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

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

PANDEMIC PERSISTENCE

As Covid-19 gripped the world in 2021, the effects of the pandemic on conservation activities were made clear. Many grant recipients were unable to enter the field. Some conservation organizations continued to lose money because there were no ecotourists. It would take until the end of the year to restart conservation activities and even then conservation would not be the same.



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FOREWORD

Covid-19 held conservation in its grip for a second year. International and local travel was difficult. In many places access to the field was completely restricted. Prevention measures became more prevalent. The risk of exposure to the virus was still high and vaccines were not universal. People, conservationists included, fell ill and sometimes in alarming numbers. While some of our grant recipients persisted in their field activities, others focused to research, fund raising, grant writing, and professional development.

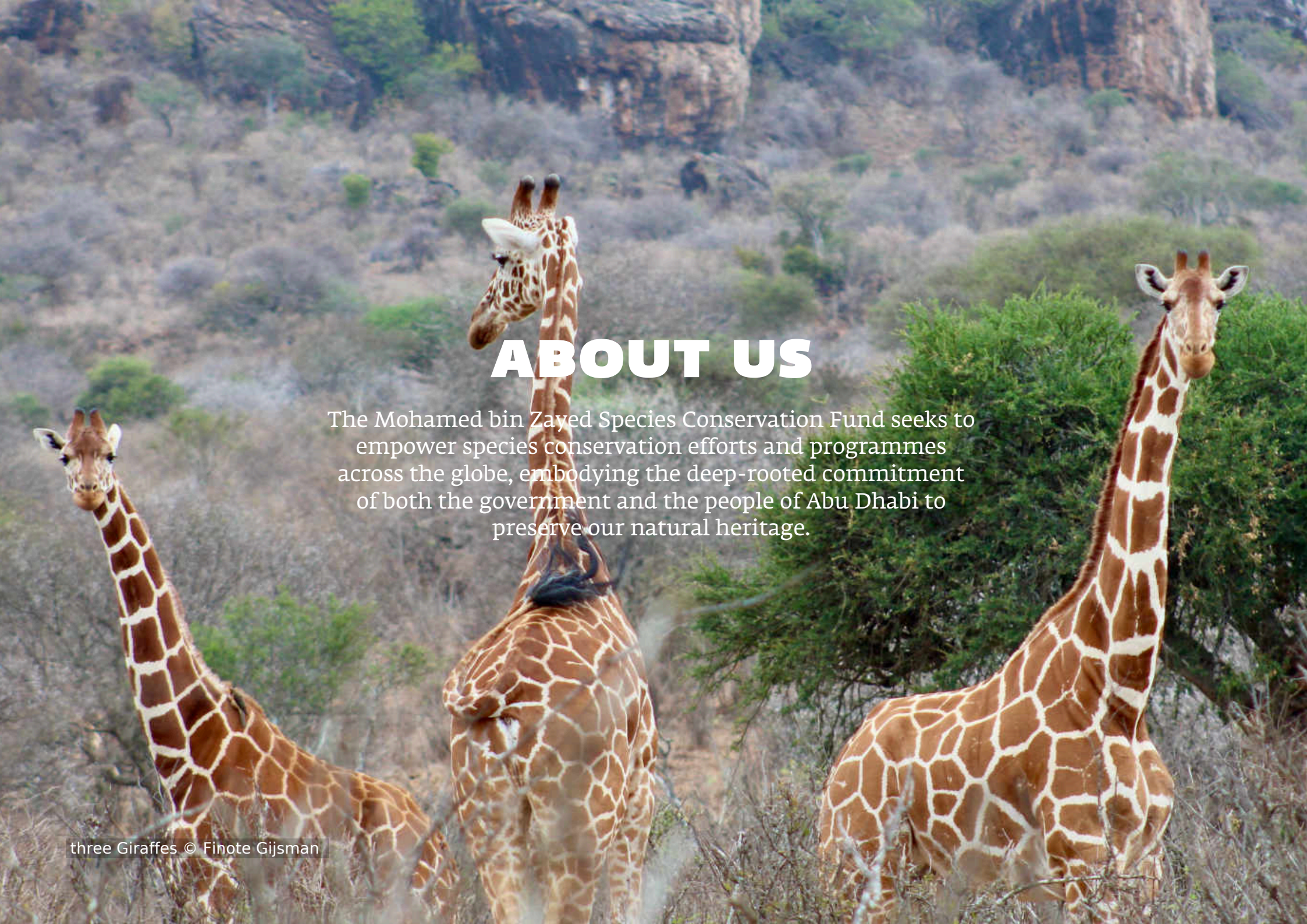
At the beginning of the pandemic, a survey of the MBZ Fund's small grant recipients revealed the difficulties conservationists faced. Conservation philanthropy required a different approach.

In 2020 and 2021, the MBZ Fund temporarily changed its course by helping small conservation organizations pay for core costs like rent, utilities, and salaries. In this report we highlight how the MBZ Fund *Covid-19 Relief Grants* provided respite from the punishing loss of revenue experienced by some of our cherished conservation organizations.

While the effects of the pandemic remain difficult, I continue to be impressed with the resilience of nature and the conservation organizations working so passionately to protect it. We now look forward to our small grants programme again providing financial support to direct species conservation action and stand ready with our many partners to continue playing an important role in helping conserve species worldwide.

RAZAN AL MUBARAK
MANAGING DIRECTOR





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 preserve our natural heritage.

three Giraffes © Finote Gijsman

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 place in the laboratory or in the office as conservation planning and analysis. 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. As such, the MBZ Fund provides grants that get people back into the field where conservation action can make a difference.



