

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Our Mission



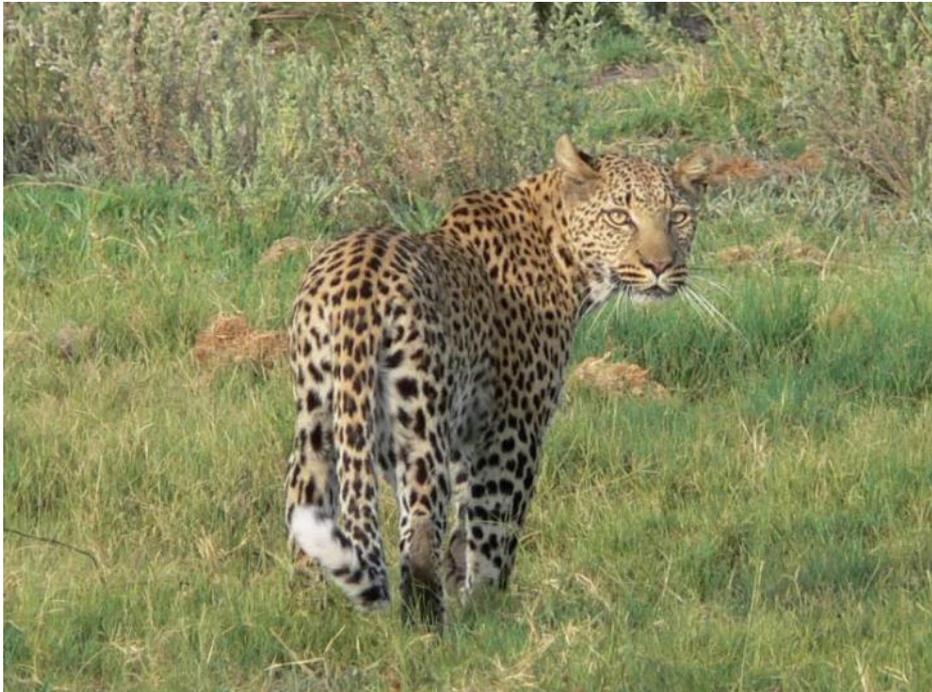
“Work with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people”

Why do we care about international conservation?





Iconic species capture the hearts, imagination, and adventurous spirit of Americans of every generation.



- Of U.S. citizens traveling abroad in 2015, 31.5 percent visited a national park or monument.
- International hunters (74% from the U.S.) contributed more than \$325 million to East/Southern African country economies annually.

Since 2011, Americans have purchased more than 38 million tiger stamps to support international conservation efforts.



Wildlife and ecosystems support billions of people and drive the world's economy through:

- Hunting
- Nature-based tourism
- Wild-sourced food
- Pest control
- Seed dispersal
- Medicines

To name just a few!





The U.S. is one of the world's largest importers and exporters of wildlife and wildlife products. Through implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), we ensure sustainable use of native and non-native CITES-listed species and combat wildlife trafficking in collaboration with State agencies.

Our participation in CITES facilitates trade between the U.S. and 182 member countries and the European Union.





FWS International Conservation Efforts

- International conservation across the agency
 - Office of Law Enforcement (enforcement, inspection, capacity building)
 - International Affairs (financial assistance, permits, policy)
 - Migratory Birds (hunting, financial assistance)
 - Ecological Services (Endangered Species Act and foreign species listing/delisting)
 - Fisheries and Aquatic Conservation (invasive species)
 - Regional programs (Canada/Mexico cooperation)



International Wildlife Conservation Strategy Development

- **Goal:** Develop an enduring vision that defines the Service's niche in international conservation; strengthens cooperation with partners and stakeholders; and leverages additional support for international wildlife conservation priorities.
- **Objectives:**
 - Articulate the ways in which the Service currently engages in international conservation
 - Document our legal mandates
 - Engage external stakeholders and provide opportunities for feedback



International Wildlife Conservation Strategy Development

- **Process and timeline:**
 - Define project goals and objectives, solidify project team, and develop plan for stakeholder engagement (January-March 2018)
 - Gather data from stakeholders (April-July 2018)
 - Analyze data (ongoing)
 - Develop strategies and a vision for the Service's role in international wildlife conservation (July-September 2018)
 - Present the vision to stakeholders (September-October 2018)

Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Law Enforcement





Office of Law Enforcement



- ❖ Inspection Program
- ❖ Investigations
- ❖ National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Lab
- ❖ Law Enforcement Attachés

Wildlife Inspectors



- 123 Wildlife Inspectors
- 7 K9 teams
- 14 Supervisory Wildlife Inspectors
- 5 Senior Wildlife Inspectors





Wildlife Inspectors

- Wildlife Inspectors at U.S. 37 ports of entry:
 - - work closely with Customs & Border Protection
 - - have border search authority
 - - enforce FWS regulations and international treaties
 - - search for smuggled wildlife



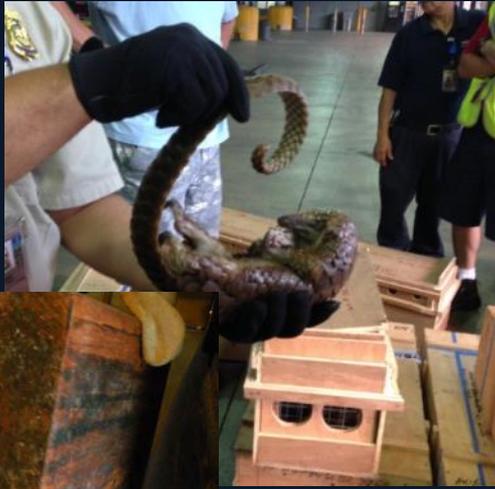


Special Agents

- Plain Clothes
- Criminal Investigators
- Arrest Authority
- Overt and Covert Investigations
- Utilize broad array of investigative techniques



International Investigations





National Fish & Wildlife *Forensic Laboratory*



- **The only forensic lab in the world dedicated to crimes against wildlife.**
- **Chemistry Unit**
 - i.e. poisonings, pesticides, trace evidence
- **Criminalistics Unit**
 - i.e. latent prints, ballistics,
- **Genetics Unit**
 - i.e. DNA; identification of species, populations, individuals, parentage
- **Morphology Unit**
 - i.e. species ID based on physical characteristics
- **Pathology Unit**
 - i.e. cause of death determination



Role of the USFWS *Special Agent Attachés*

- Support regional capacity building
- Leverage USG assets for use in CWT efforts
- Coordinate transnational investigations and information sharing
- Support host government's and regional CWT investigations with a nexus to the U.S.

International Affairs Program: Financial Assistance



Financial Assistance Programs

1. Species

2. Regional

3. Emerging Priority Threats





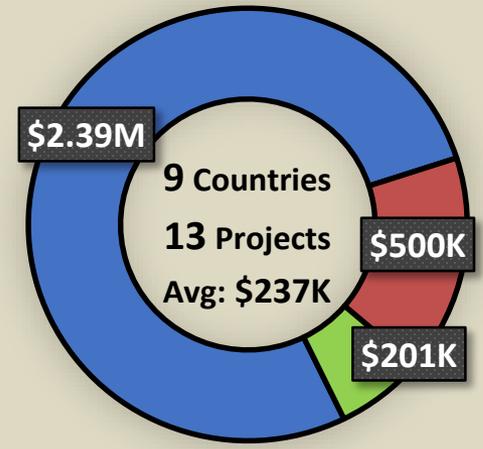
African Elephant Conservation Act (1988)



Priority Activities:

- ✓ Protection of at-risk elephant populations
- ✓ Anti-poaching operations: Improved detection, interdiction, and prosecution of wildlife crime

