

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of International Conservation
Africa Regional Program
FY 2018 Summary of Projects**

In FY 2018, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) awarded funding to 18 projects totaling \$15,028,275 through the Africa Regional Program. This funding, received through the Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE), leveraged an additional \$13,619,892 in matching funds to support critical conservation efforts across Central Africa. Projects supported in FY 2018 are located in nine countries, including several regional projects in multiple countries (in alphabetical order below).

Modifications to existing cooperative agreements and grants

CAMEROON

AFR1413

Award # F14AP00533

Scholarships, technical and institutional capacity building at Garoua Wildlife College, Cameroon, Phase II. In partnership with *Ecole de Faune de Garoua*. This modification is intended to support the final year of an on-going five-year cooperative agreement. Activities include: (1) providing scholarships to selected national park and non-governmental organization staff from Central Africa to earn their diplomas in wildlife management 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 in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) and to incorporate emerging threats to wildlife into the College's curriculum.

USFWS: \$150,000

Leveraged Funds: \$29,276

AFR1732

Award # F17AP00421

Combating bushmeat trafficking of protected species in the Congo Basin: Mobilizing the Central Africa Bushmeat Action Group. In partnership with the Last Great Ape organization (LAGA). This award provides support for a regional effort to improve and expand the evidence available to wildlife managers and policy makers. Specific activities include: (1) establishment of an openly accessible evidence base of bushmeat harvest in Central Africa, (2) development of bushmeat indicators and methods for monitoring of wild animal exploitation over time at local, national, and regional levels across Central Africa; and (3) facilitation of the uptake and use of the evidence base, indicators, and monitoring methods by engaging with stakeholders, training key regional staff, and participating in regional and international policy meetings.

USFWS: \$398,477

Leveraged Funds: n/a

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

AFR1446

Award # F14AP00620

Conservation of the Lomami Protected Area and management of surrounding community forests. In partnership with the Lukuru Foundation. This modification is intended to support the final year of an ongoing five-year cooperative agreement. Objectives over the five-year period include: (1) legal gazettement of a national park with a functional management plan and framework for partnerships; (2) stronger resource tenure for communities on 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 scientists and conservation practitioners nationally and internationally; (5) a solid team to effectively manage the site for years to come; and (6) improved application of the law to strengthen the legal response to wildlife crime including arrests, prosecutions, and appropriate sentencing.

USFWS: \$550,000

Leveraged Funds: n/a

AFR1603

Award # F16AP00857

Building capacity for biodiversity conservation in Nyungwe-Kibira-Kahuzi-Biega National Parks. In partnership with the Kitabi College of Conservation and Environmental Management (KCCEM). This modification is intended to support the third year of this ongoing cooperative agreement. Activities include: (1) providing scholarships to protected area staff in the region to earn diplomas in wildlife management and return to work in their countries' national parks; (2) developing and incorporating teaching materials on emerging threats to wildlife and trans-boundary park management into KCCEM's curriculum.

USFWS: \$50,000

Leveraged Funds: \$13,700

GABON

AFR-0196

Award # F13AP00659

Parks Gabon II: Reinforcing the institutional capacity of Gabon's National Park Service. In partnership with the *Agence Nationale des Parcs Nationaux* (ANPN). The purpose of this project is to support the final year of the ongoing five-year cooperative agreement between USFWS and ANPN. Activities include: (1) professionalizing ANPN's management systems, including fleet management, financial systems and auditability, upper and middle management, and internationally competitive benefit 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 Gabon's 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 national parks and buffer zones by identifying and hiring wildlife security/operational experts, equipping ecoguards and deploying patrols, providing regular law enforcement and monitoring training, 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: \$7,239,650 Leveraged Funds: n/a