Leopardus geoffroyi (Bolivia) © Flavia Tirelli



Locals interacting with Campbell´s Alligator Lizard (Guatemala) © Foundation for the Endangered Species of Guatemala

HOW DID COVID-19 AFFECT THE FUND?

The effects of Covid-19 continued to be strongly felt globally in 2021 and most countries around the world had implemented measures to reduce its spread.

In April 2020, the MBZ Fund surveyed its grant recipients to understand the effects of the pandemic on conservationists. The survey found the pandemic had affected the ability of 83 percent of our grant recipients to conduct critical fieldwork. Many organizations reported a loss of revenue due to the shuttering of parks, zoos, and aquariums, as well as a decline in ecotourism.

As a relief measure, the MBZ Fund decided to temporarily switch its focus to supporting the core costs (rent, utilities, salaries) of conservation organizations. This change in focus would apply to two grant applications windows, including applications received between 1 July 2020 and 31 October 2020, as well as those received between 1 November 2020 and 28 February 2021. After this date, the MBZ Fund would go back to prioritizing funding for direct species conservation action.



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 projects worldwide. These small grants are as much for the species as they are for the conservationists and organizations working so passionately to protect them.

Hyperolius torrentis © Caleb Ofori-Boateng

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 Argentina to Vietnam, offering targeted support to enthusiastic conservationists and researchers in the field.

These intrepid individuals and organisations 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.













FANNING THE FLAMES OF CONSERVATION IN BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

The last chance of saving the population of Critically Endangered species Pinna nobilis Linnaeus, 1758

Scientific name: Pinna nobilis
Common name: Fan Mussel
Species type: Invertebrate
Country: Bosnia and Herzegovina
Website: https://reports.speciesconservation.org/ar-case-studies/fanning-the-flames-of-conservation-in-bosnia-herzegovina/



SUPPORTING ARMONIA-BOLIVIA AND ENDANGERED BIRDS

Supporting Armonia-Bolivia core operational costs to continue species conservation during COVID-19 limitations

Scientific name: Pauxi unicornis, Phibalura flavirostris and Ara rubrogenys
Common name: Horned Curassow, Palkachupa, and Red-fronted Macaw
Species type: Bird
Country: Bolivia
Website: https://reports.speciesconservation.org/ar-case-studies/supporting-armonia-bolivia-and-endangered-birds/



KEEPING JOCOTOCO IN FLIGHT

Overcoming financial constraints from COVID to rebuild unique clouds forest ecosystems of southwestern Ecuador.

Scientific name: Pyrrhura orcesi
Common name: El Oro Parakeet
Species type: Bird
Country: Ecuador
Website: https://reports.speciesconservation.org/ar-case-studies/keeping-jocotoco-in-flight/



KEEPING THIS MOUNTAIN FLOWER IN BLOOM

Habitat and population assessment of the rare, critically endangered and endemic Iris nusairiensis in the Syrian coastal mountains.

Scientific name: Iris nusairiensis
Common name: Nusair's mountain Iris
Species type: Plant
Country: Syria
Website: https://reports.speciesconservation.org/ar-case-studies/keeping-this-mountain-flower-in-bloom/



NOT CAVING INTO EXTINCTION

Protecting the rarest spider in the world and the unique animals with which it shares its home.

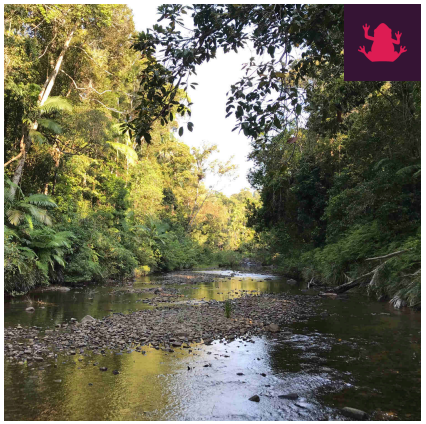
Scientific name: Liphistius Batuensis
Common name: Batu Cave Trapdoor Spider
Species type: Invertebrate
Country: Malaysia
Website: https://reports.speciesconservation.org/ar-case-studies/not-caving-in-to-extinction/



SEARCH FOR THE NORTHERN GASTRIC-BROODING FROG

Search for the Gastric-brooding Frog (Rheobatrachus vitellinus)

Scientific name: Rheobatrachus vitellinus
Common name: Northern gastric brooding frog
Species type: Amphibian
Country: Australia
Website: https://reports.speciesconservation.org/ar-case-studies/search-for-the-northern-gastric-brooding-frog/



SMALL GRANTS SUPPORTED 2021

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	Bocaina Big-tooth Frog	Phantasmarana bocainensis	Carla Lopes	Universidade Estadual Paulista	Brazil, South America	$5,000
EN	Goliath Frog	Conraua goliath	Geraud Canis Tasse Taboue	Environment and Communities Care Front	Cameroon, Africa	$17,500
EN	Goliath Frog	Conraua goliath	Samuel Hurley	Bristol Zoological Society	Equatorial Guinea, Africa	$14,347
EN	Harlequin Mantella Frog	Mantella cowanii	Rodlis Raphali Andriantsimanarilafy	Madagasikara Voakajy	Madagascar, Africa	$15,000
CR	Itatiaia Highland Frog	Holoaden bradei	Barbara Zaidan	Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais	Brazil, South America	$5,000
CR	Luchun Stream Toad	Bufo luchunnicus	Van Anh Pham	Faculty of Environmental Sciences, University of Science, Vietnam National University, Hanoi	Vietnam, Asia	$12,000
CR	**Moorland frog**	Atelopus pastuso	Leydi Beatriz Mendoza Camargo	CORPOFUVERDE CORPORATION	Colombia, South America	$10,000
CR	**Pico Blanco Tree Frog**	Isthmohyla pictipes	Wagner Chaves-Acuña	Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales "Bernardino Rivadavia" - CONICET	Costa Rica, North America	$4,000
CR	Steindachner's River Frog	Phrynobatrachus steindachneri	Ikechukwu Godwin Chinemerem	N/A	Nigeria, Africa	$11,500
CR	Togo slippery frog	Conraua derooi	Caleb Ofori-Boateng	Herp Conservation Ghana (Herp-Ghana)	Ghana, Africa	$22,000

