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

In FY 2018, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) awarded funding to four projects from its Central America program, totaling $249,954 and leveraging $97,808 in additional matching funds. These funds supported field projects in four countries of Central America (in alphabetical order below), including one regional project.

Modifications to existing cooperative agreements

BELIZE

CA1610
Award # F16AP00767
Monitoring and reducing expansion of the agricultural frontier in the Chiquibul- Maya Mountains. In partnership with Friends for Conservation and Development. The purpose of this project is to support a conservation effort in Belize's Chiquibul National Park, Vaca Forest Reserve, and Columbia River Forest Reserve by strengthening law enforcement efforts and community forest management. The project is intended to conserve one of Central America's largest intact blocks of tropical forest, which harbors emblematic species such as jaguars, scarlet macaws, and tapirs, as well as hundreds of protected plant and animal species, by addressing poaching and habitat loss. Additional funds will support: (1) aerial monitoring of the western border covering four protected areas; (2) a steady patrol program from five conservation posts to hotspot areas; (3) advanced training for the Chief Ranger; and (4) bi-national coordination with Guatemalan counterparts.
USFWS: $56,125 Leveraged Funds: $48,882

GUATEMALA

CA1703
Award # F17AP00771
Strengthening multi-sectoral alliances, binational collaboration, and rural livelihoods in the adjacency zone to conserve the Chiquibul-Maya Mountains Biosphere Reserve. In partnership with *Asociación Balam*. The purpose of this project is to reduce poaching, deforestation, and wildlife trafficking in the Chiquibul-Maya Mountains by strengthening wildlife law enforcement, improving rural livelihoods of border communities in critical conservation areas, and strengthening public and private participation through the Inter-sectoral Roundtable for Land and the Environment for Southern Petén in Guatemala. The project is intended to conserve part of Central America's largest intact blocks of tropical forest, which harbor emblematic species such as jaguars, scarlet macaws, and Baird's tapirs. Additional funds will support: (1) ground patrols and mobile checkpoints in coordination with Guatemalan authorities as agreed under the Bi-National Environmental Security Strategy 2018-2021; (2) expand agroforestry projects to three new communities benefiting an additional 200 households; and (3) ensure bi-national coordination with Belizean counterparts.
USFWS: $49,993 Leveraged Funds: $33,100

NICARAGUA

CA1726
Award # F17AP00770
Saving Nicaragua's Indio-Maíz Biological Reserve by empowering its indigenous and autonomous authorities. In partnership with Global Wildlife Conservation. The purpose of this project is to protect the Indio-Maíz Biological Reserve in the Autonomous Region of Nicaragua by building a professional ranger program with the indigenous Rama and Kriol peoples. The project conserves great green macaws, Baird's tapirs, and jaguars from poaching, illegal cattle ranching, and land trafficking operations that drive deforestation and undermine legal cattle ranching livelihoods. Additional funds will: (1) expand joint patrols under a new agreement with non-indigenous communities to include the western edge of the reserve; (2) support indigenous participation in a workshop with the newly formed Alliance for Zero Deforestation Cattle Ranching with Nicaragua's largest cattle ranching and slaughterhouse associations, the banking sector, and conservation groups to implement their joint action plan; (3) develop and publish a legal manual defining joint legal strategies that indigenous people and the cattle sector can use together to prevent expansion of illegal operations into protected areas; and (4) create a sustainable financing plan for the ranger program to decrease dependence on external funding.
USFWS: $43,835 Leveraged Funds: $0

MULTIPLE - GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, AND NICARAGUA

LAC1543
Award # F15AC00990
Partnership for the conservation of Central America's wildlife corridor. In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to secure measureable protections for Mesoamerica's five largest wild places by 2020, including viable populations of wide-ranging species such as the jaguar, Baird's tapir, white-lipped peccary, and macaw species. Through a five-year cooperative agreement, project activities will reduce threats to the Maya Forest, Moskitia, Indio-Maiz-Tortugero, La Amistad, and Darien Gap to ensure regional connectivity and protection of the core wildlife strongholds within the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor. Project activities for the fourth year of implementation will focus on the Maya Forest in Guatemala and the Moskitia in Honduras and Nicaragua. Specific activities include: (1) improving governance and strengthening wildlife law enforcement through ground patrols; (2) providing in-situ trainings to managers, rangers, and indigenous authorities on using SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) technology to carry out intelligence-based patrolling strategies; (3) developing a National Jaguar Plan for Guatemala; and (4) scaling up technical services to ranchers in protected area buffer zones that have proven to reduce cattle-jaguar conflict and improve the local economy.
USFWS: $100,000 Leveraged Funds: $15,825