

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of International Conservation
Asian Elephant Conservation Fund Summary FY 2011**

In 2011, the USFWS awarded 29 new grants from the Asian Elephant Conservation Fund totaling \$1,530,367.00, which was matched by \$2,456,665.00 in leveraged funds. Field projects in six countries (in alphabetical order below) will be supported.

Cambodia

ASE-0570 *Strengthening government capacity on elephant monitoring and management.* In partnership with Fauna and Flora International. This grantee will collect important data on Asian elephant population in the northern half of the Phnom Samkos Wildlife Sanctuary using camera traps. The project will train rangers in camera trap deployment and maintenance, and support government-led human-elephant conflict response teams to educate and train local people on conflict mitigation.

FWS: \$48,106 Leveraged funds: \$102,060

ASE-0511 *Kouprey Express: broadening outreach on Asian elephant conservation in Cambodia.* In partnership with Wildlife Alliance. Support from this grant will allow the Kouprey Express to maintain and expand its sustained environmental education program with a strong elephant conservation theme. The grantee will present this program to thousands of disadvantaged schoolchildren and their families living in or around the Cardamom Mountains protected areas, resulting in an increased understanding of and support for the region's biodiversity.

FWS: \$54,454 Leveraged funds: \$151,829

ASE-0541 *Developing a conservation strategy and action plan for the Asian elephant in Cambodia.* In partnership with Fauna and Flora International. This grant will support a national workshop to formulate and produce the Cambodian Elephant Strategy & Action Plan for the conservation of the Asian elephant in Cambodia. The grantee will also complete a Human-Elephant Conflict Substation in the Cardamom Mountains.

FWS: \$53,975 Leveraged funds: \$103,681

ASE-0517 *Elephant conservation and capacity-building in Seima Protection Forest, Cambodia: Year 5.* In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society. This project will increase the levels of law enforcement in those areas that have previously been identified as elephant 'hot spots', ensuring protection in focal areas. The project will also improve capacity of national staff in the use of Management Information Systems (MIST).

FWS: \$55,152 Leveraged funds: \$54,130

India

ASE-0553 *Strengthen the protection measures by involving fringe villagers in Manas National Park for the conservation of Asian elephants, Phase - V.* In partnership with Wildlife Areas Development and Welfare Trust. This grant will support 40 volunteers for 12 months in Manas

National Park, Assam, who support the Forest Department staff in their daily law enforcement activities, and assist adjoining villages with human-elephant conflict incidents.

FWS: \$46,860 Leveraged funds: \$47,200

ASE-0522 *Functional connectivity for large mammals in the southern Western Ghats, India: linking movement and distribution.* In partnership with Foundation for Ecological Research, Advocacy and Learning. This project will identify small-scale movement corridors via camera trapping. The grantee will quantify the permeability of different land use types and their seasonal dynamics to rank potential corridors for elephant movement, identify bottlenecks, develop a model that predicts conflict 'hot spots' under different scenarios of corridor restoration. The project will eventually restore degraded corridors without further exacerbating conflict with people.

FWS: \$49,809 Leveraged funds: \$55,766

ASE-0527 *Human Elephant Coexistence HECx: Educator training workshops in Tamil Nadu, India.* In partnership with Zoo Outreach Organization. This project plans to bring about attitudinal and behavioral changes in people living in or near elephant habitat to avoid confrontation and conflict and to promote peaceful coexistence between humans and elephants. The grantee will utilize continuously improving new educational tools to train about 120 key educators, managers, volunteers, community heads, and others to use these tools to reach various audiences.

FWS: \$84,660 Leveraged funds: \$16,050

ASE-0548 *Formalizing Manas Biosphere community forest protection forces and expanding the large mammal corridor.* In partnership with Community Conservation, Inc. This grant will support 100 men from five groups to continue to put pressure on illegal logging and illegal hunting. The project will strengthen protection around Manas Biosphere Reserve, enhance community co-management, and help strengthen the Assam Forest Department.

FWS: \$49,500 Leveraged funds: \$114,500

ASE-0504 *Human-elephant conflict mitigation in selected areas of Sonitpur and Udalguri districts of Assam State, Northeast India.* In partnership with World Wildlife Fund - India. This project will reduce human-elephant conflict and motivate local communities to change their behaviors to reduce interactions between people and elephants. The grant will support anti-depredation teams and "Kunki" (trained) elephants to prevent elephants from raiding crop fields, and awareness raising events to help villagers better understand elephants and their conservation needs.

FWS: \$49,996 Leveraged funds: \$76,133

ASE-0485 *Elephant corridors of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve: location, threats, and management.* In partnership with Pondicherry University. This project will produce a baseline record of elephant habitat in the region and location of elephant corridors based on past records. The grantee will assess the present condition of corridors to develop a regional management plan for elephant conservation.

