

صندوق محمد بن زايد



للمحافظة على الكائنات الحية

The Mohamed bin Zayed SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

# CELEBRATING CONSERVATION SUCCESS

Over the past 12 months, the Fund has made big gains in conservation that positively impacted endangered species and the dedicated individuals protecting them. From rescuing species on the brink of extinction to rediscoveries, these successes enhance biodiversity and strengthen ecosystem resilience, showcasing our collective commitment to preserving the planet's natural heritage.

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# FOREWORD

As I reflect on the accomplishments and strides made in species conservation, it is my pleasure to introduce the 2023 Annual Report of the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, themed 'Celebrating Conservation Successes.' This theme is a testament to the impactful work being done globally, supported by our commitment to providing targeted financial assistance to direct species conservation project worldwide. These grants, often modest but pivotal, empower conservationists working tirelessly to protect some of the most endangered species on our planet—species that are frequently uncharismatic and even overlooked.

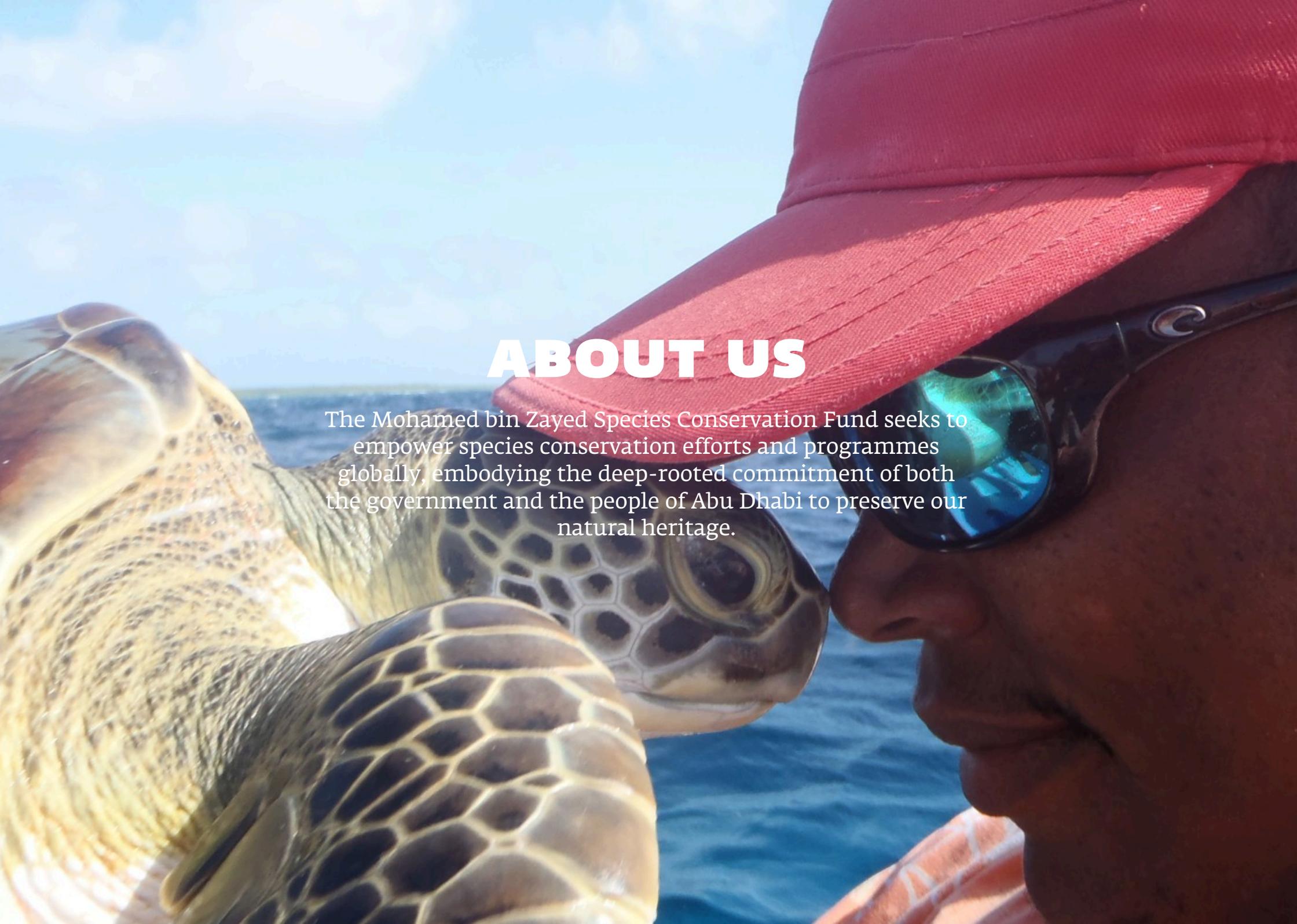
At the core of our mission is the belief that every species matters, as each grant from the Mohamed Bin Zayed Fund supports efforts to stabilize and recover critical populations, reinforcing the interconnected web of life on Earth. These species are essential for maintaining ecological balance. COP28 (United Nations Climate Change Conference), held in December 2023, where nations agreed to stop deforestation by 2030, was a watershed moment that recognized the importance of nature to climate solutions. While our grants may not directly address global policy changes, they serve as an important model that works to protect nature and biodiversity, subsequently supporting broader climate solutions. Our grants empower local conservationists whose passion and regional expertise are vital for success, emphasizing our reliance on nature and species conservation to safeguard our planet's rich heritage for future generations.

This year's report highlights remarkable stories of resilience and recovery. Through focused financial support, we have seen firsthand how dedicated conservation efforts can reverse the fortunes of species, many of which are at the brink of extinction. These successes are not only victories for biodiversity but also bolster broader environmental stability, contributing to climate change mitigation and enhancing community health and wellbeing.

Looking forward, the challenges remain significant, but the stories of success we celebrate today reinforce our resolve. Each grant, each project we support, is a step towards a richer, more vibrant planet. Together, through continued collaboration and unwavering commitment to conservation, we can extend this impact. Protecting nature is ultimately about protecting ourselves—ensuring a healthier, more sustainable future for all. I invite you to join us in this vital endeavor, as we continue to champion the cause of species conservation and build on our successes for years to come.

**Razan Al Mubarak,  
Managing Director**





# ABOUT US

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

**BY PRESERVING AND PROTECTING ENDANGERED SPECIES, WE NOT ONLY SAFEGUARD BIODIVERSITY BUT ALSO ENSURE THE SUSTAINABILITY OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES, THE STABILITY OF ECOSYSTEMS, AND THE WELL-BEING OF ALL LIVING BEINGS, INCLUDING HUMANS.**

Of the estimated 13-14 million species on Earth, only 1.9 million have been described. Alarmingly, human activity has led to the extinction of 869 species in the past 500 years. The IUCN Red List currently identifies over 163,000 species, with more than 45,300 threatened with extinction, including 41% of amphibians, 37% of sharks and rays, and 36% of reef-building corals.

The alarming statistics from the IUCN Red List highlight the urgent need to recognize the intricate connections between nature, species, and human well-being. The decline of threatened species can disrupt ecological balance, leading to consequences such as reduced pollination, diminished food security, and the collapse of fisheries, all of which are essential for human livelihoods.





Healthy ecosystems provide essential services, such as clean air and water, climate regulation, and natural resources, which directly impact our quality of life. By valuing the interdependence of all living beings, we can ensure a more sustainable relationship with our environment, ensuring that both wildlife and human communities can thrive together.

At the Fund, we are trying to do our bit and have supported over 2800 recipients who have protected over 1,700 species and subspecies, bringing many back from the brink of extinction while discovering new populations and habitats.

This dedicated focus on threatened species makes the Fund unique globally and highly impactful. This number reflects only the minimum species per project supported, making the actual impact even greater. No other funder is as dedicated to supporting threatened species.

Together, let's forge a sustainable future for all species and the communities they sustain. Join us in creating a world where biodiversity thrives, endangered species flourish, and harmony between humans and nature prevails.



