

Third Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative Conference

*July 22-25, 2008
Asunción, Paraguay*

Proceedings





Fundación para la Sustentabilidad del Gaviotín Chico



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MINISTERIO DE GANADERÍA AGRICULTURA Y PESCA REPÚBLICA ORIENTAL DEL URUGUAY



nepa National Environment and Planning Agency



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For more information about the Western Hemisphere
Migratory Species Initiative, contact:
Division of International Conservation
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 100
Arlington, VA 22203-1622
703/358 1754

For information online go to:
http://www.fws.gov/international/DIC/WHMSI/whmsi_eng.html
<http://www.whmsi.net>



WHMSI

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Executive Summary

The Third Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI) Conference took place in Asunción, Paraguay, July 22-25, 2008. This event was a follow-up to the First Western Hemisphere Migratory Bird Conference that took place in 2003 in Chile and the Second Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative Conference that took place in 2006 in Costa Rica. The Conference, hosted by Paraguay's Ministries of Tourism and Environment and the non-governmental organization Guyra Paraguay, was attended by more than sixty public and private sector representatives from twenty-seven countries in the hemisphere and twenty-six NGOs and Conventions.

The Conference objectives were to:

1. Facilitate coordination among migratory species initiatives, to foster synergies for better collaboration and more efficient use of resources, and to enhance Latin American participation in these initiatives;
2. Update participants on WHMSI activities undertaken since the second WHMSI Conference;
3. Refine capacity building workshops funded by the Organization of American States (OAS); and
4. Conduct thematic sessions on priority hemispheric issues, including: the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Program, sea turtle conservation, adapting habitats of importance to migratory species in the face of climate change, and refinement of the collaborative mechanism under which WHMSI functions.

Major updates announced at the Conference included:

- Seven Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) have been signed with key international organizations active in the field of migratory species conservation,
- A new WHMSI website is under development,
- A Western Hemisphere Bird Banding Network has been created,

- The OAS conducted a study on international conventions and regional agreements related to migratory species, and
- A new WHMSI logo and brochure on the value of migratory species are currently under development

Documents related to these updates will be available online on the WHMSI website (www.whmsi.net), and the comments and suggestions made regarding these initiatives as detailed in these proceedings will be taken into consideration by the WHMSI Interim Steering Committee.

A number of important outcomes were accomplished at the Conference. Participants refined the processes for development and implementation of three sub-regional capacity building workshops to be funded by the OAS. The workshops will provide training to key audiences working on the conservation of migratory species in Central America, the Caribbean, and South America.

Three thematic sessions on priority issues for the hemisphere were well attended and resulted in recommendations for follow-up as described in these proceedings.

Finally, a process was identified to further develop the WHMSI document "Purpose and Organization" (formerly called Terms of Reference). A number of key issues were addressed, including the nature of WHMSI; strategic planning; resources (including finance); and the importance of constructive, purposeful language rather than concepts. The English-language version will be further edited and distributed for comment, and a translation group will translate the revised English-language text into Spanish. The WHMSI website will serve as an additional communication mechanism for participants to provide input and request clarification regarding this important document.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks are offered to:

The government of Paraguay and Ministries of Environment and Tourism, as well as Minister Carlos Antonio Lopez Doce and Minister Liz Cramer, for hosting the Conference;

Guyra Paraguay staff, for their hard and thorough work handling all planning and logistical components of the Conference, particularly Executive Director Alberto Yanosky, as well as Cristina Morales, Alistair Kerlin, Lourdes Aquino, Silvia Centron and Elizabeth Cabrera.

Representatives from twenty-seven Western Hemisphere countries and twenty-six non-governmental organizations and international conventions, for attending the Conference and exploring regional conservation approaches that will allow for enhanced conservation of wildlife species throughout the Western Hemisphere;

Members of WHMSI's Interim Steering Committee, for their active involvement in the work leading up to the Conference and as facilitators of the break-out sessions during the Conference;

Richard Huber, Carlos Drews, Belinda Dick and Michael Kreger for organizing and moderating the thematic sessions, as well as providing the workshop summaries incorporated in the proceedings;

Rosa Montañez and Brian Hayum, for taking notes during the plenary and break out sessions; and

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, for their financial support of the Conference.

The points of view expressed in this document do not necessarily represent those of the sponsoring organizations or any individual participant.

Background

The Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI) is a mechanism to facilitate cooperation among governmental officials responsible for migratory wildlife in the Western Hemisphere while at the same time engaging the broader non-governmental community as equal partners in this conservation effort. The mission of WHMSI is to significantly enhance the conservation of shared migratory species throughout the Americas by strengthening political commitment, cooperation and public-private partnerships at regional, national and local levels. WHMSI's main mechanism for achieving this mission is through facilitation and coordination among people, communities, sites and initiatives as they relate to migratory species and their habitats across the hemisphere.

WHMSI is based upon recognizing that all countries of the Western Hemisphere are parties to international conventions, treaties and accords through which they are committed to the conservation of migratory species. WHMSI aims to assist countries in fulfilling these commitments.

The initiative was developed by wildlife agency directors and other senior officials from Western Hemisphere countries who gathered in Chile in 2003 to create a cooperative hemispheric mechanism to conserve shared migratory species. At that time an Interim Steering Committee was established to facilitate work towards this end. WHMSI's Interim Steering Committee is unique among international governing bodies. It is comprised of representatives from governments, non-governmental organizations, and from interested international treaties and conventions. See Appendix V for a list of Interim Steering Committee members.

Based on the priorities identified in Chile, WHMSI seeks to: Build country capacity to conserve and manage migratory wildlife; Improve hemispheric

communication on conservation issues of common interest; Strengthen the exchange of information needed for informed decision-making; and Provide a forum in which emerging issues can be identified and addressed.

WHMSI is a non-binding mechanism that in no way addresses claims of sovereignty over disputed territories among any interested States. Its principles and objectives represent a consensus of all participants. Being non-prescriptive and created to facilitate cooperation among both governmental and non-governmental interests spanning the breadth of the hemisphere, WHMSI focuses only on migratory species conservation matters of broad common interest, particularly those which will deliver positive results on the ground.

The Second WHMSI Conference took place in 2006 in Costa Rica, with a focus on identifying partnerships for capacity building and training. Capacity building was selected as the conference theme. The 2006 conference served as part of the planning process to develop a hemispheric strategy to address capacity building and training needs for migratory wildlife conservation in the region. Participants identified and prioritized their training needs, which have been integrated into a comprehensive capacity building implementation plan that will seek to train wildlife decision-makers, government officials, and managers (including protected areas managers) under the WHMSI framework.

The Third WHMSI Conference was held in Asunción, Paraguay in July 2008, hosted by the Paraguayan Ministries of Environment and Tourism, and Guyra Paraguay. The Conference brought together government wildlife officials and representatives from non-governmental organizations and conventions with interest in international dialogue and cooperation on migratory species.

Pre-Conference Preparations

The WHMSI's Interim Steering Committee met in Washington D.C. in June 2007 to plan the Third WHMSI Conference, set the agenda and identify tasks and responsibilities in preparation for the meeting. All WHMSI partners and organizations interested in migratory species conservation and management were invited to submit proposals for thematic sessions to be included at the Third WHMSI Conference, through a call for proposals released in August 2007.

Thematic session proposals included justification/ importance of the theme; targeted audience; structure/methodology of session; expected outcomes and follow up; and main organizer and collaborators and contact information. The deadline for submission of proposals was November 2007 and thematic sessions were selected in early 2008 by the Interim Steering Committee.

Conference Objectives

The objectives of the Third WHMSI Conference were to:

1. Facilitate coordination among migratory species initiatives, to foster synergies for better collaboration and more efficient use of resources, and to enhance Latin American participation in these initiatives;
2. Update participants on WHMSI activities undertaken since the second WHMSI Conference;
3. Refine capacity building workshops funded by the Organization of American States;
4. Conduct thematic sessions on priority hemispheric issues, including: the Neotropical Migratory Bird Program, sea turtle conservation, and how to adapt habitats of importance to migratory species in the face of climate change; and
5. Refine the collaborative mechanism under which WHMSI functions.

Conference Outcomes

I. Initiation of the Conference

The Third WHMSI Conference was held in Asunción, Paraguay, on July 22nd – 25th 2008. Attendees included over sixty governmental, non-governmental, and private sector representatives (see Appendix IV for Participants List). The Conference began with a plenary session that included welcome remarks by the hosts- Paraguay's Minister of Environment and Minister of Tourism and the Executive Director of Guyra Paraguay- as well as the Chair of WHMSI's Interim Steering Committee.

The plenary session also included introductions and a keynote address by Guyra Paraguay's Executive Director, Alberto Yanosky. Yanosky's remarks focused on the importance of collaboration for migratory species conservation, the evolution of WHMSI since its creation in 2003, WHMSI's achievements in the identification of priorities and capacity building, and the unique structure of WHMSI's Interim Steering Committee, which includes representatives of governments, non-governmental organizations and international conventions. Yanosky also made an overview of the Conference agenda (see Appendix I).

II. Updates since the Second WHMSI Conference

Partnerships

This session was moderated by Herb Raffaele and focused on updates since the Second WHMSI Conference in 2006.

- ***Seven Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) have been signed with key international organizations active in the field of migratory species conservation.***

Following upon a plenary decision at the Second WHMSI Conference in 2006 to strengthen relations with partner organizations, MOUs have been signed with a number of important organizations active in the field of wildlife conservation, including: U.S. Committee of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI); Secretariat of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena, Colombia); Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN); Ramsar Regional Center for Training and Research on Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere (CREHO);

Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds (SCSCB); Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS); and The Manatee Conservation Trust of Trinidad and Tobago.

