



**DIVISION OF INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION
AFRICAN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION FUND
SUMMARY OF GRANTS 2003**

Preventative Approaches to a Poaching Crisis in Zambia. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society. FWS: \$37,450. Leveraged funds: \$50,400.

This project consists of a program to provide local hunters with alternatives to poaching using incentives that promote compliance with wildlife and hunting regulations in poor rural areas where elephants are under threat. The WCS has a long experience in Zambia and has developed this program in collaboration with local communities and the Zambian Wildlife Authority [ZAWA].

The Impact of Elephants on Habitat Dynamics and Extent of Human-elephant Conflict in Marsabit NP and its Environs. In partnership with Kenya Wildlife Service. FWS: \$27,219. Leveraged funds: \$37,210.

This study will collect and interpret data to develop a sound conservation and management strategy for elephants in and around the Marsabit National Park/Reserve and Forest Park in northern Kenya. This group of elephants is an isolated population in an area where the species has become extinct over much of its former range. Human-elephant conflict [HEC] is increasing; elephants in this area are still vulnerable to ivory poaching. Despite the importance of this population, few data are available, and no previous study on HEC exists. It is a necessary component of management planning and protection of elephants and the interest of local human populations.

Elephants of Babilie Elephant Sanctuary: Assessing the Conflicts between People and Elephants, Southeast Ethiopia. In partnership with Institute of Biodiversity Conservation and Research (IBCR). FWS: \$30,736. Leveraged funds: \$48,357.

This grant assists the IBCR to evaluate the status of a population that is considered to be a rare sub-species of African Elephants (*Loxodonta africana orleansi*) in the Babilie Elephant Sanctuary [BES]. This protected area in southeast Ethiopia is the sole range of this subspecies. Although BES is a top national conservation priority, it has not yet received sufficient management and protection.

Elephant Listening Project Part II. In partnership with Cornell University Bioacoustics Research Program. FWS: \$54,999. Leveraged funds: \$221,507.

The purpose of this grant is to assist the Elephant Listening Project to complete previously supported research that examines the use of elephant vocalizations as a monitoring elephants in forested areas of Africa. Preliminary evidence from this work shows promising results that may provide a valuable method to overcome the difficulties posed by monitoring elephants in the dense vegetation of the forest zone. This grant will permit completion of the analysis of data collected from the Dzanga forest clearing in the Central African Republic during 2002. The analysis will determine the statistical relationships among acoustic information and reproductive behaviors, and measurable external factors. This information will be integrated to produce a model for use in monitoring programs focused on forest elephant populations that cannot be assessed visually.

Support to Tembe Elephant Park. In partnership with Ezumvelo KwaZulu Natal Wildlife. FWS: \$36,735. Leveraged funds: \$191,663.

The grant provides funds to purchase a four-wheel drive vehicle that will be used to study and protect elephants (*Loxodonta africana*) in the Tembe Elephant Park, KwaZulu Natal, Republic of South Africa. The reserve was created to protect the lives and property of the local people from damage and injury by elephant and to preserve the last naturally occurring population of elephants in KwaZulu Natal.

The Ecological Carrying Capacity of Waza NP, Cameroon, with Special Reference for Elephant Conservation. In partnership with World Wide Fund for Nature — Cameroon Programme Office. FWS: \$20,836. Leveraged funds: \$34,900.

The purpose of this grant is to assist WWF researchers to examine the ecological carrying capacity of the Waza National Park, Cameroon by investigating the interaction between elephants (*Loxodonta africana*) and the population of woody tree species most frequently used as a food source and determining the viable elephant population density for long-term conservation in the Waza NP and surrounding habitat. This area is considered one of the most important ranges of elephants in northern Central Africa.

Elephant Research and Conservation in the Lower Zambezi Landscape. In partnership with African Wildlife Foundation. FWS: \$89,078. Leveraged funds: \$67,260.

The purpose of this grant agreement is to assist the African Wildlife Foundation and their partners to improve the conservation status of a transfrontier elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) population in the lower Zambezi Valley. This work will increase the capacity for conservation, elephant research and management by training Zambian researchers and rangers and by supporting anti-poaching activities in Lower Zambezi National Park.

Resulting information will benefit conservation planning and direct action in southern Zambia and neighboring Zimbabwe.

Improvement of Elephant Range in Mkomazi Game Reserve, Tanzania. In partnership with Tony Fitzjohn/George Adamson African Wildlife Preservation Trust. FWS: \$18,045. Leveraged funds: \$99,560.

The purpose of this Agreement is to assist management of the Mkomazi GR to improve and maintain a system of water pans and holding dams in order to reduce human-elephant conflict in the Mkomazi Game Reserve in northern Tanzania. Human colonization has made historic natural water sources, which were until recently open to wildlife, inaccessible to elephants (*Loxodonta africana*). Elephants are now obligated to seek water in newly these recently established village agricultural areas. This problem is being mitigated by increasing the dry season holding capacity of dams within the adjacent protected area, thereby allowing wildlife access to water during their dry season foraging migrations through the area.

