

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of International Conservation
Marine Turtle Conservation Fund
FY 2017 Summary of Projects**

In FY 2017, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) awarded \$2,203,384 through the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund, which was matched by \$2,992,054 in additional leveraged funds. In total, Congress appropriated \$1,507,000 and additional funds were provided by other sources, as identified below. These funds supported 53 projects in 38 countries, including five projects in two or more countries, as indicated below.

New grants

BANGLADESH

MT1785

Grant # F17AP00415

Community-based sea turtle restoration program in Bangladesh. In partnership with the Marinelife Alliance. The purpose of this project is to conduct community-based sea turtle conservation along 120 km of coastline to address threats from illegal harvests of sea turtles, coastal development, and fisheries bycatch. Activities include: (1) nesting beach patrols and nest protection; (2) education and outreach with local communities, fishers, and schools; (3) training of over 500 fishermen in safe handling and release of sea turtles, bycatch reduction methods, and collection of bycatch data; and (4) establishment of a sea turtle rehabilitation center.

USFWS: \$54,100

Leveraged Funds: \$58,400

BARBADOS

MT1723

Grant # F17AP00184

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

USFWS: \$31,000

Leveraged Funds: \$110,980

CAMBODIA

MT1726

Grant # F17AP00186

Filling research gaps and protecting nesting and foraging habitat for Cambodia's threatened marine turtles. In partnership with Fauna and Flora International. The purpose of this project is to develop a marine turtle conservation program for Cambodia that will address various threats to marine turtles, including nesting beach development, nest poaching, and fisheries bycatch. Specific activities include: (1) strengthening capacity of 12 community fisheries groups to conduct safe sea turtle handling and release with fisheries in high threat interaction zones; (2) continuing development of sea turtle bycatch reduction projects with small-scale fisheries organizations within the Koh Rong and Koh Sdach Archipelagos, which host key foraging grounds for hawksbill and green turtles; (3) conducting surveys to protect nests at select historic nesting sites; (4) organizing additional community fishery patrol teams to reduce illegal fishing and sea turtle bycatch in the Koh Sdach Archipelago; and (5) conducting education and outreach activities in select coastal communities where interactions between sea turtles and humans are greatest.

USFWS: \$49,138

Leveraged Funds: \$18,912

CAMEROON

MT1745

Grant # F17AP00393

Monitoring of the sea turtle nesting beaches by the creation of the Marine National Park of Manyange na Elombo Campo (Cameroon, south zone) and improvement of the knowledge of the teachers of the Ecole de Faune de Garoua (Garoua Wildlife College). In partnership with Chélonée. The purpose of this project is to continue community-based conservation programs along 25 km of nesting beaches with the proposed Marine Protected Area (MPA) of Manange na Elombo Campo and to support Cameroon's Ministry of Forests and Wildlife (MINFOF) in the creation of the MPA. The intent of the project is to protect nests and nesting females from poaching and strengthen capacity for management of the MPA. Project activities include: (1) community-based patrols at eight nesting sites covering about 10 km within the proposed MPA and relocation of threatened nests to hatcheries; (2) an assessment of marine turtle bycatch from gill nets at landing sites; (3) a five-day conservation training seminar for 10 teachers and assistants at Garoua Wildlife College to support capacity building for management of the MPA; and (4) technical advice and support to MINFOF for creation and management of the MPA.

USFWS: \$19,920¹

Leveraged Funds: \$14,472

CAPE VERDE

MT1711

Grant # F17AP00178

Joining forces to protect the endangered loggerhead sea turtles of Boa Vista. In partnership with the Turtle Foundation. The purpose of the project is to implement nesting beach

¹ Funded through the Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE).

conservation programs for loggerheads along 30 km of beaches that host about one third of the nesting on Boa Vista, which overall hosts about 80 percent of the Cape Verde nesting population. The primary objective of this project is to protect nesting loggerheads from the illegal slaughter for meat and the poaching of nests that occurs without conservation programs. The Cape Verde loggerhead nesting population is the third-largest in the world and suffered from up to 40 percent slaughter of nesting females annually prior to the start of Marine Turtle Conservation Fund (MTCF) support in 2009. 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 and complementing the coverage of the two other MTCF-supported projects on Boa Vista implemented by Cabo Verde Natura 2000 and BIOS.CV; (2) coordinating public awareness and educational activities and community development projects that will be implemented by the Turtle Foundation and the two other MTCF-funded projects on Boa Vista to ensure all of MTCF-supported activities among the Boa Vista grantees are strategic, targeted, and complementary; and (3) coordination and hosting of the annual TAOLA (Cape Verdian Sea Turtle Network) partnership to review, coordinate, and synergize loggerhead conservation efforts within the Cape Verde islands.

USFWS: \$63,000

Leveraged Funds: \$236,168

MT1715

Grant # F17AP00180

Conservation, protection, and management of the most important nesting beaches of the Cape Verde loggerhead rookery with the local community. In partnership with *Cabo Verde Natura 2000*. The purpose of this project is to implement nesting beach conservation programs on beaches that include about 40 percent of the loggerhead nesting activity on the Island of Boa Vista. This project intends to protect loggerheads by preventing nesting females and their nests from illegal harvests. Activities include 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 the Turtle Foundation and activities of BIOS.CV on Boa Vista.

