

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Division of International Conservation  
Africa Regional Program  
FY 2016 Summary of Projects**

In FY 2016, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) awarded funding to 37 projects totaling \$16,129,729 through the Africa Regional Program, which was matched by \$25,124,875 in additional leveraged funds. Unless otherwise noted, all projects were funded through the Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE). Field projects in seven countries (in alphabetical order below) and 10 projects across multiple countries were supported.

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**New Multi-Year Cooperative Agreements**

**RWANDA**

**AFR1603**

**Grant # F16AP00857**

***Building capacity for biodiversity conservation in Nyungwe-Kibara-Kahuzi Biega National Parks.*** In partnership with the Kitabi College of Conservation and Environmental Management. The purpose of this project is to develop a partnership between Rwanda's Kitabi College and the USFWS to improve regional training opportunities for rangers and other conservationists from Rwanda, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). In particular, the project aims to conserve wildlife and address threats in Rwanda's Nyungwe National Park, Burundi's Kibira National Park, and DRC's Kahuzi-Biega National Park. Specific activities include: (1) providing scholarships for protected area staff to earn diplomas and return to work in their home national parks; (2) developing and incorporating teaching materials into Kitabi College's curriculum on emerging threats to wildlife and trans-boundary park management.

USFWS: \$35,000

Leveraged Funds: \$11,308

**MULTIPLE COUNTRIES**

**CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**

**AFR1646**

**Grant # F16AC00508**

***Reduce poaching of key species within the Chinko, CAR and Garamba, DRC landscapes/ protection areas, with a specific focus on security, intelligence, law enforcement, and park management.*** In partnership with the African Parks Foundation Of America. the purpose of this project is to achieve a higher standard of park management and successfully restore and conserve key wildlife species while also establishing a foothold for governance, security, and stability throughout the region. This project is intended to primarily conserve elephants, Kordofan giraffes, chimpanzees, lions, giant elands, African wild dogs, and bongos, as well as other

threatened forest and savanna species. This five-year agreement will address hunting for the international ivory trade, poaching for wildlife parts, bushmeat hunting, and livestock disturbance, competition, and disease. This agreement has three main objectives: (1) more secure wildlife and human communities in the Garamba-Chinko landscape, (2) stable or increasing wildlife populations and greater conservation capacity to manage these protected areas, and (3) constituencies for conservation around the park, enhanced community relationships, partnership development, and initiation of tourism and other activities that generate revenue for park operations. During the first year of this agreement, specific activities include recruitment and training of park rangers in Garamba and Chinko.

USFWS: \$300,000

Leveraged Funds: \$515,875

## **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**

### **AFR1643**

#### **Grant # F16AP00865**

*Decreasing threats to protected wildlife populations in Central Africa by reducing demand for bushmeat in large urban areas.* In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society. the purpose of this project is to reduce demand for bushmeat in Kinshasa and Brazzaville by developing a replicable model for reducing luxury bushmeat consumption and targeting the structures that enable bushmeat availability in big cities across Central Africa. This project is intended to conserve protected species in the commercial bushmeat trade. This five-year agreement will address the demand for luxury bushmeat consumption. This agreement has three main objectives: (1) develop a campaign and coalition to change behavior of luxury bushmeat consumers in Kinshasa and Brazzaville, (2) application of the law in markets, restaurants, and other sites where bushmeat is illegally traded in Kinshasa and Brazzaville, and (3) ensure bushmeat from protected species is less available in markets and restaurants, and consumption behavior is understood well enough to credibly promote what works to reduce demand for luxury bushmeat in Kinshasa and Brazzaville. During the first year of this agreement, specific activities include a campaign component analysis, stakeholder mapping, and establishing a monitoring framework.

USFWS: \$528,228

Leveraged Funds: N/A

## **Modifications to Existing Cooperative Agreements**

### **CAMEROON**

#### **AFR1413**

##### **Grant # F14AP00533**

*Scholarships, technical and institutional capacity building at Garoua Wildlife College, Cameroon, Phase II.* In partnership with *Ecole de Faune de Garoua*. The purpose of this project is to fund year three of the ongoing five-year cooperative agreement between USFWS and Garoua Wildlife College. Activities include: (1) providing scholarships for selected national park and non-governmental organization (NGO) staff from Central Africa to earn their diplomas at Garoua Wildlife College; and (2) supporting Garoua Wildlife College faculty to improve their understanding and practice on the implementation of CITES (Convention on International Trade

of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) and management of species in trade through Master's degree training at the *Universidad Internacional de Andalucia* in Spain.  
USFWS: \$100,000                      Leveraged Funds: \$46,800

**AFR1550**

**Grant # F15AC00564**

***MENTOR: Progress on Pangolins.*** In partnership with the Zoological Society of London. This modification is intended to enhance support for the USFWS MENTOR-POP Fellowship program for the following activities: (1) internships for the nine MENTOR-POP Fellows from Cameroon, Gabon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Vietnam to work with different NGO partners to collect existing data on pangolin confiscations at different national parks, learn about field-level pangolin research efforts, identify lessons learned on wildlife law enforcement activities impacting pangolins, and gather best practices on demand reduction and outreach strategies; and (2) broken down in teams, implement activities to test pangolin population assessment methodologies, identify new law enforcement methods targeting pangolin crimes, and pilot outreach activities to reduce demand for pangolins. A further modification to this project will enable USFWS to also support an additional three months of the MENTOR Fellows' and Coordinator's salaries and fund the participation of two Fellows and the Coordinator in a USFWS-hosted meeting on the commercial bushmeat trade in Central Africa. The meeting will be held October 3-7, 2016 in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. The primary purpose of this meeting is for USFWS and its grantees to better address the commercial bushmeat trade by assessing current USFWS-supported interventions, to develop communications for key audiences, and to create greater connections between USFWS grantees.

