

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Division of International Conservation  
Wildlife Without Borders-Latin America and Caribbean Program FY 2014  
Summary of Projects**

In FY 2014, the USFWS awarded 25 new projects from Wildlife Without Borders- Latin America and Caribbean program, totaling \$1, 344,019, which was matched by \$1,658,890 in additional leveraged funds. Field projects in 10 countries throughout the region (in alphabetical order below) will be supported, in addition to four projects that involve multiple countries.

**BELIZE**

**LAC 1418**

**Grant # F14AP00755**

*Promoting conservation and sustainable land-use in the Maya Golden landscape, southern Belize.* In partnership with Fauna and Flora International (FFI), the purpose of this project is to strengthen sustainable land-use activities in the Maya Golden Landscape of Belize. The project seeks to conserve species and habitats while strengthening human livelihoods. Specific activities include: (1) reducing slash and burn agriculture in the buffer zone of the Golden Stream Corridor Preserve through 15 new acres of alley cropping and 160 acres of agroforestry; (2) creating a land-use map for all eight villages of the region in a participatory manner; and (3) raising awareness and improving sustainable farming practices in all eight communities by increasing farmer production and incomes through improved agroforestry techniques.

FWS: \$45,000

Leveraged Funds: \$20,865

**LAC 1417**

**Grant # F14AP00754**

*Human-jaguar conflict mitigation in the Southern Biological Corridor, Belize.* In partnership with Fauna and Flora International (FFI), the purpose of this project is to help protect the jaguar (*Panthera onca*) in Belize by reducing human-jaguar conflict in the Southern Belize Corridor. Specific activities include: (1) evaluating and better understanding current conflict dynamics; (2) introducing a dedicated human-jaguar conflict officer to service affected communities; and (3) educating and working with ranchers to implement mitigation measures on select demonstration farms.

FWS: \$46,150

Leveraged Funds: \$36,045

**COLOMBIA**

**LAC 1460**

**Grant # F14AP00816**

*Implementing depredation management strategies on human-jaguar conflict in Colombia.* In partnership with Panthera, the purpose of this project is to reduce depredation of cattle by jaguars through the implementation of successful and new techniques of depredation management on two pilot ranches in the llanos region which were chosen based on jaguar presence, history of depredation, and the owners' willingness to manage their cattle and collect data for testing and

monitoring purposes. Donated San Martinero bulls, a breed known to repel jaguars, will be mixed with regular cattle stock to evaluate depredation and establish Creole cattle breeds as a management strategy for avoiding human-jaguar conflict. In addition, the project will build local capacity in best practices, ranching techniques, and conflict avoidance; and engage local and regional stakeholders in supporting overall jaguar conservation.

FWS: \$49,920

Leveraged Funds: \$165,700

## **LAC 1458**

### **Grant # F14AP00815**

*Stopping hawksbill tortoiseshell commerce in Cartagena, Colombia: Campaign against the illegal trade of hawksbill marine turtles.* In partnership with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) - Colombia, the purpose of this project is to: (1) reduce the buying and selling of illegal hawksbill products in Colombia through research on and engagement with local fishermen, commercial establishments, and tourist groups; (2) improve the capacity of government agencies to regulate, seize, and report illegal hawksbill trade and products; and (3) secure funds allocated by the Colombian government to address this issue at a national level.

FWS: \$49,865

Leveraged Funds: \$21,872

## **COSTA RICA**

## **LAC 1448**

### **Grant # F14AC00846**

*Enhancing coexistence of jaguars in Costa Rica: Design and analysis of community-based incentives.* In partnership with the University of Florida, the purpose of this project is to design a community program of incentives for the Costa Rican Ministry of Environment that will enable adoption of practices to prevent jaguar damage on livestock and ultimately reduce human-jaguar conflicts and retaliatory killings throughout the country. Specifically, the project will: (1) develop a typology of ranchers based on their motivations and needs in order to increase effectiveness of incentives; and (2) generate a policy proposal for Payments for Enhancing Coexistence (PEC) with big cats that will be submitted to the Costa Rican Ministry of Environment for testing and institutionalization.

