

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of International Conservation
Asian Elephant Conservation Fund
FY 2015 Summary of Projects**

In FY 2015, The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) awarded 33 new projects from the Asian Elephant Conservation Fund totaling \$1,759,070, which was matched by \$1,994,195 in additional leveraged funds. Field projects in seven countries (in alphabetical order below) and one project spanning range countries will be supported.

CAMBODIA

ASE1532

Grant # F15AP00348

Measuring Asian elephant abundance and mitigating human-elephant conflict in the core landscape of the southern/eastern Cardamom Mountains, Cambodia. In partnership with Fauna and Flora International, this project will estimate the population size of Asian elephants within the southeastern Cardamom Mountains Landscape to better understand population trends and inform future monitoring programs and management responses and support communities in mitigating human-elephant conflict (HEC). Project activities include: 1) estimation of the elephant population through capture-mark-recapture analysis of DNA extracted from dung samples collected from hotspots; 2) reduction of HEC through supporting and equipping government-led HEC response teams and providing training to four local guarding groups; 3) support for maintenance and functioning of three non-formal primary schools by providing teacher salaries, teaching materials, and school supplies; and 4) installation of a series of HEC-mitigating beehive fences in a local community and training on sustainable bee husbandry. This project will help stabilize and increase in the population of wild Asian elephants in Cambodia.
USFWS: \$61,356 Leveraged Funds: \$48,350

ASE1534

Grant # F15AP00349

Strengthening control of ivory trafficking in Cambodia: Implementing the National Ivory Action Plan. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society, this project will support the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries' Forestry Administration to implement the activities specified in the government-endorsed National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP) in its first year of implementation. Project activities include: 1) revising the government proclamation No. 020 PR. MAFF on Classification and List of Wildlife Species to include African elephants on the list of Endangered Species; 2) developing regulatory and internal procedures for establishing, registering, and managing seized ivory; 3) coordinating a workshop for prosecutors, judiciary, and relevant law enforcement agencies to increase awareness and prosecutions of wildlife crime; and 4) supporting local bilateral meetings between Vietnam and Cambodia to improve trans-boundary cooperation related to wildlife trafficking and wildlife crime investigation and enforcement. Implementation of the NIAP will strengthen the control of ivory trafficking through Cambodia, and by reducing poaching pressure on Asian elephants while increasing anti-

trafficking efforts, this project will reduce overall demand for ivory from both Asian and African elephants.

USFWS: \$34,097¹

Leveraged Funds: \$35,073

ASE1535

Grant # F15AP00350

Elephant conservation and capacity building in Seima Protection Forest, Cambodia - Year 8.

In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society, this project will sustain and improve conservation of Asian elephants and build capacity of rangers and community patrols in Seima Protection Forest. Project activities include: 1) implementing anti-poaching patrols and monitoring of elephant habitat; 2) monitoring forest loss and encroachment using remote sensing and Geographic Information Systems; 3) establishing community patrol teams in one new village; 4) increasing capacity of new and existing community patrols through training and equipment; 5) establishing a reporting network for human-elephant conflict (HEC); 6) conducting extensive training for field teams on survey methods and protocols; and 7) conducting an HEC survey in parallel with the elephant DNA survey. This project will contribute to a well-managed forest landscape that supports increasing wildlife populations and improved livelihoods for the communities of the Seima Protection Forest.

USFWS: \$58,179

Leveraged Funds: \$58,575

INDIA

ASE1506

Grant # F15AP00335

Landscape genetics of three Asian elephant populations in the Western Ghats, India. In partnership with Pondicherry University, this project will map the genetic diversity, local effective population size, and landscape connectivity of wild Asian elephant populations in three elephant ranges of the Western Ghats, Tamil Nadu, India. The recipient will: 1) create a DNA profile database of individual elephants that will be shared with the Forest Department for forensic research; 2) quantify and map spatial patterns of genetic diversity across the population; 3) estimate local effective population sizes using molecular methods; 4) use landscape genetic modeling approaches to identify factors that control gene flow and population connectivity; 5) develop spatially-optimized management alternatives to maximize the protection of population connectivity; 6) predict relationships between population connectivity, genetic diversity, and effective population size; and 7) identify core habitats and corridors using landscape pattern analysis software. This project will contribute to the conservation of the Asian elephant by providing spatially explicit, empirically-based, and scientifically rigorous knowledge to the Forest Department to use in planning and implementing effective elephant conservation programs.