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
EN	**Trench Robber Frog**	Pristimantis rubicundus	Alexander Bentley	Sumak Kawsay In Situ	Ecuador, South America	$5,400

BIRD

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
EN	Black-capped Petrel	Pterodroma hasitata	Ernst Rupp	Grupo Jaragua	Dominican Republic, North America	$5,000
CR	Blue-billed Curassow	Crax alberti	Sara Lara	Fundacion ProAves	Colombia, South America	$17,000
CR	**Cherry-throated tanager**	Nemosia rourei	Marcelo Renan Santos	Instituto Marcos Daniel	Brazil, South America	$10,000
EN	**El Oro Parakeet**	Pyrrhura orcesi	Wendy Willis	Fundación Jocotoco	Ecuador, South America	$15,000
CR	Fatu Hiva Monarch	Pomarea whitneyi	Thomas Ghestemme	Société d'Ornithologie de Polynésie (SOP)	French Polynesia, Oceania	$20,200
CR	Great Indian Bustard	Ardeotis nigriceps	Rakesh Kalva	Wildlife Research & Conservation Society	India, Asia	$4,900
EN	**Gundlach's Hawk**	Accipiter gundlachi	Nils Navarro Pacheco	N/A	Cuba, North America	$8,500
CR	Horned Curassow	Pauxi unicornis	Bennett Hennessey	Asociacion Armonia	Bolivia, South America	$15,000
CR	**Indian long-billed vulture**	Gyps indicus	Vinaykamal Dethe	MVP'S Arts, Science and Commerce College, Ozar (Mig), NASHIK, India	India, Asia	$5,000
CR	**Jerdon's Courser**	Rhinoptilus bitorquatus	Panchapakesan Jeganathan	Nature Conservation Foundation	India, Asia	$14,100
EN	Palkachupa Cotinga	Phibalura boliviana	Tjalle Boorsma	Asociación Armonia	Bolivia, South America	$15,340
EN	**Red Siskin**	Spinus cucullatus	Maria Cedeno	Provita	Venezuela, South America	$13,442
CR	Red-fronted Macaw	Ara rubrogenys	Tjalle Boorsma	Asociación Armonia	Bolivia, South America	$10,000
EN	**Santa Cruz Ground Dove**	Alopecoenas sanctaecrucis	Allan Taman	Santo Sunset Environment Network	Vanuatu, Oceania	$24,000
CR	**Sinu Parakeet**	Pyrrhura subandina	Fabio David Cuello Mercado	FUVERDE CORPORATION	Colombia, South America	$6,000
CR	**Ultramarine lorikeet**	Vini ultramarina	Caroline Blanvillain	Société d'Ornithologie de Polynésie	French Polynesia, Oceania	$13,718

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
CR	White-backed Vulture	Gyps africanus	Gareth Tate	Endangered Wildlife Trust	South Africa, Africa	$21,754

FISH

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
CR	Asprete	Romanichthys valsanicola	Alex Găvan	Alex Găvan Foundation	Romania, Europe	$16,100
EN	Barrens Topminnow	Fundulus julisia	Bernard Kuhajda	Tennessee Aquarium	United States, North America	$15,000
EN	**Bombon sardine**	Sardinella tawilis	Jord Earving Gadingan	Sa Ngalan ng Lawa	Philippines, Asia	$4,300
EN	**Clanwilliam sandfish**	Labeo seeberi	Jeremy Shelton	Freshwater Research Centre (FRC)	South Africa, Africa	$12,500
CR	Grreat hammerhead	Sphyrna mokarran	Rachel Graham	MarAlliance	Belize, North America	$15,250
CR	Largetooth Sawfish	Pristis Pristis	Kerstin Forsberg	Planeta Océano	Peru, South America	$13,000
DD	Mahseer	Tor tambra	Ahmad Murysid	N/A	Indonesia, Asia	$5,000
CR	Singidia tilapia	Oreochromis esculentus	Obedi Nsubuga	HOPE FOR NATURE	Uganda, Africa	$9,000
CR	Toothcarp	Aphanius almiriensis	Ieremias Chousids	University of Ioannina	Greece, Europe	$14,500
NE	**Tucacas killifish**	Austrofundulus leohoignei	Douglas Rodríguez Olarte	Regional Fish Collection. Universidad Centroccidental Lisandro Alvarado. UCLA	Venezuela, South America	$8,300
EN	Whitespotted eagle ray	Aetobatus narinari	Thamíris Karlovic	Oceanographic Institute of the University of São Paulo	Brazil, South America	$7,000
CR	Zebra Obliquidens	Haplochromis latifasciatus	Okalo Paul	Teso Women Development Enterprise Ltd	Uganda, Africa	$13,000

FUNGI

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
EN	Gastroboletus valdivianus	Gastroboletus valdivianus	Daniela Torres	Fundación Fungi	Chile, South America	$21,000
EN	Loyo	Butyriboletus loyo	Giuliana Furci	The Fungi Foundation	Chile, South America	$15,000
VU	Orchard Tooth	Sarcodontia crocea	Arsen Gasparyan	Armenian Society of Biologists NGO	Armenia, Asia	$4,968
CR	Stinking milk-cap	Lactarius foetens	Souand Peace Gloria Tahi	The Laboratoire de Biomathématique et d'Estimations Forestières (LABEF)	Benin, Africa	$10,000

