

**US Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of International Conservation
Asian Elephant Conservation Fund FY 2014**

In 2014, the USFWS awarded 26 new projects from the Asian Elephant Conservation Fund, totaling \$1,449,819 which was matched by \$2,229,982 in additional leveraged funds. Field projects in nine Asian elephant range countries (in alphabetical order below) and two projects in multiple countries will be supported.

CAMBODIA

ASE1420

Grant # F14AP00266

Direct protection to Asia's last intact elephant corridor. In partnership with Wildlife Alliance, this project will protect elephants and resolve conflict situations in Koh Kong, Cambodia, by providing ranger protection to “conflict” animals and guidance to local villagers. It will provide on-the-job training to rangers in order to improve anti-poaching patrols; and provide support to wildlife law enforcement, including the seizure of snares, traps, guns, vehicles and chainsaws and bring perpetrators to court. The project will also maintain signs and demarcation posts which delineate community land and State forest so residents are aware of protected area boundaries, and monitor elephant habitat through daily patrols in order to detect and prevent forest fires and to stop encroachment on forestland.

FWS: \$48,885

Leveraged Funds: \$542,819

ASE1421

Grant # F14AP00268

Continuing Asian elephant conservation through the Kouprey Express. In partnership with Wildlife Alliance, this project will continue delivery of education curriculum to rural schools in the Cardamom Mountains, Cambodia, and expand this outreach into national schools in Kompong Som and Phnom Penh, focusing on threats to Cambodia’s flagship species. It will continue to build understanding of environmental issues for teachers, community educators, and leaders through training and provision of multiple-use long lasting educational materials. The project intends to complement environmental education in the classroom with field trips to Phnom Tamao Wildlife Rescue Center and through interactive hands-on Community Night Shows. A large-scale signage campaign and hotline stickers on tuk-tuks in Phnom Penh will publicize the illegality of trading wildlife and promote Wildlife Alliance’s 24-hour nationwide wildlife crime hotline.

FWS: \$58,738

Leveraged Funds: \$259,274

ASE1435

Grant # F14AP00288

Developing a standardized monitoring and protection system to conserve Asian elephant within the core landscape of the southern/eastern Cardamom mountains, Cambodia. In partnership with Fauna and Flora International, this project will identify Asian elephant hotspots within the south-

eastern Cardamom Mountains Landscape of Cambodia to inform future monitoring programs and management responses, and support communities to mitigate human-elephant conflict. The project will conduct fecal concentration surveys within the eastern and southern Cardamom Mountains Landscape to identify elephant hotspots, and reduce human-elephant conflict through strengthening local management of human-elephant conflict at key sites.

FWS: \$52,012

Leveraged Funds: \$51,221

INDIA

ASE1407

Grant # F14AP00258

Strengthening protection machinery for Asian elephant conservation through research and community edge in Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve, Assam. In partnership with Aaranyak, this project intends to improve the skills of ground patrol and crop guarding staff of Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve, Assam, India, to reduce human-elephant conflict. Reserve staff will be provided appropriate equipment to do their job most effectively.

FWS: \$49,608

Leveraged Funds: \$4,600

ASE1415

Grant # F14AP00262

The Odisha elephant landscape project. In partnership with Elephant Family, this project builds on the background research and extensive experience that Elephant Family, the Wildlife Protection Society of India, and the Wildlife Society of Odisha have generated by working in partnership since 2005. Local communities will be engaged in conservation by providing support, advice and information through regular meetings and a large workshop. Local wildlife conservation groups will be empowered to raise awareness, attract new members, and help the Forest Department intervene when illegal activity threatens wild elephants. Human-elephant conflict mitigation assistance will be provided to 30 villages and an awareness campaign will be conducted along with the creation of forest protection committees at Simlipal National Park, India.

FWS: \$48,485

Leveraged Funds: \$25,354

INDONESIA

ASE1418

Grant # F14AP00265

Community-based human-elephant conflict mitigation and protection of Sumatran elephant populations and habitat through Conservation Response Units in Way Kambas, Lampung Province, Sumatra. In partnership with the Veterinary Society for Sumatran Wildlife Conservation, this project will continue to maintain and use captive elephants for forest patrols in Way Kambas, Sumatra, Indonesia, as well as to build the capacity of the Conservation Response Unit staff in activities such as patrolling, navigation, human-elephant conflict mitigation tools, legal information, and record keeping and monitoring. The Conflict Response Units will monitor wildlife and illegal activities, respond immediately to conflicts and assess approaches used to mitigate conflicts in different sites.

