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

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

TEN YEARS OF SPECIES CONSERVATION

The year 2019 marks the tenth year since the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund first distributed financial support to conservation projects worldwide. From small grants to large-scale, multiple-year support, the MBZ Fund's role as a donor organization is critical to global conservation efforts for endangered species.

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FOREWORD

A DECADE AFTER THE MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND FIRST DISTRIBUTED GRANTS IN 2009, WE ARE PLEASED TO REPORT THAT 2,245 PROJECTS IN MORE THAN 160 COUNTRIES HAVE BENEFITED FROM OUR SUPPORT OF THEIR EFFORTS TO CONSERVE MORE THAN 1,400 SEPARATE SPECIES AND SUBSPECIES AROUND THE GLOBE.

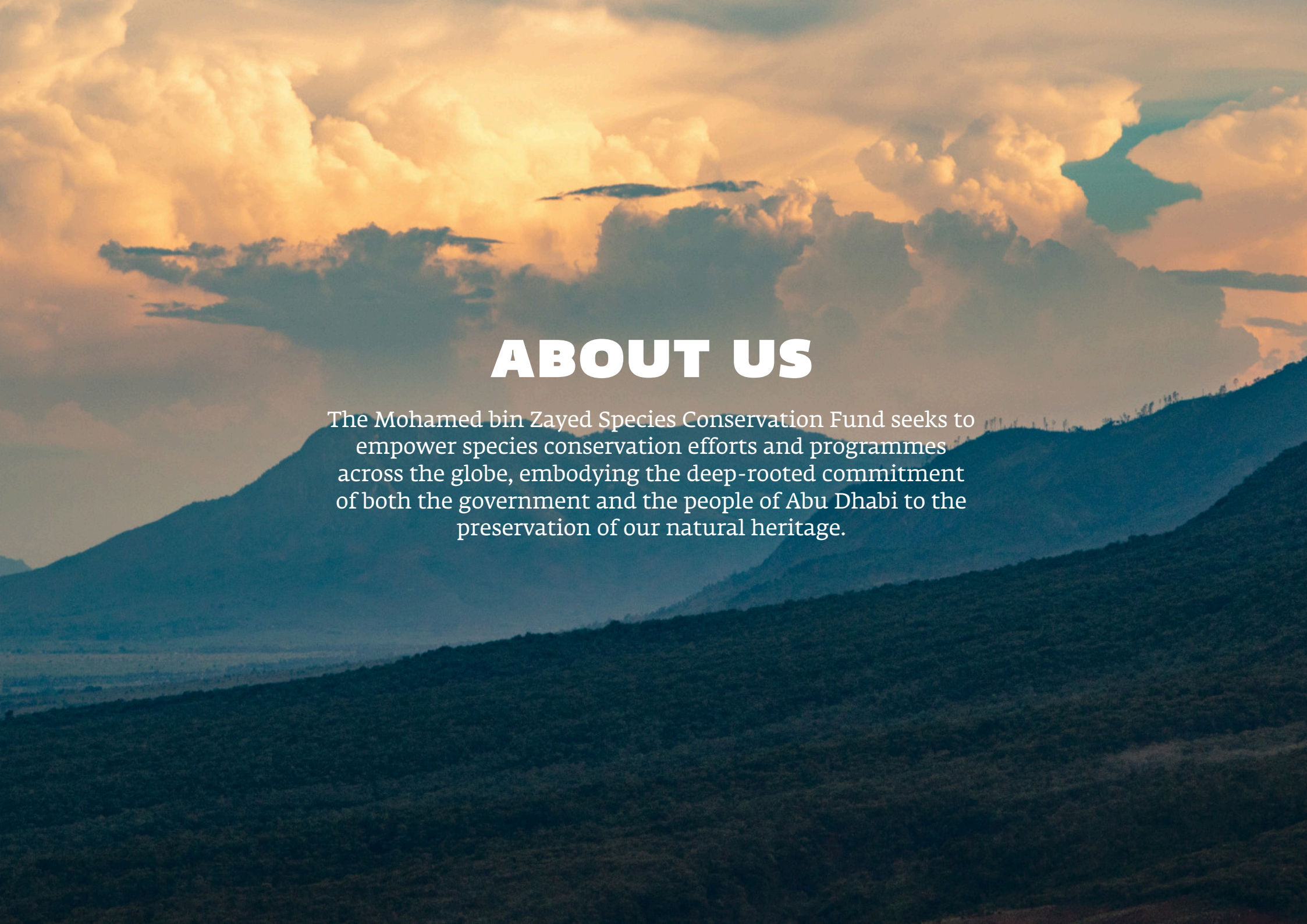
Founded by His Highness General Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, the Fund seeks to support species conservation in all its forms. In this regard it is dynamic, in that it can tailor the delivery of support to best fit the specific requirements of recipients; for example, by acting as the executing agency for the GEF-funded Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project (DSCP); providing funding for big cat conservation through the US-based conservation organization Panthera; and disbursing small, targeted grants to conservationists in the field.

The Fund is perhaps best known for this latter aspect of its work – its capacity to quickly approve and disburse small grants to individual researchers and conservationists to support or maintain their efforts in the field. The small grants programme is structured around an initial endowment of US $27.5 million, the proceeds of which are disbursed to support species conservation projects worldwide. With over US $1.5 million in funding distributed in 2019 to 171 different projects, this programme continues to achieve significant impacts on the conservation of an expanding range of plants, animals and ecosystems.

RAZAN KHALIFA AL MUBARAK
MANAGING DIRECTOR



Hou Diving Petrel



ABOUT US

The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund seeks to empower species conservation efforts and programmes across the globe, embodying the deep-rooted commitment of both the government and the people of Abu Dhabi to the preservation of our natural heritage.

WHY SPECIES CONSERVATION?

Species-level conservation today does not enjoy the same prominence in the environmental/conservation sphere as it once did. Many of the original global conservation organisations were established with a strong species focus, but over time much of the emphasis and funding has moved to other environmental priorities and grown in scope to include other disciplines.

Whereas the primary activities of species conservationists (many of whom were originally hunters, animal lovers or simply enthusiastic amateur naturalists) involved weeks and months in the field, a significant portion of conservation today takes the form of lab work, or conservation planning and analysis conducted in offices. Whilst these are all pursuits that are vital to the goals of global conservation, the decline of field-based species conservation as a discipline within the evolving environmental movement is an alarming trend that must be resisted.


