

# The Congo Basin

Through the Great Apes Conservation Fund (GACF) and the African Elephant Conservation Fund (AECF), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) brings a collaborative approach to conservation in the Congo Basin region. USFWS support emphasizes direct action in the field, building the capacity of individuals and institutions and helping a new generation of African conservationists gain the skills and support they need to fulfill their enormous potential.

The majority of grants from the GACF and the AECF go directly into field work, and they target a range of conservation programs, including: building institutional and human resource capacity; educating local populations about conservation issues that affect them; providing economic incentives for conservation; and fulfilling the need for accurate and robust scientific data on ape and elephant species. (See attached table for detail on projects funded by USFWS during the fiscal year 2006).

To meet the conservation goals of the grants program, the USFWS works with conservation partners, both within the U.S. and range countries. These collaborators have vast on-the-ground experience and

are experts on the ecology of the species as well as the human dimensions of conservation. Of particular importance is the Central African Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE) of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), through which the USFWS has received a significant portion of funding for the GACF program. Our conservation

efforts in the Congo Basin are closely coordinated with CARPE partners' activities and governmental and NGO conservation partners in the range states. The commitment and on-the-ground expertise of USAID, as well as other collaborators in the Congo Basin, are instrumental to the success of all USFWS-supported projects in the region.



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**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**  
**International Affairs**  
**Division of International Conservation**  
703-358-1754  
703-358-2115/fax  
internationalconservation@fws.gov  
<http://www.fws.gov/international>  
[www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov)

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<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Conservation of the Nigerian chimpanzee (<i>Pan troglodytes vellerosus</i>) in and around the Banyang-Mbo Wildlife Sanctuary, South-West Province, Cameroon</b>	Cameroon	Chimpanzee	Wildlife Conservation Society	\$36,129	An applied research project to provide information to conserve a genetically-distinct subspecies of chimpanzee in its natural range.
<b>Distribution, ecology and conservation of gorillas and chimpanzees in the Ebo Forest, Cameroon</b>	Cameroon	Chimpanzee	Zoological Society of San Diego	\$47,820	A grant to continue support for efforts to conserve these species in important habitat in Western Cameroon through surveys, focused studies and working with local stakeholders.
<b>A Pride Campaign to Address the Bushmeat Crisis in Cameroon</b>	Cameroon	Chimpanzee Gorilla	RARE Center for Tropical Conservation	\$50,000	This project raises public awareness and creates local participation in discussions about the importance of conserving Western Lowland Gorillas and other wildlife and their habitat in Western Cameroon.
<b>LAGA-MINFOF Collaboration - Wildlife Law Enforcement</b>	Cameroon	Multiple	The Last Great Ape Organization (LAGA)	\$47,236	This project involves the building the capacity, through training and strategic planning, of the Government of Cameroon's Ministry of Forests and Fauna to protect apes through better law enforcement and prosecution.
<b>Forest Elephant Study, Dzanga Clearing Central African Republic</b>	Central African Republic	Forest Elephant	Wildlife Conservation Society	\$40,846	This project will provide continued support for the longest running study of forest elephants in Africa, at Dzanga Sangha in the Central African Republic. During this phase, the funding will support surveillance and monitoring of forest elephants at Dzanga bai, training and coordinating local assistants from CAR, the Republic of Cameroon and the Republic of Congo, and continuing to analyze elephant acoustic communication.
<b>Bonobo Peace Forest: Surveys, Information Exchange and Community Based Reserve Development</b>	Congo	Bonobo	Bonobo Conservation Initiative	\$199,797	This project supports an integrated program to work with local communities and Congolese scientists to conserve bonobos through applied research, surveys and monitoring, land-use planning and enhanced protection.
<b>Goualougo Triangle Chimpanzee Conservation and Research Project</b>	Congo	Chimpanzee	Wildlife Conservation Society	\$63,854	Continued support to an applied research, protection, and local capacity-building initiative that conserves one of Central Africa's most important chimpanzee populations in the northern Republic of Congo.
<b>Can management of wildlife in logging concessions conserve great ape populations in northern Congo?</b>	Congo	Chimpanzee Gorilla	Wildlife Conservation Society	\$43,180	This grant provides support for a study and follow-up work to evaluate the potential for carefully managed logging concessions to conserve ape populations.
<b>Conservation of Great Apes as Flagship Species in the Odzala Landscape, Republic of Congo</b>	Congo	Chimpanzee Gorilla	World Wildlife Fund-Gabon	\$55,507	Support for efforts to understand the status of apes in the study area, fortify law enforcement measures, increase collaboration with stakeholders and initiate a process to create a protected area corridor.

