

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

In FY 2017, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) awarded funding to 12 projects from its Central America program, totaling \$941,075, which was matched by \$939,870 in additional leveraged funds. These funds supported field projects in five countries of Central America (in alphabetical order below), including three binational and regional projects.

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**COSTA RICA**

**CA1701**

**Grant # F17AP00787**

*Biological monitoring and native plant programs of Dos Brazos de Rio Tigre.* In partnership with *Asociación Conservacionista de Dos Brazos de Río Tigre*. The purpose of this project is to support a conservation effort in the community of Dos Brazos de Rio Tigre located on the Osa Peninsula in Costa Rica by supporting community-based conservation and the creation of green jobs. The project is intended to conserve Corcovado National Park, Piedras Blancas National Park, and the Golfo Dulce Forest Reserve by addressing the impacts of the illegal mining, hunting, and logging that take place as a result of local unemployment. Specific activities include: (1) monthly monitoring and data collection of key indicator species by the local community; (2) construction of a native plant nursery and completion of training workshops to maintain and manage the community-based native plants program; and (3) sales and marketing activities to support revenue generation from the alternative livelihood projects.

USFWS: \$41,796

Leveraged Funds: \$16,650

**CA1709**

**Grant # F17AP00788**

*Development of economic opportunities related to ecotourism as an alternative to unsustainable natural resource use for the communities of La Amistad.* In partnership with *Fundación Corcovado Lon Willing Ramsey Junior*. The purpose of this project is to support the conservation of La Amistad International Park in Costa Rica through the development of economic opportunities related to ecotourism in the communities within and adjacent to the park. The project is intended to conserve the largest remaining natural forest of Costa Rica and the rich array of wildlife that it supports, including jaguars, pumas, Baird's tapirs, and peccaries by addressing the impacts of poaching and trafficking of wildlife and illegal and unsustainable natural resource extraction. Specific activities include: (1) identifying and developing business plans for at least 12 ecotourism-related ventures; (2) strengthening local tourism and community associations; (3) delivering training to both community groups as well as to protected area

personnel on the benefits and impacts of tourism, including exchanges with successful community-based ecotourism projects in other areas of the country; (4) delivering training on the design, construction, and maintenance of trails; and (5) supporting sales and marketing activities to promote ecotourism in the park.

USFWS: \$78,171

Leveraged Funds: \$96,815

## **GUATEMALA**

### **CA1703**

#### **Grant # F17AP00771**

***Strengthening multi-sectoral alliances, binational collaboration, and rural livelihoods in the Adjacency Zone to conserve the Chiquibul-Maya Mountains Biosphere Reserve.*** In partnership with *Asociación Balam*. The purpose of this project is to reduce agricultural encroachment on broadleaf and coniferous forests of the Chiquibul-Maya Mountains landscape by consolidating strategic alliances, improving rural livelihoods of communities in critical conservation areas, and strengthening public and private participation through the Inter-sectoral Roundtable for Land and the Environment for Southern Petén. The project is intended to conserve part of Central America's largest intact blocks of tropical forest that harbor emblematic species such as jaguars, scarlet macaws, and Baird's tapirs. Specific activities include: (1) ground monitoring and patrolling for wildlife trafficking and illegal forest clearing for agriculture; (2) developing and training appropriate protocols for patrols and law enforcement actions to prevent conflict; (3) holding coordination meetings between Guatemalan and Belizean authorities to improve application of the law and disruption of organized crime networks operating in and across the Adjacency Zone; (4) expanding sustainable livelihood and agroforestry projects for hotspot border communities and governance platforms to ensure their long-term management; and (5) conducting a social, economic, and environmental evaluation to measure the project's impacts on reducing forest loss, strengthening governance, and improving human well-being in the region.

USFWS: \$49,313

Leveraged Funds: \$21,846

## **HONDURAS**

### **CA1711**

#### **Grant # F17AP00847**

***Strengthening conservation management of the Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve.*** In partnership with *Instituto Nacional de Conservación y Desarrollo Forestal, Áreas Protegidas y Vida*. The purpose of this project is to strengthen park management in the Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve of Honduras by supporting park guards from the national wildlife authority. This protected area, a World Heritage Site in Danger, has long suffered from instability and incursions for illegal natural resource and wildlife use. The project is intended to conserve a highly diverse array of distinct ecosystems and key species such as jaguars, Baird's tapirs, giant anteaters, West Indian manatees, macaws, and harpy eagles by reducing threats from poaching, wildlife trafficking, and habitat destruction. Specific activities include: (1) recruitment and training of additional park rangers in operations, law enforcement monitoring tools, and forest fire management and control; (2) education and outreach activities with local communities; and (3) biological monitoring of key landscape species.