Cochabamba,Campero,Omereque,San Carlos

Small grants are just part, albeit an important part, of our portfolio. The MBZ Fund also manages conservation projects on behalf of others, as well as the many species conservation interests of Abu Dhabi.

RAZAN AL MUBARAK,
MANAGING DIRECTOR

ACTIVITIES AND ETHOS

In view of this 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 conservation initiatives worldwide.

To preserve the creatures and habitats we treasure – and indeed depend on – within their natural habitat, the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund seeks to support on-the-ground champions of species conservation through its small grants programme; the individuals in villages, field stations, laboratories and homes who are dedicated to conserving their local (and the world's global) threatened species.

The Fund assists their work through focused financial support from the proceeds of its endowment, nurturing the next generation of conservationists by making the best practices available to them using innovative communication methods.

In addition, the Fund simultaneously directs the allocation of financial assistance from other sources in Abu Dhabi to support various conservation initiatives and programmes worldwide – such as the wild cat conservation organisation, Panthera – and acts as the executing agency for the GEF-funded Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project.

Through its events and additional activities, the Fund also seeks to recognise individual leaders in the field of species conservation whose passion and commitment often go unnoticed, and in doing so, to inspire others with an interest in the field.

A DYNAMIC APPROACH TO GLOBAL SPECIES CONSERVATION

The Fund has sought to make its small grants programme available to all conservation efforts without discrimination by location, taxa or species, other than through guidance from the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and in response to applications received.

Of the species on the Red List, the Fund focuses most of its financial attention on those that are Critically Endangered (CR) or Endangered (EN), or about which little is known (Data deficient [DD]). The Red List features around 1,000 species that are believed to be extant but in populations of less than 100 individuals, and the Fund would advocate that every one of these is worthy of conservation attention and funding.

In the eyes of the Fund, therefore, the lichen is considered just as important as the lion, and it allocates support purely on its assessment of the impact that a suggested project will have on the conservation of a given species – whatever its role in an ecosystem or relationship to humans.



Obô Land Snail, Sao Tome and Principe

This represents the true strength of the Fund as a global conservation actor and reflects a long-standing tradition of philanthropy and conservation in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

The number and breadth of species that the Fund supports, and the variety of roles it fulfils to achieve its objectives, illustrate the fact that whilst it is highly specific in terms of its aims – to support both individual and collective species conservation activities – it is also extremely dynamic in its methods.

This represents the true strength of the Fund as a global conservation actor and reflects a long-standing tradition of philanthropy and conservation in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, where major programmes have been successful in protecting species as diverse as the Arabian oryx, gazelle, Houbara Bustard, dugong and marine turtles.

It is this tradition that lies at the heart of the work of the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, which strives to embody and apply the Emirate’s inherent appreciation for the natural world and its biodiversity through its unique and genuinely international approach to philanthropy and species conservation.



SMALL GRANTS

The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund provides financial support in the form of small grants of less than $25,000 to conservation project worldwide. The small grants programme is as much for the species as the conservationists working passionately to protect them.

CASE STUDIES

While the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund supports a diverse range of species through direct funding and engagement with multi-partner conservation projects around the world, the species coverage and number of conservationists supported each year by its small grants programme is unparalleled.

Thousands of these small-scale species conservation projects have reached all corners of the globe, from Antarctica to Belarus, Alabama to Australia, offering targeted support to enthusiastic conservationists and researchers in the field.

These intrepid individuals are the first line of defence against species extinction – passionate people who have dedicated their lives to the conservation of the creatures and plants they love and we depend on to retain our planet's unique biodiversity.













RETURN OF THE LEGEND

Validating eDNA test kit to search for the Yangtze Giant Softshell Turtle

Scientific name: Rafetus swinhoei
Common name: Yangtze Giant Softshell Turtle
Species type: Reptile
Country: Vietnam
Website: https://reports.speciesconservation.org/ar-case-studies/restoring-a-legend/



CLEARING A PATH FOR FLIGHT

Save the habitat of Tahiti Monarch from the invasive Miconia calvescens

Scientific name: Pomerea nigra
Common name: Tahiti monarch
Species type: Bird
Country: French Polynesia
Website: https://reports.speciesconservation.org/ar-case-studies/uprooting-a-path-for-flight/



MOUNTAIN VIPERS OF ANATOLIA

Search for Darevsky's Viper in the Anatolian mountains

Scientific name: Vipera darevskii
Common name: Darevsky's Viper
Species type: Reptile
Country: Turkey
Website: https://reports.speciesconservation.org/ar-case-studies/mountain-vipers-of-anatolia/



THE RACE TO SAVE MAURITIUS' SNAILS

Conservation of rare Mauritius endemic snails at Vallée de L'Est, Mauritius

Scientific name: Pachystyla bicolor
Common name: Pachystyla bicolor
Species type: Invertebrate
Country: Mauritius
Website: https://reports.speciesconservation.org/ar-case-studies/the-race-to-save-mauritus-snails/



ONLY A HANDFUL LEFT

Conservation of the red handfish, potentially the world's rarest marine fish.

Scientific name: Thymichthys politus
Common name: Red handfish
Species type: Fish
Country: Australia
Website: https://reports.speciesconservation.org/ar-case-studies/only-a-handful-left/



SWIMMING AGAINST THE CURRENT

Saving sandfish: fish rescue and monitoring to conserve South Africa's most threatened and charismatic freshwater fish

Scientific name: Labeo seeberi
Common name: Clanwilliam sandfish
Species type: Fish
Country: South Africa
Website: https://reports.speciesconservation.org/ar-case-studies/swimming-against-the-current/



