<u>Follow-up to other priorities identified at the first WHMSI Conference</u>

At the Second WHMSI Conference, participants explored mechanisms for addressing all six major themes identified as important hemispheric needs from the first WHMSI Conference in Chile in 2003. Workgroups were asked to identify a general list of objectives for each topic, and develop a short list of actionable items. The Interim Steering Committee discussed this list and identified appropriate ways to facilitate most of these action items (*in italics*):

Topic: Lack of Knowledge (to be renamed "Knowledge Gaps"): Mechanisms for exchanging information

- Create a section in WHMSI's website that includes a list of monitoring experts and monitoring protocols. *Pashley will send information on North East Monitoring, the Avian Knowledge Network and USGS protocols and metadata. This information will be incorporated into WHMSI's websites managed by USFWS, Eco-Index and CREHO.*
- Compile a list of websites relevant to migratory species, including training courses, and create a section in WHMSI's website with a list of links or searchable databases. *This information will be incorporated into WHMSI's websites managed by USFWS, Eco-Index and CREHO.*
- Identify existing networks with an interest in migratory species and ask the Interim Steering Committee to invite them to join WHMSI as partners. *Cravino will reach out to ACAP and ISC members will consider what other networks might be appropriate for outreach.*

Topic: Habitat: Inventory and mapping of important sites

- Members of this working group agreed that inventory and mapping of important sites was a topic of interest to all of them. They committed to continuing informal discussions to identify specific objectives and action items. *WHMSI 3 will provide an opportunity for follow up to this topic, if selected as one of the thematic sessions.*

Topic: Public Awareness: Public awareness program on conservation and sustainable use and electronic information exchange

- Ensure that all relevant WHMSI websites (USFWS, OAS, Eco-Index, others) are linked. *Managers of these websites will be instructed to make the appropriate links.*
- Encourage participation in the Eco-index tools matrix. *An upcoming WHMSI update will include a reminder of this.*
- Compile list of existing materials that may be used for public outreach and identify gaps, share with all WHMSI partners. *This information will be incorporated into WHMSI's websites managed by USFWS, Eco-Index and CREHO.*

Topic: Administration: Regional associations to exchange information among wildlife protection agencies; establishment of a regional bird banding center

- Request WHMSI focal points in each country to develop and circulate a directory of organizations that relate to WHMSI for his/her country (a national network on migratory species) with whom they will share information. *ISC government representatives will send a letter with this request to WHMSI governmental focal points in the countries within their subregions. USFWS will make a first draft of the letter. Once this directory is compiled, it will be posted on the WHMSI websites, added to the WHMSI distribution list, and announced in an upcoming WHMSI update.*
- Subregional WHMSI representatives should interact (in person and/or electronically) with other wildlife agency directors in their subregion and provide updates on WHMSI and activities being undertaken under the initiative at appropriate subregional meetings in the hemisphere. Information should also be shared with non-governmental partners. *This is already taking place to some extent, ISC members should inform the rest of the Committee when such actions take place.*
- Identify existing bird banding centers and databases in the hemisphere. Analyze the status of these centers and the quality of their databases. *Pashley to follow up with Monica Tomosy.*
- Consider organizing a capacity building workshop on methodologies for monitoring different species taxa and the need to standardize methodologies for studies of migratory birds. *WHMSI 3 will provide an opportunity for follow up to this topic, if selected as one of the thematic sessions.*

Topic: Coordination / Partnerships: Establishment of a center for information sharing; and joint planning of activities under international conventions

- Explore signing MOUs with key initiatives. *An MOU has been signed with U.S. NABCI. ISC members will approach WHRSN, Waterbird Conservation Council, WIDECAST, UNEP-Caribbean Environment Program, SCSCB, CREHO, ICOMVIS, among others, highlighting common elements and areas for potential cooperation.*
- Establish a WHMSI website independent of USFWS. *The Ramsar Regional Center for Training and Research on Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere (CREHO) is building a WHMSI website. A preliminary version will be shared with ISC members as soon as it is available.*

Topic: Threats: Types of threats to be addressed include: climate change; loss of habitat; misuse of resources; detrimental local social practices; lack of scientific knowledge (e.g. distribution and abundance); military use of large landscapes; invasive species; ineffective law enforcement; fisheries by-catch; natural disasters; inadequate management of protected areas for migratory species; wildlife borne diseases. *WHMSI 3 will provide an opportunity for follow up to this topic, if selected as one of the thematic sessions.*

- Supply information to inform the general public of the ecological goods and services provided by migratory species – the monetary contribution they provide directly (e.g. wildlife watching) or indirectly (insect removal services): *Drews will draft a ~4-page document on the value of migratory species.*