

Socio-Political Complexities of Attempting to Address the Sustainability of Shorebird Harvest in the Western Atlantic Flyway



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Context and Concern

Shorebird hunting has been practiced by European colonists in the Caribbean and northern South America since the mid-1600s.

Although current pressure within the Flyway is incompletely known, unsustainable legal harvest and illegal harvest have the potential to limit positive growth of some shorebird populations →



Recent History

- Jul 2011 - SurveyMonkey® questionnaire on shorebird hunting by BirdsCaribbean; discussed at annual meeting and WHSG meeting.
- Sep 2011 - Satellite-tagged Whimbrels (Machi and Goshen) shot in Guadeloupe, catalyzed action.
- Feb 2012 - Shorebird Harvest Working Group formed to collaboratively address sustainability.

Atlantic Flyway
Shorebird Initiative

A Business Plan



February 2015

Hunting identified as a key threat in the AFSI



A Plan to Address the Sustainability of Shorebird Harvest in the Western Atlantic Flyway



Atlantic Flyway Shorebird Initiative
Harvest Working Group
May 2016

Based on the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's
2015 Parent Business Plan

Harvest Working Group

Periodic teleconferences, including those in French. Face-to-face workshops.

Basecamp site with teleconference notes, papers, proposals, reports. Some documents at shorebirdplan.org.

Cooperatively developed proposals successfully funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Match **jointly** provided by the partners, including government agencies in North American (CWS key) and the European Union. Birds Caribbean provided financial services to fund partners.

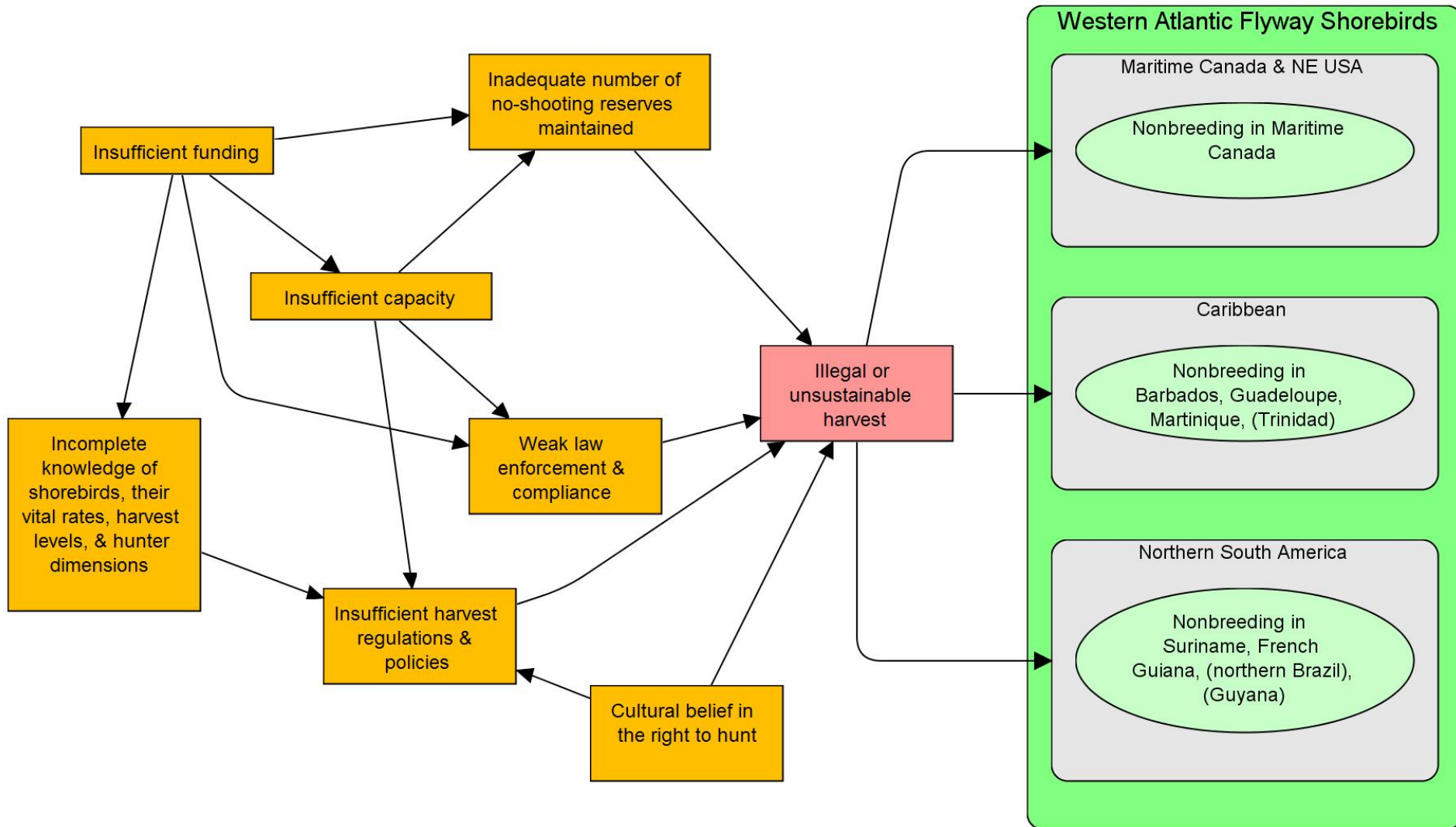
Additional funding to the USFWS, through USAID, to fund projects in select countries.