USFWS: \$70,000                      Leveraged Funds: N/A

**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**

**AFR0195**

**Grant # F13AP00859**

***Building a self-sustaining park for the 21st century through strengthened park ranger force.***

In partnership with the Virunga Fund. The purpose of this project is to support years four and five of this ongoing five-year cooperative agreement between the USFWS and Virunga Fund. Objectives for years four and five include: (1) strengthened security and ranger operations, including improved ranger field support, monitoring illegal activity in Virunga National Park, and aerial surveillance and operations; (2) improved conservation operations, including mountain gorilla and elephant monitoring, removal of snares, habitat restoration, and activities to combat human-elephant conflict; (3) social and economic development operations, including energy, tourism, and development opportunities for the families of Virunga's fallen rangers; and (4) operations to combat external threats to the park, including a campaign related to the illegal extraction of natural resources within the park's boundaries.

USFWS: \$939,588                      Leveraged Funds: \$12,144,560

**AFR1446**

**Grant # F14AP00620**

***Conservation of the Lomami protected area and management of surrounding community forests.*** In partnership with the TL2 Project / Lukuru Wildlife Research Foundation. The purpose

of this project is to support year three of this ongoing five-year cooperative agreement between the USFWS and the TL2 Project. Objectives over the five-year period of the cooperative agreement include: (1) legal gazettement of a national park with a functional management plan and framework for partnerships; (2) stronger resource tenure for communities in the park's periphery through regulated hunting; (3) greater human security due to effective control of criminal activity within the park and in peripheral communities; (4) increased knowledge about the site's species, habitats, and threats to raise the park's profile among scientific and conservation communities; (5) a solid management and implementation team to carry on work at the site for years to come; and (6) application of the law to improve the legal response to wildlife crime including arrests, prosecutions, and appropriate sentencing.

USFWS: \$470,000

Leveraged Funds: \$1,152,500

## **GABON**

### **AFR0196**

#### **Grant # F13AP00659**

***Parks Gabon II: Reinforcing the institutional capacity of Gabon's National Park Service.*** In partnership with *Agence Nationale des Parcs Nationaux* (ANPN). The purpose of this project is to support year three of the ongoing five-year cooperative agreement between the USFWS and ANPN. Activities for year three include: (1) professionalizing ANPN's management systems including fleet management, financial systems and auditability, upper and middle management, and internationally competitive benefits structures to attract high-quality staff; (2) implementing a professional communications strategy including a specific strategy for Gabon's marine and fisheries program, *Gabon Bleu*, and a multi-media production campaign to garner support for conservation and environmental management; (3) establishing and strengthening a "model park" system by employing integrated park management models, developing best practices in strategic park management, promoting the development of qualified and effective park staff, and supporting adaptive research and monitoring programs; (4) Reinforcing community support of ANPN conservation activities by implementing strategies to mitigate elephant crop raiding and supporting local consultative management committees; (5) developing a sustainable tourism sector that contributes to the national economy and promotes long-term political support for conservation by supporting ape-based tourism initiatives and developing private sector partnerships; (6) finalizing and validating new Marine Protected Areas through research, spatial planning, a "Rigs-to-Reefs" strategy, and stakeholder consultations; (7) combating elephant poaching and illegal fishing in protected areas and buffer zones by identifying and hiring wildlife security/operational experts, equipping ecoguards, and deploying patrols, providing regular training on law enforcement and monitoring, and conducting aerial surveillance missions; (8) fighting trafficking of illegal wildlife products (including marine fauna) by deploying wildlife detection dogs at strategic points, developing an integrated information management system to collect, store, and manage information gained from wildlife enforcement activities, and ensuring prosecution of wildlife criminals; (9) promoting regional government-to-government collaboration on wildlife crime and international trade; (10) supporting a Marine Observer Program to mitigate explicit marine threats; and (11) Enforcing the application of best management practices in model-park buffer zones and developing private sector partnerships to improve buffer zone management.

USFWS: \$7,005,000

Leveraged Funds: \$6,371,715

## REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

### AFR1513

#### Grant # F15AC01090

***Ensuring the long-term protection of Conkouati Douli National Park, Republic of the Congo: A Five Year Cooperative Agreement between the USFWS and WCS.*** In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to support year two of this five-year cooperative agreement. Specific activities include: (1) ecoguard patrols to protect the terrestrial portion of the park, including training and equipment; (2) support for a Wildlife Crime Unit to ensure arrests and confiscations lead to fair trials and prosecutions; (3) engagement with extractive industries to promote better management practices and to remain vigilant of illegal activities or encroachment; (4) patrols in marine waters to reduce illegal fishing and bycatch; (5) support for a net compensation program to release sea turtles accidentally caught in local fishermen's nets; (6) launch of *Congo Bleu*, a broad, national marine conservation initiative; (7) data collection to inform a future management plan covering the entire littoral and marine zones of the Republic of the Congo; (8) implementation of a law enforcement monitoring system, i.e., SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) to more effectively plan patrol effort and evaluate performance; (9) continuation of a beach monitoring program to maintain a low poaching level of sea turtle nests; (10) data collection on marine mammals, terrestrial wildlife, and threat levels to measure the impact of the project's activities; (11) improvements to ecotourism infrastructure to generate more revenue for communities and establish a community development strategy and better revenue-sharing scheme to decrease incentives for community members engaged in illegal activities in the park; (12) expansion of a rural outreach program to improve environmental awareness among youth; and (13) support for park operations, including equipment and logistics, and exploration of a private-public partnership to ensure the park management unit has sufficient personnel and operational capacity to implement and oversee key conservation activities.