SMALL GRANTS SUPPORTED 2019

IUCN RED LIST CLASSIFICATIONS

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

AMPHIBIAN

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
NE	Cabo Cruz bromeliad frog	Eleutherodactylus sp. nov.	Ansel Fong	N/A	Cuba, North America	$2,300
CR	Cameron Highland Sticky Frog	Kalophrynus yongi	Connor Butler	University of Southampton, UK	Malaysia, Asia	$6,750
DD	**Cerrado Rocket Frog**	Allobates goianus	Nadya Carolina Pupin	UNESP	Brazil, South America	$4,900
CR	Cuban Robber Frog	Eleutherodactylus cubanus	Pedro López Del Castillo	Turquino National Park	Cuba, North America	$3,820
CR	**Du Toit's Torrent Frog**	Arthroleptides dutoiti	Mathias Behangana	National Biodiversity Data Bank, Makerere, University	Uganda, Africa	$9,000
DD	**Elongated Caecilian**	Ichthyophis elongatus	try surya harapan	N/A	Indonesia, Asia	$4,500
NE	Flea-toad	Brachycephalus pulex	Wendy Bolaños	N/A	Brazil, South America	$5,000
EX	Heredia Robber Frog	Craugastor escoces	Jose Sandoval Siles	University of Costa Rica, Experimental and Compared Pathology Laboratory	Costa Rica, North America	$5,115
CR	Intermediate Puddle Frog	Phrynobatrachus intermedius	Gilbert Baase Adum	SAVE THE FROGS! Ghana	Ghana, Africa	$25,000
CR	**Itatiaia Highland Frog**	Holoaden bradei	Barbara Zaidan	Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais	Brazil, South America	$4,800
NE	Kalimantan Horned-Frog	Megophrys kalimantanensis sp. nov.	Violla Iskandar Maryam	N/A	Indonesia, Asia	$4,290
NE	Leptobrachella macrops	Leptobrachella macrops	Tang Duong	Vietnam National Museum of Nature - Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology	Vietnam, Asia	$4,500

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
EN	**Malabar Torrent Toad**	Ghatophryne ornata	Nithin Divakar	N/A	India, Asia	$3,863
CR	**Malvasa stubfoot toad**	Atelopus eusebianus	Andres Felipe Lievano Bonilla	Fundación Ecohabitats	Colombia, South America	$5,000
NE	Mixteca Cloud-forest treefrog	Charadrahyla sakbah	Liz Amelia Alfaro Juantorena	Naturam Sequi	Mexico, North America	$8,900
DD	pumpkin-toadlet	Brachycephalus pernix	Juliane Petry C Monteiro	Universidade Estadual Paulista	Brazil, South America	$4,800
CR	Ranwella's spined tree frog	Polypedates ranwellai	Dinal Samarasinghe	N/A	Sri Lanka, Asia	$4,995
DD	Stuart's Mushroomtongue Salamander	Bolitoglossa stuarti	Georgina Santos-Barrera	Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México	Mexico, North America	$5,000
CR	**Table Mountain Ghost Frog**	Heleophryne rosei	Jeanne Tarrant	Endangered Wildlife Trust	South Africa, Africa	$13,000
CR	Togo slippery Frog	Conraua derooi	Caleb Ofori-Boateng	Herp Conservation Ghana (Herp-Ghana)	Ghana, Africa	$12,000
EN	Zempoala axolotl (mountain stream siredon)	Ambystoma altamirani	Gregg Howard	Freshwater Life	Mexico, North America	$10,000

BIRD

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
CR	**Akekee**	Loxops caeruleirostris	Gilbert P Kea	Garden Island Resource Conservation and Development Inc	United States, North America	$15,000
CR	Antioquia Brushfinch	Atlapetes blancae	Ana Boudreau	American Bird Conservancy	Colombia, South America	$10,000
CR	Banggai Crow	Corvus unicolor	Mochamad INDRAWAN	Universitas Indonesia - Research Center for Climate Change	Indonesia, Asia	$8,200
CR	**Beck's Petrel**	Pseudobulweria becki	Jeremy Bird	N/A	Papua New Guinea, Oceania	$7,000
CR	Blue-billed curassow	Crax alberti	Chris Holmes	Wildlife Conservation Program at the Houston Zoo	Colombia, South America	$5,000
CR	**Blue-throated hillstar**	Oreotrochilus cyanolaemus	Jose Leon	Fundación Jocotoco	Ecuador, South America	$10,000
CR	Brazilian Merganser	Mergus octosetaceus	Gislaine Maria Disconzi	Instituto Amada Terra de Inclusão Social	Brazil, South America	$10,000

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
CR	Chinese Crested Tern	Thalasseus bernsteini	Ivan Sarenas	Balete Conservancy	Philippines, Asia	$3,500
NE	Cordillera Azul Antbird	Myrmoderus eowilsoni	Andre Moncrieff	Louisiana State University	Peru, South America	$4,800
CR	Giant Ibis	Thaumatibis gigantea	Vorsak Bou	BirdLife International Cambodia Programme	Cambodia, Asia	$10,000
CR	Hooded Grebe	Podiceps gallardoi	GERMAN MONTERO	ASOCIACION AMBIENTE SUR	Argentina, South America	$12,000
CR	Horned Curassow	Pauxi unicornis	Bennett Hennessey	Asociacion Armnonia	Bolivia, South America	$8,000
CR	**Negros bleeding-heart dove**	Gallicolumba keayi	Daphne Kerhoas	Bristol Zoological Society	Philippines, Asia	$24,738
CR	Niau Kingfisher	Todiramphus gambieri gertrudae	Thomas GHESTEMME	Société d'Ornithologie de Polynésie	French Polynesia, Oceania	$9,000
CR	Oriental White-backed Vulture	Gyps Bengalensis	Sain Dino Dahri	DHARTEE DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY	Pakistan, Asia	$5,000
CR	**Plains-wanderer**	Pedionomus torquatus	Daniel Nugent	La Trobe University	Australia, Oceania	$10,000
CR	Red-fronted Macaw	Ara rubrogenys	Bennett Hennessey	Asociacion Armnonia	Bolivia, South America	$10,000
CR	Royal Cinclodes	Cinclodes aricomae	Rodrigo Wilber Soria Auza	Asociación Armonía	Bolivia, South America	$10,000
CR	Spoon-billed Sandpiper	Calidris pygmaea	PYAE AUNG	Biodiversity And Nature Conservation Association (BANCA)	Myanmar (Burma), Asia	$10,000
EN	**Spotted ground thrush**	Geokichla guttata belcheri	Ruben Foquet	BINCO npo	Malawi, Africa	$7,100
CR	Stresemann's Bristlefront	Merulaxis stresemanni	Ana Boudreau	American Bird Conservancy	Brazil, South America	$7,000
CR	**Tahiti Monarch**	Pomarea nigra	Caroline Blanvillain	Société d'Ornithologie de Polynésie	French Polynesia, Oceania	$8,000
CR	**Whenua Hou Diving Petrel**	Pelecanoides whenuahouensis	Johannes Fischer	Victoria University of Wellington	New Zealand, Oceania	$6,000
CR	Yellow-breasted Bunting	Emberiza aureola	Vasiliy Kostiushyn	WWF Ukraine	Ukraine, Europe	$7,000

