

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Wildlife Without Borders

*Multinational Species Conservation Funds*



USFWS/Richard Ruggiero

*“Without U.S. programs to support the conservation of endangered wildlife, we don’t know what the fate will be for many of our planet’s most beloved creatures such as gorillas, rhinos and tigers. These programs are vital for supporting and leveraging important conservation initiatives across the globe.”*

**Jack Hanna**  
**Jack Hanna’s Animal Adventures**



# The Beginning

## *Wildlife in Crisis*

Some of the world's most treasured and exotic animals are dangerously close to extinction. Destruction of natural habitat, illegal poaching, and pet-trade smuggling are devastating populations of tigers, rhinos, marine turtles, great apes, elephants and many other highly cherished species. In recognition of this international crisis, the U.S. Congress established the Multinational Species Conservation Funds, which are dedicated to saving these animals in their natural habitats.

The Funds are administered by the *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*. The Service's *Wildlife Without Borders* program awards grants to projects aimed at conserving globally-valued endangered species found outside U.S. borders. These grants are issued from the following five Multinational Species Conservation Funds:

- African Elephant Conservation Fund, established in 1989
- Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund, established in 1994
- Asian Elephant Conservation Fund, established in 1997
- Great Ape Conservation Fund, established in 2000
- Marine Turtle Conservation Act, established in 2004

Between 1990 and 2005, the U.S. appropriation of less than \$37 million to these Funds has leveraged more than \$100 million in matching and in-kind contributions from partners for conservation programs. These partners include foreign governments, natural resource agencies, academic institutions, wildlife advocates and community groups.

The Multinational Species Funds are helping to make a real difference. The status of rhinos in Nepal, elephants and rhinos in southern Africa, and tigers in Russia has significantly improved. These successes show that endangered animal populations can recover if sufficient and reliable resources are provided for anti-poaching patrols, habitat conservation, public education and other interventions.

Clearly, progress has been made, but there is more to be done. Great apes in the Congo and Indonesia struggle for survival against an increasingly commercialized trade in "bushmeat"—wild animal meat sold for food. People continue to kill elephants for ivory, rhinos for horns, and tigers for body parts used in Asian medicines. Logging operations and unmanaged development continue to push endangered species from their natural habitats, cutting them off from breeding partners and food sources.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's mission is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife and plants in their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Multinational Species Conservation Funds provide a great opportunity to fulfill this mission in conserving many of the world's most charismatic creatures.



*“The African Elephant Conservation Fund is responsible for some of the most ambitious and exciting conservation projects now happening in Central Africa. This fund has made a real difference for on-the-ground conservation of Africa’s elephants.”*

**Dr. J. Michael Fay**  
**Wildlife Conservation Society**



# African Elephant

## *Conservation Fund at Work*

- Organizing “snare and firearms surrender programs” in Zambia, ridding the country of thousands of deadly animal snares and dozens of firearms.
- Training government agents and guards in the Republic of Congo to enforce wildlife protection laws and to prevent poaching of elephants and great apes in three high risk areas.
- Improving and maintaining water systems and holding dams in Tanzania to increase water supply during dry seasons and reduce human-elephant conflict over water resources.
- Surveying and monitoring elephant populations in Cameroon, Gabon, the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, and the Central African Republic in order to estimate elephant numbers, distribution and mortality.
- Facilitating a series of workshops to develop elephant management and conservation programs for the Botswana Department of Wildlife and National Parks.
- Creating income alternatives to poaching for hunters in poor rural areas of Zambia by providing training in sustainable agriculture.
- Training university students and wildlife management professionals in Namibia to build capacity for locally supported conservation of elephants.
- Training and mobilization of park rangers in Garamba National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo where large-scale commercial poaching for ivory is devastating elephant populations.
- Determining the ecological “carrying capacity” for populations of elephants within the Waza National Park in Cameroon—considered one of the most important elephant ranges in northern Central Africa.
- Sponsoring a workshop with the Government of Niger to create a national elephant management strategy.
- Supporting Uganda’s Wildlife Authority in its efforts to educate local communities on ways to reduce human-elephant conflict in the Southern Queen Elizabeth Conservation Area national park.



