

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Division of International Conservation  
Marine Turtle Conservation Fund Summary FY 2011**

In 2011, the USFWS awarded 39 new grants from the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund totaling \$1,717,006.00, which was matched by \$2,590,357.00 in leveraged funds. Field projects in 27 countries (in alphabetical order below) will be supported, in addition to two projects that involve multiple countries.

**Bangladesh**

**MT 11-040** *Community-based sea turtle research and conservation project in Bangladesh.* In partnership with MARINELIFE ALLIANCE. This grant will continue a community-based conservation project and extend the project another 150 km on the Teknaf Peninsula, St. Martin and Sonadia Islands. Community members will be trained to conduct field work and 1,000 fisherman will be trained in identification of sea turtles, safe handling, and release techniques for accidentally captured sea turtles.

FWS: \$24,999            Leveraged funds: \$32,450

**Barbados**

**MT 11-043** *Building capacity for conservation of hawksbill turtles in Barbados.* In partnership with University of the West Indies. This grant will continue long-term conservation programs at key hawksbill nesting beaches in Barbados, which hosts one of the three largest hawksbill nesting populations in the Caribbean.

FWS: \$36,300            Leveraged funds: \$68,400

**Cambodia**

**MT 11-066** *Marine turtle conservation and assessment in Cambodia.* In partnership with Fauna and Flora International. This project will protect marine turtle nesting sites at Koh Tang Island through field surveys at target sites, academic and technical capacity building of Cambodian researchers, and awareness workshops in key areas.

FWS: \$25,000            Leveraged funds: \$58,148

**Cape Verde**

**MT 11-021** *Protecting loggerhead turtle (Caretta caretta) nesting beaches on Boavista Island, Cape Verde (2011).* In partnership with Turtle Foundation, USA. This grant will support night patrols in collaboration with the military to protect nesting loggerhead females from rampant illegal slaughter on important nesting beaches on the Cape Verde Island of Boa Vista. This island hosts about 90% of the Cape Verde nesting population. The project will also involve a public awareness campaign in schools and communities throughout the island.

FWS: \$57,000            Leveraged funds: \$183,384

**MT 11-028** *Protection of nesting loggerhead turtles and beaches in Cabo Verde, Africa.* In partnership with ADTMA - SOS Tartarugas. This grant will support night patrols on the most important loggerhead nesting beaches on the island of Sal to prevent killing of nesting females. The project will provide training for local Cape Verdians to carry out marine turtle conservation on the islands of Sal, Maio and San Nicolau. The grant will also support conservation outreach activities on Sal to local and municipal government, police, military, local citizens and tourists.  
FWS: \$49,803            Leveraged funds: \$86,686

**MT 11-036** *Effective protection of loggerhead females and nests in higher density nesting area of the Archipelago of Cabo Verde.* In partnership with Cabo Verde Natura 2000. This grant will support field staff and provide material support for two field camps that effectively protect about 75% of the nesting turtles on the Island of Boa Vista, which accounts for 90% of the Cape Verde loggerhead nesting population. The grantee will also organize the annual meeting of the Cape Verde Sea Turtle Coalition, and engage with fisherman to investigate the extent of bycatch and turtle meat trafficking in Cape Verde.  
FWS: \$67,480            Leveraged funds: \$162,520

## **Costa Rica**

**MT 11-067** *Conservation project of leatherback nesting on the North Pacific coast of Costa Rica, Langosta Beach.* In partnership with *Fundacion para el Equilibrio entre la Conservacion y el Desarrollo* (FUNDECODES). This grant will support nesting beach conservation programs for Playa Langosta, one of the two key East Pacific leatherback nesting beaches in Costa Rica.  
FWS: \$24,999            Leveraged funds: \$1,650

