

CONNECTING WORLDS THE POWER OF CONSERVATION

صندوق محمد بن زايد
للمحافظة على الكائنات الحية
The Mohamed bin Zayed SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND



ANNUAL REPORT
2015



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The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund provides financial support to species conservation projects worldwide.

In 2015 the Fund supported 182 projects in 73 different countries with US \$1,579,631.

Since its inception in 2008, the Fund has distributed US \$13,470,795 to 1,386 projects across the globe.






FOREWORD

While compiling this year's Annual Report, we had an interesting discussion concerning its title. There were numerous — and some excellent — suggestions; but eventually I opted for *Connecting Worlds: The Power of Conservation*, and my reasons were threefold.

Firstly, conservation efforts connect people and countries, and help to create greater awareness of the threats to biodiversity and our environment. Secondly, I believe in the connection we have with nature and that all of us are connected through our shared responsibility to conserve it. And finally, I want to celebrate the efforts of the Fund and the work of its recipients — and their many team members — who this year undertook conservation work in more than 70 countries.



During 2015 some 182 projects received grants totalling almost US \$1,580,000. This means that in the six years since the Fund's inception it has disbursed \$13,470,795 to support 1,386 projects across 150 countries, representing more than three quarters of the world's nations. These projects of various sizes have assisted 960 species and/or subspecies, as well as associated rural and urban communities. They have also helped to develop global-minded citizens who now better understand the importance of restoring and protecting our planet's biodiversity, and who are willing to address one of the greatest challenges of our time.

It's no coincidence that this drive for connectivity should emanate from a Fund headquartered in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates. Our cosmopolitan capital is renowned for its commitment to environmental and cultural sustainability. Blessed with a geographic location at the crossroads of three continents – Africa, Asia and Europe – Abu Dhabi and the UAE have welcomed visitors and traders for centuries. The Emirate's rich history as a conduit connecting the continents and their people

is reflected today in its ability to attract international business leaders and tourists from around the world, fostering connections between individuals and nations. The Fund has also embraced Abu Dhabi's role as a major global intersection, specifically in the world of conservation. We support a wide range of conservation projects targeting all species types, be they amphibian, bird, fish, fungus, invertebrate, mammal, plant or reptile.

**WE ALSO PROVIDE GRANTS
... TO ASSIST THE LESS
CHARISMATIC CREATURES
THAT SELDOM WIN HEARTS
AND MINDS BUT ARE NO
LESS DESERVING.**

We provide grants to support those well-known species whose appeal is near-universal, but also to assist the less charismatic creatures that seldom win hearts and minds but which are no less deserving. The dedicated conservationists whose work we fund are as diverse as the projects we support; they hail from different continents, cultures and backgrounds, and speak different

languages, but they all have something in common – an abiding passion for biodiversity, species and people. They also share a desire to disseminate the findings and outcomes of their projects to help build broader knowledge of the species and habitats they support.

This commonality brings us together – conservation acts as a bridge which connects our worlds, linking people under a shared vision, advancing our knowledge and winning a mounting grassroots following which fills us with hope for the future. This is indeed a story of worlds connected, and the true power of conservation.

We hope that by reading about the projects presented in this report you will develop a sense of that power. We believe these stories of discovery, hope, perseverance and science, and of the people and communities they affect, will serve to inspire others to get firmly behind global conservation efforts.

Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak
Managing Director

DEAR grant RECIPIENTS



During 2015 the Fund built on the financial support given to dedicated species conservation projects worldwide, increasing the total amount disbursed in small grants to nearly \$13.5m.

The allocations were made against a backdrop of increasing grant applications. In short, more requests are being received than can be supported. During 2015, we received requests totalling around \$20.7m and were only able to distribute close to \$1,580,000.



Consequently, the Fund adapted to this supply and demand equation by applying more stringent review criteria, with only 14% of applications making the grade and with most successful applications receiving only partial funding. Nevertheless, we hope part funding is better than none and that the Fund's support adds sufficient credibility to projects to ensure additional financing is more forthcoming from other sources. This has certainly been the case with many initiatives.

In 2015 the Fund focused its support on less high profile projects while still targeting threatened species — particularly those listed by the IUCN Red List as Critically Endangered or Endangered. The Fund also continued its strong financial support for species listed as Data Deficient or Not Evaluated, with over \$273,000 disbursed to 34 projects. Importantly, the Fund continues to support the conservationists who dedicate their lives to saving the world's most threatened and least known species, and making this planet a better place for all.

Looking to the future, the Fund will continue to adapt to the challenges facing species conservation, seeking additional capital, striving to maximise its investments and working to refine qualifying criteria for grant applications. Our efforts will continue to be global and grant eligibility will extend to all plant and animal species conservation efforts, without bias of geography or selected species.

The Fund intends to deliver small, targeted grants to local and grassroots projects. To cover the widest possible spectrum of species conservation efforts, two grant types are available: up to \$5,000 or those between \$5,000 and \$25,000.

To help offset some of the challenges, the Fund has endeavoured to make the grant application process as user-friendly as possible, especially for smaller projects where onerous administration can negate the benefits of financial contributions. All grants are subject to independent review and are awarded following advisory board meetings which are held at least three times a year.

We also employ an online system which makes it more convenient for conservationists worldwide to submit applications and brings greater efficiency to the advisory board's review and award process. Grant submissions can be made via the Fund's website (www.speciesconservation.org); board members can log in and evaluate projects; and grant recipients can upload their project reports twice a year for board review and access author case studies at any time to highlight their work.

We want to thank all applicants; the recipients who help implement the Fund's ideals of assisting individual species conservation initiatives, recognising leaders in the field and elevating the importance of species in the broader conservation debate; and all those who support the Fund by generously giving their valuable time and experience.

In closing, we wish everyone success in their conservation efforts.

Board of Advisors

WHY SPECIES conservation?

“

The sense of loss resulting from extinction is a relatively modern phenomenon. In many ways it is the result of a new understanding of the impact of our activities, and a greater sense of responsibility for that impact.

This sense of responsibility for endangered species has complex origins. It has developed out of academic studies, concern for lost resources, the love of a species engendered through hunting, and importantly, from the sense of loss all of us have experienced as landscapes have been emptied of majestic trees, bison or passenger pigeons.

There is an urgent need now to reinvigorate the broad discussion on the subject of species conservation and biodiversity, and to better integrate environmental initiatives addressing individual issues such as species conservation, climate change, habitat destruction and unsustainable development. The conservation community must ultimately put an end to the era of promoting one environmental

cause at the expense of another, because if one of these causes (or any of the others competing for attention) fails, all of them are far less likely to succeed. Just like the species of a complex ecosystem, our individual conservation efforts are more interdependent than we tend to acknowledge, and we will all only be as strong as our weakest links.

Recognising the crisis facing species conservation, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, established this dedicated fund for the provision of support to individual and coordinated species conservation initiatives. To retain the species and habitats we treasure, and indeed need, the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund seeks to support on-the-ground champions of species conservation — the individuals in the villages, field stations, laboratories and homes who are dedicated to conserving their local (and the world's global) threatened species.

The Fund helps their work through focused financial support and is nurturing the next generation of species conservationists by making the best conservation practices available to them using innovative communication methods.

THIS SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO SPECIES CONSERVATION IS CONSISTENT WITH A LONG-STANDING TRADITION OF PHILANTHROPY AND CONSERVATION ESTABLISHED IN THE EMIRATE OF ABU DHABI.

Through additional events and activities, the Fund will also seek to recognize individual leaders in the field of species conservation whose passion and commitment often goes unnoticed, and in doing so, to inspire others with an interest in the field of conservation.

This significant contribution to species conservation is consistent with a long-standing tradition of philanthropy and conservation established in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. Locally, extensive conservation programmes have been introduced to protect nearby species as diverse as the Arabian oryx, gazelle, houbara bustard, dugong and marine turtle, amongst others.

The people of Abu Dhabi have witnessed first-hand the tangible benefits of targeted and well-resourced species conservation initiatives. For example, the population of the Arabian oryx, hunted to near extinction in the early 1970s, is currently on the rise again and the Emirate of Abu Dhabi is leading efforts to reintroduce the species to its traditional desert habitat.

Through the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund this tradition continues in the form of an innovative and genuinely international approach to philanthropy and species conservation.



DISBURSEMENT OF funds 2015

The Fund is committed to providing grants to high quality projects for all types of species in need of urgent conservation efforts, and does so without geographic bias.

In 2015 the Fund supported 182 projects selected from 1,284 grant applications. The selected projects, located in 73 different countries across six continents, shared \$1,579,631 in funding.

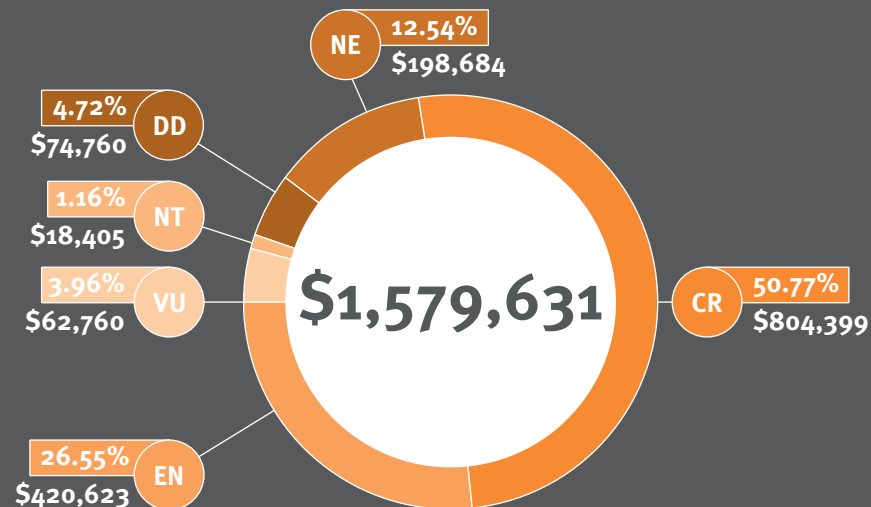
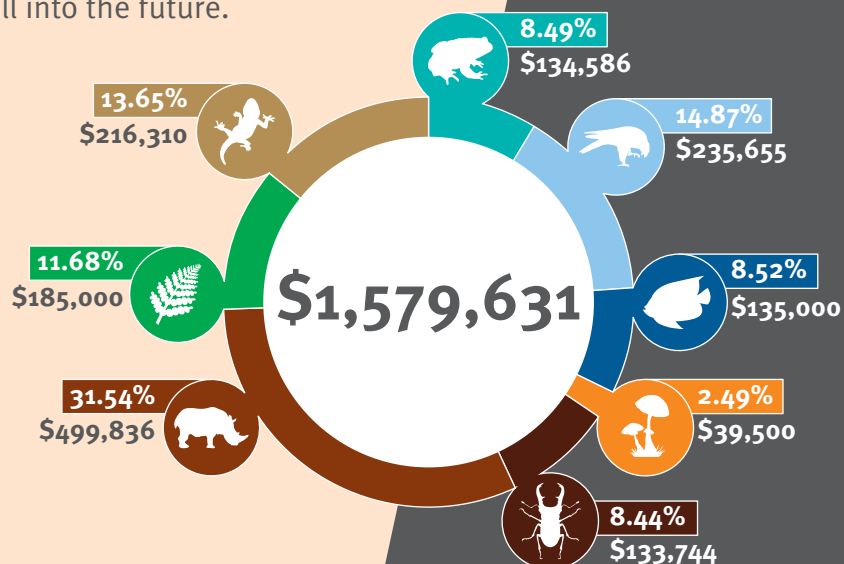
A majority of the support from the Fund was awarded to projects working to protect species classified as Endangered or Critically Endangered. However, the Fund also remains keen to support work with species listed as Data Deficient and those which have not yet been evaluated.

The Fund has been particularly interested in supporting projects in biodiversity rich areas such as East Africa, Southeast Asia and the tropical Americas, as well as in countries where limited funding can go a long way, and in many cases these areas are one and the same — providing solid conservation value.

Available funds were awarded to projects supporting mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and plants, while other taxonomic groups continued to receive strong support.

All told, since its inception in 2008 the Fund has contributed \$13,470,795 to 1,386 projects worldwide, helping to conserve over 950 species and sub-species.

We look forward to continuing this support well into the future.



EX=Extinct | EW=Extinct in the Wild | CR=Critically Endangered
 EN=Endangered | VU=Vulnerable | NT=Near Threatened
 LC=Least Concern | DD=Data Deficient | NE = Not Evaluated

The Fund's mission, objectives and structure

The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund is a philanthropic endowment established in October 2008 at the World Conservation Congress in Barcelona with an initial endowment of €25m. It aims to provide targeted grants to individual species conservation initiatives, and to recognise species conservation leaders and the importance of species in the broader conservation debate.

The Fund's reach is truly global and its species interest is non-discriminatory. Conservationists worldwide can apply for funding for projects focused on any and all kinds of plant and animal species — amphibians, birds, fish, fungi, invertebrates, mammals, plants or reptiles. Applications are subject to review by an independent advisory board.

By recognising leaders in species conservation and scientific research, the Fund hopes to ensure their important work and the role of species in global conservation discourse both get the attention they deserve. The Fund hopes to nurture the growth of a thriving global community of well-resourced species conservationists and to stimulate additional, third party donations to ensure the growth of annual contributions to direct species conservation projects.

The Fund's mission is to elevate the importance of species in the conservation debate by: providing timely support for grassroots initiatives which make a real difference to species survival; supporting those whose passion, dedication and knowledge is key to saving species; assisting the conservation of species in their natural habitats; heightening awareness of species conservation; stimulating renewed interest among young people in natural sciences; and attracting further contributions to species conservation from across the globe.

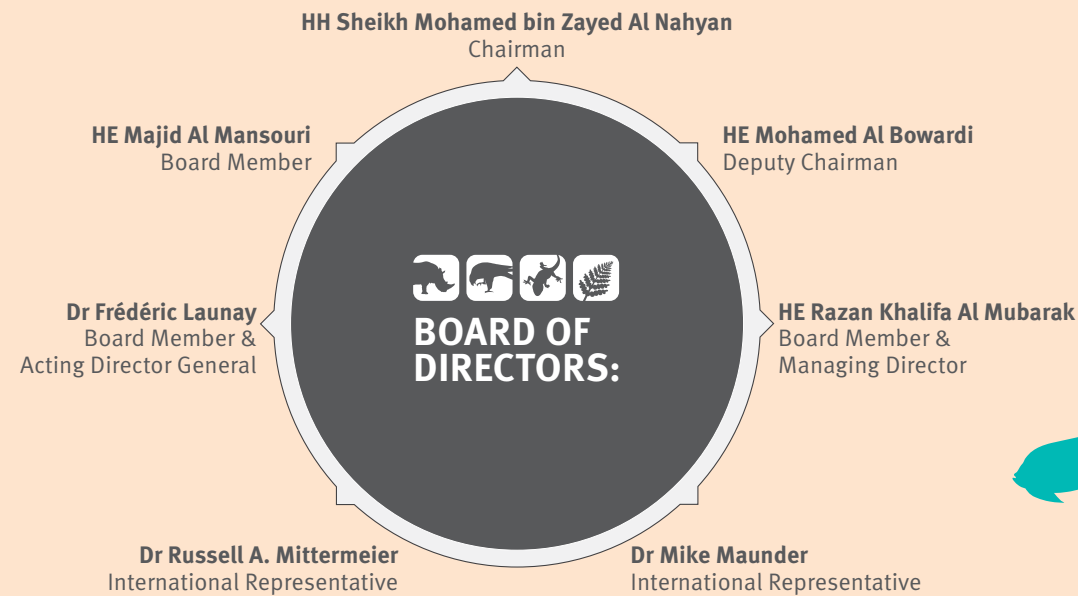
The Fund is a private philanthropic interest whose donor is His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, who holds a wide range of policy, legislative and economic responsibilities in Abu Dhabi and the UAE. His Highness is a committed conservationist and philanthropist.

HH Sheikh Mohamed chairs the Abu Dhabi Executive Council which oversees the emirate's development and implementation of all government policy and legislation under the guidance of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE and Ruler of Abu Dhabi.

The environment is one of Sheikh Mohamed's highest priorities, both from a policy and a personal perspective. He was instrumental in establishing the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi, and has led significant conservation efforts to protect the falcon, houbara bustard and Arabian oryx both within the UAE and worldwide.

The Fund is managed by an independent board of directors, comprising local and international experts in environmental conservation, policy development and species conservation who allocate financial grants on the basis of detailed applications submitted by potential beneficiaries.

The Fund’s independent board oversees all aspects of its operation, including the development of policies and procedures, the recognition of species conservation leaders, the provision of financial grants to successful applicants, and the review of project reports submitted.



The Fund’s mission is to elevate the importance of species in the conservation debate by:

Providing timely support for grass-roots initiatives which make a real difference to species survival.

Supporting those whose passion, dedication and knowledge is key to saving species.

Assisting the conservation of species in their natural habitats.

Heightening awareness of species conservation.

Stimulating renewed interest among young people in natural sciences.

Attracting further contributions to species conservation from across the globe.



STORIES OF **PEOPLE**

**PASSIONATE
PEOPLE
PURPOSEFUL
PROJECTS**

A decorative graphic consisting of a grid of small white diamonds. The grid is 10 columns wide and 18 rows high. The top 12 rows are set against a dark gray background, while the bottom 6 rows are set against a light tan background.

