



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

# CONSERVATION DURING HUMAN CRISIS

As Covid-19 became more widespread in 2020, its affects on conservation activities were apparent among our grant recipients who were unable to enter the field or lost revenue from dwindling ecotourism. The MBZ Fund took decisive action in 2020 to support these struggling conservation organizations by offering Covid-19 Relief Grants.

# FOREWORD

The year started normally. Hardly anyone outside China paid attention to the respiratory illness that was causing severe disease, mass hospitalizations, and state-imposed social distancing; however, within a few months the world had entered a crisis. Businesses were being shuttered. Borders closed. Travel dwindled. Our cities quieted and species conservation activities came to a halt. [A survey of our grant recipients in May 2020](#) revealed that conservation was in crisis, too.

Conservation philanthropy required a new approach. Although the MBZ Fund provided support for direct species conservation activities through June 2020, the Fund changed course for the remainder of 2020 and into 2021 to help supplant small conservation organizations' loss of revenue. The MBZ Fund began providing grants for core costs like rent, utilities and salaries. In this report we highlight some examples of how the MBZ Fund *Covid-19 Relief Grants* provided respite from the punishing loss of revenue experienced by many cherished conservation organizations without whom species conservation would not be possible. While the tragic events of 2020 were devastating, we continue to be impressed with the resilience of nature and the conservation organizations working so passionately to protect it.

**RAZAN AL MUBARAK**  
**MANAGING DIRECTOR**



Marvelous Spatuletail ©Owen Deutsch

A damselfly nymph is visible in a shallow stream, surrounded by lush green vegetation and moss. The water is clear, and the surrounding environment is a dense, natural habitat.

# ABOUT US

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

## WHY SPECIES CONSERVATION?

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

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





Dolphin rescue team (Pakistan) ©Haroon Rasheed

## HOW DID COVID-19 AFFECT THE FUND?

The effects of Covid-19 were being strongly felt by Spring 2020. Countries in Europe and North America were more affected by the virus than countries on other continents; however, the measures to reduce the spread of the virus, such as social distancing and travel restrictions, were becoming commonplace.

In May 2020, the MBZ Fund surveyed its grant recipients to better understand how these prevention measures were affecting them. The survey ([Click Here to Read the Report](#)) found the pandemic had affected the ability of 83 percent of conservationists to conduct critical fieldwork, while 70 percent said their planned conservation activities had been canceled or postponed. Many organisations reported loss of revenue due to closures of parks, zoos, aquariums, and a severe decline in ecotourism.

As a relief measure for conservation organisations experiencing significant financial losses because of the pandemic, the MBZ Fund temporarily switched its focus from funding direct species conservation activities to helping support core costs, such as rent, utilities, and/or salaries. This change in focus would apply to applications received between 1 July and 31 October, as well as those received between 1 November and 28 February 2021. After this, the MBZ Fund would go back to prioritizing support for direct conservation action.



# SMALL GRANTS

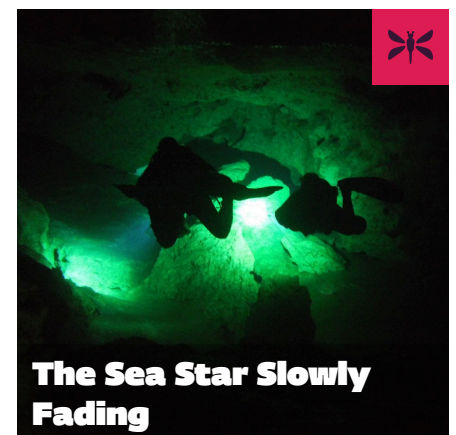
The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund provides financial support in the form of small grants of less than \$25,000 to conservation projects worldwide. The small grants programme is as much for the species as the conservationists and organisations working passionately to protect them.

# CASE STUDIES

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

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

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



## THE GUARDIANS STARRY NIGHT OVER COLOMBIA

Ensuring the conservation of the threatened Starry Night Harlequin toads (*Atelopus*) in the Key Biodiversity Area Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Colombia.

**Scientific name:** *Atelopus arsyecue*

**Common name:** Starry Night Harlequin Toad

**Species type:** Amphibian

**Country:** Colombia

**Website:** <https://reports.speciesconservation.org/ar-case-studies/the-sacred-guardians-starring-the-forest/>



## STEPPING BACK TO SAFETY

Conservation of the Steppe Eagle breeding population in the Altai-Sayan Ecoregion, Russia.

**Scientific name:** *Aquila nipalensis*

**Common name:** Steppe Eagle

**Species type:** Bird

**Country:** Russia

**Website:** <https://reports.speciesconservation.org/ar-case-studies/stepping-back-to-safety/>



## KEEPING RESEARCH ISLAND AFLOAT

Subsidising core operational costs for long-term species conservation objectives, invasive species management and novel environmental education initiatives on Utila

**Scientific name:** *Ctenosaura bakeri* and *Anolis bicaorum*

**Common name:** Utila Spiny-tailed Iguana and Bica Anole

**Species type:** Reptile

**Country:** Honduras

**Website:** <https://reports.speciesconservation.org/ar-case-studies/keeping-afloat-on-the-island-of-conservation/>



## THE FALL OF THE MIGHTY MAHSEER

Community-based conservation of the Critically Endangered Wayanad Mahseer, *Neolissochilus wynaadensis* in the Western Ghats.