**MT 11-046** *Sea turtle research, conservation and capacity building at Tortuguero, Costa Rica.* In partnership with Sea Turtle Conservancy. This project will build capacity in Latin America and the Caribbean through Sea Turtle Conservancy's Tortuguero training program in marine turtle research and management techniques, community involvement and ecotourism. The training will be targeted to regional biologists, natural resource managers and community leaders.  
FWS: \$20,000            Leveraged funds: \$370,697

**MT 11-007 (see project summary in Panama section)**

## **Cote d' Ivoire**

**MT 11-051** *Conservation of marine turtles of Mani beach (Ivory Coast-West Africa).* In partnership with *SOS-Forets*. This project will involve local communities and university students to monitor and protect nests from poaching along an 18 km stretch of important leatherback nesting beach in Cote d'Ivoire, with an estimated 700 sea turtle nests annually. The grantee will also conduct environmental education outreach with local communities.  
FWS: \$18,000            Leveraged funds: \$30,650

## **Democratic Republic of Congo**

**MT 11-035** *Protection and study of nesting sea turtles on the coastline of the Democratic Republic of Congo.* In partnership with Action Communautaire de Development et d'Encadrement Social (ACODES). This grant will support patrols and protection of sea turtle nests along the 40 km coastline of the Democratic Republic of Congo. The grantee will work with coastal fishing communities to release sea turtles accidentally captured in fishing nets, and conduct environmental outreach activities in coastal communities.

FWS: \$7,500                      Leveraged funds: \$725

## **Equatorial Guinea**

**MT 11-044** *Equatorial Guinea 2011-2012; challenges and opportunities for sea turtle conservation.* In partnership with *Instituto Nacional Desarrollo Forestal y Manejo del Sistema de Areas Protegidas* (INDEFOR). This grant will support a community-based conservation project at Bioko Island which hosts one of the most important leatherback nesting populations in West Africa. It will also support development of a marine turtle conservation program on important mainland nesting beaches at Rio Campo, and a national outreach campaign.

FWS: \$24,999                      Leveraged funds: \$30,500

**MT 11-015** (see project summary in Gabon section)

## **Gabon**

**MT 11-073** *The Gabon Sea Turtle Partnership for leatherback research and conservation, 2011-2012.* In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society. This grant will support nesting beach conservation programs for one of the two largest leatherback nesting populations in the world, through an alliance of National Park, NGO and local community participants. The project will increase capacity of the National Agency for National Parks to address sea turtle bycatch from legal and illegal coastal fisheries within and adjacent to coastal National Parks.

FWS: \$165,000                      Leveraged funds: \$67,098

**MT 11-015** *Sea turtle technical assistance in the Gulf of Guinea, West Africa 2011-2012.* In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society. This grant will support on site coordination of the Gabon Sea Turtle Partnership. The grantee will provide technical support for high priority sea turtle projects in Congo, Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe and Equatorial Guinea, and support efforts with local Benga communities in Corisco Bay, Gabon to address unsustainable sea turtle harvest practices.

FWS: \$43,195                      Leveraged funds: \$31,856

## **Honduras**

**MT 11-017** *Community-based capacity building for hawksbill conservation and population recovery in Caribbean Honduras.* In partnership with Loma Linda University. This grant will support community training in conservation project development at historically important hawksbill nesting beaches on the Caribbean coast of Honduras. The grantee will also conduct extensive outreach to raise public awareness and gain greater support for sea turtle conservation.

FWS: \$25,422                      Leveraged funds: \$28,319

## India

**MT 11-049** *Strengthening the network for monitoring and conservation of sea turtles in India.* In partnership with Madras Crocodile Bank Trust. This grant will support the 4th Annual National Workshop for network members throughout India to review action plans and assign specific responsibilities for implementation. The workshop will provide training and support for standardized monitoring protocols at index beaches, including standardized surveys of the olive ridley arribada nesting population at Rushikulya during the 2011-12 nesting season--one of the eight remaining large olive ridley nesting populations in the world.  
FWS: \$45,000            Leveraged funds: \$45,000

