

Wildlife Without Borders – Mexico**Summary of Projects 2008**

14 Grants Total FWS Funding: \$562,000 Total Leveraged Funds: \$1,027,300

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

In partnership with AFWA. The purpose of this project is to 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. Amount: \$15,000. Match: \$40,000.

Certificate Course on Conservation of Mammals and Birds of Central Mexico.

In partnership with Unidos para la Conservacion, A.C. The purpose of this project is to train Mexican personnel in wildlife management theory and practices. A main threat to wildlife in Mexico is the lack of trained personnel. 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 national NGOs and universities 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 effect. Over 200 wildlife managers have graduated from this course so far, and 6 high-quality technical training manuals have been produced in Spanish. Through this grant, the Recipient will implement the 7th certificate course, focusing on mammal and bird management, for 35 students from throughout Mexico, and produce an accompanying training manual. Amount: \$75,000. Match: \$126,000.

Natural Resource Management Training for Local Communities in the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve in Mexico.

In partnership with Alternare, A.C. The purpose of this project is to protect the migratory phenomenon of the monarch butterfly by conserving its wintering habitat in Mexico. The Monarch Reserve was established without engaging peasant farmers-owners of this land. As a result, over-exploitation of forest resources, soil erosion, unsustainable agricultural

practices, uncontrolled, uninformed tourism, lack of productive alternatives, as well as increased demands from the wood-related industry threatens this habitat. Through this grant, the Recipient looks to motivate and increase community participation in the conservation of the monarch habitat, as well as: 1) produce an evaluation of the project's impact in the area (1995-2007); 2) give 4 workshops on nursery management for at least 18 peasants; 3) produce 11 nurseries and plant 2,900 trees in seven communities; 4) train 185 individuals in reforestation techniques; 5) train 26 individuals in fire prevention and management; 6) implement 27 workshops to train 1,500 individuals in subjects such as sustainable natural resource use, food preparation, house construction, domestic animal management, agriculture production 7) provide specialized training to 20 peasant farmers to create a 5th generation core group of instructors; 8) organize and implement community activities for the improvement of the environmental and social conditions; 9) build a training center; 10) complete a short-term & long-term self-financing business plan, to include an ecotourism component, working in coordination with the Reserve's Director and other relevant NGOs. Amount: \$55,000. Match: \$217,000.

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 the management of a reserve. Through this grant the Recipient will: 1) train 70 individuals from different reserves throughout Mexico on the development of ecosystem services and products; 2) train 55 individuals from different reserves on wildlife monitoring, focusing on charismatic species such as the jaguar; 3) train 29 reserve directors, land owners, technicians and volunteers on new forestry management techniques, successful public outreach, stakeholder involvement, and fund raising; and 4) certify 27 teachers on the "Learning and Teaching with a Sustainable Future" program for environmental education; 5) train 29 journalists on environmental journalism; 6) provide a workshop for 30 community members on social empowerment. Amount: \$40,000. Match: \$79,950.

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

In partnership with Grupo Estudios Ambientales, A.C. This project provides training in sustainable natural resource management to 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. Amount: \$76,000. Match: \$66,554.

Establishment of a Network of Community Nature Reserves in Southeastern Mexico.

In partnership with IDESMAC, A.C. This project was created to strengthen the Community Nature Reserves, a new protected area classification modality in Southeastern Mexico through training of local communities -owners of these lands- in natural resource management. Through this grant, the Recipient will: 1) create a network of Community Protected Areas in Southeastern Mexico; 2) implement a workshop to exchange experiences among these communities; 3) produce an inventory of Community Protected Areas in the states of Oaxaca, Chiapas, and Campeche; 4) produce management plans for these areas; 5) train members of 21 communities in sustainable natural resource management; 6) produce a training manual on development of management plans for Community Reserves; 7) pursue legal status for 3 of these areas; 8) create a website to network all Community Protected Areas in Southeastern Mexico. Amount: \$40,000. Match: \$25,000.

