

FOIA MARKER

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Folder Title:
Western Hemisphere Convention

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To: Katie
From: P.J.
Date: 8/2/93
Re: The Western Hemisphere Convention;
The DOI Western Hemisphere Program

Christian
please make a
file

I. The Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere (the Western Hemisphere Convention)

- The U.S. signed the Convention on 4/15/41.
- Congress enacted **implementing legislation** when it passed the Endangered Species Act of 1973, with Section 8(e) stating that the President would designate those Federal agencies which would "...act on behalf of, and represent, the United States in all regards as required by the [Western Hemisphere] Convention."
- President Ford signed an **executive order** on 4/14/76 designating the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to act on behalf of the U.S. in the implementation of the Convention.
- The **Endangered Species Act Amendments of 1982** further defined the role of the DOI in implementing the Convention. The Secretary of Interior was directed to take steps to implement the Convention, including (but not limited to): 1) developing personnel resources and programs to facilitate implementation of the Convention; 2) identifying species of birds that migrate between the U.S. and other Western hemisphere nations, identify their habitats, and helping to prevent their status; and identifying measures to address the protection of wild plants.

II. The DOI Western Hemisphere Program

- The 1982 Endangered Species Act Amendments directed the **DOI Fish and Wildlife Service** (Office of International Affairs) to provide international leadership in matters involving the convention. It created the "**Western Hemisphere Program**" to assist Latin American and Caribbean countries to become self-sufficient in their capacity to manage and conserve biological resources. It has a small annual budget of about \$750,000.
- The **Western Hemisphere Program's** most important goal is to develop personnel resources-- primarily through education, training and strengthening of national resource agencies, NGOs and other institutions. The Program has brought short and long-term training in wildlife and wildlands management by establishing graduate programs in Latin America, organizing local workshops and field training, and conducting some specific individualized training. Through its training programs and small grants, it has helped strengthen the institutional capabilities of various Latin American and Caribbean organizations to plan and implement local conservation and management

programs. The Program provides technical assistance to various migratory bird and endangered species conservation efforts, including financial assistance to institutions and organizations. It also distributes scientific and technical literature throughout the region, and conducts many conservation outreach campaigns aimed at the general public.

- The programs funded in FY93 include:
 - Central American Graduate Program in Biodiversity Conservation
 - Brazil Graduate Program in Biodiversity Conservation
 - Northern and Southern South America Graduate Program in Biodiversity Conservation
 - Biological Documentation Centers for Central and Northern South America (BioDoc)
 - Latin American Graduate Program in Environmental Education
 - International Exchange Program for Fish and Wildlife Managers
 - International Exchange Program in Protected Areas Management
 - International Reserve Manager Training Program (RESERVA)
 - Small Grants