

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of Management Authority
Combating Wildlife Trafficking Program
FY 2018 Summary of Projects**

In FY 2018, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) awarded \$3,112,616 to the conservation of wildlife around the world through its Combating Wildlife Trafficking Strategy and Partnerships (CWT) Program, leveraging \$1,587,061 in additional matching funds. These funds supported 17 projects in 12 individual countries, in alphabetical order below. Multiple projects spanned two or more countries, as indicated below. Unless otherwise specified, all projects were supported with funds received through a transfer from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

New grants

BOLIVIA

CWT1848

Award # F18AP00757

Addressing illegal jaguar trafficking in Latin America. In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to combat the illegal trade of jaguars in Bolivia by monitoring and mapping trading hotspots and networks across the species' range and by supporting law enforcement. This project is intended to conserve jaguars (*Panthera onca*) by providing information to help intercept the illegal trade of jaguar teeth, claws, whiskers, and other parts in Bolivia, where poaching is the greatest threat to jaguar populations. Specific activities include: (1) development of a data collection plan to conduct online monitoring of potential jaguar trade (e.g., offers of jaguar parts for sale); (2) creation of a comprehensive, range-wide map of trade patterns and networks, including actors, motivations, and intervention points; (3) identification of hotspots for jaguar trafficking; (4) training of law enforcement officials on how to collect and manage intelligence; and (5) support for intelligence-led law enforcement operations in jaguar trafficking hotspots.

USFWS: \$200,000

Leveraged Funds: \$0

CAMEROON

CWT1820

Award # F18AP00747

Disrupting the illegal wildlife trade in grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*) in Cameroon, Central Africa. In partnership with the Zoological Society of London. The purpose of this project is to address the illegal trapping and killing of wild parrots in Cameroon by building capacity among law enforcement officials and identifying key trafficking routes. This project is intended to conserve African grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*) in Cameroon, where the parrots now occupy only half of their historic range, through enforcing the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) ban on the commercial trade and harvest of this species. Specific activities include: (1) training of law enforcement personnel based at ports of entry to better detect and intercept parrot trafficking; (2) training of field-based law

enforcement personnel working in and around key sites for parrot poaching and trafficking; (3) mentoring and support for trained law enforcement agents; (4) training of park authority personnel in management of intelligence information in order to conduct intelligence-led field operations to interdict parrot trafficking; (5) market surveys to gather information about the illegal parrot trade; and (6) identification of key sites, including major roosts and forest clearings, to better direct site-based protection activities.

USFWS: \$198,930¹ Leveraged Funds: \$220,022

INDIA

CWT1810

Award # F18AP00743

A study to understand the pervasive threat of exploitation and trade of theraphosid spiders and to involve local community in species and habitat conservation through education. In partnership with the Living in Fine Environment Trust - India. The purpose of this project is to reduce the illegal harvesting of tarantulas for the pet trade in Tamil Nadu by developing education initiatives and filling the knowledge gap on the extent and impacts of tarantula trade. This project is intended to conserve tarantulas in the Theraphosidae family, seven species of which are endemic to India, by engaging communities, assessing habitat, and measuring impacts on tarantula populations. Specific activities include: (1) conducting interviews with local community members in 52 villages in Tamil Nadu to assess the existing trade and ongoing threats to tarantulas in the Western Ghats; (2) assessing the habitat quality and rate of species decline; (3) developing a conservation education program for select local communities (approximately 10,000 people) living in the Western Ghats to create awareness about the importance of tarantulas and the need for conservation; (4) establishing a diverse network, including universities and local communities, to secure engagement on tarantula conservation at multiple levels in India; and (5) developing a short video on the threats facing tarantulas and the importance of protecting these species.