FISH

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
EN	Cat fish	Chrysichthys walkeri	Issah Seidu	Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology	Ghana, Africa	$8,720
CR	**Chambo**	Oreochromis lidole	Pam Haigh	Ripple Africa	Malawi, Africa	$12,500
EN	**Clanwilliam sandfish**	Labeo seeberi	Jeremy Shelton	Freshwater Research Centre	South Africa, Africa	$12,800
CR	Damba mipentina	Paretroplus maculatus	Thomas Juhasz	University of veterinary Medicine	Madagascar, Africa	$8,800
EN	**Etruscan chub**	Squalius lucumonis	Antonella Carosi	N/A	Italy, Europe	$13,500
CR	**Giant Sea Bass**	Stereolepis gigas	Arturo Ramirez-Valdez	Proyecto Mero gigante / Scripps Institution of Oceanography UC San Diego	Mexico, North America	$11,500
CR	hump-backed mahseer	Tor remadevii	Adrian Pinder	Mahseer Trust	India, Asia	$11,700
EN	Mekong freshwater stingray	Hemitrygon laosensis	Sinsamout Ounboundisane	FISHBIO Laos	Laos, Asia	$10,000
DD	Ray-finned fish	Enteromius guildi	ELIJAH KOJO MENSAH	University of Ghana	Ghana, Africa	$6,800
NE	**Red Handfish**	Thymichthys politus	Rick Stuart-Smith	Reef Life Survey Inc	Australia, Oceania	$17,750
EN	**sandbar shark**	Carcharhinus plumbeus	Matteo Barbato	University of Padova	Italy, Europe	$7,700

FUNGI

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
NE	Amanita macrocarpa	Amanita macrocarpa	Olivier Raspé	Center of Excellence in Fungal Research and School of Science, Mae Fah Luang University	Thailand, Asia	$7,500
NE	boletus	Boletus chilensis	Giuliana Furci	Fungi Foundation	Chile, South America	$14,000
NE	Morels	Morchella sp.	Daniela Torres	Fungi Foundation	Chile, South America	$10,000
CR	Stinking milk-cap	Lactarius foetens	Boris Armel OLOU	Laboratory of Applied Ecology (LEA)	Benin, Africa	$10,000

INVERTEBRATE

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
EN	Adriatic Marbled Bush-Cricket	Zeuneriana marmorata	Filippo Maria Buzzetti	Fondazione Museo Civico di Rovereto	Italy, Europe	$23,000
CR	**Barber's Cape Flats Ranger**	Kedestes barberae bunta	Louise Baldwin	Cape Town Environmental Education Trust (CTEET)	South Africa, Africa	$10,298
CR	**Çalbalı Bush-cricket**	Psorodonotus ebneri	Battal Çıplak	Akdeniz University	Turkey, Asia	$10,500
CR	Crau Plain Grasshopper	Prionotropis rhodanica	Linda Bröder	Trier University	France, Europe	$10,000
NE	Freshwater mussels	Unionida	Alexandra Zieritz	University of Nottingham	Indonesia, Asia	$9,000
CR	Freshwater pearl Mussel	Margaritifera marocana	Mary Seddon	IUCN SSC Mollusc Specialist Group	Morocco, Africa	$6,000
NE	**Giant tri-coloured African millipede**	Pelmatojulus tectus	Armand Richard NZOKO FIEMAPONG	University of Yaounde I – Laboratory of Zoology	Cameroon, Africa	$4,932
VU	**Greater Capricorn beetle**	Cerambyx cerdo	Emma Nygren	Nordens Ark	Sweden, Europe	$7,500
NE	Green-breasted Longtail	Teinobasis euglena	Magdalena Nugrahani	BISA Indonesia	Indonesia, Asia	$6,305
NE	**Idle crayfish**	Austropotamobius bihariensis	Lucian Parvulescu	Center for protected areas and sustainable development	Romania, Europe	$6,300
VU	**Microcondylaea bonellii**	Microcondylaea bonellii	Nicoletta Riccardi	CNR Institute of Water Research	Italy, Europe	$6,500
NE	Nepal Wall	Lobinga lehmanni	Bimal Raj Shrestha	N/A	Nepal, Asia	$5,000
VU	**Obô Land Snail**	Archachatina bicarinata	Martina Panisi	Lisbon University	Sao Tome and Principe, Africa	$4,950
NE	**Ocaria butterfly**	Ocaria sp. n.	Jose Cerdeña	Museo de Historia Natural Universidad Nacional San Agustin de Arequipa (MUSA)	Peru, South America	$4,500
NE	**Pachystyla bicolor**	Pachystyla bicolor	Owen Griffiths	Vallée de L'Est	Mauritius, Africa	$5,979
DD	Southwell's Sylvan	Coeliccia southwelli	Rory Dow	Naturalis Biodiversity Center	Malaysia, Asia	$12,000
CR	Texas Hornshell	Popenaias popeii	Jeremy Tiemann	Illinois Natural History Survey	Mexico, North America	$6,000
EN	**Thick shelled river mussel**	Unio crassus	Mikhail Son	N/A	Ukraine, Europe	$4,490

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
VU	Wallace's Giant Bee	Megachile pluto	Nicolas Vereecken	Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB)	Indonesia, Asia	$4,570
EN	Yellow Waxtail	Ceriagrion citrinum	TCHIBOZO Séverin	Centre de Recherche pour la Gestion de la Biodiversité (CRGB)	Benin, Africa	$5,000

