

Multinational Species Conservation Fund - African Elephant Program Summary of Projects 2006

29 Grants Total FWS Funding: \$1,384,865 Total Leveraged Funds: \$3,904,805

Strengthening Elephant Conservation in the Greater Virunga Landscape. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society. This grant bolsters transboundary conservation efforts between park authorities and non-governmental agencies in Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Uganda. The recipient will support transboundary collaboration between park authorities to reduce cross-border poaching and trafficking of ivory, improve collaboration between law enforcement authorities and protected area authorities, provide training, and monitor elephant population size, density and seasonal movements in the landscape. FWS: \$67,666. Leveraged funds: \$42,632.

The Conservation of Forest Elephants in Ivindo National Park (Gabon) through the Use of Innovative and Traditional Anti-poaching Methods. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society. This grant supports a professional team of ecoguards in Ivindo National Park in order to reduce the threat of poaching to one of the most important and relatively intact forest elephant populations in Gabon. The recipient will: train and equip a brigade of 10 ecoguards; conduct punctual surveillance in the park and produce reports on results; reduce the illegal killing of elephants and other wildlife through improved protection; harmonize on-site law enforcement monitoring efforts with those of the CITES MIKE Programme; and work with the government of Gabon to strengthen laws protecting wildlife in the country. FWS: \$54,169. Leveraged funds: \$21,342.

Sera Conservancy Wildlife Monitoring and Protection. In partnership with Northern Rangelands Trust. This grant supports elephant security in community areas in northern Kenya. The recipient will construct housing facilities for rangers providing security for elephants in Sera Conservancy, in northern Kenya. The facilities will include three blocks of four rooms. The facilities will serve as a permanent center from which patrols can be based in the region. The project aims to help improve wildlife numbers in the region by establishing a high security presence, especially for elephants. FWS: \$53,882. Leveraged funds: \$15,653.

Resolution of Human Wildlife Conflict in the Aberdares Conservation Area through Construction of Guard Posts along the Electric Game Fence. In partnership with Rhino Ark. This grant will support efforts to minimize conflict between wildlife and people near the Aberdares mountain range in Kenya. The recipient's scope of work includes: 1) construction and staffing of five permanent guard posts along the 350km fenced boundary of the Aberdares Conservation Area (Phases 5, 6 and 7) at 20km intervals; 2) training individuals from the local community to patrol from these guard posts in conjunction with Kenya Wildlife Services personnel; and 3) maintaining and patrolling the existing and newly constructed fence in order to prevent illegal encroachment into the

forest. The fence alleviates conflict between the wildlife area and the neighboring human settlements by preventing dangerous game from exiting the park and entering agricultural areas, and by protecting the integrity of the watershed and forest resources. Local people are direct beneficiaries of the project because the fence improves the success of their agricultural projects, and people are involved in all stages from fence planning, to employment in fence construction, maintenance and patrols. FWS: \$44,751. Leveraged funds: \$1,923,397.

Monitoring Elephant Movement in Gash Setit Area, Eritrea, with Satellite Collars. In partnership with Fauna and Flora International. This study aims to better understand elephant distribution and movements within Eritrea. By deploying satellite collars on four elephants and studying the movement and ranging behavior of elephants, the project will provide data on the elephants' spatial distribution to help inform more compatible land use plans for the region. The site is a targeted priority for the Monitoring of Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) resolution of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). FWS: \$52,376. Leveraged funds: \$45,958.

Elephant Behavior, Socio-ecology and Crop Raiding in the Amboseli Ecosystem. In partnership with Duke University. The researchers will determine whether certain individual elephants are more prone to cause conflict with local people by crop raiding, and whether "problem" elephants can be identified by these behavioral characteristics. The recipient will examine how elephants learn to raid crops and how aspects of social structure and life history events influence the crop raiding by African elephants in the agricultural areas in the vicinity of Amboseli National Park, Kenya. By genetically testing the dung left at crop raiding sites, the researchers will identify which individual elephants within the population raid crops. Specifically, the researchers will examine how crop raiding behavior begins and becomes a repeated behavior in certain individuals, to examine which life history factors (sex, age, size, dominance, seasonality) correspond most with crop raiding and how elephant group size relates to raiding patterns. FWS: \$28,476. Leveraged funds: \$69,280.