FWS: \$50,541

Leveraged Funds: \$20,395

## **LAC 1464**

### **Grant # F14AP00818**

*Providing solutions and reducing conflicts between farmers and jaguars in Costa Rica.* In partnership with Panthera, the purpose of this project is to reduce jaguar depredation and mortality in the San Juan-La Selva Biological Corridor, Barbilla-Destierro Biological Subcorridor, and the buffer zone of Tortuguero National Park. Specific activities include: (1) applying and testing anti-depredation methods on ten strategically located farms; (2) supporting and strengthening the Wildcat Conflict Response Unit (CRU) teams in nine out of ten conservation areas to respond to conflicts, educate farmers, and prevent retaliatory killings; (3) identifying the most successful anti-depredation techniques to replicate in conflict hotspots throughout the jaguar corridor; and (4) promoting and supporting farmers in actions to decrease hunting of wildlife on their properties.

FWS: \$20,200

Leveraged Funds: \$54,000

## **LAC 1410**

### **Grant # F14AP00745**

*Biodiversity conservation and sustainable cattle production: using certification schemes to promote good practices.* In partnership with Costa Rica's Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), the purpose of this project is to increase the use of environmentally friendly livestock systems in Costa Rica's Volcánica Central Talamanca Biological Corridor. Specific activities include: (1) building capacity of local farmers in best practices; (2) engaging cattle ranchers and students in biodiversity conservation within productive landscapes, using bird monitoring activities as a conservation indicator; (3) supporting the environmental livestock production group to produce educational materials for dissemination; and (4) constructing a baseline for an index to evaluate the conservation value of cattle farms in multifunctional landscapes that can be potentially applied in other Mesoamerican countries.

FWS: \$50,050

Leveraged Funds: \$137,800

## **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

### **LAC 1414**

#### **Grant # F14AP00752**

*Restoration of sub-tropical dry forest ecosystems in the Dominican Republic through invasive species removal: Building capacity for conservation action through skills development and operational implementation.* In partnership with the *Sociedad Ornitológica de la Hispaniola* (SOH), the purpose of this project is to restore sub-tropical dry forest on two island protected areas in the Dominican Republic through the permanent removal of up to seven invasive alien vertebrate species, which will also benefit rock iguanas (*Cyclura sp.*). Specific activities include: (1) completing restoration work on Isla Cabritos; (2) utilizing the local field team and building capacity through international expertise to initiate ecosystem restoration on Isla Catalina; and (3) engaging with the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources to support and inform future island restoration and endangered species recovery efforts in the Dominican Republic, where invasive species are a threat.

FWS: \$49,998

Leveraged Funds: \$72,192

## **ECUADOR**

### **LAC 1454**

#### **Grant # F14AP00805**

*Mitigating hunting pressure from the wild meat trade in Yasuní National Park, Ecuador.* In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), the purpose of this project is to respond to the request for assistance from the Ministry of Environment to reduce the unsustainable hunting of wild species for the wild meat trade by: (1) quantifying the impacts of the wild meat trade on wild species along the Maxus road in Yasuní National Park; (2) identifying and understanding the population that generates the demand for wild meat in order to design targeted outreach interventions to alter consumer behaviors; (3) strengthening the capacity of Yasuní National Park staff to implement, enforce, and monitor laws protecting wildlife; and (4) building awareness of the wild meat trade and its causes with stakeholders.

FWS: \$50,000

Leveraged Funds: \$20,253

## **LAC 1421**

### **Grant # F14AP00756**

*Towards a participative conservation of high-Andean montane forests in northwestern Ecuador.* In partnership with *Aves y Conservación/BirdLife en Ecuador*, the purpose of this project is to implement sustainable and comprehensive farming activities in the high-Andean montane forests in northwestern Ecuador. This project is intended to optimize the use of natural resources and promote the conservation of wildlife by reducing the advance of unsustainable agricultural activities. Specific activities include: (1) identifying and designating natural restoration areas through an incentive program promoted by the national government; and (2) implementing natural and artificial fencing to avoid uncontrolled cattle grazing in the forest areas.