FWS: \$70,775

Leveraged Funds: \$74,748

ASE1431**Grant # F14AP00348**

Protection of threatened megavertebrates in Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park, Sumatra, Indonesia by anti-poaching units. In partnership with the International Rhino Foundation, this project will support least 15 patrol days per month in Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park, Sumatra, Indonesia, by anti-poaching units. Appropriate action will be taken against attempts to shoot, trap or poison elephants or other threatened species, in areas covered by the anti-poaching units. Suspected poachers will be apprehended or at least identified to the local authorities, for prosecution.

FWS: \$76,531

Leveraged Funds: \$239,580

ASE1432**Grant # F14AP00283**

Saving the Sumatran elephant through encroachment reduction and preventing future deforestation in Bukit Barisan Selatan and Gunung Leuser National Parks. In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society, this project will focus on the prevention and protection of the habitats of Bukit Barisan Selatan and Gunung Leuser National Parks, Indonesia, through patrol and direct monitoring in the field, specifically by the reduction of encroachment and other threats in areas with key elephant populations, and an improved understanding of deforestation. This will be accomplished by Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) patrolling areas with active encroachment; supporting the Parks and legal agencies for prosecutions; assisting with national park boundary issues; and working with stakeholders to understand land-use conflicts. The project will employ continuous modeling of encroachment to predict likely encroachment hotspots in the future, identify key elephant areas which are susceptible to encroachment, and assist national park authorities and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) by providing data for World Heritage Site recovery plans.

FWS: \$100,730

Leveraged Funds: \$101,125

ASE1434**Grant # F14AP00287**

Continuation of providing field veterinary expertise for Sumatran elephants and other endangered Sumatran wildlife and veterinary capacity building for conservation programs and activities. In partnership with the Veterinary Society for Sumatran Wildlife Conservation, this project will continue activities previously supported by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to improve Sumatran elephant and other endangered Sumatran wildlife conservation efforts by fulfilling the vital need for veterinary expertise and services throughout Sumatra, Indonesia. During this project, immediate support and emergency response will be provided to any government agency or non-governmental organization active in elephant and endangered wildlife conservation in Sumatra that is in need of veterinary expertise. The project will also provide regular veterinary care and on-call emergency response to programs regularly utilizing captive elephants for elephant conservation activities, such as patrols in protected elephant habitat, human-conflict mitigation, local community awareness, and conservation education and research programs. Training will be provided to mahouts and staff in such programs about the basics of medical management, daily health care needs, and biology of the elephants in their care.

FWS: \$57,810

Leveraged Funds: \$62,160

LAO PDR

ASE0660

Grant # F14AP00248

Building public support for Asian elephant conservation in Lao PDR with “Friends of Wildlife” radio program, phase IV. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society, this project intends to raise public awareness of the status and threats to the Asian elephant, the Indochinese tiger and the five gibbon species in Lao PDR by building local capacity of radio stations to create conservation radio programming. Target audiences include Hmong and Khmu ethnic minorities and military personnel.

FWS: \$51,957

Leveraged Funds: \$52,312

ASE1419

Grant # F14AP00408

Strengthening law enforcement patrol and human-elephant conflict mitigation for the conservation of the Asian elephant in Nam Phouy National Protected Area. In partnership with the World Wide Fund for Nature, Greater Mekong Program, this project will develop a wildlife crime prevention strategy for Nam Phouy National Protected Area, Lao PDR, including robust protocols for dealing with offenders. It will also improve the capacity of protected area staff and local communities to implement an effective law enforcement patrolling system and implement Adaptive Tactical Patrolling in Nam Phouy to safeguard priority species populations, build community capacity to protect crops, and mitigate damage from crop-raiding elephants.

FWS: \$46,890

Leveraged Funds: \$41,990

MALAYSIA

ASE1423

Grant # F14AP00273

WCS/Government of Malaysia Peninsular Malaysia Elephant Project: Year 9, assessment and reduction of human-elephant conflict and capacity building in Endau-Rompin. In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society, this project will continue community-based human-elephant conflict assessment and mitigation work in five main villages of Endau Rompin National Park, Malaysia, and provide training in safe and effective methods for driving elephants away from crops. It will assess the effectiveness of electric fences as barriers to reduce elephant entries into human settlements and crop areas, and protect elephant populations and their habitat from poachers and encroachment by conducting multistakeholder patrolling using the Management Information System (MIST) or Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) patrol management systems. It will develop an elephant-based eco-tourism package for local Orang Asli guides from Kg. Peta in order to enhance the protection of elephants among villagers and visitors to the Park.

