

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of International Conservation
Wildlife Without Borders-Africa Program FY2015
Summary of Projects**

In 2015, USFWS awarded three new cooperative agreements, amended five multi-year cooperative agreements, supported 26 new projects, and amended one existing project in Central Africa, totaling \$16,186,786, which was matched by \$17,381,316 in additional leveraged funds. Field projects in seven countries were supported. Funds also supported six projects in multiple countries. Funding was provided through the Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE).

New Multi-Year Cooperative Agreements

CAMEROON

AFR1550

Grant # F15AC00564

Progress on Pangolins (POP): Developing a transdisciplinary MENTOR team to address threats to Central African pangolins and apply conservation actions. In partnership with Zoological Society of London, the purpose of this new two-year cooperative agreement is to support a conservation effort in Cameroon and Central Africa by developing the capacity of a team of professionals who will work together to design and deliver results-orientated pangolin conservation actions. The project is intended to develop capacity to conserve the three species of pangolins found in Central Africa [Whitebellied pangolin (*Phataginus tricuspis*), Blackbellied pangolin (*Phataginus tetradactyla*), and Giant Ground pangolin (*Smutsia gigantea*)] by training a team who will test innovative actions to address the impacts of poaching and uncontrolled harvest, bushmeat trade, international trafficking for luxury meat and traditional medicine use in Asia, lack of legal systems and wildlife law enforcement and escalating demand. Specific activities include building a team of Central African and Asian conservationists equipped to develop conservation initiatives to address threats to Central Africa pangolin species and to implement novel actions on field assessment, legal systems and demand reduction.

USFWS: \$328,320

Leveraged Funds: \$51,200

REPUBLIC OF CONGO

AFR1513

Grant # F15AC00527

Ensuring the long-term protection of Conkouati Douli National Park, Republic of Congo: A Five Year Cooperative Agreement between the USFWS and WCS. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society, the purpose of this new five-year cooperative agreement is to support a conservation effort in Conkouati Douli National Park, Republic of Congo, by improving park management, protection and capacity. The project is intended to primarily conserve the park's populations of forest elephants, chimpanzees, gorillas, coastal dolphins, leatherback and olive ridley sea turtles and large monkeys, as well as other threatened and iconic forest and aquatic species such as pangolins and manatees. This agreement will address hunting for the commercial bushmeat trade, poaching for ivory, illegal fishing, and other key threats to wildlife via five main

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objectives: control of illegal killing and park encroachment on land, control of illegal killing and bycatch in park waters, development of a better evidence base to adaptively manage park activities, improvement of community support of the park, and enhancement of management capacity to implement and oversee important park programs. Specific activities in the first year include: (1) ecoguard patrols to protect the terrestrial portion of the park, including training and equipment; (2) support for a Wildlife Crime Unit to ensure arrests and confiscations lead to fair trials and prosecutions; (3) engagement with extractive industries to promote better management practices and to remain vigilant of illegal activities or encroachment; (4) patrols in marine waters to reduce illegal killing and bycatch; (5) support for a net compensation program to release sea turtles accidentally caught in local fishermen's nets; (6) implementation of a law enforcement monitoring system (i.e., SMART) to more effectively plan patrol effort and evaluate performance; (7) continuation of a beach monitoring program to maintain a low poaching level of sea turtle nests; (8) improvements to ecotourism infrastructure to generate more revenue for communities and creation of a community development strategy and better revenue-sharing scheme to decrease incentives for community members engaged in illegal activities in the park; and (9) support for park operations, including equipment and logistics, and exploration of a private-public partnership to ensure the park management unit has sufficient personnel and operational capacity to implement and oversee key conservation activities.

USFWS: \$317,209

Leveraged Funds: \$218,414

MULTIPLE COUNTRIES

BENIN, CAMEROON, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, GABON, GUINEA, KENYA, NIGERIA, REPUBLIC OF CONGO, SENEGAL, TOGO, UGANDA

AFR1538

Grant # F15AP01072

The EAGLE Network - Establishing wildlife law enforcement across multiple African countries: A five-year cooperative agreement with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. In partnership with Eco Activists for Governance and Law Enforcement (EAGLE), the purpose of this new five-year cooperative agreement is to support a conservation effort across countries in Central Africa by improving law enforcement and cross-border collaboration in the fight against transnational wildlife crime. This project is intended to conserve forest elephants, great apes and other targeted species by addressing the illegal commercial trade in wildlife. Specific activities of this cooperative agreement include: (1) investigation of significant wildlife traffickers, defined as those that employ or control poachers and play a significant role in at least one of the following: trafficking across national borders, engaging in or enabling corruption, and/or using sophisticated criminal methods; (2) facilitation of arrests of traffickers with the appropriate local law enforcement authorities; (3) legal follow-up of wildlife crime cases, including working with prosecutors and the judicial system to apply the law effectively and to ensure sentences are served; (4) media exposure of wildlife trafficking and penalties applied to deter others from engaging in wildlife crime; and (5) expansion of the organizational model to other countries to adapt to changes in wildlife trafficking routes and activity.