**MT 11-009** *Towards long-term monitoring of olive ridley arribadas in Orissa, India.* In partnership with Madras Crocodile Bank Trust. This project will focus conservation efforts on the Rushikulya nesting beach, which has supported arribada nesting between 80,000 and 100,000 nesting females. The grantee will train community members to conduct nesting surveys, assessing hatching and nesting success to help manage threats. The community members will also survey sea turtle strandings to document bycatch mortality and support efforts to press for fisheries management.  
FWS: \$10,000            Leveraged funds: \$7,130

## Indonesia

**MT 11-030** *Conservation of the leatherback nesting population at Jamursba Medi and Wermon Beaches – Papua, Indonesia.* In partnership with The State University of Papua (UNIPA). This grant will support conservation of the largest remaining Western Pacific leatherback nesting population and ensure the effective involvement of local communities in a recovery program.  
FWS: \$66,000            Leveraged funds: \$144,700

## Liberia

**MT 11-063** *Community-based sea turtle conservation project-Liberia.* In partnership with Save My Future Foundation. This grant will support continuation of community efforts to protect nesting leatherback, hawksbill and olive ridley sea turtles along 13 km of nesting beach. It is the only sea turtle conservation project operating within Liberia.  
FWS: \$30,000            Leveraged funds: \$1,250

## Mauritania

**MT 11-054** *Knowledge and conservation of sea turtles nesting on the coasts of Mauritania.* In partnership with Chelonee. This grant will support continuation of surveys of the 750 km Mauritanian coast to verify reports of nesting loggerheads and green turtles. The project will implement awareness campaigns in coastal villages and involve local communities in developing community-based conservation programs in accordance with survey findings.  
FWS: \$20,000            Leveraged funds: \$76,472

## Mexico

**MT 11-042** *Conservation of the leatherback in the Mexican Pacific 2010-2011 - Phase 2.* In partnership with Kutzari, *Asociacion para el Estudio y Conservacion de las Tortugas Marinas*, A.C. This grant will support expanded nesting beach conservation during the 2010-11 nesting season at two important nesting sites which have been difficult to access logistically. The project will also assess fisheries activities near nesting beaches and develop management recommendations to Mexico's fisheries regulatory agency that will prevent bycatch mortality of nesting females during the nesting season.

FWS: \$65,235      Leveraged funds: \$79,267

**MT 11-018** *Conservation of marine turtle nesting beaches at north coast of Yucatan peninsula Mexico.* In partnership with *Pronatura Peninsula de Yucatan*, A.C. This grant will support monitoring and nesting beach conservation programs for three major hawksbill nesting beaches in the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico. The grantee will also conduct public outreach and awareness programs in communities adjacent to the nesting beaches.

FWS: \$24,999      Leveraged funds: \$28,850

**MT 11-071** *Population recovery of the black turtle of Michoacan, Mexico.* In partnership with *Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolas de Hidalgo*. This grant will support a community-based nesting beach conservation program for the black turtle at Colola and Maruata Beaches, the two most important nesting beaches for this species in the East Pacific.

FWS: \$24,999      Leveraged funds: \$25,000

**MT 11-076** *Conservation of the leatherback turtle in the Mexican Pacific season 2011-2012.* In partnership with Kutzari, *Asociacion para el Estudio y Conservacion de las Tortugas Marinas*, A.C. This grant will support nest surveys and protection at the four primary leatherback nesting beaches which account for over 40% of leatherback nesting in Pacific Mexico. The grantee will operate turtle camps at the four main nesting beaches of Cahuitan, Tierra Colorada, Mexiquillo and Barra de la Cruz, and conduct daily and nightly patrols along these beaches to protect nests from poaching, depredation and tidal inundation. The grantee will also conduct a workshop for approximately 20 coastal communities along the Pacific leatherback nesting beaches to facilitate greater community involvement in leatherback conservation.

