
Western Hemisphere Migratory Bird Conference

Termas de Puyehue, Chile

October 6, 7 and 8, 2003



Western Hemisphere Migratory Bird Conference

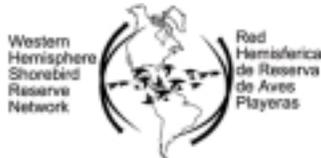
Termas de Puyehue, Chile

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For more information on the Western Hemisphere Migratory Bird Conference visit www.international.fws.gov/whc/whcindex.html, or contact the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Division of International Conservation, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 730, Arlington, Virginia 22203 USA. Telephone: 703-358-1754. Fax: 703-358-2849.



BAT CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL



Environment
Canada
Canadian Wildlife
Service

Environnement
Canada
Service canadien
de la faune



North American Waterbird
Management Plan
Plan nord-américain de
gestion de la sauvagine
Plan de Manejo de Aves
Acuáticas de Norteamérica



SECRETARIA DE AMBIENTE Y
DESARROLLO SUSTENTABLE



Conservation Breeding Specialist Group
Species Survival Commission
IUCN - The World Conservation Union



Contents

Executive Summary	7
Introduction.....	8
Acknowledgements	9
Goals	10
Process	11
Results	12
1) Conservation Priorities	12
2) Tool Matrix	15
3) Follow-up.....	15

Appendices

Conference Agenda	20
Priorities	21
Country Representatives List.....	22
NGO and Other Participants	23
Interim Steering Committee	26
Additional Contacts	28



Executive Summary

On October 6-8, 2003, representatives from 25 countries in the Western Hemisphere came together in Termas de Puyehue, Chile, to participate in the Western Hemisphere Migratory Bird Conference. The Conference was co-hosted by the United States Department of State and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

This was the first time in more than four decades that representatives of the fish and wildlife agencies of the hemisphere met to discuss issues of mutual concern. Country representatives were joined by over 40 international wildlife conservation groups and stakeholder representatives who observed and participated in the Conference.

The purpose of the Conference was to develop cooperative strategies for conservation of migratory species and broader collaboration on a wide array of wildlife conservation issues among the countries of the Western Hemisphere.

Meeting products included: (1) A prioritized list of conservation issues needing international collaboration; (2) An emerging Tool Matrix available from non-government organizations, international conventions, and government bodies to address these identified needs; and (3) An Interim Steering Committee to follow-up on the momentum of the Conference.

The Interim Steering Committee is comprised of 5 government representatives from various regions of the Hemisphere, 4 representatives from the non-governmental conservation community, and representatives from interested international conventions. The Conference country representatives elected Herbert Raffaele of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to chair the Interim Steering Committee and ensure progress made at the Conference continues.

Interim Steering Committee charges are: (1) Follow-up on momentum from the Conference; (2) Produce and disseminate periodic reports on the status of implementing the conservation priorities identified at the Conference; (3) Raise funds for future meetings; (4) Expand country representative and other stakeholder representation for future actions; (5) Develop a mechanism for establishment of a permanent body to address Western Hemisphere priority issues; and (6) Create a progress report for interested entities including the Summit of the Americas.

Conference participants additionally committed to following-up on the needs identified at the meeting and to continue discussions concerning further opportunities to work together.

Introduction

The need to work collaboratively on a regional basis has escalated in the last century, as threats to wildlife populations in the Western Hemisphere become more complex, with greater impacts operating across broader geographic scales. These pressing wildlife issues include loss of natural areas due to habitat loss and degradation, environmental pollution, the negative impacts of human activities on pelagic systems, introduction and emigration of invasive species and wildlife diseases across ecosystems and international borders, and the problems of illegal international wildlife trade, unsustainable bush meat consumption and human-wildlife conflict.

The expression that “Wildlife knows no borders” is now inextricably linked to the truism that “Wildlife threats know no borders.” Modern threats to wildlife in the Western Hemisphere present challenges that can only be addressed effectively by the strategic alignment of stakeholders in wildlife conservation throughout North America, Latin America and the Caribbean.

