

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of International Conservation
Great Ape Conservation Fund FY2015
Summary of Projects**

In 2015, USFWS awarded an amended multi-year cooperative agreement and supported 28 new projects, totaling \$1,966,050, which was matched by \$3,377,689 in additional leveraged funds. Field projects in 14 countries were supported, including three projects that spanned multiple countries.

Amendments to Existing Multi-Year Cooperative Agreements

MULTIPLE COUNTRIES: NIGERIA AND CAMEROON

GA0757

Grant # F10AP00409

A landscape approach to conservation of the critically endangered Cross River gorilla. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this five-year cooperative agreement is to ensure the survival of the critically endangered Cross River gorilla through support to a network of core protected areas and corridors across the Afi Kagwene landscape in Nigeria and Cameroon managed in collaboration with local communities and government. Specific activities include: (1) camera trapping; (2) increased patrols; and (3) completion of the Cross River Gorilla Action Plan.

USFWS: \$261,000

Leveraged Funds: \$297,901

Grants

CAMBODIA

GA1525

Grant # F15AP00795

Enhanced conservation of yellow-cheeked crested gibbon through targeted habitat protection and ecotourism development in southern Mondulhiri, Cambodia. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to protect gibbons and their habitat through direct law enforcement, and to continue supporting the development of gibbon-based ecotourism through targeted law enforcement, capacity development, and project monitoring.

USFWS: \$63,116

Leveraged Funds: \$63,178

GA1556

Grant # F15AP00867

Northern plains of Cambodia pileated gibbon conservation project: Phase 5. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to ensure that protected area managers and enforcement staff have the capacity to interpret and respond to Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) reports and conduct adaptive law enforcement strategies, ensure

effective protection of the pileated gibbon and its habitat, and implement effective control of gun use in the landscape.

USFWS: \$67,555

Leveraged Funds: \$68,632

CAMEROON

GA1516

Grant # F15AP01119

Decreasing the impact of threats on the great apes of the proposed Ebo National Park, Cameroon. In partnership with Zoological Society of San Diego/San Diego Zoo Global. The purpose of this project is to contribute to the development of the future Ebo National Park and reduce threats to great ape populations. Specific activities include: (1) reducing hunting by people living in the immediate vicinity of the forest through a variety of community education activities such as ‘*Clubs des Amis des Gorilles*,’ supporting pro-conservation decisions made by local leaders, and limiting damage to habitat and biodiversity by collaborating with other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to provide time-sensitive information on commercial activities; (2) providing a permanent presence at two field stations through regular habitat monitoring, patrols of the gorilla range, and the development of a reconnaissance unit; and (3) enabling communication, coordination and collaboration among key organizations, including Cameroon’s Ministry of Forests and Wildlife (MINFOF), traditional authorities and local leaders to decrease threats to ape populations.

USFWS/USAID: \$87,831 Leveraged Funds: \$72,560

GA1558

Grant # F15AP01032

Strengthening Capacity for More Effective Law Enforcement to Protect the Rarest of Chimpanzees: Nigeria-Cameroon Chimpanzees (Pan Troglodytes Elliotti and Pan Troglodytes Troglodytes) of Mbam& Djerem National Park, Cameroon. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to secure the long-term conservation of two chimpanzee subspecies in the Mbam & Djerem National Park landscape through improved law enforcement and increased local capacity for protected area management. Specific activities include: (1) implementation of the SMART (Spatial Monitoring And Reporting Tool) law enforcement monitoring tool to better manage anti-poaching patrols; and (2) increase awareness and support for chimpanzee conservation in local communities through village and school education programs and collaboration with key stakeholders in the development of potential alternative and sustainable livelihood activities.

USFWS: \$53,158

Leveraged Funds: \$53,754

DRC

GA1512

Grant # F15AP01027

Conservation of great apes in the Kasese region west of Kahuzi Biega National Park. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to conduct a standardized assessment of ape numbers and biodiversity in the Kasese region west of Kahuzi Biega National Park to produce management recommendations necessary to improve protection of ape populations. Specific activities include: (1) a biological survey to identify key areas to

protect great apes in the proposed *Reserve des Gorilles de Punia* (RGPU) region; and (2) participatory zoning of the Kasese forest based on the results of the survey to build support of local leaders and key stakeholders for great ape conservation in the region.

