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Western Hemisphere Convention

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 19, 1993

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Katie McGinty  
SUBJECT: Administration Wetlands Policy Initiative

*Wish I knew about this. Pryor has a head up.*

I. **ACTION-FORCING EVENT:** The Interagency Working Group on Federal Wetlands Policy, chaired by OEP, has completed a review of wetlands policy. The group has reached consensus on all issues contained in the attached package. **The historic significance of this fact should not be underestimated. Like the forest issue, this is one on which the agencies have been bitterly divided for years.**

We are required to submit one provision of this package to the Federal Register on August 23 to comply with the settlement of a court case, It will be available to the public on August 24. That provision will expand the scope of activities regulated under the Federal government's wetlands regulatory program. In the current climate, there is a general consensus that it would be a political mistake for the Administration's first public action on this issue to be an expansion of the regulatory program. **Therefore, I recommend that we release our whole package of initiatives on August 24, in order to give equal attention to the regulatory reforms contained in the proposal.**

II. **BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:** On April 28, 1993, you received a letter from seven Members of the U.S. Senate asking that you establish a working group on federal wetlands policy (Breaux, Pryor, Bumpers, Johnston, Mathews, Sasser, and Ford). Attached to the letter from the Senators was an excerpt from a Mississippi Delta Commission report concerning wetlands policy that you released in 1990.

We agreed to this request and established the Interagency Working Group. The working group sought the views of a broad range of stakeholders representing all perspectives in the wetlands debate. Presentations were received from: a bipartisan group of eight members of the U.S. Congress; representatives of state and local government; environmentalists; the development community; agricultural interests; scientists and others.

After listening to all sides, the working group drafted the attached document which has been approved by all of the participating agencies. It has also been reviewed and approved by CEA, NEC, and DPC. I believe that the working group has crafted a proposal that is sound policy and

the best politics achievable, given the political volatility of the issue.

Balance in this package is achieved by way of a two-pronged policy approach: (1) we demonstrate strong support for the protection of America's wetlands by maintaining the heart of the current regulatory program; and (2) we identify meaningful improvements in the implementation of that regulatory program to make it more fair, flexible, efficient, responsive, and predictable.

### III. Stakeholders

#### A. National Governors' Association

The NGA adopted a comprehensive wetlands policy last year which is to a very large extent consistent with this proposal. We have been consulting with them regularly and believe that they will be prepared to endorse it in congressional hearings later this fall. Securing the support of the NGA is one of the important components of our overall political strategy.

#### B. Congressional Supporters of Wetlands Programs

We also expect strong support from Congressional supporters of wetlands protection. OEP has kept in close touch with the Congressional committees of jurisdiction during the formulation of the proposed Administration policy. This package is quite similar to S. 1304, a wetlands bill introduced by Sens. Baucus and Chafee. We expect support from Sens. Baucus, Chafee, Graham (Senate Environment and Public Works) and Leahy (Senate Agriculture). We also expect the support of Rep. Mineta (House Public Works) and Rep. Studds (House Merchant Marine).

#### C. Congressional Critics of Wetlands Programs

Congressional critics of the current wetlands regulatory approach will find things to like and dislike in our proposal. We have not abandoned the current regulatory approach, as they have suggested, but we have embraced a number of proposals that they should be pleased with, such as instituting an appeals process for permit denials, imposing deadlines on the permit review and approval process that will lend certainty to the process and speed government action, mitigation banking, and flexibility guidance.

The two major concerns that we have not met are takings and categorization. We declined to endorse their takings legislative proposal on the grounds that these questions are extremely fact specific and are best decided in the courts rather than through legislative fiat. Categorization, as they see it, involves classifying all wetlands as high, medium or low value, and would require Federal purchase of all high value wetlands. The working group concluded that this is technically impossible, scientifically unsound, and fiscally prohibitive. The CBO estimated the cost of their plan would range from \$10 billion to \$45 billion.

#### D. Agriculture

Our package should address the major concerns of agriculture. We have excluded prior converted cropland from regulation, we have put the Soil Conservation Service in charge of wetlands determinations on agricultural land, and we support the Wetlands Reserve program. I do not, however, expect ringing endorsements from the agricultural community because they, like some Congressional critics, would support a dramatic weakening of the wetlands protection regime.

#### E. Environmentalists

Our proposal should receive a qualified endorsement from the environmental community. Some will be very nervous about some of the regulatory reform measures because they are concerned that we are opening loopholes that will result in weaker wetlands protection. Overall, however, because of pressures to completely dismantle the wetlands program, the environmental community will be relieved if we are able to maintain -- as we do here -- the basic structure of the program.

#### F. Developers, Realtors and Homebuilders

Like the wetlands critics in Congress, developers, realtors, and homebuilders will have mixed feelings about the package. They still will be required to engage in compensatory mitigation when their activities damage wetlands. At the same time, however, the regulatory reforms will be appealing to them; our efforts to increase certainty and eliminate inefficiency in the administration of the program will be very welcome.

### IV. Mississippi Delta Commission Report

For the record, the Mississippi Delta Commission Report states that "(t)he national wetlands policy has created significant problems for agriculture, aquaculture and commercial and industrial development." The problems referred to in the Report specifically relate to the 1989 "delineation manual" that was used by the Corps and EPA to identify wetland areas. The approach endorsed here addresses this concern by reverting to the use of the 1987 manual until an on-going National Academy of Sciences study is complete. And then, the 1987 manual will be amended through a fully public rulemaking process. The Delta Commission Report also contained a number of policy recommendations, many of which are included in our package and none of which conflict.

The policy positions contained in the attached paper strongly support the effective protection and restoration of the Nation's wetlands, while advocating much-needed reforms that increase the fairness and flexibility of wetlands regulatory programs. Aside from the governors, no interest group will be entirely satisfied with this package. However, I believe that this package will be grudgingly admired from almost all sides as a good faith effort to create a responsible -- and constructive -- middle ground position on a very polarized issue.

III. **RECOMMENDATION:** I recommend that you approve the release of the attached document entitled "Protecting America's Wetlands: A Fair, Flexible, and Effective Approach" on August 24, 1993.

IV. **DECISION:**

☒ Approve ☐ Approve as amended ☐ Reject ☐ No Action

## **PROTECTING AMERICA'S WETLANDS: A FAIR, FLEXIBLE AND EFFECTIVE APPROACH**

For the past three months the Interagency Working Group on Federal Wetlands Policy has brought together representatives of all of the agencies involved in Federal wetlands regulation. The group worked with five basic principles and has developed a series of policy recommendations:

### **I. FIVE PRINCIPLES FOR FEDERAL WETLANDS POLICY**

1) **No Overall Net Loss Of Wetlands** The Administration supports the interim goal of no overall net loss of the Nation's remaining wetlands, and the long-term goal of increasing the quality and quantity of the Nation's wetlands resource base;

2) **Flexible, Fair and Efficient Regulation** Regulatory programs must be efficient, fair, flexible, and predictable, and must be administered in a manner that avoids unnecessary impacts upon private property and the regulated public, and minimizes those effects that cannot be avoided, while providing effective protection for wetlands. Duplication among regulatory agencies must be avoided and the public must have a clear understanding of regulatory requirements and various agency roles;

3) **Increased Use of Non-Regulatory Programs** Non-regulatory programs, such as advance planning; wetlands restoration, inventory, and research; and public/private cooperative efforts must be encouraged to reduce the Federal government's reliance upon regulatory programs as the primary means to protect wetlands resources and to accomplish long-term wetlands gains;

4) **Partnerships** The Federal government should expand partnerships with State, Tribal, and local governments, the private sector and individual citizens and approach wetlands protection and restoration in an ecosystem/watershed context; and

5) **Best Science Available** Federal wetlands policy should be based upon the best scientific information available.

### **II. A COMPREHENSIVE PACKAGE OF REFORMS**

Building upon these principles, the working group has developed a comprehensive package of initiatives that will significantly reform Federal wetlands policy, while maintaining protection of this vital natural resource. Balance in this package is achieved by way of a two-pronged policy approach: (1) we demonstrate strong support for the protection of America's wetlands by maintaining the heart of the current regulatory program; and (2) we identify meaningful improvements in the implementation of that regulatory program to make it more fair, flexible, efficient, responsive, and predictable.

### **III. Major Initiatives**

#### **A. Increasing Regulatory Efficiency and Flexibility**

- Establish deadlines on the wetlands permit review and approval process.
- Institute an administrative appeals process for permit denials.

- Continue use of the 1987 Wetlands Delineation Manual, as previous attempts to revise it were extremely controversial. After results of an on-going National Academy of Sciences study are in, revise the manual subject to a fully public rulemaking process, if modifications are necessary.
- Standardize wetlands delineation training and certification to increase consistency and certainty in the delineation process.
- Issue guidance to clarify the flexibility inherent in the determination guidelines to make regulatory decisions based on the relative severity of the environmental impacts.
- Endorse the use of mitigation banks, with appropriate environmental safeguards, as an acceptable method of compensation for unavoidable wetlands losses.

#### **B. Maintaining Wetlands Protection**

- Issue an Executive Order embracing the interim goal of no overall net loss, and the long-term goal of increasing the quality and quantity of the Nation's wetlands.
- Support "advance planning" initiatives at the local and regional level.
- Encourage enhanced state, tribal and local roles in wetlands protection.
- Withdraw the proposed "Alaska 1% Rule" which would have greatly relaxed wetlands protection in Alaska.
- Expand support for the Wetlands Reserve Program and other voluntary and cooperative measures which encourage the protection and restoration of wetlands.
- Clarify that isolated wetlands (prairie potholes, vernal pools, playa lakes) are subject to regulation.