# **SMALL GRANTS**

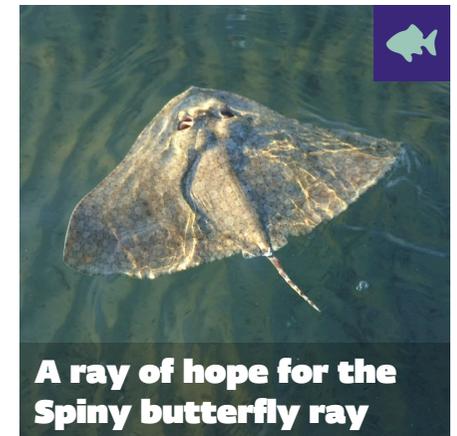
The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund provides financial support in the form of small grants of less than \$25,000 to conservation projects worldwide. These small grants are as much for the species as they are for the conservationists and organizations working so passionately to protect them.

# 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.

The Fund is dedicated to empowering grassroots conservation initiatives that have a significant impact at a local level. Through our small grants program, we prioritise supporting efforts that often go unnoticed, ensuring that even the less charismatic species receive the attention they deserve.

Every species matters and plays a crucial role in the delicate balance of our ecosystems. By engaging with local communities and focusing on species conservation in their natural habitats whilst working hand in hand with nature, we can make a lasting difference. Together, let's protect and celebrate the incredible diversity of life on our planet.



## EMPOWERING LOCALS TO BECOME ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS IN CREATING SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

The New Nature Foundation has taken a groundbreaking approach to protect the endangered Ashy Red Colobus monkey, a species native to Uganda's Kibale National Park.

**Scientific name:** *Piliocolobus tephrosceles*

**Common name:** Ashy Red Colobus

**Species type:** Mammal

**Country:** Uganda

**Website:**

<https://reports.speciesconservation.org/ar-case-studies/empowering-locals-to-become-active-participants-in-creating-sustainable-solutions/>



## MEET THE UNIQUE YET ENDANGERED “BLACK-CHEEKED LIZARD”

The Horton Plains National Park is also home to the endangered Black-Cheek Lizard (*Calotes nigrilabris*).

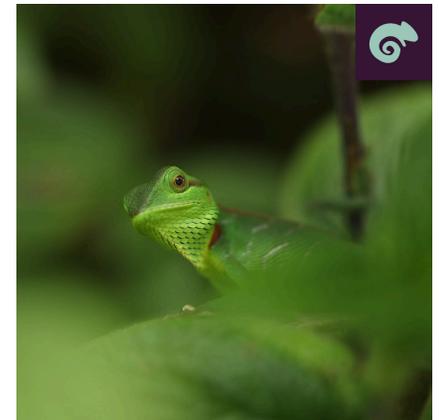
**Scientific name:** *Calotes nigrilabris*

**Common name:** Black-cheek lizard

**Species type:** Reptile

**Country:** Sri Lanka

**Website:** <https://reports.speciesconservation.org/ar-case-studies/meet-the-unique-yet-endangered-black-cheeked-lizard/>



## REDISCOVERY AFTER 40 YEARS

The big puma fungus, *Austroomphaliaster nahuelbutensis*, is a mysterious species of underground fungi found in Chile's Nahuelbuta Mountains.

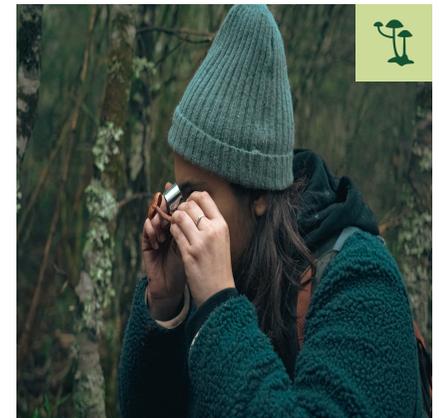
**Scientific name:** Big Puma Fungus

**Common name:** *Austroomphaliaster nahuelbutensis*

**Species type:** Fungi

**Country:** Chile

**Website:** <https://reports.speciesconservation.org/ar-case-studies/rediscovery-after-40-years/>



### A RAY OF HOPE FOR THE SPINY BUTTERFLY RAY

The spiny butterfly ray, *Gymnura altavela*, is a critically endangered batoid known for its unique body shape, being about twice as wide as it is long.

**Scientific name:** *Gymnura altavela*

**Common name:** Spiny butterfly ray

**Species type:** Fish

**Country:** Albania

**Website:** <https://reports.speciesconservation.org/ar-case-studies/a-ray-of-hope-for-the-spiny-butterfly-ray/>



### A CRITICALLY ENDANGERED TROPICAL PITCHER PLANT

The characteristic of *N. rigidifolia* lies in its rigid leaves, in addition to a unique pattern and scarlet color in its peristome.

**Scientific name:** *Nepenthes rigidifolia*

**Common name:** *Nepenthes rigidifolia*

**Species type:** Plant

**Country:** Indonesia

**Website:**

<https://reports.speciesconservation.org/ar-case-studies/saving-a-critically-endangered-tropical-pitcher-plant-nepenthes-rigidifolia/>



### THE FATU HIVA MONARCH, LESS THAN 20 INDIVIDUALS LEFT

The Fatu Hiva Monarch is a bird endemic to French Polynesia and listed as Critically Endangered by the IUCN Red List (less than 20 left).

**Scientific name:** *Pomarea whitneyi*

**Common name:** Fatu Hiva monarch

**Species type:** Bird

**Country:** French Polynesia

**Website:** <https://reports.speciesconservation.org/ar-case-studies/4718/>



# SMALL GRANTS SUPPORTED 2023

## 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  |
| CR  | Argelia robber frog                  | Pristimantis bernali       | Ricardo Medina                  | TropiCall   | Colombia, South America  | \$11,000 |
| CR  | Bale mountain frog                   | Ericabatrachus baleensis   | Wondifraw Zelelew               | Jimma University  | Ethiopia, Africa         | \$4,990  |
| CR  | <b>Cemetery treefrog</b>             | Dendropsophus nekronastes  | Iuri Ribeiro Dias               | Universidade Estadual de Santa Cruz   | Brazil, South America    | \$5,000  |
| CR  | Harlequin Frog of Niquitao           | Atelopus chrysocorallus    | Enrique La Marca                | REVA Conservation Center  | Venezuela, South America | \$5,000  |
| CR  | Jambato de Cuenca                    | Atelopus bomolochos        | Laura Edelmira Lojano Guapacasa | Fundación Cordillera Tropical   | Ecuador, South America   | \$10,000 |
| CR  | <b>Manengouba long-fingered frog</b> | Cardioglossa Manengouba    | Michele Marina Kameni Ngalieu   | Herp-Cameroon   | Cameroon, Africa         | \$14,000 |
| CR  | Nganha Night Frog                    | Astylosternus nganhanus    | Geraud Canis Tasse Taboue       | Environment and Communities Care Front  | Cameroon, Africa         | \$14,750 |
| CR  | Paghman Mountain Salamander          | Afghanodon mustersi        | Mohammad Hassan Jafari          | Baghlan university  | Afghanistan, Asia        | \$5,000  |
| CR  | Rowley's Litter Toad                 | Leptobrachella rowleyae    | Anh Van Pham                    | Faculty of Environmental Sciences, University of Science, Vietnam National University | Vietnam, Asia            | \$9,750  |
| CR  | Sette Fratelli Cave Salamander       | Speleomantes sarrabusensis | Leonardo Vignoli                | Department of Sciences - University Roma Tre  | Italy, Europe            | \$14,500 |
| CR  | <b>Starry Night Harlequin toad</b>   | Atelopus arsyecue          | JOSE LUIS PEREZ                 | Fundacion Atelopus  | Colombia, South America  | \$6,000  |

| IUCN | Vernacular Name     | Scientific Name     | Name              | Name of Organization           | Country, Continent        | Funding |
|------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---------|
| NE   | Tlalocohyla celeste | Tlalocohyla celeste | Valeria Aspinall  | Costa Rica Wildlife Foundation | Costa Rica, North America | \$9,500 |
| EN   | Vampire flying frog | Vampyrus vampyrus   | Duong Thi Thuy Le | VNUHCM-University of Science   | Vietnam, Asia             | \$9,000 |