USFWS: \$58,362

Leveraged Funds: \$45,127

GA1515

Grant # F15AP01049

Conservation education on the great apes in the northern sector of the Grauer landscape. In partnership with Jane Goodall Institute for Wildlife Research, Education and Conservation. The purpose of this project is to train teachers and community leaders in conservation education and leadership to create an enabling environment for great ape and biodiversity conservation in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. Specific activities include: (1) the development of a conservation education curriculum for children and adults in the Grauer landscape; (2) a train-the-trainer course to introduce educational materials to educators; and (3) villager programs on conservation education targeting adults.

USFWS: \$49,994

Leveraged Funds: \$59,880

GA1522

Grant # F15AP01043

Protecting and studying a population of 150 Grauer's gorillas living in the core of the subspecies' range. In partnership with Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International. The purpose of this proposal is to protect over 150 Grauer's gorillas and 200 chimpanzees in low altitude Congolese forests. Specific activities include: (1) direct protection of gorilla groups through permanent field team presence; (2) camera trap monitoring of difficult to access sectors; and (3) assessment of the impact of mining activities on bushmeat hunting.

USFWS: \$57,093

Leveraged Funds: \$114,668

GUINEA

GA1534

Grant # F15AP01127

Landscape conservation for chimpanzees in the Bafing River area. In partnership with Wild Chimpanzee Foundation. The purpose of this project is to contribute to the conservation of the largest chimpanzee population in Guinea and West Africa through species and habitat protection. Specific activities include: (1) informing and educating key Guinean authorities and local communities about the importance of classified forests and plans to update the boundaries of the classified forests within the Foutah Djallon-Bafing Area critical to chimpanzee conservation; and (2) working with key stakeholders to delimit and make visible the boundaries of the classified forests.

USFWS: \$65,560

Leveraged Funds: \$71,068

INDIA

GA1537

Grant # F15AP00836

Conservation of eastern hoolock gibbon in eastern Assam-Arunachal Pradesh landscape through education-awareness & community conservation practices (CHGAAP). In partnership

with ENVIRON. The purpose of this project is to create a strong cadre of trained teachers who can educate and motivate students and together with students motivate the community for positive actions, find sacred groves for gibbon conservation taking into consideration taboos and beliefs of local communities, and promote local youth involvement in eastern hoolock gibbon conservation in their villages. This project will also construct canopy bridges in the selected fragments of the Lower Dibang valley district for gibbon use, and identify potential eco-tourism spots with gibbon as target species involving youth volunteers and the local community.

USFWS: \$39,400

Leveraged Funds: \$9,500

INDONESIA

GA1526

Grant # F15AP00808

Protecting sumatran orangutans by preventing forest encroachment and improving and strengthening law enforcement in Gunung Leuser National Park. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to reduce illegal human activities inside Gunung Leuser National Park (GLNP), including forest encroachment, hunting, illegal logging, and other threats in key orangutan habitat, and halt the trade or trafficking of the Sumatran orangutan. This project will also support SMART patrolling of key orangutan habitat in GLNP, and enable the collection of information on illegal trade in orangutans in order to capture, arrest and successfully prosecute poachers and traders of orangutans.

USFWS: \$58,451

Leveraged Funds: \$59,693

GA1528

Grant # F15AP00811

Protection of threatened Sumatran ape population and their habitats and mitigation of the impact of road expansion within Bukit Barisan Selatari National Park, Indonesia. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to prevent habitat loss for gibbons and siamangs through patrols with park rangers especially near roads in areas under high threat of deforestation, support park authorities to understand the impacts of road expansion based on analysis of longitudinal studies on the population and distribution of siamang and gibbon in Bukit Barisan Selatari National Park (BBS). This information will be used to develop recommendations for mitigating road development impacts, and reduce poaching and trafficking of apes through targeting key poaching and wildlife trade networks in and around BBS. This project will support SMART patrols in key areas in the national park, complete analysis of gibbon/siamang data to understand impacts of road expansion, and reduce poaching and trafficking of apes.