MAMMAL

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
VU	African savanna elephant	Loxodonta Africana	Anagaw Atickem	Horn of Africa Regional Environment Centre and Network	Ethiopia, Africa	$7,000
EN	**Amazon river dolphin**	Inia geoffrensis	Cédric Gilleman	Solinia	Peru, South America	$5,000
EN	**Banteng**	Bos javanicus	Nick Marx	Wildlife Alliance	Cambodia, Asia	$11,550
CR	**Black-faced Lion Tamarin**	Leontopithecus caissara	Elenise Angelotti Sipinski	SPVS	Brazil, South America	$7,500
CR	**Black-handed Spider Monkey**	Ateles geoffroyi	Sarah Otterstrom	Paso Pacifico	El Salvador, North America	$5,000
EN	**Chacoan peccary**	Catagonus wagneri	Ricardo Torres	Instituto de Diversidad y Ecología Animal (IDEA-CONICET)	Argentina, South America	$5,000
EN	Chamba Sacred Langur	Semnopithecus ajax	Sanjay Molur	Wildlife Information Liaison Development (WILD) Society	India, Asia	$12,500
VU	Cheetah	Acinonyx jubatus	Gladys Ng'umbi	Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA)	Tanzania, Africa	$8,385
VU	**Cheetah**	Acinonyx jubatus	Rebecca Klein	Cheetah Conservation Botswana	Botswana, Africa	$11,546
CR	Chinese pangolin	Manis pentadactyla	Ambika Prasad Khatiwada	N/A	Nepal, Asia	$5,000
CR	**Chinese pangolin**	Manis pentadactyla	Terilyn Allendorf	Community Conservation Inc.	Nepal, Asia	$9,330
VU	Fishing Cat	Prionailurus viverrinus	Murthy Kantimahanti	Eastern Ghats Wildlife Society	India, Asia	$9,500
VU	Fishing cat	Prionailurus viverrinus	Ashan Thudugala	save fishing cat conservation Project / Small cat Advocacy & Research	Sri Lanka, Asia	$12,500
VU	Fishing cat	Prionailurus viverrinus	Linda Castaneda	The Fishing Cat Fund	Sri Lanka, Asia	$14,497

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
EN	Flat headed cat	Prionailurus planiceps	Ang Bee Biaw	The Mesozoic Explorers Sdn. Bhd.	Brunei, Asia	$10,524
VU	Giant Armadillo	Priodontes maximus	Arnaud Desbiez	ICAS- Instituto de Conservacao de Animais Silvestres	Brazil, South America	$12,500
VU	**giant ground pangolin**	Smutsia gigantea	Alain Delon Mouafo Takoune	University of Dschang	Cameroon, Africa	$5,000
VU	Giant Ground Pangolin	Smutsia gigantea	Vincent Opyene	Natural Resource Conservation Network (NRCN)	Uganda, Africa	$12,500
EN	Golden-rumped sengi	Rhynchocyon chrysopygus	Rael Nelly Nyanchama	Pwani University	Kenya, Africa	$3,730
CR	grey-shanked douc langur	Pygathrix cinerea	Minerva Singh	N/A	Vietnam, Asia	$6,000
EN	Hairy-nosed otter	Lutra sumatrana	Vanessa Herranz Muñoz	Centre for Biodiversity Conservation (CBC)	Cambodia, Asia	$11,225
CR	Hill’s horseshoe bat	Rhinolophus hilli	Michelle Vryn	Bat Conservation International	Rwanda, Africa	$9,184
EN	**Indian pangolin**	Manis Crassicaudata	Sandeep Shrestha	Kathmandu University	Nepal, Asia	$4,700
EN	**Irrawaddy dolphin**	Orcaella brevirostris	Sarah Tubbs	Marine Conservation Cambodia (MCC)	Cambodia, Asia	$12,000
CR	Kipunji	Rungwecebus Kipunji	Tim Davenport	Wildlife Conservation Society	Tanzania, Africa	$12,500
NT	Marbled cat	Pardofelis marmorata	Ganga Ram Regmi	Global Primate Network Nepal	Nepal, Asia	$7,500
EN	**Mittermeier's Sportive Lemur**	Lepilemur mittermeieri	Patrick Ranirison	FAMELONA	Madagascar, Africa	$12,500
CR	Namdapha Gliding Squirrel	Biswamoyopterus biswasi	Murali Krishna	Amity Institute of Forestry and WIldlife, Amity University, Noida, India	India, Asia	$5,825
CR	Niger Delta red colobus	Piliocolobus epieni	Rachel Ikemeh	SW/Niger Delta Forest Project	Nigeria, Africa	$10,000
VU	Nordmann's birch mouse	Sicista loriger	Mikhail Rusin	Schmalhausen Institute of Zoology	Ukraine, Europe	$4,623
CR	**Northern Muriqui**	Brachyteles hypoxanthus	Fabiano Melo	Viçosa Federal University	Brazil, South America	$8,000
VU	Northern tiger cat	Leopardus tigrinus	Tadeu de Oliveira	Instituto Pro-Carnívoros	Brazil, South America	$10,230
CR	Northern White-cheeked Gibbon	Nomascus leucogenys	Tung Bui	Center for Nature Conservation and Development (CCD)	Vietnam, Asia	$5,000
VU	**Nubian Ibex**	Capra nubiana	Filippo Zibordi	Istituto Oikos	Lebanon, Asia	$25,000

