



## Wildlife Conservation Society Announces

### One World One Health Research Projects Funded by Cargill

*Researchers receive funding to conduct studies that analyze the connections between human health, food animal production, and the environment*

**São Paulo, June 9, 2008:** The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), a non-governmental organization based in the United States with offices in Brazil, announced that five projects will receive financial support during the first year of the One World-One Health (OWOH) program in Brazil.

WCS introduced this initiative in Brazil in October 2007 to foster multidisciplinary research focus on the interactions between human health, the environment, and food animal production.

The approximate US\$750,000 OWOH fund, managed by WCS, was donated by Cargill, an international provider of food, agricultural and risk management products and services. The donation by Cargill will be used over the next three years to support Brazilians conducting projects following the OWOH concept.

The five proposals, funded for 2008, were selected by a committee of Brazilians representing government ministries, universities, associations, and the food industry. The selected projects will receive about US\$30,000 each. While project managers will publish findings in scientific journals and technical reports, the goal is that project results will be used by local and national organizations and governments to ensure sound public health, food production and environmental policies and best practices.

Flávia Miranda, the Wildlife Conservation Society's health program coordinator in Brazil, said, "WCS plans to support dedicated Brazilian teams and organizations interested in adopting this integrated

approach. The challenge presented was to define health from a new perspective, considering the economic impact triggered by illnesses and environmental changes. To do so, we must develop new ways of joint work that will bring a healthier world to us all.”

### **Approved projects**

The projects approved by the OWOH Brazil Fund this year were the following:

1. Understanding the ecological interrelations between capybaras, the largest living rodent in the world, and ectoparasites with regards to possible transmission of Brazilian spotted fever and other rickettsial diseases to humans in the tourist area of Serra do Cipó, in the state of Minas Gerais, Brazil. (Kátia Torres)
2. Evaluation of parasite transmission between domestic and wild carnivores and the risk to people living in the Pantanal region, state of Mato Grosso do Sul. (Fabiana Rocha)
3. Monitoring and promoting environmental health at traditional fishing communities in the coast of the state of Paraná. (Paulo Rogério Mangini)
4. Monitoring of avian influenza and Newcastle disease viruses in the Brazilian Amazon region. (Luiz Durigon)
5. Monitoring of migrant birds and understanding their interactions with both wild birds and farmed poultry, with a focus on the prevention of avian influenza. (Virginia Petry)

### ***One World One Health***

The One World - One Health Symposium held in Brasilia in October 2007, in part sponsored by Cargill, provided a unique forum for the exchange of experiences between public health, agricultural, wildlife and environmental professionals. A multi-disciplinary approach to ensuring health and livelihoods was promoted. Participants worked to develop solutions to the critical questions of how to meet the global demand for safe food while mitigating adverse impacts to wildlife, the environment and human health. Brazil was the fourth country to host the symposium. Since 2004, OWOH events have been held in New York, Bangkok, and Beijing. Further information is available on site [www.oneworldonehealth.org](http://www.oneworldonehealth.org)

### **The Wildlife Conservation Society**

The Wildlife Conservation Society saves wildlife and wild places worldwide. We do so through science, global conservation, education and the management of the world's largest system of urban wildlife parks, led by the flagship Bronx Zoo. Together these activities change attitudes towards nature and help people imagine wildlife and humans living in harmony. WCS is committed to this mission because it is essential to the integrity of life on Earth. Visit: [www.wcs.org](http://www.wcs.org)

**Cargill**

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