

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Division of International Conservation  
Combating Wildlife Trafficking Program FY2016  
Summary of Projects**

In 2016, USFWS supported 12 new projects through its new Combating Wildlife Trafficking Program, totaling \$1,162,775, which was matched by \$838,634 in additional leveraged funds. Projects in 13 countries were supported, including 1 project that spanned multiple countries.

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**BELIZE**

**CWT16132**

**Grant # F16AP00935**

*Addressing illegal rosewood trade to undermine wildlife trafficking in Belize.* In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to counter illegal wildlife and timber trafficking in Belize, Central America, by increasing the enforcement capacity and data management systems of regulatory authorities, strengthening legislation, and building public awareness of both threats and mitigation tools. This project primarily focuses on conserving Honduran rosewood but is expected to extend protection to other trafficked species in both marine and terrestrial sectors. Specific activities include: (1) strengthening the enforcement chain by building capacity and supporting coordination between government and civil society; (2) improving wildlife and timber product traceability and compliance management systems, and supporting government, civil society and the private sector in their development and use; (3) creating an outreach campaign to improve attitudes and change behaviors regarding conservation; and (4) strengthening Belize's wildlife and timber regulations by gathering input from the scientific community for the finalization of Belize's first draft CITES-specific legislation to address international trade.

USFWS: \$100,000

Leveraged Funds: \$12,458

**CAMBODIA**

**CWT16111**

**Grant # F16AP01063**

*Combating wildlife trafficking in Cambodia.* In partnership with Wildlife Alliance. The purpose of this project is to scale up the successful results of the Wildlife Rapid Rescue Team (WRRT) in Cambodia to address pan-Asian wildlife trafficking and support the Cambodian Government to achieve its 2016-2017 goal of institutionalizing a National Wildlife Crime Program. This project is intended to conserve many protected and unprotected species, including Asian elephants, Indochinese tigers, clouded leopards, Malayan sunbears, slow lorises, pileated gibbons, and pangolins, as well as African elephants and rhinos. Specific activities include: (1) training 40

officers involved in wildlife law enforcement on surveillance, wildlife identification, investigation techniques, preparation of prosecution documents, and wildlife care and handling; (2) conducting joint operations with these officers to provide practical experience and guidance on lessons learned during the training sessions; and (3) improving existing partnerships with counterparts on the borders of Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam to promote cross-border investigations and prosecutions.

USFWS: \$99,135                      Leveraged Funds: \$109,665

## CHINA

### **CWT16069**

#### **Grant # F16AP01044**

*Reducing demand for pangolins in China through community-based social marketing.* In partnership with the Zoological Society of London. The purpose of this project is to counter wildlife trafficking from pangolin range states in Africa and Asia to China, by laying the foundations for reducing consumer demand for pangolin in three Chinese provinces identified as being major hubs for consumption of illegally traded wildlife. This project is intended to conserve all eight species of pangolin by addressing the impact of consumer demand in China, which drives poaching and trafficking in pangolin range states. Specific activities include: (1) selecting precise behaviors to change; (2) identifying barriers and benefits to desired behaviors; (3) developing strategies to change behaviors; (4) piloting the behavior change strategies; and (5) broad-scale implementation.

USFWS: \$101,663                      Leveraged Funds: \$101,008

## INDONESIA

### **CWT16056**

#### **Grant # F16AP01081**

*Widening the net - combating organized wildlife crime on Sumatra Island, Indonesia.* In partnership with Fauna and Flora International. The purpose of this project is to counter wildlife trafficking in the four provinces of central Sumatra that overlay the 5,400 square mile Kerinci-Seblat National Park, by strengthening law enforcement through increased capacity to recognize, address, and interdict organized illegal wildlife trade, poaching syndicates, and the ‘kingpin’ traders driving wildlife crime. This project is intended to conserve helmeted hornbill (*Rhinoplax vigil*) and Malay pangolin (*Manis javanica*), the trade of which, at a sub-national level on the island of Sumatra, is frequently closely linked to the illegal trade in Sumatran tiger (*Panthera tigris sumatrae*) with the same ‘players’ frequently implicated. Specific activities include: (1) investigating the illegal trade in helmeted hornbill and Malay pangolin in central Sumatra; (2) maintaining routine Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) forest patrols to address and reduce poaching threats to tigers and other species; and (3) strengthening the capacity of the government to address wildlife crime through improved interagency coordination, collaboration with local civil society partners, and joint activities between the national park authority and other project partners including the Indonesia National Police.