FY17 Funding:
\$3.09M; \$7.59M Leveraged



■ USFWS-MSCF ■ USAID-AFR ■ USPS-Stamp



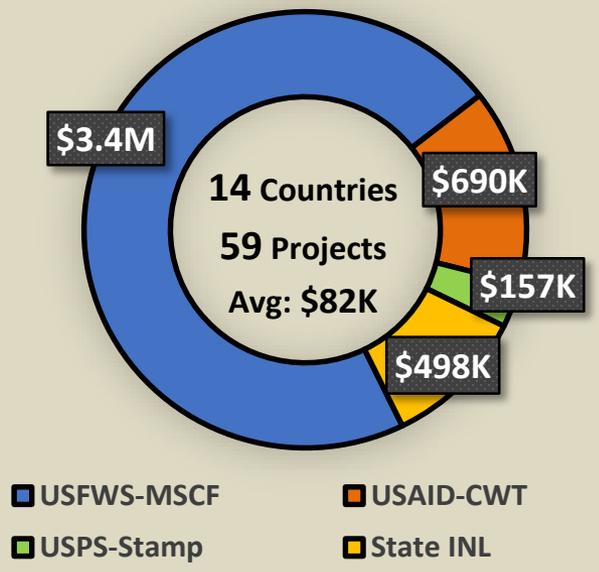
Rhino and Tiger Conservation Act (1994)



Priority Activities:

- ✓ Protection of at-risk populations
- ✓ Anti-poaching operations: Improved detection, interdiction, and prosecution of wildlife crime

FY17 Funding:
\$4.8M; \$11.1M Leveraged





Asian Elephant Conservation Act (1997)

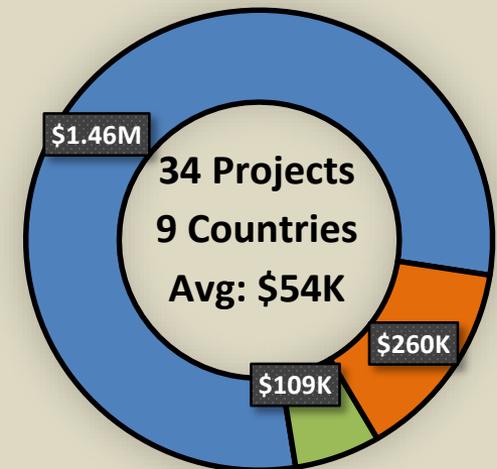


Priority Activities:

- ✓ Perpetuate healthy populations of wild Asian elephants and conserve their habitats
- ✓ Enhance protection of at-risk populations and their habitats
- ✓ Mitigate human-elephant conflict

FY17 Funding:

