

**US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Division of International Conservation  
African Elephant Conservation Fund Summary FY 2008**

In 2008, the USFWS awarded 29 new grants from the African Elephant Conservation Fund totaling \$1,385,643, which was matched by \$2,441,630 in leveraged funds. An additional \$6,070 was awarded in modifications to two existing FY2007 grants. Field projects in fifteen countries (in alphabetical order below) will be supported, in addition to five projects which involve multiple countries.

**Central African Republic**

*AFE-0455 Forest Elephant Study, Dzanga Clearing, Central African Republic.* In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society. USFWS: \$45,603. Leveraged Funds: \$46,255. This project will monitor forest elephant demographics, behavior, interspecific communication and distribution, and work in close collaboration with law enforcement authorities to prevent poaching.

**Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**

*AFE-0429 Survey of elephants and other large mammals in abandoned Upemba and Kundelungu National parks, southeastern DRC.* In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society. USFWS: \$55,442. Leveraged Funds: \$10,525. This grant will provide for initial satellite image analysis, preliminary aerial and foot surveys, and the drafting of a conservation action plan for two national parks in the Democratic Republic of Congo where wildlife populations have not been assessed in more than two decades.

*AFE-0442 Elephant conservation and multi-use zones: Integrating management strategies for elephant protection & human livelihoods, Okapi Forest Reserve, Eastern DRC.* In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society. USFWS: \$54,444. Leveraged Funds: \$25,101. This project will assist DRC's national wildlife authority, the ICCN, by constructing an additional anti-poaching office and by training community ecoguards at three patrol posts in order to improve monitoring, enforcement, and relations with the Okapi Forest Reserve's neighbors.

**Ethiopia**

*AFE-0434 Conservation management plan for the Kafta-Shiraro National Park, Tigray Region, Ethiopia, with focus on the isolated elephant population.* In partnership with Addis Ababa University and Institute of Biodiversity Conservation. USFWS: \$30,000. Leveraged Funds: \$22,000. This project will help establish a conservation program in a protected area on Ethiopia's northern border. Activities will include basic training for anti-poaching patrols and supplying basic equipment and uniforms for community scouts.

**Gabon**

*AFE-0452 Using landscape genetics to infer the spatial and social structure of African forest elephant populations.* In partnership with the University of Missouri. USFWS: \$44,840. Leveraged Funds: \$51,079. The applicant will investigate the habitat use and social behavior of

elephants in Lope National Park, Gabon through behavioral observations and tracking, creating GIS maps of elephant distribution and individual movements, and analyzing genetic relatedness within the population.

## **Kenya**

*AFE-0420 Trans Mara wildlife crises prevention.* In partnership with WildlifeDirect, Inc. USFWS: \$50,000. Leveraged Funds: \$260,300. This grant will provide financial assistance to the Mara Conservancy in western Kenya to help cover anti-poaching expenses. Since post-election violence at the beginning of 2008, tourism numbers have fallen far short of expectations, and emergency assistance is needed to compensate for the lack of income.

*AFE-0431 Community-based monitoring and protection of elephants in the Ewaso landscape of northern Kenya.* In partnership with Northern Rangelands Trust. USFWS: \$49,817. Leveraged Funds: \$53,147. This project will provide basic camping equipment and radio communication equipment for anti-poaching and security patrolling in eleven community-owned conservancies in the Ewaso ecosystem of northern Kenya. These community scouts patrol their areas in order to improve security and reduce threats to elephants and other wildlife.

*AFE-0447 Community conservation of elephants in the Matthews/Ndoto Region, Northern Kenya.* In partnership with The Milgis Trust. USFWS: \$35,000. Leveraged Funds: \$43,614. This project will improve a relatively new program to secure elephant habitat in northern Kenya on community-owned land. Activities will include training, awareness campaigns, and equipping and deploying community scouts.

*AFE-0460 Amboseli elephant ecosystem: outreach, information gathering, conflict prevention.* In partnership with Amboseli Trust for Elephants. USFWS: \$60,000. Leveraged Funds: \$115,000. This project will alleviate conflict between elephants and local people by improving access to water and working with community groups to develop and protect secure wildlife corridors outside of Amboseli in southern Kenya.

