs, and strategic GEF Focal Points and supported by a range of partners (Governments, museums, academic institutions and NGOs).

COUNTRY OWNERSHIP

a) COUNTRY ELIGIBILITY

All 32 member States of the OAS eligible for GEF benefits have ratified the CBD.

b) COUNTRY DRIVENNESS

This hemispheric project encompassing 35 nations addresses issues from several mandates, endorsements and resolutions by the countries in the Western Hemisphere. First, most countries in the region have signed the 1940 Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere (Western Hemisphere Convention, also known as the Washington Convention) which calls on governments of the Americas “to protect and preserve in their natural habitat representatives of all species and genera of their native flora and fauna, including migratory birds, in sufficient numbers and over areas extensive enough to assure them from becoming extinct through any agency within man's control.”

At the 2001 Summit of the Americas in Quebec City, Western Hemisphere heads of state and government committed to *“advance hemispheric conservation of plants, animals and ecosystems through...the development of a hemispheric strategy to support the conservation of migratory wildlife throughout the Americas.”* In response, wildlife directors responsible for the management of flora and fauna and other senior officials have developed the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI).

The Organization of American States (OAS), in its coordinating role for Summit follow-up, is working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and each of the member States of the OAS through WHMSI Focal Points. WHMSI is also working with the OAS Inter-American

Committee on Sustainable Development (CIDS), and a resolution supporting WHMSI is slotted to be passed in 2006 at the CIDS Ministerial meeting in Bolivia.

At the ministerial level, the agencies designated to protect wildlife have stated that the need to work collaboratively on a regional basis has escalated in the last century as threats to wildlife populations in the Western Hemisphere become more complex, with greater impacts on biodiversity operating across broader geographic scales. Modern threats to marine and terrestrial wildlife in the Western Hemisphere present challenges that can only be addressed effectively by the strategic alignment of stakeholders in wildlife conservation throughout North America, Latin America and the Caribbean.

As a result of this growing need for regional cooperation, in October 2003, representatives from 25 government wildlife agencies in the Western Hemisphere and over 40 international conservation groups and stakeholders came together in Termas de Puyehue, Chile, to participate in the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Conference. With a visionary disregard of traditional geographical and political borders, and an expanding mandate to look at conservation of all migratory species and common wildlife conservation issues, government wildlife agency representatives and non-government organization participants of the Conference created a forum for collaboration and cooperation to conserve the valuable wildlife of the Western Hemisphere. The purpose of this conference was to develop cooperative strategies for conservation of migratory species and collaboration more broadly on a wide array of wildlife conservation issues among the countries of the Western Hemisphere.

The Second Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Conference entitled “Hands across the Hemisphere: Helping People to Help Wildlife” took place January 17-20 2006 and was attended by over 100 participants, representing 30 countries of the hemisphere and more than 60 NGOs and Conventions. Hosted by the Minister of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica, the Conference reviewed the priority needs identified in Chile, with a focus on capacity building. The event was devoted to review and finalization of this GEF proposal. Participants were asked to identify and prioritize “Capacity Building Needs for Transboundary Migratory Species”. The result was a comprehensive, prioritized training matrix of needs for marine and terrestrial wildlife personnel in the hemisphere. The participants also provided guidelines on:

- The geographic level at which each capacity building program should be delivered (nationally, regionally, hemispheric);
- existing programs that can deliver this training;
- an assessment of the size of population to be trained and duration of courses;
- what institutional support already exists and is needed;
- which curricula exist and whether it needs to be improved/consolidated;
- what scholarships/internships/mentoring opportunities and faculty/student/information exchange opportunities are available;
- a demand driven procedure for procuring and delivering cost effective training utilizing a Request for Proposals (RfP) format.

In summary, the meeting furthered consensus between government wildlife experts and NGOs on a hemispheric strategy to address capacity building and training needs for migratory wildlife

conservation in the region. The result has been this demand-driven project for strengthening human, technical and institutional capacities through formal courses, seminars, workshops, exchanges, and the distribution of learning products and services throughout the region on a wide range of topics related to habitat management for migratory species and sustainable development. Activities proposed are targeted to reach audiences that include policymakers, academics, nongovernmental organizations and leaders of civil society. This project is intended to strengthen the capacity of institutions to better manage environmental and natural resources in more sustainable ways that take in account local, national and regional factors. This regional project will also address the problem of habitat and land degradation and loss of ecosystem goods and services -- migratory species in particular -- by mainstreaming sustainable management practices into national development policies and management techniques. Because the project is focused on migratory species, it incorporates regional collaboration and shared efforts and regional level improvements in resource management.

This proposal has been prepared and endorsed by the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI)'s Interim Steering Committee, including: Government representatives from the following countries: United States (Chair), Colombia, Costa Rica, Saint Lucia, and Uruguay; International Conventions: Wetlands (Ramsar), Migratory Species (CMS), Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles, and the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife of the Wider Caribbean (SPA); and International NGOs: Birdlife International, American Bird Conservancy, Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, and World Wildlife Fund. In addition, the proposal has been shared with and received support from contributor countries such as Canada, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Paraguay, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago. Ecuador and Panama have sent additional letters of support for WHMSI. The Environment Minister of Costa Rica is one of the leading advocates of this initiative and has reached out to other countries to solicit their support of WHMSI. The WHMSI concept and the need for capacity building were approved in 2003 and 2005 by wildlife directors of all countries in the hemisphere.

National support and participation may also be measured by the hundreds of hours of staff time contributed toward the start-up and project development efforts and by the demonstrated willingness of agencies and organizations in-country to share migratory species information. As a regional project, all countries of the Americas will be able to benefit directly or indirectly from this initiative, but direct in-country expenditures of GEF funds, which are expected to be minimal, will only take place in endorsing countries.

