

Advancing Migratory Species Conservation by Incorporating the Latin American Perspective into the PIF-V Conservation Business Plans

A Request for the Continued Involvement and Support to the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative

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Summary Request: American Bird Conservancy, on behalf of the Partners in Flight (PIF), requests \$45,000 from the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative to support the continued advancement of two PIF Conservation Business Plans: the Tropical Dry Forest and the Western Forest/Sierra Madre Pine-Oak and Cloud Forest Conservation Business Plans. The funds will be used to sponsor two workshops to be held in early 2106 in Guadalajara, Mexico that will bring experts from Latin America together to provide critically needed input on conservation actions needed for migratory birds on the wintering grounds and throughout their full life cycle. With this support, WHMSI will continue to advance its voluntary, collaborative conservation efforts to protect migratory species as well advance on its stated objectives for bird conservation outlined in its Flyways for the Americas Framework.

Introduction and Background: The Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI) was established in 2003 as a voluntary forum that would bring wildlife agency directors, senior governmental officials, NGO conservationists and scientists from across the hemisphere together to collaborate on the conservation of the hemisphere's shared migratory species. WHMSI initially established the following priorities, and since its founding has continued to focus on voluntary collaboration and creating mutual solutions by:

- Aiding in the building of countries' capacities to conserve and manage migratory wildlife;
- Improving communication within the hemisphere with regards to common conservation issues;
- Strengthening the exchange of information needed for informed decision-making; and
- Providing a forum in which emerging issues can be identified and addressed.

WHMSI defines its broader function as a non-prescriptive facilitator of cooperation among both governmental and non-governmental interests focused on migratory species conservation matters of broad common interest.

WHMSI's Commitment to Migratory Bird Conservation. Most recently WHMSI has focused a significant amount of effort on the critical issues facing migratory birds, and participated in a joint workshop with the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) in Jamaica in March 2013. This was followed by the drafting of the *"Flyways of the Americas Framework, A Conservation Framework for the Conservation and Protection of Migratory Birds in the Americas"* which was formally adopted at the CMS 11th Conference of the Parties in Ecuador in November 2014 in which WHMSI was recognized by the CMS as the lead implementing agency for coordinating migratory bird conservation, using this Framework, for the Western Hemisphere.

The Flyways of the Americas Framework (Framework) works to achieve the five major strategic goals set out by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in its 2011-2020 Strategic Plan and the 20 Targets adopted by the CBD, known as the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The Framework prescribes 16 Actions that are needed to help achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Goals, aimed specifically at promoting the conservation and protection of the migratory birds of the Western Hemisphere.

Request for WHMSI Support to Develop Latin American Input into Conservation Business Plans.

One of the mechanisms recognized by the Flyways of the Americas Framework as a critical element for advancing coordinated action for the conservation of migratory birds in the Americas is the development of collaborative conservation business plans and conservation initiatives. The Framework specifically calls for the creation and utilization of conservation business plans in Actions 10 and 13, and the development of conservation business plans will contribute directly to advancement of each of the other 16 actions. The development of these plans will directly contribute to the effective implementation of WHMSI's Flyways of the Americas Framework.

This proposal requests financial support and continuing involvement from WHMSI in conservation business planning by sponsoring two workshops in Latin America. These workshops will bring together Latin American experts, as well as experts from North America, to refine and update the Partners in Flight (PIF) Tropical Dry Forest Conservation Business Plan and the Western Forest/Sierra Madre Pine-Oak and Cloud Forest Conservation Business Plan.

