

Wildlife Without Borders- Latin America and the Caribbean





Wildlife Without Borders- Latin America and the Caribbean

“The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.”



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Introduction

In 1983, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) established the *Wildlife Without Borders-Latin America and the Caribbean* initiative to implement the Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere, and to provide expertise in wildlife and habitat conservation throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

The primary goal of *Wildlife Without Borders-Latin America and the Caribbean* is to help this hemisphere develop locally adapted wildlife management and conservation programs to maintain its species diversity. To reach this goal, *Wildlife Without Borders-Latin America and the Caribbean* supports six distinct programs which include: Centers of Excellence; Winged Ambassadors; Green Diamonds; Back from the Brink; Conservation through Pride; and Wildlife Without Borders-Wetlands. These programs are designed to promote sustainable conservation practices through training and education, information exchange, and informed citizen participation in natural resource issues.

More than 444,789,687 acres (180,000,000 ha) of protected lands exist in Latin America and the Caribbean. Based on a formula of one manager per 24,711 acres (10,000 ha), more than 18,000 managers are needed to meet the management and conservation challenges associated with such a large area.

International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)



Background

Conservation of wildlife is extremely important in Latin America and the Caribbean, where some of the world's richest biological wealth is found. Sea turtles, hawks, warblers and whales are a few of the migratory species shared by many nations.

The Amazon, the Pampas, and the Sonoran Desert are among the most extensive and widely known habitats of our planet. The Amazon river system spans 6 countries and covers 2,774,820 square miles (7,186,750 km²). Its drainage area empties one-sixth of the world's fresh water into the Atlantic ocean. The Amazon basin contains about 2,316,613 square miles (6,000,000 km²) of tropical forests, about 56 percent of the world's total. Its great wealth of species is estimated to be in excess of one-tenth of the world's total.

The Pampas, a vast savanna covering 164,711 square miles (426,600 km²) between the Atlantic coast of Argentina and the foothills of the Andes, is one of the world's most agriculturally productive regions.

Closer to home, the Sonoran Desert stretches across the U.S.- Mexico border into the heart of Arizona. The Sonoran Desert harbors scores of threatened and endangered species such as the Desert tortoise, Aplomado falcon, Sonoran pronghorn antelope, Yaqui catfish, and the distinctive Saguaro cactus.

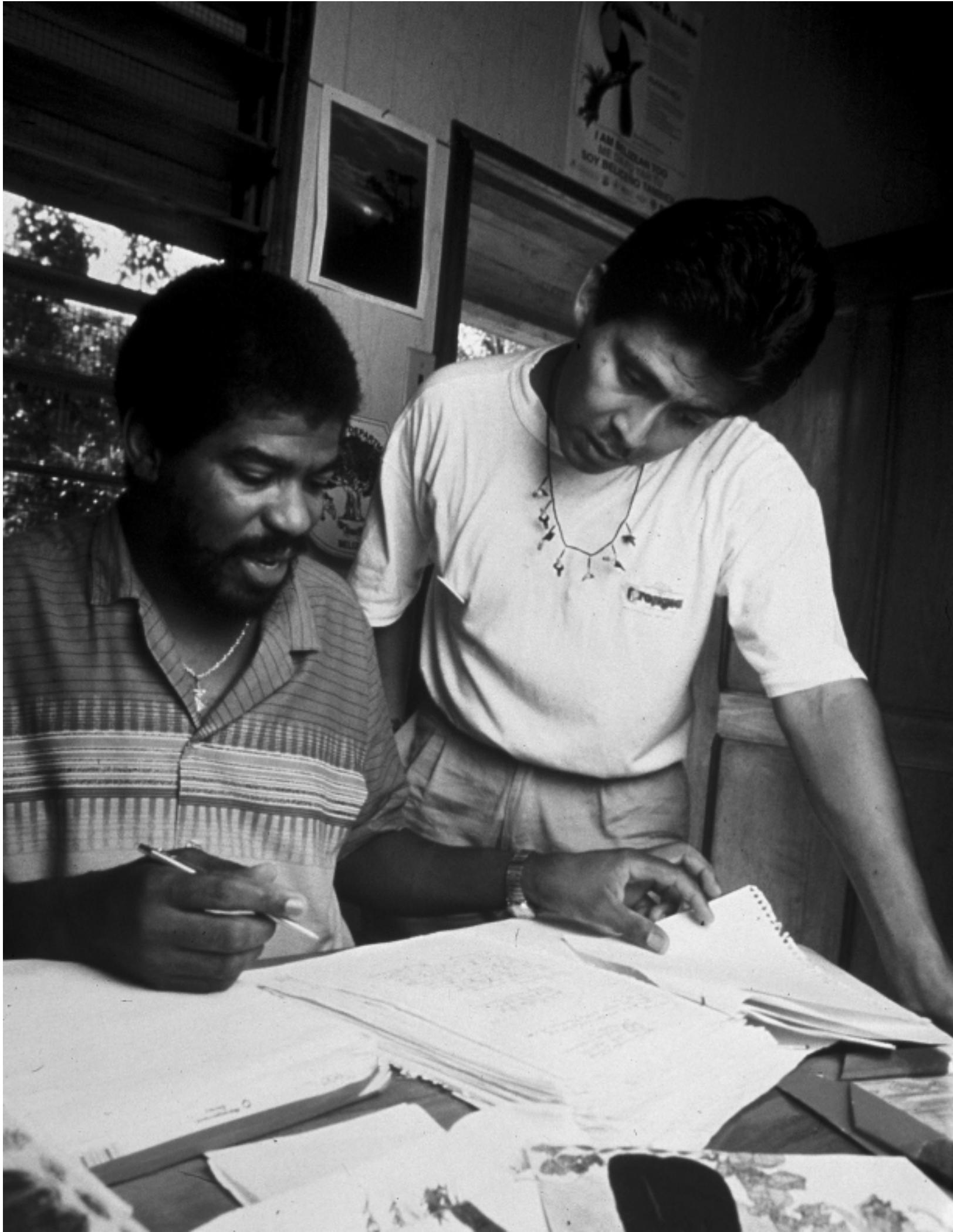
The Western Hemisphere's diverse habitats represent some of the driest, wettest, highest and lowest places on earth. The great Peruvian desert is one of the driest in the world, while the wet forests of the Choco and Pacific-slope Andes, bordering Peru and Colombia, grow under some of the wettest conditions known, with more than 3,200 inches (8m) of rainfall annually. The highest mountain in the hemisphere, Mt. Aconcagua, elevation 22,835 feet

(6,960 m), in Argentina rises from the Andes, the earth's longest mountain range, 4,350 miles (7,000 km). Peru and Bolivia share Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake in the world, whereas the Dominican Republic and Haiti share a complex of large salty lagoons nested in an inland basin some 131 feet (40 m) below sea level.

Many nations in this hemisphere are struggling to meet the challenges of managing their natural resources and must cope with severe limitations. Poverty is one of the most serious problems, and is both a cause and effect of local environmental degradation. Nations must also deal with outdated development models and recurrent natural disasters.

To address these challenges the Service's *Wildlife Without Borders-Latin America and the Caribbean* initiative was established on the premise that investment in local training and education of people, the hemisphere's single most important resource, is the most effective way to foster the development of sound environmental policies and practices within the region. Through *Wildlife Without Borders-Latin America and the Caribbean*, the Service seeks to involve people at all levels in wildlife and habitat conservation, from individual citizens to senior government administrators, including academic and non-governmental organizations and local communities.

By supporting capacity building, information exchange, and species and habitat conservation projects *Wildlife Without Borders-Latin America and the Caribbean* influences and empowers Latin American and Caribbean peoples to balance the needs of local communities with the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife resources.



Successful Partnerships

When *Wildlife Without Borders-Latin America and the Caribbean* began in 1983 its budget was \$150,000. Now it surpasses \$1 million annually. Yet, for a modest initiative whose effectiveness is grounded in local efforts and community empowerment, the benefits to conservation are extraordinary.