Flyway Biological Goal: Remove the direct threat of harvest as a factor limiting shorebird population growth by implementing a sustainable shorebird harvest. By 2025, $\geq 30\%$ reduction in harvest.

Human Wellbeing Goal: Meet cultural and subsistence needs of people who harvest shorebirds, while achieving a sustainable shorebird harvest. By 2025, stakeholders agree to a 30% harvest reduction.

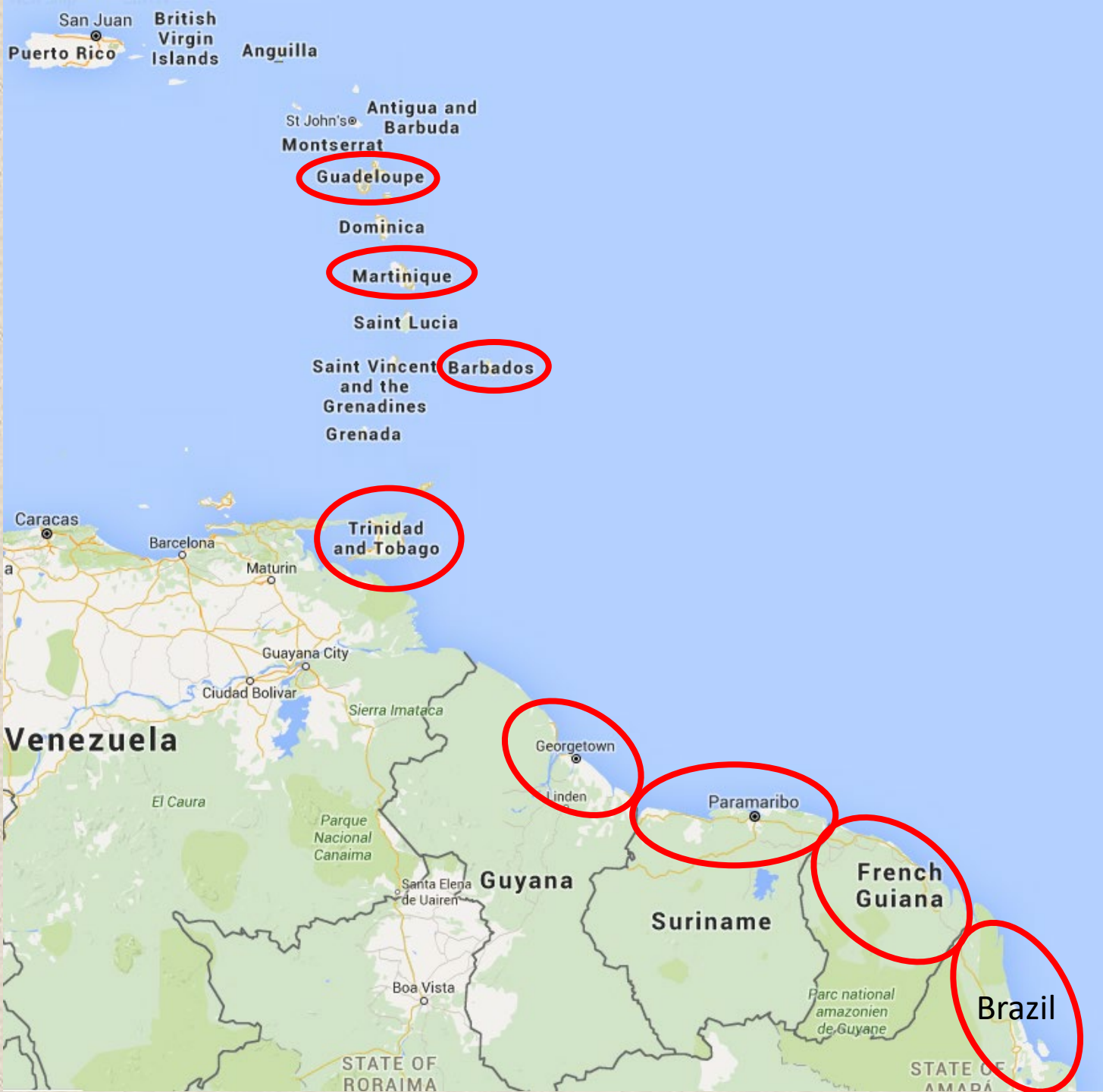


