

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of International Conservation
Mexico Program
FY 2017 Summary of Projects**

In FY 2017, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) awarded funding to 12 projects totaling \$612,167 through its Mexico Program, which was matched by \$730,821 in additional leveraged funds.

New grants

MX1706

Grant # F17AP00515

Community-led recovery of native species of the tropical rain forest within the framework of the scarlet macaw reintroduction program in Los Tuxtlas, Veracruz, Phase II. In partnership with *Bosque Antiquo AC*. The purpose of this project is to continue with the scarlet macaw reintroduction and conservation efforts in Los Tuxtlas Biosphere Reserve, Veracruz. This project aims at reducing the threats of habitat loss and illegal killing and wildlife trafficking affecting scarlet macaws and other native species. Project activities include: (1) releasing into the wild a new group of captive-bred scarlet macaws; (2) continuing to monitor and support all scarlet macaws released during Phase I of the project (100 individuals); (3) successfully reintroducing the native red-eyed tree frog to the Ecological Reserve of Nanciyaga; (4) creating sustainable livelihood alternatives for the local communities, including the establishment of small-scale meliponine (stingless bees) beekeeping enterprises; (5) improving scarlet macaw habitat quality and connectivity by continuing to carry out reforestation efforts with native tree species; and (6) establishing a pilot agouti (*Dasyprocta mexicana*) farm as an alternative source of protein and income to cattle and to reduce the pressure on dwindling wild populations of agoutis in the area. USFWS: \$49,990 Leveraged Funds: \$185,568

MX1715

Grant # F17AP00516

Coral reef conservation in the Mexican Pacific II. In partnership with *Costa Salvaje* (Wildcoast). The goal of this project is to conserve 686,767 acres of coral reefs in six Natural Protected Areas (NPAs) of the Mexican Pacific. The objective is to improve the management of coral reefs to reduce threats from uncontrolled touristic activities. The following activities will enhance and further develop coral reef conservation initiatives in the Mexican Pacific: (1) providing training and logistical support for park rangers in the Huatulco National Park (HNP) to install an effective conservation mooring buoy system; (2) training CONANP staff from six NPAs to implement coral reef monitoring as well as data management and analysis; (3) delivering participatory workshops with local tourism operators and community watch groups to promote proper use of the buoy system and best practices for tourism in HNP; (4) organizing an

exchange of experiences between tourism providers in the HNP and the Cabo Pulmo National Park (CPNP) to foster and strengthen coral reef observation techniques; and (5) increasing awareness with the 2,500 visitors to HNP and PNCP through informal lectures, workshops, graphics, and outreach activities to promote coral reef conservation.

USFWS: \$67,031

Leveraged Funds: \$105,745

MX1716

Grant # F17AP00517

Institutional capacity strengthening for the effective implementation of environmental law enforcement and patrolling actions in Bay of Loreto National Park, Baja California Sur, Mexico. In partnership with *Eco-Alianza de Loreto, A.C.* The intent of this project is to strengthen the operations and coordination among local authorities working in Bay of Loreto National Park to minimize the impact of illegal fishing and harmful tourism and recreational activities threatening the long-term conservation of the park's marine mammals and critical habitats. Priority conservation targets include sea cucumber (*Isostichopus fuscus*), rock scallop (*Spondylus calcifer*), chocolate clam (*Megapitaria squalida*), as well as other species at risk including cetaceans, especially blue and fin whale (*Balaenoptera musculus* and *B. physalus*, respectively). Specific activities include: (1) validating protocols among institutions to successfully establish the chain of custody; (2) conducting joint land/sea patrolling and monitoring operations among local authorities (including SEMAR, PROFEPA, CONAPESCA, Environmental Police, and CONANP) that increase the effectiveness in detaining illegal fishermen and reducing illegal trade of fauna; (3) creating and implementing a field patrolling and monitoring workplan among government agencies to strengthen patrolling and monitoring actions; (4) training and establishing community patrolling and monitoring committees to increase their sense of ownership and empowerment for the protection of the natural resources they and their families depend on; and (5) holding a series of workshops and meetings and distributing informational materials to increase the awareness of fishermen, tourism operators, and visitors regarding the regulations under the park's new management plan.

