

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

In 2014, the USFWS awarded 18 projects from the Wildlife Without Borders-Mexico Program totaling \$686,813 which was matched by \$894,094 in additional leveraged funds. Field projects in Mexico supported in 2014 are listed below.

**MX1400
F14APO00247**

Monitoring and Patrolling in Huatulco National Park, Mexico. In partnership with Costasalvaje, A.C. The purpose of this project is to develop the monitoring and patrolling skills of 20 park rangers to conserve Huatulco National Park, a priority marine protected area in the Mexican South Pacific. A total of nine training workshops will be implemented. Training topics include: scuba diving certification and navigation skills; first aid; biological monitoring of fish, coral reefs and invertebrates; best patrolling practices and protocols; environmental law framework; recreational areas management and protection; and enforcement of sustainable tourism practices for tour service operators and visitors.

FWS: \$20,319 Leveraged Funds: \$32,409

**MX1404
F14AP00255**

Strengthening Local Capacities of Residents of Rural and Urban Areas of the Yucatan Peninsula to Conserve the Jaguar and its Habitat. In partnership with Pronatura Peninsula de Yucatan, A.C. The purpose of this project is to reduce the frequency of retaliatory killings of jaguars as a result of livestock depredation. The recipient will teach local land owners from 14 ejido communities around the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve the skills to properly assess and collect evidence as a result of jaguar attacks, and how to apply for funds available through the compensation program established by the Mexican government. Participants will also receive training on preventive cattle management, best husbandry practices, alternative livelihoods techniques, importance of jaguar conservation, and access to payment for environmental services programs. In urban areas, the Grantee will provide training workshops for environmental educators working in zoos to carry out education activities aimed at increasing jaguar conservation awareness in local children and their families.

FWS: \$25,000 Leveraged Funds: \$30,720

**MX1410
F14AP00257**

Practices of Ecological and Agro-ecological Restoration for the Conservation of Wildlife in Local Communities of Calakmul, Campeche, Mexico. In partnership with Consejo Regional Indigena y Popular de Xpujil, S.C. This project will be developed in six indigenous communities adjacent to the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve (Reserve), known as the most important tropical jungle in North America, and a core component of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor, a

crucial area for species movement and habitat of critically endangered and endemic flora and fauna. This proposal aims at improving the landscape connectivity around the Reserve through reinforcement practices on ecological and agro-ecological restoration on the lands of the 30 farmers trained in the first phase of the project. Project activities include: (1) implementing three training workshops on the sociopolitical aspects of restoration, applied nucleation techniques, and silvopastoral systems; (2) coordinating an "exchange of experiences" visit to "Las Cañadas Cooperative Society" in Veracruz; and (3) establishing four demonstrative parcels for agro-sylvo-pastoral systems in conventional pastures and four restoration parcels in areas invaded by *Pteridium aquilinu*.

FWS: \$25,000

Leveraged Funds: \$36,828

MX1413

F14AP00264

Conservation of the Papaloapan River Watershed in the Chinantla Region of Oaxaca, Mexico.

In partnership with the Ecologic Development Fund. The goal of this project is to protect and conserve threatened ecosystems within the Papaloapan River watershed, while improving the living conditions of the local rural and indigenous communities in the area. Project activities include: (1) designing and implementing community management plans as part of a comprehensive micro-watershed conservation strategy; (2) strengthening the capacity of community groups to protect forests and develop their water management and governance skills; (3) introducing agroforestry and other sustainable pilot projects to slow the advance of agricultural frontier in the area; (4) developing environmental awareness among children, youth, and adults; and (5) promoting environmentally-sustainable alternatives such as wood saving stoves, backyard vegetable gardens, chicken coops, and dry latrines, among others.

FWS: \$30,000

Leveraged Funds: \$126,771

MX1416

F14AP00267

Smart Schools: Green Practices in Baja California, Mexico. In partnership with the San Diego Natural History Museum. The purpose of this project is to implement a replicable model of environmental education that increases the number of schools, teachers, students, and community members that will become long-term stewards of their local environment in Baja California. The Smart Schools Program model offers a well-defined, step-by-step process for schools to create sustainable, environmentally friendly changes in the day-to-day running of the school, and helps local schools fulfill their mandate to teach environmental education. Specific activities include: (1) conducting a Smart Schools training for 40 teachers from the faculties of existing Smart Schools; (2) adapting the existing Proyecto Bio-regional de Educación Ambiental (PROBEA) curriculum "Tell Me about the Watershed" for the high school level; (3) re-introducing the "Ocean Oasis" curriculum in Baja California through the Smart Schools program; (4) training 4-6 PROBEA facilitators to present the "Tell Me about the Watershed" and the "Ocean Oasis" workshops; (5) training at least 40 teachers in two environmental training workshops based on the "Tell Me about the Watershed" curriculum; (6) training at least 20 in the "Ocean Oasis" curriculum so they in turn can teach the training to their school community; and (7) distributing ten "Ocean Oasis" kits to participant schools.