Conceptual Model



Seven Major Strategies

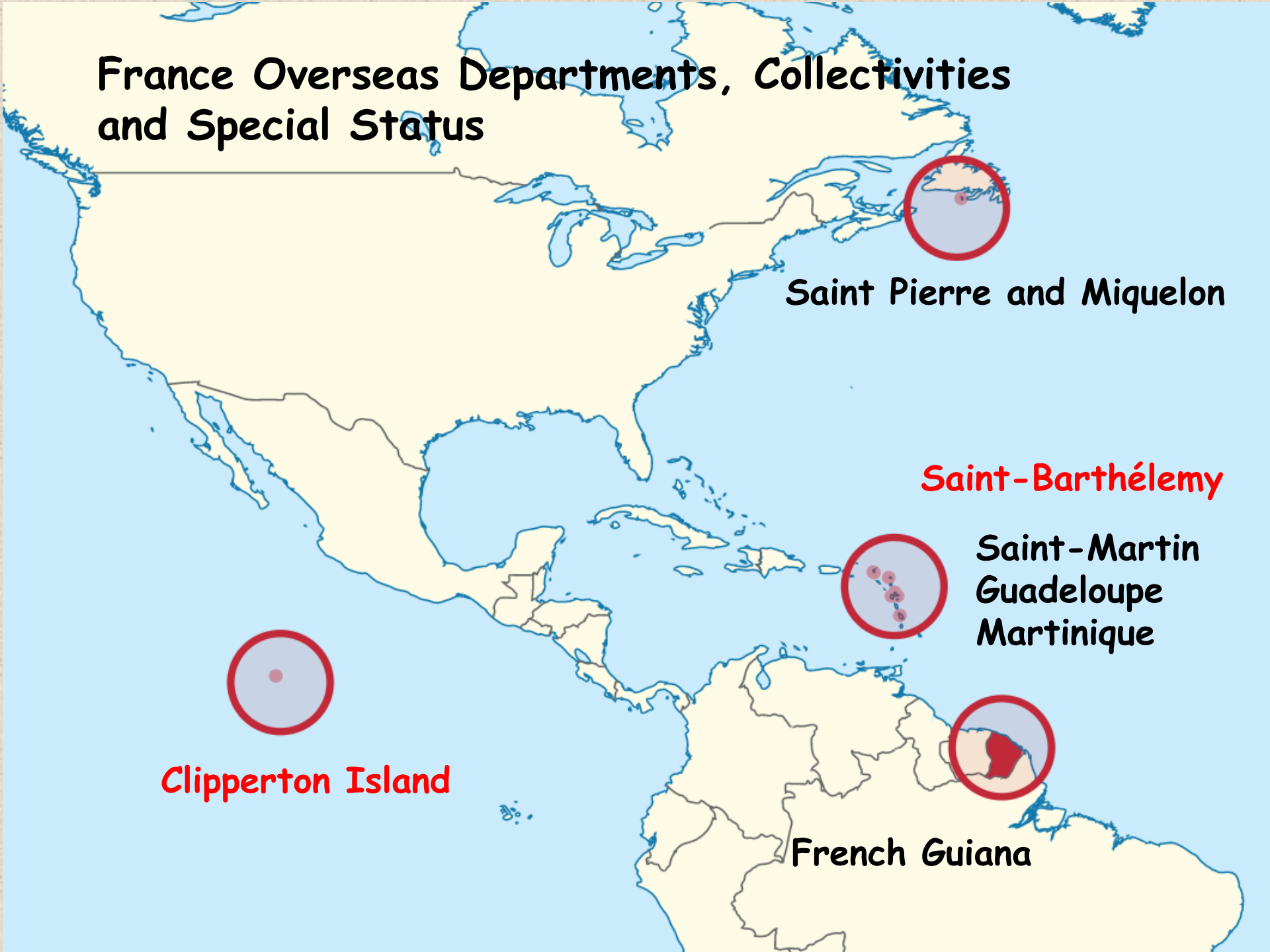
- 1) Assess biological and social aspects of harvest**
- 2) Develop policies and regulations**
- 3) Strengthen law enforcement & monitor compliance**
- 4) Improve outreach and communication**
- 5) Establish and maintain no-shooting reserves**
- 6) Develop incentives to not hunt**
- 7) Conduct basic shorebird research and monitoring**



