

**US Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of International Conservation
African Elephant Conservation Fund Summary FY 2007**

In 2007, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service awarded 25 new grants from the African Elephant Conservation Fund totaling \$1,163,080; an additional \$114,841 was awarded in modifications to four existing FY06 grants, for a grant total of \$1,277,921. That amount was matched by \$2,786,011 in leveraged funds, raising the total to more than \$4 million. Field projects in 15 countries will be supported, in addition to two projects that provide assistance to all 37 African elephant range states.

**Botswana
Cameroon
Central African Republic
Chad
Congo
DRC
Gabon
Ghana
Kenya
Malawi
Mozambique
Namibia
Tanzania
Zambia
Zimbabwe
Range states**

AFE-0348: Elephant Conservation and possibilities of creating corridors in Western Ghana

In partnership with A Rocha Ghana
Country of work: Ghana
Awarded: \$57,274
Leveraged: \$67,083

This grant will support the recipient's efforts to obtain basic data on the status of elephants in the Bio-Goaso-Djambarakrou population bordering Ghana and Ivory Coast. Specifically, the grantee will determine the current distribution and numbers of forest elephants in the area, determine potential corridors for elephant movement within the study area and into Ivory Coast, identify conflicts with local people and determine appropriate actions to minimize conflict in future.

AFE-0356: Nouabale-Ndoki Forest Elephant Project: Phase 6

In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society
Country of work: Congo

Awarded: \$70,457
Leveraged: \$26,811

This ongoing project monitors and protects African forest elephants, *Loxodonta africana cyclotis*, in the Republic of Congo. The recipient will: 1) assess the population status of elephants in the Nouabale Ndoki National Park (NNNP), 2) improve understanding of population dynamics of forest elephants, 3) improve elephant conservation status through anti-poaching patrols, 4) facilitate attempts to resolve human-elephant conflict, 5) develop capacity and opportunities for Congolese researchers, and 6) improve data management systems for law enforcement and ecological monitoring data. Specific activities include conducting transects (for elephant sign) and recess for human activities, monitoring elephants at bais (clearings), maintaining permanent guard stations in the western sector of NNNP, training researchers and students, and developing a spatially explicit database for law enforcement and ecological data.

AFE-0358: Conservation of elephants in northern Mozambique

In partnership with World Wide Fund for Nature
Country of work: Mozambique
Awarded: \$54,563
Leveraged: \$50,063

In order to improve national park staff's ability to respond to human elephant conflict around Quirimbas National Park in northern Mozambique, the grantee will a) train human elephant conflict response teams, b) support community rangers, c) develop new non-lethal elephant deterrents, d) develop and implement a fire management program to minimize degradation of natural elephant habitat, e) conduct outreach campaigns, and f) collaborate with locally and provisionally appointed committees and government agencies.

AFE-0359: EIA Ivory Enforcement Training Film "Combating Ivory Smuggling: A Guide for Enforcement Officers"

In partnership with Environmental Investigation Agency
Country of work: Range States
Awarded: \$11,720
Leveraged: \$21,030

The purpose of this project is to support the filming, production and distribution of a comprehensive, inclusive and practical training tool for enforcement officers to help curtail elephant poaching and the illegal trade in ivory. The recipient will: 1) Acquire footage and interviews from enforcement agencies in Cameroon, Botswana and Zambia, 2) Edit new footage into an existing English version of the film, 3) Invite peer review of the film, 4) Produce a final version in English and translate into French and Spanish, 5) Screen, launch and distribute the film at the 14th Conference of the Parties (COP) of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, 6) Distribute copies to additional law enforcement agencies worldwide, 7) Conduct an evaluation of the film among viewers.

AFE-0362: Securing Elephants and Habitat through the Hifadhi Network in West Kilimanjaro, Tanzania

In partnership with African Wildlife Foundation

Country of work: Tanzania

Awarded: \$67,973

Leveraged: \$61,788

This grant assists local community scouts to conduct anti-poaching patrols and basic wildlife monitoring on land outside of protected areas in northern Tanzania. The recipient's scope of work includes: 1) improving communications by establishing a radio base and providing mobile units linked to law enforcement authorities, 2) providing partial salary for network coordinator and scouts, 3) providing equipment and essential supplies, 4) training scouts in field methods, 5) conducting stakeholder meetings, 6) providing rations for patrol teams, and 7) improving and expanding coverage of patrols in the area.