USFWS: \$782,000

Leveraged Funds: \$904,000

Amendments to Existing Multi-Year Cooperative Agreements

CAMEROON

Grant # F14AP00533

Scholarships, technical and institutional capacity building at Garoua Wildlife College, Cameroon, phase II. In collaboration with Garoua Wildlife College in Cameroon, this five-year cooperative agreement represents a new phase in USFWS' long-term collaboration with the major wildlife training college for Francophone Africa. Specifically, it supports the College's capacity to design and deliver effective education and training programs on protected area management and species conservation. It conserves biodiversity in West and Central Africa by addressing the lack of national and regional conservation capacity. Specific activities include: (1) provision of training scholarships for candidates from Central Africa to develop their capacity on conservation and protected area management; and (2) strengthening of the faculty's capabilities to conduct training and research on threats facing wildlife and the implementation of results-based conservation actions.

USFWS: \$100,000

Leveraged Funds: \$23,400

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Grant # F13AP00859

Building a self-sustaining park for the 21st century through strengthened park ranger force. In partnership with Virunga Fund, Inc., the purpose of this five-year cooperative agreement is to support the operational capacity of the 300 strong ranger force in Virunga National Park while also strengthening the park's long-term conservation strategy and financial sustainability. Virunga is Africa's oldest national park and home to a quarter of the world's remaining mountain gorilla populations. The project is intended to conserve the remaining mountain gorilla populations and their habitat in Virunga by addressing the impacts of natural resource exploitation and illegal human activities in the protected area. Activities for this year include: (1) the development and construction of a new Ranger Command and Control Center and (2) the expansion of the park's portfolio of social and economic development programs.

USFWS: \$500,000

Leveraged Funds: \$3,253,993

Grant # F14AP00620

Conservation of the Lomami Protected Area and Management of Surrounding Community Forests. In partnership with Lukuru Wildlife Research Foundation, the purpose of this five-year cooperative agreement is to support a conservation effort in the Lomami Basin, Democratic Republic of Congo, by supporting the declaration and management of a new national park and by working with local communities on the park periphery to better secure forest resources from illegal wildlife trafficking. Specifically, this project is intended to conserve bonobos, forest elephants, and ungulates, primates, and birds targeted by the commercial trade in bushmeat, live animals, and ivory. Objectives of this agreement include: (1) legal gazettelement of a national park with a functional management plan and framework for partnerships; (2) stronger resource tenure for communities on park periphery through regulated hunting; (3) greater human security due to effective control of criminal activity within the park and in peripheral communities; (4) increased knowledge about the site's species, habitats and threats to raise the park's profile among scientific and conservation communities; (5) a solid management and implementation team to carry on

work at the site for years to come; and (6) application of the law to improve the legal response to wildlife crime including arrests, prosecutions, and appropriate sentencing.

USFWS: \$450,000 Leveraged Funds: \$1,212,500

GABON

Grant # F13AP00659

Parks Gabon II: Reinforcing the institutional capacity of Gabon's national park service. In partnership with *l'Agence Nationale des Parcs Nationaux* (ANPN), the purpose of this five-year cooperative agreement is to conserve Gabon's wildlife heritage by transforming the Gabon National Parks Agency (ANPN) into a premier African parks agency within five years, with adaptive capacity thereafter. Through this agreement, the USFWS, ANPN, and government and non-governmental (NGO) partners aim to safeguard Gabon's large forest elephant population; ensure a future for humankind's closest relatives, the great apes of the Congo Basin; maintain the ecological resilience of tropical rain forests and forest biodiversity; and preserve the ocean giants and protect ecologically important marine ecosystems. Activities for this year include: (1) professionalizing ANPN's procurement and inventory process for equipment; (2) Improving ANPN fleet management; (3) supporting community engagement in conservation; (4) developing a great ape tourism program; (5) implementing a great ape health monitoring program; (6) supporting new marine protected areas; (7) implementing a research program to support park design and management; (8) implementing a Rigs to Reef program; (9) conducting stakeholder consultations to improve support of marine protected areas; (10) supporting three security training and operations experts to professionalize anti-poaching teams and to train Gabonese staff and field units to effectively respond to the elephant poaching crisis; and (11) supporting ecoguards in the fight against poaching.