2. PROGRAM AND POLICY CONFORMITY

- FIT TO GEF OPERATIONAL PROGRAM AND STRATEGIC PRIORITY

From the Arctic to Antarctica, fish, birds, mammals, sea turtles, cetaceans, bats, insects and other migratory species provide ecological and economic services shared by the countries and people of the Western Hemisphere. They are sources of food, livelihood and recreation, and have important scientific, economic, cultural, aesthetic and spiritual value. Despite these benefits, many migratory wildlife species are increasingly threatened by uncoordinated national level management, habitat degradation and loss, invasive alien species, pollution, over hunting and fishing, by-catch, unsustainable aquaculture practices and illegal harvesting and trafficking.

- SUSTAINABILITY (INCLUDING FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY)

WHMSI fills a distinct niche occupied by no other network of cooperating nations, NGOs and relevant international conventions. In addition, as a highly decentralized network that is growing in its political and institutional support, we judge the sustainability of WHMSI to be high compared to other more centralized multi-country initiatives. An advantage of a distributed approach is that responsibility is vested in individual wildlife agencies and pertinent NGOs, and therefore "ownership" of the initiative is broader, leading to greater sustainability and a lower overhead in maintaining this hemispheric initiative.

WHMSI will operate in a transparent and open manner and will encourage participation by partners throughout the hemisphere. It will provide added value to existing efforts, and will ultimately measure its success on the basis of on-the-ground conservation achievements. It will not be duplicative of other endeavors, and will build on past and ongoing accomplishments of nations and initiatives through the hemisphere. Its efforts will be based on a demand-driven model of needs identified by the region, a commitment to conservation, application of the best available information (including indigenous and local knowledge), and respect for the cultures and values of the hemisphere. From a focus on institutional and human capacity building, it will address biological, socio-cultural, economic, legal and administrative aspects among others, in its endeavor to mitigate the main threats to migratory species and their habitats. Project partners will operate on the principle of cooperation, its decisions will be based on consensus among its members, and it will be accountable to its constituency.

The WHMSI region is undergoing significant economic, cultural and political change. In order for the countries of the region to respond to these changes and continue to protect the migratory species of the region, capacity building for resource managers is essential. Informed managers will be able to be advocates for resource conservation and management as political and economic processes continue to evolve in the region. WHMSI's capacity building projects will be responsive to the rapid changing political and economic situation in the region.

WHMSI's goal of offering integrated and coordinated training and capacity building initiatives suggest strong sustainability in the future, as nearly every country in the region has expressed interest in the concept of a more multi-country approach to training and information exchange in wildlife conservation and management. WHMSI aims to develop and promote a new standard when it comes to wildlife management at the hemispheric and trans-boundary levels. To succeed the WHMSI capacity building initiative must be: (1) sustainable at the institutional level; and (2) become a widely established and accepted mechanism for staff training. To become financially sustainable over the long-term the initiative intends to build primarily upon already existing institutions to deliver new and expanded programs. In addition, GEF support will be used to leverage increased commitments of training personnel and infrastructure from these and other institutions entering this field so as to provide greater permanence. This will be achieved by partnering with organizations which demonstrate interest and capacity to institutionalize training beyond the life of the project through, for example, addition of permanent personnel, addition of infrastructure, establishment of an ongoing funding base, creation of innovative funding mechanisms and partnerships, etc. Sustainability will be promoted by insuring that activities funded are of high quality, in high demand, can be offered at reasonable cost, and can be made widely available through diverse media. Institutionalization of training programs to ensure their

long-term sustainability beyond the life of this project will be one of the most important criteria when selecting activities to be funded through the Request for Proposals process, as further described in the Capacity Building Implementation Plan on page 22.

The USFWS' ongoing *Wildlife Without Borders* programs provide an annual \$750,000 to train over 200 individuals. These projects leverage an additional estimated \$5,000,000 in matching funds from other sources. The U.S. State Department has also provided support for this project. Other potential partners include the Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund and the Parks in Peril program funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development. The project will complement and partner with international efforts supported by the U.S. Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act of the USFWS that has embarked in projects with countries of the hemisphere to identify, map, conserve and monitor Important Bird Areas (IBAs) supporting Neotropical migrants, endemic and globally threatened bird species, and other globally important taxa. An equivalent synergy links this initiative with the U.S. Marine Turtle Conservation Act. These Acts might well serve to co-fund some of the capacity building programs delivered when this initiative is brought to fruition.

WHMSI and this proposal will directly support the implementation of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the only global level biodiversity-related convention that comprehensively addresses all migratory species. A total of 31 marine, terrestrial and avian migratory species from the Western Hemisphere are found on CMS Appendix I indicating that they are threatened with extinction and that CMS's Range State Contracting Parties need to take measures to conserve them and their habitats. As of 22 February 2006, CMS has a total party membership in the Western Hemisphere of 11 countries though this is expected to grow significantly between 2006-08. The GEF project will support capacity building efforts within CMS Parties, while providing a strong basis for non-Parties to consider joining the convention as their capacities to manage migratory species increase. Beginning in 1997 through its small grants program, CMS provided seed money to migratory species conservation projects focused primarily on CMS Appendix I. To date, 13 projects totaling over US\$315,000 have been funded in the Western Hemisphere. All projects have had strong capacity building components that have promoted both the theory and practice of migratory species conservation through field level projects. At its thirteenth meeting (Nairobi, November 2005) the CMS Scientific Council recommended that CMS financially support 6 additional small grants projects, including a contribution to the GEF Project, totaling approximately USD 397,000. During the Convention's new triennium (2006-08) it is expected that two new international agreements on migratory bird species will be negotiated and concluded – one on Andean Flamingos; the other on seven grassland birds species in four southern South American countries. In addition, negotiations on a global Agreement for migratory sharks (eg, great white, whale and basking sharks) will be initiated, as will a pan-Pacific agreement on turtles. Both Agreements would include marine waters found within the Western Hemisphere.

