

صندوق محمد بن زايد



للمحافظة على الكائنات الحية

The Mohamed bin Zayed SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

A LEGACY THAT GROWS

We are paying it forward for nature. Our Founding Father, the late Sheikh Zayed, famously said: “Caring for nature extends beyond serving humanity alone.” That belief has inspired the Fund for more than 15 years and continues to guide our work today. Since its inception, the Fund has supported the people protecting species on the ground, helping turn ideas into action and conservation successes into lasting impact. But funding is only the beginning. One investment can lead to new discoveries, stronger partnerships, further funding and the next generation of conservation leaders. This is how a legacy grows: by investing in people today so they can create a better future for nature tomorrow.

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FOREWORD

A Legacy that grows

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2025 Oct 09: The IUCN World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi, UAE.
Trevor Brown, Jr./Trevor Brown Photography

A silhouette of a person with long dreadlocks, wearing a light-colored shirt, is shown from the side, writing in a large blue notebook. The person is standing outdoors, and the background is a bright sunset or sunrise over a line of trees. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a strong backlight effect and a lens flare. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

ABOUT US

The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, AN Erth Zayed Affiliate, highlights the vital connection between environmental health and human well-being. By embracing a holistic approach to conservation and sustainability, we recognise that protecting all living things directly benefits humanity.

The year reaffirmed that meaningful conservation is built on more than funding alone. It requires visionary leadership, strong partnerships and sustained investment to turn global ambition into lasting action for nature.

2025 saw important progress in the global effort to protect and restore nature. At the resumed COP16 biodiversity negotiations in Rome, countries agreed on a strategy to mobilise at least US\$200 billion a year for biodiversity by 2030, including US\$30 billion annually in international finance. Governments also agreed a monitoring framework to strengthen how progress towards the Global Biodiversity Framework's targets is measured and reported.

The year also saw important progress in global nature leadership. The MBZ Fund's Managing Director, H.E. Razan Al Mubarak, was re-elected as President of IUCN for a second term and appointed Special Envoy of the UAE Minister of Foreign Affairs for Nature, strengthening the UAE's role in advancing the global nature agenda. These developments reinforce a message at the heart of the MBZ Fund: global ambition only becomes meaningful when it's backed by people, partnerships and leadership.



Fund grant recipients at the 2025 IUCN World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi, UAE. Trevor Brown, Jr./Trevor Brown Photography



Critically Endangered Amphibian species named Holdridge Toad (Incilius holdridgei) in Costa Rica. \$9,000 grant awarded to Mr Juan Abarca in 2025 Photo by Michiel van Noppen

© Michiel van Noppen

Significant challenges remain. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework estimates that an additional US\$700 billion in annual biodiversity finance is needed to address the global biodiversity finance gap. While 2025 saw progress in establishing the financial mechanisms and frameworks needed to support implementation, the scale of investment required remains substantial.

At the end of the 2025 financial year, the Fund had invested US\$42,484,248 in support of 3,180 projects across 175 countries. Through government and corporate partnerships, its global network of nature ambassadors, and relationships with global conservation authorities and institutions.

These connections are an important part of how the Fund operates. They bring together conservationists, partners, expertise and resources, helping locally led projects build capacity, attract further support and contribute to wider conservation efforts.



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.

Endangered reptile species named Modigliani's nose-horned lizard (*Harpesaurus modiglianii*) in Indonesia. \$5,000 grant awarded to Mr Chairunas Adha Putra in

CASE STUDIES

The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund supports species conservation through a unique combination of direct conservation funding, strategic partnerships and global leadership. By empowering conservationists on the ground, working alongside leading organisations and helping shape the international nature agenda, the Fund creates opportunities that extend far beyond individual grants.

Since its establishment, the Fund has built one of the world's largest global networks of conservationists, supporting thousands of projects across 175 countries. While our small grants programme remains at the heart of our work, its impact extends far beyond individual grants. It creates opportunities for collaboration, unlocks additional funding, inspires innovation and helps grow a global community of nature ambassadors committed to protecting biodiversity.

The Fund prefers supporting threatened and often overlooked species, recognising that every species plays a vital role in maintaining healthy ecosystems. By connecting local action with global partnerships, we help turn conservation ideas into lasting impact.



INDIGENOUS WOMEN BEHIND THE ANDES CAT'S SURVIVAL

Quechua women united for the conservation of the Andean Cat in Ayacucho, Perú

Scientific name: *Leopardus jacobita*

Common name: Andean Cat

Species type: Mammal

Country: Peru

Website: <https://reports.speciesconservation.org/ar-case-studies/indigenous-women-behind-the-andes-cats-survival/>



SWIMMING AGAINST THE CURRENT OF EXTINCTION WITH THE CLANWILLIAM SANDFISH

Rewilding endangered Clanwilliam sandfish to prevent extinction and build resilience

Scientific name: *Labeo seeberi*

Common name: Clanwilliam sandfish

Species type: Fish

Country: South Africa

Website:

<https://reports.speciesconservation.org/ar-case-studies/swimming-against-the-current-of-extinction-with-the-clanwilliam-sandfish/>



THE TRUE CABBAGE LOVER OF LUNDY ISLAND

Improving knowledge of the abundance and distribution of Lundy Cabbage Flea Beetle (*Psylliodes luridipennis*), a British endemic species

Scientific name: *Psylliodes luridipennis*

Common name: Lundy Cabbage Flea Beetle

Species type: Invertebrate

Country: United Kingdom

Website: <https://reports.speciesconservation.org/ar-case-studies/the-true-cabbage-lover-of-lundy-island/>



COALESCING THE MADHUCA DIPLOSTEMON'S LEGACIES

Conservation and eco-restoration of *Madhuca diplostemon* (Sapotaceae) -a critically endangered tree species in Kerala, India

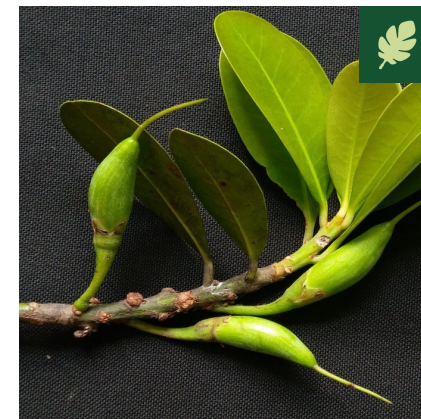
Scientific name: *Madhuca diplostemon*

Common name: *Madhuca diplostemon*

Species type: Plant

Country: India

Website: <https://reports.speciesconservation.org/ar-case-studies/coalescing-the-madhuca-diplostemons-legacies/>



RETURNING VENEZUELA'S JEWEL TOAD TO THE WILD

Rewilding the Rancho Grande Harlequin Toad (*Atelopus cruciger*): First release of captive bred frogs

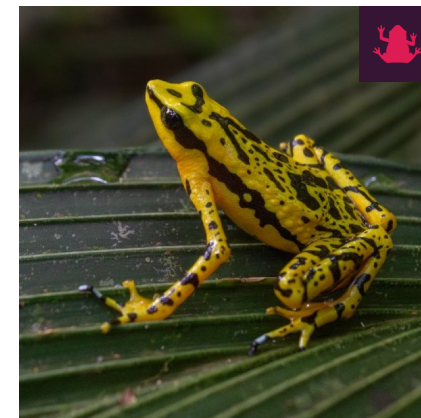
Scientific name: *Atelopus cruciger*

Common name: Rancho Grande Harlequin Toad

Species type: Amphibian

Country: Venezuela

Website: <https://reports.speciesconservation.org/ar-case-studies/returning-venezuelas-jewel-toad-to-the-wild/>



