

INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION GRANTS: ROUND TWO

Here are detailed descriptions of the latest round of International Conservation Grants, awarded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

AFRICAN ELEPHANT

Support for the Production and Dissemination of Pachyderm. In partnership with IUCN Species Survival Commission's African Elephant Specialist Group. This project will support the editing, production and dissemination costs of the July-December 2006 issue of the journal of the African Elephant, African Rhino, Asian Elephant and Asian Rhino specialist groups. The journal, *Pachyderm*, provides a platform for disseminating the results of cutting-edge research on African and Asian pachyderms, highlights conservation priorities, and contributes to capacity building by providing opportunities for researchers from Range States to publish their work, and share lessons learned with other researchers and conservation authorities. FWS: \$5,500. Leveraged Funds: \$9,800.

Development of Elephant Management Plan for the Save Valley Conservancy. In partnership with the Save Valley Conservancy. This project will support core research on the habitat and elephant dynamics of a population of 1200 animals resulting from a re-introduced population, and will convene stakeholders meetings to identify management strategies and mitigate conflict with neighboring communities. FWS: \$23,573. Leveraged Funds: \$74,409.

Aerial Survey and Census of African Elephant Populations in North West Matabeleland, Sebungwe and Gonarezhou Regions of Zimbabwe. In partnership with WWF Southern Africa Regional Programme Office. This project will support a scientifically rigorous survey of Zimbabwe's largest elephant populations (in North West Matabeleland, Sebungwe and Gonarezhou regions) during the 2006 dry season (August-October). These surveys will provide direct measures of the numbers and distribution of elephant populations. FWS: \$75,705. Leveraged Funds: \$41,476.

Support to Village Scouts in Rufunsa Game Management Area, Southern Zambia. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society. This project will provide basic equipment to village scouts in order to improve their ability to patrol their community area, outside the Lower Zambezi National Park. FWS: \$5,038. Leveraged Funds: \$4,000.

Aerial Support for Security, Management and Conservation of Elephants in Northern Kenya. In partnership with Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, Kenya. This project supports aerial patrolling to improve elephant security in community, private, and government-owned rangelands in northern Kenya. Flights will be conducted in order to: 1) Routinely ascertain the location of elephants and to monitor potential threats to elephants, and 2) Provide support for anti-poaching operations, elephant conflict situations, and treatment of injured elephants. FWS: \$15,000. Leveraged Funds: \$445,333.

Where are the Conservation Corridors for Elephants in Northern Tanzania? Year 2. In partnership with Elephants Without Borders, Tanzania. This project will monitor the distribution of elephants in northern Tanzania in order to determine important areas for daily and seasonal movements. Targeted elephants will be collared with satellite collars, which will automatically

record and transmit the elephant's location to researchers several times per day for two years. FWS: \$59,400. Leveraged Funds: \$63,995.

Elephant Conservation, Monitoring, and Mitigation of Human-Elephant Conflict in Conkouati-Douli, Republic of Congo. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society, Congo. This project will explore a remote area of the Gabon/Congo boundary frequented by elephants to identify important resources and potential threats, to build a surveillance post near an area of high animal concentrations, and to assist one human community to fence their agricultural fields in order to reduce human-elephant conflict. FWS: \$69,735. Leveraged Funds: \$23,603.

Elephant Surveys and Conservation in the Boma National Park Landscape and Terrestrial Surveys of Existing and Potential Protected Areas. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society, Sudan. This project will support wildlife surveys of Boma National Park and its surrounds, and the proposed Jonglei protected area in southern Sudan. These will be the most extensive surveys for wildlife after decades of civil unrest, and will assist in developing strategic conservation plans for the protected area network of southern Sudan. FWS: \$157,971. Leveraged Funds: \$58,377.

Reducing Elephant Poaching In and Around the Lower Zambezi National Park. In partnership with African Wildlife Foundation, Zambia. This project will bolster security efforts to protect elephants in and around Lower Zambezi National Park in Zambia. The funding will be used to purchase more powerful radio communication equipment to facilitate communication among game scouts, and create and implement an improved elephant monitoring database and patrolling system in elephant areas. FWS: \$59,800. Leveraged Funds: \$72,400.