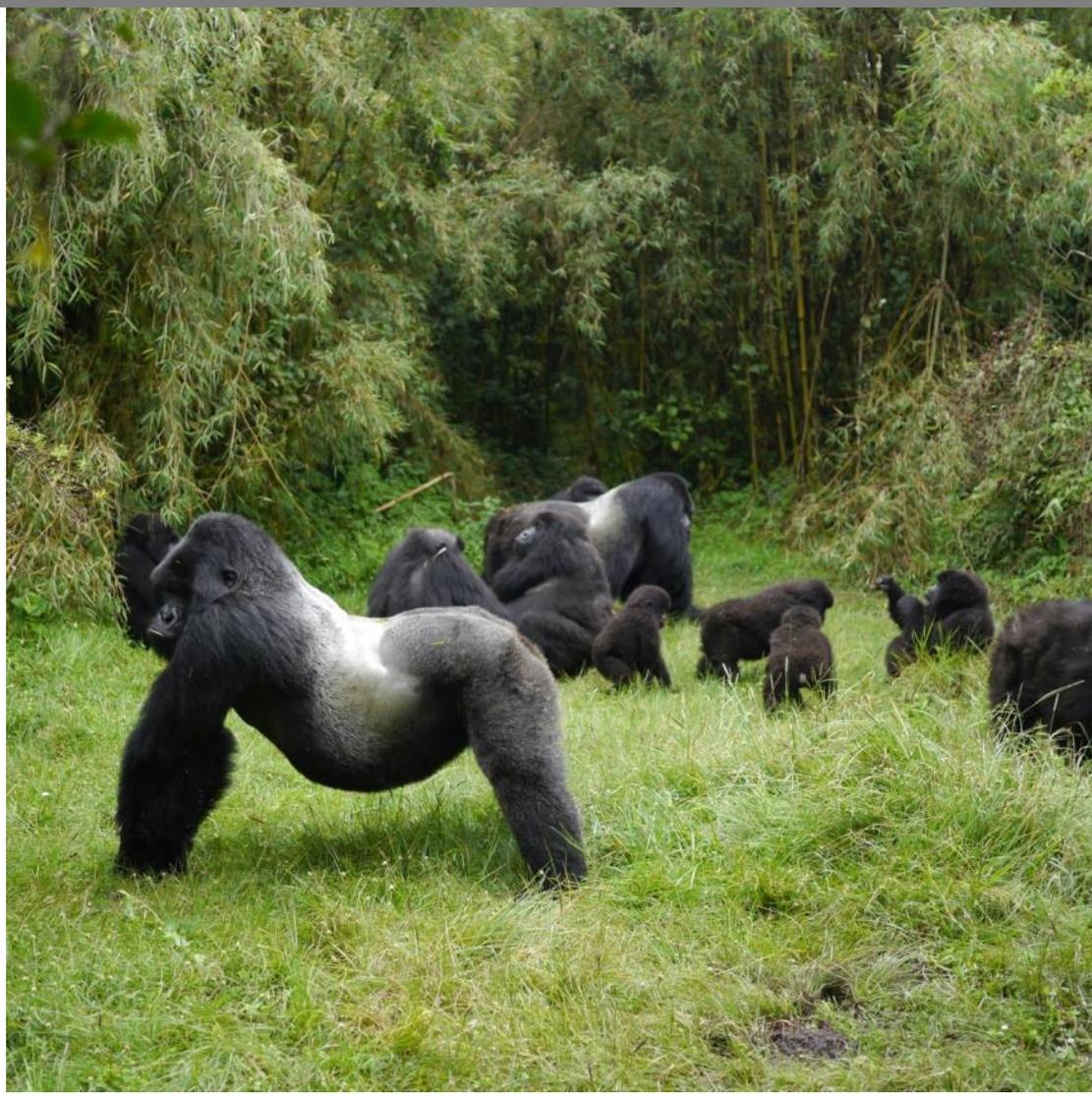
\$1.84M; \$2.74M Leveraged



■ USFWS-MSCF ■ USAID-CWT ■ USPS-Stamp



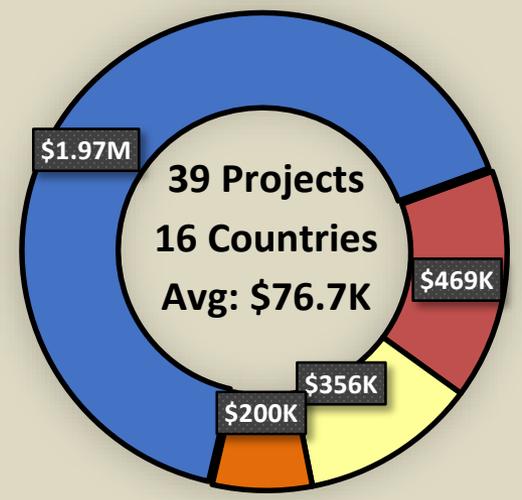
Great Ape Conservation Act (2000)



Priority Activities:

- ✓ Sustain viable populations in the wild
- ✓ Prevent habitat loss from forest fragmentation and degradation
- ✓ Reducing trade in, and consumer demand for, illegally harvested apes