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
VU	**Oncilla**	Leopardus tigrinus oncilla	José Daniel Ramírez-Fernández	Costa Rica Wildlife Foundation	Costa Rica, North America	$5,000
CR	Panamanian Red spider monkey	Ateles geoffroyi panamensis	Pedro Mendez-Carvajal	FCPP	Panama, North America	$6,000
VU	Prinailurus viverrinus	Fishing Cat	Tiasa Adhya	St Xaviers College, University of Bombay	India, Asia	$12,920
EN	Red Colobus Monkey	Piliocolobus tephrosceles	Krista Milich	Washington University in St. Louis	Uganda, Africa	$12,500
EN	Red-bellied monkey	Cercopithecus erythrogaster erythrogaster	Georges HEDEGBETAN	Centre Régional de Recherche et d'éducation pour un Développement Intégré (CREDI)	Benin, Africa	$11,500
CR	Rondo Dwarf Galago	Galagoides rondoensis	Robert Modest	Sokoine University of Agriculture	Tanzania, Africa	$12,500
EN	Russian Desman	Desmana moschata	Samuel Turvey	Institute of Zoology, Zoological Society of London	Russia, Asia	$7,000
DD	Selangor Pygmy Flying Squirrel	Petaurillus kinlochii	Mohamad Nur Arifuddin Mad Yusof	Universiti Malaysia Kelantan	Malaysia, Asia	$12,500
EN	Sulawesi Spiny Rat	Echiothrix leucura	Kevin Rowe	Museums Victoria	Indonesia, Asia	$12,500
CR	Sunda pangolin	Manis javanica	Eileen Larney	Zoological Society of London	Thailand, Asia	$10,000
VU	**Udzungwa Red Colobus**	Piliocolobus gordonorum	Elizabeth Komba	Foundation for Environmental Conservation and Community Enhancement (FOECOE)	Tanzania, Africa	$7,000
VU	White-bellied Pangolin	Phataginus tricuspis	Anita Appiah-Adjei	N/A	Ghana, Africa	$6,000
EN	White-bellied Spider Monkey	Ateles belzebuth	Sara Álvarez Solas	Universidad Regional Amazonica Ikiam	Ecuador, South America	$12,500

PLANT

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
CR	Col de Juan Fernández	Dendroseris litoralis	Patricio López-Sepúlveda	Universidad de Concepción	Chile, South America	$8,000
EX	Cynometra beddomei	Cynometra beddomei	Jose Mathew	Sanatana Dharma College, Alappuzha, Kerala, India	India, Asia	$4,900
NE	Eugenia ochracea	Eugenia ochracea	Karinne Valdemarin	State University of Campinas	Brazil, South America	$5,000
CR	**Fairrie's Paphiopedilum**	Paphiopedilum fairrieanum	Sangay Tshewang	College of Natural Resources, Royal University of Bhutan. C/o Jigme Singye Wangchuck National Park,	Bhutan, Asia	$4,000
CR	**Gador's snapdragon**	Gadoria falukei	Jaime Güemes	Botanical Garden of the University of Valencia (Spain)	Spain, Europe	$11,500
EN	Gerbera hypochaeridoides	Gerbera hypochaeridoides	Marrino Falitiana RAKOTOARISOA	N/A	Madagascar, Africa	$4,500
CR	Hau kuahiwi	Hibiscadelphus distans	Ben Nyberg	National Tropical Botanical Garden	United States, North America	$9,500
EN	**Javan Paphiopedilum**	Paphiopedilum javanicum	Muhammad Arif Romadlon	Tanah Tinggi Highland Conservation	Indonesia, Asia	$4,815
EW	**MacDonald's Heath**	Erica turgida	Alex Lansdowne	Friends of Rondebosch Common & Betty Bowker Dwight Fund for Lowland Urban Conservation (NPO)	South Africa, Africa	$9,000
CR	Madagascar banana	Ensete perrieri	Tefy ANDRIAMIHAJARIVO	Missouri Botanical Garden	Madagascar, Africa	$8,000
CR	**Magnificent sundew**	Drosera magnifica	Paulo Minatel Gonella	N/A	Brazil, South America	$6,500
EN	Magnolia sulawesiana	Magnolia sulawesiana	Muhammad Fajri Ramadhan	Herbarium Celebense (CEB)	Indonesia, Asia	$8,500
CR	**Malabar River-lily**	Crinum malabaricum	Richard Lansdown	Ardeola Environmental Services	India, Asia	$9,000
CR	Nepenthes sumatrana	Nepenthes sumatrana	Muhammad Mansur	Indonesian Institute of Sciences	Indonesia, Asia	$10,000
NE	**Nereia lophocladia**	Nereia lophocladia	Lea Mamo	Southern Cross University	Australia, Oceania	$4,970
NE	**Ohai**	Sesbania tomentosa	Nicholas Farrant	North Shore Community Land Trust	United States, North America	$12,500
CR	**Parana Pine**	Araucaria angustifolia	Carl Gakran	AEIUFSC, CONJUVE, CEPIN	Brazil, South America	$12,000

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
NE	**Rhododendron retrorsipilum**	Rhododendron retrorsipilum	Noelia Alvarez de Roman	Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI)	Papua New Guinea, Oceania	$15,000
CR	St Helena Boxwood	Mellissis begoniifolia	Martina Peters	St Helena National Trust	Saint Helena, Africa	$12,500
EN	**Tepezmaite**	Ceratozamia morettii	Jorge Antonio Gomez Diaz	Universidad Veracruzana	Mexico, North America	$7,000
CR	Toothed-cone Cycad	Encephalartos pterogonus	David Roberts	Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology	Mozambique, Africa	$16,500

REPTILE

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
CR	**Aeolian wall lizard**	Podarcis raffoneae	Leonardo Vignoli	N/A	Italy, Europe	$18,650
CR	Asian Brown Tortoise	Manouria emys	Shailendra Singh	Turtle Survival Alliance-India (TSA-India)	India, Asia	$10,000
NE	Attenborough's fan-throated lizard	Sitana attenboroughii	Zeeshan Mirza	National Centre for Biological Sciences	India, Asia	$5,000
CR	**Dahl's Toad-headed Turtle**	Mesoclemmys dahli	ALCIDES CASIMIRO SAMPEDRO MARÍN	GREEN AND SOCIAL FUTURE FOUNDATION	Colombia, South America	$8,000
CR	Darevsky’s Viper	Vipera darevskii	Konrad Mebert	N/A	Turkey, Asia	$4,800
NE	**Earless monitor lizard**	Lanthanotus borneensis	Amat Ribut	N/A	Indonesia, Asia	$800
EX	Fernandina Giant tortoise	Chelonoidis Phantasticus	Adalgisa Caccone	Yale University	Ecuador, South America	$5,000
CR	Forsten's Tortoise	Indotestudo forstenii	Christine Light	Turtle Survival Alliance	Indonesia, Asia	$5,500
CR	Gialai Bent-toed Gecko	Cyrtodactylus gialaiensis	Vinh Quang Luu	Vietnam National University of Forestry	Vietnam, Asia	$7,300
CR	Guatemalan beaded lizard	Heloderma charlesbogerti	Brad Lock	Oklahoma City Zoological Society	Guatemala, North America	$3,750
VU	Home's Hinge-back Tortoise	Kinixys homeana	Victor Agyei	N/A	Ghana, Africa	$5,000
CR	Madagascar big-headed turtle	Erymnochelys madagascariensis	Leslie Wilmet	Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust	Madagascar, Africa	$9,500

