

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

In FY 2016, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) awarded \$1,429,122 from Congressional appropriations to projects through the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund. An additional \$490,762 was provided by other sources identified below. Total support amounted to \$1,919,885, which was matched by \$2,757,768 in leveraged funds. These funds supported 43 projects in 26 individual countries and one in multiple countries (in alphabetical order below).

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**BANGLADESH**

**MT1664**

**Grant # F16AP00628**

*Community-based sea turtle restoration project in Bangladesh.* In partnership with the Marinelife Alliance. The purpose of this project is to conduct community-based sea turtle conservation along 120 km of coastline to address threats to poaching, coastal development, and fisheries bycatch. Activities include: (1) nesting beach patrols and nest protection; (2) education and outreach with local communities, fishers and schools; and (3) the collection of sea turtle bycatch data from over 1,000 fishers. This project will also assess and determine important nesting sites for a Nature Reserve. This is the only well-organized sea turtle project in Bangladesh and serves as a model to expand marine turtle conservation within the country.

USFWS: \$21,000

Leveraged Funds: \$49,600

**BARBADOS**

**MT1615**

**Grant # F16AP00173**

*Monitoring hawksbill nesting and nesting beaches in a changing climate.* In partnership with the University of the West Indies. The purpose of this project is to continue the successful long-term conservation programs at key hawksbill nesting beaches in Barbados, which is home to one of the three largest hawksbill nesting populations in the Caribbean. This project is intended to detect nesting population trends on a key hawksbill index beach for the Caribbean and protect hawksbill nests and nesting females from poaching incidents, and hatchlings from mortality due to light disorientation from coastal development. Specific activities include: (1) daily patrols and nest surveys on key hawksbill nesting beaches; (2) maintaining a 24-hour response call-in line to report and get assistance for disoriented hatchlings and other emergencies related to sea turtles; and (3) conducting outreach and education regarding sea turtle conservation issues with coastal property owners, developers, and managers.

USFWS: \$31,000

Leveraged Funds: \$94,500

## CAMBODIA

### MT1625

#### Grant # F16AP00177

***Implementing the Action Plan: Targeting marine turtle conservation needs in Cambodia.*** In partnership with Fauna and Flora International. The purpose of this project is to develop a marine turtle conservation program for Cambodia that will address various threats to marine turtles, including nesting beach development, nest poaching, and fisheries bycatch. Specific activities include: (1) in collaboration with Cambodia's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Administration, begin implementation of the National Conservation Action Plan developed in 2015 with USFWS Marine Turtle Conservation Fund support; (2) develop a sea turtle bycatch reduction project with small-scale fisheries organizations within a proposed Marine Protected Area in the Koh Rong Archipelago, which hosts key foraging grounds for hawksbill and green turtles; (3) conduct a systematic coastal survey to understand and document historic distribution and abundance of sea turtle nesting; (4) conduct safe handling and release training workshops with fisheries in high threat interaction zones; and (5) conduct education and outreach activities in select coastal communities where interactions between sea turtles and humans are greatest.

USFWS: \$49,996

Leveraged Funds: \$30,481

## CAPE VERDE

### MT1606

#### Grant # F16AP00169

***Protection of loggerhead turtles in an endangered West Africa population of Boa Vista Island, Cape Verde.*** In partnership with BIOS.CV. The purpose of this project is to implement a sea turtle conservation project on Joao Barrosa beach, one of the highest-density loggerhead nesting beaches on Boa Vista, accounting for about 25 percent of nesting on the island, which itself accounts for 80 percent of the Cape Verde loggerhead nesting population. The intention is to protect nesting females from slaughter for meat and nests from poaching. Activities include: (1) setting up a field camp to support nightly patrols to deter poaching and count nests; and (2) conducting outreach and education activities with local communities in coordination with Turtle Foundation and Natura 2000. The Joao Barrosa camp complements nesting beach conservation projects on Boa Vista conducted by *Natura 2000* and the Turtle Foundation, which together protect about 95 percent of the sea turtle nesting on Boa Vista.

USFWS: \$18,000

Leveraged Funds: \$86,178

### MT1608

#### Grant # F16AP00170

***Community-based conservation in Maio Islands, Cape Verde: Participatory approach as key to reduce nesting and in-water sea turtle mortality.*** In partnership with the Maio Biodiversity Foundation. The purpose of this project is to implement nesting beach conservation programs and sea turtle bycatch reduction programs. Maio has the second-largest loggerhead nesting population in Cape Verde and is one of the least developed islands. The intent of this project is to eliminate the slaughter of nesting loggerheads for meat and poaching of nests, and to reduce the accidental and direct capture of sea turtles in local fisheries. More organized and directed efforts to protect nesting females began only in 2012 with a small grant from the Marine Turtle

Conservation Fund, after an estimated 60 percent of nesting females had been killed by poachers. Activities include: (1) community-based nighttime patrols throughout the nesting season on the six most important nesting beaches; (2) an outreach program targeting local fishermen to assist with developing alternative livelihoods and integrating them into the conservation program; (3) an extensive community education outreach program to engage the 12 main local communities in sea turtle conservation issues and solutions; and (4) coordination and hosting of the annual TAOLA (Cape Verdian Sea Turtle Network) partnership to review, coordinate, and synergize loggerhead conservation efforts within the Cape Verde islands.  
USFWS: \$63,000                      Leveraged Funds: \$10,750

