

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Division of International Conservation  
South America Program  
FY 2018 Summary of Projects**

In FY 2018, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) South America Program awarded funding to 16 projects in seven countries (in alphabetical order below), totaling \$1,101,616 and leveraging \$1,238,755 in additional matching funds.

**Modifications to existing cooperative agreements**

**ARGENTINA**

**LAC1591**

**Grant # F15AC00956**

***Partnership for the conservation of Patagonia: Resolving conflicts between wildlife and people.*** In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to foster complete suites of carnivores, herbivores, and scavengers co-existing with livestock producers on a connected matrix of protected areas and private lands in Patagonia, Argentina. This is funding for year three of a six-year cooperative agreement. This year's activities seek to create connectivity between landscapes where guanacos historically migrated, and to help restore the ecological services that will improve livestock production. Specific activities include: (1) providing information to improve conservation actions in critical Patagonian landscapes that occupy the most intact natural areas, represent the region's biodiversity and key ecological processes, and maintain resilience; (2) engaging livestock producers in wildlife-friendly production that improves their livelihoods and enables them to co-exist with wildlife, including the conservation of carnivores and condors on private lands through the evaluation, promotion, and expansion of more effective, non-lethal methods to control predation of livestock; (3) building local capacity by strengthening, mentoring, and promoting collaborative conservation among key stakeholders (government agents and managers, civil society organizations, landowners, and herder organizations); and (4) developing strategic partnerships to help shape local, national, and regional policies related to Patagonia's wildlife and wild places to leverage resources and amplify the conservation impact.

USFWS: \$99,753      Leveraged Funds: \$96,511

**New grants**

**ARGENTINA**

**SA1818**

**Grant # F18AP00515**

***Promoting sustainable land and natural resource use at Somuncura Plateau.*** In partnership with *Universidad Nacional del Centro de la Provincia de Buenos Aires*. The purpose of this project is to support a conservation effort in the Somuncura Plateau in Argentina that sustains multiple endemic species threatened by unsustainable livestock practices, invasive species, and

human-wildlife conflict. This project will address these threats and promote opportunities for ecotourism as an alternative, sustainable activity. Specific activities include: (1) sustainable management of water sources, specifically protecting the water sources from livestock trampling and overgrazing; (2) controlling destructive invasive species; (3) introducing shepherd dogs to mitigate human-wildlife conflict related to predators and livestock; conducting an educational campaign to reduce or eliminate illegal hunting and the indiscriminate use of poisons against predators; and (4) the promotion of ecotourism as an alternative and sustainable activity. Proposed activities build on past collaboration and participation of local stakeholders and decision-makers.

USFWS: \$62,550

Leveraged Funds: \$43,000

## **SA1825**

### **Grant # F18AP00852**

***Conservation of Patagonia's wildlife: Implementation of sustainable livestock practices and mitigation of conflicts between herbivores and native carnivores.*** In partnership with *Fundación Vida Silvestre Argentina*. The purpose of this project is to support a conservation effort in the Patagonia region of Argentina that once harbored large migratory populations of guanacos (*Lama guanicoe*), a camelid endemic to South America that once played an essential role in supporting regional ecological resilience. Guanacos have been reduced by 96 percent of their range due to the introduction of sheep by foreign settlers, leading to overhunting of native wildlife to reduce competition with and predation on livestock. Other endemic herbivores also have suffered and are now at such low densities that they are considered to be ecologically extinct, no longer fulfilling their role as food for carnivores and scavengers. Traditional livestock practices have degraded pastures and have overlooked the natural restorative impacts on pastures provided by native wildlife. This project will promote wildlife-friendly livestock practices involving rural producers and governmental and civil society partners. Specific activities include: (1) evaluating the availability of pasture for livestock and wild herbivores; (2) implementing non-lethal control measures for livestock predators; (3) protecting water sources; (4) creating migratory corridors for guanacos; (5) conducting wildlife surveys; and (6) producing and disseminating extension tools on livestock practices for local stakeholders.