Elephant and Great Ape Conservation and Monitoring in Multiple-use Forests of the Sangha-Likouala Regions, Republic of Congo. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society. FWS: \$89,980. Leveraged funds: \$647,900.

The purpose of this grant is to assist PROGEPP to conduct conservation and management activities in three logging concessions in the northern Republic of Congo. These activities consist mainly of assisting the government of Congo and the logging concessionaries to enforce wildlife protection laws, hunting regulations, and to prevent poaching of elephants and great apes. The project will work with local communities to enhance their participation in conservation efforts, will train and reinforce a cadre of 40 ecoguards and six governmental agents of PROGEPP, and will support other government conservation and protection activities. The combined efforts of this program constitute an effective set of measures to reduce illegal commercial bushmeat traffic and the poaching of elephants and apes in these logging concessions.

Elephant Information Listserv. In partnership with Save the Elephants. FWS: \$10,000. Leveraged funds: \$10,000.

This grant assists Save the Elephants to improve and further develop the Elephant Information Listserv. This service provides important information on current African and Asian elephant topics to the public in a time-sensitive manner. Topics include but are not limited to elephant population dynamics, behavior and ecology, poaching and security observations, ivory trade, CITES and policy issues, and human-elephant conflict. This grant will provide the means to upgrade and professionalize the level of service to elephant conservationists, policy and decision makers, park authorities, zookeepers, funding agencies, and students.

Elephants, Crops, and People in Uganda. In partnership with Elephants, Crops, and People [ECP-Uganda]. FWS: \$37,000. Leveraged funds: \$68,810.

This grant further assists the ECP to support the Ugandan Wildlife Authority [UWA] to conserve elephants in the Southern Queen Elizabeth Conservation Area [SQECA] by working with local communities around the park to enhance conservation and reduction of human-elephant conflict [HEC] and building capacity among wildlife conservationists in Uganda.

The Role of Seismic Detection in African Elephant Ecology and Communication. In partnership with Dr. Caitlin O’Connell-Rodwell. FWS: \$14,989. Leveraged funds: \$186,528.

This grant assists the researchers at Stanford University to complete previously supported research that examines the use of seismic information from elephant footfalls as a monitoring tool in Africa. Preliminary evidence from this work shows promising results that may provide a valuable method to overcome the difficulties posed by monitoring elephants in the dense vegetation of the forest zone and as an elephant deterrent mechanism in areas of high human-elephant conflict.

Elaboration d’une Stratégie de Gestion des Eléphants du Niger. In partnership with Direction de la Faune, de la Pêche, et de la Pisciculture, \$19,684. Leveraged funds: \$5,247.

The purpose of this agreement is to assist the Government of Niger to conduct a workshop and follow-on activities to create a national elephant management strategy. This plan will update a previous plan that was formulated nearly 13 years ago. It follows the outline and orientation of the West African Sub-regional Elephant Action Plan of 2001.

Human-Elephant Conflict around Odzala NP, Congo. In partnership with Dr. Tomoaki Nishihara. FWS: \$17,970. Leveraged funds: + \$87,000.

This agreement assists field researchers to conduct applied research on the socio-economic, attitudinal information from villagers, and other relevant observations concerning the conservation of forest elephants (*Loxodonta africana cyclotis*) around Odzala National Park, Republic of Congo. Human-elephant conflict [HEC] is becoming a major challenge to conservation efforts in this important wildlife area. Effective mitigation of the growing HEC problem depends on a plan based on sound information from the field, particularly from the villages in areas of highest contact with wildlife. This project will produce the necessary information and will make suggestions on the

most appropriate actions to deal with the problem.

Human-Elephant Conflicts and Land-use Changes in the Maasai-Mara/Narok Ecosystem, Kenya. In partnership with Kenya Wildlife Service. FWS: \$44,349. Leveraged funds: \$47,056

The purpose of this grant is to assist the Kenya Wildlife Service Elephant Programme to mitigate the effects of human-elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) conflict in the Maasai-Mara/Narok Ecosystem. Human-elephant conflict [HEC] has become a significant source of insecurity for elephants and negatively affects the attitudes of local people toward wildlife. Effective solutions must be based responsiveness on the part of the KWS and on a sound understanding of local conditions that lead to HEC. This grant will allow the KWS to gather needed data, make suggestions for better land-use planning, and augment its manpower and equipment in order to deal with this growing problem in an important area for wildlife and agricultural settlements.

Forest Elephant Inventory and Monitoring in Support of Priority Conservation Landscape Management in Central Africa. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society. FWS: \$58,560. Leveraged funds: \$258,708.

