

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.

Share on:   

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

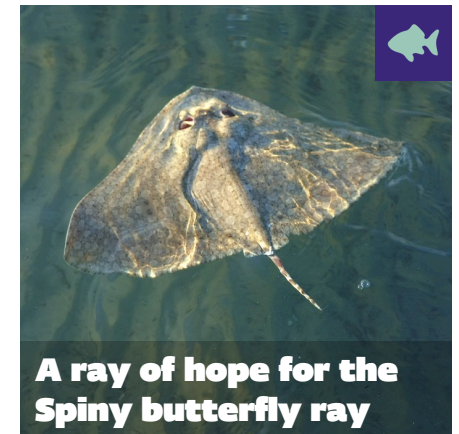
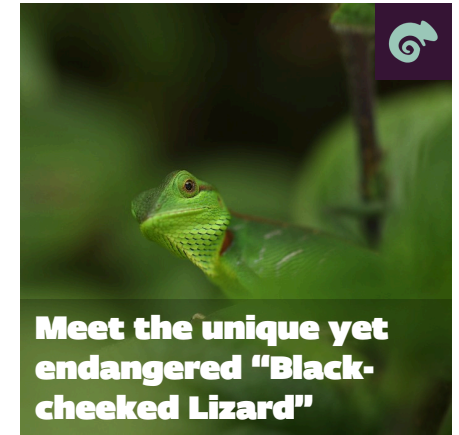
The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund provides financial support in the form of small grants of less than \$25,000 to conservation projects worldwide. These small grants are as much for the species as they are for the conservationists and organizations working so passionately to protect them.

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*).

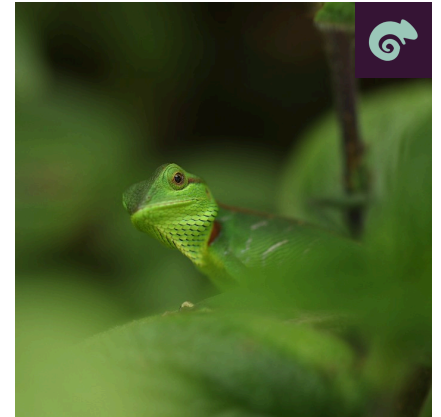
Scientific name: *Calotes nigrilabris*

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	Cemetery treefrog	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	Manengouba long-fingered frog	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	Starry Night Harlequin toad	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	Brazilian Merganser	Mergus octosetaceus	Paulo de Tarso Antas	FUNATURA	Brazil, South America	\$15,000
CR	Chatham Island taiko	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	Great Indian Bustard	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	Clanwilliam sandfish	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	Decorated dwarf gourami	Parosphromenus ornatacauda	Winda Putri	Perkumpulan Kawan Konservasi Tropis	Indonesia, Asia	\$5,000
CR	Duck-billed bunting	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	Spiny Butterfly Ray	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	Tucacas killifish	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	Austroomphaliaster nahuelbutensis	Daniela Torres	Fundación Fungi	Chile, South America	\$10,000
EN	Golden-gilled Waxy Cap	Hygrocybe flavifolia	Gabriela D'Elia	Fungal Diversity Survey (FUNDIS)	United States, North America	\$9,000
NE	Lamelloporus americanus	Lamelloporus americanus	Elisandro Ricardo Drechsler dos Santos	MIND.Funga Research Group (Federal University of Santa Catarina)	Brazil, South America	\$13,000
VU	Lavender Baeospora	Baeospora myriadophylla	Reda Iršėnaitė	Nature Research Centre	Lithuania, Europe	\$9,000
EN	Swiss cheese mushroom	Rickiella edulis	Larissa Trierweiler Pereira	IUCN SSC Brazil Fungal Specialist Group	Brazil, South America	\$10,000
CR	Tapir's bark polypore	Fomitiporia nubicola	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	Walchia pentalagi	Mackenzie Kwak	Hokkaido University	Japan, Asia	\$5,000
NE	Amamioshima dung beetle	Phelotrupes oshimanus	Mackenzie Kwak	Hokkaido University	Japan, Asia	\$8,000
NE	Anarchita aptera	Anarchita aptera	Dhaneesh Bhaskar	IUCN SSC Grasshopper Specialist Group	India, Asia	\$12,000
NE	Arasbaran Anomalous Blue	Polyommatus arasbarani	Karen Aghababyan	BirdLinks Armenia NGO	Armenia, Asia	\$3,680
EN	Eastman's Cape Stag Beetle	Colophon eastmani	Johan du Plessis	Endangered Wildlife Trust	South Africa, Africa	\$24,081
NE	Fairy shrimp	Streptocephalus manyarensis	Yusuph Aron Kafula	Mwalimu Julius K. Nyerere University of Agriculture and Technology	Tanzania, Africa	\$12,500
CR	Gambilusa	Linderiella baetica	Vázquez Chanivet	Iberozoa	Spain, Europe	\$5,000
CR	Gambles's relic	Pentaplebia gamblesi	Abiodun Adedapo	Department of Zoology, Obafemi Awolowo University,	Nigeria, Africa	\$7,000
NE	Katydid	Macroscirtus kekeunoui	Simeu Noutchom Alain	University of Yaounde 1	Cameroon, Africa	\$3,978