USFWS: \$7,402,566 Leveraged Funds: \$7,271,330

MULTIPLE COUNTRIES

CAMEROON, REPUBLIC OF CONGO, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Grant # F13AC00558

Improving management to conserve the ecological integrity and connectivity, and the wealth of wildlife in the Sangha Tri-National and Northern Congo continuous forest landscape. In partnership with World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), and African Parks Network (APN), the purpose of this five-year cooperative agreement is to maintain the ecological integrity and connectivity, and the wealth of wildlife in the Sangha Tri-National and Northern Congo by (1) extending the protected area network and improving management effectiveness of existing protected areas; (2) strengthening and monitoring wildlife law enforcement to reduce illegal killing of wildlife; (3) surveying large mammal populations to better understand abundance and distribution in key areas; and (4) defining and implementing strategies to minimize impact and to better understand Ebola outbreaks on key ape populations.

USFWS: \$3,457,190 Leveraged Funds: \$1,954,844

Grants

CAMEROON

AFR1554

Grant # F15AP00732

Using Real Security Monitoring to Protect Elephants of Bouba-Ndjida Ecosystem. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society, the purpose of this project is to support a conservation effort in Bouba-Ndjida National Park in Cameroon by using aerial surveillance to support anti-poaching efforts. The project is intended to conserve elephants by reducing the threat from large-poaching by armed poachers. Poachers killed half the elephant population of the park in 2012. Specific activities include: (1) regular aerial surveillance to identify poaching and other threats for law enforcement and to evaluate the status of elephant herds; (2) real-time data reported to park law enforcement authorities to respond to poaching threats; (3) training on law enforcement monitoring conducted for field team rangers to establish threat database and reporting system on illegal activities; and (4) data management and analysis improved to support for the law enforcement monitoring activities.

USFWS: \$106,479

Leveraged Funds: \$0

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

AFR1501

Grant # F15AP00751

Sustainable Nature Management of the Chinko Project Africa. In partnership with African Parks Foundation of America, the purpose of this project is to support a conservation effort in the Chinko Reserve of the Central African Republic by developing the necessary infrastructure, law enforcement activities, and wildlife monitoring and habitat management to support park management. The project is intended to conserve the rich savanna and forest species of the Chinko/Mbari drainage basin including large antelopes, wild dogs, leopard, and elephants by addressing the impacts of poaching, bushmeat, human wildlife conflict, mining and security threats. Specific activities include: (1) road construction to demarcate boundaries and enable patrols; (2) development of scout housing to accommodate the law enforcement team; and (3) purchase of supplies to facilitate communications.

USFWS: \$109,527

Leveraged Funds: \$435,220

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

AFR1504

Grant # F15AP00891

Strengthening wildlife protection and law enforcement measures in Bili Mbomu forest savanna within the Bili Uele Protected Area Complex. In partnership with African Wildlife Foundation, the purpose of this project is to support a conservation effort in the Bili Uele Protected Area Complex of the Democratic Republic of Congo by strengthening wildlife protection and law enforcement by the Congolese Wildlife Authority (ICCN). The project is intended to conserve eastern chimpanzees, forest elephants, lions and other species in the Bili Mbomu forest savanna by addressing the impacts of poaching, bushmeat trade, mining, and civil conflict. Specific activities include: (1) development of patrol leaders and future trainers to

improve ICCN operations; (2) analysis of baseline data of key species to inform patrols and conservation management; (3) analysis of ecological treats to inform mitigation strategy, patrolling methods and community outreach; (4) update of geospatial maps to guide on-the-ground activities; (5) use of CyberTracker/SMART to improve data collection and reporting for patrol management; (6) development of ranger performance-based management plan to formalize ranger operations; (7) outreach conducted to engage stakeholders and local communities in Bili Mbomu conservation; and (8) regular meetings held to involve partners.

USFWS: \$99,339

Leveraged Funds: \$71,370

AFR1506

Grant # F15AP00749

Reducing commercial bushmeat hunting by creating markets for lower cost, sustainable alternatives in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. In partnership with Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International, the purpose of this project is to support a conservation effort in communities around the Biruwe-Nkuba Conservation Area, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, by promoting small-scale farming among families with hunters. The project is intended to conserve a population of Grauer's gorillas that occur outside of a formal protected area, as well as other species like giant pangolins, that are threatened by unsustainable hunting for the commercial bushmeat trade. Specific activities include: (1) assessment of bushmeat hunting (Nkuba village) and the proportion bushmeat consumed versus sold in markets in town (Biruwe, Mubi, and Mabeka) to understand the economic importance of the bushmeat trade to community members; (2) economic analysis of farmed meat and crops to determine the volume, price, and productivity needed from agriculture to compete with bushmeat hunting as a livelihood; and (3) pilot agreements with four families to stop hunting in return for small livestock and small farm assistance.

