

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of International Conservation
Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund Summary FY 2008

In 2008, the USFWS awarded 42 new grants from the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund totaling \$1,863,931 which was matched by \$2,593,905 in leveraged funds. Field projects in ten Asian countries and six African countries will be supported. One additional grant will benefit all African rhinoceros range states.

Asian Projects

In 2008, the USFWS awarded 28 new grants in ten Asian countries totaling \$1,283,376 in USFWS funding which was matched by \$1,339,952 in leveraged funds.

Bangladesh

RT-0826 Research component of the Sundarbans Tiger Project, Bangladesh. In partnership with the Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh. USFWS: \$35,098; Leveraged Funds: \$7,000. To ensure effective tiger management in the Sundarbans this project will continue tiger and prey survey activities to monitor population fluctuations and use these to help identify threats and evaluate management strategies.

RT-0830 Conservation awareness, capacity building and project management components of the Sundarban Tiger Project, Bangladesh. In partnership with the Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh. USFWS: \$40,963; Leveraged Funds: \$7,000. To expand and make sustainable the capacity building, conservation awareness and overall project management components of the Sundarbans Tiger Project.

Burma

RT-0833 Assessing the status of tigers, prey and threats in the Hukaung Valley landscape of northern Burma. In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. USFWS: \$32,872; Leveraged Funds: \$43,443. To establish a robust biological monitoring system to inform Hukaung Valley protected area management decisions through tiger and prey occupancy surveys.

Cambodia

RT-0839 Conservation of tigers, their prey, and habitat in Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary. In partnership with BirdLife International. USFWS: \$49,975; Leveraged Funds: \$32,781. To continue and enhance anti-poaching patrols and engage government authorities in conservation of the Sanctuary through training and equipping rangers and operation of anti-poaching patrols.

India

RT-0764 *Tiger conservation awareness campaign and community outreach in the tiger range of Uttaranchal, India.* In partnership with Conservation Himalayas. USFWS: \$49,753; Leveraged Funds: \$21,000. Preparation of local people for a practical participatory role in tiger conservation by raising the awareness and knowledge of students, teachers, foresters, forest guards and grassroots communities.

RT-0785 *Meta-population dynamics of tiger populations in the Malenad-Mysore Landscape of Karnataka: Anshi-Dandeli and Kudremukh Reserves.* In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. USFWS: \$50,681; Leveraged Funds: \$66,502. To initiate a rigorous protocol for monitoring tigers, their prey and threats to them in these reserves by establishing a network of camera traps and line transects.

RT-0813 *Melghat Education Project-2.* In partnership with Nature Conservation Society, Amravati. USFWS: \$27,221; Leveraged Funds: \$17,134. To motivate local people living in the vicinity of Melghat Tiger Reserve to protect the forests on which they depend through a program of nature games, film shows, walks, safaris, awareness marches, camps, community meetings and employment workshops for youth.

RT-0820 *Building fundraising and grant management capacity for rhino conservation in India.* In partnership with the International Rhino Foundation. USFWS: \$32,412; Leveraged Funds: \$7,392. To strengthen the skills of organizations and institutions of Northeast India involved in rhino, tiger, elephant, and gibbon conservation in proposal development, grant management, and fundraising.

RT-0836 *Monitoring of tiger and its principal prey in Valmiki Tiger Reserve, Bihar, India.* In partnership with the Wildlife Trust of India. USFWS: \$50,169; Leveraged Funds: \$32,723. To provide information needed to evaluate past, and monitor future, conservation efforts by estimating tiger density, obtaining abundance indices for prey, and determining the composition of prey in the tiger diet.

RT-0837 *Conservation action for habitat and prey species recovery in Valmiki Tiger Reserve, Bihar, India.* In partnership with the Wildlife Institute of India. USFWS: \$50,935; Leveraged Funds: \$12,990. To enhance tiger prey populations by reducing biotic pressure on tiger prey habitat by providing resources and training to villagers to reduce their dependency on the forest and then monitoring response of the prey's habitat.

RT-0846 *Strengthen the protection measures in Manas National Park as a part of the program 'Indian Rhino Vision 2020' to expand the numbers and range of wild rhino in Assam, India, Phase - II.* In partnership with the Wildlife Areas Development and Welfare Trust. USFWS: \$67,100; Leveraged Funds: \$29,100. To provide training in anti-poaching methods and wildlife conservation and then deploy 50 home guards.