In their Plan of Action resulting from the Summit of the Americas meeting in Quebec in 2001, Leaders in the Western Hemisphere issued a call to “advance

hemispheric conservation of plants, animals and ecosystems through...the development of a hemispheric strategy to support the conservation of migratory wildlife throughout the Americas.”

The Western Hemisphere Migratory Bird Conference was convened to support the Summit Plan of Action by articulating a strategy that identifies conservation priorities for migratory species in the Americas. Additionally, under a broader vision, the Conference chose to develop a framework for continuing collaboration in wildlife conservation throughout the Hemisphere—expanding the scope beyond migratory species, so that all wildlife issues relevant on a regional scale can be addressed in a collegial atmosphere with a mutual aim to cooperate on conserving wildlife in the Western Hemisphere within a framework transcending traditional political and geographic borders.

The Western Hemisphere Migratory Bird Conference and its follow-up actions are the first necessary step in finding collaborative answers to the complex wildlife conservation problems we face today—locally, regionally, hemisphere-wide, and ultimately, globally.

Acknowledgements

It is a great credit to the countries that participated in the Western Hemisphere Migratory Bird Conference that they diverted time from pressing domestic conservation efforts to explore regional conservation needs and approaches that will allow for enhanced conservation of wildlife species throughout the Western Hemisphere. Similarly, several Western Hemisphere nations that could not attend the Conference acknowledged the importance of a broad, coordinated conservation vision; these countries have asked to be included in future actions. They are thanked for their support.

Special thanks are offered to the meeting facilitators, Dr. Onnie Byers and Dr. Ernesto Enkerlin, without whom the Conference would not have proven nearly so successful. Additional thanks are due to Ms. Ellen Paul and Ms. Ximena Campbell, both of whom pulled the Conference together quickly and efficiently.

The Conference was made possible through support by the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The points of view expressed in this document do not necessarily represent those of the sponsoring organizations.

Goals

The Western Hemispheric Migratory Conference was held to follow-up on the 2001 Quebec Summit of the Americas Plan of Action by articulating a strategy that identifies conservation priorities for migratory birds and other species in the Americas. The anticipated goals of the meeting were: (1)

Prioritize issues of conservation concern needing international collaboration; (2) Identify actions to be taken and analyze gaps in the tools currently available for conservation; (3) Propose elements of a strategy for follow-up; and (4) Prepare and circulate proceedings.

Process

Twenty-five representatives of government wildlife agencies and forty-seven participants from non-government organizations, international conventions, and other stakeholders in Western Hemisphere wildlife conservation, gathered for three days in Termas de Puyehue, Chile.

The location and timing of the Western Hemisphere Migratory Bird Conference were chosen to overlap with the VII Neotropical Ornithological Congress and VII Congress of the Chilean Ornithologists' Union, which were also held at Termas de Puyehue, Chile, October 5th through 11th, 2003. The proximity of these various events allowed participants to benefit from all of them.

Invitations to country representatives to attend the Conference were sent to wildlife agency heads in all countries of the Western Hemisphere. Wildlife agency heads unable to attend personally could send a representative.

Over sixty non-government organizations, associations, foundations, international conventions and other stakeholders involved in Western Hemisphere wildlife conservation were invited to observe the Conference, highlight their ongoing activities in relation to conservation priorities identified by country representatives, and distribute organizational materials prior to the meeting.

The logistical framework designed to meet the identified goals of the Conference called for a series

of plenary sessions, each followed by breakout sessions where the country representatives separated into one of two groups (arbitrarily named the "Green" and "Blue" Groups). Participants who were not official country representatives were invited to observe all portions of the Conference, however, they were only able to actively participate in designated sessions.

Country representatives were given the opportunity to modify the agenda, goals and structure of the Conference at the outset of the meeting, however no motion was made to do so.

