

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Division of International Conservation  
Africa Regional Program  
FY 2017 Summary of Projects**

In FY 2017, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) awarded funding to 25 projects totaling \$15,170,086 through the Africa Regional Program, which was matched by \$13,717,937 in additional leveraged funds. Unless otherwise noted, all projects were funded through the Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE). Field projects in eight countries (in alphabetical order below) and several regional projects in multiple countries were supported.

**Modifications to Existing Cooperative Agreements and Grants**

**CAMEROON**

**AFR1413**

**Grant # F14AP00533**

***Scholarships, technical, and institutional capacity building at Garoua Wildlife College, Cameroon, Phase II.*** In partnership with *Ecole de Faune de Garoua* (Garoua Wildlife College). This modification supports the fourth year of this five-year cooperative agreement. Activities include: (1) scholarships for selected staff of Central African national parks and non-governmental organizations to earn diplomas in wildlife management at Garoua Wildlife College; and (2) support for Garoua Wildlife College faculty to improve their understanding and practice of the implementation of the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and to incorporate emerging threats to wildlife into the College's curriculum.

USFWS: \$168,660<sup>1</sup>                      Leveraged Funds: \$36,500

**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC)**

**AFR0195**

**Grant # F13AP00859**

***Building a self-sustaining park for the 21st century through strengthened park ranger force.*** In partnership with the Virunga Fund. This modification supports year five of this five-year cooperative agreement. Specific activities during the five years of this agreement include: (1) security and ranger operations, including improved ranger field support, monitoring illegal activity in the park, and aerial surveillance and operations; (2) conservation operations, including mountain gorilla and elephant monitoring, removal of snares, habitat restoration activities, and efforts to combat human-elephant conflict; (3) social and economic development operations, including energy, tourism, and development opportunities for the families of Virunga's fallen rangers; and (4) operations to combat external threats to park, including a campaign related to illegal extraction of natural resources within the park boundaries.

USFWS: \$60,000                      Leveraged Funds: \$6,072,280

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<sup>1</sup> Of this, \$68,660 was funded through Resource Management Funds.

**AFR1446****Grant # F14AP00620**

***Conservation of the Lomami protected area and management of surrounding community forests.*** In partnership with the TL2 Project/Lukuru Foundation. This modification supports year four of this ongoing five-year cooperative agreement. Objectives over the five years include: (1) legal gazettement of a national park with a functional management plan and framework for partnerships; (2) stronger resource tenure for communities around the park's periphery through improved legal hunting; (3) greater security and stability due to effective control of criminal activity within the park and in peripheral communities; (4) increased knowledge about the site's species, habitats, and threats to raise the park's profile among scientific and conservation communities; (5) a solid management and implementation team to carry on work at the site for years to come; and (6) effective application of the law to improve the legal response to wildlife crime, including arrests, prosecutions, and appropriate sentencing.

USFWS: \$400,000

Leveraged Funds: \$1,396,000

**GABON****AFR0196****Grant # F13AP00659**

***Parks Gabon II: Reinforcing the institutional capacity of Gabon's National Parks Agency.*** In partnership with Gabon's National Parks Agency (ANPN). This modification supports year four of the ongoing five-year government-to-government cooperative agreement between USFWS and ANPN. Activities for year four include: (1) professionalizing ANPN's management systems, including fleet management, financial systems and auditability, upper and middle management, and internationally competitive benefits structures to attract and retain high-quality staff; (2) implementing a professional communications strategy, including a specific strategy for Gabon's marine and fisheries program, *Gabon Bleu*, and a multi-media production campaign to garner widespread support for conservation and environmental management; (3) establishing and strengthening a "model parks" system by employing integrated park management models, developing best practices in strategic park management, promoting the development of qualified and effective park staff, and supporting adaptive research and monitoring programs; (4) reinforcing community support of ANPN conservation activities by implementing strategies to mitigate elephant crop raiding and supporting local consultative management committees; (5) developing a sustainable tourism sector that contributes to the national economy and promotes long-term political support for conservation by supporting ape-based tourism initiatives and developing private sector partnerships; (6) finalizing and validating new marine protected areas through research, spatial planning, a "Rigs-to-Reefs" strategy, and stakeholder consultations; (7) combating illegal killing of elephants and illegal fishing in national parks and buffer zones by identifying and hiring wildlife security/operational experts, equipping ecoguards and deploying patrols, providing regular law enforcement and monitoring training, and conducting aerial surveillance missions; (8) fighting trafficking of illegal wildlife products (including marine fauna) by deploying wildlife detection dogs at strategic points, developing an integrated information management system to collect, store, and manage information gained from wildlife enforcement activities, and ensuring prosecution of wildlife criminals; (9) promoting regional government-to-government collaboration on wildlife crime and international trafficking; (10) supporting a marine observer program to mitigate explicit marine threats; and, (11) enforcing the