RT-0863 *Database on tiger poaching and trade and related wildlife crimes in India.* In partnership with the Wildlife Protection Society of India. USFWS: \$69,950; Leveraged Funds: \$33,582. To collect data on wildlife crime; assist enforcement agencies in detecting wildlife crime and

prosecute apprehended criminals; and produce a comprehensive report on the illegal wildlife trade in India.

RT-0903 Capacity building project - Training of tiger range state's officials in wildlife management at the Wildlife Institute of India. In partnership with the Global Tiger Forum. USFWS: \$43,815; Leveraged Funds: \$54,000. To develop a cadre of trained wildlife managers and field personnel across the tiger range states by training personnel working in programs relevant to tiger conservation at the Wildlife Institute of India.

Indonesia

RT-0817 Protection of Sumatran tiger in Kerinci Seblat National Park. In partnership with Fauna and Flora International. USFWS: \$49,696; Leveraged Funds: \$234,018. To maintain regular anti-poaching patrols in key sites; pursue and prosecute violators; swiftly intervene to mitigate human-tiger conflict; provide on-the-job patrol training to national park rangers; and present wildlife crimes investigation and judicial training.

RT-0850 Sumatran rhino anti-poaching units for Way Kambas National Park, Sumatra, Indonesia. In partnership with the International Rhino Foundation. USFWS: \$32,872; Leveraged Funds: \$43,443. To operate five anti-poaching units to protect and monitor the park's population of rhino and other endangered mammals. This program will also train units to protect wildlife of other parks.

RT-0854 Continuation of rhino protection units in Ujung Kulon National Park, Java, Indonesia. In partnership with the International Rhino Foundation. USFWS: \$43,189; Leveraged Funds: \$49,396. To stabilize and then enable recovery of the rhino population of the park through operation of three anti-poaching units to protect and monitor the rhino and other endangered mammals of the park.

RT-0864 Rhino Task Force for setting up a 2nd population of the Javan rhinoceros, Indonesia. In partnership with WWF Indonesia. USFWS: \$49,838; Leveraged Funds: \$38,164. To support the coordination and leadership activities of a 'task force' of stakeholders dedicated to establishing a second population of Javan rhinos in Indonesia.

RT-0887 Protecting Sumatran tigers and rhinos inside and outside Batang Hari tropical forest, Sumatra, Indonesia. In partnership with the Durrell Trust for Conservation Biology. USFWS: \$49,995; Leveraged Funds: \$8,190. To carry out tiger detection and camera trap surveys, monitor human tiger conflict and provide mitigation training, identify key areas for protection, and initiate discussions on a management plan.

RT-0889 Monitoring population trends of tigers and their prey species in Kerinci Seblat National Park, Sumatra, Indonesia. In partnership with the Durrell Trust for Conservation Biology. USFWS: \$50,000; Leveraged Funds: \$38,225. To complete detection and camera trap surveys necessary to produce an estimate of tiger numbers and to further train project partners in mapping and statistical analysis of the field data.

RT-0893 Mobile village tiger patrols III, Indonesia. In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. USFWS: \$60,725; Leveraged Funds: \$63,786. To address killing of tigers, depletion of the tiger prey base, and deforestation by conducting human-wildlife conflict patrols, conducting wildlife crimes investigations, providing legal aid in wildlife crimes cases, and conducting educational events on tiger conservation.

Malaysia

RT-0856 Engaging the forestry sector to effectively manage tiger and prey populations in selectively logged forests in Peninsular Malaysia. In partnership with WWF-Malaysia. USFWS: \$50,000; Leveraged Funds: \$54,400. To determine the conservation status of tiger and prey populations in Temengor Forest Reserve so as to develop management recommendations for tiger and tiger prey populations within Permanent Reserve Forests.

RT-0860 Securing the most important wildlife corridor between Taman Negara and Main Range tiger landscapes in Peninsular Malaysia. In partnership with the Malaysian Conservation Alliance for Tigers (MYCAT). USFWS: \$69,562; Leveraged Funds: \$104,200. The first year of the project will focus on data collection to assess the structural and functional landscape connectivity of the corridor. The research will provide a science-based rationale for conservation interventions to follow and a tool to monitor the effectiveness of the interventions.

