

Wildlife Without Borders – Mexico Program
Summary of Approved Projects

14 Grants Total FWS Funding: \$563,000 Total Leveraged Funds: \$945,765

MX 08-070 U.S. Natural Resource State Agencies Participation in the Trilateral Committee and the Wildlife Without Borders-Mexico Grants Program.

In partnership with AFWA, the project will provide support for U.S. state agencies to attend the 2008 meeting of the Canada/Mexico/U.S. Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management. The Grantee, AFWA, will secure participation from representatives from the state agencies of California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas to the 2008 Trilateral Committee meeting to take place in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico, on May 12-16, 2008. State agencies use this international forum to coordinate joint activities with the Government of Mexico. FWS: \$15,000 Leveraged Funds: \$40,000

MX 08-062 Certificate Course on Conservation of Mammals and Birds of Central Mexico.

In partnership with Unidos Para La Conservacion, A.C., this project will train Mexican personnel in wildlife management theory and practices. A main threat to wildlife in Mexico is the lack of trained personnel and on-the-job training opportunities for government employees are rare, particularly at the state-level. In response, a highly effective training program was developed by Mexico's National Institute of Ecology, in association with NGOs and universities in Mexico, and in support of Mexico's decentralization process. With equal time spent in the classroom and the field, emphasis is on teamwork, conflict resolution, outreach, decision-making, monitoring, landscape ecology, and adaptive management. Requirements include course graduates to serve as instructors in other states, multiplying the program's impact. More than 200 wildlife managers have graduated so far, and 6 high-quality technical training manuals have been produced in Spanish. USAID/FWS: \$76,000 Leveraged Funds: \$125,772

MX 08-057 Natural Resource Management Training for Local Communities in the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve in Mexico.

In partnership with Alternare, A.C., this project will protect the migratory phenomenon of the monarch butterfly by conserving its wintering habitat in Mexico. The Monarch Reserve was established without engaging the peasant farmers owners of this land. As a result, over-exploitation of forest resources, soils erosion, unsustainable agricultural practices, uncontrolled, uninformed tourism, lack of productive alternatives, as well as increased demands from the wood-related industry now threatens the habitat. Through this grant, the recipient will produce an evaluation of the project's impact in the area (1995-2007); and plant approximately 700 trees in seven communities and train individuals in reforestation techniques. FWS: \$45,000 Leveraged Funds: \$216,547

MX 08-053 Management of Nature Reserves by Multiple Actors: Training in the Sierra Gorda Earth Center.

In partnership with Grupo Ecologico Sierra Gorda, A.C, the purpose of this Project is to teach the successful Sierra Gorda model of co-management of natural protected areas in Mexico by the government (federal, state, and municipal levels), NGOs, and local populations. The Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve is considered one of the best examples worldwide of successful reserve co-

management. The lessons learned at this reserve can greatly benefit other reserves in Mexico in achieving successful cooperation from different stakeholders in their management of a reserve. Through this grant, the recipient will train 25 individuals from different reserves throughout Mexico on development of ecosystem services and products, wildlife monitoring (focusing on a charismatic species, such as jaguar) promote successful public outreach and train teachers on environmental education. FWS: \$40,000 Leveraged Funds: \$75,950

MX 08-052 Natural Resource Management Training for Local Communities Designating Their Lands as Community Reserves in Chilapa, Guerrero.

In partnership with Grupo Estudios Ambientales, A.C., the grant will provide training in sustainable natural resource management for members of 9 local communities in Guerrero who want their lands to be declared “Community Reserves”. This innovative protected area classification, new in Mexico, offers great potential in supplementing the official network of protected areas in the country by establishing corridors between these areas, while providing opportunities for alternative resource use. In order to successfully accomplish this, local communities, owners of these lands, will receive training to develop their natural resource management skills. In addition, the recipient will implement an environmental education program for local schools, and evaluate the ecotourism potential of the area. FWS: \$46,000 Leveraged Funds: \$66,554

MX 08-050 Establishment of a Network of Community Nature Reserves in Southeastern Mexico.

In partnership with IDESMAC, A.C., the goal of this project is to strengthen a newly created protected area category in Southeastern Mexico through training of local communities, the owners of these lands, in natural resource management. Through this grant, the recipient will create a network of community protected areas in Southeastern Mexico to implement a workshop to exchange experiences among these communities and train members of communities in sustainable natural resource management in Southeastern Mexico. FWS: \$40,000 Leveraged Funds: \$24,270

MX 08-008 Natural Resource Management Training for Managers of the Tehuacan-Cuicatlan Biosphere Reserve in Oaxaca/Puebla.

In partnership with SERBO, A.C., this effort will train reserve personnel and local communities in the identification, conservation, and sustainable use of palms in the Tehuacan-Culiacan Biosphere Reserve, in the state of Oaxaca, Mexico. Oaxaca harbors the highest diversity of this botanical group in Mexico. This highly-priced, commercially-priced plant is endangered due to heavy illegal traffic driven by the demand from funerary houses in Mexico and the U.S. Through this grant, the recipient will implement GIS training program for personnel of the Tehuacan-Culiacan Biosphere Reserve to monitor palm populations and implement five educational workshops for local communities to raise awareness of the importance of conserving the resources of this reserve. In addition a training manual for distribution at the Reserve’s Biological station will be produced. FWS: \$35,000 Leveraged Funds: \$38,100

MX 08-031 Building Environmental Educators’ Intercultural Capacity to Work with Indigenous Peoples in the Sierra Tarahumara.