WINDS OF CHANGE FOR BOLIVIA'S BLUE-THROATED MACAW

A critical population survey to guide the next phase of Blue-throated Macaw conservation in Bolivia

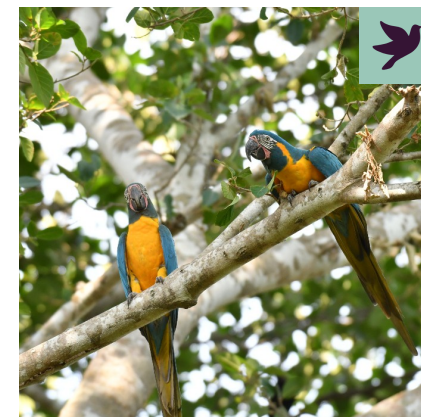
Scientific name: *Ara glaucogularis*

Common name: Blue-throated Macaw

Species type: Bird

Country: Bolivia

Website: <https://reports.speciesconservation.org/ar-case-studies/winds-of-change-for-bolivias-blue-throated-macaw/>



SMALL GRANTS SUPPORTED 2025

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
EN	Beautiful Dancing Frog	Micrixalus adonis	Vikas Gautam	N/A	India, Asia	\$4,800
EN	Chile Mountain False Toad	Telmatobufo venustus	Carlos Eduardo Rojas Vargas	University of Concepción	Chile, South America	\$12,500
EN	Churamiti maridadi	Churamiti maridadi	Jane Lukumay	Social Health and Environment Management Organization	Tanzania, Africa	\$8,000
NE	Darwin's Blackish Toad	Melanophryniscus nigricans	Igor Berkunsky	Fundación Somuncura	Argentina, South America	\$5,000
DD	Flying frog	Rhacophorus rhysocephalus	Efendi Sabinhaliduna	Yayasan Aksi Konservasi Celebica	Indonesia, Asia	\$7,187
EN	goliath Frogs	Conraua goliath	Marcel Marcel AWE DJONGMA'A	University of Maroua	Cameroon, Africa	\$8,000
CR	Holdridge´s Toad	Incilius holdridgei	Juan Abarca	ANCA Conservación de Anfibios	Costa Rica, North America	\$9,000
CR	Leaping false brook salamander	Pseudoeurycea saltator	TERESO LOPEZ GARCIA	Instituto Politecnico Nacional (IPN) CIIDIR Oaxaca.	Mexico, North America	\$16,000
EN	Malatgan River Caecilian	Ichthyophis weberi	Mark Lloyd Desaca	The Centre for Sustainability PH, Inc.	Philippines, Asia	\$11,000
CR	Manengouba long-fingered frog	Cardioglossa manengouba	Michele Marina Kameni Ngalieu	Herp-Cameroon	Cameroon, Africa	\$24,800
EN	Mount Fansipan horned frog	Megophrys fansipanensis	Ngoc Van Hoang	Thai Nguyen University of Education	Vietnam, Asia	\$4,925
EN	Neuquen Frog	Alsodes neuquensis	Melina Velasco	Sección Herpetología. División Zoología Vertebrados. Facultad de	Argentina, South America	\$4,800

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
EN	Paghman Mountain Salamander	Afghanodon mustersi	Mohammad Hassan Jafari	Baghlan University	Afghanistan, Asia	\$8,300
CR	Patagonia frog	Atelognathus patagonicus	Melisa Rolon	Facultad de Ciencias Naturales y Museo, Universidad Nacional de La Plata	Argentina, South America	\$5,000
CR	Rana Selvática de las Quebradas	Craugastor ranoides	Ruben Dario Gonzalez Campos	Laboratory of Experimental and Comparative Pathology, University of Costa Rica	Costa Rica, North America	\$4,252
CR	Rancho Grande Harlequin Toad	Atelopus cruciger	Margarita Lampo	Fundación para el Desarrollo de las Ciencias Físicas, Matemáticas y Naturales	Venezuela, South America	\$10,000
CR	Rough Moss Frog	Arthroleptella rugosa	Lampie Fick	Klein Swartberg Conservancy	South Africa, Africa	\$25,000
CR	Turquino streamfrog	Eleutherodactylus turquinensis	Pedro López Del Castillo	Centro Oriental de Ecosistemas y Biodiversidad (BIOECO).	Cuba, North America	\$15,230
EN	Zanzibar Reed Frog	Hyperolius puncticulatus	Sarafina Masanja	Sokoine University of Agriculture	Tanzania, Africa	\$5,200

BIRD						
IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
CR	Blue-throated Macaw	Ara glaucogularis	Tjalle Boorsma	Asociación Armonia	Bolivia, South America	\$10,000
NE	Cali Antpitta	Grallaricula sp. nov	Ruben Palacio	Fundacion Ecotonos	Colombia, South America	\$19,000
NT	Cinereous vulture	Aegypius monachus	Eldar Rustamov	Initiative Group for Monitoring IBAs/KBAs in Turkmenistan.	Turkmenistan, Asia	\$5,000
EN	Egyptian Vulture	Neophron percnopterus	Michel Sawan	Lebanese Association for Migratory Birds	Lebanon, Asia	\$5,000
CR	Great green macaw	Ara ambiguus	Luis Urena	Panama Wildlife Conservation	Panama, North America	\$24,900
EN	Grey Crowned Crane	Balearica regulorum	Cybia Mwelemuka	Karbalus multi-purpose society	Zambia, Africa	\$10,003
CR	Hooded Grebe	Podiceps gallardoi	Ignacio Roesler	Hooded Grebe Foundation	Argentina, South America	\$22,570
EN	Indigo-winged parrot	Hapalopsittaca fuertesi	Lex Plasmans	Fundacion Proaves	Colombia, South America	\$17,000



IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
CR	Jerdon's courser	Rhinoptilus bitorquatus	Panchapakesan Jeganathan	Nature Conservation Foundation	India, Asia	\$13,625
CR	Madagascar pochard	Aythya innotata	Felix Razafindrajao	Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust	Madagascar, Africa	\$9,260
CR	Rapa fruit-dove	Ptilinopus huttoni	Tehani Withers	Société d'Ornithologie de Polynésie (SOP) Manu	French Polynesia, Oceania	\$19,000
EN	Saffron-cowled Blackbird	Xanthopsar flavus	Maria Florencia Pucheta	Aves Argentinas	Argentina, South America	\$24,380
CR	Townsend's Shearwater	Puffinus auricularis	Fernando Solis Carlos	Grupo de Ecologia y Conservacion de Mexico, North America Islas		\$18,625
EN	Vinaceous-breasted Parrot	Amazona vinacea	Sofia Zalazar	Aves Argentinas	Argentina, South America	\$18,520

FISH



IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
EN	Agulhas redfin	Pseudobarbus agulhas	Erica Brink	Nuwejaars River Nature Reserve	South Africa, Africa	\$15,000
CR	Ammiq Minnow	Garra festai	Mounir ABI-SAID	Animal Encounter	Lebanon, Asia	\$18,000
NE	Ancistrus falconensis	Ancistrus falconensis	Douglas Rodríguez Olarte	Universidad Centroccidental Lisandro Alvarado	Venezuela, South America	\$4,990
CR	Bangladeshi guitarfish	Glaucostegus younholeei	Md. Sadiqul Islam	Department of Marine Fisheries Science, Faculty of Fisheries, Bangladesh Agricultural University	Bangladesh, Asia	\$12,500
CR	Barrydale redfin	Pseudobarbus burchelli	Aileen Anderson	Grootvadersbosch Conservancy Trust	South Africa, Africa	\$14,000
EN	Clanwilliam sandfish	Labeo seeberi	Cecilia Cerrilla	Freshwater Research Centre	South Africa, Africa	\$19,000
CR	Coptodon deckerti	Coptodon deckerti	Bilqissu Shuaibu	University of Bamenda	Cameroon, Africa	\$7,000
CR	Largetooth sawfish	Pristis pristis	Rachel Graham	MarAlliance	Panama, North America	\$13,000
CR	Leka keppe	Sarotherodon lohbergeri	DOMINIQUE MIEGUIM NGNINPOGNI	JESUIS-Association (Joints Efforts to Scale-up Impacts)	Cameroon, Africa	\$7,500
CR	Mekong giant catfish	Pangasianodon gigas	Seila Chea	Wonders of the Mekong project, based in Cambodia	Cambodia, Asia	\$24,500

