

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Division of Management Authority  
Combating Wildlife Trafficking Strategy and Partnerships Program  
FY 2017 Summary of Projects**

In FY 2017, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) awarded \$3,766,799 to the conservation of wildlife around the world through its Combating Wildlife Trafficking Strategy and Partnerships (CWT) Program, which was matched by \$1,941,624 in additional leveraged funds. Of this, a total of \$2,213,929 was provided by an apportionment from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and additional funds were provided by other sources, as identified below. These funds supported 35 projects, including in 19 individual countries and projects spanning two or more countries, as indicated below.

**New cooperative agreements**

**ANGOLA**

**CWT1713**

**Grant # F17AC00577**

***Building the capacity of the Government of Angola in countering wildlife trafficking in Cabinda Province.*** In partnership with Wildlife Impact. The purpose of this project is to support the efforts of Angola's Ministry of Environment (MINAMB) to disrupt the supply-chain and counter wildlife trafficking in Angola, with a specific focus on Maiombe National Park and the surrounding areas of Cabinda Province. This project is intended to help conserve threatened species listed in the Appendices of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) that are poached within Maiombe National Park, which may then enter illegal wildlife trade markets. Examples include the following species (with IUCN Red List status): African grey parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*; Endangered), leopard (*Panthera pardus*; Vulnerable), white-bellied tree pangolin (*Manis tricuspis*; Vulnerable), giant ground pangolin (*Manis gigantea*; Vulnerable), central chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes troglodytes*; Endangered), western lowland gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*; Critically Endangered), and forest elephant (*Loxodonta cyclotis*; Vulnerable). Specific activities include: (1) strengthening the legislative framework for implementation of CITES and enforcement of wildlife crime law; (2) enhancing capacity through targeted trainings that develop in-country capacity and expertise on CITES implementation; (3) developing a permit system and enforcement database; (4) enhancing enforcement capacity through high-level intelligence training and mentoring; and (5) increasing the likelihood and success of enforcement actions through training for enforcement officers and rangers on safe handling, veterinary care, and CITES-compliant disposition of confiscated wildlife.

USFWS: \$209,671

Leveraged Funds: \$15,501

## **MULTIPLE COUNTRIES – CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

### **CWT1702**

#### **Grant # F17AC00903**

***Education and training to CITES Authorities in Central America and the Caribbean.*** In partnership with *Atecma Asesores Tecnicos de Medio Ambiente*. The purpose of this project is to counter wildlife trafficking in Central America and the Caribbean by strengthening capacity in several countries of the region on implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). This will be done by facilitating the successful selection, mentorship, and graduation of students in a Master's Course on CITES. Key intended results include the graduation of a co-hort of students and the subsequent strengthening of CITES Authorities in the region. Specific activities include facilitating the successful selection, mentorship, and support through graduation of all students from the Master's Course.

USFWS: \$430,626

Leveraged Funds: \$0

### **CWT1712**

#### **Grant # F17AC00419**

***Strengthening CITES implementation in Central America and the Caribbean.*** In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to counter wildlife trafficking in Central America and the Caribbean by strengthening country- and regional-level capacity for implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). This project is intended to address the unsustainable exploitation of regional CITES-listed species such as jaguars, macaws and other parrots, freshwater and marine turtles, sharks and rays, rosewood and mahogany, recently listed reptiles and amphibians, such as *Abronía* lizards and *Agalychnis* tree frogs, as well as other not-yet-listed species that are under emerging threat from increasingly organized and globalized networks of wildlife traffickers that have recently begun to scale up operations in Central America and the Caribbean. Specific activities include: (1) enhancing CITES Scientific Authority capacity and collaboration among target countries to support the development of non-detriment findings; (2) improving the availability of data on the illegal trade in CITES-listed species; and (3) increasing knowledge of rapidly developing markets and the emerging threat of regional illegal wildlife trade.

USFWS: \$250,000

Leveraged Funds: \$7,462

## **MULTIPLE COUNTRIES – GLOBAL**

### **CWT17141**

#### **Grant # F17AC00902**

***Dynamics of the trafficking of 260,000 wildlife products from Africa to 23 U.S. and European cities from 2004-2016.*** In partnership with Dr. Justin Brashares of the University of California, Berkeley. The purpose of this project is to organize, analyze, and visualize wildlife trafficking data collected from 2004-2016 by more than 300 informants working with the Bushmeat Monitoring Network (BMN). BMN informants conducted monthly surveys of wildlife sold in 84 urban and rural markets in Africa, and 23 urban markets in the United States, Canada and Europe. A total of 261,000 wildlife products were recorded in these surveys over 12 years and, of these, 21,100 were marked at markets in Africa and recovered in overseas markets, allowing the unprecedented

tracking of trafficking routes as well as estimates of total amounts trafficked. Specific activities include: (1) assessment of spatial and temporal trends by species, group, and levels of endangerment; (2) characterization of shipping and flight networks in relation to trafficking dynamics; and (3) assessment of trafficking trends over space and time in relation to policy or other interventions at the source of wildlife or sites of importation and sale.