USFWS: \$58,089²

Leveraged Funds: \$36,613

MT1732

Grant # 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 the Maio Biodiversity Foundation. The purpose of this project is to implement nesting beach conservation programs and sea turtle bycatch reduction programs. Maio has the second-largest loggerhead nesting population in Cape Verde and is one of the least developed islands. The intent of this project is to eliminate the slaughter of nesting loggerheads for meat and poaching of nests, and to reduce the accidental and direct capture of sea turtles in local fisheries. More organized and directed efforts to protect nesting females began only in 2012 with a small grant from the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund, when an estimated 60 percent of nesting females had been killed by poachers. Activities include: (1) community-based nighttime patrols throughout the nesting season on the six most important nesting beaches; (2) an outreach

² Of this, \$58,038 is funded by proceeds from sales of the Save Vanishing Species stamp.

program targeting local fishermen to assist with developing alternative livelihoods and integrating them into the conservation program; and (3) an extensive community education outreach program to engage the 12 main local communities in sea turtle conservation issues and solutions.

USFWS: \$55,550³

Leveraged Funds: \$53,857

MT1734

Grant # 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, accounting for about 25 percent of nesting on the island, which itself accounts for 80 percent of the Cape Verde loggerhead nesting population. The intention is to protect nesting females from slaughter for meat and nests from poaching. Activities include: (1) setting up a field camp to support nightly patrols to deter poaching and count nests; and (2) conducting outreach and education activities with local communities in coordination with the Turtle Foundation and Natura 2000. The Joao Barrosa camp complements nesting beach conservation projects on Boa Vista conducted by Natura 2000 and the Turtle Foundation, which together protect about 95 percent of the sea turtle nesting on Boa Vista.

USFWS: \$18,000⁴

Leveraged Funds: \$86,178

MT1739

Grant # F17AP00194

Protection of the loggerhead turtles in Sal Island, Cabo Verde. In partnership with *Associacao Projectos 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 intention is to prevent killing of nesting females for meat and poaching of nests throughout the nesting season on all of the most important nesting beaches, and to diminish light pollution impacts on hatchlings along 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; and (2) education and outreach activities with local schools, youth, and other groups.

USFWS: \$40,000⁵

Leveraged Funds: \$43,019

COSTA RICA

MT1756

Grant # F17AP00401

Conservation and monitoring program of leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) sea turtle nesting in the North Pacific of Costa Rica. In partnership with FUNDECODES. The purpose of this project is to conduct surveys and protect nests in Las Baulas National Park and on adjacent

³ Funded by USAID–CWT funds.

⁴ Of this, \$17,475 is funded by proceeds from sales of the Save Vanishing Species stamp, and \$525 by USAID–CWT funds.

⁵ Funded by USAID–CWT funds.

beaches, which host the most important East Pacific leatherback nesting population in Costa Rica. The East Pacific leatherback is the most endangered leatherback population in the world, and the intention of this project is to protect nests from poaching. Project activities involve nighttime patrols throughout the nesting season and relocation of nests to hatcheries.

USFWS: \$34,375

Leveraged Funds: \$1,830

COTE D'IVOIRE

MT1743

Grant # F17AP00391

Conservation of sea turtles of Ivory Coast. In partnership with *Conservation des Especies Marines*. The purpose of this project is to conduct a community-based conservation project on an important leatherback nesting beach in Ivory Coast. Project activities include: (1) local community members and university students monitoring and protecting nests from poaching along an 18 km stretch of beach with an estimated 700 sea turtle nests annually; and (2) conducting environmental education outreach activities with local communities.

USFWS: \$25,000

Leveraged Funds: \$100,619

ECUADOR

MT1718

Grant # F17AP00181

Assessment and mitigation of hawksbill consumption in Ecuador's Jambeli Archipelago. In partnership with *Fundación Ecológica Arcoiris*. The purpose of this project is develop a community-based conservation program for hawksbills in the Jambeli Archipelago in southern Ecuador, which is a critical foraging site for adult and juvenile hawksbills. Activities include: (1) recruiting and training field personnel to conduct in-water hawksbill surveys; (2) conducting surveys and interviews to assess knowledge and attitudes of local fishers; (3) conducting outreach and education activities with local communities through workshops, website and social media content, and with a press conference.

USFWS: \$12,505

Leveraged Funds: \$2,300

EL SALVADOR

MT1714

Grant # 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 conduct hawksbill conservation programs at Bahia de Jiquilisco Biosphere Reserve (Bahia), El Salvador. The project is intended to protect nests and nesting females from poaching, reduce bycatch from lobster fisheries, and lower mortality of adult and juvenile hawksbills from illegal blast fishing. The Eastern Pacific hawksbill nesting population was until 2008 thought to have been extirpated, and Bahia accounts for about 45 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 employed on-board observers; (4) Light Emitting Diodes (LED) light trials on lobster nets to determine deterrence effectiveness; and (5) strengthening the hawksbill ecotourism program.