**MT1609**

**Grant # F16AP00171**

***Conservation, protection, and management of most important nesting beaches of Cape Verde Loggerhead Rockery involving local community.*** In partnership with *Cabo Verde Natura 2000*. The purpose of this project is to implement nesting beach conservation programs on beaches that include about 40 percent of the loggerhead nesting activity on the Island of Boa Vista. The intention of the project is to protect nesting loggerheads and nests from poaching. Activities include: (1) setting up two field camps to support daily patrols on Ervatao and Porto Ferreira beaches throughout the nesting season that will complement the nesting beach coverage of the Turtle Foundation and activities of Bios CV on Boa Vista.  
USFWS: \$55,813                      Leveraged Funds: \$36,666

**MT1611**

**Grant # F16AP00172**

***Protection of loggerhead turtles in Cape Verde.*** In partnership with *Associacao Projectos Biodiversidade*. The purpose of this project is to implement nesting beach conservation programs on the most important loggerhead nesting beaches on the island of Sal, Cape Verde. The intention is to prevent killing of nesting females for meat and poaching of nests throughout the nesting season on all of the most important nesting beaches, and to diminish light pollution impacts on hatchlings along the Sal beaches, which are the most developed beaches throughout Cape Verde. Activities include: (1) night patrols on key nesting beaches and relocation of vulnerable nests to hatcheries; and (2) education and outreach activities with local schools, youth, and other groups.  
USFWS: \$30,000                      Leveraged Funds: \$23,732

**MT1628**

**Grant # F16AP00178**

***Turtles, beaches, and villages on Boavista: Protecting sea turtles and nesting beaches, getting local people involved.*** In partnership with the Turtle Foundation. The purpose of the project is to implement nesting beach conservation programs for loggerheads along 30 km of beach that host about one third of the nesting on Boa Vista, which overall hosts about 80 percent of the Cape Verde nesting population. The intention and primary objective of this project is to protect nesting loggerheads from the rampant slaughter for meat and the poaching of nests that occurs without conservation programs. The Cape Verde loggerhead nesting population is the third largest in the world and suffered from up to 40 percent slaughter of nesting females annually prior to the start of Marine Turtle Conservation Fund (MCTF) support in 2009. Activities

include: (1) establishing two camps and one field station to support patrols at Norte, Canto, Boa Esperanca, Aqua Doce, Lacacao, Curral Velho, Ponta Pesqueira, Varandinha, and Santa Monica beaches covering 29 km and complementing the coverage of the two other MTCF-supported projects on Boa Vista implemented by Cabo Verde Natura 2000 and BIOS CV; (2) coordinating public awareness and education activities and community development projects that will be implemented by the Turtle Foundation and the two other MTCF-funded projects on Boa Vista to ensure all of MTCF-supported activities among the Boa Vista grantees are strategic, targeted, and complementary.

USFWS: \$58,000

Leveraged Funds: \$234,655

## **COSTA RICA**

### **MT1653**

#### **Grant # F16AP00623**

##### ***Conservation and monitoring program of leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) sea turtle nesting in the North Pacific of Costa Rica.***

In partnership with FUNDECODES. The purpose of this project is to conduct surveys and nest protection in Las Baulas National Park and on adjacent beaches which host the most important East Pacific leatherback nesting population in Costa Rica. The main threats are poaching of nests. Activities include nighttime patrols throughout the nesting season and relocation of nests to hatcheries. The East Pacific leatherback is the most endangered leatherback population in the world.

USFWS: \$29,498

Leveraged Funds: \$2,315

## **EL SALVADOR**

### **MT1632**

#### **Grant # F16AP00179**

##### ***Advancing a multifaceted approach to recover hawksbills in the Eastern Pacific: Protecting major nesting beaches and reducing extensive bycatch at critical foraging grounds.***

In partnership with The Ocean Foundation. The purpose of this project is to conduct hawksbill conservation programs at Bahia de Jiquilisco Biosphere Reserve (Bahia), El Salvador. The project is intended to protect nests and nesting females from poaching, to reduce bycatch from lobster fisheries, and to reduce mortality of adult and juvenile hawksbills from illegal blast fishing. The Eastern Pacific hawksbill nesting population was until 2008 thought to have been extirpated and Bahia accounts for about 45 percent of all hawksbill nesting in the East Pacific. Specific activities include: (1) community-based patrols and relocation of nests to hatcheries; (2) outreach activities such as a Hawksbill Festival, Hawksbill Cup competition and “Day of the Hawksbill” events in schools to raise awareness about threats to hawksbills; (3) year-round fisheries bycatch monitoring with employed on-board observers; (4) Light emitting diodes (LED) light trials on lobster nets to determine deterrence effectiveness; and (5) engagement of local fishermen and local and national authorities in the creation of a Marine Protected Area.