USFWS: \$30,129

Leveraged Funds: \$42,600

AFR1514

Grant # F15AP00743

Conserving endangered species through improving security of Kahuzi Biega National Park. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society, the purpose of this project is to support a conservation effort in Kahuzi Biega National Park, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, by improving law enforcement and wildlife security. The project is intended to conserve one of the largest populations of Grauer's gorillas and other Albertine Rift wildlife by addressing hunting and other illegal activities in the park. Specific activities include: (1) establishment of a software system, named Sentinal, to organize intelligence data and improve coordination of law enforcement response to wildlife crime; (2) deployment of ground sensors at trafficking hotspots to improve the park authority's ability to detect illegal extraction of resources, including support for training and initial operational support by Maisha Consulting; and (3) integration of arrest and intelligence data into SMART, a law enforcement monitoring system used in the park to improve ranger patrol strategy.

USFWS: \$112,941

Leveraged Funds: \$54,365

AFE1550**Grant # F15AP00741**

Protecting the largest known population of forest elephants in the Democratic Republic of Congo: Phase III. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society, the purpose of this project is to support a conservation effort in the Okapi Faunal Reserve, northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo, by supporting ranger patrols and law enforcement. This project is intended to protect the country's largest known population of forest elephants, estimated to at 1,700 individuals in 2011, from poaching and ivory trafficking. Specific activities include: (1) surveillance patrols to detect and stop elephant poaching; (2) support for SMART, a law enforcement monitoring system intended to improve ranger patrol strategy; (3) deployment of park rangers in the park's southwest sector to prevent the reoccupation by poachers of illegal gold mining camps, established in 2012 and evacuated in 2014 following a successful government intervention; and (4) collaborate with the judiciary, police and other enforcement agencies to improve enforcement and prosecution of wildlife crime, including deployment of two EAGLE Network-trained lawyers in the province's administrative capital of Bunia.

USFWS: \$100,214

Leveraged Funds: \$93,095

EQUATORIAL GUINEA**AFR1507****Grant # F15AP00748**

Reducing bushmeat supply and demand by increasing wildlife security on Bioko Island, Equatorial Guinea. In partnership with Drexel University and the Bioko Biodiversity Protection Program, the purpose of this project is to support a conservation effort on Bioko Island, Equatorial Guinea, by combating the illegal bushmeat trade in the island's most important wildlife reserve. This project is intended to protect wildlife, including seven species of monkeys and one of the world's largest nesting population of leatherback turtles, in the Gran Caldera and Southern Highlands Scientific Reserve from illegal and unsustainable harvest. Specific activities include: (1) a science and policy workshop with government and regional stakeholders to clarify the legal and management status of the reserve, and to build support for both a comprehensive management plan and an effort to seek UNESCO World Heritage status for the reserve; (2) an impact assessment of the new paved road connecting Luba, the island's second biggest city, to the 80-person coastal village of Ureca, including the need for road blocks to control access by illegal hunters; (3) daily beach and monthly forest patrols to census and protect sea turtles and forest wildlife from poaching, including support for equipment, training, and two camps (Moraka Playa and Moaba Playa) and monitoring of three control sites with less project presence to evaluate patrol effectiveness at focal sites; (4) training of local workers to work in ecotourism and on monitoring teams to provide an alternative livelihood to the bushmeat and turtle trade; and (5) a public campaign to reduce demand for bushmeat consumption, including surveys, public service announcements, and school outreach.

USFWS: \$249,608

Leveraged Funds: \$388,109

GABON

AFR1515

Grant # F15AP00740

Consolidating law enforcement efforts by providing aerial support to Gabon's marine and terrestrial parks network. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society, the purpose of this project is to support the Gabonese National Parks Agency (ANPN) and the Forestry Department by providing aerial support for protected area management and conservation. The project is intended to conserve wildlife by monitoring for illegal human activities in and around national parks and buffer zones on land and in the water. Specific activities include: (1) extensive aerial surveillance and monitoring of human activities and wildlife to regularly assess Gabon's national parks and coastline; (2) timely logistical support through punctual aviation to assist ANPN protection teams; and (3) technical assistance to aid ANPN in the development of their aviation program including data management and reporting.