The Caribbean Environment Programme associated with the Cartagena Convention and SPAW Protocol has had a strong presence in the Wider Caribbean for the last 25 years. In addition to a well-established secretariat based in Jamaica, the Convention has been instrumental in developing a number of conservation and environmental management initiatives in the region which will assist and support meeting the short and long term objectives of this proposal. One of

these key initiatives is the regional network and forum of MPA managers and its “Training of Trainers” programme launched through SPAW in 1999 to address management weaknesses within MPAs. Through this existing programme managers are not only trained in all aspects of MPA management but also on adult education techniques to conduct local and tailored training activities in their respective MPAs. This approach includes regional 2-4 week courses, followed by local training activities which the trained managers are committed to undertake upon completing the regional courses. The eight course modules and manual has been recently revised to include new useful developments and approaches in conservation since the modules were originally developed in 1998. Active partners of this programme have been the Netherlands CZMC, the World Bank, The Nature Conservancy, the UN Foundation through the International Coral Reef Action Network and the MacArthur Foundation. The CEP has also shown leadership in capacity building for the management of migratory species through its partnership with WIDECAS, sustaining a network of more than 50 Country Coordinators across 40 States and territories and emphasizing information exchange related to research, conservation, management and public outreach on behalf of regionally depleted sea turtle stocks.

Another aspect of sustainability is a more narrow focus on the financial and institutional sustainability of the WHMSI Secretariat, as one means to the end of promoting the goals of WHMSI. There is no doubt that WHMSI as an institution needs to benefit from financial and institutional sustainability over a period of at least a decade or two. The institutional sustainability of WHMSI depends on the participation of governments and institutions, particularly members of the WHMSI Steering Committee (who are selected by all members). The continuing interest and commitment of WHMSI countries will of course be a function of the benefits they perceive to result from WHMSI, as the project is oriented to a priority need that has been identified by all countries: coordinated multi-country, trans-boundary migratory species capacity building.

The partnership of WHMSI with relevant Conventions is also significant as WHMSI will be a vehicle for ensuring that the most relevant issues raised at the global level are brought to bear in Latin America and the Caribbean. Any interested international Convention can automatically become a member of the WHMSI Steering Committee.

Finally, the very strong participation and support (including financial) of the governments of North America will ultimately be critical to the success of WHMSI. The United States, Canada, and Mexico are already forging the road towards collaboration and coordination in migratory species through initiatives such as NABCI and the Trilateral Commission, which will serve to channel the support of these three countries in the hemisphere. These trinational initiatives offer much in terms of example and experience in the development and implementation of international efforts for migratory species and the habitats on which they depend. NABCI is an international partnership that operates at international, national and local levels and includes the participation of governments and non-governmental organizations. It is founded on principles of communication and collaboration, among others, to meet common goals which are highly complimentary to the approach adopted by WHMSI. NABCI therefore is well suited to be a significant contributor in terms of capacity, experience and example.

The Steering Committee of WHMSI has recurrent operational costs that must be met for the network to be sustainable. The Committee has however been designed with extremely low costs as it communicates virtually. A number of measures are in place or will be developed to ensure financial sustainability of the Committee and overall initiative, including:

- Grants will be solicited from a variety of international organizations (to date, WHMSI has been supported by grants and financial support from the OAS, USFWS, the U.S. State Department, and numerous other sources of in-kind support from countries in the region, international NGOs and the conventions participating on the Steering Committee).
- The OAS will act as the Diplomatic Host of WHMSI as directed by the Western Hemisphere Presidents and has consistently provided a minimal level of financing.

- REPLICABILITY

The project presents tremendous possibilities of replicability across the Americas, both thematically and geographically. Presently, South America has one of the best graduate programs in wildlife conservation anywhere in the hemisphere. Mesoamerica, on the other hand, offers one of the best in-service training programs. The Caribbean, with a uniqueness of its own, supports outstanding modular workshops addressing the management of coastal protected areas. No one region of the hemisphere offers the best available training at all levels. Consequently, each region has much to learn from one another. The goal of this project is that over time every country in the hemisphere has access to training opportunities at all levels, in their native language, and relevant to their own culture. Conceptually we can envision that each region have a virtual “Center of Excellence,” which fulfills each region’s training requirements. These Centers need not be housed at a single facility, nor necessarily be located all in the same country. Rather, they must be coordinated in such a way so as to meet each region’s training needs.

Important to replicability is coordination with other key actors such as CMS, Ramsar, SPAW, CBD/CHM, IAC and other treaties and international accords. The development of WHMSI’s capacity building project has already included contributions by several such initiatives and will continue to include other hemispheric organizations such as the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN) that was mandated at the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development, convened also by the OAS. IABIN is an Internet-based forum for technical and scientific cooperation that seeks to promote improved governance of biodiversity and indigenous issues through private-public partnerships.

The WHMSI capacity building initiative is also complementary to the global initiatives mentioned above and, in the long run, will actually help to strengthen the skill levels of personnel from the hemisphere recruited by those entities. Similarly, numerous non-governmental organizations across the hemisphere will serve as important partners both in delivering training programs and engaging as participants. The Eco-Index Matrix of Rainforest Alliance provides a listing of such institutions, which is far too lengthy to present here (www.eco-index.org).

- STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

The intended beneficiaries are government personnel, industry and communities, as relevant to the conservation of migratory species in the countries of the Americas Hemisphere. An investment in WHMSI will result in global benefits considerably exceeding those that would

likely accrue over the next decade through national efforts alone. All the countries in the Americas will benefit directly and/or indirectly from this project, especially communities whose development depends on biodiversity resources, people who are vulnerable to natural disasters, students and scientific community, and policy makers.