USFWS: \$57,871² Leveraged Funds: \$12,777

INDONESIA

CWT1813

Award # F18AP00744

Combating the illegal wildlife trade in Muslim communities in Indonesia through traditional and new media communications. In partnership with the Alliance of Religions and Conservation. The purpose of this project is to counter the illegal wildlife trade in Indonesia by addressing people's attitudes towards nature. This project aims to provide protection for multiple species that are trafficked in Indonesia, where religious leadership passed an unprecedented edict (referred to as a 'fatwa') prohibiting the illegal wildlife trade and calling on Indonesia's Muslim population to counter the illegal wildlife trade. Specific activities include: (1) development of short training videos for religious leaders on the fatwa and wildlife trade issues in Indonesia; (2) development of a fatwa comic book and bulletin for distribution to youth in schools in rural Indonesia, where poaching and illegal wildlife trade are prevalent; (3) development of a video to spread awareness locally and nationally about the fatwa in Indonesia; (4) pilot testing of the

¹ Funded by Resource Management funds.

² Funded by Resource Management funds.

fatwa awareness tools in ten villages near the Rimbang Baling Wildlife Reserve to evaluate the impact on poaching and the illegal wildlife trade; and (5) distribution of resources and lessons learned to other partners seeking to impact the illegal wildlife trade by addressing people's attitudes towards nature.

USFWS: \$60,537

Leveraged Funds: \$11,267

NEPAL

CWT1828

Award # F18AP00751

Proactive pangolin protection: Coordinated capacity building for prosecutions and deterrence in Nepal. In partnership with the Zoological Society of London. The purpose of this project is to combat the illegal trade of pangolins (the world's most heavily trafficked mammal) in Nepal by increasing the capacity of government authorities to successfully prosecute poaching and trafficking. This project is intended to reduce the intense trafficking of Chinese pangolins (*Manis pentadactyla*), which have suffered a 90 percent decline in the last 20 years, as well as Indian pangolins (*M. crassicaudata*), by coordinating data sharing and training efforts to stop this illegal trade. Specific activities include: (1) development of an electronic wildlife crime database to strengthen analyses of poaching and trafficking trends in three provinces in Nepal; (2) development of blueprint guidelines and "train-the-trainer" opportunities for investigation officers on gathering and managing evidence, robust chain of custody processes, case building, and reporting; (3) development of training modules and reference documents on wildlife crime, relevant laws, and impacts of poaching on pangolins; and (4) training of 75 judiciary staff to increase their capacity to implement and enforce pangolin-related laws in Nepal.

USFWS: \$86,480

Leveraged Funds: \$19,840

NIGERIA

CWT1823

Award # F18AP00750

Combating the West African trade in threatened vultures and their parts for belief-based use. In partnership with BirdLife International. The purpose of this project is to combat the illegal trade of vultures in Nigeria through targeted surveys and campaigns, law enforcement training, and development of a national action plan on illegal wildlife trade. This project is intended to conserve Nigerian vultures by addressing illegal trade of vulture parts for belief-based practices, the leading cause of vulture declines in West Africa. This project includes work on three critically endangered species: hooded vultures (*Necrosyrtes monachus*), white-backed vultures (*Gyps africanus*), and Ruppell's griffon vultures (*G. rueppellii*). Specific activities include: (1) a survey of major wildlife markets to identify the quantity, value, and type of vulture parts being sold; (2) a survey of perceptions of consumers, traditional healers, and traders of wildlife products; (3) identification and promotion of viable and sustainable plant-based alternatives to the use of vulture parts in belief-based uses; (4) surveys to assess any decrease in traded vulture parts as a result of the use of alternatives; (5) development of an action plan and manual for enforcement agencies to investigate and monitor the trade in vulture parts; (6) training for enforcement agencies on legislation, investigations, and monitoring of the trade in vulture parts; (7) development of a national action plan on illegal wildlife trade to integrate international policy

frameworks into national legislation; and (8) a public awareness campaign on the negative impacts of wildlife trafficking.