## BIRD



| IUCN | Vernacular Name             | Scientific Name                  | Name                 | Name of Organization                                    | Country, Continent     | Funding  |
|------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|---|------------------------|----------|
| CR   | Alagoas Antwren             | Myrmotherula snowi               | Justine Hanson       | American Bird Conservancy                               | Brazil, South America  | \$21,460 |
| CR   | Bengal Florican             | Houbaropsis bengalensis blandini | Philipp Wagner       | Westfälischer Zoologischer Garten GmbH / Allwetterzoo   | Cambodia, Asia         | \$19,900 |
| CR   | Bengal Florican             | Houbaropsis bengalensis          | Chhote Lal Chowdhary | Biodiversity Conservation Center Nepal                  | Nepal, Asia            | \$11,500 |
| EN   | Black-fronted Piping-guan   | Pipile jacutinga                 | Alecsandra Tassoni   | SAVE Brasil   | Brazil, South America  | \$16,640 |
| CR   | Blue-eyed Ground-dove       | Columbina cyanopis               | Edson Ribeiro        | SAVE Brasil   | Brazil, South America  | \$12,000 |
| CR   | <b>Brazilian Merganser</b>  | Mergus octosetaceus              | Paulo de Tarso Antas | FUNATURA  | Brazil, South America  | \$15,000 |
| CR   | <b>Chatham Island taiko</b> | Pterodroma magentae              | Edward Marshall      | Wildlife Management International Limited               | New Zealand, Oceania   | \$23,550 |
| EN   | Egyptian Vulture            | Neophron percnopterus            | Mohamed Amezian      | GREPOM/BirdLife Morocco                                 | Morocco, Africa        | \$14,300 |
| CR   | <b>Great Indian Bustard</b> | Ardeotis nigriceps               | Rakesh Kalva         | Wildlife Research & Conservation Society                | India, Asia            | \$5,000  |
| CR   | Grenada Dove                | Leptotilla wellsi                | Lisa Sorenson        | BirdsCaribbean  | Grenada, North America | \$12,000 |
| EN   | Grey-breasted Parakeet      | Pyrrhura griseipectus            | Justine Hanson       | American Bird Conservancy                               | Brazil, South America  | \$16,500 |
| CR   | Red-fronted Macaw           | Ara rubrogenys                   | Tjalle Boorsma       | Asociación Armonia                                      | Bolivia, South America | \$8,000  |
| EN   | Serendib scops owl          | Otus thilohoffmanni              | Kalya Subasinghe     | N/A   | Sri Lanka, Asia        | \$11,000 |
| CR   | White bellied heron         | Ardea insignis                   | Ugyen Wangchuk       | Bhutan Tiger Center                                     | Bhutan, Asia           | \$4,977  |
| CR   | White-winged Flufftail      | Sarothrura ayresi                | Girma Mengesha       | Wildlife Conservation Team Charity Organization (WCTCO) | Ethiopia, Africa       | \$6,000  |

# FISH



| IUCN | Vernacular Name                | Scientific Name            | Name                         | Name of Organization   | Country, Continent       | Funding  |
|------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|--|--------------------------|----------|
| CR   | Catfish                        | Heptapterus carmelitanorum | Felipe Ottoni                | Federal University of Maranhão   | Brazil, South America    | \$8,478  |
| EN   | <b>Clanwilliam sandfish</b>    | Labeo seeberi              | Jeremy Shelton               | Freshwater Research Centre   | South Africa, Africa     | \$22,500 |
| CR   | Corfu valencia                 | Valencia letourneuxi       | Kastriot Korro               | Agricultural University of Tirana  | Greece, Europe           | \$8,900  |
| CR   | <b>Decorated dwarf gourami</b> | Parosphromenus ornatacauda | Winda Putri                  | Perkumpulan Kawan Konservasi Tropis  | Indonesia, Asia          | \$5,000  |
| CR   | <b>Duck-billed buntingi</b>    | Adrianichthys kruyti       | Bayu Kreshna Adhitya Sumarto | Research Center for Conservation of Marine and Inland Water Resources            | Indonesia, Asia          | \$9,000  |
| CR   | Madagascar Blind fish          | Typhleotris pauliani       | Sama Zefania                 | Institute of higher education  | Madagascar, Africa       | \$9,313  |
| NE   | Pachypanchax sp.               | Pachypanchax sp.           | Mendrika Nina RAZAFINDRAIBE  | N/A  | Madagascar, Africa       | \$7,660  |
| CR   | Scalloped hammerhead shark     | Sphyrna lewini             | Julio Sánchez                | Blue World Foundation  | Guatemala, North America | \$5,000  |
| CR   | Ship sturgeon                  | Acipenser nudiventris      | Tamar Beridze                | Iliia State University   | Georgia, Asia            | \$25,000 |
| CR   | <b>Spiny Butterfly Ray</b>     | Gymnura altavela           | Emina Karalic                | Sharklab Adria   | Albania, Europe          | \$6,059  |
| CR   | Tamazulapan Tetra              | Astynax salvatoris         | Topiltzin Contreras          | Centro de Investigaciones Biológicas, Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Morelos | Mexico, North America    | \$6,500  |
| VU   | Three-spot seahorse            | Hippocampus trimaculatus   | Shalu Kannan                 | Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies, Kochi, India                   | India, Asia              | \$4,995  |
| NE   | <b>Tucacas killifish</b>       | Austrofundulus lehoignei   | Douglas Rodríguez Olarte     | Regional Fish Collection. Universidad Centroccidental Lisandro Alvarado. UCLA    | Venezuela, South America | \$4,990  |
| CR   | Wayanad Mahseer                | Neolissochilus wynaadensis | Anoop V K                    | Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies                                 | India, Asia              | \$10,720 |

## FUNGI



| IUCN | Vernacular Name                | Scientific Name                          | Name                                   | Name of Organization   | Country, Continent           | Funding  |
|------|--------------------------------|--|--|--|------------------------------|----------|
| NE   | Big Puma Fungus                | <i>Austroomphaliaster nahuelbutensis</i> | Daniela Torres                         | Fundación Fungi  | Chile, South America         | \$10,000 |
| EN   | Golden-gilled Waxy Cap         | <i>Hygrocybe flavifolia</i>              | Gabriela D'Elia                        | Fungal Diversity Survey (FUNDIS)                                 | United States, North America | \$9,000  |
| NE   | <b>Lamelloporus americanus</b> | <i>Lamelloporus americanus</i>           | Elisandro Ricardo Drechsler dos Santos | MIND.Funga Research Group (Federal University of Santa Catarina) | Brazil, South America        | \$13,000 |
| VU   | Lavender Baeospora             | <i>Baeospora myriadophylla</i>           | Reda Iršėnaitė                         | Nature Research Centre   | Lithuania, Europe            | \$9,000  |
| EN   | <b>Swiss cheese mushroom</b>   | <i>Rickiella edulis</i>                  | Larissa Trierweiler Pereira            | IUCN SSC Brazil Fungal Specialist Group                          | Brazil, South America        | \$10,000 |
| CR   | <b>Tapir's bark polypore</b>   | <i>Fomitiporia nubicola</i>              | Genivaldo Alves da Silva               | Federal University of Santa Catarina                             | Brazil, South America        | \$14,000 |

## INVERTEBRATE



| IUCN | Vernacular Name            | Scientific Name                    | Name                 | Name of Organization   | Country, Continent   | Funding  |
|------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|--|----------------------|----------|
| EN   | Amami burrow mite          | <i>Walchia pentalagi</i>           | Mackenzie Kwak       | Hokkaido University  | Japan, Asia          | \$5,000  |
| NE   | Amamioshima dung beetle    | <i>Phelotrupes oshimanus</i>       | Mackenzie Kwak       | Hokkaido University  | Japan, Asia          | \$8,000  |
| NE   | Anarchita aptera           | <i>Anarchita aptera</i>            | Dhaneesh Bhaskar     | IUCN SSC Grasshopper Specialist Group                              | India, Asia          | \$12,000 |
| NE   | Arasbaran Anomalous Blue   | <i>Polyommatus arasbarani</i>      | Karen Aghababyan     | BirdLinks Armenia NGO  | Armenia, Asia        | \$3,680  |
| EN   | Eastman's Cape Stag Beetle | <i>Colophon eastmani</i>           | Johan du Plessis     | Endangered Wildlife Trust  | South Africa, Africa | \$24,081 |
| NE   | Fairy shrimp               | <i>Streptocephalus manyarensis</i> | Yusuph Aron Kafula   | Mwalimu Julius K. Nyerere University of Agriculture and Technology | Tanzania, Africa     | \$12,500 |
| CR   | Gambilusa                  | <i>Linderiella baetica</i>         | Vázquez Chanivet     | Iberozoa   | Spain, Europe        | \$5,000  |
| CR   | <b>Gambles's relic</b>     | <i>Pentaplebia gamblesi</i>        | Abiodun Adedapo      | Department of Zoology, Obafemi Awolowo University,                 | Nigeria, Africa      | \$7,000  |
| NE   | Katydid                    | <i>Macroscirtus kekeunoui</i>      | Simeu Noutchom Alain | University of Yaounde 1  | Cameroon, Africa     | \$3,978  |

