

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of International Conservation
Critically Endangered Animals Conservation Fund
FY 2015 Summary of Projects**

In FY 2015, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) awarded 14 projects from the Critically Endangered Animals Conservation Fund, totaling \$376,169, which was matched by \$931,042 in additional leveraged funds. Field projects in ten countries (in alphabetical order below) will be supported, as well as three projects spanning multiple countries.

CAMBODIA

EA 1508

Grant # F15AP00981

Roost protection and habitat creation for the white-shouldered ibis in northern Cambodia. In partnership with Birdlife International, this project will promote a stable or increasing population of white-shouldered ibis in Western Siem Pang Forest and Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary. The grantee will undertake an innovative method to create additional habitat. Specific activities include: (1) playback of bird calls; (2) use of dolly (model) birds to encourage live birds to join new communal roosting sites; and (3) enhancement of preferred white-shouldered ibis foraging habitat by digging of forest pools (trapeangs) as key foraging resources for the species.

USFWS: \$24,970 Leveraged Funds: \$28,900

ECUADOR

EA 1569

Grant # F15AP01044

Reducing seabird bycatch to conserve the critically endangered waved albatross, Ecuador. In partnership with American Bird Conservancy, this project will significantly reduce fishery-related mortality of the waved albatross through the adoption of an innovative bycatch mitigation fishing technique, called NISURI. In addition, significant changes within the fishing community will be made to reduce harmful fishing practices to birds. This information will be shared among colleagues, governing bodies, and international advisory panels to develop long-lasting changes in the fishery practices to reduce bycatch.

USFWS: \$24,581 Leveraged Funds: \$28,684

ETHIOPIA

EA 1501

Grant # F15AP01090

Managing disease threats to Ethiopian wolves: An oral rabies vaccination strategy, Ethiopia.

In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Network., this project will protect endangered Ethiopian wolves by implementing an oral vaccination campaign to wolf populations in Bale Mountains National Park. This campaign will determine the effectiveness and cost of vaccination efforts, and will produce a national Ethiopian wolf vaccination strategy.

USFWS: \$24,970 Leveraged Funds: \$44,050

INDONESIA

EA 1584

Grant # F15AP01092

Community-based conservation of the endangered maleo in Tompotika, Indonesia. In partnership with Alliance for Tompotika Conservation, this project will use previously successful community-based methods to create a landscape-scale maleo conservation effort consisting of two protected nesting grounds connected by intact natural forest. In addition to scaling up field conservation efforts on behalf of Tompotika's maleos, this project will also strengthen outreach and education efforts that will reach over 1,000 school children per month.

USFWS: \$22,839 Leveraged Funds: \$43,528

JAMAICA

EA1587

F15AP01086

Sustainable management and preservation of the Jamaican iguana, Jamaica. In partnership with the International Iguana Foundation, this project will ensure that the in-situ protection program for the Jamaican iguana can continue and improve its performance, while simultaneously improving the capacity of the government of Jamaica to execute and manage the program. The project will also initiate a process to stop the illegal charcoal production taking place within the range of the iguana in the Hellshire Hills of the Portland Bight Protected Area, and help prepare for an emergency translocation of the entire population of iguanas in the event of massive development pressures. The project will also seek to raise public awareness of the species and the threats it currently faces so that the general public can advocate on behalf of the species.

USFWS: \$69,993 Leveraged Funds: \$0

RWANDA

EA 1549

Grant # F15AP01037

Combating the illegal trade and recovering the population of endangered grey crowned cranes in Rwanda. In partnership with Dr. Olivier Nsengimana, this project will double the population of Grey Crowned Cranes in Rwanda by 2018. There are only 300 – 500 wild grey crowned cranes remaining in Rwanda. Specific objectives include: (1) reducing the illegal trade of grey crowned cranes in Rwanda by strengthening law enforcement capacity, registering all captive cranes, and raising awareness of the status of the cranes and the legal repercussions of their ownership; (2) improving livelihoods of local communities around Rugezi marshland to reduce poaching and contribute to the protection of the natural habitat; and (3) rehabilitate and reintroduce 40 captive grey crowned cranes back to the wild.

USFWS: \$24,750 Leveraged Funds: \$0

SAINT LUCIA

EA 1544

Grant # F15AP01036

Saint Lucia racer project: Saving the rarest known snake. In partnership with Fauna and Flora International, this project will prevent the extinction of the Saint Lucia racer and restore its place in the coastal ecosystems of Saint Lucia. Priority actions in the new Saint Lucia Racer Conservation Action Plan will be implemented to increase the world population to at least 500 individuals by 2025; as few as 18 currently remain. Specific objectives include: (1) the population of racers on Maria Major is maintained at the island's carrying capacity; (2) preparations will be made for reintroducing Saint Lucia racers to at least two more sites (one offshore island and one mainland site); and (3) the species recovery plan will include legislation, enforcement and public support, including measures to prevent poaching.

