

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of International Conservation
Wildlife Without Borders-South America Program FY 2016
Summary of Projects**

In FY 2016, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) awarded one five-year cooperative agreement and six new projects from the Wildlife Without Borders-South America program, totaling \$570,679 which was matched by \$479,976 in additional leveraged funds. Field projects in four countries of South America (in alphabetical order below) will be supported, including one project spanning two countries.

Cooperative Agreements

MULTIPLE COUNTRIES - ARGENTINA AND CHILE

SA1621

Grant # F15AC00956

5 Year cooperative agreement for the conservation of Patagonia's priority landscapes and species. In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. The project, supported since FY 2015, has been amended and will be supported as a five-year cooperative agreement based on annual work plan reviews and reporting as well as availability of funds. The purpose of this amendment is to secure measurable progress towards restoring the unique wilderness of Patagonia by 2020, including complete suites of Patagonian carnivores, herbivores, and scavengers co-existing with livestock producers on a connected matrix of protected areas and private lands. Project activities will scale up the activities and support for conservation action in five critical Patagonian landscapes that occupy the most intact natural areas, represent the region's biodiversity and key ecological processes, and possess resilience to climate change or opportunities for adaptation. Through the five-year cooperative agreement, project activities will be centered on working with local stakeholders and decision-makers in Argentina and Chile to scale up proven approaches for reducing human-wildlife conflict and reversing unsustainable land use at the landscape level by building on past successes and seizing unprecedented opportunities that have recently arisen in terms of access to governance structures and markets. Specifically, the project will: (1) produce and disseminate the information and knowledge necessary to inform and improve conservation action for Patagonia's priority landscapes and species, highlighting the region's issues at a global scale; (2) improve conservation action in five critical Patagonian landscapes that occupy the most intact natural areas, represent the region's biodiversity and key ecological processes, and possess resilience to climate change or opportunities for adaptation; (3) engage livestock producers in wildlife-friendly production that improves their livelihoods and enables them to co-exist with wildlife in wild places; (4) inspire national and international buyers to support wildlife-friendly products from Patagonia through education and promotion of agreements with local producers that help generate a national and international market for these products; (5) build local capacity by strengthening, training, mentoring, empowering, and promoting active collaborations amongst the key suite of stakeholders, including government agents and managers, civil society organizations,

landowners, and herders and their organizations, who contribute to the conservation agenda in Patagonia; and (6) develop strategic partnerships to help shape local, national, and regional policies related to Patagonia's wildlife and wild places to leverage resources and expand conservation impact.

USFWS: \$220,000

Leveraged Funds: \$197,429

Grants

CHILE

SA1613

Grant # F16AP01045

Living with pumas in Ultima Esperanza, Chile. In partnership with Panthera. The purpose of this project is to support the proposed expansion of an international Biosphere Reserve currently inclusive of Torres del Paine National Park to incorporate approximately 20-25 working ranches in southernmost Chilean Patagonia. This project is intended to conserve Patagonia's apex predator, the puma (*Puma concolor*), and the ecosystem services it provides through testing and implementing methods to reduce puma predation on sheep and engaging local communities to reduce ongoing puma poaching both in and adjacent to Torres del Paine. Activities include: (1) testing the success of guardian dogs in reducing sheep predation within an experimental design; (2) producing robust estimates of puma density in the study area, both in protected Parks and adjacent working ranches; and (3) conducting an educational campaign on sustainable sheep ranching in puma country, safety protocols in ecotourism with pumas as an alternate revenue source to ranching, and the unique importance of the ecological role of pumas in Patagonia.

USFWS: \$45,089

Leveraged Funds: \$74,128

PARAGUAY

SA1623

Grant # F16AP01053

Building a future for the jaguar in the Paraguayan Gran Chaco. In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to support jaguar conservation by promoting sustainable, conflict-reducing ranching practices and policies based on the best available science and with the collaboration of local stakeholders. The project will build on the progress achieved to date to extend activities to a larger swath of northern Paraguay, a critical part of the globally significant Gran Chaco, and the Gran Chaco Jaguar Conservation Unit, while working with government authorities on planning and policy for the future of the jaguar in Paraguay. Project activities include (1) evaluations of a wider suite of conflict-reducing interventions based on the contexts and settings found in a larger group of ranches; (2) assessment of intervention efficacy in terms of economic benefits for ranchers; (3) camera trap evaluations across the private ranch-protected area continuum, focusing on one of the largest protected areas in the country, the Defensores del Chaco National Park (720,000 hectares) and neighboring ranches; and (4) capacity building on best practices with ranchers and on data processing and analysis with university students.

