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Contact: Jeff Flocken 703-358-1950

New Service Grants Encourage Wildlife Conservation in
Latin America and the Caribbean

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service today announced it is awarding more than \$1,000,000 in 51 grants for wildlife conservation programs in 21 countries throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. These grants, awarded through the Service's *Wildlife Without Borders* program, will be matched by an additional \$4,000,000 from partnership organizations, generating a total of \$5,405,000 for conservation.

"Many wildlife species we see in our own backyards at certain times of the year, are also enjoyed by people in other countries in our shared hemisphere at other times," said Service Director Steve Williams. "These grants provide the seed money to encourage the growth of the on-the ground conservation cooperation for the benefit of migratory wildlife and border species."

Conservation projects funded this year vary from species specific efforts aimed at helping imperiled wildlife such as sea turtles, pronghorn antelope, tapirs and monarch butterflies, to broader capacity building initiatives such as the creation of in-country university courses designed to train local people in managing and conserving wildlife. Grant recipients include U.S. and foreign-based conservation groups, academic institutions and foreign government wildlife agencies.

"The wide range of applicants this past year reflects a growing awareness of the need to conserve wildlife globally," said Kenneth Stansell, the Service's Assistant Director for International Affairs. "Many applicants are using a variety of creative solutions to address threats such as habitat loss to biodiversity in the Western Hemisphere."

"Collaborations between the U.S., foreign governments, and not-for-profit organizations are key to saving endangered wildlife." Says grant recipient Barbara Bramble, Director of National Wildlife Federation's Partnership for Wildlife Program. "Initiatives such as the *Wildlife Without Borders* grant programs make important conservation partnerships possible."

Please see attachments for sample grants, as well as a full list of grants awarded today.

For more information, visit: <http://international.fws.gov>.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 544 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resources offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species

Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign and Native American tribal governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

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For more information about the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, visit our home page at <http://www.fws.gov>.

Sample 2004 *Wildlife Without Borders*-Mexico Projects

“Reducing Sea Turtle Bycatch and Mortality in Mexico's Pacific Shark Fisheries”

trains and equips fishermen, fishery observers and enforcement personnel to reduce sea turtle bycatch, safely release captured turtles, and monitor and report fishery-sea turtle interactions. Submitted by Defenders of Wildlife. **FWS Funding: \$20,000.00; Matching Funds: \$22,170.00.**

“Sustainable Ecotourism Focused on the California Condor for the Communities of Sierra de San Pedro Martir”

provides funds to research the life cycle and habitat uses of reintroduced condors, and create educational materials about the importance of the survival of the condor in its original range in Baja California. Submitted by Terra Peninsular, A.C.. **FWS Funding: \$20,000.00; Matching Funds: \$207,000.00.**

“Recovery of Endangered Pronghorn Antelope in Mexico”

will support the continuation of reintroduced pronghorn antelope population monitoring activities in Valle Colombia, Coahuila, Mexico, to determine population size, distribution and abundance, breeding success, and fawn survival rates in order to maintain viable populations in the area. It will be conducted in partnership with the Arizona and New Mexico Departments of Game and Fish. Submitted by Unidos para la Conservacion, A.C. **FWS Funding: \$35,000.00; Matching Funds: \$90,000.00.**

“Conservation of Endangered Leatherback Turtle in the Pacific Coast of Mexico”

will support turtle research and monitoring, including protection activities on key breeding beaches in Mexiquillo, Michoacan; data collection on causes of decline, current status, and nesting population size estimates for the leatherback in Mexico and Central America; resuscitation training for fishermen and government personnel; and, environmental education workshops for local people. Submitted by Kutzari, A.C. **FWS Funding: \$25,000.00; Matching Funds: \$290,508.00.**

“Community Participation in Ecosystem Restoration at the Monarch Butterfly

Biosphere Reserve” promotes the long-term conservation of the wintering habitat of the monarch butterfly through natural resource management training for the local communities of the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve. Submitted by Alternare, A.C..