Strengthening and replication of successful training programs (past and ongoing) on wildlife management and conservation will be a major objective of this project. Such programs include those offered by the following institutions and countries, among many others:

- Graduate degree programs: Universidad Catolica and Universidad Mayor (Chile); Federal University of Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte (Brazil); National Autonomous University (Costa Rica); National University of Cordoba (Argentina); UNELLEZ (Venezuela); Postgraduate College, Salinas de Hidalgo (Mexico); St. Louis Zoo/University of Missouri, St. Louis at Guatuzos Wildlife Refuge (Nicaragua)
- Reserve Manager Training: Ducks Unlimited of Mexico; Organization for Tropical Studies (Costa Rica); PRONATURA (Mexico); State Forestry Institute of Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte, Brazil
- Park Warden Training: Instituto de Historia Natural (Mexico); State Forestry Institute of Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte (Brazil)
- Decision-Maker Training: Organization for Tropical Studies (Costa Rica)
- In-Service Training for Government Personnel: Instituto Nacional de Ecologia (Mexico); National Council for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (Mexico)
- Community Education: Bat Conservation International (Mexico); Neotropical Center for Training on Wetlands (Chile); San Diego Natural History Museum-PROBEA (Mexico); ARCAS (Guatemala); APECO (Peru); WWF Marine Turtle Program (Costa Rica, Panama, Guyana, Suriname, Colombia, Mexico); West Indian whistling duck and wetlands conservation and community outreach project in the Caribbean.
- Costa Rican training institutions, with support from WWF and the Swiss Government, have formed a loose coalition, including CATIE, UNA, OTS, TSC, University for Peace, and UCI's Latin American PA School.

As stated above, a key element of the proposed project is coordination with other relevant actors such as the international conventions, treaties, accords and initiatives. Of note, WHMSI is working closely with and has received full support from the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) the Ramsar Convention, the Cartagena Convention and its SPAW Protocol and the InterAmerican Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC).

CMS aims to conserve terrestrial, marine and avian migratory species throughout their range. CMS Parties strive to protect the most endangered of these animals (found on Appendix I), conserving or restoring the places where they live, mitigating obstacles to migration and controlling other factors that might endanger them. Besides establishing obligations for each State joining the Convention, CMS promotes concerted action among the Range States of many of these species. In Decision VI/20, the CBD Conference of the Parties declared CMS as the CBD lead partner on migratory species conservation while recognizing that migratory species are “unique global components of biological diversity” whose conservation requires international cooperation. As this is a complex process, the WHMSI initiative will work towards bringing the

countries of the Western Hemisphere to a level of understanding and capacity that they will be able to accede to or ratify the Convention and will serve as a hemispheric forum to solve problems and identify solutions. Regional collaboration is forged under CMS through specialized international instruments (both binding and legally non-binding) with accompanying action plans. WHMSI will provide a strong basis for growing CMS membership in the Western Hemisphere, the elaboration of CMS Agreements and action plans as well as greater participation in the CMS Small Grants Programme.

While CMS acts as a framework Convention, WHMSI will prove strategic in clarifying agreements and forging less formal instruments, such as Memoranda of Cooperation with the 4 conventions that are already WHMSI partners. WHMSI additionally can break down specific needs of sub regions that share unique conditions such as the English-speaking Caribbean, or the countries that share the Amazon Basin. The development of models tailored to the requirements of the Western Hemisphere is a unique capacity of WHMSI and may prove to be fruitful in getting additional country ratification for CMS.

The Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas (SPA) Protocol, born out of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment for the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention, 1983), came into force in 2000 and is still today the only regional biodiversity agreement for the advancement of the conservation and protection of the coastal and marine environment in the Wider Caribbean. The objectives of the SPAW Protocol are to protect important and fragile ecosystems in the Wider Caribbean, conserve threatened and endangered species of the region and protect important species to prevent them to become threatened or endangered. The Protocol establishes the national and regional protection measures for protected areas and species, including the development of guidelines, places emphasis on capacity building, training and awareness and on the need to involve local communities and other stakeholders in all stages of the conservation and management processes. The Protocol also establishes a Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee which meets annually and includes representatives from the Contracting Parties, other governments and the scientific and NGO community. The Annexes to the SPAW Protocol containing the species requiring special protection include several migratory species. SPAW programs and partnerships within the Caribbean region, ranging from well-established multilateral initiatives such as WIDECAST to more recent programs – e.g. the regional network of Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Managers (CaMPAM) and the Action Plan for Conservation of Marine Mammals in the Wider Caribbean – also stand to benefit significantly from the convergence offered by WHMSI with regard to issue exposure, institution strengthening, intergovernmental commitments, and cross-sectoral coalition-building, training and outreach.

With regard to the Convention on Biological Diversity, WHMSI can make a particularly useful contribution to the extent that CBD is unlikely to provide the sort of protection to migratory species that it offers to endemic species, since their travels take them outside the borders of areas considered priority by CBD. In particular, the training courses and curriculum materials supported by the capacity building plan of this project will contribute towards effective decision-making for migratory species management in the hemisphere. WHMSI can also help governments implement their National Plans of Action that they developed as a response to CBD.

Last but not least, key stakeholders benefiting from this project include funding entities that provide support for capacity building activities and migratory species/ biodiversity conservation. In addition to those listed as official contributors in the following section on Co-financing, potential funding partners that will be approached during the course of the project include established programs like DAAD; WWF’s Russell Train scholarships; USAID and other cooperation agencies’ capacity building programs; training opportunities supported by the private sector; Fulbright Programs for scholars and international visitors; UNESCO scholarships for young scientists; Joint Ventures; as well as CMS small grants programs.

- **MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

The Project will meet the standard monitoring and evaluation (M&E) procedures of UNEP (administrative, technical and financial), and include semester advance reports, quarterly and annual expense reports, monitoring of cofinancing, and mid-term and final evaluations. These actions, in combination with regular meetings of the project Interim Steering Committee (ISC), will comprise continuous evaluation of the project. The final evaluation will take place once disbursements have been concluded, and the ex post evaluation will be performed as a final act of Project execution. In this latter evaluation, the ISC, GS/OAS, and UNEP will participate jointly with the countries of the Hemisphere and the participating NGOs and academic groups. A Monitoring and Evaluation Plan, based upon the Logical Framework, will be jointly elaborated by the Executing Agency and the ISC. The M&E system will use quantitative indicators as a tool for monitoring and ensuring feedback to decision makers to enable any necessary project modification in a timely manner.