01

The Fund's work brings it into contact with many people around the world. They hail from different backgrounds, have followed different career paths and span generations. They all have several things in common, best summarised as a determination to care for their chosen species and environs. In many cases we have unearthed unsung heroes who protect the world around us. Here we meet just a few to whom we all owe so much.

RACING against TIME

Constantino Aucca is a self-confessed fanatic; “That’s how people see my passion sometimes and I suppose I am fanatic about conservation”, says this 56-year-old Peruvian biologist turned conservationist. Constantino’s passion is now fully engaged in a race against time as he and his ECOAN (Asociacion Ecosistemas Andinos) NGO endeavour to save the Critically Endangered Junin grebe (*Podiceps taczanowskii*), of which there are only around 300 known individuals.

The flightless Junin grebe is endemic to Peru, where it is confined to Lake Junin in the country’s west-central highlands. It’s an area of great biodiversity and historic value, being home to ancient archaeological remains. This is not the first time the Fund has supported conservation in Lake Junin; in 2009 the Fund provided support for its endemic and critically endangered amphibian, the Junin frog.

Junin grebe
Podiceps taczanowskii
Critically Endangered
Peru
\$7,600



THE JUNIN GREBE IS STRUGGLING FOR SURVIVAL TOO; IN FACT, OF THE EIGHT CRITICALLY ENDANGERED BIRDS ENDEMIC TO PERU, THE JUNIN GREBE IS MOST AT RISK.

The area is home to copper and iron ore mines and small, poor villages where populations struggle for survival. In the face of habitat degradation caused by mining debris, the Junin grebe is struggling for survival too; in fact, of the eight Critically Endangered birds endemic to Peru, the Junin grebe is most at risk.

The Fund backed Constantino's project, described by one Fund advisor as a 'tough' one, after being impressed by ECOAN's previous successes and being aware that time is not on the Junin grebe's side.





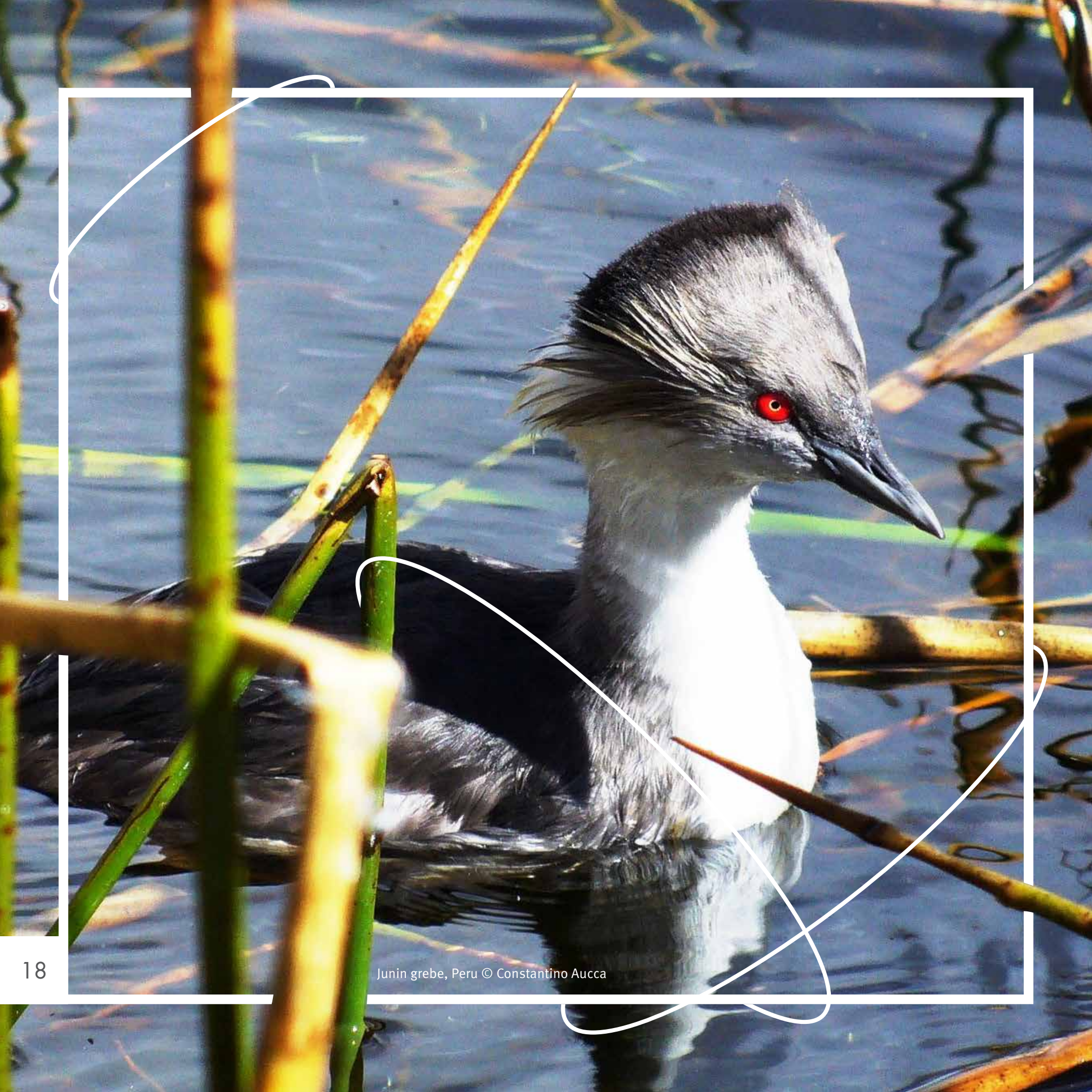
THE JUNIN GREBE'S SAD PLIGHT HAS BUILT UP OVER JUST EIGHT DECADES. EIGHTY YEARS AGO THE BIRD WAS ABUNDANT IN LAKE JUNIN, BUT SINCE THEN IT HAS EXPERIENCED RAPID DECLINE.


Constantino says that although the pressure to save this bird is now extremely high, its plight has been known for some time and has been worsened by inappropriate approaches. “I brought this to the table years ago and the answer was: research, research and research — we don’t need this much research, we need some strategic action”.

The Junin grebe’s sad plight has built up over just eight decades. Eighty years ago the bird was abundant in Lake Junin, but since then it has experienced rapid decline, largely due to deterioration in water quality from mining activities, which have also polluted the lake and caused a scarcity of the small *Orestias* fishes on which the Junin grebe feeds. Water level regulation for a hydroelectric plant supplying nearby mines also causes nesting and foraging areas to dry out, resulting in breeding failures.

Constantino and ECOAN are now taking matters into their own hands. They are gradually improving the habitat quality for the Junin grebe at key sites around the lake, increasing local awareness of the importance of the lake and its biodiversity and monitoring the effectiveness of its actions through a local community programme.

They’ve staged beach-shore clean-ups, patrolled zoned areas, implemented environmental education campaigns and are firming up alliances with local government and education authorities.





“We’re convinced that only by involving local stakeholders and local communities can we achieve our objectives and have some change in the reality of the conservation of these species”, explained Constantino. “However, it’s not going to happen overnight. When I talk to people initially about birds struggling for survival, they look at me and tell me how they too are struggling to survive — so this is not an easy thing to get through and it won’t happen in one or two years. I believe it takes five years to get people to understand and change attitudes”.

Constantino admits that even ECOAN’s exhaustive efforts may not be enough, but nothing is going to deter this fanatic conservationist who owes his passion to his Danish mentor Dr. Jon Fjeldsa. “I was on many field trips with him and he taught me the importance of conservation and how we can all make a difference, and since then there’s nothing else I’ve wanted to do”.

Next on Constantino’s agenda is the drafting of a financial plan aimed at making the project more sustainable. He plans to involve the regional government, look for fundraising opportunities, invite overseas universities and organisations to work together on monitoring efforts and generate more awareness among locals to protect the species.

“These species are at the top of the Critically Endangered species of Peru and it is sad how few conservation institutions want to jump in the arena to work and prevent their possible extinction. We will not, however, sit back and see this species disappear. We must do all that we can to prevent possible extinction but this will only be possible with the co-operation of our partners”.



WE’RE CONVINCED THAT ONLY BY INVOLVING LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES CAN WE ACHIEVE OUR OBJECTIVES AND HAVE SOME CHANGE IN THE REALITY OF THE CONSERVATION OF THESE SPECIES.

IS THIS THE catch OF THE YEAR?

In the urban wetlands of Colombo, Sri Lanka, a project is underway to better understand the habits of one of the country's rarest felines — the endangered Fishing cat (*Prionailurus viverrinus*). The wetland territories these endangered cats call home are under continued threat from the rapid urban development of this Indian Ocean island capital.

With the Fund's backing, however, a project is progressing to conserve these wetlands for this unique cat — the only feline species to be named after its lifestyle. The project is being led by 27-year-old Sri Lankan conservationist and enthusiast Anya Ratnayaka, whose affinity with the species began when she strayed upon an orphan Fishing cat.

Fishing cat
Prionailurus viverrinus
Endangered
Sri Lanka
\$4,000



IT ALL BEGAN WHEN I FINISHED UNIVERSITY AND ONE OF MY COLLEAGUES MENTIONED SHE WAS LOOKING AFTER AN ORPHANED FISHING CAT. IT SPARKED MY INTEREST BECAUSE I HADN'T HEARD MUCH ABOUT FISHING CATS.

“It all began when I finished university and one of my colleagues mentioned she was looking after an orphaned Fishing cat. It sparked my interest because I hadn’t heard much about the fishing cats — all the attention is usually reserved for the big cats”, said Anya. With her interest piqued, she visited her colleague’s home and experienced “love at first sight” when she met orphan Maalu, which means ‘fish’ in Sinhala.





WE ARE TRACKING THREE CATS, BUT REALLY NEED ABOUT 10 IN TOTAL; YET WE HAVE FOUND SOME REALLY AMAZING THINGS — INCLUDING ONE CAT WHICH INHABITS THE BUSY DOWNTOWN NOW AND GOES OUT AT NIGHT.

“He was full of life, would chase you around and jump up at you, real fun”. Maalu remained in captivity for about six months and then had a ‘soft’ introduction to the wild when a pond was made for him to fish in a safe site before full reintroduction into the wild. Sadly, however, before Maalu could be set free he succumbed to feline flu and passed away. It was heart-breaking for devoted Anya, a member of Sri Lanka’s not-for-profit Environmental Foundation Limited (EFL); “He was the one that really sparked my interest and I decided to take up a study on the species my uncle had begun years before and had to abandon because of the war”.


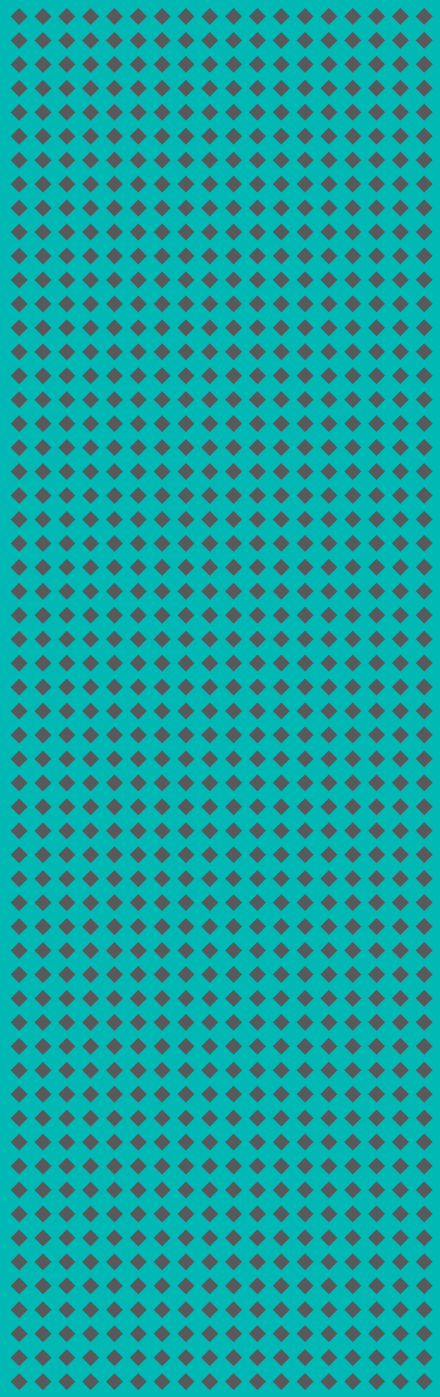
Anya and a couple of Foundation colleagues have used camera traps and monitoring collars to attempt to assess the Fishing cat population and the impact of urban development, and to transform this knowledge into a publicly backed conservation campaign for Colombo.

“We are tracking three cats, but really need about 10 in total; yet we have found some really amazing things — including one cat which inhabits the busy downtown now and goes out at night. He travels over roofs and across boundary walls and goes fishing in people’s ponds and has found remarkable ways of avoiding human contact and is drawn to a canal which runs through the area”.

There’s obvious delight and enthusiasm when Anya talks of the cat, which people often mistake for a small leopard. Data from her project will be the basis of her masters degree and, she hopes, will help persuade developers to merge wildlife needs with their own. Belief in this win — win concept simply oozes from Anya, and the intense positivity with which she speaks of the idea is irresistible to her listeners, who quickly become converts.







“I have begun talking to them and they are listening — I’ve even talked to the World Bank about it and found that people are coming round to the idea of ‘let’s develop together’. The Fishing cat will be our flagship cause. Once we understand the ecology and behaviour of Fishing cats in these urban wetlands, we can integrate conservation of these wetlands into urban development, as green areas”.

The scheme has already won the backing of Sri Lanka’s Department of Wildlife Conservation, the Sri Lanka Land Reclamation & Development Corporation and the Leopard Trust, an NGO which deals with the conservation of leopards and other wild cats.

Survival may therefore be at hand for Sri Lanka’s Fishing cat, but its story could well have even greater impact if Anya and her EFL colleagues can deliver on their long term goals.

“We hope to create a green city with green urban development, which in turn will help maintain healthy biodiversity and develop the concept of urban BioParks as a forum for conservation awareness and education”, explained Anya. Perhaps one could be named Maalu Park? “Now wouldn’t that be fitting!” she eagerly agrees.



ONCE WE UNDERSTAND THE ECOLOGY AND BEHAVIOUR OF FISHING CATS IN THESE URBAN WETLANDS, WE CAN INTEGRATE CONSERVATION OF THESE WETLANDS INTO URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AS GREEN AREAS.

A champion IN ACTION

Soft spoken wildlife biologist Dr Nabajit Das may at first glance seem an unlikely champion, but that's what he's become after taking up the cause of the Critically Endangered Chinese pangolin, a small armadillo-like creature whose very existence in India is at risk because of illegal trade.

"The trade exists largely because people in the rural areas of Assam believe the pangolin has medicinal properties — none of which are proven", explained Dr Das of the Primate Research Centre of North East India. "Some people even believe parts of the pangolin possess magic or charms so they are much sought after and exploited, and nothing has been done to protect it in India. Also what touched me most is that this is a mammal which is friendly and never threatens humans and that's why I began to love it so much and decided to fight for it. Greater awareness, improved law enforcement and stronger regional conservation management plans are urgently needed".

Chinese pangolin
Manis pentadactyla
Critically Endangered
India
\$5,000



**WHAT TOUCHED ME MOST IS THAT THIS IS
A MAMMAL WHICH IS FRIENDLY AND NEVER
THREATENS HUMANS AND THAT'S WHY I BEGAN
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FOR IT.**

The Fund backed Dr Das in a project to identify the local market for trade in pangolin and the people involved, to study the ethno-biology and conservation threats facing the mammal, and to initiate conservation education and awareness in local schools to protect them while developing recommendations for enhancing their protection.



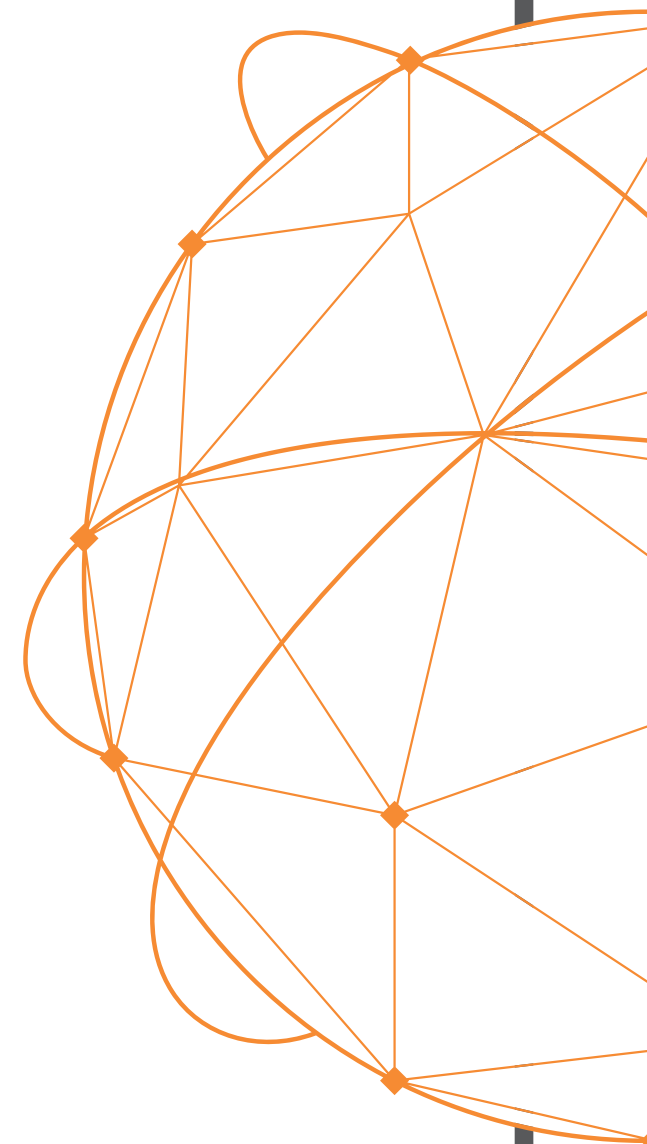
Pangolin burrow, north-eastern India

The project began in Arunachal Pradesh, where details of illegal trade were monitored and attitudes of locals towards the pangolin were recorded.

