

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of International Conservation
Marine Turtle Conservation Fund FY2015**

In 2015, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service awarded 42 projects from the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund totaling \$1,750,228, which was matched by \$2,672,066 in additional leveraged funds. Field projects in 29 countries will be supported (in alphabetical order below), as well as two projects spanning multiple countries.

BANGLADESH

MT1553

Grant #F15AP00647

Community-based sea turtle conservation and restoration project in Bangladesh. In partnership with MarineLife Alliance, the purpose of this project is to train community members to conduct nesting beach surveys along the 250 km coast of Cox's Bazar and Parki beach. The project aims to protect important nesting turtles and eggs from poachers, predators, and coastal development, and also build awareness of means to prevent sea turtle mortality from bycatch. Specific activities include: conducting foraging habitat and bycatch surveys; promoting an important nesting site for a Nature Reserve; preparing educational and outreach materials; and conducting education and awareness programs with local communities.

USFWS: \$21,000

Leveraged Funds: \$46,000

BARBADOS

MT1532

Grant #F15AP00296

Enhancing recovery of the regionally significant hawksbill nesting population in Barbados. In partnership with University of West Indies, the purpose of this project is to conduct patrols on nesting beaches for hawksbill sea turtles. The project aims to collect nesting data and protect turtles and nests from poaching and coastal development. Specific activities include all night patrols on the national index nesting beach for hawksbills from June 1st - Sept 30th and once-nightly patrols on all other high density hawksbill nesting beaches.

USFWS: \$32,000

Leveraged Funds: \$96,900

CAMBODIA

MT1513

Grant #F15AP00233

Development of a marine turtle conservation program in Cambodia and a pilot bycatch reduction project on key foraging grounds. In partnership with Fauna and Flora International, the purpose of this project is to develop a National Marine Turtle Conservation Action Plan and pilot a bycatch reduction project within the Koh Rong Archipelago. The project aims to reduce bycatch of sea turtles, as well as address poaching and coastal development threats to turtles. Specific activities include 1) working with the Cambodian Fisheries Administration to develop

the Conservation Action Plan through stakeholder meetings, workshops, and collection of technical and scientific data, and 2) developing and implementing a pilot bycatch reduction project on important sea turtle foraging grounds in coordination with Cambodian Fisheries Administration and community fisheries organizations.

USFWS: \$36,400

Leveraged Funds: \$23,256

CAMEROON

MT1539

Grant #F15AP00843

Monitoring and protection of nesting beaches by the creation of Manyange na Elombo Campo Marine National Park. In partnership with Chelonee, the purpose of this project is to train local community members to conduct patrols along 20 km of nesting beach in the proposed Manyange na Elombo Campo Marine National Park. The project aims to protect nests and turtles from poaching and also bycatch. Specific activities include providing technical support to the Ministry of Forests and Fauna in its development of the Manyange na Elombo Campo National Park, and working with local communities to build support for the Park.

USFWS: \$18,000

Leveraged Funds: \$36,309

CAPE VERDE

MT1511

Grant #F15AP00236

Turtles, beaches, and villages on Boavista: protecting sea turtles and nesting beaches, getting local people involved. In partnership with The Turtle Foundation, the purpose of this project is to set up two field camps and one field station for patrols and monitoring of Norte, Canto, Boa Esperanca, Aqua Doce, Cural Velho, and Santa Monica beaches. The project aims to protect nesting loggerheads and nests from poaching and coastal development. Specific activities include 1) monitoring beaches throughout the nesting season, 2) conducting education outreach in local schools and summer camps for youth, 3) beach cleanups, and 4) hosting a training workshop for production of handcrafts from plastic waste.

USFWS: \$52,000

Leveraged Funds: \$309,029

MT1514

Grant #F15AP00415

Protection of nesting loggerhead turtles in Cabo Verde. In partnership with ADTMA SOS Tartarugas, the purpose of this project is to conduct patrols to protect loggerhead nesting females and nests at Serra Negra, Costa Fragata, Algodoeiro and Mont Leao beaches on the Island of Sal. The project aims to protect nesting loggerheads and nests from poaching and coastal development. Specific activities will include monitoring beaches throughout the nesting season and conducting conservation-related education and outreach activities with local schools, youth, and other groups.