USFWS: \$99,396

Leveraged Funds: \$36,424

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 is intended 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. In the ocean, the project is intended to address sea turtle fisheries bycatch from fish and shrimp trawlers, long line fishing vessels and artisanal fishers. Specific activities include: (1) enhancement of an onboard observation program to reduce bycatch by Gabon's fishing fleet, including training, expansion to pelagic vessels targeting tuna, and promotion of better management practices; (2) implementation of a turtle excluder device (TED) program, including assisting the Ministry of Fisheries to conduct inspections to ensure greater TED compliance and operation in the shrimp fishery, exploring how to locally construct and maintain TEDs to improve sustainability, and testing of more effective TED models; (3) collaboration with the Benga community to better understand the artisanal fisheries in Corisco Bay, including addressing artisanal fisheries bycatch; (4) annual aerial surveys of nesting beaches to monitor long term nesting trends; (5) beach surveillance in national parks and reserves which accounts for 80% of nesting activity within Gabon, including night patrols to protect nests from poaching and relocation of nests threatened by high tides; (6) complete log removal on all major nesting beaches; and (7) stakeholder capacity development and outreach to raise awareness of the protected status of sea turtles in Gabon and to improve sea turtle/fishery interactions, including with the oil and gas industry, coastal villagers and fishermen, schools, and urban residents.

USFWS: \$230,000¹

Leveraged Funds: \$96,993

¹ CARPE: \$190,000; Marine Turtle Conservation Fund: \$40,000

AFR1517**Grant # F15AP00738**

Marine conservation in the Gamba complex: integrating marine and terrestrial protected area management. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society, the purpose of the project is to integrate the new marine protected area into the management planning of Gabon's Loango National Park and the Gamba complex. The project is intended to conserve marine and terrestrial habitats in Loango and Gamba complex by engaging stakeholders and partners together with the Gabonese National Parks Agency (ANPN) and Fisheries Department (ANPA) in the development of an Application Decree, a Management Plan, and artisanal fishing zones. Specific activities include: (1) consultation with stakeholders to develop marine park management plan; (2) establishment of a consultative committee to finalize the Application Decree; (3) organization of a planning workshop with ANPN to identify objectives and priority activities for the new marine park and adjacent seasonal fishing zone, including training for ANPN, ANPA, and *Gabon Bleu* staff in management plan development; (4) Management Plan for the marine park drafted to effectively manage resources; (5) marine surveillance supported to survey the park for illegal activities; and (6) protocols developed to collect data and monitor biodiversity and threats. USFWS: \$204,937 Leveraged Funds: \$117,898

AFR1518**Grant # F15AP00736**

Sustainable use of marine resources through better management of fish stocks and artisanal fishing zones around Libreville. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society, the purpose of this project is to improve fisheries management for the Komo Estuary south of Libreville, Gabon. The project is intended to conserve fish stocks and improve fishing management by addressing the impacts of overfishing. Specific activities include: (1) improvement of government capacity to reduce fishing infractions through creation of standard data collection protocol for fisheries management and enforcement; (2) establishment of a centralized database to make data available for management; (3) support for the Government of Gabon to create fishing cooperatives; (4) sampling plan developed to ensure reliability of data collected; (5) training team hired to collect fisheries data; (6) collected data to be stored in the *Gabon Bleu* database; (7) physiochemical parameters identified to provide information on fish distribution and selection of fishing areas; (8) data analyzed to strengthen planning and mitigate threats to Komo Estuary; and (9) management actions developed to ensure effective fisheries management and conservation.

USFWS: \$108,076

Leveraged Funds: \$69,466

AFR1534**Grant # F15AP00734**

Reducing trade of bushmeat from protected species in the lake region of Gabon. In partnership with *Organisation Ecotouristique du Lac Oguemoué* (OELO), the purpose of this project is to conserve protected wildlife in the lake district of Gabon. This project seeks to reduce the illegal bushmeat trade in Lamberéné, Gabon, by addressing the sale of protected species. It conserves protected wildlife such as the manatee, forest buffalo and giant pangolin by seeking to change consumer preference for bushmeat and reduce wildlife trade in Lamberéné. Specific activities include: (1) environmental education targeted at the next generation of consumers to increase public awareness of protected species and hunting laws (through school programs, community presentations, outreach with tourism partners, local media, and local authorities); (2) sponsorship

of nature clubs, development of wildlife murals, online photo contests, World Environment Day 2015 celebrations, field trips by local leaders to OELO's ecotourism site at Tsam Tsam, and student questionnaires to improve attitudes towards biodiversity conservation and environmental stewardship; (3) surveys of local markets and restaurants and partnerships with local leaders to improve understanding of bushmeat sales and the black market for protected species.

USFWS: \$45,745

Leveraged Funds: \$38,180

AFR1552

Grant # F15AP00733

Building ecotourism services and local communities involvement for the conservation of great apes in the Moukalaba Doudou National Park, Gabon. In partnership with Protector of the Great Apes of Moukalaba (PROGRAM), the purpose of this project is to conserve Moukalaba Doudou National Park in Gabon by strengthening gorilla-based ecotourism as a tool for protecting the ecological integrity of the park and involving local communities to manage their natural resources. The project is intended to maintain the gorilla habituation process and strengthen capacities to promote and develop ecotourism in Moukalaba Doudou National Park, Gabon. Specific activities include: (1) implementation of a new working methodology to maintain the gorilla habituation process; (2) recruitment of three primatologists to support the habituation process; (3) building of an additional wooden platform in collaboration with local communities and provision of research equipment to improve working conditions; (4) tourism infrastructure improved to support the park's tourism development; (5) establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the park for tourism management; (6) tourism increased to support park management plans; and (7) creation of tourism products to improve the quality of the experience for tourists visiting the park.