| IUCN | Vernacular Name              | Scientific Name                | Name                       | Name of Organization   | Country, Continent    | Funding  |
|------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--|-----------------------|----------|
| EN   | <b>Konrad's Bumblebee</b>    | Bombus konradini               | Paolo Biella               | University of Milano-Bicocca   | Italy, Europe         | \$11,500 |
| NE   | <b>Mayfly</b>                | Nathanella indica              | Srinivasan Pandiarajan     | The American College, Madurai  | India, Asia           | \$3,500  |
| NE   | Nepal Wall                   | Lopinga lehmanni               | Bimal Raj Shrestha         | N/A  | Nepal, Asia           | \$5,000  |
| CR   | <b>Pachychilidae snail</b>   | Tylomelania zeamais            | Muhammad Iqram             | Tapak Diversitas Hayati Nusantara (TARSIOUS)                                 | Indonesia, Asia       | \$4,983  |
| CR   | <b>Papyrus Wisp</b>          | Agriocnemis palaeforma         | Viola Clausnitzer          | Senckenberg  | Rwanda, Africa        | \$10,000 |
| CR   | Peacock Parachute Spider     | Poecilotheria metallica        | Sanjay Molur               | Zoo Outreach Organisation  | India, Asia           | \$12,000 |
| NE   | Phoxocephalopsis ruffoi      | Phoxocephalopsis ruffoi        | Giovanna Reis              | N/A  | Brazil, South America | \$5,000  |
| CR   | Rameshwaram parachute spider | Poecilotheria hanumavilasumica | Mathew Joseph              | Division of Arachnology, Sacred Heart College, Kochi, Kerala                 | India, Asia           | \$5,000  |
| DD   | <b>Samastacus spinifrons</b> | Samastacus spinifrons          | Magdalena Huerta           | Legado Chile Foundation  | Chile, South America  | \$5,000  |
| EN   | <b>Sandfish</b>              | Holothuria scabra              | MOH. REZA SESE             | Zoological Community Of Celebes  | Indonesia, Asia       | \$5,500  |
| NE   | Tiger Beetles                | Cicindelidae                   | Sanjay Molur               | Zoo Outreach Organisation  | India, Asia           | \$14,000 |
| NE   | Yabassi freshwater crab      | Louisea yabassi                | Pierre Armand Mvogo Ndongo | Cameroon Association for Research on Crustaceans and Other Aquatic Resources | Cameroon, Africa      | \$9,000  |

## MAMMAL



| IUCN | Vernacular Name           | Scientific Name  | Name                          | Name of Organization                                    | Country, Continent         | Funding |
|------|---------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|---|----------------------------|---------|
| NT   | <b>Margay</b>             | Leopardus weardi | Marvin Vladimir Giron Recinos | proyecto de conservación de la biodiversidad Iyulutepet | El Salvador, North America | \$5,000 |
| VU   | African golden cat        | Caracal aurata   | Isaac Twinomuhangi            | Embaka-Saving the African Golden Cat                    | Uganda, Africa             | \$5,000 |
| VU   | African golden cat        | Caracal aurata   | Cyrus Langat                  | N/A   | Kenya, Africa              | \$4,837 |
| VU   | <b>African golden cat</b> | Caracal aurata   | Emanuel Henry Martin          | College of African Wildlife Management, Mweka           | Tanzania, Africa           | \$7,500 |

| IUCN | Vernacular Name          | Scientific Name                | Name                        | Name of Organization   | Country, Continent                  | Funding  |
|------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|----------|
| VU   | African Golden Cat       | Caracal aurata                 | Pettoy Kamara               | Forestry Division, Ministry of the Environment                     | Sierra Leone, Africa                | \$5,000  |
| VU   | African Golden Cat       | Caracal aurata                 | Elie SINAYITUTSE            | NATURE RWANDA  | Rwanda, Africa                      | \$5,000  |
| VU   | African golden cat       | Caracal aurata                 | Irene Natukunda             | Embaka-Saving African golden cats                                  | Uganda, Africa                      | \$6,000  |
| VU   | African golden cat       | Caracal aurata                 | Kouadio Juslin Hervé KOIGNY | Mimea Internationale   | Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), Africa | \$6,000  |
| VU   | African golden cat       | Caracal aurata                 | Emmanuel Akampurira         | Embaka-Saving the African Golden Cat                               | Uganda, Africa                      | \$6,000  |
| VU   | African golden cat       | Caracal aurata                 | Julius Mutale               | Embaka   | Uganda, Africa                      | \$6,000  |
| EN   | African savanna elephant | Loxodonta africana             | Anagaw Atickem              | Addis Ababa University   | Ethiopia, Africa                    | \$12,000 |
| EN   | <b>Andean Cat</b>        | Leopardus jacobita             | Merinia Mendoza Almeida     | Quechua women for the Conservation of Small Cats Association       | Peru, South America                 | \$6,000  |
| EN   | Andean Cat               | Leopardus jacobita             | Gabriel Llerena-Reategui    | Asociación para la Conservación de la Biodiversidad Pro Carnívoros | Peru, South America                 | \$6,000  |
| VU   | <b>Andean tiger cat</b>  | Leopardus tigrinus pardinoides | Juan Camilo Cepeda Duque    | Tiger Cats Conservation Initiative - Colombia                      | Colombia, South America             | \$8,500  |
| EN   | <b>Ashy Red Colobus</b>  | Ptilocolobus tephrosceles      | Michael Stern               | New Nature Foundation  | Uganda, Africa                      | \$15,000 |
| NT   | Asiatic golden cat       | Catopuma temminckii            | Gyajo Lama Bhoze            | Clouded Leopard Working Group                                      | Nepal, Asia                         | \$7,500  |
| NT   | Asiatic wild ass         | Equus hemionus                 | Noa Yaffa Kan               | Ben-Gurion University of the Negev                                 | Israel, Asia                        | \$12,500 |
| EN   | <b>Bengal slow loris</b> | Nycticebus bengalensis         | Sabit Hasan                 | Isabela Foundation, Dhaka-1209                                     | Bangladesh, Asia                    | \$15,000 |
| DD   | Bicolored Banded Langur  | Presbytis bicolor              | Ahmad Mursyid               | MABBI  | Indonesia, Asia                     | \$5,000  |
| CR   | Black Rhino              | Diceros bicornis michaeli      | Laura Jowell                | Zoological Society of London                                       | Kenya, Africa                       | \$10,000 |
| VU   | Cheetah                  | Acinonyx jubatus               | Rebecca Klein               | Cheetah Conservation Botswana                                      | Botswana, Africa                    | \$8,635  |
| CR   | Chinese pangolin         | Manis pentadactyla             | Tulshi Suwal                | Small Mammals Conservation and Research Foundation                 | Nepal, Asia                         | \$5,000  |
| CR   | Chinese Pangolin         | Manis pentadactyla             | Sagar Dahal                 | Florida International University                                   | Nepal, Asia                         | \$5,000  |