USFWS: \$302,393

Leveraged Funds: \$301,660

## MULTIPLE COUNTRIES

### CAMEROON, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

### AFR0182

#### Grant # F13AC00558

***Improving management to conserve the ecological integrity and connectivity, and the wealth of wildlife in the Sangha Tri-National and Northern Congo continuous forest landscape.*** In partnership with World Wildlife Fund. The purpose of this project is to support year four of this ongoing five-year cooperative agreement between the USFWS and the World Wildlife Fund, Wildlife Conservation Society, and Gabon's National Parks Agency, ANPN. Objectives over the five-year cooperative agreement include: (1) extending the protected area network and improving the management effectiveness of existing protected areas; (2) strengthening and monitoring wildlife law enforcement to reduce illegal killing of wildlife; (3) increasing understanding of large mammal population abundance and distribution through proper surveys in key areas; and (4) ensuring that the impact and transmission of Ebola among apes is better understood and intervention strategies are defined and implemented to minimize impact of

outbreaks on key ape populations. These objectives will be implemented across the Sangha Tri-National and Northern Congo landscape, including Dzanga-Ndoki National Park and Dzanga Sangha Reserve, Lobeke National Park and its buffer zones, Nouabale-Ndoki National Park and forestry concessions, Odzala-Kokoua National Park, and the Souanke Panhandle forestry concessions and proposed protected areas.

USFWS: \$2,742,911      Leveraged Funds: \$2,172,592

## **CAMEROON, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, GABON**

### **AFR1444**

#### **Grant # F16AP00527**

***MENTOR-Manatee.*** In partnership with the African Aquatic Conservation Fund. The purpose of this project is to enhance support for the USFWS MENTOR-Manatee Fellowship program for the following activities: (1) team-building workshops and travel for the eight MENTOR-Manatee Fellows from Cameroon, Gabon, and Democratic Republic of the Congo to work together at field sites and share lessons learned on African manatee conservation outreach and research activities; and (2) individual and team project implementation on environmental education for manatee conservation, manatee bushmeat interventions, and applied manatee research. In addition, this project will support the participation of the MENTOR-Manatee Fellows at an international conference on African manatees one year after the final training session. This will enable the Fellows to present their research findings, develop their careers through professional networking opportunities, and enhance and sustain their ability to address challenges and monitor emerging threats to African manatees as a team under the guidance of the MENTOR-Manatee coordinator.

USFWS: \$40,000      Leveraged Funds: \$12,860

## **REGIONAL - AFRICA**

### **AFR1538**

#### **Grant # F15AC01118**

***Establishing wildlife law enforcement across multiple African countries: A five-year cooperative agreement with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.*** In partnership with Conservation Justice/EAGLE Network. This modification is intended to support year two of a five-year cooperative agreement. Specific activities of this five-year cooperative agreement include: (1) investigation of significant wildlife traffickers, defined as those that employ or control poachers and play a significant role in at least one of the following: trafficking across national borders, engaging in or enabling corruption, and/or using sophisticated criminal methods; (2) facilitation of arrests of traffickers with the appropriate local law enforcement authorities; (3) legal follow-up of wildlife crime cases, including working with prosecutors and the judicial system to apply the law effectively and to ensure sentences are served; (4) media exposure of wildlife trafficking and penalties applied to deter others from engaging in wildlife crime; and (5) expansion of the organizational model to other countries to adapt to changes in trafficking routes and activity.

USFWS: \$931,100<sup>1</sup>      Leveraged Funds: \$1,185,040

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<sup>1</sup> Of this, \$80,000 was funded by DOI-ITAP-USAID Uganda.

## **New Grants**

### **CAMEROON**

#### **AFR1626**

##### **Grant # F16AP00522**

##### ***Securing the large mammal population of the Mbam and Djerem National Park, Cameroon.***

In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to support a conservation effort in Mbam and Djerem National Park in Cameroon by consolidating and increasing protection measures in and around the park to reduce illegal activities, minimize negative impacts of road construction on the park, and assess the population status and distribution of large mammals to facilitate adaptive management. This project is intended to conserve forest elephants, chimpanzees, giant pangolins, and other species by addressing the impacts of increasing threats from the bushmeat trade, ivory poaching, and pressures from infrastructure development, extractive industries, and rapid human population growth. Specific activities include: (1) reviewing and updating law enforcement strategy to address new and emerging challenges and threats; (2) conducting regular and spatially distributed law enforcement patrols following the SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) protocol; (3) undertaking aerial surveillance patrols to support ground patrols; (4) providing materials and logistics to ground and aerial patrols; (5) engaging with road developers to encourage adoption of best practices to reduce negative impacts on wildlife and the environment and promote compliance with existing laws and regulations by construction workers; (6) designing and implementing a targeted awareness and environmental education program to encourage attitude changes amongst construction workers and other immigrant groups; (7) developing the survey design for assessing population status and distribution of large mammals; (8) collecting and entering field data; and (9) conducting data analyses and writing a report with management recommendations on the abundance and distribution of elephants and other wildlife and the location and intensity of human activities. Additional funds will be used for patrols and monitoring field missions, enhanced support for ecoguards patrols, and an increased number of meetings with road construction workers.