USFWS: \$101,209

Leveraged Funds: \$109,698

GA1546

Grant # F15AP00728

Conservation, Research and Tourism of Critically Endangered Western Gorillas in Loango National Park, Gabon. In partnership with Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, the purpose of this project is to support conservation of the critically endangered western lowland gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*) in Loango National Park in Gabon by facilitating research and tourism activities. The project intends to address the impacts of poaching and illegal activities in the park by acting as a deterrent and detection system for park authorities, providing baseline information, and generating revenue. Specific activities include: (1) continued habituation of one group of western lowland gorillas for tourism and monitoring of the impact of tourism; (2) assessment of behavior change, ranging patterns, diet, and stress levels on gorillas to monitor impacts of habituation and initiation of tourism; (3) use of non-invasive techniques to systematically sample population-wide genetic census; (4) use of camera traps to record presence of gorillas, chimpanzees and other large mammals in the study area; (5) collection of data on diet, habitat utilization and social behavior to enhance understanding of the behavioral ecology and population dynamics of western gorillas; (6) regular surveillance and routine data collected to serve as an effective deterrent to poaching; and (7) training of Gabonese field assistants, gorilla trackers, and national park staff to develop national capacity for science-based conservation and adaptive management.

USFWS: \$98,800

Leveraged Funds: \$174,630

AFE1549**Grant # F15AP00745**

Monitoring the effectiveness of law enforcement operations in order to improve park management and ensure protection of Gabon's national parks and Wonga Wongué Presidential Reserve. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society, the purpose of this project is to support conservation efforts in Gabon's 13 national parks, the Wonga Wongué Presidential Reserve, and buffer zones by producing better planned, executed, and monitored law enforcement and protection activities. The project is intended to conserve Gabon's elephant populations and other wildlife in Gabon's protected area network by addressing the impacts of poaching driven by a rising demand for ivory and facilitated by infrastructure development and opening up of the forests by extractive industries. Specific activities include: (1) provision of technical support to senior Gabonese National Parks Agency (ANPN) staff and Law Enforcement Monitoring (LEM) focal points to facilitate the planning and assess the performance of law enforcement activities including intelligence gathering and tools such as SMART to enhance anti-poaching activities; (2) capacity built in the use of GPS, navigation, communication, and mapping tools to use surveillance and communications equipment effectively; and (3) national LEM program supported to improve conservation results.

USFWS: \$199,163

Leveraged Funds: \$109,703

REPUBLIC OF CONGO**AFR1556****Grant # F15AP00903**

Sniffer Dogs and the Detection of Illegal Pangolin Trade in the Republic of Congo. In partnership with *Projet d'appui à l'Application de la Loi sur la Faune sauvage (PALF)*, the purpose of this project is to support a sniffer dog program to combat the illegal trade in pangolin scales and bushmeat in the Republic of Congo. The project is intended to conserve pangolins and other trafficked species by disrupting illegal trade. Specific activities include: (1) daily field missions with four sniffer dogs in key trade areas including control posts, airports, residences, and poacher camps with the goal of conducting over 104 seizures within a year; (2) development of a phone app to streamline data collection of trafficking incidents; and (3) maintenance of a database to record and monitor wildlife trafficking incidents to ensure that accountability exists within the local law enforcement system.

USFWS: \$28,291

Leveraged Funds: \$20,775

AFR1512**Grant # F15AP00744**

Strengthening national commitment and response to combating elephant poaching and ivory trafficking in the Republic of Congo. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society, the purpose of this project is to support a conservation effort in the Republic of Congo by implementing a national-level law enforcement monitoring program (i.e., SMART). The project is intended to conserve Congo's forest elephants by improving communication and law enforcement responses to poaching and ivory trafficking. Specific activities include: (1) establishment of a national coordinator to work with ministry and parks authority staff on law enforcement monitoring and a crime database to track arrests and prosecutions; (2) expansion of SMART to protected areas and forestry management units beyond where it is already deployed in Congo (i.e., Nouabalé Ndoki National Park); (3) training in intelligence data management for

NGO and government protected area staff to better contribute to prosecutions of wildlife crime; and (4) formal meetings twice a year with government partners to share results and work toward better communication, transparency, and data sharing at the national level.