USFWS: \$48,000

Leveraged Funds: \$23,256

MT1518**Grant #F15AP00238**

Maintaining low mortality rate and building local capacity for sea turtle conservation in Maio, Cape Verde. In partnership with Maio Biodiversity Foundation, the purpose of this project is to conduct night patrols and count nests using standardized protocols on all major loggerhead nesting beaches on Maio. The project aims to protect turtles and nests from poaching. Specific activities include protecting nests as necessary with a hatchery and conducting educational and awareness programs with local communities on Maio.

USFWS: \$50,000

Leveraged Funds: \$66,402

MT1522**Grant #F15AP00235**

Conservation, protection, and management of the most important nesting beaches of Cape Verde Loggerhead rookery involving local communities. In partnership with *Cabo Verde Natura 2000*, the purpose of this project is to set up field camps at Ervatao and Porto Ferreira beaches to conduct patrols and outreach and education activities with local communities. The project aims to protect turtles and nests from poaching and coastal development.

USFWS: \$58,000

Leveraged Funds: \$44,377

MT1525**Grant #F15AP00237**

Strengthening marine turtle conservation strategies in the Tartaruga Natural Reserve, Boa Vista, Cape Verde. In partnership with *BIOS.CV*, the purpose of this project is to set up a field camp at Joao Barrosa Beach on the Island of Boa Vista and promote sea turtle conservation activities. The project aims to protect turtles and nests from poaching and coastal development. Specific activities include conducting daily patrols to protect nests and nesting loggerhead females, as well as providing education outreach activities for local communities regarding marine turtle conservation.

USFWS: \$18,000

Leveraged Funds: \$99,408

CHILE**MT1541****Grant #F15AP00644**

Support for the 12th meeting of the Scientific Committee of the Inter-American Convention of the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles. In partnership with The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, the purpose of this project is to provide support for organizing the 12th meeting of the Scientific Committee for the Inter-American Convention of the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles. The project aims to build capacity around best practices for achieving bycatch reduction. Specific activities include organizing and implementing three training workshops for best practices of safe handling and release of sea turtles accidentally caught in net, trawl, and long line fisheries.

USFWS: \$43,636

Leveraged Funds: \$16,200

COLOMBIA

MT1516

Grant #F15AP00298

Quantifying hawksbill nesting via rapid assessments along the Pacific Coast of the Darien Gap-Choco regions of Panama and Colombia. In partnership with *Fundación CIMAD*, the purpose of this project is to quantify hawksbill nesting activity at six sites in the Darien Gap-Choco region of Colombia. The project aims to protect turtles and nests from poaching. Specific activities include local outreach and capacity building training to facilitate future conservation action in the region and also promoting bi-national collaboration for East Pacific hawksbill conservation with Panama.

USFWS: \$19,700

Leveraged Funds: \$29,300

COSTA RICA

MT1555

Grant #F15AP00651

Conservation and research project of leatherback sea turtle nesting at the North Pacific of Costa Rica: Langosta, Nombre de Jesus, Zapotilla, Onda and Real Beaches. In partnership with *FUNDECODES*, the purpose of this project is to continue to implement a long-term research and conservation project for the leatherback sea turtle at Playa Langosta, Las Baulas National Park, and extend nesting surveys and nest protection activities for leatherbacks to the secondary nesting sites of Playa Nombre de Jesus, Zapotilla, Onda, and Real. The project aims to reduce threats to turtles and nests from poaching. Specific project activities include 1) training of local and international research assistants and volunteers to help conduct nesting surveys and nest protection activities, 2) improving camp infrastructure, 3) hatchery construction and operation, 4) data collection and analysis, and 5) environmental education and outreach, including local school field trips and a turtle festival.