#### **C. Meeting Agricultural Concerns**

- Harmonize the Clean Water Act Wetlands Delineation Manual, which is used by the Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Food Security Act manual which is used by the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) to make wetlands determinations on agricultural land to ensure constancy in determinations.
- Establish SCS as the lead agency for wetlands determination on agricultural land so farmers only have to go to one agency for determinations.

· Issue a rule clarifying that 53 million acres of prior converted cropland -- agricultural land that no longer exhibits wetlands characteristics -- are not subject to wetlands regulation.

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

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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.

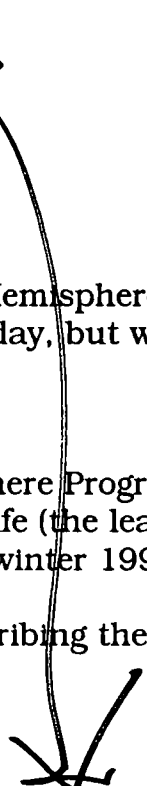
- The programs funded in FY93 include:
  - Central American Graduate Program in Biodiversity Conservation
  - Brazil Graduate Program in Biodiversity Conservation
  - Northern and Southern South America Graduate Program in Biodiversity Conservation
  - Biological Documentation Centers for Central and 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

**MEMO TO KATIE FROM P.J. AND AIMÉE**  
**RE: WESTERN HEMISPHERE CONVENTION**  
**DATE: 7/30/93**

Here are some papers on the Western Hemisphere Convention. If you'd like, we can summarize them for you on Monday, but we thought that you might like to look over them this weekend.

Enclosed:

- The FY89 and FY90 Western Hemisphere Program catalog of the Office of International Affairs at U.S. Fish and Wildlife (the lead agency on this);
- and two updates (summer 1992 and winter 1993) from Interior's Fish and Wildlife, the lead agency on this; and
- a note from OES to Wirth briefly describing the status of the Convention.



*Alisa Summary*

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# Western Hemisphere Program



for FY89 and FY90

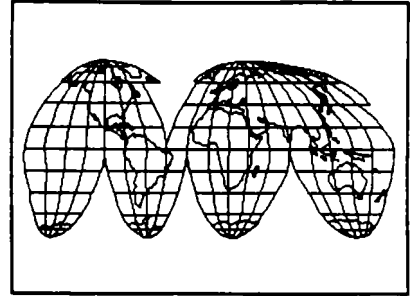
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U.S. Department of the Interior  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Office of International Affairs

## Western Hemisphere Program

# UPDATE

W I N T E R 1 9 9 3



### The Western Hemisphere Convention- cornerstone of hemispheric cooperation for conservation.

In October 1940, the eyes of most Americans were focused on the growing conflict in Europe. But a small group of conservationists from Latin America and the United States had their eyes focused on something closer to home- a meeting in Washington to discuss the protection and preservation of wildlife.

Resulting from this gathering was a document known as the **Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere**, commonly referred to as the Western Hemisphere Convention (WHC). The WHC provided for the establishment of parks for public education and enjoyment, nature reserves for plant and animal protection, nature monuments for strictly controlled access and research, and wilderness areas closed to commerce and

motorized entry. It also provided for coordinated migratory bird management and for control over the take of protected species through regulated permits for import, export, and transit of protected flora and fauna and their parts. It opened the way to cooperation and assistance in research and field studies and for the sharing of scientific knowledge. Within the WHC were the seeds of our current wilderness legislation, the biosphere reserve concept, the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and the principles of public use management. President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the WHC on April 15, 1941 by which time events in Europe and the Pacific left little time for wildlife conservation.

Despite the war, increasing numbers of Latin American nations came to endorse the WHC. Today there are 20 signatories.

Implementing legislation for the Convention was not enacted until Public Law 93-205, the Endangered Species

OAS says 18

Act of 1973 (16 USC 1531-1543; 87 Stat.884). Section 8(e) of the Act stated 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 Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere." President Ford, in Executive Order 11911 (41 FR 73, April 14, 1976) designated the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to act on behalf of the United States in the implementation of the Convention.

Department of the Interior responsibilities were further defined in the Endangered Species Act Amendments of 1982 (Public Law 97-304). These amendments directed the Secretary of the Interior to take steps to implement the Convention which would include, but not be limited to:

**Developing personnel resources and programs to facilitate implementation of the Convention;**

**Identifying species of birds that migrate between the U.S. and other Western Hemisphere nations, identifying the habitats of these species, and implementing cooperative measures to ensure that these species do not become endangered or threatened; and**

**Identifying measures to address the protection of wild plants.**

Implementation of the Convention takes special relevance after Rio where

there was a renewed call for nations to cooperate in a spirit of global partnership to conserve, protect, and restore the health and integrity of the Earth's ecosystem. However, since 1982, Section 8A(e) of the ESA has directed the FWS to provide international leadership in matters involving the convention.

The FWS response was to shape and implement the Western Hemisphere Program, an initiative that stresses education, training and the strengthening of national resource agencies and NGO's; these are key ingredients necessary to develop sound policy-making and promote sustainable natural resources utilization within the region.

### **The Western Hemisphere Program: Building Partnerships for Conservation**

The overall objective of the Fish and Wildlife Service's Western Hemisphere program is the establishment of a cadre of well-trained conservation and natural resource management specialists in Latin America and the Caribbean. This group of professionals is essential for setting local priorities, guiding their implementation, promoting the development of a local conservation ethic, and basically moving each country forward from within. No other type of U.S. effort to assist WHC implementation is as important as the support of training; and without effective training, many other

substantially lose their effectiveness.

In promoting the development of these personnel resources the WHP has relied on the establishment of productive partnerships with local institutions. Through a process incorporating dialogue and sharing of resources between the USFWS and the national partner institution, the strengthening and empowering of these institutions to carry out high quality training on a regional level has been accomplished.

This initiative has been the single most important component of the Western Hemisphere Program. The goal has been to foster the development of model regional institutes that offer an array of options including graduate-level training, model research-training projects, reserve manager training, environmental education program development, in-service workshops, and information exchange. Each training center has as its core a university which possesses effective ties with local natural resource agencies and conservation groups, a data or documentation center for information compilation and distribution, a wildlife reserve sustaining a diversity of habitats, where practical management and research techniques can be learned through hands-on activities.

Training needs for the hemisphere now greatly surpass the capacity of any single entity to support, and these needs will increase

substantially in the near future. The Service's Western Hemisphere program has only taken the first steps in the promotion of long-term training. A more robust training program must be developed for the region (a GEF proposal to this effect has been prepared by the USFWS/WHP). Meanwhile, only through unprecedented cross agency cooperation, and the efforts of other donors, can a training network be sustained and hopefully expanded to serve the region's increasing training demands. Promoting and supporting the training of human resources is one of the primary areas where cooperation can lead to cost-effective actions of substantial regional significance.

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**For more information about the Western Hemisphere Program contact:**

**Herb Raffaele (703)-358-1767**  
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### **Long-term training- Why?**

The impacts of inadequate natural resource management of forests and other living systems, are critical in several tropical Latin American nations. Widespread deforestation and the dramatic landscape changes brought about by intensive agricultural and extractive techniques are causing losses in biological diversity that some scientists consider to be of unprecedented magnitude. Latin America, which contains

over half of the world's remaining tropical forests, has experienced one of the highest rates of deforestation.

This loss of biodiversity is a cause for alarm for many reasons besides its profound ethical and aesthetic implications. It reflects irreversible alterations to ecosystem processes and geochemical cycles which, in turn may result in economic impacts. Implicit in the loss of biodiversity are severe and irreversible damages to assets needed for sustainable development.

This destructive trend is a result of traditional development concepts that have favored the "mining" of natural resources. Economic growth has been maintained at the expense of the destruction and degradation of natural resources. Environmental institutions have had limited mandates, capacities and incentives to develop the skilled personnel required to effectively staff them. Thus, compounding the loss of biodiversity is a severe shortage of trained personnel.

As a result, the major obstacles to developing and implementing conservation policies in Latin America, as in other developing nations, are the shortage of trained personnel and lack of institutional capacity. These are critical elements that need to be addressed in order to sustainably manage natural resources and to solve the environmental problems that have been caused by inappropriate resource use.

This fact is duly recognized in a Report to the President by a U.S. Interagency Task Force on Tropical Forests (1980).

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**"The training of professionals and technicians takes on special importance in the Tropics, where trained staff is generally in short supply"**

**The World's Tropical Forests: A Policy, Strategy, and Program for the United States (1980)**

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The need for qualified human resources has been widely recognized in virtually every other strategy document addressing sustainable resource management in lesser developed countries. Nevertheless, very little has been done to implement these recommendations. Funding for education lags behind research, site/species management, institutional strengthening and other funding categories. Often major projects are implemented without considering human resources and adequate institutional frameworks. **Unfortunately, sustainable resource and biodiversity conservation initiatives will fail unless a pool of adequately trained manpower becomes available.** It is important to remember that no amount of short-term training, crash-courses, or on-the-job training can satisfactorily substitute for formal professional level training.

The magnitude of the environmental problems faced by the region warrants strong support to strengthen and further develop long-term training opportunities in resource management within Latin America.

## Western Hemisphere FY93 Program

WHP activities for 1993 build upon the long-term development of the regional training institutes for wildlife and wildlands management and the reserve manager training program. The programs currently receiving WHP support are:

● **Central American Graduate Program in Biodiversity Conservation.** This wildlife management graduate program (Regional Wildlife Management Program for Mesoamerica and the Caribbean), is based at the Universidad Nacional (UNA) in Heredia, Costa Rica. Although intended to serve Central America primarily the program has had a more international scope with over forty percent of the 56 students graduated to date being from outside the Central American region. Graduate students of the PRMVS represent some 15 Latin American countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, México, Nicaragua, Panamá, Paraguay, Perú, Uruguay and Venezuela.