AFE-0364: Seventh dialogue meeting of the African elephant range states

In partnership with CITES Secretariat

Country of work: All African elephant range states

Awarded: \$15,200

Leveraged: \$75,425

The purpose of this project is to support a three-day meeting in May 2007 of the 37 African countries that have elephants prior to the 14th Conference of the Parties of signatories to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), in order to allow African delegates to discuss issues specific to elephant conservation and related proposals, exchange information, and, when possible, reach consensus prior to the full conference.

AFE-0366: Namunyak Wildlife Conservation Trust Communications Project

In partnership with Northern Rangelands Trust

Country of work: Kenya

Awarded: \$27,132

Leveraged: \$110,021

The Recipient will purchase and install a new radio communications system, including: base radios, handheld radios, and solar panels for recharging batteries to upgrade and improve the communications systems for security personnel in community conservancies in northern Kenya. The communications system will be maintained in order to provide reliable communication between the Northern Rangelands conservancies (including Kalama, Meibae, Melako, Sera and Westgate) and the Kenya Wildlife Service, Lewa Wildlife Conservancy and the Kenya Police.

AFE-0367: Population, Distribution, Ecology and Conservation Status of Forest Elephants in the Ebo Forest, Cameroon

In partnership with Zoological Society of San Diego

Country of work: Cameroon

Awarded: \$45,522

Leveraged: \$171,226

To improve the knowledge and conservation status of elephants in a proposed new protected area, the recipient will a) conduct regular, methodical elephant dung counts throughout the Ebo forest and areas outside the current proposed boundaries of Ebo National Park; b) collect ecological data about elephant habits opportunistically; c) conduct basic conservation education and outreach activities in ten of the villages surrounding the Ebo forest; and d) assist the Government of Cameroon and WWF Cameroon Coastal Forests Programme with the gazettelement process for the Ebo National Park.

AFE-0369: Delivering human-elephant conflict mitigation training for wildlife managers in Africa: continued support from USFWS

In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society

Country of work: Zambia

Awarded: \$61,615

Leveraged: \$33,155

The recipient will continue training wildlife managers and farmers in mitigation methods and will evaluate the effectiveness of the program. Specific activities will include: a) producing an updated edition of the handbook for trainers to learn human-elephant conflict mitigation techniques, b) comparing and quantifying the efficacy of different deterrent methods by observing hand-raised and wild elephants that approach areas treated with deterrents, and c) visiting trainers previously trained in human-elephant conflict methods to determine the long-term effectiveness of the training program and d) conducting questionnaire based assessments in elephant range to determine how well the methods are being implemented in the field.

AFE-0371: Forest Elephant Study, Dzanga Clearing, Central African Republic

In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society

Country of work: Central African Republic

Awarded: \$50,751

Leveraged: \$42,900

This grant supports full-time surveillance and monitoring of African forest elephants, *Loxodonta cyclotis*, in and around a protected area in the Central African Republic. This project, the longest running study of forest elephants, provides training for research assistants on elephant identification and collection of baseline data, collaboration with and training of research assistants from adjacent protected areas in the Republic of Cameroon and Republic of Congo, collaboration with anti-poaching efforts, training of local park guides, developing outreach materials for tourists and local students, and, analysis of elephant vocalizations. The project will yield information on forest elephant demographics, social behavior, bioacoustics, elephant ecology and movements within the three nation area, and improved understanding of elephant communication and social complexity. In addition, researchers will monitor the presence of unauthorized people in the area and threats to elephant security and will work in close collaboration with law enforcement authorities to prevent poaching.

AFE-0372: Operations support for the Wildlife Action Group-Malawi for the protection of the Thuma Forest Reserve elephant population, September 2007-August 2008

In partnership with Wildlife Action Group

Country of work: Malawi

Awarded: \$17,031

Leveraged: \$44,411

This project provides support to a local organization to patrol Thuma Forest Reserve (with rangers from Malawi's Department of National Parks and Wildlife staff) in order to prevent inflow of guns, snares, pit traps, and poison into the forest reserve, and to prevent illegal offtake of forest products, while also conducting conservation awareness outreach programs, assisting local people in avoiding conflict with elephants and initiating projects to provide alternative, sustainable income.