USFWS: \$27,615

Leveraged Funds: \$2,734

ECUADOR

MT1547

Grant #F15AP00645

Conserving East Pacific green turtles nesting in the Galapagos Archipelago. In partnership with the Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands, the purpose of this project is to conduct standardized nesting surveys and threats assessments at Quinta Playa and Las Bachas, as well as conduct a community outreach program and field education programs with local school children. The project aims to assess potential threats to green sea turtles. Specific activities will include the Darwin Foundation working closely with Galapagos National Park to develop the capacity of the Park to assume greater responsibility for the expansion of the sea turtle conservation program at the Park.

USFWS: \$26,180

Leveraged Funds: \$63,356

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

AFR1531

Grant #F15AP00663

Sea turtle conservation in mainland Equatorial Guinea. In partnership with *INDEFOR*, the purpose of this project is to conduct patrols at Punta Illende Natural Reserve (5 km), Río Campo Natural Reserve (7 km) and Nendyi Scientific Reserve (4 km), while also supporting a variety of training and outreach efforts. The project aims to reduce the threats of bycatch of turtles and of poaching to turtles and their nests. Specific activities include 1) conducting a training seminar for 15 participants on sea turtle biology and identification, field technology/equipment use, wildlife laws, enforcement procedures, data collection, and sea turtle conservation, 2) conducting outreach and education campaigns with local schools, fisherman, urban locations, and national authorities; and 3) collecting data on the mainland coastline to assess levels of harvesting and bycatch of marine turtles.

USFWS: \$40,000

Leveraged Funds: \$23,000

GABON

MT (AFR1516)

Grant # F15AP00739

Conserving Gabon's Endangered Sea Turtles. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society, the purpose of this project is to conserve the largest leatherback nesting population in the world and the largest olive ridley nesting population in the Atlantic, both centered in Gabon. On the beach, the project aims to address threats from poaching, light pollution, and logs which entrap nesting females and hatchlings, and in some cases prevent females from nesting on more suitable sites above the tideline; and in the ocean, the project aims to address sea turtle fisheries bycatch from fish and shrimp trawlers, long line fishing vessels and artisanal fishers. Specific activities include: 1) a variety of measures to reduce sea turtle bycatch through education, community engagement, turtle excluder devices, and best management practices, (2) aerial surveys and surveillance of nesting beaches at day and night to protect nests from high tides and poaching, as well as log removal on nesting beaches, and 3) stakeholder capacity development and outreach to raise awareness of the protected status of sea turtles in Gabon.

USFWS: \$230,000¹

Leveraged Funds: \$96,993

GHANA

MT1565

Grant #F15AP00656

Developing a multifaceted approach to sea turtle conservation in Ghana: integrating research, education, and ecotourism on the beach and in the water. In partnership with Florida Gulf Coast University, the purpose of this project is to implement daily night patrols on 10 km of sea turtle nesting beach within the Muni-Pomadze Ramsar site, and to also implement a variety of education programs. The project aims to reduce threats to turtles from poaching and bycatch. Specific activities will include 1) conducting 20 sea turtle conservation education programs in local communities as well as weekly radio programs about wildlife conservation, 2) training 4

¹ Of this, \$190,000 was funded by Central African Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE) funds.

community members to conduct sea turtle surveys and ecotourism turtle walks, and 3) training 15 community members as observers to collect sea turtle bycatch data on local artisanal fishing boats.

USFWS: \$16,380

Leveraged Funds: \$26,007

GUATEMALA

MT1521

Grant #F15AP00289

Strengthening sea turtle conservation, adapting to climate change, and assisting CONAP in meeting its IAC commitments in Guatemala. In partnership with Wildlife Rescue and Conservation Association (ARCAS), the purpose of this project is to conduct nest monitoring surveys at eight beaches in Guatemala as well as enhance a variety of sea turtle conservation efforts. The project aims to reduce threats to turtles and their nests from poaching. Specific activities will include strengthening hatchery management through capacity building workshops and work with the National Commission on Natural Protected Areas and the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) to develop a sustainable management plan for olive ridley egg harvest to meet IAC exceptions requirements.