USFWS: \$99,200

Leveraged Funds: \$74,000

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

MT1757

Grant # F17AP00402

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 conduct community-based patrols to protect nests and nesting females from poaching at Punta Ilende Natural Reserve (5 km), Rio Campo Natural Reserve (7 km), and Nendyi Scientific Reserve (4 km). Activities include: (1) providing a training seminar for 20 INDEFOR-AP participants on sea turtle biology and identification, data collection, field technology/equipment use, wildlife laws, enforcement procedures, and sea turtle conservation; (2) patrolling nesting beaches throughout the nesting season and relocating eggs to hatcheries; (3) conducting outreach and education campaigns with local schools, fishermen, urban areas, and national authorities; and (4) collecting data along the mainland's coastline to assess levels of illegal harvesting and bycatch of marine turtles.

USFWS: \$42,000⁶

Leveraged Funds: \$10,000

GABON

MT1774

Grant # F17AP01019

Conserving Gabon's endangered sea turtles. In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to conserve the largest leatherback nesting population in the world and the largest olive ridley nesting population in the Atlantic, both centered in Gabon. The project is intended to address threats on the nesting beaches from poaching, light pollution, and logs which entrap nesting females and hatchlings and in some cases prevent nesting females from nesting on more suitable sites above the high tides; and to reduce sea turtle fisheries bycatch from fish and shrimp trawls, longline fishing vessels, and artisanal fishers. Specific activities include: (1) assisting with training of on-board observers for trawl and long-line 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 better address artisanal fishery bycatch issues; (4) removing logs on major nesting beaches; (5) conducting ground monitoring, including night patrols, to protect nests from poaching, and relocating 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 nesting trends; and (7) implementing public outreach and awareness activities in schools,

⁶ Of this, \$25,830 is funded through the Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE).

villages, and urban environments, including a National Turtle Day celebration in the capitol and four other major cities or towns.

USFWS: \$165,000⁷

Leveraged Funds: \$89,594

GHANA

MT1780

Grant # F17AP00413

Expanding the role of Ghanaians in sea turtle conservation activities in central Ghana, Africa. In partnership with the Florida Gulf Coast University Board of Trustees. The purpose of this project is to conduct community-based patrols along 20 km of nesting beaches to protect nests and nesting females from poaching and nests from hog depredation within Muni-Pomadze Marine Protected Reserve, and to continue a sea turtle bycatch reduction program. Activities include: (1) night patrols throughout the nesting season and relocation of 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 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

GUATEMALA

MT1763

Grant # F17AP00405

Strengthening sea turtle conservation, adapting to climate change, and assisting in meeting Guatemala's Inter-American Sea Turtle Convention (IAC) commitments. In partnership with Wildlife Rescue and Conservation Association (*Asociación Rescate y Conservación de Vida Silvestre*, or ARCAS). The purpose of this project is to support a marine turtle conservation program along the Pacific coast of Guatemala. The intent is to improve monitoring of nesting trends, hatchery management, and the legal egg harvest program. Project activities include: (1) training workshops to assist communities and private institutions to implement best management practices for hatcheries; (2) supporting field teams to conduct standardized nest surveys on index beaches; and (3) conducting education and outreach activities with local communities. The grantee will work closely with the Secretariat of the Inter-American Sea Turtle Convention (IAC) and with government institutions to help Guatemala ensure its olive ridley egg harvest meets the criteria under the IAC exceptions clause.

USFWS: \$25,000

Leveraged Funds: \$17,025

GUINEA

MT1744

Grant # F17AP00392

Monitoring and conservation of the West African green turtle population outside the Poilão Island hotspot. In partnership with Chélonée. The purpose of this project is to develop community-based conservation programs along the southern Mauritanian coast near Nouakchott

⁷ Funded through the Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE).

and Katrack Island, Guinea to protect sea turtle nests from poaching and predation and reduce mortality of sea turtles as a result of fisheries bycatch. Project activities include: (1) conducting community-based patrols along 20 km of nesting beaches on Katrack Island and 30 km of the southern Mauritania coast to count and relocate nests to protected hatcheries; (2) continued surveys of artisanal fishers to better assess sea turtle bycatch; and (3) conducting conservation outreach and education programs with local communities and fishers.

USFWS: \$18,846

Leveraged Funds: \$37,973

GUINEA-BISSAU

MT1737

Grant # F17AP00192

Strengthening conservation of sea turtle population through community participation in the Bijagos Archipelago, Guinea Bissau. In partnership with *Instituto de Biodiversidade e das Áreas Protegidas* (IBAP). The purpose of this project is to implement a nesting beach conservation program in Orango National Park. The Bijagos Archipelago hosts the largest green turtle nesting assemblage in West Africa. The intent of this project is to protect nesting sea turtles and nests from poaching. Activities include: (1) community-based patrols on the eight main nesting beaches totaling 52 km; (2) providing training on sea turtle conservation and techniques to community patrolers and Park Rangers; and (3) conducting community outreach and education activities through informal meetings, community radio stations, National Park management committee meetings, cinema debate, and marine surveillance.