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
CR	Melanorivulus imperatrizensis	Melanorivulus imperatrizensis	Rafael Ferreira de Oliveira	Federal University of Maranhão (UFMA)	Brazil, South America	\$12,000
DD	Oryzias wolasi	Oryzias wolasi	Verawati Lestari	SSRS Indonesia Biodiversity Hub	Indonesia, Asia	\$4,960
CR	Paretroplus gymnopreopercularis	Paretroplus gymnopreopercularis	Onilde RANIRISOA	AIDEM	Madagascar, Africa	\$4,800
CR	Pinstripe damba	Paretroplus menarambo	HERNANDEZ Jelot Francinel	Madagasikara Voakajy	Madagascar, Africa	\$13,000
CR	Scalloped hammerhead shark	Sphyrna lewini	Maria Chacón	Blue World Foundation - FUNMZ	Guatemala, North America	\$9,000
CR	Vermilion darter	Etheostoma chermocki	Samuel McCoy	Freshwater Land Trust	United States, North America	\$9,000
CR	Vermilion darter	Etheostoma chermocki	Zachary Culumber	University of Alabama in Huntsville	United States, North America	\$9,000
CR	Walea soft coral pygmy seahorse	Hippocampus waleananus	Masayu Putri	BRIN – Badan Riset dan Inovasi Nasional (National Research and Innovation Agency of Indonesia)	Indonesia, Asia	\$12,000

FUNGI



IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
EN	Boletus chilensis	Boletus chilensis	Ingrid Sempértegui Alvear	N/A	Chile, South America	\$16,000
EN	Eburiko	Fomitopsis officinalis	Jessica Allen	NatureServe	United States, North America	\$11,000
EN	Grifola	Grifola gargal	Daniela Torres	Fungi Foundation	Chile, South America	\$16,000
NE	sooty mould	Meliola	David Minter	International Society for Fungal Conservation	Benin, Africa	\$24,800
NE	Termitomyces	Termitomyces	David Minter	International Society for Fungal Conservation	Benin, Africa	\$24,800

INVERTEBRATE							
IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding	
NE	Antillean Blue	Pseudochrysops bornoi yateritas	Marian Gallardo Capó	N/A	Cuba, North America	\$5,000	
NE	Arctic cookie star	Ceramaster arcticus	Angela Stevenson	N/A	Canada, North America	\$16,000	
NE	Armenian Bumblebee	Bombus armeniacus	Meri Arzumanyan	Yerevan State University	Armenia, Asia	\$8,000	
NE	Bombus ecuadorious	Bombus ecuadorious	Emilia Moreno	Institute of Biodiversity and Applied and Experimental Biology (IBBEA)-UBA-CONICET	Ecuador, South America	\$5,000	
EN	Canary Islands large white	Pieris cheiranthi	Yeray Monasterio	ZERYNTHIA Association	Spain, Europe	\$25,000	
NE	Cataglyphis chionistrae	Cataglyphis chionistrae	Jakovos Demetriou	Faculty of Biology, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece	Cyprus, Europe	\$5,000	
EN	Ceylon Rose	Pachliopta jophon	Buddhika Weerakoon	N/A	Sri Lanka, Asia	\$4,950	
DD	Chlorogomphus magnificus	Chlorogomphus magnificus	Fathurrahman Sidiq	Green Community	Indonesia, Asia	\$4,980	
NE	Dune Crickets	Schizodactylus minor	WAHEED ALI PANHWAR	DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY UNIVERSITY OF SINDH	Pakistan, Asia	\$5,000	
DD	Dung beetles	Scarabidae beetles	Pranil Jagdale	MVP Samaj's Arts Commerce & Science College, Trimbakeshwar, Nashik, Maharashtra, India	India, Asia	\$7,000	
EN	Eastern orange tip	Anthocharis damone	Kosta Reljić	NGO "HabiProt"	Serbia, Europe	\$7,500	
NE	Fungus weevil	Cerius otagensis	Samuel Purdie	Southern Lakes Sanctuary	New Zealand, Oceania	\$2,830	
EN	Javan shadowdamsels	Coelicia lieftincki	Hening Triandika Rachman	Endemic Indonesia Society	Indonesia, Asia	\$10,400	
CR	Lavasoa Giant Pill-Millipede	Sphaeromimus lavaso	Johanna Rode-	Cologne Zoo	Madagascar, Africa	\$9,000	
NE	Lilian's caridina	Caridina lilianae	Diky Dwiyanto	Animal Bioscience Study Program, IPB University	Indonesia, Asia	\$4,500	
CR	Lundy Cabbage Flea Beetle	Psylliodes luridipennis	Laura Larkin	Buglife- The Invertebrate Conservation Trust	United Kingdom, Europe	\$11,000	

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
NE	Opaque grasshopper	Serpusia opacula	Jeanne Yetchom Fondjo	State Museum of Natural History Karlsruhe, Germany	Cameroon, Africa	\$6,500
EN	Pachycypha aurea	Pachycypha aurea	Adventus Robertino Rangin	Kalimantanensis	Indonesia, Asia	\$2,957
NE	Palu orange-tip	Ixias paluensis	Nur Herjayanti	Kalibamba	Indonesia, Asia	\$4,825
NE	Parapterotiltus bamboutos	Parapterotiltus bamboutos	Marcelle MBADJOUN NZIKE	Laboratory of Zoology, Faculty of Science, University of Yaoundé 1, Cameroon	Cameroon, Africa	\$5,000
CR	Peacock tarantula	Poecilotheria metallica	Rishikesh Tripathi	Christ college	India, Asia	\$4,700
EN	Saligkari	Doraegopis euboeicus	Leonidas Maroulis	Natural History Museum of Crete	Greece, Europe	\$6,000
DD	Samastacus spinifrons	Samastacus spinifrons	David Gutiérrez	Legado Chile Foundation	Chile, South America	\$11,000
NE	Tuft moth	Porcellanola sikkima	Nikhil Kuni	N/A	India, Asia	\$5,000
CR	Virgílio's sweat bee	Lasioglossum vergilianum	Roberto Keller	Museu Nacional de História Natural e Portugal, Europe da Ciência, University of Lisbon		\$4,950
NE	Yellow-base Flitter	Quedara basiflava	Sanjay Molur	Zoo Outreach Organisation	India, Asia	\$13,000