FWS: \$49,991

Leveraged Funds: \$64,567

MX1417**F14AP00269**

Ecosystem Approach for Biodiversity Monitoring and Conservation. In partnership with EcoHealth Alliance. This project's goal is to enhance capacity to monitoring the biodiversity of small mammals and conserve endangered and protected species, such as the black-footed ferret and black-tailed prairie dogs. This will be achieved by training local wildlife managers in biodiversity monitoring in several reserves in Chihuahua, Mexico. Specific activities include: (1) training 35 local biologists and park rangers in small mammal biodiversity assessment techniques (assessment and trapping methods, use of identification keys , biopsies for genetic bar-coding in cryptic species, necropsy procedures, and bio safety principles for handling wildlife); (2) training six natural protected areas managers in the importance of ecosystem health, biodiversity and the conservation of endangered species; and (3) developing a biodiversity assessment program.

FWS: \$29,988

Leveraged Funds: \$72,291

MX1419**F14AP00272**

Wildlife Watch: Enhancing Capacities of Enforcement Authorities Responsible for Combatting Illegal Wildlife Trafficking in Mexico. In partnership with the World Wildlife Fund and TRAFFIC North America. The goal of this project is to provide wildlife enforcement authorities from all over Mexico with the tools, materials, and fundamental knowledge to promote and implement de-centralized capacity building activities at the intra-institutional level to monitor and control illicit trade and trafficking of marine species. Specific activities, conducted in close coordination with the Attorney General for the Protection of the Environment (PROFEPA), include: (1) implementing two national capacity building “train the trainer” workshops for 120 government officials from 20 states in Mexico focused on coordination and collaboration mechanisms to combat illegal wildlife trade, identification of illicit wildlife trade products, wildlife smuggling techniques and detection, as well as monitoring, control, and conservation of natural resources in the country; (2) coordinating a training replication scheme among workshop participants to train 110 more inspectors around the country; (3) developing a coordination and cooperation protocol for enforcement authorities working in seaports, airports and borders in Mexico; (4) designing and distributing a directory of wildlife enforcement inspectors and experts; (5) providing biosafety, monitoring, and species handling equipment to wildlife inspectors; and (6) conducting enforcement activities in the field to improve the protection of the vaquita (*Phocoena sinus*) in the Gulf of California.

FWS: \$39,220

Leveraged Funds: \$24,201

MX1422**F14AP00274**

Voices from the Mist, II. In partnership with PCI Media Impact. This project's goal is to increase the awareness of local communities and government authorities in the state of Chiapas in regards to the importance of biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services. Specific activities include: (1) developing the capacity of local non-governmental organization (NGO) partners to use communications effectively to promote water and biosphere conservation; (2) re-broadcasting the Voices from the Mist 16-episode radio drama and producing radio call-in shows in four communities; (3) guiding local partners, representing four target communities, in the

production of a participatory environmental education theater play based on the Voices from the Mist radio drama; and (4) hosting two fundraising events in coordination with Zoologico Miguel Alvarez del Toro to raise funds to write and produce a second season of the existing radio drama.
FWS: \$25,000 Leveraged Funds: \$30,623

MX1425
F14AP00282

Education Initiative to Minimize Human Impact on California Condor Populations in Mexico. In partnership with the San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research. This project aims to minimize the impact of humans on the California condor, a highly endangered species in need of active management in order to survive, in Mexico. Since 2003, several of the birds have been released and in 2013, three chicks were successfully hatched and fledged for the first time in Mexico. These achievements need to be accompanied by public awareness, education, and outreach campaigns in order to bring the California Condor back from the brink of extinction. Through this project, the San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research will: (1) work to increase local and national awareness about the threats affecting the survival of the California condor; (2) increase the San Pedro Martir National Park capacity as a venue for conservation education and outreach; and (3) improve the capacity of Chapultepec Zoo educators, park rangers, local school teachers, and museum employees to implement environmental education and outreach strategies.