USFWS: \$18,953

Leveraged Funds: \$15,560

INDIA

MT1722

Grant # F17AP00183

Expand 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 from poaching and reduce the accidental capture and mortality of sea turtles in fishing trawls. Activities include: (1) daily surveys, conducted by the Sea Turtle Community Force teams, to protect nests and nesting turtles along 107 villages during the December to May nesting season, covering about 291 km of beach and protecting an estimated 3,000 nests; (2) outreach and education activities in 111 fishing communities to address the sea turtle bycatch that impacts the major olive ridley arribada nesting populations in the State of Orissa, India; and (3) 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.

USFWS: \$20,600

Leveraged Funds: \$33,310

MT1752**Grant # F17AP00398**

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 the project is to strengthen and sustain collective and collaborative sea turtle conservation of key sites with a network of partners in the Indian sub-continent. The intent of this project is to build local and regional capacity of marine turtle conservation projects, reduce poaching and depredation of nests, and improve data collection for better scientific monitoring of nesting populations. Proposed activities include: (1) continuation of standardized surveys of the olive ridley arribada nesting population at Rushikulya, Orissa; (2) implementation of a conservation program to protect the Little Adaman Island's leatherback nesting population and a newly discovered small olive ridley arribada nesting population; (3) training workshops for improving data collection and conservation programs; and (4) community outreach and education.

USFWS: \$75,020

Leveraged Funds: \$57,000

INDONESIA**MT1729****Grant # F17AP00189**

Conservation of Pacific leatherback turtle in the Bird's Head region of Papua, Indonesia.. In partnership with *Universitas Papua* (UNIPA), the University of Papua. The purpose of this project is to conduct a conservation program for the endangered western Pacific leatherback nesting population at Jamursba Medi and Wermon beaches and strengthen conservation efforts with local communities.

USFWS: \$53,000

Leveraged Funds: \$128,875

JAPAN**MT1773****Grant # F17AP00409**

38th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation. In partnership with the International Sea Turtle Society. The pupose of this grant is to support the 38th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation. This award will provide travel support for sea turtle conservationists from countries outside the United States without institutional supoprt to attend.

USFWS: \$5,000

Leveraged Funds: \$277,000

LIBERIA**MT1768****Grant # F17AP00408**

Support for community-based marine turtle conservation project in Little Bassa and Borgor Point. In partnership with the Sea Turtle Watch and the Save My Future Foundation. The purpose of this project is to continue community-based conservation for nesting leatherback, hawksbill, and olive ridley turtles along 18 km of nesting beaches in Cestos County and 20 km

along the Bassa coastline to prevent poaching of nests and nesting turtles. Activities include: (1) daily patrols throughout the nesting season; and (2) outreach and education activities with local communities and schools.

USFWS: \$48,001

Leveraged Funds: \$20,072

MALAYSIA

MT1782

Grant # F17AP00934

Capacity building and operationalizing Sabah's Turtle Excluder Device program. In partnership with the Marine Research Institute. The purpose of this project is to provide technical training and support for the implementation of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) on shrimp trawls to reduce the mortality of sea turtles in Malaysia from unintentional capture. Activities include: (1) conducting trials at sea with fishers to demonstrate proper installation, bycatch reduction, fuel efficiency, and catch quality; (2) holding meetings with fishers to present results of trials and seek greater participation; (3) providing training to fishing crews and netmakers on proper construction and installation; (4) assisting the Malaysia Department of Fisheries in convening national- and state-level meetings with fishery officers to develop a comprehensive TED implementation plan; and (5) providing public awareness and outreach on findings of the project through web-based portals, reports, media releases, and social marketing programs.

USFWS: \$50,000⁸

Leveraged Funds: \$21,900

MEXICO

MT1704

Grant # F17AP00174

Evaluation of the reproductive biology of the Kemp's ridley sea turtle at Rando Nuevo, Mexico: Implications for conservation and ecology. In partnership with the University of Alabama, and in collaboration with CONANP, SEDUMA, CDEN, the Gladys Porter Zoo, and the National Marine Fisheries Service. The purpose of this project is to continue and expand a long-term collaborative project on the Kemp's ridley sea turtle with an emphasis on evaluating the reproductive output of nesting females at Rancho Nuevo as a method of determining factors affecting nesting trends, and the long-term impact of global climate change on sex ratios and nesting phenology at Rando Nuevo. The research conducted for this project will include: (1) ultrasound and hormone analyses of nesting females in order to evaluate potential changes in clutch frequency and fecundity associated with environmental or demographic factors, such as the Deepwater Horizon oil spill; (2) an evaluation of fundamental changes in nesting phenology and hatchling sex ratios associated with global climate change over more than three decades; and (3) studies to address the ecology of the Kemp's ridley, including abundance and habitat use of turtles in near-shore waters using unmanned aerial vehicle technology throughout the nesting season, and the timing of emergence in both corral and in situ nests.

USFWS: \$19,394⁹

Leveraged Funds: \$28,150

⁸ Funded through Resource Management funds.

⁹ Funds provided through an agreement with the National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, Department of Commerce (#PR – 086).

MT1710**Grant # F17AP00177**

Reducing Eastern Pacific leatherback bycatch in the tuna fisheries of the Eastern Tropical Pacific. In partnership with Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC). This award supports the convening of a two-day workshop for the IATTC Bycatch Working Group to identify conservation and management actions for the reduction of sea turtles in tuna fisheries and to draft recommended measures for consideration at the 2018 annual IATTC meeting.