USFWS: \$58,679

Leveraged Funds: \$62,761

GA1529

Grant # F15AP00812

Orangutan population surveys and health assessments in Gunung Palung National Park. In partnership with Gunung Palung Orangutan Conservation Program. The purpose of this project is to determine the current population size and longitudinal changes within the orangutan population of the Gunung Palung National Park landscape to assess conservation effectiveness and target future conservation efforts, pilot the use of electronic drones as a cost effective tool

for orangutan population assessments, and assess population viability and health status of orangutans using the GPNP landscape.

USFWS: \$75,000 Leveraged Funds: \$67,368

GA1530

Grant # F15AP00829

Community Agroforestry Restoration and Education (CARE). In partnership with Yayasan Orangutan Sumatera Lesari. The purpose of this project is to support the conservation of the biodiversity of Gunung Leuser National Park (GLNP) by building the capacity of the Bukit Mas community to enact targeted conservation action plans, rehabilitate 20 hectares of the GLNP at Bukit Mas, and raise the education levels and awareness locally about the importance of forest conservation.

USFWS: \$49,859 Leveraged Funds: \$50,634

GA1531

Grant # F15AP00876

Building a landscape of conservation partnerships - Collaborative reforestation, conservation action planning & forest mapping. In partnership with Health in Harmony. The purpose of this project is to reforest illegal gardens within park boundaries, build and strengthen conservation partnerships, triangulate and verify illegal logging monitoring data through analysis of satellite imagery, and continue to build in-house capacity for staff to independently conduct analyses of forest cover loss in the Gunung Leuser National Park landscape using Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

USFWS: \$70,000 Leveraged Funds: \$50,000

GA1538

Grant # F15AP01073

Reducing forest loss and orangutan poaching in the Leuser Ecosystem: Combining habitat monitoring, conflict mitigation, conservation education and research. In partnership with PanEco. The purpose of this project is to conduct monthly habitat monitoring in the Langkat Regency and surrounding areas of the Gunung Leuser National Park (GLNP)/Leuser Ecosystem, provide conservation education activities in high priority areas located in the Langkat Regency, carry out conflict mitigation in the Langkat Regency and surrounding areas of the GLNP/Ecosystem, build local capacity in high priority areas located in the Langkat Regency, and carry out behavioral research of Sumatran orangutans in the Sikundur area.

USFWS: \$49,650 Leveraged Funds: \$53,800

GA1540

Grant # F15AP01059

Prepare orangutans for reintroduction back into natural forest habitat in Central Kalimantan, Borneo, Indonesia. In partnership with Yayasan Penyelamatan Orangutan Borneo (BOS Foundation). The purpose of this project is to create a new group of release candidates (orangutans) by enabling them to complete the final stage of the rehabilitation process. The orangutans will be quarantined for 65 days and then reintroduced into the Bukit Batikap Protection Forest .

USFWS: \$58,230 Leveraged Funds: \$280,785

GA1541**Grant # F15AP00863**

Implementation of a systematic reintroduction programme for rehabilitant orangutans in West Kalimantan. In partnership with Yayasan IAR Indonesia. The purpose of this project is to continue the implementation of the conservation management strategies identified in the previous phases of the project to ensure the long-term protection of the orangutans reintroduced into this area, conduct pre- and post-release monitoring of reintroduced orangutans producing the first comprehensive behavioral ecological data of reintroduced orangutans into Bukit Baka Bukit Raya National Park, determine and monitor forest production (via plant phenology), continue long term monitoring of wild orangutans at the site as well as populations of other wildlife present at the reintroduction site, and the potential effects of the released orangutans into this area, and obtain politico-institutional support for the reintroduction project and the reintroduction site.