USFWS: \$194,385³ Leveraged Funds: \$0

REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

CWT1838

Award # F18AP00752

Safeguarding African grey parrot populations in the Republic of the Congo through a coordinated national and transboundary response to combat illegal trafficking. In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to reduce the illegal trapping and killing of wild parrots in the Republic of the Congo (ROC) by engaging policy, law enforcement, and intelligence authorities. The project is intended to conserve African grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*), now rapidly declining in Central Africa, through combating intensive hunting of these animals for illegal trade in live birds and parrot parts. Specific activities include: (1) collection and standardization of information on parrot trafficking routes to better target law enforcement operations; (2) interdicting parrot trafficking through law enforcement operations; (3) training prosecutors and magistrates on national and international (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, or CITES) legislation to strengthen the application of wildlife laws; (4) technical and legal support to reform national legislation to implement CITES; and (5) bilateral discussions between the ROC and the Democratic Republic of the Congo authorities to help combat transboundary parrot trafficking.

USFWS: \$199,424⁴ Leveraged Funds: \$72,792

UGANDA

CWT1815

Award # F18AP00745

Strengthening enforcement against the illegal pangolin and hippopotamus trafficking in Uganda. In partnership with the Natural Resource Conservation Network. The purpose of this project is to counter wildlife trafficking of key species in Uganda by harnessing data on wildlife trafficking and strengthening prosecution of wildlife crimes. This project is intended to protect pangolins (Manidae family), hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*), okapis (*Okapia johnstoni*), and other animals through data analysis and prosecution of wildlife crime, coordination of enforcement authorities, and public engagement. Specific activities will support: (1) a data entry officer to manage historic and ongoing wildlife crime data; (2) development of an improved data collection and management system, including a system to map criminal networks; (3) a data analyst to compile and analyze data on wildlife trafficking networks; (4) targeted field investigations and prosecutions of wildlife traffickers; (5) coalition-building and information sharing with local and international enforcement authorities to address transboundary trafficking networks; (5) secure storage of confidential information related to wildlife cases; (6) workshops with relevant authorities on changes to wildlife laws; and (7) media outreach to raise awareness of the impacts of wildlife trafficking.

USFWS: \$193,532 Leveraged Funds: \$203,588

³ Funded by Resource Management funds.

⁴ Funded through the Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE).

ZAMBIA

CWT1805

Award # F18AP00742

Reducing the illegal wildlife trade across southern Lake Tanganyika. In partnership with the Frankfurt Zoological Society. The purpose of this project is to address the illegal harvesting of fish from Lake Tanganyika in Nsumbu National Park by building capacity of enforcement authorities to detect and deter the illegal taking of cichlids. This project is intended to conserve a diversity of cichlid fish species, illegally collected for the worldwide aquarium trade, by providing training, equipment, and resources for enforcement authorities. Specific activities include: (1) recruitment and training of rangers at Chunga Wildlife College, a requirement for rangers in Zambia; (2) boat operation and aquatic training for existing rangers, including how to identify species and trade routes of cichlids to better direct law enforcement operations; (3) workshops with relevant national wildlife and fisheries authorities on methods of live fish collection, international export routes, and value of fish exports; (4) provision of fuel, rations, and boat engine maintenance to ensure continuity of aquatic patrols of Lake Tanganyika; and (5) integration of the aquatic patrols into the wider law enforcement strategy for Nsumbu National Park to ensure intelligence and investigations are streamlined.

USFWS: \$95,348

Leveraged Funds: \$262,104

MULTIPLE – BOLIVIA AND SURINAME

CWT1846

Award # F18AP00756

Combating the illegal jaguar parts trade in Bolivia and Suriname. In partnership with Panthera. The purpose of this project is to counter the illegal trade in jaguar teeth, claws, whiskers, and other parts in Bolivia and Suriname by enhancing enforcement procedures, increasing public awareness, and establishing a population monitoring system in the wild. This project will conserve jaguars (*Panthera onca*) by combating the illegal trade of jaguar parts for which demand in Asia has dramatically increased since 2012. Specific activities include: (1) a review and assessment of current law enforcement protocols in Bolivia and Suriname; (2) standardization of law enforcement reporting procedures; (3) surveys of groups to identify motivations for jaguar poaching and trade routes; (4) three trainings in Bolivia and one training in Suriname on identification of illegally hunted animals and their parts; (5) development and distribution of a cat identification manual to police departments and customs officials in both countries; (6) radio and newspaper advertisements and stories about the illegality of poaching jaguars and the trafficking of their parts; (7) five workshops in local communities on the conservation value of jaguars and the illegality of the parts trade; and (8) a jaguar monitoring system in Suriname to detect changes in populations as a result of poaching.