USFWS: \$119,280

Leveraged Funds: \$94,280

## **New grants**

### **BANGLADESH**

#### **CWT17121**

##### **Grant # F17AP00834**

***Working with the Government of Bangladesh to strengthen their compliance with CITES CoP17 decisions.*** In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to counter wildlife trafficking in Bangladesh by strengthening the capacity of the Government of Bangladesh to implement decisions of CITES CoP17 regarding international wildlife trade, particularly of Indian Pangolins (*Manis crassicaudata*), Silky sharks (*Carcharhinus falciformis*), Thresher sharks (*Alopias* spp.) and Mobula rays (*Mobula* spp.), species that were recently included, with co-sponsorship from Bangladesh, in Appendix I or II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Specific activities include: (1) conducting seminars with senior officials from the Forest Department, National Police, Fisheries Department, Customs, Border Guards, Rapid Action Battalion, and Coast Guard about CITES CoP17 decisions and the illegal trade of CITES Appendix I and II species in Bangladesh; (2) consulting with them about knowledge gaps on trade in these species, and at the end of the project, rigorously evaluating progress and formulating recommendations for next steps; (3) conducting intensive training workshops on CITES regulations and enforcement and emphasizing the CITES Appendices and obligations under the treaty, including CITES CoP17 decisions, with field-level officers from these same government agencies; (4) developing and providing resource materials to these same agencies on national laws and CITES decisions on wildlife trade and the identification of CITES Appendix I and II species; (5) providing follow-up mentoring support for these agencies on lessons learned during the wildlife trade workshops; (6) working with the Forest Department to strengthen their Wildlife Crime Database to ensure that it includes Indian Pangolins, Silky sharks, Thresher sharks and Mobula rays as well as other species listed on CITES Appendix I and II; and (7) using seminars, training workshops, follow-up mentoring visits, and work on strengthening the Wildlife Trade Database to facilitate communication among national agencies on enforcing national wildlife laws and CITES regulations and on increasing the capacity of the Government of Bangladesh to report accurate details on wildlife trade to the CITES Secretariat.

USFWS: \$96,343<sup>1</sup>

Leveraged Funds: \$96,367

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<sup>1</sup> Funded by USFWS CWT Resource Management funds.

## CAMBODIA

### CWT17104

#### Grant # F17AP00830

***Understanding people's attitudes and behavior towards wildlife: Designing a theory of change for the demand reduction of bear products in Cambodia.*** In partnership with the Zoological Society of San Diego. The purpose of this project is to counter wildlife trafficking in Southeast Asia, specifically in Cambodia, by developing a theory of change to reduce demand for bear parts. This project is intended to conserve vulnerable bear species, including the Asiatic black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*) and the sun bear (*Helarctos malayanus*), by addressing the impacts of increased poaching pressure for meat/parts, traditional Chinese medicine, and other products. Specific activities include: (1) conducting surveys and focus groups with Cambodian residents on their attitudes towards and behaviors regarding the use of bear parts; (2) using human-centered design and social marketing tools to design and test behavior change tools across different social and geographical contexts; (3) presenting the final behavior change strategy and tools through interactive workshops at each study site; and (4) providing training and knowledge transfer to Cambodian partners such as Free The Bears and the Royal University of Phnom Penh.

USFWS: \$99,145

Leveraged Funds: \$0

### CWT17110

#### Grant # F17AP00832

***Reducing trafficking of Cambodia's Cantor's giant softshelled turtle.*** In partnership with Conservation International. The purpose of this project is to counter endangered turtle trafficking in Kratie and Stung Treng Provinces, Cambodia, by building upon a currently successful model of community and local government engagement. This project is intended to conserve the endangered Cantor's giant softshelled turtle (*Pelochelys cantorii*), by addressing the impacts of illegal local consumption and international trade of the turtles and their eggs. Specific activities include: (1) engaging community members with high community standing as Turtle Ambassadors to participate in adult/fisher education sessions and patrols in target sites; (2) extending the efforts of current Community Rangers; (3) extending and expanding the ongoing community education program in current target sites; and (4) rolling out project activities in a newly identified poaching hotspot.

USFWS: \$99,971<sup>2</sup>

Leveraged Funds: \$0

## CAMEROON

### CWT1757

#### Grant # F17AP00825

***Promoting collaboration between Cameroon and China to combat the illegal trade in pangolins.*** In partnership with TRAFFIC. The purpose of this project is to stem the trafficking of pangolins between Cameroon and China. The project will improve knowledge and awareness on the status and illegal trade in pangolins in Cameroon and between Cameroon and China, and build capacity in Cameroon's Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) to undertake research and monitoring as well as promote collaboration between law enforcement officials in Cameroon and

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<sup>2</sup> Funded by USFWS CWT Resource Management funds.

China. Specific activities include: (1) a study of the illegal trade in pangolins in China; (2) field surveys of the illegal pangolin trade (trends, routes, modus operandi and people involved) in Cameroon; (3) education and awareness-raising of traders and other stakeholders concerning existing wildlife legislation in Cameroon; (4) establishing a network of collaborators to support the long-term monitoring of pangolins; (5) organizing a national workshop to disseminate results of the project; (6) building capacity of staff in MINFOF concerning pangolin research and monitoring; (7) organizing an exchange visit for enforcement officials from Cameroon to Hong Kong; (8) promoting the use of the AFRICA-TWIX (Trade in Wildlife Information eXchange) system for information sharing; and (9) encouraging MINFOF to enforce protection of all pangolin species following the recent inclusion of all African pangolins under CITES Appendix I.