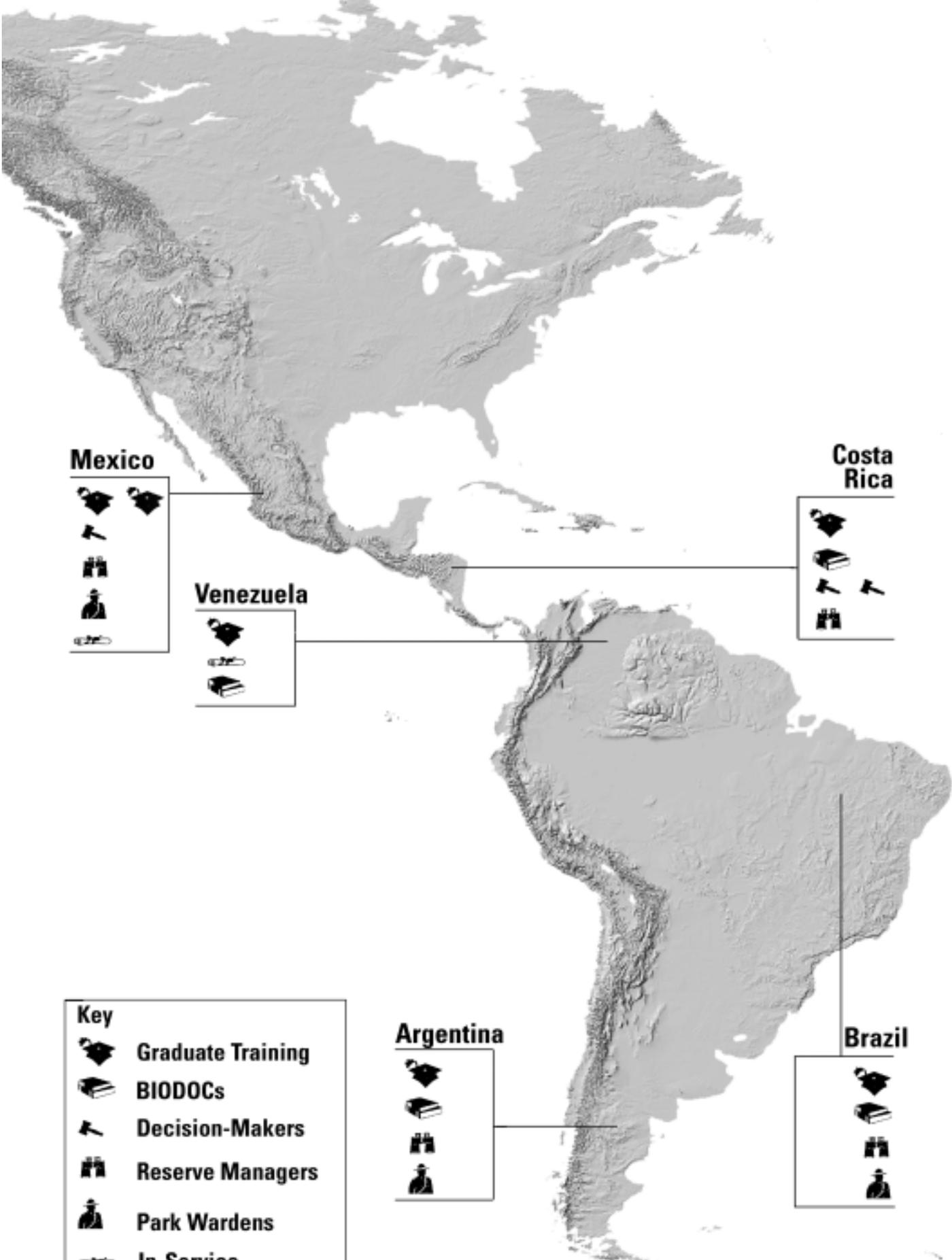
It is important to note that others have recognized the benefits of working together—our partners throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Much effort has gone into raising additional funds to support our shared goals and common vision. Between 1995 and 2000, *Wildlife Without Borders-Latin America and the Caribbean* provided \$4.7 million and leveraged \$18 million in matching and in-kind support for wildlife conservation projects.

Partnerships developed throughout the Western Hemisphere mark the true success of the *Wildlife Without Borders-Latin America and the Caribbean* program. The success has come from the hard work and dedication of individuals and groups who share the goals of the Service. These people make up the institutions and organizations with whom the Service has entered into formal partnerships.

Partnering with more than 100 organizations and institutions to conduct projects during the last 18 years, *Wildlife Without Borders-Latin America and the Caribbean* has worked with thousands of people. Each individual has played an important role—from the secretary in Costa Rica who makes preparations for a student seminar, to the biologist in Argentina who conducts research during personal time after teaching field techniques all day. These people and others like them are part of the great cooperative effort required to achieve the conservation of wildlife and habitats throughout the region.

“The RESERVA course provided me with important tools in protected area management but, most importantly, it created a foundation in me for a better understanding of the need to manage protected areas in an inclusive fashion, integrating various disciplines such as wildlife management, environmental education and community participation. This understanding prepared me well and ‘sharpened’ me for my career.”

Rafael Manzanero, a 1990 graduate of RESERVA. (Rafael Manzanero came to the course as a conservation officer in the Forest Department of Belize. As a result of his RESERVA training, he was promoted to serve as Belize’s first Protected Areas Officer at the Ministry of Natural Resources. Today Rafael is the Assistant Director for Conservation Education at the RARE Center, and President of Friends for Conservation and Development in Belize.)



Mexico

- Graduate Training (2 icons)
- Decision-Makers (1 icon)
- Reserve Managers (1 icon)
- Park Wardens (1 icon)
- In-Service (1 icon)

Venezuela

- Graduate Training (1 icon)
- In-Service (1 icon)
- BIODOCs (1 icon)

Costa Rica

- Graduate Training (1 icon)
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Argentina

- Graduate Training (1 icon)
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- Park Wardens (1 icon)

Brazil

- Graduate Training (1 icon)
- BIODOCs (1 icon)
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- Park Wardens (1 icon)

Key

- Graduate Training
- BIODOCs
- Decision-Makers
- Reserve Managers
- Park Wardens
- In-Service

Centers of Excellence

For more than 18 years the “Centers of Excellence” program has provided much needed training for wildlife conservation professionals and technical personnel—one of the greatest conservation needs in Latin America and the Caribbean and one that opens vast opportunities for cooperation.

Training through Centers of Excellence includes wildlife management, research, monitoring, environmental education, planning, law enforcement, and policy. With more countries expanding their conservation efforts, the demand for trained personnel continues to grow. In the longterm, nothing could be more powerful for sustaining wildlife than local specialists whose personal familiarity and training enables them to teach, write, and speak persuasively about the conservation of native flora and fauna.

Considerable progress has been made in developing the Centers of Excellence program with partners in all regions of Latin America. In each region, partner institutions and organizations make comprehensive and cost-effective conservation training programs available in the local language and culture.

Graduate Training in Wildlife and Ecosystem Management

Graduate degree programs that train wildlife biologists and managers have been developed with partners in various regions of the hemisphere. These graduate training programs offer students throughout Latin America and the Caribbean high quality, post-graduate education in natural resource conservation and management as well as in environmental education. All programs offer master of science (M.S.) and certificate level degrees, and some offer doctor of philosophy (PhD.) degrees. These programs provide training for future conservation professionals, local leaders, and policymakers. As the key to building local capacity, these programs are the cornerstone for Centers of Excellence. The Service’s commitment to these programs has generated great dividends in wildlife conservation. In contrast to the mid-1980s when no such

graduate level education programs existed in the region, today more than 200 highly skilled graduates of these regional programs work as conservation professionals in their home countries.

Since 1983, Centers of Excellence has invested more than \$3.3 million in graduate training and leveraged more than \$10 million in local matching funds (not including graduate training through *Wildlife Without Borders-Mexico* grants). This important training provides the tools necessary to deal with complex resource issues while building local expertise throughout the hemisphere.