USFWS: \$10,000¹⁰

Leveraged Funds: \$0

MT1727**Grant # F17AP00187**

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

USFWS: \$22,000

Leveraged Funds: \$59,484

MT1751**Grant # F17AP00397**

Conservation of the leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) in the Mexican Pacific 2017-2018. In partnership with *Kutzari Asociación para el Estudio y Conservación de las Tortugas Marinas, A.C.* The purpose of this project is to conduct nesting beach conservation programs at three of the four primary leatherback nesting beaches in Mexico, which account for over 40 percent of leatherback nesting in Pacific Mexico. The intent is to protect nests from poaching and depredation. Project activities include: (1) conducting nightly community-based patrols at three nesting beaches of Cahuitan, Tierra Colorada, Mexiquillo, and Barra de la Cruz; and (2) relocating nests to hatcheries to protect them from poaching, depredation, and tidal inundation.

USFWS: \$95,960

Leveraged Funds: \$189,131

MT1778**Grant # F17AP00412**

Initial assessment of potential hawksbill nesting beaches on the Tres Marias Archipelago. In Partnership with George Mason University. The purpose of this project is to assess the status of hawksbill nesting at Islas Tres Marias. The intent is to determine if historic reports of hawksbill nesting at these islands are correct, and, if nesting is occurring, determine threats and priority conservation measures. Project activities include: (1) conducting interviews with community members to identify known nesting sites; (2) surveying nesting beaches to assess the status of nesting; and (3) conducting snorkeling surveys near three potential or known nesting sites.

USFWS: \$13,28

Leveraged Funds: \$4,640

¹⁰ Funds provided through an agreement with the National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, Department of Commerce (#PR – 086).

MOROCCO

MT1728

Grant # 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 determine the status of sea turtles in Morocco, assess their threats, and build capacity for a marine turtle conservation program. Activities include: (1) surveying the coast from Agadir to Dakhla (southern Morocco) and conducting in-depth interviews with fishermen to determine current and past nesting; (2) training fishermen to collect bycatch data on fisheries operating from five major ports; and (3) conducting extensive market surveys to determine the commercial importance of sea turtles.

USFWS: \$25,000

Leveraged Funds: \$2,000

MYANMAR

MT1748

Grant # F17AP00395

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 the development of a national sea turtle conservation program for Myanmar. The intent of this project is to protect nests and turtles from overexploitation and reduce injuries and mortality to sea turtles as a result of fisheries bycatch. Activities include: (1) formation of a Marine Turtle Working Group of government, non-governmental organization, university, and private sea turtle stakeholders, which will meet to develop a national conservation program and activities; (2) conducting training workshops for sea turtle surveyers in three regional locations of the coast; (3) implementing monitoring programs at key nesting sites; (4) conducting surveys of fishing communities to gather information on marine turtle harvest; (5) assessing hatchery management practices, determining needed improvements, and advising on best management practices; and (6) facilitating drafting of a National Action Plan with all key stakeholders.

USFWS: \$25,141

Leveraged Funds: \$7,572

NICARAGUA

MT1725

Grant # 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 implement nesting beach conservation programs for one of the three most important East Pacific leatherback nesting populations, and to support an Eastern Pacific hawksbill conservation program at two recently discovered nesting sites at Estero Padre Ramos and Aserradores. The East Pacific leatherback population is at less than one percent of its historical levels and the most endangered leatherback population in the world, and these hawksbill nesting sites account for 40-50 percent of all known East Pacific hawksbill nesting. This project is intended to protect leatherback and hawksbill nests and nesting females from poaching. Activities include: (1) conducting daily community-based patrols to count and protect nests and nesting females and to

relocate eggs to hatcheries; (2) providing training workshops for the survey teams; and (3) conducting environmental education and outreach activities with local communities, including a “Day of the Turtle” event in schools and the annual Hawksbill Cup competition with the hawksbill project in El Salvador.

USFWS: \$80,539

Leveraged Funds: \$93,024

MT1786

Grant # F17AP00416

Save Marine Turtles (SmART): Protecting endangered leatherbacks and other nesting marine turtles. In partnership with *Paso Pacifico*. The intent of this project is to build sea turtle conservation capacity on the Pacific coast of Nicaragua for the protection of leatherback, hawksbill, and green turtle nests. Project activities include: (1) conducting a six-day training workshop for 12 participants from three nesting beach communities to develop leadership skills; (2) conducting skill-building clinics to develop technical skills for monitoring beaches and nest protection; (3) community-based surveys to assess attitudes and monitor progress on protecting sea turtle nests on three beaches during the leatherback nesting season.