application of best management practices in model-park buffer zones and developing public-private partnerships to improve buffer zone management.  
USFWS: \$7,000,000                      Leveraged Funds: n/a<sup>2</sup>

## REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

### AFR1631

#### Grant # F16AP00861

***Protecting Congo's biodiversity through aerial surveillance.*** In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). This modification is intended to continue support for the WCS aviation program in Republic of the Congo. Specific activities include: (1) bi-weekly aerial surveillance of major roads, rivers, and other access points in Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park and its immediate buffer zone; (2) bi-weekly aerial surveillance of major clearings and bays in Nouabalé-Ndoki and its immediate buffer zone; (3) quarterly aerial surveillance of major roads, rivers, other access points, and forest/savanna mosaics in three other national parks and their buffer zones: Ntokou-Pikounda, Conkouati-Douli, and Ogooue-Leketi; (4) bi-weekly aerial surveillance of the wider Nouabalé-Ndoki buffer zone; (5) quarterly aerial surveillance of the coastline; and (6) standardized reports and data from the aerial surveys for adaptive management.  
USFWS: \$95,079                      Leveraged Funds: \$93,742

## RWANDA

### AFR1603

#### Grant # F16AP00857

***Building capacity for biodiversity conservation in Nyungwe -Kibira-Kahuzi Biega National Parks.*** In partnership with the Kitabi College Of Conservation and Environmental Management. This modification supports year two of this ongoing cooperative agreement. Activities include: (1) scholarships for protected area staff to earn diplomas in wildlife management and return to work in their home national parks; (2) developing and incorporating teaching materials into Kitabi College's curriculum on emerging threats to wildlife and transboundary park management.  
USFWS: \$50,000                      Leveraged Funds: \$13,700

## MULTIPLE COUNTRIES

## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR) AND DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC)

### AFR1646

#### Grant # F16AC00508

***Reduce poaching of key species within the Chinko, CAR and Garamba, DRC landscapes/protection areas, with a specific focus on security, intelligence, law enforcement, and park management.*** In partnership with African Parks Foundation of America. This

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<sup>2</sup> For this multi-year cooperative agreement, a total of \$17,662,062 has been provided as match and was previously reported.

modification supports year two of this ongoing five-year cooperative agreement between the USFWS and the African Parks Foundation. Objectives over the five-year agreement include: (1) more secure wildlife and communities in the Garamba-Chinko landscape; (2) stable or increasing wildlife populations and greater conservation capacity to manage these protected areas; and (3) constituencies for conservation around the park through enhanced community relationships, partnership development, and initiation of tourism and other revenue-generating activities.

USFWS: \$300,000

Leveraged Funds: \$515,835

## **CAMEROON, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR), AND REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**

### **AFR0182**

#### **Grant # F13AC00558**

*Improving management to conserve the ecological integrity and connectivity, and the wealth of wildlife in the Sangha Tri-National and Northern Congo continuous forest landscape.* In partnership with the World Wildlife Fund. This modification supports year five of this five-year cooperative agreement. Objectives over the five-year agreement include: (1) extension of the protected area network and improved management effectiveness of existing protected areas; (2) strengthened and monitored wildlife law enforcement to reduce illegal killing of wildlife; (3) improved understanding of large mammal population abundance and distribution through surveys in key areas; (4) better understanding of the impact and transmission of Ebola among apes and development and implementation of intervention strategies to minimize impact of outbreaks on key ape populations. These objectives will be implemented across the Sangha Tri-National and Northern Congo landscape, including Dzanga-Ndoki National Park and Dzanga Sangha Reserve, Lobeke National Park and its buffer zones, Nouabale-Ndoki National Park and forestry concessions, Odzala-Kokoua National Park, and the Souanke Panhandle forestry concessions and proposed protected areas.