USFWS: \$92,298<sup>3</sup>                      Leveraged Funds: \$18,413

## GEORGIA

### CWT17148

#### Grant # F17AP00839

***Combating poaching and trafficking of Critically Endangered sturgeon.*** In partnership with Fauna & Flora International. The purpose of this project is to counter wildlife trafficking of endangered sturgeon species in Georgia by modernizing river patrols, targeting enforcement, and strengthening Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) implementation and actions at the border. This project is intended to conserve the Critically Endangered common sturgeon (*Acipenser sturio*) and five other Endangered sturgeon species (family Acipenseridae), by addressing the impacts of poaching and illegal trafficking in by-catch. Specific activities include: (1) modernizing anti-poaching patrol efforts through new protocols and technology; (2) building local capacity to control the sturgeon trade, including mapping trafficking routes and strengthening targeted law enforcement by Georgian authorities; and (3) improving border agency capacity to combat transboundary trafficking and enforce CITES.

USFWS: \$70,805<sup>4</sup>

Leveraged Funds: \$9,270

## KAZAKHSTAN

### CWT17149

#### Grant # F17AP00840

***Strengthening capacity and collaboration to combat trafficking in saiga horn in Kazakhstan.*** In partnership with Fauna & Flora International. The purpose of this project is to counter the trafficking of wildlife products in Kazakhstan and specifically to conserve the Critically Endangered saiga antelope (*Saiga tatarica tatarica*) by addressing the impacts of poaching and the illegal trade in saiga horn and its derivatives. Specific activities include: (1) investigating and mapping saiga horn trafficking routes and establishing protocols for collation and sharing of such dynamic information between enforcement agencies; (2) promoting and improving the use and coordination of strategic, intelligence-led anti-poaching patrolling and sniffer dog deployment, resulting in more effective enforcement; (3) strengthening anti-poaching by introducing new

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<sup>3</sup> Funded by USFWS CWT Resource Management funds.

<sup>4</sup> Funded by USFWS CWT Resource Management funds.

approaches such as Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) and building practical wildlife crime investigation skills to create a stronger evidence base for prosecutions; (4) promoting the prosecution of wildlife crime with in the judiciary; and (5) promoting improved standards in the use of sniffer dogs to detect trafficked saiga horn and other illegal wildlife products and cooperation with nascent sniffer dog programs in two neighboring transit countries. USFWS: \$91,899<sup>5</sup> Leveraged Funds: \$18,430

## KYRGYZSTAN

### CWT17124

#### Grant # F17AP00836

***Knowledge is power: Combating snow leopard trafficking through stronger data, information sharing, and international cooperation.*** In partnership with the International Snow Leopard Trust. The purpose of this project is to combat poaching and illegal trade of the snow leopard and its parts across its range through improved data collation, information generation, information sharing, and international cooperation. The aim is to address these threats through improved availability and access to datasets on poaching and illegal trade of snow leopards and to generate and share actionable information on trafficking with enforcement agencies. Specific activities include: (1) creating a database on poaching and illegal wildlife trade to house all available relevant data involving the snow leopard; (2) developing a system to collect data on poaching and illegal wildlife trade from online sources; (3) facilitating mutual sharing of snow leopard poaching and trafficking data to populate the database; (4) setting up probabilistic frameworks to analyze data generated through the database; and (5) building communication lines within relevant government departments and among international partners to enable efficient surveillance and real-time information exchange.

USFWS: \$99,200<sup>6</sup> Leveraged Funds: \$18,400

## LAOS

### CWT17122

#### Grant # F17AP00835

***Strengthening compliance and enforcement of CITES in Lao People's Democratic Republic (Laos).*** In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to counter wildlife trafficking in Laos by generating political support, leveraging greater accountability of government, and generating actionable intelligence with law enforcement agencies to put Asia's most prolific wildlife trafficking groups out of business. This project is intended to conserve rhinos, elephants, tigers, pangolins, pythons, and turtles by addressing the impacts of wildlife trafficking. The project will assist in raising wildlife trafficking as a political and developmental threat to the Government of Laos, and will result in a broad coalition of government agencies participating in domestic and international efforts to dismantle trans-boundary wildlife trafficking syndicates operating within the country. Specific activities include: (1) building an informed and active constituency within influential agencies in the government; (2) generating international media pressure and influence from international organizations and

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<sup>5</sup> Funded by USFWS CWT Resource Management funds.

<sup>6</sup> Funded by USFWS CWT Resource Management funds.

other countries; and (3) providing actionable intelligence to enable an effective policy and law enforcement response.

USFWS: \$93,724<sup>7</sup>

Leveraged Funds: \$117,072

## MADAGASCAR

### CWT17113

#### Grant # F17AP00783

***Improving law enforcement in Madagascar to keep rare species out of the illegal wildlife trade: A case study on radiated tortoises (*Astrochelys radiata*).*** In partnership with the World Wildlife Fund. The purpose of this project is to strengthen capacity within the law enforcement and justice systems in Madagascar to keep rare Malagasy species out of the illegal wildlife trade, using the critically endangered radiated tortoise (*Astrochelys radiata*) as a case study. The project will be implemented in collaboration with TRAFFIC and in close partnership with Madagascar's Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Ecology, Environment, and Forests. It will contribute to the conservation of Madagascar's protected species by addressing current loopholes in law enforcement and corrupt behaviors along the trafficking chain. Specific activities include: (1) leading a needs assessment and delivering a workshop to design a training program that will ensure domestic implementation of relevant regulations and tools for combating wildlife trafficking; (2) training select Malagasy judges and law enforcement officers on pertinent wildlife regulations; (3) organizing a field visit to the Mahafaly landscape for key national and regional Magistrates and law enforcement officers, to help them better understand field realities; (4) developing a roadmap for incorporating wildlife trade and regulation into the curriculum of Madagascar's National School for Magistrates; and (5) using Madagascar's national strategy for combating corruption and international treaties and guidelines for combating corruption to update the country's existing anti-corruption instruments in the judiciary system, in collaboration with civil society groups.