USFWS: \$99,200

Leveraged Funds: \$113,384

## EQUATORIAL GUINEA

### MT1655

#### Grant # F16AP00625

*Sea turtle conservation in Equatorial Guinea.* In partnership with INDEFOR. The purpose of this project is to conduct community-based patrols to protect nests and nesting females from poaching at Punta Ilende Naural Reserve (5 km), Rio Campo Natural Reserve (7 km) and Nendyi Scientific Reserve (4 km). Activities include (1) a training seminar for 15 participants on sea turtle biology and identification, data collection, field technology/equipment use, wildlife laws, enforcement procedures, and sea turtle conservation; (2) patrolling nesting beaches throughout the nesting season and nest relocation to hatcheries; (3) outreach and education campaigns with local schools, fishermen, urban areas, and national authorities; and (4) data collection along the mainland's coastline to assess levels of harvesting and bycatch of marine turtles.

USFWS: \$40,000

Leveraged Funds: \$23,000

## GABON

### AFR1635

#### Grant # F16AP00633

*Conserving Gabon's endangered sea turtles 2016-2017.* In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to conserve the largest leatherback nesting population in the world and the largest olive ridley nesting population in the Atlantic, both centered in Gabon. The project is intended to address threats on the nesting beaches from poaching, light pollution, and logs which entrap nesting females and hatchlings and in some cases prevent nesting females from nesting on more suitable sites above the high tides; and to reduce sea turtle fisheries bycatch from fish and shrimp trawls, longline fishing vessels, and artisanal fishers. Specific activities to address these threats include: (1) assisting with training of on-board observers for trawl and long-line fishing vessels; (2) assisting with Turtle Excluder Device (TED) testing for fish trawls and shrimp trawler TED inspections; (3) working with Benga community fishers to describe the Benga fisheries in Corisco Bay to better address artisanal fishery bycatch issues; (4) completing log removal on all major nesting beaches; (5) conducting ground monitoring, including night patrols to protect nests from poaching and relocating nests threatened by high tides on National Parks and Reserves, which account for 80 percent of nesting activity within Gabon; (6) conducting annual aerial surveys of nesting beaches to monitor long term nesting trends; and (7) conducting public outreach and awareness activities in schools, villages, and urban environments including a National Turtle Day celebration in the capitol and four other major cities or towns.

USFWS: \$140,000<sup>1</sup>

Leveraged Funds: \$52,943

## GHANA

### MT1668

#### Grant # F16AP00629

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<sup>1</sup> Of this, \$100,000 was provided by funds through the Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE).

***Expanding the role of Ghanaians in sea turtle conservation activities in central Ghana, Africa.*** In partnership with the Florida Gulf Coast University Board of Trustees. The purpose of this project is to conduct community-based patrols along 20 km of nesting beaches to protect nests and nesting females from poaching and nests from hog depredation within Muni-Pomadze Marine Protected Reserve, and to continue a sea turtle bycatch reduction program. Activities include: (1) night patrols throughout the nesting season and relocation of nests to safe beach sites or hatcheries; (2) training community members as observers on artisanal boats to collect bycatch data; (3) working with fishermen for safe release of sea turtles; and (4) sea turtle education and outreach programs in local schools and communities.

USFWS: \$16,400

Leveraged Funds: \$26,474

## **GUATEMALA**

### **MT1654**

#### **Grant # F16AP00624**

***Strengthening sea turtle conservation, adapting to climate change, and assisting CONAP in meeting Guatemala's IAC Commitments.*** In partnership with Wildlife Rescue and Conservation Association (*Asociación Rescate y Conservación de Vida Silvestre*, or ARCAS). The purpose of this project is to continue a marine turtle conservation program along the Pacific coast of Guatemala including establishing six index beaches to monitor long-term nesting trends of olive ridleys, assist communities and private institutions to implement best management practices for hatcheries, and conduct education and outreach activities with local communities. The grantee will work closely with the Secretariat of the Inter-American Sea Turtle Convention (IAC) and with government institutions to help Guatemala ensure its olive ridley egg harvest meets the criteria under the IAC exceptions clause. The grantee will also organize workshops to strengthen capacity and train community and government participants in survey methodologies, best practices for hatchery management, and climate change strategies on nesting beaches.

USFWS: \$25,000

Leveraged Funds: \$10,000

## **GUINEA-BISSAU**

### **MT1600**

#### **Grant # F16AP00188**

***Strengthening conservation of sea turtle populations through community participation in the Bijagos Archipelago, Guinea-Bissau.*** In partnership with *Instituto de Biodiversidade e das Áreas Protegidas* (IBAP). The purpose of this project is to implement a nesting beach conservation program in Orango National Park. The Bijagos Archipelago hosts the largest green turtle nesting assemblage in West Africa. The intent of this project is to protect nesting sea turtles and nests from poaching. Activities include: (1) community-based patrols on the eight main nesting beaches totaling 52 km; and (2) community outreach and education through informal meetings, community radio stations, National Park management committee meetings, cinema debate, and marine surveillance.

USFWS: \$18,995

Leveraged Funds: \$11,270

## **INDIA**

**MT1603****Grant # F16AP00168**

***Continue community-based sea turtle conservation and strengthen stakeholder partnerships to effect policy in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha, India.*** In partnership with the Tree Foundation.