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<b>Implementing urgent measures for the surveillance and protection of Great Apes in Northern Congo in response to recent Ebola outbreaks</b>	Congo	Chimpanzee Gorilla	Wildlife Conservation Society	\$157,059	This grant continues support to build on previous activities that will link field researchers with each other and local efforts with outside laboratories and to augment efforts aimed at determining the impact of Ebola on ape populations and to promote an effective strategy to deal with the disease in ape habitat.
<b>Conservation and Monitoring of Great Apes in the Lac Tele Landscape</b>	Congo	Chimpanzee Gorilla	Wildlife Conservation Society	\$71,950	This project works with local communities and national authorities to ensure security of great apes and integrity of their habitat in the community reserve through increased awareness of conservation issues and enhanced law enforcement.
<b>Great Ape Public Awareness Project</b>	Congo	Chimpanzee Gorilla	International Conservation and Education Fund	\$105,462	Support for phase two of a program to teach Congolese conservationists to design, produce and distribute conservation videos on subjects relevant to great apes and Ebola and to evaluate the results.
<b>Elephant conservation, monitoring, and mitigation of human-elephant conflict in Konkouati-Douli, Republic of Congo</b>	Congo	Forest Elephant	Wildlife Conservation Society	\$69,735	This continuing project will boost conservation efforts by exploring a remote area of the Gabon/Congo boundary frequented by elephants to identify important resources and potential threats, to build a surveillance post near area of high animal concentrations, and to assist one human community to fence their agricultural fields.
<b>Developing opportunities for great ape ecotourism in the Nouabale-Ndoki National Park as a model for a national ecotourism strategy in the Republic of Congo</b>	Congo	Gorilla, Chimpanzee	Wildlife Conservation Society	\$69,277	Support to a project to assure the long-term conservation of great apes and other wildlife in the NNNP through sustainable funding mechanisms and to support constituencies generated by sustainable great ape ecotourism.
<b>Building capacity for great ape conservation in the Republic of Congo</b>	Congo	Multiple	Wildlife Conservation Society	\$152,013	This project develops training and planning programs to assist national and site-based personnel in protecting and conserving great apes.
<b>Conservation of Great Apes: providing essential equipment to rangers in several national parks in the Congo Basin</b>	Congo	Multiple	World Wildlife Fund, Inc.	\$3,145	Provision of wildlife guards and rangers in the Congo Basin with equipment to support basic patrolling and law enforcement activities in Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Gabon.
<b>Using networked human detection sensors to technologically enhance anti-poaching efforts</b>	Congo	Multiple	Wildlife Conservation Society	\$36,203	The development and field testing, in the northern Republic of Congo, of an innovative technology that will detect poachers' incursions into protected areas and will relay this critical information to park authorities
<b>Confiscated Eastern Gorilla Rehabilitation and Planning for Reintroduction and Long Term Management</b>	Congo, Rwanda, Uganda	Gorilla	Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project (MGVP, Inc.)	\$77,246	This project develops veterinary and behavioral interventions and infrastructure to facilitate eventual reintroduction of captive mountain and Grauer's gorillas into their natural habitats.

