

## **Fish and Wildlife Service Provides \$4.6 Million for Wildlife Conservation in South and Southeast Asia, the Near East**

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The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is partnering through its Wildlife Without Borders program with fifteen countries in South and Southeast Asia and the Near East to conserve tigers, elephants, rhinos, orangutans, gibbons, marine turtles, amphibians and other endangered animals. Service funding of \$4.6 million in 2011 has leveraged \$6.1 million in matching funds for these conservation projects.

“Wildlife populations in South and Southeast Asia and the Near East are suffering from habitat destruction, poaching and conflict between wildlife and people. This area – habitat for the 40 surviving Javan rhinos and critical populations of tigers and orangutans – is crucial to the success of our conservation efforts,” said Teiko Saito, Assistant Director for International Affairs.

Fifty-three Service grantees are working throughout South and Southeast Asia and the Near East including Indonesia, India, Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Sri Lanka.

- In Cambodia, the Wildlife Alliance is expanding its successful Kouprey Express environmental education project, emphasizing elephant conservation to disadvantaged students in protected areas around the Cardamom Mountains.
- In Thailand, the World Wildlife Fund is conducting outreach and improving sanctuary management for a globally significant population of pileated gibbons.
- In Indonesia, the State University of Papua is engaging local communities in a recovery program for the largest remaining Western Pacific leatherback sea turtle nesting population.
- In Malaysia, the Wildlife Conservation Society is improving law enforcement efforts for tigers in the Endau-Rompin landscape to protect habitat corridors.

Of the \$4.7 million awarded to these fifteen countries in 2011, \$1.53 million supports 29 projects through the Wildlife Without Borders Asian Elephant Conservation Fund; \$1.53 million supports 26 tiger and four rhinoceros projects through the Wildlife Without Borders Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund; and an additional \$1 million supports 20 orangutan and gibbon conservation

projects funded by the Wildlife Without Borders Great Ape Conservation Fund. The Wildlife Without Borders Marine Turtle Conservation Fund, Critically Endangered Animals Program, and Amphibians in Decline Program also provided \$220,000, \$260,000 and \$50,000 respectively to 20 projects to conserve animals such as the Siamese crocodile, Indian bustard, Bali starling, flare-horned markhor, white-backed vulture, snow leopard, Tonkin snub-nosed monkey, and the olive ridley, leatherback and hawksbill sea turtle.

Funding for wildlife conservation projects through Wildlife Without Borders – Species, Regional, Global – a \$15.5 million suite of grants across the globe. For more information on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Wildlife Without Borders program, including detailed summaries of 2011 grant projects from South and Southeast Asia, the Near East and other regions, visit [www.fws.gov/international](http://www.fws.gov/international).

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*The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov). Connect with our [Facebook page](#), follow our [tweets](#), watch our [YouTube Channel](#), and download photos from our [Flickr page](#).*

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