MAMMAL



IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
CR	African forest Elephant	Loxodonta cyclotis	Nyong Princely Awazi	University of Bamenda	Cameroon, Africa	\$8,000
VU	African golden cat	Caracal aurata	Rogers Niwamanya Mwine	Embaka	Uganda, Africa	\$18,000
VU	African golden cat	Caracal aurata	Eduardo Lutondo	Fundação Kissama	Angola, Africa	\$6,000
VU	African Golden Cat	Caracal aurata	Byron Ssemambo	Embaka-AGCCA	Uganda, Africa	\$15,000
EN	Andean cat	Leopardus jacobita	Waldo Suárez	NGO Felinos del Cerro Caqui	Chile, South America	\$5,000
EN	Arsi gelada	Theropithecus gelada arsi	Amera Moges	Bahir Dar University	Ethiopia, Africa	\$8,000
EN	Asian elephant	Elaphus maximus	Huyen Nguyen	Save Vietnam's Wildlife	Vietnam, Asia	\$15,000

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
NT	Asian Golden Cat	Catopuma temminckii	Giridhar Malla	Clouded Leopard Working Group	India, Asia	\$14,500
NT	Asiatic golden cat	Catopuma temminckii	Gyajo Lama Bhote	Clouded Leopard Working Group	Nepal, Asia	\$18,000
EN	Atlantic Tree rat	Phyllomys lundii	Michel Faria	Rede Eco-Diversa	Brazil, South America	\$10,000
CR	banteng	Bos javanicus	Sy Thi Ngoc	Center for Nature Conservation and Development	Vietnam, Asia	\$9,000
EN	Black Sumatran Langur	Presbytis sumatrana	Fatimah Fatimah	PRCF Indonesia	Indonesia, Asia	\$7,700
CR	Bornean orangutan	Pongo pygmeaus morio	Marc Ancrenaz	Hutan	Malaysia, Asia	\$24,110
CR	Celebes Crested Macaque	Macaca nigra	Doni Saputra	Macaca Rangers	Indonesia, Asia	\$6,800
EN	Chimpanzee	Pan troglodytes	Marta Mendes	Associação BIOPOLIS	Angola, Africa	\$12,000
VU	Clouded leopard	Neofelis nebulosa	Kshitiz Paudel	Clouded Leopard Working Group	Nepal, Asia	\$8,000
VU	Clouded Leopard	Neofelis nebulosa	Joanica Delicia Jyrwa	N/A	India, Asia	\$6,000
VU	Clouded leopard	Neofelis nebulosa	Ganga Ram Regmi	Clouded Leopard Working Group	Nepal, Asia	\$15,250
DD	Clouded tiger cat	Leopardus pardinoides	Joern Ziegler	Organización de Desarrollo Sostenible Ecoturístico Naso (ODESEN)	Panama, North America	\$5,380
VU	Clouded tiger-cat	Leopardus pardinoides	Juan Camilo Cepeda Duque	Tiger Cats Conservation Initiative	Colombia, South America	\$10,000
VU	Clouded tiger-cat	Leopardus pardinoides	Alejandra Bonilla-Sánchez	Corporación Mamíferos de Alta Montaña	Colombia, South America	\$5,000
NT	Colocolo	Leopardus colocola	Carlos Castro	Colocolo Conservation Project	Chile, South America	\$12,000
VU	Cuban Greater Funnel-Eared Bat	Natalus primus	Jose M. de la Cruz	Full time Researcher specialized on Cuban Bats Ecology at the Natural History Museum of Pinar del Río	Cuba, North America	\$5,000
EN	Dhole	Cuon alpinus	Supaphen Sripiboon	Kasetsart University	Thailand, Asia	\$12,000
CR	European hamster	Cricetus cricetus	Mikhail Rusin	Kyiv Zoo	Ukraine, Europe	\$13,000
EN	Flat-headed cat	Prionailurus planiceps	Vilma Ann Maria D'Rozario	Malaysian Nature Society	Malaysia, Asia	\$6,000
EN	Flat-headed cat	Prionailurus planiceps	Cristiar Samosir	Sangga Bumi Lestari	Indonesia, Asia	\$6,000

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
EN	Giant Pangolin	Smutsia gigantea	Joseph Ssemuyaba	Jane Goodall Institute	Uganda, Africa	\$6,000
CR	Golden vizcacha rat	Tympanoctomys aureus	Tatiana Sánchez	Fundación Naturaleza Argentina (also known as Natura Argentina)	Argentina, South America	\$9,520
VU	Güiña	Leopardus guigna	Melanie Kaiser	Fundación Con Garra	Chile, South America	\$11,000
EN	Indian Pangolin	Manis crassicaudata	Murthy Kantimahanti	Eastern Ghats Wildlife Society	India, Asia	\$8,000
CR	Indri	Indri indri	Nagarathna Balakrishna	The Ohio State University	Madagascar, Africa	\$9,000
EN	Kipunji	Rungwecebus kipunji	Francis Chebby	The Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST)	Tanzania, Africa	\$12,100
VU	Madagascan Flying Fox	Pteropus rufus	Timothy Eppley	Wildlife Madagascar	Madagascar, Africa	\$10,000
NT	Marbled cat	Pardofelis marmorata	SHIV HARI ADHIKARI	Clouded Leopard Working Group	Nepal, Asia	\$6,000
NT	Margay	Leopardus wiedii	Cristian Barros Diaz	Fundación para la Conservación e Investigación JAPU	Ecuador, South America	\$6,000
EN	Marine otter	Lontra felina	Maria Jose Lopez Jara	Puya Conservacion ONG	Chile, South America	\$5,370
EN	Mountain tapir	Tapirus pinchaque	Gustavo Adolfo Pisso Florez	Fundacion Herencia Natural	Colombia, South America	\$11,500
CR	Northern brown howler monkey	Alouatta guariba guariba	William Padilha Lemes	Universidade Estadual de Santa Cruz	Brazil, South America	\$10,000
NT	Northern Pampas Cat	Leopardus garleppi	Luis-Arturo Román	Pampas Cat Working Group	Ecuador, South America	\$6,000
NT	Ocelot	Leopardus pardalis	Victor Rosales	Proyecto Aak Mahahual	Mexico, North America	\$6,000
DD	Omitemi cottontail	Sylvilagus insonus	Rodolfo Rodríguez-Ruiz	Instituto para el Manejo y Conservación de la Biodiversidad	Mexico, North America	\$14,240
NE	oncilla	Leopardus pardinoides	Olga Samaniego	ECOGRAFE Panam Project	Panama, North America	\$4,100
NT	Pampas cat	Leopardus colocolo	Natalia Huerta Aguayo	Colocolo Conservation Project	Chile, South America	\$4,980
CR	Pampas cat	Leopardus munoai	Santiago Turcatti Oviedo	Rock and Pampa	Uruguay, South America	\$11,000
EN	Patagonian huemul	Hippocamelus bisulcus	Andrés Diez	Puelo Patagonia NGO	Chile, South America	\$5,000
CR	Phillips' Congo Shrew	Congosorex phillipsorum	Alfred Shayo	Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI)	Tanzania, Africa	\$7,000