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<b>Bonobo Reintroduction in the Democratic Republic of Congo: Conservation Education and Health Monitoring at Lola Ya Bonobo Sanctuary</b>	DRC	Bonobo	Les Amis des Bonobos due Congo (ABC)	\$49,996	This project establishes a better base of support among relevant individuals and communities and produces the necessary health profiles and guidelines for a planned bonobo reintroduction.
<b>Djolu Technical College: Building Capacity for Conservation of the Bonobo and its Habitat in the Democratic Republic of Congo</b>	DRC	Bonobo	Bonobo Conservation Initiative	\$44,911	This project supports development of the curriculum, faculty, and infrastructure of a local institution for the benefit of Congolese conservationists.
<b>Survey of chimpanzees in the Marungu Highlands and Mt. Kabobo, DRC</b>	DRC	Chimpanzee	Wildlife Conservation Society	\$35,000	A grant for surveys of isolated, previously unstudied and potentially important areas where the species is now thought to exist.
<b>Health protection and health monitoring program for the recovery of gorillas and chimpanzees in Parc National de Kahuzi Biega, DRC</b>	DRC	Chimpanzee Gorilla	Wildlife Conservation Society	\$89,603	Promotion of gorilla health monitoring and emergency intervention protocols, standardizing of reporting formats that are harmonious with those used in great ape health protection programs across eastern DRC, Republic of Congo, Gabon, Rwanda and Uganda, and training of park guards.
<b>Monitoring the post-conflict recovery of gorillas and chimpanzees in Parc National de Kahuzi Biega, Democratic Republic of Congo</b>	DRC	Chimpanzee Gorilla	Wildlife Conservation Society	\$77,231	A grant to support efforts to gather management and protection relevant data on distribution, numbers, and threat status of these ape species in the park.
<b>Aerial Law Enforcement Programme for the Virunga National Park, Democratic Republic of Congo. Phase II</b>	DRC	Forest Elephant	Frankfurt Zoological Society	\$61,623	This project will improve protection for a transfrontier population of elephants along the eastern border of the DRC, in the Virunga National Park. Specific activities will include dispersal of salaries to park rangers in remote areas, maintaining patrol vehicles and boats for the anti-poaching units, and regular aerial monitoring and surveillance.
<b>An Economic Study of Mountain Gorilla Tourism in the Virunga Volcanoes Conservation Area, Rwanda and DRC</b>	DRC	Gorilla	Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund	\$17,316	A grant to support efforts to improve the potential of great ape ecotourism based on analysis of data gathered through a scientific study and discussions with stakeholders.
<b>Building capacity for great ape conservation in DRC</b>	DRC	Multiple	Wildlife Conservation Society	\$163,207	This project works at the national and site levels to build capacity of Congolese conservationists through training, mentorship and equipment assistance.
<b>Regional Collaboration for Mountain Gorilla Conservation: Ranger-Based Monitoring for a Regional Information System in the Virunga-Bwindi Forest Ecosystem</b>	DRC, Rwanda, Uganda	Gorilla	African Wildlife Foundation	\$300,000	This project supports the creation of a integrated system, using information gathered primarily through ranger-based monitoring, to gain consensus among experts from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Uganda, on how to best conserve and manage Mountain Gorillas in the Albertine Rift.