This has been an on-going

project since 1984, being the first program of its kind in the Latin American region. Support is provided for student scholarships, thesis projects, faculty needs, and administrative staff assistance.

● **Brazil Graduate Program in Biodiversity Conservation.**

This wildlife management program serves Portuguese speaking Brazil. The program resides at the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais in Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais. Of the 33 students enrolled since 1989, five have already graduated and are employed in the conservation field.

● **Northern South America Graduate Program in Biodiversity Conservation.**

This program serves primarily the countries of northern South America (Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Perú, Bolivia). This is an on-going project initiated in 1988. Support is provided for student scholarships, thesis projects, materials and equipment. This program has recently graduated its first four students.

● **Southern South America Graduate Program in Biodiversity Conservation.**

This program has just been inaugurated (May 1992). It will serve primarily the southern cone countries. Support is provided for student scholarships, thesis projects, personnel, materials and equipment.

● **Biological Documentation Center for Central America (BioDoc).** This center is a clearinghouse for technical literature, specially gray-literature for the Central American region. The center addresses the needs within the region for effective information exchange and the salvage and dissemination of locally produced unpublished technical reports. It is also a resource center for the graduate students in the UNA regional wildlife management program. This has been an on-going program since about 1986 (UNA-BioDoc was formally inaugurated in February 1988). This center has become the depository for dissertations from the UNA Land and Sea faculty (schools of Environmental Sciences, Agricultural Sciences, Geography, the Geophysical Observatory, the Institute of Forestry Research and Services and the Regional Wildlife Management Program). UNA-BioDoc has a reference collection of over 1700 volumes in the ecology and wildlife fields, more than 7000 reprints and subscribes to some 60 journals or technical/trade magazines. Its "Boletín Informativo" is published quarterly and is sent to some 250 institutions and researchers in the hemisphere and Europe. A listing of gray-literature holdings is published annually.

The Service provides supporting personnel, equipment and materials.

● **Biological Documentation Center for Northern South America.** This center has ~~similar~~ functions to the above. It is sited at the Universidad Nacional Experimental de los Llanos Occidentales "Ezequiel Zamora" in Venezuela. This BioDoc center was initiated in 1989. The Service provides support for materials and equipment.

● **Latin American Graduate Program in Environmental Education.** This program, initiated in 1990 is the first of its kind anywhere in Latin America. It responds to the need to implement programs to promote environmental consciousness at all levels ~~and through~~ formal and informal means. The program is sited at UNELLEZ in Venezuela. Service support is primarily provided for scholarships.

● **International Exchange Program for Fish and Wildlife Managers.** This program provides opportunities for faculty members from the four regional graduate programs to participate in a personalized 3 - 6 month training program in the U.S. The University of Massachusetts Coop Unit coordinates the program. This program has been in place now for three years.

● **International Exchange Program in Protected Areas Management.** This is a new initiative. It is similar to the above exchange, but focuses on a cluster of refuges in the Service's National Wildlife Refuge System. The project will be

coordinated by the Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge.

● **International Reserve Manager Training Program (RESERVA).** The RESERVA training program is a joint project of Ducks Unlimited of Mexico (DUMAC), a Mexican non-profit NGO, SEDESOL a Mexican resource management agency, the Monterrey Institute of Technology and the USFWS. Recently the U.S. Forest Service has joined in support of RESERVA, an example of cooperation between two U.S. government agencies in support of international conservation. The goal of RESERVA is to provide training in techniques for the conservation and management of reserves within the biological, socioeconomic and cultural context of Latin America. The course provides this training in a broad range of tropical and subtropical habitats.

Courses are of three months duration and cover a wide range of skills necessary for the effective management of protected areas. All instruction is by Mexican nationals and is conducted in Spanish. This is the only international course of its kind in the region. RESERVA has been sponsored for several years by the Service.

● **Small grants.** Numerous requests for assistance are received from institutions throughout the hemisphere. This element provides funding for environmental education, training and conservation activities.

## **Information - an essential ingredient in decision making: The role of Documentation Centers**

The problem of information management is as old as humankind's initial attempts to share experiences. Nowadays the need for improved information systems has been made critical by the growth in size and complexity of technical knowledge and organizations. This has required the development of systems the purpose of which is not merely archival but distributive as well. Documentation centers serve not only as a depositories of documents but also actively collect information, classify it, and distribute relevant documents to specialized users.

In Latin America the bulk of the technical knowledge about natural resources remains unpublished (as a result of lack of funding), and there are few journals to provide for the dissemination of such information. Consequently, internal reports and institutional publications receive limited circulation.

This "gray literature" is a rich source of local knowledge and is useful to support management and conservation activities. Unfortunately, these publications and reports are scattered among the many organizations that with environmental issues, and their existence is known to very few. Generally access to

it is difficult, particularly from outside the entities that generated the documentation. Further, the longevity of this type of literature is very short since generally few copies are printed and distribution is very restricted.

Since "gray literature" typically is spurned by traditional libraries, it remains difficult to obtain. Consequently many resource management activities are less effective than they might have been had relevant information have been available.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, recognizing the importance of the information for decision making and research, has supported the establishment of Biological Documentation Centers at the Universidad Nacional of Costa Rica (UNA) and at the Universidad Experimental de los Llanos Occidentales "Ezequiel Zamora" (UNELLEZ). Both documentation centers have been actively increasing their holdings of formal and informal literature related to biodiversity conservation and wildlife management. [see Summer 1992 **UPDATE**]. At both centers gray literature information is being computerized to prepare annotated bibliographies. This information then becomes widely available since it may be copied and made accessible through regular interlibrary loans. UNA/BIODOC has recently published the first volume of titles and summaries of its holdings. This has been distributed to libraries and institutions within Latin

America and elsewhere.

The importance of documentation centers has been recognized in the Central American Agenda On Environment and Development (UNDP-WRI-IUCN/ORCA-CI, 1992). The Agenda has identified as a priority the establishment of environmental information documentation centers to support the decision making process.

The documentation centers supported by the USFWS are already making significant contributions to the dissemination of information, encouraging the sharing of information and arresting institutional and disciplinary isolation.

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## PROJECTS UPDATE

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### **Workshop in Habitat Evaluation Procedures (HEP) sponsored by the Service in Argentina.**

In October and November 1992, the Service sponsored two Habitat Evaluation Procedure (HEP) short courses for Latin American conservation professionals and for the students enrolled in the Master's Program in Wildlife Management at the Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Centro de Zoología Aplicada. Ten students from this USFWS-sponsored program

participated in the two-week short course. A second week-long intensive course (9 hours/day) was given for 31 professionals in the conservation field.

Participants in both courses came from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay. The courses focused on the application of HEP procedures for use in impact assessment and evaluation of development projects. They provided instruction on environmental legislation, concepts of impact assessment, the development, modification and field application of habitat suitability index models, and use of HEP software. The courses were taught by HEP experts from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, National Ecology Research Center (Dr. Mel Schamberger and Charles Solomon), and personnel from the University of Córdoba Centro de Zoología Aplicada (Dr. Joaquín Navarro). Ms Sara Alperin and Ms. Emma Bonino from the Universidad Nacional de Córdoba assisted in the course. Both courses were well received and participants believed that the technologies for both impact assessment and habitat modeling would be useful in applications in their respective countries. Three software programs developed by the USFWS were given to the University. Each participant received a package of instructional material related to the course.

According to Mel Schamberger and Chuck Solomon the enthusiasm and hospitality of the Argentine associates

made the trip professionally stimulating and enjoyable. Based on feedback received from the Argentine Graduate Program it is expected that other workshops will be organized soon to continue training in this procedure.

This activity was sponsored by the Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Centro de Zoología Aplicada, the USFWS Office Of International Affairs, National Ecology Research Center and the Office of Information Transfer.

### **Dominica Mobile Interpretive Center on the road**

The RARE Center for Tropical Bird Conservation has submitted its final report on its grant for the purchase of a renovated bus and its conversion into a mobile interpretive center. The bus was stripped of its seats and loaded with interactive exhibits illustrating some of the environmental problems of Dominica. The bus is equipped with a generator, slide projector, VCR, television monitor, cassette recorder and a public address system. This environmental bus is designed to travel throughout the island bringing conservation education to everyone. It is manned by conservation specialists from the Forestry Department. The exhibits are designed so that they can be changed periodically. The bus,

named the "Sisserou Express", after the national bird, *Amazona imperialis*, was donated to the Government of Dominica on February 29, 1992. Attending the ceremony were the Ministers of Education, Tourism, Health and Agriculture. Also present was the Director of the Dominica Forestry Division. Since its delivery the Sisserou Express has traveled around the island visiting rural communities. During its first month it was visited by more than 900 pre-school children. When not on the road the bus is opened to the public as a stationary exhibit at the Botanical Garden in Roseau.

## SPOTLIGHT

### **The UFMG Graduate Program on Ecology, Conservation and Wildlife Management**

The Master's Program on Ecology, Conservation and Wildlife Management (ECMVS) was established in February 1989 with the primary objective being the training of personnel in the fields of biodiversity and natural resource management. The program is hosted by the Universidad Federal de Minas Gerais, in the State of Minas Gerais, Brazil. The ECMVS was established after three years

of studies and planning. Uniquely, it is the first Master's program of the UFMG which is the responsibility of more than one department. Emphasis is given to the management of plant and animal species, sustainable use, and to the techniques available for the protection of threatened species, communities and ecosystems, particularly those applicable to the tropics. Besides a theoretical foundation, the program emphasizes practical applications and field work. The program includes field work and research in various regions of Brazil (Amazonia, Pantanal, Atlantic Forest and the Cerrado).