USFWS: \$50,000

Leveraged Funds: \$408,960

LIBERIA**GA1517****Grant # F15AP01115**

Strengthening West African chimpanzee conservation through a national capacity building program in conservation research, monitoring and protected area management in the Sapo-Tai region, Liberia. In partnership with Fauna & Flora International, Inc. The purpose of this project is to contribute to the conservation of the West African chimpanzee in Liberia by building the capacity of natural resource managers to conduct applied research. Specific activities include: (1) increasing and supporting Liberian capacity to conduct research and biomonitoring activities through courses, provision of appropriate equipment, data analysis, internships and dissemination of results; (2) increasing Liberian capacity to manage protected areas through training courses and field activities in buffer zone demarcation; (3) understanding drivers of land use through engagement with local stakeholders and investigating buffer zone use; and (4) exploring human-animal conflict around Sapo National Park through interviews, site visits and community meetings to produce a collaborative monitoring plan.

USFWS: \$98,284

Leveraged Funds: \$100,260

MALAYSIA**GA1533****Grant # F15AP00831**

Securing the long-term viability of the Kinabatangan orang-utan population by reconnecting isolated forest fragments and supporting Honorary Wildlife Wardens' activities. In partnership with HUTAN - Kinabatangan Orang-utan Conservation Programme. The purpose of this project is to finalize a Master Plan to reestablish a functional connectivity in Kinabatangan. This project will identify ways through policy gap analysis, recommend policy changes, compensation mechanisms and other incentives, to halt deforestation in the floodplain and reinforce reforestation efforts to enhance food supply and physical contiguity between isolated patches of forests. The project will also improve law enforcement by reinforcing capacities of the Honorary

Wildlife Wardens to ensure that riparian and other protected forests are not encroached and degraded any further.

USFWS: \$48,350

Leveraged Funds: \$85,040

GA1547

Grant # F15AP00868

Conservation of orang-utans beyond the greater Batang Ai-Lanjak-Entimau (BALE) landscape, Sarawak, Malaysia. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation and Science (Malaysia) Berhad. The purpose of this project is to determine the detection and non-detection of orangutans at the six proposed study sites, collate feedback from resident communities in and around the study sites on issues and perceptions towards wildlife (especially orangutans) and protected areas, and work with stakeholders to prepare recommendations towards protecting these sites for Forest Department Sarawak (FDS).

USFWS: \$49,324

Leveraged Funds: \$89,848

MYANMAR

GA1500

Grant # F15AP00783

Conserving a hoolock gibbon stronghold in Mahamyaing Wildlife Sanctuary, Myanmar. In partnership with Friends of Wildlife. The purpose of this project is to protect gibbons and other key species in Mahamyaing Wildlife Sanctuary (MWS), monitor gibbon distribution and abundance, and changes in forest cover through field surveys and satellite-based forest cover change analysis, promote positive interactions among local authorities, Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division (NWCD) staff, and local communities through education and outreach, and support Forest Department/NWCD decision to complete the steps needed to notify MWS.

USFWS: \$50,904

Leveraged Funds: \$8,820

GA1520

Grant # F15AP00794

Scientific verification and conservation planning for western and eastern hoolock speices in northern Myanmar. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to test scientific evidence of the eastern and western Hoolock species in northern Myanmar and study the nature of the contact zone between them, and to improve the conservation of both species in key protected areas around the contact zone in northern Myanmar. The grantee will conduct a line transect-based auditory survey and record morphological differences using large zoomed cameras, where possible collect DNA samples from feces and other available samples to conduct phylogenetic analysis, document main threats to both species and their habitats, and develop-integrate-implement law enforcement and community surveillance plans.