FWS: \$20,535 Leveraged Funds: \$21,240

MX1428
F14AP00285

Legislators and the environment. In partnership with Fondo Mexicano para la Comunicación y Educacion Ambiental, A.C. The goal of this project is to increase the effectiveness of laws for the protection of Mexico's biodiversity and natural resources by promoting the creation of a committed, knowledgeable and constantly expanding multi-partisan group called "Environmental Legislators Network." Specific activities include: (1) developing an awareness model program for Mexican legislators that ensures the use of scientifically sound information, as a tool to improve the quality of policy decisions that affect the conservation of natural resources; (2) organizing an in-situ immersion workshop on the human, environmental, and sociopolitical dimension water management issues in Mexico; and (3) holding a public outreach event to consolidate the Network and to position it as an important group focused on discussing and reflecting on Mexico's most crucial environmental issues.

FWS: \$60,000 Leveraged Funds: \$148,598

MX1430
F14AP00289

Development of a Strategy for the Professionalization of Environmental Educators and Teachers in Southeast Mexico. In partnership with Centro de Formacion para la Sustentabilidad Moxviquil, A.C. This project aims to improve the pedagogical competencies of teachers and environmental educators working in and around natural protected areas (NPAs) in the states of Chiapas, Campeche, Guerrero, Oaxaca, Quintana Roo, and Yucatan. Specific activities include: (1) delivering a "train the trainers" certificate course on the implementation of the "Manual for the Development of Environmental Education Curriculum" and the "Manual for the

Conservation of Birds” to 24 environmental educators from southeast Mexico; 2) having certified trainers replicate the course for 96 teachers in their home states; (3) increasing the capacities of 24 non-governmental organization (NGO) employees to implement participatory environmental education programs; (4) designing and implementing ten environmental education strategies for ten NPAs in southeast Mexico; and (5) developing an education program on the design and implementation of environmental awareness activities for 20 young environmental educators in Chiapas.

FWS: \$40,000

Leveraged Funds: \$31,500

MX1435

F14AP00290

Development of an Environmental Education and Awareness Strategy for Communities Leaving around Conservation Areas of the Mazcanu Province, Yucatan. In partnership with Fundacion Haciendas del Mundo Maya, A.C. The Mazcanu Province in the state of Yucatan is strategically located between the Ria Celestun and Patenes Biosphere Reserves, which form a unique biogeographic area rich in biological diversity and cradle of the Mayan culture. The goal of this project is to maintain the biological connectivity of the region and its unique biodiversity by delivering an environmental education program that raises the awareness of the local indigenous communities. Project activities include: (1) training 20 indigenous education specialists on environmental education techniques for biodiversity conservation; (2) conducting environmental education activities for children, teenagers, and adults focused on environmental issues affecting the region; (3) organizing four “summer camps” on local biodiversity conservation for 120 children and teens; and (4) delivering hands-on training for three groups of artisan women on sustainable practices for harvesting of gourmet salt, use of color dyes, and elaboration of Jipi Japa hats.

FWS: \$17,347

Leveraged Funds: \$13,651

MX1437

F14AP00292

Development of Capacities for Natural Resources Management and Strengthening the Social Organization of the Chiapas’ Network of Voluntary Conservation Areas (RENACH). In partnership with Pronatura Sur, A.C. This project aims at consolidating the first legally established network of private and communal reserves in Mexico. The Recipient will develop the management, governance, and decision-making capacities amongst the network members to successfully conserve 5,906 hectares of both private and communal lands in Chiapas, Mexico. Project objectives include: (1) training 25 reserve owners on biological and physical data collection methods, enhanced communication skills, and collaborative work skills; (2) developing a database with the physical boundaries, zoning, and basic biological information of all the lands integrating with the network; (3) producing maps of the land use and biological characteristics of each reserve as a management and decision-making tool; (4) coordinating one "exchange of experiences" visit; and (5) implementing the “Transition to a Sustainable Living” workshop, where participants will make decisions in terms of future conservation mechanisms and management strategies that they will follow as a group.

FWS: \$35,000

Leveraged Funds: \$34,665

MX1441**F14AP00304**

Basic Training Course for Federal Law Enforcement Inspectors. In partnership with Centro de Estudios Jurídicos y Ambientales, A.C. (CEJA, A.C.). The purpose of this project is to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of wildlife inspectors to perform daily operational activities such as inspection and surveillance. CEJA, A.C will deliver two editions of a “Basic Training Course” in Mexico City for 80 federal inspectors from all over Mexico working for the Office of the General Attorney for Environmental Conservation (PROFEPA). The course consists of theoretical teaching of six modules and a single module on field exercises. The Recipient will give pre and post evaluations to the inspectors to identify their change in knowledge, skills and attitudes as a result of the course.