USFWS: \$25,000

Leveraged Funds: \$25,725

INDIA

MT1503

Grant #F15AP00282

Strengthening communities in sea turtle conservation and reinforcing stakeholder networks to effect policy, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha, India. In partnership with Tree Foundation, the purpose of this project is to implement a community-based sea turtle nest protection program along 170 km of nesting beaches on the Bay of Bengal, involving 60 villages, and to conduct outreach programs with fishers to reduce sea turtle bycatch through use of turtle excluder devices (TEDs). The project aims to address threats from poaching, coastal development, and fisheries bycatch. Specific activities include outreach and education activities, daily patrolling of nesting beaches, and working with fishermen to collect bycatch information and to use safe handling practices for release of captured sea turtles.

USFWS: \$20,600

Leveraged Funds: \$81,900

MT1552

Grant #F15AP01001

Advancing the conservation of sea turtles in India at a national scale through the monitoring of index sites, and coordination of coastal management efforts with a network of partners. In partnership with Madras Crocodile Bank Trust, the purpose of this project is to continue strengthening the long-term monitoring program for the olive ridley arribada population at Rushikulya, olive ridleys generally in Orissa, and leatherbacks in Andaman Islands. The project aims to address threats from poaching and coastal development. Specific activities include continuing to facilitate and strengthen a broad network of partners and projects to conserve marine turtles throughout the Indian mainland and islands.

USFWS: \$52,500

Leveraged Funds: \$45,000

INDONESIA

MT1568

Grant #F15AP00660

Hawksbill turtles in the Indonesian Derawan Archipelago: Research and impact mitigation program in 2015. In partnership with Turtle Foundation, Inc., the purpose of this project is to conduct a campaign to target domestic and regional tourists with a combined education, awareness, outreach, and alternative income program. The project aims to address the threat of poaching turtles for their shells. Specific activities include 1) establishing an alternative income initiative for souvenir shop owners who actively decline from trading turtle shell products, 2) a series of handicraft workshops to teach locals in producing turtle-related and other handicrafts for the local tourist market, and 3) an environmental education program for children from the islands of Derawan and Maratua.

USFWS: \$10,000

Leveraged Funds: \$42,352

IVORY COAST

MT1536

Grant #F15AP00640

Conservation of sea turtles of the Ivory Coast. In partnership with *Conservation des Espèces Marines*, the purpose of this project is to conduct night patrols with community ecoguards along the 14 km Mani Beach throughout turtle nesting season as well as promote other turtle conservation activities. The project aims to reduce the threat to turtles and their nests from poaching and bycatch. Specific activities include conducting a turtle release program with fishermen at Grand Bereby, and conducting education and awareness campaigns in three local villages adjacent to Mani Beach.

USFWS: \$24,980²

Leveraged Funds: \$50,265

KENYA

MT1556

Grant #F15AP00652

Strengthening marine turtle conservation efforts along the Kenyan coast. In partnership with Watamu Turtle Watch, the purpose of this project is to carry out a sea turtle bycatch release program with up to 350 local artisanal fishers, conduct anti-poaching patrols along 20 km of nesting beach within and north and south of Watamu Marine National Park, as well as conduct other conservation initiatives. The project aims to address the threats posed to sea turtles from poaching and bycatch. Specific activities include conducting outreach and awareness sessions with local communities and conducting training workshops for up to 30 Kenya Wildlife Service staff on marine ecology, coastal zone management, and conservation principles.

USFWS: \$10,000

Leveraged Funds: \$20,382

² Of this, \$23,234 is supported by proceeds from sales of the Save Vanishing Species Stamp.

LIBERIA

MT1537

Grant #F15AP00641

Borgor Point, Doe Town, and Klegbe sea turtle conservation project; continuation of community-based initiatives. In partnership with Save My Future Foundation, the purpose of this project is to train community members to conduct daily patrols along 18 km of nesting beach in River Cess County to count and protect nests and turtles as well as implement a variety of other conservation initiatives. The project aims to reduce threats to turtles and their nests from poaching. Specific activities include conducting environmental education programs at local schools and assisting communities to develop alternative livelihood sources as a replacement for traditional consumption of turtles and eggs.