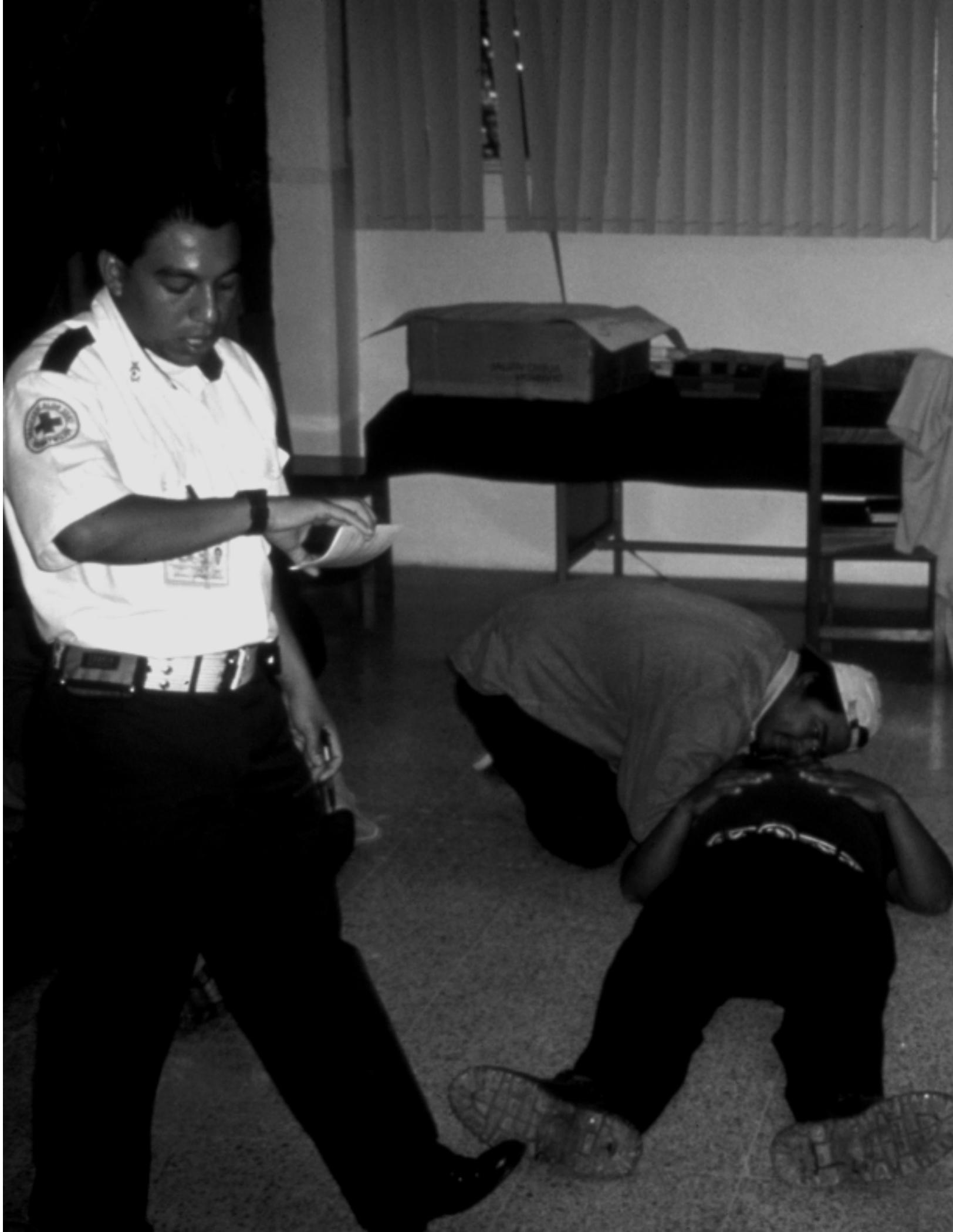


Reserve Manager Training

Designating protected areas does not guarantee achievement of conservation and sustainable resource use goals. Currently, only a fraction of the protected area managers needed for conservation in the region is available to assume such responsibilities and few are trained in the skills to achieve successful management.

The Reserve Manager Training program was developed to address this need and provides training specifically to those individuals managing protected areas. From 1983 through 2000, Centers of Excellence invested more than \$2.5 million in reserve manager training, with partners providing more than \$3 million. During that time, approximately 300 reserve managers from 20 countries in the region were trained. Although this is a significant contribution, it is only a small portion of the total number still required to address the conservation needs of the hemisphere.

Occasional courses are provided for reserve personnel on a national rather than a regional level. The Chilean National Committee for the Defense of Flora and Fauna; the Cuixmala Ecological Foundation and Protection of Wildlife, A.C., in Mexico; and the Peruvian Foundation for Nature are among the partners who have co-sponsored such training.





Park Warden Training

Equally important is the training of park guards and wardens. Quite often protected area park guards are the only public presence of the national government. Therefore they need to be trained not only to deal with the day-to-day issues of wildlife and habitat management, but also to improve their communication and outreach skills. For many participants this is their first on-the-job training experience.



Biological Documentation and Information Centers (BIODOCs)

Reference materials, a basic building block for all conservation activities, are in short supply throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Establishing archives and clearinghouses for such information is another major element of the Centers of Excellence. These regional clearinghouses provide access to technical literature and other documents not available from traditional sources. The Centers of Excellence program is working to increase access to books, scientific journals, unpublished reports such as “gray literature,” and to improve information exchange and collaboration by funding a network of BIODOCs.



Decision-Maker Training

These innovative courses help policymakers understand conservation and development issues so they have a basic foundation and are equipped to formulate and implement policies having a direct impact on wildlife and natural resources. This important component of Centers of Excellence trains select groups of United States and Latin American policymakers, many with little background in the environmental sciences, and issues related to conservation and sustainable development, to make well informed decisions.



In-Service Training for Government Personnel

More recently, the Centers of Excellence program collaborated with partners to develop in-service training on wildlife and habitat management. These certificate programs are designed for employees of government wildlife and conservation agencies. To continue success of employee participation, close collaboration with local governments is critical. This newest area of training and development holds great promise as an additional component to the Centers of Excellence program.

“The Costa Rican experience (Decision-Maker Course) was very enriching. It can be immediately applied in our countries as a contribution in the search for sustainable development.”

*Fernando Castro,
Project Analyst, Ecuador*



Centers of Excellence - Regions

Costa Rica



Wildlife Management Master of Science Degree Program



BIODOC

National Autonomous University of Costa Rica, Omar Dengo Campus (UNA), Heredia

\$1,188,113 + **\$3,564,339**

Launched in 1987, the Regional Program in Wildlife Management at the National Autonomous University of Costa Rica was the first of its kind in Latin America to offer a M.S. degree in Wildlife Management. Since its inception, Centers of Excellence has funded scholarships and thesis work, infrastructure and field courses. More than 60 students from 21 Latin American countries have completed M.S. degree requirements. Today, the UNA program is in a better position than ever to fulfill its main goal: “to graduate people that will assume leadership roles in wildlife management and conservation initiatives in Latin America and the Caribbean.” In 1995, the program was awarded the prestigious Rainforest Alliance Award that recognizes “bold and effective tropical conservation programs.” Likewise, Centers of Excellence has received the “Omar Dengo Award,” UNA’s highest level of recognition, for its outstanding support of this graduate program since its inception in 1987.



Ecological Principles for Sustainable Development in Latin America (for Latin American Decision-Makers)



Interdependence—Economic Development and Environmental Concerns in Tropical Countries (for U.S. Decision-Makers)

Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS), San Jose

\$200,000 + **\$300,079**

Both courses are offered annually with an average of 20 - 25 participants in each. These intensive, 1- and 2-week courses take advantage of the proximity of diverse habitats—cloud forest, dry temperate forest, wetlands and tropical

jungle—using local case studies applicable throughout Latin America to demonstrate important conservation principles. The courses stress the importance of bridging the gap between scientific environmental knowledge and decision-making for sustainable development. Emphasis is placed on group analysis of conservation legislation, the effects of development on habitats, and strategies for habitat conservation. More than 150 decision makers from the U.S. and Latin America have participated in these courses.



Wildlands Management Training



Organization for Tropical Studies

(OTS), San Jose

\$120,000 + **\$94,022**

This newest reserve management training course targets managers, planners and other field staff who have technical or administrative responsibility for Latin America’s protected areas. This 2-month, field-based course is designed for 20-25 participants. The course is centered at the OTS field station in Palo Verde National Park, but includes travel to contrasting locations throughout Costa Rica for first-hand exposure to management issues within other ecosystems and protected area settings. More than 50 participants have completed this training.

Venezuela



Biodiversity Management and Environmental Education Graduate Programs



BIODOC

Ezequiel Zamora National Experimental University of the Western Plains (UNELLEZ), Guanare

\$972,570 + **\$2,917,710***

UNELLEZ began its Biodiversity Management Graduate Program in 1989 and a Graduate Program in Environmental Education in 1992. Both programs offer M.S. level training and a 1-year non-degree specialist program for mid-career professionals. Centers of Excellence provides as many as nine scholarships per year for both programs,

“Just look at how many graduates are now teaching, conducting important research, or holding key decision-making positions in government agencies and conservation groups.”

Eduardo Carrillo

*Biologist and Instructor, Costa Rica
Wildlife Management Master of
Science Degree Program*

Key: *Project name*; Partner organization; Project location; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service funds; **Matching funds**.



and supports thesis work, workshops, special courses, and maintenance of an herbarium. More than 35 students from 6 Latin American countries have completed the M.S. degree requirements in this program. In 1996, UNELLEZ presented the Order Ezequiel Zamora award to the Centers of Excellence program.



In-Service Training

UNELLEZ

The 1-year Specialist Certificate programs offer training to personnel from Venezuela's Wildlife Protection Agency and other professionals who are not interested in M.S. level work but need resource management skills. This non-thesis program includes significant course work from degree programs, but students participate in seminars and conduct research related to specific resource management and local conservation problems. The 10 graduates of this program are now in important positions within Venezuela's natural resources agencies.

Argentina

Master of Science Program in Wildlife Management

BIODOC

National University of Argentina, Cordoba Center for Applied Zoology (CZA-UOC), Cordoba

\$555,954 + \$1,667,862*

Since 1992, this program emphasizes adaptive management and integration of multi-disciplinary skill development for resolving complex problems at habitat and ecosystem levels. An innovative arrangement allows students to assume internships at national parks and other protected areas. They receive hands-on experience in searching for practical solutions to management problems. More than 21 students have come from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay and Uruguay. In 1995, Argentina's Ministry of Education classified the CZA/UOC among the best graduate programs in the nation.



Reserve Manager Training

CZA/UOC

This training course was conducted in Administration and Management of Protected Areas for 18 government agency personnel. Course topics included basic and theoretical concepts related to protected area management. Participants carried out practical application of concepts in local protected areas.



Park Warden Training

Argentina National Park Service

\$35,200 + \$22,550

In this 10-day workshop, 40 participants received training in law enforcement, communication, local flora and fauna, and problem solving, to help them perform more effectively on the job.