“It has been hard to convince rural villagers to change their traditional beliefs, particularly when they are sometimes so remote that they are long distances away from conventional healthcare so they turn to traditional methods instead. However, we are gradually changing attitudes and gaining the attention of authorities who are realising that if conventional healthcare facilities are expanded, villagers could turn away from hunting the pangolin for their so-called medicinal properties”.

Awareness and education campaigns have impacted local schools and communities at large with Dr Das noticing a slow, but gradual change. “The young people are quick to understand the problem and they help spread the message”.

Although he’s battling centuries of traditional beliefs Dr Das remains hopeful for the pangolin’s future. “Yes, I am hopeful, and further meetings with authorities leads me to believe that action will be taken to stop the illegal trade — until that happens, I’ll keep on fighting for this wonderful creature”.



YES, I AM HOPEFUL, AND FURTHER MEETINGS WITH AUTHORITIES LEADS ME TO BELIEVE THAT ACTION WILL BE TAKEN TO STOP THE ILLEGAL TRADE — UNTIL THAT HAPPENS, I’LL KEEP ON FIGHTING FOR THIS WONDERFUL CREATURE.

GRANT recipients 2015

182 people received grants in 2015.
Here are those who submitted
portraits in response to our request.



Ganga Ram Regmi



Gopal Khanal



Louise Fletcher



Michael Gichia



Budiono Budiono



Jorge A. Sanchez



Ledis Regalado



Ashan Thudugala



Constantino
Auca Chutas



Dan Hending



Danielle Krebs



Dmitry Dorofeev



Glib Mazepa



Dr. Karim Omar



Edvard Mizsei



Emmanuel Schutz



Enrico Lunghi



Gautam S Surya



Pam Haigh



Geoffrey Smith



Georgiy Shakula



Gregory Mueller



Hannah Braithwaite



Hannah Madden



Haroon Rasheed



Innov Sectionov



Janak Raj Khatiwada



Jason Corbett



Javier Torres





Jeffrey Corneil



Alejandro Palmarola



Adora Batty



Alecsandra Tassoni



Kathleen Reinhardt



Angelika Appel



Andres Link



Andrea Santangeli



Lawrence Wagura



Anand Padhye Adpadhye



Anya Ratnayaka



Ariel Rodriguez



Maria Chatzaki



Constanza Napolitano



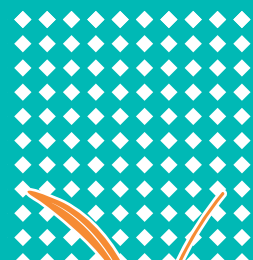
Ashwin Naidu



Ashan Thudugala



Michela Balestri



Mikhail Rusin



Njumbe Peter Salle



Ben Tapley



Manholda Fisher



Patrick Griffith



Pedro Cardoso



Carla Eisemberg





Richard Lansdown



Richard Olwa



Gabriella Fredriksson



David Hernandez Teixidor



David Lorence



Sagar Dahal



Shailendra Singh



Glib Mazepa



Dr. Lalith Ekanayake



Dr. Nabajit Das



Stephen Spear



Tariku Mekonnen
Gutema



Evgeniy Simonov



Federico Mendez



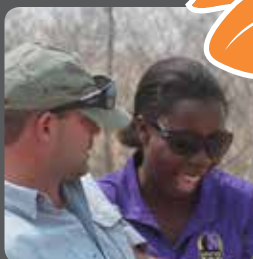
Frank Bungartz



Aylin Alegre Barroso



Axel Hochkirch



Glyn Maude and
Kgomotso Mothibi



Bekka Brodie



Samuel Bakari



Maryna Kovalenko



Jack Saunders



Hector Ramirez



Bryan Maritz



Brenda de Groot



Rolando Aquino



Jose Alfredo
Hernandez Díaz



Keron C.



Kim Williams-Guillen



Leo Sveli



Limbi Blessing



Konrad Mebert



Mariana Landis



Matthew Fisher



Melanie Massaro



Micaela Camino



Juan S. Sanchez-Oliver



Nyree J C Zerega



Olena Slobodian



Landy Rita Rajaovelona



Phil Allman



Bharathidasan Subbiah



Kate Kincaid



Laura K. Marsh



Lizzie Condon



Christoph Schwitzer



Mansoor Dahri



Daniel Barrios



Andrea Dempsey



Dr Shai Singh



Rosalind Kennerley



Ross Crates



Shima Bakhshalizadeh



Simon Husson



Luca Luiselli



Manni Zheng



Felipe Chavez-Ramirez



Rishi Kumar Sharma



Rodet Rodriguez



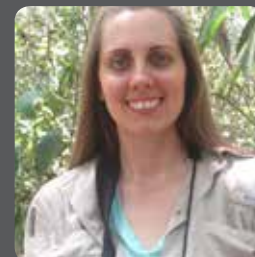
Michael Mathieson



Gloydus Rickmersi



Shambhu Paudel



Shannon Hodges



Omar Dominguez



Jihéne Ben Hassine



Trokon Saykpa



Vernon Reynolds



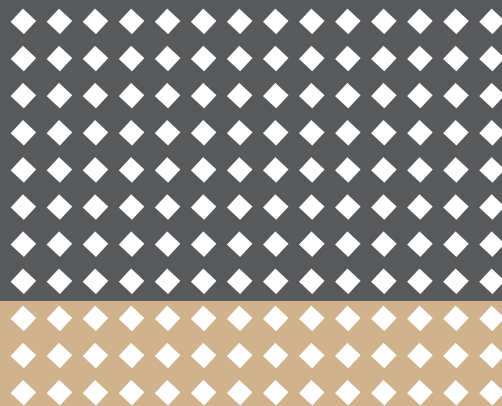
Raissa Fries Bressan



STORIES OF **DISCOVERY**

COMPELLING EXPLORATIONS

02



Conservation work never fails to fascinate us. Through this discipline we often uncover tales of the unexpected. There are times when supporting one aim, leads us onto another. The discoveries are as compelling as those who reveal them and they open us up to new horizons and a wealth of knowledge that can serve global conservation. Here we shine a spotlight on cases in point as far apart as the rooftop of Africa to the beauty of an Athenian coast island.

A ROOFTOP BATTLE FOR Survival

In the Ethiopian highlands two distinct wolf subspecies roam thousands of metres above sea level in the wilderness known as the Roof of Africa. The African wolf (*Canis lupus lupaster*), only identified in 2011, and the Ethiopian wolf (*Canis simensis*) – sometimes known as the Abyssinian wolf and Africa's most endangered carnivore – battle for feeding grounds and experts say neither may survive.

African wolf
Canis lupus lupaster
Not Evaluated
Ethiopia
\$5,000



Within the fertile highlands, the African wolf has been depleting local sheep flocks in its search for food. Local farmers have responded by blocking wolf dens during breeding seasons to reduce their numbers. However, the wolves began feeding on rodents that locals had been trapping to protect their precious barley crops and which are the main food source for the Ethiopian wolf. The result is a highly competitive foraging environment which has also affected the wolves' home range.

Working with the support of Addis Ababa University, Ethiopian student Tariku Mekonnen Gutema planned to track the African wolves using VHF collars, and to study the behavioural ecology and resource competition between the two species with a view to assessing their chances of survival.



THE TEAM IS WORKING IN SOME OF AFRICA'S MOST CHALLENGING TERRAIN AND SOMETIMES LOSES TRACK OF THE WOLVES WHEN THEY CROSS INACCESSIBLE MOUNTAINS AND GORGES.



Before fixing a radio collar, the team measures vital statistics and takes samples.

The Fund weighed in with a grant to cover equipment, salaries for field guides and transportation, and the tracking of collared wolves will now continue until 2017.

While data collection will continue, Tariku's study, which has involved collaring 14 African wolves, has already unearthed information on the likelihood of the survival of both subspecies.

"The African wolf dominates the fight and chases away the Ethiopian wolf", he says.



THE FUND WEIGHED IN WITH A GRANT TO COVER EQUIPMENT, SALARIES FOR FIELD GUIDES AND TRANSPORTATION, AND THE TRACKING OF COLLARED WOLVES WILL NOW CONTINUE UNTIL 2017.

Tariku's team is working in some of Africa's most challenging terrain and sometimes loses track of the wolves when they cross inaccessible mountains and gorges.

"Our plan was to have two field assistants; however, due to the day and night activity of African wolves we have been using four assistants", he explained. "The Fund grant has helped me enormously and the project is making good progress".

So less than six years after the African wolf was first identified, vital light will be shed on its survival chances and that of its Ethiopian competitor.



© Tariku Mokennen Gutema

DIVING TO new depths OF DISCOVERY



It goes by the scientific name of *Monachus monachus*, but is more commonly known as the Mediterranean monk seal and was, until recently, thought to be one of the most endangered species on Earth. Indeed, many conservationists had predicted the species wouldn't be around by the turn of the millennium. Yet the Mediterranean monk seal has come back from the brink and with the help of the Fund a new population of this rare marine mammal has been discovered.

As of 2015, conservationists estimated that fewer than 700 Mediterranean monk seals survived in three or four isolated areas of the Aegean Sea, including the archipelago of Madeira and in Cabo Blanco in the north-eastern Atlantic Ocean. But the monk seal has a superhero on its side in the shape of Greek biologist Dr Dendrinis. This 45-year-old founding member of the Hellenic Society for the Study and Protection of the Monk Seal has long been a devotee of the species and is behind numerous papers on it for the Panhellenic Union of Biologists.

Mediterranean monk seal
Monachus monachus
Endangered
Greece
\$9,000



Dr Dendrinis turned his attention to Evia in Greece, which is a large Greek island, second only in size to Crete. It lies close to the Athenia coast and is a popular holiday destination with Greek nationals and the country's diaspora. Here, he believed, was a new colony of Mediterranean monk seals which were to be the focus of scientific monitoring for conservation promotion.

Dr Dendrinis himself had all the skills necessary to launch the project; he's an experienced photographer, a member of the Greek Union of Photo Journalists, a skilled scuba diver and underwater photographer, and a certified sailor to the level of captaincy of open sea vessels.

The Fund granted Dr Dendrinis and his team a grant at the end of 2014 and they set sail for the beautiful Evian coast.



© Panagiotis Dendrinis



THE MEDITERRANEAN MONK SEAL HAS COME BACK FROM THE BRINK AND WITH THE HELP OF THE FUND A NEW POPULATION OF THIS RARE MARINE MAMMAL HAS BEEN DISCOVERED.



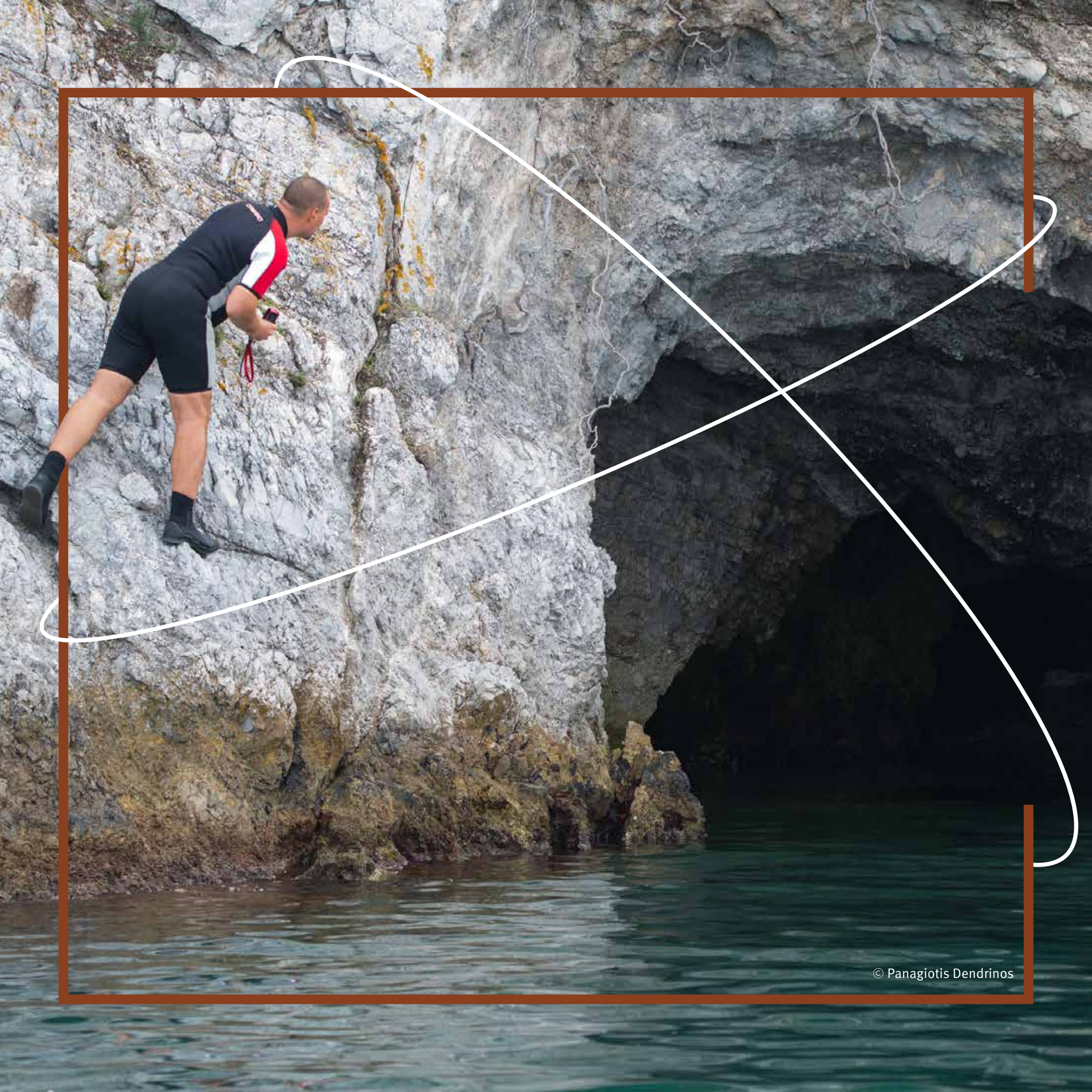
SOME 21 MARINE CAVES WERE RECORDED AND THOROUGHLY INSPECTED. SEVEN WERE CONSIDERED TO BE SUITABLE FOR SEAL BREEDING AND 14 SUITABLE FOR SEAL RESTING. THE SEVEN 'PUPPING CAVES' WERE IDEAL SITES FOR INFRARED CAMERAS, OFFERING UP CLEAR BEACH VIEWS AND YET FREE OF THE DANGER OF BEING SWEEP AWAY BY WAVES.

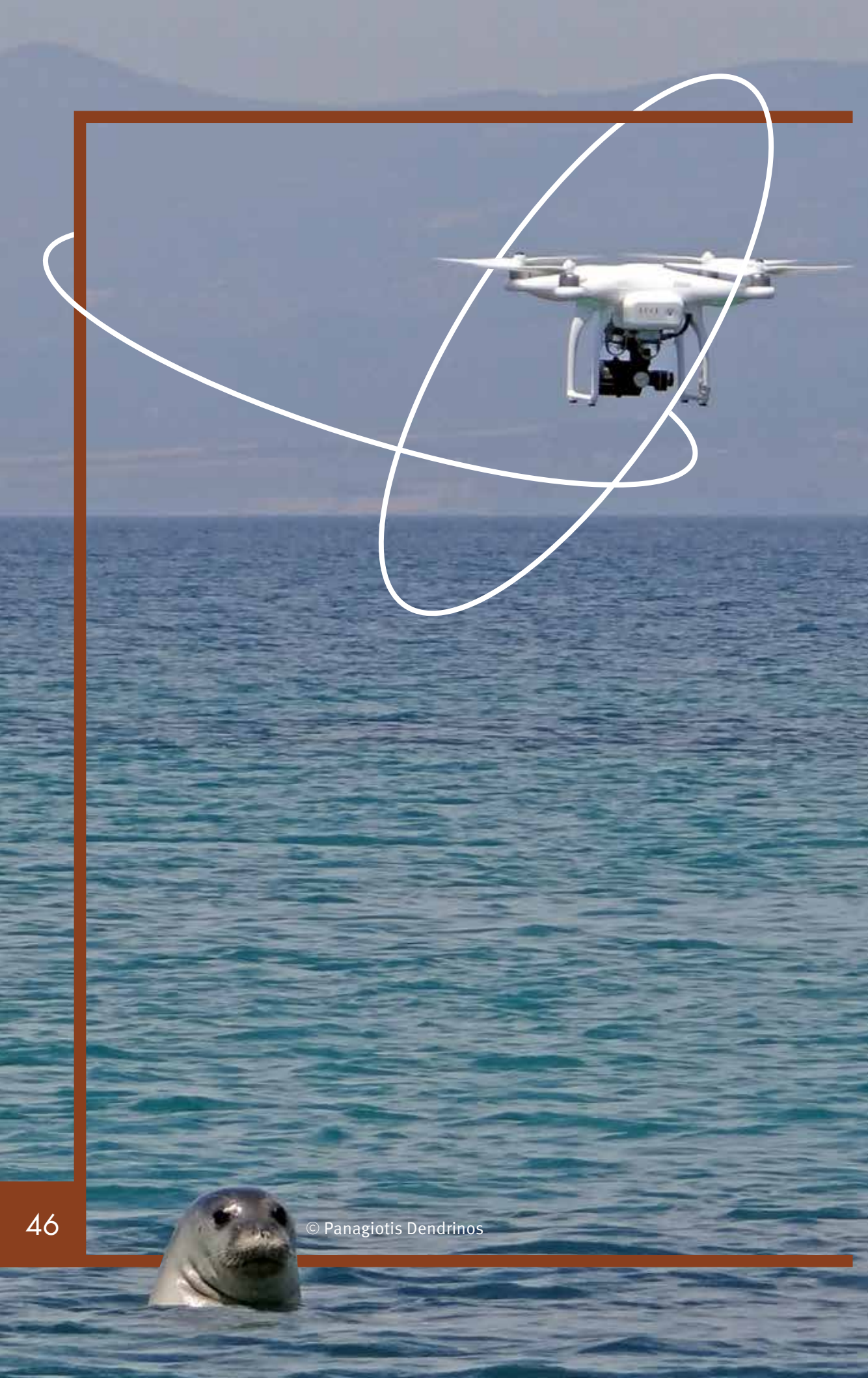
The research team's first priority was to circumnavigate Evia's coast and investigate its wealth of marine caves to establish whether seals were there, or if the habitat was indeed suitable for them. Some 21 marine caves were recorded and thoroughly inspected. Seven were considered to be suitable for seal breeding and 14 suitable for seal resting. The seven 'pupping caves' were ideal sites for infrared cameras, offering up clear beach views and yet free of the danger of being swept away by waves. The cameras were installed in three caves and recording began at the end of August, which is the beginning of the monk seal's breeding season in Greece and the end of the high tourist season.