USFWS: \$100,000

Leveraged Funds: \$0

### CWT17119

#### Grant # F17AP00833

***Protection for the Critically Endangered ploughshare tortoise (*Astrochelys yniphora*) against wildlife trafficking.*** In partnership with the Turtle Conservancy. The purpose of this project is to counter wildlife trafficking in northwest Madagascar by securing the remaining biologically valuable ploughshare tortoises (*Astrochelys [Geochelone] yniphora*) and developing in-range propagation centers to ensure the genetic survival of the species. This project intends to execute a last-resort option in the face of significantly increased, now critical, poaching levels of the last remaining ploughshare tortoises for the illegal pet trade. Specific activities include: (1) securing maximum breeding potential and genetic viability in the wild by replacing biologically important tortoises with captive bred animals; (2) identifying and starting one or more additional captive holding facilities in Madagascar; (3) exploring the development of a captive holding and/or breeding center for ploughshare tortoises in the Mascarene Islands; and (4) establishing one or

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<sup>7</sup> Funded by USFWS CWT Resource Management funds.

more international satellite holding institutions that would act as hubs for seized and confiscated animals.

USFWS: \$96,745<sup>8</sup>

Leveraged Funds: \$114,200

### **CWT1775**

#### **Grant # F17AP00827**

***Reducing the illegal wildlife trade in ploughshare tortoises through effective community-based conservation strategies partnered with strong law enforcement.*** In partnership with the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust. The purpose of this project is to save the ploughshare tortoise from extinction. The main direct threat is poaching for the illegal pet trade, and responses to this threat have to be effective in the field, nationally, and internationally. The focus of this project is to counter trafficking of ploughshare tortoises in the Baly Bay Region of Madagascar, through enhanced effectiveness of community-based patrolling, increased security for patrollers and staff in the field, enhanced protection of wild animals in the core released population, and the pursuit and prosecution of poachers and smugglers in the regional capital of Mahajanga. Specific activities include: (1) improving patrols in Baly Bay National Park to more effectively catch poachers and implementing electronic data collection for the patrollers to improve management of the patrol teams; (2) improving security for patrollers and National Park staff by providing specific security training, assessing whether a dog program and training on handling and managing dogs is feasible, and installing covert surveillance technology; (3) placing additional capacity in the core release site; and (4) improving success in prosecuting smugglers in regional courts based on established successes prosecuting tortoise dealers in the nation's capital, Antananarivo.

USFWS: \$99,776

Leveraged Funds: \$86,202

## **MALAWI**

### **CWT17135**

#### **Grant # F17AP00877**

***The ICCF Group Conservation Council of Nations (CCN) project: “Engaging the Malawi Parliamentary Conservation Caucus to support policy, legislative, and institutional actions to combat wildlife crime”.*** In partnership with the Conservation Council of Nations. The purpose of this project is to combat illegal wildlife trafficking in Malawi by strengthening governance and the effectiveness of legal/policy frameworks and enforcement bodies through support and engagement of the Malawi Parliamentary Conservation Caucus (MPCC) and Malawi's Department of National Parks and Wildlife. The project is intended to protect wildlife by addressing poaching, trafficking, corruption, capacity challenges in judicial and prosecutorial authorities, and the lack of an effective regulatory framework to enforce legislation. Activities include: (1) MPCC participation as a key stakeholder in the development of wildlife regulations that support enforcement and implementation of Malawi's recent Wildlife Amendment Act; (2) MPCC facilitation of the implementation of the Malawi Road Map for prosecutors and judges on strategies to effectively handle wildlife crime cases; and (3) MPCC facilitation of enhanced anti-

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<sup>8</sup> Funded by USFWS CWT Resource Management funds.

corruption frameworks in the wildlife and forestry departments and the Anti-Corruption Bureau.  
USFWS: \$99,920<sup>9</sup> Leveraged Funds: \$121,870

### **CWT1763**

#### **Grant # F17AP00777**

***Wildlife justice programme, Malawi.*** In partnership with the Lilongwe Wildlife Trust. The purpose of this project is to counter wildlife trafficking in Malawi by strengthening the wildlife crime justice sector through improved legislation and regulatory measures; education, training, and capacity building; and improved court outcomes. The project will have a focus on Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)-listed species and will address regulatory loopholes, corruption, and weak and inconsistent sentencing for wildlife trafficking crimes. Specific activities include: (1) developing, passing, and publicizing new regulations in order to strengthen full enforcement of the new legislation; (2) developing sentencing guidelines for serious wildlife crimes in accordance with new legislation; and (3) conducting quarterly case review workshops in Malawi for prosecutors, private litigators, and the judiciary.