USFWS: \$24,890

Leveraged Funds: \$49,925

SULAWESI

EA 1568

Grant # F15AP01042

Long-term conservation of Maleo nesting grounds in North Sulawesi through nest site protection and management. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society, this project will work to address threats to the maleos and their nesting grounds. Specific objectives include: (1) maintaining protection of maleo nesting sites at the four currently managed sites in Tambun, Muara Pusian, Hungayono, and Binerean; (2) increasing support from the local community and raising their enthusiasm for maleo conservation; and (3) developing partnerships for sustainable financing of maleo protection efforts.

USFWS: \$24,960

Leveraged Funds: \$25,593

THAILAND

EA 1514

Grant # F15AP00995

Reducing threats to pangolins through strengthening law enforcement capacity and developing ecological monitoring protocols in Thailand. In partnership with Zoological Society of London, this project will develop methodologies for the collection of baseline data on the abundance, distribution and habitat selections of the Sunda pangolin. This data will be analyzed using SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) and the ecological monitoring plug-in. The data analysis will be used to create a targeted patrolling effort that will ensure the protection of critical pangolin habitat and monitoring of poaching hotspots. In addition, community survey data on pangolin poaching, consumption, and trade will be collected as part of outreach activities.

USFWS: \$25,000

Leveraged Funds: \$128,879

ZAMBIA

EA 1502

Grant # F15AP00980

Intensifying anti-snaring efforts in the Luangwa Valley, Zambia, to reduce by-catch mortalities of African wild dogs. In partnership with South Luangwa Conservation Society, this project will intensify anti-snaring efforts in the Luangwa Valley, Zambia, to reduce by-catch mortalities of African wild dogs. This project will conserve and increase the Luangwa Valley population of African wild dogs through increasing and improving anti-snaring patrols by community village scouts in game management areas and the national park.

USFWS: \$20,000 Leveraged Funds: \$297,278

EA 1525

Grant # F15AP01034

Protecting endangered vultures and other threatened wildlife of the Kasanka National Park, Zambia. In partnership with Kasanka Trust, this project will strengthen conservation measures around the core vulture breeding and roosting area in Kasanka National Park. Specific objectives include: (1) strengthening law-enforcement operations; (2) ensuring total exclusion of fires from the sensitive evergreen forests in which vultures breed and roost; (3) improving accessibility to the core area to enable law-enforcement, firefighting, tourism operations, and other protection measures; and (4) generating additional funds through tourism in order to improve financial sustainability for protection activities while reducing disturbance of breeding.

USFWS: \$24,984 Leveraged Funds: \$34,066

MULTIPLE COUNTRIES – COLUMBIA & PERU

EA 1524

Grant # F15AP01033

Community-based conservation program of three endangered turtle species of the Amazon River with indigenous communities of Colombia and Peru. In partnership with *Fundación Biodiversa Colombia*. This project will significantly reduce poaching of eggs and nesting females by building capacity within local conservation groups.

USFWS: \$14,602 Leveraged Funds: \$6,229

MULTIPLE COUNTRIES – DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND HAITI

EA 1542

Grant # F15AP01035

Saving the Ridgway's hawk from extinction, Hispaniola. In partnership with the Peregrine Fund, this project will save the Ridgway's Hawk from extinction by increasing its distribution and abundance in at least three areas beyond the current confined population. Specific objectives include: (1) increasing the hawk's distribution by establishing a new self-sustaining population of at least ten pairs on privately protected lands around Punta Cana Resort; (2) Measuring the impact of botfly parasitism and fipronil treatment on hawk productivity and beginning the development of long-term solutions for effective conservation; and (3) reducing hawk persecution to increase survival through community involvement and incentives.

USFWS: \$25,000 Leveraged Funds: \$231,110

MULTIPLE COUNTRIES - AFRICA REGIONAL

EA1586

Grant # F15AP01045

Curbing the impact of trade-motivated poisoning on endangered vultures in southern Africa.

In partnership with Endangered Wildlife Trust, this project will reduce the number of vulture mortalities due to poisoning in Africa by providing appropriate guidelines in the form of a best practice manual and by training key conservation staff in southern Africa to effectively manage and investigate poisoning incidents when they occur. A comprehensive database will be used to record details of incidents and to assess the effectiveness of these interventions.

USFWS: \$24,630

Leveraged Funds: \$12,800