AFE-0373: An Integrated Approach to Managing Elephants; Land-use Changes and Local Community Awareness in the Amboseli Ecosystem

In partnership with The School for Field Studies

Country of work: Kenya

Awarded: \$52,009

Leveraged: \$91,985

In order to identify and promote land uses compatible with elephant habitat needs outside Amboseli National Park in southern Kenya, the grantee will 1) determine the impact of human activity on elephant range; 2) assess local stakeholders' attitudes towards conservation; 3) develop strategic land use plans for Kuku, Kimana, and Mbirikani Group Ranches that incorporate elephant range use; and 4) design and implement elephant conservation awareness programs for primary and secondary school youth, Maasai morans, women's groups and local Conflict Resolution Committees.

AFE-0375: Aerial support for security, management and conservation of elephants in Northern Kenya – II

In partnership with Lewa Wildlife Conservancy

Country of work: Kenya

Awarded: \$15,000

Leveraged: \$537,197

This project supports aerial patrolling and response to improve elephant security in community, private, and government-owned rangelands in northern Kenya in order to: 1) routinely ascertain the location of elephants and to monitor potential threats to elephants and 2) provide support for anti-poaching operations, elephant conflict situations, and treatment of injured elephants. The aerial backup will complement efforts by, and be conducted in collaboration with, the national wildlife department, the Kenya Wildlife Service, and localized wildlife scouts on private and communally owned land in Samburu, Isiolo, and Laikipia Districts.

AFE-0376: The Near-Term Effects of Oil Exploration on Forest Elephants in Loango National Park, Gabon

In partnership with Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Country of work: Gabon

Awarded: \$16,798

Leveraged: \$49,690

Increasing levels of human activity are taking place in some African protected areas. In Loango National Park, the grantee will investigate the role of industrial activity, particularly prospecting for oil, on elephants. The recipient will use acoustic monitoring at ten locations within Loango National Park to record the location and frequency of gunshots, vehicle movement, and other loud anthropogenic activity on spatial and temporal patterns of elephant activity. The recipient will measure the severity of the disturbance in terms of elephant behavior and distribution, and will determine how long after the activity has stopped before elephants return to their normal behavior and range. Recipient will provide recommendations on how best to reduce the impacts of extractive industries on elephant conservation.

AFE-0377: Protection and monitoring of elephants in West Gate Community Conservancy, Northern Kenya

In partnership with Northern Rangelands Trust

Country of work: Kenya

Awarded: \$49,911

Leveraged: \$35,940

To improve security for elephants and other wildlife in community areas in northern Kenya, this recipient will construct housing facilities for community rangers in West Gate Conservancy. The facilities will include three blocks of four rooms, with external bathrooms. The facilities will serve as a permanent base from which patrols can be based in the region. The project aims to help improve wildlife numbers in the region by establishing a high security presence, especially for elephants.

AFE-0381: Elephant awareness education material

In partnership with Sand County Foundation

Country of work: Zimbabwe

Awarded: \$11,000

Leveraged: \$16,000

In order to raise awareness and improve local support for conservation in and around the Save Valley Conservancy in the southeast lowveld of Zimbabwe, this project will support the production and distribution of environmental education material to school children in and around elephant range in Zimbabwe. The material will focus on elephant biology and on how to reduce human-elephant conflict

AFE-0384: Responding to elephant poaching crisis in Chad: surveillance plane for Zakouma National Park

In partnership with The WILD Foundation

Country of work: Chad

Awarded: \$30,000

Leveraged: \$120,100

This grant provides funding to support a patrol plane for anti-poaching and surveying elephants. The recipient's scope of work includes: 1) flying regular missions within park boundaries and along elephant corridors for the purpose of surveillance and deterrence of illegal activities, 2) conducting systematic surveys of elephant distribution and population size, and detecting any carcasses from poaching, and 3) providing access for supervision and coordination of park management activities. The pilot will liaise with park officials to direct them to the exact sites of any elephant poaching incidents or poachers' camps.

AFE-0386: Conserving the remaining African Elephants in Garamba National Park through community awareness and linked incentives

In partnership with Fauna and Flora International

Country of work: Democratic Republic of Congo

Awarded: \$57,826

Leveraged: \$47,438

The purpose of this project is to improve the conservation status of elephants and other wildlife in northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) by convening meetings of local residents, creating community associations, training local people in order to develop and implement development projects that are compatible with conservation goals, launching awareness and education programs in local schools, and recruiting and deploying community game guards.