The purpose of this project is to conduct community-based sea turtle conservation projects along nesting beaches on the Bay of Bengal, India. The intent of this project is to protect nests and nesting turtles from poaching and reduce the accidental capture and mortality of sea turtles in fishing trawls. Activities include: (1) daily surveys, conducted by 86 members of the Sea Turtle Community Force teams, to protect nests and nesting turtles along 62 villages during the December to May nesting season, protecting an estimated 2000 nests; (2) outreach and education activities in 62 fishing communities to address sea turtle bycatch impacting the major olive ridley arribada nesting populations in the State of Orissa, India; and (3) capacity building workshops to train 1000 enforcement officers from wildlife and fisheries institutions, Coast Guard, and Marine Police in the laws and regulations protecting marine life and systems and to strengthen collaboration among the institutions.

USFWS: \$20,500

Leveraged Funds: \$80,300

**MT1648****Grant # F16AP00617**

***Advancing the conservation of sea turtles in India at a national scale through the monitoring of index sites, and coordination of coastal management efforts with a network of partners.*** In partnership with the Madras Crocodile Bank Trust.

The purpose of the project is to build capacity and provide training for a network of non-governmental organization, community, and government partners to implement standardized monitoring protocols at index beaches for data collection and management. The grant also supports standardized surveys of the olive ridley arribada nesting population at Rushikulya, Orissa, one of the few remaining large olive ridley nesting populations in the world. Conservation programs will also be implemented in the Little Adaman Islands for a leatherback nesting population and a newly discovered small olive ridley arribada nesting population. The main threats are coastal development and poaching, and activities include community-based patrols on nesting beaches, nest relocation to hatcheries, training workshops, and community outreach and education.

USFWS: \$52,580

Leveraged Funds: \$57,000

**IVORY COAST****MT1641****Grant # F16AP00606**

***Conservation of sea turtles of Ivory Coast.*** In partnership with *Conservacion des Especies Marines*. The purpose of this project is to conduct a community-based conservation project on an important leatherback nesting beach in Ivory Coast. The project will involve local communities and university students monitoring and protecting nests from poaching along an 18 km stretch of beach with an estimated 700 sea turtle nests annually, as well as conducting environmental education outreach activities with local communities.

USFWS: \$25,000

Leveraged Funds: \$65,629

**LIBERIA****MT1644**

**Grant # F16AP00612**

***Liberia sea turtle conservation project.*** In partnership with the Sea Turtle Watch and the Save My Future Foundation. The purpose of this project is to continue community-based conservation for nesting leatherback, hawksbill, and olive ridley along 18 km of nesting beach in Cestos County and 20 km along Bassa coastline to prevent poaching of nests and nesting turtles. Activities include daily patrols throughout the nesting season as well as outreach and education activities with local communities and schools.

USFWS: \$47,150

Leveraged Funds: \$28,660

**MAURITANIA**

**MT1663**

**Grant # F16AP00627**

***Community-based efforts to evaluate sea turtle nesting and intentional and unintentional captures in local fisheries along the Mauritania coasts (West Africa).*** In partnership with Chelonee. The purpose of this project is to conduct community-based nesting surveys and assessments to determine the number of nests and degree of threats from poaching and jackals at two sites in the south of Nouabchott, and to work with artisanal gillnet fishers to reduce sea turtle bycatch mortality. Activities include: (1) patrolling of nesting beaches and relocation of nests to hatcheries ; (2) community outreach and education; and (3) working with Imraquen fishers to reduce sea turtle bycatch. This project is providing basic information on nesting distribution, density, and threats to sea turtles for the Ministry of Environment in its development of a National Conservation Action Plan for Mauritania that will address longer term conservation needs. This project is the only know marine turtle conservation project in Mauritania.

USFWS: \$20,250

Leveraged Funds: \$21,308

**MEXICO**

**MT1607**

**Grant # F16AP00187**

***Recovery of black sea turtle population in Michoacan, Mexico.*** In partnership with *Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolas de Hidalgo*. The purpose of this project is to implement nesting beach conservation programs on the two most important black turtle nesting beaches in Mexico, which host about 80 percent of the black sea turtle (also known as the East Pacific green turtle) nesting in Mexico. The intention of the project is to address the threat of poaching to nesting females and nests and nest depredation by village dogs and pigs. Activities include: (1) community-based night patrols and relocation of nests vulnerable to poaching, tidal inundation, or dog depredation (about 10 percent of nests) to a hatchery on Colola and Maruata beaches; and (3) dog control measures in coordination with local communities.

USFWS: \$11,000

Leveraged Funds: \$29,000

**MT1613**

**Grant # F16AP00191**

***Continuation of a successful long-term sea turtle conservation program in the Yucatan Peninsula and its influence on adaptive management and decision-making in the region.*** In partnership with *Pronatura Peninsula de Yucatan, A.C.* The purpose of this project is to conduct nesting beach conservation programs for three key hawksbill nesting sites, which account for 40

percent of hawksbill nesting in the Yucatan Peninsula. The Yucatan Peninsula accounts for about 25 percent of all Caribbean nesting and provides critical hawksbill foraging grounds. The intention of this project is to protect nests and nesting hawksbills from poaching. Activities include: (1) daily patrols along 80 km of nesting beaches at three locations to deter poachers and protect nests from predation; and (2) outreach and education programs with local communities and schools.