USFWS: \$173,136

Leveraged Funds: \$36,750

MULTIPLE – BOTSWANA, MOZAMBIQUE, NAMIBIA, SOUTH AFRICA, ZAMBIA, AND ZIMBABWE

CWT1821

Award # F18AP00748

Curbing the impact of trade-motivated poisoning on critically endangered vultures in southern Africa. In partnership with the Endangered Wildlife Trust. The purpose of this project is to address the illegal killing of vultures in southern Africa by providing tools and training for law enforcement officials and developing materials to enhance awareness of vulture poaching. This project is intended to conserve critically endangered vultures by preventing poisoning of these birds, an illegal activity motivated by trade in vulture parts for belief-based uses and by attempts to eliminate vultures' signaling of illegal poaching of elephants or other wildlife. Specific activities include: (1) twelve training sessions for law enforcement and conservation staff from six southern African countries (Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe) in the effective management, investigation, and decontamination of poisoning incidents to reduce losses and prevent further impacts to the environment; (2) production of a guide for law enforcement and conservation staff for responding to poisoning incidents; (3) issuance of poisoning response kits for use by law enforcement and conservation staff to conduct crime scene investigations and decontaminate the environment to prevent any future poisoning; (4) production of an awareness tool to highlight the threat to human health posed by the use of poison on wildlife; and (5) distribution of the awareness tool in known wildlife poisoning hotspots in target countries.

USFWS: \$128,283

Leveraged Funds: \$0

MULTIPLE – CHINA, LAOS, AND VIETNAM

CWT1841

Award # F18AP00753

Improving awareness and capacities for management and enforcement in relation to lion bone and associated wildlife trade in Lao PDR, Vietnam, and China. In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this project is to contribute to the conservation of lions by addressing the impacts of the international trade in lion bones and parts in Laos, Vietnam, and China. This project will conserve lions (*Panthera leo*) by building capacity for management and enforcement officials, and may have implications for illegal trade in tiger and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)-listed big cat parts and products in Asia. Specific activities include: (1) information collection, including on entities involved and methods used in importing, supplying, and buying lion parts and products in Laos, Vietnam, and China; (2) development of a reference guide of risk indicators and red flags on suspicious imports to Asia in order to enhance the ability of countries to verify the legality of lion imports and better monitor and identify suspicious shipments; (3) multi-agency workshops with CITES management authority and law enforcement partners to increase awareness and knowledge on lion bone trade and associated illegal wildlife trade in Laos, Vietnam, and China; and (4) development of a user-friendly, species-specific big cat DNA kit to strengthen the ability of government officials to rapidly identify species that are being illegally traded.

USFWS: \$194,152⁵

Leveraged Funds: \$198,152

⁵ Funded by Resource Management funds.

MULTIPLE - GLOBAL

CWT1801

Award # F18AP00843

Strengthening CITES implementation through priority CoP17 Decisions and Resolutions. In partnership with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Secretariat. The purpose of this project is to support the CITES Secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland, to combat wildlife trafficking by executing activities outlined in the Decisions and Resolutions adopted by CITES Parties. The project is intended to conserve wildlife species listed in the CITES Appendices by strengthening CITES implementation and by funding priority activities that are not funded by the Convention's core budget. Specific activities include: (1) reducing demand for illegal wildlife products; (2) supporting the adoption of national legislation relevant to the Convention; (3) assisting Management Authorities with CITES compliance and enforcement; (4) supporting the development of technologies that will improve the management of CITES-listed species in trade; and (5) increasing protections for priority CITES-listed species traded illegally.