FWS: \$96,615      Leveraged funds: \$258,130

## Morocco

**MT 11-056** *Building capacity for an effective sea turtle research and conservation program in the Kingdom of Morocco.* In partnership with *Association Pour La Protection Des Tortues Marines Au Maroc (ATOMM)*. This grant will support interviews and ground surveys to determine the status of sea turtle nesting in Morocco. The grantee will hold workshops for fishers to assist with data collection on sea turtle bycatch, provide outreach to coastal communities and the general public, and conduct training workshops for student, NGO and local biologists to assist with surveys and sea turtle conservation projects.

FWS: \$27,000      Leveraged funds: \$2,500

## Nicaragua

**MT 11-016** *Conservation of marine turtles in Caribbean Nicaragua.* In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society. This grant will support the monitoring and protection of hawksbill nesting populations on 12 of the Pearl Keys and 42 km of beach at El Cocal. The project will assist local communities to develop and expand conservation of hawksbill and other nesting sea turtles through ecotourism programs for turtle watching.

FWS: \$68,800            Leveraged funds: \$68,492

**MT 11-003** *Conserving Critically Endangered leatherback and hawksbill marine turtles on Nicaragua's Pacific Coast.* In partnership with Fauna and Flora International. This grant will support nesting beach conservation programs for the three most important East Pacific leatherback populations in Nicaragua, and a hawksbill conservation program at the recently discovered nesting site at Estero Padre Ramos. This site accounts for 40-50% of all East Pacific hawksbill nesting. The grantee will work closely with local communities and stakeholders as partners in the conservation programs.

FWS: \$62,000            Leveraged funds: \$70,000

**MT 11-007** (see project summary in Panama section)

## Oman

**MT 11-039** *Strategic development of initiatives for marine turtle conservation on Masirah Island, Oman.* In partnership with Environment Society of Oman. This grant will provide material and logistical support for the Ministry of Environment rangers to monitor population trends for the world's largest loggerhead nesting population at Masirah Island. The grantee will also conduct a public outreach program for marine turtle conservation issues in Oman, including outreach to Masirah Island community through a Turtle Celebration event at the beginning of the 2011 loggerhead nesting season.

FWS: \$95,000            Leveraged funds: \$78,320

## Panama

**MT 11-032** *Hawksbill and leatherback turtle population recovery project in Panama.* In partnership with Sea Turtle Conservancy. This grant will support efforts to restore the Chiriqui Beach nesting population of hawksbill turtles, once the largest in the Wider Caribbean, in partnership with the local Ngobe Indian communities. The grantee will provide monitoring and protection of the largest leatherback nesting population in the Western Caribbean.

FWS: \$58,175            Leveraged funds: \$124,615

**MT 11-007** *Regional assessment of arribada olive ridley sea turtles.* In partnership with Southeastern Louisiana University. This grant will support a continuation of simultaneous regional estimates of the olive ridley arribada nesting populations and hatching rates in Panama, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica using standardized methodology.

FWS: \$39,935            Leveraged funds: \$31,026

## **Papua New Guinea**

**MT 11-059** *Community-based conservation of leatherback turtles along the Huon Coast, Papua New Guinea 2011-2012.* In partnership with Marine Research Foundation. This grant will support community-based nesting beach conservation of the most important leatherback nesting populations in Papua New Guinea and the second most important in the West Pacific.

FWS: \$23,000      Leveraged funds: \$66,079

## **Republic of Congo**

**MT 11-070** *Marine turtle monitoring and protection in the Republic of Congo.* In partnership with Renatura. This grant will support efforts to protect nesting leatherback and olive ridley sea turtles along 20 km of nesting beach adjacent to Conkouati-Douli National Park. It will also support continuation of a turtle bycatch release program with local fisherman that releases approximately 1,500 turtles annually, and an environmental outreach program with local communities.

FWS: \$24,999      Leveraged funds: \$26,192

**MT 11-068** *Leatherback conservation program in Republic of Congo, 2011-2012.* In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society. This grant will support a leatherback conservation program along 60 km of high density leatherback nesting beach within Conkouati-Douli National Park, which is contiguous with the major leatherback nesting population in Mayumba National Park, Gabon.