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
EN	Konrad's Bumblebee	Bombus konradini	Paolo Biella	University of Milano-Bicocca	Italy, Europe	\$11,500
NE	Mayfly	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	Pachychilidae snail	Tylomelania zeamais	Muhammad Iqram	Tapak Diversitas Hayati Nusantara (TARSIOUS)	Indonesia, Asia	\$4,983
CR	Papyrus Wisp	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	Samastacus spinifrons	Samastacus spinifrons	Magdalena Huerta	Legado Chile Foundation	Chile, South America	\$5,000
EN	Sandfish	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
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	African golden cat	Caracal aurata	Emanuel Henry Martin	College of African Wildlife Management, Mweka	Tanzania, Africa	\$7,500
VU	African Golden Cat	Caracal aurata	Pettyo Kamara	Forestry Division, Ministry of the Environment	Sierra Leone, Africa	\$5,000

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

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
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	Delacour's langur	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	Eastern Cordillera Small-footed Shrew	Cryptotis brachyonyx	Darwin Morales-Martínez	Museum of Natural Science, Louisiana State University	Colombia, South America	\$12,500
EN	Giant ground pangolin	Smutsia gigantea	Esong Ebong	N/A	Cameroon, Africa	\$9,755
EN	Giant ground pangolin	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	Harrisoni's Giant Mastiff Bat	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
NT	Marbled cat	Pardofelis marmorata	Sonam Tashi Lama	Clouded Leopard Working Group	Nepal, Asia	\$5,000