Nepal

RT-0845 Rhino Conservation in Nepal II. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Nepal. USFWS: \$36,080; Leveraged Funds: \$16,500. To continue operation of the rhino poaching and illegal trade monitoring group, conduct a workshop for judiciary and park wardens to strengthen their cooperation and understanding of the role of the judiciary in combating wildlife crime, and encourage sharing of intelligence information among appropriate law enforcement agencies.

*RT-0913 Estimating the population of the Bengal tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*) in the Terai Arc Landscape, Nepal.* In partnership with World Wildlife Fund, Inc. USFWS: \$50,000; Leveraged Funds: \$113,308. To establish a 2008 base line for the status of the tiger population in the Terai Arc Landscape of Nepal by determining tiger density in core areas of the major protected areas of the landscape and evaluating the tiger distribution outside the protected areas.

Thailand

RT-0827 Tiger prey assessment: a rigorous method to determine absolute prey abundance across ecologically diverse sights, Thailand. In partnership with the University of Minnesota. USFWS: \$29,189; Leveraged Funds: \$12,375. To develop a rigorous, practical means to evaluate manager's efforts to improve tiger habitat quality by reducing subsistence hunting. This would be done by linking prey abundance (from fecal accumulation surveys) and tigress home range size (obtained from satellite GPS collars).

Russia

RT-0775 Ecology of Amur tigers and leopards in Southwestern Primorski Krai, Year II. In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. USFWS: \$49,585; Leveraged Funds: \$42,544. To develop a database on the ecology of subpopulations of these cats for use in conservation planning by monitoring collared tigers and leopards and developing needed databases for conservation planning.

RT-0810 Radio communication in tiger habitat. In partnership with the Phoenix Fund. USFWS: 14,550; Leveraged Funds: \$137,000. To maintain and enlarge the radio communication net for anti-poaching activities in the Amur tiger habitat of Primorye, Russian Far East, by obtaining additional equipment and addressing new administrative procedures required to operate a net.

Vietnam

RT-0892 Combating the illegal trade of tigers in Vietnam. In partnership with Education for Nature-Vietnam (ENV). USFWS: \$47,151; Leveraged Funds: \$19,756. To reduce trade and consumption of tigers and arrest the growth of tiger farming by surveying captive tigers; training the Forest Crime Unit in tiger trade assessment; and conducting an array of activities aimed at facilitating enforcement agency action on tiger farming and trade.

African Projects

In 2008, the USFWS awarded 14 new grants for field projects in six African countries and one grant that includes representatives of all African rhino range states, totaling \$580,555 in USFWS funding, which was matched by \$1,253,953 in leveraged funds.

Kenya

RT-0859 Supporting rhino security teams in Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, Kenya. In partnership with Lewa Wildlife Conservancy. USFWS: \$32,000. Leveraged Funds: \$271,111. This grant will support the procurement of night vision equipment for rhino security teams that patrol private and community-owned land in northern Kenya to enable them to patrol more effectively and safely at night.

RT-0876 Creating a secure and reliable water source for black rhinos and Other Wildlife in the Chyulu Hills, Kenya. In partnership with the International Rhino Foundation. USFWS: \$50,000. Leveraged Funds: \$105,198. Funding will assist a local conservation group to establish a new borehole and pump to supply water to rhinos and other wildlife in southern Kenya. High human and livestock densities outside the conservation area have made it difficult for wildlife to reach the existing natural water point, therefore an artificial one will be provided for them in an area with better protection.

Namibia

RT-0911 *The replacement, upgrading, and building of specialized rhinoceros capture equipment.* In partnership with Namibia Nature Foundation and the Namibia Ministry of Environment and Tourism. USFWS: \$39,850. Leveraged Funds: \$62,560. This grant will assist Namibia's conservation agency to replace and upgrade equipment (trailers, crates, and support vehicles) essential for safely capturing and translocating rhinos within the country.

RT-0912 *Black rhinoceros translocations and capture in Kunene Region, Namibia.* In partnership with Namibia Nature Foundation and the Namibia Ministry of Environment and Tourism. USFWS: \$73,710. Leveraged Funds: \$100,300. This project will assist with veterinary and flight expenses related to moving desert black rhinos onto community conservancies in Kunene, Namibia.