USFWS: \$55,880

Leveraged Funds: \$40,000

ASE1511

Grant # F15AP00337

Assessing the status of adult male Asian elephant populations in Nagarhole and Bandipur National Parks, Karnataka, India. In partnership with Centre for Wildlife Studies, this project

¹ Funded by USFWS Combating Wildlife Trafficking funds.

will evaluate the adult male and overall population status of Asian elephants across Nagarhole and Bandipur National Parks in Karnataka, southwestern India, and will develop and contribute to a rigorous scientific monitoring program for elephants in Karnataka. Project activities include: 1) creation of a photographic database for adult male elephants for photo-identification of individuals; 2) estimation of the population abundance of male elephants by using capture-recapture analyses and related parameters from photographs; 3) estimation of total elephant population using line-transect surveys under a distance-sampling framework; and 4) training of Forest Department personnel in monitoring methods by way of field workshops, training modules, and production of training materials on field monitoring protocols and elephant conservation topics. This project, the first step in establishing a scientific elephant population monitoring program in the region, will allow evaluation of on-the-ground impacts of recent surges in ivory poaching, directly inform park managers of the results of anti-poaching and other conservation efforts, enable managers to identify conflict animals, and enhance local capacity for elephant conservation.

USFWS: \$55,100

Leveraged Funds: \$64,500

ASE1513

Grant # F15AP00338

Facilitating movement permeability for the conflict-prone Asian elephant in a human-dominated landscape, Assam, India. In partnership with Centre for Wildlife Studies, this project will evaluate human-elephant conflict mitigation and landscape connectivity for Asian elephants in the Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong landscape in Assam, northeast India. This project will contribute to a thriving elephant population and ensure that the population is able to safely and routinely undertake their natural annual migrations in this unique floodplain ecosystem. Project activities include: 1) prioritization of areas which are important for connectivity between Kaziranga and Karbi Anglong by conducting occupancy surveys during pre- and post-flood seasons to assess the maximal use and permeability of the landscape by elephants, and by conducting a connectivity prioritization exercise to identify areas of high importance for movement during flooding; 2) identification and inclusion of stakeholders in the implementation of movement-friendly conflict mitigation strategies by mapping landholdings, conducting questionnaire-based surveys on human-elephant conflict (HEC), and assessing the potential of mitigation measures to act as barriers to elephant movement; and 3) design and implementation of elephant movement-friendly conflict mitigation measures by assessing the willingness of stakeholders to modify mitigation strategies, and formulate and initiate an action plan on movement-friendly strategies. This project will establish a participatory conservation program that will facilitate seasonal elephant movement critical in this floodplain ecosystem, while simultaneously mitigating HEC.

USFWS: \$51,700

Leveraged Funds: \$53,700

ASE1519

Grant # F15AP00339

Augmenting stakeholder awareness on Asian elephant conservation in human-elephant conflict areas of Tamil Nadu, India. In partnership with Zoo Outreach Organization Trust, this project will conduct human-elephant conflict (HEC) capacity-building and awareness programs in HEC-affected villages of Coimbatore and Hosur Forest Departments of Tamil Nadu, India. This project will promote best practices for HEC mitigation via a sensitization program for journalists, informing the public via the news media, and training for frontline forest guards,

rangers, and foresters. Project activities include: 1) two workshops for frontline forest staff covering topics such as HEC-mitigation methods and human-elephant coexistence; 2) a workshop for journalists and reporters in order to cultivate an informed media community that will report objectively and constructively on HEC issues and highlight HEC mitigation measures; and 3) follow-up assessments with workshop participants three months post-training to measure uptake and application of workshop content. This project will encourage attitudinal change towards elephants in HEC-affected areas and will help to conserve the species in the long-term and facilitate harmonious co-existence.

USFWS: \$45,010

Leveraged Funds: \$7,100

ASE1524

Grant # F15AP00343

Strengthening communities to reduce human-elephant conflict (HEC) and deforestation through community livelihood improvement training, cooking gas benefits, and conservation education in HEC-sensitive Shyampur village, Hardwar Forest Division, Uttarakhand, India.

In partnership with Conservation Himalayas, this project will make low income, human-elephant conflict (HEC) affected and forest-dependent women's groups self-reliant in income generation and link that livelihood improvement with habitat and wildlife conservation in order to reduce HEC and deforestation in and around fringe communities of the Hardwar Forest Division, Uttarakhand. Project activities include: 1) conducting meetings with HEC-affected villages and frontline forest staff in order to assess HEC intensity; 2) construction of a Community Livelihood Improvement (CLI) training center; 3) initiation of HEC mitigation and habitat protection-linked cooking gas subsidy for 50+ HEC-affected families (to reduce dependence on fuel wood harvest); 4) conducting two train-the-trainer workshops for village leaders and teachers; 5) provision of anti-poaching training to a subset of community members in order to form a Community Anti-poaching Squad; 6) conducting two joint HEC workshops involving both women's groups and local Forest Department staff; and 7) developing HEC mitigation and habitat protection outreach and resource materials for the CLI center. This project will incentivize villager participation in HEC mitigation habitat protection schemes by providing economic motivators and livelihood improvement training to HEC-affected communities.