Field surveys began simultaneously and that's when a startling find – which Dr Dendrinis describes as “very interesting and, at the same time, very challenging” – emerged. “The finding during the first months of the project, was the confirmation of the importance of a specific marine area for monk seals at Evia. More specifically, during our field surveys we observed monk seals spending hours diving at the same spot – near the small Lichadonisian islets in Evia's northwest – a behaviour that was later corroborated by locals. The islets are of volcanic origin and according to local fishermen the channel between them, where this behaviour was observed, has strong currents and is rarely frequented by fishermen. Supposedly the area is full of nutrients due to the currents, but no clear feeding activity of the seals was confirmed, a fact that makes the whole story even more challenging”, explained Dr Dendrinis.

At least four different seals were recorded spending hours at the same spot and diving to depths of between four and six metres.

“It should be noted that this is the first time that such a behaviour was recorded for the species, not only in Greece but throughout the Mediterranean. To fully understand the importance of this marine area for the local monk seal population, we also deployed, for the first time, a small drone to investigate this particular behaviour from above”. However, an explanation for the unique behaviour eluded the team.



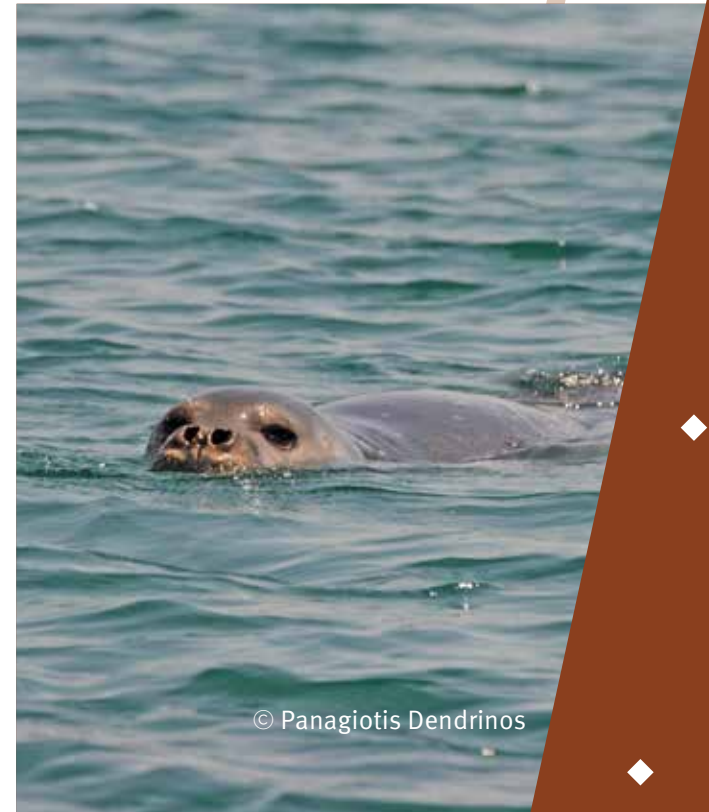


During the year, the heat-triggered infrared cameras in the six caves delivered 5,000 image files. Using photo-identification techniques, the team identified a minimum of 18 individual seals — three adult males, six adult females, three juveniles, five pups and one which remained unclassified. “Field observations carried out at the same time in the area identified another adult female and one pup. Based on this data we estimate that the area monitored in the northern part of Evia has an annual pup production of seven to eight pups. The infrared camera images also enabled the study of the social behaviour of the species: several mother–pup, female–male and aggressive interactions between individuals were recorded. Such interactions have rarely been recorded before for the species in the eastern Mediterranean Sea and provide unique insights [into] the biology, ecology and behaviour of the Mediterranean monk seal”.

Another ‘first’ for the team was that it captured both images and sound on its cameras. “for the first time, this has allowed the study of the vocal repertoire and the communication of the species in the wild”, explained Dr Dendrinos. The team is now co-operating with a specialised research centre at the University of Paris-Sud to analyse the data and report findings.

The project has brought a certain notoriety to this once near-extinct species. “The fact that monk seals can be easily seen at open water, and this is the only place in Greece where this applies with a certain consistency, means they’ve become a local tourist attraction. Local cruise operators regularly pass

by the feeding site to show the monk seals to visiting tourists”. To increase local environmental awareness of the seal’s endangered status and its biology and behaviour, the team organised an educational seminar at one of Evia’s most popular hotels and similar seminars are planned for local boat operators. Dr Dendrinos and his team say that although Evia gave up long-held secrets, steps are needed to conserve them. “Based on the results of this project, we have proposed to the relevant national authorities the establishment of two new marine protected areas in the region to safeguard the future of the Mediterranean monk seal at Evia”, he said.



ANOTHER ‘FIRST’ FOR THE TEAM WAS THAT IT CAPTURED BOTH IMAGES AND SOUND ON ITS CAMERAS. FOR THE FIRST TIME, THIS HAS ALLOWED THE STUDY OF THE VOCAL REPERTOIRE AND THE COMMUNICATION OF THE SPECIES IN THE WILD.

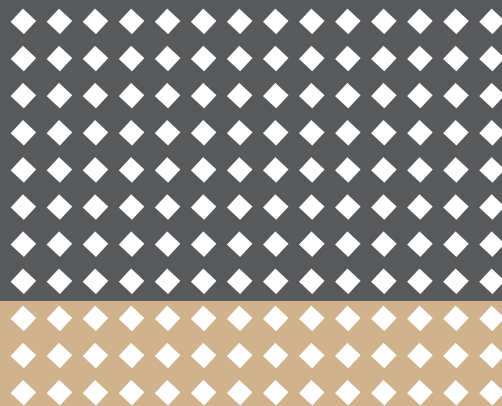


STORIES OF **SCIENCE**



ALLIANCE WITH SCIENCE

03



Conservation is a word which suggests a desire to protect and preserve. Yet conversely, conservation often means pushing the envelope in a discipline which is increasingly grounded in science. Innovative, scientific approaches to research and field studies are helping meet the changing needs of the world's nature, species and people.

Through the application of science, the world can now track conservation needs, identify and set priorities for our invaluable habitats and species, ensure the effectiveness of programmes and enable us to measure results. Here we learn more about how Fund-sponsored scientific approaches are laying the foundations for conservation.

● INVESTING IN vipers

In late 2013, noted Swiss biologist Dr Konrad Mebert, who has no less than 80 scientific publications to his name, won Fund support for an unusual project centred in and around north-east Turkey. His mission was to gather samples to assess the habitat, ecological and genetic differences of six species of Critically Endangered, small venomous viper and to help conserve them in the face of change.

“This region is a global hotspot for vipers with at least 10 different species within a 200 km radius, thus rivalling the diversity of most tropical sites in this animal group”, explained Dr Mebert. “The diversity is reflected by a great variety of habitats, including subtropical bio zones along the Black Sea coast, alpine meadows, and semi-arid steppes of Central Anatolia. Unfortunately, intensive agriculture practices and their monocultures – for example tea plantations and hazelnut orchards – as well as over-grazing by domestic life stock have reduced the habitat quality for many species, including vipers”.

All photos © Konrad Mebert
Darevsky's Viper

Darevsky's viper
Vipera darevskii
Critically Endangered
Turkey
\$4,850



The study subjects would include the rare Darevsky's viper (*Vipera darevskii*), named after the late Russian Professor Ilya Darevsky who was a giant of the zoological world and first discovered the reptile which now bears his name. Turkey was known to have 20 adult Darevsky vipers living in the wild and Armenia the same number. Some of the other study subjects, including the Wagner's rock viper (*Montivipera wagneri*), are threatened by over collection for the pet trade.

THIS REGION IS A GLOBAL HOTSPOT FOR VIPERS WITH AT LEAST 10 DIFFERENT SPECIES WITHIN A 200 KM RADIUS, THUS RIVALLING THE DIVERSITY OF MOST TROPICAL SITES IN THIS ANIMAL GROUP.



© Konrad Mebert



With his first project fulfilled and three zones identified as viper territories, in 2015 Dr Mebert applied for a second Fund grant to enable him and his team of Swiss and Turkish experts to narrow down viper sites so they could enlarge their study's sample size and better understand the reptile's habitat needs. The task included field tours, acquiring tissue samples from 20 to 30 vipers, followed by months of analysis and the eventual publication of pertinent data. Dr Mebert worked with local students on these projects, not only teaching them conservation techniques but also hoping to influence conservation in the future.



THIS PROJECT SHOULD SET THE GROUNDWORK ON WHICH TO BUILD FUTURE PROJECTS FOR CONSERVING NEGLECTED AND THREATENED TAXA IN TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST.

The data is crucial to conservation, allowing the team to evaluate the structural habitat factors for each specimen and analyse far-ranging environmental parameters through GIS-analysis. Molecular work will now help identify which are evolutionary independent species and which are hybrids, with the results being made available to conservation entities including Turkish national park authorities, NGOs and academics.

In turn, conservationists and authorities will be able to gauge the impact of agricultural plantations, forest over-grazing and dam construction on the critically endangered vipers.

Dr Mebert believes the findings will be even more far-reaching, however. “The work will demonstrate the increased efficiency of conservation work by combining a multifaceted approach, methods of genetics, satellite images, GIS data, and linking international experts and national entities. I wish to contribute fundamental data to improve the very limited knowledge about these reptiles in Turkey, raise public awareness and add relevant biological information for the conservation of the Turkish herpetofauna. This project should set the groundwork on which to build future projects for conserving neglected and threatened taxa in Turkey and the Middle East”, he said.

Darevsky's viper (*Vipera darevskii*)



SHINING LIGHT ON nature's RECYCLER

How do you convince people to help preserve an endangered, long-horned beetle which locals have dubbed a 'pest'? That was the challenge facing insect ecologist and communication specialist Dr Brodie Bekka Brodie after the Fund supported her project to help preserve the little-loved European maple longicorn (*Ropalopus ungaricus*) of the Romanian forests.

Dr Brodie and a team from her NGO – the Association for Biodiversity Conservation (ABC) which works to preserve Romania's biodiversity and deliver environmental education – embarked on a project which combined biodiversity, pest control and forestry practices.

European maple longicorn
Ropalopus ungaricus
Endangered
Romania
\$10,000



The project centred on the little-known European longicorn beetle that lives in the traditionally-managed forests of Romania. “These beetles are considered pests and are persecuted even within protected areas due to the prevailing practices of forestry”, explained Dr Brodie.

The beetle project focused on the Iron Gates Natural Park, a sub-Mediterranean biodiversity hotspot and one of Romania’s largest protected areas. The Park’s mixed forests are among the last remaining habitats suitable for the survival of Eastern Europe’s Longicorn beetles. But the habitat is threatened by intensive agriculture, urbanisation, ineffective forest management and the end of traditional land uses.

**“THESE BEETLES ARE
CONSIDERED PESTS
AND ARE PERSECUTED EVEN
WITHIN PROTECTED AREAS
DUE TO THE PREVAILING
PRACTICES OF FORESTRY.”**



All photos © Bekka Brodie



“These traditionally-managed landscapes are disappearing due to land abandonment and uncontrolled logging, which makes evaluating the presence and abundance of Longicorn beetles, including *R. ungaricus*, critically important. These metrics are difficult to assess because these beetles often feed high in the trees’ canopy, and new monitoring methods are needed to fully understand longicorn beetle ecology and habitat selection”, explained Dr Brodie.

The species survey employed state-of-the-art pheromone technology and flight intercept trapping methods alongside a survey for characteristic tree damage to model abundance, and identified stand characteristics that predict beetle presence and abundance. The data would then inform the evaluation of current forest management practices.



AS NATURE'S RECYCLERS, LONGICORN BEETLES ARE THE IDEAL BIOLOGICAL INDICATOR FOR FOREST HEALTH AND CAN BE USED AS CONSERVATION SURROGATES FOR OTHER FOREST SPECIES OF CONSERVATION CONCERN.

The ABC is also working with the park's management to save the Longicorn beetle and change a long-held mindset caused by the beetle's habit of boring through wood where the larvae develop.

“Many species in this family are considered pests because of the damage they cause to lumber—nobody wants wood with holes when building a house”, explained Dr Brodie. “But these beetles are just doing their job, recycling wood, which is an important ecosystem service. As nature's recyclers, longicorn beetles are the ideal biological indicator for forest health and can be used as conservation surrogates for other forest species of conservation concern. It's because they are such good recyclers of trees that the line between ‘damage’ and ‘ecosystem service’ can be grey, and this makes the conservation of these beetles difficult”.

The team is now working with forest managers to develop new strategies for the management and conservation of longicorn beetles. Workshops are being held with forestry staff to instil best practices for ecological forestry in the park while a public education project is underway to get stakeholders on board.

An interactive website on Longicorn beetles and an educational toolkit with posters and pamphlets are being supplied as educational and outreach tools. More people are now interested, including those at the University of Bucharest who want to know more about how the pheromones technology can help their own work.

All photos © Bekka Brodie



EYES IN THE SKY AID new dolphin POSTER-CHILD

It was only recognised in 2014, yet the Araguaia River dolphin (*Inia araguaiensis*) is already playing a starring role in the conservation awareness efforts of the NGO Instituto Araguaia.

Until recently, little was known about this dolphin species. It came into the spotlight through the determination of Dr Silvana Campello, one of Brazil's most noted ecologist-biologists who founded the Instituto Araguaia — an NGO that works to protect the biodiversity and ecology of the Araguaia of Brazil, particularly in and around Cantão State Park.

The Cantão Sanctuary is truly unique. It hosts no less than 850 lakes and more fish species than the whole of Europe, and it had kept the secret of the Araguaia River dolphin until its discovery less than two years ago by researchers from Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia (INPA) and the University of Dundee. The institute has a research base with four full-time rangers in the park and its patrols create a sanctuary where threatened species can live and be studied.

Araguaia River dolphin is new to science having only been discovered in 2014.

All photos © Silvana Campello

Araguaia River dolphin
Inia araguaiensis
Not Evaluated
Brazil
\$7,000




With the Fund's help, Dr Campello and a small team of field assistants last year embarked on a project to assess and monitor this dolphin. With the co-operation of Naturatins, the state environment agency, and using the most modern of techniques, Dr Campello and her team would determine the status of this newly-discovered species and help develop a conservation action plan for it.

“THE CANTÃO SANCTUARY IS TRULY UNIQUE. IT HOSTS NO LESS THAN 850 LAKES AND MORE FISH SPECIES THAN THE WHOLE OF EUROPE AND IT HAD KEPT THE SECRET OF THE ARAGUAIA RIVER DOLPHIN UNTIL ITS DISCOVERY LESS THAN TWO YEARS AGO...”



A camera fixed to a helium balloon records dolphins from above



WE PIONEERED THE USE OF A SMALL DRONE TO OBSERVE DOLPHINS, AND FOUND THAT TRADITIONAL CENSUSES USING BOATS SIGNIFICANTLY UNDERCOUNT THE SPECIES.

Time was of the essence, human development was encroaching on the natural habitat; “The species is restricted to the Araguaia–Tocantins basin of Central Brazil, which has undergone rampant development in recent years”, explained Dr Campello. “The team that described the new species estimated that its remaining population may be less than 1,000 individuals. This population is fragmented by six hydroelectric dams, and highly threatened by overfishing, which is depleting prey species throughout the region. In addition, fishermen who view dolphins as competitors often shoot or poison them. Dolphins have practically disappeared from areas near fishing towns. Expanding soybean monoculture also threatens to pollute rivers in the region”.