## **Malawi**

*AFE-0427 Transfrontier elephant conservation, Nyika Transfrontier Conservation Area, Malawi and Zambia.* In partnership with Friends of the Peace Parks, Inc. USFWS: \$69,938. Leveraged Funds: \$55,458. The grantee will equip park rangers with new uniforms and basic field supplies for patrolling and camping in the protected area, and will provide funding to maintain vehicles and motorcycles.

*AFE-0428 Operations support for the Wildlife Action Group-Malawi for the protection of the Thuma Forest Reserve elephant population, September 2008-August 2009.* In partnership with Wildlife Action Group. USFWS: \$17,824. Leveraged Funds: \$68,029. Funding will assist with basic running expenses of a small team of wildlife scouts that protect a small but increasing population of elephants in a forest reserve.

*AFE-0454 Construction of improved accommodation and workspace structures for the Wildlife Action Group in Thuma Forest Reserve.* In partnership with Wildlife Action Group. USFWS: \$34,989.

Leveraged Funds: \$49,365. This grant will assist a local non-profit that employs community scouts to patrol forest reserves in Malawi to improve their ability to secure the area by building more suitable office and housing structures at their base camp.

## **Mali**

*AFE-0450 The Mali Elephants Project, Phase II (MEP II): developing long-term stakeholder capacity for elephant conservation.* In partnership with the WILD Foundation. USFWS: \$35,000.

Leveraged Funds: \$55,000. This grant will support efforts to improve human coexistence with the Gourma elephants in Mali. The project will support a collaborative effort by international and local organizations in a campaign to improve natural resource management decisions locally and nationally, and to alleviate human-elephant conflict.

## **Mozambique**

*AFE-0436 Preparation of the Elephant Management and Action Plan (EMAP) for the conservation of the African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) in Mozambique.* In partnership with National Directorate of Conservation Areas (DNAC), Mozambique. USFWS: \$50,505. Leveraged Funds: \$65,583. This project will improve the management and conservation of elephants in Mozambique by updating the existing national strategy for the management of elephants and preparing a detailed action plan to implement activities throughout the country.

## **Namibia**

*AFE-0448 Improving the management of the Kunene People's Park.* In partnership with Namibia Ministry of Environment and Tourism. USFWS: \$50,000. Leveraged Funds: \$273,750. This project will provide office supplies, field equipment, and a vehicle in order to assist Namibia's national wildlife authority to expand their activities to the recently proposed Kunene People's Park. This support will improve the agency's ability to conduct anti-poaching and wildlife monitoring patrols and to interact with local communities in order to develop the new protected area.

*AFE-0453 Etosha elephants: movement, anthrax, and demography in a declining population (Phase 1).* In partnership with the University of California. USFWS: \$98,000. Leveraged Funds: \$87,751. Anthrax is endemic in many parts of Africa and is a known cause of mortality in African elephants; however, the reasons for outbreaks are poorly understood. The grantee will examine how elephant distribution, movements and interaction with other susceptible mammals in Etosha National Park in Namibia relate to disease patterns.

## **Republic of Congo**

*AFE-0437 Elephant poaching and bushmeat assessment and mitigation in the buffer zone of Odzala Kokoua National park, Ngombe FMU, Republic of Congo.* In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society. USFWS: \$75,425. Leveraged Funds: \$116,950. The grantee will implement measures to better protect elephants and other wildlife in the Ngombe logging concession adjacent to the Odzala Kokoua National Park in the Republic of Congo. Activities will include assessing illegal hunting activities, implementing surveillance patrols

and controls on public roads to prevent illegal trafficking of natural resources, and making recommendations for long-term wildlife management strategies in the area.

## **South Africa**

*AFE-0401 The spatial dynamics of wildlife populations across and along the northwestern Kruger National Park boundary fence, South Africa.* In partnership with the University of Pretoria. USFWS: \$20,900. Leveraged Funds: \$75,500. This grant will initiate a study of how fences around protected areas affect mammals. In the initial year, the project will equip fence monitors with skills and supplies necessary to record animal movement patterns and fence breakage rates, in order to improve fence design in future.