USFWS: \$45,095

Leveraged Funds: \$10,841

ASE1541

Grant # F15AP00353

Conflict to coexistence: Enhancing community-managed conservation of Asian elephants in Golaghat, Assam, India. In partnership with Aaranyak, this project will assist the Forest Department in the conservation of Asian elephants in the Golaghat District of Assam by in the planning and establishment of a Conservation Reserve. Project activities include: 1) conducting land use surveys in the corridors, formation and capacity building of local stakeholder committees, and installing outreach billboards; 2) assessing human-elephant conflict (HEC) and collecting and mapping HEC data on riverine islands in the region; 3) conducting an awareness campaign on the riverine islands; 4) forming local women's weaving Self Help Groups for alternative income generation and conducting a week-long microenterprise development training workshop on the riverine islands; 6) conducting awareness meetings, teacher trainings, and a three-day nature orientation initiative for local youth; 7) training on beekeeping and fishery management for local youth; 8) training of local farmers on the cultivation of elephant-repelling crops such as citrus and chili peppers; 9) equipping anti-depredation squads; and 10) collecting

data via surveys for micro-planning exercises. This project will support the Assam Forest Department in their efforts to create a Conservation Reserve in the Golaghat district which will serve to protect and conserve the populations and habitats of the Asian elephant in the region.

USFWS: \$48,560

Leveraged Funds: \$4,600

ASE1545

Grant # F15AP00355

Population estimate and trans-boundary collaboration for Asian elephants in Manas National Park, Assam, India. In partnership with Aaranyak, this project will collect and update Asian elephant population data in Manas National Park, Assam, in order to better manage and protect the species and landscape. Project activities include: 1) estimation of elephant population status, size, structure, and distributions in the Park; 2) assessment of habitat use patterns; 3) establishment of transboundary Bhutan-India collaborations, including workshops and trainings; and 4) outreach via posters and billboards to local Park stakeholders. This project will enhance transboundary collaboration on elephant conservation and population monitoring between Bhutanese authorities in Royal Manas National Park and India's Manas National Park.

USFWS: \$37,650

Leveraged Funds: \$3,600

ASE1548

Grant # F15AP00356

Community-based management of human-elephant conflict in the northern Western Ghats, India. In partnership with Wildlife Research and Conservation Society, this project will extend the Community-Based Conflict Management model previously implemented by the recipient in North Karnataka, Maharashtra into the districts of Belgaum and Southern Maharashtra, India, in order to reduce negative interactions between farmers and Asian elephants in those districts. Project activities include: 1) capacity building of farmers in community-based management of human-elephant conflict (HEC); 2) preparation of a detailed manual on low-cost crop protection methods used in Asia and Africa; 3) creation of a database of wild elephants using photographic identification; 4) real time monitoring of elephant locations using the Western Ghats portal and an online spatial data entry format, in partnership with the Forest Department; 5) production of an awareness-raising film; and 6) extension activities and handicraft production capacity development in local communities. This project will contribute to securing the future of Asian elephants in the northern Western Ghats landscape and increase empathy and tolerance among local communities for conservation of elephants.

USFWS: \$35,920

Leveraged Funds: \$61,900

ASE1555

Grant # F15AP00359

Evaluation of the present status of the elephant corridors of Assam, India and preparation of an Action Plan for their conservation. In partnership with Wildlife Areas Development and Welfare Trust, this project will evaluate the status of the nine designated Asian elephant corridors of Assam and prioritize activities for their long-term conservation. Project activities will be carried out by the Assam Forest Department and include: 1) evaluation of the nine elephant corridors of Assam using official records and conducting household surveys of residents of the corridors; 2) corridor mapping, including vegetation cover, villages, land use patterns, and elephant routes; and 3) preparation of an action plan for the conservation of the corridors and

recommendations for securing and management of the corridors. This project will contribute to the long-term conservation of viable populations of Asian elephants in Assam, the optimization of the use and conservation of existing habitats, and mitigation of human-elephant conflict.

USFWS: \$41,778

Leveraged Funds: \$266,700

ASE1561

Grant # F15AP00361

Anti-poaching and anti-depredation camps for conservation of Asian elephants in Kaziranga National Park, Assam, India. In partnership with Wildlife Areas Development and Welfare Trust, this project will support the Forest Department of Assam in their efforts to conserve and protect Asian elephants and their habitats in Kaziranga National Park. This award will provide funding for the construction of three anti-poaching camps in the Park. These permanent camps will provide furnished lodging for frontline field staff and include running water and watchtowers. Construction of these anti-poaching outposts in the Park will improve the living conditions of frontline rangers and patrol staff of Kaziranga, thereby strengthening the protection of elephants, Indian rhinos, and other endangered species within the National Park.