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
CR	Pig-tailed snub-nosed monkey	Simias concolor	Rizaldi Rizaldi	N/A	Indonesia, Asia	\$10,000
CR	Red bellied monkey	Cercopithecus erythrogaster erythrogaster	PHILEMON MOISE DONATIN DJOI	NGO Alphabetisation Pain et Salut Pour Tous (APASAT)	Benin, Africa	\$4,980
EN	Red colobus	Piliocolobus spp	Alain MUKIRANYA	Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature/ Maiko National Park	Congo, Democratic Republic of (Congo-Kinshasa), Africa	\$13,000
EN	Red-capped mangabey	Cercocebus torquatus	James Tetreau	University of Calgary	Equatorial Guinea, Africa	\$12,155
CR	Red-shanked Douc Langur	Pygathrix nemaeus	Minh Hoang Van	Center for Technology and Nature Conservation – CTNC	Vietnam, Asia	\$14,000
EN	Royal Bengal Tiger	Panthera tigris tigris	Jigme Thinley	College of Natural Resources	Bhutan, Asia	\$3,959
NT	Rusty-spotted cat	Prionailurus rubiginosus	K Shiva Kumar	Rusty Spotted Cat Working Group	India, Asia	\$8,000
NT	Rusty-spotted cat	Prionailurus rubiginosus	Roshan Babu Adhikari	Rusty-spotted Cat Working Group (RSCWG)	Nepal, Asia	\$8,000
CR	San Cristobal shrew	Sorex stizodon	Luis-Bernardo Vazquez	El Colegio de la Frontera Sur	Mexico, North America	\$11,900
CR	San Quintín Kangaroo Rat	Dipodomys gravipes	Fernando Gavito Pérez	Terra Peninsular, A.C.	Mexico, North America	\$10,000
EN	Sanje River mangabey	Cercocebus sanjei	Elizabeth Komba	Foundation for Environmental Conservation and Community Enhancement (FOECOE) Tanzania	Tanzania, Africa	\$10,000
VU	Savanna tiger-cat, northern tiger-cat	Leopardus tigrinus	Tadeu de Oliveira	Tiger Cats Conservation Initiative	Brazil, South America	\$13,308
DD	Scully's tube-nosed bat	Murina tubinaris	Muqaddas Javed	PMAS Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi	Pakistan, Asia	\$4,000
CR	Siau Island Tarsier	Tarsius tumpara	Andi Fikri	Tadulako Ekologi and Conservation (TANGKASI)	Indonesia, Asia	\$6,000
CR	Southern Muriqui	Brachyteles arachnoides	Roberto Carneiro	IBIOS - Instituto Biosfera	Brazil, South America	\$15,000
VU	Southern tiger cat	Leopardus guttulus	Leonardo Pereira de Alcântara	Rede Eco-Diversa para Conservação da Biodiversidade	Brazil, South America	\$17,000
CR	Speckled ground squirrel	Spermophilus suslicus	Mikhail Rusin	Small Mammals research and Conservation Center	Ukraine, Europe	\$12,450

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
CR	Talaud Bear Cuscus	Ailurops melanotis	Retno Sari	Macaca Rangers	Indonesia, Asia	\$9,000
VU	tiger cat	Leopardus tigrinus	Viviana Albarracin	Pampas cat working group	Bolivia, South America	\$8,500
CR	Tonkin Snub-nosed Monkey	Rhinopithecus avunculus	Tuong Bach Luu	Cloud Forest Fund	Vietnam, Asia	\$16,000
CR	Upemba lechwe	Kobus leche anelli	Désiré Numbi Mujike	University of Lubumbashi	Congo, Democratic Republic of (Congo-Kinshasa), Africa	\$9,000
CR	Western Long-beaked Echidna	Zaglossus bruijnii	Ahmat Deni Rojabsani	Balai Besar Konservasi Sumber Daya Alam Papua Barat/West Papua Natural Resources Conservation Agency	Indonesia, Asia	\$7,000
CR	Western long-beaked Echidna	Zaglossus bruijnii	Freddy Pattiselanno	Faculty of Animal Science Universitas Papua, Manokwari	Indonesia, Asia	\$8,000
EN	White-naped Mangabey	Cercocebus lunulatus	Joseph Daniels	N/A	Ghana, Africa	\$5,000
CR	Wild bactrian camel	Camelus ferus	Christopher McCarthy	N/A	Mongolia, Asia	\$4,900
EN	Woolly Flying Squirrel	Eupetaurus cinereus	Murali Krishna Chatakonda	Amity University, Noida	India, Asia	\$8,000

PLANT



IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
EN	African zebrawood	Microberlinia bisulcata	Cecilia Mandah Takor Douatsop	National Herbarium Cameroon	Cameroon, Africa	\$5,600
NE	Aldama corumbensis	Aldama corumbensis	Daniel Felipe Morales	Universidade Estadual de Feira de Santana	Brazil, South America	\$5,000
CR	Amidja	Hypericum gnidiifolium	Mebrahtu Hishe Gidey	Adigrat University	Ethiopia, Africa	\$5,000
EN	canela-de-ema-gigante	Vellozia gigantea	Paulo Gonella	Instituto Nacional da Mata Atlântica	Brazil, South America	\$7,500
CR	Casey's larkspur	Delphinium caseyi	Damla Kiral	N/A	Cyprus, Europe	\$7,500
CR	Coffea decaryana	Coffea decaryana	Rickarlos Bezandry	Doctoral School of Natural Ecosystems (EDEN), University of Mahajanga, Madagascar	Madagascar, Africa	\$15,000

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
CR	Colecillo	Dendroseris neriifolia	Diego Penneckamp	Jardín Botánico Verde Nativo	Chile, South America	\$19,000
CR	Cycas javana	Cycas javana	Iyan Robiansyah	Research Center for Biota Systems, National Research and Innovation Agency of Indonesia (BRIN)	Indonesia, Asia	\$9,500
NE	Eugenia haeckeliana	Eugenia haeckeliana	Ranil Rajapaksha	N/A	Sri Lanka, Asia	\$9,000
CR	Giant quiver tree	Aloidendron pillansii	Nabot Mbeeli	Orange River-Karoo Conservation Area (ORKCA)	Namibia, Africa	\$20,000
CR	Hibiscus storckii	Hibiscus storckii	Lex Thomson	Australian Centre for Pacific Islands Research	Fiji, Oceania	\$14,990
EN	Hopea celebica	Hopea celebica	Rahmat Asy'Ari	SSRS Indonesia Biodiversity Hub	Indonesia, Asia	\$5,000
EN	Icuria dunensis	Icuria dunensis	Papin Mucaleque	Instituto de Investigação Agrária de Moçambique (IIAM-CZnd)	Mozambique, Africa	\$10,000
EN	Janchicoco	Parajubaea torallyi	María Cristina López Roberts	Universidad Mayor Real y Pontificia de San Francisco Xavier de Chuquisaca	Bolivia, South America	\$10,000
EX	Juan Fernández sandalwood	Santalum fernandezianum	Lukas Mekis	Fundacion endémica	Chile, South America	\$10,000
CR	Madhuca diplostemon	Madhuca diplostemon	Santhosh Kumar Ettickal Sukumaran	Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute, Palode, Kerala, India	India, Asia	\$6,000
CR	Milafu	Boswellia ogadensis	Amare Seifu Assefa	Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute	Ethiopia, Africa	\$13,000
CR	Nymphaea thermarum	Nymphaea thermarum	Germaine HIRWA	N/A	Rwanda, Africa	\$7,500
CR	Orbea gilbertii	Orbea gilbertii	Mebrahtu Hishe Gidey	Adigrat University	Ethiopia, Africa	\$5,000
NE	Poidium serranum	Poidium serranum	Taciane Jorge	Federal University of Uberlândia (UFU)	Brazil, South America	\$5,000
CR	Rarotonga Cyrtandra	Cyrtandra rarotongensis	Brennan Panzarella	Cook Islands Natural Heritage Trust	Cook Islands, Oceania	\$15,000
CR	Rhododendron bullifolium	Rhododendron bullifolium	Yasper Mambrasar	Indonesia National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN)	Indonesia, Asia	\$4,900
NE	Saussurea porcii	Saussurea porcii	Dana Suteu	Institute of Biological Research	Romania, Europe	\$10,000
EN	Syngonanthus itambeensis	Syngonanthus itambeensis	Vitor Araujo da Silva	National School of Tropical Botany (ENBT), Rio de Janeiro Botanical Garden Research Institute (JBRJ)	Brazil, South America	\$5,000