Special consideration is given to the relationships between local biotic factors and the socio-economic context of the study area. For example, investigations have been made into the role of extractivist reserves and rubber-tree plantations in the state of Acre. Students got firsthand experience with ethnobotanical and ethnozoological research and the importance of anthropological studies for understanding the relations between humankind and the environment. Field studies in the Pantanal (Matto Grosso) addressed subsistence hunting and its contribution to the diet of local populations, and the influence of landownership patterns on the conservation of the region's fauna.

The UFMG Department of Zoology is considered a pioneer in Brazil in the area of conservation and wildlife

management. The Ecology Sector of the Department of General Biology has several strong lines of research in the conservation of aquatic resources. The Botany Department has become progressively more involved in the management of wild plants and the assessment of the conservation status of a number of threatened species.

The ECMVS has initiated a collaborative arrangement with the UFMG Center for Development and Regional Planning (CEDEPLAR) which maintains two postgraduate level programs in Demography and Economics. This agreement promotes interdisciplinary approaches to training.

In collaboration with the University of Florida, the U.S. Information Agency and the Universities Affiliation Program, an exchange of faculty will be arranged between the two universities, specifically for the development of conservation biology-social sciences transdisciplinary studies.

The ECMVS has some 28 students plus five graduates. The latter have already joined the conservation workforce (see box).

The USFWS has supported the ECMVS program since 1987, helping it become one of the highest quality conservation training programs in Latin America. Support is provided for scholarships, thesis projects, visiting professors, vehicle acquisition, books and technical journals subscriptions, field courses, and in FY92 sponsored the ECMVS/CEDEPLAR initiative. The

USFWS has been the principal external sponsor of this program.

-----  
**EMPLOYMENT OF ECWM GRADUATES**

Alexandre Lima Godinho  
Part-time assistant teacher  
Dept. of General Biology UFMG  
Consultant  
State Forest Institute

Terezinha Abreu Gontijo  
Assistant Professor Department  
of General Biology UFMG

Gisela Hermann  
Assistant Researcher  
Fundação Biodiversitas

Maria Auxiliadora Drummond  
Coordinator  
of Wildlife Protection  
State Forest Institute of  
Minas Gerais

Lúcio Cadaval Bedê  
Consultant  
Brandt Meio Ambiente  
-----

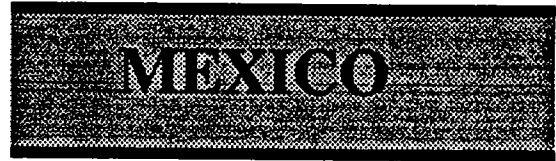
**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  
WRITE TO:**

**Dr. Francisco Barbosa,  
Coordinator  
Curso de Pos-Graduação e  
Manejo de Vida Silvestre  
Instituto de Ciencias  
Biológicas  
Universidade Federal de Minas  
Gerais  
Av. Antônio Carlos 6627  
Campus Universitario/Pampulha  
CEP 31270-010 Belo Horizonte  
Minas Gerais, Brazil**  
-----

## **USFWS sponsored photographic exhibit attracts more than 25,000 in Southern Brazil**

A photographic exhibit sponsored by a small grant from the USFWS and prepared by NEMA (Nucleo de Educação e Monitoramento Ambiental, a non-profit group based in Cassino, Rio Grande do Sul (RS), has been seen by more than 25,000 persons while exhibited in various coastal towns of the state of Rio Grande do Sul. The display of attractive color photographs focuses on the remarkable coastal landscapes of Rio Grande do Sul and the associated ecosystems. The exhibit was developed as part of an environmental education effort associated with the schools of coastal towns, but it has also been staged during folk festivals, educational and special events. An illustrated brochure, prepared for distribution at the exhibits, describes coastal biology and the relationship between the landscape and biological communities. The project secured increased outreach when it was featured in a local cultural periodical. The two page illustrated coverage reproduced the educational text prepared for the exhibit. The project is an example of successful coordination between this NGO and various local government, conservation and research entities to produce a successful environmental education tool. The project was also supported by the extension department of

the Universidade do Rio Grande (FURG), its Oceanographic Museum (MO/FURG) and the Fundação o Boticario de Proteção a Natureza.



## **Successful Joint Committee Meeting with Mexico**

The 16th meeting of the Mexico-U.S. Joint Committee for Wildlife Conservation was held at the Gladys Porter Zoo in Brownsville, Texas, on December 7 - 10, 1992. The meeting is held annually to coordinate Service activities with our counterparts in Mexico. The Service delegation was headed by Director John Turner, while Dr. Exequiel Ezcurra, Director General de Aprovechamiento Ecológico de los Recursos Naturales, headed the Mexican contingent. Representatives from non-government organizations on both sides of the border also participated.

An endangered species roundtable reviewed over 90 proposals for cooperative projects with Mexico and made recommendations for funding. Among the promising proposals were:

- ✓ a management plan for the Cuatrociénegas Valley, Coahuila (a region of wetlands with many endemic species);

✓ a status survey of the desert tortoise in Sonora; and

✓ manatee conservation in Quintana Roo and Belize.

The two nations will also continue long-standing sea turtle conservation projects. A migratory birds roundtable also reviewed a long list of proposals including:

✓ ecological and socio-economic implications of the wild bird trade in Mexico, and

✓ conservation and management of white-winged doves in Tamaulipas.

A third roundtable discussed administrative matters of mutual interest and training projects. Mr. Turner, for example, expressed interest in directing fines collected in U.S. wildlife cases to Joint Committee wildlife conservation projects. Dr. Ezcurra and Mr. Oscar Sanchez, from the Secretaría de Agricultura y Recursos Hidráulicos, joined Director Turner in signing a statement calling for more emphasis on fish and wildlife conservation in matters related to the North American Free Trade Agreement and the Border Environmental Plan.

The meeting was capped by a barbecue at the Zoo, during which Mr. Turner presented an award to Dra. Graciela de la Garza, formerly Directora General at SEDUE (SEDESOL's predecessor agency) recognizing her years of dedicated service to the cause of international wildlife

conservation. The participants toured nearby Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge on the day following the meeting. Steve Thompson, Refuge Manager, and his staff provided exciting views and commentary on wintering waterfowl, radio-tracking of ocelots, and habitat restoration.

### **Iberoamerican Congress on Environmental Education held in Guadalajara, Mexico.**

The 1992 Iberoamerican Congress on Environmental Education was held in Guadalajara in the State of Jalisco, Mexico from November 22-29. More than 200 representatives from various NGOs, government agencies, and educational institutions--mostly from throughout Mexico, Central America and South America, but also from the U.S. and Europe--attended the Congress which aimed to further the proposals of the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development and the Worldwide Conference for Education and Communication on the Environment and Development.

Herb Raffaele of International Affairs and Roberta Hylton of the Division of Endangered Species, participated in the Congress. Herb presented a formal report on "Opportunities to Facilitate Environmental Education in Latin American and to Collaborate on New International Initiatives in Environmental Education" at the Congress's Workshop on

Environmental Education and Natural Resources. In addition there was the opportunity to meet both formally and informally with many participants at the Congress to discuss Service involvement in and joint funding of environmental education programs in Latin America. Representatives from many groups at the Congress expressed interest in receiving more information on initiating collaborative conservation efforts with the Service and in opening new avenues for the exchange of ideas, information, and strategies for promoting conservation through environmental education efforts in Latin America.

## **Mexican Wetland Projects Move Forward**

The North American Wetlands Conservation Council has recommended three projects in Mexico for funding to the Migratory Bird Commission. The projects were approved through the Tripartite Agreement for the Conservation of Wetlands and their Migratory Birds, a U.S.-Canada-Mexico accord.

The three projects would provide a total of \$410,479 for the following:

✓ Establishment and management of Laguna Madre/Tamaulipas Lagoons Refuge (Phase II), State of Tamaulipas.

✓ Conservation and management of Caribbean flamingos and associated wetlands in Yucatan, State of Yucatan.

✓ Conservation and management of coastal wetlands of the State of Yucatan, including sub-projects in wetland restoration, environmental monitoring, migratory bird monitoring, and establishment of a biodiversity data center.

Meanwhile, Fish and Wildlife Service staff are assisting their Mexican counterparts in the development of additional projects in the following areas:

- Coastal wetlands of southern Sonora
- Alto Babicora, Chihuahua
- Centla marshes, Tabasco
- Coastal wetlands, Yucatan (additional sub-projects)

Support originates from the North American Wetlands Conservation Fund, which provides matching funds to support wetland conservation projects in Canada, Mexico and the U.S.

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The Western Hemisphere Program is one of the primary USFWS initiatives providing assistance, leadership, and expertise for wildlife and plant conservation programs in Latin America and the Caribbean. The UPDATE is prepared bimonthly to provide details about on-going projects and assist in their coordination. For more information about the program, specific projects or activities, please call Herb Raffaele ☐ (703)-350-1767, or Gil Cintrón ☐ (703)-358-1765. Those wishing more information about the program's activities in México should contact Doug Ryan ☐ (703)-358-1766.

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U.S. sites are selected for the list, and profiles of the U.S. Ramsar sites.

The United States became a member of the Ramsar Convention in 1986, when the U.S. Senate ratified and the President signed the Instruments of Ratification. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is responsible for implementation of the Convention in the United States.