USFWS: \$26,000

Leveraged Funds: \$23,720

PANAMA

MT1701

Grant # F17AP00172

Leatherback and hawksbill turtle research and population recovery in Panama. In partnership with the Sea Turtle Conservancy. The purpose of this project is to restore the Chiriqui Beach, Panama nesting population of hawksbill turtles, once the largest in the Caribbean, in partnership with local indigenous Ngöbe-Buglé community members. The project also supports monitoring and protection of the largest leatherback nesting population in the western Caribbean. This project is intended to protect nests and nesting female hawksbills from poaching and nests from dog depredation. Specific activities include: (1) supporting community-based patrols and development of a nest protection methodology to prevent dog depredation of nests; (2) extensive outreach and education activities with local communities and schools; and (3) working with stakeholder groups to develop sea turtle ecotourism opportunities for local community residents

USFWS: \$52,000

Leveraged Funds: \$249,535

PORTUGAL

MT1758

Grant # F17AP00403

Consolidating sea turtle conservation in the Azores 3 (COSTA 3). In partnership with *Instituto do Mar*. The purpose of this project is to conduct conservation programs to address loggerhead bycatch mortality from long-line fishing vessels in the Azores. The Azores are a major developmental habitat and foraging grounds for juvenile loggerheads from the Northwest Atlantic loggerhead nesting population, which nests primarily in the United States. Activities include: (1) placing observers on longline vessels to collect sea turtle bycatch data; (2) analyzing

historical and current bycatch data to determine interaction zones for future management intervention; and (3) training fishers in safe handling and release practices.
USFWS: \$42,428¹¹ Leveraged Funds: \$35,689

REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

MT1749

Grant # F17AP00396

Marine turtle monitoring and protection in the Republic of the Congo. In partnership with Renatura. The purpose of this project is to continue community-based sea turtle conservation programs in the coastal area of the Republic of the Congo outside the Conkouati Douli National Park. The intent is to protect nests and nesting females from poaching and reduce sea turtle injury and mortality from artisanal fisheries. Project activities include: (1) training local village members to conduct daily patrols on three 10 km long nesting beaches (Bellelo, Djeno, and Mvassa) to count nests and prevent poaching; (2) conducting environmental outreach with local villages; and (3) working with fishermen to ensure safe release of sea turtles accidentally captured in gill nets.

USFWS: \$69,250¹²

Leveraged Funds: \$136,350

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

MT1754

Grant # F17AP00400

Strengthening conservation of sea turtle populations through community participation in Sao Tome Island, Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe. In partnership with Associacao Tartarugas Marinhas. The purpose of this project is to implement a community-based conservation program on main hawksbill nesting beaches on the Island of Sao Tome to address threats from poaching, predation, and beach erosion. Sao Tome is one of the primary hawksbill nesting sites on the African Atlantic Coast. Activities include: (1) training community rangers to conduct daily nighttime patrols to deter poaching on 23 km of hawksbill nesting beaches throughout the nesting season; (2) relocation of nests threatened by predators, poachers, and tidal inundation to beach hatcheries; (3) community outreach and education; (4) workshops with local police and government officials about laws protecting sea turtles and conflict resolution to deal with the entrenched history of turtle and egg exploitation; and (5) alternative livelihood workshops with tortoise shell carvers and fishers.

USFWS: \$20,000¹³

Leveraged Funds: \$30,028

¹¹ Of this, \$79 is funded through an agreement with the National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, Department of Commerce (#PR – 086).

¹² Funded through the Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE).

¹³ Funded through the Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE).

SIERRA LEONE

MT1742

Grant # F17AP00390

Continued development of a community-based marine turtle conservation program for Sierra Leone and leatherback conservation initiative at Turtle and Bonthe/Sherbro Islands, and the southern shoreline. In partnership with the Reptile and Amphibian Program-Sierra Leone. The purpose of this project is to conduct community-based conservation programs to reduce poaching of nests at key leatherback nesting beaches and reduce sea turtle bycatch in artisanal fisheries at important foraging sites with a special emphasis on community involvement, capacity building, and environmental outreach with fishermen and local communities.

USFWS: \$65,000

Leveraged Funds: \$13,620

SOLOMON ISLANDS

MT1787

Grant # F17AP00417

Community-based sea turtle conservation in Melanesia: Protection and monitoring of leatherback, green, and hawksbill turtles in the western Solomon islands. In partnership with the Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership. The purpose of this project is to conduct community-based nesting beach conservation programs to prevent poaching on the important leatherback and hawksbill nesting beaches on three islands in the Solomon Islands. Activities include: (1) night patrolling of nesting beaches throughout the nesting season; (2) relocation of nests to hatcheries or safe beach sites; and (3) training workshops for community patrol members.

USFWS: \$25,000

Leveraged Funds: \$0

SPAIN

MT1719

Grant # F17AP00182

Conservation of the loggerhead turtle in the western Mediterranean: Coordinated solutions for bycatch reduction in the foraging population of the Comunidad Valenciana (Spain). In partnership with *Asociación Chelonia*. The purpose of this project is to evaluate and reduce accidental marine turtle bycatch and marine debris from artisanal fisheries operating from Valencia community ports and raise awareness of the loggerhead conservation status and issues. Activities include: (1) placing on-board observers on artisanal fishing boats to collect sea turtle bycatch data; (2) collecting data on recreational fishing activities and effort in the Valencia community; (3) working with fishermen associations to reduce marine debris; (4) conducting an awareness-raising campaign, including publication of the Turtle Gazette for fishermen; (5) distributing informational electronic newsletters to environmental departments of 59 coastal communities to inform them about loggerhead conservation issues and actions community governments can assist with and implement.