A representative from each of these organizations provided brief remarks focusing on the value of collaboration with WHMSI, except for WHSRN whose representative could not attend the Conference due to unexpected logistical problems with his travel. All of the MOU documents will be made available on the WHMSI website. In addition, other entities, including the Ramsar Convention, are currently developing an MOU with WHMSI.

- ***A Western Hemisphere Bird Banding Network has been created.***

At the first WHMSI Conference in 2003, participants identified the creation of a bird banding network as a hemispheric priority. The Western Hemisphere Bird Banding Network (WHBBN) is a voluntary network established in 2006 to facilitate data management and develop mechanisms for coordinating bird marking efforts, data reporting and data sharing within the Western Hemisphere. WHBBN provides an approach to solve some of the priority needs identified by WHMSI. The Network also addresses the need for broader international coordination of bird marking throughout the world for tracking bird movements as expressed by many world banding schemes at the past International Ornithological Congress. The Network includes participation of institutions and groups that work in bird banding, such as the U.S. Geological Survey, the North American Bird Conservation Initiative, CONABIO, SEMARNAT, CWS, ProAves among others, and is open to all people and organizations interested in addressing or remaining informed on bird marking issues in the Americas. The current president of the network is María Isabel Moreno. WHMSI and the network will work together on key issues such as capacity building.

- ***The Organization of American States (OAS) conducted a study on international conventions and regional agreements related to migratory species.***

The OAS conducted a study analyzing international conventions and agreements and their relation to migratory species. There are an estimated 500 international and 300 regional agreements, and 144 related to biodiversity, as well as several conventions and successful alliances for capacity building. Richard Huber suggested that a sustainability study be developed for WHMSI. The suggestion was adopted by consensus, and FWS and Birdlife International offered technical assistance.

Outreach and Dissemination of Information

This session was moderated by Maria Rivera. The following updates since 2006 in the area of outreach and dissemination of information were announced:

- ***A new WHMSI website is under development.***
At the Second WHMSI Conference in 2006 in Costa Rica, participants asked that the WHMSI website be located at and updated by an independent organization. CREHO in Panama offered to serve that role, and developed a draft version of the website that was reviewed by the Interim Steering Committee in 2007-2008. CREHO's Executive Director presented the current draft version of the website in Paraguay, and requested photographs and information from all WHMSI partners. With USFWS financial support, CREHO will administer the website for one year, after which period the ISC will decide how to handle website management responsibilities such as updating and uploading information and moderating group forums, among others. The website includes links to sites of interest relevant to migratory species conservation. All WHMSI partners are invited to submit comments on the website: www.whmsi.net
- ***The Eco-Index WHMSI Pathway has been expanded and updated.***
The Eco-Index's bilingual WHMSI Pathway (www.whmsi-pathway.org) supports WHMSI's goal of conserving migratory species through international cooperation and communication. The WHMSI Pathway aims to create a cohesive, international community of governmental and non-governmental entities that work together to conserve migratory species by providing a bilingual space where stakeholders can easily share valuable data, best practices, and publications across geographic and language barriers. The WHMSI Pathway features nearly 500 listings in its "Projects & Tools" section, which matches priority migratory species conservation needs that WHMSI stakeholders

have identified with the resources that are available to address them.

- ***Countries were encouraged to contribute their Migratory Species Directories.***
One of the recommendations from the Second WHMSI Conference in 2006 was to "Request WHMSI focal points in each country to develop and circulate a directory of organizations that relate to WHMSI for his/her country." The objective of this recommendation is to create national networks on migratory species for the sharing of information. In August 2007, the WHMSI Interim Steering Committee followed up with WHMSI governmental focal points to compile such lists. To date, directories have been compiled for Mexico, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Uruguay. All other countries were encouraged to provide this important information. National directories will be posted on the WHMSI website, added to the WHMSI distribution list, and announced in an upcoming WHMSI update.
 - ***A new WHMSI logo and brochure on the value of migratory species are currently under development.***
The World Wildlife Fund, with guidance from the Interim Steering Committee, has undertaken the task of developing a new WHMSI logo and brochure. Drafts for both were introduced at the Conference, followed by comments from the participants. The logo seeks to convey key aspects of WHMSI such as the initiative's hemispheric scope and the inclusion of all migratory species -though given space limitations only a bird, marine turtle and cetacean were represented. The green and blue colors represent land and water, but in the logo they are inverted to illustrate the interrelation between the two habitats. Participants discussed the logo and brochure extensively, and agreed on two main changes to the logo: 1) the inclusion of human hands to represent WHMSI's focus on key issues such as capacity building; and 2) the map of the Western Hemisphere needs to be centered. In addition to the color version presented at the Conference, a black and white version will also be available. Pending these changes, the final approval of the logo will be the decision of the Interim Steering Committee.
- In terms of the brochure, the document seeks to convey in simple and useful language the value of migratory species and WHMSI. Participants provided numerous comments on the brochure. These comments were collected by the brochure editorial team and have been incorporated as pertinent into the final version.

Documents related to all updates above will be made available via the WHMSI website, and comments and suggestions regarding these initiatives will be taken into consideration by the WHMSI Interim Steering Committee.

Capacity Building

This session was moderated by Vladimir Puentes Granada. The following updates since 2006 in the area of capacity building were announced:

- ***Update on Capacity Building Proposal submitted to the GEF.***

With input from the Second Conference in 2006, WHMSI developed a Capacity Building Implementation Plan, which was part of a proposal subsequently submitted to the Global Environmental Facility (GEF). The GEF is presently not funding regional projects, and the Interim Steering Committee has agreed that it would not be practical to continue pursuing the GEF as a source of funding at this time. There may be potential to draft other WHMSI proposals for the GEF as appropriate, focusing on medium-sized projects.

- ***Other funding sources are available to support WHMSI Capacity Building priorities.***

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Wildlife Without Borders Latin America and the Caribbean and Mexico programs have recently undergone strategic planning processes and will focus their future funding (an estimated \$1 million USD) on capacity building in and around protected areas, addressing many of the same audiences and themes identified in the WHMSI capacity building proposal. In addition, Ramsar's Wetlands for the Future program will also give priority in their review criteria to projects that address the capacity building needs identified at the Second WHMSI Conference. The OAS will also support WHMSI capacity building efforts through its FEMCIDI program (see section below).

- ***OAS Capacity Building Proposal***

This special session led and moderated by Richard Huber, was devoted to discussing the project (see Appendix 2 for this session's agenda). One of WHMSI's priority focus areas is capacity building. As mentioned above, in 2006 WHMSI submitted a proposal to the GEF to support capacity building activities for migratory species conservation in the Western Hemisphere. The proposal incorporated a capacity building implementation plan developed at the 2006 WHMSI Conference in Costa Rica. The GEF eventually withdrew its support for regional initiatives such as WHMSI. However,

in 2007 the United States and Trinidad and Tobago submitted major elements of the capacity building proposal to the Organization of American States (OAS)'s FEMCIDI program. The new three-year, \$600,000 USD, proposal focuses on a selection of capacity building activities extracted from the earlier effort. The OAS has approved partial funding for Year 1 of the project.

The session started with a plenary presentation and update on the capacity building project, based on the Execution Plan submitted to the OAS. The project will focus on three sub-regional training workshops per year, addressing a selection of the capacity building needs for the conservation of migratory species identified at WHMSI 2. The organizations that will conduct the training workshops in Year 1 were selected through a Request for Proposals made earlier in 2008 and distributed to all WHMSI partners. Proposals were reviewed by governmental representatives of WHMSI's Interim Steering Committee, though all WHMSI country focal points were invited to serve as reviewers as well. The results of the review were announced to all WHMSI partners prior to the Conference in Paraguay.

Following the plenary presentation and update, the session was divided into three sub-regional working groups: Mesoamerica; Caribbean; and South America. Each working group was charged with refining the content and duration of each training workshop based on the selected proposal for their sub-region, as well as developing a training agenda, adding partners, etc., based on available funds. Each group also had an opportunity to begin discussion of years 2 and 3 priority audiences and themes for training.

The results of each working were presented to the plenary at the end of this session and are summarized below. OAS grant recipients will incorporate this input into their planned activities.

A. Mesoamerica Working Group

Partner Organization: PRONATURA
www.oas.org/dsd/whmsi/English/RfP/Pronatura.pdf

Beneficiaries: Eight countries in Mesoamerica (Materials to be available in English and Spanish.)

Audiences to be addressed: Grassroots organizations and community leaders

Issues to be addressed: Sustainable development, best practices and incentives for (community-

based) ecotourism based on migratory species, including: agrotourism and certified and non-certified best practices for agrolandscape management relevant to migratory species; Forest fire management from the perspective of citizen participation; and Valuation of consumptive uses of migratory species which generate income (e.g. sporting hunt of migratory ducks) as part of ecotourism.

Training modules: Administration, fundraising, project management, conflict resolution; Environmental education and extension; and Adaptation to climate change, particularly sea level rise.

Species to be considered: Coastal wetlands birds; marine turtles; cetaceans; sporting fish species; whale shark; bats; manatees; lobster.

Criteria for selecting workshop participants: Community leaders and local NGOs from coastal communities. Must have the capacity to serve as trainers and multiplier agents. It is recommended that participants are familiar with the Mesoamerican Corridor and CCAD efforts to monitor biodiversity and migratory species.

