

MOUs with the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative

Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative =
Iniciativa para Especies Migratorias del Hemisferio Occidental =
WHMSI

MOU = Memorandum of Understanding = Terms of Relationship

What is WHMSI?

- Begun 2001. Response to call by the Summit of the Americas (Quebec 2001) for a hemispheric strategy to support the conservation of migratory wildlife throughout the Americas
- Two meetings of Parties: 2003 Chile, 2006 Costa Rica
- Concept: increase cooperation and communication among nations/States, international agreements and civil society; and expand constituencies and political support
- Principle of cooperation; decisions to be based on consensus among members; accountability to its constituency
- Includes migratory species as diverse as birds, marine turtles, marine and terrestrial mammals, fish and invertebrates
- Coordinated by interim Steering Committee chaired by USFWS Chief of Division of International Conservation.

Some additional relevant observations

From: Draft Terms of Reference:

- “Information sharing requires the development of institutional arrangements as well as operative mechanisms to work efficiently and to ensure informed decisions and effective planning processes.”
- “Partners will seek within their means and capabilities to make financial, institutional and human resources available to this initiative.”
- “Plenary meetings will serve to share information and ideas, and to conduct the business of subcommittees, taskforces and working groups. They will provide a forum to engage partners in addressing the vision and objectives of this agreement and to communicate on issues of importance. It is suggested that plenary meetings be held approximately once every three years.”

Other News from WHMSI Updates:

- GEF Proposal for hemisphere-wide capacity-building activities related to migratory species conservation.
- MOU between WHMSI and U.S. NABCI.
Through this MOU, the parties agree to seek ways to work together more effectively to build on each others' strengths.

Proposal:

Pursue Interim MOUs with WHMSI

Justification:

- Shared concepts and complementary goals
- Perhaps an opportunity for face-to-face meetings
- Possible support for future projects of mutual interest
- Visibility for aquatic birds through network
- Appropriate to have a relationship
- Small investment for potentially large return

Content:

- Statement of our interests and roles
- Describe Councils as consultants; working groups for shorebirds/waterbirds
- Perhaps some specifics: Co-located meetings; shared project development, shared networks