3. FINANCIAL MODALITY AND COST EFFECTIVENESS

The total budget of the Project is US \$ 15,000,000 (excluding the costs of project preparation activities), financed with a GEF contribution of US \$ 5,000,000 and a contribution from other sources of US \$ 10,000,000.

Co-financing Sources and Type			
Name of Co-financier (source)	Classification	Type	Amount (US\$)
Organization of American States	Others	In-kind and cash	\$500,000
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Others	In-kind and cash	\$1,500,000
Trinidad and Tobago Division of Wildlife	Others	In-kind	\$50,000
Costa Rica Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources	Others	In-kind	\$210,000
Environment Canada	Others	In-kind and cash	\$300,000
American Bird Conservancy	Others	In-kind and cash	\$1,800,000
SPAW-Protected Areas of the Wider Caribbean	Others	In-kind and cash	\$350,000
Ramsar	Others	In-kind and cash	\$250,000
CIT	Others	In-kind and cash	\$100,000
CMS	Others	In-kind and cash	\$85,000
Birdlife International and 16 partners	Others	In-kind and cash	\$500,000
WHSRN	Others	In-kind and cash	\$100,000
WWF	Others	In-kind and cash	\$50,000

PRBO Conservation Science	Others	In-kind and cash	\$1,500,000
WIDECAS	Others	In-kind	\$1,500,000
USGS-Patuxent Wildlife Research Center	Others	In-kind	\$500,000
Conservation Breeding Specialist Group	Others	In-kind and cash	\$160,000
Fundacion ProAves	Others	In-kind and cash	\$99,200
ARCAS	Others	In-kind and cash	\$25,000
CNEH	Others	In-kind and cash	\$50,000
OTS	Others	In-kind and cash	\$400,000
Universidad de Cordoba	Others	In-kind and cash	\$160,840
Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica	Others	In-kind and cash	\$564,377
CREHO	Others	In-kind and cash	\$20,000
Guyra Paraguay	Others	In-kind and cash	\$10,000
Rainforest Alliance	Others	In-kind and cash	\$25,000
28 WHMSI National Focal Points	National Contributions	In-kind	\$XXXX*
Sub-Total Co-financing			\$XX,XXX,XXX

CO-FINANCING AND USE

Funding Source	Amount of Cofinancing	Use
Organization of American States	\$500,000	Support for meetings, secretariat functions, technical support
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	\$1,500,000	Hosting of WHMSI Web site, many technical pilot studies, coordination with U.S. and hemispheric efforts, support for planning team.
Trinidad and Tobago Division of Wildlife	\$50,000	Leadership in identifying capacity building priorities for the Caribbean and refining development of the program.
Costa Rica Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources	\$210,000	Costa Rica will host the second meeting of WHMSI and is actively promoting the initiative with sister ministries throughout the hemisphere.
Environment Canada	\$300,000	Technical assistance and capacity building throughout the hemisphere.
American Bird Conservancy	\$1,800,000	Technical assistance, small grants, regional coordination.
SPAW-Protected Areas of the Wider Caribbean	\$350,000	Support through promotion of initiative among SPAW Parties, regional coordination and SPAW MPA training program.
Ramsar	\$250,000	Staff time, technical assistance, development of tools, financing of specific projects within WHMSI
CIT	\$100,000	Scientific and technical assistance, networking among countries, publications, data.
CMS	\$85,000	Technical assistance, participation in the functions of the standing committee and projects review, delivery and participation in training, staff time and travel; on going

		migratory species projects funded by the CMS Small Grants Programme NB: financial contributions from the CMS Small Grants Programme to CMS Scientific Council recommended projects contributing to the goals of both CMS and the GEF project are not included but will be considered as contributions as the funds become available.
Birdlife International and 16 partners	\$500,000	Technical assistance, networking among country partners
WHSRN	\$100,000	Capacity building exercises, training tools, data management
WWF	\$50,000	Staff time, development of tools, web portal
PRBO Conservation Science	\$1,500,000	Training delivery, information exchange, data management, network coordination
WIDECAS	\$1,500,000	Training, management planning, educational materials, monitoring
USGS-Patuxent Wildlife Research Center	\$500,000	Training, facilities, educational materials
Conservation Breeding Specialist Group	\$160,000	Training delivery, data management
Fundacion ProAves	\$99,200	Technical assistance, development of tools, web portal
ARCAS	\$25,000	Technical assistance, development of project tools, delivery of and participation in training.
CNEH Centro Neotropical de Estudios para Humedales	\$50,000	Technical assistance, development of project tools, delivery of and participation in training.
OTS Organization of Tropical Studies	\$400,000	Technical assistance, delivery of training, staff time, network assistance.
Universidad de Cordoba	\$160,840	Delivery of training, technical assistance.
Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica	\$564,377	Delivery of training, bibliography, preparation of materials, facilities.
CREHO	\$20,000	Delivery of training, networking with wetland organizations, website hosting.
Guyra Paraguay	\$10,000	Training tools, access to data, networking capacity.
Rainforest Alliance	\$25,000	Tools Matrix of capacity building initiatives for migratory species in the hemisphere, translation capabilities, networking, website development.
Other Countries not listed above include contributions of the other 28 WHMSI Focal Points and affiliated Ministries.	XXXX	Leadership in identifying capacity building priorities for the hemisphere, project implementation, and measurement of quantitative performance indicators. (Examples of this include contributions of capacity building programs implemented by partner institutions in Argentina, Chile, Venezuela, and Brazil, among others, which will be adapted to address migratory species issues and other WHMSI concepts and

TOTAL

XXX,XXX,XXX

methodologies)

Does not include many country-specific initiatives which have also been intended to be WHMSI pilots

4. INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION AND SUPPORT

- CORE COMMITMENTS AND LINKAGES

GEF-financed activities within WHMSI will include: partnerships to train a cadre of trainers who will then reach out to national and local professionals and communities regarding key issues in the conservation of migratory species; dissemination and systematic sharing of relevant materials and information, including best practices; and incorporation of migratory wildlife concerns in the mainstream activities of the GEF Implementing Agencies. WHMSI will collaborate with governments, secretariats, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and local communities to develop and offer the types of training identified as a priority by the wildlife conservation agencies of the hemisphere. This will include curriculum development, course administration, participant selection, and evaluation, as principal components.