Discussion of Years 2 and 3 Audiences and Themes for Training: Year 2: Extension and dissemination of products from Year 1, as well as feasibility and marketing analysis of tourism products, including links to private and industrial tourism sector. Audience: grassroots organizations and community leaders. Best production practices for the conservation of wetlands, including coastal and port development, zoning, and corporate responsibility. Audience: industry, decision-makers (planners).

Year 3: Conservation of migratory species in terrestrial ecosystems through strengthened and effective protected area management. Audience: protected area personnel and managers, technical conservation personnel. Ecosystemic approach for fisheries and access rights. Audience: fishermen, personnel from fisheries agencies, legislators, decision-makers, NGOs. Citizen participation in the monitoring of migratory species. Audience: interested citizens.

B. Caribbean Working Group

Partner Organization: Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds
<http://www.oas.org/dsd/whmsi/English/RfP/scscb.pdf>

Beneficiaries: At least ten countries in Caribbean (Materials to be available primarily in English,

but volunteers will be sought to translate them into French and Spanish.)

Audiences to be addressed: Protected Area managers and scientists, NGOs and community organisations and volunteers with commitment to monitoring and basic skills in bird identification.

Issues to be addressed: Low level of monitoring across the region due to lack of simple standard protocols for design, implementation and analysis, low appreciation and awareness of the contribution of monitoring to adaptive management in protected area management.

Training modules: Design and promotion of bird monitoring programs; Implementation of bird monitoring programs; Analysis, data storage and presentation of results

Species to be considered: Terrestrial and aquatic birds and their habitats.

Criteria for selecting workshop participants: Preferably associated with protected areas or areas of importance for birds, or work with high profile bird species or in ecotourism, including protected area scientists, community leaders and local NGOs. May be employees or volunteers but must have the capacity to serve as trainers. Participants must have basic bird identification skills and at least high school education.

Discussion of Years 2 and 3 Audiences and Themes for Training: Policy development and implementation across the Caribbean region. Audience: decision-makers. Tourism/ Infrastructure (development impact, habitat degradation, effects of oil and gas industry, tourism, economic growth, best practices). Audience: tourism industry. Synergies for effective migratory species management (data sharing, best practices, education/awareness). Audience: Francophone and Netherlands Protectorates. Monitoring and evaluation of programs already in place. Audience: tourism and agriculture sector and communities. Valuation of ecosystems and least-cost interventions for environmental protection and effective decision-making. Audience: decision-makers.

C. South America Working Group

Partner Organization: NatureServe & SEAM-CDC Paraguay/IE-UMSA Bolivia
<http://www.oas.org/dsd/whmsi/English/RfP/natureserve.pdf>

Beneficiaries: Ten countries in South America (Materials to be available in Spanish.)

Audiences to be addressed: “Mid-level” decision makers: CMS focal points, Program Coordinators, RAMSAR coordinators and Environment and Natural Resources staff, among others.

Issues to be addressed: This training will provide practical tools to better understand how biodiversity data (migratory bird species) can be easily integrated with the social, economic and legislative policy information, which can be used to: monitor the effectiveness of environmental policy implementation towards the conservation of migratory species; Improve the implementation of environmental policies using knowledge of the actual and potential distribution of species within a municipality or department; and Enhance the knowledge of all resource managers or protected areas managers regarding policy and biodiversity analysis, to know where biodiversity occurs before designing and implementing management strategies for protecting these resources.

Training modules: Environmental Policy and biodiversity (using a case study of Paraguay); Statistical Analysis (integrating data from social, economic, environmental legislation, ecosystems and distribution of selected migratory bird species); Mapping analysis of environmental policy; and Prioritization of opportunities in the implementation on environmental policy towards the conservation of migratory birds.

Species to be considered: Migratory birds from the interior Atlantic Forest ecoregion within the area of influence of the Guarani Aquifer of Paraguay.

Criteria for selecting workshop participants: Participants selection will focus on those participants that provide key input to decision makers and/or make meaningful connection between policy and biodiversity. It is recommended that participants are familiar with standard software, such as Excel and PowerPoint. GIS knowledge is a plus, but not a requirement. The participant should be familiar with concepts of biodiversity, migratory species and environment. At the end of the first year, there will be an evaluation of this training activity by participants, OAS and staff to enhance future training courses and feedback for the second year’s training activities.

Discussion of Years 2 and 3 Audiences and Themes for Training: Year 2: (expanding and integrating training courses). Species Distribution Modeling training week. Audience: CMS focal points, Program Coordinators,

RAMSAR coordinators and Environment and Natural Resources staff. Analysis of effectiveness of the implementation of environmental policy for conservation of migratory species training. Audience: CMS focal points, Program Coordinators, RAMSAR coordinators and Environment and Natural Resources staff. Conservation planning Assessment and biodiversity training week.

At the end of the second year there will be an evaluation of this integrated training course and monitoring of the application/replication of such methodologies by participants in their own projects, countries or decision making processes. Feedback from participants will be used to improve the training course for the third year.

Year 3: (expanding and integrating training courses). Analysis of effectiveness of the implementation of environmental policy for conservation of migratory species. Audience: CMS focal points, Program Coordinators, RAMSAR coordinators and Environment and Natural Resources staff. Environmental policy implementation and conservation planning assessment. Audience: CMS focal points, Program Coordinators, RAMSAR coordinators and Environment and Natural Resources staff, plus some other decision makers. Species Distribution Modeling and Conservation planning. Audience: CMS focal points, Program Coordinators, RAMSAR coordinators and Environment and Natural Resources staff, plus some other decision makers.

At the end of the third year there will be an evaluation of this integrated training course and monitoring of the application/replication of such methodologies by participants in their own projects, countries or decision making processes.

III. Purpose and Organization, and Other Governance Issues

Discussions regarding the draft Purpose and Organization document (formally named Terms of Reference) for WHMSI and other governance issues took place during the second and third days of the Conference. As background, it should be noted that the Chile meeting mandated the ISC to develop Terms of Reference. The draft Terms of Reference were developed at an ISC meeting in 2004, and circulated to ministers soon after that, to which six countries replied. At the 2006 conference, the draft Terms of Reference was shared with WHMSI participants and as a result a process was identified to further develop the document to guide WHMSI in the future. The ISC met in June 2007 and discussed

the draft Terms of Reference. It was agreed that given the unofficial nature of the document, it should be renamed “Purpose and Organization”. The ISC also included a sentence on “facilitation” within the guiding principles section and changed the term “nations” and will use “States” instead. The goal of this session of the Third WHMSI Conference was to discuss the current draft of the document, followed by further work to finalize the language. As agreed in 2006, the aim is that the document might be accepted in principle by all WHMSI partners and formal acceptance would not be pursued. The current version of the document was included in the participants package showing all changes made since WHMSI 2, with pending issues to be resolved incorporated in brackets. These included mainly edits regarding membership.

At the Conference, a number of key issues were addressed, including the nature of WHMSI; strategic planning; resources (including finance); and the importance of constructive, purposeful language rather than concepts. The English-language version will be further edited and distributed for comment, and a translation group will translate the revised English-language text into Spanish. The WHMSI website will serve as an additional communication mechanism for participants to provide input and request clarification regarding this important document.

IV. Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act Implementation

The *Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act Implementation: Conserving Shared Birds across the Hemisphere* thematic session took place on the third day of the Conference, concurrently with the thematic session on Sea Turtle Conservation (see below). The results of this session are summarized below. For more information, see Appendix III Thematic Sessions Comments.

The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA) is a competitive grants program funded by the USFWS. It provides funding for projects in the U.S., Canada, Latin America, and the Caribbean that benefit neotropical migratory birds that pass through the United States. NMBCA is a major funding source for migratory bird projects (\$4.5 million USD in Fiscal Year 2008), and involves governments, non-government organizations, and other partners. As with any grant program, there are more grant applications submitted than can be funded. The purpose of this workshop was to obtain suggestions on how NMBCA can best serve migratory bird conservation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In addition, this was an opportunity for WHMSI participants to interact with NMBCA Advisory Group members to discuss NMBCA implementation and administration.

Herb Raffaele, USFWS, introduced the workshop and spoke about the importance of WHMSI participants communicating with NMBCA Advisory Group members during the breakout sessions. Michael Kreger, USFWS, provided an overview of the NMBCA program, its objectives, and implementation. Alberto Yanosky, Guyra Paraguay, presented four case studies of bird-related projects in Paraguay that were partially funded with NMBCA grants.

Three breakout groups were formed based on region: Mesoamerica, South America, and the Caribbean. Most of the facilitators are members of the NMBCA Advisory Group. The Mesoamerica group was facilitated by Martin Vargas Prieto, Direccion General de Vida Silvestre, SEMARNAT (Mexico) and Guy Foulks, USFWS. The South America group was facilitated by Alberto Yanosky, Guyra Paraguay, Ian Davidson, BirdLife International (Ecuador), and Michael Kreger, USFWS. Facilitators for the Caribbean group were Nadra Nathai-Gyan, Manatee Conservation Trust (Trinidad and Tobago) and Carol Lively, U.S. Forest Service. There were 27 participants in the workshop (Mesoamerica=8, South America=12, Caribbean=7).

Each breakout group discussed 10 questions related to NMBCA implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean. Each group presented its consensus comments to the larger neotropical migratory bird group. Michael Kreger summarized the comments for the WHMSI plenary, highlighting common areas of agreement among the groups. Comments made by participants in the breakout groups are included in the Appendices to this document. Many comments were unique to each group. While there was agreement on several points between two regions, there were three points of agreement among all three regions. These were:

- Projects should involve governments or major decision makers either by informing them or making them partners.
- Funding of salaries and administrative costs are acceptable with various caveats.
- The WHMSI meeting can serve as a forum to share regional information and needs with advisory group members. WHMSI could also advocate for greater appropriations for the NMBCA program.