But with fishermen banned from the Cantão Park, the study’s chances were good; “Protection of this core habitat is the best chance to contain and, even, reverse the decline of the species population”, added Dr Campello.

The team embarked on the study using traditional boat surveys, but this time complemented with aerial images obtained by drone and a helium blimp balloon. “We pioneered the use of a small drone to observe dolphins, and found that traditional censuses using boats significantly undercount the species. We surveyed lakes throughout the park and found that in the dry season all of Cantão’s dolphins concentrate in a few large lakes whose period of isolation is shorter than most. We also documented unique behaviours such as belly-crawling over sand bars to forage in small pools, which reinforces the distinctiveness of *Inia araguaensis* from other river dolphins”, explained Dr Campello.

But the drone’s 20-minute flight time proved too short to count dolphins in the major lakes. Once again innovative thinking came to the rescue. The team towed a helium balloon behind an electric-powered canoe and were, thus, able to accurately count dolphins in the large

lakes. The new technique came to the attention of a German biologist who went on to study and validate the method.

With the first census complete, Instituto Araguaia has big plans for the new-found ‘flagship’ species, which is now a hot media topic and is generating public interest for the protection of the species and its habitat. The institute is also busy talking to park management and public authorities about a science-based conservation plan for the species.

The Araguaia River dolphin is a welcome newcomer to a long-held cause. “The new species of dolphin appears to be an endangered aquatic top predator. It is also an endemic, charismatic flagship species that can help mobilise support to protect the entire ecosystem. A program to study and protect it is a logical and necessary addition to our mission”, said Dr Campello.



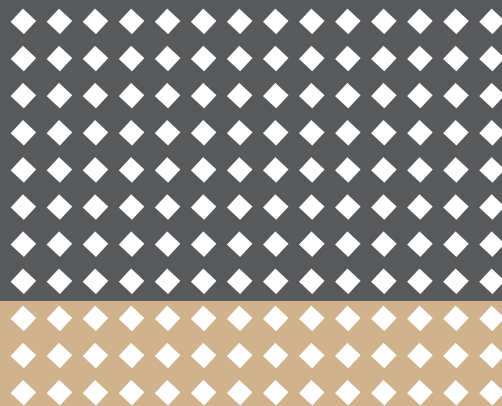


STORIES OF **PERSEVERANCE**



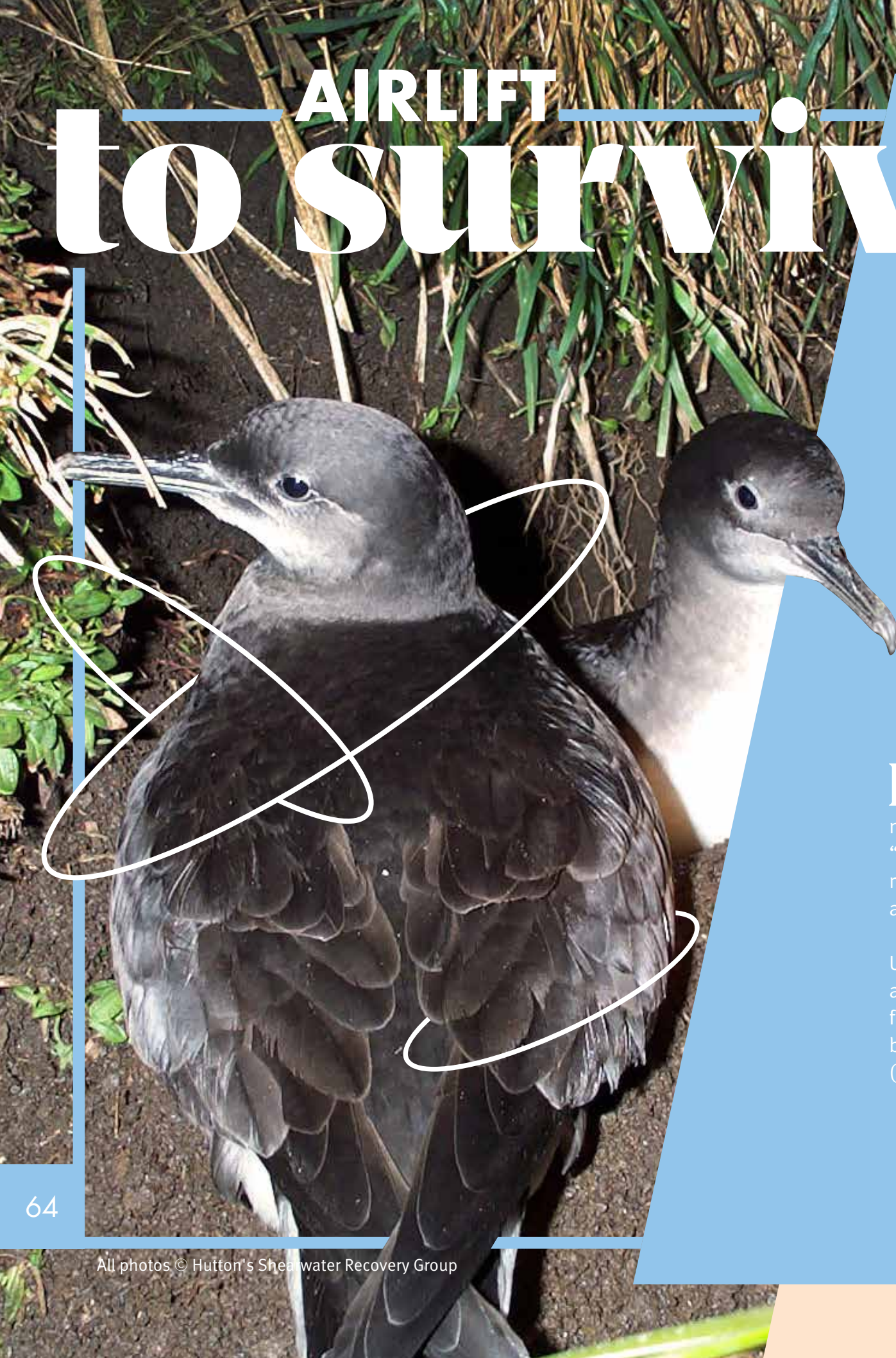
SUSTAINED ENDURANCE

04



Conservationists, some would say, are a species unto themselves. Passionate, curious, dedicated and above all determined – all hallmarks of this remarkable breed who often overcome multiple setbacks to achieve their aims. It's this essence of sustained endurance that delivers vital breakthroughs and to which many species eventually owe their very existence. So let's celebrate this hardy breed exemplified in three heart-warming examples.

AIRLIFT to Survival



Kaikoura in New Zealand is, says *The New York Times*, “a place like nowhere else in the world”. It’s here that “the mountains spectacularly meet the sea, magnificent wildlife is plentiful, and exciting adventures and fascinating history await”.

Unbeknown to the writer, ‘fantastic adventures’ perfectly encapsulated the future of the endangered ocean-going bird, the Hutton’s shearwater (*Puffinus huttoni*).

Hutton's shearwater
Puffinus huttoni
Endangered
New Zealand
\$9,000



With the mountainous backdrop along the South Island's Kowhai River, only two colonies of the shearwater were known to remain. Numbering just over 100, these last survivors faced population threats from predators and introduced mammals as well as natural hazards including avalanches of snow and debris which were damaging their burrows.

According to the Hutton's Shearwater Recovery Group (HSRG) there was only one viable conclusion — the colonies had to move. So the birds embarked on an exciting and historical adventure leaving behind their mountain home for a new “insurance” colony on the safer Kaikoura Peninsula.

It was an operation of heady logistical heights: The chicks were to be moved by helicopter in a project backed by the Fund and another trust and foundation who were encouraged by Abu Dhabi's ‘vote of confidence’.

**THESE LAST
SURVIVORS FACED
POPULATION THREATS
FROM PREDATORS
AND INTRODUCED
MAMMALS AS WELL
AS NATURAL HAZARDS.**





The project team had to band and weigh their precious cargo and then airlift them to the new colony, all within 24 hours of them being caught. Once back on the ground, the birds were checked, given water to help overcome any dehydration and placed in artificial burrows. The next day the chicks were again weighed and their wing spans checked, and they began a diet of sardine smoothies – sardines in soya oil blended with water – before being put back into the burrows. All 103 chicks survived and thrived.

“After about seven days, the burrow retaining blocks were removed and the birds were able to move freely around the colony and leave when ready”, explained Mick Bell, HSRG Trustee, who’s pioneered five relocations to date.

AS OF JANUARY 2016 WE ARE SEEING THAT THE LATER TRANSLOCATIONS HAVE BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL, WITH 13 OF THE 2012 AND 11 OF THE 2013 CHICKS HAVING RETURNED TO TE RAE O ATIU.

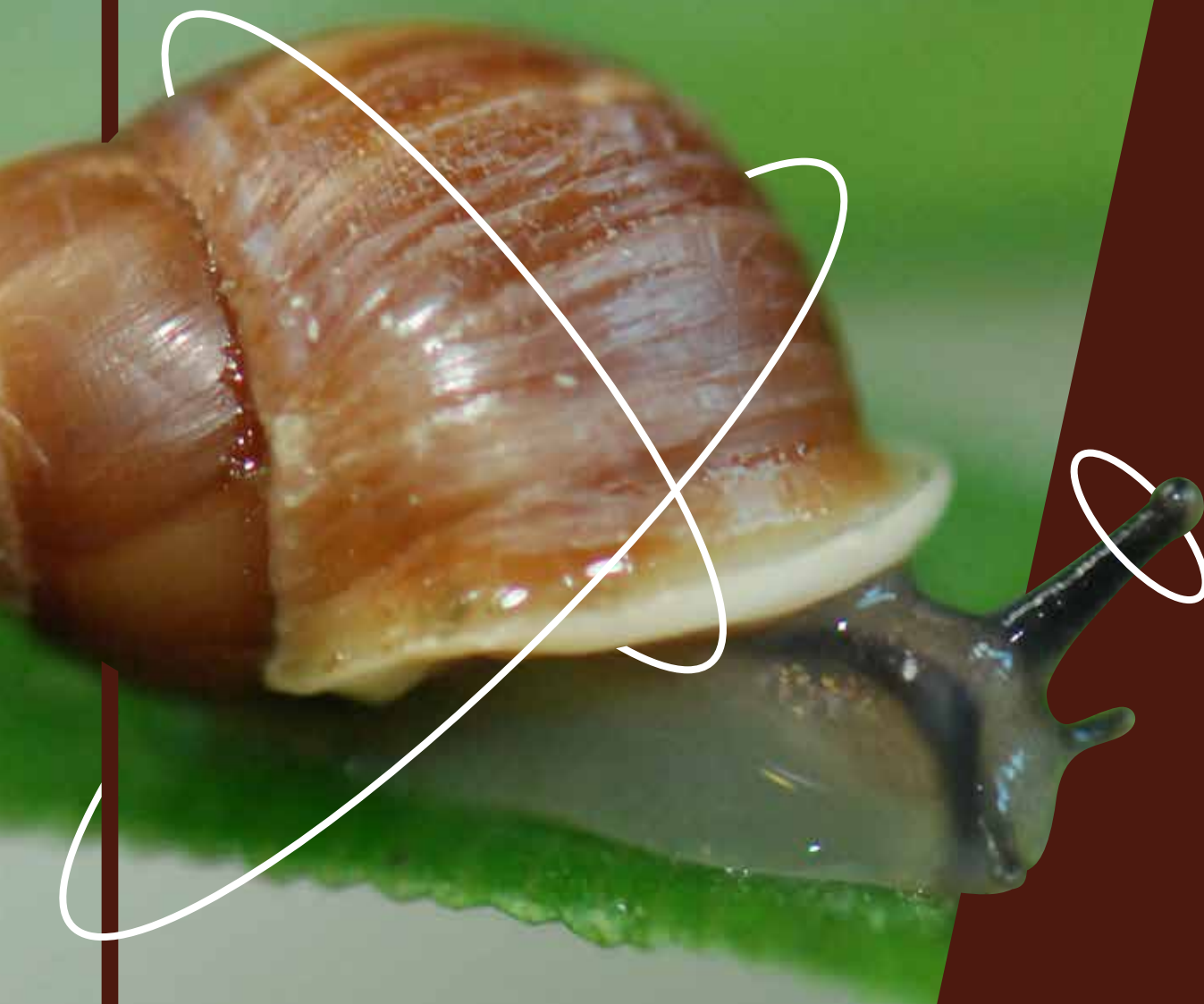
“The chicks spent an average of 18 days at the colony which should have given them adequate time to imprint on this site before leaving for Australian waters, and their weights at departure were high. This gives us great confidence that this should be one of the best translocations and we expect high returns”.

However, we'll all have to wait for around five years to get the final outcome of this story – that's when our wandering chicks should return as adults to start breeding – but Mike Bell is confident of a happy ending. “This translocation will provide a greater and genetically more diverse base from which a self-sustaining colony will develop. Consequently, this insurance colony should ensure the continuing presence of Hutton's shearwaters as a species”.

“As of January 2016 we are seeing that the later translocations have been very successful, with 13 of the 2012 and 11 of the 2013 chicks having returned to Te Rae o Atiu; we expect to see upwards of 25 more birds returning in the next 3 to 4 years. This year's returning birds have increased the Te Rae o Atiu population to 54 from 30 last year. When the new birds start breeding in the next 2 to 3 years we will see a significant increase from the 7 or 8 fledglings we have at present to 15 or more. This will result in a small but steady increase in the population of Hutton's shearwater at Te Rae o Atiu which should be sustainable in the long term”. Future updates will be available on the Hutton's Shearwater Charitable Trust website (www.huttonsshearwater.org.nz).



THE 30-year HOMECOMING



Across the stunningly peaceful Pacific Islands a small invertebrate, the Polynesian tree snail (*Partulidae*), had flourished for generations; that is, until a 20th century invader arrived. When the carnivorous Rosy wolf snail (*Euglandina rosea*), also known as the Cannibal snail, was introduced to Tahiti in 1977 as a failed biological control attempt, the Polynesian tree snail populations and species, of which there were 20, began to disappear rapidly. The invader was an aggressive predator and by the 1990s not one Polynesian tree snail could be found on Tahiti.

Polynesian tree snail
Partula
Extinct in the Wild
Tahiti
\$15,000



But now, thanks to the determination and sheer persistence of biologist and Pacific Islands resident Dr Trevor Coote and to the Fund's support, the species has returned to its idyllic island home.

For two years Dr Coote had battled with bureaucracy to secure his game-changing conservation plan of reintroducing the tree snail and protecting it from its predator. His plan was going well; consignments of tree snails found in the French Polynesian Islands and maintained in an international breeding programme were ready to be flown to Tahiti. An enclosure awaited them which was protected by an electric fence to keep out the unwanted *Euglandina rosea*.

But then came the first hurdle. Many of the snails had died enroute and no-one seemed to know why. Two species, *Partula hyalina* and *Partula affinis*, had been hit particularly hard, with the *Partula nodosa* proving the most resilient.

FOR TWO YEARS DR COOTE HAD BATTLED WITH BUREACRACY TO SECURE HIS GAME-CHANGING CONSERVATION PLAN OF REINTRODUCING THE TREE SNAIL AND PROTECTING IT FROM ITS PREDATOR.





With 10 plastic pots lined with moss and each containing 15 individually marked snails, the first release of the survivors took place two days later in the Papehue Valley. Just 15 hours later, when the release team returned, a number of the snails were seen to have moved out of the safety of the pots and were found on branches in the trees.

Another release – this time of 100 snails of mixed species – was made inside the reserve and intensive monitoring began.

“Despite the reduced number of snails released, which was very small for an invertebrate release, the monitoring has been very informative”, said Dr Coote.

THERE ARE NUMEROUS YOUNG AND THEY ARE GROWING AND LOOKING HEALTHY. AS MORE EXTENSIVE RELEASES ARE PLANNED FOR NEXT YEAR, THE LIMITED RESULTS SO FAR ARE ENCOURAGING.

But then came another setback. Many of the released snails died in the reserve, an event Dr Coote attributed to the hot, dry conditions and lack of shade. “What to do about shade has always been a conundrum because, although the snails do not like sunny conditions, any trees that grow in the reserve could destroy the barrier and fence if they fall (which they often do in bad weather)”.

But there was good news. A number of snails had been born and small juveniles were spotted, particularly in the Papehue Valley. “Mortality was relatively low, actually very low for an invertebrate release”, explained Dr Coote, “and, though very few of the original release stock are still visible, it can be safely assumed that they have dispersed rather than died. In addition, there are numerous young and they are growing and looking healthy. As more extensive releases are planned for next year, the limited results so far are encouraging”.

Even better, despite the failure of the electric and other barriers not a single *Euglandina rosea* has been found within the reserve since the release.

The project has also shown that tree releases fare better than those in a constructed reserve; “That will, by necessity, be the strategy employed in the future”, said Dr Coote.

The Fund’s support was vital, according to Dr Coote: “There was an extended delay due to difficulty in acquiring government authorisation for the import of live snails and the MBZ Fund administration allowed the project funding to remain on hold”.

Best of all, the release project has won wider support, with government and European Union funding for a second initiative now on the horizon.



A RETURN TO harmony



Along Nepal's Karnali River – the longest waterway in the Himalayan Republic – a project supported for the third time by the Fund is helping to save the freshwater Ganges River dolphin (*Platanista gangetica gangetica*).