AFE-0387: The Bateke Elephant Project: Conserving the last elephants of the Bateke Plateaux transfrontier area of Central Africa

In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society

Country of work: Gabon, Congo

Awarded: \$129,993

Leveraged: \$128,341

This project will provide the initial funding required to start a new monitoring project for African forest elephants, *Loxodonta cyclotis*, in an area in Gabon, extending into the Republic of Congo. The recipient will monitor of bais (forest clearings) and beaches, conduct ground surveys to monitor elephant and human activity, and create a database of visual identification of individual elephants at one bai (Bai Jobo in Gabon). The project will yield information on forest elephant demographics and elephant movements and resource use within the area. In the long-term, the project hopes to use the scientific information, active patrolling and monitoring, and outreach in order to reduce poaching and human-elephant conflict.

AFE-0390: Elephant-induced landscape dynamics-a spatial hierarchical approach
In partnership with Stellenbosch University

Country of work: Botswana

Awarded: \$16,497

Leveraged: \$36,497

The recipient will assess the effects of artificial water points in the Nogatsaa area of Botswana on local vegetation. Specific activities will include revisiting vegetation plots that have been monitored since 1997 in order to test the extent of elephant impact around water points, the effect on vegetation diversity, structural composition and overall biomass. The results will help assess the overall effectiveness of provisioning water as a management and conservation tool in elephant areas.

AFE-0391: Monitoring elephants in the Kunene and Omusati regions of Namibia

In partnership with Namibian Elephant and Giraffe Trust

Country of work: Namibia

Awarded: \$67,389

Leveraged: \$289,180

To better understand the habitat needs of Namibia's desert-dwelling elephants, the recipient will 1) initiate studies of elephants in the Omusati region north of Etosha by identifying herds and documenting age/sex structure, 2) deploy new GPS collars on eight elephants (including some in Omusati and some in Kunene that have already been collared but the batteries are due to expire), and 3) communicate results to local residents and the Namibia government in order to better inform management planning on federal land in emerging communal conservancies.

AFE-0393: Replacement of MET survey aircraft engine and propeller for Cessna 182, registration V5-ISE

In partnership with Namibia Ministry of Environment and Tourism

Country of work: Namibia

Awarded: \$59,065

Leveraged: \$100,000

This funding will assist Namibia's Ministry of Environment and Tourism's to repair and upgrade a small airplane essential for elephant monitoring and management in northern Namibia. The aircraft was originally purchased with USFWS assistance ten years ago and has proven tremendously useful for efficient aerial surveys and conservation interventions throughout Namibia.

AFE-0394: Improving the management and infrastructure of Mamili National Park

In partnership with Namibia Ministry of Environment and Tourism

Country of work: Namibia

Awarded: \$75,274

Leveraged: \$487,500

To improve national park staff's ability to conduct anti-poaching and wildlife monitoring patrols in Mamili NP and, through improved transport, develop improved communication with park neighbors, this project will a) Develop an overnight patrol camp on the eastern perimeter of the park, equipped with solar power; and b) Equip the Mamili NP field office with a vehicle, motorized boat, spare fuel tanks, winch, trailer and standard field recovery and emergency equipment.

AfE-0397: Supporting the Secretariat core activities of the IUCN/SSC African Elephant Specialist Group

In partnership with African Elephant Specialist Group of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature

Country of work: All African elephant range states

Awarded: \$49,500

Leveraged: \$123,640

The African Elephant Specialist Group (AfESG) compiles and synthesizes information on the conservation and status of the African elephant across its range, and provides technical information and impartial advice to range state and non-range state governments, non-governmental organizations and inter-governmental organizations to improve conservation of African elephants. Through this grant, the recipient's scope of work includes: 1) managing the African Elephant Database, 2) providing technical advice and assistance on elephant conservation, 3) assisting implementation of sub-regional elephant conservation strategies and action plans, 4) supporting transfrontier management plans, 5) providing technical assistance to multilateral environmental agreements, meetings and other conservation programs, 6) improving elephant problems like local overpopulation and human-elephant conflict, 7) building capacity of African researchers, 8) disseminating information and 9) providing support to group members.

AfE-0398: Monitoring of African elephants along the North Kenyan Coast

In partnership with Save The Elephants

Country of work: Kenya

Awarded: \$53,580

Leveraged: \$18,590

To improve knowledge of and security for elephants living near the Indian Ocean coastline in Kenya, north of Lamu, the recipient will deploy satellite tracking collars on three elephants in order to monitor their movements and identify their seasonal needs. The collars should transmit information about the elephants' whereabouts for three years. By collaborating with Kenya Wildlife Services and the Kibodo Trust, the recipient will use knowledge of elephant distribution to improve anti-poaching efforts and to integrate elephant data in conservation plans for the region.