FY17 Funding \$3.0M; \$2.9M Leveraged



- USFWS-MSCF
- USAID-AFR
- USFWS-RM
- USAID-CWT



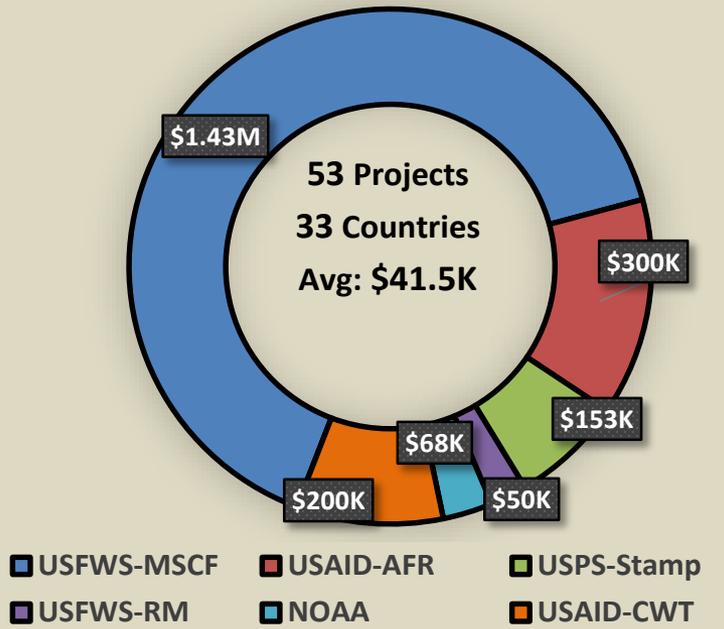
Marine Turtle Conservation Act (2004)



Priority Activities:

- ✓ Developing local and institutional capacity for sea turtle conservation
- ✓ Supporting the creation of National Conservation Action Plans
- ✓ Reducing bycatch with communities

FY17 Funding:
\$2.2M; \$3.0M Leveraged



Types of IA Financial Assistance Programs

1. Species

2. Regional

3. Emerging Priority Threats





Through our **regional programs**, we work with governments, agencies, and other partners to conserve wildlife and high value landscapes that provide economic, geopolitical, and other benefits to the American people.





Central Africa / CARPE



Priority Activities:

- Securing Congo Basin wildlife by:
- ✓ professionalizing park guards
 - ✓ improving law enforcement effectiveness
 - ✓ site-based conservation activities

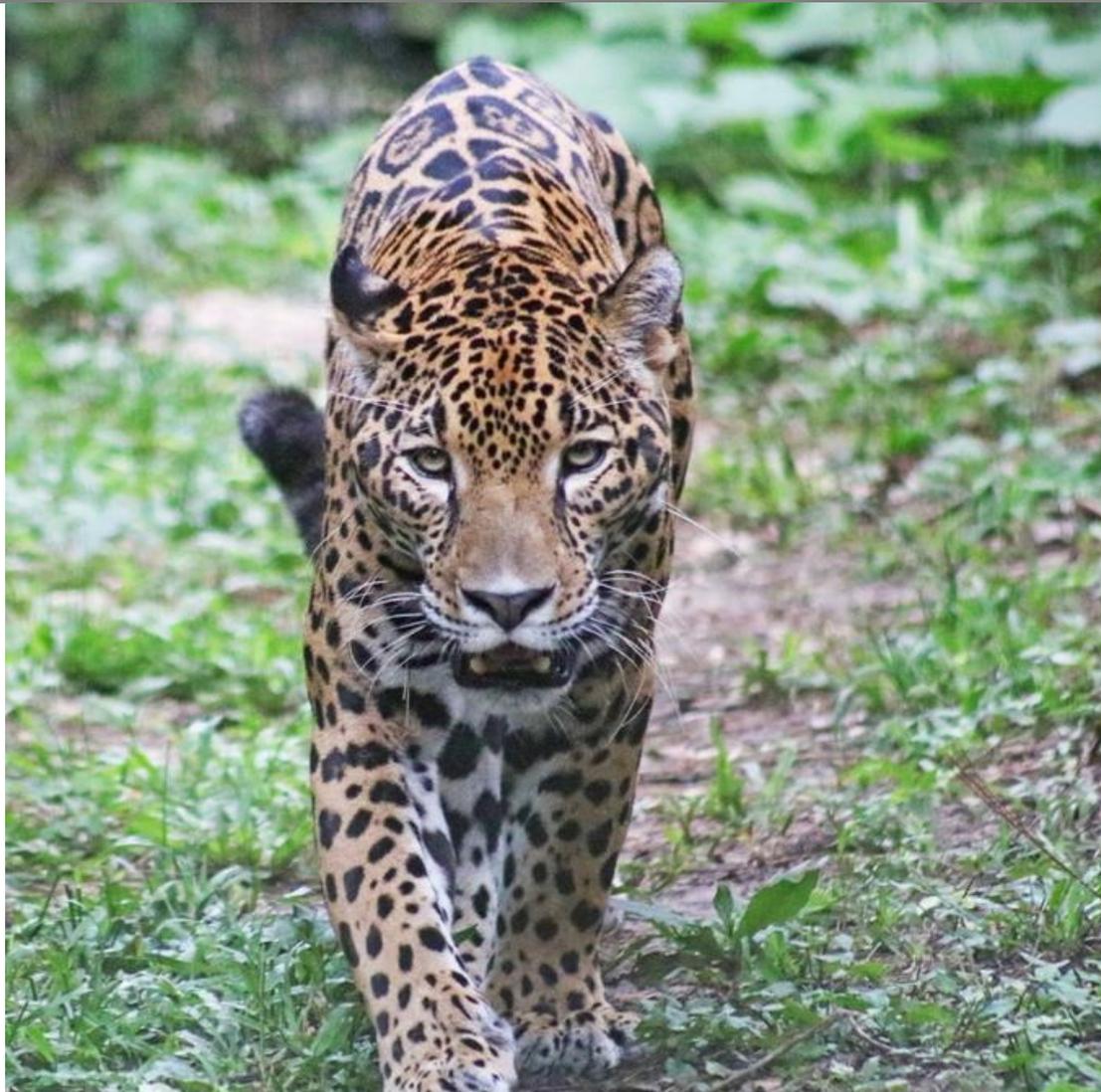
FY17 Funding:
\$15.1M; \$13.7M Leveraged