The river dolphin population has been in significant decline over the past two decades, with its current worldwide population now thought to be half that of 1994. The decline is due to a mix of habitat loss and fragmentation owing to the damming of rivers for hydropower and irrigation, incidental by-catch in fishing gear, deliberate killing for their oil, river pollution and a reduction in the prevalence of their prey.

Ganges River dolphin
Platanista gangetica gangetica
Critically Endangered
Nepal
\$12,976



UNDERSTANDING HOW FISHERMEN RESPOND TO THE DECLINE IN FISH CATCH AND THEIR WILLINGNESS TO ADOPT MORE SUSTAINABLE FISHING PRACTICES IS CRUCIAL FOR THE RIVER DOLPHIN.

This year's project hopes to find space for local fishermen and this endangered mammal to happily co-exist. The effort is headed by Gopal Khanal, who is CEO of the River Dolphin Trust — an NGO that supports the conservation of river dolphins and their habitat by promoting science-based conservation practices. The project relies on Gopal and his team developing relationships with fishermen, who have stepped up their activities to catch more fish, unwittingly increasing the dolphin by-catch.

To increase their catch, local fishermen are turning to modern fishing gear that Gopal says is “often destructive to the ecosystem”.

“The use of modern fishing gear has increased the risk of by-catch of river dolphins in Nepal”, he explained. “Understanding how fishermen respond to the decline in fish catch and their willingness to adopt more sustainable fishing practices is crucial for the river dolphin. We must develop management policies that obtain a high degree of compliance and success for both river dolphin conservation and sustainable fishery management”.

Until the end of 2016, the team will be busy collecting data on the dolphins, the fishermen and their catch, carrying out site surveys and developing stronger relationships with local park managers.



By-catch in fishing nets is a significant threat to these dolphins.



Once the team obtains and analyses the critical scientific evidence, it will be fed into the development of management strategies for both river dolphin conservation and sustainable fishery management. The evidence is also likely to help change local fishing regulations and practices, which may assist in the restoration of fish stocks and will be used in a campaign to help the fishermen understand the need for change. “This will eventually benefit river dolphin conservation and the livelihood of fishing communities”, says Gopal.

THE EVIDENCE IS ALSO LIKELY TO HELP CHANGE LOCAL FISHING REGULATIONS AND PRACTICES, WHICH MAY ASSIST IN THE RESTORATION OF FISH STOCKS AND WILL BE USED IN A CAMPAIGN TO HELP THE FISHERMEN UNDERSTAND THE NEED FOR CHANGE.

Harmony is the hallmark of any successful outcome, according to Gopal. “Our team acknowledges that the future of river dolphins is inextricably linked with the livelihood of river dependent fishing communities that share their habitat, as well as the water development needs of the nation”. Gopal believes that by combining applied research with conservation education and local capacity-building to protect the remaining dolphin population, this endangered mammal may well be saved from extinction.



All photos © Gopal Khanal



STORIES OF **HOPE**

ANCHORING THE FUTURE





05

Hope is something said to spring eternal and at the Fund we regularly unearth projects which verify and support this claim. Even when a species' future looks bleak, our grant recipients dive deep into that wellspring and find the energy and motivation to help species in need. Many of our grant recipients hold out hope that species still exist; others believe strongly that just a little more effort will help a creature turn the corner. This year we highlight projects that bring hope for all species.



INTO THE dragon's den

Thirty-six-year-old Egyptian conservationist Usama Ghazali is a man on a singular mission. He wants to head a team to deliver the first full survey of an endangered tree which captured his imagination when he was a young nature reserve ranger. As it turns out, preserving his precious Dragon's blood tree (*Dracaena ombet*) may only represent the beginning of Usama's achievements.

This remarkable tree, instantly recognisable by its 'turned up' branches and so-called because of the red colour of its resin, is now under threat from climate change across the whole of its North African territory. Whereas once the tree was revered, particularly by the ancient Greeks and Romans, for the medicinal and colouring properties of its resin, hard-pressed local communities, largely in outlying rural areas, have ignored its medicinal and cultural values.

Dragon's blood tree
Dracaena ombet
Endangered
Sudan
\$4,000



“This tree is a flagship for the whole Afromontane eco-region”, says Usama, “and its decline is three-dimensional. First it is confined to very remote areas; secondly it has been affected by [the] climate change of the past 50 years; and lastly the local communities in the areas it grows live in poor situations [and] are so concentrated on their own survival understandably that they have forgotten the value of this tree”.

Usama wants to change all that and has high hopes of building enough awareness to stimulate the creation of a regional conservation consortium to save the tree. Having originally won the Fund's backing for survey work in Djibouti and Somaliland, the project had to quickly change course to Ethiopia and Sudan when unstable security conditions ruled out surveys in the first choice areas. This was to be Phase II of an overall project first launched in 2007 when tree surveys were undertaken in Egypt. Phase III, which will take in challenging territories within Yemen, Somaliland, Djibouti and Saudi Arabia, is hoped to be completed by the end of 2017.





All photos © Usama Ghazali



When Phase II began, initial results were not promising. “Once work commenced it was discovered that the target species was more threatened than initially thought”, explained Usama. Global positioning systems were used to detect and record each tree, measure their health and structure, and to assess associated trees and habitats. Each tree was numbered and recorded in a database.

“We worked closely with the local communities to document the relevant traditional knowledge of the tree and the area habitats through interviews and group discussions which were recorded on video”, explained Usama. The team also staged school environmental days to spread further awareness.

With the field work complete, the surveys for Ethiopia and Sudan are being compiled — a labour of love for Usama and his team. “I regard myself as very lucky to be working on the first survey undertaken on these trees”.



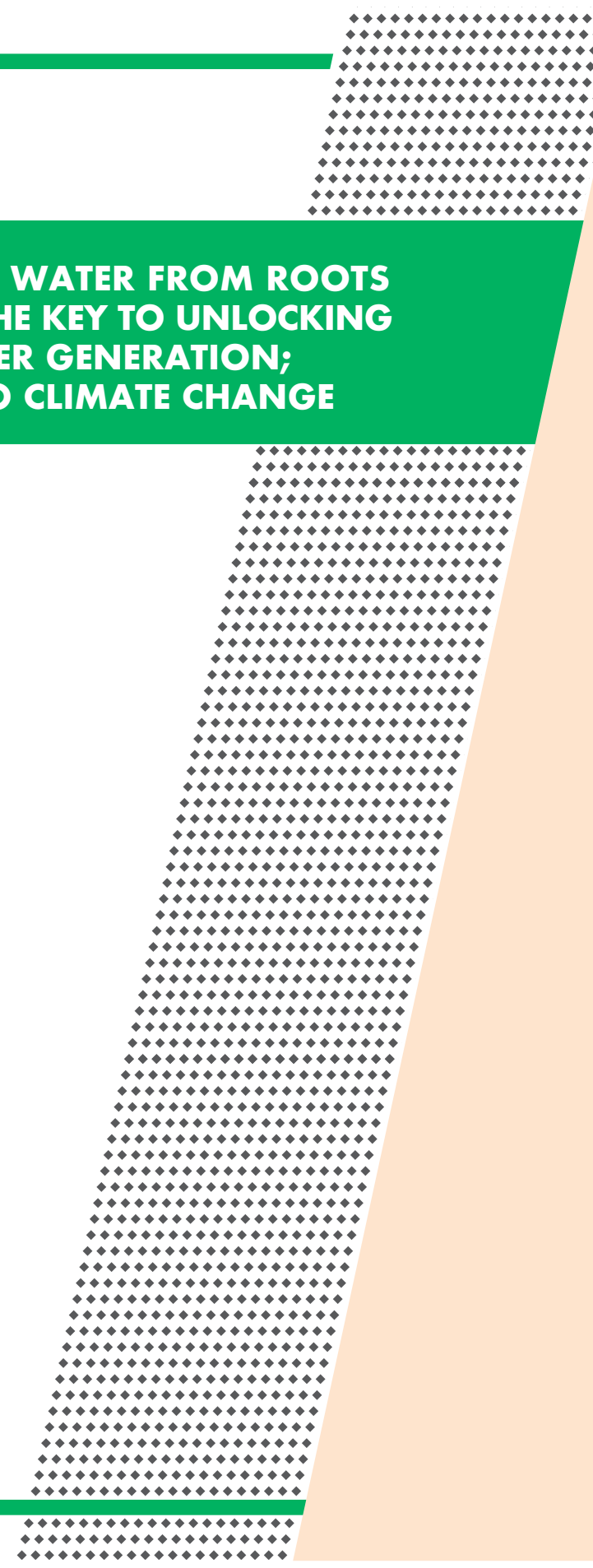

THIS TREE, YOU SEE, DOESN'T GET ITS WATER FROM ROOTS BUT FROM THE AIR – SO IT COULD BE THE KEY TO UNLOCKING A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF WATER GENERATION; IT IS CERTAINLY OFFERING UP CLUES TO CLIMATE CHANGE

A truly optimistic Usama says the Fund's support, and additional backing from the UK's Rufford Foundation, has inspired further interest in the project. A website (dragontreehomeland.weebly.com) produced by the team to raise awareness of the tree and its habitat was awarded runner-up in the IUCN and International Rangers Federation Young Conservationist Award. Subsequent presentations have led to collaboration from Edinburgh University towards the publication of the first research about the endangered status of this North African treasure.

Interest sparked from a Spanish university has led to a study of whether the 'dragon's blood' was a key ingredient in the embalming of ancient Egyptian mummies. "They are also investigating whether the

fungi in the leaves of the tree have medicinal purposes", explained Usama, "and perhaps even more exciting is a belief that the spine structure of the leaves can be used in an engineering context to collect water from the atmosphere. This tree, you see, doesn't get its water from roots but from the air – so it could be the key to unlocking a greater understanding of water generation; it is certainly offering up clues to climate change".

Usama's project has now won grant support from the Ford Motor Company and has been shortlisted for the coveted Rolex Awards for Enterprise, both developments which the ranger-turned-conservationist believes will further his push to establish a regional, if not global consortium for the assessment and conservation of the Dragon's blood tree.



THE SEARCH FOR THE lost amphibian



At the tender age of six, Robert Hopkins found his passion — he would become a devotee of frogs. Not so unusual for a six-year-old, you might think, but Robert's passion has lasted a lifetime and at 73, he became a Fund recipient.

Robert's remarkable story began in South Africa with a visit to his Aunt Marge, who was the Director of the East London Museum. A lifelong naturalist, Marjery Courtenay-Latimer was the woman who in 1938 introduced the coelacanth to the world — a species of fish which had only ever been seen in fossils millions of years old. She took the fish from local fishermen and had it identified; it was subsequently named *Latimeria chalumnae* in her honour and after the river where it was found. Her love of nature was passed on to her nephew.

Robert had been an aspiring biologist but his university career came to an abrupt end and he entered the Rhodesian civil service, spending his spare time researching amphibians, growing tadpoles

and releasing them after morphosis. When he was employed by Bulawayo's Natural History Museum, Robert confined his research to the frogs of Zimbabwe. "It is a fact that the endemics, which are found mainly on the eastern border with Mozambique, are under stress", explained Robert. "In fact I have been trying to locate them for four years, but without success". Robert takes ova samples, which he then hatches in his makeshift home tank farm. His methods have been self-financed and have resulted in some success. His scientific paper describing the tadpole of *Leptopelis bocagii*, which had never been studied before, is now being published.

But one frog — the Critically Endangered Cave squeaker (*Arthroleptis troglodytes*) — had eluded Robert. This is a very poorly understood species, not seen since 1962 when it was officially recognised as a new species. Efforts to learn more about it were abandoned in the mid-1960s when war interrupted field work. The Cave squeaker has since avoided attention until, with support from the Fund, Robert was able to launch a project under the auspices of

Cave squeaker
Arthroleptis troglodytes
Critically Endangered
Zimbabwe
\$3,000



Bulawayo's Natural History Museum to look for it, study its habitat, and then take it for ex-situ breeding and later reintroduction.

"Some of the endemics are found in the mountain forested areas on our eastern border", explained Robert. "This area has been subjected to events which may have caused some of these species to go extinct; the climate is changing and there has been an introduction of exotic species, both fish and plants. Due to the discovery of diamonds and panning for gold, river systems are becoming polluted. It is an urgent exercise to come to a conclusion that these frogs still exist or are extinct. If they still exist, they need to be preserved by ex-situ breeding and reintroduction, and this will require in-depth knowledge of their environments, all of which is still missing at present".

Robert's hopes were riding high. While working with the National Parks and Wildlife authorities, a pilot project on other species had delivered some positive results. "Working with tribal farmers we are establishing wet areas for crops and

reintroducing species normally found in these areas to control pests and this has been relatively successful".

So for a month Robert, accompanied by trackers and two zoology students acting as researchers, searched for the Cave squeaker staying night and day in the Mount Chimanimani area pursuing their elusive catch. All attempts failed and the Cave squeaker remains as elusive as ever — perhaps it is even extinct. But nothing

has dampened Robert's determination to champion the frogs of Zimbabwe. "It is of utmost importance", he says, "not only to me personally, but to the conservation of our endemics. The rest of the world will be able to compare, and possibly use some of the suggestions, and findings". Robert has since photographed an as yet unidentified species taken from the Bundi River on the summit of Mount Chimanimani. "My work continues, and is constantly springing surprises", he adds.

THIS IS A VERY POORLY UNDERSTOOD SPECIES, NOT SEEN SINCE 1962 WHEN IT WAS OFFICIALLY RECOGNISED AS A NEW SPECIES. EFFORTS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT IT WERE ABANDONED IN THE MID-1960'S WHEN WAR INTERRUPTED FIELD WORK.



QUEENSLAND'S HISTORIC quail quest

Queensland is Australia's second largest and third most populous state, yet among its inhabitants is a little-known bird whose sounds and existence have long been a part of the country's rural folklore. The story of the Buff-breasted button quail (*Turnix olivii*) is one shrouded in mystery. Until recently, the bird had never been photographed in the wild and its bird-song had never been recorded. In fact, the easiest way of seeing the Buff-breasted button quail is to visit the H.L. White Collection at the Museum of Victoria, which has seven preserved specimens in its collection. The first written record of the bird was during the early part of the last century. There were then sightings in the 1980s but a decade later they declined due, according to experts, to habitat destruction which has led to its 'Endangered' classification. However, with the Fund's support the race is on to save this distinctive species.

Buff-breasted button quail
Turnix olivii
Endangered
Australia
\$8,375



Historically, the Buff-breasted button quail was found near the small townships of Cooktown, Coen, Musgrave, Mareeba and Mt. Molloy. The first record and specimen was collected by a resident of Cooktown in 1899, but even this gave very little clue as to where the species could be found. Fast forward to 1921–22, when ornithologist William McLennan began a nine-month expedition on horseback around Coen on the Cape York Peninsula. He produced a detailed diary of his observations of a handful of sighted birds, as well as collections of six adult specimens, all but two of which are housed in the H.L. White collection.

“After 1922, few birds were reported”, explained Dr Geoffrey Smith, Principal Zoologist at the Queensland Herbarium of Australia’s Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation. “Cape York Peninsula became increasingly

settled, beef grazers developed their leases, road infrastructure kept on rolling out and the Cape was burnt on a regular basis to encourage grass growth for cattle and reduce risk from wildfire and snakes”. It wasn’t until the 1970s that records of the Buff-breasted button quail began to emerge again. In recent years, despite earnest searching, there have been only 21 credible sightings. Concern for the species’ well-being has been increasing, with experts estimating that the quail’s total population now comprises 500 mature birds.

In 2009 Dr Smith and his Senior Zoologist colleague Dr Michael Mathieson drafted a recovery plan for increasing understanding of the distribution, life history and ecology of the Buff-breasted button quail. “We wanted to look for the bird, assess its population, distribution, habitat use and to record its calls”, explained Dr Smith.



All photos © Geoffrey C. Smith



Preserved specimens of the Buff-breasted button quail in the Museum of Victoria.

but nothing really happened until last year when the two successfully applied to the Fund for a grant to finance necessary travel, transport, accommodation and equipment.

So the expedition set out to the hot, humid tropics to locate this elusive quail. In just over a week of searching the savannah woodlands, they met with success. “We located the species in a few places, including a small enclave of up to four birds”, explained Dr Smith. “These are the first of this species to be confirmed and accurately located in more than four years”.

The icing on the cake came when the team managed to record suspected quail calls last heard almost a century ago. “These fit the description previously made by William McLennan Monday on 21st November 1921: a deep booming call Oomm-oomm-oomm repeated rapidly for about 20 seconds, it begins very

low and gradually gets louder and of a higher tone, last notes about 5 times higher than first”, said Dr Smith. “Such recordings will be an invaluable tool for future surveys of the species”.

In December the tropics’ humidity turned to rainfall and the two zoologists realised that if the deluge continued it would stimulate spring breeding. An emergency application for a grant extension from the Fund was made and approved. Dr Smith had been persuasive: “Breeding of this species would be an event to behold!” he wrote.

The follow-up spring survey produced an even greater understanding of the species’ ecology. The team obtained conclusive evidence that the recorded calls were those of the Buff-breasted button quail. More recordings were made. “A male was heard giving a ‘chuk’ sound, typical of most male button-quail species,

and the booming calls of females were heard intermittently and recorded. This female call is associated with the pre- and early breeding season,” explained Dr Smith; “and then another breakthrough – they managed to get the first photographs of the species”, he said, overjoyed.

