

an anticipated 250 individual frogs; managing laboratory tests of skin and tissue samples at the WCS molecular lab in New York, or the WCS Mobile Molecular Laboratory in DRC; managing laboratory tests of archived amphibian specimens for chytrid fungus through histological (tissue) analysis to establish a baseline for disease monitoring; and create a map and model of disease distribution in relation to habitat and ecology in the broader Albertine Rift region.

GHANA

Conservation of the Critically Endangered Togo slippery frog (Conraua derooi) in Ghana.

AD-0121 Herp Conservation-Ghana

Grant# F12AP01179

FWS: \$24,392 Leveraged funds: \$19,627

Location: Ghana

This project will support efforts to conserve the Togo slippery frog (*Conraua derooi*) in the Atewa Hills and other sites in eastern Ghana, by raising conservation awareness among key stakeholders and restoring degraded forest habitats. Specific activities include: outreach to religious leaders and audiences to build support for species conservation; building support for the formal protection of the Atewa Hills as a national park with outreach to traditional authorities and statesmen, followed by an outreach to schools to reduce hunting pressure by children; continued restoration of 49 acres of degraded forest along the Ghana-Togo border; establishing community-based volunteer groups to raise awareness of the species' status and to report sightings and illegal activities; and training government wildlife and forestry personnel on amphibian identification and conservation.

LAOS

Conservation of the enigmatic and highly threatened Lao newt (Laotriton laoensis).

AD-0136 Wildlife Conservation Society

Grant# F12AP00951

FWS: \$23,896 Leveraged Funds: \$22,575

Location: Northern Laos

This project will support efforts to conserve Lao newt (*Laotriton laoensis*) in northern Laos, by conducting field surveys in areas outside the species' known distribution and by working with local communities and key stakeholders to reduce unsustainable harvest. Specific activities include: increasing training of field assistants from the National University of Laos's Faculty and Science Department on survey technique; performing field surveys in the southern part of the Nam Et Phou Louey National Protected Area and the Kham District along the Vietnam border to determine if the species occurs within a

protected area and outside its known distribution; and a public outreach campaign to local communities to inform villagers of the species' status and legal protection and to reduce harvesting for the illegal international pet trade.

NICARAGUA

Population assessment and survey of chytrid infection in a newly-discovered population of endangered robber frog (Craugastor laevisissimus) and sympatric amphibians of southwestern Nicaragua.

AD-0132

Paso Pacífico

Grant# F12AP01176

FWS: \$20,820

Leveraged funds: \$142,695

Location:

Southwestern Nicaragua

This project will support efforts to conserve a robber frog (*Craugastor laevisissimus*) in southwestern Nicaragua, by identifying key watersheds for amphibian conservation, increasing protection of key habitat, and reducing transmission of chytrid fungus between watersheds. Specific activities include: conducting field surveys of amphibians, water quality, and the presence of the chytrid fungus in the southeastern part of the Paso del Istmo Biological Corridor; managing fundraising to purchase 121 acres of species habitat in the Sierra Serena; patrols along key watersheds to discourage foot traffic between Costa Rica and Nicaragua and to reduce disturbance associated with shrimp harvests; and establishing an outreach program to schools to raise awareness of amphibian conservation and to encourage reporting of amphibian deaths.