Significant work towards the planning of this project has been completed by the WHMSI Interim Steering Committee which includes representation of five governments (Colombia, Costa Rica, St. Lucia, USA, Uruguay), four conventions (Convention on Migratory Species, Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles, Ramsar Convention, Specially Protected Areas of the Wider Caribbean Protocol under the Cartagena Convention), and four non-governmental organizations (American Bird Conservancy, Birdlife International, Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, World Wildlife Fund). The WHMSI Committee has conducted electronic, phone and personal discussions (including two in-person meetings of the entire Committee) to further develop this proposal. At a WHMSI meeting in January 2006, wildlife directors of 30 countries in the hemisphere identified the priority themes for capacity building and audiences to be trained through this project, as well as the delivery mechanisms outlined in this proposal's capacity building implementation plan on page 22.

- CONSULTATION, COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION BETWEEN IAS, AND IAS AND EXAS, IF APPROPRIATE.

C) PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENT

The WHMSI Committee has requested that UNEP be the Implementing Agency and OAS be the executing agency for this project. The OAS has provided support for WHMSI and will house the political focal points who will be communicated with through the Ministry of External Affairs guaranteeing that activities of WHMSI have approval at the highest levels of Government. Government officials will be also kept abreast of performance of the project. This is a good fit with OAS' mandate to respond to member states in matters of environmental sustainability. The OAS has served as executing agency of GEF projects since 1995 and to date has been executing agency for 15 projects totaling roughly \$US 35 million of GEF resources.

ANNEX A: INCREMENTAL COST ANALYSIS

Baseline Scenario

In the baseline scenario, terrestrial and marine wildlife institutions responsible for managing and maintaining flora and fauna typically have to depend upon personnel with little or no training in the field of biological diversity conservation. For example, despite the existence of well over 1,000 protected areas (over 2 million square kilometers) in Latin America and the Caribbean, there exists only two hemisphere-focused training programs via which protected area managers can learn the skills of their trade. All told, these reach approximately 30 managers per year, a minute fraction of the personnel needing training. At the same time, very few countries in the hemisphere offer their own such programs for natural resource managers, protected area managers and park guards, consequently, most individuals in these positions have no adequate preparation regarding the resources they are managing. The case for protected area and natural resource managers is not unique. The same situation exists up and down the career ladder of professionals in the field of biodiversity conservation.

During the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Conference in Chile in 2003, countries summarized their activities and financing from academic, scientific, governmental and non-governmental institutions for baseline activities in this area (see <http://www.fws.gov/international/whc/matrixcapbuild.htm>). Based upon a review of this matrix it is evident that mechanisms for such training at all levels are inadequate.

Under the baseline scenario, natural resources institutions in the region manage wildlife and biological diversity as best they can using agronomists, planners, university biology professors, or individuals with other backgrounds to administer and implement such programs. If wildlife managers had mechanisms to hire skilled personnel and train existing staff at the governmental level, the WHMSI capacity building initiative would not be necessary. In discussions carried out during recent relevant fora of the countries of the hemisphere (including the 2003 WHMSI Conference in Chile, the U.S.-Mexico Canada Trilateral Committee, and the 2005 Meeting of the Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds, among others), the concept of strengthening capacity building in the hemisphere so that the conservation of living resources would be managed in the most professional and capable manner has been consistently identified as a priority need.

GEF Alternative

The GEF alternative would expand on the existing capacity building structures in the region and promote greater training opportunities for biological diversity resource managers at all levels. In the preparation of this proposal, the most important types of training needs have been identified at hemispheric and sub-regional scales. This includes such elements as in-service training, park guard and protected area manager courses, and graduate level degrees, among others. Mechanisms to maximize delivery of training to the broadest possible audiences, such as via distance learning scenarios will be explored. Strengthening and replication of successful training programs (past and ongoing) will be a major objective of this project (see section on Stakeholder Involvement and Beneficiaries).

The specific skills and technologies necessary to manage and conserve biological resources such as migrating species, international watersheds and ecosystems do not vary dramatically among countries and regions. This will facilitate certain training opportunities being offered on a regional or even hemispheric basis. At the same time, language and cultural differences, not to mention travel costs, will result in many training programs being regional or sub-regional in nature.

The proposed project will build upon the existing WHMSI framework and other complementary initiatives to support on-the-ground capacity building activities that should have a snowball effect encouraging other donors to join the effort thereby increasing economies-of-scale and efficiencies. As the project is primarily interested in capacity building in the improved management of trans-boundary migratory species, the global benefit is significant and larger than would be if restricted to national level objectives. Migratory species, because of their wide ranging habits have the potential to serve as indicators of sustainability at regional scale. These species provide a forum for developing shared visions and strategies for pursuing sustainability in a cooperative manner and as a multinational joint venture.