George Wallace, American Bird Conservancy (U.S.) suggested that a letter from WHMSI be drafted in

support of increased Congressional appropriations for the NMBCA program. The suggestion was adopted by consensus.

The information generated at this workshop will be shared with NMBCA administrators, proposal reviewers, and members of the advisory group. The comments will be considered with those from other NMBCA discussion forums in strategic planning for the NMBCA program.

V. Sea Turtle Conservation

The *Sea Turtle Conservation: Hawksbill sea turtle and leatherback turtle populations in the Western Hemisphere* thematic session took place on the third day of the Conference, concurrently with the thematic session on Neotropical Migratory Birds Conservation (see above.) The results of this session are summarized below.

Sea turtles are highly migratory animals and represent a shared resource among different nations since they use habitats of more than one country during their life cycle. Therefore, international cooperation is essential in achieving their conservation and management. Sea turtles are also important components of marine ecosystems and are considered to be both keystone and indicator species. Thus, many marine and terrestrial species would benefit from the protection and conservation of sea turtles and their habitats.

Six of the seven species of sea turtles in the world are found nesting in the Western Hemisphere. Two species, the leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) sea turtles are of special concern. Both are listed in Appendix I of CITES, Appendix II of the SPAW Protocol and Appendices I and II of the Convention on Migratory Species, in addition to being listed as critically endangered by the IUCN. Despite their protection, every day their populations are further endangered due to increases in anthropogenic threats, such as incidental capture in fisheries, over exploitation on nesting beaches to harvest their eggs, meat and carapace, loss of nesting and feeding habitats, and impacts to these habitats due to climate change. For example, data on leatherback nesting along the Eastern Pacific shows a reduction in their populations of more than 90% since 1980, identifying incidental capture in longline and gill net fisheries, unsustainable harvesting of turtles and their eggs, and the destruction or alteration of nesting habitats as the main threats. On the other hand, nesting activities of the hawksbill turtles in their main nesting zones in the Yucatan Peninsula has declined 65% over the past 5 years, and to date the causes for this decline are unknown.

Sea turtle conservation is a very complex topic, involving national fisheries and environmental authorities as well as different sectors of the civil society. In order to make decisions that provide sea turtles with proper protection and conservation efforts, these different sectors must have the proper knowledge of the challenges facing sea turtles and the best scientific information available.

The Third WHMSI Conference was a very important opportunity to inform participants from different sectors regarding the critical state of leatherback and hawksbill sea turtle populations in the Western Hemisphere, especially regarding leatherbacks in the Eastern Pacific and hawksbills in the Greater Caribbean and Western Atlantic. The objective of this thematic session was to inform participants from the different sectors of the challenges facing sea turtles in the Western Hemisphere and identify the necessary priority actions to be carried out by the different sectors for their conservation.

The session was going to be divided into two components. The first component was going to be technical presentations by experts on the conservation status of both leatherback and hawksbill populations as well as an introduction to the interactions between sea turtles and fisheries. The second component was going to be to divide into two working groups, one for each species. However, due to the small group of participants (15 individuals participated in the session) it was decided not to separate into two groups, but instead have the entire group discussion focus on the main threats to both species and the development of a list of priority actions to address these threats.

The group focused on climate change and fisheries interactions, two transversal challenges facing leatherback and hawksbill sea turtles. The group concluded that many information gaps and capacity building needs exist. This conclusion coincides with the WHMSI objective regarding information and capacity building. Specific, tangible actions that take into consideration the information gaps and capacity building needs and could be accomplished within a one year time period were recommended and are represented in the following table. Partners currently working on the topic were included to facilitate connections between existing initiatives, conventions, and agreements in the Western Hemisphere focused on marine migratory species. The potential for making these valuable connections was noted by the group as one of the main benefits of involving WHMSI in this topic, as different countries were members to different Conventions and agreements. The group agreed that WHISMI is the common ground that can bring them together to work at a Hemisphere level.

Challenges	Information & Capacity Building		Actions	Partners
	<i>Information</i>	<i>Capacity Building</i>		
Climate Change	ACT (Collecting information)	Adaptations Techniques for Sea Turtles/ Ecosystems Coastal development, integrated coastal management	1. Unite/strengthen capacity building efforts and information dissemination (ACT) for the entire Hemisphere 2. Design & disseminate tool kit for adapting ecosystems of sea turtles	ACT, WWF, WIDECAS
Fisheries Impacts		Increase capacity of on-board observers/ train new observers Work with stakeholders/ decision makers on sea turtle conservation	1. Dissemination on mitigation methods to test, introduction of new technologies (e.g., dipnets, circle hooks, TEDs, modified gillnets). Identify future needs for training (fishermen exchanges, specific to gear modification). 2. Map of stakeholders, networks, identify gaps (on board observer programs). 3. Hold meeting of stakeholders identified in “map” in order to facilitate the government adoption of on-board observer programs and bycatch. 4. Promote/encourage systemized on board observer programs through established mechanisms and create regional database and disseminate information. 5. Identify, compile existing materials on species identification (sea birds, marine mammals, sea turtles), data collection forms, work together to print materials and make it readily available. 6. Cross cutting environmental education and communication campaign geared towards key stakeholders, which allows us to reach all stakeholders. 7. Training in ecosystem based management of fisheries of government, NGOs, and fishermen.	Karumbe, IATTC, ICCAT, OSPESCA, IAC, FAO, OLDPESCA, WECAFC, WWF, GCFL, WIDECAS, CARICOM, Project Global, CPPS, WHMSI, NGOs, etc

The group presented the following general recommendations to the plenary:

- The group recognizes the opportunity for increasing sea turtle awareness and incorporation in WHMSI through holding a sea turtle thematic session.
- The group recommends that WHMSI include other marine migratory species in its future planning for capacity building projects.
- The group noted that thus far WHMSI has had very “bird perspective” and that the perspective needs to be broadened.
- The group submits these preliminary action items for consideration as to ways that WHMSI can incorporate migratory marine species further into the initiative.
- Finally, the group requests that the capacity building projects for year 2 and 3 take into consideration these action items so that the WHMSI partners can continue to move forward on the conservation of migratory species, especially in the marine environment.
- Recommends that WHMSI sign a future Memorandum of Understanding with the IAC.

VI. Adapting Habitats in the Face of Climate Change

The *How to adapt habitats of importance to migratory species in the face of climate change – educating decision makers and conservationists in the Western Hemisphere* thematic session took place on the fourth and final day of the conference. Due to its importance to all species, the session was plenary in nature. The results of this session are summarized below. For more information, see Appendix III Comments from Thematic Sessions.

According to the International Panel for Climate Change up to 30% of species may go extinct as a consequence of habitat alterations due to climate change if temperature rises above 2.5oC. Migratory species are no exception, and in fact face particular challenges. Because they depend on different habitats at different times, they are vulnerable to changes in any of these habitats and to the different responses of these habitats to climate change. Migratory species, especially long-distance migrants, may be among the most threatened of all animal species as a result of these vulnerabilities. Many migrant species depend on critical habitats that may be severely degraded by shifts in the regime of air or water temperatures, drought, rainfall or other factors. Andean mountain habitats may be dramatically altered and under certain circumstances even disappear. Inland wetlands may suffer the consequences of severe seasonal flooding or droughts. The Amazon forest

lowlands in the East are expected to turn into savannahs. Marine turtle nesting beaches in tropical areas may become too hot for embryos to develop, and sea level rise is likely to erode away some of the key nesting areas. The distribution and migratory pathways of fish in the ocean are expected to shift and their abundance to change locally with severe implications to the livelihoods that depend on them. These and many more impacts need to be taken into account in the design and management of protected areas and of species conservation projects. There is, however, an alarming gap in the awareness about these issues among natural resource managers and decision makers, and consequently in conservation strategies and action plans too.

The Third WHMSI Conference served as a key opportunity to educate widely and strategically about the role of climate change considerations in conservation work. This workshop, organized by WWF, set out to build capacity and facilitate the development of climate change vulnerability assessments and adaptation projects in the conservation agenda for migratory species of the Western Hemisphere. A total 38 natural resource managers, conservationists and policy makers from governments and NGOs of the Western Hemisphere participated in the workshop. The workshop aimed to answer two questions:

1. *CLIMAWARE: What are the impacts of climate change to those ecosystems on which migratory species of the Western Hemisphere depend?* Presentations by WWF staff and one colleague from Wild Foundation covered the science and status of climate change as well as impacts on inland wetlands, mountain habitats, forests & grasslands, coastal and marine habitats
2. *CLIMADAPT: How can we respond with adaptation to the ongoing and upcoming impacts of climate change?* This component, focused on society driven adjustments, was developed in four thematic working groups: 1) Marine & coastal ecosystems, 2) Highlands, 3) Lowlands and 4) Islands. The documents crafted by each working groups are included in section 6 below.

At the end of the session participants had:

- learned about the ongoing and future impacts of climate change to migratory species and their habitats in the Western Hemisphere.
- learned about some options for adaptation, opportunities to strengthen resilience and limitations
- learned about the pertinence of incorporating an adaptation agenda into their work and how to go about it

- produced a rudimentary blueprint for climate change projects that include vulnerability assessments, adaptation and resilience-building activities relevant to their work.
- received basic information materials and sources for further scoping of climate change effects and resilience-building. A CD compilation of 33 pertinent documents was distributed to each participant, along with two pins about WWF's ClimAware program and a leaflet outlining WWF's Marine Turtle and Climate Change Program. The PowerPoint presentations were

obtained by participants who requested them. These, along with the documents of the CD, are posted also on the Eco-Index WHMSI Pathway website for downloading:

English: http://www.eco-index.org/migratory/tools/information_climate.cfm

Spanish: http://www.eco-index.org/migratorio/tools/information_climate.cfm

Participants agreed to try to meet again within two years at a location and date to be determined.

