



# NFWF

## Final Programmatic Report Narrative

**Instructions:** Save this document on your computer and complete the narrative in the format provided. The final narrative should not exceed ten (10) pages; do not delete the text provided below. Once complete, upload this document into the on-line final programmatic report task as instructed.

NFWF/Legacy Grant Project ID: 9934.11.026364

### 1. Summary of Accomplishments

In four to five sentences, provide a brief summary of the project's key accomplishments and outcomes that were observed or measured.

This project was a three-year investment in raising capacity for seabird conservation in the region with demonstrable positive effects. Multiple opportunities for learning, relationship-building and lesson sharing in the form of a planning summit (July 2011), week-long training (June 2012), hands-on workshops (Pedro 1 – July 2012, Pedro 2 – October 2012), and symposia at SCSCB's regional meeting in Grenada (July 2013). Provision of small grants to experienced conservationists ("immediate conservation grants") and trainees ("small grants program") allowed acquisition of information key to informing management or funded management actions that affect colony health in more than a dozen island nations. Key reference documents developed under this project include a prioritization paper which outlines the priorities for seabird conservation in the region and a monitoring manual which formalizes the recommendations developed during the duration of the project. Funds made available by NFWF stimulated acquisition of funds from other sources, included those research and monitoring efforts initiated between instructors and participants.

### 2. Project Activities & Outcomes

#### Activities

- Describe and quantify (using the approved metrics referenced in your grant agreement) the primary activities conducted during this grant.
- Briefly explain discrepancies between the activities conducted during the grant and the activities agreed upon in your grant agreement.

#### Conservation Activities / Progress Measures/Activity Metric/ Value at Grant Completion

Proposed: Capacity Building Workshop / number of persons trained / 20 (minimum)

Proposed: Capacity Building Workshop / countries represented / 15 (at least)

Actual: The capacity building workshop and other elements of the project were planned in consultation with 47 representatives of seabird interests around the region; see Attachment A. The workshop itself took place in June 2012 and involved **24 participants from 19 different jurisdictions** (island nations or territories). The report and evaluation of the workshop are included as Attachment B.

Proposed: Small Grants Program / grants implemented / 10 (at least)

Actual: Small grants were made available, via a competitive application process, to participants at the capacity-building workshop (seabird) and to qualified participants in the Caribbean Waterbird Census program. In total, **13 small grants** were made using NFWF funds. Attachments C and D summarize the small grants. Attachment E is a compendium of reports received from small grant recipients.

Proposed: Development of seabird manual / number distributed/ 50

Actual: A draft seabird manual was prepared based on the experiences from the summit workshop, training workshop, and immediate conservation grant workshops. Attachment F is the draft now out for peer review. Once completed, funds have been committed for production (copy-editing and design) but funds were not budgeted for printing. **Distribution**

**will be electronic** (downloadable in a PDF format) until additional funds can be acquired. Marketed through the BirdsCaribbean list serve, an audience of ~1,500 members will be made aware of its existence.

Proposed: Deployment of satellite tags to support workshops/ number deployed/ 5 (at least)

Actual: Not applicable as NFWF indicated that they would not fund satellite tagging in the final budget. However, as a result of the NFWF project, a number of relationships between local practitioners and USGS that allowed deployment of **dozens of individual tracking devices from Pedro Cays and multiple other locations on various species** (devices funded by other sources). Attachment G summarizes the individual tracking work, as well as other research, which arose as result of the project.

Proposed: Synthesis of current information and identification of data gaps / document suitable for submission to peer-reviewed journal / 1

Actual: A document, **“Strategies for Protecting and Restoring Populations of Seabirds of the Caribbean: A Prioritization for Conservation Funds from the Deepwater Horizon Spill”** was developed over the course of the project, informed by information gleaned during workshops, trainings, and small grant applications; see Attachment H. Iterations of this document have been shared, as appropriate, with parties interested in Caribbean seabird conservation (including an internal Department of Interior gulf restoration planning team). Properly formatted, the information is suitable for journal submission.