AFR1730

Award # F17AP00419

Changing consumer preferences for bushmeat from protected species and promoting alternatives to bushmeat commerce in Lambaréné, Gabon. In partnership with the *Organisation Ecotouristique du Lac Oguemoué* (OELO). This modification is intended to provide continuing support to conserve protected wildlife in the lake district of Gabon. This represents year two of a two-year grant. Specific activities include: (1) surveys of local markets and restaurants to improve understanding of bushmeat sales and the illicit trade in protected species; (2) environmental education targeted at future consumers to increase public awareness of protected species and legislation; (3) sponsorship of nature clubs, wildlife murals, road cleanup programs, World Environment Day 2018 celebrations, field trips by local leaders to OELO’s ecotourism site at Tsam Tsam, and student questionnaires to gauge attitudes towards biodiversity conservation and environmental stewardship; (4) ecotourism development at Tsam Tsam to increase sustainable revenue for conservation and to support alternatives to poaching in the lake region of Gabon; and (5) development of alternative livelihoods to decrease illegal bushmeat commerce at Marche Isaac, the main commercial hub in Lambaréné.

USFWS: \$89,120 Leveraged Funds: \$140,675

AFR1736

Award # F17AP00435

MENTOR-Fish - Building local technical capacity for the development of sustainable freshwater fisheries management in Gabon. In partnership with The Nature Conservancy. The purpose of this project is to improve the conservation of Gabon’s commercially important freshwater fishes by developing capacity for inland fisheries management. This project is intended to build a team of early career Gabonese professionals to promote sustainable inland fisheries management, including protecting freshwater fish species from illegal harvest. Target fish species include cichlids (*Pelmatolapia*, *Oreochromis*), catfishes (*Clarias*, *Chrysichthys*) and species that move between fresh and saltwater such as “capitaine” (*Polydactylus*) and “rouge” (*Lutjanus*). Specific activities include: (1) supporting a team of eight Fellows who will have the

knowledge and skills to promote sustainable fisheries management; (2) development of fisheries management plans in Lake Oguemoué, Ndogo Lagoon, and Lake Poubara; and (3) development of written resources on sustainable fisheries science, principles, and practices.

USFWS: \$140,464

Leveraged Funds: n/a

AFR1756

Award # F17AP00429

Strengthening aerial surveillance of Gabon's marine and terrestrial protected areas. In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). This modification is intended to continue support for the WCS aviation program in Gabon. It represents year two of a two-year grant. Specific activities include: (1) aerial surveillance and monitoring of human activities and wildlife to regularly assess Gabon's national parks and coastline; and (2) technical and logistical assistance to assist in the development of ANPN's aviation program, including data management and reporting, and to support on-the-ground protection efforts.

USFWS: \$206,039

Leveraged Funds: \$51,008

REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

AFR1631

Award # F16AP00861

Protecting Congo's biodiversity through aerial surveillance. In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). This modification is intended to continue support for the WCS aviation program in the Republic of the Congo. 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 major clearings and bays 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 buffer zones: Ntokou-Pikounda, Conkouati-Douli, and Ogooue-Leketi; (4) bi-weekly aerial surveillance of the wider Nouabalé-Ndoki buffer zone; (5) quarterly aerial surveillance of the coastline; and (6) standardized reports and data from the aerial surveys for adaptive management.

USFWS: \$98,573

Leveraged Funds: \$278,499

MULTIPLE - CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC AND DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

AFR1646

Award # 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 African Parks. This modification is intended to support years three through five of this ongoing five-year cooperative agreement between the USFWS and African Parks. Objectives over the five-year cooperative agreement include: (1) more secure wildlife and 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. Specific activities include: (1) recruiting, training, and equipping a sufficient number of Garamba National Park and Chinko Protected Area rangers; (2) sensitizing transhumant pastoralists in and around the Chinko Protected Area about the rules and boundaries of the protected area; and (3) designing, implementing, and analyzing a training needs assessment in Garamba National Park to identify current training capacity requirements (with a focus on rangers and artisanal workers) and support the development of a systematic and sustainable training program.