| IUCN | Vernacular Name                              | Scientific Name          | Name                           | Name of Organization                                    | Country, Continent      | Funding  |
|------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------|----------|
| CR   | <b>Chinese Pangolin</b>                      | Manis pentadactyla       | Jeevan Rai                     | Nature Conservation and Study Centre (NCSC)             | Nepal, Asia             | \$5,000  |
| VU   | Clouded leopard                              | Neofelis nebulosa        | Purna Bahadur Ale              | Clouded Leopard Working Group                           | Nepal, Asia             | \$7,500  |
| VU   | Clouded leopard                              | Neofelis nebulosa        | Dikpal Krishna Karmacharya     | Clouded Leopard Working Group (CLWG)                    | Nepal, Asia             | \$5,900  |
| VU   | Clouded leopard                              | Neofelis nebulosa        | Mitra Pandey                   | Clouded Leopard Working Group                           | Nepal, Asia             | \$7,500  |
| EN   | Cuban Solenodon                              | Atopogale cubana         | Margarita Sánchez Losada       | Centro Oriental de Ecosistemas y Biodiversidad (BIOECO) | Cuba, North America     | \$5,000  |
| CR   | <b>Delacour's langur</b>                     | Trachypithecus delacouri | Govinda Lienart                | Three Monkeys Wildlife Conservancy                      | Vietnam, Asia           | \$12,500 |
| CR   | Delacour's langur                            | Trachypithecus delacouri | Bui Tung                       | Center for Nature Conservation and Development          | Vietnam, Asia           | \$13,500 |
| DD   | <b>Eastern Cordillera Small-footed Shrew</b> | Cryptotis brachyonyx     | Darwin Morales-Martínez        | Museum of Natural Science, Louisiana State University   | Colombia, South America | \$12,500 |
| EN   | <b>Giant ground pangolin</b>                 | Smutsia gigantea         | Esong Ebong                    | N/A   | Cameroon, Africa        | \$9,755  |
| EN   | <b>Giant ground pangolin</b>                 | Smutsia gigantea         | Prince Pascal Agro             | Alliance for Pangolin Conservation, Ghana (Pangolin-Gh) | Ghana, Africa           | \$5,000  |
| EN   | Giant pangolin                               | Smutsia gigantea         | MVO DENIS CHUO                 | University of Dschang                                   | Cameroon, Africa        | \$5,000  |
| VU   | guigna                                       | Leopardus guigna         | Carolina Susana Ugarte         | N/A   | Chile, South America    | \$5,983  |
| VU   | Güiña  | Leopardus guigna         | Christofer Olea                | Colocolo Project  | Chile, South America    | \$5,000  |
| VU   | Güiña  | Leopardus guigna         | Melanie Kaiser                 | Fundación Con Garra - Conservación de Felinos Nativos   | Chile, South America    | \$8,500  |
| VU   | <b>Harrisoni's Giant Mastiff Bat</b>         | Otomops harrisoni        | Peace Iribagiza                | Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association                | Rwanda, Africa          | \$7,500  |
| CR   | Javan slow loris                             | Nycticebus javanicus     | Anna Nekaris                   | Little Fireface Project                                 | Indonesia, Asia         | \$11,715 |
| DD   | Linduan rousette                             | Rousettus linduensis     | Wahyudi Madia                  | Tadulako Ecology and Conservation (TANGKASI)            | Indonesia, Asia         | \$5,000  |
| CR   | Malabar Civet                                | Viverra civettina        | Divyadharshini Shanthakrishnan | Czech University of Life sciences Prague (CZU)          | India, Asia             | \$7,800  |

| IUCN | Vernacular Name            | Scientific Name                          | Name                          | Name of Organization  | Country, Continent        | Funding  |
|------|----------------------------|--|-------------------------------|---|---------------------------|----------|
| NT   | Marbled cat                | <i>Pardofelis marmorata</i>              | Sonam Tashi Lama              | Clouded Leopard Working Group                                   | Nepal, Asia               | \$5,000  |
| DD   | <b>Morris's bat</b>        | <i>Myotis morrиси</i>                    | Dessalegn Obsi Gemedá         | Jimma University  | Ethiopia, Africa          | \$10,000 |
| EN   | Mountain anoa              | <i>Bubalus quarlesi</i>                  | Dirham Dirham                 | Tangkasi  | Indonesia, Asia           | \$6,000  |
| EN   | Mountain anoa              | <i>Bubalus quarlesi</i>                  | Anggra Alfian                 | Yayasan Aksi Konservasi Celebica / Celebica Conservation Action | Indonesia, Asia           | \$9,000  |
| VU   | Nordmann's birch mouse     | <i>Sicista loriger</i>                   | Mikhail Rusin                 | Kyiv Zoo  | Ukraine, Europe           | \$6,350  |
| VU   | <b>Northern Tiger cat</b>  | <i>Leopardus tigrinus</i>                | Pedro Heredia                 | Private Conservation Area Milpuj-La Heredad                     | Peru, South America       | \$4,900  |
| VU   | <b>Northern tiger-cat</b>  | <i>Leopardus tigrinus</i>                | Tadeu de Oliveira             | Tiger Cats Conservation Initiative                              | Brazil, South America     | \$11,060 |
| VU   | Northern tiger-cat         | <i>Leopardus tigrinus oncilla</i>        | José Daniel Ramírez-Fernández | Awá Science & Conservation                                      | Costa Rica, North America | \$10,000 |
| EN   | <b>Owston's civet</b>      | <i>Chrotogale owstoni</i>                | Jes Hooper                    | The Civet Project Foundation                                    | Vietnam, Asia             | \$2,935  |
| NT   | Pampas cat                 | <i>Leopardus colocola</i>                | Patricio Muñoz Peña           | Fundación Con Garra - Conservación de Felinos Nativos           | Chile, South America      | \$8,500  |
| NT   | <b>Pampas cat</b>          | <i>Leopardus garleppi</i>                | Zoila Vega-Guarderas          | BioS - Research Center of Biodiversity & Sustainability         | Peru, South America       | \$6,000  |
| EN   | <b>Peleng Tarsier</b>      | <i>Tarsius pelengensis</i>               | Ray Randers                   | Zoological Community of Celebes                                 | Indonesia, Asia           | \$5,000  |
| CR   | Preuss's red colobus       | <i>Piliocolobus preussi</i>              | Peter Mbile                   | Korup National Park   | Cameroon, Africa          | \$12,500 |
| EN   | red capped mangabey        | <i>Cercocebus torquatus</i>              | IBRAHIM NWUKI                 | University of Dschang   | Cameroon, Africa          | \$6,000  |
| EN   | <b>Red Panda</b>           | <i>Ailurus fulgens</i>                   | Badri Baral                   | Nature Conservation Initiative Nepal(NCI-Nepal)                 | Nepal, Asia               | \$9,510  |
| EN   | <b>Reticulated giraffe</b> | <i>Giraffa camelopardalis reticulata</i> | Abdullahi Ali                 | Hirola Conservation Program                                     | Kenya, Africa             | \$15,000 |
| NT   | Rusty-spotted cat          | <i>Prionailurus rubiginosus</i>          | Roshan Babu Adhikari          | Rusty-spotted Cat Working Group (RSCWG)                         | Nepal, Asia               | \$6,000  |
| CR   | San Quintín Kangaroo Rat   | <i>Dipodomys gravipes</i>                | Fernando Gavito               | Terra Peninsular, A.C.  | Mexico, North America     | \$8,500  |

| IUCN | Vernacular Name               | Scientific Name                | Name                    | Name of Organization   | Country, Continent    | Funding  |
|------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--|-----------------------|----------|
| VU   | Southern tiger cat            | Leopardus guttulus             | Vinicius de Morais      | Pro-Carnivores Institute   | Brazil, South America | \$8,000  |
| VU   | Southern tiger cat            | Leopardus guttulus             | Leonardo Alcântara      | Rede Eco-Diversa para Conservação da Biodiversidade                                    | Brazil, South America | \$8,000  |
| EN   | Tiger                         | Panthera tigris                | Aswin KS                | College of Natural Resources   | Bhutan, Asia          | \$3,998  |
| CR   | <b>Tricolour langur</b>       | Presbytis chrysomelas cruciger | Filian Basri Irpan      | Sangga Bumi Lestari  | Indonesia, Asia       | \$12,500 |
| EN   | West African red colobus      | Piliocolobus badius temmincki  | Maria Ferreira da Silva | CIBIO, Centro de Investigação em Biodiversidade e Recursos Genéticos, Campus de Vairão | Guinea-Bissau, Africa | \$7,000  |
| EN   | Western Hoolock gibbon        | Hoolock hoolock                | Jihosuo Biswas          | Conservation Himalayas   | India, Asia           | \$12,500 |
| EN   | <b>White-bellied pangolin</b> | Phataginus tricuspis           | GBONGBOUI Comlan        | Centre d'Action pour la Protection de l'Environnement et la Santé                      | Benin, Africa         | \$10,000 |

