Project Update: May 2009

Designing the campaign and pre-festival actions!

The first step was to select a place to allow carrying out of all of the actions from Gibara City - the best one was the Museum of Natural History "Joaquin Fernandez de la Vara". The fact is that we needed to design the activities over a period of time long enough to carry out several education actions to allow a more permanent range of effects; it was at this time we created the "Community Bird Festival, *Protegiendo las Aves*".

We started six years ago, and the actions had been increasing every year; the Rufford Small Grant made it possible to instigate several new actions and gave power and new energy to the Festival. With the help of the colleagues from Gibara museum we have been working together to enhance the reach of the activities.

The new sources of financial support made it possible to include several new actions that extend throughout the year, covering a large number of people, increasing during the Festival week from 18th to 24th May. Timing coincided with the "Caribbean Endemic Bird Festival", "Migratory Bird Day", and the "Biodiversity Day".

All the actions are based on the links between art and science as a better way to reach people. The artist is very respected by the people. The fact that the artist put his name to the conservation effort is very important from the point of view of local people and increased the interest in it. That is why we supported several subsequent art expositions.

As result of our research we found that a good way to minimize the trafficking could be control through the police applying the law. In Cuba, Law 200 from 2000 set the level of fines and outlines the legal measures. Gibara has only one-way entry point and it is easy the control through the police using the Cuban laws. So, we organized a meeting with the police chief of the locality and other institutions, such as Ministry of Environment (Control Department), Forest Guard, and the local Museum of Natural History; a workshop to teach these bodies will be carried out during September 2009, just before the migration period.

The second part of the project this year was considered as Pre-festival Actions with the goal of organising art expositions to introduce local people to the bird theme and conservation problems, through the different point of view of the artists and promote art competitions among the local students, letting them know the winner during the Festival time week in May.

		PRE-FESTIVAL ACTIONS	
January 2009		Art show "Pupil of the Nature" artist Cesar Iván Morales showing bird theme	Centro Provincial de Artes Plásticas, Sala Principal
December 2008		Reunión con actores del MININT, cuerpo de guardabosques y CITMA	Gibara
January - May 2009	9:30 am	Promotion of Festival and art competition with young and children, Gibara Radio/TV	Gibara
26 -30 January 2009		Promotion "Photonature Art show", Radio-TV	Holguín City
12-15 March 2009		Nature Foto safari	El Abra, Gibara
10 April 2009	9:00 pm	First "Photonature Art Show", Holguín 2009	Centro de Arte, Sala Pequeña
24-27 March 2009		Endemic Bird Conservation Workshop	Museo HN, Gibara
21 April 2009		Visit to local owner of Mini zoo to arrange the reproduction of endangered birds	Minizoo
April 2009		Organizing group of students as a birdwatcher's groups	Giba NH Museum
15 April 2009	4:00 pm	Opening the results of "Wildlife Art Workshop"	Museo HN, Gibara
5-8 May 2009	4:00 pm	Opening the results of "Wildlife Art Workshop" on the Academy of Fine Art in Holguín	Academia de Bellas Artes "El Alba", Holguín