USFWS: \$48,633

Leveraged Funds: \$18,750

MX1726

Grant # F17AP00518

Integrated management of jaguar habitat through community engagement in western Mexico. In partnership with *Fondo Noroeste (FONNOR)*. The intent of this project is to support jaguar conservation efforts in local communities and on private lands in the Mexican states of Jalisco, Nayarit, and Durango. This project aims to conserve jaguars (*Panthera onca*) through environmental outreach and technical training for communities and landowners that will heighten awareness of the ecological and socioeconomic importance of jaguars, reduce illegal hunting of them and their prey, mitigate conflicts between livestock and big cats, and avoid further fragmentation of jaguar habitat. Specific activities include: (1) identifying priorities and challenges to jaguar conservation in each community; (2) determining conservation opportunities and challenges through participatory diagnostics; (3) sensitizing landowners and communities about the ecological and socioeconomic importance of jaguars and their prey; (4) training community brigades in the use of camera traps and GPS devices to monitor jaguars and their prey; (5) training land owners on best management practices to avoid feline conflicts and restore

habitat; (6) and providing a space for beneficiaries to share experiences with economic alternatives that respect the jaguar habitat and help safeguard its survival.

USFWS: \$85,729

Leveraged Funds: \$22,625

MX1727

Grant # F17AP00519

Conservation of the endemic mule deer of Cedros Island through the eradication of feral dogs.

In partnership with *Grupo de Ecología y Conservación de Islas, A.C.* The purpose of this project is to support the conservation and restoration of the species and ecosystems of Cedros Island by eradicating feral dogs and changing people's practice of introducing invasive species to this unique place. This project intends to protect the endemic mule deer by reducing the impacts of predation by feral dogs. Specific activities include: (1) conducting aerial surveys to estimate population size and distribution of feral dogs and mule deer; (2) eradicating feral dogs and sterilizing domestic dogs owned by local communities; (3) planning and implementing an outreach and awareness campaign for local communities; (4) holding a participative workshop on biosecurity for local community members to develop a joint strategy to prevent the introduction of exotic species to the island, particularly of domestic dogs and cats; and (5) development of a mule deer management plan.

USFWS: \$98,200

Leveraged Funds: \$102,300

MX1732

Grant # F17AP00522

Developing a positive relationship between humans and neotropical otters. In partnership with *Instituto de Ecología, A.C.* The goal of the project is to support the conservation efforts in the rivers Actopan, La Antigua, and Jamapa in the state of Veracruz. The objective of the project is the conservation of the neotropical otter (*Lontra longicaudis*) by strengthening capacity for reducing the conflict between humans and otters as a result of the competition for the same nutritional resources, and the illegal trading of otter cubs as pets. Project activities include: (1) creation of three participative committees to evaluate the population status of the neotropical otter in the Actopan, La Antigua, and Jamapa rivers; (2) implementing an environmental education program aimed at changing perceptions of community members on the neotropical otter and better understanding its importance; and (3) implementing hands-on training workshops for local fishermen and fish farmers targeted at reducing human-wildlife conflict with otters by providing information and technical support for the implementation of sustainable and otter-friendly aquaculture practices.

USFWS: \$24,745

Leveraged Funds: \$25,896

MX1742

Grant # F17AP00524

Living with felines. In partnership with the Northern Jaguar Project. The purpose of this project is to extend protections for jaguars and other felines on ranches surrounding the 55,000-acre Northern Jaguar Reserve in Sahuaripa, Sonora. The project aims to conserve felines (jaguar, ocelot, mountain lion, and bobcat) by addressing the impacts of human-wildlife conflict and poaching, and by restoring essential wildlife habitat. Project activities include: 1) assisting ranchers with restoration, water conservation, and water sanitation projects; 2) engaging local youth in activities that connect them with nature; 3) training a local wildlands firefighting crew

and helping create a position for a livestock depredation insurance inspector; 4) increasing local involvement by teaching cattle herders camera maintenance; 5) training volunteers on how to monitor wildlife corridors along Mexico Highway 2; 6) establishing an environmental monitoring committee in conjunction with PROCODES; and 7) achieving the official designation of the Northern Jaguar Reserve as a Flora and Fauna Protected Area.

USFWS: \$25,000

Leveraged Funds: \$166,200

MX1744

Grant # F17AP00527

Preserving a key jaguar corridor through SMART conflict management and community engagement in the buffer zone of the Laguna de Terminos Protected Area. In partnership with Panthera. The purpose of this project is to support the preservation of a key wildlife corridor between the Laguna de Terminos Protected Area and the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve in Campeche by increasing tolerance for jaguars among human residents. This project is intended to conserve the jaguar by empowering select local residents to patrol their communities for illegal activities, reducing conflict between jaguars and cattle ranchers, and educating communities about the value of the jaguar. Specific activities include: (1) camera-trapping studies conducted by local monitoring committee members in three communities to ensure long-term wildlife monitoring; (2) training of monitoring committee members in the use of the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) for jaguar-cattle conflict mitigation to reduce illegal activity, cattle predation, and retaliatory jaguar killings; and (3) educational workshops in three communities to raise awareness of jaguar conservation issues and increase positive attitudes toward jaguars.