## PLANT



| IUCN | Vernacular Name                  | Scientific Name           | Name                        | Name of Organization   | Country, Continent      | Funding  |
|------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------|----------|
| EN   | Aloe ankoberensis                | Aloe ankoberensis         | Abiyot Berhanu Wassie       | Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute   | Ethiopia, Africa        | \$16,000 |
| EN   | <b>Baker's Drepanolejeunea</b>   | Drepanolejeunea bakeri    | Eugene Lorence Logatoc      | N/A  | Philippines, Asia       | \$5,000  |
| EN   | <b>Bearded Stonewort</b>         | Lychnothamnus barbatus    | Michelle Casanova           | Charophyte Services  | Australia, Oceania      | \$13,000 |
| CR   | <b>Begonia montis-elephantis</b> | Begonia montis-elephantis | Eric NGANSOP TCHATCHOUANG   | National Herbarium of Cameroon-IRAD  | Cameroon, Africa        | \$4,410  |
| EN   | <b>Black oak</b>                 | Trigonobalanus excelsa    | Jorge Andres Ramirez Correa | Semilero de Investigación en Silvicultura Aplicada - Universidad del Cauca | Colombia, South America | \$12,000 |
| CR   | <b>Commiphora wightii</b>        | Commiphora wightii        | Muzafar Hussain             | Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur                                      | Pakistan, Asia          | \$5,000  |
| CR   | Echinopartum albigicum           | Echinopartum albigicum    | Victor Jimenez              | Asociación Medioambiental O-Live   | Spain, Europe           | \$10,000 |
| CR   | <b>Extinct Belly-Flower</b>      | Gasteranthus extinctus    | Dawson White                | Harvard University   | Ecuador, South America  | \$12,000 |

| IUCN | Vernacular Name            | Scientific Name            | Name                   | Name of Organization                                   | Country, Continent            | Funding  |
|------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|--|-------------------------------|----------|
| EN   | Faveiro-da-mata            | Dimorphandra exaltata      | Andre Carneiro Muniz   | Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais                   | Brazil, South America         | \$5,000  |
| NE   | Guamirim-do-bananal        | Myrceugenia bananalensis   | Fábio Vieira           | University of São Paulo                                | Brazil, South America         | \$5,000  |
| EN   | <b>Himalayan trillium</b>  | Trillium govanianum        | RIZWANA KHANUM         | PAKISTAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY ISLAMABAD           | Pakistan, Asia                | \$9,000  |
| DD   | <b>Living Stone</b>        | Lithops gracilidelineata   | Sebastian Hatt         | Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew                             | Namibia, Africa               | \$7,500  |
| DD   | <b>Magnolia banghamii</b>  | Magnolia banghamii         | Jean Linsky            | Atlanta Botanical Garden                               | Indonesia, Asia               | \$10,000 |
| NE   | <b>Neesiochloa barbata</b> | Neesiochloa barbata        | Yuri Couceiro          | Federal University of Pernambuco - UFPE                | Brazil, South America         | \$5,000  |
| CR   | Senegalia pseudonigrescens | Senegalia pseudonigrescens | Befkadu Mewded Habtamu | Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute                       | Ethiopia, Africa              | \$10,000 |
| EN   | <b>Senegalia venosa</b>    | Senegalia venosa           | Mehari Girmay          | Gullele Botanical Garden                               | Ethiopia, Africa              | \$5,000  |
| NE   | Small-leaved Currant Bush  | Coprosma inopinata         | Theodore Brook         | Imperial College London and Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew | Australia, Oceania            | \$7,000  |
| EN   | Tawny Star of Bethlehem    | Ornithogalum fuscescens    | Aziz SALAMEH           | AL Quds Open University                                | Palestinian territories, Asia | \$10,000 |
| EN   | Trichoscypha hallei        | Trichoscypha hallei        | Tchomcheni Aude Jolie  | Green Connexion  | Cameroon, Africa              | \$10,000 |
| EN   | <b>Vellozia sessilis</b>   | Vellozia sessilis          | Bianca Schindler       | University of Brasilia                                 | Brazil, South America         | \$5,000  |

## REPTILE



| IUCN | Vernacular Name             | Scientific Name           | Name              | Name of Organization   | Country, Continent                 | Funding  |
|------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|--|------------------------------------|----------|
| DD   | African Turtles & Tortoises | Testudines                | Tomas Diagne      | African Chelonian Institute                                  | Senegal, Africa                    | \$9,000  |
| CR   | Antiguan Racer              | Alsophis antiguae         | Arica Hill        | Environmental Awareness Group (EAG)                          | Antigua and Barbuda, North America | \$13,000 |
| CR   | Big-headed turtle           | Platysternon megacephalum | Mark Herse        | King Mongkut's University of Science and Technology Thonburi | Thailand, Asia                     | \$8,813  |
| EN   | Black cheek lizard          | Calotes nigrilabris       | Yohan Weerasuriya | Federation of Environmental Organizations                    | Sri Lanka, Asia                    | \$4,950  |

| IUCN | Vernacular Name                   | Scientific Name        | Name                       | Name of Organization   | Country, Continent       | Funding  |
|------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|--|--------------------------|----------|
| NT   | Black Spiny Necked Turtle         | Acanthochelys spixii   | Vivian Páez                | IUCN/SSC Red-List coordinator TFTSG  | Colombia, South America  | \$5,000  |
| CR   | <b>Campell's alligator lizard</b> | Abronia campbelli      | Monica Torres              | FUNDESGUA  | Guatemala, North America | \$6,000  |
| CR   | <b>Dermatemys mawii</b>           | Dermatemys mawii       | Rodrigo Mazariegos-Herrera | N/A  | Guatemala, North America | \$20,000 |
| CR   | Durban dwarf burrowing skink      | Scelotes inornatus     | Joshua Weeber              | Endangered Wildlife Trust  | South Africa, Africa     | \$24,966 |
| CR   | Egyptian tortoise                 | Testudo kleinmanni     | Basem Motwaly              | Nature Conservation Sector   | Egypt, Africa            | \$5,000  |
| CR   | <b>Elongated tortoise</b>         | Indotestudo elongata   | Sangay Tshewang            | College of Natural Resources, Royal University of Bhutan. C/o Jigme Singye Wangchuck National Park   | Bhutan, Asia             | \$5,500  |
| NE   | <b>Gardel's sand-dune lizard</b>  | Liolaemus gardeli      | Laura Verrastro            | Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul  | Uruguay, South America   | \$14,000 |
| CR   | <b>Giant bronze gecko</b>         | Ailuronyx trachygaster | Markus Roesch              | CIBIO, Centro de Investigação em Biodiversidade e Recursos Genéticos da Universidade do Porto        | Seychelles, Africa       | \$4,980  |
| CR   | Hoshell's Forest Racer snake      | Dendrophidion boshelli | Julián Rojas Morales       | Universidad de Caldas  | Colombia, South America  | \$4,550  |
| CR   | Orinoco crocodile                 | Crocodylus intermedius | Alvaro Velasco             | Venezuela Crocodile Specialist Group (GECV) and FUDECI (Foundation of the National Academy of Physic | Venezuela, South America | \$7,000  |
| CR   | <b>Painted terrapin</b>           | Batagur borneoensis    | Muhammad Zaid Nasir        | World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF-Malaysia)  | Malaysia, Asia           | \$25,000 |
| CR   | Pancake tortoise                  | Malacochersus tornieri | Dominic Maringa            | Lewa Wildlife Conservancy  | Kenya, Africa            | \$15,000 |
| CR   | Three stripped roofed turtle      | Batagur dhongoka       | Rajeev Chauhan             | Society for Conservation of Nature (SCoN)  | India, Asia              | \$5,000  |
| CR   | Utila Spiny-tailed Iguana         | Ctenosaura bakeri      | Tom Brown                  | NGO Kanahau Wildlife Conservation Organization   | Honduras, North America  | \$12,500 |
| CR   | Yangtze Giant Softshell Turtle    | Rafetus swinhoei       | Pearson McGovern           | Turtle Sanctuary Conservation Center   | Vietnam, Asia            | \$10,000 |

A photograph of two people in a lush, green forest. On the left, a man in a blue shirt is partially visible, holding a camera. In the center, a woman wearing a grey hijab and a blue long-sleeved shirt is looking at the camera. The background is filled with dense tropical vegetation and tree trunks. The text 'PARTNER PROJECTS' is overlaid in large white letters across the middle of the image.

# PARTNER PROJECTS

The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund's partner grants portfolio comprises various conservation initiatives, powered by contributions from partners with philanthropic or impact interests.

# MUBADALA INVESTMENT PARTNER PROJECT



## MUBADALA SPONSORED PROJECTS

The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund is implementing a three-year partnership with Mubadala, an Abu Dhabi owned sovereign wealth fund, to support conservation globally. The partnership covers a vast geographical area, spanning across five countries and four continents. The partnership supports eleven projects in Colombia, Thailand, Guinea, Indonesia and Canada focusing on species conservation, habitat restoration, community engagement and environmental education.