USFWS: \$251,151

Leveraged Funds: \$244,868

#### **AFR1634**

##### **Grant # F16AP00965**

##### ***Strengthening government agencies, educational institutions and NGOs on adaptive management approach for conservation practitioners.***

In partnership with the World Wildlife Fund. The purpose of this project is to support a conservation effort in Cameroon to strengthen the capacity of selected conservation practitioners by training them to effectively use adaptive management for the practice of conservation. The project is intended to train personnel from government agencies, educational institutions, and NGOs to better understand threats to wildlife and design appropriate intervention strategies. Specific activities include: (1) selecting and training 20 personnel in adaptive management; (2) conducting coaches training for three potential adaptive management champions; and (3) arranging for these trained coaches and the Conservation Coaches Network (CCNet) facilitator for Central Africa to participate in the 2017

CCNet Rally for the sharing of lessons learned and experiences with the wider adaptive management community.

USFWS: \$48,459

Leveraged Funds: \$13,200

#### **AFR1641**

##### **Grant # F16AP00864**

*Using real time security monitoring to protect elephants of Bouba-Ndjida ecosystem.* In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to support a conservation effort in Bouba Ndjida National Park (BNNP), Cameroon, by providing aerial surveillance to give park law enforcement real-time information about elephant poaching and other illegal activities. This project is intended to conserve an important elephant population in Central Africa's savanna region by addressing the ongoing poaching crisis within the park. Specific activities include: (1) establishment of a robust anti-poaching program that includes effective patrol operations and intelligence-led planning; (2) support for coordinated anti-trafficking operations across the landscape to interdict and prevent wildlife trafficking; (3) support for the judiciary to more effectively enforce established laws against wildlife trafficking; (4) closure of illegal mining operations in and around Bouba Ndjida and Benoue National Parks; (5) regular aerial surveillance of the BNNP ecosystem; (6) real-time sharing of data on illegal elephant killings and other poaching activities with park authorities; (7) support for more effective partnerships between safari hunting zones and conservation agencies to support sustainable wildlife management; and (8) engagement with local communities to build awareness of national park rules and wildlife laws and explore options for law enforcement collaboration.

USFWS: \$100,000

Leveraged Funds: \$59,100

### **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**

#### **AFR1623**

##### **Grant # F16AP00503**

*Facilitating recovery of Kahuzi-Biega National Park's last remaining elephant population while protecting newly identified great ape populations.* In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to support a conservation effort in Kahuzi-Biega National Park in the Democratic Republic of the Congo by developing a permanent ranger presence and a decentralized protection strategy for the remote Kasese sector. This project is intended to conserve one of the most important refuges for the critically endangered Grauer's gorilla as well as significant populations of eastern chimpanzees and the park's remaining population of forest elephants by addressing the impacts of poaching, deforestation, and illegal resource extraction by militias. Specific activities include: (1) developing three mobile ranger patrol posts across the Kasese sector; (2) providing ranger rations to establish rangers at new posts and carry out targeted patrols; (3) supporting travel and training costs for newly recruited rangers from the Kasese community; (4) providing necessary supplies for new ranger teams; (5) coordination meetings with key stakeholders to tackle illegal natural resource extraction and transportation, and to enable the prosecution of arrestees; and (6) developing a Kasese sector protection strategy document.

USFWS: \$194,322

Leveraged Funds: \$57,668

**AFR1637****Grant # F16AP00863**

***Protecting the largest known population of forest elephants in the Democratic Republic of Congo: Phase IV.*** In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to support a conservation effort in Okapi Faunal Reserve in the Democratic Republic of the Congo by strengthening anti-poaching efforts and other protections to restore control of the reserve by the *Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature* (ICCN). This project is intended to conserve the reserve's last remaining forest elephants by addressing the impacts of two major forest-based militias that have subjected the reserve to regular attacks since 2010. Specific activities include: (1) recruitment and training of 50 new rangers to strengthen capacity for surveillance; (2) support for intensive patrols in key targeted areas in the Reserve; (3) training of new rangers in the use of GPS, grid maps, and SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) to strengthen ICCN's capacity in law enforcement monitoring; (4) maintenance and support for ICCN presence in zones evacuated by illegal miners; and (5) capacity development of judiciary, police, and other enforcement agencies to effectively enforce laws on elephant poaching and illegal exploitation of natural resources.