FWS: \$38,101 Leveraged funds: \$10,333

Indonesia

ASE-0534 *Towards a peaceful coexistence between men and elephants in Bukit Tigapuluh, Indonesia (Phase II).* In partnership with Frankfurt Zoological Society. This project will promote a conflict hotline and provide continuously updated information to law enforcement for investigation of illegal activities. The results will help law enforcement personnel to investigate human-elephant conflict incidents and refine site-specific mitigation and management strategies and plans.

FWS: \$29,920 Leveraged funds: \$42,120

ASE-0546 *Support of ongoing veterinary training in elephant health care and conservation.* In partnership with Asian Elephant Support. This project will help build the capacity of range country veterinarians by allowing them opportunities for practical training and experience exchanges. Additionally, a regional veterinary workshop will be hosted in Sumatra in collaboration with Veterinary Society for Sumatran Wildlife Conservation and the veterinary college in Banda Aceh.

FWS: \$41,745 Leveraged funds: \$6,130

ASE-0498 *Developing the capacity within Indonesia to conduct DNA analyses of elephants and other endangered wildlife species based on non-invasive sampling.* In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society. This grant will help develop a laboratory facility in Indonesia that employs DNA based technologies to estimate populations, sex ratios and genetic diversity information for the key elephant populations in Sumatra.

FWS: \$62,268 Leveraged funds: \$65,407

ASE-0535 *Providing field veterinary expertise and services for Sumatran elephant and other endangered Sumatran wildlife conservation programs and activities.* In partnership with Veterinary Society for Sumatran Wildlife Conservation. This grant will support veterinary care to injured and sick elephants, help with wild elephant rescue and translocation efforts, and assist with elephant capture and collaring efforts. The grantee will conduct field necropsies and assist with diagnoses, providing data for legal procedures, and helping to build local and international veterinary capacity.

FWS: \$54,500 Leveraged funds: \$51,047

ASE-0521 *Saving the elephants of Bukit Tigapuluh, Sumatra: a genetic population survey as a first step.* In partnership with Frankfurt Zoological Society. This grantee will use non-invasive genetic techniques to estimate size, sex ratio, and age structure of Asian elephant populations. The project will explore long term population monitoring possibilities, update distribution data of elephants and other megafauna in the region, and update information on illegal activities. The grantee will build capacity of Indonesian rangers and conservationists to develop a management plan for elephant conservation.

FWS: \$56,100 Leveraged funds: \$69,800

ASE-0545 *Community-based protection of Sumatran elephant populations and habitat in northern Sumatra through Conservation Response Units.* In partnership with Veterinary Society for Sumatran Wildlife Conservation. The project will continue to maintain and use captive

elephants and to train personnel in Conservation Response Units to carry out elephant-back patrols. The units will monitor wildlife and illegal activities, respond to human-elephant conflict and assess approaches to mitigate the conflict in different sites.

FWS: \$50,160 Leveraged funds: \$114,920

ASE-0516 *Protection of threatened megavertebrates in Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park, Sumatra, Indonesia by anti-poaching units.* In partnership with International Rhino Foundation. This grant will continue operations support for the seven Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park Rhino Protection Units through 2012 in Sumatra, Indonesia. These units are highly trained anti-poaching teams that intensively patrol key areas within the national park. They take appropriate action against attempts to shoot or poison elephants, remove traps, apprehend or identify to the local authorities all suspected poachers so they can be prosecuted, and monitor populations of elephants, rhinos, tapirs and other threatened species.

FWS: \$100,000 Leveraged funds: \$386,512

ASE-0550 *Saving the elephants of Bukit Tigapuluh (Sumatra) with GPS and GIS.* In partnership with Frankfurt Zoological Society. This grantee will collar and track elephants with GPS collars, to collect information on home range size and habitat usage, and to generate data related to elephant hot spots and active routes. This project will provide information that will help save elephant habitat in the region and explore the use of GPS/GIS elephant monitoring system as an early-warning system to mitigate human-elephant conflict.

FWS: \$49,852 Leveraged funds: \$28,500

ASE-0566 *Protecting Sumatran elephant populations and resolving human-elephant conflict in Padang Surinam, South Sumatra.* In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society. This project will address two main barriers to effective and sustainable human-elephant conflict mitigation: (1) inadequate support from and coordination among communities, park management, and local government, and (2) insufficient current mitigation efforts, limited to only a few of the many conflict areas in Sumatra. This project will also establish village committees and support systems and set up Active Guarding Units to organize and motivate village protections.

FWS: \$49,899 Leveraged funds: \$54,403

Malaysia

ASE-0525 *Monitoring the effectiveness of translocation as management and conservation tool for Asian elephants in Peninsular Malaysia.* In partnership with Zoologist Have Kobenhavn (Copenhagen Zoo). This project will review translocation programs in peninsular Malaysia since 1974 and analyze spatial and temporal trends in human-elephant conflict, elephant distribution, and population size. The grantee will deploy GPS-satellite transmitters on translocated and non-translocated elephants to compare post-release ranging behavior of translocated elephants with that of elephants that remain in Taman Negara National Park, and use study results to develop and disseminate management recommendations regarding translocations.