The plenary sessions were led by a professional wildlife-stakeholder facilitator, and breakout sessions were either led by a facilitator, or a member of the Conference host staff. Both plenary sessions and breakout sessions included simultaneous translation in English and Spanish, a recorder, and an assistant to the acting facilitator for recording key points on charts that could be viewed by all participants.

Conservation issues of concern for Western Hemisphere countries were selected during breakout sessions with a mind-mapping technique employed to organize issues into logical categories and subcategories. Using this technique country representatives in the breakout groups determined their full list of issues of concern. They then voted on which issues were of greatest priority to their country, specifically in terms of regional importance

and opportunity for cross-border collaboration. After three iterations of the prioritizing exercise, the representatives were able to move from broad conservation themes to specific conservation actions. Country representative volunteers reported findings to the entire group after each breakout session.

On the evening of the second day, a voluntary group of country representatives and stakeholder participants synthesized the breakout group outputs into a single draft strategy statement for continuing international collaboration. This was revised and adopted the next day at a plenary session.

Results

The series of plenary and breakout sessions provided the country representatives and participants with the structure to successfully produce the anticipated Conference products: (1) A prioritized list of conservation issues needing international collaboration; (2) An emerging Tool Matrix available from non-government organizations, international conventions, and government bodies to address these identified needs; and (3) A mechanism for follow-up on the momentum of the Conference.

An over-riding issue in the early stages of the Conference was whether the discussions should be limited to migratory birds or broadened to include all migratory species or biodiversity in general. Due to the event over-lapping with the Neotropical Ornithological Congress, there was a natural preponderance of ornithologists and bird conservationists present at the Conference. However, specialists from the bat and sea turtle communities had been encouraged to attend the Conference, and most country representatives had responsibility over a broader range of species than birds.

After extensive discussion among country representatives and the expression of a broad range of opinion on the matter, three conclusions were reached. First, it was agreed that this meeting would focus specifically on migratory birds. Second, there was consensus that the anticipated follow-up

meeting, expected in approximately two years, would be expanded to cover all migratory species. And third, subsequent to the next meeting, the initiative would consider whether the participants wanted to expand its scope to address all species, or perhaps, some broader array of biological diversity conservation issues.

1) Conservation Priorities

In breakout sessions, country representatives identified broad issues of concern in their region. The Green Group identified nine issue clusters, then chose which of these would benefit most from international cooperation. Three of the nine over-riding issues surfaced for the Green Group from this prioritization: Research/Lack of knowledge, Habitat, and Public awareness/education. Lack of integration was identified as a theme that spanned all nine of the issues.

The country representatives in the Blue Group identified twelve needs with accompanying subcategories that would most benefit from international collaboration, then condensed and prioritized these issues into six main themes: Research, Threats, Administration, Habitat protection, Coordination/Partnerships, and Education/Community participation.

In the second plenary session both groups reviewed each other's issues of concern and agreed to

develop and prioritize subcategories during the subsequent breakout session.

The Green Group then developed a list of more specific needs or subcategories under each of the three main categories it had agreed upon earlier. These subsequent categories were then prioritized. Meanwhile, the Blue Group carried out the same exercise with regard to Threats, Habitat, and Administration.

The point was repeatedly made in both groups that funding is an important consideration in every category, and an inherent consideration of almost every need.

In the subsequent plenary, the prioritized subcategories from both breakout groups were presented to the full body, and all country representatives had the opportunity to further prioritize the listed subcategories. The voting results for the top needs in each of the six prioritized categories were:

n **Lack of knowledge**

Monitoring

Inventory of important sites

Capacity building and training

Legislation to foster conservation

n **Habitat**

Map sites for each country

Protection of smaller areas

Develop MOU with private landowners,
government and NGOs

Establish incentives for private landowners

n **Public awareness**

Public awareness program on conservation and
sustainable use

Education programs that embrace local wildlife

Electronic information exchange

n **Administration**

Develop regional associations for wildlife agencies to
share information

Support to implement administration/training of
personnel

Regional bird banding center

n **Coordination/partnerships**

Establish center for information sharing

National plan for migratory species conservation

Joint planning of activities under international
conventions

n **Threats**

Land use planning and monitoring

Involvement of communities

Acquisition of more habitat

Collaboration on species with expanding ranges and
behaving as invasives

2) Tool Matrix

During the subsequent set of breakout sessions, the non-governmental organizations and other observing participants were invited to introduce themselves and the organizations they represented, and to discuss tools their organizations or others currently offer that address identified priority needs.