INVERTEBRATE

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
NE	Batu Cave Trapdoor Spider	Liphistius Batuensis	Zarris Kem	Malaysian Cave and Karst Conservancy (Treasurer)	Malaysia, Asia	$5,000
EX	Campbell's Keeled Glass-snail	Advena campbelli	Isabel Hyman	Australian Museum Research Institute	Australia, Oceania	$22,111
NE	**Dung Beetles**	Coleoptera: Scarabaeoidea	Finote Gijsman	Princeton University	Kenya, Africa	$11,000
CR	Fan mussel	PInna nobilis	Adla Kahrić	Center for marine and freshwater biology Sharklab ADRIA	Bosnia and Herzegovina, Europe	$5,000
CR	**Fan mussel**	Pinna nobilis	Valentina Fossati	Enalia Physis Environmental Research Center	Cyprus, Europe	$11,000
NE	Fireflies	Lampyridae	Pratistha Shrestha	N/A	Nepal, Asia	$5,000
DD	**Fresh water crab**	Pseudothelphusa morelosis	Edgard David Mason Romo	Unfunded Posdoc at Mexico National Autonomous University	Mexico, North America	$14,500
NE	**Giant green African millipede**	Spirostreptus crenulatus	Armand Richard Nzoko Fiemapong	Laboratory of Zoology, University of Yaounde 1	Cameroon, Africa	$5,000
EN	**Giant Patagonian bumblebee**	Bombus dahlbomii	Carolina Laura Morales	Grupo Ecologia de la Polinizacion INIBIOMA, Universidad Nacional del Comahue-CONICET	Argentina, South America	$5,000
CR	Grasshopper	Pyrgacris relictus	Nicolas Zuel	Ebony Forest	Mauritius, Africa	$4,955

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
NE	Grey aposematic grasshopper	Parapetasia femorata	Jeanne Agrippine Yetchom Fondjo	Zoology Research Unit, Laboratory of Biology of Animal Organisms, University of Douala, Cameroon	Cameroon, Africa	$5,100
NE	Javan Jewel	Rhinocypha heterostigma	Diagal Wisnu Pamungkas	Indonesia Dragonfly Society	Indonesia, Asia	$5,500
EN	**Lila Downs' Friar Grasshopper**	Liladownsia fraile	Ricardo Marino-Perez	University of Michigan	Mexico, North America	$3,300
NE	Mulanje Tiger Moth	Callioratis grandis	Carl Bruessow	Mulanje Mountain Conservation Trust (MMCT)	Malawi, Africa	$14,500
NE	Neorthacris acuticeps acuticeps	Neorthacris acuticeps acuticeps	DHANEESH BHASKAR	IUCN SSC Grasshopper Specialist Group	India, Asia	$15,000
VU	**Paposo snail**	Chilina angusta	Claudio Valdovinos	University of Concepcion	Chile, South America	$8,000
EN	**Parambikulam large burrowing spider**	Haploclastus kayi	ASWATHY S	NIL	India, Asia	$5,000
NE	polyesters bees	Zikanapis zikani	Renan Kobal de Oliveira Cardoso	Bee Laboratory of the University of São Paulo	Brazil, South America	$2,249
NE	**Sunda Grappletail**	Heliogomphus drescheri	Diagal Wisnu Pamungkas	Indonesia Dragonfly Society	Indonesia, Asia	$11,500
CR	**Wolkberg Zulu**	Alaena margaritacea	Ian Little	Endangered Wildlife Trust	South Africa, Africa	$13,500

MAMMAL

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
VU	African Golden Cat	Caracal aurata	Sarah Omusula	N/A	Kenya, Africa	$4,750
VU	**African golden cat**	Caracal aurata	Emanuel Martin	College of African Wildlife Management, Mweka	Tanzania, Africa	$5,000
VU	African golden cat	Caracal aurata	Rodrigue Batumike	Research Action for Conservation and Development (RACOD)	Congo, Democratic Republic of (Congo-Kinshasa), Africa	$4,845
VU	African golden cat	Caracal aurata	Emmanuel Akampurira	EMBAKA	Uganda, Africa	$4,990
VU	**African golden cat**	Caracal aurata	Imran Ejotre	Muni University	South Sudan, Africa	$5,000

