

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of International Conservation
Marine Turtle Conservation Fund
FY 2018 Summary of Projects**

In FY 2018, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) awarded \$2,341,095 through the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund, leveraging \$5,052,300 in additional matching funds. In total, Congress appropriated \$1,507,000 to the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund and \$150,000 through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and additional funds were provided by other sources, as identified below. These funds supported 49 projects in 32 countries, including six projects in two or more countries as indicated below.

New grants

BANGLADESH

MT1843

Award # F18AP00325

Community-based sea turtle restoration program in Bangladesh. In partnership with the Marinelifelife Alliance. This project will implement a sea turtle conservation program in Bangladesh. The intent is to address threats from poaching of eggs and accidental capture and mortality in coastal gill net and trawl fisheries. Activities include: (1) training community members to conduct nesting beach surveys and nest protection along the 250 km coast of Cox's Bazar and Parki beach; (2) working with fishermen to implement best practices to reduce sea turtle capture, injury, and mortality; (3) preparing educational and outreach materials and conducting education and awareness programs with local communities, fishermen, and schools; and (4) completing construction of a sea turtle rehabilitation center for turtles injured by boats or accidental capture in nets or trawls, which will also serve as an education center for local people and attraction for tourists.

USFWS: \$55,850

Leveraged Funds: \$56,320

CAMBODIA

MT1810

Award # F18AP00209

Strengthening marine turtle conservation and critical habitat protection in Cambodia. In partnership with Fauna and Flora International. The purpose of this project is to support the development of a marine turtle conservation program in Cambodia. This project addresses several threats to marine turtles, including nesting beach development, nest poaching, and fisheries bycatch. Activities include: (1) in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Administration, continuing implementation of the National Conservation Action Plan developed in 2015 with Marine Turtle Conservation Fund support; (2) conducting nesting surveys to assess the status of nesting at historically known nesting sites; (3) continuing a gear replacement/sea turtle bycatch reduction project with small-scale fisheries organizations; (4) conducting safe handling and release training workshops with fisheries in high-threat interaction

zones; (5) organizing community fishery patrols to reduce and deter illegal fishing in areas of known high sea turtle bycatch; (6) conducting education and outreach activities in select coastal communities where sea turtle/human interactions are greatest; and (7) organizing and conducting a regional capacity building and data sharing workshop in Cambodia with sea turtle teams from Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam.

USFWS: \$81,173

Leveraged Funds: \$35,314

CAPE VERDE

MT1808

Award # F18AP00208

Protection of loggerhead turtles in Cabo Verde. In partnership with *Associação Projeto Biodiversidade*. The purpose of this project is to implement nesting beach conservation programs on the most important loggerhead nesting beaches on the island of Sal, Cape Verde. The Cape Verde loggerhead population is the third largest in the world. The intention is to prevent killing of nesting females for meat and poaching of nests on all of the important nesting beaches and to diminish light pollution impacts on hatchlings on the Sal beaches, which are the most developed beaches throughout Cape Verde. Activities include: (1) night patrols on key nesting beaches and relocation of vulnerable nests to hatcheries; (2) education and outreach activities with local schools, youth groups, businesses, and other groups; and (3) organizing and hosting the annual meeting of the Cape Verde National Network for Marine Turtle Conservation (TAOLA).

USFWS: \$53,800

Leveraged Funds: \$215,313

COSTA RICA

MT1851

Award # F18AP00327

Conservation and monitoring program of leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) sea turtles that nest the North Pacific beaches of Costa Rica: Langosta, Nombre de Jesús, Real, Honda y Zapotill. In partnership with *Fundecodes*. The purpose of this project is to implement a conservation program for the East Pacific leatherback nesting population in Costa Rica. The East Pacific population was the world's largest in the 1980s, with an estimated 150,000 nests annually in Mexico and 10,000 nests annually in Costa Rica. The population has declined precipitously due to poaching of nests (and in Mexico nesting females also) and fisheries bycatch. Now fewer than 1,000 nests are recorded each year in Mexico and fewer than 200 in Costa Rica, and this project is critical to preventing the extirpation of this population. The intention of this project is to protect leatherback nests from poaching, predators, and tidal inundation. Activities include: (1) training field teams to conduct nighttime nesting surveys and protection patrols at several of the key remaining nesting sites; Playa Langosta, Playa Nombre de Jesús, Zapotilla, Honda, and Real; (2) relocating nests to safe beach hatcheries; and (3) environmental education and outreach in local schools with field trips and a turtle festival.

USFWS: \$39,222¹

Leveraged Funds: \$2,210

¹ Funded by proceeds from sales of the Save Vanishing Species stamp.

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

MT1837

Award # F18AP00319

Conservation of sea turtles of Ivory Coast. In partnership with *Conservation des Espèces Marines*. The purpose of this project is to implement a sea turtle conservation project in Ivory Coast. Ivory Coast hosts important olive ridley, green, and leatherback nesting beaches, and important foraging grounds for several sea turtle species. The intent of this project is to address threats to sea turtles from poaching and fisheries bycatch mortality. Activities include: (1) conducting community-based night patrols along the 30 km Roc-Mani-Kablake Beach and 8 km Asseoufoué beach throughout the marine turtle nesting season to prevent poaching of nests and nesting females; (2) relocating nests threatened by tides to safe beach hatcheries; and (3) working with fishermen to safely release turtles caught in gill nets in the Grand Bereby area.

USFWS: \$25,000

Leveraged Funds: \$293,380

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

MT1842

Award # F18AP00324

Sea turtle conservation in Equatorial Guinea. In partnership with Equatorial Guinea's national institute for forestry development and protected area management (*Instituto Nacional de Desarrollo Forestal y Manejo del Sistema de Áreas Protegidas*, or INDEFOR-AP). The purpose of this project is to implement a sea turtle conservation program in Equatorial Guinea. Equatorial Guinea's sea turtle populations on the mainland are depleted due to overexploitation, but the country is home to important coastal foraging habitats for several species of sea turtles that originate from larger nesting populations in neighboring countries, and contains Bioko Island, which hosts regionally significant green turtle and leatherback nesting populations. The intention is to address threats from illegal poaching of nesting turtles and nests in protected areas and to assess sea turtle bycatch capture and mortality from fishing. Activities include: (1) conducting patrols to protect nests and nesting females at Punta Illende Natural Reserve (5 km), Río Campo Natural Reserve (7 km) and Nendyi Scientific Reserve (4 km); (2) conducting a training seminar for 15 participants on sea turtle biology and identification, data collection, field technology/equipment use, wildlife laws, enforcement procedures, and sea turtle conservation; (3) outreach and education campaigns with local schools, fishermen, in urban locations, and with national authorities; and (4) collecting data on the mainland's coastline to assess levels of harvesting and bycatch of marine turtles.