With assistance from GEF, WHMSI will be able to: (1) augment (using a broad range of methods such as learning-by-doing programs, short courses, university degree programs, internships, exchange programs, workshops and others), the local skilled human resources available to promote improved management of migratory species to implement future biodiversity/sustainable development projects in Latin America and the Caribbean; (2) expand the capabilities of existing training programs by increasing the scope of their activities, curriculum and outreach components; (3) facilitate the establishment of long-term training institutions in the Latin American and Caribbean region; (4) provide a pool of trainers, fellowships, internships, and research assistantships to sustain regional participation in such programs; (5) through robust training/outreach activities involving government organizations, NGO's, industry and community leaders, and building on existing models of success, provide the means to empower local communities so that they may be made self reliant and able to address their local resource management problems as pertinent to migratory species conservation; (6) integrate natural resources (with a focus on migratory species) academic training with technical agency applied expertise; (7) support, through capacity building, GEF and other technical assistance projects in the region, contributing to the cost effective implementation of sustainable development activities; and (8) develop a training program with high demonstration value, replicable in other regions of the world facing similar crises of biodiversity loss and lack of response and mitigation capacity.

ANNEX B: PROJECT LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Monitoring and evaluation of the project will be the responsibility of the Executing Agency, with the assistance of the WHMSI Steering Committee, and other participants as appropriate. UNEP, as Implementing Agency, may proceed with monitoring and auditing the project as appropriate, following UNEP procedures. The following indicators are benchmarks against which the Executing Agency can measure progress and establish consistent reporting.

**Cooperation in Conservation: Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI)
LOGIC FRAME OF THE PROJECT**

OBJECTIVES	KEY INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS / RISKS
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OBJECTIVES	KEY INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS / RISKS
<p><u>WHMSI's Objectives Relative to GEF Global Objective</u></p> <p>Promote goals and objectives of GEF Operational Principles Enhance sustainable growth, which includes promoting and integrating sustainable environmental management and improved decision making at the policy and financial level. Create enabling activities that improve the enabling environment for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in the Americas, consistent with the objectives of GEF OP#1 through OP#4).</p>	<p>10% increase in self-sustainable methodologies for capacity building in multi-country settings to ensure sustainable growth; integration of natural resources management and practices in buffer zones.</p> <p>A framework for decision-making procedures completed.</p> <p>Improved methodologies for capacity building in multi-country settings.</p> <p>Better decision making procedures based on improved capacity to conserve and manage migratory species, leading to sustainable natural resources management in protected areas and sustainable agricultural and fisheries practices in buffer zones.</p> <p>Measurable increase hemispheric and subregional transboundary migratory species dialogue and cooperation.</p> <p>Favorable changes in environmental policies and legislation, as well as in environmental education curricula.</p> <p>Measurable increased in sharing of experience and expertise on issues related to migratory species across the hemisphere.</p> <p>Improved access to information in the areas of institutions, projects, and databases related to capacity building for migratory species conservation and management.</p> <p>Progress towards a common biodiversity conservation agenda for the region supported by the cross-fertilization of ideas.</p> <p>Improved capacity to address critical issues at a regional level.</p> <p>Species and habitats saved (difficult to quantify and monitor systematically) (eg. protected area declared, hunting bans, closed seasons, etc.).</p> <p>Decrease in identified gaps in knowledge.</p> <p>Improved quality of biodiversity projects (both at preparation and during supervision) in the GEF portfolio.</p>	<p>Broadly negotiated and agreed strategic decision-making system for the management of the migratory wildlife conservation and management.</p> <p>Project semi-annual reports</p> <p>WHMSI Council reports</p> <p>Web statistics</p>	<p>Leadership and political commitment from National authorities and other government agencies.</p> <p>Effective public and stakeholder participation in decision-making is assured.</p> <p>Comprehensive negotiating process is conducted to overcome conflicts between local, regional, and inter-state interests in the management of the migratory species, seeking consensus for joint strategies.</p> <p>Sources of funding are earmarked to ensure the execution of WHMSI plans and most pressing priorities.</p>
Results by Activities			

OBJECTIVES	KEY INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS / RISKS
<p><u>COMPONENT 1:</u> <u>DEVELOPMENT OF</u> <u>THE HEMISPHERIC</u> <u>NETWORK</u></p>	<p>WHMSI Interim Steering Committee formalized which supports communication and coordination among participants. Greater communications and interoperability is measured by an increase of 10 institutions per year</p> <p>A functional WHMSI portal and group distribution list with access to updated and operational capacity building programs and tools. Visitor and users accesses to WHMSI Portal increase 10% per year.</p> <p>Project management and coordination provided, meeting logistics supported, and overall support to communication among participants.</p>	<p>Governmental, national reports and independent evaluations</p> <p>Register of web-users Web statistics Media attention received</p> <p>Decree of institution Internal regulations Staffing Budget and work plan of institution.</p>	<p>Negotiation and articulation with countries, and NGOs authorities, is successfully conducted.</p> <p>A 15% measurable increase in improved decision-making concerning conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity</p>
<p><u>COMPONENT 2.</u> <u>INSTITUTE</u> <u>COLLABORATIVE</u> <u>PARTNERSHIPS</u> <u>WITH OTHER</u> <u>INITIATIVES AND</u> <u>ORGANIZATIONS</u></p>	<p>WHMSI is responsive to the needs of the communities.</p> <p>Activities confirmed as complementary to and supportive of other initiatives, helping to meet the objectives of those initiatives as well as WHMSI's. Migratory species projects increases by 10% per year.</p> <p>10 collaborations per year established including formal agreements where necessary, with other relevant initiatives and strengthened existing agreements.</p> <p>Five tools developed and techniques disseminated for improved and replicable capacity building programs</p>	<p>Significant improvement in collaboration and coordination between countries on migratory species</p> <p>Agreements or MOUs signed with international cooperation units.</p> <p>Project reports Survey with selected institutions/users</p>	<p>Continuous involvement of the main stakeholders that participated in the first phase of the project.</p> <p>10% increase/year in municipal, community, academic, and institutional incorporation of trans boundary migratory species issues incorporated into decision making.</p>

