

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Division of International Conservation  
African Elephant Conservation Fund  
FY 2016 Summary of Projects**

In FY 2016, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) awarded \$2,512,804 to projects through the African Elephant Conservation Fund which was matched by \$3,684,481 in leveraged funds. In total, Congress appropriated \$2,482,000 and additional funds were provided by other sources, as identified below. These funds supported 22 projects in 12 countries (in alphabetical order below).

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**Cooperative Agreements**

**REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

**AFE1632**

**Grant # F16AP01023**

*Monitoring and protecting the Nouabalé-Ndoki Landscape of Congo.* In partnership with Cornell University. This grant will support acoustic technology to monitor elephant presence, absence, and abundance and human activity, including logging and illegal hunting, at remote sites in the Central African forest. Specific activities include deploying acoustic sensors to detect elephant calls and man-made sounds (including heavy machinery and gunshots) developing software to automatically analyze the recordings; and advising management about changes in elephant activity and detected threats.

USFWS: \$248,579<sup>1</sup>

Leveraged Funds: \$162,924

**ZAMBIA**

**AFE1633**

**Grant # F16AP01027**

*Supporting the government of Zambia to inventory and improve management of their ivory stockpiles.* In partnership with Stop Ivory, and with funding from USAID-Zambia and the Department of the Interior Technical Assistance Program (ITAP). In adherence with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Resolution 10.10, all signatory countries are expected to report a national inventory of ivory stockpiles. Funding will support independent experts to plan and conduct an inventory of Zambia's ivory and create a long-term data management system. All activities will be conducted with appropriate Zambia government officials, who will be trained to carry on annual inventories and on maintaining the database in future.

USFWS: \$58,075<sup>2</sup>

Leveraged Funds: \$17,715

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<sup>1</sup> Of this, \$65,000 was provided by funds through the Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE).

<sup>2</sup> Funding provided by USAID-Zambia and the Department of the Interior Technical Assistance Program (ITAP).

## Grants

### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

#### **AFE1603**

##### **Grant # F16AP00905**

***Improving and sustaining the capacity of wildlife guards to protect the Okapi Wildlife Reserve, DR Congo.*** In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Global. This grant provides support for protected area operations at the Okapi Wildlife Reserve in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This protected area, a World Heritage Site, has suffered from regional instability and poaching incursions by armed entities. Previous support has allowed the improvement of infrastructure for ranger staff and expansion of patrol intensity and coverage. Specific activities include operational support for wildlife guards from the national wildlife authority (*Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature*) and the provision of two new satellite phones to improve connectivity and communication.

USFWS: \$78,320

Leveraged Funds: \$6,320

### ETHIOPIA

#### **AFE1601**

##### **Grant # F16AP00886**

***Conserving elephants in Babile Elephant Sanctuary.*** In partnership with Born Free USA. This grant aims to strengthen law enforcement and reduce poaching pressure on Ethiopia's severely imperiled elephants at Babile Elephant Sanctuary. This is the northeasternmost population of elephants remaining in Africa, and has been reduced to only a few hundred elephants. Specific activities include evaluating the ranger operating system, conducting basic ranger training, and establishing a more effective ranger operations strategy including a rapid response team.

USFWS: \$62,243

Leveraged Funds: \$189,121

### KENYA

#### **AFE1620**

##### **Grant # F16AP01008**

***Assessing elephant habitat use and offering increased protection and connectivity within the Imenti and Lower Imenti Forest Reserves of Mount Kenya.*** In partnership with Mount Kenya Trust. This project works to secure habitat for elephants on the slopes of Mount Kenya, which has become increasingly isolated and fragmented by human settlement and agriculture. To reduce conflict between elephants and farmers and to increase protection, other donors and local stakeholders are building a fence around the perimeter of the remaining montane forest; however, pathways and corridors need to be identified, preserved, and protected in order to allow elephant movement seasonally between the mountain and lower altitude range. Specific activities will include assessing current elephant distribution, pathways, and habitat use in order to recommend appropriate passage and road-crossing structures, and assessing and maintaining fences that protect remaining habitat.