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
CR	Tovomita cornuta	Tovomita cornuta	Thais Teixeira	Federal University of Minas Gerais	Brazil, South America	\$5,000
EN	Tulipa scharipovii	Tulipa scharipovii	Davron Dekhkonov	Namangan state university	Uzbekistan, Asia	\$12,500
CR	wahine noho kula	Isodendrion pyrifolium	Ben Nyberg	National Tropical Botanical Garden	United States, North America	\$10,000
EN	Xanthostemon confertiflorus	Xanthostemon confertiflorus	Jagat Triono	Celebica Conservation action	Indonesia, Asia	\$5,150

REPTILE						
IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
EN	African spurred tortoise	Centrochelys sulcata	Vivian Páez	IUCN/SSC Tortoise and Freshwater Turtles Specialist Group	Senegal, Africa	\$10,000
CR	Asian giant softshell turtles	Pelochelys cantorii	Oleksandra Oskyrko	School of Life Sciences, Fudan University	China, Asia	\$5,000
CR	Central American river turtle	Dermatemys mawii	Donald McKnight	Savanna Field Station	Belize, North America	\$10,000
EN	Cyclades Blunt-nosed Viper	Macrovipera schweizeri	Konstantinos Sagonas	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki	Greece, Europe	\$7,000
CR	Dahl's Toad-Headed Turtle	Mesoclemmys dahli	Pearson McGovern	Turtle Survival Alliance	Colombia, South America	\$10,000
CR	Erdelen's Horned Lizard	Ceratophora erdeleni	Lasal Rathnasooriya	N/A	Sri Lanka, Asia	\$4,586
CR	Galápagos Pink Land Iguana	Conolophus marthae	Jorge Carrión	Galápagos Conservancy	Ecuador, South America	\$25,000
CR	Home's Hinge-back tortoise	Kinixys homeana	Regine Chirelle Megnizang Tsane	Partners for Sustainable Development (PSD)	Cameroon, Africa	\$9,000
NE	Jardine River turtle	Emydura subglobosa angkibaanya	Daniel Natusch	People For Wildlife	Australia, Oceania	\$12,000
EN	Kasner's Dwarf Burrowing Skink	Scelotes kasneri	Joshua Weeber	Endangered Wildlife Trust	South Africa, Africa	\$17,300
DD	Kaulback Pit Viper	Protobothrops kaulbacki	Vikas Gautam	N/A	India, Asia	\$5,000
CR	Kohukumbura's Day Gecko	Cnemaspis kohukumburai	Nimantha Abeyrathne	N/A	Sri Lanka, Asia	\$6,094
CR	Leatherback Turtle	Dermochelys coriacea	Michael Ochem	A Rocha Ghana	Ghana, Africa	\$16,000

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
EN	Magombera single-horned chameleon	Kinyongia magomberae	Kelvin ngongolo	The University of Dodoma	Tanzania, Africa	\$18,000
EN	Modigliani's nose-horned lizard	Harpesaurus modiglianii	Chairunas Adha Putra	Wild Heritage of Sumatra (WHIS) - Indonesia	Indonesia, Asia	\$5,000
CR	Nubian Flapshell Turtle	Cyclanorbis elegans	Luca Luiselli	Turtle Survival Alliance	Uganda, Africa	\$25,000
CR	Pancake tortoise	Malacochersus tornieri	Dominic Maringa	Lewa Wildlife Conservancy	Kenya, Africa	\$8,500
EN	Perret's montane chameleon	Trioceros perreti	Billa Elisa Wahkun	University of Bamenda	Cameroon, Africa	\$7,700
EN	Pig Nose Turtle	Carettochelys insculpta	Sean Doody	Turtle Survival Alliance	Australia, Oceania	\$10,000
CR	Queretaran Desert Lizard	Sceloporus exsul	Mauricio Tepos	Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México	Mexico, North America	\$13,000
CR	Radiated Tortoise	Astrochelys radiata	Hery Lova Razafimamonjiraibe	Turtle Survival Alliance	Madagascar, Africa	\$10,000
EN	Ryukyu black-breasted leaf turtle	Geoemyda japonica	Zachary Bell	Okinawa Kame Centre	Japan, Asia	\$12,500
LC	Stoke's sea snake.	Hydrophis stokesii	Anslem De Silva	President Amphibia & Reptile Research Organization of Sri Lanka Member Sea Snake Specialist Group	Sri Lanka, Asia	\$3,000
CR	Turquoise dwarf gecko	Lygodactylus williamsi	Jesca Mwakapango	Social Health and Environment Management Organization	Tanzania, Africa	\$7,700
EN	Yucatan Box Turtle	Terrapene yucatana	Carlos Delgado-Martinez	Turtle Survival Alliance	Mexico, North America	\$9,300



PARTNER PROJECTS

Our partner projects are larger in scale, offering comprehensive guidance for the implementation of diverse conservation projects. These collaborative initiatives are tailored to specific countries or species, enabling us to leverage resources effectively to create meaningful and lasting impacts on environmental conservation while promoting community engagement and resilience.

Steering Committee meeting in Malaysia to discuss the Tigers for Tomorrow initiative

A ROYAL PARTNERSHIP



The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund began 2025 with one of its most ambitious conservation commitments to date. In partnership with Malaysia's Enggang Management Services, the Fund announced a US\$22 million, five-year initiative to establish Southeast Asia's first tiger reserve, dedicated to protecting the critically endangered Malayan tiger and other threatened species.

The initiative will support the Al-Sultan Abdullah Royal Tiger Reserve, a 1,340 km² protected area bordering Taman Negara National Park, creating a secure landscape for one of the world's rarest big cats and the wildlife that shares its habitat.

With fewer than 150 Malayan tigers remaining in the wild, the initiative is a significant contribution to global efforts to prevent the species' extinction and protect one of Southeast Asia's most important biodiversity strongholds.

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Signing ceremony during the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week

SOMETHING NEW AS WE LAUNCH THE YOUTH GRANT FOR NATURE



During 2025, the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund launched the Youth Grant for Nature in partnership with the Atlantis Atlas Project. Designed for young people under the age of 18, the grant empowers the next generation of storytellers to inspire action for nature through film, photography, music, art, writing, and other creative media.

Launched in the United Arab Emirates, the programme pairs young storytellers with experienced conservationists to document the stories behind the UAE Local Leaders Grants through their own unique creative perspectives.

The inaugural recipients, Emirati author Saeed AlMheiri and young artist Nazmin Rasheed, share AED 30,000 in grants to create inspiring conservation stories that highlight the impact of these projects. Building on the success of the 2025 programme, the long-term vision is to expand the initiative globally, inspiring young people around the world to use creativity as a powerful tool for nature conservation.

[View website](#)



Saeed AlMheiri holds the record for the World's youngest author

BUILDING A NETWORK OF EMERGING CONSERVATIONISTS THANKS TO THE G



The Fund is extremely proud and grateful for the support of The GEF. For more than three decades, GEF has served as one of the world's leading environmental financing mechanisms, providing more than US\$27 billion, primarily as grants, and mobilising over US\$155 billion in co-financing for environmental initiatives across more than 170 countries. Through its support of international biodiversity agreements, climate action, and sustainable development, GEF has become a cornerstone of global environmental cooperation.

In 2024, the Fund and GEF formalised a partnership through the Fonseca Leadership Program, established in memory of the late Gustavo Fonseca, one of the conservation community's most respected leaders. Named after GEF's long-serving Director of Programs, the initiative seeks to support the next generation of conservation leaders in developing countries.

Together, the GEF and the Fund are helping conservationists protect species, strengthen ecosystems, and deliver results where they are needed most. Through this partnership alone, more than 145 projects have been supported across 46 developing countries, with approximately 40 percent led by women conservationists.