FWS: \$59,883

Leveraged Funds: \$60,181

MYANMAR

ASE1424

Grant # F14AP00275

Protection and Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) at key sites in Myanmar. In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society, the purpose of this project is to provide ranger teams with resources to conduct patrolling year-round in Alaungdaw Kathapa National Park and the Rakhine Yoma Elephant Range, Myanmar. Patrols will focus on elephant hotspots identified through a survey. Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) conservation software will be implemented as a law enforcement tool, allowing managers to use evidence-based approaches to adaptively manage enforcement operations at the Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephant (MIKE) sites. The project will map the distribution and threats of elephants.
FWS: \$53,965 Leveraged Funds: \$54,068

ASE1425

Grant # F14AP00276

Developing an elephant conservation strategy for Myanmar. In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society, this project will gather information about the distribution of wild elephants in Myanmar and develop an elephant conservation strategy for Myanmar based on up-to-date information on the distribution of elephants, the threats to their existence, and their conservation needs. The project will convene a workshop involving the participation of all relevant stakeholders; conduct nationwide interview-based occupancy surveys; synthesize and analyze all available information necessary to develop a draft Action Plan; and review, finalize, and publish the Plan.
FWS: \$41,526 Leveraged Funds: \$41,639

NEPAL

ASE1408

Grant # F14AP00259

Community-based proactive human-elephant conflict mitigation program to ensure long term survival of recolonized population of Asian elephant in Bardia National Park, Nepal. In partnership with the National Trust for Nature Conservation, this project intends to minimize human-elephant conflict in Bardia National Park, Nepal, through scientific management and community engagement. Activities include awareness programs with alternative livelihood options; operationalizing a rapid response team to deal with human-elephant conflict incidents and conduct human-elephant co-existence related awareness activities; and development of a human-elephant mitigation strategy document for Bardia National Park.
FWS: \$49,917 Leveraged Funds: \$82,046

ASE1416

Grant # F14AP00263

Behavior change elephant conservation campaign through community capacity building support, human-elephant conflict mitigation awareness and training-to-become-a-trainer training for the village leaders. In partnership with Conservation Himalayas, this project will be conducted in three forest divisions within the Terai Arc landscape of Uttarakhand, India. It will focus on training-the-trainer workshops; community-based human-elephant conflict mitigation activities;

capacity-building trainings within local communities,; and a cooking gas incentive scheme. Human-Elephant-Conflict-Mitigation-Action Groups will be strengthened in high human-elephant conflict areas and effective coexistence education will be targeted to the communities.

FWS: \$49,995

Leveraged Funds: \$11,719

ASE1428

Grant # F14AP00280

Mitigating human-elephant conflict in the buffer zone of Bardia National Park, Western Terai Arc Landscape, Nepal. In partnership with the World Wildlife Fund, this project will build a community grain storage house that secures the grain of local farmers from crop raiding elephants, near Bardia National Park, Nepal. By safeguarding grain, the project will help decrease incidences of human-elephant conflict, reduce retaliatory killings, and foster a more positive attitude toward wild elephants among local communities. The grain storage house will minimize the probability of elephant visits to the villages, thereby reducing chances of human casualties and injuries. The project will engage the Shreeramnagar Buffer Zone User Committee and establish a mechanism to manage the community grain storage house in the long term.

FWS: \$44,968

Leveraged Funds: \$29,359

SRI LANKA

ASE1406

Grant # F14AP00256

Population dynamics of elephants in Uda Walawe and Minneriya National Parks, Sri Lanka. In partnership with Elephant Forest and Environment Conservation, this project will monitor elephants of Uda Walawe National Park, Sri Lanka, with special attention to detecting mortalities and identifying causes of death when possible, in collaboration with Department of Wildlife Conservation personnel. A preliminary vehicle-based photographic identification survey will be conducted in Minneriya National Park and in order to create a photo database of individual elephants.

FWS: \$47,855

Leveraged Funds: \$21,580

THAILAND

ASE1403

Grant # F14AP00253

Empowering wildlife guardians in Thailand's forgotten parks: Lasting protection for elephants and their habitat through forest ranger training and community support in the Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai forest complex. This project will work to implement a self-sustaining system of wildlife monitoring and patrolling activities in parks, improve understanding of elephant distribution and behavior, and decrease human-elephant conflict incidences and nature crime affecting elephants in Thailand.