USFWS: \$2,700,000

Leveraged Funds: \$2,244,216

## **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC) AND REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**

### **AFR1643**

#### **Grant # F16AP00865**

*Decreasing threats to protected wildlife populations in Central Africa by reducing demand for bushmeat in large urban areas.* In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. This modification support year two of this five-year cooperative agreement between the USFWS and the Wildlife Conservation Society. Objectives over the five-year agreement include: (1) development of a campaign and coalition to change behavior of luxury bushmeat consumers in Kinshasa and Brazzaville; (2) improved application of the law in markets, restaurants, and other sites where illegal bushmeat is openly sold in Kinshasa and Brazzaville; and (3) ensuring illegal bushmeat from protected species is less available in markets and restaurants, and consumption behavior is understood well enough to effectively promote what works to reduce demand for luxury bushmeat in Kinshasa and Brazzaville. During the first year of this agreement, specific activities include a campaign component analysis, stakeholder mapping, and establishing a monitoring framework.

USFWS: \$300,000

Leveraged Funds: \$136,733

## REGIONAL

### AFR1538

#### Grant # F15AC01118

*Establishing Wildlife Law Enforcement across Multiple African Countries: A Five-Year Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.* In partnership with Conservation Justice. This modification is intended to support Year 3 of this ongoing 5-year cooperative agreement. Specific activities of this five-year cooperative agreement include: (1) investigation of significant wildlife traffickers, defined as those that employ or control poachers and play a significant role in at least one of the following: trafficking across national borders, engaging in or enabling corruption, and/or using sophisticated criminal methods; (2) facilitation of arrests of traffickers with the appropriate local law enforcement authorities; (3) legal follow-up of wildlife crime cases, including working with prosecutors and the judicial system to apply the law effectively and to ensure sentences are served; (4) media exposure of wildlife trafficking and penalties applied to deter others from engaging in wildlife crime; and (5) expansion of the organizational model to other countries to adapt to changes in wildlife trafficking routes and activity.

USFWS: \$850,000

Leveraged Funds: \$1,180,000

## New Grants

## CAMEROON

### AFR1750

#### Grant # F17AP00427

*Ensuring the long-term protection of Mbam and Djerem National Park, Cameroon Phase I.* In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to support a conservation effort in Mbam and Djerem National Park in Cameroon by consolidating and increasing protection measures in and around the park and minimizing the negative impacts of road construction. This project is intended to conserve forest elephants, chimpanzees, giant pangolins, and other species by addressing the impacts of the illegal bushmeat trade, illegal killing of elephants for ivory, and pressures from infrastructure development, extractive industries, and encroachment. Specific activities include: (1) design and implementation of formal park management structures and systems, including a public-private partnership agreement with the Government of Cameroon, a new park management plan, and an assessment of the human resource capacity, park infrastructure, and logistics needs; (2) wildlife protection improvements, including updates to park surveillance and patrolling systems, operational support for anti-poaching missions, and support for prosecution of criminal activity in and around the park; (3) community engagement to improve local support and enable more effective participation in park management; and (4) promotion of a pilot ecotourism initiative to generate long-term and sustainable revenue for park management and local communities.

USFWS: \$300,000

Leveraged Funds: \$247,255

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC)

### **AFR1714**

#### **Grant # F17AP00418**

***Strengthening the institutional capacity of Tayna Center for Conservation Biology, DRC: With a special emphasis on pangolin conservation.*** In partnership with the Tayna Center for Conservation Biology. The purpose of this project is to enhance the capacity of the Tayna Center for Conservation Biology (TCCB) to train a new generation of Congolese conservation professionals in the Maiko-Tayna-Kahuzi-Biega landscape in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The project is intended to develop capacity to conserve the four species of pangolin found in Central Africa, including white-bellied pangolin, black-bellied pangolin, giant ground pangolin, and Temminck's ground pangolin. Specific activities include: (1) support for three junior lecturers from TCCB to earn Master's degrees at the University of Kisangani; (2) faculty improvement at TCCB to better incorporate current wildlife conservation topics and emerging threats into the existing Faculty of Science teaching curriculum; and (3) enactment of management planning in protected areas in eastern DRC, based on new applied Master's degree research on three species of pangolin conducted by TCCB junior lecturers.