Brazil



Graduate Program in Ecology, Conservation and Wildlife Management



BIODOC

Federal University of Minas Gerais,

Belo Horizonte

\$646,715 + \$1,940,145

This program enrolled its first students in 1989, and continues to offer M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in wildlife and habitat management. Centers of Excellence funds scholarships, thesis work, visiting professors, and field courses in wildlife management techniques. To date, 96 students from 4 Latin American countries have received degrees through this program. The graduate program was the 1994 recipient of an "A" rating from the Brazilian Agency for the Accreditation of Academic Programs. In 1997, it was the recipient of the Curupira award for the Conservation of Nature from the Brazilian Center for the Conservation of Nature in Minas Gerais and the Biodiversity Foundation.



Reserve Manager Training

State Forestry Institute of Minas

Gerais, Belo Horizonte

\$400,000 + \$531,776*

This 2-month training session is offered annually, and trains 20-30 participants per course in the basic techniques of protected area management. Though most of the 140 participants to date are Brazilian, other Latin American countries have been represented.



Park Warden Training

State Forestry Institute of Minas

Gerais, Belo Horizonte

Since 1993, 8 courses have been conducted for 188 participants from 18 Brazilian states. This 2-week course provides participants with basic tools and information. However, it also strives to improve the wardens' quality of life and develop self-esteem to enable them to integrate effectively into the communities surrounding the parks they protect.



Mexico

Wildlife Conservation and Management Master of Science Degree Programs

The Postgraduate College, Salinas de Hidalgo, San Luis Potosi and *The Institute of Ecology*, Xalapa, Veracruz
\$421,757 + **\$1,901,242**

Since 1995, under the Wildlife Without Borders-Mexico program, the Service has supported the development and implementation of M.S. curricula in wildlife conservation and management at two partner institutions in Mexico. More than 5 years and 15 graduates later, these programs have met the standards of excellence of the Mexican accreditation agency of higher education.

Reserve Manager Training

Ducks Unlimited of Mexico, Celestun, Yucatan
\$1,177,962 + **\$686,504**

The first reserve manager training course, RESERVA, was held in 1989 through a collaborative initiative between the Centers of Excellence program, Ducks Unlimited of Mexico and the Mexican Secretariat of the Environment (SEMARNAT). This 3-month course is conducted in Mexico but open to participants from throughout the region. More than 150 reserve managers from 20 Latin American and Caribbean countries have participated, representing government and non-government organizations. Participants receive training on topics such as cultural and biological diversity

in Latin America, human ecology, geography, natural resource conservation, fundraising, and ecotourism strategies.



Park Warden Training

Institute of Natural History (IHN), Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas
\$87,611 + **\$97,820**

Since 1996, under the Wildlife Without Borders-Mexico program, the Service partnered with the IHN to develop and conduct training for park wardens. This course also seeks to change the park warden image from one of “ecological police” to “promoter of conservation,” providing information regarding conservation to the communities in and near the protected areas. More than 90 wardens from 18 protected areas and neighboring Guatemala have received training.



In-Service Training

National Council for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity of Mexico, Merida and Monterrey
\$154,000 + **\$618,483**

Due to a highly successful first course, this course was offered again in 2000. A total of 55 graduates have completed both courses. Designed for state and federal employees of the Mexican Government, it also includes participants from municipal governments and employees of other local organizations. The course aims to strengthen the wildlife management capacity of government officials.



Winged Ambassadors

Wildlife Without Borders-Latin America and the Caribbean has been actively involved in resident and migratory bird conservation and created the “Winged Ambassadors” program. More than 350 species of migratory birds fly south every year from temperate areas in the United States and Canada to tropical areas in Latin America and the Caribbean. Their survival is increasingly threatened by serious problems such as unregulated hunting, habitat loss, and pesticide poisoning along the migration route and the wintering grounds. These problems illustrate the need for international cooperation in species conservation. In addition, each nation of the Western Hemisphere has its own rich heritage of resident birds, equally threatened by the same problems that plague migrant species.

Through Winged Ambassadors, the Service works extensively with partners in Latin America and the Caribbean to educate the general public about the plight of birds and to provide resource managers with the skills necessary to maintain the natural habitat these birds require. Winged Ambassadors also works to identify problems facing migratory birds abroad and bring about solutions, addressing the conservation of migratory birds in a variety of ways:

■ Research on the Mortality of Wintering Ospreys

Boise State University

\$16,800 + **\$53,564**

Winged Ambassadors and Boise State University partnered with a local biologist to conduct research on ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*) wintering in Colombia to document the extent of the threats from shooting, trapping and other human-caused mortality at fish farming facilities. While osprey are protected in the United States, no similar protections exist in the countries where they winter. In Colombia, osprey are known as the “fishing eagle.” Fish farmers consider it a competitor in the harvest of fish.

In response, a community-based education program was introduced for the local fish farmers. The extent of the program is being assessed and development of deployment methods are in progress. The program’s success will enable the Colombian government to include osprey in new regulations for licensing and permitting fish farms throughout the country.

■ Impacts of Pesticide Use on Swainsons’ Hawks

Institutio Nacional de Tecnologia

Agropecuaria, Argentina

\$263,000 + **\$931,350**

An estimated 20,000 Swainson’s hawks died due to agricultural pesticide poisoning in the winter of 1995-96. Monocrotophos used to exterminate grasshoppers was the cause of mortality. Funds from the Winged Ambassadors program enabled Argentina’s National Institute for Agricultural Technology, National Sanitation and Agricultural Food Quality Service and Ministry of Natural Resources and Sustainable Development to collaborate at unprecedented levels, mobilizing action and reducing hawk kills. The collaboration improved wildlife management practices and created widespread awareness concerning the misuse of toxic pesticides. Current trends demonstrate a dramatic reduction in the misuse of toxic pesticides. Winged Ambassadors continues to support efforts to reduce the use of toxic chemicals while promoting integrated pest management techniques.

Winged Ambassadors is increasingly involved in activities such as the North American Bird Conservation Initiative, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and the implementation of the major U.S. and North American bird conservation plans. Winged Ambassadors integration into these efforts will maximize the efficient delivery of bird conservation programs throughout the hemisphere.



Green Diamonds

Conserving species through the “Green Diamonds” program is an essential part of *Wildlife Without Borders-Latin America and the Caribbean*. Habitat and species issues are intricately connected. Therefore, without habitat conservation, species conservation could not be achieved. Green Diamonds seeks to identify and support efforts that conserve key habitats for the region’s extraordinary fauna and flora. Green Diamonds are the “gems of green”—natural areas protected for the diverse wildlife they support. They are the sites that mean “home” to this hemisphere’s varied and disappearing wildlife. Green Diamonds helps provide species the habitat they need to survive by offering infrastructure support, training, and empowerment to local communities. A few examples of this work include:

- **CAMRIS for Wildlife and Reserve Managers**

Rainforest Alliance, Costa Rica
\$201,234 + **\$120,928**

CAMRIS (Computer Aided Mapping and Resource Inventory System) was created to analyze biological information and is a relatively simple program that can display the results of spatial and statistical data analysis, as either physical, climatic, demographic, or ecological features. Green Diamonds has sponsored efforts to teach CAMRIS to local resource managers in Latin America and the Caribbean. Through a series of training workshops, local managers from the region learn a GIS program adapted especially for their needs. More advanced workshops teach

students how to design protected areas, depict demographic information on maps, and incorporate satellite images with data sets. In some cases, these are the first maps created for these areas.

- **Protected Area Research in Paraguay**

Guyra Paraguay
\$6,881 + **\$35,378**

This project provided baseline information to support the design and management of the newly proposed protected area in the Cerrado ecosystem of northeastern Paraguay. Field work collected data on the threatened and endangered species in the area. Proposed park boundaries were evaluated in relation to the most critical habitats used by threatened and endangered species. The results figured heavily into the design of the new Paso Bravo National Park which included significant acres of critical habitat within its boundaries.

- **Green Action in Haiti**

Florida Museum of Natural History
\$15,660 + **\$55,000**

Green Action carried out a series of 6-day training sessions and seminars on wildlife conservation and management of natural protected areas in Haiti using teaching materials adapted for local communities. Results include the development and installation of signage for protected areas, 6 activity books, wildlife drawings, posters, and a host of other audiovisual materials.