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Adán Bautista del Mora awarded \$11,000 for the critically endangered Bearded Salamander (*Pseudoeurycea tenchalli*) in Mexico

DOLPHIN ENERGY CONTINUES TO SUPPORT OUR CHAIRMANS AWARDS



2025 marked the second year of our three-year partnership with Dolphin Energy. In each funding round, the Fund's Advisory Board selects a number of projects as Chairman's Awards, recognising those that combine strong conservation outcomes with community engagement, stakeholder collaboration and sustainable conservation practices.

Thanks to Dolphin Energy's support, these grants are helping protect some of the world's most threatened species, from the Mekong giant catfish and orangutans to the rough moss frog and Africa's rarest turtle.

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Preserving the Rough moss frog in South Africa

THE NATIONAL AQUARIUM CONTINUES TO DELIVER



The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund and the National Aquarium Abu Dhabi marked the first anniversary of their African Manatee Conservation Programme, celebrating a partnership dedicated to protecting one of Africa's most elusive aquatic mammals. Together, they support the African Aquatic Conservation Fund in its mission to safeguard African manatees in their natural habitats.

The initiative advances conservation, scientific research, and local capacity building across Africa. During the first two years the programme has enabled the first-ever acoustic and genetic studies of wild African manatees, providing valuable new insights into the species. Two rescued manatees, Nyoti and Sengou, have settled comfortably into their new home, where researchers are able to study their behaviour, communication, and skin microbiota. These findings are guiding scientific understanding of this rare and endangered species while informing future conservation efforts.

[View website](#)



Dr. Clinton Factheu is an African manatee conservation specialist, researcher, and postdoctoral fellow

PHASE ONE MUBADALA PARTNERSHIP WRAPS UP



The three-year partnership, which began in 2021, concluded in 2024, with reporting and final activities completed in 2025. The partnership delivered remarkable results across 11 projects in Colombia, Thailand, Guinea, Indonesia and Canada, advancing species conservation, habitat restoration, community engagement and environmental education.

One of the partnership's greatest achievements was its investment in the next generation of conservation leaders. In Colombia, the RanaChiva educational bus reached 94 schools, engaging more than 27,000 young people and women in remote communities. In Guinea, 18 researchers received specialist training in manatee ecology, with several visiting the National Aquarium Abu Dhabi to study the species firsthand.

Overall, the partnership engaged more than 300,000 people through outreach and awareness campaigns, improved access to healthcare, education, employment and sustainable livelihoods, and empowered more than 25,000 young people to become active stewards of nature. Women also played a leading role, leading 60% of the projects and accounting for at least 30% of field researchers.

[View website](#)



Faces of conservation in Thailand

LARGE PROJECT STORIES 2025



PARTNER PROJECT: TIGERS FOR TOMORROW

2025 marked the launch of Tigers for Tomorrow, a landmark initiative to operationalise Southeast Asia's first tiger reserve and establish a new model for wild tiger conservation in Asia.

[View Full Story](#)

PARTNER PROJECT: GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

Since 2024, the Fund has partnered with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to support emerging conservation leaders in developing countries through the Fonseca Field Grants.

[View Full Story](#)



A silhouette of a cheetah standing on a rock, looking to the right. The background is a bright orange and yellow sunset sky with some clouds. The cheetah's tail is long and curved. The overall mood is serene and majestic.

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



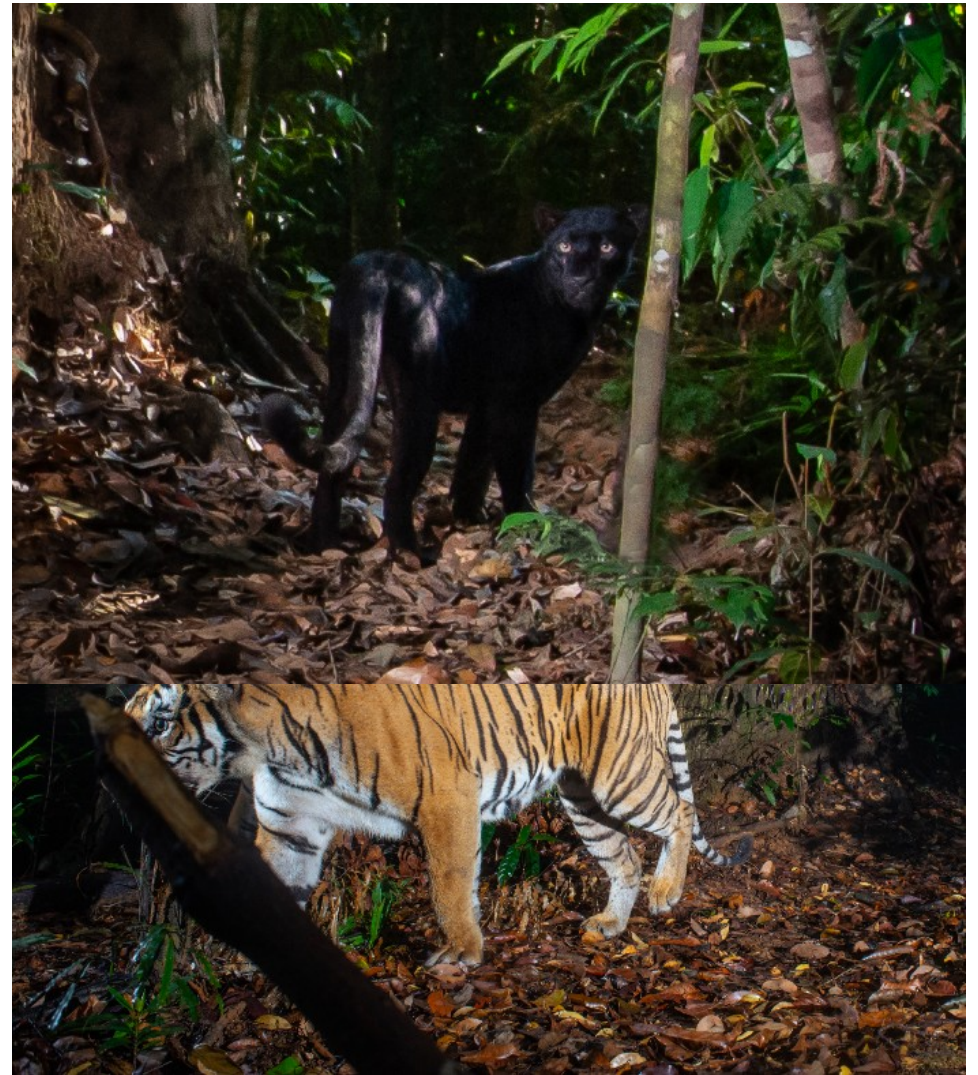
As Panthera celebrates its twentieth year, they remain encouraged by progress in the recovery and protection of wild cats and their habitats—from increasing lion populations in West Africa and expanding protections for jaguars across the Americas to strengthening anti-poaching operations in Southeast Asia and advancing critical research for some of the world’s least-studied small cat species. These achievements reflect the dedication of Panthera’s field teams and partners, and the trust and investment of a diverse and international group of committed supporters.

In 2025, Panthera worked across more than 30 countries to protect wild cats through research, law enforcement, community engagement, habitat conservation, and policy leadership. Among the Fund-supported initiatives were two key projects delivered in partnership with Panthera: mitigating human-wild cat conflict in the Leuser Ecosystem and providing a safe environment and technical support for the Tigers for Tomorrow initiative in Malaysia.