Assigning African Elephant DNA to Geographic Region of Origin: Applications to the Ivory Trade. In partnership with University of Washington. This project will support the further development of a system to identify the origin of ivory seized in illegal trades. DNA from pieces of ivory recently seized in two separate seizures in Singapore and in Malawi, will be extracted and compared to the genetic data of a variety of samples already obtained from elephant dung, in order to determine which country the ivory comes from. UFWS: \$58,452. Leveraged Funds: \$51,349.

Support and Coordination of Elephant Conservation Initiatives in West Africa. In partnership with International Union for the Conservation of Nature, Burkina Faso/Mali/Etc. This project supports technical assistance in developing and implementing elephant conservation strategies within the West African range states. Specifically, the initiative will assist in the adoption of the sub-regional strategy for conservation of elephants in West Africa, and will provide expertise to non-governmental organizations and to governments on elephant-related decisions. FWS: \$17,700. Leveraged Funds: \$77,480.

RHINOCEROSSES AND TIGERS – ASIA

Building the Last Stronghold for Wild Tigers in Southwest China. In partnership with the University of Minnesota. This project will obtain baseline data and develop capacity needed to re-establish a viable wild tiger population in southwest China. Through a partnership with government, local communities, NGOs, and universities, this project will conduct a systematic

survey in Yunnan Province's Nangunhe Nature Reserve to document the status of tigers, their habitats and prey base. FWS: \$33,205. Leveraged Funds: \$52,180.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Building Capacity to Care for Sick and Injured Sea Turtles: Standard Guidelines and Criteria for the Wider Caribbean Region. In partnership with Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network (WIDECAST). This project will develop technical manuals to enable professional training of local trainers in (i) first response procedures (what-to-do/what-not-to-do when a sick or injured sea turtle is encountered in the field), (ii) veterinary/clinical care, and (iii) basic husbandry during short-term recovery and rehabilitation. Each manual will propose standard guidelines and criteria, drawing upon the best practices of professionals active in the region, as well as data forms, species identification guides, photos and descriptions of options and procedures for first-response, treatment and rehab/care, and a list of Wider Caribbean Region contacts. FWS: \$24,040. Leveraged Funds: \$33,115.

RHINOCEROSSES - AFRICA

Security and Monitoring of Rhinos in Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, Kenya. In partnership with Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, Kenya. This project will support and enhance on-going conservation of black and white rhino on and near Lewa Wildlife Conservancy in Kenya. This will be achieved through the construction of security housing to enable security personnel to be permanently stationed in the Ngare Ndare Forest, an area that is becoming increasingly important range for black rhino. FWS: \$45,502. Leveraged Funds: \$156,316.

Black Rhino Reintroduction; North Luangwa National Park, Zambia, Phase II. In partnership with Frankfurt Zoological Society - North Luangwa Conservation Project, Zambia. This project to reintroduce rhinos to Zambia will facilitate the capture, delivery, and release of a second batch of black rhinos from South Africa to North Luangwa National Park in Zambia. FWS: \$29,905. Leveraged Funds: \$272,000.

IUCN SSC Guidelines for the Translocation of Rhinoceroses for the Purposes of Conservation. In partnership with Zoological Society of London, Multiple countries (Asian and African range states). This project will support the production of a scientifically-based guide to rhino reintroduction and translocation management. Specific activities will include creating a draft document, convening a meeting of approximately fifteen field practitioners with extensive experience in rhino translocation, and preparing a final version for publication in English, French and Portuguese. FWS: \$18,630. Leveraged Funds: \$6,500.

Support for Black Rhinoceros Genetic Research, Zimbabwe. In partnership with International Rhino Foundation, Zimbabwe. This project will support genetic analysis of existing tissue samples from rhinos taken during management operations, and interpret resulting data for future management strategies in the wild. FWS: \$15,000. Leveraged Funds: \$22,820.

Support for Rhino Monitoring Bases, Zimbabwe. In partnership with International Rhino Foundation, Zimbabwe. This project will refurbish existing buildings into suitable

accommodation for rhino security personnel monitoring and protecting important black rhino populations that have been translocated to new areas. FWS: \$9,931. Leveraged Funds: \$44,000.