

# Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act Grants Program

## 2006 Fact Sheet

### *What is the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act about?*

Enacted by Congress in 2000, the Act establishes a matching grants program to fund projects that promote the conservation of migratory birds in the United States, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Projects may include activities to benefit bird populations and their habitats, research and monitoring, law enforcement, and outreach and education.

### *What are the match requirements?*

All grant requests must be matched by partner funds at least 3:1. For projects in the United States, matching funds must be in cash; in Latin America or the Caribbean, both cash and in-kind contributions are allowable. Partner funds from a U.S. federal source may be involved in any project, but are not eligible as match.

### *How are projects selected?*

A panel of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) staff reviews eligible grant proposals and makes recommendations for project funding to the Service's Director. The Director approves funding for projects on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior. Many more good proposals are received than can be funded.

### *What is the program's grant portfolio to date?*

Since Fiscal Year (FY) 2002, when the grants program began, partnerships have received more than \$13.4 million in grants in support of 144 projects in 36 U.S. states/territories and 30 Latin American and Caribbean countries. More than \$70.7 million in partner funds have been contributed to these projects. To date, approximately 3.1 million acres of migratory bird habitat have been positively affected. Many of the projects take place in more than one state or country; several others focus on the entire Neotropical region.

### *What is happening with the FY 2006 program?*

Congress appropriated \$4 million for the FY 2006 program. On April 12<sup>th</sup>, the Director approved 43 projects for funding in 18 countries. Partners are contributing more than \$17 million towards their projects.

### *... and the program in general?*

Congress is currently considering reauthorization legislation that would expand the Act in significant ways, including increasing its authorized funding level, widening its geographic scope to include Canada, and reducing its matching funds requirement.

### *Has an Advisory Group been named yet for this program?*

Yes, on March 8, 2006, the Secretary of the Interior announced the appointment of an Advisory Group, consisting of North American Wetlands Conservation Council members and five additional migratory bird conservation professionals. Those being asked to serve in this capacity are:

*Enrique Bucher*, National University of Cordoba, Argentina

*Ian Davidson*, BirdLife International, Ecuador

*Michael Dennis*, The Nature Conservancy, USA

*Mark Elsbree*, The Conservation Fund, USA

*Dale Hall*, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USA

*Scott Henderson*, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, USA

*Mary Pope Hutson*, Land Trust Alliance, USA

*Wayne MacCallum*, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, USA

*Val Mezainis*, U.S. Forest Service, USA

*Nadra Nathai-Gyan*, Ministry of Public Utilities and the Environment, Trinidad and Tobago

*David Nomsen*, Pheasants Forever, Inc., USA

*Felipe Ramírez*, SEMARNAT-Division of Wildlife, Mexico  
*Duane Shroufe*, Arizona Game and Fish Department, USA  
*Jeff Trandahl*, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, USA  
*Alan Wentz*, Ducks Unlimited, Inc., USA  
*Director General*, Canadian Wildlife Service, Canada

### *How do I apply for a grant?*

Application materials for the FY 2007 program will be available by July 2006 at <http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/NMBCA/>. The deadline for proposal submission has not yet been set.

### *How can I learn more about this program?*

For additional information about the grants program, contact its coordinators at the Division of Bird Habitat Conservation at (703) 358 1784 or [neotropical@fws.gov](mailto:neotropical@fws.gov). For brief descriptions and summary tables of funded projects, visit <http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/NMBCA/>.

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