RT-0914 *Replacement vehicle for Black Rhino monitoring, Save the Rhino Trust, Namibia.* In partnership with Save the Rhino International. USFWS: \$43,946. Leveraged Funds: \$36,836. This grant will provide a vehicle to be used for monitoring black rhinos in rugged, remote terrain in central Namibia on community conservancies.

South Africa

RT-0822 *Ear notching of black rhinoceros, *Diceros bicornis minor*, in the Mkhuzi Game Reserve, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.* In partnership with Ezemvelo KwaZulu Natal Wildlife. USFWS: \$19,997. Leveraged Funds: \$27,750. The grantee will ear-notch unmarked young rhinoceros calves so that they may be identified in future, for monitoring and management of the breeding population in the Mkhuzi section of the Greater St. Lucia Wetland Park.

RT-0835 *A new rapid field-based pregnancy test to better monitor and manage black rhino in the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Game Reserve, Republic of South Africa.* In partnership with Victoria University of Wellington. USFWS: \$22,632. Leveraged Funds: \$39,448. This project will apply a new veterinary technique to test for pregnancy in black rhinos in the field. The test has the potential to improve management decisions by identifying which females are most suitable to be moved, to minimize risk to fetal rhino calves.

RT-0858 *Solar lighting and battery charging for field ranger camps in iMfolozi Game Reserve.* In partnership with Ezemvelo KwaZulu Natal Wildlife. USFWS: \$25,380. Leveraged Funds: \$22,665. The grantee will improve the facilities at remote outposts for rangers responsible for anti-poaching and biological monitoring of rhinos in iMfolozi Game Reserve in South Africa. Activities will include the installation of solar power for lighting and charging radio communications equipment.

RT-0866 *Physiological responses to the stresses of capture and boma-confinement in the white rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum*): Can we predict failure to adapt?* In partnership with the University of California. USFWS: \$23,734. Leveraged Funds: \$48,782. Capturing and translocating rhinos is essential to rhino management, but some rhinos do not adapt well to capture and confinement. Researchers will conduct laboratory tests on samples taken from recently captured rhinos in order to develop new techniques to identify early indicators of physical stress and deteriorating body condition in order to improve management techniques.

Tanzania

RT-0849 *Extension of Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary, Mkomazi Game Reserve, Tanzania, East Africa.* In partnership with the Tony Fitzjohn/George Adamson African Wildlife Preservation Trust. USFWS: \$50,000. Leveraged Funds: \$135,408. Funds will be used to extend the fenced area within Mkomazi where the rhino population resides, in order to enclose more habitat. Additional area is needed in order to introduce additional rhinos to the population.

Zambia

RT-0862 *Support for re-establishment of black rhino, Dicerus bicornis minor, in North Luangwa National Park, Zambia.* In partnership with Frankfurt Zoological Society. USFWS: \$69,306. Leveraged Funds: \$179,453. This project will provide continuing support for the reintroduced black rhino population in Zambia by supporting training and equipment for anti-poaching and rhino monitoring staff, and construction of additional fencing to temporarily confine newly released rhinos.

Zimbabwe

RT-0824 *Continued support for rhinoceros veterinary requirements, Zimbabwe.* In partnership with the International Rhino Foundation. USFWS: \$50,000. Leveraged Funds: \$65,282. The recipient will work with an experienced team to locate and tranquilize black rhinos in order to treat the animals for a) snare injuries and other injuries, b) ear-notching for monitoring, c) fitting horn implant transmitters to aid rhino monitoring, and/or d) translocating rhinos in vulnerable areas to places of greater safety.

RT-0853 *Operational vehicles for Lowveld rhino monitoring unit, Zimbabwe.* In partnership with the International Rhino Foundation. USFWS: \$50,000. Leveraged Funds: \$101,500. This grant will assist with the purchase and operating expenses for two field patrol vehicles to be used for monitoring and security of rhino populations in Zimbabwe's southeastern Lowveld region.

All African rhinoceros range states

RT-0818 *Partial support for holding the ninth strategic planning and capacity building workshop/meeting of the IUCN SSC African Rhino Specialist Group in Tanzania: 24-29 May 2008.* In partnership with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission (SSC) African Rhino Specialists Group. USFWS: \$30,000. Leveraged Funds: \$57,660. This meeting will bring together 35 of the most accomplished field practitioners working on rhino conservation management and research, wildlife trade and community program disciplines, in order to share information and expertise.