

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of International Conservation
African Elephant Conservation Fund
FY 2017 Summary of Projects**

In FY 2017, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) awarded \$3,085,085 to projects through the African Elephant Conservation Fund, which was matched by \$7,587,875 in additional leveraged funds. In total, Congress appropriated \$2,582,000 and additional funds were provided by other sources, as identified below. These funds supported 13 projects in nine countries (in alphabetical order below).

CHAD

AFE1733

Grant # F17AP00457

Aerial support for anti-poaching, monitoring, and management of Zakouma National Park and periphery, Chad. In partnership with the African Parks Foundation of America. The elephants in Zakouma National Park in Chad represent the largest surviving population of savanna elephants in Central Africa and the Sahel. Due to the size of the area (approximately 25,000 km²), and inaccessibility in the wet season, aerial surveillance and support are necessary to provide security for elephants and other wildlife. Funds will support ongoing surveillance flights in the park and greater ecosystem, logistical support flights to supply park operations, aerial surveys of elephants and other mammals, and aerial support during all elephant collaring operations in the greater Zakouma area.

USFWS: \$300,407¹ Leveraged funds: \$70,983

GABON

AFE1706

F17AP00454

Enhancing protection of increasingly threatened forest elephant populations in Langoue Bai, Gabon. In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. This project aims to monitor elephants and other wildlife at the important Langoue saline habitat in Ivindo National Park. Activities include continuation of long-term elephant research including individual recognition of forest elephants and gorillas, deployment of remote monitoring tools to improve security in real-time, and support to anti-poaching patrols.

USFWS: \$373,076² Leveraged funds: \$289,430

¹ Of this, \$13,176 was provided by funds from the Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE).

² Funded through CARPE.

KENYA

AFE1719

F17AP00446

Improved security and conservation of elephants in Tsavo, Kenya. In partnership with Tsavo Trust. This ongoing project helps support Kenya Wildlife Service in the greater Tsavo ecosystem, home to Kenya's largest remaining population of elephants. The funds will support the running costs of a dedicated aircraft to conduct regular aerial reconnaissance flights and to respond to emergencies and poaching incidents and provide operating expenses for anti-poaching and ground patrols.

USFWS: \$397,606

Leveraged funds: \$805,830

AFE1730

F17AP00447

Ensuring long-term viability of elephants through exclusion fencing to permanently reduce human-elephant conflict in the Greater Amboseli Ecosystem, Kenya. In partnership with the Big Life Foundation. Funds will be used to minimize conflict with local farmers in the farming communities of Namelok and Isinet between Amboseli, Chyulu Hills, and Tsavo West National Parks. Specific activity will include the construction of a 59-km electric fence to keep elephants inside wildlife-tolerant areas. According to the impact assessment and community consultation, this fence will prevent elephants from entering agricultural land and, in exchange, the community will tolerate elephant movement through existing corridors and into seasonal dispersal areas in order to minimize conflict between humans and elephants in the Greater Amboseli Ecosystem, Kenya.

USFWS: \$300,000

Leveraged funds: \$507,867

MALI

AFE1715

F17AP00450

The Mali Elephants Project, Phase VI: Developing long-term stakeholder capacity for elephant conservation in Mali. In partnership with the International Wilderness Leadership Foundation. This project works to secure Gourma's desert-adapted elephants by supporting anti-poaching patrols and promoting protection by local residents through the community-based eco-guardian program. Specific activities include recruitment of two additional anti-poaching teams, providing ongoing support to local residents participating in the eco-guardian program, and convening workshops to improve integration between local, regional, and national government entities to improve security for wildlife and people.

USFWS: \$135,000

Leveraged funds: \$594,415

REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

AFE1703 F17AP00451

Conservation of forest elephants in the future Ogooue-Leketi National Park, Republic of the Congo. In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. Funds will support monitoring and protection of forest elephants in the Ogooue-Leketi area in the Republic of the Congo. Specific activities include maintaining surveillance at key sensitive habitats, reinforcing ground patrols and transboundary protection, expanding a mobile brigade, and conducting further training in law enforcement monitoring using the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) system.

USFWS: \$113,748³ Leveraged funds: \$22,568

SOUTH SUDAN

AFE1704 F17AP00463

Strengthening protection and protected area management for the key elephant population in Southern National Park, South Sudan. In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. This grant will support park protection and management in and around Southern National Park, South Sudan. Activities include instituting a workable management plan with annual and quarterly reporting; training senior park staff in protected area management and rangers in law enforcement monitoring; providing support for elephant monitoring field operations including by disbursing patrol supplies, fuel, and rations; identifying and tracking any transboundary movements with Garamba National Park, DRC; maintaining park infrastructure, including vehicles and radios; and building local support for elephant protection through awareness campaigns and stakeholder meetings.

