

CFDA 15.645

Multinational Species Conservation Fund – Marine Turtles Program Summary of Projects 2006

25 Grants Total FWS Funding: \$622,094 Total Leveraged Funds: \$1,456,631

Hawksbill Turtle Research and Population Recovery Project. In partnership with Caribbean Conservation Corporation. The purpose of this project is to conserve hawksbill nesting populations in Bocas del Toro Province, Panama. Under this award the recipient will conduct standardized hawksbill nest monitoring surveys at Chiriqui Beach, Escudo d Veraguas and Bastimentos Island National Park to assess long term trends and implement conservation programs to protect nests and nesting females. FWS: \$23,912. Leveraged Funds: \$136,412.

The Marine Turtles of Rio Longa: A Community Conservation and Ecology Project. In partnership with Conservation International. The purpose of this project is to establish a sustainable marine turtle conservation program at Rio Longa, Angola. This project will launch community awareness and education programs, recruit and train conservation guards from local communities, establish a small conservation base at Rio Longa, and develop a conservation and management plan for Rio Longa. This area is used as a nesting site for at least four species of marine turtles (leatherback, loggerhead, green and olive ridley). FWS: \$24,960. Leveraged Funds: \$40,000.

Developing Conservation Program of Marine Turtles in Sierra Leone. In partnership with Conservation Society of Sierra Leone. This project will evaluate the status of sea turtles and develop a conservation and management action plan. Under this award, the recipient will: conduct extensive surveys to identify nesting areas; gather data on threats; and hold workshops as first steps in developing conservation action plan. FWS: \$13,288. Leveraged Funds: \$3,696.

Status and Conservation of Nesting in the Chagos Islands (BIOT) in a Regional Context. In partnership with Dr. Jeanne A. Mortimer. The purpose of this project is to assess the status of hawksbill and green turtles at the Chagos Islands. Under this award, the recipient will conduct rapid surveys of important Chagos nesting beaches, collect genetic samples, train conservation personnel of the Department of Environment and provide guidance to the Department of Environment on long term basis. FWS: \$10,000. Leveraged Funds: \$35,200.

Conservation of Loggerhead Turtle Nesting Population in Oman: Tracking Reproductive Movements at the World's Largest Nesting Aggregation, Masirah Island, Oman. In partnership with Environment Society of Oman. The purpose of this project is to conduct satellite telemetry studies of nesting female loggerhead turtles to determine post-nesting movements. Under this award, the recipient will place satellite transmitters on up to ten nesting females and analyze movement data relative to potential threats in marine environment. In addition, this project will produce posters describing the study results in Arabic and English for public education. FWS: \$35,069. Leveraged Funds: \$52,850.

Conservation and Management of Hawksbill Turtles (Eretmochelys imbricata) in Northeast Bahia, Brazil. In partnership with Fundacao Pro-Tamar. The purpose of this project is to establish a hawksbill conservation program along 209 kilometers of nesting beach in northeast Bahia, Brazil. Under this award, the recipient will work with local communities to establish nightly beach patrols during the nesting season, relocate nests endangered from tides, protect nests from feral and natural predators, and provide environmental education programs for local schools. FWS: \$17,946. Leveraged Funds: \$26,434.

Research to Support Community Marine Turtle Conservation in Fiji, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu. In partnership with Institute of Marine Resources. The purpose of this project is to monitor marine turtle populations in order to assess abundance and trends, and to implement conservation activities to reduce the impact of exploitation and coastal development. Under this award, the recipient will maintain all night patrols at hawksbill nesting beaches and collect data to assess the impact of coastal development. FWS: \$11,424. Leveraged Funds: \$33,000.

International Collaboration through Information Exchange: The 26th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation. In partnership with International Sea Turtle Society. The purpose of this project is to strengthen international cooperation and collaboration on sea turtle research, management practices and conservation efforts. Under this award, the recipient will bring together more than 700 specialists and students working on sea turtles from throughout the world. This grant will specifically provide travel grants to individuals from abroad who could not otherwise afford to attend, and in so doing further strengthen conservation capacity building efforts in developing countries. FWS: \$25,000. Leveraged Funds: \$54,588.