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
EN	**Asian elephant**	Elephas maximus	Sathya Chandra Sagar Halehalli Sathyanarayana	Sound Forest Lab, Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology, University of Wisconsin - Madison	India, Asia	$12,000
CR	Attenborough's long-beaked echidna	Zaglossus attenboroughi	M Khairul Ikhwan	Yayasan Kolaborasi Inklusi Konservasi (KONKLUSI)	Indonesia, Asia	$5,000
EN	**Baird's tapir**	Tapirus bairdii	Francis Ernestina Castro González	Bluefields Indian and Caribbean University	Nicaragua, North America	$12,500
CR	Black-faced Lion Tamarin	Leontopithecus caissara	Elenise Angelotti Bastos Sipinski	Wildlife Research and Environmental Education Society (SPVS)	Brazil, South America	$10,000
CR	**blond titi monkey**	Callicebus barbarabrownae	André Alonso	N/A	Brazil, South America	$12,000
CR	**Blond titi monkey**	Callicebus barbarabrownae	André Alonso	N/A	Brazil, South America	$8,000
EN	Bornean Bay Cat	Catopuma badia	Gabriella Fredriksson	Yayasan Pro Natura	Indonesia, Asia	$15,000
CR	Bornean orang-utan	Pongo pygmeus morio	Marc Ancrenaz	HUTAN	Malaysia, Asia	$23,050
CR	Brown-headed spider monkey	Ateles fusciceps fusciceps	Felipe Alfonso-Cortes	Fundación Naturaleza y Arte / Proyecto Washu	Ecuador, South America	$15,000
CR	**Caquetá titi monkey**	Plecturocebus caquetensis	Johana Villota	Asociacion Salvemos Selva and Piamonte Biodiverso	Colombia, South America	$13,500
VU	Cheetah	Acinonyx jubatus	Günther Wirth	Heritage Somaliland	Somaliland, Africa	$5,000
VU	**Chinese mountain cat**	Felis bieti	Yueqiao Kong	Peking University	China, Asia	$5,000
VU	Clouded leopard	Neofelis nebulosa	Purna Bahadur Ale	Clouded Leopard Working Group (CLWG)	Nepal, Asia	$5,000
VU	Clouded leopard	Neofelis nebulosa	Kinley Tenzin	Clouded Leopard Working Group (CLWG)	Bhutan, Asia	$6,400
DD	East Sumatran Banded Langur	Presbytis femoralis percura	Rahmat Hidayat	Wildlife Observer Community	Indonesia, Asia	$5,320
EN	Eastern Quoll	Dasyurus viverrinus	David Hamilton	Tasmanian Land Conservancy	Australia, Oceania	$10,000
EN	Eld's deer	Rucervus eldi thamin	Khine Khine Swe	Friends of Wildlife (FOW)	Myanmar (Burma), Asia	$10,000
VU	Fishing Cat	Prionailurus viverrinus	Anya Ratnayaka	Small Cat Advocacy and Research	Sri Lanka, Asia	$10,000

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
VU	Fishing Cat	Prionailurus viverrinus	Murthy Kantimahanti	Eastern Ghats Wildlife Society	India, Asia	$5,000
EN	Flat-headed cat	Prionailurus planiceps	Rahmat Hidayat	Wildlife Observer Community	Indonesia, Asia	$6,800
LC	Geoffroy's cat	Leopardus geoffroyi	Flávia Pereira Tirelli	Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul	Brazil, South America	$5,000
EN	Giant pangolin	Smutsia gigantea	Valery Binda Aghah	Agriculture and Bio-conservation Organization for Youth Empowerment and Rural Development (ABOYERD)	Cameroon, Africa	$10,000
EN	Golden langur	Trachypithecus geei	Dilip Chetry	Aaranyak	India, Asia	$10,000
CR	Hill's Horseshoe Bat	Rhinolophus hilli Aellen	Mylea Bayless	Bat Conservation International	Rwanda, Africa	$9,000
EN	**Huemul deer**	Hippocamelus bisulcus	Cristian Saucedo	Rewilding Chile	Chile, South America	$11,000
EN	Lang's red colobus	Piliocolobus langi	Claude Mande	Centre de Surveillance de la Biodiversité	Congo, Democratic Republic of (Congo-Kinshasa), Africa	$12,925
NT	Marbled cat	Pardofelis marmorata	Ganga Ram Regmi	Third Pole Conservancy	Nepal, Asia	$15,500
VU	Marbled Cat	Pardofelis marmorata	Giridhar Malla	N/A	India, Asia	$8,500
NT	**Margay**	Leopardus weiidi	Mariam Weston Flores	Ocelot Working Group	Mexico, North America	$4,902
CR	**Mountain Bongo**	Tragelaphus eurycerus isaaci	Martin Mwangi	Friends of Kinangop Plateau	Kenya, Africa	$10,000
EN	**Mountain nyala**	Tragelaphus buxtoni	Peyton West	Frankfurt Zoological Society - U.S.	Ethiopia, Africa	$13,000
CR	Northern muriqui	Brachyteles hypoxanthus	Fabiano Rodrigues de Melo	Viçosa Federal University	Brazil, South America	$10,000
VU	Oncilla	Leopardus tigrinus oncilla	José Daniel Ramírez-Fernández	Costa Rica Wildlife Foundation	Costa Rica, North America	$12,000
EN	**Pilar tuco-tuco**	Ctenomys pilarensis	Rebecca Smith	Fundación Para La Tierra	Paraguay, South America	$10,000
EN	Red Colobus Monkey	Piliocolobus tephrosceles	Richard Busobozi	Conservation to Coexist	Uganda, Africa	$15,310
CR	Rondo Dwarf Galago	Galagoides rondoensis	Robert Modest	Sokoine University of Agriculture	Tanzania, Africa	$13,000
EN	Russian desman	Desmana moschata	Alina Mishta	I. I. Schmalhausen Institute of Zoology National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine	Ukraine, Europe	$7,162

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
EN	Sclater's monkey	Cercopithecus sclateri	Lynne Baker	Institute for Development, Ecology, Conservation, and Cooperation	Nigeria, Africa	$12,000
CR	Sunda Pangolin	Manis javanica	Tiffany Chen	Rescue and Conservation of Species Center	Vietnam, Asia	$3,678
EN	Takhi	Equus przewalskii	Dashpurev Tserendeleg	Hustai National Park Trust	Mongolia, Asia	$13,000
EN	**Togean Islands babirusa**	Babyrousa togeanensis	Agus Jati	Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Conservation Biology, University of Maine	Indonesia, Asia	$8,000
CR	Western Chimpanzee	Pan troglodytes verus	Itai Roffman	Roots & Shoots Mali/Israel and the Max Stern Yezreel Valley College, Israel	Mali, Africa	$12,000