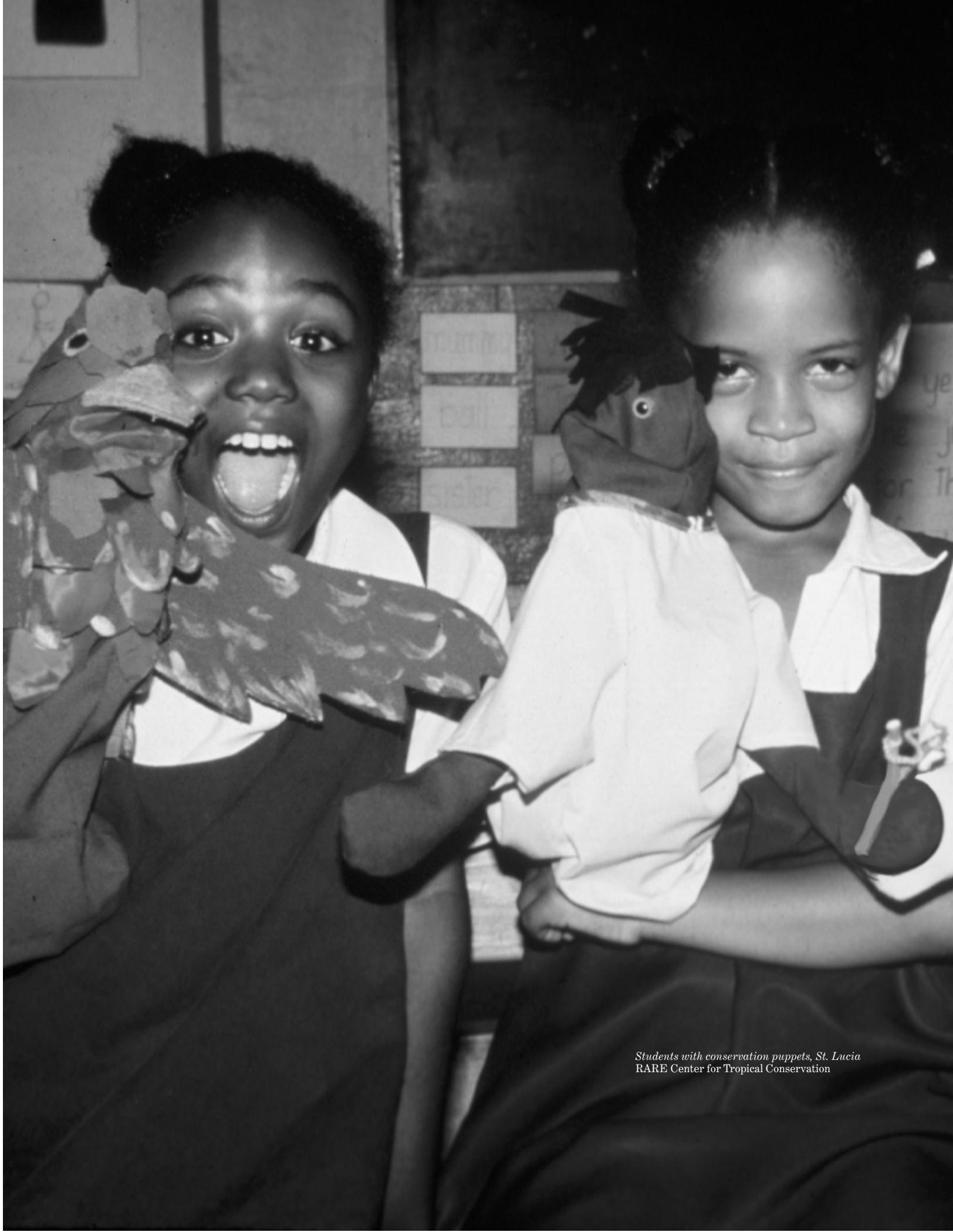
Back from the Brink

“Back from the Brink” is a *Wildlife Without Borders-Latin America and the Caribbean* program that supports vulnerable species conservation efforts. Back from the Brink complements the Green Diamonds program, which focuses on habitat conservation. Although this is a species oriented initiative, its conservation benefits for a single keystone species affect other species occupying the same habitats. Projects include:

- **Conserving Mexican Wild Cats**
Cincinnati Zoo, Center for Research of Endangered Wildlife
\$10,000 + **\$21,200**
All wild cat populations (10 species) are endangered or threatened in Latin America. Populations are becoming increasingly isolated due to habitat loss and fragmentation. Through this collaborative project, the Cincinnati Zoo worked with Mexican colleagues on research, training, and technology transfer regarding captive and wild cats, particularly ocelots. The project furthered the conservation of wild cats, and reinforced collaboration among Mexican and U.S. scientists and managers.
- **Deer Conservation in South America**
Smithsonian Institution’s Conservation and Research Center
\$5,000 + **\$6,000**
Hunting and habitat destruction threaten many deer species in South America. Very little is known about

the basic life history of these animals, making it impossible to implement effective conservation strategies. This collaborative project established a small grants program designed to educate young local biologists on current techniques in wildlife biology and how to conduct their own research projects. Biologists gained a better understanding of South American deer species and how they are affected by human populations. Results were submitted for review by local scientists, and disseminated to local conservation organizations and government authorities for conservation planning.

- **Conservation of Sea Turtles in Guatemala**
Association for the Rescue and Conservation of Wildlife (ARCAS)
\$8,000 + **\$8,000**
Targeting poachers, traffickers, and consumers of sea turtle eggs, the project partner, ARCAS, conducted 16 environmental education activities in various communities on the south coast of Guatemala. Activities included training workshops, presentations at local schools, field trips, beach clean-ups, sea turtle releases, and publication of informational booklets. In addition, a public awareness campaign with newspaper advertisements, posters, and bumper stickers urges local Guatemalans to conserve sea turtles and their habitats.



*Students with conservation puppets, St. Lucia
RARE Center for Tropical Conservation*

Conservation through Pride

“Conservation Through Pride” is a small, but highly successful *Wildlife Without Borders-Latin America and the Caribbean* program. Conservation Through Pride aims to establish a conservation ethic in local communities. For example, in St. Lucia, the island’s endemic parrot had declined to as few as 100 birds in the 1970s. Lacking resources for research and captive breeding, the St. Lucia Forestry Department implemented an extensive public outreach campaign that touched virtually every school child and most adults on the island. As a result, the St. Lucia parrot today numbers approximately 500 individuals. This education model has been replicated on a number of Caribbean islands.

Since its inception, Conservation Through Pride has invested more than \$1.2 million in environmental education activities. The individual grants vary in amount and have supported a wide range of activities, including development of: radio spots, documentaries, education plans, public education campaigns, and environmental education meetings and conferences. The Conservation Through Pride program clearly demonstrates that through environmental education, people will develop an environmental conservation ethic whereby they take pride in their unique resources. The following examples of projects demonstrate the breadth of activities.

- **Promoting Protection through Pride: A Conservation Education Campaign for the Northern Zone of Costa Rica**

RARE Center for Tropical Conservation

\$24,984 + **\$64,038**

The goal of this project was to raise widespread, grass-roots support for wildlife conservation by focusing public attention on an environmental symbol of regional pride. The chosen symbol was the Great Green Macaw (*Ara ambigua*), an endangered bird restricted to only a few areas of Central America. RARE worked with a local conservation organization to conduct an intensive 1-year education

campaign in the provinces of Sarapiquí and San Carlos, on the Caribbean side of Costa Rica. The campaign promoted the conservation of the remaining 25-30 breeding pairs of macaws found in the zone and their tropical lowland forest habitat.

- **Identifying Indicator Species in Belize**

Belize Audubon Society /University of Idaho (BAS/UI)

\$9,998 + **\$12,805**

In response to habitat changes and human pressure in Mesoamerican wildlands, BAS/UI developed a model methodology to integrate ecological knowledge and social values with financial and logistical realities in four rural Belize communities surrounding protected areas. Products include: 1) a list of ecological indicator species of northern neotropical wildlife; 2) a list of social indicator species relevant for the four Belizean protected areas; and 3) the integration of these ecological and social indicators into a priority-setting guide for managers.

- **Bat Control and Education Program in Venezuela**

Bat Conservation International (BCI)

\$15,576 + **\$27,017**

The common vampire bat causes more than \$50 million in annual damage to livestock and ranching activities in Venezuela. Controlling vampire bats without destroying this population of the species is a major challenge. It requires multi-disciplinary training and strategic planning for research, management, monitoring, and education efforts. BCI developed a workshop program for wildlife biologists, veterinarians, ranchers, and government representatives. The workshops emphasized the ecological and socioeconomic values of bats in neotropical environments; introduced natural history and veterinary aspects of vampire bats; discussed techniques to control vampire bat populations; and laid out strategies to conserve and manage beneficial bat populations and their habitats.



Wildlife Without Borders - Wetlands

“Wildlife Without Borders-Wetlands” is a *Wildlife Without Borders-Latin America and the Caribbean* program that works with many organizations to assist sites and encourage wetland conservation, both domestically and internationally. Wetlands are one of the most important yet undervalued habitats on our planet. Traditionally we think of wetlands as undesirable swamps that need “improvement.” In truth many aspects of daily life depend upon these areas, from clean water and food, to flood control and recreation.

Wetlands have tremendous wildlife diversity. Their level of diversity is second only to tropical rainforests. Numerous bird, fish, and invertebrate species need healthy wetlands for their survival. Despite their importance to people and wildlife, humans continue to destroy wetlands at an alarming rate.

Wildlife Without Borders-Wetlands also follows the goal of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar), to foster worldwide wetland conservation. Ramsar, named after the town in Iran where the Convention was signed in 1971, promotes conservation activities that also incorporate human use. The United States joined the Convention in 1986.