USFWS: \$64,491

Leveraged Funds: \$64,413

RWANDA

GA1506

Grant # F15AP01026

Ensuring the continued growth of the Virunga mountain gorilla population through protection, monitoring and research. In partnership with Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International. The purpose of this project is to support long-term gorilla conservation and research at the Karisoke Research Center. Specific activities include: (1) protection of gorillas, their habitat and other wildlife through approximately 400 independent anti-poaching patrols; (2) population monitoring data collection to inform conservation management, including research on demographics, ranging, health, behavior, genetics and physiologic parameters; and (3) building local capacity of scientific and non-scientific Rwandan staff, collaborators and students.
USFWS: \$57,738¹ Leveraged Funds: \$981,800

SOUTH SUDAN

GA1519

Grant # F15AP01041

Assessment of chimpanzees and other large mammals in South Sudan forests and implementation of rapid action anti-trafficking measures. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to improve the protection of chimpanzees and other large mammals in the remaining forest blocks of South Sudan. Specific activities include: (1) assessing the distribution and relative abundance of chimpanzees and other large mammals; (2) building local capacity to implement fieldwork and develop conservation strategies; (3) developing specific conservation strategies for chimpanzee protection and implementing rapid action activities; and (4) integrating the resulting data and recommendations into conservation and land-use planning processes.
USFWS: \$55,700 Leveraged Funds: \$7,572

VIETNAM

GA1501

Grant # F15AP00792

Strengthening transboundary cooperation for the conservation of yellow-cheeked crested gibbon and other endangered wildlife in the Southern Annamites Western Slopes landscape. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to increase the capacity of law enforcement agencies to conduct strategic enforcement investigations and operations relating to the trans-boundary wildlife trade; generate understanding and support for intelligence-led policing among frontline law enforcement agencies operating in the Southern Annamites Western Slopes landscape; and to enhance communications, coordination and cooperation between relevant agencies in Vietnam and Cambodia to harmonize conservation efforts and law enforcement action within the wider landscape.
USFWS: \$56,985 Leveraged Funds: \$56,980

¹ Of this total, \$23,237 is funded by proceeds from sales of the Save Vanishing Species stamp.

GA1507**Grant # F15AP00793**

Developing sustainable finance for long-term community-based protection of the critically endangered western black-crested gibbon (Nomascus concolor) in Vietnam. In partnership with Fauna & Flora International, Inc. The purpose of this project is to develop a model for Payment for Forest Ecosystem Services (PFES)-funded community-based forest protection, implement pilot community-based forest protection activities through a PFES-funded scheme, and disseminate and raise awareness of the findings of the PFES-funded model to improve protected area management in Vietnam.

USFWS: \$60,070

Leveraged Funds: \$13,724

MULTIPLE COUNTRIES**NIGERIA AND CAMEROON****GA1505****Grant # F15AP01047**

Assessment of disease risk and development of health monitoring protocols for the conservation of the critically endangered Cross River gorilla. In partnership with North Carolina Zoological Society. The purpose of this project is to understand risks posed by disease to the long-term conservation of the Cross River gorilla and mitigate disease based threats to the population currently and in the future. Specific activities include: (1) determining patterns of gastrointestinal parasite infection at multiple sites in the species' range; (2) determining the threat posed by diseases in humans and livestock to gorillas; (3) establishing health and disease threat monitoring protocols; (4) reducing the risk of disease transmission from humans working in the forest; and (5) reducing the risk of disease transmission to the gorillas from local communities, livestock and other forest users.

USFWS: \$51,460

Leveraged Funds: \$50,300

RWANDA AND BURUNDI**GA1511****Grant # F15AP01048**

Strengthening the conservation of chimpanzees in the Nyungwe-Kibira Landscape through transboundary collaboration, law enforcement and tourism development. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to protect the chimpanzee population in the Nyungwe-Kibira Landscape by increasing revenues from tourism and supporting enhanced law enforcement. Specific activities include: (1) increasing patrol coverage and effectiveness in Kibira National Park; (2) reducing transboundary illegal activities through joint ranger patrols and joint law enforcement planning between Nyungwe and Kibira; (3) supporting the ongoing habituation of the Rwegura chimpanzee group and creating tourist trails in their home range to continue preparations for a chimpanzee tourism program in Kibira National Park; and (4) engaging key stakeholders bordering the national parks to support transboundary conservation.

USFWS: \$99,806

Leveraged Funds: \$29,663