USFWS: \$64,816

Leveraged Funds: \$10,200

## **BOLIVIA**

## **SA1807**

### **Grant # F18AP00510**

***Strengthening of the new municipal protected area "Heroes del Chaco" Machareti, Bolivia.*** In partnership with *Fundación Natura Bolivia*. The purpose of this project is to support a conservation effort in the Bolivian Gran Chaco by implementing a conservation plan for a newly created 664,498 acre natural protected area by initiating a management structure for the indigenous-run municipality and implementing on-the-ground conservation activities. Specific activities include: (1) working with the indigenous Guarani communities who have jurisdiction of the area to create a management structure/institution; (2) holding participatory workshops with local communities to create a management plan to establish usage rules and zoning for the protected area; (3) creating a sustainable development program to maintain support for the

protected area among local communities; and (4) identifying options for a sustainable financing mechanism to maintain conservation management.

USFWS: \$73,700

Leveraged Funds: \$16,500

## CHILE

**SA1827**

**Grant # F18AP00520**

***Restoration of Alejandro Selkirk Island, Chile: Promoting sustainable land use and livestock production while protecting biodiversity and ecosystem integrity.*** In partnership with Island Conservation. The purpose of this project is to support a conservation effort on Alejandro Selkirk Island which is part of the Juan Fernández Archipelago National Park and a Biosphere Reserve. The island has unparalleled ecosystem diversity and species endemism threatened by unsustainable grazing of free-ranging invasive goats. Specific activities include working collaboratively with local stakeholders to: (1) reduce threats to highly endangered plant and wildlife species through the reduction of the feral goat population on Alejandro Selkirk Island; (2) promote sustainable land use by restricting goat grazing to a multiple-use area; and (3) in collaboration with key agencies and residents, create long-term livestock management plans to ensure lasting protection of critical habitat.

USFWS: \$74,123

Leveraged Funds: \$69,2445

## COLOMBIA

**SA1801**

**Grant # F18AP00509**

***Participative strategies for the conservation of primate populations in the Sierra Nevada and the Biogeographic Chocó Region (Colombia), with *Cebus malitiosus* and *Ateles fusciceps* as umbrella species.*** In partnership with the *Asociación Primatológica Colombiana*. The purpose of this project is to support a conservation effort in Colombia by addressing threats to endangered or critically endangered primate species due to deforestation and habitat fragmentation driven by illicit crops, illegal hunting, wildlife trafficking, and unsustainable agricultural practices. Specific activities include: (1) participative primate monitoring workshops to increase awareness of local primate populations and their habitat and associated ecosystem services; (2) workshops with stakeholders and environmental authorities to develop local capacity to implement biodiversity-friendly production practices and alternative livelihoods; and (3) meetings and workshops with local stakeholders and environmental authorities to increase collaborative actions between local communities and environmental authorities in the mitigation, prevention, and long-term reduction of threats to forest ecosystems and wildlife.

USFWS: \$63,955

Leveraged Funds: \$24,487

**SA1832**

**Grant # F18AP00522**

***Living on the edge: Managing human-jaguar conflict in unprotected landscapes surrounding the proposed San Lucas Protected Area.*** In partnership with Panthera. The purpose of this project is to support a conservation effort in the Magdalena Medio region of Colombia to reduce human-wildlife conflict and build local capacity of community depredation response teams to co-

manage jaguar impact on livestock (GRECO: *Grupo de Respuesta al Conflicto*, or Group of Response to Conflict). The jaguar (*Panthera onca*) is threatened throughout its range by illegal hunting of the species and its prey, and by habitat destruction. This project will support the proposed San Lucas Conservation Mosaic in northern Colombia, the only current gene flow corridor for jaguars between Central and South American jaguar populations, by reducing conflicts between ranchers and carnivores in the proposed mixed-use land through the following activities: (1) implementing five demonstration ranches with proven anti-predation techniques; (2) monitoring the applied anti-predation techniques; and (3) initiating a community-led GRECO to apply anti-predation best practices and techniques with ranchers in the area.

USFWS: \$58,434

Leveraged Funds: \$25,914

## ECUADOR

### SA1822

#### Grant # F18AP00850

***The Jama Conservation Corridor: Reforestation and agroforestry to reconnect remnant semi-deciduous tropical forest.*** In partnership with the Ceiba Foundation for Tropical Conservation. The purpose of this project is to support a conservation effort in Ecuador where the high rate of deforestation is linked to unsustainable livestock and agricultural practices and illegal timber harvesting. This project will assist in establishing the Jama Conservation Corridor to connect the last remnants of semi-deciduous tropical forests in coastal Ecuador through forest restoration, regeneration of abandoned cattle pastures, and agroforestry, and by working with landowners to promote sustainable livelihoods. Specific activities include: (1) reforestation of prioritized areas within the corridor; (2) collecting baseline data for the flora and fauna in reforested areas; (3) providing training to landowners in agroforestry; and (4) facilitating educational outreach activities on sustainable land use practices with local landowners, schools, and decision-makers.