In both breakout groups, the non-government organizations and other stakeholders presented a large quantity of tools available to assist in addressing the needs prioritized by the country representatives. The participants were also offered the opportunity to later expand upon this information in the Tool Matrix—a living document matching prioritized needs to tools available to address these needs. Stakeholders not present at the Conference will also be given the opportunity to add their programs addressing prioritized needs to the Tool Matrix.

3) Follow-up

In breakout groups, country representatives considered whether it would be worthwhile to continue the momentum of the Conference, and if so, how such a continuance might be structured. Possible frameworks discussed included: 1) Merging the Conference into an existing forum; 2) Pulling together a consortium; and 3) Forming a new ad-hoc group.

In the follow-up plenary session, breakout groups reported back on their thoughts for continuing the momentum of the Conference. All country representatives agreed that something should be done to provide continuity to the effort, and some type of “forum” involving both country representatives and other stakeholders would be the logical means for doing so. A group of volunteer country representatives and stakeholder participants agreed to stay into the evening and synthesize the breakout session visions for the future of the Western Hemisphere Migratory Bird Conference.

This volunteer group proposed that an on-going forum be created for continuing the work begun at the Conference, and that the forum should meet as a full body within 2 years, if not sooner, at which time, a permanent body should be proposed.

The group further proposed that an Interim Steering Committee be created, and that the Committee could be responsible for keeping the effort alive, communicating with, and updating, parties on a regular basis, and initiating and monitoring implementation of the action plan with the initial focus on migratory birds. Additionally, the Interim Steering Committee could be charged with producing a baseline report on the status of the identified prioritized needs and the tools available to address them.

The Interim Steering Committee would also be responsible for raising funds for future meetings, making contacts with nations and key groups not represented at the current meeting, and developing a formula for the future of this initiative (i.e. Proposing a mechanism for establishment of a permanent forum, steering body and follow-up communications). Lastly the Interim Steering Committee could be asked to prepare a progress report for the Conference participants, as well as for the Summit of the Americas and other interested bodies.

The volunteer group proposed that the Interim Steering Committee be composed of a country representative from each of the following regions: North America, northern South America; southern South America, the Caribbean, and Central America. Additionally, the group recommended that four non-government organizations plus relevant international conventions be represented on the Committee.

The following morning, after some minor adjustments to the proposed plan, the entire group of country representatives accepted the plan developed by the volunteer group. Country representatives then broke into regional groups in order to elect an Interim Steering Committee representative from each major region of the hemisphere. Following announcement of the regional representatives to the Interim Steering Committee, the country representatives elected Herb Raffaele, of

the United States, the Interim Steering Committee Chair.

All country representatives appointed to serve on the Interim Steering Committee were selected to do so as individuals—not as country representatives. Therefore, if an individual resigns from the Interim Steering Committee, the vacancy will not default to an alternative representative from that same country. Instead, the country representatives from that region will appoint a new individual from the region to fill the vacancy on the Committee.

Simultaneous to these discussions, the non-government organization and stakeholder participants chose four representatives from distinct interests within their own group for participation in the Interim Steering Committee.

Further, representatives from the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention) and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention) were invited to join the Interim Steering Committee. Additionally, any other interested convention was given an open-ended invitation to join the Interim Steering Committee. The representative from the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles subsequently requested to do so, and was made part of the Committee.