Conservation of the Leatherback Turtle (Dermochelys coriacea) in the Mexican Pacific 2006-2007. In partnership with Kutzari, Asociacion para el Estudio y Conservacion de las Tortugas Marinas, A.C. The purpose of this project is to estimate the nesting population of the Mexican Pacific leatherback turtle, and protect at least 90% of nests on the four primary nesting beaches. Under this award, the recipient will conduct nightly patrols at the four main nesting beaches of Mexiquillo, Tierra Colorado, Cauhitán, and Barra del Cruz in the State of Oaxaca throughout the nesting season. Nests will be relocated to protected hatcheries. FWS: \$25,248. Leveraged Funds: \$302,736.

Marine Turtle Monitoring in Grenada. In partnership with Ocean Spirits, Inc. The purpose of this project is to monitor hawksbill nesting sites in Grenada. Under this award, the recipient will establish index sites to monitor the hawksbill nesting population on Caille Island and Rhonde Island using a standardized monitoring protocol. FWS: \$10,635. Leveraged Funds: \$11,250.

Initiative to Create the Southern Nicoya Peninsula Sea Turtle Network (SNSTN) of Costa Rica: Expanding and Consolidating Eastern Pacific Leatherback and Olive Sea Turtle Protection. In partnership with Programa Restauracion de Tortugas Marinas (PRETOMA). The purpose of this project is to unify six beaches into one cohesive network, implement monitoring and protection at Costa de Oro and Camaronal, and conduct preliminary assessments of sea turtle nesting activity at Bejuco and Corozalito. This project addresses conservation of olive ridley and Pacific leatherback turtles. FWS: \$25,000. Leveraged Funds: \$57,050.

Spatial Analysis of the Biotic and Abiotic Features in and Surrounding the Sea Turtle Nesting Beaches, Influencing Sea Turtle Nesting Success in the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico. In

partnership with Pronatura Peninsula de Yucatan, A.C. The purpose of this project is to support a long-term nesting population monitoring program for hawksbill turtles, and to complete a spatial catalogue of the sea turtle nesting beaches in the north coast of Yucatan Peninsula including physical features, threats and conservation activities. Under this award, the recipient will conduct nesting surveys at three hawksbill nesting beaches and generate spatial and temporal maps of biological, physical and legal features of eight nesting beaches on the northern coast of the Yucatan Peninsula, as well as prioritize threats to these areas. FWS: \$24,989. Leveraged Funds: \$97,211.

Training and Capacity Building for Turtle Conservation Oman. In partnership with Registered Trustees of the Marine Research Foundation. The purpose of this project is to develop and implement a training workshop on sea turtle biology, conservation and research techniques for Ministry of Environment rangers and staff. Under this award, the recipient will organize and implement a training workshop for up to 35 Ministry rangers and staff in Oman. FWS: \$14,000. Leveraged Funds: \$9,500.

Community Based Conservation and Management of Leatherback Sea Turtles (Dermochelys coriacea) in Papua, New Guinea: An Integrated and Collaborative Approach at Kamiali and Buang Buassi. In partnership with Registered Trustees of the Marine Research Foundation. The purpose of this project is to reduce anthropogenic and environmental impacts on key leatherback nesting populations at Kamiali and Buang Buassi, and increase turtle survivorship through community initiatives. Under this award, the recipient will work with the communities to protect turtles and nests, collect nesting data, and provide education and outreach activities through workshops and meetings. FWS: \$9,540. Leveraged Funds: \$120,000.

Continuation of Borgor Point Sea Turtle Monitoring Program. In partnership with Save My Future Foundation. The purpose of this project is to conduct community based conservation projects along the southwest Liberian coast to recover severely depleted sea turtle populations that include green, olive ridley and leatherback turtles. Under this award, the recipient will continue the monitoring of fifteen kilometers of nesting beach through training and use of local villagers, continue sea turtle awareness programs in local schools, and work with local communities to develop livelihood sources as alternatives to the exploitation of turtle meat and eggs. FWS: \$12,991. Leveraged Funds: \$2,500.

Tanzania Community-based Marine Turtle Conservation Project. In partnership with Sea Sense. The purpose of this project is to determine the status, distribution and threats of green and hawksbill turtles in eight coastal districts of Tanzania. Under this award, the recipient will conduct training for Community Turtle Officers, conduct daily nest surveys and protection in six districts and institute new surveys and protection activities FWS: \$24,976. Leveraged Funds: \$37,800.