USFWS: \$49,064

Leveraged Funds: \$8,475

### SA1830

#### Grant # F18AP00521

***Providing ecological connectivity through the creation of municipal protected areas adjacent to the Podocarpus National Park in Ecuador.*** In partnership with Nature and Culture International. The purpose of this project is to support a conservation effort in the municipality of Zamora, in an area hosting high levels of biodiversity and ecosystems that provide a biological corridor between the Podocarpus National Park and the Yacuambi Municipal Reserve. This area is threatened by high deforestation rates linked to unsustainable livestock and agriculture practices, illegal hunting, and settlements. Specific activities include: (1) conducting technical studies to determine priority conservation areas; (2) developing a municipal strategy and a joint implementation plan to support the conservation area; (3) mapping the boundaries of the proposed municipal conservation areas and holding workshops with community representatives to validate prioritized areas; (4) providing technical support to the municipal government for the elaboration and approval of the municipal ordinance; and (5) working with farmers to implement best practices in habitat protection in the prioritized municipal conservation areas.

USFWS: \$87,104

Leveraged Funds: \$28,550

## PARAGUAY

### SA1811

#### Grant # F18AP00513

***Improving the conservation status of the remaining macaw populations in northeastern Paraguay.*** In partnership with *Guyra Paraguay*. The purpose of this project is to support a conservation effort in Paraguay to address wildlife trafficking of parrots, including macaws. This project will reduce poaching and trade of Psittacidae in Paraguay, with a specific focus on the hyacinth macaw, blue-and-yellow macaw, green-winged macaw, blue-winged macaw, and the yellow-faced Amazon. Specific objectives include: (1) assessing Psittacidae population status and assisting local communities to prevent wildlife trafficking; (2) creating poach-free areas to promote parrot population recovery; (3) conducting national and local public awareness programs on the impact of poaching and the illegal wildlife trade of parrots, including macaws; and (4) supporting law enforcement agents and existing enforcement measures.

USFWS: \$50,422

Leveraged Funds: \$32,145

## PERU

### SA1810

#### Grant # F18AP00512

***Reducing and managing human-Andean bear conflict in Peru.*** In partnership with the Frankfurt Zoological Society. The purpose of this project is to support a conservation effort in Peru to address threats to Andean bears (categorized as vulnerable to extinction), including habitat fragmentation and conflict with humans. Specific activities include: (1) strengthening the capacity and knowledge of key stakeholders (Ministries of Environment and Agriculture and locally affected farmers) by developing effective measures to mitigate human- bear conflict (HBC) at a national level and applying these measures in local pilot areas; (2) improving the Peruvian government's capacity to coordinate responses to HBC on a national level; and (3) reducing the impact of HBC in at least three pilot sites through improved, alternative production techniques that support Andean bear protection.

USFWS: \$99,642

Leveraged Funds: \$117,755

### SA1817

#### Grant # F18AP00514

***Reducing deforestation in community-owned lands in Amazonas through improved zoning, silvopastoral systems, and payments for ecosystem services schemes.*** In partnership with the *Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental (SPDA)*. The purpose of this project is to support a conservation effort in the Amazonas region of Peru to address high levels of deforestation driven by unsustainable livestock and agriculture practices by strengthening at least 14 officially recognized Privately Protected Areas (PPAs) led by local individuals or communities that together protect 264,829 acres of land and endangered species such as the yellow-tailed woolly monkey, the long-whiskered owlet, the Spatuletail hummingbird, and the Andean night monkey. This project will work with two community-based PPAs that have particular ecological importance and are under acute threat due to deforestation, but also have ideal conditions to apply proven approaches to address deforestation caused by unsustainable land-use practices. Specific activities include: (1) improving and strengthening two PPAs through participatory

mapping to establish zoning borders and rules; (2) implementing silvopastoral techniques that integrate trees with forage and livestock production; and (3) solidifying and formalizing a payment for ecosystem services scheme between communities that will incentivize forest protection.