Through the following projects, Wildlife Without Borders-Wetlands is connecting the Americas in a collaborative endeavor to conserve these vital habitats.

- **Workshops on the Value of Wetland Conservation**
Aquatic Environment Corporation of Chile
\$24,350 + **\$49,560**
The Corporación Ambientes Acuáticos de Chile, conducted 7-day workshops for teachers from 10 rural schools. Workshop participants gained an understanding of a wetland; its function and identification of different

types; the role of wetlands for wildlife and habitat maintenance; threats to wetlands; management of wetlands for sustainable use; how to educate school children about the value of wetlands and their protection; and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

- **Outreach Training Workshop in Costa Rica**

Rainforest Alliance
\$13,560 + **\$24,423**

Participants from 16 government agencies and NGO's, representing 6 countries in Latin America, shared information about wetland conservation practices and the value of producing materials on wetland conservation in their respective countries. In addition, participants conducted a survey to determine if local news reporters knew about wetlands in their countries. Most answered they did not have enough information on this issue; nor did they know about the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Thus, the production and distribution of informative materials developed through this project was beneficial for reporters in Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, El Salvador, and other Latin American countries.

- **Wetlands for the Future**

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands Secretariat and the U.S. Department of State
\$300,000 + **\$1,500,000**

Wildlife Without Borders-Wetlands provides technical support for this annual small grants program for training activities in the management and conservation of wetlands in Latin America and the Caribbean. Between 1995-1998, 78 projects were funded in 18 countries to promote the concepts of sustainable use of wetlands and strengthen the capacity of institutions and individuals responsible for these habitats.



Looking Forward, Glancing Back:

A Vision for the Future

Wildlife Without Borders-Latin America and the Caribbean provides a broad array of support for conservation through six distinct programs: Centers of Excellence, Winged Ambassadors, Green Diamonds, Back from the Brink, Conservation through Pride, and Wildlife Without Borders-Wetlands. Nations in the Western Hemisphere have immense needs for resource manager training, local community empowerment, and worthy projects to conserve wildlife and habitats. Over the past 18 years, *Wildlife Without Borders-Latin America and the Caribbean* has demonstrated that alternatives to natural resource degradation and wildlife extinction do exist.

Wildlife Without Borders-Latin America and the Caribbean efforts to link the well-being of local communities to that of the local wildlife have been highly successful.

Perhaps the most significant outcomes of the *Wildlife Without Borders-Latin America and the Caribbean* initiative are the most difficult to quantify. Immeasurable conservation benefits are generated in small but incremental ways through the day-to-day activities of program participants applying improved conservation practices. The initiative's influence is reflected in the growing network of conservation professionals, enriching national infrastructures for wildlife conservation and management, and increasing international participation in regional and global conservation efforts.

Through *Wildlife Without Borders-Latin America and the Caribbean*, the Service has learned many important

international conservation lessons. Probably the most valuable are the following:

- To the extent that we understand and respect one another's perspectives—that is the extent to which we can work together.
- To the extent that we work together as equal partners, each contributing to solve a problem or issue—that is the extent to which we will achieve effective solutions.
- To the extent that people develop pride in their wildlife—that is the extent to which their wildlife will be saved.
- To the extent that people appreciate the importance of habitats—that is the extent to which there is hope that the local wildlife community might remain intact.

Ultimately, our goal is to conserve wildlife. In the end, we hope that habitats will be managed to sustain their health and ecological integrity. This can only be achieved from the bottom up—partnering with those who own, live, and survive off the land—the stewards of the land. *Wildlife Without Borders-Latin America and the Caribbean* will continue to emphasize local capacity building to empower developing nations throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

Working together we can succeed in achieving the goals mandated in the Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere.

A Dreamer's Dream Comes True... The Condor Foundation

The Condor Canyon National Park lies 62 miles (100 km) east of Cordova in the center of Argentina, at an altitude of about 6,562 feet (2,000 m). In front of the park is a new building, the Center for Nature Interpretation, dedicated to the Andean condor and the park. Due to support from Wildlife Without Borders-Latin America and the Caribbean, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service logo is proudly displayed on the entrance.

Thirty years ago only 9 Andean condors were left in the region, threatened with extirpation. One person, Fabián Ramallo, a private citizen and small businessman, set out to reverse this trend. He believed that if he could create awareness of the problem and the importance of the condor, he could muster the support he needed to rescue those birds held illegally in captivity throughout Argentina. His dream was to reintroduce them to the wild, restore their freedom, and provide the public with the opportunity to witness their grandeur. With help from the Wildlife Without Borders-Latin America and the Caribbean, he has reintroduced 18 condors to the wild.

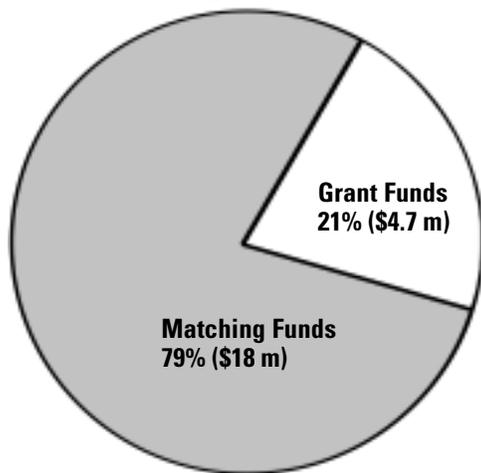
Today, hundreds of condors populate the region, thanks to Fabián Ramallo's dream. The creation of the park in 1996 is also largely due to his efforts. The success of Ramallo's work demonstrates how small grant support from the Wildlife Without Borders-Latin America and the Caribbean can have a large-scale impact.

Projects Funded by Program Area 1995-2000

Key: *Project name*; Partner organization; Project location; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service funds; **Matching funds**; (Grant Identification Number)

For additional information on *Wildlife Without Borders - Latin America and the Caribbean*, please visit <http://international.fws.gov/>.

Grant and Matching Funds (1995-2000)



Centers of Excellence

Park Managers Training Program; Argentina National Parks Administration; Argentina; \$35,200 + **\$22,550** (95-1352)

Graduate Programs in Wildlife Ecology and Management, and Environmental Education at the Nacional Experimental University of the Western Plains "Ezequiel Zamora" and the Journal BioLlania; Association for the Development of the Museum of Natural Sciences; Venezuela; (regional) \$563,370 + **\$3,387,437** (95-1307, 96-1317, 97-G037/-G078, 98-G161, 99-G403, 00-G641)

Regional Masters Program in Wildlife Management at the National Autonomous University of Costa Rica, Omar Dengo Campus and for the BIODOC and the Journal of Neotropical Wildlife; UNA Foundation; Costa Rica (regional); \$412,875 + **\$2,297,603** (95-1285/95-1306/95-1334/95-1335, 96-1226, 97-G077/G079/G080, 98-G052/G160, 99-G319, 00-G573)

Graduate Program in Wildlife Ecology and Management at Federal University of Minas Gerais and the BIODOC; Biodiversitas Foundation; Brazil (regional); \$255,850 + **\$5,416,000** (95-1353, 96-1298, 97-G176, 98-G151, 99-G471, 00-G640)

Graduate Program in Wildlife Management; Federal University at Mato Grosso do Sul; Brazil; \$18,735 + **\$699,176** (98-G035)

Graduate Program in Wildlife Ecology and Management and BIODOC; Córdoba National University Center of Applied Zoology; Argentina (regional); \$382,954 + **\$974,630** (95-1340, 96-1297, 97-G100, 98-G089, 99-G402, 00-G638)

Reserve Manager Training; Biodiversitas Foundation; Brazil/Latin America; \$272,473 + **\$358,656** (95-1302, 96-1254, 97-G156/168, 98-G150, 99-G429, 00-G640)

RESERVA Manager Training Program; Ducks Unlimited of Mexico; Mexico (regional); \$556,886 + **\$524,859** (95-1349/1384, 96-1245/1299, 97-G081/G177, 98-G036, 99-264/462, 00-G693)

Reserve Manager Training; Foundation for the Defense of Nature; Venezuela; \$10,000 + **\$10,000** (98-152)

Latin American Decision-Makers Course; Organization for Tropical Studies; Costa Rica (regional) \$125,000

+ **\$157,231** (95-1305, 96-1319, 98-G088, 99-G284, 00-G658)

U.S. Decision-Makers Course; Organization for Tropical Studies; Costa Rica; \$50,000 + **\$50,000** (99-G285 and 00-G540)

Interactive Mapping System Training; RARE Center for Tropical Conservation; Argentina; \$35,167 + **\$40,000** (95-1338)

Computer-Assisted Mapping and Resource Inventory System; World Wildlife Fund; Argentina and Brazil; \$22,725 + **\$18,300** (96-1321)

GIS Training for Managers in Latin America and the Caribbean; Rainforest Alliance; \$252,010 + **\$62,895** (97-G097 and 98-G051)

Publication of SIMBIOTA; Department of Wildlife Ecology, University of Wisconsin; United States/Latin America; \$4,850 + **\$5,900** (96-1274 and 98-G157)