USFWS: \$90,000

Leveraged Funds: \$20,000

**CA1716****Grant # F17AP00817**

***Reintroduction of peccaries in the Jeannette Kawas National Park: Restoring jaguar prey and a landscape species.*** In partnership with Panthera. The purpose of this project is to support the conservation of jaguars in Jeannette Kawas National Park in Honduras through a collared peccary reintroduction effort. The project is intended to conserve a critical jaguar corridor for regional connectivity by increasing the natural prey base of jaguars and reducing human-jaguar conflict. Specific activities include: (1) reintroduction of a group of collared peccaries in the park; (2) community outreach to grow stewardship and support for peccary and jaguar conservation; and (3) increased Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) patrols within the park to deter illegal activities, including poaching and trafficking of protected species.

USFWS: \$43,490

Leveraged Funds: \$137,950

**CA1725****Grant # F17AP00769**

***Miskito people of Honduras: Saving themselves, saving their endangered wild macaws.*** In partnership with *Fundación en Ciencia para el Estudio y Conservación de la Biodiversidad*. The purpose of this project is to improve wildlife security in the Moskitia, Honduras by strengthening conservation capacity of governmental entities, indigenous communities, and other key stakeholders to reduce the illegal killing and trafficking of parrots. The project is intended to conserve the two most endangered parrots in Honduras, the Central American scarlet macaw and the great green macaw, by addressing the impact of illegal wildlife trade. Specific activities include: (1) publishing a National Parrot Conservation Protocol and conducting workshops and trainings to authorities on how to confiscate, care for, and liberate parrots caught in illegal trade; (2) supporting an indigenous ranger patrol system to monitor and protect wild nest sites of macaws; (3) carrying out a public campaign to grow support for the species among local indigenous communities, deter illegal trade centered in semi-urban areas, and raise national awareness of the impact and consequences of illegal wildlife trafficking; and (4) performing population monitoring at key point count locations at the end of the breeding season.

USFWS: \$98,651

Leveraged Funds: \$72,351

**NICARAGUA****CA1726****Grant # F17AP00770**

***Saving Nicaragua's Indio-Maíz Biological Reserve by empowering its indigenous and autonomous authorities.*** In partnership with Global Wildlife Conservation. The purpose of this project is to build a self-sustaining, effective, professional forest ranger program with the indigenous Rama and Afro-descendant Kriol peoples of the Indio-Maíz Biological Reserve in southeastern Nicaragua. The project is intended to conserve lowland tropical rainforests and threatened species such as great green macaws, Baird's Tapirs, and jaguars from the advancing illegal cattle ranching frontier and uncontrolled timber and wildlife extraction. Specific activities include: (1) supporting patrols of trained, professional indigenous and Afro-descendant rangers; (2) helping Rama and Kriol leaders diversify their responses to threats identified in the Reserve; (3) developing the institutional capacity and financial literacy of the Rama and Kriol communal governments needed to manage the ranger program in the future; (4) facilitating the adoption of a

Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) database by regional natural resources authorities; and (5) working with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Commission on Protected Areas to facilitate writing a new management plan for Indio Maíz that formally integrates the Rama and Kriol ranger program into regional-level protected area management.

USFWS: \$90,748

Leveraged Funds: \$123,841

## PANAMA

### CA1718

#### Grant # F17AP00816

***Jaguars and cattle: Conflict management, training, and community awareness in the Lago Gatun-Santa Fe Corridor, Panama.*** In partnership with Panthera. The purpose of this project is to reduce jaguar-human conflict in the Lago Gatun-Santa Fe Corridor in Panama by implementing proven anti-predation livestock protection methods and educating the public on jaguar conservation. This project is intended to conserve jaguar populations that move to or from Santa Fe and El Cope National Parks through Donoso Protected Area by addressing the impacts of illegal killings of jaguars in retaliation for predation on domestic animals. Specific activities include: (1) establishment of four pilot farms to reduce the conflict between felines and humans in the communities near Santa Fe National Park and Coclesito Donoso District, and an evaluation of the effectiveness of anti-predation techniques; (2) training workshops for cattle farmers in Coclesito, Donoso District to improve livestock management and adoption of anti-predation techniques; and (3) environmental education workshops to raise awareness of jaguar conservation among local communities.