USFWS: \$43,500²

Leveraged Funds: \$30,000

GUATAMALA

MT1846

Award # F18AP00326

Strengthening sea turtle conservation and assisting CONAP in meeting Guatemala's IAC commitments. In partnership with the Wildlife Rescue and Conservation Association (ARCAS).

² Of this, \$41,353 was funded through the Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE).

The purpose of this project is to implement a sea turtle conservation program in Guatemala. The intent is to protect sea turtles and their nests from poaching and depredation and to assist the government of Guatemala in complying with its obligations under the Inter-American Sea Turtle Convention (IAC) regarding exceptions for sustainable harvest of eggs. Activities include: (1) conducting nest monitoring surveys at eight index beaches to assess long-term population trends; (2) strengthening hatchery management through capacity building workshops to improve hatching success; and (3) working with the National Council of Protected Areas (CONAP) and the IAC to develop a management plan for the sustainable harvest of olive ridley eggs.
USFWS: \$24,955³ Leveraged Funds: \$17,245

INDIA

MT1819

Award # F18AP00215

Continue a community-based sea turtle conservation program and integrate related enforcement departments for better advocacy in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha, India. In partnership with the Tree Foundation. The purpose of this project is to conduct community-based sea turtle conservation projects along nesting beaches on the Bay of Bengal, India. The intent of this project is to protect nests and nesting turtles (primarily olive ridleys) from poaching, and to reduce the accidental capture and mortality of sea turtles in fishing trawls. Activities include: (1) conducting daily surveys to protect nests and nesting turtles along over 500 km, encompassing 173 villages, during the December to May nesting season to protect an estimated 6,000 nests; (2) conducting outreach and education in 111 fishing communities to address sea turtle bycatch impacting the major olive ridley arribada nesting populations in the State of Orissa, India; (3) conducting capacity-building workshops to train 1,000 enforcement officers from wildlife and fisheries institutions, Coast Guard, and Marine Police in the laws and regulations protecting marine life and systems, and to strengthen collaboration among the institutions; and (4) conducting joint turtle excluder device (TED) demonstration workshops for trawl fisheries with the Fisheries and Forestry Department.

USFWS: \$21,600 Leveraged Funds: \$181,110

MT1841

Award # F18AP00323

Advancing the conservation of sea turtles in India at a national scale through the monitoring of index sites, and coordination of coastal management efforts with a network of partners. In partnership with the Dakshin Foundation. The purpose of this project is to implement a conservation program for sea turtles in India. The intent is to strengthen and better coordinate the activities of a network of organizations (Turtle Action Group–TAG) and groups carrying out sea turtle conservation on the mainland and remote islands of India as well as implementing direct on-the-ground conservation programs for the globally significant olive ridley mass nesting population at Rushikulya and the leatherback population in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Activities include: (1) conducting an annual census of the large olive ridley mass nesting population at Rushikulya with partners; (2) strengthening the program to monitor and protect the leatherback nesting colony in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands; (3) conducting training

³ Of this, \$2,984 was funded by proceeds from sales of the Save Vanishing Species stamp.

programs for capacity building within the TAG to improve organizational strengths and conservation impacts; and (4) designing and developing educational materials and displays in collaboration with the Forest Department.

USFWS: \$76,780

Leveraged Funds: \$171,000

INDONESIA

MT1816

Award # F18AP00213

Conservation of Pacific leatherback turtle in the Bird's Head region of West Papua, Indonesia. In partnership with *Lembaga Penelitian dan Pengabdian Masyarakat – Universitas Papua (UNIPA)*. The purpose of this project is to carry out a nesting beach conservation program for the Western Pacific leatherback population in Indonesia. The intent is to conduct community-based nest protection programs to prevent pig and dog nest depredation and loss of nests to erosion and tidal inundation. This region hosts 75 percent of the remaining Western Pacific leatherback nesting population, which has experienced a dramatic decline in last three decades. Activities include: (1) daily nighttime patrols on the 18 km Jamursba Beach and 6 km Wemon Beach to count nests and nesting females; (2) pig hunts by community members to reduce the pig population; (3) relocating nests threatened by tides or erosion to safe beach locations and enclosing nests to prevent pig depredation; (4) conducting outreach and awareness programs in local communities and schools and a Turtle Camp for children; and (5) providing service to the community, such as having field team members work with school children to increase reading, writing, and math skills through after-school programs and with marketing of agricultural and hunting products.

USFWS: \$89,972⁴

Leveraged Funds: \$142,079

LIBERIA

MT1834

Award # F18AP00316

Liberia sea turtle project: Support for community-based marine turtle conservation project in Little Bassa and Borgor Point. In partnership with Sea Turtle Watch. The purpose of this project is to develop a sea turtle conservation program in Liberia with on-the-ground community-based conservation projects. Liberia's nesting sea turtle populations are depleted from overexploitation, but the country has important foraging grounds along its entire coastline and nesting beach habitat is intact and suitable for recovering sea turtle populations. The intent is to work with local communities to protect turtles on nesting beaches from poaching and work with fishermen to safely release sea turtles accidentally captured in fishing gear. Activities include: (1) training community members to conduct daily patrols along 18 km of beach in River Cess County to count and protect nests and nesting females; (2) training community members in the communities of Bassa Point, Little Bassa, and Edina to conduct daily patrols to count and protect nesting sea turtles and nests during the nesting season; (3) training monitors to collect sea turtle bycatch data at strategic fisherman landing sites and to teach fishermen safe handling and release

⁴ Of this, \$12,718 was funded through an agreement with the National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Department of Commerce.

techniques for accidentally captured turtles; (4) environmental education programs at local schools; and (5) assisting communities to develop alternative livelihood sources as a replacement from traditional consumption of turtles and eggs.

USFWS: \$49,000

Leveraged Funds: \$30,464

MAURITANIA

MT1836

Award # F18AP00318

Community-based efforts to evaluate intentional and unintentional sea turtle catch in local fisheries along the Mauritanian coastline. In partnership with *Chélonée*. The purpose of this project is to assess directed and accidental sea turtle bycatch in artisanal fisheries along the Mauritanian coast. Mauritania's 750 km coast provides rich and extensive foraging grounds for five species of sea turtles, including loggerhead sea turtles from Cape Verde nesting grounds and olive ridleys, leatherbacks, and green turtles from unknown nesting populations. The intent of this project is to identify the main fisheries and techniques with the highest level of sea turtle bycatch and to identify measures to reduce this bycatch. Activities include: (1) surveying fishermen in coastal villages and immigrant fisher camps to determine fishing sites, target fish, type of gear, and sea turtle bycatch; (2) placing onboard observers on voluntary fishing vessels to document bycatch and teach fishermen about safe handling and release techniques; and (3) working with Imraguen native fishermen to reach an agreement on the use of fishing techniques that will reduce accidental captures without disturbing their traditional way of fishing.