USFWS: \$115,250

Leveraged Funds: \$25,454

**EQUATORIAL GUINEA****AFR1642****Grant # F16AP00561**

***Building Equatorial Guinea's capacity to conserve wildlife and defend protected areas.*** In partnership with Dr. Kristin Elise Brzeski. The purpose of this project is to support a conservation effort in the protected areas of mainland Equatorial Guinea by strengthening conservation capacity among local government officials and university students to monitor and conserve wildlife. This project is intended to conserve western lowland gorillas, central chimpanzees, forest elephants, African grey parrots, and other species by addressing the impacts of rapid infrastructure development and the intensified bushmeat hunting and illegal logging that have followed. Specific activities include: (1) conducting a stakeholder meeting to identify perceived conservation threats, critical conservation issues, and conservation priorities; (2) developing a one-year action plan to improve technical skills based on results of the stakeholder meeting; (3) training technicians with the national forestry and protected areas institute, INDEFOR-AP, and university students from the new American University of Central Africa (AUCA) to perform passive protections in protected areas, including camera-trap monitoring, primate surveys, and bird banding; (4) supporting field missions of trained technicians and students in protected areas on a monthly basis to perform passive protections; (5) delivering a final report to stakeholders on the passive protection activities at the end of the grant period; (6) developing a long-term action plan for continued funding, protected-area management, and a wildlife conservation curriculum; (7) designing a semester-long wildlife conservation course at AUCA; and (8) advocating with government officials for the creation of a university forest reserve at AUCA.

USFWS: \$50,000

Leveraged Funds: \$12,000

## GABON

### **AFR1600**

#### **Grant # F16AP00856**

***Research as a component of tourism development for western gorillas in Loango National Park, Gabon.*** In partnership with the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology. The purpose of this project is to support conservation of the critically endangered western lowland gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*) in Gabon's Loango National Park by facilitating research and tourism activities. The project intends to address the impacts of poaching and illegal activities in the park and support park authorities by acting as a deterrent and detection system, providing baseline information, and generating revenue. Specific activities include: (1) continued habituation of one group of western lowland gorillas for tourism and monitoring of the impact of tourism; (2) assessment of behavior change, ranging patterns, diet, and stress levels on gorillas to monitor impacts of habituation and initiation of tourism; (3) use of non-invasive techniques to systematically sample populations and conduct genetic analysis; (4) use of camera traps to record the presence of gorillas, chimpanzees, and other large mammals in the study area; (5) collection of data on diet, habitat utilization, and social behavior to enhance understanding of the behavioral ecology and population dynamics of western gorillas; (6) collection of regular surveillance and routine data to serve as an effective deterrent to poaching; and (7) training of Gabonese field assistants, gorilla trackers, and national park staff to develop national capacity for science-based conservation and adaptive management.

USFWS: \$92,450

Leveraged Funds: \$53,550

### **AFR1601**

#### **Grant # F16AP00424**

***Further reducing illegal trade of bushmeat and promoting alternative livelihood activities in the lake region of Gabon.*** In partnership with *Organisation Ecotouristique du Lac Oguemoué* (OELO). The purpose of this project is to conserve protected wildlife in the lake district of Gabon. This project seeks to reduce the illegal bushmeat trade in Lamberéné, Gabon, by addressing the sale of protected species. It conserves protected wildlife such as the slender-snouted crocodile, manatee, forest buffalo, and giant pangolin by seeking to decrease consumer preference for bushmeat and reduce wildlife trade in Lamberéné. Specific activities include: (1) conducting surveys of local markets and restaurants to improve understanding of bushmeat sales and the black market for protected species, particularly the slender-snouted crocodile; (2) environmental education targeted at the next generation of consumers to increase public awareness of protected species and hunting laws (through school programs, citizen science initiatives, outreach with tourism partners, local media, and local authorities); (3) sponsorship of nature clubs, wildlife murals, road cleanup programs, World Environment Day 2016 celebrations, field trips by local leaders to OELO's ecotourism site at Tsam Tsam, and student questionnaires to improve attitudes towards biodiversity conservation and environmental stewardship; and (4) ecotourism development at Tsam Tsam to increase sustainable revenue for conservation and identify alternative activities to hunting in the lake region of Gabon. Increased funds will support the participation of 2-3 project staff in a USFWS-hosted meeting on the commercial bushmeat trade in Central Africa. The meeting will be held October 3-7, 2016 in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. The primary purpose of this meeting is for USFWS and its grantees to better address the commercial bushmeat trade by assessing current USFWS-

supported interventions, developing communications to key audiences, and strengthening connections between USFWS grantees.

USFWS: \$78,105

Leveraged Funds: \$78,795

#### **AFR1602**

##### **Grant # F16AP00456**

***Support for the promotion of community tourism for the protection and valorization of western lowland gorillas in the Moukalaba-Doudou National Park, Gabon.*** In partnership with PROGRAM (Protector of the great apes of the Moukalaba). The purpose of this project is to conserve wildlife in Moukalaba Doudou National Park, Gabon, by strengthening gorilla-based ecotourism as a tool for protecting the ecological integrity of the park and involving local communities to manage natural resources. The project is intended to maintain the gorilla habituation process and strengthen capacities to promote and develop ecotourism in Moukalaba Doudou. Specific activities include: (1) continuation of the habituation process for the Musiru gorilla group for eventual tourism; (2) recruitment of two volunteers to improve monitoring and evaluation of the Musiru group; (3) completion of a network of transects in the Douguetsi forest to enhance knowledge of gorilla movement patterns; (4) improvement of infrastructure for the gorilla habituation teams to enhance existing working conditions; and (5) development of tourist guide capacity on crocodile capture, identification, and monitoring techniques.