Caribbean Marine Park Managers Manual; Environmental Solutions International; Caribbean Region; \$12,500 + **\$12,500** (95-1377)

Public Outreach Workshop for Graduate Programs in Wildlife Ecology and Management; Rainforest Alliance; Costa Rica/Latin America; \$31,068 + **\$30,000** (96-1318)

Wildlands Management Course; Organization for Tropical Studies; Costa Rica; \$120,000 + **\$80,561** (99-G286 and 00-G636)

Training for Brazilian Park Rangers; Biodiversitas Foundation; Brazil; \$42,000 + **\$102,070** (98-G149, 99-G428, 00-G640)

Graduate Students Internet Network; The Nature Foundation; Colombia; \$10,000 + **\$4,554** (99-G461)

Monitoring Weather at Palo Verde National Park; Organization for Tropical Studies; Costa Rica; \$9,746 + **\$8,740** (99-PO and 00-G559)

Publication of Environmental Science (Ciencias Ambientales); UNA Foundation; Costa Rica; \$6,000 + **\$23,872** (99-G360, 00-G541/711)

Threatened Fauna List and Fifth Symposium on Brazilian Ecosystems; Biodiversitas Foundation; Brazil; \$25,000 + **\$287,090** (00-G640)

Model Design and System Dynamics for Conservation and Wildlife Management; UNA Foundation; Costa Rica; \$6,205 (00-G708)

Stream Corridor Restoration Course; Organization for Tropical Studies; Costa Rica; \$12,710 + **\$37,330** (00-G743 and Fund Transfer)

Green Diamonds

Environmental Interpretation and Training in Protected Areas Management; Antisana Foundation; Ecuador; \$4,485 + **\$545** (95-1293)

Nature Trail Construction; RARE Center for Tropical Conservation; St. Lucia, West Indies; \$15,000 + **\$14,000** (95-1336)

Directory of Marine Park Areas and Managers in the Wider Caribbean; Environmental Solutions; United States and the Caribbean; \$10,000 + **\$12,500** (97-G052)

First Latin American Congress for National Parks and Other Protected Areas; Food and Agriculture Organization; Colombia/Latin America; \$24,150 + **\$15,300** (97-G053)

Green Actions—Environmental Education Program; University of Florida, Museum of Natural History; Haiti; \$15,660 + **\$5,500** (97-G153)

Community Outreach Program for the Mindo Reserve; Ornithological Foundation of Ecuador; Ecuador; \$10,000 + **\$31,000** (97-G154)

Training Manual—Trails: Conservation that Makes Dollars and Sense; RARE Center for Tropical Conservation; United States, Mexico, Honduras, Costa Rica; \$75,000 + **\$53,125** (97-G169)

Workshop: Enhancement of Marine and Coastal Area Management; U.S. Park Service; United States, Caribbean; \$16,000 (97-H001)

Support for SPAW Manuals and Creating a Caribbean Conservation Community; Monitor International; United States; \$18,500 + **58,150** (99-M244/G418)

Conservation Importance of a Proposed Protected Area; Guyra Paraguay; Paraguay; \$6,881 + **\$35,378** (99-G268)



Regional Program in Wildlife Management, National Autonomous University, Costa Rica. Sirena Biological Station, Costa Rica. USFWS/E. Carrillo

Projects Funded by Program Area 1995-2000

(continued)

Printing of Environmental Sciences (Ciencias Ambientales) Journal, Volume 16, No. 1, "Protected Areas: For what and at what cost?"; UNA Foundation; Costa Rica; \$2,000 + **\$8,286** (99-G360)

Protected Area Identification in the Atlantic Forest Area; Guyra Paraguay; Paraguay; \$15,840 + **\$62,160** (00-G542)

Environmental Education Center in the Portland Bight Protected Area; Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation; Jamaica; \$10,000 + **\$14,500** (00-G660)

Winged Ambassadors

Bird Conservation in Latin America and the Caribbean; American Bird Conservancy; United States, Latin America, and the Caribbean; \$77,243 + **\$245,172** (95-1337, 97-G094, 98-G123, 99-G314, 00-G558)

Annual Meetings of the Society of Caribbean Ornithology; Society of Caribbean Ornithology; Caribbean Region; \$60,075 + **\$76,292** (95-1308, 96-1253, 97-G150, 98-G155, 99-G359)

Fifth Congress of Neotropical Ornithology; Ornithological Society of

Paraguay; Paraguay (regional); \$5,000 + **\$30,000** (95-1301)

Poster: Birds of Antigua and Montserrat; Caribbean Conservation Association; Barbados (regional); \$5,000 + **\$10,000** (95-1303)

Library of Natural Sounds, Hardware and Software; West Indies College; Jamaica; \$2,500 + **\$42,100** (95-1339)

Bird Area Planning and Implementation Project; National Audubon Society; Mexico; \$40,000 + **\$52,800** (95-1348)

Annual Meeting of Ornithological Society of La Plata; Ornithological Society of La Plata; Argentina; \$2,000 + **\$2,000** (96-1301)

A Model to Identify Ecological and Social Indicator Species of Wildlife in the Northern Neo-tropics; Belize Audubon Society; Belize/Latin America; \$9,998 + **\$12,805** (97-G152)

Raptor Migration Project; Boise State University; Colombia; \$19,126 + **\$52,964** (97-G199)



Bird Banding Station, Belize
USFWS

Nesting Ecology of Birds in Parque Nacional El Rey; University of Montana; Argentina; \$20,000 (97-H807)

Life-histories and Reproduction of Birds in Argentina; U.S. Geological Survey; Argentina; \$11,000 (99-H100)

Mortality of Wintering Ospreys at Fish Farms in Colombia; Boise State University; Colombia; \$16,800 + **\$36,964** (99-G416)

Impacts of Pesticide Use on Wildlife in Agro-ecosystems; National Institute of Agriculture and Livestock Technology; Argentina; \$30,000 + **\$30,000** (99-G419)

Guidelines on the Use of Wild Birds in Research; The Ornithological Council; Latin America and the Caribbean; \$6,500 + **\$5,000** (99-G443)

Shorebird Symposium; Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences; Mexico; \$2,500 + **\$14,500** (99-G452)

Shorebird Population Surveys; University of Central America; Nicaragua; \$6,027 + **\$6,000** (99-G466)

Shorebird Conservation; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Argentina; \$24,104 + **\$50,960** (99-H014)

Shorebird Workshop—Conserving Bird Habitats in Western Mexico; Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences; Mexico; \$6,200 (00-G557)

Proceedings Publication: Flamingo Conservation Biology; Wildlife Conservation Society; International; \$2,500 + **\$17,720** (00-G648)

Shorebird Educational Materials Production; Inalafquen Foundation; Argentina; \$4,992 (00-G697)

Capacity Building in Latin America and the Caribbean; The Ornithological Council; Latin America; \$10,000 + **\$5,000** (00-G724)

North American Bird Conservation; American Bird Conservancy; Latin America; \$10,000 (00-G712)

Public Outreach Initiative; Society of Caribbean Ornithology; Caribbean; \$40,000 + **\$72,500** (00-J085)

Seabird Workshop; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Caribbean Field Office; Puerto Rico; \$8,430 + **\$8,430** (Fund transfer)

Back from the Brink

Conservation of Swainson's Hawks (Buteo swainsoni); National Institute of Agriculture and Livestock Technology; Argentina; \$108,000 + **\$778,500** (97-G018, 98-G034)

Conservation of the Andean Condor; CONDOR Foundation; Argentina/South America; \$25,600 + **\$28,500** (97-G039, 98-G086, 99-G420, 00-G710)

A Regional Plan for Managing and Conserving Meso-American Felids; Simón Bolívar National Zoo; Costa Rica/Central America; \$24,250 + **\$38,810** (97-G051)

Conservation of the West Indian Whistling Duck (Dendrocygna arborea); Society of Caribbean Ornithology; Caribbean (regional); \$60,000 + **\$80,000** (97-G151 and 99-G316)

Conservation of the Blue-throated Macaw in the Beni; Harmony Association; Bolivia; \$9,988 + **\$32,043** (97-G157)

Ecology and Conservation of New World Psittacines; Association of Field Ornithologists; Costa Rica/Latin America; \$11,050 + **\$11,376** (97-G167)

Swainson's Hawk Conservation Videos; U.S.D.A. Forest Service; United States, Argentina; \$15,000 (97-H806)

Great Green Macaw Conservation; Tropical Scientific Center; Costa Rica; \$62,200 + **\$197,650** (98-G059, 99-G315, 00-G637)

Conservation of Mexican Felids; Cincinnati Zoo, Center for Research of Endangered Wildlife; Mexico; \$10,000 + **\$21,200** (98-G087)

Training Course for Wildlife Veterinarians; American Zoo and Aquarium Association; Brazil; \$5,000 + **\$24,400** (98-103)

CITES Brochure; National Aquarium; Dominican Republic; \$7,800 + **\$4,170** (98-153)

Harvest Models for Lizard Populations; Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Texas A&M University; United States/Paraguay \$14,000 + **\$23,294** (98-156 and 99-G463)