Copies of **Wetlands of International Importance: United States participation in the "Ramsar Convention"** may be obtained free from:

**Office of International Affairs**  
**860 ARLSQ**  
**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,**  
**Washington, D.C. 20240**

## **Ramsar brochure available from USFWS Office of International Affairs**

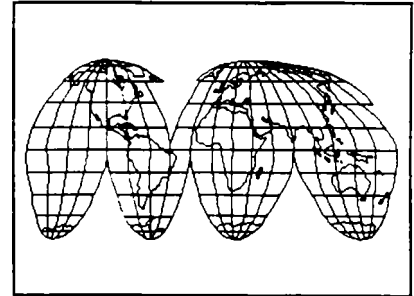
An informative brochure about the **Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitats**, commonly referred to as the Ramsar Convention, has been released by the Office of International Affairs. The booklet describes the objectives of the Convention, obligations of member countries, how the Convention operates, the listing of Wetlands of International Importance, how

FY 93 of  
750,000 per year

## Western Hemisphere Program

# UPDATE

S U M M E R 1 9 9 2



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**Service Supports Iberoamerican  
Environmental Education  
Conference**  
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The Fish and Wildlife Service will provide \$10,000 to help support the Conference which will be held in Guadalajara, Mexico, November 22 -28, 1992. This promises to be a significant event in the development of environmental education in Latin America. Six hundred participants from throughout Latin America and from Europe are expected, drawn from the ranks of universities, government agencies, and private organizations. The University of Guadalajara, the principal co-sponsor of the Conference, celebrates its bicentennial this year. Environmental education plays a critical role in wildlife conservation in our hemisphere, one which should receive a great boost by this event.

For more information about the Iberoamerican Environmental Education Conference contact:

Doug Ryan: (703)-358-1766 or  
Herb Raffaele (703)-358-1767

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**SEDUE/SEDESOL Reorganization  
Continues in Mexico**  
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SEDUE (Secretariat for Urban Development and Ecology) is no more - in its place is a new agency, the Secretariat for Social Development (SEDESOL). Dr. Graciela de la Garza Garcia, Director General for natural resource conservation in SEDUE, has resigned. Dr. de la Garza was a dedicated conservationist, and will be sorely missed on both the Mexican and international scene. Her successor is Dr. Exequiel Ezcurra, a forestry engineer. We met with Dr. Ezcurra in September 15 to discuss continued cooperation. Although things are still shaking out regarding Mexico's reorganization of its natural resource agencies, here's the basic picture: 1) two units within SEDESOL will deal with natural resource matters, the

National Institute of Ecology will set policy and the Solicitor's Office (Procuraduría) will handle pollution cases; 2) operational functions for wildlife management and national parks will be transferred to the Secretariat for Agriculture and Hydrologic Resources (SARH); 3) management of aquatic areas, including fresh waters and wetlands, presently remains with SEDESOL, but may be transferred to the Secretariat for Fisheries (SEPESCA). We believe that international coordination will be handled by the National Institute of Ecology. Business will continue as usual until directed otherwise.

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**Driving requirements changed in Mexico**  
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Driving in Mexico presents some special challenges, especially in Mexico City. Mexico recently revised its requirements for temporary (less than 6 months) entry of personal vehicles which will be driven beyond the 20 kilometer "free zone" south of the border (all of Baja California is "free"). You will be asked to provide the original and a copy of your drivers license and title, and proof of insurance. Insurance can be purchased for Federal vehicles - talk to your local CGS office. You will also need some kind of official statement declaring that you are entitled to use the Federal vehicle.

Driving at night can be very hazardous and should be avoided. Because of serious air pollution problems, Mexico

City restricts driving of personal vehicles one weekday a week depending upon the last digit on the license plate. Check before you go.

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**Region 2 Leads Sea Turtle Recovery Program in Latin America**  
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For the past 15 years, the Fish and Wildlife Service Southwest Region endangered sea turtle recovery program has funded, cooperated with, and supported growing Mexican conservation efforts directed at seven species of sea turtles in eight states of the Mexican Republic. Projects are located on the Pacific, Gulf, and Caribbean coasts of Mexico. With the exception of the U.S.- Mexico cooperative Kemp's Ridley recovery effort in Tamaulipas and training projects, all other field projects are totally supervised and run by Mexican biologists, technicians, and workers. These projects are carried out by a host of Mexican entities, including universities, non-government organizations, State, and Federal agencies.

Each of these projects involves about five months of field operations each year and focuses on active conservation, management, and research along hundreds of kilometers of nesting beaches, as well as more limited in-water work. Cooperative efforts range from basic protection of nesting turtles, eggs, and overseeing the safe escapement of hatchlings to sophisticated satellite tracking and reproductive physiology.

In addition to these cooperative efforts with Mexico, the Service also has similar current projects in Colombia, Panama, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Belize, and Guyana. Tagging studies have shown that the majority of the species and populations travel long distances between nesting periods. A turtle that nests on central Mexico's Pacific coast in November may be in Ecuadoran waters six months later, having moved through seven nations' waters. As with migratory birds, management of sea turtle resources requires the active international cooperation of many nations. Although one nation can destroy a population, it will take a combination of nations working together to maintain the populations over long periods of time.

Jack Woody, Associate Regional Director from Albuquerque, NM, was recently honored with a Secretarial Award for Distinguished Service for his work in sea turtle conservation, a large part of which was accomplished in Mexico.

#### ----- **Partners in Flight Proposals** -----

The Service has submitted five proposals to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in response to the "Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Initiative", a component of which includes a cooperative NFWF - AID grants program. Three of the proposals would establish liaisons in Latin America

(Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean) to initiate and coordinate local conservation initiatives. Working closely with government and non-government organizations in their regions, they would solicit conservation projects and follow them through to produce meaningful on-the-ground results. The fourth proposal would establish a migratory bird conservation center in Costa Rica to train conservation professionals and monitor bird populations. The fifth proposal addresses the establishment of a graduate program in wildlife conservation in Mexico, much like the Service has already done in Costa Rica, Venezuela, Brazil, and Argentina.

#### ----- **RESERVA News** -----

The 7th Reserva course is scheduled to begin in September in Mexico. This training course for reserve managers (including refuges) has been sponsored for several years by the Service, SEDESOL (Mexican government agency), the Monterrey Institute of Technology and Ducks Unlimited de Mexico which also hosted the course at its facilities. This year we are pleased to welcome sponsorship by the U.S. Forest Service. Participants from Colombia, Paraguay, Venezuela, Peru, Panama, Chile, and Mexico have been selected for the upcoming course. Courses are of three months duration and cover a wide range of skills necessary for the effective management of protected areas. All

instruction is by Mexican nationals and is conducted in Spanish.

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**Tripartite Committee News**  
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After laying the groundwork earlier this year in Mexico to solicit wetland projects, a number of proposals have arrived for Service review. A few concentrate on species, such as a proposal from SUNY/ESF in Syracuse to study ecotourism impacts on Caribbean flamingos. Several concentrate on environmental education aimed at people living in and near important wetland habitats, a proven conservation strategy. A group of non-governmental organizations in the State of Sonora has proposed a more comprehensive approach involving study and management planning for coastal wetlands. Proposals designed as pure research without practical conservation applications have been rejected. Location of matching funds for approved projects has been a continuing problem, despite outreach efforts.

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**REMINDERS**  
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- o The Joint U.S.- Mexico Committee meeting is scheduled for December 8 - 10, 1992 in Brownsville, Texas. Project proposals are due at the Office of International Affairs by October 1.

- o Thanks for your continued cooperation in 1) advising the Office of International Affairs at least 3 weeks before official travel to allow for cable preparation, and 2) keeping the office informed of your activities in Mexico.

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**New Personnel at WHP**  
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Mr. Douglas Ryan joined the Office of International Affairs this past February to serve as central office coordinator for the Service's Mexico program. Mr. Ryan brings more than 14 years of USFWS experience to his position, all with Fish and Wildlife Enhancement in both New York and Rhode Island. Prior to entering the Service Doug served two years in the Peace Corps. He has a B.A. from Rutgers University and an M.S. in wildlife biology from the University of Massachusetts.

Mr. Gilberto Cintrón-Molero joined IA at the same time. Gil is a biological oceanographer who brings 20 years of research, training and management experience in Latin America. Prior to joining IA he was Director of the Ecology Division of the Department of Natural Resources in Puerto Rico. Gil has an M.S. in biological oceanography from the University of Puerto Rico. He will primarily manage WHP implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean other than Mexico.

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**Personnel**  
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The Office of International Affairs is in the process of selecting an international affairs specialist, GS-11/12 in its Arlington, Virginia office. This new addition to the Western Hemisphere Program will handle a variety of programs associated with Latin America.

Efforts to establish a Service position in Mexico City are on hold, while logistical considerations are worked out with the U.S. Embassy.

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**CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN  
PROJECTS UPDATE**  
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**BIODOC/Costa Rica Releases  
Gray Literature Catalog-**  
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The Biodocumentation Center at the Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica has released its latest catalog of gray literature citations in the field of conservation and wildlife management in Latin America. These citations are cross referenced by country, species and subject matter.

Gray literature is a term used to describe scientific and technical literature which is not published in journals or in commonly available books or monographs. Usually this type of literature is intended for limited distribution but may contain valuable information that can be used elsewhere.

The recognition of the value of this type of information led the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Western Hemisphere Program to sponsor the establishment of two biodocumentation centers to act as depositories and clearinghouses for this literature. These centers are jointly sponsored with the Regional Wildlife Management Programs in Costa Rica (Universidad Nacional at Heredia) and Venezuela (Universidad Nacional Experimental de los Llanos Occidentales "Ezequiel Zamora"-UNELLEZ).