“We are deeply grateful for the Mohamed Bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund’s leadership in supporting biodiversity conservation worldwide and for your role in helping ensure a future where wild cats and the ecosystems they sustain continue to thrive.”
Panthera

These selection of images are all captured in The Al-Sultan Abdullah Royal Tiger Reserve by the incredibly talented Ryan Peters.

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A person wearing a hat and a dark shirt stands in a shallow, rocky stream, looking towards a dense forest. Sunlight filters through the trees, creating a dappled light effect on the water and the surrounding greenery. The stream is filled with large, moss-covered rocks and is surrounded by lush vegetation and tall trees.

FINANCIALS

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

ENDOWMENT

The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund's endowment was established in April 2009 with an initial allocation of US\$27.5 million. Since then, it has been managed with the objective of ensuring the long-term financial sustainability of the Fund's small grants programme in perpetuity.

The long-term objectives of the endowment, as set out in its Investment Policy Statement, are to:

1. provide annual distributions in support of species conservation, in accordance with the MBZ Fund's spending rule;
2. preserve the endowment's capital in US dollar terms over a rolling ten-year period; and
3. subject to achieving the first two objectives, grow the capital by generating investment returns in excess of annual distributions.

Since inception, the endowment has successfully met all three objectives. Its capital has grown from US\$27.5 million to US\$54.6 million as of year-end 2025*, while US\$23.9 million has been distributed through the Fund's grant programme during the same period**.





In the second quarter of 2024, the Investment Policy Statement was revised. The long-term net return objective was increased progressively from 4.5% to 5.5%, while the portfolio's risk tolerance was defined as an Expected Shortfall (95% confidence level) of no more than 15% over a one-year period.

Since inception, the endowment has generated an annualised net return of 5.31%, exceeding its long-term objective. Over the past five years, the annualised net return has been 5.45%.

The endowment is managed through discretionary mandates with Goldman Sachs (Investment Grade Fixed Income) and Banque Pictet (Private Equity and Hedge Funds), complemented by a number of directly managed investments, including two equity and high-yield mandates (BlackRock), two core/core-plus real estate funds (PGIM and Blackstone), one hedge fund investment (Aurum Millennium), and one private equity fund (Carlyle AlInvest).

() This figure includes two additional capital contributions of US\$10 million each, received in April 2024 and March 2025.*

*(**) Additional distributions supporting species conservation were made directly from donations outside the endowment, amounting to US\$4.2 million and bringing total distributions to US\$28.1 million.*

MARKETS AND PERFORMANCE IN 2025

Most major financial asset classes delivered positive returns in 2025, with global equities, bonds, credit and emerging market assets all posting solid gains. Markets were supported by continued global economic growth, optimism around artificial intelligence, and further monetary policy easing by major central banks.

The year was also marked by periods of significant volatility. The “Liberation Day” tariff announcements triggered sharp market declines, while Germany’s fiscal stimulus drove a notable rise in 10-year Bund yields. Meanwhile, concerns over inflation and currency debasement contributed to strong gains in gold and silver.

- **Global equities** delivered robust returns, with all major indices ending the year higher. The “Magnificent Seven” gained approximately 25%, supported by continued enthusiasm for artificial intelligence despite concerns over valuations.
- **Global bonds** recorded their strongest performance since 2020, although returns varied considerably by region. US 10-year Treasury yields fell by 40 basis points, while Japan’s 10-year government bond yield rose by 97 basis points.
- **The US Dollar Index** declined by 9.4%, its weakest annual performance since 2017, depreciating against all other G10 currencies. As a result, US assets delivered stronger returns in local currency terms than when measured in US dollars.

Against this backdrop, the MBZF endowment generated a **net return of 10.06% in 2025**, bringing its **five-year annualised net return to 5.45%**.





BEYOND 2025

The revision of the Investment Policy Statement in the second quarter of 2024 followed a landmark commitment from the Presidential Court to contribute an additional US\$40 million to the endowment over a four-year period.

This significant increase in capital will enable the Fund to expand its grant-making activities while further strengthening the resilience of the portfolio through enhanced diversification. Following this commitment, US\$10 million was contributed in 2024 and a further US\$10 million in 2025.

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

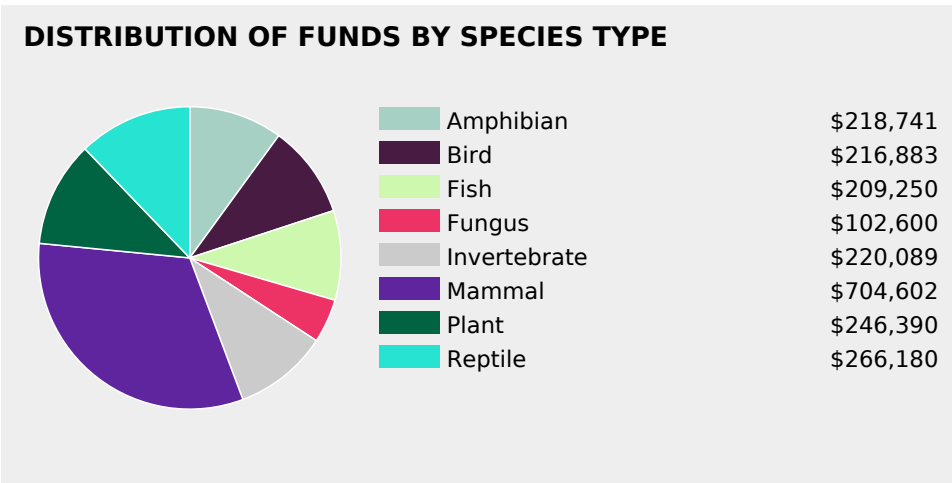
2025 marked another important chapter in the Fund’s legacy of collaborative conservation.

During the year, the Fund strengthened its partnerships with the National Aquarium Abu Dhabi, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and Dolphin Energy. While the first phase of our collaboration with Mubadala concluded, preparations are already underway for its next evolution. We also expanded our legacy of supporting conservation leadership by launching the Youth Grant for Nature in partnership with the Atlantis Atlas Project, empowering the next generation of conservation storytellers. The continued support of GEF and Dolphin Energy further strengthened our small grants programme, enabling us to invest in conservation where it is needed most.

A defining milestone was the announcement of a **US\$22 million, five-year initiative** to establish Southeast Asia’s first tiger reserve, dedicated to protecting the critically endangered Malayan tiger and restoring one of the region’s most important ecosystems.

Alongside the first-year **US\$4 million** investment in the tiger reserve, the Fund invested a further **US\$2,144,338** through its small grants programme, supporting species conservation initiatives across **65 countries** on **six continents**. With additional support from the Small Wild Cat Conservation Foundation (SWCCF), we awarded **209 grants**, with an average value of **US\$10,259**. Yet only **11%** of applications received funding, highlighting the urgent need for continued investment in biodiversity conservation.

Perhaps the Fund’s greatest legacy is the global community it has helped build. Over the past **16 years**, we have grown a network of more than **11,000 nature ambassadors** across **175 countries**. Every partnership, grant, and ambassador strengthens a worldwide movement committed to protecting species today while building a lasting legacy for nature and future generations.



DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS BY CONTINENT

Antarctica	\$645,395
Asia	\$0
Europe	\$568,908
North America	\$109,400
Oceania	\$279,774
South America	\$73,820
	\$507,438

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS BY UICN RED LIST

	Data Deficient	\$232,625
	Least Concern	\$51,367
	Near Threatened	\$2,500
	Vulnerable	\$94,480
	Critically Endangered	\$133,058
	Endangered	\$1,041,086
	Extinct in the Wild	\$619,619
	Extinct	\$0
		\$10,000

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

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