USFWS: \$10,800

Leveraged Funds: \$2,000

MEXICO

MT1800

Award # F18AP00202

Mexico/United States of America population restoration project for the Kemp's ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*), on the coasts of Tamaulipas, Mexico. In partnership with the Valley Zoological Society. The purpose of this project is to support the Mexico-U.S. binational Kemp's ridley sea turtle conservation project in Mexico. This project addresses the threats to nests from poaching, nest depredation, and tidal inundation on the six main nesting beaches in the State of Tamaulipas. Activities include: (1) conducting daily patrols and nest relocation to hatcheries; and (2) assisting the Mexico Commission of Protected Areas with outreach and education activities with local communities.

USFWS: \$25,000⁵

Leveraged Funds: \$475,000

MT1804

Award # F18AP00205

Evaluation of the reproductive biology of the Kemp's ridley sea turtle at Rancho Nuevo, Mexico: Implications for conservation and ecology. In partnership with the University of Alabama. The purpose of this project is to support the Mexico-U.S. binational Kemp's ridley conservation project in Mexico. The intent of this project is to assess nesting beach management

⁵ Funded by proceeds from sales of the Save Vanishing Species stamp.

practices, nesting female reproductive output, and predator threats to nests, to inform and improve management practices and enhance population recovery. Activities include assessing: (1) sex ratios and temperatures in hatchery and in-situ nests; (2) hatching fitness in hatchery and in-situ nests; (3) arribada size, using drones; and (4) predator threats to in-situ nests.

USFWS: \$20,398⁶ Leveraged Funds: \$37,125

MT1815

Award # F18AP00212

Conservation of the Japanese-nesting loggerhead turtle: Mortality assessment and conservation outreach at the Baja California Sur, Mexico juvenile foraging area. In partnership with *Grupo Tortuguero de las Californias*. The purpose of this project is to support conservation efforts in Baja California, Mexico to protect a critical loggerhead population. The intent of this project is to monitor sea turtle strandings on the Pacific coast of Baja California, Mexico as a means to assess accidental bycatch mortality in fisheries operating in the Pacific Baja on critical foraging grounds for the Japan-nesting loggerhead population. The data from these surveys are critical to inform management decisions of Baja fisheries that interact with loggerheads on the foraging grounds. The United States, Mexico, and Japan are currently working together on a recovery plan for this population and this project has been identified as a high priority for overall conservation of this population. Activities include: (1) daily beach surveys during May to September and bi-weekly surveys during October-April along 43 km of ocean beaches of Baja Mexico; and (2) sharing results of the surveys and assessment at the annual meeting of *Grupo Tortugero*.

USFWS: \$28,359⁷ Leveraged Funds: \$88,967

MT1831

Award # F18AP00314

Population recovery of leatherback sea turtle (*Demochelys coriacea*) in Michocán. In partnership with *Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolas de Hidalgo*. The purpose of this project is to implement a conservation program for the East Pacific leatherback nesting population in Mexico during the 2018-19 nesting season. This population was the world's largest in the 1980s but due to killing of nesting females, overharvest of eggs, and accidental capture in gill net and longline fisheries, it has been reduced to less than 1,000 nests each year in Mexico. Mexico historically accounted for 90 percent of the East Pacific nesting population. The intent of this project is to implement a nesting beach conservation program on two key nesting beaches in Mexico to protect nests. Activities include: (1) patrolling Mexiquillo and Las Placitas nesting beaches at night throughout the nesting season to deter poaching and count nests to monitor nesting trends; and (2) relocating nests threatened by poaching and tidal inundation to secure beach hatcheries.

USFWS: \$32,000 Leveraged Funds: \$3,000

⁶ Funded through an agreement with the National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Department of Commerce.

⁷ Funded through an agreement with the National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Department of Commerce.

MT1838

Award # F18AP00320

Conservation of the leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) in the Mexican Pacific. In partnership with Kutzari, *Asociación para el Estudio y Conservación de las Tortugas Marinas*. The purpose of this project is to implement a conservation program for the East Pacific leatherback nesting population in Mexico. This population was the world's largest in the 1980s but due to killing of nesting females, overharvest of eggs, and accidental capture in gill net and longline fisheries, it has been reduced to less than 1,000 nests each year in Mexico. Mexico historically accounted for 90 percent of the East Pacific nesting population. The intent of this project is to implement a nesting beach conservation program on three primary and two secondary nesting beaches in Mexico to protect nests from poaching, depredation, and tidal inundation. Activities include: (1) patrolling Tierra Colorada, Cahuitan, Barra de la Cruz, San Juan Chacahua, and Bahía de Chacahua nesting beaches at night throughout the nesting season to deter poaching and count nests to monitor nesting trends; and (2) relocating nests threatened by poaching and tidal inundation to secure beach hatcheries.

USFWS: \$66,305

Leveraged Funds: \$423,159

MYANMAR

MT1835

Award # F18AP00317

Phase II: Building capacity for the assessment and conservation of Myanmar marine turtle populations. In partnership with Fauna and Flora International. The purpose of this project is to support a partnership of government, university, non-governmental organization (NGO), private, and community stakeholders to develop a sea turtle conservation program in Myanmar to recover depleted but historically important regional populations of olive ridley, green, and hawksbill sea turtles. The intent is to support a newly formed sea turtle working group of these aforementioned partners to develop a national and grassroots conservation program to address the threats of poaching of eggs and turtles and threats of bycatch from artisanal and industrial fisheries. Activities include: (1) organizing the annual meeting of the Marine Turtle Working Group with government, NGO, university, and private sea turtle stakeholders; (2) conducting training workshops for sea turtle surveyors in three regional locations on the coast; (3) implementing monitoring and nest protection programs at six key nesting sites; (4) developing education and awareness materials about the protected status of sea turtles, threats, and safe release of accidentally captured sea turtles in fishing gear, and distributing this to fishermen, traders, and at schools; (5) continuing to assess hatchery management practices, and implementing best management practices; and (6) facilitating the drafting of a National Action Plan with all key stakeholders.