The full membership of the Interim Steering Committee is as follows: Committee Chair Herb

Raffaele, USA; Maria Rivera, Colombia; Jorge Luis Cravino, Uruguay; Donald Anthony, Saint Lucia; Jose Calvo, Costa Rica; Rob Clay, BirdLife International; Carlos Drews, World Wildlife Fund; Melanie Steinkamp, Wetlands International; David Pashley, American Bird Conservancy; and representatives from the Convention for the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention), the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles, and the Convention on Wetlands of International

Importance (Ramsar Convention), as well as representatives from any other applicable conventions that wish to participate on the Committee.

An additional out-put of these discussions was that the National Wildlife Federation stepped forward and offered a part-time staff person to work with the Interim Steering Committee to ensure that the momentum of the Conference continues.



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Appendices

Western Hemisphere Migratory Bird Conference

Termas de Puyehue - Chile
October 6, 7 and 8, 2003

Appendix 1 Conference Agenda

DAY 1

Monday October 6th, 2003

Begins 09:00am

Welcome and Opening Remarks—John Turner, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, United States Department of State

Introduction of Country Representatives, Key Staff and Observers

Overview of Conference Objectives, History, Role of NGOs

Overview of Process and Anticipated Results, Review of Agenda

Country representatives review proposed agenda, and provide comments on the planned activities and format.

Breakout Session 1

Groups will breakout to identify and prioritize conservation issues.

Lunch -60 minutes

Plenary session

Each breakout group presents its priority list and highest priority conservation issues are determined.

Breakout Session 2

Priority issues will be divided between the different breakout groups, and groups will determine the needs related to each priority category and subcategory. Afterward, using informed participation of the conservation community, each group will identify tools to address their issues.

Overview Plenary session

Reception – 5:30pm until 7pm, Restaurant Lago Puyehue in Hotel Termas de Puyehue

DAY 2

Tuesday October 7th, 2003

Begins 09:00am

Breakout Session 2 (Continued)

Each group will continue to identify priority and subcategory needs, and tools to address their issues.

Plenary session 2

Representatives from each breakout session will report back on prioritized needs, tools and implementation mechanisms recommended for their respective priority issues. Additional prioritizing can take place if necessary to reconcile the priority and subcategory needs into a shorter prioritized list.

Lunch -60 minutes

Breakout Session 3

Participants will discuss how continuity can be given to this effort, resulting in a strategy for continuing international collaboration.

Plenary session 3

Groups will report back on draft strategy statement development.

Overview Plenary session

Synthesis Group Convenes - Evening

Volunteer participants synthesize breakout group strategies into one strategy statement for continuing international collaboration.

DAY 3

Wednesday October 8th, 2003

Begins 09:00am

Plenary session 4

Presentation of strategy statement by synthesis group, followed by discussion.

Breakout Session 4

Final formulation of consensus strategy statement for continuity.

Concluding Plenary session

Summary and closing remarks.

Concludes 12:00pm

Lunch

Appendix 2

Priorities

The “Top Priority Needs” as identified by the 25 country representatives at the Western Hemisphere Migratory Bird Conference held in Termas de Puyehue, Chile, October 6, 7 & 8, 2003.

All priorities needs are within the specific context of international or regional conservation needs for migratory species.

n Lack of Knowledge

- Monitoring
- Inventory of important sites
- Capacity building and training
- Legislation to foster conservation

n Habitat

- Map sites for each country
- Protection of smaller areas
- Develop MOU with private landowners, government and NGOs
- Establish incentives for private landowners

n Public Awareness

- Public awareness program on conservation and sustainable use
- Education programs that embrace local wildlife
- Electronic information exchange

n Administration

- Develop regional associations for wildlife agencies to share information
- Support to implement administration/training of personnel
- Regional bird banding center

n Coordination/Partnerships

- Establish center for information sharing
- National plan for migratory species conservation
- Joint planning of activities under international conventions

n Threats

- Land use planning and monitoring
- Involvement of communities
- Acquisition of more habitat
- Collaboration on species with expanding ranges and behaving as invasives

Appendix 3

Country Representatives List

Adriel Thibou
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Appendix 5

Interim Steering Committee

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