The loss of wild species and their habitats has severe consequences, disrupting the natural functions that sustain life, fulfill essential needs for people and economies, provide aesthetic values, and shape cultural identities that have developed over centuries. The root cause of this problem lies in the pursuit of growth, bound by the finite nature of our planet.

Species conservation encounters multiple challenges, ranging from a lack of data to loss of habitat.

By partnering, MBZF and Mubadala not only addressed these challenges head-on, but also committed to making a positive impact on both biodiversity and the well-being of the community in global biodiversity hotspots. Together with MBZF collaborators we initiated local solutions to global problems.

[View website](#)



# LARGE PROJECT STORIES 2023



## LARGE PROJECTS CANADA 2023

**Habitat restoration for the conservation of the Canadian Greater sage-grouse**

[View Full Story](#)

## LARGE PROJECTS IN COLOMBIA 2023

**Safeguarding Colombia's Biodiversity Sanctuary**

[View Full Story](#)





## LARGE PROJECTS GUINEA 2023

**Protecting Our Waters: Safeguarding the African Manatee, Atlantic Humpback Dolphin, and Marine Turtles**

[View Full Story](#)

## LARGE PROJECTS IN INDONESIA 2023

**Conserving Indonesia's Treasures: Protecting Wild Cats, Coral Reefs, and Seagrass Ecosystems**

[View Full Story](#)

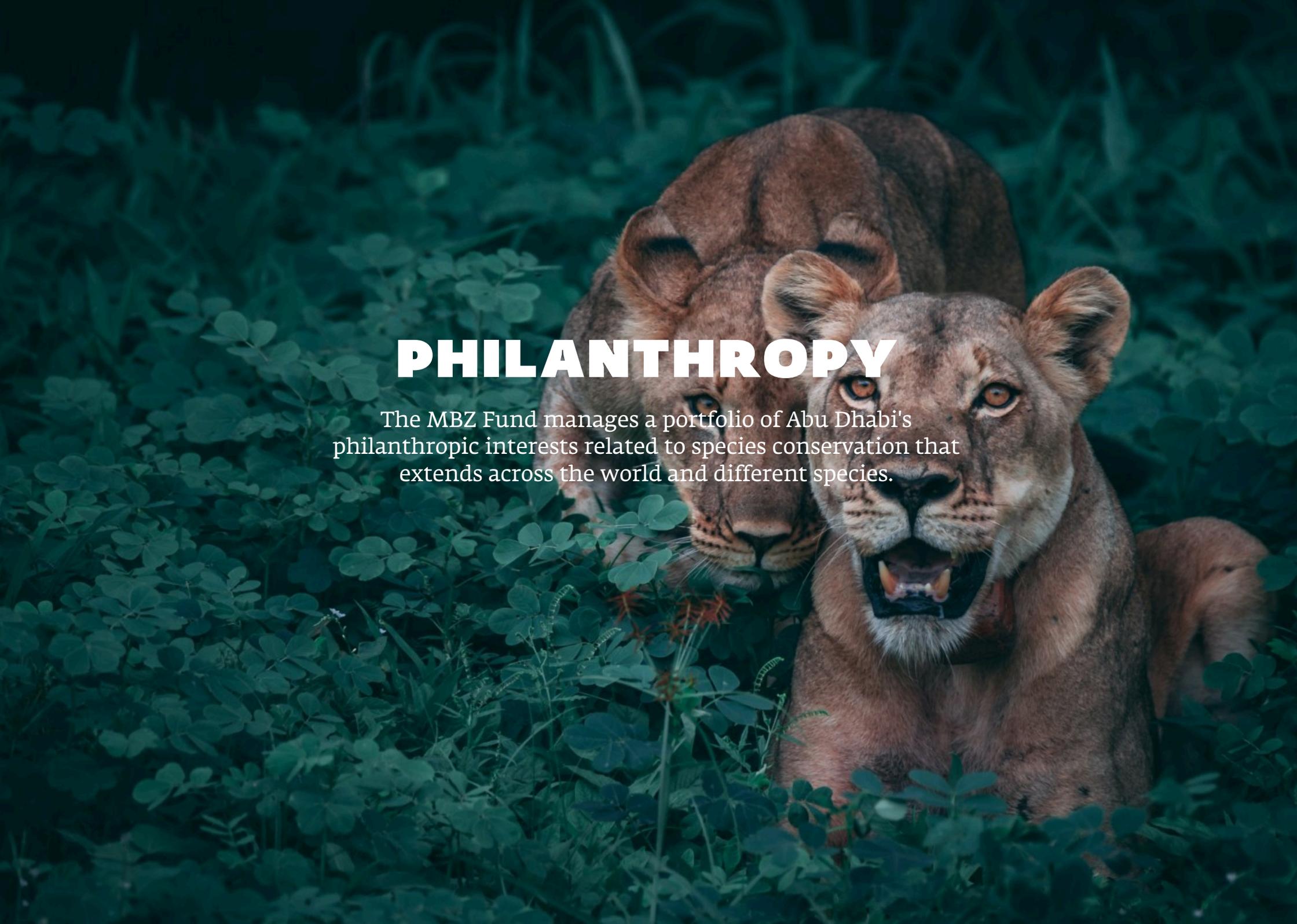




## **LARGE PROJECTS THAILAND 2023**

**Safeguarding river ecosystems and coastal habitats to protect riverine species and migratory birds**

[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.

# PANTHERA



The Global Alliance for Wild Cats is an international coalition of the world's leading environmental philanthropists who share an extraordinary vision to preserve global wildlife habitat and biodiversity by protecting the world's wild cats.

Panthera, is creating a world where wild cats thrive in healthy, natural and developed landscapes that sustain people and biodiversity. Through cutting-edge scientific research, strategic species recovery, habitat restoration and collaboration with communities and partners, we're protecting the world's 40 species of wild cats and helping ensure a future for us all.

In partnership with Panthera, the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund on behalf of the Global Alliance for Wild Cats is developing and managing a customized small-grants mechanism, designed to engage with Indigenous organizations to protect biocultural diversity in critical landscapes, and participate actively in the protection of wild cat conservation.

## **Accomplishments include:**

- Formulating a comprehensive strategy to study and conserve the 33 species of small cats.
- 6 million square kilometers of habitat prioritized for the protection through the Jaguar Corridor initiative.
- Seven Counter-Wildlife Crime information hubs around the world.
- 30,000 PantheraCam camera traps have been set to date.
- 2,145 children has been taught the importance of jaguars at



Bornean Clouded Leopard (*Neofelis diardi borneensis*) male with corneal ulcer in his right eye in lowland rainforest, Tawau Hills Park, Sabah, Borneo, Malaysia

Panthera's Jaguar School.

- 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.
- Forging an extraordinary alliance between six Indigenous tribes and state and national government agencies to preserve pumas and bobcats in Washington State.

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](#)