USFWS: \$25,703

Leveraged Funds: \$7,476

NICARAGUA

MT1801

Award # F18AP00203

Conservation of hawksbill turtles along the southeast coast of Nicaragua. In partnership with Cynthia Jean Lageux. The purpose of this project is to conduct a community-based sea turtle

conservation project between the mouths of the Karaslaya and Indio/San Juan rivers, an area which hosts some of the most important hawksbill nesting in Caribbean Nicaragua. The intent of this project is to protect nests and nesting turtles from poaching. Activities include: (1) training local community members to conduct twice-weekly surveys during May through October along 36 km of nesting beach to count nests and deter poaching; (2) conducting a seven-day field and classroom-based sea turtle course for four upper class students and a faculty member from Blue Fields Indian and Caribbean University; and (3) conducting outreach, education, and awareness activities with municipal and communal authorities and local communities.

USFWS: \$25,129⁸

Leveraged Funds: \$93,360

OMAN

MT1807

Award # F18AP00207

Marine turtle research and conservation, Masirah Island, Oman. In partnership with the Environment Society of Oman. The purpose of this project is to support conservation efforts for the Oman loggerhead nesting population, which is one of the two largest in the world. The U.S. and Oman loggerhead nesting populations account for about 75 percent of all global loggerhead nesting. The intent of this project is to support surveys to monitor loggerhead nesting population trends, identify nesting beach threats, and protect nesting and hatchling sea turtles from nesting beach trash and abandoned fishing nets. Activities include: (1) implementing standardized nesting beach surveys along entire 65 km of nesting beach (initiated in 2008 through an Oman Ministry of Environment/USFWS collaboration); and (2) conducting one general community/municipal beach cleanup and two fishing net cleanups during 2018.

USFWS: \$83,641

Leveraged Funds: \$236,830

PORTUGAL

MT1839

Award # F18AP00321

Consolidating sea turtle conservation in the Azores 4 (COSTA 4). In partnership with *Instituto do Mar*. The purpose of the project is to collaborate with fishermen and the Azores Regional Directorate of Marine Affairs to protect and recover the Northwest Atlantic loggerhead nesting population. This nesting population is the largest loggerhead population in the world and nests primarily in the Southeast U.S. with lesser nesting in Mexico, the Bahamas, and Cuba. Hatchlings from nesting beaches passively migrate to the Eastern Atlantic on the Florida current, where they spend several years as juveniles before migrating by to Northwest Atlantic coastal waters. The Azores represent particularly important foraging grounds for juvenile loggerheads, where they interact with longline fisheries operations and experience accidental capture causing injury and mortality. The intent of this project is to reduce mortality of loggerheads from longline fisheries. Activities include: (1) placing two observers on longline fishing vessels for 12 months to collect additional bycatch data; (2) analyzing these data and previously collected bycatch data to identify critical interaction zones; (3) restructuring the turtle tagging activities in cooperation with local partners and expanding the tagging program with new partners; and (4)

⁸ Funded through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

promoting best practices for safe handling and release of accidentally captured turtles by longline fishermen through training workshops and brochures.

USFWS: \$47,721

Leveraged Funds: \$158,799

SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE

MT1840

Award # F18AP00322

Strengthening conservation of sea turtle populations and empowering local communities into sea turtle guardians and conservation leaders in São Tomé Island, Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe.

In partnership with *Associação Programa Tatô*. The purpose of this project is to implement a sea turtle conservation program in São Tomé And Príncipe primarily focused on protecting and recovery of the hawksbill population. São Tomé and Príncipe host the largest hawksbill nesting population along the African Atlantic coast. The intent is to protect hawksbill and other sea turtles from poaching for meat, eggs, and shells. Activities include: (1) conducting a six-day training workshop for all staff, rangers, and field assistants on sea turtle biology and field techniques, ecotourism, and communication skills; (2) conducting daily nighttime patrols on 22 km of the main hawksbill nesting beaches of São Tomé during the nesting season from September to April; (3) relocating nests as necessary to hatcheries to protect from poaching, predators, and erosion; (4) conducting education and awareness activities with local communities; 5) supporting the Sea Turtle Women Traders Association in developing skills to produce t-shirts, bags, and other souvenirs as alternative livelihood activities.

USFWS: \$24,748⁹

Leveraged Funds: \$17,288

SIERRA LEONE

MT1832

Award # F18AP00315

Continued development of a community-based marine turtle conservation program for Sierra Leone and leatherback conservation initiative at Turtle, Bonthe/Sherbro Islands and the Southern Shoreline.

In partnership with the Reptile and Amphibian Program. The purpose of this project is to develop a marine turtle conservation program within Sierra Leone. The intent is to develop on-the-ground conservation projects to raise awareness about the threats from poaching and accidental bycatch in fisheries to the depleted sea turtle populations. This project will provide leadership in organizing and implementing sea turtle conservation programs with the national government and local communities to protect and recover sea turtle nesting populations within Sierra Leone. Activities include: (1) conducting community-based nesting beach patrols during November to April in the Turtle Islands, Sherbro Island, and Turner's Peninsula to protect nests and nesting females from poaching; (2) collaborating with artisanal fishermen to monitor bycatch and provide training for safe release of captured sea turtles; and (3) conducting community outreach and education programs in coastal communities and national awareness campaigns about the protected status of sea turtles and their conservation needs.

USFWS: \$73,600

Leveraged Funds: \$46,500

⁹ Funded through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

SOLOMON ISLANDS

MT1823

Award # F18AP00312

Expanding community-based marine turtle conservation in the Solomon Islands. In partnership with Conservation International. The purpose of this project is to implement a leatherback conservation program in the Solomon Islands. The West Pacific leatherback population has declined rapidly in the last two decades due to overexploitation of eggs and turtles and accidental capture and mortality in gill net fisheries. The intent of this project is to protect nests and nesting females on the beaches of Visunarouru, southeastern Guadalcanal. Activities include: (1) training community members from villages along the southeast Guadalcanal coast in survey and nest protection techniques; (2) developing a sea turtle conservation action plan with community members; and (3) education and awareness of the leatherback conservation status and needs with local communities.

USFWS: \$24,998

Leveraged Funds: \$0

SPAIN

MT1812

Award # F18AP00211

Conservation of the loggerhead turtle in the Western Mediterranean: coordinated solutions for the bycatch reduction in the foraging population of the Comunidad Valenciana (Spain). In partnership with *Asociación Chelonia*. The purpose and intent of this project is to work with Spanish gill net and trawl fishers to reduce mortality and injury to accidentally captured sea turtles along the Spanish Mediterranean coast. Juvenile loggerheads from the U.S. nesting population account for about half of loggerheads interacting with fisheries in the Western Mediterranean. Activities include: (1) continuing the evaluation of sea turtle bycatch in artisanal fisheries operating out of three Valencia community ports using on-board observers; (2) continuing analysis of maritime recreational fishing and sea turtle bycatch; (3) engaging 22 fisherman associations to prepare a strategy for the reduction of sea turtle bycatch from fishing vessels operating out of Valencia community ports; and (4) supporting awareness, education, and outreach efforts directed towards fishing communities, including the publication of “The Turtle Gazette” with topics of practical interest to fishermen as well as sea turtle conservation messaging.