USFWS: \$543,586

Leveraged Funds: \$1,068,585

MULTIPLE - CAMEROON, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, EQUATORIAL GUINEA, GABON, AND REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

AFR1749

Award # F17AP00426

Congo Basin Grant Program. In partnership with the Conservation Action Research Network. The purpose of this modification is to support year two funding for strengthened capacity for regional conservation efforts 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) support for applied wildlife research via a competitive process; and (2) assistance for early career Central African researchers to position them for future success in wildlife conservation.

USFWS: \$27,500

Leveraged Funds: \$63,000

MULTIPLE - DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO AND REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

AFR1643

Award # F16AP00865

Decreasing threats to protected wildlife populations in Central Africa by reducing demand for bushmeat in large urban areas. In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). This modification is intended to support years three through five of this ongoing five-year cooperative agreement between the USFWS and WCS. Objectives over the five-year cooperative agreement include: (1) developing a campaign and coalition to address luxury bushmeat consumption in Kinshasa and Brazzaville; (2) improving application of the law in markets, restaurants, and other sites where bushmeat is illegally traded in Kinshasa and Brazzaville; and (3) ensuring 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.

USFWS: \$625,000

Leveraged Funds: \$128,317

New cooperative agreements and grants

CAMEROON

AFR1812

Award # F18AC00847

Strengthening the law enforcement capacity of the Kimbi-Fungom National Park to reduce threats to wildlife caused by pastoral transhumance. In partnership with Jerry Kirensky Mbi. The purpose of this two-year cooperative agreement is to reduce the threats posed by the seasonal movement of mobile pastoralists and their livestock (i.e., transhumance) to wildlife in Cameroon's Kimbi-Fungom National Park (KFNP), and to improve ranger force capacity to ensure the integrity of the park, which contains some of the highest habitat diversity of all protected areas in Cameroon. This project will contribute to the conservation of USFWS trust resources, including protected species such as pangolins, chimpanzees, and gorillas. Specific activities include (1) equipping rangers with essential field gear and providing training on patrol tactics, wildlife survey techniques, and community engagement (including with mobile pastoralists); (2) recruiting and training community eco-guards from villages surrounding KFNP to integrate into park patrol and monitoring activities; (3) developing and implementing a ranger and community eco-guard patrol strategy; (4) sensitizing mobile pastoralists to the park's protected status; and (5) conducting meetings with government representatives and traditional leaders to raise awareness about KFNP activities and garner broad support for the park's protection.

USFWS: \$29,986

Leveraged Funds: \$20,911

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

AFR1809

Award # F18AP00790

Promoting long-term conservation and peace in Virunga National Park by strengthening ranger capacity. In partnership with the Virunga Fund. The purpose of this new five-year grant is to support the ranger force of Virunga National Park in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in its mission to protect the integrity of this highly biodiverse landscape. Virunga National Park, established in 1925, is Africa's oldest national park, and a UNESCO-designated World Heritage Site. It is the only park in the world containing three species of apes, including roughly one third of the world's mountain gorillas. The ranger force's mission is key to achieving the park's long-term objective of addressing the root causes of threats through sustainable economic (including hydropower and tourism) and social development programs.

USFWS: \$500,000

Leveraged Funds: \$8,660,000

GABON

AFR1758

Award # F18AP00546

Voluntary wildlife management rules as a solution to unsustainable bushmeat hunting by Gabonese villages. In partnership with Duke University. The purpose of this project is to support a conservation effort in northeastern Gabon by addressing overhunting of endangered species for

the bushmeat trade. This project is intended to protect wildlife from unsustainable harvest by engaging local communities to establish wildlife management rules to reduce pressure on wildlife and reduce the availability of commercial bushmeat. Specific activities include: (1) designing and implementing voluntary wildlife management rules in ten villages; (2) monitoring bushmeat availability in experimental and control villages; (3) conducting community interviews to determine the effectiveness of wildlife management rules; (4) testing and implementing wildlife monitoring techniques; (5) promoting community collaboration and hands-on training to develop a conservation ethic among local communities in the Ivindo-Minkébé landscape.