USFWS: \$22,000

Leveraged Funds: \$24,282

#### **MT1622**

##### **Grant # F16AP00101**

***Evaluation of the reproductive biology of the Kemp's ridley sea turtle at Rancho Nuevo, Mexico: Implications for conservation and ecology.*** In partnership with the University of Alabama, and in collaboration with CONANP, SEDUMA, CDEN, the Gladys Porter Zoo, National Marine Fisheries Service, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The purpose of this project is to continue and expand a long-term collaborative project on the Kemp's ridley sea turtle with an emphasis on evaluating the reproductive output of nesting females at Rancho Nuevo as a method of determining factors affecting the recent decline in this population, and the long-term impact of global climate change on sex ratios and nesting phenology at Rando Nuevo. The research conducted for this project will include: (1) ultrasound and hormone analyses of nesting females in order to evaluate potential changes in clutch frequency and fecundity associated with environmental or demographic factors, such as the Deepwater Horizon oil spill; (2) an evaluation of fundamental changes in nesting phenology and hatchling sex ratios associated with global climate change over more than three decades; and (3) studies to address the ecology of the Kemp's ridley, including abundance and habitat use of turtles in near-shore waters using unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) technology throughout the nesting season, and the timing of emergence in both corral and *in situ* nests.

USFWS: \$20,228<sup>2</sup>

Leveraged Funds: \$27,742

#### **MT1634**

##### **Grant # F16AP00286**

***Conservation of the Japanese-nesting loggerhead turtle: Mortality assessment and conservation outreach at the Baja California Sur (BCS) México juvenile foraging area.*** In partnership with The Ocean Foundation. The purpose of this project is to support conservation programs for the loggerhead foraging population in Baja California Sur, Mexico. The project is intended to collect stranding data to support bycatch reduction from gill net fisheries on this key foraging ground. Specific activities include: (1) assessment of loggerhead bycatch mortality through continued daily shoreline surveys along 34 km of Playa San Lazaro; (2) educational enrichment and outreach programs for students in elementary schools in the Bahía Magdalena region for more than 200 students and 15 teachers.

USFWS: \$28,850

Leveraged Funds: \$32,400

#### **MT1636**

##### **Grant # F16AP00245**

***Mexico / United States of America population restoration project for the Kemp's ridley sea turtle, *Lepidochelys kempii*, on the coasts of Tamaulipas, Mexico (the Kemp's ridley***

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<sup>2</sup>Funds provided through an agreement with the National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, Department of Commerce (#PR – 086).

**binational project**). In partnership with the Gladys Porter Zoo. The purpose of this project is to support the Mexico-US Binational Kemp's ridley conservation project in Mexico. The intent of the project is to address the threats to nests from poaching, nest depredation, and tidal inundation on the six main nesting beaches in the State of Tamaulipas. Activities include: (1) daily patrols and nest relocation to hatcheries; and (2) assisting the Mexico Commission of Protected Areas with outreach and education activities with local communities.

USFWS: \$40,000

Leveraged Funds: \$517,000

#### **MT1646**

##### **Grant # F16AP00614**

**Population recovery of the black turtle of Michoacan, Mexico.** In partnership with *Universidad Michoacan*. The purpose of this project is to conduct community-based nesting beach conservation programs on the two most important black turtle nesting beaches in Mexico, which host 70 percent of black turtle nesting in Mexico and two important East Pacific leatherback nesting beaches in the State of Michoacan. Nests and nesting females are threatened by poaching. Activities include nighttime patrols throughout the nesting season and relocation of nests to beach hatcheries.

USFWS: \$32,000

Leveraged Funds: \$30,000

#### **MT1647**

##### **Grant # F16AP00620**

**Conservation of the leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) in the Mexican Pacific – 2016-2017.** In partnership with Kutzari. The purpose of this project is to conduct nesting beach conservation including preventing threats from poaching of nesting females and nests, at the four primary leatherback nesting beaches in Mexico, which account for over 40 percent of leatherback nesting in Pacific Mexico.. The grantee will operate turtle camps at the four main nesting beaches of Cahuitan, Tierra Colorada, Mexiquillo, and Barra de la Cruz, conduct daily and nightly patrols, and relocate nests to hatcheries along these beaches to protect nests from poaching, depredation, and tidal inundation.

USFWS: \$76,716

Leveraged Funds: \$246,002

### **NICARAGUA**

#### **MT1620**

##### **Grant # F16AP00175**

**Strengthening conservation of critically endangered leatherback and hawksbill marine turtles on Nicaragua's Pacific Coast.** In partnership with Fauna and Flora International. The purpose of this project is to conduct nesting beach conservation programs for one of the three most important East Pacific leatherback nesting populations in the East Pacific, and to support an Eastern Pacific hawksbill conservation program at two recently discovered nesting sites at Estero Padre Ramos and Aserradores. The East Pacific leatherback population is less than one percent of its historical levels and the most endangered leatherback population in the world, and these hawksbill nesting sites account for 40-50 percent of all known East Pacific hawksbill nesting. This project is intended to protect leatherback and hawksbill nests and nesting females from poaching. Activities include: (1) conducting daily community-based patrols to count and protect nests and nesting females and to relocate eggs from nests to hatcheries; (2) providing training workshops for the survey teams; and (3) conducting environmental education and outreach activities with local communities including a "Day of the Turtle" event in schools and the annual Hawksbill Cup competition with the hawksbill project in El Salvador.