FWS: \$24,951

Leveraged Funds: \$55,735

MX1443**F14AP00293**

Field Investigation Training Workshop for Environmental Law Enforcement in Quintana Roo’s Marine Protected Areas. In partnership with Amigos de Sian ka’an, A.C. The state of Quintana Roo, in the Mexican Caribbean, is the country’s most important tourism destination.

Unfortunately, the massive growth of the tourism industry has negatively impacted the natural resources in the area, with 50% of coral reefs lost during the last decades. This project will work with the Ministry of the Environment, the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas, and the Office of the Attorney General for the Environment to test a pilot seven-day training program for 18 marine park rangers and law enforcement inspectors to strengthen their response and follow-up capabilities on environmental illicitness in marine natural protected areas. The following topics will be covered during the workshop: investigation techniques for coral reefs; illegal taking and poaching; destructive fishing; vessel groundings; oil, chemical and sediment spills; pollution events, search and seizure techniques; suspects’ surveillance in coral reef habitats, handling of underwater evidence; and risk assessment; among others.

FWS: \$50,000

Leveraged Funds: \$31,155

MX1446**F14AP00295**

Sustainable Management of Wild Species of Agave Plants Used in the Production of Mezcal in Mexico. In partnership with Grupo de Estudios Ambientales, A.C. This project seeks to equip peasant farmers from all over Mexico with the knowledge and skills necessary to sustainably harvest wild agave plants (*Agave cupreata*) as a non-timber forest product while generating an alternative and sustainable source of income for their families. Through this grant the proponent will: (1) organizing a national meeting for agave growers and mezcal producers to exchange experiences and agree on common conservation and sustainable management strategies of the species; (2) implementing 2 workshops on monitoring, data analysis, and sustainable production of wild agave plants for peasant farmers in Guerrero; (3) performing two "exchange of experiences" visits among the mezcal producing communities of the states of Guerrero and Jalisco; (4) collecting community participatory data and monitoring activities of flora and fauna in the Acateyahualco Region of Guerrero; (5) performing a community participatory diagnostic and developing best management practices to diminish the impact of cattle grazing in the populations of wild agave plants; (6) organizing a participatory diagnostic workshop on the

management, use and extraction of wild agave plants with representatives of 16 mezcal producing communities from La Joya Region of Guerrero; and (7) building three demonstrative parcels to determine the best harvesting and restoration techniques for agave plants.

FWS: \$40,000

Leveraged Funds: \$60,803

MX1448

F14AP00297

Certificate Course on Mesophilic Cloud Forest Restoration Techniques. In partnership with Pronatura Mexico, A.C. Mesophilic cloud forests in Mexico are being lost at an alarming rate despite their importance as biodiversity and water reservoirs. In response to this challenge, Pronatura Mexico A.C developed a certificate course on cloud forest restoration as a tool to strengthen the capacities of decision makers, field technicians, natural resources administrators, conservation leaders, community leaders, and land owners from all over Mexico. Through this grant, the Recipient will: (1) update and improve the quality of the virtual training learning tools (five new video clips will be produced and uploaded in the training platform); (2) produce an electronic training manual; (3) deliver the fourth edition of the “Mesophilic Cloud Forest Restoration Techniques” certificate, a five-month online and field-based course for at least 35 participants; (4) provide technical support and guidance to the course participants in the implementation of several cloud forest conservation projects in different regions of Mexico; and (5) create an online network of cloud forest restoration practitioners as a knowledge, information and experiences exchange tool.

FWS: \$25,000

Leveraged Funds: \$63,338

MX1453

F14AP00252

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and Border Wildlife State Agencies Participation at the 2014 Canada/Mexico/US Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management. The XIX Annual Meeting of the Canada/Mexico/US Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management (Trilateral Committee) took place in Queretaro City, Queretaro Mexico, May 26-30, 2014. Through this project, representatives from the Arizona Game and Fish Department, California Department of Game and Fish, New Mexico Game and Fish, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and Association of Fish and Wildlife (AFWA) participated in the meeting. AFWA and border state agencies presented data relevant to ongoing bi-national projects along the U.S.-Mexico Border, trinational grasslands conservation, North American Bird Conservation Initiative, and Southern Wings Program. Direct benefits to the border state agencies include the facilitation of increased species distribution, binational recovery of endangered species and their habitats, as well as increased collaboration and coordination to advance projects. The agencies and AFWA are vital partners to the Trilateral Committee and their participation promotes U.S. interest vis a vis the Governments of Mexico and Canada.

FWS: \$14,494

Leveraged Funds: \$15,000