USFWS: \$89,870

Leveraged Funds: \$0

### **AFR1741**

#### **Grant # F17AP00423**

***Targeted response for protecting okapi and other threatened wildlife in Okapi Wildlife Reserve.*** In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Global. The purpose of this project is to support a conservation effort in the Okapi Faunal Reserve by strengthening law enforcement operations to ensure long-term protection. This project is intended to conserve okapis and their habitat by addressing the impacts of illegal activities within the Reserve, including wildlife poaching, mining, and logging. Specific activities include: (1) ranger support, including infrastructure development, provision of field equipment, and operational assistance; and (2) aerial surveys to identify illegal activities, including mining, logging, agricultural expansion, and poaching camps, to better inform and deploy ground patrols.

USFWS: \$101,713

Leveraged Funds: \$23,160

### **AFR1743**

#### **Grant # F17AP00424**

***Securing wildlife in the Salonga National Park: Strengthening strategic patrol posts.*** In partnership with the Zoological Society of Milwaukee. The purpose of this project is to support a conservation effort in Salonga National Park, Africa's largest tropical rainforest park, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo by strengthening a strategic patrol post. This project is intended to conserve important populations of bonobos and forest elephants by addressing the impacts of illegal killing of wildlife for bushmeat and ivory. Specific activities include: (1) operational support for rangers at the Biondo Biondo outpost to improve patrol coverage, frequency, efficacy, and accountability.

USFWS: \$110,760

Leveraged Funds: \$11,860

**AFR1764****Grant # F17AP00431**

***Strengthening and scaling up anti-poaching and ecological monitoring in the Bili Uele Protected Area Complex in the DRC incorporating the transboundary context.*** In partnership with the African Wildlife Foundation. The purpose of this project is to support a conservation effort in the Bili Uele Protected Area Complex of the Democratic Republic of Congo by strengthening wildlife protection and law enforcement by the Congolese Wildlife Authority (ICCN). The project is intended to conserve eastern chimpanzees, forest elephants, lions, and other species in the Bili Mbomu forest and savanna by addressing the impacts of illegal killing of wildlife for bushmeat and ivory, mining, and civil conflict. Specific activities include: (1) operational support and refresher trainings for ICCN ecoguards; and (2) analysis of human activities, key wildlife populations, and the density of elephants and chimpanzees in a 3,000 km<sup>2</sup> forested area.

USFWS: \$112,696

Leveraged Funds: \$81,474

**EQUATORIAL GUINEA****AFR1744****Grant # F17AP00425**

***Reducing bushmeat supply and demand by increasing wildlife security on Bioko Island, Equatorial Guinea.*** In partnership with Drexel University. The purpose of this project is to support a conservation effort on Bioko Island, Equatorial Guinea, by combating the illegal bushmeat trade in the island's most important wildlife reserve and by providing technical assistance to the country's national forestry and protected area institute, INDEFOR-AP. This project is intended to protect wildlife, including seven species of monkeys and one of the world's largest nesting populations of leatherback turtles, in the Gran Caldera Scientific Reserve from illegal and unsustainable harvest. Specific activities include: (1) support for INDEFOR-AP ecoguards and a reserve management taskforce to improve protection in the Reserve; (2) forest patrols and beach camps to discourage the harvest of wildlife and supply of illegal bushmeat to the market; (3) analysis and expansion of monitoring efforts to include restaurants and three bushmeat markets in Malabo, hunter and law enforcement surveys, and collection of acoustic data in the Reserve; and (4) educational and public awareness campaigns to reduce consumer demand for bushmeat.

