



IMPLEMENTATION OF A TRAINING ACTIVITY ON MONITORING BIRDS IN CARIBBEAN PROTECTED AREAS FOR ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

PROGRESS REPORT FOR PROJECT PO# 259197

PREPARED BY: Ann Haynes-Sutton and Lisa Sorenson, Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds (SCSCB)

FOR: The General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS), through the Department of Sustainable Development of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development

DATE: 13 December 2010

BACKGROUND

This is the Interim Progress Report for the project *Monitoring Birds in Caribbean Protected Areas for Adaptive Management and Public Education* which is funded by OAS/WHMSI. It covers the period 15 August – 13 December 2010.

The contract between OAS and SCSCB states that the SCSCB will submit to OAS a progress report. The Progress Report will include at least:

- (i) the final **workplan**,
- (ii) a report of the **consultations** made with experts,
- (iii) **bird monitoring manual** protocol revised and updated,
- (iv) **communication** strategy developed and implemented
- (v) **list of deliverables** developed and prepared (It will include workplan, manuals and other workshop materials, strategy for citizen science and workshop report.)
- (vi) **progress report** on workshops logistic arrangements, including
 - list of participants taking into account representation by country and institutional type,
 - invitations sent, trainers and workshop venue, workshop materials,
 - presentations list of participants,
 - evaluation and lessons learned
- (vii) a financial report in accordance with article 1.1 of this Agreement and according to the Proposal submitted (Annex 1) following the template in Annex 2 (section 2.a)
- (viii) parallel financing report following the template in Annex 2 (section 2.b) and the Proposal submitted (Annex 1)."

APPROACH

During this period we have focused on project planning (development of the workplan) and materials development, selecting the location, building an invitation list and developing a strategy for communications. We have had wide-ranging consultations with experts and potential participants about the most useful format and content for the workshop. We have also promoted the workshop at two international meetings.

i. Workplan

| N° | Activity ¹ | Months | | | | | | | | Notes |
|----------|--|--------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-------|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | |
| | | A | S | O | N | D | J | F | M | |
| A | STRATEGY and MATERIALS DEVELOPMENT | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Finalize work plan | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | Hold online consultations with experts | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Produce manuals | | | | | | | | | |
| B | TRAINING WORKSHOP | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Invite participants | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Plan venue, accommodation, transportation | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | Hold workshop | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | Develop strategy for citizen science in Caribbean | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | Prepare workshop report | | | | | | | | | |
| C | SUBMIT FINAL REPORT | | | | | | | | | |
| | Final report submitted | | | | | | | | | |
| D | MAINTENANCE OF MONITORING NETWORK/PARTNERSHIP, WEBSITE AND DATABASE | | | | | | | | | |
| | Communications programme implemented | | | | | | | | | |

ii. Report of consultations: In preparation for the workshop we held extensive consultations with our members and with others at the *Power of Partnerships: A Bird Conservation Conference for the Northeast*, October 2010, Plymouth, MA, and at the *Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative* meeting 6-10 December 2010 in Miami, FL. These discussions led us to realize that there was a large demand for further training

in the Caribbean Waterbird Census (CWC). With the approval of Richard Huber we therefore changed the emphasis of the workshop from landbirds to waterbirds, while retaining the citizen science component.

- iii. Bird monitoring manual: “Caribbean Waterbird Census Manual: Promoting Conservation of Waterbirds and Wetlands Through Monitoring” has been completed (available for download at: <http://conserveonline.org/workspaces/cwc>).
- iv. Communications strategy: The objective of the communications strategy is to increase awareness of and participation in the CWC. The target audience is conservation professionals, ornithologists and volunteers in the insular Caribbean. Based on our experience we have identified the social media as the best way to reach our audience. We are posting notices on the relevant websites and list serves, and regularly updating our Facebook pages. Technical information is provided on our ConserveOnline site “Caribbean Waterbird Census” - <http://conserveonline.org/workspaces/cwc>.

In our discussion with Caribbean delegates at the WHMSI meeting in Miami, the group talked about the need to identify a key person from each island to spearhead acceptance and use of the CWC. This person will contact the various organizations and agencies involved in conservation and management of wetlands throughout the country and hold informational meetings about the CWC and how it could be useful to them. Workshops could also be held to provide training in the CWC at the national level. Funding for small grants to hold these workshops and sustain the CWC will be pursued by the SCSCB and workshop trainees.

- v. Workshop logistics - planning
 - a. Participants and invitations: Lists of invitees are being developed to include protected area managers from the region. SCSCB also has a list of persons who have already expressed an interest in attending the workshop. A notice has been prepared and posted on the SCSCB website and listserv BirdsCaribbean, as well as on Caribbean Biodiversity, CAMPAM and others.
 - b. Trainers: Trainers have already been invited and have confirmed participation, including Jeff Gerbracht (eBird and monitoring expert, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology), Jennifer Fee (Citizen Science Programs Coordinator, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology), Ken Kriese (USFWS, waterbird monitoring expert), Ann Sutton and Lisa Sorenson.
 - c. Workshop venue: The workshop venue has been secured. It will be at The Retreat, headquarters of the Bahamas National Trust, Nassau, Bahamas. The workshop dates will be 23 – 27 February 2011 (inclusive). Participants will stay at the Red Carpet Inn in Nassau and transportation will be provided by the BNT and a local bus service.
 - d. Workshop equipment and materials: Materials will include binoculars for participants, bird identification cards, field guides and other materials equipment (see attached list).
 - e. Presentations list: This is being developed.
 - f. Evaluation and lessons learned: This will be completed at the end of the workshop using the same format as in 2010.
- vi. Financial report: The first payment of US\$3,000 was received in November 2010. No funds have been expended on this project to date.
- vii. Parallel financing report: Parallel financing and in-kind support is expected to come from US Forest Service, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, US Fish and Wildlife Service, private donors and sponsors and volunteers. US Forest Service has already

pledged support for the workshop. Additional support for planning and promotion has also been received from the US Forest Service that enabled Lisa Sorenson and Ann Sutton to attend the “Power of Partnerships – A Bird Conservation Conference for the NE” in Plymouth, MA in October. Additional funds from USFWS and WHMSI supported a training workshop on the CWC for delegates at the WHMSI meeting in Miami on 10 December 2010.

Attachment 1: Link to CWC manual: <http://conserveonline.org/workspaces/cwc>

Attachment 2: List of workshop materials

Caribbean Waterbird Census Manual: Promoting Conservation of Waterbirds and Wetlands Through Monitoring

Bird of the West Indies Field guide

Clipboard

Data sheets

Pencil

Binoculars

Wetland Birds of the Caribbean ID cards

Seabirds of the Caribbean ID cards

Resident and Migratory Ducks of the West Indies ID cards

Landbirds of the Bahamas ID cards

Mangroves of the Caribbean Identification Booklet

GPS units

Wildlife Count program

Ramsar Documents

WHMSI brochures

Agenda

Bird Song CDs

eBird brochures

ChicoBags

Waterproof Field Notebooks

Name Tags

International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) T-shirts

Copies of The Northeast Bird Monitoring Handbook: Ten Steps to Successful Bird Conservation through Improved Monitoring