USFWS: \$296,646 Leveraged funds: \$38,459

TANZANIA

AFE1711 F17AP00456

Protecting elephants and elephant corridors around Katavi National Park and adjacent reserves. In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. The project is working to improve the security of the elephant population in southern Katavi National Park, Lwafi Game Reserve, and Loasi River and Kalambo Forest Reserves by engaging communities around the reserves, the Tanzania Forest Service, and the district government. Activities include: designing forest and corridor management plans, conducting aerial surveys of large mammals, biological monitoring, mitigating human-elephant conflict, training park and district staff, and demarcating reserve boundaries.

USFWS: \$371,637 Leveraged funds: \$50,338

³ Funded through the Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE).

**AFE1731
F17AP00448**

Strengthening long-term protection of elephants in southern Tanzania. In partnership with the Southern Tanzania Elephant Program. The project will use technology to improve monitoring and protection of elephants in and around Ruaha National Park. Activities include direct observation of elephant herds to gather distribution and demographic information; monitoring of elephant mortality and elephant carcasses, providing assistance to anti-poaching patrols, mapping and conducting analysis of patrol effort, collecting data on elephant distribution and illegal activities, construction of a secure hangar, and the expansion of the aerial surveillance program. USFWS: \$128,209 Leveraged funds: \$374,800

**AFE1732
F17AP00449**

Generating local support for elephant conservation near Ruaha National Park, Tanzania. In partnership with the Mountain and Plains Institute for Lifelong Learning and Service. This ongoing project aims to increase tolerance of elephants in and around Ruaha National Park by assisting local farmers in preventing elephant damage to crops, conducting outreach and park visitation programs to improve understanding of the importance of the park, and providing opportunities for dialogue between park officials and local residents. Activities include assisting farmers with constructing beehive fences to deter elephants, conducting education and outreach programs in villages, and operating a park visitation program for local residents to visit Ruaha and meet with park officials. USFWS: \$169,862 Leveraged funds: \$87,336

ZAMBIA

**AFE1726
F17AP00445**

Strengthening law enforcement efforts in the Lower Zambezi National Park, Zambia. In partnership with Conservation Lower Zambezi. This grant will support anti-poaching operations in and around Lower Zambezi National Park and operating costs of the Lower Zambezi Detection and Tracking Dog Unit. Specific activities include refresher training courses for the dog handlers and dogs; operating expenses for foot patrols, road blocks, and rapid response teams; and inclusion of all activities in the real-time law enforcement monitoring Domain Awareness System (DAS) developed by Vulcan Technologies in order to map events and efficiently plan future interventions. USFWS: \$154,167 Leveraged funds: \$345,849

ZIMBABWE

**AFE1713
F17AP00387**

Ensuring the long-term security of the elephant population of Gonarezhou National Park, Zimbabwe. In partnership with the Frankfurt Zoological Society. Funds will support expanded security measures and community engagement in and around Gonarezhou National Park. Activities include foot, mobile, and canine patrols in poaching hotspots and in vulnerable areas

such as the Mozambique border, river floodplains, and pans in central Gonarezhou. Other activities include education and outreach programs to engage with local residents and awareness-raising efforts to bring attention to the damage being done by poisoning.
USFWS: \$326,975⁴ Leveraged funds: \$4,400,000

Modifications to existing grants

ZAMBIA

**AFE1615
F16AP00913**

Strengthening the detection dog unit in Eastern Province of Zambia to reduce ivory trafficking and poaching of elephants in the Luangwa Valley. In partnership with the South Luangwa Conservation Society. This project works to reduce elephant poaching and ivory trafficking emanating from the Luangwa Valley in Zambia, by directly supporting joint deployment of South Luangwa Conservation Society’s detection dog unit and Zambia’s Department of National Parks and Wildlife investigations unit. Specific activities include providing rations, equipment, and deployment needs to the canine and investigations units; supporting aerial surveillance over the national park and game management areas; and providing technical support through the operations manager.
USFWS: \$17,752⁵ Leveraged funds: n/a

⁴ Of this, \$187,872 was funded by proceeds from sales of the Save Vanishing Species stamp.
⁵ Of this, \$13,122 was funded by proceeds from sales of the Save Vanishing Species stamp.