FWS Funding: \$50,000.00; Matching Funds: \$270,200.00.

“Wildlife, Water and Watersheds: A Hands-on Seminar for Mexican Reporters and Editors”

will develop and implement a course for Mexican reporters and editors to increase the quality and quantity of press coverage of conservation stories in Mexico. Submitted by National Wildlife Federation. **FWS Funding: \$34,326.00; Matching Funds: \$61,216.00.**

Sample 2004 *Wildlife Without Borders*-Latin America & the Caribbean Projects

“Fluvial fishing and Wetlands Project - Parana River, Argentina” will promote informed participation of key stakeholders for the integrated and sustainable management of fishing on the Medium and Lower Parana River. The goal is to use an ecosystem approach to achieve replicable examples of wise use to preserve the rich diversity of the river, and to improve the quality of life for river-side communities. Submitted by Fundacion PROTEGER. **FWS: \$11,910.00; Matching Funds: \$23,705.00.**

“Sea Turtle and Scarlet Macaw Conservation in Guatemala” will provide environmental education and community organization for the conservation of endangered olive Ridley and leatherback sea turtles that nest on the coast of Guatemala. Additionally, the grant will support environmental education, training, and networking activities to conserve scarlet macaws and their habitats in the Peten region in Guatemala. Submitted by ARCAS. **FWS: \$20,000.00; Matching Funds: \$31,170.00.**

“Flamingo Conservation in Northern Chile” supports printing and distribution of the book entitled “Conservación de flamencos en el norte de Chile”. The book will share the results of years of population survey data and other information collected on the biology and conservation of flamingos in the Chilean Andes. Submitted by National Forestry Corporation, Antofagasta Region. **FWS: \$4,500.00; Matching Funds: \$1,300.00.**

“Minimizing Seabird Mortality in the Argentinean Demersal Longline Fisheries” researches seabird deterrents measures that will increase fishing profits while diminishing seabird mortality rates, assess the effectiveness of these measures, and apply the results of the project into the National Plan of Action for Seabirds. The project will be jointly developed with various NGOs, academia, fishing companies, and the Argentine government. Submitted by Wildlife Conservation Society. **FWS: \$18,250.00; Matching Funds: \$60,850.00.**

“Mountain Tapir Population and Habitat Viability Assessment Workshop” supports a mountain tapir PHVA workshop to be held in Pereira, Columbia in October 2004. The goal of the workshop is to gather, systematize and discuss all the available data on mountain tapirs and use this information to develop specific recommendations for research, management and conservation priorities for the species. Submitted by Houston Zoo, Inc. **FWS: \$5,000.00; Matching Funds: \$19,000.00.**

“Wildlands Management in the Tropics: A Course for Latin American Managers” supports a course for wildlife managers from Costa Rica and other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. The course offers a context for wildlife management based on principles of planning, goal development, evaluation monitoring, and adaptation to change. The overall goal of the course is to improve the capacity of wildlife managers to conserve and manage protected areas in the tropical region of Latin America and the Caribbean. Submitted by Organization for Tropical Studies. **FWS: \$40,000.00; Matching Funds: \$61,041.00.**

Full List of 2004 *Wildlife Without Borders*-Mexico Grant Projects

“Reducing sea turtle bycatch and mortality in Mexico's Pacific shark fisheries”

trains and equips fishermen, fishery observers and enforcement personnel to reduce sea turtle bycatch, safely release captured turtles, and monitor and report fishery-sea turtle interactions. Submitted by Defenders of Wildlife. **FWS Funding: \$20,000.00**

Matching Funds: \$22,170.00

“Women, resource management and dry forests” promotes a series of capacity-building workshops targeting women from San Isidro Chacalapa in charge of providing firewood for household use. Other activities under this project will include the establishment of local reforestation working groups, an environmental education course and the production outreach materials for local communities. Submitted by SERBO, A.C. **FWS Funding: \$20,000.00; Matching Funds: \$34,200.00.**