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<b>Training for an integrated system of ape population surveillance and anti-poaching effort in Gabon</b>	Gabon	Chimpanzee Gorilla	Wildlife Conservation Society	\$35,460	A project to increase the effectiveness of anti-poaching efforts in Gabon by providing combined information on animal and human activities in national parks that can be used for better strategic and tactical deployment.
<b>Inclusion of 'Ape Conservation' in the environmental education curriculum for primary level around Gabon's National Parks</b>	Gabon	Chimpanzee Gorilla	Wildlife Conservation Society	\$51,409	A project to promote conservation by encouraging awareness of the plight of apes and the issues surrounding their conservation among primary school children living in close proximity to wild chimpanzees and gorillas and thus increase their willingness to make domestic changes that benefit ape survival.
<b>Creating cross-institutional links for wildlife law enforcement in Gabon</b>	Gabon	Chimpanzee Gorilla	Wildlife Conservation Society	\$25,140	This project supports an innovative program to bring together various agencies and individuals who have wildlife law and regulation enforcement mandates, in order to work together more thoroughly and efficiently.
<b>Evaluating the impact of Babongo pygmy populations in southern Lope and Waka National Parks</b>	Gabon	Chimpanzee Gorilla	Wildlife Conservation Society	\$35,388	This project supports a study to evaluate the effects of forest utilization by native Aka communities on ape populations and habitat in two Gabonese national parks.
<b>The conservation of forest elephants in Ivindo NP (Gabon) through the use of innovative and traditional anti-poaching methods</b>	Gabon	Forest Elephant	Wildlife Conservation Society	\$54,169	This grant supports professional ecoguards in Ivindo National Park. The recipient will train and equip 10 ecoguards; conduct surveillance in the park; reduce the illegal killing of elephants and other wildlife; harmonize on-site law enforcement monitoring with those of CITES MIKE; and strengthen laws protecting wildlife.
<b>Support for a mobile anti-poaching unit in Gabon</b>	Gabon	Forest Elephant	Wildlife Conservation Society	\$59,998	The grantee will assist the local wildlife department to a) plan and carry out anti-poaching strategies in response to security threats, b) increase accountability and performance standards through scheduled meetings and evaluations, c) to provide logistical, technical and financial support for field missions.
<b>Monitoring forest elephants to promote conservation in central Africa: poaching and patterns of elephant activity at bais</b>	Gabon	Forest Elephant	Cornell University	\$59,994	This project will employ acoustic monitoring techniques to estimate elephant density and gunshot occurrence at four bais within Minkebe, Mwagne, and Ivindo National Parks in Gabon. This information will be used to monitor patterns of elephant abundance with respect to the proximity to human settlements.
<b>Reinforcing anti-poaching capacity in Lope National Park, Gabon</b>	Gabon	Forest Elephant	Wildlife Conservation Society	\$49,962	This project will fortify antipoaching and law enforcement efforts for elephant populations in and around Lope National Park in Gabon. Specifically, the recipient will a) construct and staff a permanent control post at Ayem, and b) support reconnaissance missions and refurbish an existing control post in the Mitendi area of Lope.

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<b>Baseline surveys of ape density in Birougou, Gabon</b>	Gabon	Gorilla	Wildlife Conservation Society	\$43,755	A grant to support survey work and interpretation of data in what is becoming an important trans-frontier conservation area with the Republic of Congo.
<b>Mikongo Conservation Centre: Western gorilla (Gorilla gorilla gorilla) habituation and health monitoring for ecotourism</b>	Gabon	Gorilla	Zoological Society of London	\$49,226	This project in Lope National Park explores and analyzes the basis to develop ape ecotourism in Central Gabon.
<b>Capacity building in Gabon for ape ecological research</b>	Gabon	Gorilla, Chimpanzee	Wildlife Conservation Society	\$52,611	This project supports training and equipping local ape conservationists and institutions better conserve apes and manage ape habitat in these two countries.
<b>Sustaining great ape health in Gabon</b>	Gabon	Gorilla, Chimpanzee	Wildlife Conservation Society	\$80,953	The promotion of conservation success across protected area landscapes in Gabon through an integrated and multi-disciplinary program at the interface between great ape, ecosystem and human health.
<b>The Gabon Sea Turtle Partnership for leatherback research and conservation</b>	Gabon	Leatherback Turtle	Wildlife Conservation Society	\$98,614	The purpose of this project is to monitor and protect leatherback nesting activity on the Gabon coast. The Recipient will carry out aerial surveys of the Gabonese coast, develop coordinated environmental outreach, improve capacity of field projects to conduct ground surveys and protect sea turtle nests, and develop and maintain a centralized data base for leatherback nesting activity.
<b>Building capacity for great ape conservation in Gabon</b>	Gabon	Multiple	Wildlife Conservation Society	\$298,985	Creation of a resource center for ape ecological research at Lopé National Park that can be accessed nationwide by students, park managers and other conservationist and to develop national capacity in ape biology and research methods, in order to improve the knowledge of apes nationwide and facilitate the transfer of solid scientific data to conservation policy makers.