These biodocumentation centers have interlibrary agreements with institutions within and outside of their regions allowing this literature to become widely available.

You can help these centers by including them in your mailing list or by sending them copies of reports/newsletters and other documentation of importance to biological diversity conservation and sustainable development in Latin America.

The Costa Rica BIODOC data base is available on CD-ROM. The citation for the recently released Costa Rica BIODOC's publication is:

**Catálogo y Resúmenes de  
Literatura no Publicada Sobre:  
Conservación y Manejo de Vida  
Silvestre en América Latina.  
Vol. I Editores: Horst KORN y  
Sergio CUADRA. Programa en  
Manejo de Vida Silvestre para  
Mesoamérica y el Caribe.  
Universidad Nacional, Heredia  
Costa Rica. 234 p.**

-----  
**FOR MORE INFORMATION WRITE TO:**

**Costa Rica (Central American  
Region)  
Enrique Quesada  
BIODOC-Centro de Documentación  
UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL  
Apartado 54 - 3.000  
Heredia, Costa Rica**

**Venezuela (South American  
Region)  
Crispulo Marrero  
BIODOC-Centro de Documentación  
Universidad Nacional  
Experimental de los Llanos  
Occidentales "Ezequiel Zamora"  
(UNELLEZ)  
Antiguo Convento de San  
Francisco,  
Guanare 3310, Estado  
Portuguesa, Venezuela**

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**New Master Level Program in  
Wildlife Management Initiated  
in Argentina**

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The Universidad Nacional de Córdoba has just established a Master's level Program in Wildlife Management which will serve the countries of southern South America. This Program, the first of its kind in this sub-region, will make an important contribution toward filling the needs for human resources trained in the skills of wildlife management within the southern cone countries. The Program's curriculum has an applied focus. It stresses the integrated management for sustainable utilization of these resources, giving

appropriate consideration to the economic and social factors that influence resource management and conservation in Latin America. Various other local institutions are collaborating with the Universidad Nacional de Córdoba in the implementation of the program.

The duration of the program is two years, and includes a thesis requirement. Partial or full scholarships are available.

The director of the Centro de Zoología Aplicada, Dr. Enrique H. Bucher, is the Program's coordinator.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Western Hemisphere Program was instrumental in helping to establish this program and now provides the primary international funding support for scholarships, faculty assistance and other needs fundamental to its effective implementation. World Wildlife Fund-US is also an active collaborator. Supporting the development of programs such as Córdoba's is a principal element of the Western Hemisphere Program.

-----  
**FOR MORE INFORMATION WRITE TO:**

**Programa Maestría en Manejo de  
Vida Silvestre  
Centro de Zoología Aplicada  
Casilla de Correo 122  
5000 - Córdoba  
Argentina**

**Tel.: 0054-51-35264  
Telex: 51822 BUCOR AR  
Fax: 0054-51-244092**

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**SPOTLIGHT- THE PRMVS:  
The UNA Graduate Training  
Program in Wildlife management**  
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The Regional Wildlife Management Program for Mesoamérica and the Caribbean (PRMVS) has as its leading objectives the training of Latin American students at the graduate level in wildlife management; the implementation of model wildlife management projects; and, the transfer of information related to conservation and sustainable development within the region. The program is hosted by the Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica (UNA) at Heredia. In 1987 UNA became the first Latin American institution to offer a graduate degree in wildlife management and in 1989 the program was declared a regional graduate program by the Central American Universities Superior Council. The program however, is broader in its geographic scope with over forty percent of its 56 graduated students to date being from outside the Central American region. Graduates from PRMVS have come from some 15 Latin American countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Perú, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Most graduate students attending the program already have experience as wildlife managers, researchers or educators with government or private organizations. Most return to their home

institutions once they complete their PRMVS training. The graduate program lasts 27 months divided into three months of refresher courses, 12 months of graduate courses and 12 months of thesis work.

The USFWS has supported the UNA program since 1984, helping it develop into a regional training program. Support is provided for student scholarships, thesis projects, faculty needs, administrative staff assistance and recently with the acquisition of a residence to house some of the students. The USFWS has been one of the principal sponsors of this program, in FY 1992 its contribution amounted to \$79,000 (\$55,000 for activities related to the graduate program and \$24,000 awarded toward the purchase of the student residence). The program also receives the support of the World Wildlife Fund-US, Wildlife Conservation International (WCI), Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, the Central American Universities Superior Council (CSUCA) and the Organization of American States (OAS).

-----  
**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  
WRITE TO:**

**Dr. Víctor Cartín, Director  
Programa Regional en Manejo de  
Vida Silvestre  
Apartado 1350 - Heredia 3000  
Costa Rica, C.A.**  
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**UNELLEZ Wildlife Training  
Program Receives Continued  
Support From The USFWS**  
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The Wildlife Management Program, the Environmental Education Program and the Biodocumentation Center (BIODOC) at the Universidad Nacional Experimental de los Llanos Occidentales "Ezequiel Zamora" (UNELLEZ), will receive \$130,400 in FY 92 funds to support their activities. The Wildlife Training Program at UNELLEZ has received USFWS support since 1987 in the form of funding for student scholarships, thesis projects, materials, scientific equipment and related expenditures. The Environmental Education Program was initiated in 1990 and is Latin America's only graduate level program in this subject.

UNELLEZ's Biodocumentation Center (BIODOC) serves as a clearinghouse for gray literature and as a resource center for the graduate students in the wildlife and environmental education programs. It has received USFWS support since about 1986 with the Service supporting staffing, purchase of books and periodicals, equipment and materials.

This year's funding also provides for the publication of two issues (one year) of BioLlania, the Journal of the Museum of Natural Sciences at UNELLEZ.

Funding to the various UNELLEZ programs is through a

grant to ASOMUSEO, a non profit organization that provides logistical and administrative support to the University.

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**USFWS-WHP Supports Visiting  
Professor at UNELLEZ**  
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As part of its support to the Universidad Nacional Experimental de los Llanos Occidentales "Ezequiel Zamora", in Guanare, Venezuela, the USFWS is providing partial funding for Dr. Wilma Nelson (University Of Idaho) who will be teaching at the Environmental Education Program at UNELLEZ. This Program which offers a Master and Specialist degree in environmental education currently has ten enrolled students. All are professionals coming from various institutions such as the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources [MARNR], UNELLEZ, the Technical Institute in Acarigua and local high schools.

Dr. Wilma Nelson is part of a husband/wife team that will be teaching at UNELLEZ. Dr. Lewis Nelson will be visiting on a ten month Fulbright Scholarship and will be teaching at the Wildlife Management Program. The Nelson's will be working in Guanare from October 1992 through July 1993.

\*\*\*\*\*  
EXCHANGE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES  
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Graduate Program in  
Conservation and Wildlife  
Management at the Federal  
University of Minas Gerais  
(UFMG) Receives Continued  
USFWS Support  
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The Graduate Program on Ecology, Conservation and Wildlife Management at the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG), Brazil, has been awarded \$37,708 in FY 92 funds. The USFWS has supported various activities associated with this training program, assisting with the development of its training capabilities since its establishment. The UFMG program serves Portuguese speaking Brazil.

This year's funding provides support for collaborative work between the Ecology, Conservation and Wildlife Management Program (ECMVS) and the Center for Development and Regional Planning of the Economics Faculty of UFMG (CEDEPLAR). This initiative intends to develop field research and graduate courses covering the areas of ecology, demography and economics. The funding awarded provides for the support of purchase of scientific equipment and theses research related to this initiative.

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Brazil, Costa Rica and  
Venezuela Represented in this  
Year's International Exchange  
Program  
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The International Exchange Program for Fish and Wildlife Managers, organized by Dr. Rebecca Field, Unit Leader of the Massachusetts Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, is presently hosting three participants, all professionals in wildlife and conservation biology for two months internships. The participants are: Ms. Claudia Rocha from Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil; Mr. Eduardo Carrillo from Heredia, Costa Rica and Ms. Magaly Ojeda from Caracas, Venezuela.

Ms. Rocha is with the Biodiversity Conservation Data Center of Fundação Biodiversitas. She has been involved in the collection and compilation of data for an edition of the Red Data Book on Brazilian Endangered Species. She is a graduate of the Institute of Biological Sciences of the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais. Her research interests include the use of GIS and remote sensing for the establishment of conservation priorities. She will be working with Dr. David Goodin and Dr. Kate Jones in the Resource Mapping Laboratory.

Mr. Carrillo is an associate professor at the Regional Wildlife Management Program for Mesoamérica and

the Caribbean at the Universidad Nacional, Costa Rica (UNA). He is also a graduate of the UNA program. His professional interests are in conservation, tropical biology and environmental education. Mr. Carrillo will work with Dr. Fuller, Greissimer and Hale on a porcupine telemetry study.

Ms. Magaly Ojeda works with PROFAUNA, at the Ministerio del Ambiente y de los Recursos Naturales Renovables in Caracas. She is developing a new graduate program in Aquatic and Wildlife Management and Conservation at the Universidad Simón Bolívar. In that program she will be teaching a course in Wildlife Management Techniques. Ms. Ojeda is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin and president of the Venezuelan Association for the Study of Mammals. While in Massachusetts she will be working on the porcupine telemetry study.