Appendix I: Conference Agenda

Third Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative Conference

Yacht and Golf Hotel, Asunción, Paraguay

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

9am-9:30am:

Welcome by Hosts: Minister of Environment, Paraguay: His Excellency Carlos Antonio López Dose; Minister of Tourism, Paraguay: Her Excellency Liz Cramer; Executive Director, Guyra Paraguay: Alberto Yanosky

9:30am-10am: Introductions

10am-10:30am:

Keynote Address (Alberto Yanosky)

10:30am-10:45am: Coffee Break

10:45am-11:45am:

Updates since WHMSI 2. Moderator: Herb Raffaele. Partnerships:

- Signed Memoranda of Understanding (CREHO, SCSCB, WHSRN, US NABCI, SPAW, CMS, MCT)
- Outreach to other migratory species networks
- Western Hemisphere Bird Banding Network (Humberto Berlanga)
- Analysis of International Conventions and Regional Agreements as they pertain to migratory species and relation to WHMSI (Richard Huber)

11:45am-12:30pm:

Updates since WHMSI 2 (continued). Moderator: Maria Rivera. Outreach and Dissemination of Information:

- WHMSI website (Rosa Montanez)
- Eco-Index WHMSI Pathway (Melissa Krenke)
- National migratory species directories (Jorge Cravino)
- WHMSI logo and brochure (Carlos Drews)

12:30pm-2pm: Lunch

2pm-2:30pm:

Updates since WHMSI 2 (continued). Continued discussion and approval of logo and brochure

2:30pm-3pm:

Updates since WHMSI 2 (continued). Moderator: Charles Duncan.

Capacity Building Implementation Plan:

- GEF proposal (Herb Raffaele)
- New focus of Wildlife Without Borders-Latin America/Caribbean and Mexico Programs to address WHMSI priorities (Herb Raffaele)
- Implementation of regional projects (WIDECAS representative)

3pm-3:30pm:

Coffee Break

3:30pm-6:30pm:

OAS Capacity Building Proposal. Moderator and Presenter: Richard Huber (see detailed agenda for this session).

- Update on proposal
- Review of capacity building needs for the conservation of migratory species based on results from WHMSI 2
- Planning for subregional action plans to implement capacity building strategies (3 working groups)
- Discussion of Years 2 and 3 priority audiences and themes for training
- Presentation of results to plenary

8pm-10pm: Welcome Event at Yacht and Golf Hotel

Rapporteur Day 1: Rosa Montanez

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

9am-10:30am:

Dedication of Bahia de Asuncion as a Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) Site, Cabildo de Asuncion

10:30am-12:30pm:

Visit Bahia de Asuncion, Rio Paraguay

12:30pm-2pm:

Lunch

2pm-6pm:

Discussion of WHMSI Purpose and Organization structure (formerly named Terms of Reference) (Moderator: Herb Raffaele).

Rapporteur Day 2: Antoinette Condo

Thursday, July 24, 2008

9am-3pm:

Two concurrent thematic sessions

1. Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Program. Coordinators: Herb Raffaele and Michael Kreger.
2. Sea Turtle Conservation. Coordinators: Marco Solano and Belinda Dick. (See agenda for each session)

3pm-4pm:

Report to Plenary

4pm-6pm:

WHMSI Purpose and Organization structure (cont).
Moderator: Herb Raffaele.

7:30pm:

Paraguayan Night, Yacht and Golf Hotel

Friday, July 25, 2008

9am-5:30pm:

Plenary thematic session on “How to Adapt Habitats of Importance to Migratory Species in the Face of Climate Change”. Coordinator: Carlos Drews. (See agenda for this session)

5:30pm-6pm:

Summary of Conference decisions and follow up needed (Chair, ISC)

6pm:

Official Closing of Conference (Hosts)

Appendix II: Specific & Thematic Session Agendas

OAS Proposal Session

Tuesday, July 22, 2008, 3:30pm-6:30pm

3:30pm-3:45pm:

Presentation of Project (Richard Huber, OAS)

- Update on proposal, based on Execution Plan submitted to OAS)
- Review of capacity building needs for the conservation of migratory species based on results from WHMSI 2 (see attached summary of identified priority themes and audiences, as well as definitions of audiences)
- RFP for implementation of Year 1 subregional training workshops: information on how RFP was distributed; proposals submitted; review process; review outcomes

3:45pm-4:45pm:

Planning for subregional action plans to implement capacity building strategies. There will be three working groups: 1) Mesoamerica; 2) Caribbean; 3) South America. ISC members will serve as moderators for each session. Identify note takers for each session. Each WG will be charged with refining the content and duration of each training workshop based on the selected proposal for their subregion, as well as developing a training agenda, adding partners, etc., based on available funds.

4:45pm-6pm:

Discussion of Years 2 and 3 priority audiences and themes for training. Identify mechanism for follow up over the course of the conference, who will participate and who will lead it for each sub-region.

6pm-6:30pm:

Presentation of results to plenary.

PRIORITY AREAS AND ACTIVITIES IDENTIFIED BY WESTERN HEMISPHERE COUNTRIES AT THE WHMSI CONFERENCE IN SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA, JANUARY 2006

The capacity building implementation plan will provide support for the long-term development and continuity of regional training for conservation and management of migratory species in the Western Hemisphere countries. The plan will address each of the themes and target audiences summarized below.

1. *Subject Area:* Monitoring & Evaluation

Audiences: Park Personnel, Protected Area Managers, Technical Conservation Personnel, Local NGOs, Upper Level Students

2. *Subject Area:* Administration, including Fundraising/ Financial Mechanisms, Organization Administration/ Management, and Project Development/ Management

Audiences: Protected Area Managers, Local NGOs, Technical Conservation Personnel

3. *Subject Area:* Social and Economics Issues, including Law, Policy Understanding and Compliance / Conflict Resolution / Economic Incentives (for Legislators-Political Officials); Sustainable Development and Ecotourism (for Community Leaders)

Audiences: Community Leaders, Legislators-Political Officials

4. *Subject Area:* Environmental Education and Outreach

Audiences: Teachers, Local NGOs and relevant government organizations. (Note: Although hunters/consumers/fishers and the media received enough marks to be part of this theme, the proponents decided that these were not audiences to train on how to do environmental education but rather should be recipients of environmental education).

5. *Subject Area:* Sustainable Resource Use, including Sustainable Harvest, Sustainable Collection and Best Practices

Audiences: Hunters/Fishers/Consumers; Community Leaders; and Industry

Audience Definitions

Park Personnel: In some countries protected area park guards are the only public presence of the national government. For some participants this would be their first on-the-job training experience.

Protected Area Managers: Management of protected areas is sometime done by government personnel, often located far from the protected area, and, in some countries by staff of non-government organizations contracted for that purpose. We include both in this category.

Technical Conservation Personnel: Employees of government terrestrial and marine wildlife and conservation agencies, or non-governmental organizations, as well as fisheries agencies relevant to migratory species. To continue success of employee participation, close collaboration with local governments will be critical to appropriately reflect local needs and issues.

Local NGOs: Non-governmental organizations and grassroots development organizations that have the know-how and influence to play a critical role as trainers, communications channel and interface between local communities and the relevant elements of the capacity building plan.

Upper Level Students: Future conservation professionals (wildlife biologists, managers, local leaders, and policymakers), pursuing Master of Science (M.Sc.) and certificate level degrees, as well as some doctor of philosophy (PhD.) degrees in natural resource conservation and management.

Community Leaders: Community leaders and/or “opinion leaders”, including media practitioners, would be selected from those progressive members of the community that can catalyze actions and make the extension message compelling (“train the trainers”).

Legislators-Political Officials: Select groups of policymakers, most with likely little background in the environmental sciences and issues related to conservation and sustainable development, and who will influence decision making in this field.

Teachers: Select individuals at the elementary and secondary levels responsible for designing and delivering environmental or science related curricula, as well as selected individuals at relevant institutions or organizations (national or regional) involved with the science/environmental curricula (eg. at Ministries of education).

NMBCA Session Thursday, July 24, 2008, 9am-3pm

9:00am – 9:15am:

Workshop introduction – Herb Raffaele, US Fish and Wildlife Service

9:15am – 9:40am:

Introduction to the NMBCA Program: goals, objectives, and implementation – Michael Kreger, US Fish and Wildlife Service

9:40am – 10:00am:

Case Studies – Alberto Yanosky, Guyra, Paraguay

10:00am – 12:00pm:

Breakout Session: Enhancing the Act’s effectiveness abroad – Hemispheric discussion of key issues – facilitated by NMBCA Advisory Group members

Three breakout groups will be formed based on region: Mesoamerica, South America, and the Caribbean. Each group will discuss topics related to NMBCA implementation in Latin America. After a discussion of each topic the group will try to reach

a consensus on a specific recommendation or set of recommendations.

12:00pm-1:00pm: LUNCH

1:00 pm– 2:00pm:

Breakout Session continued. – facilitated by NMBCA Advisory Group members

2:00pm – 3:00pm:

Breakout group presentations. Summary of recommendations – Michael Kreger, US Fish and Wildlife Service

Sea Turtle Session Thursday, July 24, 2008, 9am-3pm

Coordinated by: Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles.