Support for Capacity Building and International Instruments for the Conservation of Marine Turtles and their Habitats. In partnership with Smithsonian Institution. The purpose of this project is to support capacity building of international specialists and organizations dedicated to the conservation of marine turtles and their habitats. Under this award, the recipient will conduct conservation training workshops in Nicaragua, Myanmar and Ecuador, as well as provide scientific expertise and technical support to the scientific committees of the Inter-American Sea

Turtle Convention and the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian Marine Turtle Agreement. FWS: \$25,000.

Global Assessment of Arribada Olive Ridley Sea Turtles. In partnership with Southeastern Louisiana University. The purpose of this project is to generate a simultaneous global estimate of the number of female olive ridleys participating in arribadas. Under this award, the recipient will coordinate standardized censuses at the most important olive ridley rookeries in India, Mexico and Costa Rica. FWS: \$42,784. Leveraged Funds: \$11,000.

Support of the Indian Ocean- South East Asian Marine Turtle MOU Fourth Meeting of Signatory State. In partnership with United Nations Environment Programme. The purpose of this project is to review the implementation of the MOU, address the previous year's work program, and prioritize national level activities. Under this award, the recipient will provide travel support for up to 27 focal points from member parties or observers to attend the 4th Congress of Parties to be held in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman. FWS: \$25,000. Leveraged Funds: \$24,500.

Monitoring and Conservation of Hawksbills in Barbados. In partnership with University of the West Indies. The purpose of this project is to monitor marine turtle populations in order to assess abundance and trends, and to implement conservation activities to reduce the impact of exploitation and coastal development. Under this award, the recipient will maintain all night patrols at index hawksbill nesting beaches and collect data to assess impacts of coastal development. FWS: \$25,000. Leveraged Funds: \$64,800.

Assessing Long-term Trends in Depleted Sea Turtle Populations: Creating a Framework for a Caribbean Network of Index Sites. In partnership with Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network (WIDECAST). The purpose of this project is to implement long-term nesting population monitoring programs for hawksbill turtles, develop reporting and data use procedures and agreements, and design and maintain an internet based data viewing interface. Under this award, the recipient will create a task force in consultation with WIDECAST country coordinators to coordinate annual hawksbill nesting surveys on identified index sites and ensure harmonized field procedures, data collection, and reporting. FWS: \$38,900. Leveraged Funds: \$60,274.

Conservation of the Pearl Cays Hawksbill Rookery and Community Ecotourism Pilot Project. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to monitor and protect hawksbill nesting activity on twelve of the Pearl Keys in Nicaragua, and develop ecotourism-based turtle watching with the local community. Under this award, the recipient will conduct daily hawksbill nest surveys on eight keys and twice weekly surveys on four additional keys during the nesting season, and conduct a five-day tour guide training course for local community members involved in tourist turtle watching activities. FWS: \$29,588. Leveraged Funds: \$65,242.

The Gabon Sea Turtle Partnership for Leatherback Research and Conservation. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to monitor and protect leatherback nesting activity on the Gabon coast through a better coordinated and strategic approach. Under this award, the recipient will carry out aerial surveys of the Gabonese coast to survey leatherback nesting, develop coordinated environmental outreach, improve capacity of

field projects to conduct ground surveys and protect leatherback and other sea turtle nests, and develop and maintain a centralized database for leatherback nesting activity using standardized data. FWS: \$98,614. Leveraged Funds: \$124,938.

Project to Determine the Distribution and Population Sizes of Nesting Marine Turtles in New Caledonia and to Enhance the Capacity of Local Governments to Protect and Manage these Species. In partnership with World Wildlife Fund-France. The purpose of this project is to identify all marine turtle nesting sites in New Caledonia, assess nesting population sizes for hawksbills, loggerheads and green turtles, and provide nest survey training to provincial marine technical representatives. Aerial surveys will be conducted at all potential nesting sites in December 2006, in conjunction with coordinated ground surveys at selected sights which will continue throughout the season. FWS: \$24,700. Leveraged Funds: \$85,650.

Collaborative Sea Turtle Research and conservation programmes through the Orissa Marine Resources Conservation Consortium, Orissa, India. In partnership with Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment. The purpose of this project is to develop collaborative studies to monitor and study sea turtle nesting in Orissa, India. Under this award, the recipient will help organize and conduct a stakeholder meeting with governmental departments, local communities and fisher groups to facilitate participatory monitoring plan for sea turtles. FWS: \$3,530. Leveraged Funds: \$0.