FWS: \$44,606 Leveraged funds: \$87,760

ASE-0524 *Development and application of molecular genetic tools for management and conservation of elephants in Peninsular Malaysia.* In partnership with Zoologist Have Kobenhavn (Copenhagen Zoo). This project will train a Malaysian Department of Wildlife and National Parks research officer on non-invasive, genetic sampling techniques for population estimates. Training will build the officer's capacity to use these techniques for future population estimates, to describe and quantify genetic structure and diversity in the elephant population, and to use genetics to study social organization of elephants in Taman Negara National Park and identify individual crop raiding elephants.

FWS: \$40,609 Leveraged funds: \$43,494

ASE-0564 *WCS/Go Peninsular Malaysia Elephant Project: Year 6, assessment and reduction of human–elephant conflict and capacity building in Endau-Romping.* In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society. This project will continue human-elephant conflict monitoring around Endau Rompin (Johor) National Park. The grantee will analyze the geographical distribution of elephants with respect to forest areas, plantations, and human-elephant conflict incidence in Johor and southern Pahang Provinces. The project will also test electric fences as a human-elephant conflict mitigation method for use in villages and will continue to support community-based mitigation schemes established in four Orang Asli villages.

FWS: \$54,452 Leveraged funds: \$54,854

Sri Lanka

ASE-0529 *Demographic influences of social organization in elephants and devising strategies for alternative human livelihoods.* In partnership with Elephant Forest and Environment Conservation Trust. This grantee will conduct vehicle-based photographic identification surveys of elephants and behavioral research, including surveys of households outside the National Park to obtain socioeconomic and livelihood information, within the Uda Walawe National Park. The project will provide necessary data to the Department of Wildlife Conservation, Sri Lanka, to protect the park and sanctuaries and conduct education and sustainable livelihood programs.

FWS: \$49,883 Leveraged funds: \$88,995

ASE-0563 *The role of fire in maintaining critical Asian elephant habitat in Sri Lanka.* In partnership with Smithsonian Institution. This project will determine whether fires can be used to reduce Lantana camara and other shrub invasions into grasslands. It will also determine whether elephants prefer these areas as habitat at Udawalawe National Park and Hurulu Reserve.

FWS: \$25,148 Leveraged funds: \$13,730

ASE-0484 *Radiotelemetric study of elephants in Sri Lanka for their conservation and mitigation of the human-elephant conflict (Year 2).* In partnership with Centre for Conservation and Research. This project will monitor management and development activities and assess their impact on elephants, suggesting alternatives to minimize human-elephant conflict. The grantee will develop successful management and conservation strategies for elephants by tracking radio-collared elephants, studying their behavior, assessing their body condition, and engaging in discussions with the wildlife authorities and other stakeholders.

FWS: \$47,487 Leveraged funds: \$35,970

Thailand

ASE-0530 *Strengthening protection of elephants in Protected Areas around Srisawat Corridor, West Thailand, by establishing smart patrol systems using MIST.* In partnership with Zoological Society of London. The project will improve the capacity of protected area personnel through training and helping them implement a Smart Patrol System.

FWS: \$65,543 Leveraged funds: \$411,037

ASE-0569 *Law enforcement, law enforcement monitoring, and human-elephant conflict mitigation in Kiang Krishna National Park, Thailand, Year 7.* In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society. This grant will support law enforcement and monitoring of the effectiveness of the patrolling systems using Management Information System (MIST). The project will increase the capacity of park staff, promote human-elephant conflict mitigation, educate local communities about elephants and conservation, and build a new Elephant Conservation Center.

FWS: \$63,432 Leveraged funds: \$64,694

ASE-0573 *Sustaining wildlife guardians in Thailand's forgotten park.* In partnership with FREELAND Foundation. This project will provide sustainable professional skills development for rangers to safely carry out their jobs in Thap Lan and Pang Sida National Parks. The grantee will study elephant (and other wildlife) population abundance and distribution in Thap Lan and Pang Sida National Parks, and reduce human-elephant conflict around Thap Lan National Park.

FWS: \$49,988 Leveraged funds: \$35,751

ASE-0554 *Elephant protection, distribution monitoring, and education campaigns in the Western Forest Complex, Thailand.* In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society. This project will complete the occupancy work in lower WEFCON started in 2010 and initiate nature education campaigns with the elephant as a flagship species in 6 key schools and communities. The grantee will conduct follow-up monitoring with 8 patrol teams in Thung Yai West Wildlife Sanctuary and train 25-30 students on elephant and wildlife occupancy and population monitoring techniques.

FWS: \$64,162 Leveraged funds: \$69,859