

Conserving Migratory Birds and Habitat in the Western Hemisphere

The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act

What is the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act?

The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act establishes a matching grant program to fund projects that promote the conservation of migratory birds in the United States, Canada, Latin America and the Caribbean. Projects may include activities to benefit bird populations and habitats, research and monitoring, law enforcement, and outreach and education.

On March 7, 2008, the Service's Director approved nearly \$4.5 million in Act funding to support 37 conservation projects in 20 countries.

What are the match requirements?

All grant requests must be matched by partner funds at least 3:1. For projects in the United States and Canada, matching funds must be in cash; in Latin America or the Caribbean, both cash and in-kind contributions are allowed. Partner funds from a U.S. federal source may be involved in any project, but are not eligible as match.

How are projects selected?

A panel of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and partner organization staff reviews eligible grant proposals and makes recommendations for project funding to the Service's Director, who approves funding on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior. Many more good proposals are received than can be funded (see tables on reverse).

What is the program's grant portfolio to date?

Since 2002, when the grants program began, partnerships have received more than \$25 million in grants in support of 260 projects in more than 30 countries. An additional \$112 million in partner funds have been contributed to these projects--a 4:1 partner-to-grant fund

match. To date, approximately 3 million acres of migratory bird habitat have been positively affected. Many of the projects take place in more than one state or country; others focus on the entire Neotropical region.

What changes did Congress make to the program when it reauthorized the Act?

In September 2006, Congress reauthorized the Act and allowed an incremental increase to its appropriations, from \$5 million to \$6.5 million, over the next five years. In addition, projects in Canada were made eligible for Act funding, and projects in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands may now count in-kind contributions as matching funds. These changes were implemented with the FY 2007 program.

What is the Advisory Group?

Appointed by the Secretary of the Interior in 2006, the Advisory Group comprises government and nongovernment representatives from the United States and several countries in the Western Hemisphere, and includes the North American Wetlands Conservation Council. This group advises the Fish and Wildlife Service on the goals and objectives of the Act and on selection criteria for grants.

How can I learn more about this program?

For further details about the grants program, contact its coordinator at the



Western tanager/Dave Menke, USFWS

Division of Bird Habitat Conservation at (703) 358 1784 or neotropical@fws.gov. For brief descriptions and summary tables of funded projects, visit <http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/NMBCA>.

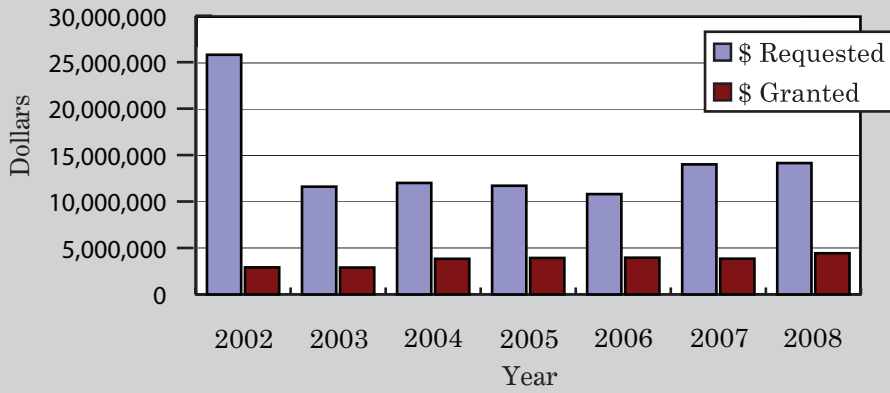
How do I apply for a grant?

The application deadline for the 2009 program is November 13, 2008. Application materials are available on the Web site.

What has been the annual demand for funding, and the overall distribution of grant funds per region to date?

Each year, grant requests from qualified applicants far exceed the program's available funding, as illustrated by the top chart on the back. Regarding distribution, the Act states that at least 75 percent of the total funding available for grants each fiscal year is to be used to support projects outside the United States. The Act also supports projects taking place in multiple regions, furthering its goal to help foster international cooperation for bird conservation initiatives. The middle chart on the back shows the total distribution of grant funding to date per region.

**NMBCA Grant Request History
(2002-2008)**



... and the distribution of funded projects per the five activity categories? The majority of the projects funded have been multifaceted, involving activities from more than one category. The bottom chart to the left shows what percentage of the 260 projects funded as of FY 2008 has the corresponding categories as a component of the project. Data for this chart include single as well as multi-activity projects.

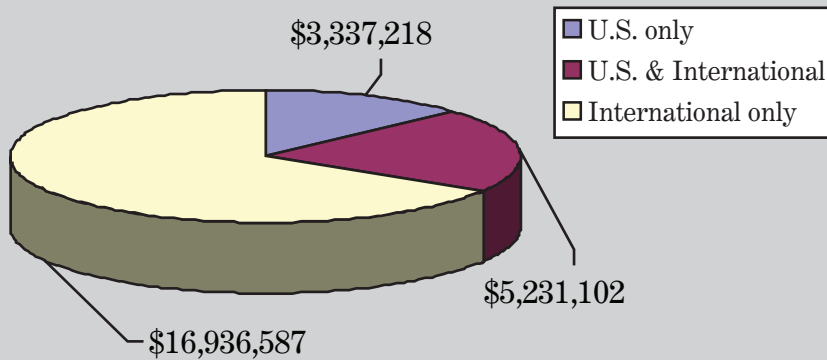
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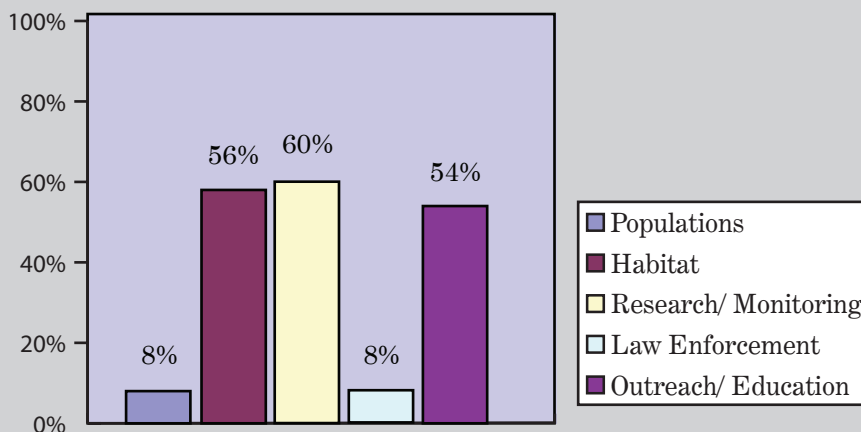
July 2008



**Total NMBCA Grant Funds Distribution Per Region
(2002-2008)**



**Percentage of Funded NMBCA Projects Having a Given Activity as a Component
(2002-2008)**



**Data include multi-activity Projects*