USFWS: \$101,606

Leveraged Funds: \$20,000

**AFE1628****Grant # F16AP01014**

***Frontline protection of at-risk elephant populations in the Laikipia-Samburu Ecosystem.*** In partnership with Space for Giants. This project seeks to reduce elephant poaching within a specific region of the Laikipia Samburu Ecosystem through the establishment of a mobile Rapid Response Team (RRT) of highly trained rangers in Laikipia West and North Constituencies, complementing the RRT founded at Ol Pejeta Conservancy with previous USFWS support. These mobile response teams undertake regular patrols, follow up on information and pro-actively prevent incidents from occurring. They complement the existing North Kenya Policing Strategy and will operate in support of the Kenya Wildlife Service and the National Police Service to bring security to both wildlife and people.

USFWS: \$198,592

Leveraged Funds: \$73,938

**AFE1631****Grant # F16AP01015**

***Elephant protection and human-wildlife conflict mitigation in the cross-border Amboseli-Kilimanjaro ecosystem.*** In partnership with Big Life Foundation. This project supports community rangers, essential for protection of and community support for elephants in and around the arid rangelands around Amboseli, in southern Kenya. Activities will include ongoing operating expenses and equipment for community rangers to patrol, training for rangers on crime scene management and handling of evidence when poaching incidents do occur, and outreach with local residents to lessen and mitigate human-elephant conflict.

USFWS: \$97,672

Leveraged Funds: \$92,760

**MALAWI****AFE1618****Grant # F16AP00917**

***Reclaiming the decimated western region of Thuma Forest Reserve, Malawi, for elephant habitat.*** In partnership with Wildlife Action Group. This project provides support to protect elephants in Thuma and Dedza-Salima forest reserves west of Lake Malawi from poaching pressure and agricultural encroachment. Specific activities will include continued patrolling for the core forested area that provides essential habitat to the elephants, and construction and staffing of a new patrol camp in the remote western part of Thuma Reserve in order to reduce illegal charcoal harvesting and promote restoration of the forest. In addition, funds will be used for a liaison officer and outreach activities to support education programs, wildlife clubs, and sustainable income-generating programs for communities outside the reserves.

USFWS: \$103,671

Leveraged Funds: \$103,671

**MOZAMBIQUE****AFE1604****Grant # F16AP01091**

***Aerial surveillance and deterrent for elephant protection in Chuilexi Conservancy, Niassa Reserve, Mozambique.*** In partnership with Fauna and Flora International. This proposal focuses on the Chuilexi Concession within Niassa Reserve in northern Mozambique. Funding will provide

operating costs for an airplane in order to improve monitoring and detection of poaching threats, and to increase the ability of law enforcement personnel from Chuilexi and the greater reserve to respond to elephant poaching incidents and other illegal activity.

USFWS: \$51,875                      Leveraged Funds: \$64,980

## **NIGERIA**

### **AFE1602**

#### **Grant # F16AP00888**

***Strengthening the protection of elephants at Yankari Game Reserve through enhanced law enforcement action and monitoring.*** In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society. This project supports protection of elephants in Yankari Game Reserve in Nigeria. This small population is one of the few remnant populations surviving in this part of Africa, and is therefore regionally and nationally important. Specific activities include providing operating costs for anti-poaching patrols and supporting the ranger-based Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) monitoring system.

USFWS: \$99,164                      Leveraged Funds: \$88,530

## **SOUTH AFRICA**

### **AFE1621**

#### **Grant # F16AP00932**

***The Transboundary Elephant Research Programme within Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park, South Africa.*** In partnership with Elephants Alive. This long-term project tracks individual elephant movements within Kruger National Park, on village land and hunting blocks surrounding the Park, and into Mozambique to better understand elephant habitat needs and how management decisions alter elephant behavior and distribution. Specific activities for 2016-2017 include ongoing operational costs of tracking collared elephants to understand how human behavior (including farming, hunting, and poaching) and alteration of the environment affect elephant movements and distribution within the Greater Limpopo region.