For the past three years, Partners in Flight (PIF) has been leading the development of eight Conservation Business Plans which, when taken together, will provide an overarching strategic framework for the conservation of America's migratory birds throughout their full life cycle. PIF is a voluntary consortium of several hundred non-government, individual, academic, and

government partners, and was founded in 1990 with the premise of combining and uniting efforts to more successfully conserve populations of birds in the Western Hemisphere. Partners in Flight launched its conservation business planning effort when it held its Fifth International Partners in Flight Conference (PIF-V) in Snowbird, Utah in August of 2013, bringing together 200 bird conservationists from 21 countries. The purpose of this meeting was to unite the bird conservation community behind a full-life cycle approach to migratory bird conservation. Participants worked in geographically linked break out groups to identify threats and conservation actions for suites of priority migratory birds that winter in the same geography. While representatives from Latin America attended and participated in the PIF-V Conference, only 10% of the 200 attendees were from Latin America, and it was widely recognized that additional outreach and input from Latin American experts would be needed to refine and complete these plans.

With support from WHMSI, we propose to advance this effort by conducting two workshops in Latin America focused on two PIF Conservation Business Plans. These workshops will bring leading Latin American experts together and the information obtained from these participants will be incorporated into revised versions of Conservation Business Plans (CBP) for each of the two identified geographies: the Tropical Dry Forests and the Sierra Madre Pine-Oak and Cloud Forests of Mexico and Central America. The plans will help guide future conservation action for priority migratory birds and direct needed philanthropic investment into each of the geographies. The result these workshops will be increase involvement from Latin Americans in the CBP process, a refined and expanded portfolio of proposed projects and a strong expert-driven consensus for implementing full life cycle conservation for migratory birds in both the Tropical Dry Forests and the Sierra Madre Pine-Oak and Cloud Forests.

Objectives: The objectives of these workshops are:

1. Increase participation of partners from across Latin America in the Conservation Business Plan Process
2. Confirm, expand and prioritize projects proposed in two CBPs, especially for the wintering grounds (Tropical Dry Forests and the Sierra Madre Pine-Oak and Cloud Forests)
3. Identify actions, needs and risks associated with a portfolio of top priority projects
4. Draft proposal outlines for top projects in the portfolio
5. Identify individuals willing to help further the CBP and advance implementation of existing and additional CBP projects.
6. Identify mechanisms to invite and secure the support and participation of Latin American governments in the implementation of CBP projects.

7. Provide sufficient input and updates from these workshops to complete Version One of two Conservation Business Plans.

Proposed Workshop Structure

Two two-day sequential workshops will be held in Guadalajara, Mexico in the spring of 2016, hosted by a steering group directed by Dr. Sarahy Contreras Martinez, a professor of the Department of Ecology and Natural Resources-IMEC BIO (it Spanish acronym) at the University of Guadalajara. One workshop will focus on the development of Latin American input into the PIF (PIF) Tropical Dry Forest Conservation Business Plan. The second workshop will do the same for the PIF Western Forest/Sierra Madre Pine-Oak and Cloud Forest Conservation Business Plan. Approximately 30 experts will be invited to participate in each workshop, and it is anticipated that some Latin American experts will participate in both. Participants from North America will be expected to pay for all of most their own travel costs and potentially their hotel costs, but meals will be provided. The hotel and food costs for the participants from Latin America will be covered, and a small travel fund will be available to help offset the travel expenses of those Latin Americans who need travel support, as described by the attached budget.

The format for the workshops will follow the one used successfully in Monterrey, Mexico for the Chihuahua Grassland Conservation Business Plan in November 2014. Each workshop will begin with a review and discussion of the current draft of the Conservation Business Plan, its priority bird targets, the threats and strategies identified during the PIF-V Conference and the projects currently proposed as part of the CBP.

The group will spend the rest of the first day reviewing the plan and the associated Miradi conceptual model and will generate *1) a prioritized list of the major threats that the target birds are facing on the wintering grounds, 2) a prioritized list of strategies that the group feels should be implemented to attack these threats, 3) a preliminary set of objectives regarding what could accomplish by using each strategy with five years, and 4) a list of current and nearly-ready projects and actions that the group feels should be funded and implemented over the next three years.*

On the second day three breakout groups will form and each breakout group will be asked to establish their set of priority projects and actions by creating an idealized investment strategy for \$2 million over a three year period and provide recommendations on how the projects could best be implemented. Each breakout group will review and update the goals of its portfolio of projects, identify risks associated with the projects and identify actions necessary for project implementation. Each group will identify persons to further the CBP process into the future and identify critical next steps to advance the implementation process.