“Sustainable ecotourism focused on the California condor for the communities of Sierra de San Pedro Martir”, provides funds to research the life cycle and habitat uses of reintroduced condors, and create educational materials about the importance of the survival of the condor in its original range in Baja California. Submitted by Terra Peninsular, A.C. **FWS Funding: \$20,000.00 Counterpart: \$207,000.00**

“Recovery of Endangered Pronghorn Antelope in Mexico” will support the continuation of reintroduced pronghorn antelope population monitoring activities in Valle Colombia, Coahuila, Mexico, to determine population size, distribution and abundance, breeding success, and fawn survival rates in order to maintain viable populations in the area. It will be conducted in partnership with the Arizona and New Mexico Departments of Game and Fish. Submitted by Unidos para la Conservacion, A.C. **FWS Funding: \$35,000.00 Counterpart: \$90,000.00**

“U.S. and Mexico Migratory Bats Conservation and Education Initiative” supports the Borderlands Bat Conservation initiative and the Program for the Conservation of Mexican Bats. Activities include the production and distribution cave owner stewardship materials; the delivery of a bat conservation and management workshop; and the identification of previously undocumented migratory bat routes and caves along the US-MX border. Submitted by Bat Conservation International. **FWS Funding: \$50,000.00; Matching Funds: \$72,260.00.**

“Conservation of Endangered Leatherback Turtle in the Pacific Coast of Mexico” will support turtle research and monitoring, including protection activities on key breeding beaches in Mexiquillo, Michoacan; data collection on causes of decline, current status, and nesting population size estimates for the leatherback in Mexico and Central America; and resuscitation training for fishermen and government personnel, and environmental education workshops for local people. Submitted by Kutzari, A.C. **FWS Funding: \$25,000.00 Counterpart: \$290,508.00**

“PROBEA: Coming Full Circle: Impact and Measurement” formalizes the process of converting classroom learning into community action at the student, teacher, family and community level by training four schools to implement effective environmental improvement projects in Tijuana and La Paz. Activities will include evaluation of resource training needs, and the production of a best practices handbook to train other teachers. Submitted by San Diego Natural History Museum. **FWS Funding: \$20,000.00; Matching Funds: \$44,950.00.**

“Second Certificate Course in Operation and Management of Geographic Information Systems for Mexico’s Nature Reserves in Chiapas” implements the Second Certificate Training Course (15 days) in GIS for resource managers in the state of Chiapas, Mexico. Submitted by IDESMAC. **FWS Funding: \$35,000.00; Matching Funds: \$23,100.00.**

“Community Participation in Ecosystem Restoration at the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve” promotes the long-term conservation of the wintering habitat of the monarch butterfly through natural resource management training for the local communities of the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve. Submitted by Alternare, A.C. **FWS Funding: \$50,000.00 Counterpart: \$270,200.00**

“Wildlife, Water and Watersheds: a Hands-on Seminar for Mexican Reporters and Editors” will develop and implement a 4-day course for Mexican reporters and editors to increase the quality and quantity of press coverage of conservation stories in Mexico. Submitted by National Wildlife Federation. **FWS Funding: \$34,326.00 Counterpart: \$61,216.00**

“Certificate Course in Ecological Restoration for Mexican Resource Managers” develops and implements certificate courses for Mexican resources managers, addressing ecological restoration. Activities will also include the production and distribution of a training manual based on the course. Submitted by Unidos para la Conservacion, A.C.. **FWS Funding: \$65,000.00; Counterpart: \$85,000.00.**

“Training for Peasant Farmers in Ecological Restoration of Endangered Dry Forests in Guerrero, Mexico” implements a workshop for members of 10 local peasant farmers communities in the dry forest of Guerrero, Mexico to: a) evaluate previous restoration efforts in this important wildlife habitat; and b) develop strategies and evaluation indicators. Submitted by Grupo de Estudios Ambientales, A.C.. **FWS Funding: \$30,000.00; Matching Funds: \$77,182.00.**

