

Wildlife Without Borders

Regional Programs

Conservation of wildlife is a global priority, with the survival of wildlife species largely dependent on habitats extending beyond political boundaries. In light of significant pressures from the expanding human population and corresponding increases in development, pollution, and consumption of natural resources, the need for international collaboration in conserving wildlife has never been greater. These wildlife crises are exacerbated by a need for more trained wildlife professionals and environmental advocates in parts of the world that are home to some of the richest biodiversity our planet holds.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Service) has a mandate through numerous statutes and international treaties to provide support for the conservation of species of international concern. To address this mandate

and help stem rising threats to global biodiversity, the Service's Division of International Conservation has developed the *Wildlife Without Borders*-Regional Programs.

The mission of the Service's *Wildlife Without Borders*-Regional Programs is to develop locally adapted wildlife management and conservation programs to maintain global species diversity. By partnering with international and local non-governmental organizations, governments, private businesses, and community leaders, these efforts use a small amount of funding to leverage commitments of financial and human resources in order to make significant strides in wildlife conservation.

Each of the *Wildlife Without Borders*-Regional Programs is shaped to meet the particular needs of the

individual countries in which they work; however, consistent strategic areas of conservation focus are central to all the programs. Specifically, each program builds off the following tenets for conservation: capacity building for long-term in-country wildlife management; endangered and migratory species conservation; strategic habitat conservation and natural areas; and environmental education and outreach.

The *Wildlife Without Borders*-Regional Programs currently focus on five areas: Latin America and the Caribbean, Mexico, India, Russia, and China, and the Service will launch a *Wildlife Without Borders*-Africa Program in the near future. These programs are funded in the appropriations process under the Service's "International Conservation" budget.



Maned wolves

In 2005, the Wildlife Without Borders — Regional Programs provided conservation training and opportunities around the globe. Some examples of successes from the past year include:

Wildlife Without Borders — Latin America and the Caribbean

Using an appropriation of \$519,000 to leverage over two million dollars in contributions, this program supported 26 wildlife conservation and capacity building efforts in the region. Among these are graduate-level wildlife conservation and management courses, as well as conservation biology and training sessions for decision-makers, wildlife personnel, students and scientists. Endangered species directly assisted in these projects include Baird's tapirs in Mesoamerica, spectacled bears in Colombia, endemic birds in the Dominican Republic, maned wolves in Brazil, and West Indian whistling ducks in the Caribbean, among other rare wildlife species.

Wildlife Without Borders — Mexico

With \$668,000, this program implemented a small grants program and provided assistance to 20 conservation projects in Mexico. The program supported projects in the conservation of migratory monarch butterflies, coral reefs, jaguars, marine turtles, California condors,

and parrots threatened by illegal trade. Additionally, the program supported wildlife conservation and management training for local people, and provided funds to empower local citizens — women in particular — to take an active role in regional wildlife management and environmental decisions.

Wildlife Without Borders — China

Following devastating floods in 1998, the Chinese government has repeatedly turned to the Service for guidance on best practices for the conservation and restoration of wetlands, and river and floodplain management. This dialogue enhances China's ability to manage resources that benefit both people and wildlife. This program also engages China in an exchange of views on managing public use and visitation of public lands that is of value to both nations.

Wildlife Without Borders — Russia

Recent program grants have allowed Russian nature reserves and national parks to purchase equipment to better safeguard the critically endangered saiga antelope, snow leopard, and sea

otter, and to conduct conservation education programs for schoolchildren, tourists, and local residents. This program has also provided grants to Russia's national bird banding center, whose researchers place lightweight tags on birds to better track their long distance migration across international borders.

Wildlife Without Borders — India

Using long standing partnerships, this program exchanged information and technology with biologists, and instigated vital and timely studies to address the recent massive vulture die-off in India. Other conservation initiatives developed in 2005 included an action plan for primate conservation, guidelines for wetlands conservation, and guidelines for grasslands management.

Wildlife Without Borders — Africa

This program, which launches in 2006, will seek to strengthen resource management within Africa. It will strengthen wildlife training institutions and address key issues facing African wildlife, such as wildlife disease, bushmeat trade, and human/wildlife conflict.



Saiga antelope
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California condor
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