

(1985) assessment. Unfortunately the source of this assessment has been mislaid. At least two thirds of Barbuda is wetland and access is difficult.

The disappearance of 50-80 WIWDs from Guiana Island is a serious cause for concern. A controversial hotel development project appears set to go ahead despite demonstrations by more than 10,000 people (about a sixth of the total population). Following a shooting incident, the island (previously occupied by two people) has been taken over by the police and military. The 600 acre island was assessed by an OAS project and was recommended as a marine park because of its important mangroves, seagrass beds, and scenic qualities. Nevertheless it has been turned over to a Malaysian developer for the huge tourism project. The cause of disappearance and the fate of the WIWDs is not known, but it is thought that they have dispersed to other islands rather than having been eaten or shot.

DIRECTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

A second grant proposal for continuation funding for the West Indian Whistling-Duck and Wetlands Conservation Project was recently submitted to the USFWS Western Hemisphere Program and Conservation International Bahamas continues to support our work. Our first priority for 1999 is to complete and publish the Caribbean Wetlands Education Workbook. Lynn Gape and her staff at the Bahamas National Trust have completed a solid first draft. We are fortu-

nate to have the help of Martin Keeley (wetlands educator in the Cayman Islands) to help us bring the workbook to completion.

Our second objective is to continue with the Public Education and Awareness Program that we initiated in 1997. We plan to more widely distribute the various educational materials we have developed, continue with our education program for schoolchildren and the general public, and will hold another Teacher Training Workshop demonstrating the use of the materials and wetlands education techniques at the next SCO meeting in the Dominican Republic. Our long-range goal is to see that a Wetlands Education Unit (comprised of the materials we have developed) becomes a permanent part of every school's science curriculum in each of our target islands. Island Representatives to the WIWD-WG will work with Education Department personnel in their own country to reach this goal.

Our third objective for the coming year is to continue assisting local biologists with surveys and monitoring of WIWD populations and in the establishment of a long-term monitoring program in two countries. Knowledge of WIWD population levels and habitat use are crucial in making management plans, setting priorities for habitat conservation, and ensuring that areas providing the WIWD with quality habitat year-round are protected. We are tentatively planning to hold a Monitoring Training Workshop for local personnel at the 1999 SCO meeting.

A NEOTROPICAL WATERBIRD MANAGEMENT PLAN: A VEHICLE FOR SUPPORTING SHOREBIRD CONSERVATION IN THE AMERICAS

IAN DAVIDSON

Executive Director, Wetlands International-Americas

Over the last few months we have been actively seeking support to develop the neotropical counterpart of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP). Although broader than the initial scope of NAWMP (includes all waterbirds), the experiences learned from NAWMP will serve as a useful basis for developing the neotropical equivalent for a wide variety of migratory bird species - some of which breed in North America (in particular, a large group of North American breeding shorebirds). The proposed conservation plan builds on the

Neotropical Waterbird Census which has been operating since 1990. A review of the Census was completed with funding support from the Latin American Program of the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS). One of the recommendations from this review was to broaden the scope of the Census to include all waterbird species and focus on activities supporting their habitat conservation throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Over the next three months, Wetlands International (WI), with support from Ducks Unlimited Inc. (DU), CMS (the

Bonn Convention), and the Latin American Program (LAP) of CWS, will organize a workshop (late March-April 1999) in the southern cone region to begin the first phase of scoping the development of this new initiative. National representatives from Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Chile and Brazil, along with invited participants from the NGO community and Ramsar, will have an opportunity to provide input at this very initial stage. Species to be covered by the proposed Plan include shorebirds and colonial waterbird species. Funding support is being sought through the Global Environment Facility of the United Nations Environment and Development

Programs and World Bank, along with additional support from DU, WI, Ramsar, CMS, and national government and NGO stakeholders. Links to the NABCI, IBA, Ramsar, CMS, NAWMP, PIF, the Colonial Waterbird Plan, WHSRN, and other ongoing migratory bird programs and planning initiatives are critical if we are to ensure hemispheric conservation coverage for migratory bird species. For further information please contact: Ian Davidson, Executive Director, Wetlands International-Americas, 7 Hinton Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario, K1Y 4P1, Canada, Tel: (613) 792-1561, Fax: (613) 722-3318.

PLAN DE MANEJO DE AVES ACUATICAS NEOTROPICALES: UN VEHICULO PARA APOYAR LA CONSERVACION DE PLAYERAS EN LAS AMERICAS

IAN DAVIDSON

Durante los últimos meses hemos estado buscando apoyo para desarrollar la versión neotropical del Plan de Manejo de Aves Acuáticas de América del Norte (NAWMP). Aunque la idea es que su ámbito sea más amplio (incluyendo todas las aves acuáticas), las lecciones aprendidas a través de NAWMP serán útiles como base sobre la que desarrollar el equivalente neotropical para una amplia variedad de aves migratorias, algunas de las cuales crían en Norteamérica (en particular un gran número de playeras). El plan de conservación propuesto parte del Censo Neotropical de Aves Acuáticas en funcionamiento desde 1990. Una revisión del censo se llevó a cabo con apoyo financiero del Programa Latinoamericano del Servicio de Vida Silvestre de Canadá (CWS) y una de las recomendaciones generadas durante esta revisión fue ampliar el ámbito del censo para incluir todas las aves acuáticas y poner énfasis en actividades que promuevan la conservación de sus hábitats en toda América Latina y el Caribe. Durante los últimos tres meses, Wetlands International (WI), con el apoyo de Ducks Unlimited Inc. (DU), CMS (la Convención de Bonn), y el Programa Latinoamericano de CWS, organizará un

taller (a finales de marzo o abril de 1999) en el cono sur para iniciar la primera fase del desarrollo de esta nueva iniciativa. Representantes nacionales de Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Chile y Brasil, así como participantes invitados de ONGs y de Ramsar, tendrán la oportunidad de contribuir en esta fase inicial. Las especies cubiertas por el plan propuesto incluyen las aves playeras y las aves acuáticas coloniales. Se está buscando financiamiento a través de Global Environment Facility del Programa de Desarrollo y Medio Ambiente de las Naciones Unidas y el Banco Mundial, así como apoyo adicional de DU, WI, Ramsar, CMS, y socios gubernamentales y no gubernamentales. Los nexos con NABCI, IBA, Ramsar, CMS, NAWMP, PIF, el Plan de Aves Acuáticas Coloniales, WHSRN, y otros programas de aves migratorias serán cruciales para asegurar su conservación a nivel hemisférico. Para más información sobre esta iniciativa contactar con: Ian Davidson, Executive Director, Wetlands International-Americas, 7 Hinton Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario, K1Y 4P1, Canada, Tel: (613) 792-1561, Fax: (613) 722-3318.