USFWS: \$32,000

Leveraged Funds: \$3,437

MT1549

Grant # F15AP00646

Community-based marine turtle conservation along the Liberian Bassa coastline. In partnership with Sea Turtle Watch Liberia, the purpose of this project is to organize and train community members in the communities of Bassa Point, Little Bassa, and Edina to conduct sea turtle conservation initiatives. The project aims to reduce threats to turtles and their nests from poaching. Specific activities include conducting daily patrols to count and protect nesting sea turtles and nests, developing educational materials, and implementing community education and outreach programs.

USFWS: \$15,050

Leveraged Funds: \$24,871

MADAGASCAR

MT1517

Grant #F15AP00302

Enhancing the conservation of threatened sea turtles through integrated approaches in Nosy Hara Marine Park in northwest Madagascar. In partnership with Community Centred Conservation (C3), the purpose of this project is to establish a community-based marine turtle conservation program to protect nests and nesting females within Nosy Hara Marine Park. The project aims to curb poaching of eggs and turtles and also deter bycatch. Specific activities include 1) conducting an awareness/outreach campaign with local communities, 2) working with women and fishers from local communities to develop alternative livelihoods to change behavior from turtle consumption and 3) preparing and executing a workshop with appropriate stakeholders to assess gaps in law and policy enforcement to improve management and protection of marine turtles in the Protected Areas.

USFWS: \$25,000

Leveraged Funds: \$71,290

MAURITANIA

MT1571

Grant #F15AP00844

Conservation of nesting loggerhead and green sea turtles in Mauritania (West Africa) - Phase II. In partnership with Chelonee, the purpose of this project is to implement community-based nesting surveys and assessments at two sites in the south of Nouabchott, where nesting is greatest. The project aims to determine the number of nests and degree of threats from poaching and jackals. Specific activities include providing this information to the Ministry of Environment to assist with its development of a National Conservation Action Plan for Mauritania.

USFWS: \$17,000

Leveraged Funds: \$17,218

MEXICO

MT1506

Grant #F15AP00223

Mexico/U.S. population restoration project for Kemp's ridley sea turtle on the coast of Tamaulipas, Mexico. In partnership with the Gladys Porter Zoo, the purpose of this project is to assist with the Mexico-US Binational Kemp's Ridley project. The project aims to reduce poaching and predation on sea turtles and their nests. Specific activities include providing ATVs, field personnel, camp coordinators, fuel, and supplies to assist the Mexico field team with patrolling of Kemp's ridley main nesting beaches in the State of Tamaulipas, Mexico.

USFWS: \$100,000

Leveraged Funds: \$100,000

MT1508

Grant #F15AP00201

Transition from egg corals back to the nesting beach: evaluation of sex ratios, survival, and predation of hatchling Kemp's ridley sea turtles from arribadas at Rancho Nuevo, Mexico. In partnership with the University of Alabama, this project will answer a variety of research questions at Rancho Nuevo nesting beach. The project will assess predation and best management practices for Kemp's ridley sea turtles. As part of the research, beach and nest temperatures in hatcheries and in situ will be monitored, compared, and evaluated, as well hatchling sex ratios, predation from nests, the type and abundance of predators, emergence rates and survival rates to sea, and hatchling emergence times.

USFWS: \$19,996

Leveraged Funds: \$21,394 Research

MT1533

Grant #F15AP00297

Long-term sea turtle conservation: A key tool for adaptive management and decision making. In partnership with *Pronatura Peninsula de Yucatan, A.C.*, the purpose of this project is to support a variety of sea turtle conservation initiatives along 81 km of nesting beaches at Celestun, El Cuyo, and Holbox. The project aims to reduce poaching and predation of sea turtles and their nests. Specific activities include conducting night patrols to survey and protect nesting sea turtles as well as outreach and education activities with local communities.

USFWS: \$22,000

Leveraged Funds: \$22,745

MT1554**Grant #F15AP00650**

Conservation of the leatherback turtle in the Mexican Pacific 2015-2016. In partnership with *Kutzari Asociacion Para El Estudio y Conservación De Las Tortugas Marinas*, the purpose of this project is to maintain and operate four turtle camps on four primary leatherback nesting beaches. The project aims to reduce poaching of sea turtles and their nests. Specific activities include nightly patrolling and protection of nesting females and nests, working with local communities to develop support for sea turtle conservation programs, and providing technical and logistical support for secondary leatherback nesting beaches.