FWS: \$36,631

Leveraged Funds: \$29,150

## **GUATEMALA**

## **LAC 1439**

### **Grant # F14AP00778**

*Empowering regional authorities to reduce the illegal commerce and consumption of endangered wildlife induced by the Franja Transversal del Norte highway in the Cynergetic Region II of Guatemala.* In partnership with the *Organizacion para la Conservacion de la Naturaleza y Desarrollo Comunitario (ORCONDECO)*, the purpose of this project is to reduce the illegal trade and consumption of endangered wildlife in the Ramsar wetland Ecoregion Lachua in northwestern Alta Verapaz, Guatemala. Threats are spurred by the construction of the mega-highway Franja Transversal del Norte. The project will: (1) educate local authorities and regional authorities as requested on the rules and regulations of the Cynergetic Region related to commerce and consumption of endangered wildlife through workshops and interviews, 2) deliver workshops to restaurant owners and other businesses alongside local authorities in Ixcán and Chisec on the topic and create additional forums for dialogue between the two entities, 3) expand their community consultation program to 33 additional communities in the Patio de Bolas Copon area of Ixcán to promote sustainable hunting and conservation of wildlife, and 4) implement a communication campaign to discourage illegal trade and consumption of wildlife by working with respected community church leaders to produce radio spots and posters.

FWS: \$49,930

Leveraged Funds: \$62,927

## **LAC 1415**

### **Grant # F14AP00753**

*Community-based Integrated Watershed Management in Guatemala's Western Highlands.* In partnership with the EcoLogic Development Fund, the purpose of this project is to strengthen community capacity to protect and conserve Guatemala's Cuchumantanes landscape, including local water sources and forests. Specific activities include: (1) reducing human pressures on key forest basins through forest guard training and reforestation and agroforestry projects; (2) strengthening local capacity for community-based watershed management by establishing a local watershed committee and a participatory watershed management plan for implementation; and (3) generating sustainable livelihoods for 75 rural communities through the use of fuel efficient stoves, inscription into Guatemala's forestry incentive programs, honey production and sale, and the collection and sale of Inga edulai seeds for agroforestry.

FWS: \$50,000

Leveraged Funds: \$144,074

**LAC 1411****Grant # F14AP00746**

*Applying an assessment of conservation status to the long-term management of big-leaf mahogany, cedar, and lesser-known species populations in the forestry concessions of the Maya Biosphere Reserve, Petén, Guatemala.* In partnership with Costa Rica's Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), the purpose of this project is to ensure the long-term ecological integrity and sustainable management of big-leaf mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*), cedar (*Cedrela odorata*) and other commercially harvested tree species in the multiple-use zone of the Maya Biosphere Reserve in Guatemala by working with community concessionaires, private concessionaires, and the Guatemalan Agency for Protected Areas (CONAP). Specific activities include: (1) assessing the conservation status, impacts of current harvesting practices and threats to regeneration and population viability of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)-listed species; (2) making recommendations to improve monitoring, harvesting and conservation strategies, including validating or modifying CONAP's non-detrimental finding for mahogany and cedar; (3) disseminating results to local and national agencies, organizations, universities and industries; and (4) collaborating with concessionaires to apply the recommendations to their operating plans and business models, and with CONAP to support sustainable landscape-level management of the Maya Biosphere Reserve.

FWS: \$48,223

Leveraged Funds: \$92,214

**LAC 1451****Grant # F14AP00784**

*Strengthening the constituency for jaguar conservation in the Maya Biosphere Reserve Buffer Zone.* In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), the purpose of this project is to reduce livestock loss and retaliatory jaguar killings in the Maya Biosphere Reserve buffer zone. Specific activities include: (1) expanding the adoption of jaguar-friendly management techniques among ranchers in communities along the roads to Tikal and Yaxha through their participation in the Ministry of Agriculture's Rural Development Training Center; (2) strengthening the Agroforestry Roundtable for the Lake Peten Itza Watershed to increase local participation in jaguar conservation; and (3) promoting peaceful human-jaguar co-existence through a social marketing campaign targeted at ranchers.