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
VU	Nama Padloper	Chersobius (Homopus) solus	James Juvik	Turtle Conservancy	Namibia, Africa	$11,000
CR	Nguru spiny pigmy Chameleon	Rhampholeon acuminatus	shadia kilwanila	Sokoine University of Agriculture	Tanzania, Africa	$7,600
VU	**Pancake Tortoise**	Malacochersus tornieri	Day Ligon	Missouri State University Turtle Ecology Lab	Tanzania, Africa	$10,000
CR	**Rote Island Snake-necked Turtle**	Chelodina mccordi	Maslim As-singkily	Wildlife Conservation Society - Indonesia Program	Indonesia, Asia	$18,000
DD	**Tana Delta smooth snake**	Meizodon krameri	Ronnie Kimani	National Museums of Kenya	Kenya, Africa	$4,910
CR	**Tarzan chameleon**	Calumma tarzan	Alain Jean Victorien RAKOTONDRINA	MADAGASIKARA VOAKAJY	Madagascar, Africa	$8,000
CR	Turquoise Dwarf Gecko	Lygodactylus williamsi	Alfan Rija	Sokoine University of Agriculture	Tanzania, Africa	$7,600
CR	Union Island gecko (aka Grenadines clawed gecko)	Gonatodes daudini	Katrina Collins Coy	Union Island Environmental Attackers (UIEA)	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, North America	$13,900
CR	West African slender-snouted crocodile	Mecistops cataphractus	Emmanuel Amoah	Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology	Ghana, Africa	$7,300
CR	Yangtze giant softshell turtle	Rafetus swinhoei	Long Nguyen	Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Vietnam Program Office	Vietnam, Asia	$25,000

PARTNER PROJECTS

The MBZ Fund successfully executed the multi-year, multi-partner, $5.3m Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project on behalf of the Global Environment Facility and UNEP. The project represented the first coordinated global effort ever undertaken to conserve dugongs and their seagrass habitats.



THE DUGONG AND SEAGRASS CONSERVATION PROJECT

The Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project represented the first coordinated global effort ever undertaken to conserve dugongs and their seagrass habitats. Having supported 43 individual conservation initiatives in key countries across the globe that host populations of these charismatic marine mammals, the mission of the Project was to prevent the loss of dugongs and their seagrass habitats throughout the Indian and Pacific Ocean basins.

After four years of operation, the project was successfully completed in March 2019. This was partnership between the Mohammed Bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, the United Nations Environment Program, the Global Environment Facility and the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Dugongs and their Habitats throughout their Range (Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals).

Administered from Abu Dhabi, its 43 sub-projects were based in key dugong hotspots around the world: Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mozambique, the Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste and Vanuatu.

View website



A Dugong (Dugong dugon) swims in the Red Sea.



PHILANTHROPY

The MBZ Fund manages a portfolio of Abu Dhabi's philanthropic interests related to species conservation that extends across the world and different species.

Snow Leopard (Panthera uncia) male at night, Sarychat-Ertash Strict Nature Reserve, Tien Shan Mountains, eastern Kyrgyzstan

PANTHERA

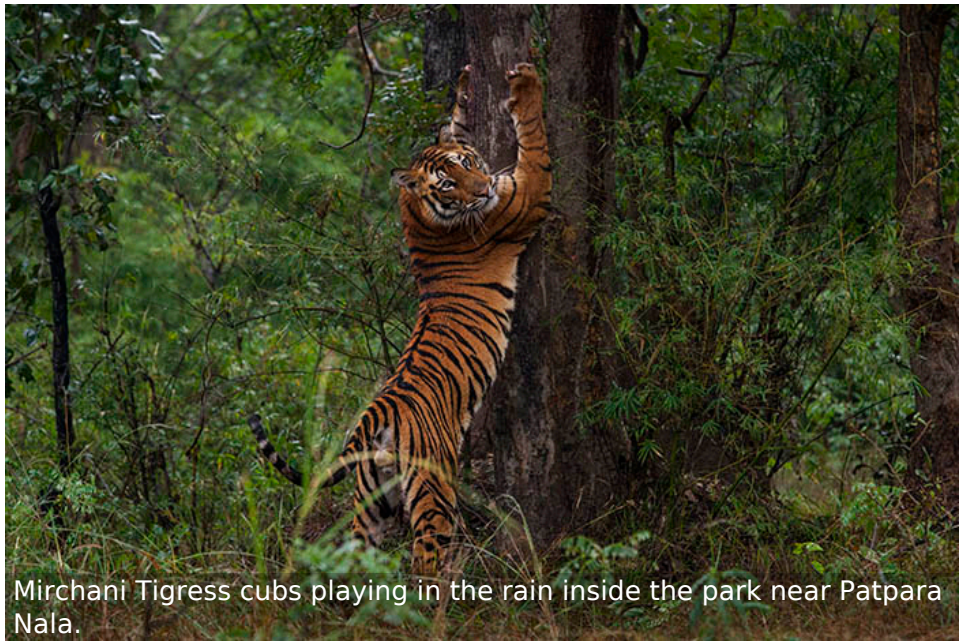
SUPPORTING PANTHERA AND GLOBAL WILD CAT CONSERVATION

Through its international partnerships, the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund seeks to support major efforts to ensure the wellbeing of species under threat across the globe. One such example is the Fund's strong and ongoing support for Panthera – the only organisation that is devoted exclusively to the conservation of the world's 40 wild cat species and their ecosystems.

Powered by the expertise of the world's premier cat biologists, Panthera develops and implements conservation strategies for large cats – including Cheetahs, Jaguars, Leopards, Lions, Pumas, Snow leopards and Tigers – as well as for the world's most threatened small cat species. Panthera's activities include the following major programmes.

Mapping the future of the Jaguar in the Americas
This bold, regionally-focused initiative will pave the way for further international cooperation and awareness regarding Jaguar protection initiatives.