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
NT	Margay	Leopardus weiidi	Marvin Vladimir Giron Recinos	proyecto de conservación de la biodiversidad Iyulutepet	El Salvador, North America	\$5,000
DD	Morris's bat	Myotis morrиси	Dessalegn Obsi Gameda	Jimma University	Ethiopia, Africa	\$10,000
EN	Mountain anoa	Bubalus quarlesi	Dirham Dirham	Tangkasi	Indonesia, Asia	\$6,000
EN	Mountain anoa	Bubalus quarlesi	Anggra Alfian	Yayasan Aksi Konservasi Celebica / Celebica Conservation Action	Indonesia, Asia	\$9,000
VU	Nordmann's birch mouse	Sicista loriger	Mikhail Rusin	Kyiv Zoo	Ukraine, Europe	\$6,350
VU	Northern Tiger cat	Leopardus tigrinus	Pedro Heredia	Private Conservation Area Milpuj-La Heredad	Peru, South America	\$4,900
VU	Northern tiger-cat	Leopardus tigrinus	Tadeu de Oliveira	Tiger Cats Conservation Initiative	Brazil, South America	\$11,060
VU	Northern tiger-cat	Leopardus tigrinus oncilla	José Daniel Ramírez-Fernández	Awá Science & Conservation	Costa Rica, North America	\$10,000
EN	Owston's civet	Chrotogale owstoni	Jes Hooper	The Civet Project Foundation	Vietnam, Asia	\$2,935
NT	Pampas cat	Leopardus colocola	Patricio Muñoz Peña	Fundación Con Garra - Conservación de Felinos Nativos	Chile, South America	\$8,500
NT	Pampas cat	Leopardus garleppi	Zoila Vega-Guarderas	BioS - Research Center of Biodiversity & Sustainability	Peru, South America	\$6,000
EN	Peleng Tarsier	Tarsius pelengensis	Ray Randers	Zoological Community of Celebes	Indonesia, Asia	\$5,000
CR	Preuss's red colobus	Piliocolobus preussi	Peter Mbile	Korup National Park	Cameroon, Africa	\$12,500
EN	red capped mangabey	Cercocebus torquatus	IBRAHIM NWUKI	University of Dschang	Cameroon, Africa	\$6,000
EN	Red Panda	Ailurus fulgens	Badri Baral	Nature Conservation Initiative Nepal(NCI-Nepal)	Nepal, Asia	\$9,510
EN	Reticulated giraffe	Giraffa camelopardalis reticulata	Abdullahi Ali	Hirola Conservation Program	Kenya, Africa	\$15,000
NT	Rusty-spotted cat	Prionailurus rubiginosus	Roshan Babu Adhikari	Rusty-spotted Cat Working Group (RSCWG)	Nepal, Asia	\$6,000
CR	San Quintín Kangaroo Rat	Dipodomys gravipes	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	Tricolour langur	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	White-bellied pangolin	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	Baker's Drepanolejeunea	Drepanolejeunea bakeri	Eugene Lorence Logatoc	N/A	Philippines, Asia	\$5,000
EN	Bearded Stonewort	Lychnothamnus barbatus	Michelle Casanova	Charophyte Services	Australia, Oceania	\$13,000
CR	Begonia montis-elephantis	Begonia montis-elephantis	Eric NGANSOP TCHATCHOUANG	National Herbarium of Cameroon-IRAD	Cameroon, Africa	\$4,410
EN	Black oak	Trigonobalanus excelsa	Jorge Andres Ramirez Correa	Semilero de Investigación en Silvicultura Aplicada - Universidad del Cauca	Colombia, South America	\$12,000
CR	Commiphora wightii	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	Extinct Belly-Flower	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	Himalayan trillium	Trillium govanianum	RIZWANA KHANUM	PAKISTAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY ISLAMABAD	Pakistan, Asia	\$9,000
DD	Living Stone	Lithops gracilidelineata	Sebastian Hatt	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew	Namibia, Africa	\$7,500
DD	Magnolia banghamii	Magnolia banghamii	Jean Linsky	Atlanta Botanical Garden	Indonesia, Asia	\$10,000
NE	Neesiochloa barbata	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	Senegalia venosa	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	Vellozia sessilis	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	Campell's alligator lizard	Abronia campbelli	Monica Torres	FUNDESGUA	Guatemala, North America	\$6,000
CR	Dermatemys mawii	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	Elongated tortoise	Indotestudo elongata	Sangay Tshewang	College of Natural Resources, Royal University of Bhutan. C/o Jigme Singye Wangchuck National Park	Bhutan, Asia	\$5,500
NE	Gardel's sand-dune lizard	Liolaemus gardeli	Laura Verrastro	Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul	Uruguay, South America	\$14,000
CR	Giant bronze gecko	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	Painted terrapin	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 striped 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, bold, 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