9:00am-9:30am:

Presentation on the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (Belinda Dick, CIT)

9:30am-10:00am:

Presentation on the conservation status of *Dermochelys coriacea* in the Western Hemisphere (Milagros Lopez, Karumbé; Oscar Ramírez-CONANP)

10:00am-10:40am:

Presentation on the conservation status of *Eretmochelys imbricata* (Belinda Dick-CIT; Oscar Ramírez, CONANP)

10:40am-11:10am:

Bycatch, mitigation measures, fishermen participation (Alejandro Fallabrino, Karumbé); Marine Turtle By-catch Reduction in Long-line Fisheries in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (Carlos Drews, WWF)

11:10am-12:30pm:

Two Working Groups: 1- *Dermochelys coriacea*, 2- *Eretmochelys imbricata*

12:30pm-1:30pm:

Lunch

1:30pm-2:30pm:

Continuation of the 2 Working Groups

2:30pm-3:00pm:

Present agreements reached in the working groups and approve them to be presented in the WHMSI plenary session.

Adapting Habitats in the Face of Climate Change Plenary

Friday, July 25, 2008, 9am-5:30pm

8:30am: Registration and distribution of materials to participants

9:00am: Introduction – concepts, session objective and methodology

9:10am: A changing climate in the Western Hemisphere: current observations and future projections (Michael Case)

9:20am: Climate change challenges to terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems in the Western Hemisphere (Michael Case)

9:40am: Climate change challenges to mountain ecosystems in the Western Hemisphere (Luis Germán Naranjo)

10:00am: Climate change challenges to marine ecosystems in the Western Hemisphere (C. Drews, L. Hawkes, N. Bood and J. Hoffman)

10:20am: Coffee break

10:40am: North American Pact - wilderness conservation as a strategic element in the global strategic response to climate change (Jaime Rojo, The WILD Foundation)

11:00am: The art & science of adaptation to climate change – What can we do about what we have already done? (Jennifer Hoffman)

11:40am: Breakout groups – Four case studies: the seeds for questioning and learning

12:30pm: Lunch

1:45pm: Breakout groups – Building the case and approach for an adaptation project

3:40pm: Coffee break

4:00pm: Sharing the lessons learned- Break-up groups report to plenary

5:00pm: Plenary discussion and wrap up thoughts

5:30pm: End of session.

Appendix III: Thematic Session Comments

NMBCA Session Comments

Note: Italics indicate interpretation of comment.

1. How might Act implementation be tailored to address in-country and regional needs?

Caribbean:

- Improve communication to the region on Act processes and proposals funded.
- There is a regional need for endemic bird [*conservation*], however the proposal focus must meet statutory objectives. Therefore make linkages between priorities for migratory species and endemics
- Development and loss of habitat are critical threats to the region. There is a need to better understand processes implications for land purchases and easements under the Act.
- The Act implementation must include governments of the region as partners.
- Outreach is critical to long-term conservation action and should be considered as part of any project proposal.

Mesoamerica:

- Make sure there is a connection between project-generated data and the appropriate decision makers.
- It is important to support processes that are participatory (government, local communities).
- Habitat

South America:

- The administrators of the projects must inform the national governments.
- Give priority to projects located in priority areas where migratory and resident species ranges overlap. (1 person)
- Consider austral migrants when evaluators look at local biodiversity. (1 person)

2. Does Act implementation need a more focused approach or does the process by which the Act is implemented need to be refined? Should it focus on particular species, habitats, particular mechanisms or programs (education, monitoring, etc.) for achieving success?

Caribbean:

- Recognize the need for strategic allocation of funding; however, given the current level

and source of funding, broad-based funding throughout the hemisphere as currently administered is okay.

- As the funding levels grow, strategic approaches to funding will be recommended.
- The current funding level should be viewed as seed money to promote the objectives of the Act and meet capacity-building needs.

Mesoamerica:

- [*Focus on*] habitat management in highly threatened habitat types.
- Use habitat as a key to linking endemic species to migratory species.

South America:

- All countries that have migratory birds should have an equal chance of receiving funds. (1 person)

3. What do you see as the role of the Advisory Group? What would you like them to know?

Caribbean:

- The advisory council needs continued advice on regional realities to highlight particular and ongoing challenges.
- Use existing regional organizations to assist in dissemination of accurate information and generation of projects.
- Seek forums to obtain feedback, provide information to ensure relevancy of the Act.

Mesoamerica:

- Ensure that projects involve local people.
- Ensure that there are regional efforts (monitoring).
- They must be familiar with regional government initiatives so that the projects are not duplicative.

South America:

- Regional representation from outside the U.S. should be rotated.
- Have an annual process to provide information to the advisory group.

4. Is it a priority that projects become sustainable? If so, how might that be accomplished?

Caribbean:

- Yes, but some projects have a discrete timeline.
- The Act implementation must include governments of the region as partners.

- Local community involvement is critical.
- 3:1 match is a strategy to promote sustainability.
- Outputs have to have benefits more than just birds – show benefits to communities.
- It is difficult to have a grantee articulate the concept of sustainability in a proposal; therefore a matrix of what constitutes sustainability should be developed to include, for example, tourism ventures, local guides, payment for ecological services, governmental legislation.

Mesoamerica:

- Projects should complement or link to government efforts.
- There should be local involvement.
- It is important to know that some projects are risky. Suggest that seed money be used to develop infrastructure to establish sustainability.

South America:

- Add fundraising and advocacy to the criteria for funded projects. It is important to recognize that advocacy and collection of funds during the course of the project. [*Funds may need to be used to advocate for project support*].
- Given the unique circumstances for each country, the projects should have the potential for NGOs and governments to work together, but the involvement of the government should not be required. Proposals should demonstrate partnerships (ie, NGO-government).
- Yes, it should be a priority that projects are sustainable, but not in the sense that the actions continue forever. Rather, they should bring about real permanent change.
- Add the concept of “additionality” to the definition of “sustainability.”
- The government should be involved in the development of proposals. (1 person)

5. Should there be a cap on grant “administrative” costs? If so, at what level?

Caribbean:

- Review costs on a case by case basis, but grantees are encouraged to exercise fiscal prudence in their proposal.

Mesoamerica:

- 20% seems reasonable, but if more is needed, it must be justified with an explanation of how future overhead will be reduced.

South America:

- Yes, there should be a maximum of 10% for grant administrative costs.

6. Should funding of salaries be acceptable? If so, to what extent? Does it matter that these individuals lose their positions after the grant expires? If so, what might be done to foster the sustainability of salaried positions?

Caribbean:

- Yes, where employment is required for the project duration.
- Creating tenured positions is not encouraged.
- An advantage of having the government as a partner is it may absorb this aspect.

Mesoamerica:

- Yes, salaries are necessary, but be clear about salaries for personnel versus contractors.

South America:

- Yes, it is acceptable. The level should depend on the amount of involvement of personnel in the project. Maintaining staff or their roles is not the responsibility of the Act.

7. Should there be a maximum or a minimum to the size of grants? If so, at what levels? Is there an ideal “average” grant size?

Caribbean:

- Yes and yes.
- A maximum is desirable considering the finite limit of funds.
- \$250,000 is okay under current appropriation levels as a maximum.
- \$15,000 is okay considering grant administration cost burden of the Act.

Mesoamerica:

- Make sure the smaller projects do not get left out.
- Consider how to ensure that smaller requests are funded.
- Change the perception of the program from financing projects to collaborating on projects since 75% of the funds are from the applicants.

South America

- With the level of funding available, it is better to finance many projects covering many species, habitats, and countries [*than few projects receiving most of the funds*].

8. Should there be a maximum project length? If not, what should be the conditions for supporting long-term projects?

Caribbean:

- Yes, three years.

- Project length for multi-year projects should be indicated from the first proposal.
- Long-term projects should be well-justified and reported back regularly.

Mesoamerica:

- Projects must be clear about duration. For example, “A 10-year project seeking two years of funding.”
- Two-year limit is fine.

South America:

- There should be a maximum project length of three years.
- It is better to divide large initiatives into phases. The first phase must be completed before funding is received for the second phase.

9. Should there be a limit to funding of a single grantee within a single cycle or over all cycles?

Caribbean:

- Yes, recognizing the need for addressing institution building needs of smaller organisations.
- The Act needs to focus on on-the-ground conservation activities as well as capacity building.
- Flexibility of the Act to address a variety of activities is a strength.

Mesoamerica:

- It is important to spread out funds.

South America

- This should depend on the evaluations of completed projects. The Act should provide sufficient administrative funds to allow administrators to evaluate the projects. Create a group of project evaluators.

10. How can WHMSI support NMBCA?

Caribbean:

- If WHMSI is successful in bringing governments together regularly on an international landscape there would be significant benefits.
- The advisory council would benefit from additional information on regional conservation needs. WHMSI may be able to assist in this effort.
- This WHMSI workshop illustrates the value of the initiative where input from a hemispheric audience has provided benefit to a single effort – the NMBCA.

Mesoamerica:

- This venue is the opportunity for us to have our input. Continue this.
- The voice of WHMSI could be a voice to the U.S. Congress for more funding. NMBCA is a program of cooperation.
- WHMSI could identify small projects.

South America:

- Organize events that give the advisory group current information.
- WHMSI should support the reauthorization of NMBCA. WHMSI could endorse NMBCA proposals. NMBCA could benefit from the WHMSI contacts, for example, for the evaluation of projects (MOU between WHMSI and NMBCA).

Summary and notes provided by Mike Kreger and Herb Raffaele.

Adapting Habitats in the face of Climate Change Session Comments

Working Group Discussions: How do we best go about incorporating adaptation to CC into our conservation work?”