Shorebird Protection and Harvest Restrictions

Jurisdiction	Legal Protection		Season	Bag Limits	
	Full	Partial			
Brazil	all				
Suriname	all				
Trinidad & Tobago	all				
Canada	most	some	yes	yes	
USA	most	some	yes	yes	
Barbados	some	most	yes	yes	
French Overseas Departments					
	French Guiana	most	some	no	yes
	Guadeloupe	half	half	yes	yes
	Martinique	half	half	yes	some
	Guyana	none	none	no	no

France Overseas Departments, Collectivities and Special Status



Saint Pierre and Miquelon

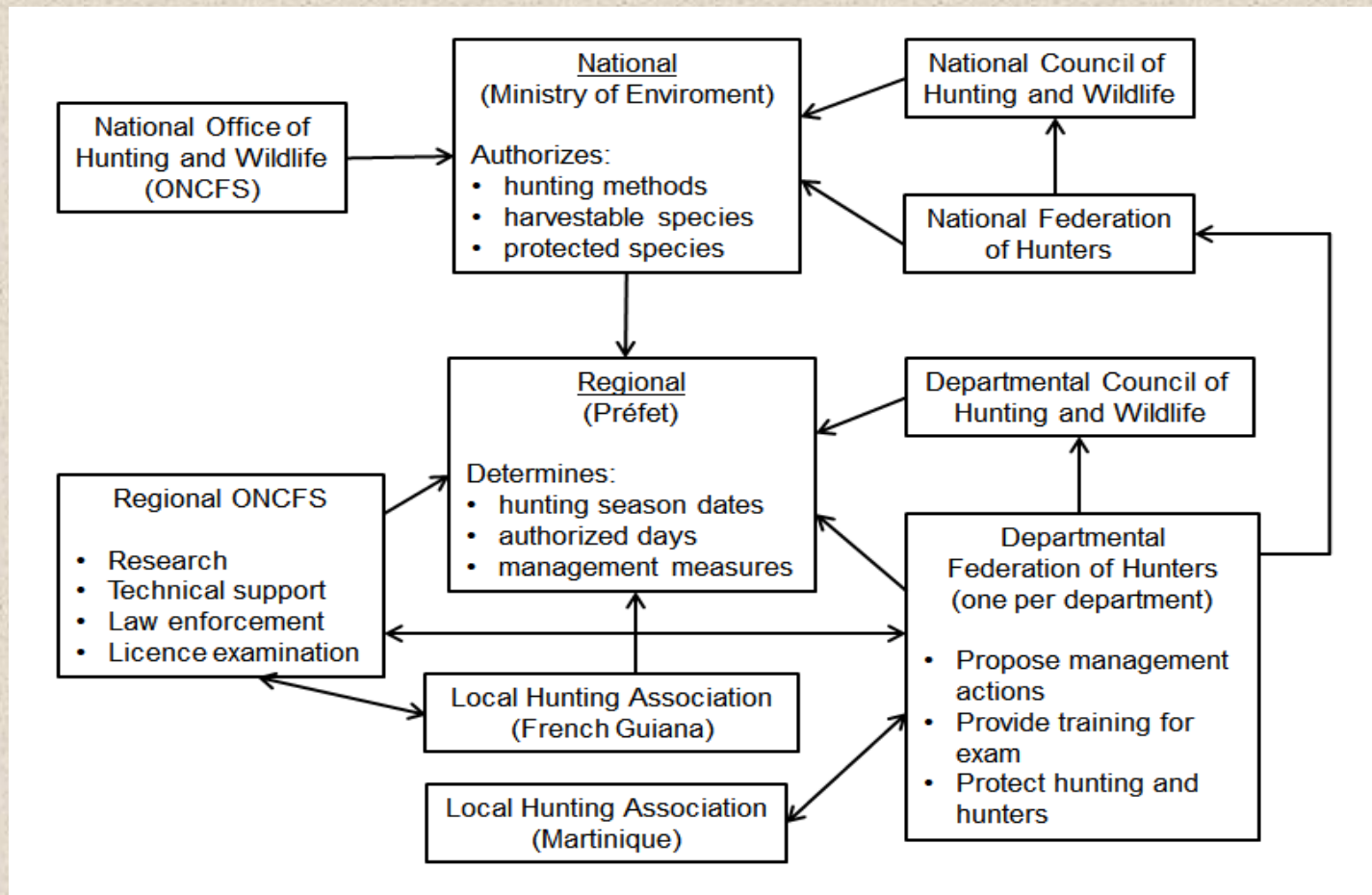
Saint-Barthélemy

Saint-Martin
Guadeloupe
Martinique

Clipperton Island

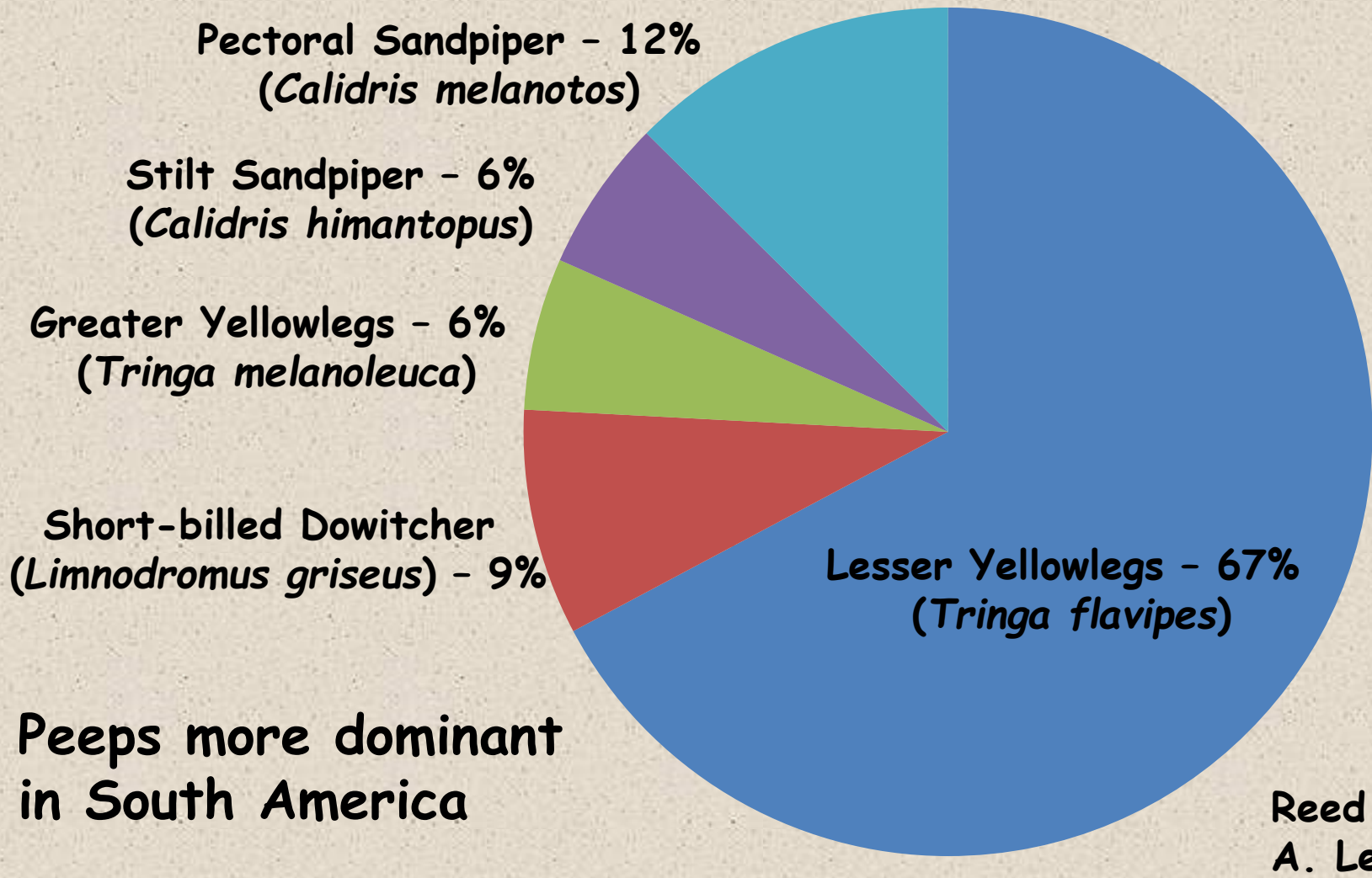
French Guiana

In France, the setting of hunting regulations is based on three fundamental principles: 1) regulation is the responsibility of the state; 2) the right to hunt belongs to the owner of the land; and 3) game is a public good that belongs to no one.