USFWS: \$27,985

Leveraged Funds: \$79,329

THAILAND

MT1806

Award # F18AP00206

Rapid nesting and threats assessments for the recovery of hawksbill nesting in the Gulf of Thailand. In partnership with the Loma Linda University. The purpose of this project is to identify remnant hawksbill nesting populations along 500 km of the coast of Thailand in which to establish community-based conservation programs. The intent of this project is to protect hawksbill nests and nesting females from poaching. Activities include: (1) synthesizing all reported hawksbill nesting within the past five years; (2) visiting communities where nesting has

been reported to confirm recent or current nesting and threats through interviews and to conduct nighttime surveys; (3) during community visits, documenting the presence and sale of hawksbill shell and other sea turtle products; and (4) supporting four Thai representatives to participate in a regional training workshop in Cambodia on sea turtle biology and conservation methods.

USFWS: \$17,003

Leveraged Funds: \$100,248

TURKEY

MT1818

Award # F18AP00214

Developing a conservation project to address sea turtle bycatch mortality in Mediterranean coast of Turkey. In partnership with *Pamukkale Üniversitesi*. The purpose of this project is to develop a sea turtle conservation program to address fisheries bycatch issues near the main loggerhead nesting beaches in Turkey. Activities will include: (1) placing two onboard observers on fishing boats to gather information on fishing operations, gear, and sea turtle captures on the far eastern and western Turkish Mediterranean coast; (2) deploying GPS tracking devices with volunteer fishermen to determine main fishing areas and “hotspots;” (3) testing LED lights as bycatch reduction measures; (4) implementing an awareness and outreach campaign for safe release and handling of turtles accidentally captured in net, trawl, or longline fisheries and new techniques to reduce captures; and (5) conducting in-water netting surveys to assess the sea turtle population structure on foraging grounds.

USFWS: \$30,000

Leveraged Funds: \$34,600

VIETNAM

MT1811

Award # F18AP00210

Facilitating regional cooperation through intergovernmental processes: the 8th meeting of the IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU Advisory Committee and 8th Meeting of the Signatories (MOS8). In partnership with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals. The purpose of this award is to support regional capacity building and inter-governmental coordination and cooperation of marine turtle conservation efforts in Southeast Asia and the Indian Ocean. The intent of this grant is to provide travel support to increase participation of member countries less able financially to participate in the next Conference of the Parties (CoP) of the Indian Ocean Southeast Asia MOU (IOSEA). The IOSEA CoP, hosted by the government of Vietnam, will be held in the Fall of 2018 to discuss an agenda of conservation issues such as trafficking of sea turtle products, a protected area network, fisheries bycatch, and the status of conservation efforts within the region. There are 45 member countries in the IOSEA, including the United States.

USFWS: \$25,000

Leveraged Funds: \$171,401

MULTIPLE COUNTRIES: CHILE, COSTA RICA, MEXICO, AND NICARAGUA

MT1802

Award # F18AP00204

Strengthening East Pacific leatherback conservation through regional coordination of monitoring, outreach, and policy efforts. In partnership with Conservation Science Partners. The purpose of the project is to strengthen the East Pacific leatherback conservation program throughout its range. The East Pacific leatherback nests in Mexico, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua, and migrates and forages along the East Pacific from Mexico south to Chile. The nesting population was once the largest in the world, with over 150,000 nests estimated in the early 1980s. This has plummeted to fewer than 1,500 nests annually. The intent of this project is to support the East Pacific leatherback conservation network (*Laud OPO*) in its efforts to improve nesting beach and bycatch reduction projects and to support the Secretariat of the Inter-American Sea Turtle Convention (IAC) in meetings with high-level government decision makers to address bycatch reduction measures in range state countries. Activities include: (1) ensuring that a regional database, website, and online library of best management practices is maintained for the East Pacific leatherback network; (2) facilitating the alignment of the IAC leatherback taskforce priorities with the East Pacific leatherback network as Chair of the IAC leatherback task force; (3) accompanying the IAC Secretariat as technical expert to regional fisheries meetings and meetings with high-level government officials to discuss East Pacific leatherback conservation and policy issues and to address leatherback fisheries bycatch; and (4) coordinating one East Pacific leatherback network workshop annually to review ongoing projects and activities and consult about problems and needs.

USFWS: \$73,948

Leveraged Funds: \$0

MULTIPLE COUNTRIES: ECUADOR AND EL SALVADOR

MT1828

Award # F18AP00313

Vital support for hawksbills in the eastern Pacific Ocean: Year V of conservation at top-tier nesting beaches. In partnership with The Ocean Foundation. The purpose of this project is to implement a conservation program in El Salvador and Ecuador that will contribute to the recovery of the East Pacific hawksbill population, the smallest and most endangered hawksbill nesting population in the world. The intent of this project is to conduct community-based nesting beach conservation projects on four of the most important nesting beaches in El Salvador and Ecuador. Activities include: (1) conducting community-based patrols to deter poaching of nesting females and eggs, and counting of nests to monitor population trends at Los Cobanos and Punta Amapala in El Salvador, and Machalilla and El Pelado in Ecuador; and (2) relocation of nests threatened by poaching or tidal inundation to safe beach hatcheries.

USFWS: \$52,600

Leveraged Funds: \$54,560

MULTIPLE COUNTRIES – REGIONAL

MT1821

Award # F18AP00311

Strengthening regional sea turtle conservation through the support of Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC). In partnership with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation. The purpose of this project is to support the implementation of the Inter-American Sea Turtle Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) with 15 member Parties including the United States. The intent is to promote regional collaboration and cooperation of sea turtle conservation within the Western Hemisphere. Activities include: (1) convening of a Conference of the Parties in June 2019 and support for associated travel and translation expenses; (2) travel support to meet with high-level governmental decision makers in range state countries of the highly endangered East Pacific leatherback sea turtle to discuss measures to minimize accidental capture of leatherbacks in artisanal and industrial fisheries; and (3) bringing fishermen from foraging ground countries to nesting beaches in Mexico to develop a better understanding of the range-wide conservation efforts underway and the critical importance of fishermen community engagement in solutions to recover the East Pacific leatherback.