FWS: \$49,998

Leveraged Funds: \$40,637

**GUYANA****LAC 1461****Grant # F14AP00817**

*Hunting sustainability and hunter awareness as a foundation for managing wildlife harvests in South Guyana and Roraima.* In partnership with Panthera, the purpose of this project is to build the foundation for monitoring and regulating wildlife harvest by (1) identifying and quantifying existing markets that sell wild meat in the region; (2) establishing a wildlife and wildlife harvest monitoring program to evaluate sustainability of traditional hunting practices; (3) identifying current issues with existing regulations and implementation for wildlife harvest and trade across the region; and (4) raising awareness on national and international regulations concerning wildlife harvest and trade.

FWS: \$49,900

Leveraged Funds: \$70,700

## **HONDURAS**

### **LAC 1431**

#### **Grant # F14AP00765**

*Building Honduran capacity to restore mangroves using community-based ecological mangrove restoration.* In partnership with the Mangrove Action Project, the purpose of this project is to implement a training program for the restoration of threatened mangrove ecosystems in the Gulf of Fonseca, Honduras. Specific activities include: (1) training 25 Honduran conservationists in community-based ecological mangrove restoration; (2) restoring a five-hectare demonstration site in the project area; and (3) continued community-based monitoring and evaluation of the restoration site.

FWS: \$50,000

Leveraged Funds: \$20,000

## **PARAGUAY**

### **LAC 1452**

#### **Grant # F14AP00796**

*Improving human-predator relations in the Gran Chaco of Paraguay.* In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), the purpose of this project is to reduce human-jaguar conflicts and documented retaliatory killing of jaguars, and achieve a measurable reduction in illegal hunting of jaguar prey, by: (1) training ranchers owning a total area of about 100,000 hectares in proven livestock-rearing and -raising practices; (2) evaluating the effectiveness of innovative experimental interventions to mitigate carnivore predation on livestock; and (3) communicating lessons learned to appropriate audiences in order to scale up human-wildlife conflict mitigation initiatives.

FWS: \$50,000

Leveraged Funds: \$50,000

## **PERU**

### **LAC 1445**

#### **Grant # F14AP00779**

*La Novia integrated landscape conservation initiative.* In partnership with the Trust for Conservation Innovation, the purpose of this project is to: (1) bring together diverse stakeholders to create the region's first-ever indigenous-mestizo conservation alliance; and (2) strengthen local capacity to participate in and benefit from the development and implementation of a collaborative and participatory conservation management plan to control the illegal removal of forest resources, improve the effectiveness of the Alto Purús protected areas, and protect self-isolated indigenous communities.

FWS: \$48,925

Leveraged Funds: \$43,189

### **LAC 1404**

#### **Grant # F14AP00744**

*Protecting the Yungas Forests of northern Peru through increased capacity for protected area management.* In partnership with the American Bird Conservancy (ABC), the purpose of this project is to enhance the protection and management of the Yungas forests in Peru in partnership with the Peruvian organization, *Asociación Ecosistemas Andinos* (ECOAN). Specific activities include: (1) enforcing current Regional Conservation Area boundaries; (2) overseeing eco-

tourism operations; (3) engaging and educating communities in conservation; (4) implementing management actions to improve habitat conditions for focal bird species; and (5) creating additional Regional Conservation Areas to receive payments for carbon sequestration services.

FWS: \$40,766

Leveraged Funds: \$54,911

### **LAC 1453**

#### **Grant # F14AP00803**

*Building a national strategy to combat wildlife trafficking in Peru: Linking sectors and enhancing community participation.* In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), the purpose of this project is to: (1) produce guidance and recommendations that address key drivers of wildlife product supply and demand; (2) strengthen wildlife traffic law enforcement and monitoring; and (3) fully develop the National Strategy to Combat Wildlife Traffic through systematic analyses of information and lessons learned, and multi-agency and public-private sector cooperation.