USFWS: \$97,228

Leveraged Funds: \$57,550

AFR1500

Grant # F15AP00752

Marine turtle monitoring and protection in the Republic of Congo & support of the gorilla conservation project of ESI Congo. In partnership with Renatura, the purpose of this project is to support a conservation effort on the Republic of Congo's coastline by protecting nests and nesting females from poaching and reducing bycatch mortality in artisanal fisheries. This project is intended to protect nesting leatherback and olive ridley turtles on Congo's beaches as well as green turtles and hawksbill turtles in the sea. Specific activities include: (1) night patrols along 20 km of nesting beach, and partial or daily patrols of an additional 60 km of beach adjacent to and south of Conkouati Douli National Park, to deter poaching of adult females and nests; (2) continuation of a turtle bycatch release program to increase survivorship of approximately 2,000 turtles accidentally caught in nets; and (3) an education and awareness program to raise awareness of Congo's natural resources. Via a partnership with ESI Congo, the project will also support a gorilla conservation effort in Kakamoeka District, adjacent to Conkouati Douli National Park, by (4) monitoring bushmeat markets in Pointe Noire, deploying camera traps in a potential wildlife corridor, and developing outreach and education activities in local schools.

USFWS: \$57,228

Leveraged Funds: \$83,757

AFR1520

Grant # F15AP00735

Reducing Threats to Wildlife from Urban Bushmeat Demand. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society, the purpose of this project is to support a conservation effort in Pointe Noire, Republic of Congo, by raising awareness about the consequences of commercial bushmeat hunting and trade and by building a constituency to decrease the demand for bushmeat among urban populations. The project is intended to conserve wildlife hunted for the luxury bushmeat market, including species such as primates and pangolins occurring in a nearby site of USFWS conservation support, Conkouati Douli National Park. Specific activities include: (1) mapping out the conservation risks and opportunities of urban bushmeat consumption, including analysis of supply, demand, and law enforcement; (2) strategic engagement of stakeholders, using a theory of change, to support a public bushmeat reduction campaign; and (3) development of a public campaign to change bushmeat supply and demand, including identifying the right message and how it will be delivered, working with a coalition to communicate the message, and marketing research to understand how key audiences are best targeted.

USFWS: \$199,979

Leveraged Funds: \$14,730

AFE1536

Grant # F15AP00523

Acoustic Monitoring in Congo – Establishing Expert Capacity. In partnership with The Elephant Listening Project at Cornell University, the purpose of this project is to support capacity development for an advanced field biologist from the Republic of Congo by enhancing his expertise on acoustic monitoring tools for elephant conservation. The project is intended to conserve forest elephants by improving the ability to track changes in elephant activity in dense

forested landscapes, estimate population density, and quantify human activities such as hunting and their impact on elephant movements and behavior. Specific activities include provision of in-depth training to transfer capacity for sustainable and long-term sound analysis research for elephant conservation in Central Africa.

USFWS: \$30,941

Leveraged Funds: \$10,762

AFE1504

Grant # F15AP00522

Conservation of forest elephants in the future Ogooué-Leketi National Park, Republic of Congo. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society, the purpose of this project is to support conservation in the proposed Ogooué-Leketi National Park, Republic of Congo, by improving wildlife protection and trans-boundary collaboration. This project is intended to conserve forest elephants through anti-poaching efforts within the proposed park boundaries. Specific activities include: (1) deployment of anti-poaching patrols to reduce illegal killing of elephants, including trans-boundary patrols every three months with Gabonese ecoguards; (2) recruitment and training for at least five additional guards to increase surveillance effort; (3) implementation of a law enforcement monitoring system (i.e., SMART) to better direct patrol deployment and to increase accountability; (4) training of a lawyer and law enforcement personnel in investigation methods, evidence collection, and legal follow-up to increase successful prosecutions of wildlife crime; (5) surveillance of the Madjouama, Bissoloko and Moolo forest clearings (also known as bais) for at least 15 days each month to monitor elephant activity and to provide a deterrent for poachers; and (6) acoustic monitoring and platform maintenance at key forest clearings to enhance surveillance and monitoring.

USFWS: \$52,433

Leveraged Funds: \$28,158

AFE1532

Grant # F15AP00524

Reducing ivory trafficking in the northern Republic of Congo, by improving law enforcement in the Likouala region. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society, the purpose of this project is to support a conservation effort in and around Lac Tele Community Reserve, northern Republic of Congo, by maintaining and expanding a protection presence. This project is intended to conserve forest elephants by addressing the impacts of poaching for the illegal trade in ivory. Specific activities include: (1) deployment of anti-poaching patrols in areas with the greatest amount of illegal human activity, including in the reserve's peripheral zones (Bailly, Nkiele, and Mbanza) where approximately 95% of the landscape's elephant population is located; (2) surveillance of and rapid-response missions to key transit points for wildlife trafficking, including the Epena-Impfondo and Toukoulaka-Ouessou roads and cargo boat traffic out of Epena, Mboua, and Bouanela; and (3) implementation of a law enforcement monitoring system (i.e., SMART) to better direct patrol deployment and to increase accountability.