FWS: \$59,889

Leveraged Funds: \$5,418

ASE1422

Grant # F14AP00270

Elephant protection and education campaigns in the Western Forest Complex and capacity strengthening of future protected area managers, Thailand, year six. In partnership with the

Wildlife Conservation Society, this project will maintain the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) patrol system in Thung Yai West Sanctuary, Thailand, at its current intensity and coverage and improve awareness of local communities and schools through nature education campaigns on elephant and wildlife conservation.

FWS: \$57,054

Leveraged Funds: \$57,392

ASE1427

Grant # F14AP00279

WCS/Government of Thailand collaborative efforts to improve law enforcement, law enforcement monitoring, and human-elephant conflict mitigation in Kaeng Krachan National Park. In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society, this project will improve protection for elephants and elephant habitat in Kaeng Krachan National Park, Thailand, and continue and enhance law enforcement monitoring work using Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART). The project will reduce human–elephant conflict by promoting and monitoring standard mitigation methods and expanding elephant conservation education and promoting the human-elephant conflict mitigation scheme to improve cooperation among park staff, local communities and other stakeholders.

FWS: \$59,742

Leveraged Funds: \$62,237

ASE1433

Grant # F14AP00475

Changing minds by thinking elephants: Influencing Asian elephant conservation through systematic education programming in Thai schools. In partnership with Think Elephants International, this project will develop a sustainable education program in Thailand addressing the conservation of Asian elephants that improves science literacy and critical thinking skills in Thai students.

FWS: \$38,000

Leveraged Funds: \$68,280

MULTIPLE COUNTRIES

INDIA/BHUTAN

ASE1430

Grant # F14AP00281

Elephants on the Line: A community-based conservation program for the Bhutan-India Border Landscape. In partnership with North Carolina State University, this project will develop a website to serve as a public outreach, communication and education point for the program and for a broader regional and international audience seeking an Asian elephant conservation education resource. It will conduct human-elephant conflict education and planning workshops in Bhutan and India for educators, policymakers, researchers, and forest officials. The project will develop and implement a Tea Garden Elephant Conservation Program, including certification for Elephant-friendly tea garden management practices. It will establish, train, and implement a pilot human-elephant conflict Rapid Response Team and will implement an Early Warning System demonstration program, with installation and ongoing maintenance commitments from local villagers and project partners. It will produce and distribute a documentary film on elephant issues and conservation challenges for the Bhutan-India

transboundary elephant population and create a current habitat and development map for the India-Bhutan transboundary region.

FWS: \$49,884

Leveraged Funds: \$55,439

NEPAL/INDIA

ASE1411

Grant # F14AP00261

Management of human-elephant conflict in selected transboundary region of northern west Bengal and Nepal. In partnership with World Wildlife Fund-India, this project intends to reduce retaliatory killing of elephants around the border area of West Bengal, India and Nepal to 50% of 2013 levels and build public awareness for long-term peaceful coexistence of humans and elephants. The capacity of affected villages to cope with human-elephant conflict will be increased by creating village protection committees and anti-depredation squads; building bio-fences to exclude migrating elephants from villages; conducting elephant awareness campaigns; and distributing banners and leaflets in local languages.

FWS: \$48,875

Leveraged Funds: \$10,470

SOUTH-EAST ASIA

ASE1410

Grant # F14AP00410

Monitoring the illegal killing of elephants in South Asia. In partnership with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Secretariat, this project works to create a better understanding of the trends and patterns of illegal killing of elephants in South Asia, which will be used as a basis for improved international, sub-regional and national decision making in support of elephant conservation. This goal will be achieved through the design and development of MIKE (Monitoring of Illegal Killing of Elephants) monitoring systems for the specific needs of the South Asia region; the strengthening of monitoring capacity in participating MIKE sites; the synthesis, analysis, and reporting of MIKE South Asia monitoring data; and the consolidation and strengthening of MIKE South Asia institutional structures.

FWS: \$90,000

Leveraged Funds: \$11,950

VIETNAM/CAMBODIA

ASE1412

Grant # F14AP00407

Establishing trans-boundary co-operation on law enforcement and protected area management between Vietnam and Cambodia in the Eastern Plains Landscape for Asian elephant and tiger conservation. In partnership with World Wildlife Fund-Vietnam, this project will strengthen protected area management and law enforcement in Yok Don National Park, Vietnam, and establish trans-boundary relationships for developing cooperative species conservation law enforcement between Yok Don National Park, Vietnam, and Mondulkiri Protected Forest, Cambodia.

FWS: \$35,854

Leveraged Funds: \$46,701