USFWS: \$47,812

Leveraged Funds: \$22,440

MX1755

Grant # F17AP00547

Environmental education for the conservation of the monarch butterfly in Central Mexico, Phase II. In partnership with *Ecosistemica, A.C.* The purpose of this project is to share the importance, migration phenomena, and conservation needs of the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexipus*) and other pollinators among key groups across four states from Central Mexico (Aguascalientes, Guanajuato, Jalisco and San Luis Potosí). This project aims to conserve the monarch butterfly by promoting public participation in conservation activities to reduce the loss of migratory feeding grounds in Central Mexico. Specific activities include: (1) implementing an environmental education program; (2) distributing brochures on monarch butterfly migration, threats, conservation needs, and on how to build pollinator gardens; (3) building pollinator gardens at host institutions; (4) distributing field identification guides of the butterflies of Mexico; (5) training and encouraging participants to document their monarch butterfly sightings on the “*Naturalista*” platform of CONABIO; (7) creation of a monarch butterfly monitoring network for Central Mexico; and (8) hosting the First Meeting of the Monarch Butterfly Monitoring Network of Central Mexico with participating institutions.

USFWS: \$30,000

Leveraged Funds: \$7,300

MX1774

Grant # F17AP00548

Securing connectivity for jaguars along expanding highways of the Sky Islands. In partnership with the Wildlands Network. The purpose of this project is to secure habitat connectivity in the Sky Islands region of Mexico by coordinating with local stakeholders, road ecology experts, and agency officials to advance the establishment of wildlife crossings along key highways of Sonora. The project is intended to conserve jaguars (*Panther onca*) by preventing deaths caused by collisions with vehicles and by maintaining habitat connectivity for their expansion northward of their current known range. Habitat connectivity is threatened by the present expansion of highways in the region. Specific activities include (1) training local agency staff, land-managers, and contractors in skills necessary to monitor, prevent, and reduce the negative impacts of highways on wildlife; (2) issuing recommendations to transport authorities who are expecting them, so they can be used as plans for the establishment of wildlife crossings; (3) informing the regional population on the need for habitat connectivity and the purpose of wildlife crossings; (4) beginning wildlife monitoring along drainages and mitigating infrastructures to understand how animals use them; and (5) collaborating with environmental consultants hired by transportation authorities in drafting an Environmental Impact Statement to ensure that a new highway bypass between the cities of Ímuris and Cananea has a minimal impact on the habitat connectivity needed by jaguars.

USFWS: \$55,027

Leveraged Funds: \$73,997

Modifications to Existing Grants

MX1642

Grant # F16AP00239

Restoration and conservation of Mayan forest reserves in two regions of the Yucatan Peninsula. In partnership with *Etnobiología para la Conservación, A.C.* The goal of this project is to promote landscape-level connectivity through the conservation and restoration of existing forest reserves owned by Mayan indigenous communities living around 15 natural protected areas in the Yucatan peninsula. The intent of the project is to conserve tropical forest ecosystems by addressing the impacts of habitat degradation and fragmentation. This additional funding will support: 1) broadening the geographic scope of the project by engaging 6 additional indigenous communities; 2) implementing a second certificate-level training program on tropical forest restoration, rehabilitation, invasive species removal, and management and disposal of solid waste for buffer communities and natural resources personnel working in Sian k'aa, Calakmul, and Balam Cax Biosphere Reserves; and 3) restoring and rehabilitating abandoned agricultural fields through the implementation of sustainable agriculture and traditional forest management practices.

USFWS: \$40,000

Leveraged Funds: n/a

MX1619

Grant # F16AP00248

Sustainable productive projects as a comprehensive strategy to ensure the conservation and recovery of natural resources in the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve. In partnership with *Alternare, A.C.* The goal of this project is to protect, conserve, and recover the forest ecosystem of the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve (MBBR). This unique forest provides critical winter

habitat for millions of monarch butterflies that migrate to Mexico from Canada and the United States every fall and its threatened by illegal logging and habitat loss. This additional funding will support: 1) developing the technical and communication capacities of a new generation of local promoters specialized in organic agriculture; 2) producing 10,000 oyamel-fir trees and reforesting 10 hectares of prime monarch butterfly habitat in collaboration with 23 local elementary schools; 3) organizing the first MBBR farmer-to-farmer exchange of experiences workshop to promote the dialogue and cooperation among the participating communities, strengthening their ability to manage sustainable production projects, and collectively address environmental, conservation, social, and economic challenges; and 4) designing and distributing outreach material on organic agriculture and sustainable natural resources management practices.

USFWS: \$40,000 Leveraged Funds: n/a