USFWS: \$64,791

Leveraged Funds: \$265,128

MT1567**Grant #F15AP00659**

Conservation of Japanese nesting loggerhead turtle: Mortality assessment and conservation outreach at the BCS Mexico juvenile foraging area. In partnership with The Ocean Foundation, the purpose of this project is to conduct stranding surveys along the 45 km Playa San Lazaro. The project aims to assess bycatch mortality from near-shore fisheries. Specific activities include conducting daily surveys from May to September and twice weekly from October through April.

USFWS: \$25,000

Leveraged Funds: \$27,600

NICARAGUA**MT1512****Grant #F15AP00288**

Strengthening conservation of critically endangered leatherback and hawksbill marine turtles on Nicaragua's Pacific Coast. In partnership with Fauna and Flora International, the purpose of this project is to monitor and protect leatherback and hawksbill nesting populations through community protection strategies at Asseradores, Veracruz, Salamina, and Estero Padre Ramos. The project aims to reduce poaching and predation of sea turtles and their nests. Specific activities include 1) strengthening coastal management and protection of nesting sites at Salamina, Veracruz, and Estero Padre Ramos by raising awareness of policy makers and local stakeholders, 2) implementing a National Sea Turtle Campaign at the nesting beaches, and 3) developing a conservation tourism program at Estero Padre Ramos.

USFWS: \$61,063

Leveraged Funds: \$52,726

MT1528**Grant #F15AP00293**

A comprehensive approach to recovery of hawksbill turtles in the Eastern Pacific: Protecting one of the last remaining nesting strongholds and spearheading reduction of catastrophic bycatch at critical foraging ground. In partnership with The Ocean Foundation, the purpose of this project is to work with local communities to build teams to patrol 40 km of hawksbill nesting beaches as well as undertake other turtle conservation initiatives. The project aims to reduce bycatch and poaching threats to sea turtles. Specific activities include 1) protecting nests through relocation to hatcheries using best management practices, 2) conducting education outreach activities with local communities including an annual Hawksbill Festival, 3) "Day of the Hawksbill" activities in local schools, 4) working with local communities to develop

ecotourism activities, 5) collecting data on lobster fisheries and hawksbill bycatch, and 6) working with local fishermen to develop strategies to reduce hawksbill bycatch.
USFWS: \$98,150 Leveraged Funds: \$93,308

PANAMA

MT1505

Grant #F15AP00283

Hawksbill and leatherback turtle research and population recovery in Panama. In partnership with Sea Turtle Conservancy, the purpose of this project is to conduct intensive monitoring and protection of hawksbill and leatherback nesting beaches at six sites in the Bocas del Toro Province using standardized protocols and local community monitors. The project will address threats from poaching, development, and nest depredation by dogs. Specific activities will include six community environmental outreach activities and the development of two informational signs about dog nest depredation.

USFWS: \$52,000 Leveraged Funds: \$220,975

PORTUGAL

MT1558

Grant #F15AP00577

Consolidating sea turtle conservation in the Azores. In partnership with *Instituto do Mar*, the purpose of this project is to assess loggerhead bycatch on longline vessels operating in Azorean waters and implement other turtle conservation initiatives. The project aims to reduce loggerhead mortality via bycatch. Specific activities include 1) placing two observers on each of two longline vessels during two four month periods (Aug-Sep to Nov-Dec 2015 and Mar-Apr to June-July 2016) and analyzing with previously collected bycatch data, 2) restructuring turtle tagging activities in cooperation with local partners and expanding the tagging program with new partners, 3) developing a best practices information sheet in consultation with partners for handling hooked or entangled turtles and 4) distributing the best practices to longline fisherman that dock at Faial and Sao Miguel.

USFWS: \$51,832 Leveraged Funds: \$53,665

SIERRA LEONE

MT1535

Grant #F15AP00639

Continued development of a community-based marine turtle conservation program for Sierra Leone and leatherback conservation initiative at the Turtle and Bonthe/Sherbro Islands and the southern shoreline. In partnership with Reptile and Amphibian Program-Sierra Leone, this project will conduct community-based nesting beach conservation programs in the Turtle Islands, Sherbro Island, and Turner's Peninsula. The project aims to reduce bycatch and poaching of turtles and their nests by working with artisanal fishermen to monitor bycatch, training for the safe release of comatose turtles, and conducting community outreach and education programs.