USFWS: \$78,563

Leveraged Funds: \$72,015

**MT1669**

**Grant # F16AP00630**

***Vital support for hawksbills in the Eastern Pacific Ocean: Year III of conservation at five top-tier nesting beaches.*** In partnership with The Ocean Foundation. The purpose of this project is to conduct nesting beach conservation projects for Eastern Pacific hawksbills at five secondary nesting beaches in Los Cobanos and Punta Amapala, El Salvador; Machalilla and El Pelado, Ecuador; and Aserradores, Nicaragua . These beaches account for 32 percent of all known nesting of the Eastern Pacific hawksbill, which is one of the most endangered hawksbill populations globally with fewer than 500 nests per year. Nests are threatened by poaching and project activities include night patrols throughout the nesting season and relocation of nests to safe in situ sites or hatcheries, as well as community outreach and education activities.

USFWS: \$45,000<sup>3</sup>

Leveraged Funds: \$121,785

**PANAMA**

**MT1621**

**Grant # F16AP00176**

***Leatherback and hawksbill turtle research and population recovery in Panama.*** In partnership with the Sea Turtle Conservancy. The purpose of this project is to restore the Chiriqui Beach, Panama nesting population of hawksbill turtles, once the largest in the Caribbean, in partnership with the local Nogbe Indian communities. The project also supports monitoring and protection of the largest leatherback nesting population in the Western Caribbean. The project is intended to protect nests and nesting female hawksbills from poaching and dog depredation. Specific activities include: (1) community-based patrols and development of a nest protection methodology to prevent dog depredation of nests; (2) extensive outreach and education activities with local communities and schools; and (3) work with stakeholder groups to develop sea turtle ecotourism opportunities for local community residents.

USFWS: \$52,000

Leveraged Funds: \$210,975

**PORTUGAL**

**MT1662**

**Grant # F16AP00626**

***Consolidating sea turtle conservation in the Azores 2 (COSTA2).*** In partnership with *Instituto do Mar*. The purpose of this project is to conduct conservation programs to address loggerhead bycatch mortality from long-line fishing vessels in the Azores. The Azores are a major developmental habitat and foraging grounds for juvenile loggerheads from the Northwest Atlantic loggerhead nesting population, which nests primarily in the U.S. Activities include placing observers on longline vessels to collect sea turtle bycatch data, analyzing historical and current bycatch data to determine interaction zones for future management intervention, and training fishers in safe handling and release practices.

USFWS: \$49,600<sup>4</sup>

Leveraged Funds: \$25,000

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<sup>3</sup> This project was funded by \$21,389 of Tiger Stamp funds

<sup>4</sup> This project was funded by \$40,073 of Tiger Stamp funds; \$116 Contributed funds; of this \$9,411 was provided through an agreement with the National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, Department of Commerce (#PR – 086).

## REPUBLIC OF CONGO

### MT1650

#### Grant # F16AP00619

***Marine turtle monitoring and protection in the Republic of Congo.*** In partnership with Renatura. The purpose of this project is to conduct nesting beach conservation programs along 80 km of coastline to protect nests and nesting females from poaching and to conduct a sea turtle bycatch release program with artisanal gill net fishers. Activities include patrolling nesting beaches and nest relocation to beach hatcheries, working with fishers to release captured turtles in exchange for net materials to compensate for damaged nets, and an ecotourism program around turtle releases with 40 percent of funds going to local communities. Approximately 1700 turtles are released annually with this program.

USFWS: \$25,000

Leveraged Funds: \$39,547

## SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

### MT1656

#### Grant # F16AP00963

***Strengthening the community-based sea turtle conservation project in Sao Tome Island, Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe.*** In partnership with *Associacao Tartarugas Marinhas*. The purpose of this project is to implement a community-based conservation program on 27 km of hawksbill nesting beaches on the Island of Sao Tome to address threats from poaching, predation, and beach erosion. Sao Tome is one of the primary hawksbill nesting sites on the African Atlantic Coast. Activities include: (1) training community rangers to conduct daily nighttime patrols to deter poaching on 27 km of hawksbill nesting beach throughout the nesting season; (2) relocation of nests threatened by predators, poachers, and tidal inundation to beach hatcheries; (3) community outreach and education; (4) workshops with local police and government officials about laws protecting sea turtles and conflict resolution to deal with the entrenched history of turtle and egg exploitation; and (5) alternative livelihood workshops with tortoise shell carvers and fishers.