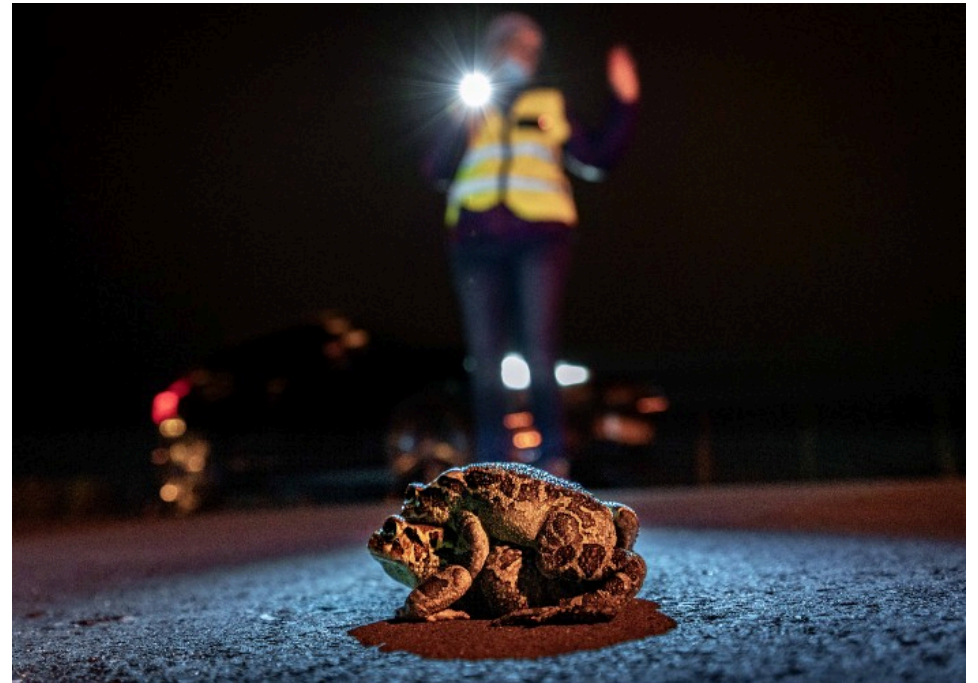
ENDOWMENT

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

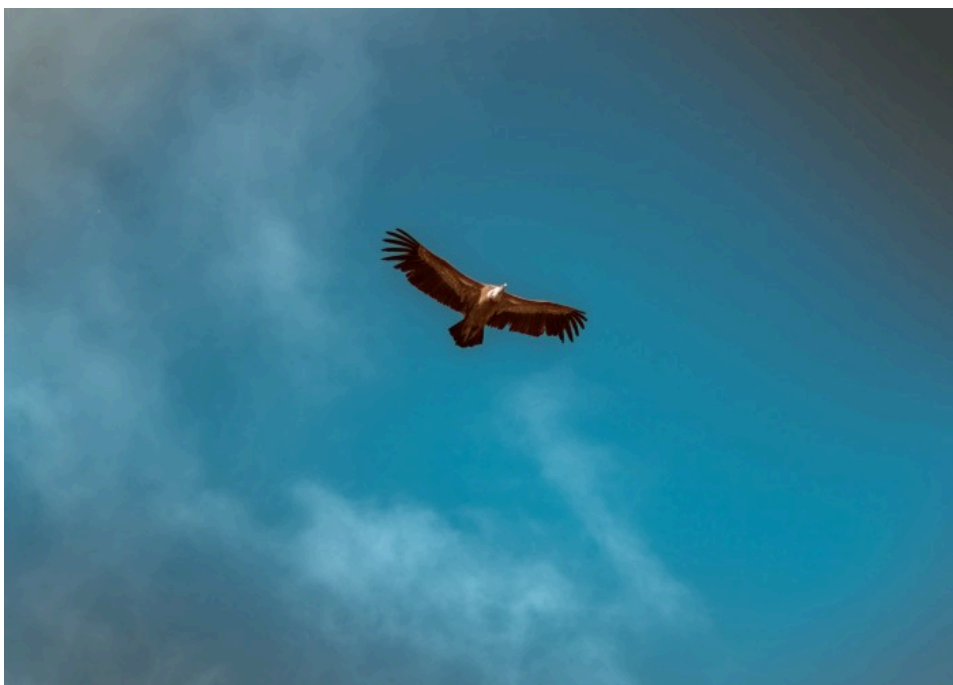
The year 2023 was marked by significant market events that required careful navigation by investors. The collapse of Silicon Valley Bank in March triggered major upheaval, leading to dramatic shifts in the bond market. By May, enthusiasm for AI spurred a rally in big tech stocks, while summer brought 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.

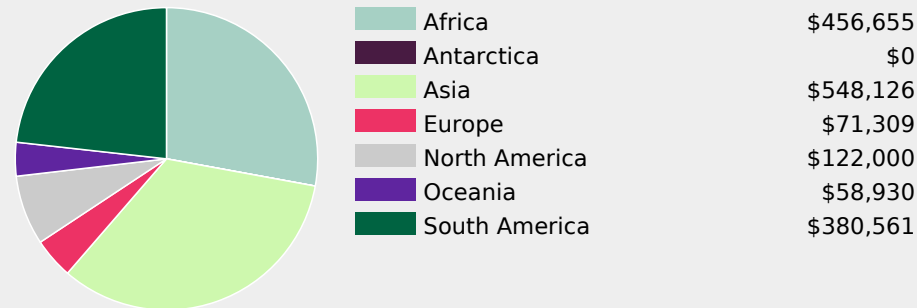
DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

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

MAILING ADDRESS:

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