Satellite Tracking: A Means to Secure the Home Range of a Relic Elephant Population in the Farthest Horn of Africa. In partnership with Institute of Biodiversity Conservation and Research. This project supports the surveillance and monitoring of the two sub-populations of elephant in the Babilie Sanctuary in Ethiopia, and aims to minimize conflicts between people and elephants so as to ensure their long-term survival. The recipient will: deploy satellite collars on five elephants; study the movement and ranging behavior of elephants in order to provide details on their home ranges; determine the seasonal movement patterns and activity patterns of the two sub-populations and their seasonal habitat preference; identify the major obstructions to their movements; and, ultimately, reduce the rate of loss of elephant range and minimize the illegal killing of elephants. FWS: \$35,262. Leveraged funds: \$24,734.

Ecological Carrying Capacity of Waza National Park with Special Reference to Elephant (Loxodonta africana africana) Management in the Waza Logone Region (Cameroon).

In partnership with World Wide Fund for Nature Cameroon Country Programme Office. The primary goal of this project is to assure that viable elephant populations and their habitat are conserved in Waza National Park in Cameroon, with particular emphasis on improved land-use planning and management. The recipient will: assess trends in elephant population size and distribution in the Waza Region and the impact of human activities on the population; assess water availability and the role of forage and soil nutrients on the elephant habitat and migration route selection; examine the need by elephants for use of additional habitat outside the park and the availability of land for a buffer zone to protect their seasonal habitat utilization; compute the carrying capacity of Waza; and formulate sound conservation and management policies for elephants and their habitat in order to reduce destructive interaction between elephants and the local environment and human populations. FWS: \$29,961. Leveraged funds: \$17,655.

Wildlife Surveillance and Elephant Monitoring. In partnership with Ol Pejeta Conservancy. The recipient will work to improve protection for elephants in southern Laikipia District in Kenya by identifying resident and transient herds to better estimate the seasonal and perennial elephant population size and identifying individuals that repeatedly break fences and raid adjacent farms. The project will provide basic monitoring equipment for the monitoring team as well as training, uniforms, communications equipment and supplies for 75 security scouts and rangers. FWS: \$32,243. Leveraged funds: \$35,341.

Support to the Activities of the IUCN/SSC African Elephant Specialist Group. In partnership with IUCN Species Survival Commission's African Elephant Specialist Group. This project will provide core support for the African Elephant Specialist Group of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, which provides technical guidance on elephant conservation and management to the 37 African elephant range states, including the production and dissemination of the African elephant Status Report 2006, assisting with sub-regional elephant conservation strategies. FWS: \$94,000. Leveraged Funds: \$304,800.

Operations Support for the Wildlife Action Group-Malawi for the Protection of the Thuma Forest Reserve Elephant Population. In partnership with Wildlife Action Group (WAG). This project will assist with basic supplies and equipment for WAG employees to patrol and protect Thuma Forest Reserve, in cooperation with Malawi's Department of Wildlife and National Parks. The field staff is responsible for wildlife monitoring, fire management, conservation education and maintaining low-impact tracks and trails to ease patrolling, protection and provide opportunities for ecotourism. FWS: \$21,938. Leveraged Funds: \$30,238.

Monitoring Forest Elephants to Promote Conservation in Central Africa: Poaching and Patterns of Elephant Activity (Mineral Rich Forest Clearings) at Bais. In partnership with Cornell University. This project will use newly developed acoustic monitoring techniques to estimate elephant density and gunshot occurrence at four bais within Minkebe, Mwagne, and Ivindo National Parks in Gabon. This information will be used

to monitor spatial and temporal patterns of elephant abundance with respect to the proximity to human settlements and other environmental variables and to examine whether human activity, especially ecotourism, is altering elephant activity at and around bais. FWS: \$59,994. Leveraged Funds: \$80,013.