USFWS: \$119,559 Leveraged Funds: \$81,642

## **MOZAMBIQUE**

### **CWT1705**

#### **Grant # F17AP00822**

***Greater Limpopo lion (and elephant) conservation program.*** In partnership with Elephants Alive. The purpose of this project is to counter wildlife trafficking in the Mozambican component of the Greater Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area, including the Limpopo National Park, through the targeted removal of snares and poisoned bait from key areas used by resident lion prides, and by improving the protection of elephants through targeted anti-poaching exercises. Specific activities include: (1) targeted snare removal and poisoned carcass removal from key areas used by resident lion prides; (2) targeted snare removal in key potential lion habitat to facilitate the natural re-colonization of lions; (3) strategic protection of elephants by providing advanced training and mentoring in anti-poaching to Limpopo National Park rangers; (4) development of an elephant poaching database; and (5) implementation of targeted monitoring of lion and elephant status and poaching trends to enable adaptive conservation management of the region's wild lion and elephant populations.

USFWS: \$65,721<sup>10</sup> Leveraged Funds: \$243,980

## **NEPAL**

### **CWT1765**

#### **Grant # F17AP00779**

***Proactive pangolin protection: Building law enforcement and community capacity to reduce the pangolin trade in Nepal.*** In partnership with the Zoological Society of London. The purpose of this project is to counter wildlife trafficking in Nepal, with a focus on the highest-need areas of

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<sup>9</sup> Funded by USFWS CWT Resource Management funds.

<sup>10</sup> Funded by USFWS CWT Resource Management funds.

Kavrepalanchok and Sankhuwasabha districts, by reducing the number of Critically Endangered pangolins being poached from the wild for the illegal wildlife trade. This project is intended to conserve Indian and Chinese pangolins by addressing the impacts of low awareness of, and capacity to act on, the threat to pangolins, both within local communities and law enforcement agencies. Specific activities include: (1) mobilizing two community-based anti-poaching units in the two districts; (2) raising awareness of pangolin conservation needs and their legal status with local communities in the two districts; and (3) building the capacity of national law enforcement agencies to effectively combat the illegal trade in pangolins and their body parts.

USFWS: \$100,128<sup>11</sup>                      Leveraged Funds: \$52,580

## PAKISTAN

### CWT1779

#### Grant # F17AP00828

***Saving the pangolins of Pakistan: Conservation of the Indian pangolin through research and management.*** In partnership with the World Wildlife Fund - Pakistan. The purpose of this project is to counter wildlife trafficking by addressing pangolin poaching and illegal trade in identified districts in the Potohar and Azad Jammu and Kashmir regions in Pakistan. The project intends to conserve Indian pangolins by addressing critical data and information gaps regarding the pangolin population and the scale and scope of illegal wildlife trade. Specific activities include: (1) assessing the current status of the Indian pangolin in selected sites of Pakistan; (2) determining the scale and scope of illegal trade associated with the Indian pangolin at select sites; and (3) developing and implementing integrated pangolin conservation and management interventions.

USFWS: \$99,177                      Leveraged Funds: \$93,717

## SOUTH AFRICA

### CWT17127

#### Grant # F17AP00837

***Combating the illegal leopard skin trade using DNA forensics.*** In partnership with Panthera. The purpose of this project is to counter wildlife trafficking in southern Africa (with a focus on South Africa) by strengthening law enforcement capacity and political will. This project is intended to conserve leopards (*Panthera pardus*) by reducing the illegal trade in leopard skins for ceremonial wear among followers of the Shembe Church. Specific activities include: (1) establishment of a reference database that distinguishes genetically discrete leopard populations in southern Africa; (2) identification of poaching hotspots by using genetic assignment tests to match samples taken from Shembe-owned leopard skins to known leopard populations in the reference database; (3) an initiative to raise awareness among local decision-makers of the scale and threat posed by the leopard skin trade; (4) prioritization of the deployment of law enforcement efforts to the worst affected leopard populations; and (5) establishment of a leopard DNA indexing system to assist in the prosecution of poachers.

USFWS: \$56,650<sup>12</sup>                      Leveraged Funds: \$121,650

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<sup>11</sup> Of this, \$33,516 was funded with USFWS CWT Resource Management funds.

<sup>12</sup> Funded by USFWS CWT Resource Management funds.

## UGANDA

### CWT17132

#### Grant # F17AP00838

***Developing an evidence-based approach to change behaviors of Chinese buying elephant ivory in Africa.*** In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to counter wildlife trafficking in Uganda by reducing the volume of ivory purchased by Chinese nationals living in or visiting the country. This project is intended to conserve African elephants by understanding and tackling the illegal ivory trade in a major source and transit country, thereby reducing poaching pressure on the species. The project design includes a two-pronged approach that focuses on improving understanding of the illegal ivory market in Uganda and developing an evidence-based behavior change framework targeting Chinese nationals in Uganda. Specific activities include: (1) monitoring and analyzing characteristics of key markets that sell ivory in Uganda; (2) conducting qualitative research to understand Chinese ivory buyers in Ugandan markets; (3) conducting demographic research on staff, affiliates, and visitors of Chinese State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) in Uganda to identify high-risk demographic groups of Chinese nationals; (4) undertaking knowledge, awareness, and perception surveys on ivory and elephant conservation in focus groups from Chinese SOEs; (5) designing a wildlife trafficking mitigation framework with targeted Chinese SOEs to reduce the number of Chinese residents and travelers engaged in ivory trade; and (6) conducting consultation meetings in Uganda and Beijing with key community leaders, diplomatic representatives, corporations, and influential media.