“Certificate Course in Outreach for Protected Area Managers” provides natural resource managers the tools to reduce the conflict and social problems common in protected areas of southern Mexico, through the implementation of a second 5-week certificate course for participants from Mexico’s Natural Protected Areas Council (CONANP). Submitted by Pronatura Chiapas, A.C.. **FWS Funding: \$35,000.00; Matching Funds: \$55,905.00.**

“Mexican Border Participation in Western Hemisphere Convention Activities”

increases and enhances U.S. state wildlife agencies involvement in such initiatives as the Canada/Mexico/United States Trilateral Meeting for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management, RAMSAR and Bonn Convention meetings, and performance evaluations of the Service’s Wildlife Without Borders Mexico grant projects. Submitted by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

FWS Funding: \$33,000.00; Matching Funds: \$24,000.00.

Full List of 2004 *Wildlife Without Borders*-Latin America & the Caribbean Grant Projects

“Support for the Journals Ambientales and Ambien-tico” will provide support for two UNA environmental publications: Ambientales and Ambien-tico. Both publications seek to promote scientific research on national and regional environmental issues, disseminate research results, and provide new materials for environmental education at the university and high school levels. Submitted by Fundación UNA. **FWS: \$11,293.00; Matching Funds: \$30,351.00.**

“Graduate Program in Wildlife Management” will provide support for the training of a new group of students and continue provide assistance for the Parks for the Future and BIODOC programs. Support will cover scholarships for several students, thesis work, travel expenses for thesis directors, and administrative services for the program. Submitted by Centro de Zoología Aplicada. **FWS: \$73,260.00; Matching Funds: \$124,080.00**

“Mountain Tapir Population and Habitat Viability Assessment Workshop” provides support for a mountain tapir PHVA workshop to be held in Pereira, Columbia in October 2004. The goal of the workshop is to gather, systematize and discuss all the available data on mountain tapirs and use this information to develop specific recommendations for research, management and conservation priorities for the species. Submitted by Houston Zoo, Inc. **FWS: \$5,000.00; Matching Funds: \$19,000.00.**

“Conservation and Management of the Neotropical Region Wetlands” will provide support for the Neotropical Center for Training on Wetlands. The award will cover training, community participation activities, and information transfer and use through the development and maintenance of a Neotropical wetlands conservation webpage. Submitted by Centro Neotropical de Entrenamiento en Humedales. **FWS: \$10,000.00; Matching Funds: \$34,300.00.**

“Paraguayan Migratory Shorebird Specialist” will support the training of a Paraguayan biologist in migratory shorebird banding. The training internship will focus on banding of aquatic birds in Canada’s Great Lakes region and on field ornithology in Long Point, Canada. Submitted by Guyra Paraguay. **FWS: \$2,900.00; Matching Funds: \$7,300.00.**

“Fluvial fishing and Wetlands Project - Parana River, Argentina” will promote informed participation of key stakeholders for the integrated and sustainable management of fishing on the Medium and Lower Parana River. The goal is to use an ecosystem approach to achieve replicable examples of wise use to preserve the ichtyc diversity of the river, and to improve the quality of life for river-side communities. Submitted by Fundacion PROTEGER. **FWS: \$11,910.00; Matching Funds: \$23,705.00.**

“Biodiversity of Bolivia Exhibition” will support parallel components of an exhibition on Bolivia’s biodiversity in Bolivia at the Museo Nacional de Historial Natural (La Paz) and the Museo de Historia Natural Noel Kempff Mercado (Santa Cruz). The exhibition’s goals are to increase visitors’ awareness of Bolivia’s biological and cultural diversity, to explore the role of traditional uses of Bolivia’s natural resources in maintaining harmony between people and nature, and to illustrate the importance of conserving biodiversity. Submitted by American Museum of Natural History. **FWS: \$12,400.00; Matching Funds: \$9,763.00.**