USFWS: \$150,081                      Leveraged Funds: \$396,973

### **AFE1626**

#### **Grant # F16AP01012**

***Increasing the capacity of specialist dog trainers for canines deployed in the ivory and illegal wildlife trade arena in southern Africa.*** In partnership with Endangered Wildlife Trust. In recent years, with USFWS and other donor support, numerous detection dog programs have been initiated across Africa, specifically to combat poaching of elephants by tracking evidence from fresh poaching scenes and by detecting ivory in transit or in cargo. However, in order to maximize the effectiveness of these programs and to ensure the welfare and optimal performance of dogs and trainers, continual, ongoing, reliable professional support is necessary. This grant will fund the collaborative effort to develop and implement an internationally certified training plan for Southern African dog handlers and trainers.

USFWS: \$113,156                      Leveraged Funds: \$21,780

## UGANDA

### **AFE1605**

#### **Grant # F16AP00908**

*Protect Uganda's largest elephant population by establishing monthly patrol planning with SMART data.* In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society. This project will support anti-poaching efforts at two of Uganda's largest remaining elephant populations, Murchison Falls National Park and Queen Elizabeth National Park. Specific activities include implementing and maintaining the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) law enforcement monitoring system across both parks to better detect threats, to understand patterns in real-time, and to improve patrol coverage and effort.

USFWS: \$61,421

Leveraged Funds: \$23,081

## ZAMBIA

### **AFE1613**

#### **Grant # F16AP00910**

*Law enforcement enhancement for elephant security operations in North Luangwa National Park, Zambia.* In partnership with Frankfurt Zoological Society. Grant funds will support law enforcement training and operations to protect elephants and other wildlife in North Luangwa National Park, Zambia. Specific activities include provision of uniforms, patrol kit, and patrol team equipment for Department of National Parks and Wildlife officers, and rations for routine and targeted patrols.

USFWS: \$255,560

Leveraged Funds: \$387,576

### **AFE1615**

#### **Grant # F16AP00913**

*Strengthening the South Luangwa detection dog unit by closely collaborating with ZAWA's Intelligence and Investigations Unit (IIU) in Eastern Province of Zambia to reduce ivory trafficking and poaching of elephants in the Luangwa Valley.* In partnership with Conservation South Luangwa. This project works to reduce elephant poaching and ivory trafficking emanating from the Luangwa Valley in Zambia, by directly supporting joint deployment of South Luangwa Conservation Society's detection dog unit and Zambia's Department of National Parks and Wildlife investigations unit. Specific activities include providing rations, equipment and deployment needs to the canine and investigations units, supporting aerial surveillance over the national park and game management areas, and providing technical support through the operations manager.

USFWS: \$140,430

Leveraged Funds: \$312,230

### **AFE1623**

#### **Grant # F16AP00936**

*Strengthening law enforcement efforts in the Lower Zambezi National Park, Zambia.* In partnership with Conservation Lower Zambezi. This project supports village scout and Zambia Department of Wildlife and National Parks activities in the Lower Zambezi National Park and surrounding Game Management Areas of Chiawa and Rufunsa in Southern Zambia. Activities include: (1) supporting a new detection and tracking dog unit to operate throughout the Lower

Zambezi Valley; (2) establishing a courtroom monitoring program to track the outcome of wildlife cases; (3) supporting operational costs for scout patrol teams; (4) aerial patrols over the park and game management areas; and (5) facilitating the coordination of activities between Zambia's wildlife department and counterparts on the Zimbabwe side of the ecosystem.

USFWS: \$228,628

Leveraged Funds: \$950,422

#### **AFE1634**

##### **Grant # F16AP01036**

***Proposal for a wildlife crime detection dog unit, Lusaka.*** In partnership with Game Rangers International. Funds will support the establishment of a Wildlife Crime Detection Dog Unit based in Lusaka, Zambia. The unit will consist of four detection dogs trained to identify ivory, firearms and other wildlife products and six dog handlers to be deployed at key border posts and airports, public transport centers, and roadblocks. Specific activities include procuring four pre-screened dogs, transporting the dogs to Zambia, selecting and training their handlers, and providing equipment, supplies for dog maintenance, veterinary care, and training.