Proposed: Immediate conservation grants / grants implemented/ 3

Actual: Immediate conservation grants were made to support **3 priority seabird conservation projects** known at the commencement of the project. These are summarized in Attachment D and include an expedition to Cay Sal banks, Bahamas; workshops on Pedro Cays, Jamaica; and production of artificial nest boxes for petrels and other burrow-nesting seabirds. A compendium of reports from these grants comprises Attachment I.

## **Outcomes**

- Describe and quantify progress towards achieving the project outcomes described in your grant agreement. (Quantify using the approved metrics referenced in your grant agreement or by using more relevant metrics not included in the application.)
- Briefly explain discrepancies between what actually happened compared to what was anticipated to happen.
- Provide any further information (such as unexpected outcomes) important for understanding project activities and outcome results.

## **Conservation Outcome(s) / Indicator Metric(s) or Other Outcome / Baseline Metric Value, Value at Grant Completion / Long-term Goal Metric Value / Year in which Long Term Metric Value is Anticipated**

Proposed: Enhanced competency in applied aspects of waterbird ecology and management for workshop attendees / competency score based on pre and post assessments (1 to 5) / Increase from 1.5 to 3.0 to 3.5 by 2013

Actual: The concepts taught at the capacity building workshop (June 2012) and Pedro Cays workshops are detailed in reports for these events. Competency assessments in the form of pre- and post-workshops were not conducted. Rather, participants receiving small grants were asked to assess the effects of their interaction with the overall project (workshops, small grant receipt, symposium attendance) on their skills and knowledge related to seabirds. Responses are presented in full in Attachment J; among the small grant participants, all felt that their skills and knowledge greatly increased because of the project. Three participants who did not receive small grants also responded to the survey; they felt their skills and knowledge increased or greatly increased.

Proposed: Enhanced level of management of seabird colonies/waterbird sites / Management level score based on pre and post

Assessments (1 to 5)/ Increase from 1.5 to 3.0 to 3.5 by 2013

Actual: Level of management was assessed by examining the outcomes reported by those that received small grants (i.e., information gained for management or management actions undertaken) as well as by participant responses to a query about the likelihood that they could improve seabird population in the areas. Responses are summarized in Attachment J. All projects generated information invaluable to informed and effective management, ranging from up-to-date population estimates to an understanding of threats and the best strategies to undertake to reduce them. Some projects yielded on-

the-ground management activities, such as fencing or placement of artificial burrows. When participants were queried all felt it was likely they could benefit seabird populations and several felt very confident in their ability to effect positive changes.

Proposed: Acquisition of additional grant funds to build-upon awarded small-grants / Percent of participants receiving external funding / 25% to 50% by 2013

Actual: Acquisition of external funding was assessed by examining match figured reported by recipients of small grants as well as question posed to participants about their ability to identify partners and/or funding. In all cases, small grant recipients matched NFWF funds with in-kind or cash counterparts at a ratio of 1:1 or greater. Most identified or even secured sources for follow-up projects. Responses to participant queries are summarized in Attachment J; overall, all respondents felt that their ability to secure personal and financial support was increased or greatly increased by the project.

Proposed: Improved Understanding of Foraging Ranges of Masked Boobies / Number of individuals tracked / Increase from 0 to 5 by 2013

Actual: Not applicable as NFWF indicated that they would not fund satellite tagging in the final budget. However, as a result of the NFWF project, a number of relationships between local practitioners and USGS that allowed deployment of **dozens of individual tracking devices from Pedro Cays and multiple other locations** (devices funded by other sources). Attachment G summarizes the individual tracking work, as well as other research, which arose as result of the project. Tracking data are still being assessed. Very interestingly, a Masked Booby marked as a juvenile on Pedro Cays was sighted at the colony in Arrecife Alacranes National Park, Mexico, which tends to confirm our hypothesis that seabird colonies in the Caribbean function as a metapopulation.

### 3. Lessons Learned

Describe the key lessons learned from this project, such as the least and most effective conservation practices or notable aspects of the project's methods, monitoring, or results. How could other conservation organizations adapt their projects to build upon some of these key lessons about what worked best and what did not?

