

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Division of International Conservation  
Amphibians in Decline Fund FY2014**

In 2014, the USFWS awarded five new grants from the Amphibians in Decline Fund totaling \$111,238 which was matched by \$467,825.66 in leveraged funds. Field projects in five countries (in alphabetical order below) will be supported.

**ARGENTINA**

**AD1407**

**Grant #F14AP00749**

*Conserving the critically endangered Somuncura frog (Pleurodema Somuncurensis) in Somuncura Plateau, Patagonia, Argentina.* In partnership with Universidad Nacional Del Centro, this project will improve protection of the Somuncura frog by alleviating some of the main threats to its survival. Specific activities include: (1) reducing the number of trout in the headwaters of the stream; (2) improving the quality of available habitat for Somuncura frog; (3) assessing strategies for reducing the impact of climate change; and (4) analyzing the extent and impact of illegal trade of the species.

FWS: \$24,380

Leveraged Funds: \$29,050

**GHANA**

**AD1411**

**Grant #F14AP00914**

*A community-based approach to saving the last remaining population of the critically endangered Togo slippery frog (Conraua derooi) in Ghana.* In partnership with Herp Conservation Ghana, this project will maintain a viable wild population of the critically endangered Togo slippery frog in Ghana. Specific objectives include: (1) instituting a community-based amphibian sanctuary (protected area) in the Togo-Volta Hills; (2) restoring tree cover to 10 hectares of critical frog habitat by December 2015; and (3) reducing consumption of the critically endangered Togo slippery frog in the Togo-Volta Hills by 50% by December 2015.

FWS: \$7,698

Leveraged Funds: \$16,412

**ISRAEL**

**AD1400**

**Grant #F14AP00886**

*Management program for the conservation of the recently rediscovered Hula painted frog (Latonia nigriventer).* In partnership with the School of Marine Sciences of the Ruppin Academic Center in Israel, this project aims to fill the gap in knowledge about this rediscovered species by gathering data on its natural history. Basic information is required to develop a conservation management plan in the Hula reserve, and for establishing a breeding program for this species. These actions are expected to bring this unique species back from the brink of extinction and extend its distribution into the recently re-flooded areas of the Hula Valley.

Specific objectives include: (1) defining the current distribution of the Hula painted frog; (2) assessing its population size; (3) defining its population structure; and (4) determining preferred habitat for the species.

FWS: \$25,000

Leveraged Funds: \$25,000

## **MADAGASCAR**

### **AD1405**

#### **Grant #F14AP00748**

*Protecting the golden mantella frogs from gold mining in golden ponds in Madagascar.* In partnership with Madagasikara Voakjy, this project will eliminate gold mining in the new Mangabe protected area in Madagascar and encourage community efforts to protect and restore the area's golden mantella breeding ponds. Specific activities include: (1) assessing the impacts of gold mining on water quality, human development, and biodiversity conservation; (2) raising awareness in the communities of Moramanga and Anosibe An'Ala about the regulations that apply to gold mining; (3) engaging the government in protecting the golden mantella breeding ponds; (4) supporting community engagement to protect golden mantellas in Mangabe's new protected area; (5) promoting social laws (dina) to manage natural resource use in Mangabe's new protected area; and (6) maintaining the quality of the golden mantella habitat through restoration and monitoring.

FWS: \$25,000

Leveraged Funds: \$96,956

## **PANAMA**

### **AD1420**

#### **Grant #F14AP00750**

*Studying disease resistance to reduce the threat of chytridiomycosis to Panamanian golden frogs.* In partnership with the Smithsonian Institution, this project is working towards re-establishing healthy wild populations of Panamanian golden frogs (*Atelopus zeteki*) in Panama. Specific activities include: (1) developing and testing a tool to screen frogs for their ability to clear a *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (Bd) infection; and (2) maintaining a colony of Bd-survivors for breeding and future studies, including use in eventual reintroduction experiments.

FWS: \$29,160

Leveraged Funds: \$300,407.66