USFWS: \$38,126

Leveraged Funds: \$67,936

### CA1719

#### Grant # F17AP00443

***Engaging Emberá-Wounaan indigenous communities in reforestation and alternative livelihoods as a model of community-based conservation in the Darién.*** In partnership with The Peregrine Fund. The purpose of this project is to engage two indigenous Emberá-Wounaan communities in alternative farming and grazing systems to promote community-based biodiversity conservation in multiple-use zones around Darién National Park, Panama. The project is intended to conserve Darién's lowland moist tropical forest and unique Choco biodiversity, including Central America's largest harpy eagle population, by reducing slash-and-burn agriculture and pastureland conversion. Specific activities include: (1) conducting a public campaign to build a conservation constituency in the region, (2) reforestation with native trees, including commercially valuable trees, and shade-grown coffee; (3) raising pigs as an alternative and new swift revenue source until shade-coffee plantations reach maturation; (4) creation of two local community associations and one national non-governmental organization to increase capacity to enter into and manage incentive agreements; (5) training in administration and management of associations to support good community forest governance; (6) creating a student scholarship program as an incentive for families participating in the reforestation initiative; and (7) building a coalition of national and international partners for the Darién to support policy

coherence for the region and to scale up community-based conservation efforts across the landscape.

USFWS: \$130,000

Leveraged Funds: \$85,330

## **MULTIPLE COUNTRIES –GUATEMALA AND HONDURAS**

### **CA1715**

#### **Grant # F17AP00772**

***Securing habitat in a binational linkage critical for jaguar connectivity.*** In partnership with Panthera. The purpose of this project is to support a binational conservation effort in the Sierra del Merendon transboundary region, including the Sierra Caral Reserve in Guatemala and Cusuco National Park in Honduras. The project is intended to conserve a critical jaguar corridor for regional connectivity by addressing illegal hunting and habitat incursions. Specific activities include: (1) designing a collaborative database to collect and systematize information on threats; (2) conducting patrols to detect, deter, and prosecute illegal activities; (3) conducting passive acoustic monitoring for gun hunting patterns in core areas; (4) implementing an adaptive patrol plan to mitigate habitat threats; (5) training park staff in Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) monitoring protocols and passive acoustic monitoring of gun hunting patterns; (6) strengthening community park guard groups living in the protected areas in both countries; and (7) creating a Binational Working Group for the Conservation of Sierra del Merendon.

USFWS: \$67,601

Leveraged Funds: \$98,253

## **MULTIPLE COUNTRIES – COSTA RICA, GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, NICARAGUA, AND PANAMA**

### **CA1710**

#### **Grant # F17AC00877**

***Baird's Tapir Survival Alliance.*** In partnership with the Houston Zoo. The purpose of this project is to create a regional conservation team for Baird's tapirs in Central America. This project is intended to ensure the survival of the Baird's tapir by developing the capacity of tapir conservation leaders from Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama who will work together to design and deliver results-oriented Baird's tapir conservation actions. Specific activities include: (1) conducting trainings and mentoring at field sites of five selected Fellows on a range of topics, including team building, adaptive management, communications and media, and grant writing and fundraising; (2) designing and implementing a coordinated public outreach campaign for the conservation of Baird's tapirs; (3) determining individual and team field projects at high priority sites to reduce threats to their survival; (4) jointly developing a global grant proposal to ensure the survival of the species and undertake fundraising activities to support it; and (5) creating the Baird's Tapir Survival Alliance as an enduring network equipped to ensure the survival of the species across its range.

USFWS: \$88,200

Leveraged Funds: \$145,000

**Amendments to existing projects**

**MULTIPLE COUNTRIES – BELIZE, COSTA RICA, GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, NICARAGUA, AND PANAMA**

**LAC1543**

**Grant # F15AC00990**

*Five-year cooperative agreement for the conservation of Mesoamerica's last wild places.* In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to secure the protection of Mesoamerica's five largest wild places by 2020, including viable populations of wide-ranging species such as the jaguar, Baird's tapir, white-lipped peccary, and macaws. Through a five-year cooperative agreement, project activities will reduce threats to the Maya Forest, Moskitia, Indio-Maiz-Tortugero, La Amistad, and Darien Gap to ensure regional connectivity and protection of the core wildlife strongholds within the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor. Key objectives of this project relate to the development of a coordinated approach to conservation amongst Mesoamerican partners, elaborating a regional conservation vision, strengthening the management and protection of core sites, and building the capacity of relevant local stakeholders. Specific activities planned for the third year of implementation include: (1) designing a report card system on the state of Mesoamerica's five largest forests and their wildlife; (2) providing regional support for implementation of the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART); (3) consolidation and sustainable funding for jaguar-friendly ranch management techniques in the Maya Biosphere Reserve Buffer Zone and beyond; and (4) increasing law enforcement and monitoring capacity in the Moskitia of Honduras and Nicaragua.

USFWS: \$124,980

Leveraged Funds: \$53,898