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**Spotlight- THE INTERNATIONAL  
 EXCHANGE PROGRAM FOR FISH AND  
 WILDLIFE MANAGERS**  
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This Program provides fish/wildlife professionals and educators with management oriented training. Program participants learn management techniques and conduct short training projects relevant to fish and wildlife problems on their home countries. The exchange program lasts from one to six months during which the participants gain new insights, skills and

techniques that they can use in their teaching or management positions.

The program initiated in 1990 is sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Western Hemisphere Program. Program cooperators are the University of Massachusetts (Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management), the Massachusetts Cooperative Fish and Research Unit (USFWS), the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and The Hitchcock Center for the Environment Inc.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION WRITE TO:**

**Dr. Rebecca Field  
 MA Coop Research Unit  
 Univ. of Massachusetts  
 204 Holdsworth Natural  
 Resource Center  
 Amherst, MA 01003 U.S.A.**

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**N E W   G R A N T S**  
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**LALEP receives support from  
 the USFWS**  
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The USFWS has provided the Council of Biology Editors (CBE) \$7,500, and the Kansas University Museum of Natural History (KUMNH) \$10,000 to support the Latin American Library Enhancement Project (LALEP) for the distribution of scientific literature to Latin America. At this time CBE is working on a pilot project involving the distribution of back issues of journals and special publications from

approximately 20 professional scientific societies to 12 libraries in Latin American countries. More than 30,000 items, with an estimated value of \$200,000 are being shipped under this project. The funds provided by this grant will assist to expand this effort and to update a Survey of Latin American Libraries.

Participating societies that have donated their publications include, among others, Ecological Society of America, Association for Tropical Biology, American Ornithologist' Union, Society for Conservation Biology, New York Botanical Garden and the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists.

As a result of this expanded distribution the USFWS sponsored regional graduate programs in conservation and management and the BIODOC centers will become recipient institutions. This project makes a vital contribution to the transfer of information for use by scientists, resource managers, students and conservationists within the region.

LALEP coordinators are Ms. Marion Jenkinson and Dr. Mercedes Foster, members of CBE's task force for the distribution of scholarly journals. Dr. Foster is an ornithologist with the research branch of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Region 8) with an office at the National Museum of Natural History. Ms. Jenkinson is Adjunct Curator at the Kansas Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas.

Córdoba's Master's Program in Wildlife Management has already received material shipped as part of the Library Enhancement Program. Dr. Enrique H. Bucher, Director of the Wildlife Management Program says that they have been overwhelmed by the number and quality of the bibliographic material sent. For the first time in many years their problem is now one of lack of space and not lack of books!

#### WHAT IS LALEP?

LALEP is the CBE's Latin American Library Enhancement Project. This initiative has as its main objective providing Latin American scientists and researchers access to the major scientific journals through the donation of scientific journals to libraries within the region. These publications are provided by donor societies participating in the program. The Council of Biology Editors is a U.S. non-profit organization established in 1957 by joint action of the National Sciences Foundation and the American Institute of Biological Sciences. Its purpose is to improve communication in the life sciences. As part of the original project some 20,000 pounds of scientific publications have been shipped to 17 selected Latin American Libraries (an average of 2,000 items to each of the 17 libraries).

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT  
LALEP WRITE TO:**

**Ms. Marion A. Jenkinson  
Project Coordinator  
Museum of Natural History  
University of Kansas  
Lawrence, Kansas 66045**  
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**SIMBIOTA- Resources for Field  
Biology in the Neotropics  
Receives Grant**  
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SIMBIOTA, a non-profit organization composed of graduate students at the University of Wisconsin, has received a small grant (\$1,108) from the USFWS to produce and circulate within Latin America an annotated listing of organizations with an interest in funding projects which address neotropical biodiversity conservation. The list provides a brief summary of each organization's funding priorities, application requirements and its address.

SIMBIOTA has also prepared a briefing paper with tips on proposal writing and provides a free review service for draft proposals. The aim of the review is to provide scientific and editorial comments and suggestions. Manuscripts are reviewed for structure, grammar and for specific scientific contents. The manuscripts are then returned to the author for final submission to the funding organization. This service is provided free of charge.

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**APECO Receives Small Grant for  
Training Peruvian Teachers in  
Environmental Education**  
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The Asociación Peruana para la Conservación de la Naturaleza (APECO) was provided a \$4,000 grant from the USFWS to support the specialized training in environmental education of two rural area teachers from regions adjacent to protected natural areas. These teachers will participate in a two year training program which will include a two month residence in Lima where they will receive specialized instruction in techniques for environmental education. Subsequently, the teachers will practice their newly acquired skills at their local schools. The funds provided by the USFWS will cover the costs of transportation, lodging and materials to be provided to the teachers. APECO will support the teachers for the bulk of the training period. APECO's environmental education program provides formal training for educators as well as non-formal activities for groups in urban and rural areas.

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**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT APECO'S  
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION  
ACTIVITIES IN PERU CONTACT:**

**Coordinación de Educación  
Ambiental  
APECO  
Parque José de Acosta 187  
Lima 17 - Perú Tel: 616316**  
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**U.S. State Department Receives  
Funds from USFWS to Support  
the Implementation of the SPAW  
Protocol**  
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The USFWS is supporting the implementation of the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) by contributing \$3,500 toward expenses related to the activities of the Interim Scientific and Technical Committee (ISTAC). The First meeting of this advisory group took place in Kingston, Jamaica from 4 - 8 May 1992. At this meeting the group developed draft rules of procedure for the conduct of its business, established an informal group to develop draft guidelines for the establishment and management of specially protected areas, reviewed the species proposed for inclusion on the Annexes to the SPAW Protocol and reviewed the SPAW workplan for the 1992-1993 biennium.

The countries and territories represented at this meeting were: Antigua and Barbuda, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Dominican Republic, France, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Turks and Caicos, The United Kingdom, United States, and Venezuela. Gilberto Cintrón of the Office of International Affairs represented the USFWS at the meeting.

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**THE SPAW PROTOCOL**  
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The SPAW Protocol, under the Convention for the Protection and Development of

the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean (Cartagena Convention), commits Parties to protect and conserve special areas and endangered or threatened fauna or flora within their jurisdiction. Parties also agreed to take common actions on a co-operative regional basis for the solution of problems related to the conservation of these species and special areas. Species of plants or animals the protection of which requires international cooperation are listed in three annexes.

Annex I lists endangered or threatened species of flora. Annex II lists threatened or endangered species of fauna. Annex III lists species of plants and animals that need some regulation in order to be managed on a rational and sustainable basis.

Presently documentation is being drafted by the State Department to submit the SPAW Protocol to the U.S. Senate for ratification.

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**Environmental Solutions  
International Receives Funds  
to Assist in Preparation of  
Legislative Guide in Support  
of SPAW**  
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Environmental Solutions International, a private non profit organization devoted to the promotion of self reliance in resource management and conservation, has received from USFWS a \$10,000 grant to develop a Legislative Guide to assist the English-speaking common law countries to revise

or formulate national legislation to implement the SPAW Protocol.

The adoption of the SPAW Protocol requires that the Parties examine their existing legislation to determine whether all Protocol obligations are adequately covered. ESI's guide will have two purposes: It will be a basic reference document for use by nations and territories that need to update, or formulate national conservation laws as required by the Protocol; and, it will serve as a working document for a proposed SPAW Legislative Workshop which will be jointly sponsored by UNEP's Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) and ESI. This workshop has been tentatively scheduled for November 1992.

The guide will provide sample language for use by legal drafters, or participants in the legislative process. For countries with preexisting legislation the guide will serve as a checklist to determine whether all SPAW obligations are adequately addressed and at the same time provide guidance on possible modifications.

It is expected that this document will stimulate the strengthening of national environmental law, provide for the development of regionally harmonized legislation, and foster greater international cooperation on international legal issues.

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**USFWS supports Southern Cone Meeting of Heads of Wildlife Agencies**  
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FAO/RLAC, the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, received a \$10,000 grant to organize a meeting of the heads of Wildlife Agencies of the Southern Cone countries of South America (Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay). The meeting will take place in Buenos Aires, Argentina in November of this year. Its goal is to promote common international actions and cooperative solutions to wildlife conservation and management issues within the Southern Cone countries. The objectives of the meeting are: to determine the conservation and management status of shared species; to examine institutional frameworks and share information and experiences regarding the management and conservation of wildlife; to define avenues for technical cooperation relevant to the protection and commerce of wildlife in the sub-region; to examine the region's short and long-term training opportunities, needs and support requirements; and, to design programs for technical cooperation, assessing potential modes of financing.

This will be the first meeting of the heads of wildlife agencies of this sub-region and it is expected to it foster many collaborative initiatives for the

conservation and sustainable use of wildlife and biodiversity in general in temperate South America.

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**Fundación Herpetológica  
Gustavo Orcés (Ecuador)  
Receives Small Grant for  
Environmental Education**  
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The Fundación Herpetológica Gustavo Orcés an Ecuadorean non-profit organization received a \$2,850 grant to conduct environmental education activities at Salango, Manabí Province in Ecuador. The activities will be primarily oriented at providing visitors to the Salango's Home for Native Fauna, a small zoo, with information to create awareness of their role and responsibilities for the conservation of natural resources and wild animals. The project also intends to improve the interpretative materials at the zoo and to promote the use of the zoo as a resource by teachers of nearby communities.

The project intends to reach the student populations of Salango and Puerto López and the smaller communities near the Machalilla National Park. This 55,000 ha protected area contains important biotic and scenic resources, including the largest remaining tracts of almost virgin tropical dry forest in Ecuador.

It is expected that this project will help improve perceptions and attitudes about wildlife and nature and develop local awareness about

the importance of the Machalilla National Park.