USFWS: \$97,462<sup>13</sup>

Leveraged Funds: \$97,482

## VIETNAM

### CWT1795

#### Grant # F17AP00914

***Enhancing wildlife trade enforcement in Vietnam: Providing technical support and training for implementing government agencies in Vietnam.*** In partnership with the Central Institute for Natural Resources and Environmental Studies. The purpose of this project is to undertake critically needed activities to enhance law enforcement efforts in Vietnam, where the illegal wildlife trade has been escalating over the last few decades, adversely affecting biodiversity in the country and around the world. Specific activities include: (1) assessing technical need in enforcement agencies; (2) standardizing wildlife forensic protocols (in agreement with other scientific institutions) to support more effective detection, investigation, prosecution, and deterrence of wildlife crimes; (3) facilitating the use of new technologies, i.e. DNA testing, to support wildlife crime investigations and prosecutions, especially for international wildlife trafficking cases; (4) developing protocols for collaboration and information sharing between law enforcement agencies and scientific authorities; and (5) organizing training courses on standardizing wildlife specimen collections for identification and forensic test and evidence handling for law enforcement bodies, and other skills needed to improve the effectiveness of their efforts in combating wildlife trafficking.

USFWS: \$99,145

Leveraged Funds: \$21,400

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<sup>13</sup> Funded by USFWS CWT Resource Management funds.

**CWT1796****Grant # F17AP00876**

***Securing a stronghold and recovering populations of Sunda pangolins in Pu Mat National Park, Vietnam.*** In partnership with Save Vietnam's Wildlife. The purpose of this project is to recover the populations of both Sunda and Chinese pangolins in Pu Mat National Park located along the Laos/Vietnam border in Central Vietnam by establishing a safe and secure stronghold for pangolins. Specific activities include: (1) securing a stronghold for pangolins by strengthening capacity for forest rangers and the border army to combat illegal hunting and wildlife trafficking, through a targeted training program for both rangers and the military who patrol the border zone where poaching and cross-border trade is known to occur; (2) working with the Dan Lai community who live within and near the National Park to raise awareness about wildlife conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources to reduce threats to wildlife; and (3) recovering the population of Sunda pangolins by reintroducing rescued pangolins from the illegal trade, monitoring the populations by radio-tracking and camera trapping, and establishing a field research project within the Park to gather data on species ecology, which will also help build research capacity for rangers and the Park's scientific department with regards to equipment use, methods, and data analysis.

USFWS: \$96,918

Leveraged Funds: \$128,565

**ZAMBIA****CWT1756****Grant # F17AP00824**

***Combating the emerging trade in big cats and pangolins in the Luangwa Valley, Zambia.*** In partnership with the South Luangwa Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to improve leopard, lion, and pangolin conservation in Zambia and reduce poaching mortalities of these species. Wildlife anti-trafficking efforts have focused on elephants and rhinos in Africa; however, there is increasing evidence that trade in other threatened species is rapidly increasing, making collaboration with existing anti-trafficking efforts of paramount importance. In collaboration with the Investigations and Intelligence Units of the Department of National Parks and Wildlife, Conservation South Luangwa has already identified the border city of Chipata to be a major hub of wildlife trafficking, and collectively, the collaborating partners are well-placed to expand anti-trafficking efforts to combat these new threats. Specific activities include: (1) working with wildlife investigators to identify and understand the origins of the trade; (2) identifying key perpetrators involved in trafficking; and (3) ensuring perpetrators are arrested and convicted.

USFWS: \$76,910<sup>14</sup>

Leveraged Funds: \$264,630

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<sup>14</sup> Funded by USFWS CWT Resource Management funds.

## **MULTIPLE COUNTRIES – ANGOLA, CAMBODIA, MOZAMBIQUE, NAMIBIA, SOUTH AFRICA, AND VIETNAM**

**CWT17118**

**Grant # F17AP00784**

***Countering wildlife trafficking through transcontinental collaboration across the African-Asian nexus.*** In partnership with Wildlife Alliance. The purpose of this project is to address the Africa-Asia wildlife trafficking nexus, a direct threat causing loss of species in Africa. While the majority of illegal shipments from Africa are headed for China, smugglers use several transit countries to avoid detection. Cambodia is recognized by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) as an important transit hub for high-value wildlife products from Africa to China. To counter this problem, Wildlife Alliance has conducted a series of counter-wildlife trafficking trainings for Cambodian Customs at international ports. Although significant improvements continue to be made in the wildlife law enforcement practices of Cambodian Customs, a critical gap remains with the lack of post-seizure investigations and arrests. Specific activities include: (1) reaching out to, and facilitating exchange of counter-trafficking intelligence, between countries of origin (Namibia, Angola, Mozambique, South Africa); and countries of destination or transit (Cambodia and Vietnam); (2) developing standard operating protocols for Cambodia to investigate seizures of high-value African wildlife products in collaboration with African and Vietnamese counterparts; and (3) conducting forensic analysis of seized wildlife products and sharing information.