USFWS: \$299,993

Leveraged Funds: \$393,659

**GABON****AFR1730****Grant # F17AP00419**

***Changing consumer preferences for bushmeat from protected species and promoting alternatives to bushmeat commerce in Lambaréné, Gabon.*** In partnership with *Organisation Ecotouristique du Lac Oguemoué* (OELO). The purpose of this project is to conserve protected wildlife in the lake district of Gabon. This project seeks to reduce the illegal bushmeat trade in Lambaréné, Gabon, by addressing the sale of and consumer demand for protected species, including slender-snouted crocodile, manatee, forest buffalo, and giant pangolin. Specific activities include: (1) surveys of local markets and restaurants to improve understanding of

bushmeat sales and the illicit trade in protected species; (2) environmental education targeted at future consumers to increase public awareness of protected species and legislation; (3) sponsorship of nature clubs, wildlife murals, road cleanup programs, World Environment Day 2017 celebrations, field trips by local leaders to OELO's ecotourism site at Tsam Tsam, and student questionnaires to gauge attitudes towards biodiversity conservation and environmental stewardship; (4) ecotourism development at Tsam Tsam to increase sustainable revenue for conservation and to support alternatives to illegal hunting in the lake region of Gabon; and (5) alternative income development to decrease illegal bushmeat commerce at *Marche Isaac*, the main commercial hub in Lambaréné.

USFWS: \$69,420

Leveraged Funds: \$119,870

### **AFR1736**

#### **Grant # F17AP00435**

***MENTOR-Fish - Building local technical capacity for the development of sustainable freshwater fisheries management in Gabon.*** In partnership with The Nature Conservancy. The purpose of this project is to improve the conservation of Gabon's commercially important freshwater fishes by developing capacity for inland fisheries management. This project is intended to build a team of early career Gabonese professionals to promote sustainable inland fisheries management, including protecting freshwater fish species from illegal harvest. Target fish species include cichlids (*Pelmatolapia* spp., *Oreochromis* spp.), catfishes (*Clarias* spp., *Chrysichthys* spp.) and species that move between fresh- and saltwater such as "capitaine" (*Polydactylus* sp.) and "rouge" (*Lutjanus* sp.). Specific activities include: (1) support for a team of eight Fellows who will have the knowledge and skills to promote sustainable fisheries management; (2) development of fisheries management plans in Lake Oguemoué, Ndogo Lagoon, and Lake Poubara; and (3) development of written resources on sustainable fisheries science, principles, and practices.

USFWS: \$367,853

Leveraged Funds: \$253,540

### **AFR1751**

#### **Grant # F17AP00434**

***Countering commercial poaching in Gabon's Plateau Bateke National Park through intensified wildlife law enforcement.*** In partnership with Panthera. The purpose of this project is to protect wildlife populations in Gabon's Plateau Batéké National Park by strengthening local wildlife law enforcement capacity. This project is intended to conserve a pristine proportion of the unique forest-savanna mosaic of the Plateau Batéké and important populations of forest elephants, western lowland gorillas, reptiles, and birds by addressing the impacts of commercial poaching. Specific activities include: (1) recruitment, training, and patrol support for a ranger anti-poaching force; (2) ranger training on methods to collect law enforcement and ecological data; (3) data analysis to help guide anti-poaching patrols; and (4) camera trap surveys to assess wildlife population changes.

USFWS: \$398,574

Leveraged Funds: \$234,416

### **AFR1756**

#### **Grant # F17AP00429**

***Strengthening aerial surveillance of Gabon's marine and terrestrial protected areas.*** In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to support the

Gabonese National Parks Agency (ANPN) by providing aerial support for protected area management and conservation. This project is intended to conserve wildlife by monitoring for illegal human activities in and around national parks and buffer zones on land and in the water. Specific activities include: (1) aerial surveillance and monitoring of human activities and wildlife to regularly assess Gabon's national parks and coastline; and (2) technical and logistical assistance to assist in the development of ANPN's aviation program, including data management and reporting, and to support on-the-ground protection efforts.