USFWS: \$57,750

Leveraged Funds: \$15,807

### **SA1819**

#### **Grant # F18AP00516**

*A community center in Tarapoto, as a model for strengthening wildlife rescue in the Peruvian Amazon.* In partnership with *Asociación Urku Estudios Amazónicos*. The purpose of this project is to support a conservation effort in Peru to contribute to the implementation of Peru's National Strategy to Combat Wildlife Trafficking by working on the front-lines in a region where there are important transit and interdiction points for wildlife trafficking, and the regional environmental authority has made progress in their wildlife control efforts with the support of the Urku Center due to its community-based environmental activities with indigenous communities and its work with rescuing, rehabilitating and reintroducing confiscated wildlife. Specific activities include updating and implementing the Center's management plan and wildlife protocols; training for staff on improved wildlife rehabilitation and reintroduction practices; training for wildlife authorities on wildlife handling procedures; and a public awareness campaign on the impacts of wildlife trafficking in the region.

USFWS: \$39,999

Leveraged Funds: \$38,520

### **SA1821**

#### **Grant # F18AP00517**

*Traditional knowledge, landscape management, and climate change: A comprehensive approach to manage and conserve highland wetlands in the Peruvian Tropical Andes.* In partnership with the Amazon Conservation Association. The purpose of this project is to support a conservation effort in the Andean highland wetlands (bofedales) of Peru, within the Vilcabamba–Amboró Conservation Corridor, a mosaic of forests that play an important role in biological connectivity between Manu National Park and the Amarakaeri Communal Reserve. This project will partner with the Japu community to address increasing threats from overgrazing and droughts in this unique ecosystem to conserve endangered and endemic species of flora and fauna. Specific activities include: (1) defining rules for the use of bofedales and validate agreements with community members for implementing the management plan; (2) restoring degraded bofedales with native species; (3) improving water availability and distribution; (4) developing an animal health program to improve camelids' health and increase wool and meat yields; and (5) monitoring implementation of the grazing management plan.

USFWS: \$44,396

Leveraged Funds: \$8,343

### **SA1833**

#### **Grant # F18AP00523**

*La Novia landscape conservation initiative.* In partnership with the Trust for Conservation Innovation. The purpose of this project is to support a conservation effort in the Alto Purús region of Peru, comprised of the Alto Purús National Park, the adjacent Purús Communal Reserve, and two protected reserves for isolated indigenous communities, which harbor world-class levels of mammal and bird diversity. This project will support conservation efforts in Alto

Purús by strengthening the La Novia Conservation Alliance between Peru's park service, local indigenous communities, and non-indigenous townspeople, and protect threatened species by promoting income alternatives to unsustainable and illegal resource extraction. Specific activities include: (1) providing community training and fieldwork to increase the population of the yellow-spotted river turtle (*Podocnemis unifilis*); (2) assessing populations of the giant river otter and arapaima fish to inform future management strategies; (3) training and equipping community vigilance committees to more effectively respond to illegal resource extraction by outsiders; (4) implementing the region's first community lake management plan; and (5) providing support for a new research station and the development of eco-tourism.

USFWS: \$76,000

Leveraged Funds: \$39,030

### **SA1838**

#### **Grant # F18AP00524**

***Reducing illegal trafficking of river turtles in Perú by improving compliance with anti-trafficking laws and law enforcement.*** In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to support a conservation effort in Peru, a hotspot for wildlife trafficking of many species listed in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) as threatened by unsustainable trade. In 2017, Peru officially adopted a new National Strategy to Combat Wildlife Trafficking. This project will assist in implementing the commitments under the National Strategy by working with responsible agencies to improve enforcement controls to combat wildlife trafficking and control wildlife trade at exit points, a challenge due to the difficulty of distinguishing illegal and legal trade of certain species and identifying laundered specimens that enter the legal trade chain through forged or fraudulent documents. Specific activities include reducing wildlife trafficking to conserve the yellow-spotted Amazon river turtle (*Podocnemis unifilis*, CITES Appendix I) as a real-life pilot to address gaps related to trade and control of species, address limited interagency coordination and unclear procedures in granting legal permits to manage and export CITES species, as well as raise awareness among the general public of the legal and illegal wildlife pet trade.

USFWS: \$99,909

Leveraged Funds: \$41,073