Reinforcing Anti-poaching Capacity in Lope National Park, Gabon. In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. This project will fortify antipoaching and law enforcement efforts for an important elephant population in and around Lope National Park in Gabon. Specifically, the recipient will: construct and staff a permanent control post at Ayem (an identified poaching hotspot); and support reconnaissance and enforcement missions and refurbish an existing control post in the Mitendi area of Lope. FWS: \$49,962. Leveraged Funds: \$59,648.

Support for a Mobile Anti-poaching Unit in Gabon. In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. The project will assist the local wildlife department in implementing anti-poaching missions by collaborating to: plan and carry out anti-poaching strategies in response to security threats; increase accountability and performance standards through scheduled meetings and evaluations; and provide logistical, technical and financial support for field missions. FWS: \$59,998. Leveraged Funds: \$55,944.

Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants in the Samburu-Laikipia Ecosystem. In partnership with Save The Elephants. This project is a continuation of the Samburu-Laikipia CITES Monitoring of Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) initiative in northern Kenya. During this phase of the project, responsibility for upkeep of this system is being transferred from an NGO, Save the Elephants, to the national wildlife authority, Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS). The project will establish local data collection centres at KWS district offices and train scouts and rangers on field techniques for gathering systematic data on elephant mortality in the region. FWS: \$24,844. Leveraged Funds: \$28,660.

Law Enforcement Programme for the Virunga National Park, Democratic Republic of Congo. Phase II. In partnership with the Frankfurt Zoological Society. This project will improve protection for a transfrontier population of elephants along the eastern border of the Democratic Republic of Congo, in the Virunga National Park. Specific activities will include dispersal of monthly salaries to park rangers in remote areas, maintaining patrol vehicles and boats for the anti-poaching units, and regular aerial monitoring and surveillance to support anti-poaching and provide information on elephant distribution and potential threats from or conflicts with nearby human settlements. FWS: \$61,623. Leveraged Funds: \$212,632.

Aerial Support for Security, Management and Conservation of Elephants in Northern Kenya. In partnership with Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, Kenya. This project supports aerial patrolling to improve elephant security in community, private, and government-owned rangelands in northern Kenya. Flights will be conducted in order to routinely ascertain the location of elephants and to monitor potential threats to elephants and provide support for anti-poaching operations, elephant conflict situations, and treatment of injured elephants. FWS: \$15,000. Leveraged Funds: \$445,333.

Forest Elephant Study, Dzanga Clearing Central African Republic. In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. This project will provide continued support for the longest running study of forest elephants in Africa, at Dzanga Sangha in the Central African Republic. During this phase, the funding will support surveillance and monitoring of forest elephants at Dzanga bai, training and coordinating local assistants from the Central African Republic, the Republic of Cameroon and the Republic of Congo, and continuing to analyze elephant acoustic communication. FWS: \$40,846. Leveraged Funds: \$12,656.

Where are the Conservation Corridors for Elephants in Northern Tanzania? Year 2. In partnership with Elephants Without Borders, Tanzania. This project will monitor the distribution of elephants in northern Tanzania in order to determine important areas for daily and seasonal movements. Targeted elephants will be fitted with satellite collars, which will automatically record and transmit the elephant's location to researchers several times per day for two years. FWS: \$59,400. Leveraged Funds: \$63,995.

Elephant Conservation, Monitoring, and Mitigation of Human-Elephant Conflict in Conkouati-Douli, Republic of Congo. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society, Congo. This project will explore a remote area of the Gabon/Congo boundary frequented by elephants in order to identify important resources and potential threats, to build a surveillance post near an area of high animal concentrations, and to assist one human community to fence their agricultural fields in order to reduce human-elephant conflict. FWS: \$69,735. Leveraged Funds: \$23,603.