USFWS: \$100,010

Leveraged Funds: \$73,790

#### **AFR1612**

##### **Grant # F16AP00472**

***Developing an information management system for protected areas in Gabon.*** In partnership with the World Resources Institute. The purpose of this project is to support protected area management in Gabon by developing an integrated and central information management system. This project is intended to conserve forest elephants, gorillas, and other species by improving the compilation, management, and utilization of information on forestry and human pressures around protected areas. Specific activities include: (1) developing a system for managing and sharing information on protected areas (SIAP, or *Système d'Information sur les Aires Protégées*); (2) establishing standardized management protocols for information collection and analyses; (3) training Gabon National Park staff and other relevant partners on the utilization of the protected area information system; and (4) based on information analyses, developing value-added products for decision-making by the Gabon national park staff.

USFWS: \$129,250

Leveraged Funds: \$163,000

#### **AFR1619**

##### **Grant # F16AP00480**

***Gabon protected areas corridor identification and gazettelement.*** In partnership with Panthera. The purpose of this project is to support conservation of felids and other large mammals in Gabon by enhancing their long-term viability through the delineation of wildlife corridors, with a focus on the protected areas of Ivindo, Lopé, Waka, Loango, Moukalaba-Doudou, Pongara, and Wonga-Wongue. It intends to conserve two felid species, the leopard (*Panthera pardus*) and the African golden cat (*Caracal aurata*), in addition to elephants, chimpanzees, and lowland gorillas. This will be achieved by addressing the impacts of road development and settlements, incompatible extractive industry practices, and commercial bushmeat hunting. Specific activities

include: (1) identification of potential corridor areas between the key core populations across Gabon; (2) use of camera traps to study the occurrence of felids and other threatened taxa across potential corridor areas, and to assess the current status of potential corridors and future management needs; (3) refining corridor design and management needs based on available data on felids, forest elephants, and great apes; and (4) support for Gabon's National Parks Agency (ANPN) to conduct corridor gazettelement.

USFWS: \$199,452

Leveraged Funds: N/A

#### **AFR1628**

##### **Grant # F16AP00531**

***Integrating movement ecology into law enforcement strategies to protect forest elephants in Gabonese parks.*** In partnership with Duke University. The purpose of this two-year project is to conserve forest elephants in the Wonga Wongué Presidential Reserve and the Minkébé-Ivindo complex. This project seeks to reduce poaching of elephants for ivory by guiding law enforcement with rigorous information on forest elephant movements, habitat use, and diets. Specific activities include: (1) data collection on elephant locations, diet, human activity in elephant habitats, and population demography to determine elephant habitat use and needs in the focal landscapes; (2) modeling of elephant home ranges, resource selection functions, and habitat connectivity to evaluate the efficacy of corridors that would better connect elephant habitat and protected areas; and (3) provisioning data, real-time location maps, and analytic tools to protected area managers and analyzing and interpreting spatial models to integrate elephant movement ecology into law enforcement strategies.

USFWS: \$146,828

Leveraged Funds: N/A

#### **AFR1629**

##### **Grant # F16AP00859**

***Protecting Gabon's wildlife through enhanced aerial surveillance of marine and terrestrial protected areas.*** In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to support the Gabonese National Parks Agency (ANPN) by providing aerial support for protected area management and conservation. The project is intended to conserve wildlife by monitoring for illegal human activities in and around national parks and buffer zones on land and in the water. Specific activities include: (1) engaging in extensive aerial surveillance and monitoring of human activities and wildlife to regularly assess Gabon's national parks and coastline; (2) providing timely logistical support through punctual aviation to assist ANPN protection teams; and (3) supporting ANPN through technical assistance to assist in the development of ANPN's aviation program, including data management and reporting.

USFWS: \$207,014

Leveraged Funds: \$29,101

#### **AFR1630**

##### **Grant # F16AP00860**

***Strengthening Law Enforcement Monitoring (LEM) approaches and building capacity to improve the effectiveness of protection of Gabon's national parks and Wonga Wongué Presidential Reserve.*** In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to support conservation efforts in the 13 national parks of Gabon, the Wonga Wongué Presidential Reserve, and their buffer zones by strengthening the planning, implementation, and monitoring law enforcement and protection activities of Gabon's National Park Agency (ANPN).

The project is intended to conserve Gabon's elephant populations and other wildlife in Gabon's protected area network by addressing the impacts of poaching driven by a rising demand for ivory and facilitated by infrastructure development and opening up of the forests by extractive industries. Specific activities include: (1) testing and demonstrating the full use of law enforcement monitoring (LEM) tools and adaptive management approaches at a pilot site; (2) testing innovative technologies and tools in a pilot site to collect field data, enhance intelligence gathering, and speed up transfer of information to park managers; (3) identifying capacity needs for two target groups amongst park managers and ecoguards, and providing adequate training programs; (4) improving GIS and LEM data management and reporting of law enforcement information, (5) assisting ANPN park managers in developing law enforcement strategies in national parks; and (6) continuing to support the national LEM program.