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**São Paulo Academy of Science-  
ACIESP, (Brazil), Receives  
Funding to Support  
Interdisciplinary Meeting**  
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The Academia de Ciências do Estado de São Paulo (Brazil) received a \$8,640 grant to support an interdisciplinary meeting between scientists, resource managers and planners. This meeting is part of a series of symposia addressing the dissemination of scientific information relevant to the management and conservation of natural resources. This year's symposium, to be held in Peruíbe (São Paulo) from 2 - 7 April 1993, is the third of the series. It will focus on Brazilian coastal ecosystems by providing participants with a comprehensive and integrated view of these systems, including landscape level processes. The meeting will also identify information gaps requiring additional attention. This grant will provide ACIESP partial support for the organization of the meeting, and the publication of the proceedings of the symposium. The proceedings are expected to become valuable reference documents for researchers and resource managers, more than those of earlier symposia.

The grant will also help sponsor the visit of two Latin American wetlands specialists to the symposium and to lecture at a course on estuarine ecology at the

Oceanographic Institute (IO) of the University of São Paulo (USP). This course is a joint IO/USP/ACIESP activity. The course will focus on the relationships between structural and functional attributes of wetlands and their processes and the management of these systems.

The ACIESP was established in 1974 to contribute to the scientific and technological development of São Paulo and Brazil. Since its establishment it has sponsored more than 70 meetings on educational, scientific and technical themes.

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**USFWS to Support Organization of Tropical Studies (OTS)'s Environmental Policy Program**  
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The USFWS will provide \$30,000 to the Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS) to support its Environmental Policy Program. The objective of this program is to enhance understanding among senior policy level professionals concerning international environmental and development issues thereby strengthening the decision-making process as it relates to natural resources management in the tropics. The program offers courses designed for professionals that devise and implement policies that have direct impacts on tropical resources but who often have minimal training in the environmental sciences. Through OTS's "total immersion" approach these U.S.

and Latin American policy-makers are presented with many viewpoints regarding development projects and natural resources issues associated with the tropics. The goal is to make policy-makers aware of the severe impacts created by programs that exclude environmental considerations. Another aim is to create consciousness of the need for resource management to conserve production capabilities for the future. Specifically, this grant will provide partial support to three courses for decision makers to be hosted in Costa Rica. The first,

**(Interdependence: Economic Development and Environmental Concerns in the Tropics)** is a week-long total immersion workshop on tropical conservation, natural resource management and economic development, geared toward U.S. based decision-makers. Two other two courses **(Principios Ecológicos para la toma de Decisiones y el Manejo de Recursos Naturales en América Latina)** are in Spanish. The shorter of the two is intended for Latin American legislators, legislative aides and those participating in the legislative process.

The workshop for U.S. decision-makers is designed to provide a high impact, hands-on experience with development projects in the tropics. The course includes working visits to a variety of projects to illustrate a diversity of development goals, size scales and intensities of use. Each project is evaluated in terms

of achievement, economic and environmental impact and unexpected side effects. The goal of the workshop is to link the variable success of the development project to the policies as formulated in the developed countries. Most of the participants in this course are U.S. government officials.

It is expected that this grant will help to introduce the concepts of sustainable utilization and biodiversity conservation to professionals who devise and implement policies that have direct impact on tropical resources, but who often have little formal training in the environmental sciences. The courses aim to demonstrate to senior policy makers that conservation of biological diversity is a necessity to assure truly sustainable development.

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**Rainforest Alliance Receives  
Funding to Prepare Handbooks  
to Improve Communications  
Between Reporters and  
Conservationists**  
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The Rainforest Alliance, a private non-profit organization devoted to the development of innovative initiatives to conserve tropical forests and biodiversity, received a \$6,000 grant from the USFWS to prepare primers to improve communications between reporters, conservationists and NGO's. This activity will be carried out by the Conservation Media Center (CMC), a project of the

Rainforest Alliance.

The CMC serves as an information clearinghouse for journalists and scientists, trains Latin American journalists in environmental reporting and works with NGO's to help them improve their public information capabilities.

The objective of the handbook project is to improve communications between reporters and conservationists in Central America and México. Environmental reporting is poorly developed in most of this region but the potential to bring about positive changes through the media is excellent. Presently many reporters are intimidated by the complexity of environmental issues, do not recognize the human interest and "newsworthiness" of an issue, or are unable to develop a story in an appealing way. Even so, a growing number of reporters are becoming interested in environmental reporting and are seeking help in getting started. The NGO's in the region have little experience in dealing with the media to further their goals and with few exceptions there is little interaction between most NGO's and the media. The handbooks to be prepared are designed to help bridge this gap.

The CMC will produce the two handbooks: one for reporters and the other for NGO leaders. The contents for the book for journalists will include: the importance of environmental media coverage, how to identify and cover an environmental story, where to

get background information, how to extract information from NGO's and government agencies, how to deal with scientists, how to achieve balance in controversial stories, how to cover environmental emergencies, a glossary of key environmental terms, profiles of successful Latin American environmental reporters, regional and U.S. sources of information, how to "sell" an environmental story to your editor, and how to integrate environmental information into a non-environmental story.

The contents of the book for environmental leaders will include: the importance of media coverage in making conservation successful, how to know when a project is newsworthy, how to build relationships with journalists, how to prepare and distribute a news release, how to stage a press conference, how to gain access to radio and television, how to organize a media campaign, how to respond to current news events, a glossary of key journalistic terms, and examples of good press materials. These handbooks will be distributed to regional media and conservation organizations. Enough books will be produced to allow ~~also~~ for distribution to ~~selected~~ South American NGO's and media. It is envisioned that the handbooks will be used in training workshops by conservation organizations as well as by the CMC.

It is envisioned that these products will stimulate

and improve the quality of media coverage of environmental issues in the Central American region, promoting public involvement and participation in support of biodiversity conservation.

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**National Audubon Society to  
Examine International  
Conservation Initiatives.**  
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The National Audubon Society has been awarded a \$59,400 grant to review existing international conservation agreements in order to encourage an enhanced level of implementation by Latin American and Caribbean Countries. Recommendations will be made regarding ways to improve the implementation of existing instruments. The study will also identify new initiatives or mechanisms that may help foster the conservation of species.

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**UNA Graduate to Prepare Guide  
to Colombian Environmental  
Organizations**  
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As a first step in the development of a conservation strategy for Colombia César Márquez, a recent graduate of the Costa Rica Wildlife Training Program, will prepare for the USFWS a directory of Colombian government and non-governmental organizations involved in conservation and management. This listing of will contain such information as name of the organization, address, institutional goals, names contact persons,

telephone and fax/telex numbers, list of on-going projects, and names of publications.

This information will be of value for the coordination of conservation and environmental education initiatives in Colombia and for the assessment of conservation needs. This initial effort will serve as the foundation for the development of an integrated action plan for the conservation of biodiversity Colombia.

In addition, as part of this \$11,000 award granted through The Peregrine Fund, Márquez will procure published and unpublished reports produced by Colombian entities, relevant to wildlife, forestry, environmental legislation and natural resources management in general, and send them to the USFWS-WHP sponsored biodocumentation centers in Costa Rica (BIODOC/UNA) and Venezuela (BIODOC/UNELLEZ).

In addition various Colombian institutions will be briefed on training opportunities at the Master's level programs in conservation and wildlife management available in Costa Rica and Venezuela as well as the short term training courses offered by the Latin American Reserve Managers Training Program (RESERVA) in Mexico.

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**INTEC receives grant for continued support for its environmental education program.**  
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The Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo (INTEC) in the Dominican Republic received a \$13,200 grant from USFWS to support ten scholarships in its environmental education program. INTEC, which offers a unique nine month evening course for professionals interested in strengthening their skills in environmental education, has received USFWS support since 1991.

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The Western Hemisphere Program is one of the primary USFWS initiatives providing assistance, leadership, and expertise for wildlife and plant conservation programs in Latin America and the Caribbean. The UPDATE is prepared bimonthly to provide details about on-going projects and assist in their coordination. For more information about the program, specific projects or activities, please call Herb Raffaele (703)-350-1767, or Gil Cintrón (703)-358-1765. Those wishing more information about the program's activities in México should contact Doug Ryan (703)-358-1766.

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## United States Department of State

Bureau of Oceans and International  
Environmental and Scientific Affairs

Washington, D.C. 20520

JUN - 3 1993

TO: C - Mr. Wirth  
FROM: OES - Richard J. Smith  
SUBJECT: Western Hemisphere Convention

EAC  
Thanks!  
Scott

The Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere, commonly referred to as the Western Hemisphere Convention, was signed by President Roosevelt on April 15, 1941. The WHC called for the establishment, throughout the hemisphere, of parks, nature reserves for plant and animal protection, nature monuments for strictly controlled access and research, and wilderness areas closed to commerce and motorized entry. It also provided for coordinated migratory bird management between western hemisphere range states and regulation through permits for taking and international trade in protected species. In the U.S., it is implemented by the Endangered Species Act.

In 1982, the Secretary of the Interior was directed to take steps to implement the Convention. This included: developing wildlife management training programs with other parties to the WHC; identifying target species of migratory birds and implementing cooperative

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management and conservation measures with those western hemisphere countries sharing their range; and, protecting wild plants. Currently, the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) works with the other nineteen parties to the WHC under the FWS Western Hemisphere Program, an initiative that stresses education, training and the strengthening of national resource and conservation agencies.

drafted:OES/EHC:AStefan

cleared:FWS/OIA:LMasor

OES/EHC:RBlohm

doc. no. SEEHCB 3709

*note: OAS serves as depositary,  
I believe, and  
plays some role.*