USFWS: \$99,943                      Leveraged Funds: \$315,591

## KAZAKHSTAN

### **CWT1655**

#### **Grant # F16AP01077**

*Using sniffer dogs to combat trafficking in saiga horn in Kazakhstan.* In partnership with Fauna and Flora International. This project makes a direct contribution to the conservation of the critically endangered saiga antelope and other threatened species including the saker falcon, snow leopard, and steppe tortoise. Specifically, the purpose of the project is to counter wildlife trafficking of saiga horn and other illegal wildlife products in Kazakhstan by training and deploying sniffer dog teams to detect trafficked wildlife products. Specific activities include: (1) sourcing, training, and certification of eight dogs and handlers to detect saiga and – following scoping – other species; (2) developing and monitoring a strategic deployment plan for dog teams; (3) convening high-level Kazakh officials to improve co-ordination and prioritization of wildlife crime by key agencies; and (4) providing in-depth and practical Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) training to on-the-ground Kazakh enforcement staff, through a 4-day workshop for 30 staff and a detailed regulations manual and identification guide.

USFWS: \$101,774

Leveraged Funds: \$57,928

## MADAGASCAR

### **CWT16122**

#### **Grant # F16AP01090**

*Combating trafficking of precious timber in Madagascar's northeast Mamabay Landscape through community-based conservation initiatives.* In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to counter wildlife trafficking of precious timber species (ebony and rosewood) in the Mamabay landscape in northeastern Madagascar by building the capacity of local community actors in wildlife conservation and field-based government agents in effective enforcement and prosecution. This project is intended to conserve ebony and rosewood species (*Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* spp.) that are found throughout the landscape by addressing the illegal extraction and trafficking of the 111 known species found within the Makira and Masoala protected areas and in the community forests surrounding the parks. Specific activities include (1) development and scaling of standardized training tools based on SMART law enforcement monitoring for new community ranger groups across the landscape; (2) developing and implementing training tools for government agents in the use of law enforcement data to develop robust legal cases so that trafficking cases brought before the judiciary are less likely to be dismissed for technical reasons; (3) creating of a formal network of community ranger groups across the landscape to increase motivation, reduce sense of isolation, and facilitate exchanges of experiences; and (4) developing and trialing an anonymous SMS-based platform for reporting of trafficking by community members to feed information to park managers and government forestry agents.

USFWS: \$99,999

Leveraged Funds: \$33,467

## MALAYSIA

### **CWT1640**

#### **Grant # F16AP01030**

*Combating the illegal wildlife trade in Malaysia through conservation-religion partnerships.* In partnership with Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC). The purpose of this project is to reduce the severe threat of poaching and wildlife trafficking of tigers and priority species protected under the Wildlife Conservation Act 2010, in and around the Core Area of Taman Negara, by addressing people's attitudes towards nature. To date there has been no outreach to the predominantly Muslim communities living near the Core Area, although many poachers originate here. Specific activities include: (1) empowering at least 20 Muslim clerics in 24 villages (14,000 people) near the park's Core Area to spread awareness of the new state-wide wildlife trade 'fatwa,' which is the first-ever national religious edict to protect threatened wildlife; (2) reducing the involvement of these villagers in the illegal wildlife trade and encouraging them to report suspicious activities to authorities, through a shift in attitudes brought about by linking conservation with deeply held religious beliefs and values as enshrined in the fatwa; (3) reaching agreement with Muslim leaders to issue a national level fatwa on illegal wildlife trade; and (4) disseminating best practices and lessons learned on developing successful conservation-religious partnerships in priority wildlife trade hotspots.

USFWS: \$99,814

Leveraged Funds: \$29,488

## PERU

### **CWT16135**

#### **Grant # F16AP01095**

*Strengthening enforcement to combat wildlife trafficking in Peru through the generation of information on trafficking routes.* In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to counter wildlife trafficking in Peru by improving effectiveness of enforcement actions and disrupting wildlife trafficking routes in Peru. This project will conserve 166 species listed on the IUCN Red List, including 31 species listed on CITES Appendix I and 135 listed on CITES Appendix II. The project will address two key conditions that hinder efforts to disrupt wildlife trafficking in Peru: 1) lack of investigative and technical capacity for disrupting trafficking routes; and 2) lack of inter-agency coordination, especially between agencies at the national and subnational levels responsible for control, supervision, and prosecution of wildlife trafficking. With the ultimate goal of conserving populations of wildlife species highly threatened by national and international trade in Peru, the grantee will generate and analyze information on wildlife trafficking routes in Peru and strengthen governmental agencies' capacities and inter-agency collaboration to promote and incentivize joint approaches to disrupt identified wildlife trafficking routes within the country. Specific activities include: (1) organizing meetings with local authorities along the main wildlife trafficking routes to systematize information and agree on joint actions to disrupt the main wildlife trafficking routes; (2) analyzing the information generated by different sectors to refine trafficking route and hotspot knowledge and generate detailed maps of critical wildlife trafficking routes in Peru; (3) developing or adapting a mobile application for Peruvian agencies to identify species at risk of illegal trade; (4) training staff from Peruvian agencies to identify and handle confiscated wildlife

species and on legal procedures; and (5) ensuring media coverage of Peruvian efforts to combat wildlife trafficking.