USFWS: \$24,497

Leveraged Funds: \$78,611

MT1767**Grant # 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 project is to work with the Spanish longline fleet to reduce mortality and injury to accidentally captured sea turtles in the North Atlantic. The intent is to specifically reduce bycatch mortality to the northwest Atlantic loggerhead nesting population. Activities include: (1) training workshops in port and at sea to build fleet capacity for better bycatch data reporting and safe handling and release of captured turtles; (2) conducting a three-month survey in the western Mediterranean to map turtle critical habitat and risks; (3) conducting fishing trials in the Atlantic and Mediterranean with longline vessels to test and validate the “3D bycatch risk zoning tool” and test new bycatch mitigation measures; and (4) production of short videos of fishing operations, training workshops, and sea turtles in coordination with Spain’s Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment and fisheries organizations to be used for awareness, education, and outreach.

USFWS: \$46,200

Leveraged Funds: \$173,800

TURKEY**MT1738****Grant # F17AP00193*****Developing a conservation project to address sea turtle bycatch mortality in Mediterranean coast of Turkey.***

In partnership with *Pamukkale Bilim Merkezi Dernegi Danismanlik Ve Organizasyon*. The purpose of this project is to develop a sea turtle conservation program to address fisheries bycatch issues near six loggerhead nesting beaches in three provinces of Turkey. Activities include: (1) placing two on-board observers on fishing boats to gather information on fishing operations and sea turtle captures on the Turkish Mediterranean coast; (2) developing and distributing a questionnaire to fishermen and other stakeholders to collect information about sea turtle bycatch; (3) assessing collected data to determine potential mitigation measures to reduce sea turtle bycatch; and (4) conducting an awareness and outreach campaign for fishermen on the safe release and handling of turtles accidentally captured in net, trawl, or longline fisheries.

USFWS: \$15,000¹⁴

Leveraged Funds: \$5,000

VENEZUELA**MT1765****Grant # F17AP00406*****Conservation of endangered southeastern Caribbean hawksbill turtles, *Eretmochelys imbricata*, in Los Roques Archipiélago National Park, Venezuela.***

In partnership with *Provita*. The purpose of this project is to conduct a rapid assessment of the status of hawksbills in Los Roques National Park, Venezuela. The intent is to understand current levels of nesting activity and threats to this nesting and foraging hawksbill population. Activities include: (1) conducting

¹⁴ Funds provided through an agreement with the National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, Department of Commerce (#PR – 086).

early-morning suveys on nine index beaches during a 30-day peak period of nesting; and (2) conducting meetings with local fishers and community members to gather information on attitudes towards the turtle population and threats.

USFWS: \$10,714

Leveraged Funds: \$13,266

VIETNAM

MT1741

Grant # 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 (IUCN)-Vietnam. The purpose of this project is to conduct community-based sea turtle conservation programs along select coastal provinces and communities and to determine the current status of hawksbills in Vietnam. The intention of this project is to protect nests and nesting females from poaching and to 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 working with fishermen to safely release sea turtles accidentally captured in coastal fisheries; (2) recruiting, training, and fielding approximately 25 volunteers to support rangers at Con Dao National Park to patrol remote beaches and protect approximately 1,000 green turtle nests and 250 nesting females; and (3) conducting field surveys at selected hawksbill foraging grounds in south central and southern Vietnam to assess abundance, status, and threats.

USFWS: \$84,198¹⁵

Leveraged Funds: \$63,657

MT1753

Grant # F17AP00399

Combating marine turtle trade in Vietnam. In partnership with Education for Nature-Vietnam (ENV). The purpose of this project is to understand the current status of marine turtle trafficking in Vietnam and reduce illegal marine turtle trade in Vietnam. Project activities include: (1) an investigation of current illegal marine turtle trade networks in Vietnam; (2) conducting consumer crime reduction campaigns in major urban centers; (3) implementing internet crime reduction campaigns; and (4) pursuing prosecution of marine turtle traffickers.

USFWS: \$52,828¹⁶

Leveraged Funds: \$13,827

MT1759

Grant # 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 support implementation of the National Marine Turtle Conservation Plan of Vietnam. The intent is to facilitate greater action by the national government and various stakeholders to implement recovery actions to protect nesting and foraging marine turtle populations and reduce marine turtle trafficking in Vietnam. Project activities include: (1) hiring a special project manager to work closely within the Directorate of Fisheries to facilitate implementation of conservation actions identified in the Action Plan; and (2)

¹⁵ Funded by USAID-CWT funds.

¹⁶ Of this, \$19,727 was funded by USAID-CWT funds.

organizing and holding workshops with stakeholders to develop timelines and commitments for specific conservation actions identified in the plan

USFWS: \$31,495

Leveraged Funds: \$0

MULTIPLE COUNTRIES – CHILE, PERU, AND ECUADOR

MT1747

Grant # F17AP00394

IAC Convention outreach to decision-makers in the IAC member countries to raise awareness and communicate recommendations of actions to mitigate the threats of East Pacific leatherback turtles.

