

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
Between the  
**WESTERN HEMISPHERE SHOREBIRD RESERVE NETWORK**  
and the  
**WESTERN HEMISPHERE MIGRATORY SPECIES INITIATIVE**

**I. Preamble**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is made and entered into by the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, hereinafter referred to as “WHSRN” and the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative, hereinafter “WHMSI.”

WHMSI is a partnership among all of the nations of the hemisphere, including governments, non-governmental organizations, and relevant treaties, working to conserve shared migratory species. Its mission is to contribute significantly to the conservation of the migratory species of the Western Hemisphere by strengthening cooperation and communication among nations, international initiatives and civil society, and by expanding constituencies, awareness and political support. WHMSI is organized around the principles of transparency, inclusiveness, and consensus decision-making. Its members meet at plenary sessions that take place approximately biennially, and its work is guided by an interim steering committee.

WHSRN is a voluntary, non-regulatory coalition whose mission is to conserve shorebird species and their habitats across the Americas through a network of key sites. The Hemispheric Council is the body ultimately responsible for the entire network and matters affecting the WHSRN program as a whole, whereas the Network’s Executive Office is a function of the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences (hereafter: Manomet), a widely recognized conservation organization and a nonprofit research and educational organization registered in the State of Massachusetts, United States. Hence, both the Hemispheric Council and Manomet sign this MoU on behalf of WHSRN.

**II. Description:**

While WHSRN and WHMSI share similar philosophies, conservation goals, and geographic scope, there are clear differences in taxonomic scope. Whereas WHMSI is concerned with the conservation of migratory species that cross international boundaries of the entire Western Hemisphere, WHSRN is specifically concerned with the conservation of all shorebirds (specifically, members of the suborders Charadrii and Scolopaci), migratory and resident, that occur regularly within the Western Hemisphere.

WHSRN can contribute to WHMSI through targeted conservation of many of the birds under the umbrella of WHMSI. WHSRN can also contribute through its well-developed and long-established infrastructure and organizational strengths. These derive from WHSRN’s widespread recognition and its growing network, thereby eliminating or reducing the need for

WHMSI to create redundant bureaucracies. Sites qualify by hosting at least a minimum number of shorebirds annually, and by having explicit agreement of the landowner(s).

Manomet and WHSRN are in the early stages of implementation of the “Shorebird Recovery Project”, which aims to recover the populations of native shorebirds in the Americas in ten years, through a tripartite approach of site-based conservation, developing a scientific foundation for action, and measuring success through monitoring and adaptive management. Thus, the potential for WHSRN to contribute to the overarching goals of WHMSI extend beyond habitat conservation to incorporate a more comprehensive and complete conservation approach for shorebirds and their habitats.

WHMSI, in turn, because of its wider taxonomic focus and its unique partnership among nations, treaty organizations and non-governmental organizations can assist WHSRN in its focused work. “Cross-pollination” from conservation efforts and entities working for other species, increased visibility and context with decision-makers, and the opportunities for improving communication channels through WHMSI’s plenary meetings will all benefit WHSRN. Many of the habitats, across the hemisphere important for the conservation of the broadest suite of taxonomic groups--and the people who protect them--are also beneficial for shorebirds. In this way, WHMSI’s conservation actions will bring direct benefit to WHSRN’s conservation targets.

Recognizing their mutual interest in conservation of migratory species and their habitats, WHSRN and WHMSI have set forth this Memorandum of Understanding to cooperate in a manner that each may benefit from the other’s resources and expertise.

**NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the above premises, the parties agree as follows:**

**Article 1. Intent**

WHSRN and WHMSI recognize the breadth of each others’ mission, respecting those missions in their entirety while focusing on those portions that overlap. Therefore, WHMSI and WHSRN agree to seek ways to work together more effectively and to build on each others’ strengths and thus enhance the effectiveness of both efforts. WHMSI recognizes WHSRN and Manomet’s Shorebird Recovery Project as major partners for the conservation of migratory shorebirds and their habitats in the Western Hemisphere.

**Article 2: Mechanisms for Program Cooperation**

- A – WHSRN and WHMSI will collaborate in the conservation of shorebird and other migratory species in the Americas.
- B - WHSRN and WHMSI recognize that the ability to implement conservation efforts is limited by the institutional and financial capacities of the two initiatives.
- C - WHSRN and WHMSI will inform their partners at regional and national levels of their cooperative activities. For general matters, the focal points for WHSRN and WHMSI are

respectively the Director of the Executive Office and the chair of the Interim Steering Committee, or their assigned delegates.

D - Representatives of WHSRN and WHMSI may meet from time to time to assess the implementation of this Memorandum, exchange documents, and review on-going activities.

### **Article 3: Areas of Collaboration**

WHSRN and WHMSI may work together to explore areas of collaboration that would mutually benefit both efforts. Such areas may include:

- Assessment and mitigation of threats for selected conservation sites and for selected target species.
- Conservation Planning
- Creation of strategies and materials for information, and awareness-building,
- Capacity building
- Joint fundraising

### **Article 4: General**

#### **4.1 Resourcing**

**4.1a.** Nothing in this MOU shall obligate WHMSI or WHSRN to any present or future expenditure of funds. Additionally, the work will be contingent on both Parties having the necessary resources.

**4.1b.** This MOU is neither a fiscal nor a funds obligation document. Any endeavor involving reimbursement or contribution of funds between the Parties of this MOU will be handled in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and procedures including those for U.S. and Ecuador.

**4.1c.** Any project or sub-agreements related to this MOU must comply with specific project grant agreements that both WHSRN and WHMSI have with sponsors.

#### **4.2 Acknowledgements**

In recognition of the nature of this agreement, the Parties will give full acknowledgement for each other's contribution to their activities, and will provide prominent links to each other's communication tools, including Web sites and printed materials.

Either entity must obtain prior written approval from the other entity for any public information releases which refer to the other entity or this agreement. The specific text, layout, photographs, etc., of the proposed release must be submitted to the other entity with a request for approval.