USFWS: \$100,000

Leveraged Funds: \$0

## **MULTIPLE COUNTRIES – CENTRAL AMERICA**

**CWT17143**

**Grant # F17AP00913**

***Reduction of shark trade in Central America through public engagement and behavioral change.*** In partnership with MarAlliance. The purpose of this project is to counter wildlife trafficking in Central America by characterizing and changing public demand for threatened sharks and rays at a strategic location for the entire region: Honduras. This project is intended to conserve coastal sharks and rays, including endangered hammerhead sharks, by addressing the drivers and impacts of seasonal demand and consumption and transboundary trade, notably the role of culture and religion in underpinning the strong seasonal demand for elasmobranch meat during the Lenten Season, when sea protein consumption predominates. Specific activities include: (1) documenting the principal and secondary stakeholders, their motivations, interests, and aspirations in relation to shark and ray capture, trade, and consumption; (2) designing, creating, and launching a social and behavioral communication campaign; and (3) evaluating and communicating results of the campaign, and developing a framework for replication.

USFWS: \$98,494

Leveraged Funds: \$21,800

## **MULTIPLE COUNTRIES – CHINA AND MYANMAR**

### **CWT16145**

#### **Grant # F17AP00252**

*Securing the gateway: Reducing wildlife trafficking between Myanmar and China.* In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to combat wildlife trafficking between two high priority Asian countries, Myanmar and China. This project is intended to conserve a wide range of species that are recorded as being trafficked into China. This is expected to include in particular freshwater turtles and tortoises (with 19 globally threatened species recorded in the trade, of which 8 are endemic to Myanmar), Sunda and Chinese pangolins, Asian and African elephants, tigers and other cat species, bears, and also potentially marine species such as sharks and rays and the giant clam. Specific activities include: (1) supporting law enforcement agencies in identifying criminal networks and trafficking dynamics along the Mandalay trade route to the Muse-Ruili border and into China; (2) strengthening law enforcement processes along this trafficking route by building the capacity of law enforcement agencies to identify and prosecute wildlife crimes, as well as handle evidence and confiscated animals; (3) enhancing international cooperation at national and regional levels through facilitation and support for inter-agency coordination, bilateral dialogues between Burma and China, and coordination with the UNODC-supported Border Liaison Office in Muse City.

USFWS: \$96,668<sup>15</sup>

Leveraged Funds: \$96,711

## **MULTIPLE COUNTRIES – INDONESIA, MALAYSIA, AND PHILIPPINES**

### **CWT1789**

#### **Grant # F17AP00829**

*Identifying and addressing factors contributing to flying fox trafficking in Southeast Asia.* In partnership with the Mabuwaya Foundation. The purpose of this project is to identify the actors, drivers, and supply chains in the illegal hunting, transporting, selling, buying, and consumption of flying foxes (giant fruit bats) in the Philippines, Malaysia, and Indonesia and to use that information to develop national and multinational programs to reduce illegal flying fox hunting. Specific activities include: (1) development of a standardized interview method to collect information about flying fox trafficking during a multinational workshop with researchers, conservationists, and relevant government staff from the three target countries; (2) deployment of this method in seven pilot sites in the three countries; (3) dissemination of the results during a national stakeholders meeting in each country where national action plans and theories of change to combat flying fox trafficking will be developed; (4) development of a communication campaign and law enforcement strengthening program for one pilot site to promote behavioral change towards flying foxes; and (5) a multinational workshop to share information, experiences, and best practices to incorporate a standardized monitoring system of flying fox numbers, hunting, and people's attitudes towards flying foxes, and to discuss future collaborative activities to combat flying fox trafficking.

USFWS: \$99,940

Leveraged Funds: \$0

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<sup>15</sup> Funded with USFWS CWT Resource Management funds.

## MULTIPLE COUNTRIES – GLOBAL

### CWT1764

#### Grant # F17AP00826

***Strengthening CITES compliance: Automated checks and analyses to detect and communicate noncompliant trade with the Convention.*** In partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme's World Conservation Monitoring Centre. The purpose of this project is to counter wildlife trafficking globally through better monitoring of wildlife trade patterns. It will improve capabilities for detecting illegal wildlife trade and checking compliance, thereby strengthening implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). This project will contribute to the conservation of CITES-listed species by addressing the threats posed by illegal trade that contravenes key CITES provisions, including trade subject to CITES suspensions and commercial trade in wild-taken Appendix I species, both of which continue to be of concern based on findings from targeted reviews. This project will help to address this problem by developing an automated tool to analyze the data reported by Parties through their annual reports in order to efficiently identify instances that may reveal non-compliant trade, and by increasing awareness so that Parties can take remedial actions or implement reforms. Specific activities include: (1) prioritization of key compliance issues in consultation with the CITES Secretariat; (2) development and testing of scripts to run on data from the CITES Trade Database; (3) development of a CITES compliance tool to view or download results and automated outputs to check and monitor non-compliance; and (4) support for the Secretariat in using the tool and in preparing a related report for consideration by relevant CITES bodies (e.g. CITES Authorities, Standing Committee, Conference of the Parties).  
USFWS: \$93,200<sup>16</sup>                      Leveraged Funds: \$0