USFWS: \$96,650

Leveraged Funds: \$126,600

## **MULTIPLE COUNTRIES**

### **REGIONAL-AFRICA**

#### **AFE1606**

##### **Grant # F16AP00909**

***African elephant conservation genetics II: a major advance in DNA technology.*** In partnership with the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois. Genetic markers allow us to understand relatedness of elephant populations, and are essential to identify the provenance of confiscated illegal ivory. Recent developments using mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) show great promise in identifying geographic origin more reliably and economically than previous methods. This project will refine the method for mapping DNA to source sites by analyzing the complete mitogenome of existing high quality samples, analyzing samples taken from ivory to determine specific provenance and analyzing more degraded samples from museum specimens for sites that are presently impossible to sample (e.g. unstable sites and areas where elephants are now rare or extirpated). These mitogenomes will be used to will develop a system and conduct training to make this technique and technology accessible and usable in African range states and wherever ivory seizures occur.

USFWS: \$99,914

Leveraged Funds: \$44,144

#### **AFE1630**

##### **Grant # F16AP01048**

***African elephant taxonomy: identifying African elephant populations' classifications for decision-making and recommendations for conservation.*** In partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). A number of scientists have provided evidence that the African elephant should be classified as two species, *Loxodonta africana* and *L. cyclotis*, and that the failure to recognize two species may have negative consequences for conservation policies regarding African elephants. This project will collect samples from identified locations to resolve some remaining questions, engage researchers to analyze samples to classify the elephant

populations in those locations, compile data from all sources to identify the classifications of populations across the African elephant range states, design outreach materials to convey the results to scientists and to interested and relevant policy-makers and stakeholders.

USFWS: \$45,012

Leveraged Funds: \$18,460

## **Modifications to Existing Grants**

### **KENYA**

#### **AFE1509**

##### **Grant # F15AP00619**

***Aerial and vehicle support for security and conservation of elephants in the Tsavo Conservation Area.*** In partnership with Tsavo Trust. Original Scope of Work: This project will provide funds to conduct regular aerial reconnaissance flights and to respond to emergencies and poaching incidents in the greater Tsavo ecosystem, home to Kenya's largest remaining population of elephants, in support of the national wildlife agency, the Kenya Wildlife Service. Explanation of modification: The original grant provided for approximately 400 hours of flying time and 2,000km per month of vehicle operations for ground support. However, in order to meet rising costs and provide uninterrupted support necessitated by poachers targeting the Tsavo elephants, additional funds are necessary to keep the plane and vehicle operational through 2016.

USFWS: \$89,745

Leveraged Funds: n/a

### **MALI**

#### **AFE1531**

##### **Grant # F15AP00747**

***Building law enforcement capacity in close collaboration with local communities to protect Mali's endangered, desert adapted elephants.*** In partnership with the WILD Foundation. The northernmost surviving elephants in Africa are threatened by poachers, loss and degradation of habitat, conflict with people over scarce resources, obstruction of their seasonal migration route, and, most recently, by political instability. This project works with communities and government in Mali to reduce conflict over resources and to improve security for the elephants and local communities. Ongoing instability in the region caused by insurgents and by external trafficking networks has made it necessary to recruit, equip, and train a new fifty-person anti-poaching unit attached to the Mali government's *Direction Nationale des Eaux et Forêts* (DNEF), and to reinforce ranger posts, and provide equipment, vehicles, and operational costs. Increased funds will enable ongoing advanced training and deployment of the anti-poaching unit, as well as the maintenance of the community vigilance networks.

USFWS: \$100,000

Leveraged Funds: \$390,867

### **ZAMBIA**

#### **AFE0829**

##### **Grant # F13AP00989**

***Law enforcement and field support for African elephant conservation in Nsumbu National Park, Zambia.*** In partnership with Conservation Lake Tanganyika. This project supports law

enforcement operations in Nsumbu National Park on Lake Tanganyika, Zambia; to secure the highly vulnerable population of African elephants. In order to guarantee uninterrupted patrolling, additional funds are being allocated for field rations, fuel, field equipment, and operation of a patrol boat.

USFWS: \$32,410

Leveraged Funds: \$192,389