

Service Announces Over \$900,000 in Worldwide Conservation Grants

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The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is awarding \$931,872 in international conservation grants under two new Wildlife Without Borders Grant Programs: the Critically Endangered Animals Conservation Fund and the Amphibians In Decline Fund.

“These grants provide crucial assistance for efforts to help species facing immediate extinction due to habitat loss, disease, poaching, and a variety of other threats,” said Service’s acting Director Rowan Gould. “They will be funding concrete conservation actions aimed at creating tangible and long-lasting benefits by working with local communities, partner organizations, universities, and government agencies world-wide.”

The over \$900,000 will be used to leverage more than \$1.5 million in matching funds to conserve amphibians and other critically endangered animals. Some various examples of projects receiving funding from both these sources include identifying and rescuing ‘lost’ amphibian populations including the newly discovered ‘Mr. Burns’ beaked toad in Colombia (that was noted as the #1 discovery of a species on 2010 by TIME Magazine); a social marketing campaign to change local attitudes and behaviors impacting the survival of the Lake Titicaca frog in Peru; development of a guard dog program to prevent the killings of endangered Andean cats in Argentina; rescuing the critically endangered Siamese crocodile from hydro power dam projects in Cambodia; and protecting the only known roosting site for the Tome’s long-eared bat in Bolivia.

The *Critically Endangered Animals Conservation Fund* is providing vital support for highly imperiled species and their habitats around the world. It awarded \$573,390 in grants for 19 projects that will protect critically endangered species in 14 countries in Africa, Asia, and the Americas, leveraging \$780,906 in matching funds. These projects target over 20 critically endangered species of birds, mammals, and reptiles.

The Amphibians In Decline Fund addresses threats to frogs, toads, salamanders, newts, and caecilians that face an unprecedented threat of extinction. The program awarded \$358,482 in grants for 13 projects in 10 countries in Asia, and Central and South America, leveraging \$783,792 in matching funds. These projects target more than 15 endangered amphibian species.

To learn more about the grants provided through the Wildlife Without Borders-Global programs, go to <http://www.fws.gov/international/DIC/global/global.html>.

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The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is to work 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.