## MULTIPLE COUNTRIES – REGIONAL

### CWT17106

#### Grant # F17AP00831

***Equipping pangolin range states to better implement CITES and combat wildlife trafficking through developing monitoring methodologies.*** In partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The purpose of this project is to equip pangolin range states to better implement the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and combat wildlife trafficking through developing species-specific monitoring methodologies. This project is intended to conserve pangolins by developing monitoring methods that should enable pangolin range states to more effectively determine the status of pangolin populations, to identify priority areas for their conservation, and to better protect populations from wildlife trafficking. Specific activities include: (1) conducting systematic literature reviews on pangolin ecology, biology, and natural history, and on monitoring methods used to date and methods used to monitor ecologically similar species; (2) developing a questionnaire on potentially new, existing, and adapted methodologies for monitoring pangolin populations to be completed by IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Pangolin Specialist Group members and a wide range of biodiversity survey experts globally; (3) using the results of the literature reviews and questionnaire, hold a three-day workshop to develop methodologies for

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<sup>16</sup> Funded by USFWS CWT Resource Management funds.

each of the eight species of pangolin, focusing on the ability to (i) determine presence or absence of pangolins at the site level, and (ii) undertake long-term monitoring of populations; (4) producing guidance documents on the methods developed for dissemination to CITES Parties and other stakeholders; (5) documenting the methods developed in peer-reviewed scientific journal publications; and (6) presenting the methods developed at the next CITES meeting.

USFWS: \$81,862<sup>17</sup>                      Leveraged Funds: \$0

## **MULTIPLE COUNTRIES – REGIONAL**

### **CWT 17107**

#### **Grant # F17AP00782**

***Support for implementing COP-17 CITES-listed timber species: Development of a rosewood assessment diagnostic toolkit.*** In partnership with the World Resources Institute. The purpose of this project is to develop range state capacity to effectively implement CITES CoP17 rosewood listings that were introduced at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora's 17<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (CITES CoP17). In the face of the booming illegal trade and its threat to rosewood species across the planet, the Parties at CoP17 agreed to list the entire Dalbergia genus (some 250 species, including many of the most prized rosewoods), *Pterocarpus erinaceus* (Kosso, a highly exploited rosewood species from West Africa) and three Guibourtia species (bubinga, another rosewood-like species) to CITES Appendix II. As a rapid-response first step towards this goal, this project aims to develop the prototype for a "Rosewood Strategic Assessment Diagnostic" (ROSAD) Toolkit for use by authorities, stakeholders, and donors in CITES-listed rosewood range states and their donor and technical partners, in strengthening capacities to implement the CoP17 rosewood listings. Specific activities include: (1) collecting data through desk and online research and analysis; (2) consulting with CITES Scientific and Management Authorities, the CITES Secretariat, scientific and technical experts on rosewood species and wood identification, and private sector and civil society stakeholders; and (3) production of a draft ROSAD Toolkit prototype that is ready for peer review and field validation.

USFWS: \$100,000                      Leveraged Funds: \$0

## **Modifications to existing grants**

### **PERU**

#### **CWT16135**

#### **Grant # F16AP01095**

***Strengthening enforcement to combat wildlife trafficking in Peru through the generation of information on trafficking routes.*** In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. This modification is to extend the period of performance by three months and provide additional funding needed to complete the work plan and project activities, which were disrupted by recent flooding events in Peru. The additional funds will support staff and operating costs for the additional time.

USFWS: \$10,136                      Leveraged Funds: \$0

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<sup>17</sup> Funded by USFWS CWT Resource Management funds.

## **SOUTH AFRICA**

### **CWT1639**

#### **Grant # F16AP01062**

***Protecting wild populations of Encephalartos cycad species and strengthening law enforcement capacity by harnessing forensic capabilities.*** In partnership with the Endangered Wildlife Trust.

This modification is for a 12-month extension to continue to implement work to protect critically endangered cycads in South Africa. While currently funded activities are on track for completion, it has become apparent that additional steps are necessary to ensure the safety of the remaining populations of cycad species and capitalize on the work already achieved. Additional proposed activities include: (1) application of technology, research, and best practices to three sites with critically endangered cycad species at most risk of poaching, with each site piloting 24/7 monitoring and early detection technology; (2) provision of equipment for the University of Johannesburg, as the custodian of the cycad DNA reference library and forensics lab for enforcement agencies, to support ongoing collection of cycad samples and their long-term storage under chain of evidence; (3) awareness-raising for members of the public, landowners, and other stakeholders, expanding on current efforts to raise awareness of state prosecutors and magistrates; and (4) a full and robust monitoring and evaluation exercise, based on the entire project and all activities, and production of a final report on all the activities in this project and their successes and/or failures, areas for improvement, and recommendations for improved delivery strategies.

USFWS: \$99,840

Leveraged Funds: \$0

## **TANZANIA**

### **CWT16172**

#### **Grant # F16AP01076**

***Investigation into the potential use of African giant pouched rats (Cricetomys ansorgei) to detect illegal timber and pangolins in shipping containers.*** In partnership with the Endangered Wildlife Trust. This modification is for a 12-month extension to continue to implement Activity 3 of the original agreement: Assessing the best operational option for the rats to detect hardwoods and pangolins in containers. As work began on this activity, it became apparent that there was a need to create a dialogue with the expertise of various port authorities and researchers to better guide this last phase to operationalize this innovative wildlife trafficking detection program.

These additional funds will cover the cost of a two-day workshop to convene these stakeholders, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Attaché based in Tanzania.

USFWS: \$25,586

Leveraged Funds: \$0