Elephant Surveys and Conservation in the Boma National Park Landscape and Terrestrial Surveys of Existing and Potential Protected Areas. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society, Sudan. This project will support wildlife surveys of Boma National Park and its surrounds, and the proposed Jonglei protected area in southern Sudan. These will be the most extensive surveys of wildlife in the region after decades of civil unrest, and will assist in developing strategic conservation plans for the protected area network of southern Sudan. FWS: \$157,971. Leveraged Funds: \$58,377.

Reducing Elephant Poaching In and Around the Lower Zambezi National Park. In partnership with African Wildlife Foundation, Zambia. This project will bolster security efforts to protect elephants in and around Lower Zambezi National Park in Zambia. The funding will be used to purchase more powerful radio communication equipment to facilitate communication among game scouts and to create and implement an improved elephant monitoring database and patrolling system in elephant areas. FWS: \$59,800. Leveraged Funds: \$72,400.

Assigning African Elephant DNA to Geographic Region of Origin: Applications to the Ivory Trade. In partnership with University of Washington. This project will support the further development of a system to identify the origin of ivory seized in illegal trades. DNA from pieces of ivory recently seized in two separate seizures in Singapore and in Malawi, will be extracted and compared to the genetic data of a variety of samples

already obtained from elephant dung, in order to determine which country the ivory comes from. UFWS: \$58,452. Leveraged Funds: \$51,349.

Support and Coordination of Elephant Conservation Initiatives in West Africa. In partnership with International Union for the Conservation of Nature, Burkina Faso/Mali/Etc. This project supports technical assistance in developing and implementing elephant conservation strategies within the West African range states. Specifically, the initiative will assist in the adoption of the sub-regional strategy for conservation of elephants in West Africa, and will provide expertise to non-governmental organizations and to governments on elephant-related decisions. FWS: \$17,700. Leveraged Funds: \$77,480.

Support for the Production and Dissemination of Pachyderm. In partnership with IUCN Species Survival Commission's African Elephant Specialist Group. This project will support the editing, production and dissemination costs of the July-December 2006 issue of the journal of the African Elephant, African Rhino, Asian Elephant and Asian Rhino specialist groups. The journal, *Pachyderm*, provides a platform for disseminating the results of cutting-edge research on African and Asian pachyderms and highlights conservation priorities. In addition, the journal contributes to capacity building by providing opportunities for researchers from Range States to publish their work and share lessons learned with other researchers and conservation authorities. FWS: \$5,500. Leveraged Funds: \$9,800.

Development of Elephant Management Plan for the Save Valley Conservancy. In partnership with the Save Valley Conservancy. This project will support core research on the habitat and elephant dynamics of a population of 1200 animals resulting from a re-introduced population, and will convene stakeholders meetings to identify management strategies and mitigate conflict with neighboring communities. FWS: \$23,573. Leveraged Funds: \$74,409.

Aerial Survey and Census of African Elephant Populations in North West Matabeleland, Sebungwe and Gonarezhou Regions of Zimbabwe. In partnership with WWF Southern Africa Regional Programme Office. This project will support a scientifically rigorous survey of Zimbabwe's largest elephant populations (in North West Matabeleland, Sebungwe and Gonarezhou regions) during the 2006 dry season (August-October). These surveys will provide direct measures of the numbers and distribution of elephant populations. FWS: \$75,705. Leveraged Funds: \$41,476.

Support to Village Scouts in Rufunsa Game Management Area, Southern Zambia. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society. This project will provide basic equipment to village scouts in order to improve their ability to patrol their community area, outside the Lower Zambezi National Park. FWS: \$5,038. Leveraged Funds: \$4,000.

Elephant survey in Outamba Kilimi National Park, Tambakha Chiefdom, Bombali District, Sierra Leone. In partnership with the United States Embassy in Freetown, Sierra Leone. With this grant, the U.S. Embassy will purchase necessary equipment for, provide

support to, and oversee implementation of an elephant reconnaissance survey. Internationally respected wildlife biologists will join with local colleagues from Sierra Leone's Wildlife Conservation Branch of the Ministry of Agriculture to conduct a transect survey to estimate elephant population size and migration patterns. FWS: \$25,000. Leveraged: \$2,000.