

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of International Conservation
Amphibians in Decline Fund FY2013**

In 2013, the USFWS awarded three new projects from the Amphibians in Decline Fund totaling \$99,988, which was matched by \$105,352 in additional leveraged funds. Field projects in three countries (in alphabetical order below) will be supported.

ECUADOR

AD13-009

Grant # F13AP01070

Construction of the Centro Jambatu Amphibian Assurance Facility in Quito, Ecuador. In partnership with the Zoological Society of St. Louis, this project will support a conservation effort for the critically endangered Spotted Harlequin frog, Coyne Harlequin frog, Elegant Harlequin frog, Sad Harlequin frog, Webbed Harlequin frog, and the vulnerable Amazon Harlequin frog in Ecuador, by building an additional isolated frog propagation facility or a “Noah’s Ark.” This facility will be 60 square meters in length.
FWS: \$24,700 Leveraged funds: \$20,900

HONG KONG

AD13-010

Grant # F13AP00978

Examination of Amphibian Pathogen Introduction and Spread in Hong Kong through the International Wildlife Trade. In partnership with EcoHealth Alliance, this project will support a conservation effort for the Hong Kong Cascade frog, by mitigating population level impacts of batrachochytrium dendrobatidis, the fungus responsible for the disease chytridiomycosis. This project will use enhanced surveillance techniques to influence amphibian trade policies at Hong Kong International Airport. This grant will be responsible for conducting surveillance in the airport to determine if batrachochytrium dendrobatidis is being introduced through the illegal amphibian trade from China upon arrival at the airport.
FWS: \$24,255 Leveraged funds: \$24,282

LAOS

AD13-014

Grant # F13AP00979

*Conservation of the Enigmatic and Highly Threatened Lao Newt, *Laotriton laeoensis*, Phase II in Northern Laos.* In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society, this project will support a conservation effort for the Lao newt, by increasing the protection of the species from human overexploitation. This grant will identify optimum areas to establish a community conservation area for the Lao newt. This campaign will also focus on education and outreach efforts to help raise awareness about the species among villagers in the community, government officers, tourist agencies, and neighboring villages. In addition the grantee seeks to petition CITES to list the Lao newt under Appendix III.

FWS: \$24,729 Leveraged funds: \$23,098

REPUBLIC OF CONGO

AD13-016

Grant # F13AP00871

Modeling Disease Risk in Threatened Amphibians in the Albertine Rift in Democratic Republic of Congo. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society, this project will support a conservation effort for the Itombwe massif clawed frog, Luvubu reed frog, white-striped reed frog, Itombwe screeching frog, Mwana screeching frog, Mukuzira long-fingered frog, Itombwe golden frog, parkers tree toad, Mokanga forest treefrog, and the Itombwe river frog in Democratic Republic of Congo, by seeking to create a predictive model of *Bd* distribution for the entire Albertine Rift area. Specific activities include: (1) identification of areas with the highest biosecurity risk in the Albertine Rift; (2) creation of a predictive map that can be used for identifying chytrid-free zones; (3) build an improved understanding of *Bd* distribution and identification of species at greatest risk for developing the disease chytridiomycosis; (4) present findings at the 2014 African Amphibian Working Ground meeting and will share information with governments and the conservation community.

FWS: \$26,304 Leveraged funds: \$37,072