There is no departmental federation in French Guiana. In Martinique, hunters join local associations (19) that lease or own wetlands for hunting (21 lots).

Shorebird Harvest Composition on Guadeloupe and Barbados (wetlands)



Assessment - Harvest Use

In all regions, virtually all of the harvest is consumed.

Suriname - 22% of active hunters (n=93) also sold or distributed shorebird bushmeat (D. Mizrahi).

French Guiana - 48% of active hunters (n=85) sold or distributed shorebird bushmeat (A. Taylor).

Brazil - Of all interviewees on the north coast (n=187), 63% hunted shorebirds (spot-lighting, "boomerang", shocking wire). Used for food (Bosi de Almeida).

Barbados - Shooting swamps as social clubs with barbeques after shooting days.

Shorebird Bushmeat Use in Guyana

Some shorebirds harvested for personal use but most sold to supplement their fishing income.

Sold to meat vendors in established village markets or to individuals whom had placed specific orders.

Shorebirds are considered a delicacy among the Indo-Guyanese population.

Shorebirds were sold either dead or alive and either dressed or feathered.



Economic Supplement - Guyana

- Small shorebirds sold for US \$5.00 for 20-25 individuals, and larger shorebirds were sold for US \$10.00 for seven individuals.
- Given the daily (8 hours) minimum wage in Guyana is US \$9.76, the sale of 100 small sandpipers directly to individuals would provide an additional daily income of US \$20-25 to the shocker.