FWS: \$49,690

Leveraged Funds: \$50,914

### **LAC 1449**

#### **Grant # F14AP00781**

*Conservamos por Naturaleza - Supporting private and community-based conservation in the Amazonas region - Peru.* In partnership with the *Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental*, the purpose of this project is to support and strengthen the newly founded Amazonas Network of Private Conservation Areas, a grassroots network of 12 private conservation areas, by: (1) creating opportunities for financial sustainability through honey production; (2) providing five research scholarships to young researchers to carry out studies based on the needs of the conservation areas; (3) increasing public support and awareness of private and community-based conservation; and (4) creating “Tierras de Niños,” a UNESCO-accredited education program that promotes sustainable development, with at least 10 local communities near private conservation areas.

FWS: \$46,600

Leveraged Funds: \$16,100

## **MULTIPLE COUNTRIES**

### **REGIONAL-CARIBBEAN**

### **LAC 1428**

#### **Grant # F14AC00803**

*Conservation Leadership in the Caribbean (CLiC).* In partnership with the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), the purpose of this project is to provide training over an 18-month period to 20 competitively selected emerging Caribbean conservation leaders at St. George's University, Grenada. This project will provide training by qualified professionals through workshops, short courses, experiential project management and problem solving. Specific training activities include networking with peers and established conservation practitioners; and structured and hands-on training in vital skills such as: conservation planning, conflict resolution, communications, group facilitation, management and leadership with one-on-one mentoring from professionals in the Caribbean region and internationally.

FWS: \$126,871

Leveraged Funds: \$80,100

## **REGIONAL – CENTRAL AMERICA**

### **LAC 1430**

#### **Grant # F14AP00757**

*Building capacity for the conservation of shorebirds in Central America.* In partnership with the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences, the purpose of this project is to support the effective management and protection of two key sites for migratory shorebirds in Central America; Bahia de Jiquilisco, El Salvador and Delta del Rio Estero Real, Nicaragua. Expected results include at least one new formal conservation agreement or governance structure in place at each site and both sites nominated as Western Hemisphere Shorebird Restoration Network (WHSRN) sites with formal commitments from landowners to include the needs of shorebirds in site management plans. Specific activities include: (1) a training program with on-site workshops to assess threats and plan actions for at least 20 local stakeholders at each site; and (2) a regional workshop on good governance concepts, processes and tools for at least 10 local decision makers and site managers (five from each site).

FWS: \$43,451

Leveraged Funds: \$35,680

### **LAC 1456**

#### **Grant # F14AP00811**

*Strengthening capacity for improved management of corals in trade in the Central American Caribbean.* In partnership with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the purpose of this project is to strengthen the capacities of authorities in Central America and the Dominican Republic to effectively manage and implement trade regulations for Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)-listed species of corals. The project will conduct face-to-face training of at least 30 lead government officials from at least 7 Central American/Caribbean countries on coral identification as part of the annual meeting of the Network on Wildlife Policy Compliance and Enforcement in Central America and the Dominican Republic (ROAVIS). This will be done through the use of the “Guide to the Identification of Precious and Semi-Precious Corals” which will be revised and translated into Spanish. The project will also complete an evaluation of coral trade in Mesoamerican countries to be presented at the ROAVIS meeting to support decision making and strategic planning processes to improve monitoring and controls of trade in species of potential concern.

FWS: \$35,310

Leveraged Funds: \$7,172

### **LAC 1469**

#### **Grant # F14AC00885**

*Preparing conservation practitioners to mainstream biodiversity conservation in the American tropics.* In partnership with Costa Rica’s Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), the purpose of this project is to provide partial scholarships for 13 students to pursue the Master’s in Conservation Practice. This graduate program addresses the real-world training needs of future conservation leaders in Latin America and the Caribbean by developing and strengthening the students' competencies to deliver biodiversity conservation in a practical and hands-on way.

FWS: \$156,000

Leveraged Funds: \$312,000