USFWS: \$78,945

Leveraged Funds: \$20,974

MULTIPLE COUNTRIES

CAMEROON, REPUBLIC OF CONGO

AFR1503

Grant # F15AP00750

Strengthening capacity of national CITES authorities, customs and enforcement authorities to identify listed and protected species in Cameroon and the Republic of Congo. In partnership with Born Free USA, the purpose of this project is to support a conservation capacity development effort in Cameroon and the Republic of Congo by enabling national authorities to properly identify protected species and to enforce CITES. This project is intended to conserve CITES protected species by addressing the impacts of illegal wildlife crime more efficiently by ensuring the implementation of CITES by national authorities, customs, and enforcement officers and thereby increasing seizures of illegal specimens and decreasing wildlife crime. Specific activities include: (1) development of guides to facilitate identification of listed and protected species for each country; (2) distribution of CITES guides to relevant authorities to enable them to accurately identify wildlife species and specimens; and (3) development and delivery of onsite CITES train-the-trainer training to provide needed skills and tools at strategic border and control points.

USFWS: \$44,000

Leveraged Funds: \$6,006

CAMEROON, GABON, REPUBLIC OF CONGO

AFR1553

Grant # F15AP00780

Taking the Fight to the Traffickers: A Transnational Approach to Fighting Forest Elephant Poaching in the TRIDOM. In partnership with Freeland Foundation, the purpose of this project is to address transnational wildlife crime by developing capacity for law enforcement in the TRIDOM basin of Gabon, Cameroon and Republic of Congo. This project is intended to conserve African elephants by addressing ivory trafficking and developing a strategy to disrupt traffickers. Specific objectives include: (1) identify the transnational actors responsible for trafficking 70% or more of the ivory being smuggled out of the TRIDOM basin region; (2) collaborate with NGOs and partner agencies in the region to develop a strategy to disrupt the trafficking networks; (3) raise investigative capacity in Gabon and the TRIDOM region through mentoring; and (4) support Gabon to build a trusted network of global law enforcement partners.

USFWS: \$177,527.50

Leveraged Funds: \$123,187

AFR1555

Grant # F15AP01075

Building Capacity for Canine Anti-Trafficking and Anti-Poaching in Africa and Asia. In partnership with Working Dogs for Conservation, the purpose of this project is to support wildlife security efforts in Africa by providing benchmarks for professional development of canine law enforcement programs. This project is intended to conserve elephants and other select species targeted by the illegal commercial trade in wildlife. Specific activities include: (1) production and printing of curriculum materials to assist dog handlers in Africa and Asia; (2) compilation of existing training videos and production of new videos demonstrating best practices techniques to improve the efficacy of dog programs; (3) site visits to facilitate project

staff and leaders to interact with and learn from high functioning dog programs; and (4) basic equipment for health and diagnostics at every canine program site to improve the health and well-being of the dogs.

USFWS: \$45,000

Leveraged Funds: \$152,490

REGIONAL

AFR1505

Grant # F15AP01122

Congo Basin Grant Program. In partnership with Conservation Action Research Network, the purpose of this project is to support conservation efforts in Central Africa by developing a new generation of researchers to address critical conservation challenges facing wildlife, biodiversity and ecosystem health. The project is intended to conserve wildlife and habitats by addressing capacity development needs, specifically research support for graduate students and early career professionals in the Congo Basin. Specific activities include: (1) identification of appropriate Central African researchers to support their studies on applied wildlife conservation through competitive bridge funding research grants; and (2) assistance to the researchers in their efforts to become scientifically independent and able to pursue successful careers in wildlife conservation.

USFWS: \$27,500

Leveraged Funds: \$43,100

Modifications to Existing Grants

CHAD

Grant # F14AP00772

Aerial support for anti-poaching, monitoring, and management of Zakouma National Park, Chad and Periphery. In partnership with African Parks Foundation, this project provides aerial support for anti-poaching, monitoring and management of Zakouma National Park and its periphery, Chad's largest remaining elephant population. Funds will support the operating costs of aerial surveillance by a fixed wing aircraft. Specific activities include: (1) deployment of two small aircraft for park management and surveillance flights to support ground teams and to protect elephants in and outside the park, including inspections, parts, fuel, insurance and airstrip construction; and (2) development of the capacity of the Chadian park authority to manage an aerial surveillance program.

USFWS: \$114,865

Leveraged Funds: \$92,395