*AFE-0410 Oestrus cyclicity and physiological stress response to immunocontraception in the female African elephant (Limpopo Province, South Africa).* In partnership with Thornybush Private Nature Reserve. USFWS: \$15,516. Leveraged Funds: \$12,276. This grant will provide support to measure the efficacy of an immunocontraceptive treatment on an elephant population that has been treated for the past three years, and to observe the behavior of treated females.

## **Tanzania**

*AFE-0413 Elephant spatial and temporal habitat use in the Serengeti Ecosystem, Tanzania.* In partnership with the Rare Species Conservatory Foundation. USFWS: \$37,798. Leveraged Funds: \$51,324. This project will collect information on elephant movement and distribution within the Serengeti ecosystem in order to better understand their ecological needs and to anticipate and prevent conflict with local people.

*AFE-0419 Conserving elephants and rhinos in the Selous Game Reserve, Tanzania.* In partnership with the International Rhino Foundation. USFWS: \$50,002. Leveraged Funds: \$297,000. This grant will assist with expenses to provide aerial support to Tanzania's Wildlife Division in order to cover a greater portion of the Selous Game Reserve during anti-poaching patrols. The pilot communicates sightings of illegal activity to ground patrols which can then follow up effectively with law enforcement.

## **Togo**

*AFE-0400 Support for community involvement in elephant management in Togo.* In partnership with Direction de la Faune et de la Chasse (Togo). USFWS: \$20,000. Leveraged Funds: \$28,001. The grantee will establish an information, education, and community program with communities in elephant areas in order to include them in future management activities.

## **Zambia**

*AFE-0457 Support for law enforcement and protection of elephants, *Loxodonta africana*, in North Luangwa National Park, Zambia.* In partnership with Frankfurt Zoological Society. USFWS: \$74,646. Leveraged Funds: \$147,040. This grant will provide scouts with basic communications equipment, field supplies, and vehicle running costs in order to improve their ability to protect elephants and other wildlife in eastern Zambia.

## Zimbabwe

*AFE-0438 Support for law enforcement, Gonarezhou National Park, Zimbabwe.* In partnership with Frankfurt Zoological Society. USFWS: \$52,200. Leveraged Funds: \$200,300. This grant will provide funding to a non-governmental organization which supports wildlife rangers in Gonarezhou National Park with training, equipment, and supplies to increase their patrol coverage and improve the level of park protection and monitoring.

## Multiple Countries

*AFE-0402 Assigning origin to three major ivory seizures shipped from Tanzania.* In partnership with University of Washington. USFWS: \$76,460. Leveraged Funds: \$103,708. Funding will support the genetic analysis of ivory seized in Taiwan and Hong Kong in illegal trades in 2005 and 2006. The shipments came via Tanzania, but genetic analysis will help confirm their country of origin and assist in law enforcement and prosecution efforts.

*AFE-0411 Sharing of knowledge and experience through a meeting of members of the IUCN/SSC African Elephant Specialist Group.* In partnership with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission (SSC). USFWS: \$49,951. Leveraged Funds: \$38,500. This meeting will bring together 32 technical experts from various African elephant range states, for the first time since 2003, in order to discuss progress made in range states, current threats, and to develop future plans of action.

*AFE-0414 Forest elephants and baobabs: developing a strategy for world class research and high efficiency conservation at critical sites in the Congo Basin.* In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society. USFWS: \$30,832. Leveraged Funds: \$10,000. This grant will support the first technical workshop of people working on forest elephant conservation throughout the Congo Basin, in order to synchronize data collection and analysis, to agree upon priorities, and to elevate awareness of the threats to this imperiled species.

*AFE-0425 Support to the coordination and implementation of the West African elephant conservation strategy.* In partnership with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission (SSC). USFWS: \$44,941. Leveraged Funds: \$29,323. This project provides expert technical support to elephant range states in West Africa. This year's program will include implementation of the 2005 Memorandum of Understanding concerning elephant conservation and management in West Africa, and the subsequent development of individual national plans and specific field projects in signatory countries.

*AJE-0458 Perfecting genetic markers for African elephant conservation.* In partnership with the University of Illinois. USFWS: \$49,500. Leveraged Funds: \$49,751. These funds will be used to assist researchers in improving techniques to identify genetic differences in elephant populations from different parts of Africa. This technology can be used to better pinpoint the origin of ivory seized in illegal trade.