# 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.



**2023 Audited financial statements**

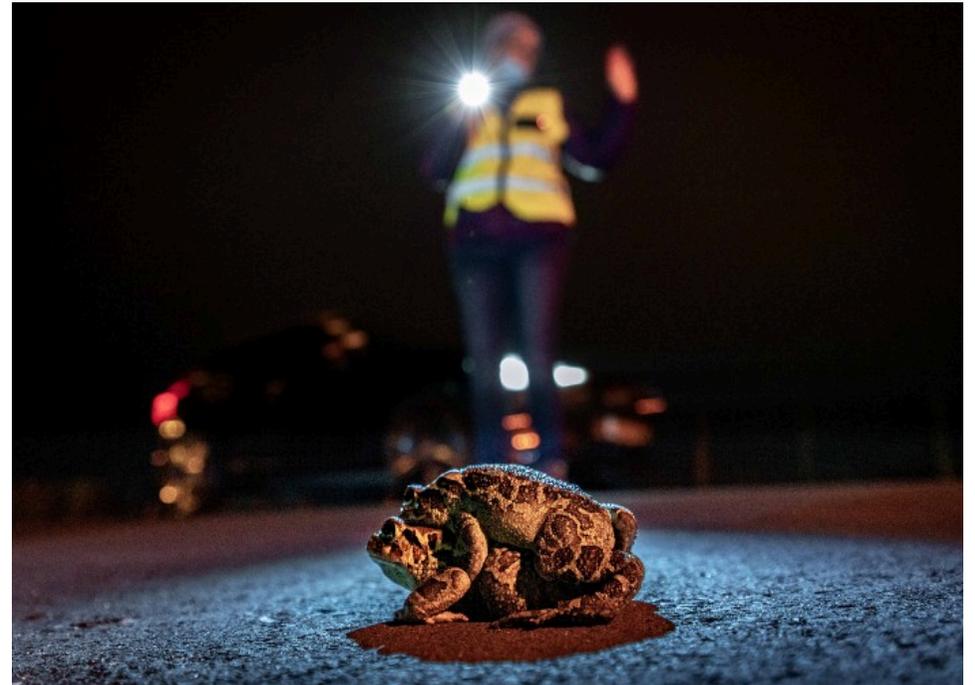
# ENDOWMENT

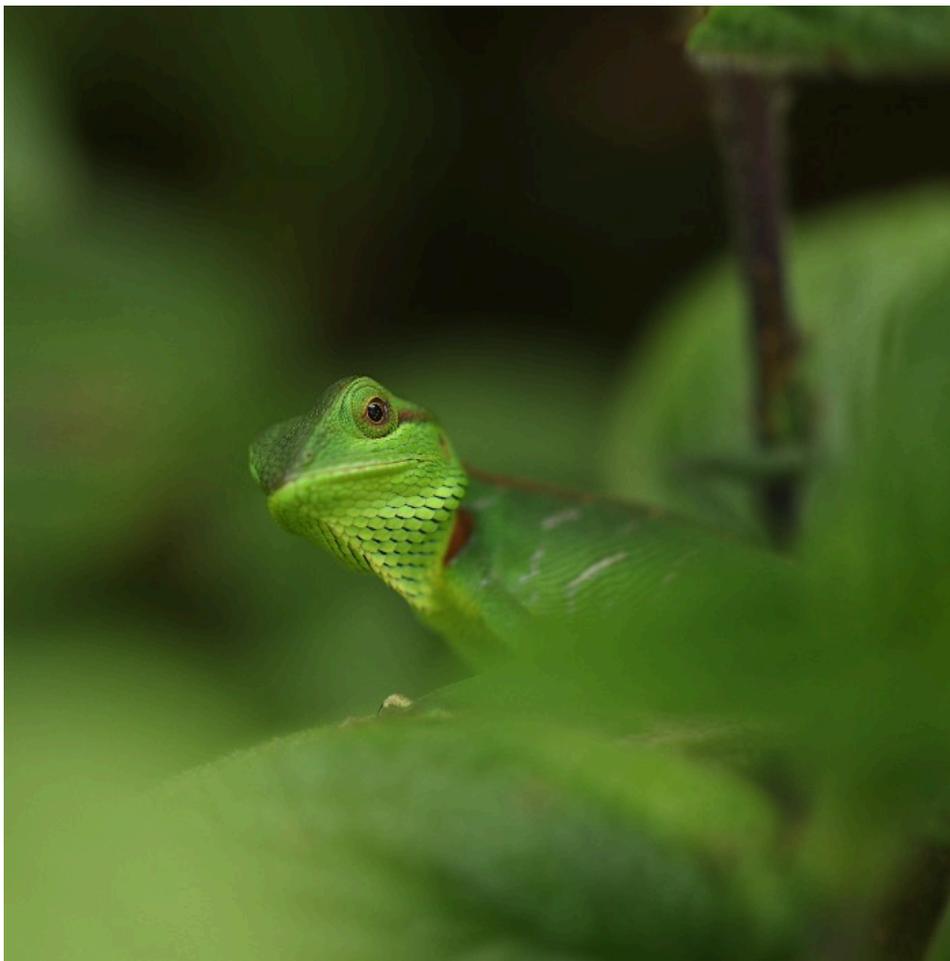
## The endowment

The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund's endowment was established in April 2009 with an initial allocation of \$27.5 million and has since been managed to ensure the financial sustainability of its small grants program in perpetuity.

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

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





The endowment's capital has increased from \$27.5 million at its inception to \$29.8 million by the end of 2023, while \$21.3 million has been distributed in grants during this period\*, successfully achieving all three of its goals.

In Q1-2023, the Fund revised its Investment Policy, aiming for a long-term net return of 4.5%, measured in USD and using a total return approach, on assets over approximately 8-10 years. The Board considered a risk tolerance of a maximum 15% loss over one year, measured using an Expected Shortfall at a 95% confidence interval.

Since inception, the annualised net performance has been +4.89%, exceeding the target, while the last five years have seen a +6.27% annual return.

The endowment is managed through discretionary mandates by Goldman Sachs (equities, fixed income) and Banque Pictet (private equity, hedge funds), along with two self-directed investments in Core/Core+ real estate (PGIM, Blackstone) and one in hedge funds (Aurum Millenium).

*\* Additional distributions to the benefit of species conservation were made outside of the endowment (directly from donations), to the tune of \$4.2m, bringing the total to \$25.5m.*

## Markets and performance in 2023

The year 2023 was marked by significant market events that required careful navigation by investors. The collapse of Silicon Valley Bank in March triggered major upheaval, leading to dramatic shifts in the bond market. By May, enthusiasm for AI spurred a rally in big tech stocks, while summer brought a bond selloff that briefly pushed the 10-year US Treasury yield above 5%. Geopolitical concerns, particularly following Hamas' attack on Israel in October, loomed large. However, an impressive rally emerged in late October as declining inflation raised hopes for a soft landing, further supported in December by the US Federal Reserve's indication of 75 basis points of rate cuts for 2024.

Despite the volatility, most assets performed well in 2023, with the S&P 500 index recording a +26.3% total return, driven by a +107% increase in the "Magnificent Seven" stocks. Bonds returned to positive territory after two years of losses, while European property values struggled due to higher rates. In this context, the MBZF portfolio achieved a +6.23% return, translating to an annualized 6.27% over the past five years, outperforming the average balanced USD portfolio's +4.77% return.

The "conventional" portfolio managed by Goldman Sachs delivered +12.05%, while the "alternative" portfolio managed by Banque Pictet and MBZF directly yielded +3.08%, reflecting the lag in private asset valuations.

*\* Source: ARC PCI indices, 140 contributing financial institutions across Europe, more than 300'000 portfolios.*





## **Beyond 2023**

The Investment Policy Statement (IPS) had been revised during the course of 2022 (and the next revision took place in H1-2024).

An IPS is typically reviewed every three years; however, the review date was advanced due to a significant capital injection from the Presidential Court, consisting of a \$40 million donation pledge spread over four years. This substantial increase in the endowment size will enable the SCF to award more grants in the future while also allowing for greater diversification, and thus more resilience, within the endowment portfolio.

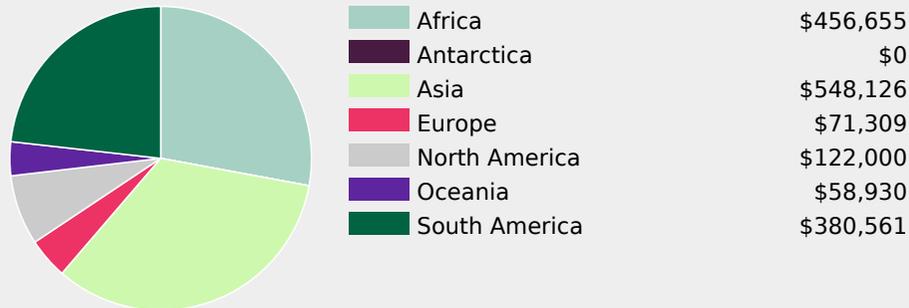
# DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

In 2023, the Fund distributed a total of \$1,637,581 which included a generous \$126,813.00 donation from the Small Wild Cat Conservation Foundation (SWCCF) and \$11,000.00 from Advisory Board member Bill Konstant. This support enabled the Fund to back a total of 179 projects, including five Chairman's Awards, across 64 countries. Notably, the average grant size rose from \$8,913.92 in 2022 to \$10,296.70, largely due to the additional contributions from SWCCF and Bill Konstant.

## DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS BY SPECIES TYPE



## DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS BY CONTINENT



## DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS BY IUCN RED LIST



**The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund remains dedicated to fulfilling the vision of His Highness 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](http://www.speciesconservation.org)**

**MAILING ADDRESS:**

The Mohamed bin Zayed Species  
Conservation Fund  
P.O. Box 131112  
Abu Dhabi  
United Arab Emirates