USFWS: \$204,700

Leveraged Funds: \$3,859

## **SIERRA LEONE**

### **AFR1733**

#### **Grant # F17AP00422**

*Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning from the MENTOR Programs to Strengthen Conservation Leadership in Africa.* In partnership with Njala University. The purpose of this project is to evaluate the progress of the USFWS MENTOR (Mentoring for ENvironmental Training in Outreach and Resource conservation) Program, which brings together teams of emerging conservation leaders and combines academic and field-based training, long-term mentoring, learning through experience, and project design and implementation to address major threats facing wildlife populations. Specific activities include: (1) assessment of training, capacity development, mentoring, and teamwork within and across the MENTOR projects; (2) advancement of African conservation leadership; and (3) identification of opportunities for collaboration on priority conservation actions and adaptive learning across the MENTOR projects.

USFWS: \$199,787

Leveraged Funds: \$42,625

## **MULTIPLE COUNTRIES**

### **GABON AND REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**

#### **AFR1755**

#### **Grant # F17AP00428**

*Strengthening the management of artisanal and industrial fisheries in the Gulf of Guinea.* In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to ensure sustainable management of the fisheries and marine ecosystems of Gabon and the Republic of the Congo, one of the world's most productive coastal and offshore fishing zones. This project is intended to protect sharks and rays, coastal dolphins, sea turtles, spiny lobster and shrimp, and other important marine species from overfishing, illegal harvest, indiscriminate bycatch, and finning. Specific activities include: (1) development and implementation of management plans for established marine protection zones to ensure greater sustainability and improved management of Gabon's fisheries and support for its national marine and fisheries program, *Gabon Bleu*; (2) support for the Fisheries Agency in the Republic of the Congo to manage and monitor artisanal and industrial fisheries; and (3) transboundary collaboration for the management and law enforcement of fisheries between the Republic of the Congo and Gabon.

USFWS: \$299,071

Leveraged Funds: \$91,455

## REGIONAL (CENTRAL AFRICA)

### **AFR1731**

#### **Grant # F17AP00420**

***Creating an evidence base for developing and evaluating interventions to reduce unsustainable bushmeat hunting in Central Africa.*** In partnership with the University of Sussex. The purpose of this project is to provide conservation and development stakeholders in Central Africa with the tools they need to develop and test bushmeat management interventions using an evidence-based approach, thereby maximizing the effectiveness of conservation funds and efforts, and ultimately securing wildlife in Central Africa. Specific activities include: (1) establishment of an openly accessible evidence base of bushmeat hunting in Central Africa, (2) development of bushmeat indicators and methods for monitoring of wild animal exploitation over time at local, national, and regional levels across Central Africa; and (3) facilitation of the uptake and use of the evidence base, indicators, and monitoring methods by engaging with stakeholders, training key regional staff, and participating in regional and international policy meetings.

USFWS: \$398,477

Leveraged Funds: \$462,758

### **AFR1732**

#### **Grant # F17AP00421**

***Combating bushmeat trafficking of protected species in the Congo Basin: Mobilizing the Central Africa Bushmeat Action Group.*** In partnership with the Last Great Ape organization (LAGA). The purpose of this project is to support a conservation effort in Central Africa by raising the regional and international profile of the impact of the commercial bushmeat trade on people and wildlife. This project is intended to better prevent legally protected species from entering the commercial bushmeat trade by working with policy makers and collaborating with a network of field projects. Specific activities include: (1) participation in regional and international policy meetings; (2) technical assistance for legal officials and wildlife authorities in the application of relevant wildlife laws; and (3) development of key recommendations for regional partners to address the impact of the commercial bushmeat trade.

USFWS: \$265,933

Leveraged Funds: \$0

### **AFR1749**

#### **Grant # F17AP00426**

***Congo Basin Grant Program - providing small research grants to African graduate students and early career professionals working in biodiversity, conservation, and environmental sustainability.*** In partnership with the Conservation Action Research Network. The purpose of this project is to support conservation efforts in Central Africa by developing a new generation of researchers to address critical conservation challenges facing wildlife, biodiversity, and ecosystem health. The project is intended to conserve wildlife and habitats by addressing capacity development needs, specifically research support for graduate students and early career professionals in the Congo Basin. Specific activities include: (1) support for applied wildlife research through a competitive, merit-based process; (2) assistance for early-career Central African researchers to strengthen opportunities for future success in wildlife conservation.

USFWS: \$27,500

Leveraged Funds: \$63,000