By the end of Day Two we will have enough information to update the Conservation Business Plan with significant input from Latin American experts. In addition we will have *1) a portfolio of projects that represent the best and most immediate way to achieve the goals established in the Conservation Business Plan, 2) preliminary suggestions on ways to develop funding for these projects and 3) an agreed upon a way to continue working together in the future.*

Products:

- ***Updated narrative edits recommended for two Conservation Business Plans leading to Version One completion***
- ***Updated Miradi Conceptual diagram for each Conservation Business Plan***
- ***Updated list for the portfolio of projects for the wintering grounds for each plan***
- ***A calendar of actions and next steps for each plan.***

Results and Implications for WHMSI

The results from these two workshops will be significant on several levels. First, they will provide critically needed input and increased participation from leading experts in Latin America into the development and completion of Version One of two PIF Conservation Business Plans: Tropical Dry Forests and the Sierra Madre Pine-Oak and Cloud Forests. This will have major implications not only for these two CBPs, but also will serve as a model for the advancement of the six other PIF CBPs under development. Second, they will lead to a robust and consensus-driven portfolio of projects that can be used to secure funding and directly begin implementation to protect migratory birds, with a special emphasis on the needed actions on the wintering grounds. Third, it will directly guide and advance the WHMSI Flyways for the Americas Framework, and in so doing will advance the CMS Migratory Bird Initiative and the Convention on Biological Diversity's pursuit of the Aichi Biodiversity Goals. Fourth, it will provide a concrete list of projects to protect migratory species that WHMSI can promote directly to its governmental members, to secure in-country governmental support for both the Framework and the conservation actions prescribed by these CBPs.

WHMSI has always seen itself as a mechanism to bring people together in a voluntary, collaborative fashion to advance the conservation of shared migratory species, and this project will directly advance that mission.

Budget and Request

American Bird Conservancy, on behalf of the Partners in Flight (PIF), requests \$45,000 from the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative to support the continued advancement of two PIF Conservation Business Plans: the Tropical Dry Forest and the Western Forest/Sierra Madre

Pine-Oak and Cloud Forest Conservation Business Plans. The funds will be used to sponsor two workshops to be held in early 2106 in Guadalajara, Mexico that will bring experts from Latin America together to provide critically needed input on conservation actions needed for migratory birds on the wintering grounds and throughout their full life cycle.

BUDGET ITEM	ENTITY	price/unit dlr	units/days	Persons	TOTAL US \$
Hotel	Autlán	43.33	165 person-nights		\$ 7,149.45
Ground Transportation	Guadalajara-Autlán and return				\$ 2,400.00
Support to host organizer					\$ 2,500.00
Food	University of Guadalajara	10/each meal	3 meals /4	35	\$ 5,000.00
Coffe service all day	University of Guadalajara	160 / day	4		\$ 536.00
Tuesday Welcome/Closing dinner -both groups to	El Caldero Restaurante Autlán	35 /person		50	\$ 1,750.00
Office/Meting supplies					\$ 1,750.00
Translation Services					\$4,000.00
Preparation and translation of CBPs					\$ 1,800.00
Travel Stipends 40 stipends at \$350 ave.					\$ 14,000.00
Contingency					\$ 1,000.00
Taxes and comission bank	one deposit	50			\$ 50.00
Administrative project UDG					\$ 1,750.00
Field trip to Las Joyas Field Station (include 3 me	Las Joyas	40/person		35	each person pays
ABC Administration					\$ 1,500.00
TOTAL					\$ 45,185.45