But that’s not the end of the story, in many ways it’s only the beginning. With the aid of trapping techniques, the team is now planning to develop and apply assessment and monitoring strategies to ensure that any recovery actions are having an effect, to protect key habitat to support populations from identified threats and help the quails’ recovery process through networking and ensuring a sustainable succession plan. The two zoologists also plan to write and implement a new recovery plan which will identify essential habitat to be included in the Queensland Vegetation Management Act.

“Using a touch of technology, a little understanding of habitat developed from a scant, rag-taggle of historical records and persistent searching in hot, often uncomfortable conditions, the quest has renewed in earnest to reveal more of the endangered Buff-breasted button quail, *Turnix olivii* of North Queensland”, reaffirmed Dr Smith.



Red-tailed black cockatoo caught in silhouette in Queensland, Australia

SUPPORTED projects 2015

Projects listed alphabetically by vernacular species name



EW=Extinct in the Wild | CR=Critically Endangered | EN=Endangered | VU=Vulnerable
EX=Extinct | NT=Near Threatened | LC=Least Concern | DD=Data Deficient | NE = Not Evaluated

| Vernacular Species Name | Scientific Species Name | Name | Name of Organisation | Country, Continent | Funding |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------|----------|
| Amboli toad (CR) | <i>Xanthophryne tigerina</i> | Anand Padhye | MES' Abasaheb Garware College | India, Asia | \$6,500 |
| Apennine yellow-bellied toad (EN) | <i>Bombina pachypus</i> | Stefano Canessa | CeSBiN - spin-off of Genoa University | Italy, Europe | \$5,500 |
| Black-eared mantella (CR) | <i>Mantella milotympanum</i> | Karina Klonoski | N/A | Madagascar, Africa | \$5,000 |
| Black-eyed tree frog (CR) | <i>Agalychnis moreletii</i> | Hibraim Perez Mendoza | Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico | Mexico, North America | \$12,500 |
| Brazilian red-belly toad male (CR) | <i>Melanophryniscus admirabilis</i> | Marcileida Maria Dos Santos | University of Otago | Brazil, South America | \$3,500 |
| Cave squeaker (CR) | <i>Arthroleptis troglodytes</i> | Robert Hopkins | N/A | Zimbabwe, Africa | \$3,000 |
| Cardioglossa manengouba (CR) | <i>Cardioglossa manengouba</i> | Njumbe Peter Salle | Association For Biodiversity Research and Sustainable Development (ABiRSD) | Cameroon, Africa | \$3,000 |
| Edough ribbed newt (EN) | <i>Pleurodeles poireti</i> | Jihene Ben Hassine | N/A | Algeria, Africa | \$3,500 |
| Eleutherodactylus (CR) | <i>Eleutherodactylus albipes</i> | Ariel Rodríguez | N/A | Cuba, North America | \$7,000 |
| El Rincon stream frog (CR) | <i>Pleurodema somuncurense</i> | Federico Kacolis | Museo de La Plata / Meseta Salvaje | Argentina, South America | \$7,700 |
| Himalayan Newt (NE) | <i>Tylototriton nepalensis</i> | Janak Khatiwada | Chinese Academy of Sciences | Nepal, Asia | \$4,500 |
| Irangi puddle frog (CR) | <i>Phrynobatrachus irangi</i> | Anthony Karani | Green Operations in Leadership and Development | Kenya, Africa | \$4,886 |
| Luida stream toad (EN) | <i>Ansonia platysoma</i> | Eva Catharina Gallacher | National University of Singapore | Malaysia, Asia | \$12,000 |
| Mantidactylus pauliani (CR) | <i>Mantidactylus pauliani</i> | Matthew Fisher | Imperial College London | Madagascar, Africa | \$9,000 |
| Pickersgill's reed frog (CR) | <i>Hyperolius pickersgilli</i> | Jeanne Tarrant | Endangered Wildlife Trust | South Africa, Africa | \$12,500 |
| Rana parvaccola frog (NE) | <i>Rana parvaccola</i> | Putri Yuliatmy | N/A | Indonesia, Asia | \$3,000 |
| Shillong bubble nest frog (CR) | <i>Raorchestes shillongensis</i> | Abhijit Das | Wildlife Institute of India | India, Asia | \$6,000 |
| Supramonte cave salamander (EN) | <i>Speleomantes supramontis</i> | Enrico Lunghi | Univeristy of Trier | Italy, Europe | \$2,500 |
| Taita Hills warty frog (CR) | <i>Callulina dawida</i> | Michael Gichia | Biodiversity Conservation Organization | Kenya, Africa | \$7,000 |
| Wayanad dancing frog (VU) | <i>Micrixalus saxicola</i> | Keerthi Krutha | Wildlife Information Liaison Development Society | India, Asia | \$12,000 |
| Zapata's toad (CR) | <i>Peltophryne florentinoi</i> | Roberto Alonso Bosch | Museum of Natural History / University of Havana | Cuba, North America | \$4,000 |

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| Vernacular Species Name | Scientific Species Name | Name | Name of Organisation |  Country, Continent |  Funding |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|--|--|---|
| Cretan funnel web mygalomorph (DD) | <i>Macrothele cretica</i> | Maria Chatzaki | Democritus University of Thrace | Greece, Europe | \$12,500 |
| Eastern eggar (DD) | <i>Eriogaster catax</i> | Cristian Sitar | Romanian Lepidopterological Society | Romania, Europe | \$3,000 |
| Elkhorn coral (CR) | <i>Acropora palmata</i> | Manuel Merchan | Asociacion Chelonia | Mexico, North America | \$12,500 |
| Epirus grasshopper (CR) | <i>Chorthippus lacustris</i> | Vassiliki Kati | University of Patras | Greece, Europe | \$12,500 |
| Eric's sylvan (DD) | <i>Coeliccia erici</i> | Ng Yong-Foo | National University of Malaysia | Malaysia, Asia | \$4,860 |
| European maple longicorn (EN) | <i>Ropalopus ungaricus</i> | Bekka Brodie | Association for Biodiversity Conservation | Romania, Europe | \$10,000 |
| Frade cave spider (CR) | <i>Anapistula ataecina</i> | Pedro Cardoso | Finnish Museum of Natural History / University of Helsinki | Portugal, Europe | \$5,000 |
| Freshwater mussels (NE) | <i>Unionida</i> | Alexandra Zieritz | University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus | Malaysia, Asia | \$9,262 |
| Harvestman (NE) | <i>Jimeneziella decui</i> | Aylin Alegre | N/A | Cuba, North America | \$6,300 |
| Horrid ground-weaver (CR) | <i>Nothophantes horridus</i> | Joanne Gilvear | Buglife - The Invertebrate Conservation Trust | United Kingdom, Europe | \$5,000 |
| Mahé boulder cricket (CR) | <i>Phalangacris alluaudi</i> | Axel Hochkirch | Trier University | Seychelles, Africa | \$10,000 |
| Margaritifera marocana (CR) | <i>Margaritifera marocana</i> | Manuel Lopes-Lima | The CIIMAR - Interdisciplinary Centre of Marine and Environmental Research | Morocco, Africa | \$12,000 |
| Polyommatus myrrha cinyrea (NE) | <i>Polyommatus myrrha cinyrea</i> | Karen Aghababyan | TSE - Towards Sustainable Development | Armenia, Asia | \$4,822 |
| Sri Lanka emerald spreadwing (CR) | <i>Sinhalestes orientalis</i> | Amila Sumanapala | Amila Sumanapala | Sri Lanka, Asia | \$3,000 |
| Sri Lanka red crab (CR) | <i>Ceylonthelphusa sanguinea</i> | Mohomed Bahir | Biodiversity Education and Exploration Society | Sri Lanka, Asia | \$16,000 |
| Tadpole shrimp (NE) | <i>Lepidurus apus</i> | Serge Sidorovsky | V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University | Ukraine, Europe | \$4,000 |
| Various invertebrates (DD) | <i>Various species</i> | Huw Roberts | N/A | United Arab Emirates, Asia | \$3,000 |





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|-------------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|--|---|
| Adriatic sturgeon (CR) | <i>Acipenser naccarii</i> | Leonardo Congiu | University of Padova | Italy, Europe | \$14,000 |
| Black seahorse (VU) | <i>Hippocampus kuda</i> | Amanda Vincent | University of British Columbia | Vietnam, Asia | \$10,000 |
| Blind fish (EN) | <i>Typhleotris pauliani</i> | Sama Zefania | University of Toliara | Madagascar, Africa | \$7,500 |
| European angel shark (CR) | <i>Squatina Squatina</i> | Joanna Barker | Zoological Society of London | Spain, Europe | \$15,000 |
| European sea sturgeon (CR) | <i>Acipenser sturio</i> | Rigers Bakiu | Agricultural University of Tirana | Albania, Europe | \$12,000 |
| Iberian toothcarp (EN) | <i>Aphanius iberus</i> | Juan S. Sanchez-Oliver | CIBIO-InBIO | Spain, Europe | \$15,000 |
| Largetooth sawfish (CR) | <i>Pristis pristis</i> | Ilena Zanella | Asociación Conservacionista Misión Tiburón | Costa Rica, North America | \$11,000 |
| Lisbon arched-mouth nase (CR) | <i>Iberochondrostoma olisiponensis</i> | Filipe Ribeiro | N/A | Portugal, Europe | \$12,000 |
| Persian sturgeon (CR) | <i>Acipenser persicus</i> | Shima Bakhshalizadeh | University of Guilan | Iran, Asia | \$10,000 |
| Sakhalin taimen (CR) | <i>Parahucho perryi</i> | Peter Rand | Limnos | Japan, Asia | \$5,000 |
| Tequila splitfin (CR) | <i>Zoogoneticus tequila</i> | Omar Dominguez Dominguez | Fish Ark Mexico - Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolas de Hidalgo | Mexico, North America | \$13,500 |
| Victoria tilapia (CR) | <i>Oreochromis Variabilis</i> | Richard Olwa | N/A | Uganda, Africa | \$10,000 |

reptile



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| Vernacular Species Name | Scientific Species Name | Name | Name of Organisation |  Country, Continent |  Funding |
|--|--|--------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Altai pit viper (NE) | <i>Gloydus rickmersi sp. nov.</i> | Glib Mazepa | University of Lausanne | Kyrgyzstan, Asia | \$10,800 |
| Bizarre-nosed chameleon(CR) | <i>Calumma hafahafa</i> | Sando Desmond Mahaviasy | N/A | Madagascar, Africa | \$9,000 |
| Black-headed bushmaster (NE) | <i>Lachesis melanocephala</i> | Stephen Spear | The Orianne Society /Viper Specialist Group | Costa Rica, North America | \$2,500 |
| Bolson tortoise (CR) | <i>Gopherus flavomarginatus</i> | Ross Kiester | Turtle Conservancy | Mexico, North America | \$4,950 |
| Darevsky's viper (CR) | <i>Vipera darevskii</i> | Konrad Mebert | N/A | Turkey, Asia | \$4,850 |
| Floreana Island Galapagos racer (NE) | <i>Pseudalsophis biserialis biserialis</i> | Eli Chrsitian | Massey University | Ecuador, South America | \$11,000 |
| Forest hinged tortoise (CR) | <i>Kinixys erosa</i> | Nathanael Stanek | Fordham University | Congo, Africa | \$7,000 |
| Galapagos tortoise (CR) | <i>Chelonoidis</i> | Ryan Walker | Galapagos Conservancy | Ecuador, South America | \$15,000 |
| Geoffreys side-necked turtle (NE) | <i>Phrynops geoffroanus</i> | Richard Vogt | INPA | Brazil, South America | \$10,000 |
| Geometric tortoise (CR) | <i>Psammobates geometricus</i> | James Juvik | Turtle Conservancy | South Africa, Africa | \$12,500 |
| Geometric tortoise (CR) | <i>Psammobates geometricus</i> | Raissa Fries Bressan | University of the Western Cape | South Africa, Africa | \$12,000 |
| Greek meadow viper (EN) | <i>Vipera graeca</i> | Edvárd Mizsei | Greek Meadow Viper Working Group | Albania, Europe | \$3,810 |
| Green turtle (EN) | <i>Chelonia Mydas</i> | Trokon Saykpa | Sea Turtle Watch | Liberia, Africa | \$5,000 |
| Home's hingeback tortoise (VU) | <i>Kinixys homeana</i> | Andrews Agyekumhene | Wildlife Division (Forestry Commission) | Ghana, Africa | \$11,250 |
| Indian Narrowheaded softshell turtle (EN) | <i>Chitra indica</i> | Shailendra Singh | Turtle Survival Alliance | India, Asia | \$6,250 |
| Lesser Antillean iguana (EN) | <i>Iguana delicatissima</i> | Farah Mukhida | Anguilla National Trust | Anguilla, North America | \$6,750 |
| Lesser Antillean iguana (EN) | <i>Iguana delicatissima</i> | Hannah Madden | St. Eustatius National Parks | Netherlands Antilles, N. America | \$4,950 |
| Madagascar spider tortoise (CR) | <i>Pyxis arachnoides</i> | Ryan Walker | Nautilus Ecology | Madagascar, Africa | \$5,000 |
| Oaxacan spiny-tailed iguana (CR) | <i>Ctenosaura oaxacana</i> | Jeffrey Corneil | Truman State University | Mexico, North America | \$5,000 |
| Plain mountain adder (EN) | <i>Bitis inornata</i> | Bryan Maritz | University of the Western Cape | South Africa, Africa | \$9,500 |
| Reptiles (NE) | <i>Reptilia</i> | Philip Bowles | IUCN-US | Russia, Asia | \$20,000 |
| Tenerife speckled lizard (CR) | <i>Gallotia intermedia</i> | Jacobo Marrero | Tonina Association | Spain, Europe | \$10,000 |
| Timor-Leste long-necked turtle (CR) | <i>Chelodina mccordi</i> | Carla Eisemberg (de Alvarenga) | Charles Darwin University | Timor-Leste (East Timor), Asia | \$10,200 |
| Utila spiny-tailed iguana (CR) | <i>Ctenosaura bakeri</i> | Daisy Maryon | University of South Wales | Honduras, North America | \$10,000 |
| William's South American side-necked turtle (NE) | <i>Phrynops williamsi</i> | Raissa Fries Bressan | Caipora Cooperativa para a Conservação da Natureza | Brazil, South America | \$9,000 |

fungus



EX=Extinct | EW=Extinct in the Wild | CR=Critically Endangered | EN=Endangered | VU=Vulnerable
NT=Near Threatened | LC=Least Concern | DD=Data Deficient | NE = Not Evaluated

| Vernacular Species Name | Scientific Species Name | Name | Name of Organisation |  Country, Continent |  Funding |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|---|--|---|
| Hot dots (NE) | <i>Arthonia kermesina</i> | James Lendemer | The New York Botanical Garden | United States, North America | \$3,000 |
| Galapagos spiny gladiator lichen (NE) | <i>Acantholichen galapagoensis</i> | Frank Bungartz | Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands | Ecuador, South America | \$15,000 |
| Pavelek's false truffle (EN) | <i>Cortinarius pavelekii</i> | Gregory Mueller | Chicago Botanic Garden | United States, North America | \$21,500 |



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|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|--|---|
| Akikiki (CR) | <i>Oreomystis bairdi</i> | Bryce Masuda | San Diego Zoo | United States, North America | \$7,500 |
| Bahama oriole (CR) | <i>Icterus northropi</i> | Kevin Omland | University of Maryland | Bahamas, North America | \$12,500 |
| Black-capped petrel (EN) | <i>Pterodroma hasitata</i> | Ryan Trachtenberg | American Bird Conservancy | Dominica, North America | \$7,352 |
| Black-fronted piping-guan (EN) | <i>Aburria jacutinga</i> | Alecsandra Tassoni | SAVE BRASIL | Brazil, South America | \$5,200 |
| Blue-throated macaw (CR) | <i>Ara glaucogularis</i> | Holly Robertson | American Bird Conservancy | Bolivia, South America | \$7,000 |
| Blue-throated macaw (CR) | <i>Ara glaucogularis</i> | Tjalle Boorsma | Asociacion Civil Armonia | Bolivia, South America | \$5,000 |
| Buff-breasted button-quail (EN) | <i>Turnix olivii</i> | Geoffrey Smith | Queensland Herbarium | Australia, Oceania | \$8,375 |
| Chilean woodstar (CR) | <i>Eulidia yarrellii</i> | Karolina Araya | AvesChile | Chile, South America | \$5,000 |
| Floreana mockingbird (CR) | <i>Mimus trifasciatus</i> | Luis Ortiz-Catedral | Massey University | Ecuador, South America | \$12,500 |
| Forest owlet (CR) | <i>Heteroglaux blewitti</i> | Kaushal Patel | NA | India, Asia | \$3,400 |
| Hooded vulture (EN) | <i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i> | Justus Deikumah | UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST | Ghana, Africa | \$12,500 |
| Junin grebe (CR) | <i>Podiceps taczanowskii</i> | Constantino Aucca | Asociacion Ecosistemas Andinos | Peru, South America | \$7,600 |
| Lappet-faced vulture (EN) | <i>Torgos tracheliotos</i> | Robert Thomson | University of Cape Town | Namibia, Africa | \$6,250 |
| Makira moorhen (CR) | <i>Pareudiastes silvestris</i> | John Mittermeier | University of Oxford | Solomon Islands, Oceania | \$16,000 |
| Polynesian ground dove (CR) | <i>Alopecoenas erythropterus</i> | Nick Holmes | Island Conservation | French Polynesia, Oceania | \$12,500 |
| Regent honeyeater (CR) | <i>Xanthomyza phrygia</i> | Diane van de Merwe | Taronga Conservation | Australia, Oceania | \$12,500 |
| Regent honeyeater (CR) | <i>Anthochaera phrygia</i> | Ross Crates | Society Australia | Australia, Oceania | \$12,375 |
| Sharpe's longclaw (EN) | <i>Macronyx sharpei</i> | Samuel Bakari | Australian National University Friends of Kinangop Plateau | Kenya, Africa | \$8,765 |
| Spoonbilled sandpiper (CR) | <i>Calidris pygmaea</i> | Dmitry Dorofeev | All-Russian institute for Nature Protection | Russia, Asia | \$4,000 |
| Stresemann's bristlefront (CR) | <i>Merulaxis stresemanni</i> | Alexandre Enout | Fundação Biodiversitas | Brazil, South America | \$5,000 |
| Taita apalis (CR) | <i>Apalis fuscigularis</i> | Lawrence Wagura | National Museums of Kenya | Kenya, Africa | \$2,088 |
| Townsend's shearwater (CR) | <i>Puffinus auricularis</i> | Alfonso Aguirre-Muñoz | Grupo de Ecología y Conservación de Islas, A.C. | Mexico, North America | \$12,500 |
| White-backed vulture (EN) | <i>Gyps africanus</i> | Glyn Maude | Denver Zoological Foundation Inc./DBA Denver Zoo | Botswana, Africa | \$20,000 |
| White-rumped vulture (CR) | <i>Gyps bengalensis</i> | Bharathidasan Subbiah | Arulagam | India, Asia | \$12,250 |
| Whooping crane (EN) | <i>Grus americana</i> | Becky Abel | International Crane Foundation | United States, North America | \$12,500 |
| Yellow-breasted bunting (EN) | <i>Emberiza aureola</i> | Wieland Heim | Amur Bird Project | Russia, Asia | \$5,000 |