PLANT

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
CR	**Bertram's ragwort**	Senecio bertramii	Hicham El Zein	Wadi ez-Zouhour	Lebanon, Asia	$5,000
CR	**Consolida samia**	Consolida samia	Costas Thanos	NKUA Seed Bank, National & Kapodistrian University of Athens	Greece, Europe	$10,000
EN	Cordeauxia edulis	Cordeauxia edulis	Tahir Abdela	Ethiopian biodiversity institute	Ethiopia, Africa	$5,000
NE	Croton kinondoensis	Croton kinondoensis	Veronicah Ngumbau	National Museums of Kenya	Kenya, Africa	$10,000
CR	**Crown Wand Orchid**	Paphiopedilum fairrieanum	Phub Gyeltshen	Bumthang Forest Division, Department of Forest and Park Services	Bhutan, Asia	$5,000
EN	**Drepanolejeunea bakeri**	Drepanolejeunea bakeri	Eugene Lorence Logatoc	N/A	Philippines, Asia	$5,000
CR	Elim Conebush	Leucadendron elimense	Philippa Murray	Grootbos Green Futures Foundation	South Africa, Africa	$15,000
CR	Euphorbia tanaensis	Euphorbia tanaensis	Henry Komu	Kenya Forestry Research Institute	Kenya, Africa	$5,000
VU	Faqou'a Iris	Iris haynei	Imad Al Atrash	Palestine Wildlife Society	Palestinian territories, Asia	$14,000
EN	**Gabal Elba Dragon tree**	Dracaena ombet	Tesfay Gidey Bezabeh	Adigrat University, Ethiopia	Ethiopia, Africa	$5,000

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
CR	Jueirana-facão	Dinizia jueirana-facao	Alison Nazareno	Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais	Brazil, South America	$5,500
NE	Kamiesberg Indigo	Indigofera limosa	Brian du Preez	University of cape Town	South Africa, Africa	$5,000
CR	**Magnificent sundew**	Drosera magnifica	Paulo Minatel Gonella	Universidade Federal de São João del-Rei	Brazil, South America	$5,000
CR	Malabar Water Lily	Crinum malabaricum	Latha Devi Ravikumar	Zoo Outreach Organization	India, Asia	$25,000
CR	Mar Menor asparagus	Asparagus macrorrhizus	Carmen María Martínez Saura	ANSE (Asociación de Naturalistas del Sureste - Southeastern Naturalist Association)	Spain, Europe	$15,000
CR	**Milafu**	Boswellia ogadensis	Stephen Johnson	N/A	Ethiopia, Africa	$4,915
CR	Montserrat orchid	Epidendrum montserratense	Sarita Francis	Montserrat National Trust	Montserrat, North America	$15,000
CR	Mozambique false rose-apple	Warneckea sessilicarpa	Alice Massingue	Eduardo Mondlane University, Faculty of Science, Department of Biological Sciences	Mozambique, Africa	$15,000
CR	**Nusair's mountain Iris**	Iris nusairiensis	Angham Daiyoub	CREAF	Syria, Asia	$10,000
NE	**Phyllanthus gladiatus**	Phyllanthus gladiatus	Priscila Orlandini	University of Campinas	Brazil, South America	$5,000
EN	**Roble criollo, oak**	Amburana cearensis	Daniela Paola Limache de la Fuente	BluoVerda e.V	Bolivia, South America	$10,000
NE	**welwitschia**	Welwitschia mirabilis	Pierluigi Bombi	National Research Council of Italy - Institute of Research on Terrestrial Ecosystems	Namibia, Africa	$13,000
CR	Withania chevalieri	Withania chevalieri	Albert Taxonera Amoros	Associação Projeto Biodiversidade	Cape Verde, Africa	$15,000

REPTILE

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
CR	Asian Giant Tortoise	Manouria emys phayrei	Shahriar Caesar Rahman	Turtle Survival Alliance	Bangladesh, Asia	$14,800
CR	Black-eyed bent-toed gecko	Cyrtodactylus nigriocularis	Quyen Do	Institute of of Ecology and Biological Resources, Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology	Vietnam, Asia	$4,980
CR	**Central American River Turtle**	Dermatemys mawii	Day Ligon	Missouri State University	Belize, North America	$7,040
CR	**Darevsky's Viper**	Vipera darevskii	Konrad Mebert	Institute of Development, Ecology, Conservation and Cooperation	Turkey, Asia	$4,960
CR	Elongated Tortoise	Indotestudo elongata	Shyam Kumar Pun	Nepal Biodiversity Research and Conservation Centre	Nepal, Asia	$15,000
CR	**Emirati Leaf-toed Gecko**	Asaccus caudivolvulus	Salvador Carranza	Institute of Evolutionary Biology (CSIC-UPF)	United Arab Emirates, Asia	$9,000
CR	Gharial	Gavialis gangeticus	Mina Shrestha	N/A	Nepal, Asia	$4,900
CR	Godagedara’s Day Gecko	Cnemaspis godagedarai	Suranjan Karunarathna	Nature Exploration & Education Team	Sri Lanka, Asia	$7,410
EN	Green Turtle	Chelonia mydas	Trokon Saykpa	Sea Turtle Watch, Liberia	Liberia, Africa	$15,000
NE	**Guatemalan Beaded lizard**	Heloderma charlesbogerti	Brad Lock	Oklahoma City Zoological Society	Guatemala, North America	$9,000
CR	Home's hingeback tortoise	Kinixys homeana	Fabio Petrozzi	N/A	Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), Africa	$15,000
CR	**Jararaca da Ilha dos Franceses**	Bothrops sazimai	Jane Oliveira	Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro	Brazil, South America	$10,000
CR	Pancake tortoise	Malacochersus tornieri	Jacob Mueti Ngwava	National Museums of Kenya	Kenya, Africa	$25,000
CR	Pancake Tortoise	Malacochersus tornieri	Dominic Maringa	Lewa Wildlife Conservancy	Kenya, Africa	$9,000
CR	swinhoe's softshell turtle	Rafetus swinhoei	Charlotte Ducotterd	Turtle Sanctuary	Vietnam, Asia	$14,000
CR	Utila Spiny-tailed Iguana	Ctenosaura bakeri	Tom Brown	Kanahau Utila Research & Conservation Facility, Isla de Utila, Honduras	Honduras, North America	$16,460