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

In partnership with SERBO, A.C. Through this project the Recipient plans to train reserve personnel and local communities in the identification, conservation, and sustainable use of *Cycads* in the Tehuacan-Cuicatlan Biosphere Reserve, in the state of Oaxaca, Mexico. Oaxaca harbors the highest diversity of this botanical group in Mexico. This highly-priced commercial plant is endangered due to heavy illegal traffic driven by the demand from funerary houses in Mexico and the U.S. Through this grant, SERBO will: 1) implement two GIS training program for 20 personnel members of the Tehuacan-Cuicatlan Biosphere Reserve to identify and monitor *Cycads* populations; 2) implement five educational workshops for local communities to raise awareness of the importance of conserving the resources of this reserve; 3) produce a training manual for distribution at the Reserve's Biological station. Amount: \$35,000. Match: \$23,150.

Building Environmental Educators' Intercultural Capacity to Work With Indigenous Peoples in the Sierra Tarahumara.

In partnership with Sierra Madre Alliance. The purpose of this project is to develop the 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: 1) conduct a needs assessment related to educational gaps among

indigenous populations living in high biodiversity areas; 2) develop a curriculum to address these gaps; 3) 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; 4) provide training to 28 environmental educators in bi-lingual, bi-cultural environmental education techniques which will be applied in the schools of 6 communities of the area; 5) produce environmental education and training materials. Amount: \$40,000. Match: \$51,850.

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 develop a regional program for reserve managers and local communities in Southeastern Mexico focused on improving their skills in planning, management and environmental education. The curriculum includes topics such as biodiversity conservation theory and practice, population and environment, 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) 1-week course on conflict management directed at technical reserve staff; 5) produce training and educational material. Amount: \$40,000. Match: \$46,587.

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

In partnership with Autonomous University of Baja California. Throughout this project the proponent looks to increase community awareness about the role of bats in the ecosystem and change community attitudes towards the species. Through this grant, the Recipient will implement two training programs in eleven nature reserves in Northwestern Mexico: 1) a 2-day course for reserve personnel and local communities on effective outreach, communication, conflict resolution, environmental education, and public involvement. Using migratory bats as flagship species, an interactive course will be implemented, including a puppet show, video, educational kit, 2) a 1-day course on bat populations monitoring and conservation to develop management plans to protect several species of migratory bats in Baja California, Mexico; 3) produce and distribute educational and training material; 4) creation of “Friends of Bats Youth Clubs”; 5) implementation of a “Public Bat Festival” in Baja California, in partnership with local businesses and academic institutions. Amount: \$35,000. Match: \$85,000.

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

In partnership with San Diego Natural History Museum. The purpose of this project is to develop a human resources training program to train teachers, students, and local residents in the California/Baja California border region about watershed and resources conservation, and the value of protected areas. The Recipient will: 1) conduct 2 environmental education workshops for participant teachers benefiting 1,000 students; 2) develop a regionally-focused habitat curriculum in Spanish for use in Baja California schools; 3) train 35 teachers from Baja California on how to implement this curriculum; 4) recruit 5 Spanish-speaking teachers; 5) implement 18 community action projects; 6) provide follow-up training; 7) obtain continuous education credit for training for teachers from Mexico's state educational program. Amount: \$35,000. Match: \$21,000.

Learning Tree: Certified Courses on Environmental Education for Teachers in Mexico.

In partnership with PROFAUNA, A.C. The main objective of this project is to train teachers from 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 (10- hours each) to train 400 teachers and other educators from different regions of Mexico; 2) produce training and educational material; 3) conduct an evaluation of the courses. Amount: \$36,000. Match: \$7,300.

Strengthening Local Capacity for Jaguar Conservation in Community Protected Areas in Oaxaca.

In partnership with Geoconservacion, A.C. This project goal is to protect remaining jaguar habitat 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) implement active monitoring to determine the jaguar range, abundance and distribution in the region; 6) produce a jaguar management plan as well as educational/outreach/training materials; 7) develop the management of a biological corridor of mountain cloud forest and high evergreen forest among 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. Amount: \$40,000. Match: \$53,200.

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

In partnership with the Ministry of Agro-forestry and Hydraulic Resources of Mexico. The purpose of this project is to promote conservation of key remaining jaguar habitat 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 continent. Through this grant, the Recipient will: 1) implement 20 (2-day) training workshops targeting local communities, wildlife managers, ranchers, teachers, school children, and decision-makers on environmental education for the conservation of the cultural diversity and habitat of the jaguar; 2) impart participative diagnosis workshops for 14 communities on jaguar conservation, conflicts and issues; 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. Amount: \$40,000. Match: \$90,000.