Sea Turtle Conservation Education for Miskitu Indians in Nicaragua; Wildlife Conservation Society; Nicaragua; \$8,000 + **\$8,000** (99-G281)

Projects Funded by Program Area 1995-2000

(continued)

6th Annual Meeting of Latin American Sea Turtle Specialists; Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation; Brownsville, Texas; \$10,000 + \$34,000 (99-G283)

Deer Conservation in South America; Smithsonian Institution's Conservation and Research Center; South America; \$5,000 + \$6,000 (00-G552)

Workshop on IUCN Listing Criteria; IUCN-ORMA; Central America/Mexico; \$5,000 + \$14,500 (00-G656)

Training in Wildlands Management; Rare Species Conservatory Foundation; Dominican Republic; \$5,000 + \$16,800 (00-G657)

Conservation of Sea Turtles; Association for the Rescue and Conservation of Wildlife (ARCAS); Guatemala; \$8,000 + \$7,170 (00-G709)

Pacific Leatherback Project; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Regional Office, Region 4; Costa Rica; \$5,000 + \$5,000 (Fund Transfer)

Proceedings from Regional Sea Turtle Meeting; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Regional Office, Region 4; Dominican Republic; \$5,000 + \$5,000 (Fund Transfer)

Leatherback Nest Protection Project + U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Regional Office, Region 4; Mexico; \$2,500 + \$2,500 (Fund Transfer)

Mexican Student Internship; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge; Loxahatchee, Florida; \$2,000 + \$2,000 (Fund Transfer)

Conservation through Pride

Environmental Education Program: Tikay Wasi; Peruvian Foundation for the Conservation of Nature; Peru; \$24,680 + \$96,920 (95-1243, 98-G154, 00-G659)

Chilean Hunting Law Implementation Training Program; National Committee for the Defense of Flora and Fauna; Chile; \$6,480 + \$5,600 (95-1304)

Guide to the Birds of Jamaica; Gosse Bird Club; Jamaica; \$5,050 + \$10,000 (96-1300)



*Local fishermen participate in sea turtle education and assist in release of hatchlings
Projeto TAMAR*

Promoting Protection Through Pride: A Conservation Education Campaign for the Northern Zone of Costa Rica; RARE Center for Tropical Conservation; Costa Rica; \$24,984 + **\$64,038** (96-1320)

Training for Biodiversity Conservation in the Nevados de Chillán; National Committee for the Protection of Flora and Fauna; Chile; \$8,000 + **\$5,600** (97-G038)

Educational Brochures on Neotropical Migratory Birds; National Audubon Society; United States/Latin America; \$40,000 + **\$32,000** (97-G088)

Natural Resource Centers for Local Communities; Missáo Tremembé Association; Brazil; \$5,511 + **\$5,000** (97-G089)

Booklet on the Common Amphibians of Costa Rica; Yiski Conservation Association; Costa Rica; \$4,368 + **\$4,590** (97-G090)

Workshop on Community Participation and Co-management; Caribbean Natural Resources Institute; Dominican Republic; \$4,000 + **\$21,514** (97-G091)

Biological Diversity and Conservation in South America; International Union for the Conservation of Nature; South America; \$3,000 + **\$3,000** (97-G092)

Recycling Program for La Calera; Calera Municipality; Chile; \$2,312 + **\$460** (97-G093)

Booklet: Wildlife of Dominica; Forestry and Wildlife Division of Dominica; Dominica; \$3,300 + **\$1,700** (97-G108)

Wildlife Column for Local Newspapers; Protection of Tarija's Environment; Bolivia; \$4,961 + **\$5,000** (97-G140)

Production of Biodiversity Slides in Spanish; World Resources Institute; Mexico/Latin America; \$10,000 + **\$26,986** (97-G142)

Conference on Wildlife Management in Amazonia; University of Florida; Bolivia/South America; \$10,000 + **\$32,000** (97-G155)

Bat Control and Education Program in Venezuela; Bat Conservation International; Venezuela; \$15,576 + **\$27,017** (98-G061 and 00-G649)

Sustainable Use of Biological Resources in Brazil; Terra Brasilis Institute; Brazil; \$11,982 + **\$10,348** (99-G417)

Wildlife Without Borders-Wetlands

Workshops on the Value of Wetland Conservation; Aquatic Environment Corporation of Chile; Latin America and the Caribbean; \$25,350 + **\$49,560** (97-G170, 99-G459, 00-G572)

Wetlands Workshop; Organization of Tropical Studies; Costa Rica/regional; \$4,200 + **\$20,240** (98-G085)

Public Outreach Workshop; Rainforest Alliance; Costa Rica/regional; \$13,560 + **\$24,423** (98-G158)

Journal of Neo-tropical Wildlife-Management and Conservation of Wetland Ecosystems; UNA Foundation; Costa Rica; \$4,160 + **\$16,640** (98-G159)

Workshop Waterfowl and Wetland Habitat Ecology and Management; U.S. Geological Survey; Venezuela; \$8,216 (98-H100)

Involvement of Local Communities in Wetland Management; Conservation Treaty Support Fund; United States; \$15,000 + **\$340,244** (98-G104)

Assistance for Ramsar COP7; National Parks Foundation; Costa Rica; \$100,000 + **\$472,300** (99-G241)

Wetlands for the Future in Venezuela; University of the Western Plains "Romulo Gallegos"; Venezuela; \$1,820 + **\$2,000** (99-G444)

Wetland Conservation in Bahia, Brazil; Society of Wetland Scientists; Brazil; \$5,500 + **\$5,500** (00-G537)

Nomination of a Ramsar Site; Pronatura Noreste; Mexico; \$14,450 + **\$15,790** (00-G569)

Wetlands Newsletter-Newslinks; Association of State Wetland Managers; International; \$10,000 (00-G570)

Support for U.S. Ramsar Sites; Terrene Institute; US; \$26,000 + **\$5,000** (00-G571)

Wetlands Reporting Guidebook for Journalists in Central America; Rainforest Alliance; Central America; \$20,000 + **\$45,200** (00-G647)

The Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere :

A History of Accomplishment

- ***Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 2000;***
- ***The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);***
- ***The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as waterfowl habitat (Ramsar);***
- ***The Cartagena Convention: Protocol on Specially Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean;***
- n ***The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA); Wildlife Without Borders-Mexico;***
- ***The U.S.-Mexico-Canada Trilateral Committee for Ecosystems and Wildlife Conservation Management;***
- ***Partners in Flight (Aves de las Americas);***
- ***Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network;***
- ***North American Waterbird Conservation Plan;***
- ***U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan;***
- ***North American Bird Conservation Initiative;***
- ***North American Waterfowl Management Plan;***
- ***North American Wetlands Conservation Act;***
- ***Taking Wing.***

Rapid increases in the number and complexity of Western Hemisphere flora and fauna conservation issues led the United States Congress to ratify the Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere in 1941. The Convention established itself as the first agreement to aim for the protection of all native animals and plants within the Americas. It foresaw the possibility of setting aside a variety of areas to protect biological diversity. The goals of the Convention were visionary for their time. They remain equally compelling today. Since its signing, a variety of related mandates have strengthened its implementation within the United States. These include:

- 1973: Passage of implementing legislation for the Convention (P.L. 93-205), enacted with the Endangered Species Act (USC 1531-1543; 87 Stat.884);
- 1976: Issuance of Executive Order 11911-41 FR 73, designates the Secretary of the Department of the Interior (DOI), with the Secretary of State, to implement the Convention;
- 1982: Passage of Endangered Species Act amendments (P.L. 93-304), further defining DOI responsibilities;
- 1983: Congress establishes U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Western Hemisphere Program (*Wildlife Without Borders-Latin America and the Caribbean*) to lead implementation of the Convention.

Since 1940, the Convention has provided a conceptual framework for habitat protection, and a powerful tool for government conservation of species and sensitive areas in 22 countries. It is the law in Chile; the basis for Peru's national park system; and a foundation for

numerous other initiatives in the United States and the region, including:

- international habitat conservation and cooperation in implementing treaties, conventions, protocols, agreements, and other conservation initiatives for the flora and fauna of the hemisphere;
- education and training for local resource managers and wildlife biologists through large scale, multi-lateral education programs;
- coordinated exchange of technical information and personnel to support local, national, and international conservation programs;
- regional programs for the effective management of important species, habitats, and ecosystems;
- environmental education and public awareness campaigns; and,
- community-based and grass-roots organizations in support of resource conservation.

The Convention offers a comprehensive yet flexible legal framework for generating national and regional solutions to problems related to wildlife and their habitats. It has been used by the legislative bodies of its contracting parties to write national conservation legislation and wildlife regulations, and to justify establishing numerous protected areas and national monuments. In several countries the Convention has provided legislators leverage to pass environmentally related legislation and enter into joint conservation efforts. For example, Costa Rica and Panama established adjoining national parks on their borders with unified management criteria.

Notes

**For more information about Wildlife
Without Borders-Latin America and the
Caribbean, please contact:**

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