*“The United States and the larger global community need to step up their commitment to saving the wildlife and wild places of our world. Initiatives such as the Multinational Species Conservation Funds are needed to slow the tragic loss of irreplaceable animal and plant species.”*

**Carter Roberts  
World Wildlife Fund**



# Rhinoceros & Tiger

## *Conservation Fund at Work*

- Producing and distributing English/Chinese educational brochures on laws against rhino and tiger poaching for Asian medicines.
- Placing horn and shoulder microchips on rhinos in South Africa to assist with law enforcement and capture of poachers.
- Mobilizing rhino anti-poaching units in Tanzania, Kenya, South Africa, Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam with training and a supply of motorcycles, fuel, and communication equipment.
- Initiating on-the-job training programs in rhino population management, as well as monitoring and habitat assessment for rangers and university students in South Africa.
- Launching rhino conservation education campaigns in 60 schools in Namibia, which is home to an expanse of black rhino habitat.
- Supporting environmental education camps for children living near important tiger habitat in Nepal.
- Conducting wildlife management courses in India for forest officials who work in tiger conservation throughout Asia.
- Holding workshops and conferences for teachers and conservationists in Russia aimed at awareness and conservation of Russia's tiger populations.
- Constructing a breeding sanctuary in Uganda to allow black and white rhinos breeding opportunities in a natural habitat.
- Establishing nature reserves and migratory corridors for Amur tigers in Russia and China.
- Supporting tiger anti-poaching units in Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam by supplying communication and monitoring equipment and training.
- Providing equipment and training to Cambodia's Wildlife Protection Office for a comprehensive Tiger Conservation Program.
- Producing and publishing a "wildlife crime enforcement guide," for China's law enforcement, prosecution and judicial authorities.



***“Protecting the world’s endangered biodiversity needs to be a global priority. Conservation initiatives supported by the United States government are using creative partnerships with other governments, private entities, and non-government organizations to make conservation across the globe a reality.”***

**Dr. Russell Mittermeier  
Conservation International**





# Asian Elephant

## *Conservation Fund at Work*

- Assisting the Cambodian Ministry of the Environment with anti-poaching training and law enforcement activities in the Cardamom Mountains, which encompass the largest contiguous habitat for elephants and other endangered species in Cambodia.
- Supporting anti-poaching units at India's Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple Wildlife Sanctuary where one of the world's largest single population of Asian elephants is found.
- Mobilizing a crop-raid prevention team to manage human-elephant conflict around a new wildlife sanctuary being created by the Government of Malaysia on the island of Borneo.
- Testing innovative techniques for preventing elephant crop raiding and reducing elephant-human conflict in the Way Kambas National Park, which contains one of the top four priority elephant populations in Indonesia.
- Identifying and evaluating ivory trade activities in China, South Korea, Hong Kong and Japan, and connections to the illegal hunting of Asian elephants.
- Developing “elephant friendly” land use planning strategies around Sri Lanka's Yala National Park where a robust population of elephants will be subject to range reduction as surrounding areas are developed for human habitation and agriculture.
- Building the capacity of local communities along India's Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve to preserve intact elephant food corridors that are heavily impacted by human resource consumption. The Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve complex contains approximately 16 percent of the world's wild Asian elephant population.
- Developing and implementing a self-sustaining national elephant conservation strategy for Burma, which contains approximately 12 percent of the world's total population of Asian elephants.
- Field testing a pheromone-enhanced mechanical device developed to deter elephants from entering crop areas, which would reduce human-elephant conflict.
- Establishing programs for elephant monitoring, human-elephant conflict reduction and anti-poaching for Thailand's Khao Yai National Park—one of the few protected areas in Thailand that can support a viable population of wild Asian elephants.



*“Great apes and other primates around the world are disappearing at an alarming rate. It’s quite possible that today’s teenagers will raise their children in a world with no chimpanzees, gorillas, orangutans and bonobos. It’s a tragic prospect, but there is still time to act – though scant little of it. The Great Apes Conservation Fund is an important piece of the coordinated effort needed to make a real difference.”*