USFWS: \$118,380²

Leveraged Funds: \$182,900

ASE0644

Grant # F13AP00468

Save Asian Elephants by Empowering Community (SEEC): Phase II- an initiative in the eastern part of Chirang Ripu Elephant Reserve. In partnership with Aaranyak, this project will secure the elephant corridor and prevent further degradation, and regain the willingness of community participation, in eastern part of Chirang-Ripu Elephant Reserve through plantation, monitoring the movement of elephants in fragmented habitat, implementation of diversified human-elephant conflict (HEC) mitigation measures (e.g. trip wire, electric fence, chili-based deterrents, watchtowers, lights), and motivating and changing the livelihood of forest-dependent families by creating diversified livelihood options, conducting educational events such as camps among school students, providing teacher training, showing wildlife films, etc. Awareness among the community will increase the level of confidence among the villagers for living in harmony with elephants. This financial modification adds \$10,267 to the original award in order for the recipient to complete activities from the original scope of work that were not able to be completed due to the unexpected need for an additional solar fence. The fence will be used to protect from cattle grazing the newly replanted elephant habitat, which has been reforested with 40,000 seedlings propagated by the community in the new community nursery. The pressure from grazing cattle was unexpectedly high and in order to protect the seedlings from grazing and save the reforestation investment the solar electric fence is necessary.

USFWS: \$10,267³

Leveraged Funds: \$3,040

² Of this, \$18,341.20 was provided by proceeds from sales of the Save Vanishing Species stamp.

³ Funded by proceeds from sales of the Save Vanishing Species stamp.

INDONESIA

ASE1504

Grant # F15AP00499

Way Kambas National Park pilot project for habitat regeneration, fire protection, and elephant conflict mitigation in Sumatra, Indonesia. In partnership with Save Indonesian Endangered Species Fund/ Yayasan, this project will address three threats to elephant populations in Way Kambas National Park, Sumatra: 1) loss of habitat and intentionally-set fires; 2) elephant mortality due to human-elephant conflict (HEC); and 3) suspected increases in salinity in Park water sources, which forces wildlife to leave the protected area in search of fresh water. The recipient will address these threats with activities that focus on regenerating and replanting forests, mitigating HEC, and providing sources of fresh water for both wild elephants and fire suppression. Specific activities related to reforestation include: survey and identification of project site, recruitment and training of personnel, construction of project base camp and related infrastructure, survey of naturally regenerating trees in the project site with bird and bat perches installed to facilitate seed dispersal, establishment of plant nursery for propagation of food plants attractive to wild elephants, creation of a fire-management plan, purchase of firefighting equipment, creation and maintenance of fire-breaks, and provision of a dual 24-hour fire and elephant watch system. Activities related to the mitigation of human-elephant conflict include: recruitment and training of field staff for early elephant warning duty, provision of a dual 24-hour fire and elephant watch system, establishment of a village partnership for sharing responsibility of fire and elephant warning systems, and delivery of an awareness education program to the community. The recipient will monitor salinity of water sources in the Park, construct artificial ponds to collect rain water for both fire response and elephants, and monitor pond usage by wildlife with camera traps.

USFWS: \$40,600

Leveraged Funds: \$51,000

ASE1516

Grant # F15AP00500

Securing a future for Sumatran elephants at Harapan Rainforest, Sumatra, Indonesia (Phase I). In partnership with Australian Orangutan Project, this project will initiate the first phase of a planned long-term Sumatran elephant conservation program in the Harapan Rainforest with the goal of establishing and conserving a viable elephant population. Project activities include: 1) recruitment and training of project staff to establish an elephant survey and conservation team at Harapan Rainforest; 2) creation of a survey map and threat-assessment of the resident elephant population; 3) introduction of simple human-elephant conflict mitigation techniques to local communities; and 4) development of a site-specific elephant conservation strategy to provide effective and cost-efficient mitigation to be undertaken in the next phase.

USFWS: \$ 38,390

Leveraged Funds: \$70,876

ASE1529

Grant # F15AP00346

Saving the Sumatran elephant through supporting resort-based management in Bukit Barisan Selatan and Gunung Leuser National Parks to reduce encroachment and prevent future deforestation. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society, this project will address threats to the critically endangered Sumatran elephant by using intelligence-gathering methods to inform law enforcement efforts, conducting intensive patrols, and predicting future patterns of

encroachment to ensure patrols are directed at the most critical locales. Specific project activities include: 1) identifying priority areas for patrolling via continuous analysis of remote sensing information; 2) operating patrol teams in key areas, including selection and training of team members, and data input and analysis; 3) providing legal assistance to key stakeholders regarding court cases; and 4) analyzing patrol effectiveness through collaborations with the national park authority. This project will contribute to the long-term conservation of Sumatran elephants and other wildlife by assisting Indonesian authorities in improving the management of Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park and Gunung Leuser National Park, two important habitats for elephants.
USFWS: \$99,285 Leveraged Funds: \$102,058