“Master's Degree Program in Conservation and Wildlife Management” will provide support for participant scholarships, visiting professors, two field courses, and improvement of the BIODOC center. The Regional Wildlife Management Program offers higher education to natural resource management professionals in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean who play key roles as government officials, university professors, and NGO representatives. Submitted by Fundacion UNA. **FWS: \$52,444.00; Matching Funds: \$362,190.00.**

“Book proposal- Scientific Basis for the Conservation and Management of the Uruguayan Coast” will cover the printing costs for a book that will integrate information about the biological diversity of Uruguay, currently spread among the scientific community and the institutions with responsibility over the management of natural resources. The expected product is a publication of scientific character that will include contributions from over 60 local experts. Submitted by Vida Silvestre- Sociedad Uruguaya para la Conservación de la Naturaleza. **FWS: \$5,000.00; Matching Funds: \$5,960.00.**

“Tikay Wasi Environmental Education Program” will provide funding for environmental education courses for coastal areas in Peru. The courses will benefit students, teachers, government officials, and other groups of stakeholders with interest in the conservation of coastal ecosystems, and will cover ecology, sustainable development, conservation. Submitted by APECO. **FWS: \$5,000.00; Matching Funds: \$32,000.00.**

“Promotion of Grassroots Conservation Groups in Latin America” will provide funds to support several small grants, aimed at promoting community-based initiatives in the biologically rich and diverse areas of Latin America. Submitted by Global Greengrants Fund. **FWS: \$12,000.00; Matching Funds: \$315,000.00.**

“ABC's Small Grants Program” will provide support for two small grants to develop a wildlife management plan for Guadalupe Island, Baja California, Mexico, and for a

conservation assessment of extant habitat for the Bolivian spinetail. Submitted by American Bird Conservancy. **FWS: \$10,000.00; Matching Funds: \$28,180.00.**

“U.S. Decision-makers course: Development and Conservation in Tropical Countries” supports a course for staff members from Capitol Hill, other branches of government, NGOs, and private sector. The course provides a field experience where the participants visit several development and conservation projects in Costa Rica. The course is designed to underscore the significance of people, ideas and natural resources in the tropics. Submitted by Organization for Tropical Studies. **FWS: \$25,000.00; Matching Funds: \$24,400.00.**

“West Indian Whistling Duck and Wetlands Conservation Project” supports the printing of the manual Wondrous West Indian Wetlands, as well as printing other educational materials and costs related to international conservation workshops throughout the Caribbean. The primary objective of the project is to raise public awareness about the functions and values of wetlands. Submitted by West Indian Whistling-Duck Working Group. **FWS: \$50,500.00; Matching Funds: \$149,770.00.**

“RESERVA Training Program, Edition XXIII” supports the RESERVA training program, XXIII edition, which will wildlife managers from Latin America and the Caribbean at the Ría Celestun Biosphere Reserve and other field sites throughout Mexico. Submitted by Ducks Unlimited de Mexico, A.C.. **FWS: \$30,000.00; Matching Funds: \$58,800.00.**

“Sea Turtle and Scarlet Macaw Conservation in Guatemala” will support 2 projects: “Environmental Education and Community Organization for Sea Turtle Conservation and Guatemala” and “Scarlet Macaw Conservation in the Mayan Biosphere Reserve, Peten, Guatemala.” The sea turtle project will support conservation activities for the endangered olive Ridley and leatherback sea turtles that nest on the coast of Guatemala. The macaw project will conduct environmental education, training, and networking activities to conserve scarlet macaws and their habitats in the Peten region in Guatemala. Submitted by ARCAS. **FWS: \$20,000.00; Matching Funds: \$31,170.00.**