USFWS: \$52,409

Leveraged Funds: \$29,000

Modifications to existing grants

BARBADOS

MT1723

Award # F17AP00184

Conserving hawksbill sea turtles and their beach habitats in Barbados. In partnership with the University of West Indies. The purpose of this project is to implement conservation programs at key hawksbill nesting beaches in Barbados, which hosts one of the three largest hawksbill nesting populations in the Caribbean. The intent is to detect nesting population trends on a key hawksbill index beach for the Caribbean, and to protect hawksbill nests and nesting females from poaching and hatchlings from mortality due to light disorientation from coastal development. Specific activities include: (1) conducting daily patrols and nest surveys on key hawksbill nesting beaches; (2) maintaining a 24-hour response call-in line for the public and local businesses to report and get assistance for disoriented hatchlings and other emergencies related to sea turtles; and (3) conducting outreach and education regarding sea turtle conservation issues with coastal property owners, developers, and managers.

USFWS: \$32,000¹⁰

Leveraged Funds: \$101,480

¹⁰ Funded through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

CAPE VERDE

MT1711

Award # F17AP00178

Joining forces to protect the endangered loggerhead sea turtles of Boa Vista. In partnership with the Turtle Foundation. The purpose of this project is to implement nesting beach conservation programs for loggerheads along 30 km of beach that hosts about one third of the nesting population on Boa Vista. Boa Vista hosts about 80 percent of the Cape Verde nesting population. The intent of this project is to protect nesting loggerheads from the illegal harvest of nests and nesting females. The Cape Verde loggerhead nesting population is the third largest in the world. Activities include: (1) establishing two camps and one field station to support patrols at Norte, Canto, Boa Esperanca, Aqua Doce, Lacacao, Curral Velho, Ponta Pesqueira, Varandinha, and Santa Monica beaches, covering 29 km, which complements the coverage of two other USFWS-supported projects on the Island of Boa Vista; and (2) conducting outreach and education programs with local communities in coordination with the other USFWS-supported projects on Boa Vista.

USFWS: \$52,000¹¹ Leveraged Funds: \$511,662

MT1715

Award # F17AP00180

Conservation, protection, and management of the most important nesting beaches of Cape Verde loggerhead rookery involving local communities. In partnership with *Cabo Verde Natura 2000*. The purpose of this project is to implement a nesting beach conservation program on the island of Boa Vista, which includes about one third of the loggerhead nesting activity in Cape Verde. Cape Verde hosts the third largest loggerhead nesting population in the world. The intention of this project is to protect nesting loggerheads and nests from poaching. Activities include: (1) setting up two field camps to support daily patrols on Ervatao and Porto Ferreira beaches throughout the nesting season that will complement the nesting beach coverage of two other USFWS-supported projects; and (2) coordinating public awareness and education activities and community development projects that will be implemented by *Natura 2000* and the two other USFWS-funded projects on the Island of Boa Vista to ensure all of USFWS-supported activities among the Boa Vista grantees complement each other.

USFWS: \$58,089¹² Leveraged Funds: \$36,615

MT1732

Award # F17AP00190

Community-based sea turtle conservation in Maio Island, Cape Verde: Increasing the sense of ownership in local communities to further reduce the poaching of females and nests on land and at sea. In partnership with Maio Biodiversity Foundation. The purpose of this project is to implement nesting beach conservation programs and sea turtle bycatch reduction programs on the Island of Maio, Cape Verde. Maio has the second largest loggerhead island nesting population in Cape Verde and is one of the least-developed islands. The intent of this project is to prevent the poaching of nesting loggerheads for meat and the raiding of nests for eggs, and to

¹¹ Funded by U.S. Agency for International Development – Combating Wildlife Trafficking (USAID-CWT) funds.

¹² Funded by U.S. Agency for International Development – Combating Wildlife Trafficking (USAID-CWT) funds.

reduce the accidental and intentional capture of sea turtles in local fisheries. More organized and directed efforts to protect nesting females have resulted in a drop from an estimated poaching level of 60 percent of nesting females in 2012 to less than 5 percent annually in 2017. Activities include: (1) conducting community-based nighttime patrols throughout the nesting season on the six most important nesting beaches; (2) conducting an outreach program focused on assisting local fishermen with developing alternative livelihoods as well as integrating them into conservation programs including a “Guardians of the Sea” Program, where fishers partner with marine police to patrol and report illegal fishing activities which are harming Cape Verde's ability to maintain sustainable fisheries for Cape Verdeans; and (3) conducting an extensive community education outreach program to engage the 12 main local communities in sea turtle conservation issues and solutions.

USFWS: \$54,934¹³ Leveraged Funds: \$48,810

MT1734

Award # F17AP00191

Strengthening marine turtle conservation strategies in the Tartaruga Natural Reserve (Boa Vista, Cape Verde). In partnership with BIOS.CV. The purpose of this project is to implement a sea turtle conservation project on Joao Barrosa beach, one of the highest density loggerhead nesting beaches on Boa Vista, Cape Verde. This accounts for about 25 percent of nesting on the island and Boa Vista accounts for 80 per cent of the Cape Verde loggerhead nesting population which is the third largest in the world. The intention is to protect nesting females and nests from poaching. Activities include: (1) set up a field camp to support nightly patrols to deter poaching, count and nests relocate nests threatened by tidal inundation to a hatchery; and (2) conduct outreach and education activities with local communities in coordination with two other USFWS-supported projects. The Joao Barrosa camp complements those nesting beach conservation projects on Boa Vista conducted by two other USFWS-supported projects which together protect about 95 percent of the nesting on Boa Vista.

USFWS: \$24,000¹⁴ Leveraged Funds: \$229,315

GABON

MT1774

Award # F17AP01019

Conserving Gabon's endangered sea turtles. In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to support conservation efforts for the largest leatherback nesting population in the world and the largest olive ridley nesting population along the African Atlantic, both centered in Gabon. The intent is to address threats on the nesting beaches from poaching, light pollution, and logs which entrap nesting females and hatchlings, and to reduce sea turtle fisheries bycatch from fish and shrimp trawls, long line fishing vessels, and artisanal fishers. Specific activities to address these threats include: (1) training on-board observers for trawl and longline fishing vessels; (2) assisting with Turtle Excluder Device (TED) testing for fish trawls and shrimp trawler TED inspections; (3) working with Benga community fishers to describe the Benga fisheries in Corisco Bay to better address artisanal fisheries bycatch issues;

¹³ Funded by U.S. Agency for International Development – Combating Wildlife Trafficking (USAID-CWT) funds.

¹⁴ Of this, \$18,875 was funded by proceeds from sales of the Save Vanishing Species stamp.

(4) continuing to implement log removal efforts on all major nesting beaches; (5) conducting night patrols to protect nests from poaching and relocate nests threatened by high tides on National Parks and Reserves, which account for 80 percent of nesting activity within Gabon; (6) conducting annual aerial surveys of nesting beaches to monitor long-term leatherback nesting trends; and (7) conducting public outreach and awareness activities in schools, villages, and urban environments including a National Turtle Day celebration in the capitol and four other major cities or towns.