USFWS: \$299,361

Leveraged Funds: n/a

MULTIPLE - CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC AND CHAD

AFR1808

Award # F18AP00789

Transhumance and conservation at a crossroads: Comparative investigation across West and Central African landscapes of global biodiversity significance. In partnership with the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The purpose of this two-year grant is to understand the threats posed by the seasonal movement of mobile pastoralists and their livestock (i.e., transhumance) to wildlife populations in priority conservation landscapes in southern Chad (e.g., Zakouma National Park) and the Central African Republic (CAR; e.g., Manovo-Gounda-St. Floris National Park and Chinko Reserve), and identify lessons learned from the W-Arly-Pendjari (WAP) protected area complex in West Africa that can improve the compatibility of protected area management and transhumant pastoralism in Central Africa. This project will contribute to the conservation of USFWS trust resources, including federally protected species, such as African elephants. Specific activities include: (1) conducting an institutional analysis of transhumant pastoralism governance structures in southern Chad and CAR in relation to the WAP protected area complex; (2) producing a transhumant pastoralism mobility analysis in the Chadian regions of Moyen-Chari and Salamat; and (3) conducting a geospatial analysis of the distribution and connectivity of pastoral resources across southern Chad and CAR.

USFWS: \$135,000

Leveraged Funds: \$52,989

MULTIPLE - CAMEROON, CENTRAL AFRICA REPUBLIC, CHAD, NIGERIA, AND SOUTH SUDAN

AFR1810

Award # F18AP00791

Understanding the linkages between transhumance, wildlife conservation, and security, and improving conservation management in and around four key protected areas within the northern Central Africa/Sudano-Sahel region. In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). The purpose of this two-year grant is to improve conservation management and security for people, livestock, and wildlife through engagement on the seasonal movement of mobile pastoralists and their livestock (i.e., transhumance) in four transboundary landscapes in Africa's Sudano-Sahel: Yankari Game Reserve (Nigeria); Bouba-N'djida and Sena Oura National Parks (Cameroon/Chad); Manovo-Gounda-St. Floris National Park (Central African Republic); and Southern National Park (South Sudan). This project will contribute to the

conservation of USFWS trust resources, including protected species such as African elephants, chimpanzees, and pangolins. Specific activities include: (1) completing a detailed literature review on transhumance, conservation, and security dynamics across the four landscapes; (2) conducting socioeconomic field studies with transhumant pastoralists, in addition to assessing impacts of transhumance on key wildlife habitats and species; (3) mapping and monitoring the seasonal movements of cattle through participatory mapping and identifying key zones for corridors; (4) producing a final report outlining key strategies to improve security and promote improved co-existence between wildlife and transhumance across the four landscapes; and (5) designing and measuring the impact of a program for conservation sensitization with pastoralists in and around the four landscapes.

USFWS: \$166,428 Leveraged Funds: \$52,039

MULTIPLE - CAMEROON, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, AND REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

AFR1801

Award # F18AC00846

Connecting conservation: Wildlife corridors & core areas in the Sangha Trinational Landscape and Northern Congo. In partnership with the World Wildlife Fund. The purpose of this five-year cooperative agreement is to maintain wildlife corridors and core areas in the transboundary Sangha Trinational and Northern Congo region of the Republic of the Congo, Cameroon, and Central Africa Republic by supporting the management of five park complexes and by working with forestry companies and local communities on the park periphery to better secure forest resources from illegal wildlife trafficking. This project will contribute to the conservation of USFWS trust resources and federally protected species, including the world's largest population of western lowland gorillas and the largest connected population of forest elephants. Objectives include stabilization of poaching pressures; reliable information on the distribution and status of wildlife; and coordination of conservation activities across six sites in three countries, including targeted joint activities to improve workforce capacity and safeguard legal use of wildlife on a local scale.

USFWS: \$3,779,092 Leveraged Funds: \$3,060,893