ASE1530

Grant # F15AP00347

Conservation and monitoring of Sumatran elephants in Bukit Tigapuluh, Indonesia. In partnership with Grizmek's Help for Threatened Wildlife, Inc / Frankfurt Zoological Society, this project will support and supervise Community-Based Conflict Mitigation (CBCM) efforts in order to decrease both loss and damages to farmers and retaliatory actions towards critically endangered Sumatran elephants and to monitor movements of and threats to the resident elephant population of Bukit Tigapuluh, Sumatra. Project activities include: 1) in-house training of Elephant Conservation and Conflict Mitigation Unit teams; 2) monitoring and tracking GPS-collared elephants and their family groups to safeguard them from poaching and poisoning; 3) the re-capture of collared elephants to replace non-active collars; 4) monitoring and assessment of damages from human-elephant conflict (HEC) incidents; and 5) strengthening the existing early-warning HEC system by working closely with village leaders and authorities to provide emergency hotline accessibility and quick response of ranger teams. This project will contribute to the peaceful coexistence of people and Sumatran elephants in one of the largest remaining lowland forests in Sumatra.

USFWS: \$54,890 Leveraged Funds: \$118,000

ASE1543

Grant # F15AP00354

Managing elephants in Aceh: Mitigating conflicts with people and protecting critical forest habitat in Ulu Masen, Indonesia. In partnership with Fauna and Flora International, this project will ensure the increase and survival of populations of critically endangered Sumatran elephants and the integrity of their habitats via a comprehensive elephant management strategy that will also benefit the rural communities of Ulu Masen. Project activities include: 1) in collaboration with the Wildlife Conservation Society, conducting a five-day specialized training on investigatory skills; 2) collaborating with and contributing to existing anti-wildlife trafficking units in Aceh; 3) improving the involvement of media in conservation law enforcement to increase public awareness by establishing a green journalist group; 4) conducting training on the SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) patrol system for three Ministry of Forestry Protection Forest Management Units (KPH); 5) providing training on the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool for three KPH units in the Ulu Masen forest; 6) conducting two-day workshops for each KPH to review existing management plans and identify priority actions to improve management effectiveness; 7) conducting collaborative SMART patrol meetings and facilitating priority-setting; and 8) responding to and mitigating human-elephant conflicts using Conservation Response Units. The project will contribute to the long-term conservation of the

Sumatran elephant by developing an anti-wildlife trafficking network and skilled investigators that will increase legal actions against perpetrators; it will increase collaboration between non-governmental organizations and law enforcement, media coverage, and institutional capacity for monitoring, patrolling, and detection of illegal activities in Aceh, Indonesia.

USFWS: \$63,723

Leveraged Funds: \$22,040

ASE1554

Grant # F15AP00358

Protection of threatened megavertebrates in Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park, Sumatra, Indonesia by Anti-poaching Units. In partnership with International Rhino Foundation, this project will support the continued operation of the seven Rhino Protection Units (RPU) in Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park (BBSNP), Sumatra. RPUs, highly trained four-member patrol teams comprised of three local community members and one National Park guard, intensively patrol key areas within the Park. They will deactivate traps and snares, identify and apprehend illegal intruders and poachers, investigate crime scenes, assist with incidents of human-elephant conflict, and monitor threatened species such as the critically endangered Sumatran elephants and their habitat. This award will cover the salaries, equipment, transportation, and operation costs of seven RPUs in BBSNP. This project will contribute to the long-term stabilization and recovery of Sumatran elephant populations and biodiversity of the BBSNP ecosystem.

USFWS: \$78,738

Leveraged Funds: \$231,295

MALAYSIA

ASE1559

Grant # F15AP00501

Wildlife Conservation Society / Government of Malaysia supporting implementation of the National Elephant Conservation Action Plan for Peninsular Malaysia - Year 1. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation and Science Berhad, this project will stimulate progress on the Government of Malaysia's National Elephant Conservation Action Plan (NECAP), which has a 100-year vision to maintain wild Asian elephants in the seven Malaysian states where they are extant. Specific project activities include: 1) reviewing land-use and producing a land-use map within three Managed Elephant Ranges (MERs) listed in the NECAP using remote sensing imagery, ground-truthed data, revised MER boundaries, and landscape elements; 2) identifying areas of MERs where elephants may be present and where land-use does not provide protection; and 3) working with and meeting with Federal and State government agencies to inform them about the NECAP and MERs. This project aims to have the Government of Malaysia use their resources to implement the NECAP within ten years.