Araguaia River dolphin, Brazil © Sylvana Campello



Projects listed alphabetically by vernacular species name

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NT=Near Threatened | LC=Least Concern | DD=Data Deficient | NE = Not Evaluated

| Vernacular Species Name | Scientific Species Name | Name | Name of Organisation |  Country, Continent |  Funding |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|--|---|
| African wolf (NE) | <i>Canis lupus lupaster</i> | Tariku Mekonnen Gutema | Jimma University | Ethiopia, Africa | \$5,000 |
| Araguaia River dolphin (NE) | <i>Inia araguaiensis</i> | Silvana Campello | Instituto Araguaia | Brazil, South America | \$7,000 |
| Armenian birch mouse (EN) | <i>Sicista armenica</i> | Mikhail Rusin | Schmalhausen Institute of Zoology | Armenia, Asia | \$4,550 |
| Asian elephant (EN) | <i>Elephas maximus</i> | Samya Basu | N/A | India, Asia | \$4,930 |
| Bay cat (EN) | <i>Catupuma badia</i> | Gabriella Fredriksson | Pro Natura Foundation | Indonesia, Asia | \$10,000 |
| Black lion tamarin (EN) | <i>Leontopithecus chrysopygus</i> | Mariana Landis | Manacá Institute | Brazil, South America | \$10,000 |
| Blue-eyed black lemur (CR) | <i>Eulemur flavifrons</i> | Jack Saunders | University of Bristol | Madagascar, Africa | \$11,000 |
| Bonin flying fox (EN) | <i>Pteropus pselaphon</i> | Christian Vincenot | Kyoto University | Japan, Asia | \$3,500 |
| Cat Ba Langur (CR) | <i>Trachypithecus poliocephalus</i> | Kayla Ruskin | The Australian National University | Vietnam, Asia | \$7,000 |
| Chacoan Peccary (EN) | <i>Catagonus wagneri</i> | Harald Beck | Towson Univeristy and IUCN Peccary Specialist Group | Paraguay, South America | \$7,000 |
| Chinese pangolin (CR) | <i>Manis pentadactyla</i> | Nabajit Das | Primate Research Centre NE India | India, Asia | \$5,000 |
| Chinese pangolin (CR) | <i>Manis pentadactyla</i> | Christina Vallianos | WildAid | China, Asia | \$12,000 |
| Chinese pangolin (CR) | <i>Manis pentadactyla</i> | Samuel Wasser | University of Washington | Myanmar (Burma), Asia | \$12,000 |
| Eastern chimpanzee (EN) | <i>Pan troglodytes schweinfurthii</i> | Vernon Reynolds | Budongo Conservation Field Station | Uganda, Africa | \$5,000 |
| Ethiopian amphibious rat (CR) | <i>Nilopegamys plumbeus</i> | Anagaw Meshesha | University of Oslo | Ethiopia, Africa | \$5,000 |
| Fijian free-tailed bat (EN) | <i>Chaerephon bregullae</i> | Jason Corbett | Bat Conservation International | Fiji, Oceania | \$12,500 |
| Fishing cat (EN) | <i>Prionailurus viverrinus</i> | Anya Ratnayaka | Environmental Foundation Limited | Sri Lanka, Asia | \$4,000 |
| Fishing cat (EN) | <i>Prionailurus viverrinus</i> | Sagar Dahal | Small Mammals Conservation and Research Foundation | Nepal, Asia | \$7,200 |
| Fishing cat (EN) | <i>Prionailurus viverrinus</i> | Ashwin Naidu | Fishing Cat Conservancy | India, Asia | \$5,000 |
| Fishing cat (EN) | <i>Prionailurus viverrinus</i> | Tiasa Adhya | N/A | India, Asia | \$9,975 |
| Fishing cat (EN) | <i>Prionailurus viverrinus</i> | Angelika Appel | Fishing Cat Working Group | Nepal, Asia | \$7,990 |
| Fishing cat (EN) | <i>Prionailurus viverrinus</i> | Erwin Wilianto | Sumatran Tiger Conservation Forum (HarimauKita) | Indonesia, Asia | \$12,300 |
| Ganges River dolphin (EN) | <i>Platanista gangetica gangetica</i> | Shambhu Paudel | Kathmandu Forestry College | Nepal, Asia | \$3,976 |
| Ganges River dolphin (EN) | <i>Platanista gangetica gangetica</i> | Gopal Khanal | River Dolphin Trust | Nepal, Asia | \$4,000 |
| Greater big-footed mouse (EN) | <i>Macrotratosmys ingens</i> | Seheno Julia Rasoanomenjanahary | N/A | Madagascar, Africa | \$5,000 |
| Guigna (V) | <i>Leopardus guigna</i> | Constanza Napolitano | Universidad de Chile | Chile, South America | \$8,970 |
| Hispid hare (EN) | <i>Caprolagus hispidus</i> | Achyut Aryal | Massey University | Nepal, Asia | \$10,000 |
| Hooded spider monkey (DD) | <i>Ateles geoffroyi grisescens</i> | Pedro Guillermo Méndez-Carvajal | Fundación Pro-Conservación de los Primates Panameños | Panama, North America | \$8,000 |
| Indian pangolin (EN) | <i>Manis crassicaudata</i> | Faraz Akrim | Department of Wildlife Management PMAS AAUR | Pakistan, Asia | \$5,000 |
| Indian pangolin (EN) | <i>Manis crassicaudata</i> | R. Marimuthu | Zoo Outreach Organisation | India, Asia | \$11,000 |
| Irrawaddy dolphin (CR) | <i>Orcaella brevirostris</i> | Budiono Budiono | Yayasan Konservasi RASI | Indonesia, Asia | \$11,000 |
| Javan rhinoceros (CR) | <i>Rhinoceros sondaicus</i> | Inov Sectionov | International Rhino Foundation | Indonesia, Asia | \$10,000 |
| Javan slow loris (CR) | <i>Nycticebus javanicus</i> | Anna Nekaris | Oxford Brookes University | Indonesia, Asia | \$10,000 |
| Jungle cat (V) | <i>Felis chaus</i> | Lakdas Fernando | Wild Life and Nature Protection Society of Sri Lanka | Sri Lanka, Asia | \$10,000 |



Projects listed alphabetically by vernacular species name

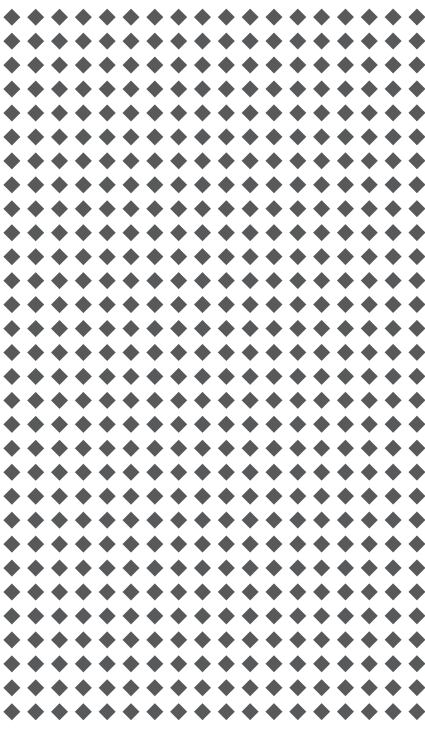
| Vernacular Species Name | Scientific Species Name | Name | Name of Organisation |  Country, Continent |  Funding |
|---|--|----------------------------|---|--|---|
| Kipunji (CR) | <i>Rungwecebus kipunji</i> | Alfred Chitiki | Sokoine University of Agriculture | Tanzania, Africa | \$12,500 |
| Kolar leaf-nosed bat (CR) | <i>Hipposideros hypophyllus</i> | Bhargavi Srinivasulu | Biodiversity Research and Conservation Society | India, Asia | \$7,000 |
| Lemurs (CR) | <i>Lemurs</i> | Alessandro Badalotti | IUCN | Madagascar, Africa | \$30,000 |
| Leopard (NE) | <i>Panthera pardus</i> | Muhammad Kabir | University of Haripur | Pakistan, Asia | \$5,000 |
| Mittermeier's sportive lemur (EN) | <i>Lepilemur mittermeieri</i> | Leslie Wilmet | Liege University Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech | Madagascar, Africa | \$6,000 |
| Mongolian wild ass (EN) | <i>Equus hemionus hemionus</i> | Anne-Camille Souris | Association GOVIIN KHULAN | Mongolia, Asia | \$12,500 |
| Northern yellow-cheeked gibbon (NE) | <i>Nomascus annamensis</i> | Tara-Lyn Camilleri | Australian National University | Cambodia, Asia | \$4,500 |
| Old world monkey (CR) | <i>Cercopithecidae</i> | Christoph Schwitzer | Bristol Zoological Society | Uganda, Africa | \$20,000 |
| Oncilla (Southern Tigrina) (V) | <i>Leopardus guttulus</i> (<i>Leopardus tigrinus</i>) | Alcides Ricieri Rinaldi | Mater Natura | Brazil, South America | \$10,540 |
| Pallas' cat (NT) | <i>Otocolobus manul</i> | Ganga Ram Regmi | Global Primate Network-Nepal | Nepal, Asia | \$6,500 |
| Pallas' cat (NT) | <i>Otocolobus manul</i> | Yasaman Talebi Otaghvar | N/A | Iran, Asia | \$6,905 |
| Persian leopard (EN) | <i>Panthera pardus saxicolor</i> | Arash Ghoddousi | Georg-August-University Göttingen | Iran, Asia | \$9,500 |
| Peruvian yellow-tailed woolly monkey (CR) | <i>Lagothrix flavicauda</i> | Sam Shanee | Asociacion Neotropical Primate Conservation Peru | Peru, South America | \$8,000 |
| Sand cat (NT) | <i>Felis margarita</i> | Georgiy Shakula | Wild Nature NGO | Kazakhstan, Asia | \$5,000 |
| Sanje mangabey (EN) | <i>Cercocebus sanjei</i> | Grainne McCabe | Bristol Zoological Society | Tanzania, Africa | \$12,000 |
| Seram bandicoot (EN) | <i>Rhynchomeles prattorum</i> | Andrew Bagnall | N/A | Indonesia, Asia | \$4,000 |
| Sibreei's fat-tailed dwarf lemur (CR) | <i>Cheirogaleus sibreei</i> | Cyprien Miandrimanana | Missouri Botanical Garden | Madagascar, Africa | \$5,000 |
| Southern woolly lemur (EN) | <i>Avahi meridionalis</i> | Kathryn Scobie | Impact Madagascar | Madagascar, Africa | \$5,000 |
| Sumatran mountain maxomys (DD) | <i>Maxomys hylomyoides</i> | Heru Handika | N/A | Indonesia, Asia | \$5,000 |
| Sunda pangolin (CR) | <i>Manis javanica</i> | Louise Fletcher | N/A | Brunei, Asia | \$4,600 |
| Vanzolini's bald faced saki monkey (DD) | <i>Pithecia vanzolinii</i> | Laura Marsh | Global Conservation Institute | Brazil, South America | \$12,300 |
| Varied White-fronted Capuchin (EN) | <i>Cebus versicolor versicolor</i> | Andres Link | Fundacion Proyecto Primates | Colombia, South America | \$7,000 |
| West African chimpanzee (EN) | <i>Pan troglodytes verus</i> | Kimberley Hockings | Oxford Brookes University | Guinea-Bissau, Africa | \$12,000 |
| Wroughtoni's free tailed bat (DD) | <i>Otomops wroughtoni</i> | Adora Thabah | N/A | India, Asia | \$6,100 |
| Yangtze finless porpoise (CR) | <i>Neophocaena asiaeorientalis asiaeorientalis</i> | Lisa Mogensen | Institute of Zoology, Zoological Society of London | China, Asia | \$8,000 |
| Yellow-tailed woolly monkey (EN) | <i>Lagothrix flavicauda</i> | Rolando Aquino | ICBAR/UNMSM | Peru, South America | \$10,000 |



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|--|--|------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Acanthodesmos distichus (NE) | <i>Acanthodesmos distichus</i> | Keron Campbell | Natural History Museum of Jamaica | Jamaica, North America | \$15,000 |
| African zebrawood (CR) | <i>Microberlinia bisulcata</i> | Limbi Blessing | The Environment and Rural Development Foundation | Cameroon, Africa | \$15,000 |
| Alfiler (CR) | <i>Acacia belairioides</i> | Jorge Alberto Sánchez Rendón | Instituto de Ecología y Sistemática | Cuba, North America | \$8,000 |
| Artocarpus annulatus (CR) | <i>Artocarpus annulatus</i> | Nyree Zerega | Chicago Botanic Garden | Malaysia, Asia | \$6,000 |
| Azulejo (CR) | <i>Magnolia cristalensis</i> | Alejandro Palmarola | National Botanic Garden, University of Havana | Cuba, North America | \$4,500 |
| Bufonia multiceps (NE) | <i>Bufonia multiceps</i> | Karim Omar | Minister of State for Environmental Affairs | Egypt, Africa | \$4,000 |
| Cipres (NE) | <i>Harpalyce macrocarpa</i> | Enma M. Torres Roche | N/A | Cuba, North America | \$4,000 |
| Culantrillo (NE) | <i>Adiantopsis asplenioides</i> | Ledis Regalado | N/A | Cuba, North America | \$4,000 |
| Dendrobium whistleri (DD) | <i>Dendrobium whistleri</i> | David Lorence | National Tropical Botanical Garden | Samoa, Oceania | \$20,000 |
| Espino de Costa (NE) | <i>Bonania elliptica</i> | Lisbet Gonzalez-Oliva | N/A | Cuba, North America | \$10,000 |
| Faveiro de Wilson (Wilson's Faveiro tree) (CR) | <i>Dimorphanandra wilsonii</i> | Lucio Bede | Instituto Terra Brasilis | Brazil, South America | \$7,500 |
| Klein's rib-less orchid (CR) | <i>Anathallis kleinii</i> | Neil Brummitt | Natural History Museum, London | Brazil, South America | \$7,000 |
| Nigerian kola (CR) | <i>Cola nigerica</i> | Kirsty Shaw | Botanic Gardens Conservation International | Nigeria, Africa | \$19,000 |
| Pinus cernua (CR) | <i>Pinus cernua</i> | Leonid Averyanov | Komarov Botanical Institute | Vietnam, Asia | \$12,000 |
| Rattan (NE) | <i>Subtribe Calaminae, family Palmae</i> | Andrew Henderson | The New York Botanical Garden | Malaysia, Asia | \$7,000 |
| Tortuella abietifolia (CR) | <i>Tortuella abietifolia</i> | Javier Francisco-Ortega | Florida International University | Haiti, North America | \$10,000 |
| Water-starworts (NE) | <i>Callitriche</i> | Richard Lansdown | Ardeola Environmental Services | Russia, Asia | \$20,000 |
| Yuanbaoshan fir (CR) | <i>Abies yuanbaoshanensis</i> | Hannah Braithwaite | Fauna & Flora International | China, Asia | \$12,000 |



Flower of an aloe plant © Usama Ghazali

2015 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Endowment:

The Fund’s endowment started on 7 April 2009 with a value of \$29,202,745

Analysis Period: 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015

Reporting Currency: US dollars

Statement of Assets:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Begin value | 32,260,279 |
| Cash flow adjusted change in assets | -159,144 |
| Portfolio performance | -0.49% |
| Sum of cash flows | 896,299 |
| End value | 31,204,836 |

Note: Negative sum cash flows include management fees and taxes, as well as withdrawals for grants. The endowment is managed by Credit Suisse; historical information and financial market scenarios are not a guarantee for future performance.



Cerambyx cerdo © Bekka Brodie

www.speciesconservation.org



Please visit : www.speciesconservation.org

Mailing Address:

The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund

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