

## USFWS Provides More than \$1.9 Million in Regional Conservation Grants to Help Protect the World's Wildlife

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The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of International Conservation awarded over \$1.9 million in international conservation grants in 2010 through its *Wildlife Without Borders* (WWB) Regional programs in Africa, Mexico, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Russia/East Asia to help conserve imperiled wildlife. The funds supported 48 conservation projects in 17 countries. Grant funds leveraged over \$3.7 million in matching funds, resulting in over \$5.7 million to help strengthen the ability of local institutions in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Mexico and Russia/East Asia to manage and conserve species and their habitat, as well as improve ecological processes for the benefit of all.

"These grants provide much-needed training and assistance to local organizations and individuals to support the creation and management of sustainable conservation programs and the protection of critical species within their regions" said the Service's acting Director, Rowan Gould. "WWB Regional programs empower people and institutions to conserve key species, habitats and ecosystems by building local appreciation and capacity."

The *Wildlife Without Borders* Regional funds provide support to mitigate the impact of extractive industries, climate change, human-wildlife conflict, illegal trade in bushmeat and wildlife disease. The funds target local training and capacity-building projects to support wildlife managers, guards, rangers, protected area managers, outreach specialists, community leaders, educators and decision makers.

Examples of projects include:

- Implementing a MENTOR (*Mentoring for ENvironmental Training in Outreach and Resource conservation*) fellowship program for young conservation leaders in Kenya, Southern Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda;
- Training African and Asian veterinarians in all aspects of wildlife and ecosystem health at field sites in Tanzania and the U.S.;
- Providing educational support for Master's degree programs in Conservation and Wildlife Management at the Universidad Nacional Autonoma of Costa Rica;
- Assisting local conservation efforts for bats and monarch butterflies in Mexico; and

- Enabling participants from China and Russia to attend the Third Annual Symposium on Ecology and Biodiversity in Large Rivers of Northeast Asia and North America.

To learn more about the grants provided through the *Wildlife Without Borders* Regional Programs, go to: <http://www.fws.gov/international/DIC/regionalprograms/regional.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](http://www.fws.gov).*

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