USFWS: \$193,123

Leveraged Funds: \$91,529

## REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

### **AFR1631**

#### **Grant # F16AP00861**

***Protecting Congo's biodiversity through aerial surveillance.*** In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to support a conservation effort in four national parks and along the coast of the Republic of the Congo by launching an aerial surveillance program to monitor key national parks and their buffer zones for illegal activities. This project is intended to conserve forest elephants, western lowland gorillas, chimpanzees, marine turtles and other species by addressing the impacts of ivory and bushmeat poaching, illegal fishing, and extractive industries. Specific activities include: (1) bi-weekly aerial surveillance of major roads, rivers, and other access points in Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park and its immediate buffer zone; (2) bi-weekly aerial surveillance of bays and other major clearings in Nouabalé-Ndoki and its immediate buffer zone; (3) quarterly aerial surveillance of major roads, rivers, other access points, and forest/savanna mosaics in three other national parks and their immediate buffer zones: Ntokou-Pikounda, Conkouati-Douli, and Ogooue-Lekiti (expected to be established in 2016); (4) bi-weekly aerial surveillance of the wider Nouabalé-Ndoki buffer zone; (5) quarterly aerial surveillance of the wider Ntokou-Pikounda, Conkouati-Douli, and Ogooue-Lekiti buffer zones; (6) quarterly aerial surveillance of the Congo coast; and (7) standardized reports and data from the aerial surveys for use in adaptive management.

USFWS: \$85,937

Leveraged Funds: \$93,000

### **AFR1636**

#### **Grant # F16AP00862**

***Reducing poaching and trafficking in the Likouala region through the reinforcement of permanent control posts.*** In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to support a conservation effort in the Lac Tele landscape, Republic of the Congo, by increasing law enforcement effectiveness in seasonally flooded forests that serve as an important refuges for large mammals. This project is intended to conserve forest elephants, western lowland gorillas, and other species by supporting operations at permanent control posts in order to reduce threats from ivory and bushmeat poachers who access these swamp forests by pirogue. Specific activities include: (1) construction of additional facilities to support a team of 10 ecoguards for missions and training at the Epena base; (2) renovation of the office and

construction of an ecoguard dormitory to support a team of at least five ecoguards at the Bouanela base; and (3) construction of a small office, storehouse, and dormitory to support a team of at least five ecoguards at the Mboua base.

USFWS: \$77,159

Leveraged Funds: \$18,116

## **RWANDA**

### **AFR1621**

#### **Grant # F16AP00502**

***Strengthening law enforcement capacity of Rwanda Development Board within Nyungwe National Park.*** In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to support a conservation effort in Nyungwe National Park in Rwanda by strengthening law enforcement operations to ensure long-term protection of chimpanzees. This project is intended to conserve eastern chimpanzees and their habitat by addressing the impacts of illegal activities such as snare hunting, mining, and bamboo harvesting. Specific activities include: (1) conducting trainings on patrol techniques and organization, investigation, and reporting on wildlife crimes; (2) establishing mixed community patrols to increase the patrol coverage and effectiveness of law enforcement activities; (3) establishing a mobile camp site in the chimpanzees' home range; (4) providing refresher training for rangers in data collection and for zone leaders in data analysis and reporting; (5) establishing a regular and timely system of patrol using ranger-based monitoring data; (6) conducting field visits with law enforcement agencies and media to publicize the threats to the park; (7) holding biannual meetings with law enforcement agencies to discuss key threats and potential mitigation measures; (8) conducting joint patrols with security forces in highly threatened areas; (9) developing and monitoring an effective intelligence-gathering network and guidelines; and (10) selecting and training agents for the intelligence-gathering system.

USFWS: \$99,999

Leveraged Funds: \$15,528

## **MULTIPLE COUNTRIES**

### **CAMEROON, GABON**

### **AFR1632**

#### **Grant # F16AP00532**

***TRIDOM Cameroon transboundary elephant security project.*** In partnership with World Wildlife Fund. The purpose of this project is to support a conservation effort in Minkebe National Park in Gabon and the Nki Messok Dja transboundary complex between Cameroon and the Republic of the Congo by establishing multi-agency law enforcement actions and strategic coordination in order to dismantle criminal transboundary networks. This project is intended to conserve forest elephants by addressing the impacts of ivory trafficking and poaching networks in the core of the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe (TRIDOM) forest landscape. Specific activities include: (1) consolidating informant networks in Cameroon to collect actionable intelligence on ivory trafficking; (2) supporting operations of special arrest teams to disrupt ivory networks in southeast Cameroon; (3) providing legal support to Cameroon's Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) for the prosecution of arrested wildlife criminals; (4) communicating arrests and court outcomes through various media; (5) documenting and mapping poachers'

access routes into Minkebe National Park and the periphery; (6) holding strategic meetings between the Gabon's National Parks Agency (ANPN), MINFOF, and World Wildlife Fund staff to strengthen collaborations, information exchange, and a patrol strategy during the first quarter of the project; (7) providing logistical, material, and financial support to Cameroonian guard teams to conduct joint and/or coordinated patrols along the Gabon-Cameroon border; (8) providing logistical support for supplying ANPN's Assok Allat satellite camp; (9) providing information on movements of ivory poachers and ivory across the border so as to improve the efficiency of patrols; (10) holding a second strategy meeting between ANPN, MINFOF, and the World Wildlife Fund- to learn from the collaboration and plan for the future; and (11) supporting patrols in southern Nki National Park, along the border with the Republic of the Congo.