USFWS: \$168,055¹⁵

Leveraged Funds: \$25,211

GHANA

MT1780

Award # F17AP00413

Expanding the role of Ghanaians in sea turtle conservation activities in central Ghana, Africa. In partnership with the Florida Gulf Coast University. The purpose of this project is to implement a sea turtle conservation program on important sea turtle nesting beaches in Ghana. The intent is to conduct community-based patrols to protect nests and nesting females from poaching and nests from hog depredation within the Muni-Pomadze Marine Protected Reserve, a key nesting beach in Ghana, and to continue a sea turtle fisheries bycatch reduction program. Ghana hosts important nesting beaches for the largest global population of leatherbacks centered in Gabon and the regionally significant olive ridley population in West Africa. Activities include: (1) conducting night patrols throughout the nesting season and relocating nests to safe beach sites or hatcheries; (2) training community members as observers on artisanal boats to collect bycatch data; (3) working with fishermen for the safe release of sea turtles; and (4) conducting sea turtle education and outreach programs in local schools and communities.

USFWS: \$21,983

Leveraged Funds: \$52,010

MEXICO

MT1646

Award # F16AP00614

Population recovery of the black turtle of Michoacan, Mexico. In partnership with the *Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolas de Hidalgo*. The purpose of this project is to implement a conservation program for the East Pacific leatherback nesting population in Mexico in the 2017-18 nesting season. This population was the world's largest in the 1980s but due to killing of nesting females, overharvest of eggs, and accidental capture in gill net and longline fisheries, it has been reduced to less than 1,000 nests each year in Mexico. Mexico historically accounted for 90 percent of the East Pacific nesting population. The intent of this project is to implement a nesting beach conservation program on two key nesting beaches in Mexico to protect nests. Activities include: (1) patrolling the Mexiquillo and Las Placitas nesting beaches at night throughout the nesting season to deter poaching, and counting nests to monitor nesting trends; and (2) relocating nests threatened by poaching and tidal inundation to secure beach hatcheries.

¹⁵ Funded through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

USFWS: \$22,000¹⁶

Leveraged Funds: \$5,000

MT1727

Award # F17AP00187

Strengthening long-term sea turtle conservation programs in the Yucatan Peninsula to improve adaptive management and decision making. In partnership with Pronatura. The purpose of this project is to implement nesting beach conservation programs for three key Caribbean hawksbill nesting sites, which account for 40 percent of hawksbill nesting in the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico. The Yucatan Peninsula accounts for about 25 percent of all Caribbean nesting, as well as providing critical hawksbill foraging grounds. The intent of this project is to protect nests and nesting hawksbills from poaching and predation. Activities include: (1) conducting daily patrols along 80 km of nesting beaches at three locations to deter poachers and protect nests from predation; and (2) conducting outreach and education programs with local communities and schools.

USFWS: \$22,000¹⁷

Leveraged Funds: \$19,828

MOROCCO

MT1728

Award # F17AP00188

Building capacity for an effective sea turtle research and conservation program in the kingdom of Morocco. In partnership with the Association for the Protection of Marine Turtles in Morocco (ATOMM). The purpose of this project is to support capacity building of a marine turtle program in Morocco, and assess the status of nesting turtles along the entire Moroccan coastline and fisheries sea turtle bycatch. Juvenile loggerhead turtles from the U.S. nesting population are known to spend part of their lifecycle in foraging grounds in the Western Mediterranean and Moroccan coastal waters. The intent of this project is to determine and address threats to nesting populations and reduce bycatch mortality from artisanal and industrial fisheries. Activities include: (1) surveying 1,000 km of coastline from Agadir to Dakhla and conducting in-depth interviews with fishermen to determine historic and current nesting; (2) training fishermen and biologists from the National Institute for Fisheries Research to participate in a sea turtle stranding network; (3) recruiting and training ten fishermen from trawl and seine fisheries in five regions to collect sea turtle bycatch data; (4) conducting an outreach and awareness campaign; and (5) extensive market surveys to determine the commercial utilization of sea turtle products.

USFWS: \$25,000

Leveraged Funds: \$3,000

NICARAGUA

MT1725

Award # F17AP00185

Conserving critically endangered leatherback and hawksbill marine turtles on Nicaragua's Pacific Coast. In partnership with Fauna and Flora International. The purpose of this project is to

¹⁶ Funded through an agreement with the National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Department of Commerce.

¹⁷ Funded through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

conduct nesting beach conservation programs for the most important East Pacific leatherback nesting populations in Nicaragua and to support an East Pacific hawksbill conservation program at two recently discovered nesting sites at Estero Padre Ramos and Aserradores. The East Pacific leatherback population is less than one percent of historical levels and the most endangered leatherback population in the world. Hawksbill nesting sites in Nicaragua account for 40-50 percent of all known East Pacific hawksbill nesting. The intent is to protect leatherback and hawksbill nests and nesting females from poaching. Activities include: (1) conducting community-based daily patrols to count and protect nests and nesting females as well as relocate threatened nests to hatcheries; (2) conducting training workshops for community-based survey teams; and (3) conduct environmental education and outreach activities with local communities including “Day of the Turtle” events in schools and the annual Hawksbill Cup competition with the hawksbill project in El Salvador.

USFWS: \$81,443

Leveraged Funds: \$87,437

PANAMA

MT1701

Award # F17AP00172

Hawksbill and leatherback turtle research and population recovery in Panama. In partnership with the Sea Turtle Conservancy. The purpose of this project is to support conservation programs for the hawksbill sea turtle nesting population along Caribbean Panama, which historically hosted the largest hawksbill nesting populations in the Caribbean. It is also to protect the largest leatherback sea turtle nesting population in the Western Caribbean. This project is being implemented with local Nogbe community support and participation to protect nests and nesting turtles from poaching and dog depredation of nests. Activities include: (1) daily patrols throughout the nesting season to count nests to assess population trends and to deter poaching; (2) screening of vulnerable nests from dog depredation; and (3) developing community sea turtle watching/ecotourism programs to provide opportunities and benefits to local communities.