PARTNER PROJECTS

Mubadala Investment Company, the Abu Dhabi-based sovereign investor, entered a three-year partnership with the MBZ Fund to support conservation initiatives around the world. Through the partnership, Mubadala Investment Company will provide the MBZ Fund with US $1.5 million annually to be directed towards supporting endangered flora and fauna in Africa, Asia and South America.



Bar-tailed Godwit (Thailand) © Bird Conservation Society of Thailand

MUBADALA INVESTMENT COMPANY GRANTS

MUBADALA

LARGE PROJECTS, SPONSORED BY MUBADALA

Mubadala Investment Company, the Abu Dhabi-based sovereign investor, has entered a three-year partnership with the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund (MBZ Fund) to support conservation initiatives around the world. Through the partnership, Mubadala Investment Company will provide the MBZ Fund with US $1.5 million annually to be directed towards supporting endangered flora and fauna in Africa, Asia and South America; particularly in countries where Mubadala Investment Company has portfolio companies including Colombia, Guinea, Indonesia, Thailand – representing some of the world's biodiversity hotspots.

These grants, while larger in scope and longer in duration than the traditional MBZ Fund small grants programme, complement the MBZ Fund's already significant support for species conservation globally, and the Fund's policy of supporting hands-on, field conservation activities. These "Mubadala Grants" are implemented by our trusted and experienced local conservation partners, supported by Mubadala and its assets, and managed by the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund. All the partners in this effort are dedicated to conserving the species that form the building blocks of life on earth and by applying their passions for conservation will help turn the tides against the extinction crisis.

View website



Greater Crested Tern (Thailand)© Bird Conservation Society of Thailand

LARGE PROJECT STORIES 2021



LARGE PROJECTS IN COLOMBIA 2021

From forests to rivers: Finding some of Colombia's most endangered species

Colombia’s environment encompasses a rich complexity of ecological, climatic, biological and ecosystem components. The forested slopes of the Andes support incredible biodiversity and are important not only for the country’s natural heritage but also in preserving some of the world’s unique species.

View Full Story

LARGE PROJECTS IN GUINEA 2021

Mitigating threats to the African manatee, Atlantic humpback dolphin and marine turtles

The west African country of Guinea is characterised by sandy beaches, vast plains and lush mangrove forests rich in endemic and endangered species. It has one of the most dynamic coastal areas in the sub-region and has a highly productive marine ecosystem.

View Full Story





LARGE PROJECTS IN THAILAND 2021

From stream to shore: Conservation of riverine species and wintering shorebirds

The Southeast Asian country of Thailand is a key location for biodiversity given its range of climates, varied topography, and long coastlines. Almost 20% of its land area and five percent of its total marine coastal area are protected and critically important to species conservation.

View Full Story

LARGE PROJECTS IN INDONESIA 2021

From forest to coast: Conserving Indonesia's threatened felids and sea turtles

Indonesia spreads across almost 18,000 islands. Whilst these only represent one percent of the world’s land area, remarkably their rainforests are home to 10 percent of the world’s known plant species, 12 percent of all mammal species and 17 percent of all known bird species.

View Full Story



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.



Lions at dusk (Namibia) © Paul Funston/Panthera

PANTHERA

Founded in 2006, Panthera is devoted to the conservation of the world's 40 species of wild cats and the vast ecosystems they inhabit. Our team of biologists, data scientists, law enforcement experts and wild cat advocates studies and protects the seven species of big cats: cheetahs, jaguars, leopards, lions, pumas, snow leopards and tigers. Panthera also creates targeted conservation strategies for the world's most threatened and overlooked small cats.

Using the expertise of the world's premier cat biologists, Panthera develops and implements global strategies for the seven species of big cats: cheetahs, leopards, jaguars, lions, pumas (also known as mountain lions or cougars), snow leopards and tigers. Panthera also studies and protects the world's most threatened species of small cats through our Small Cats Program.

Representing the most comprehensive effort of its kind, Panthera partners with local and international NGOs, scientific institutions, local communities and governments around the globe and citizens who want to help ensure a future for wild cats. Panthera and their partners have measurably stopped or reversed cat decline at sites around the globe.

Accomplishments include:

- Building the **Tigers Forever** Protocol, which has helped tiger populations rebound in key sites across India and Nepal and is turning the tide against poachers in Southeast Asia.
- Spearheading the Jaguar Corridor Initiative to protect critical



Puma cubs © Mark Elbroch/Panthera

jaguar habitat across 18 countries and keep jaguar populations connected (and genetically diverse) from northern Mexico to northern Argentina.
- Advancing wildlife technology with our revolutionary **PoacherCams** that help to catch poachers in real-time.
- Forging an extraordinary alliance between **six Indigenous tribes** and state and national government agencies to preserve pumas and bobcats in Washington State.
- Formulating a comprehensive strategy to study and conserve the **33 species of small cats.**

Our impact can also be measured by the growth of other local wildlife species, the economic opportunities and benefits our projects provide to local communities, the reduction of incidents of crime and wildlife part trafficking in and around protected areas and the number of people who join our movement. Protecting cats provides a host of ecosystem and community benefits, from the maintenance of key watersheds to the creation of ecosystem industry jobs.