■ USAID-AFR



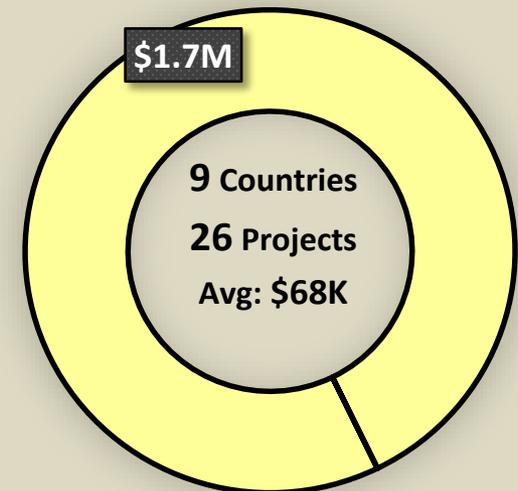
Western Hemisphere



Priority Activities:

- ✓ Species and habitat management
- ✓ Wildlife law enforcement
- ✓ Institutional strengthening
- ✓ Public private partnerships

FY17 Funding:
\$1.7M; \$1.8M Leveraged



■ USFWS-RM

Types of IA Financial Assistance Programs

1. Species
2. Regional
3. Emerging Priority Threats





Combating Wildlife Trafficking

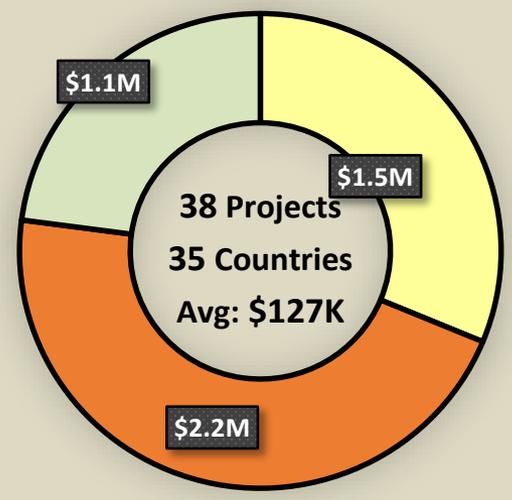


Priority Activities:

- ✓ Address trafficking threat in priority species
- ✓ Support CITES and build CITES capacity
- ✓ Implement the Eliminate, Neutralize, Disrupt (END) Wildlife Trafficking Act

\$4.8M: \$1.9 Leveraged

**FY17 Funding:
\$4.8M; \$1.9M Leveraged**



USFWS-RM
 USAID-CWT
 USAID/INL IAA

The End