“Field Methods in Tropical Ecology and Conservation Training Program” will provide students and professors in Nicaragua and other Central American countries with the skills needed for species and ecosystem conservation and management, as well as opportunities for international collaboration in research and education and a cross-cultural learning experience, in order to address local community conservation priorities and needs. Submitted by Saint Louis Zoo. **FWS: \$16,725.00; Matching Funds: \$25,200.00.**

“Ricord's Iguana Education Initiative” will support teacher workshops throughout the Dominican Republic. The critically endangered Ricord's iguana was selected as the focal species in an effort to promote conservation and recovery through public awareness and education. Submitted by Indianapolis Zoological Society. **FWS: \$10,000.00; Matching Funds: \$18,812.00.**

“Flamingo Conservation in Northern Chile” supports printing and distribution of the book entitled “Conservación de flamencos en el norte de Chile”. The book will share the results of 12 years of population survey data and other information collected on the biology and conservation of flamingos in the Chilean Andes. Submitted by National Forestry Corporation, Antofagasta Region. **FWS: \$4,500.00; Matching Funds: \$1,300.00.**

“Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Conference Interim Steering Committee Meeting” will support organizing and coordinating the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Conference Interim Steering Committee meeting, to be held in Costa Rica August 9-14, 2004. Submitted by World Wildlife Fund. **FWS: \$17,728.00; Matching Funds: \$950.00.**

“RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands Support” assists the Ramsar Bureau with general operational costs. This will include support for the position of Assistant Adviser for the Small Island States and Territories of the Oceania Region, as well as the planning of the 2005 Conference of the Parties (COP), to take place in Uganda. Submitted by Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands. **FWS: \$16,000.00; Matching Funds: \$60,300.00.**

“Sustainable Development and Biodiversity Conservation in Latin America: Challenges and Opportunities under CAFTA, OTS Course” supports a course for high level decision makers and wildlife managers from Latin America to discuss biological diversity and ecosystem management, valuation of natural resources and environmental services, sustainable development in theory and practice, development of incentives, voluntary mechanisms of action, market-based initiatives, development of performance indicators and trend monitoring, environmental dispute resolution, legislation and policymaking. Submitted by Organization for Tropical Studies. **FWS/Department of State: \$47,846.00; Matching Funds: \$15,534.00.**

“Meeting of Graduate Programs on Wildlife Management and Conservation Funded by the LAC Program” will provide support for a meeting of key representatives from all Service funded graduate programs in Latin America and the Caribbean. The purpose of the meeting is to exchange information, outline goals and planned activities for the short and long term, and evaluate results. Submitted by Centro de Zoología Aplicada. **FWS: \$17,825.00**

“Guardaparques Course and AMUC Course” provides funds for conducting training for wildlife managers and park rangers in natural protected areas in Brazil and other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Courses cover a wide variety of topics, such as ecological principles, biodiversity conservation, environmental law, fire fighting techniques, cartography, and solid waste disposal among others. Submitted by Fundacao Biodiversitas. **FWS: \$55,000.00; ; Matching Funds: \$37,500.00.**

“Minimizing Seabird Mortality in the Argentinean Demersal Longline Fisheries”

finds seabird deterrents measures that will increase fishing profits while diminishing seabird mortality rates, assess the effectiveness of these measures, and apply the results of the project into the National Plan of Action for Seabirds. The project will be jointly developed with various NGOs, academia, fishing companies, and the Argentine government. Submitted by Wildlife Conservation Society. **FWS: \$18,250.00; Matching Funds: \$60,850.00.**

“Habitat Conservation and Watershed Protection Efforts in the Municipality of San Ildefonso Ixtahuacan Caserio Canutillo Huehuetenango, Guatemala” supports conducting environmental education and assisting local communities in the San Ildefonso Ixtahuacan municipality, Guatemala, in management and conservation of natural resources. To conserve the remaining flora and fauna near water bodies used by the communities, the grantee will conduct soil conservation and reforestation actions using agro-forestry techniques. Submitted by United States Peace Corps. **FWS: \$4,679.00; Matching Funds: \$18,653.00.**

