

Wildlife Without Borders

Regional Programs

Conservation of wildlife is a global priority, with the survival of wildlife species largely dependent on habitats extending beyond political boundaries. In light of significant pressures from the expanding human population and corresponding increases in development, pollution, and consumption of natural resources, the need for international collaboration in conserving wildlife has never been greater.

These wildlife crises are exacerbated by a need for more trained wildlife professionals and environmental advocates in parts of the world that are home to some of the richest biodiversity our planet holds.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Service) has a mandate through a number of statutes and international treaties to provide support for the conservation of species of international concern. To address this mandate and help stem rising threats to global biodiversity, the Service's Division of International Conservation has developed the Wildlife Without Borders-Regional Programs.

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The mission of the Service's Wildlife Without Borders-Regional Programs is to develop locally adapted wildlife management and conservation programs to maintain global species diversity. By partnering with international and local non-governmental organizations, governments, private businesses, and community leaders, these efforts use a small amount of funding to leverage commitments of financial and human resources to make significant strides in wildlife conservation.

Each of the Wildlife Without Borders-Regional Programs is shaped to meet the particular needs of the individual countries in which they work; however, consistent strategic areas of conservation focus are central to all the programs. Specifically, each program builds off the following tenets for conservation: capacity building for long-term in-country wildlife management; endangered and migratory species conservation; strategic habitat conservation and natural areas; and environmental education and outreach.

The Wildlife Without Borders-Regional Programs currently focus on five areas: Latin America and the Caribbean, Mexico, India, Russia, and China. These programs are funded in the appropriations process under the Service's "International Conservation" budget. The Wildlife Without Borders-Regional Programs build upon efforts in existing regions of focus, while having the potential to expand into Africa, Southeast Asia and other areas needing wildlife conservation assistance.



Siberian Crane Research, India
USFWS/Lalitha Vijayan

The Wildlife Without Borders-Regional Programs have launched successful conservation initiatives around the globe. Some notable accomplishments include:

Wildlife Without Borders-Latin America and the Caribbean

- Leveraged over 3 times the amount of money it has awarded in grants, through direct matches and in-kind contributions from partners. Projects have included activities to manage and conserve Kemp's ridley sea turtles, West Indian whistling ducks, rock iguanas, parrots, tapirs, macaws and migratory bats, among other species.
- Partnered with the U.S. Department of State to hold the Western Hemisphere Migratory Birds Conference. The Conference successfully brought together representatives from 25 countries in the Western Hemisphere and over 40 international wildlife conservation stakeholders to develop strategies for cooperation on conservation of migratory birds and other wildlife.
- Since 1987, trained and educated over 1,700 decision-makers, wildlife professionals, and students in a wide-range of graduate programs, workshops and training initiatives focused on wildlife conservation and management.

Wildlife Without Borders-Mexico

- Since 1995, leveraged more than 3 times the U.S. investment in conservation efforts through matching funds and in-kind support. Efforts on behalf of jaguars, pronghorn antelope, desert bighorn sheep, Californian condors, manatees, whales, sea turtles and migratory bats have all been conducted with the support of this initiative. Overall, the program has benefitted almost 100 species of international conservation concern.
- Since 1995, works with partners to preserve the over-wintering habitat of the monarch butterfly in central Mexico. In support of this effort, funds have also been used to support the training of over 500 community members in sustainable agricultural practices, the use of energy-efficient technologies, and the development of service related capabilities.

Wildlife Without Borders-China

- Since 1986, sponsored nearly 100 short-term exchanges of biologists and wildlife professionals between the U.S. and China, in an effort to encourage the country to better safeguard its

wildlife resources through conservation education, improved management of wildlife trade and enforcement, and protection of rivers and wetland habitat.

Wildlife Without Borders-Russia

- Collaborates with Russia to conserve shared species and populations of wildlife such as walrus, polar bears, sturgeon and eider ducks.
- Grants program instituted in 1995 has provided more than \$900,000 to enhance law enforcement, education activities, and infrastructure for Russian federal nature reserves. These funds have been used to purchase such operational necessities as ranger station generators, patrol vehicle repairs, station radios, and basic office equipment.

Wildlife Without Borders-India

- Leveraging \$11 million from special foreign currencies between 1977 and 2000, provided \$600,000 in funding for more than 30 major wildlife conservation projects to assist India with the conservation and management of its diverse biological resources.



Polar Bear
© Corel



Monarch Butterfly Reserve, Mexico
USFWS



Ocelot
USFWS

Wildlife Without Borders - Regional Programs for FY 2003*	
Total Number of Grants Awarded	73
Total Funds Distributed through Grants	\$1.48 million
Total Matching/In-kind Funds Leveraged by Grants	\$5.43 million
Percentage of Applications that Received Grants	44%
Total Number of Countries that Received Program Support	18

*Not all programs issue grants