USFWS: \$56,800

Leveraged Funds: \$59,998

ASE1560

Grant # F15AP00503

Wildlife Conservation Society / Government of Malaysia Peninsular Malaysia Elephant Project: Year 10, assessment and reduction of human-elephant conflict and capacity building in Endau-Rompin. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation and Science Berhad, this project will continue human-elephant conflict (HEC) monitoring and mitigation work with villagers, patrolling of forest to protect elephants, gathering information through questionnaires to evaluate

threat levels, and increasing government capacity through collaboration on HEC incidents and provision of training on elephant management and HEC. Project activities include: 1) continuing community-based HEC assessment and mitigation work in five HEC-impacted Orang Asli villages and providing training in safe and effective methods for driving elephants from crops; 2) developing and implementing a survey to assess HEC perception and mitigation uptake among farmers and threat severity to elephants in Orang Asli and Malay villages; 3) protecting elephant populations and their habitat from poachers and encroachment by using the SMART patrol management system; and 4) increasing engagement with government agencies to reduce the impact of elephants on agricultural productivity and reduce antagonism towards elephants in Johor. This project will help Malaysian authorities with developing and implementing a holistic elephant plan for Peninsular Malaysia to help balance development and conservation and improve the conservation wild Asian elephant populations in Malaysia.

USFWS: \$58,100

Leveraged Funds: \$59,740

MYANMAR / BURMA

ASE1538

Grant # F15AP00351

Setting new conservation priorities for Asian elephants across their Southern Myanmar landscape. In partnership with Fauna and Flora International, this project will advance conservation of Asian elephants in the Southern Myanmar/Burma landscape. Project activities include: 1) assessing the status of elephants and their threats in the landscape via development and training of monitoring protocol landscape occupancy surveys; 2) managing human-elephant conflict (HEC) by compiling HEC data and developing a mitigation strategy that engages oil palm companies; 3) raising awareness about elephant conservation by documenting customary rules towards wildlife protection and delivering outreach to forest-edge communities; and 4) identifying priority elephant locations in the landscape for future protection and conducting conservation priority setting workshops that plan for their implementation. This project will increase the population of and habitat and help ensure the survival of Asian elephants in Myanmar through landscape-level action that includes the establishment of the proposed Tanintharyi National Park, Lenya National Park, and connecting forest corridors.

USFWS: \$56,108

Leveraged Funds: \$55,591

ASE1539

F15AP00352

Management of human-elephant conflict in Myanmar. In partnership with Smithsonian Institution, this project will develop a comprehensive, adaptive, and effective approach to human-elephant conflict (HEC) that enhances coexistence and advances elephant conservation in Myanmar/Burma. Project activities include: 1) compilation of existing HEC data from village clerks; 2) analysis of existing crop loss data; 3) establishment of five-member village crop monitoring teams in four of the villages most affected by HEC; 4) identification of individual conflict elephants through an elephant photo database, with the crop monitoring team using mobile phones to collect elephant photos; 5) training of crop monitoring teams to collect conflict elephant dung samples for DNA analysis; 6) building institutional capacity using study tours and expert consultancies to assist the Forest Department and Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division (NWCD) in the development of a Conservation Conflict Intervention Plan (CCIP)

tailored to Myanmar's needs; and 7) development and implementation of a CCIP. The recipient will work with the Myanmar Forest Department and the NWCD to improve HEC management and develop new elephant conservation and management strategies in the Southern Bago Yoma of Myanmar.

USFWS: \$47,751

Leveraged Funds: \$33,418

ASE1549

Grant # F15AP00331

Educating local people to save Myanmar's conflict elephants. In partnership with Compass Films, this project will create an efficient, state of the art educational campaign, making use of national radio, television, local newspapers, and specifically trained outreach teams to elicit behavior change and consequently reduce loss and damages to property, and human and elephant fatalities in Myanmar/Burma. Project activities will include: 1) analysis of Smithsonian Institution's data from surveys of farmer-elephant conflict; 2) research of education content and interviews with specialists; 3) field production of a short film; 4) studio production of a television campaign; 5) postproduction of the film; 6) creation of support materials; 7) launch of the television, radio, and print media campaign; and 8) free provision of all project materials to non-governmental organizations and the government of Myanmar. This project hopes to provide farmers and other stakeholders with a set of skills and knowledge about elephant behavior that they will use to reduce the danger to themselves, their crops, their homes and to the elephants.

USFWS: \$49,960

Leveraged Funds: \$58,900

ASE1551

Grant # F15AP00357

Inclusive governance for development of Asian elephant conservation in Southern Rakhine Yoma, Myanmar. In partnership with Friends of Wildlife, this project will facilitate and enhance the effectiveness of Asian elephant conservation through participation of a diverse set of stakeholders within the southern Rakhine Yoma of Myanmar/Burma. Project objectives will include: 1) facilitating a landscape approach for the management of elephant habitat with a focus on improved relationships, dynamic communication, and enhanced governance; 2) support for, and monitoring of, action plan implementation to ensure compliance and capture lessons learned; and 3) building the capacity of staff from the Forest Department, Rakhine Yoma Elephant Sanctuary, Chin and local communities to work with line departments on data collection of elephant distribution, detect and deter poaching, and mitigate human-elephant conflict through environmental education, awareness raising, and community participation. This project will establish a participatory model of policy development with local stakeholders and authorities where decisions regarding management of Asian elephant habitat are made within a framework of protecting livelihoods and ecosystem services.