USFWS: \$99,395

Leveraged Funds: \$51,398

## **SOUTH AFRICA**

### **CWT16039**

#### **Grant # F16AP01062**

*Protecting wild populations of *Encephalartos* cycad species and strengthening enforcement capacity by harnessing forensic capabilities.* In partnership with The Endangered Wildlife Trust. The purpose of this project is to counter wildlife trafficking of cycads in South Africa by supporting the criminal justice system. This project is intended to conserve *Encephalartos* cycad species by addressing illegal harvesting and trafficking. Specific activities include: (1) identifying a government-approved laboratory designated to receive and process cycad DNA samples; (2) developing national cycad DNA ‘chain of evidence’ standard operating procedures; (3) procuring DNA voucher specimen kits and crime scene kits; (4) providing DNA evidence collection training and advanced cycad enforcement training to members of the criminal justice system; (5) raising awareness for state prosecutors and magistrates; (6) collecting cycad DNA samples from wild cycad populations; (7) strengthening the cycad DNA reference library; and (8) researching individual cycad DNA fingerprinting.

USFWS: \$98,698

Leveraged Funds: \$0

## **TANZANIA**

### **CWT16172**

#### **Grant # F16AP01076**

*Investigation into the potential use of African giant pouched rats (*Cricetomys ansorgei*) to detect illegal timber and pangolins in shipping containers.* In partnership with Endangered Wildlife Trust. The purpose of this project is to counter wildlife trafficking in ports by using African giant pouched rats (*Cricetomys ansorgei*) to detect timber (hardwoods) and pangolin skin and scales in shipping containers. This project plans to provide proof of principle that this is possible and would be the first phase of a much larger project to mainstream rats as an innovative tool in combating illegal wildlife trade. This project is intended to conserve hardwood and pangolin species by addressing the impacts of wildlife trafficking in shipping containers, which are used to smuggle large volumes of wildlife contraband. Specific activities include: (1) testing the rats in a laboratory environment for their ability to discriminate between the target substances of timber (hardwoods) and pangolin skin and scales and a wide variety of other control substances; (2) developing an appropriate indication mechanism; (3) assessing the best operational option for the rats to detect hardwoods and pangolins in containers, comparing success rates of direct detection at the vents, or detection of filters sampled through the vents.

USFWS: \$100,000

Leveraged Funds: \$0

## VIETNAM

### **CWT16147**

#### **Grant # F16AP01046**

*Training on new penal code to improve enforcement of wildlife laws in Vietnam.* In partnership with Humane Society of the United States. The purpose of this project is two-fold: 1) to counter wildlife trafficking in Vietnam by training enforcement officers to improve the enforcement of Vietnam's revised Penal code on wildlife trafficking; and 2) to identify urgent priority needs for enforcement capacity building, which can serve as the basis of future work. This project is intended to conserve the wildlife trafficked in Vietnam, both endemic species and their products and those that are smuggled in and out of the country, by addressing the impacts of wildlife trafficking through heightened enforcement by relevant law enforcement agencies. Species affected by wildlife trafficking in Vietnam include rhinos, elephants, pangolins, tigers, bears, leopards, turtles, and other reptiles. Specific activities include: (1) implementing Vietnamese expert-led trainings to 300 wildlife enforcement officials whose posts are located in previously identified key wildlife trafficking hotspots throughout the country, which will provide basic enforcement training as well as address changes in procedures resulting from the new Penal code; and (2) collecting data on urgent priority needs of enforcement officials (such as equipment and training) that will enable them to do their work in general and in light of the new Penal code and other factors.

USFWS: \$99,970

Leveraged Funds: \$58,451

## MULTIPLE COUNTRIES

### KYRGYZSTAN AND MALAWI

### **CWT16089**

#### **Grant # F16AP01087**

*Canine detection to strengthen and replicate anti-trafficking capacity in key countries.* In partnership with Working Dogs for Conservation Foundation. The purpose of this project is to build the anti-wildlife trafficking capacity in key range, transit, and consumer states by establishing or improving upon and expanding canine teams for wildlife law enforcement. Multiple species subjected to illicit wildlife trade will benefit from this work, including elephants, bears, pangolins, saiga, and snow leopard. Specific activities include: (1) reviewing the legal foundation for canine-based enforcement of wildlife laws in key trafficking countries; (2) producing a Best Practices and Feasibility Report on the use of detection dogs to combat wildlife trafficking; (3) improving the husbandry and training for the Malawi Police Service wildlife detection dogs while expanding their capability to screen at roadblocks, rail and airports, and at border crossings; and (4) expanding detection dog activities in Kyrgyzstan to include additional illegal wildlife products.

USFWS: \$62,384

Leveraged Funds: \$69,180