5.1. LOWLANDS (< 500 m over sea level)

Facilitator: Jennifer Hoffman

Rapporteur: Francisco Rilla

Identification of discussion areas:

Wetlands
Grasslands / Prairies
Deserts
Education

Climate change effects on Wetlands:

Water flow (+-)
Variation of water flow
Loss of biodiversity/wildlife
Hydrophile vegetation

Solutions/adaptation/actions:

- Promotion of rational/wise use of wetlands
- Promotion of education and awareness
- Identification of alternative energy
- Maintenance of native forest cover to sustain natural flow and control sedimentation
- Watershed level conservation
- Enforcement of rules and legislation
- Identification of high risk areas of threatened wetlands
- Identification of information gaps

- Promotion of capacity building and dissemination of information
- Promotion of the concept of ecosystem vulnerability due to the effects of climate change
- Permanent monitoring of the status of wetlands and areas of influence
- Consideration of biological, physical, chemical and social variables
- Social consultation
- Formal environmental education in the field
- Pantanos de Villa in Peru (restoration case of wetlands in the Peruvian Pacific coast)
- Conservation of fresh water in the Fiji islands

5.2. ISLANDS

Facilitator: Michael Case

Rapporteur: Karl Watson

Primary climate change concerns:

1. Loss of sea bird nesting sites due to tropical storms & sea-level rise
2. Coastal defense construction (thus reducing habitats)
3. Coral reef bleaching (threat to socio-economic status-tourism, coastal protection)
4. Marine turtle sex ratio issue
5. Beach loss
6. Maintaining seasonal rivers
7. Mangrove protection from tropical storms
8. Increased storm severity and/or frequency
9. Change in migration season of (turtles, birds, whales) with impacts to eco-tourism
10. Increased runoff from increased precipitation and resulting erosion

A case study: coastal zones of islands in the Caribbean bring many of the above challenges together

Adaptation responses:

1. Translocation of birds to more suitable nest sites (e.g., *Pterodroma cahow*) keeping in mind, protective status at some temporal and spatial scale
2. Socio-economic response (policy, insurance companies, etc.) – setbacks for development
3. Identifying resilient and resistant coral reefs and transplanting coral and creating artificial reefs)
4. Beach shading (vegetation or man-made shading)
5. Artificial beach creation and management (maintaining sand) (coastal zone management)

6. Providing land-use buffers around streams also GIS/downscaled GCM priority setting of some streams over others also fair trade
7. Protection of mangrove to protect against storms and storm surge
8. Socio response could be migration (movement out of country and/or movement within the country) also alternative construction of human structures
9. Change of protection season and adjusting conservation practices to adapt to the changes in migration seasons. Flexible legislation for adjusting the protection seasons based on the scientific research (adaptive legislation). Adapt the eco-tourism-ensure that there are alternatives to eco-tourism (has to be country-specific), diversify your eco-tourism
10. Reforestation and restoring landscape and implement appropriate soil conservation techniques and REDD activities (with appropriate CDM schemes)

Case study – coastal protection:

1. Coastal Zone Ecosystems – adaptation strategies
 - a. Turtles – see Marine group & Carlos
 - b. Birds – see both low and high-elevation group decisions
 - c. Mangrove – most threatened by development and industrialization (protected areas with projected sea-level rise scenarios, policies of setbacks, buffer zones, no net loss policies, reducing sedimentation (from land degradation upstream), reducing land-based sources of pollution, reducing anticipated increase of charcoal production, reducing deforestation,
 - d. Coral – see Marine
2. Socio-economic – adaptation strategies (coastal setbacks, eco-tourism, development, etc.)
 - a. Climate-smart conservation planning – e.g., eco-tourism is based on, flexible, change in species patterns have to be in sync with industry including eco-tourism and protection (harvesting timing). Policy and legislation has reflect species behavior changes (e.g., harvesting season)
 - b. Managing coastal development (infrastructure setbacks)
 - c. Building public awareness of threats and importance of mitigating such threats, valuation (applying a value/cost of loss to mangrove systems – functions storm buffers, nurseries)
 - d. Involving and incorporating community knowledge and concerns and considering traditional and cultural knowledge
 - e. Identify and apply for adaptation funding (following both in-country and international initiatives)

5.3. MARINE AND COASTAL AREAS

Facilitators: Nadia Bood & Carlos Drews
 Rapporteur: Garry Donaldson

Areas of interest / focus: (ecosystems vs. species was decided) coastlines, coral reefs, mangroves and pelagic environments noting that all of these are linked so actions in one area will likely benefit others.

Objects	Impacts of CC	Climate Change
Turtles	Sedimentation/runoff	Sea level rise
Cetaceans	Beach erosion	Temperature increase
Shorebirds	Sex ratio	Radiation/heat
Water birds	Development	Change in bottom currents
Reefs	Bleaching	Rainfall
Pelagic species	Salinity	Extreme weather events
	Eyesight	
	Changes in bottom community	
	Changes in species composition	
	Changes in distribution and abundance of invertebrates	
	Changes in (prey) species composition	
	Nutrient changes	

IMPACT: Coastal modification

ACTIONS:

- Setbacks (non development or protective zone)
- Setbacks in back of mangroves to allow for mangroves to move inland as sea levels rise
- Engineering – armouring of existing habitat
- Engineering – to create habitat (seabird islands, mudflats)
- Policy in support of coastal development measures (insurance land use plans, tourism development)
- Encouragement of voluntary efforts

IMPACT: Embryonic development-Mortality due to increased temperatures

ACTIONS:

- Restoration of natural vegetation to shade nest sites on coastlines (Could have negative effect due to use of new vegetation by raptors and other predators)

- Cover sand with a material with a darker colour or larger grain size (could have negative effect on beach-breeding birds)

IMPACT: Changes in food species composition

ACTIONS:

- Temperature: ice, aerators, mobilize cooler water from deeper areas, underwater turbines, shading, climate smart Marine Protected Area system

IMPACT: Mortality of corals in water

ACTIONS:

- Salinity
- Currents

Adaptive management loop: understand the threat – understand the vulnerability – understand the risk (threat x vulnerability) – mitigate threats (adaptation plan) – test adaptation measures – monitor for effectiveness – evaluate and change plan as required. Often there isn't enough knowledge to support this cycle so research is needed. Need to be precautionary and communicate lessons learned so that others can learn as quickly as possible (time is of the essence). Need to consider that there are non-climate stressors as well.

5.4. MOUNTAIN ECOSYSTEMS

Facilitator: Luis Germán Naranjo
 Rapporteur: Jaime Rojo

Problems and solutions must be addressed at three scales:

- Local, ensuring ownership by actors in their territories through answers to specific needs and effective participation.
- Landscape, ensuring maintenance of essential ecological processes and provision of ecosystemic services.
- Regional/Ecoregional, allowing understanding of the ecological, social, political and economic context that provides an umbrella of agreement and negotiation at the national and international level.

Mountain ecosystems on islands present a series of unique challenges:

- Biotic mountain communities have a very limited altitudinal margin for their movement.
- Replacements in community composition are limited to a poor resource base with an important component of exotic species.
- There are a lot of ongoing conservation initiatives to address specific problems that can and should be rethought from the perspective of climate change.

Climate Change	Problems/Impacts	Adaptation Measures
Temperature Precipitation Hydrological regime	Loss & fragmentation of habitat Loss of species Increase in fire frequency & intensity	Reforestation, agrosilvopastoral systems, education and enforcement for the prevention and control of fire
Temperature Precipitation	Avalanches Soil erosion and loss Change in composition and phenology	Reforestation Socioeconomic measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable production systems • Diversification • Environmental education • Local empowerment
Decrease in cloud/fog cover: can be a problem to those already mentioned		
Increase in the expansion of exotic species as a problem associated with CC		
Infrastructure, mining and oil exploitation development can complicate this scenario even more		

Summary and notes provided by Carlos Drews.

Appendix IV: Participants List

Third Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative Conference

July 22-25, 2008

Yacht and Golf Hotel, Asunción, Paraguay

Country Delegates:

- **Argentina:** Sergio Goldfeder, Oficial Técnico, Secretaria de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable
- **Barbados:** Kart Watson, Ministry of the Environment
- **Brazil:** Onildo Joao Marini Filho, General Coordinator of Threatened Species, Instituto Chico Mendes
- **Canada:** Garry Donaldson, A/Manager, Species Population and Standard Management (SPASM), Canadian Wildlife Service
- **Chile:** Charif Tala, Encargado Unidad Vida Silvestre y Ecosistemas, Departamento de Recursos Naturales, CONAMA
- **Colombia:** Vladimir Puentes Granada, Direccion de Ecosistemas, Ministerio de Ambiente, Vivienda y Desarrollo Territorial
- **Costa Rica:** Angel Manuel Guevara Villegas, Programa de Vida Silvestre, Sistema Nacional de Areas de Conservación, Ministerio del Ambiente y Energia
- **Dominica:** Stephen Durand, Assistant Forest Officer/Protection, Forestry, Wildlife and Parks Division
- **El Salvador:** Ricardo Enrique Ibarra Portillo, Tecnico en Recursos Naturales, Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (MARN)
- **Guatemala:** Jorge Alberto Ruiz Ordoñez, Director, Departamento de Vida Silvestre, Consejo Nacional de Areas Protegidas
- **Haiti:** Paul Judex Edouarzin, Director Sols et Ecosystems, Ministry of Environment
- **Honduras:** Francisco Aceituno, Direccion de Biodiversidad, Secretaria de Recursos Naturales y Ambiente
- **Jamaica:** Ricardo Millar, Environmental Officer, National Environment and Planning Agency
- **México:** Martin Vargas Prieto, Director General, Direccion General de Vida Silvestre, SEMARNAT
- **Nicaragua:** Carlos Ramiro Mejia U., Responsable de Fauna Silvestre y Pesca, Direccion de Biodiversidad – MARENA
- **Panamá:** Ibelice Añino, Jefa de la Oficina de Vida Silvestre, Direccion de Areas Protegidas y Vida Silvestre -- Autoridad Nacional del Ambiente
- **Paraguay:** Luis Alberto Amarilla, Jefe Departamento de Vertebrados - Museo Nacional de Historia Natural del Paraguay
- **Peru:** Manuel Zosimo Sovero Camac, Especialista en Biodiversidad, IFFS-DCB, INRENA
- **Saint Lucia:** Lyndon John, Assistant Chief Forest Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
- **Suriname:** Bryan C. Drakenstein, Head, Nature Conservation Division
- **Uruguay:** Jorge Cravino, Director Departamento de Fauna, Direccion General de Recursos Naturales Renovables, Ministerio de Ganadería, Agricultura y Pesca
- **United States:** Herb Raffaele, Division of International Conservation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Interim Steering Committee:

- Herb Raffaele (Chair), Division of International Conservation, Fish & Wildlife Service
- Angel Manuel Guevara Villegas, Programa de Vida Silvestre, Sistema Nacional de Areas de Conservación, Ministerio del Ambiente y Energia, Costa Rica
- Jorge Cravino, Departamento de Fauna, Direccion General de Recursos Naturales, Renovables, Ministerio de Ganadería, Agricultura y Pesca, Uruguay
- Lyndon John, Assistant Chief Forest Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Saint Lucia
- Vladimir Puentes Granada, Direccion de Ecosistemas, Ministerio de Ambiente, Vivienda y Desarrollo Territorial, Colombia
- Carlos Drews, Regional Coordinator for Marine Turtle Conservation in Latin America and the Caribbean, WWF-Centroamérica
- George Wallace, Vice-President, International Division, American Bird Conservancy

- Alberto Yanosky, Chair/ BirdLife International (Americas)
- Francisco Rilla, UNEP/CMS Secretariat
- Maria Rivera, Senior Advisor for the Americas, Ramsar Convention
- Belinda Dick, Secretaria, Convencion Interamericana para la Proteccion y Conservacion de Tortugas Marinas (CIT)
- Richard Huber, Principal Environmental Specialist, OAS, Sustainable Development and Environment

NGOs and Conventions:

- Joaquín Aldabe, Director de Conservación, Aves Uruguay
- Nadia Bood, WWF
- Michael Case, Research Scientist, WWF
- Robert Clay, Senior Conservation Manager, BirdLife internacional
- Ian Davidson, Regional Director, Birdlife Internacional
- Celestina Díaz de Valdez, Presidente, Mymba Ka'aguy
- Andrew Dobson, President, Society for the Conservation & Study of Caribbean Birds
- Alejandro Fallabrino, Director, Karumbé
- Victoria Fleitas, Proyecto FIDA
- Cecilia Gasparrou, Fundacion Cethus
- Deb Hahn, Migratory Bird and NABCI Coordinator, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
- Jennifer Hoffman, WWF
- Melissa Krenke Norman, Neotropics Communication Manager, Rainforest Alliance
- Arne Lesterhuis, Coordinador Técnico de CNAA, Wetlands Internacional
- Milagros Lopez-Mendilaharsu, Coordinadora Científica, Karumbé
- Victoria Maldonado, Fundación Gaviotín Chico
- Rosa Montañez, Directora Ejecutiva, CREHO
- Luis German Naranjo, WWF
- Cristina Morales, Coordinadora Programa Especies, Guyra Paraguay
- Nadra Nathai-Gyan, Manatee Conservation Trust, Zoological Society
- Diana Pésole, Voluntaria, Mymba Ka'aguy
- Jaime Rojo, Executive Director, WILD9 – The 9th World Wilderness Congreso
- Gabriela Sanabria Baez
- Angélica Valez Díaz, Voluntaria, Mymba Ka'aguy

Additional Government Representatives:

- Kaush Arha, Deputy Assistant Secretary, US Department of the Interior
- Maria Celeste Benítez, Tecnica, Centro de datos/ SEAM, Paraguay
- Humberto Antonio Berlanga Garcia, Coordinador del Programa de la Iniciativa para la Conservacion Aves de America del Norte, Comision Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO), Mexico
- Antoinette Condo, US State Department
- Alexis Gutierrez, Office of Protected Resources, NOAA Fisheries Service, United States
- Brian Hayum, Division of International Conservation-Latin American and Caribbean Programs-US Fish & Wildlife Service, United States
- Guy B. Foulks, Wildlife Biologist, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, US Fish & Wildlife Service, United States
- Catherina Goetting, SEAM, Paraguay
- Michael Kreger, Deputy Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, US Fish & Wildlife Service, United States
- Carol Lively, Migratory WINGS Coordinator, Forest Service-International Programs, United States
- Dario Mandelburger, Director General, SEAM, Paraguay
- Pablo Martinez Menduiño, Tercer Secretario Embajada del Ecuador en Paraguay
- Santiago Alberto Molina Iriondo, Voluntario, Mymba Ka'aguy, Paraguay
- Carolina Pedrozo, Directora de Centro de Datos para la Conservación, SEAM, Paraguay
- Liz María Ramírez, Paraguay
- Oscar Manuel Ramírez Flores, Director de Especies Prioritarias para Conservación, Comision Nacional de Areas Naturales Protegidas (CONANP), Mexico
- Gildberth Sanchez Guzmán, Cónsul, Embajada de Costa Rica de Asunción
- Oscar Vallet, Jefe de areas prioritarias, SEAM, Paraguay

Appendix V: Interim Steering Committee

Herb Raffaele, Chair
Chief, Division of International Conservation
US Fish & Wildlife Service
4401 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 100
Arlington, Virginia 22203 USA
T: 703-358-1754 F: 703-358-2115
E: herb_raffaele@fws.gov

Vladimir Puentes Granada
Dirección de Ecosistemas
Ministerio de Ambiente, Vivienda y Desarrollo Territorial
Calle 37 No. 8-40 Piso 2, Bogotá D.C. Colombia
T: (57-1) 3323400 ext. 2344 F: (57-1) 3323457
E: VPuentes@minambiente.gov.co

Jose Joaquín Calvo Domingo
Encargado de Vida Silvestre
Sistema Nacional de Áreas de Conservación
Ministerio del Ambiente y Energía
San José, Costa Rica
T: (506) 283-8004 F: (506) 283-7343
E: jjcalvo@minae.go.cr; jjcalvoc@yaho.com

Jorge Luis Cravino
Director Departamento de Fauna
Dirección General de Recursos Naturales Renovables
Ministerio de Ganadería, Agricultura y Pesca
Cerrito 318, C.P. 11.000
Montevideo - URUGUAY
T: (598 2) 9156452-53, -741, F: 9156456
E: jcravino@mgap.gub.uy

Lyndon John
Chief Forest Officer, Forestry Department
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
5th Floor, Sir Stanislaus James Building, Castries,
St. Lucia
T: (758) 450-2078 F: (758) 450-2287
E: lynjohn1@yahoo.com; chiefforest@slumaffe.org

Carlos Drews
Regional Coordinator for Marine Turtle
Conservation in Latin America and the Caribbean
WWF-Centroamérica
Apartado 629-2350
San José, Costa Rica
T: 506-2348434 F: 506-2534927
E: cdrews@wwfca.org

George Wallace
Vice-President for International Conservation Programs
American Bird Conservancy
P.O. Box 249
The Plains, VA 20198 USA
T: 540-253-5780 F: 540-253-5782
E: gwallace@abcbirds.org

Charles Duncan
Western Hemisphere Reserve Shorebird Network
76 Emery Street
Portland, ME 04102 USA
207-871-9295 Fax: 207-842-6496
cduncan@manomet.org

Alberto Yanosky
Chair/ BirdLife International (Americas)
Guyra Paraguay/Birdlife International
C.C.: 1132, Cnel. Rafael Franco 381
c/L. Prieto, Asuncion, Paraguay
T: 595-21-227777 (telfax)
E: yanosky@guyra.org.py; ayanosky@hotmail.com

Francisco Rilla
Agreements Officer
UNEP/CMS Secretariat
Martin-Luther-King-Str. 8
53175 Bonn, Germany
T: 0049 228 815 2422 F: 0049 228 815 2449
E: frilla@cms.int; FRillaManta@cms.int

Maria Rivera
Senior Advisor for the Americas
Ramsar Convention Bureau c/o IUCN
28 rue Mauverney
1196 Gland, Switzerland
T: 4122 9990178/75 F: 4122 9990169
E: rivera@ramsar.org

Marco A. Solano M
Secretario Pro-tempore
Convención Interamericana para la Protección y
Conservación de Tortugas Marinas (CIT)
Apartado 10104-1000
San Jose, Costa Rica
T: 506-2572239 F: 506-2224732
E: citsecret@amnet.co.cr

Alessandra Vanzella-Khoury
Programme Officer
Caribbean Environment Programme
Regional Co-ordinating Unit UNEP
14 - 20 Port Royal Street, Kingston, Jamaica
T: (876) 922-9267 to 9 F: (876) 922-9292
E: avk@cep.unep.org

Richard Huber
Principal Environmental Specialist
OAS, Sustainable Development and Environment
T: 202-458-3227 Fax: 202-458-3560
RHuber@oas.org