USFWS: \$66,000¹⁸

Leveraged Funds: \$271,335

SPAIN

MT1767

Award # F17AP00407

Involving the Spanish long distance fishery in the conservation of the Northwest Atlantic and the Mediterranean loggerhead turtle nesting populations. In partnership with KAI Marine Services. The purpose of this proposal is to continue collaborative efforts with Spanish longline fishers to reduce loggerhead sea turtle mortality and injuries in the Western Mediterranean and the North Atlantic where juveniles from U.S. nesting populations interact frequently with Spanish longline fleets during several years of their lifecycle outside of U.S. waters. Specific activities include: (1) holding workshops with fishermen for safe handling and release of accidentally captured sea turtles and best management practices with baits and gear deployments; (2) conducting on-board deployments to test and validate a 3D bycatch risk zoning tool and test

¹⁸ Of this, \$60,371 was funded through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

new mitigation measures; and (3) conducting awareness and outreach through a blog that translates science for teachers and schools, a citizen science program, and development of a film of “ Fishermen, Stewards of Marine Biodiversity” to promote a positive environment of fisher/conservationist collaboration.

USFWS: \$46,200

Leveraged Funds: \$166,500

VIETNAM

MT1741

Award # F17AP00195

Support for community-based marine turtle nesting beach conservation and bycatch reduction in Vietnam. In partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature. The purpose of this project is to implement community-based sea turtle conservation programs along select coastal provinces and communities and to determine the current status of hawksbills in Vietnam. Vietnam's historically abundant and regionally significant sea turtle populations have been depleted from overexploitation and only remnant small nesting and foraging populations exist. The intention of this project is to protect nests and nesting females from poaching and gather information about the status of the hawksbill to inform a more focused and effective conservation strategy for the species in Vietnam. Activities include: (1) conducting community-based surveys to protect nests along 70 km of nesting beaches in six provinces as well as work with fishermen to safely release sea turtles accidentally captured in coastal fisheries; (2) recruiting, training, and fielding about 25 volunteers to support rangers at Con Dao National Park to patrol remote beaches and to protect about 1,000 green turtle nests and 250 nesting females, the largest remaining sea turtle nesting population in Vietnam; and (3) conducting field surveys at selected hawksbill foraging grounds to assess abundance, status, and threats.

USFWS: \$93,084¹⁹

Leveraged Funds: \$70,421

MT1759

Award # F17AP00404

Taking action to combat the illegal trade of marine turtles in Vietnam. In partnership with TRAFFIC International. The purpose of this project is to facilitate and engage the Government of Vietnam in implementing its National Action Plan for Sea Turtle Conservation, which was revised and approved in 2016. Vietnam's historically abundant and regionally significant sea turtle populations have been depleted from overexploitation and only remnant, small nesting and foraging populations exist. The intent of this project is to hire a program leader that works closely with the Ministry of Fisheries and stakeholders to facilitate implementation of priority actions, especially actions to deter the illegal exploitation and trafficking of sea turtles and products. Activities include: (1) conducting workshops and meetings throughout Vietnam with all key stakeholders such as park managers, national and district fisheries agencies, and civil society to facilitate greater participation in the implementation of the National Action Plan for Sea Turtles.

USFWS: \$37,064²⁰

Leveraged Funds: \$0

¹⁹ Of this, \$47,913 was funded by U.S. Agency for International Development – Combating Wildlife Trafficking (USAID-CWT) funds.

²⁰ Funded by U.S. Agency for International Development – Combating Wildlife Trafficking (USAID-CWT) funds.

MULTIPLE COUNTRIES: EL SALVADOR AND NICARAGUA

MT1714

Award # F17AP00514

Expanding hawksbill nesting beach protection and bycatch reduction at critical nesting and foraging sites in the Eastern Pacific Ocean. In partnership with The Ocean Foundation. The purpose of this project is to implement hawksbill sea turtle conservation programs at nesting beaches in Bahia de Jiquilisco Biosphere Reserve (Bahia), El Salvador and on foraging grounds in El Salvador and Nicaragua. The intent of this project is to protect nests and nesting females from poaching and also to work with local fishermen to reduce hawksbill bycatch from lobster fisheries. The small Eastern Pacific hawksbill nesting population was thought to have been extirpated until remnant populations were discovered in remote sites in 2008. Bahia accounts for about 40 percent of all hawksbill nesting in the East Pacific. Specific activities include: (1) community-based patrols and relocation of nests to hatcheries; (2) outreach activities, such as a Hawksbill Festival, Hawksbill Cup competition, and “Day of the Hawksbill” events in schools to raise awareness about threats to hawksbills; (3) year-round fisheries bycatch monitoring with on-board observers; (4) LED light trials on lobster nets to determine deterrence effectiveness; and (5) development of local capacity to strengthen a hawksbill ecotourism program for the benefit of local residents.

USFWS: \$93,500

Leveraged Funds: \$124,029

MULTIPLE COUNTRIES: CÔTE D’IVOIRE EQUATORIAL GUINEA, GABON, REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO,

MT1708

Award # F17AP00176

Sea turtle technical assistance in the Gulf of Guinea, West Africa (2017-2020). In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to provide technical and scientific support for USFWS-supported sea turtle projects in the Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Ivory Coast, and Equatorial Guinea; and, to support efforts with local Benga communities in Corisco Bay, Gabon to develop participatory conservation activities and sustainable alternatives to sea turtle exploitation to compensate for the implementation of a ban on sea turtle harvest in 2009 by local authorities. The intent is coordinate and facilitate a more effective Gabon Sea Turtle Partnership and provide the technical and scientific support to develop and improve the capacity of USFWS-supported projects in West Africa to protect nests and nesting females from poaching and reduce sea turtle bycatch in coastal fisheries. Specific activities include: (1) organizing and facilitating the annual meeting of the Gabon Sea Turtle Partnership and follow-up to foster cohesion and effectiveness in the implementation of partnership conservation priorities; and (2) making site visits to USFWS-supported sea turtle projects in Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Republic of the Congo, and Ivory Coast to provide scientific and technical support to address threats and build capacity of the implementing Marine Turtle Conservation Fund grantees.

USFWS: \$65,844²¹

Leveraged Funds: \$34,570

²¹ Funded through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

MULTIPLE COUNTRIES – REGIONAL

MT1703

Award # F17AC00157

Scientific and technical support to sea turtle projects with a focus on Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and the Western Pacific (2017-2019). In partnership with the Ocean Ecology Network.

The purpose of this project is to strengthen the capacity of USFWS-funded sea turtle projects to improve management practices for nesting beach conservation programs and sea turtle bycatch reduction efforts. The intent is to provide technical and scientific assistance for Marine Turtle Conservation Fund-supported conservation projects in Africa, Asia, West Pacific, and Oman to accomplish this. Activities include site visits to these projects in Cape Verde, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Indonesia, Solomon Islands, Myanmar, and Cambodia to provide training and technical support.

USFWS: \$49,700²²

Leveraged Funds: \$32,000

²² Funded through an agreement with the National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Department of Commerce.