USFWS: \$65,000 Leveraged Funds: \$10,440

SOLOMON ISLANDS

MT1563

Grant #F15AP00654

Developing a model for sea turtle conservation in Melanesia: Community-based protection and monitoring of leatherback and hawksbill turtles in the western Solomon Islands. In partnership with the Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership, the purpose of this project is to implement community-based patrols of leatherback and hawksbill nesting beaches on the islands of Tetepare, Rendova, and Vangunu. The project aims to protect turtles and their nests from poaching. Specific activities include conducting training workshops for local community members and a series of school and community-focused education and awareness campaigns at local villages and schools.

USFWS: \$25,000

Leveraged Funds: \$10,000

SPAIN

MT1557

Grant #F15AP00653

Conservation of the loggerhead turtle in the Western Mediterranean: Coordinated solutions for bycatch reduction in the foraging population of the Comunidad Valencia, Spain. In partnership with *Asociación Chelonia*, the purpose of this project is to conduct an assessment of sea turtle bycatch in the artisanal fishing fleet of Comunidad Valenciana. The project aims to ultimately reduce turtle mortality from bycatch. Specific activities include assisting the Comunidad Valenciana Regional Government with the development of a 3-year conservation plan for the loggerhead turtle.

USFWS: \$19,543

Leveraged Funds: \$98,322

TURKEY

MT1531

Grant #F15AP00232

35th annual symposium on sea turtle biology and conservation. In partnership with the International Sea Turtle Society, the purpose of this project is to support hosting an international sea turtle symposium in Mulga, Turkey and provide travel support to approximately 39 international participants.

USFWS: \$25,000

Leveraged Funds: \$95,000

VIETNAM

MT1502

Grant #F15AP00234

Support for community-based marine turtle nesting beach conservation and bycatch reduction in Vietnam. In partnership with IUCN-Vietnam, the purpose of this project is to support community-based nesting beach conservation programs and bycatch monitoring in several provinces in Vietnam. The project aims to protect sea turtles from poaching and fisheries bycatch. Specific activities include 1) recruiting and funding about 50 volunteers to support

ranger patrols at the most important green turtle nesting beaches in Con Dao National Park, 2) carrying out education and outreach activities in six coastal communities involving about 300 fishers and 500 school children, and 3) assisting Vietnamese governmental institutions to update the country's Marine Turtle Conservation Action Plan.

USFWS: \$53,882

Leveraged Funds: \$41,866

MULTIPLE COUNTRIES – EL SALVADOR, ECUADOR, AND NICARAGUA

MT1540

Grant #F15AP00643

Vital support for hawksbills in the eastern Pacific Ocean; Year II of conservation at four top-tier nesting beaches. In partnership with The Ocean Foundation, the purpose of this project is to implement community-based nesting beach conservation projects at hawksbill nesting beaches in Los Cobanos and El Maculis, El Salvador, Machalilla, Ecuador, and Aserradores, Nicaragua. The project aims to reduce poaching of sea turtles and their nests. Specific activities include working in close partnership with local staff to implement nest monitoring, hatchery construction, nest incubation, tagging of female turtles, and data collection.

USFWS: \$47,930

Leveraged Funds: \$146,019

MULTIPLE COUNTRIES – GULF OF GUINEA

MT1510

Grant #F15AP00284

Sea turtle technical assistance in the Gulf of Guinea, West Africa 2015-2016. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society, the purpose of this project is to provide technical support to Marine Turtle Conservation Fund projects in Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Republic of Congo, Ivory Coast, Sao Tome and Principe, as well as conduct conservation programs and research in Corisco Bay. The project aims to reduce the threat of poaching to turtles and their nests. Specific activities include conducting research on hawksbill and olive ridely genetics in the Gulf of Guinea.

USFWS: \$50,000

Leveraged Funds: \$27,911