In partnership with Sierra Madre Alliance, this project is to develop skills of environmental educators to work with indigenous people in Mexico, focusing in the Sierra Tarahumara, one of Mexico’s top biodiversity hotspots. Through this grant, the recipient will conduct a needs

assessment to identify educational gaps among indigenous populations living in high biodiversity areas and develop a curriculum to address these gaps. They will also create a core group of extension workers to develop training materials specifically designed to address the educational needs of indigenous people in important biodiversity nature reserves, and to provide training for environmental educators in bi-lingual, bi-cultural environmental education techniques. FWS: \$40,000 Leveraged Funds: \$51,850

MX 08-046 Nature Reserve Management Certificate Training Courses for Reserve Managers in Southern Mexico.

In partnership with Pronatura Chiapas, A.C., the purpose of this project is to train personnel and local communities in managing reserves in Southeastern Mexico. The curriculum include topics such as biodiversity conservation theory and practice, population and environment issues, conflict resolution, strategic communication, diagnosis assessment, capacity building, and social organization. Through this grant, the recipient will implement the following courses: 1) 5-week course “Planning and Managing of Nature Reserves” for 25 professionals, technicians, and park guards directly involved in the management of nature reserves in Southeastern Mexico; 2) 3-month, on-line certificate course in reserve management directed at staff of nature reserves; 3) 5-day course on executive management skills in reserve administration directed at reserve directors and deputy directors as well as administrators of reserves; 4) a course on conflict management directed at technical reserve staff. In addition, recipients will produce training and educational material. FWS: \$40,000 Leveraged Funds: \$46,587

MX 08-035 Bats Festival: A Tool for Community-Based Environmental Education in Mexico.

In partnership with Autonomous University of Baja, California. This project will train personnel from eleven nature reserves in Northwestern Mexico in natural resource conservation and management. Through this grant, the recipient will implement two training programs. A course for training reserve personnel and local communities on effective outreach, communication, conflict resolution, environmental education, and public involvement will be conducted. In addition, using migratory bats as flagship species, an interactive course will be implemented, including a puppet show, video, educational kit, including training on bat population monitoring and conservation to help develop management plans to protect several species of migratory bats in Baja California, Mexico. In addition, recipients will produce and distribute educational and training material and coordinate creation of “Friends of Bats Youth Clubs” and implementation of a “Public Bat Festival” in Baja California, in partnership with local businesses and academic institutions. FWS: \$35,000 Leveraged Funds: \$84,385

MX 08-025 Bi-national Cooperation for Environmental Education along the U.S./Mexico Border Region.

In partnership with the San Diego Natural History Museum, the funding will allow the development of a program to train teachers, students, and local residents in the California/Baja California border region about watershed, resource conservation, and the value of protected areas. The recipient will: 1) conduct 2 environmental education workshops; 2) develop a regionally-focused habitat curriculum in Spanish for use in Baja California schools; 3) train 30 teachers from Baja California on how to implement this curriculum; 4) recruit 5 Spanish-speaking teachers; 5) implement 30 community action projects; 6) provide follow-up training and obtain continuous education credit for training for teachers from Mexico’s state educational program. FWS: \$35,000 Leveraged Funds: \$28,450

MX 08-002 Learning Tree: Certified Courses on Environmental Education for Teachers in Mexico.

In partnership with PROFAUNA, A.C., this grant will train teachers throughout Mexico on environmental education theory and practice, based on the highly successful program and methodology “Project Learning Tree”. This program, developed in 1976 by the American Forest Foundation includes tried-and-true techniques to teach educators “how to think”, not “what to think”. It is now widely recognized worldwide and has programs in many countries around the world. The recipient is the representative of this program in Mexico. Through this grant the recipient will: 1) implement 20 workshops (1-hour each) to train 400 teachers and other educators from different regions of Mexico; 2) produce training and educational material and conduct an evaluation of the courses. FWS: \$36,000 Leveraged Funds: \$7,300

MX 08-051 Strengthening Local Capacity for Jaguar Conservation in Community Protected Areas in Oaxaca.

In partnership with Geoconservacion, A.C., this project will protect remaining jaguar habitats in the state of Oaxaca, Mexico. The Chinantla communities, owners of one of the largest intact cloud forest masses in Mesoamerica, have declared 20,000 hectares of contiguous forest as “Community Protected Areas”, including key jaguar habitat corridors. Through this grant, the recipient will: 1) train local communities in reserve management to strengthen Community Protected Areas; 2) train local leaders as research assistants and tour guides; 3) conduct participatory research on jaguar ecology and human conflict; 4) train local communities on protected area management; 5) produce a jaguar management plan as well as educational/outreach/training materials; 6) develop the management of a biological corridor of montane cloud forest and high evergreen forest that conforms the CPAs of the six communities on the basis of jaguar distribution; and 7) implement course “Community Focus on Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in Oaxaca” for master degree students. FWS: \$40,000 Leveraged Funds: \$50,000.

MX 08-016 Wildlife Conservation and Management Training for Local Communities in a Biological Corridor Linking Jaguar Habitat in Four Nature Reserves in Mexico.

In partnership with Ministry of Agro-forestry and Hydraulic Resources of Mexico, this project will promote the conservation of key remaining jaguar habitats in four nature reserves in Mexico, through training for local communities and wildlife managers. The biological corridor connecting these four Mexican reserves presents high potential for jaguar conservation as it provides enough dispersal ground to sustain jaguar populations in this northernmost range of the species in the North American continent. Through this grant, the recipient will: 1) implement 20 training workshops targeting local communities, wildlife managers, ranchers, school children, and decision-makers; 2) produce and distribute training and educational material; 3) develop a regional jaguar conservation and management plan along with Mexican authorities; 4) create the Jaguar Biological Corridor including four Mexican central and northern states. FWS: \$40,000 Leveraged Funds: \$90,000