“Regulation of Law 112/91 for the Conservation of the Mbaracayu Forest Biosphere Reserve” supports the development of a proposal to implement the process of regulation of the law that established the Mbaracayu Forest Reserve (Law 112/91), through scientific monitoring of species and capacity building of various stakeholders. Funding support will cover technical, scientific, socio-economic, and legal data compilation; drafting of documents; and nine workshops (with scientists; authorities; local communities; and indigenous population). Submitted by Fundacion Moises Bertoni. **FWS: \$6,900.00; Matching Funds: \$21,550.00.**

“Wildlands Management in the Tropics: A Course for Latin American Managers” supports a course for wildlife managers from Costa Rica and other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean which offers a context for wildlife management based on principles of planning, goal development, evaluation monitoring, and adaptation to change. The overall goal of the course is to improve the capacity of wildlife managers to conserve and manage protected areas in the tropical region of Latin America and the Caribbean. Submitted by Organization for Tropical Studies. **FWS: \$40,000.00; Matching Funds: \$61,041.00.**

“Professional Update and Training in Essential Environmental Matters to Officers of the National Guard in Venezuela” will cover the cost of conducting training for national guards throughout Venezuela. The training program will cover basic aspects of wildlife management and ecology, the flora and fauna of Venezuela, the system of natural protected areas and its environmental situation and management needs, as well as the legal framework supporting wildlife management and conservation in the country. Submitted by VITALIS. **FWS: \$20,000.00; Matching Funds: \$23,117.00.**

“Support to the Graduate Program in Ecology, Conservation and Wildlife Management” provides support for the Graduate Program in Ecology, Conservation and Wildlife Management (ECMVS) of the Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil. Submitted by FUNDEP. **FWS: \$39,996.00; Matching Funds: \$1,035,800.00.**

“Strategy for the Exchange of Experiences in Conservation and Wildlife Management in Latin America” updates and completes a database of alumni from the various graduate programs in wildlife management in Latin America that receive (or have received) support from USFWS. ALCOM will maintain a website with this database, relevant links, and other information useful to alumni from the USFWS-supported programs. Submitted by ALCOM. **FWS: \$15,070.00; Matching Funds: \$2,832.00.**

“MBA in Environmental Management” provides support for a Masters course at the Universidad Catolica del Norte in Coquimbo, Chile, to teach practical skills to public and private professionals working to conserve the environment in northern Chile. Submitted by Universidad Catolica de Norte. **FWS: \$25,000.00; Matching Funds: \$27,151.00.**

“Wetlands and Migratory Birds: Protecting and Restoring Wetlands of International Importance” will cover travel expenses for participants from Latin America to the Wetlands 2004 Symposium in Kansas City, October 2004. This grant will also provide continued support for the International Wetlands and Migratory Birds Newslink electronic newsletter. Submitted by Association of State Wetland Managers. **FWS: \$10,000.00.**

“2004 Ramsar- Americas Regional Meeting and Promotion of the Ramsar Convention” provides support for neotropical representative participation in the regional meeting of the Ramsar Convention’s Contracting Parties, to take place in Merida, Yucatan, November 7-12, 2004. Submitted by ECOBANCA, A.C.. **FWS: \$10,000.00; Matching Funds: 64,810.00.**

“Habitat Factors Affecting the Survival of the Bahama Parrot” provides support for the study of the Bahama parrot at Abaco Island, Bahamas. Submitted by the University of Maryland. **FWS: \$5,000.**

“Demography and Conservation of the Bahama Parrot” provides support for the study of the Bahama parrot. Submitted by North Carolina State University. **FWS: \$5,000.**

“Hawksbill Turtle Nesting Population Recovery Project” supports the establishment of long-term hawksbill nest monitoring and protection on Chiriqui Beach, Bocas del Toro Province, Panama. Submitted by International Sea Turtle Coordinator, **FWS Region 4. FWS: \$10,000.**