Policy Changes

Barbados - Voluntary limits on total harvest, daily harvest, species totals recommended by Barbados Wildfowlers Association enacted in 2012, with reasonable compliance.

Guadeloupe - Bag limits, season restrictions, and reduced hunting days instituted in 2013.

French Guiana - Closed hunting to all but 9 shorebirds in 2014 and instituted license requirement in 2017.

MOU with France, Canada and USA hunting agencies

- support for statutory changes**
- cooperative design and analysis of projects**
- collaborate on hunter group engagement
(Martinique reporting)**
- leverage funding opportunities**



Law Enforcement and Awareness in Suriname

Kamp Natuurbeheer heropend te Bigi Pan



door Beta Debidien

NIEUW-NICKERIE — Het Kamp van Natuur Beheer (NB) en 's Lands Bosbeheer (LBB) in het Bigi Pan Multiple Use Management Area (Muma) is heropend. Minister Ginmarcio Kromosoeto van Ruimtelijke ordening Grond en Bosbeheer (RGB) heeft de opening vrijdag verricht na een grondige renovatie.

Het kamp verkeerde in een slechte staat, waardoor efficiënt te laten verlopen. Hij pleitte onder andere voor het plaatsen van zonnepanelen en voor het uitvoeren van het maintenance programma voor de jachtopzieners. "Laten we dat ook direct in elkaar zetten, het zijn geen moeilijke dingen", zei de minister. De RGB-topman bedankte de sponsoren voor de ondersteuning en sprak de hoop uit dat de samenwerking voortgezet mag worden.

Arie Spaans, voorzitter van Vrienden van Stinau, beloofde de waardering en de dank van de bewindsman over te zullen brengen aan de overige sponsoren. Spaans heeft in de jaren zeventig vijf jaren bij de afdeling Natuur Beheer gewerkt aan het in kaart brengen en beschermen van de kustvogels. Daarna is hij op verzoek van Natuur Beheer vele malen te-

jachtopzieners hun intrek niet konden nemen om hun werkzaamheden uit te voeren in het gebied. De stichting Vrienden Stinau en UNDP/GEF hebben gezorgd voor de renovatie van het kamp.

Restant middelen

Kromosoeto deed een beroep op de leiding van LBB en NB om ervoor te zorgen dat de middelen die over zijn aangewend worden om het werk te Bigi Pan efficiënter voor hetzelfde doel. Gezien zijn liefde voor Suriname en de kustvogels werd hij gevraagd door het toenmalige hoofd van NB of hij in Nederland middelen kon vrijmaken om de illegale jacht op kustvogels beter te bestrijden.

Naast het renovatieproject heeft Spaans samen met **David Mizzi**, vicepresident van New Jersey Audubon, ook andere projecten voor NB helpen uitvoeren zoals het school educatieplan, een project waarbij kinderen geleerd hebben wat kustvogels zijn, wat de bedreigingen zijn voor deze diersoort, en dat het nodig is om ze te beschermen. Behalve de minister en Spaans waren ook aanwezig het hoofd LBB, Hedy Esajas, het hoofd NB, Claudine Sakimin en enkele jachtopzieners van Nickerie.

©WT foto/ Beta Debidien
Hedy Esajas, hoofd van 's Lands Bosbeheer sprak de aanwezigheid toe. Uiterst links minister Ginmarcio Kromosoeto van RGB bij de heringsbruikname van het kamp in het Bigi Pangbiel.

alle snipjes zijn bij wet beschermd

dus:

schiet en vang ze niet,
koop of verkoop ze niet,
maak ze niet klaar en eet ze niet!!!