USFWS: \$60,746

Leveraged Funds: \$86,667

PERU

SA1616

Grant # F16AC00889

Reducing Peruvian internal demand for illegal wildlife pets through a communication and awareness campaign. In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to conduct a national-level digital communication campaign through social networks to raise public awareness about the consequences of illegal wildlife trade and engage citizens to take action to help reduce the demand for illegally traded wildlife for pets. This project builds upon a previous pilot communication campaign conducted in partnership with the Peruvian National Forestry and Wildlife Service (SERFOR) as part of a USFWS-supported project to “Develop a National Strategy to Reduce Illegal Wildlife Trafficking in Peru.” Activities include: (1) establish a Core Group in coordination with SERFOR, to include public institutions, the media, private companies, and civil society organizations to guide and lead the communication campaign with an emphasis on the wildlife pet trade in key urban centers, and (2) on-going data collection on wildlife pet trade activities in public markets, pet shops, and on-line markets by concerned citizens through a web platform that proved effective in the previous pilot program to inform campaign activities and measure impact. Because the national and international illegal wildlife markets are intrinsically linked, reducing local demand for wildlife pets will (i) reduce the availability of wildlife sold as pets in both the national and international markets, (ii) influence and disrupt local attitudes and acceptance of keeping wildlife as pets, and (iii) engage citizens and relevant authorities to protect wildlife through social media in close collaboration with the regional-level communication campaign conducted by the *Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental* (SPDA). Through the Core Group, proposed activities will be complementary to each other to form a consolidated campaign addressing national and regional contexts to achieve synergies not otherwise possible if conducted separately.

USFWS: \$99,055

Leveraged Funds: \$38,576

SA1619

Grant # F16AC00930

Combating illegal wildlife trafficking in Peru (Loreto, Amazonas, San Martín, and Ucayali) by empowering and connecting local authorities, civil society, and communities. In partnership with *Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental*. The purpose of this project is to reduce the incidence of illegal wildlife trafficking in the Ucayali, Loreto, Amazonas, and San Martin regions of Peru, by building the capacity of key wildlife authorities at the regional and local level, and by raising awareness about the issue among local populations in the focal regions. These regions were selected due to evidence showing Ucayali and Loreto to be major source areas for trafficked wildlife, and that wildlife trafficking in Amazonas and San Martin is threatening endemic, critically endangered species such as the yellow-tailed woolly monkey. Activities will focus on training and equipping key wildlife authorities in animal handling, confiscation procedures, administrative and criminal law to press charges, and other related protocols. Simultaneously, the project will launch a communications campaign aimed at raising awareness about wildlife trafficking in local media (TV, radio, newspapers), while working with key communities near particularly threatened sites to develop village-level anti-trafficking schemes. The project will be conducted in alliance with the NGO Neotropical Primate

Conservation, and in coordination with the Peruvian National Forest and Wildlife Service (SERFOR), and Wildlife Conservation Society-Peru.

USFWS: \$49,830

Leveraged Funds: \$14,828

SA1620

Grant # F16AP01051

La Novia integrated 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 southeastern Peru by strengthening a new alliance between Peru's park service, local indigenous communities, and non-indigenous townspeople to protect the diverse but threatened La Novia Landscape. The project is intended to conserve threatened species such as the yellow-spotted sideneck turtle (*Podocnemis unifilis*) and the arapaima fish (*Arapaima gigas*), while protecting the region from unsustainable and illegal activities such as logging, hunting, fishing, and collecting forest resources such as turtle eggs. Printed materials and radio programs will educate local people, specifically schoolchildren, on the importance of the La Novia for sustaining wildlife populations and other resources utilized by local people. Students from regional universities will conduct research on issues of critical importance to the region and the goals of the new alliance, such as specific threats and resource management. This will not only generate awareness for the area and its threats, but also build the conservation capacity of graduating students pursuing careers in biology, forestry, and other conservation related fields. Specific activities include: (1) further develop the La Novia Conservation Alliance and increase its influence by completing the application for the Amabospén conservation concession and integrating it into the Alliance; (2) community training and fieldwork to increase the population of the yellow-spotted sideneck turtle; (3) hosting university student researchers to generate awareness of the region and to build local conservation capacity and leadership; (4) training and equipping community vigilance committees to monitor illegal activities and the status of endangered species; and (5) implementing a community lake management plan, developed in 2015 with support from USFWS, focused on sustainable use of abundant fish species while restricting harvests of the rare and endangered arapaima while beginning a new lake management plan in a second community.

USFWS: \$60,000

Leveraged Funds: \$56,504

SA1624

Grant # F16AP01054

Traditional ecological knowledge, land management, and climate change: A comprehensive approach to highland wetland management in the Peruvian Tropical Andes. In partnership with Amazon Conservation Association. The purpose of this project is to support a conservation effort in the highland wetlands of the Peruvian Tropical Andes by working with the Japu Highlands Community to evaluate and improve resource management practices related to livestock grazing on their territory. This project is intended to conserve the unique and essential *bofedales* ecosystem, including myriad species of endangered and endemic flora, fauna, and insects, by addressing the impacts of overgrazing and climate change. Specific activities include: (1) a comprehensive diagnostic evaluation of biological and socio-economic factors that impact the management of *bofedales* to provide key baseline data and lay the foundation for future zoning plans; (2) through participatory planning, develop a zoning and management plan for the *bofedales*, including specific guidelines for livestock grazing targeted towards improving the

quality of fiber used by Japu community members for handicrafts that support their livelihoods and preventing overgrazing on and near bofedales; (3) a pride campaign to promote understanding of bofedales ecosystems and commitment to the new zoning and resource management plan developed through this project, including knowledge transfer to other local communities, to enhance understanding and encourage effective implementation of conservation targets in the Japu territory.

USFWS: \$35,959

Leveraged Funds: \$11,844