USFWS: \$19,049<sup>5</sup>

Leveraged Funds: \$17,125

## SENEGAL

### MT1638

#### Grant # F16AP00194

***Coastal Senegal Sea Turtle Stranding Surveys to Assess mortality and nesting.*** In partnership with the African Aquatic Conservation Fund. The purpose of this project is to increase understanding of the numbers, seasonality, and sources of mortality of the different sea turtle species in Senegalese waters by building upon a national sea turtle and marine mammal stranding network for Senegal initiated in 2014. The project will conduct quarterly surveys along 184 km of Senegal's north coast, from Dakar to St. Louis, and one to two surveys per year on Senegal's southern Atlantic coast and the Gambian coast, from Dakar to the border of Guinea-Bissau. All stranded marine mammals and sea turtles will be documented, necropsied, and sampled for genetics and other biological studies and carcasses will be examined for signs of fisheries interactions or other human-caused mortality. During surveys the project will look for

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<sup>5</sup> \$58.73 Contributed funds; \$18,990, 1672 International Conservation Fund

and record all sea turtle nests and signs of hatching. The project will develop and train a coastal network of volunteers to report marine mammal and sea turtle sightings and strandings throughout the year, so that the mortality of protected species can be accurately documented, and samples can be collected more quickly and effectively once animals strand. Additionally, ten education programs will be conducted in local communities concurrently with stranding surveys to raise awareness of the protected status and threats to sea turtles. Data will be presented and discussed with Senegal's Ministries of Fisheries and Water and Forestry, and local fishermen's organizations in order to begin to discuss possible ways to reduce fisheries bycatch mortality. USFWS: \$10,000<sup>6</sup> Leveraged Funds: \$10,900

## SIERRA LEONE

### MT1642

#### Grant # F16AP00611

*Continued development of a community-based marine turtle conservation program for Sierra Leone and leatherback conservation initiative at Turtle, Bonthe/Sherbro Islands and the Southern Shoreline.* In partnership with the Reptile and Amphibian Program. The purpose of this project is to conduct community-based conservation programs to reduce poaching of nests at key leatherback nesting beaches and reduce sea turtle bycatch in artisanal fisheries at important foraging sites with a special emphasis on community involvement, capacity building, and environmental outreach with fishermen and local communities.

USFWS: \$65,000 Leveraged Funds: \$10,740

## SOLOMON ISLANDS

### MT1674

#### Grant # F16AP00632

*Community-based sea turtle conservation in Melanesia: Protection and monitoring of leatherback and hawksbill turtles in the western Solomon Islands.* In partnership with the Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership. The purpose of this project is to conduct community-based nesting beach conservation programs to prevent poaching on the important leatherback and hawksbill nesting beaches on three islands in the Solomon Islands. Activities include: (1) night patrolling of nesting beaches throughout the nesting season; (2) relocation of nests to hatcheries or safe beach sites; and (3) training workshops for community patrol members. Solomon Islands host the third most important nesting sites for the critically endangered West Pacific leatherback nesting population.

USFWS: \$25,000<sup>7</sup> Leveraged Funds: \$10,000

## MULTIPLE COUNTRIES - REGIONAL

### MT1616

#### Grant # F16AP00174

*Involving the Spanish long-distance fisheries in the conservation of the Northwest Atlantic nesting loggerhead population.* In partnership with KAI Marine Services. The purpose of this

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<sup>6</sup> Of this \$10,000 was provided through an agreement with the National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, Department of Commerce (#PR – 086).

<sup>7</sup> Funded by the Tiger Stamp

project is to work with the Spanish longline fleet to reduce mortality and injury to accidentally captured sea turtles in the North Atlantic. Activities include: (1) training workshops in port and at sea to build fleet capacity for better bycatch data reporting and safe handling and release of captured turtles; (2) conducting on-board pilot fishing trials to assess risk of bycatch in Atlantic areas relative to physiographic, oceanographic, and operational factors, and testing artificial bait; (3) production of short videos of fishing operations, training workshops, and sea turtles in coordination with Spain's Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment and fisheries organizations to be used for awareness, education and outreach.

USFWS: \$55,000<sup>8</sup>                      Leveraged Funds: \$119,350

## **TURKEY**

### **MT1639**

#### **Grant # F16AP00185**

***Developing a conservation project to address sea turtle bycatch mortality in the vicinity of Dalyan Beach, Turkey.*** In partnership with *Pamukkale Bilim Merkezi Dernegi Danismanlik Ve Organizasyon*. The purpose of this project is to develop a sea turtle conservation program to address fisheries bycatch issues near one of the main loggerhead nesting beaches in Turkey. Activities include: (1) placing two to four on-board observers on fishing boats to gather information on fishing operations and sea turtle captures on the far eastern and western Turkish Mediterranean coast; (2) developing and distributing a questionnaire to fishermen and other stakeholders to collect information about sea turtle bycatch; (3) assessing collected data to determine potential mitigation measures to reduce sea turtle bycatch; and (4) an awareness and outreach campaign to fishermen for safe release and handling of turtles accidentally captured in net, trawl, or longline fisheries.