USFWS: \$1,090,450

Leveraged Funds: \$475,000

Modifications to existing cooperative agreements and grants

KAZAKHSTAN

CWT17149

Award # F17AP00840

Strengthening capacity and collaboration to combat trafficking in saiga horn in Kazakhstan.

In partnership with Fauna and Flora International. The purpose of this modification is to support the continuation of activities to counter the trafficking of wildlife products in Kazakhstan. This project is intended to conserve the critically endangered saiga antelope (*Saiga tatarica tatarica*) by increasing enforcement capacity and enhancing engagement with communities and political leadership. Specific activities include: (1) systematically assessing current enforcement along trafficking routes and at the borders with the intent to place a trained wildlife detection dog with enforcement officials on an internal trade route for the first time; (2) providing essential re-training of the detection dog unit (11 dogs) on scents of drugs, money, saiga horn, steppe tortoise, and saker falcon, and new training on scents of snow leopard or the Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*); (3) finalizing a 'Wildlife Product Protocol' to facilitate better management of seized wildlife products; (4) facilitating an agreement on data management and sharing between enforcement officials; (5) strengthening patrol activities for saiga using SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Enforcement Tool) technology; (6) creating the foundation for a community-based intelligence network by enhancing community engagement in saiga range areas; and (7) bolstering political will to counter wildlife trafficking in Kazakhstan by facilitating exchange visits with high-level political officials from the Czech Republic, a country that maintains a high standard of control in wildlife products.

USFWS: \$93,215

Leveraged Funds: \$0

MULTIPLE – CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

CWT1702

Award # F17AC00903

Education and training to CITES Authorities in Central America and the Caribbean. In partnership with *Atecma Asesores Tecnicos de Medio Ambiente*. The purpose of this modification is to counter wildlife trafficking by strengthening implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which is fundamental to national efforts to combat illegal wildlife trade. This modification is intended to help protect CITES-listed species by facilitating training of professionals in the 2018 Master's Degree Program on the Management and Conservation of Species in Trade (CITES Master's Course), held at the International University of Andalucía in Spain. This funding will advance previous investments by USFWS in establishing highly effective and self-sustaining CITES officials in Gabon (a priority country under the END Wildlife Trafficking Act) by providing assistance to a student selected by Gabon's CITES Authority.

USFWS: \$4,568

Leveraged Funds: \$0

CWT1712

Award # F17AC00419

Strengthening CITES implementation in Central America and the Caribbean. In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. The purpose of this modification is to provide additional support for the implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Project Activity 1.4 to combat wildlife trafficking in Central America and the Caribbean. The project is intended to help conserve CITES-listed species by supporting the participation of two CITES representatives (one from Belize and one from Guatemala) in the Master's degree program at the International University of Andalucía in Spain, and also in a post-course workshop.

USFWS: \$11,232

Leveraged Funds: \$0

MULTIPLE - SOUTHEAST ASIA

CWT17153

Award # F17AC00861

Strengthening CITES compliance and law enforcement in Southeast Asian Parties. In partnership with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Secretariat. The purpose of this modification is to request additional funds to support Activity 3.1 of the cooperative agreement that were not outlined when the award was issued. The funds will support CITES Decisions 17.102 and 17.284, which are deemed high-priority activities on compliance and law enforcement matters, and which require support and capacity building for countries in Southeast Asia. This modification is intended to support transdisciplinary training workshops for the implementation of CITES regarding captive-bred and ranched specimens, both of which are priority topics for the United States and USFWS. The funded workshop will cover: (1) promotion of the implementation of the publications: *Guidance for inspection of captive breeding and ranching facilities*, and *A guide to the application of CITES source codes in key Parties*; and (2) advancing the discussion among authorities and stakeholders of range states of Asian snake species featured in international trade on (a) the use of guidance for monitoring and controlling captive breeding operations and other production

systems for snakes, and (b) using relevant guidance for making non-detriment findings and establishing quotas for Appendix II-listed snake species in trade.

USFWS: \$34,483⁶

Leveraged Funds: \$22,492

⁶ Funded through an Interagency Agreement with the U.S. Department of State.