

ers that have already taken a wetlands education workshop).

h. Assign follow-up activities to a local representative or organization; e.g., check in with people to see if they have questions or need more materials, talk with them about how they can use the information and materials they received if they are having difficulties.

i. Offer continuing education through a newsletter, quizzes, new materials, your website.

j. Administer evaluations (at the beginning and end of the workshop and/or program).

k. Establish Site Support Groups with local leadership.

5. *How can we best measure conservation outcomes or success from education and awareness initiatives?*

a. Conduct interviews or administer quizzes before and after your workshop or program to assess what has been learned and if attitudes have changed.

b. Determine if those that have been trained are continuing to teach others.

c. Look for and document anecdotal examples of positive conservation outcomes in the community or individuals; e.g., someone that has taken your wetlands workshop has successfully advocated for the conservation of a local mangrove; e.g., a student that has taken your program decides to pursue a

career in an environmental field. (These are real examples from Cuba!).

d. Your program and materials are incorporated in schools' curriculums.

e. Local people and/or Site Support Groups are advocating for the protection of the resource; someone takes on grassroots organizing.

f. Creation of a protected area, such as a Ramsar site, National Park, Watchable Wildlife Pond.

Conclusion.—We learned a great deal from one another in both the presentations and discussions. Many new insights and ideas were put forth for increasing the effectiveness of education and awareness initiatives in the Caribbean. It is recommended that anyone embarking on (or already engaged in) an education and awareness project follow, as much as possible, the recommendations outlined above. In addition, the French group noted that in the French Antilles, many structures and agencies exist which should be involved in education and awareness projects, but in fact, there is no “culture” for such projects and no real coordination between the actors. The French group therefore recommended that an outreach and education project (e.g., wetlands education) be initiated in the French Antilles. The project should be collaborative in order to develop synergism among the various groups.

J. Carib. Ornithol. 18:86-87, 2005

BIRD CONSERVATION IN HAITI: IT'S NOW OR NEVER TO SAVE HAITI'S BIRDS

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THIS ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION was focused on how the international community might help advance ongoing efforts to conserve Haiti's bird populations. The problem is obvious: Haiti is teetering on the brink of ecological collapse and consequent loss of biodiversity. Resources to achieve conservation are scarce or nonexistent, the resolve and capacity of government agencies are weak at best, and the number of committed in-country players is extremely few. The Société Audubon Haiti stands virtually alone, with Florence Sergile and Philippe Bayard engineering current efforts. They have the commitment and vision, but they need the backing, at all levels (conceptual, technical, human resource, and financial), of the international conservation

community. The goal of the roundtable was to draw on the extensive experience of the participants to collectively think through some of the issues and possible solutions.

Many people, including Florence Sergile, offered their perspectives, and several ideas were proposed. These included:

1. Drafting a resolution from SCSCB to the Haitian Ministries of Agriculture and Environment, urging strong and community-based measures to protect the country's remaining forest habitats, to restore damaged habitats within currently protected areas, and to work closely with local communities to develop sustainable land use practices. This resolution was subsequently drafted and approved by

the SCSCB Executive Committee.

2. The possibility that a similar resolution could also be signed by multiple international conservation groups was also raised.

3. Establishment of a Haitian Bird Habitat Conservation Steering Committee, whose role would be strictly advisory in helping Société Audubon Haiti and the Ministries of Agriculture/Environment implement bird conservation. Such a group might lend legitimacy, increase international visibility, and help ensure oversight and accountability to in-country conservation efforts. It was pointed out that such a committee must be composed largely of Haitians, with a small but select representation of committed participants from other countries.

4. Establishment of a Haiti Bird Habitat Conservation Fund, administered by Société Audubon Haiti with oversight from the above Steering Committee. Such a fund could essentially be a "trust fund" to help implement needed conservation measures, ranging from enhancing the capacity of Société Audubon Haiti through increased staffing to providing infrastructure for protected areas management. Most likely, initial funds would target the Macaya Biosphere Reserve and might complement anticipated funds from other sources. The Vermont Institute of Natural Science has agreed to launch a fundraising drive in the Northeast, with a goal of raising \$100,000. It is hoped that this "seed" money

could be used to leverage additional funding of \$900,000 from the international community.

5. While an influx of funding is crucial to achieve avian conservation in Haiti, roundtable participants agreed that the bottom line is creating capacity (human resources) to deliver conservation. Bird conservation *must* be linked to the Haitian people and their socioeconomic conditions. Integration and local buy-in are key.

6. Involving and investing Haitians currently living outside Haiti in conservation of their home country could provide critical resources. The means of accomplishing this pose a significant challenge, but it should be investigated.

7. The exploratory nature of this roundtable discussion precluded the identification of formal follow-up actions or the creation of actual working subgroups. Société Audubon Haiti, in cooperation with Chris Rimmer of the Vermont Institute of Natural Science, will pursue the ideas and potential actions identified above. An immediate goal is to secure funding to enable the Société Audubon Haiti to increase its staffing and devote resources to promoting a cohesive bird conservation agenda in Haiti. Longer-term goals include coordinating a multi-taxa field expedition to Macaya Biosphere Reserve in February of 2006, and beginning implementation of a locally-based program to achieve sustainable conservation of Macaya.

J. Carib. Ornithol. 18:87, 2005

CARIBBEAN ENDEMIC BIRD FESTIVAL WORKING GROUP

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THE CARIBBEAN ENDEMIC BIRD FESTIVAL (CEBF) completed its fourth edition in 22 May 2005 with the participation of 17,072 persons from 12 countries. During the 15th meeting of the Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds held in Guadeloupe from 1-5 August, 2005 the results of this year's event were presented by the regional coordinator Adrienne Tossas. Certificates of appreciation were awarded to coordinators or their representatives from nine countries by the regional coordinator and SCSCB president Andrew Dobson

during the general meeting of the society. A meeting with the coordinators was held on 4 August in which the outcomes of the first four editions of the festival and ideas for further improving the event were discussed. Changes for the 2006 CEBF include a new regional coordinator, Sheylda Díaz (otoarina77@yahoo.com), and the participation of five new islands/countries (Haiti, Trinidad & Tobago, Montserrat, British Virgin Islands, and Venezuela).