USFWS: \$49,950

Leveraged Funds: \$10,050

ASE1542

Grant # F15AP00565

Protection and Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) at key sites in Myanmar - Year 3. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society, this project will maintain and strengthen MIKE (Monitoring Illegal Killing of Elephants) in Southeast Asia and provide Myanmar/Burma with a standardized system of field data collection and statistically robust

methods of analysis in a long-term, sustainable basis to allow compliance with CITES provisions concerning MIKE, improve Asian elephant and site management in Alaungdaw Kathapa National Park and Rakhine Yoma Elephant Range, and build relevant capacities. This award supports Year 3 of this project. The project has three primary objectives: 1) provide protection for elephant populations through creation of Elephant Protection Units (EPUs); 2) implement law enforcement monitoring using SMART conservation tools; and 3) map the distribution of elephants and threats to populations. Project activities include: 1) redeployment of Myanmar Timber Enterprise elephants to form new EPUs; 2) upgrade of ranger substations and provision of two-way radio; 3) setting up SMART patrols at Rakhine Yoma; 4) establishment of a framework to review SMART data; 5) setting up a site-based law enforcement database for analysis and reporting; 6) identification of elephant distribution and hotspots; and 7) analysis of satellite imagery to respond to forest encroachment. This project will contribute to the improved protection of Asian elephants at MIKE sites and determine the factors that influence their conservation status.

USFWS: \$55,007⁴

Leveraged Funds: \$55,247

NEPAL

ASE1521

Grant # F15AP00340

Community-based human-elephant conflict (HEC) management in the Chitwan-Parsa complex, Nepal. In partnership with National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), Nepal, this project will conduct capacity building programs within local communities in the Chitwan-Parsa protected area complex of the Terai Landscape, Nepal. Project activities include: 1) implementation of a community-based elephant monitoring system, which will include an inception workshop, formation and training of rapid response teams in four buffer zone user groups, data collection and management of the data in a database maintained at NTNC's Biodiversity Conservation Center at Chitwan National Park; 2) establishment of a community-based early warning system using elephant data collected by the rapid response teams which will be disseminated to communities via loudspeakers, a mobile phone/group SMS alert, and an FM-radio program; 3) conducting awareness campaigns, which will include local-language poster and brochure development and distribution, a short documentary film on human-elephant co-existence, awareness camps in communities with high risks of HEC, school elephant conservation education programs, and weekly FM-radio elephant conservation programs; and 4) increasing the tolerance of local residents for elephants by the creation of an emergency relief fund to provide financial relief to victims of death, injury, property, crop, or livestock loss caused by wild elephants, and by the provision of a crop insurance scheme. This project, to be implemented jointly by NTNC and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation along with the local buffer zone management committees, will benefit both local communities as well as wild elephants by informing locals of elephant movement, status, and causes of conflict, encouraging communities to take responsibility for HEC-mitigation measures and reduce animosity towards wild elephants by providing emergency relief funds in the event of crop loss and property damage.

USFWS: \$55,550

Leveraged Funds: \$22,310

⁴ Of this, \$22,728 is funded by proceeds from sales of the Save Vanishing Species stamp.

ASE1522**Grant # F15AP00342*****Strengthening community engagement to promote human-elephant co-existence in Bardia National Park, Nepal.***

In partnership with National Trust for Nature Conservation, Nepal, this project will respond to the growing population of wild elephants supported by the Bardia National Park complex by scaling up and strengthening community engagement efforts by the Park to address human-elephant conflict in the region and increase tolerance for these wild megaherbivores. The project will establish a sustainable mechanism to operate electric fences along human settlements to deter elephants by providing additional energizer machines and wire, conduct a workshop for stakeholders on electric fence management, and carry out awareness campaigns to educate community members on the benefits of electric fences and to cultivate local ownership of the tool. Awareness campaigns will include a slide show, participatory mapping of fences, contracts of commitment to be signed by community members, and the formation of nine five-member Electric Fence Management Groups (EFMG). Two-day workshops on electric fence repair and maintenance will be provided to 15 fence watch guards, with necessary equipment provided. The nine EFMG will hold regular meetings and organize fence repair and site clearance for optimal performance of the fences. A three-day workshop will be held at Bardia National Park to share knowledge and lessons learned across the Terai Arc Landscape. Participants will include park representatives and buffer zone management committees. The project will provide non-palatable crops to buffer zone farmers and a distillation plant to produce aromatic oils for market. Conservation outreach programs will include at least 40 awareness sessions in impacted communities, performances of youth street theaters, and an FM-radio program.