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<p><u>COMPONENT 3.</u> <u>IMPLEMENT</u> <u>CAPACITY</u> <u>BUILDING PLAN</u></p>	<p>Number of people trained, both as trainers and those they subsequently reach (the multiplier effect).</p> <p>Number of training courses provided</p> <p>Replicability to other regions.</p> <p>Differences in attitudes, knowledge and practices before and after training.</p> <p>Increase in public/community understanding and increased sensitivity to environmental issues and migratory species conservation.</p> <p>Evidence of adoption and implementation of best practices and quality of post-training decision-making.</p> <p>Policy shifts within countries.</p> <p>Quantitative and qualitative changes in the population trends of species at issue (monitoring) (surveys conducted after the training should be conducted over the course of a year, in order to capture the interaction with the species within a migration cycle.</p> <p>Degree of curriculum access and use (i.e. number of institutions -including schools- that incorporate migratory species conservation within their environmental education programs).</p> <p>Inclusion of migratory species issues in training provided by entities and initiatives other than WHMSI.</p> <p>Active network of trainers available for continued training beyond life of project</p> <p>Ability of trainees to remain in environmentally oriented careers.</p> <p>Track the activities of past trainees, promote communication among them and whenever possibly provide limited assistance to recent trainees to remain in conservation careers.</p> <p>Number of examples of popular cultural activities featuring migratory species (hits on a website, participation in festivals, public awareness tools such as stamps, calendars, “year of the”).</p> <p>Institutional changes, whereby the trainees have what they have learnt incorporated into their job descriptions.</p> <p>New legal initiatives in process to streamline migratory species legislation in the Americas.</p> <p>New methods identified to counter threats to migratory species.</p> <p>Best practice biodiversity and ecosystem management implemented in three key intervention sites for migratory species conservation using data and information available through WHMSI</p> <p>Capacity building measured by WHMSI efforts instrumental in the establishment of Biological Corridor Monitoring and Integrated Ecosystem Management Programs</p>	<p>Project semi-annual reports</p> <p>WHMSI Council reports</p> <p>Web statistics</p>	<p>Sufficient incentives for data providers to adopt WHMSI standardized training.</p> <p>Suitable personnel available for training</p> <p>Sufficient data can be digitized to significantly impact data availability</p> <p>Concerns about Intellectual Property Rights that arise can be adequately resolved.</p> <p>A 15% measurable increase in improved decision-making influenced by availability of substantial information and trained staff.</p>

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<p><u>COMPONENT 4.</u> <u>SUPPORT</u> <u>SUSTAINABILITY,</u> <u>COMMUNICATION</u> <u>AND</u> <u>COORDINATION</u> <u>AMONG</u> <u>PARTICIPANTS</u></p>	<p>Total volume of WHMSI-compatible capacity building courses increases by 10% per year Eight new institutions each year become participants in WHMSI Working relationships and cost sharing agreements established and in progress including agreements with international and national academic institutions, private enterprise, and NGOs Information exchanged with international agreements such as World Heritage, Ramsar, Regional Seas, UNESCO MAB, and IUCN Commission on Protected Areas Successful national and regional initiatives (such as MesoAmerican Biological Corridor, Path of the Panther, WWF Reduction of Sea Turtle Bycatch in the Eastern Pacific, WWF Trans-Atlantic leatherback conservation, the collaborative research and management activities of the WIDECAST network, etc.) engaged and integrated WHMSI technical reports, advice, and analyses provided to scientific and technical bodies and noted by them Public access to current databases relevant to hemispheric migratory species programs increased WHMSI recognized as a source of valued educational and training materials WHMSI recognized as a network of centers of excellence for capacity building Explicit road map developed to assist the process of the UNEP/WCMC 2010 reduction in biodiversity loss target New financial mechanisms in place to pay WHMSI's operational costs that are financed by revenue mechanisms and/or a trust fund The WHMSI Foundation established in accordance with GEF best practice</p>	<p>Capacity building plans are issued and revised periodically, every year.</p> <p>Agreements to harmonize capacity building methodologies</p> <p>Project semi-annual reports</p> <p>WHMSI Council reports</p> <p>Web statistics</p>	<p>Sufficient data available for the information tools to access Data is current enough for tools to provide good information ISC envisaged is adequate to operate WHMSI WHMSI Focal Points remain engaged and provide country-level support Key partnerships with CHM can be further strengthened</p>

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<p><u>COMPONENT 5.</u> <u>PROJECT</u> <u>ADMINISTRATION</u></p>	<p>Institutional assessment completed in 3rd year of project that analyzes success of the capacity building methodology, benchmarks defined, and tangible training packages and indicators for key actors; WHMSI activities planned and programmed jointly in collaboration with relevant conventions, and other stakeholders</p> <p>Increasing number of social and institutional actors participating in the WHMSI planning and decision-making process.</p> <p>Management, planning and programming levels deemed effective; two-way information flow links WHMSI Steering Committee with partner organizations.</p> <p>Mid-term review assessments and yearly audits confirm timely disbursements according to guidelines.</p> <p>3 WHMSI hemispheric Meetings and 2 technical review meetings and convened.</p> <p>WHMSI expanded to include 50 additional international, government and non-government, academic, and private industry partners from project inception to completion.</p>	<p>Project M&E is rated satisfactory or better by UNEP, GEF, and the WHMSI Council</p> <p>Project semi-annual reports</p> <p>WHMSI Council reports</p> <p>Web statistics</p>	<p>UNEP's supervision missions and project supervision reports (PSRs) are positive.</p> <p>The ISC is able to provide effective oversight of the Executing Agency</p>

ANNEX C: RESPONSE TO PROJECT REVIEWS

- a) Convention Secretariat comments and IA/ExA response
- b) STAP expert review and IA/ExA response
- c) GEF Secretariat and other Agencies' comments and IA/ExA response