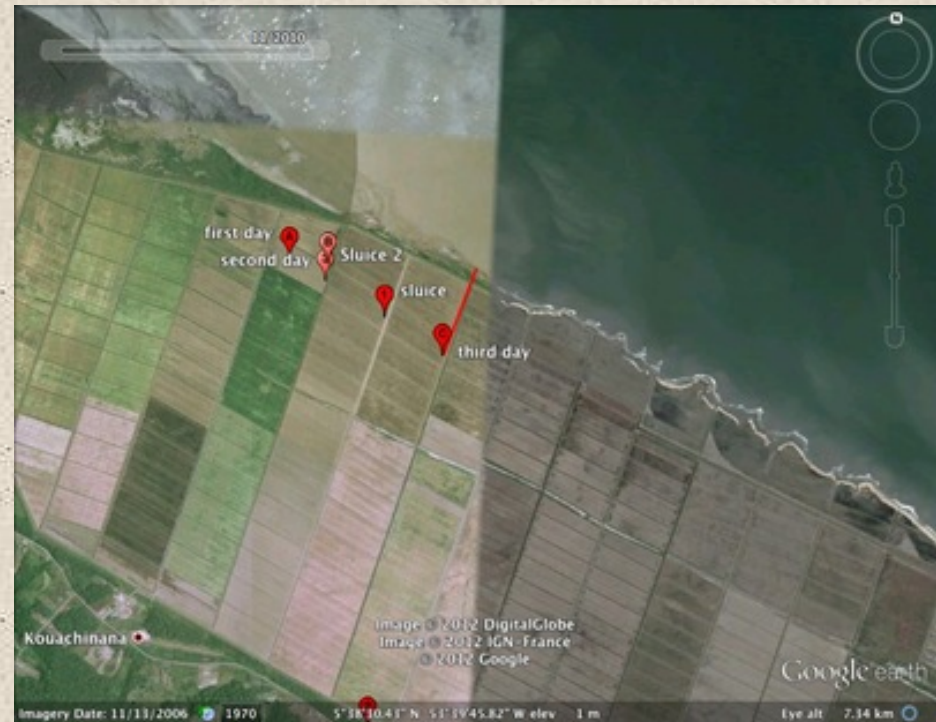
AAN: Natuurbeheer, 's Lands Bosbeheer, Samen met: New Jersey Audubon Society, Burger's Zoo (Arnhem, Nederland)

No Shooting Reserves

Woodbourne Refuge, Fosters Swamp Barbados



Mana ricefields, French Guiana



Evaluating Progress

Actions and Objectives	Progress
<i>Action 1 - Assess Biological and Social Aspects of Harvest</i>	
Obj. 1.1 - By 2020, a robust assessment of shorebird harvest is completed for Barbados, French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, and Suriname.	some
Obj. 1.2 - By 2025, a robust assessment is completed for northern Brazil, Guyana, Trinidad and any other jurisdiction where shorebirds are harvested.	on-track
<i>Action 2 - Develop Policies and Regulations</i>	
Obj. 2.1 - By 2020, one positive policy change has occurred in each of four countries/departments.	on-track
Obj. 2.2 - By 2025, policies and regulations are developed in all countries/departments where shorebirds are harvested.	some
<i>Action 5 - Establish and Maintain No-Shooting Reserves</i>	
Obj. 5.1 - Through 2025, Woodbourne Shorebird Refuge is consistently maintained to benefit shorebirds.	on-track
Obj. 5.2 - By 2025, three additional non-shooting shorebird reserves are established and maintained.	some
<i>Action 6 - Develop Incentives to Not Hunt</i>	
Obj. 6.1 - By 2020, develop one initiative that promotes economic alternatives to shorebird harvest.	none
Obj. 6.2 - By 2025, develop one initiative that identifies substitute nutritional sources to shorebird consumption.	none

Continuing Work

- Non-response error in hunter surveys to improve harvest estimates.
- Some idea of crippling rate to adjust harvest estimates.
- Prioritize continuation of assessments to fill in the knowledge gaps to be able to go to governments and conservation and hunting stakeholders.
- Need ways to improve harvest estimates and compile across the region to compare to PBR/MSY models. Will need to decide how to make the decision about proportional mortality.

Continuing Work

- Need leadership commitment to ensure flyway-scale efforts continue.
- Try to develop a more comprehensive, regional approach to regulation development.
- Need to get jurisdictions to acknowledge the occurrence of hunting and identify tools to address the hunting issue if harvest appears to be high. Need more effort in Brazil and Suriname.



Shorebird Conservation Trust

Université de **La Rochelle**



The CENTER for CONSERVATION BIOLOGY