USFWS: \$58,597

Leveraged Funds: \$22,100

THAILAND**ASE1510****Grant # F15AP00336*****Reinforcing frontline protection of Thailand's elephants: Strengthening reactive enforcement, monitoring, and community-led conservation in the Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex.***

In partnership with Freeland Foundation, this project will improve protection for Asian elephants in the Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex by developing systems and personnel to respond to and investigate enforcement situations, improve elephant monitoring systems, and empower community leaders in conservation activities. The recipient will: 1) provide training to Special Response Groups through a specialized PROTECT (Protected-area Operational & Tactical Enforcement Conservation Training) course; 2) integrate SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) software into management activities; 3) conduct an investigations primer training course using DETECT (Detection of Environmental Crime Training) materials; 4) provide field equipment such as hammocks, sleeping bags, and compasses; 5) measure uptake of training information; 6) conduct regular camera-trap and patrol-based elephant monitoring; 7) provide administrative support to a local community-directed conservation group; 8) test, implement, and monitor effectiveness of human-elephant conflict (HEC) barriers such as beehive fences and thorny and unpalatable plant species; and 9) train, support, and mentor community-led environmental and HEC patrols. This project is the next step in institutionalizing patrol and HEC-mitigation activities to secure long-term protection of Asian elephants in this Forest Complex.

USFWS: \$55,730

Leveraged Funds: \$50,387

ASE1527**Grant # F15AP00344**

Elephant conservation and education campaigns and capacity strengthening of future protected area managers in the Western Forest Complex, Thailand - Year 7. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society, this project will maintain the SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) patrol system in Thung Yai West Wildlife Sanctuary (TYW) at its current intensity and coverage and build a volunteer network in Huai Kha Khaeng (HKK) from existing volunteer groups and university conservation clubs. Project activities include: 1) conducting follow-up monitoring with 17 patrol teams in TYW by providing technical support, refresher training, equipment, and patrol rations; 2) entering, reviewing, and analyzing patrol data in the SMART database; 3) preparing and distributing monthly SMART reports; and 4) building a volunteer network by selecting a group of 40 volunteers, including local school teachers, NGOs, and Thai university students to participate in a five-day wildlife conservation workshop at HKK. This project will contribute to the protection and increase of the wild population of Asian elephants in Thailand's Western Forest Complex, a UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site.
USFWS: \$50,234 Leveraged Funds: \$59,060

ASE1528**Grant # F15AP00345**

Law enforcement monitoring and human-elephant conflict mitigation in Kaeng Krachan National Park, Thailand - Year 11. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society, this project will secure the long-term conservation of the wild elephant population and its habitat in Kaeng Krachan National Park by increasing the effectiveness of protection efforts and reducing human-elephant conflict (HEC) in the region. Project activities include: 1) support of law enforcement monitoring using SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) software by providing training to guard teams, and field equipment, rations, and supplies for foot patrols; 2) reduction of HEC by promoting and monitoring standard HEC mitigation methods in local and extension of the semi-permanent fence in Huai Sad Yai; and 3) expansion of elephant conservation education directed at villagers from four HEC target sites, follow-up activities with three secondary schools, and an education campaign for tourists. This project will lead to more effective patrolling and law enforcement activities in the Park, better provisioned, trained, and motivated staff capable of addressing the threat of elephant poaching gangs, and reduced retaliatory elephant deaths.
USFWS: \$59,486 Leveraged Funds: \$61,947

MULTIPLE COUNTRIES - RANGE COUNTRIES**ASE1503****Grant # F15AP00492**

Providing support for a regional Asian elephant and tiger veterinary workshop. In partnership with Asian Elephant Support, this project will provide theoretical and practical training for range state practicing veterinarians in veterinary interventions for the conservation of Asian elephants and tigers in their range countries. The recipient will host a Regional Asian Elephant and Tiger Veterinary Workshop in 2015, in collaboration with the Department of Forest and Wildlife, Government of Kerala, in Pookode, Kerala, India. The Workshop will address wildlife health from an ecosystem perspective and discuss such topics as veterinary practices in elephants and

tigers (e.g., health checks, preventative medicine, nutrition, husbandry, diagnosis and treatment of disease, routine medical procedures); chemical immobilization (e.g., risk assessment, procedure, identification of drugs and supplies); disease surveillance (e.g., sample collection, laboratory techniques, conducting post-mortems, data collection, assessment of habitat health and stresses); veterinary aspects of human-wildlife conflict; and veterinary field research for elephant and tiger conservation. The Workshop will also provide hands-on opportunities for learning, including field visits to elephant camps and to the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve and Wayanaud Wildlife Sanctuary. The recipient will identify and invite 25 veterinarians from Asian elephant and tiger range states, and provide support for their travel to and participation in the Workshop. Following the Workshop, the recipient will continue support for information-sharing and networking among participants, promoting collaborations and knowledge exchanges both regionally and internationally. This project will ultimately lead to an overall increase of regional veterinary understanding of ecosystem health and medical management of Asian elephants and tigers.

USFWS: \$31,200

Leveraged Funds: \$9,300