- Focusing on basic and slightly more advanced training for conservation professionals with governments and NGOs was appropriate. Developing the training as a broad introduction to a broad suite of topics ensured "adequate" coverage of places and people was effective. This also allowed for peer mentoring, i.e., more experienced attendees sharing experiences and mentoring some of the less experienced attendees throughout the workshop.
- Basic training allowed for identification and development of more advanced training opportunities and we are looking forward to developing such opportunities in the future.
- Small grants are key to the direct application of knowledge gained by trainees. The range of topics explored in these grants demonstrates the breadth of the workshop and interest of the participants including conservation threats, long-term monitoring, research, and management activities.
- Relationships/networking and the associated moral support and confidence that arose following the workshops is notable and a critical component of capacity-building. There are examples of continuing collaborations outside of the original grant and these relationships are critical to developing a stable and resilient base for seabird conservation in the region.
- There is a pool of interested and dedicated practitioners that could implement meaningful projects and continue their professional development and that would be interested in more advanced training opportunities.

### 4. Dissemination

Briefly identify any dissemination of lessons learned or other project results to external audiences, such as the public or other conservation organizations.

- A number of small grant recipients gave presentations on their small grant projects at a symposium held at the [BirdsCaribbean Regional Meeting in Grenada](#), July 2014.
- Small grant results have been or will be shared in various professional venues, including professional meetings and scientific journals (see small grant reports).

- Project-related materials were posted on a ConserveOnline site (until that service was discontinued in 2013) and all materials will be posted on the BirdsCaribbean (organizational website) when reconstituted (in 2014).
- We plan to feature many of the small grant projects in informal articles on the News and Blog pages of our new website ([www.birdscaribbean.org](http://www.birdscaribbean.org)).
- The prioritization paper has been made available to the internal DOI team working on bird restoration planning under the NRDA regulations.
- We plan to submit a report on this project to Rainforest Alliance's [Eco-Index](#) project sharing website.

## 5. Project Documents

Include in your final programmatic report, via the Uploads section of this task, the following:

- 2-10 representative photos from the project. Photos need to have a minimum resolution of 300 dpi and must be accompanied with a legend or caption describing the file name and content of the photos;
- report publications, GIS data, brochures, videos, outreach tools, press releases, media coverage
- any project deliverables per the terms of your grant agreement.

### Attachments:

- A. Seabird Summit Workshop – Proceedings and Final Report
- B. An International Workshop to Build Capacity for Seabird Conservation in the Wider Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico; Gerace Research Centre, San Salvador, Bahamas, 8-13 June 2012
- C. [Interactive map showing locations of seabird and waterbird research, monitoring and conservation projects in the Caribbean:](#)  
<https://mapsengine.google.com/map/u/0/edit?mid=zXHZt4Z4Rp1c.kJ7hxoA7Png4&authuser=0&hl=en>
- D. Summary of Immediate Conservation Grants and Small Grants
- E. Compendium of Small Grant Reports
- F. Caribbean Seabird Monitoring Manual (March 2014 review draft)
- G. Individual Tracking and Other Research in the Caribbean
- H. Strategies for Protecting and Restoring Populations of Seabirds of the Caribbean: A Prioritization for Conservation Funds from the Deepwater Horizon Spill
- I. Compendium of Immediate Conservation Grant Reports
- J. Summary of Conservation Outcomes
- K. List of videos produced in association with this project
- L. Building Capacity for Waterbird and Wetland Conservation: The Caribbean Waterbird Census (CWC): 2014 Report (available April 2014)

**POSTING OF FINAL REPORT:** *This report and attached project documents may be shared by the Foundation and any Funding Source for the Project via their respective websites. In the event that the Recipient intends to claim that its final report or project documents contains material that does not have to be posted on such websites because it is protected from disclosure by statutory or regulatory provisions, the Recipient shall clearly mark all such potentially protected materials as “PROTECTED” and provide an explanation and complete citation to the statutory or regulatory source for such protection.*