**Dr. Jane Goodall  
Jane Goodall Institute**



# Great Ape

## *Conservation Fund at Work*

- Testing an important aspect of the Ebola outbreak in Gabon and Congo involving gorilla-to-gorilla spread of the disease.
- Facilitating collaboration between Rwanda, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo in order to establish a monitoring and research program to protect the remaining 600 mountain gorillas living in the wild along the Albertine Rift.
- Coordinating detailed gibbon population surveys and threat assessments with Cambodia's Department of Forest and Wildlife and Department of Nature Conservation in order to develop a comprehensive gibbon conservation plan.
- Sponsoring public awareness and children's educational programs on conservation of chimpanzees and their habitats in Guinea, Mali, Liberia and Ivory Coast.
- Training and equipping anti-poaching units for the conservation of chimpanzees in Sierra Leone.
- Creating safe corridors between important seasonal feeding areas for chimpanzees in West Africa.
- Introducing "biogas" as an alternative fuel to firewood in Vietnam in order to prevent the further degradation of gibbon habitat due to firewood extraction by villagers.
- Expanding anti-poaching patrol activities and conservation awareness campaigns in areas surrounding Indonesia's Gunung Palung National Park, which is prime habitat for 2,500 orangutans.
- Developing a Wildlife Warden Program to assist Malaysia's Sabah Wildlife Department in its management of the Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary, an important orangutan habitat.
- Working with local communities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to study and protect bonobos, while training and building capacity among local partners, and developing alternatives to bonobo hunting.
- Building local capacity among Congolese journalists and conservationists to better identify and understand issues related to ape conservation in the Republic of Congo.



*“There is still time to save sea turtles and the many other incredible species found in our oceans and on our lands. Every program dedicated to helping wildlife—from local volunteer initiatives to conservation organizations and large-scale government efforts—helps solidify a future place on our planet for wildlife.”*

**Julie Scardina**  
SeaWorld and Busch Gardens Animal Ambassador



# Marine Turtle

## *Conservation Fund at Work*

- Enhancing ecotourism-based turtle watching in the Pearl Keys of Nicaragua in partnership with the local community, by conducting tour guide training courses for communities involved in tourist hawksbill turtle-watching activities.
- Establishing fishing cooperatives in Borgor Point, Liberia, to increase fishing income as an alternative to hunting sea turtles; and training veteran sea turtle hunters and community members to patrol nesting beaches in order to conserve remaining turtle populations.
- Setting-up long-term nesting population monitoring programs for hawksbill sea turtles in the Caribbean in order to assess nesting trends and create appropriate conservation plans in response to collected data.
- Organizing nightly anti-poacher patrols at the four primary nesting beaches for leatherback turtles in the state of Oaxaca, Mexico, and enabling relocation of vulnerable nests to protected hatcheries.
- Working with communities in Papua New Guinea coastal regions to protect leatherback turtles and nests, collect data, and provide education and outreach to local people through workshops, meetings, and educational materials.
- Supporting aerial surveys of the Gabonese coast to survey leatherback nesting, in coordination with environmental outreach efforts and capacity building for NGO's and local people to monitor and protect marine turtles.
- Launching satellite telemetry studies of nesting loggerhead females in Oman to determine post-nesting movements. Data will be used to analyze potential threats to marine turtles and provide information for public outreach campaigns.
- Providing travel scholarships for marine turtle conservationists in developing nations to join specialists from around the globe at the International Sea Turtle Society Conference. The goal of the conference is to strengthen international cooperation and collaboration on sea turtle research, management practices and conservation efforts.
- Coordinating standardized censuses at the most important olive ridley rookeries in India, Mexico and Costa Rica, in order to produce a global estimate of the number of female olive ridleys participating in arribadas.





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# The Future

## *Conservation Outlook*

As long as Americans continue to value charismatic animals like elephants, rhinos, tigers, marine turtles, and apes, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service will work diligently to save these endangered creatures from extinction. As part of this resolve, the Service is committed to finding the most efficient and effective ways to advance wildlife conservation. The Service recognizes that non-government organizations are key partners vital to maximizing the impact of the Multinational Species Conservation Funds.

In recent years, the international conservation community has worked to expand conservation opportunities through the Multinational Species Conservation Funds. These funds are important because they demonstrate America's commitment to saving the world's endangered wildlife; they add credibility to conservation efforts carried out by partner organizations; and they serve as "seed money" for initiating conservation programs in cooperation with foreign governments.

There is a sense of national pride that comes with protecting beautiful, majestic animals in their natural homes—even if their homes are in distant lands. On behalf of the American people, the Multinational Species Conservation Funds work to secure the future of wild animals and natural spaces for the benefit of people throughout the world.





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