FWS: \$68,000      Leveraged funds: \$47,083

**MT 11-015 (see project summary in Gabon section)**

## **Sao Tome**

**MT 11-015 (see project summary in Gabon section)**

## **Sierra Leone**

**MT 11-048** *Continued development of a marine turtle conservation program for Sierra Leone and leatherback conservation initiative at Turtle and Bonthe/Sherbro Islands.* In partnership with Conservation Society of Sierra Leone. This grant will support community-based conservation programs for marine turtle conservation at key leatherback nesting beaches in Sierra Leone with a special emphasis on community involvement, capacity building, and environmental outreach with fisherman and local communities.

FWS: \$66,000      Leveraged funds: \$10,412

## **Solomon Islands**

**MT 11-061** *Leatherback turtle monitoring and conservation at Sasakolo and Lithogagira, Solomon Islands.* In partnership with The Nature Conservancy. This grant will support community-based nesting beach conservation programs for the two most important leatherback

nesting beaches in the Solomon Islands, which are part of the Critically Endangered West Pacific leatherback nesting population.

FWS: \$25,000      Leveraged funds: \$28,638

## **United States of America**

**MT 11-072** *32nd Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation; Marine Turtle Newsletter; Seaturtle.org.* In partnership with International Sea Turtle Society. This grant will support 35 students or individuals from institutions in developing countries, who would not otherwise be able, to attend this meeting of about 1,000 marine turtle researchers, managers, and conservationists.

FWS: \$32,000      Leveraged funds: \$68,000

## **Vietnam**

**MT 11-006** *Community based marine turtle nesting beach conservation in Vietnam; pilot sites for hawksbill turtles in Quang Ninh Province and leatherbacks in Quang Tri Province..* In partnership with IUCN (International Union for Conservation of the Nature and Natural Resources). This grant will support a community-based sea turtle conservation program targeted at restoring a once significant but now depleted leatherback nesting population. It will also support a community-based hawksbill conservation project for a depleted nesting and foraging population in and near Bai Tu Long National Park.

FWS: \$48,004      Leveraged funds: \$57,200

## **Yemen**

**MT 11-034** *Assessing the status and conservation needs for sea turtles in Yemen, initial steps to building a long-term sea turtle conservation program in Yemen.* In partnership with Yemeni Biological Society. This grant will support two Yemeni biologists to travel to Oman for training and to consult with and learn about Oman's sea turtle conservation programs, management, research and outreach activities at Masirah Island at the beginning of the 2011 loggerhead nesting season. The grantee will build a coalition of groups and experts within Yemen, identify key nesting beaches, and develop conservation projects at the most important nesting beaches.

FWS: \$28,000      Leveraged funds: \$16,170

## **Regional - Western Hemisphere**

**MT 11-026** *Support for the Fifth Conference of the Parties of the IAC and the meetings of its subsidiary bodies in the framework of the IAC's 10th Anniversary.* In partnership with Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles. This grant will support the Secretariat and Party members of the Inter-American Convention to attend the Fifth Conference of the Parties (COP 5) and Consultative and Scientific Committee meetings. It will also provide assistance for the Secretariat's office to coordinate and organize COP 5 and meetings of the Scientific and Consultative Committees.

FWS: \$41,800      Leveraged funds: \$40,000



## **Regional - Africa**

**MT 11-055** *Scientific and technical support to Sierra Leone, Liberia, Cape Verde, Principe, and Morocco.* In partnership with Ocean Ecology Network. This grantee will provide technical assistance for Marine Turtle Conservation Fund-supported nesting beach projects in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Cape Verde, Principe and Morocco. The project will build capacity of implementing personnel and institutions in the areas of scientific techniques and community involvement.

FWS: \$36,748

Leveraged funds: \$36,748