USFWS: \$130,000                      Leveraged Funds: N/A

## **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, UGANDA**

### **AFR1625**

#### **Grant # F16AP00964**

*Disrupting the wildlife trade network to save the elephants of Uganda and DRC.* In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to support a conservation effort in Uganda to address wildlife crime by developing capacity to collect and process intelligence information and improve wildlife law enforcement efforts. The project is intended to conserve elephants by addressing the impacts of wildlife trafficking. Specific activities include: (1) supporting operations of a Wildlife Crime Coordination Network to allow rapid sharing of information and coordinated actions against wildlife crime offenders; (2) building the capacity of responsible agencies to improve the detection and successful prosecution of wildlife crime; and (3) providing mentoring and technical support to park-based intelligence officers in investigative planning, information gathering and data reporting techniques.

USFWS: \$135,031                      Leveraged Funds: \$64,883

## **REGIONAL, CENTRAL AFRICA**

### **AFR1605**

#### **Grant # F16AP00465**

*Enhancing capacity among protected area managers in Central Africa.* In partnership with Fauna and Flora International. The purpose of this project is to support conservation efforts in Burundi, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, and Sao Tome and Principe by developing the organizational management skills of protected area managers. This project is intended to improve the implementation of conservation actions in Central Africa by developing the ability of early-career managers to achieve conservation goals. Specific activities include: (1) assessment of the competency gaps among at least 32 early career managers that represent at least 20 protected areas and community conservation areas; (2) adaptation or creation of training content to meet the specific needs identified through the competency framework process; (3) a training workshop to address known competency gaps for 14 early career managers who represent at least 10 protected areas; (4) development of personal theories of change and action plans for workshop participants to link improved management competencies to improved habitat and species conservation; (5) structured and ad-hoc mentorship to workshop participants; (6) development of a network among workshop

participants using social media, email lists, and other communication channels; (7) survey at the project's end to compare baseline, immediate post-training, and end-of-project competency levels; and (8) analysis of survey information to identify barriers and enabling conditions for effective competency training.

USFWS: \$49,970

Leveraged Funds: \$10,283

#### **AFR1615**

##### **Grant # F16AP00479**

***Congo Basin Grant Program - providing small research grants to African graduate students and early-career professionals working in biodiversity, conservation, and environmental sustainability.*** In partnership with the Conservation Action Research Network. The purpose of this project is to support conservation efforts in Central Africa by developing a new generation of researchers to address critical conservation challenges facing wildlife, biodiversity, and ecosystem health. The project is intended to conserve wildlife and habitats by addressing capacity development needs, specifically research support for graduate students and early-career professionals in the Congo Basin. Specific activities include: (1) identification of appropriate Central African researchers to support their studies on applied wildlife conservation through bridge-funding research grants; (2) assistance to the researchers in their efforts to become scientifically independent and able to pursue successful careers in wildlife conservation. This is the second year of USFWS support to this competitive small grants program.

USFWS: \$27,500

Leveraged Funds: \$63,000

#### **AFR1647**

##### **Grant # F16AP00867**

***Strengthening regional collaboration to combat the illegal wildlife trade in Central Africa.*** In partnership with TRAFFIC International. The purpose of this project is to enhance the status of protected and endangered species threatened by poaching and illegal wildlife trade in Central Africa. Specific activities include (1) enhancing the capacity of government law enforcement agencies in wildlife identification and investigation; (2) promoting information sharing to support governments to increase arrests, prosecution, and punishment of traffickers through the development of the Africa-TWIX (Trade in Wildlife Information eXchange) network and database; and (3) analyzing the policies and legal frameworks on illegal wildlife trade in Central Africa, including information on seizures, arrests, and prosecutions.

USFWS: \$89,599

Leveraged Funds: \$43,100

### **Modifications to Existing Grants**

#### **EQUATORIAL GUINEA**

##### **AFR1507**

##### **Grant # F15AP00748**

***Reducing bushmeat supply and demand by increasing wildlife security on Bioko Island, Equatorial Guinea.*** In partnership with Drexel University. The purpose of this grant is to support the participation of 2-3 project staff in a USFWS-hosted meeting on the commercial bushmeat trade in Central Africa. The meeting will be held October 3-7, 2016 in Shepherdstown,

West Virginia. The primary purpose of this meeting is for USFWS and its grantees to better address the commercial bushmeat trade by assessing current USFWS-supported interventions, developing communications to key audiences, and strengthening connections between USFWS grantees.

USFWS: \$10,000

Leveraged Funds: N/A

## **GABON**

### **AFR1433**

#### **Grant # F14AP01000**

*Assess and reduce unsustainable hunting in the Ivindo-Minkebe complex through a model of community collaboration.* In partnership with Duke University. The purpose of this grant is to support the participation of 2-3 project staff in a USFWS-hosted meeting on the commercial bushmeat trade in Central Africa. The meeting will be held October 3-7, 2016 in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. The primary purpose of this meeting is for USFWS and its grantees to better address the commercial bushmeat trade by assessing current USFWS-supported interventions, developing communications to key audiences, and strengthening connections between USFWS grantees.

USFWS: \$10,000

Leveraged Funds: N/A

## **REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**

### **AFR1556**

#### **Grant # F15AP00903**

*Sniffer dogs and the detection of illegal pangolin trade in the Republic of the Congo.* In partnership with *Projet d'appui à l'Application de la Loi sur la Faune sauvage (PALF)*. This modification is intended to support the PALF sniffer dog project through the purchase of a vehicle and its insurance, and maintenance. Support for a vehicle will help the project implement daily field missions with sniffer dogs in key trade areas including control posts, airports, residences, and poacher camps.

USFWS: \$45,000

Leveraged Funds: N/A