In partnership with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation. The purpose of this project is to raise awareness and support of governments and fishermen from South American Pacific coast countries to address leatherback fisheries bycatch mortality where threats to East Pacific leatherbacks are greatest on foraging grounds and migration routes. Activities include: (1) convening national technical workshops in key Eastern Pacific leatherback foraging ground countries to create local strategies to address fisheries bycatch; and (2) raising awareness by meeting with high-level decision makers of governmental agencies that have authority to address fisheries bycatch on key Eastern Pacific leatherback foraging grounds.

USFWS: \$24,716

Leveraged Funds: \$10,320

MULTIPLE COUNTRIES – COLOMBIA AND PANAMA

MT1777

Grant # F17AP00411

Building capacity for community-based conservation of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback in the Darien Gap of Colombia and Panama.

In Partnership with the World Wildlife Fund. The purpose of this proposal is to assess leatherback nesting and threats and develop conservation efforts for the East Pacific leatherback in the Darien Gap region of Colombia and Panama. The intent is to assess nesting status and reduce poaching and depredation of nests to support Eastern Pacific leatherback recovery. Activities include: (1) training local community members to conduct standardized and systematic nesting beach surveys and protect nests during the peak of leatherback nesting; and (2) promoting binational efforts and collaboration for sea turtle conservation in the Darien Gap region.

USFWS: \$39,205

Leveraged Funds: \$9,800

MULTIPLE COUNTRIES – EL SALVADOR AND ECUADOR

MT1781

Grant # F17AP00414

Vital support for hawksbills in the Eastern Pacific Ocean: Year IV of conservation at top-tier nesting beaches.

In partnership with The Ocean Foundation. The purpose of this project is to conduct nesting beach conservation projects for Eastern Pacific hawksbills at four secondary nesting beaches in Los Cobanos and Punta Amapala, El Salvador; Machalilla, and El Pelado, Ecuador, which account for about 25 percent of all known nesting of the Eastern Pacific hawksbill. The intent of this project is to protect nests from poaching, depredation, and tidal inundation. Project activities include: (1) night patrols throughout the nesting season; (2)

relocation of nests to safe in-situ sites or hatcheries; and (3) community outreach and education activities.

USFWS: \$52,600

Leveraged Funds: \$55,160

MULTIPLE COUNTRIES – GABON, EQUATORIAL GUINEA, IVORY COAST, AND REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

MT1708

Grant # F17AP00176

Sea turtle technical assistance in the Gulf of Guinea, West Africa. In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to provide coordination of the Gabon Sea Turtle Partnership to conserve the world's largest leatherback nesting population; provide technical and capacity building support for high-priority Marine Turtle Conservation Fund (MTCF)-supported sea turtle projects in the Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Ivory Coast, and Equatorial Guinea; and 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 implementation of a ban on sea turtle harvest in 2009 by local authorities. The project is intended to provide the coordination and facilitation for a more effective Gabon Sea Turtle Partnership and to provide the technical and scientific support to develop and improve the capacity of MTCF-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) organization and facilitation of 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) site visits to MTCF-funded projects in Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, the Republic of the Congo, and Ivory Coast to provide scientific and technical support to address threats and strengthen capacity of the implementing MTCF grantees.

USFWS: \$64,000

Leveraged Funds: \$33,604

MULTIPLE COUNTRIES – OMAN, CAPE VERDE, LIBERIA, SIERRA LEONE, CAMBODIA, MYANMAR, INDONESIA

MT1703

Grant # F17AC00157

Scientific and technical support to sea turtle projects with a focus on Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and the Western Pacific. In partnership with the Ocean Ecology Network. The purpose of this project is to provide technical and scientific assistance for Marine Turtle Conservation Fund (MTCF)-supported sea turtle conservation projects with a focus on Africa, Asia, West Pacific, and Oman. This project is intended to improve and strengthen the capacity of high priority MCTF-funded projects to deter poaching and improve management practices for nesting beach conservation programs and sea turtle bycatch reduction efforts. Activities include: (1) site visits to MTCF-funded projects in Cape Verde, Indonesia, Myanmar, Cambodia, Sierra Leone, and Liberia to provide training and technical support; and (2) organization and implementation of a loggerhead satellite telemetry research project in Oman and technical support and participation in a sea turtle fisheries bycatch project with fishing communities at Masirah Island, Oman.

USFWS: \$34,361

Leveraged Funds: \$32,000

Modifications to existing grants

MEXICO

MT1634

Grant # F16AP00286

Conservation of the Japanese-nesting loggerhead turtle: Mortality assessment and conservation outreach at the Baja California Sur, México juvenile foraging area. In partnership with The Ocean Foundation. The purpose of this project is to support conservation programs for the loggerhead foraging population in Baja California Sur, Mexico. The project is intended to collect stranding data to support bycatch mortality reduction from gill net fisheries on this key foraging ground. Specific activities include: (1) assessing loggerhead bycatch mortality through continued daily shoreline surveys along 34 km of Playa San Lazaro; and (2) educational enrichment and outreach programs for students in elementary schools in the Bahía Magdalena regions.

USFWS: \$28,850¹⁷

Leveraged Funds: \$32,400

¹⁷ Of this, \$23, 455 is provided with funds through an agreement with the National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, Department of Commerce (#PR – 086).