This grant provides assistance for an integrated monitoring program for African forest elephants (*Loxodonta africana cyclotis*) in Central Africa. The project will perform biological surveys on the ground and aerial surveys and will deploy twenty-four GPS collars on elephants in selected areas to determine their movements and habitat utilization patterns. Experienced veterinary and field personnel will assure maximum safety and efficiency and will collect biological samples during immobilization. The information from this project will provide wildlife managers with better insights into effective protection and monitoring strategies. The project is a collaborative effort of the governments of Gabon and the Republic of Congo, ECOFAC, WCS, and Save the Elephants.

Elefence-CLZ Lower Zambezi Anti-Poaching Ranger Force. In partnership with Elefence International. FWS: \$20,396. Leveraged funds: \$125,926.

This grant provides assistance to furnish equipment to game scouts and rangers in the Lower Zambezi National Park, Zambia. This equipment will enable personnel better work under field conditions while conducting anti-poaching and surveillance operations to better protect African elephants (*Loxodonta africana*) and other wildlife.

Ecology, Population Structure, and Movements of Elephant Populations in Northern Botswana. In partnership with NW Consortium for Wildlife Conservation. FWS: \$89,944. Leveraged funds: \$185,080.

This grant provides continued assistance to a project to furnish resource managers with information on the abundance, distribution, population structure, habitat needs, and movements of elephants in northern Botswana and on the transboundary movements of elephants in the Okavango-Upper Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area. This information, in combination with the development of a digital land cover map of the region and a spatial elephant metapopulation model, will provide important tools for developing elephant management programs for Botswana and the larger elephant conservation efforts by the Botswana Department of Wildlife and National Parks.

Genetic Variation in the Forest Elephant (*Loxodonta africana cyclotis*). In partnership with Centre de Recherches Médicales de Franceville [CIRMF]. FWS: \$18,370. Leveraged funds: \$57,935.

This grant provides assistance to the CIRMF to support applied genetic research on forest elephants (*Loxodonta africana cyclotis*) surveys in Central Africa. This grant will support in-country capacity in building through graduate training and a preliminary phylogenetic study of genetic variation using fecal DNA analysis.

Savanna Elephant Listening Project. In partnership with The Savanna Elephant Vocalization Project. FWS: \$25,000. Leveraged funds: \$93,380.

The purpose of this grant is to provide further assistance to a program of applied research on African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) communications in Kenya. This final grant will provide needed equipment and operational support to establish a basis of understanding how elephants communicate and how an enhanced understanding of this concept may help develop a valuable management and conservation tool.

The Dynamics of Savanna Elephants in Etosha NP in Northern Namibia. In partnership with University of Pretoria. FWS: \$41,056. Leveraged funds: \$39,924.

The purpose of this grant is to provide assistance to the University of Pretoria and their collaborators to conduct applied research and to work with Namibians students and professionals with the goal of conserving and managing African elephants (*Loxodonta africana*) in Etosha National Park. This phase continues research and training with the objectives of providing sound data to develop a conservation management plan and to develop local capacity through active training, education, and research.

Forest Elephant Inventory and Monitoring in Central Africa. In partnership with CITES MIKE Programme. FWS: \$151,450. Leveraged Funds: \$285,460.

The purpose of this grant agreement is to continue assistance to the CITES MIKE Programme to support forest elephant (*Loxodonta africana cyclotis*) surveys in Central Africa. Selected sites in Cameroon, Gabon, the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, and the Central African Republic will be examined using methods developed and refined in work done under previous grants from the African Elephant Conservation Fund. Data will enable biologists to estimate elephant numbers, distribution, and mortality in the forests surveyed, and data will be gathered on law enforcement efforts and other covariables. A heavy emphasis in this portion of the overall MIKE Program is placed on building capacity among African biologists and park managers through training and furnishing necessary equipment. Information from these MIKE Central African Forest surveys will be a major part of the overall MIKE database and will also be used by the range states to guide their protection and management efforts on the ground.

MIKE Data Management Development and Training (2nd year). In partnership with CITES MIKE Programme. FWS: \$101,000. Leveraged Funds: \$170,500.

The purpose of this agreement is to continue assistance to the CITES MIKE Programme to support their objectives of developing elephant monitoring capacity and the ability to properly collect, collate, analyze, and interpret the resulting data. The necessary capacity to achieve these objectives and the overall MIKE goal will be augmented by this grant, which specifically focuses on data management and training in Africa.

Protection of Elephant in Garamba National Park, Democratic Republic of the Congo. In partnership with International Rhino Foundation. FWS: \$57,000. Leveraged Funds: \$390,000.

This grant and its modifications provide continued assistance to a project that brings vital support to Garamba NP, in the Democratic Republic of Congo [DRC]. The park is a World Heritage Site and is a renowned protected area that is the home range of the last remaining northern white rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum cottoni*). Garamba NP also contains approximately five thousand African elephants (*Loxodonta africana*) that make up the remnants of what was one of the largest populations in Central Africa. Large-scale commercial elephant poaching for ivory besets the area, and the park authorities' task is made more difficult because of the state of civil unrest that continues to plague eastern DRC. This grant will assist in the protection and monitoring of elephants and other wildlife, will supply needed equipment, and will build park ranger capacity.