View website


Female Puma Charlotte (United States) © Mark Elbroch/Panthera



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.

Sunset over the Wetland Complex (Paraguay) © Para La Tierra

ENDOWMENT


parrot snake (Paraguay) © Para La Tierra

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.

The endowment’s capital has risen from $27.5m (initial allocation) to $33.0m at the end of 2021, while $18.3m have been distributed in grants over the same period, achieving all three of the endowment’s goals. Distributions for 2021 were actually $1.5m but at the beginning of the reporting period, there were $0.1m of withdrawals linked to 2020.

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 +5.7% (MW), slightly above the target. Over the last five years, it has been +7.3% (MW), significantly above the target.

During the course of 2021, the last Private Debt investment was liquidated (Q1), and the same goes for Microfinance (Q4). The Investment Policy has passed the 3-year mark and the world has massively changed (Covid pandemic and its consequences for governments, corporations and households), a revision will take place in early 2022. At the end of the year, the endowment was managed by Goldman Sachs, Banque Pictet and PGIM (Real Estate).


Pseudothelphusa morelosis (Mexico) © Edgard D. Mason-Romo



Bird Surveys © Allan Taman

MARKETS AND PERFORMANCE IN 2020

2021 was an eventful year in markets, dominated by a number of themes including higher-than-expected inflation and the persistence of the Covid-19 pandemic. However, unlike the previous 5 years when there was generally a uniform move higher or lower among financial assets, 2021 showed a very strong dispersion of returns, with roughly half the types of financial assets moving higher, whilst the other half lost ground. Among the major assets, the best performers of the year were Oil and Developed Markets Equities, with double-digit performances. At the other end of the spectrum, Sovereign Bonds and Emerging Markets assets ended up significantly in the red.

In this context, the MBZ Fund portfolio delivered a net performance of +11.4% (MW). The “traditional” portfolio (equities and fixed income) managed by Goldman Sachs delivered +6.4% while the “alternative” portfolio (private equity, private debt, hedge funds and real estate) mostly managed by Banque Pictet delivered a provisional +17.1%.

THE FUTURE: 2022 AND BEYOND

As mentioned, the Investment Policy Statement of the Fund will be reviewed in early 2022. Among other points, the Private Equity weight will probably be increased, to cater for the strong increase of the endowment PE value, while the Fixed Income overall weights will probably be decreased.

We are experiencing what could prove to be a historical change of regime, after 35-40 years of falling interest rates and tamed inflation (the “Great Moderation”). In the short term, high prices for energy and food, persistent supply chain disruptions, sustained demand and rising wages could fuel persistent high core inflation in 2022. Looking further down the road, the energy transition phase may bring a protracted period of higher inflation, the energy bill rising with the combination of insufficient production capacity of renewable energies in the short run, subdued investments in fossil fuels and rising carbon prices. Gas prices are a case in point. But it goes beyond just energy commodities, with the importance of materials such as copper, lithium and nickel to the clean energy transition.



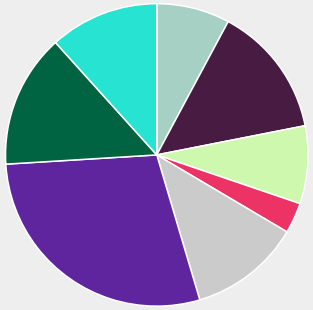
A Whistling Hero (Paraguay) © Para La Tierra

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEEDS

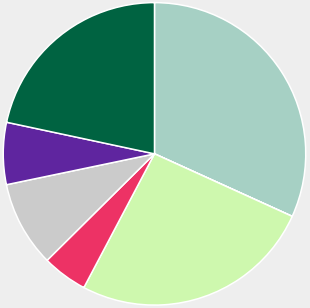
In 2021 the Fund supported 151 projects selected from 1,530 grant applications. There were fewer grants awarded in 2021 compared to years past because the first round of grant-giving in 2021 was dedicated to our Covid-19 Relief Grants which were designed to help conservation organizations pay for core costs (salary, utilities, rent, etc.). The average amount awarded to Covid-19 Relief Grants in 2021 was $14,367 compared to $9,056 on average for non-Convid-19 Relief Grants in the two subsequent rounds of grant-giving in 2021.

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS BY SPECIES TYPE



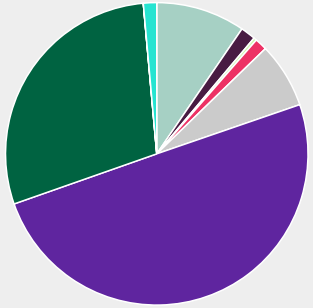
Amphibian	$121,747
Bird	$218,954
Fish	$129,350
Fungus	$50,968
Invertebrate	$185,215
Mammal	$445,132
Plant	$222,415
Reptile	$181,550

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS BY CONTINENT



Africa	$494,391
Antarctica	$0
Asia	$403,566
Europe	$75,162
North America	$142,452
Oceania	$103,029
South America	$336,731

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS BY IUCN RED LIST



Not Evaluated	$148,149
Data Deficient	$24,820
Least Concern	$5,000
Near Threatened	$20,402
Vulnerable	$108,453
Critically Endangered	$776,070
Endangered	$450,326
Extinct in the Wild	$0
Extinct	$22,111

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:

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Conservation Fund
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A male Mountain Nyala (Ethiopia). © Daniel Rosengren