USFWS: \$12,000                      Leveraged Funds: \$4,000

## **VIETNAM**

### **MT1601**

#### **Grant # F16AP00166**

***Support for community-based marine turtle nesting beach conservation and bycatch reduction in Vietnam.*** In partnership with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)-Vietnam. The purpose of this project is to conduct community-based sea turtle conservation programs along select coastal provinces and communities and to determine the current status of hawksbills in Vietnam. The intention of this project is to protect nests and nesting females from poaching and to gather information about the status of the hawksbill to inform a more focused and effective conservation strategy for the species in Vietnam. Activities include: (1) conducting community-based surveys to protect nests along 70 km of nesting beach in six provinces as well as working with fishermen to safely release sea turtles accidentally captured in coastal fisheries; (2) recruiting, training, and fielding approximately 25 volunteers to support rangers at Con Dao National Park to patrol remote beaches and protect approximately 1000 green turtle nests and

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<sup>8</sup> Of this \$25,000 was provided through an agreement with the National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, Department of Commerce (#PR – 086).

250 nesting females; and (3) conducting field surveys at selected hawksbill foraging grounds to assess abundance, status, and threats.

USFWS: \$80,000

Leveraged Funds: \$41,844

## **MULTIPLE COUNTIRES**

### **CAPE VERDE, MADAGASCAR, AND OMAN**

#### **MT1630**

##### **Grant # F16AC00048**

***Scientific and technical support to sea turtle projects in India, Oman, Cape Verde, Cuba, and Madagascar.*** In partnership with the Ocean Ecology Network. The purpose of this project is to provide technical and scientific support for sea turtle conservation projects with a focus on Africa and Oman. This project is intended to improve and strengthen the capacity of Marine Turtle Conservation Fund (MTCF) high priority projects to deter poaching, improve management practices for nesting beach conservation programs and sea turtle bycatch reduction efforts in Africa and Oman, and implement a loggerhead research project in Oman to determine interaction zones between fisheries and inter-nesting and post-nesting loggerheads from the main nesting beaches in order to inform and improve bycatch reduction efforts underway in collaboration with the Ministry of Environmental Affairs and Climate Change. Specific activities include: (1) site visits to MTCF-funded projects in Madagascar, Cape Verde, and Oman to provide training and technical support; and (2) organization and implementation of a loggerhead satellite telemetry research project in Oman and technical support and participation in a sea turtle fisheries bycatch project with fishing communities at Masirah Island, Oman.

USFWS: \$213,679<sup>9</sup>

Leveraged Funds: \$32,000

### **EQUATORIAL GUINEA, IVORY COAST, GABON, AND REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

#### **MT1631**

##### **Grant # F16AP00202**

***Sea turtle technical assistance in the Gulf of Guinea, West Africa 2016-2017.*** In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to provide coordination of the Gabon Sea Turtle Partnership to conserve the world's largest leatherback nesting population; provide technical and capacity building support for high priority Marine Turtle Conservation Fund (MTCF)-supported sea turtle projects in the Republic of Congo, Gabon, Ivory Coast, and Equatorial Guinea; and support efforts with local Benga communities in Corisco Bay, Gabon to develop participatory conservation activities and sustainable alternatives to sea turtle exploitation to compensate for implementation of a ban on sea turtle harvest in 2009 by local authorities. The project is intended to provide the coordination and facilitation for a more effective Gabon Sea Turtle Partnership and to provide the technical and scientific support to develop and improve the capacity of MTCF-supported projects in West Africa to protect nests and nesting females from poaching and reduce sea turtle bycatch in coastal fisheries. Specific activities include: (1) organization and facilitation of the annual meeting of the Gabon Sea Turtle Partnership and follow-up to foster cohesion and effectiveness in the implementation of partnership conservation

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<sup>9</sup> Of this, \$188,679 was provided through an agreement with the National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, Department of Commerce (#PR – 086).

priorities: and (2) site visits to MTCF projects in Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, the Republic of Congo, and Ivory Coast to provide scientific and technical support to address threats and build capacity of the implementing MTCF grantees.

USFWS: \$56,000                      Leveraged Funds: \$29,076

**MT1619**

**Grant # F16AP00104**

***35th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation.*** In partnership with the International Sea Turtle Society. The purpose of this project is to provide travel support for approximately 22 international participants to attend the International Sea Turtle Society's annual symposium. This annual symposium attracts over 1000 participants from more than 75 countries and is the single most important annual event for government, non-governmental organization, university, and private sea turtle conservationists to network, increase their scientific knowledge<sup>10</sup>, and share new findings through oral and poster presentations.

USFWS: \$25,000                      Leveraged Funds: \$42,500

**MT1671**

**Grant # F16AP00631**

***Capacity building for fishermen to create awareness and promote conservation of East Pacific leatherback turtles.*** In partnership with National Marine Sanctuary Foundation. The purpose of this project is to raise awareness and support of governments and fishermen from South American Pacific coast countries to address leatherback fisheries bycatch mortality where threats to East Pacific leatherbacks are greatest on foraging grounds and migration routes. Activities include bringing key government officials from fisheries agencies and key fisherman leaders to the East Pacific nesting beaches in Mexico or Costa Rica to learn about the nesting beach conservation programs and to experience leatherback nesting. A workshop on safe handling and release techniques will also be conducted.

USFWS: \$16,818<sup>11</sup>                      Leveraged Funds: \$5,640

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<sup>10</sup>Of this, \$15,000 was provided through an agreement with the National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, Department of Commerce (#PR – 086).

<sup>11</sup> Funded entirely from tiger stamp proceeds