Ending poaching in Africa
In southern Africa, Panthera has made great progress in reducing intensive poaching of Cheetahs, Leopards, Lions and their prey in Kafue National Park, Zambia, and Limpopo National Park, Mozambique. Panthera also supports anti-poaching efforts in Gabon's Batéké Plateau National Park.



Mirchani Tigress cubs playing in the rain inside the park near Patpara Nala.

Tigers on the rebound in South Asia
Thanks to intensive protection and innovative community programs initiated at Panthera's 'Tigers Forever' sites in India and Nepal, survey results released in 2018 showed that Tigers are bouncing back, providing hope for their recovery in other areas.

Saving Snow Leopards with Tourism in India
In Ladakh, northern India, Panthera works with the Snow Leopard Conservancy–India Trust to improve local livelihoods and transform the image of Snow leopards from livestock killers to valuable assets.

View website



FINANCIALS

The financial reporting of the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund focuses on the performance of its endowment, as well as the reporting of an independent auditor who ensures compliance with financial standards set by the government of Abu Dhabi.



View our 2019 Audited Financial Statement

ENDOWMENT



THE ENDOWMENT

The endowment of the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund was created in April 2009, with an initial allocation of $27.5m. Since then, it has been managed in such a way as to provide for the financial needs of the small grants programme in perpetuity.

The long-term objective of the endowment, as described in its Investment Policy Statement, is:

1. to make annual distributions for the benefit of species conservation, in accordance with the MBZ Fund’s spending rule;
2. to preserve the capital in US dollars over a 10-year time horizon; and, to the extent that these two objectives are met;
3. to grow the capital by having financial returns in excess of the distributions made.

It is worth noting that the Fund celebrated its first decade at the end of April 2019. The endowment's capital has risen from $27.5m (initial allocation) to $29.9m at the end of 2019, while $14.8m have been distributed in grants over the same period, achieving all three of the endowment's goals.

Distributions for 2019 were $1.5m but the last $0.5m were taken from the endowment bank account in January 2020, after the end of the reporting period.

The Fund's Investment Policy targets a long-term rate of return on assets of 5% net, measured in USD and using a total return approach (income as well as capital gains). Since inception, the annualised net performance of the endowment has been +4.7% (MW), approximately in line with the target.

At the end of 2018, a revised Investment Policy Statement came into force, with some changes in the strategic asset allocation (reduction in Equities and increase in Private Equity, introduction of Real Estate and of Private Debt, reduction of Microfinance). At the end of the year, the endowment was managed by Goldman Sachs, Banque Pictet, Oaktree Capital (Private Debt) and PGIM (Real Estate).

The endowment's capital has risen from $27.5m (initial allocation) to $29.9m at the end of 2019, while $14.8m have been distributed in grants over the same period

All categories of financial assets went up in 2019...In this context, the MBZ Fund portfolio delivered a net performance of +10.1% (MW).

MARKETS AND PERFORMANCE IN 2019

2019 was a great year for financial markets, as a number of downside risks that investors had feared would materialise were in fact avoided. In the end, 2019 didn't see a recession in the US or Europe, despite previous fears of a slowdown and an inversion in the US yield curve (2y vs 10y). There was no no-deal Brexit. And there was no intensification of the commercial war between the US and China (to the contrary, a phase-one trade deal was agreed between the two countries). As a result, all categories of financial assets went up in 2019, a stark contrast to 2018, when the vast majority suffered.

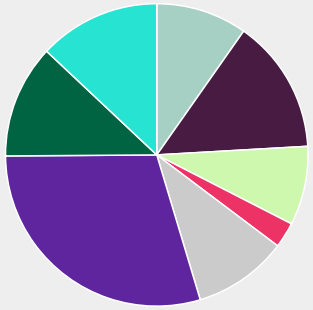
In this context, the MBZ Fund portfolio delivered a net performance of +10.1% (MW). The "traditional" portfolio (equities and fixed income) managed by Goldman Sachs delivered +14.8% while the "alternative" portfolio (private equity, private debt, hedge funds and real estate) mostly managed by Banque Pictet delivered +7.6%.

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEEDS FROM ENDOWMENT

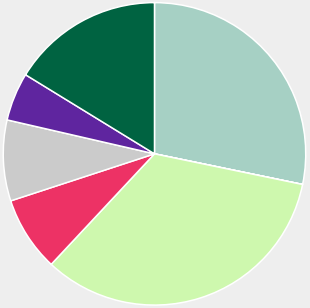
In 2019 the Fund supported 171 projects selected from 1,647 grant applications. The selected projects, located in 62 countries across six continents, shared $1,508,529 in funding. These projects covered 164 different species, 92 of which had not previously been supported by the Fund.

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS BY SPECIES TYPE



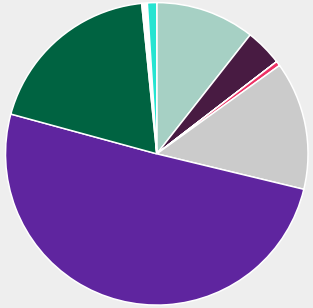
Amphibian	$147,533
Bird	$217,338
Fish	$127,770
Fungus	$41,500
Invertebrate	$152,824
Mammal	$447,269
Plant	$183,685
Reptile	$196,610

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS BY CONTINENT



Africa	$426,134
Antarctica	$0
Asia	$508,597
Europe	$120,763
North America	$130,285
Oceania	$77,720
South America	$245,030

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS BY IUCN RED LIST



Not Evaluated	$159,826
Data Deficient	$59,910
Least Concern	$0
Near Threatened	$7,500
Vulnerable	$206,721
Critically Endangered	$761,340
Endangered	$289,217
Extinct in the Wild	$9,000
Extinct	$15,015

The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund remains dedicated to fulfilling the vision of His Highness General Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to support species conservation efforts in all their forms across the globe. Inspired by this vision, and the dedication of the many conservationists, researchers and scientists working in the field to assess and protect our most vulnerable flora and fauna, the Fund is committed to preserving the extraordinary biodiversity of Earth for generations to come.

www.speciesconservation.org

MAILING ADDRESS:

The Mohamed bin Zayed Species
Conservation Fund
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Abu Dhabi
United Arab Emirates



Spotted Ground Thursh, Malawi