**Scientific name:** *Neolissochilus wynaadensis*

**Common name:** Wayanad Mahseer

**Species type:** Fish

**Country:** India

**Website:** <https://reports.speciesconservation.org/ar-case-studies/the-fall-of-the-mighty-mahseer/>



## FISHING FOR WATER CATS

Investigating the distribution and threats to the Fishing cat (*Prionailurus viverrinus*) in the Sindh, Balochistan and Punjab provinces of Pakistan

**Scientific name:** *Prionailurus viverrinus*

**Common name:** Fishing cat

**Species type:** Mammal

**Country:** Pakistan

**Website:** <https://reports.speciesconservation.org/ar-case-studies/fishing-for-water-cats/>



## THE SEA STAR SLOWLY FADING

Conservation status of the micro-endemic echinoderm species inhabiting a subterranean estuary in Cozumel, Mexico

**Scientific name:** *Copidaster cavernicola*

**Common name:** Cozumel's cave sea star

**Species type:** Invertebrate

**Country:** Mexico

**Website:** <https://reports.speciesconservation.org/ar-case-studies/the-sea-star-slowly-fading/>



# SMALL GRANTS SUPPORTED 2020

## 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	<b>Austral Andean Water Frog</b>	Telmatobius contrerasi	Tomás Agustín Martínez	Gabinete DIBIOVA, UNSJ	Argentina, South America	\$5,000
CR	Bogota Harlequin Toad	Atelopus subornatus	Lina Valencia	Global Wildlife Organization	Colombia, South America	\$8,400
CR	<b>Canasi Frog</b>	Eleutherodactylus blairhedgesi	Yaira López Hurtado	Instituto de Ecología y Sistemática	Cuba, North America	\$4,500
CR	<b>Harlequin Poison Frog</b>	Oophaga histrionica	Gissella Pineda	N/A	Colombia, South America	\$5,000
EN	<b>Lake Junin giant frog</b>	Telmatobius macrostomus	Luis Castillo Roque	GRUPO RANA	Peru, South America	\$16,000
CR	<b>Leopard skunk frog</b>	Aromobates leopardalis	Enrique La Marca	Rescue of Endangered Venezuelan Amphibians (REVA) Conservation Center	Venezuela, South America	\$5,000
EN	Mount Bamboutos Wolterstorff Toad	Wolterstorffina mirei	Arnaud Marius Tchassem Fokoua	Laboratory of Zoology, University of Yaoundé I / CWCS (Cameroon Wildlife Conservation Society)	Cameroon, Africa	\$8,000
EX	Northern Gastric-brooding Frog	Rheobatrachus vitellinus	Conrad Hoskin	James Cook University	Australia, Oceania	\$4,900
CR	Patagonia Frog	Atelognathus patagonicus	Rodrigo Calvo	La Plata Natural Science Museum	Argentina, South America	\$4,800
NE	<b>Phrynomedusa dryade</b>	Phrynomedusa dryade	Delio Pontes Baeta da Costa	UNESP and National Museum - UFRJ	Brazil, South America	\$6,800
CR	<b>Salamandra del Pital</b>	Bolitoglossa synoria	Raúl Ernesto López	Iniciativa Bosques y Anfibios de El Salvador (IBAES)	El Salvador, North America	\$13,000

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
EN	<b>Southern Darwin's frog</b>	Rhinoderma darwinii	Andrés Valenzuela-Sánchez	Asociación Ranita de Darwin	Chile, South America	\$23,900
CR	<b>Starry Night Harlequin toad</b>	Atelopus arsyecue	Jose Luis Pérez González	Fundación Atelopus	Colombia, South America	\$9,000
CR	<b>William's bright-eyed tree frog</b>	Boophis williamsi	REBECCA DE SALEM FANOMEZANTSOA EMERALDA	N/A	Madagascar, Africa	\$4,600

## BIRD



IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
CR	<b>'ōmāma'o</b>	Pomarea nigra	Caroline Blanvillain	Société d'Ornithologie de Polynésie	French Polynesia, Oceania	\$24,900
CR	<b>Black Breasted Puffleg</b>	Eriocnemis nigrivestis	Wendy Willis	Fundación Jocotoco	Ecuador, South America	\$24,460
CR	Blue-bearded Helmetcrest	Oxypogon cyanolaemus	Sara Lara	Fundacion ProAves	Colombia, South America	\$6,000
CR	Blue-billed Curassow	Crax alberti	Andrés Montes Rojas	Fundación Proyecto Primates	Colombia, South America	\$7,550
CR	Fuertes Parrot /Indigo-winged parrot	Hapalopsittaca fuertesi	Maria Clara Díaz González	´Fundación Vida Silvestre	Colombia, South America	\$4,750
CR	Giant Ibis	Thaumatibis gigantea	Samnang Eang	Birdlife International Cambodia Programme	Cambodia, Asia	\$17,700
CR	Horned Curassow	Pauxi unicornis	Bennett Hennessey	Asociacion Armonia	Bolivia, South America	\$17,500
EN	Marvelous spatuletail hummingbird	Loddigesia mirabilis	Constantino Aucua Chutas	Asoaciación Ecosistemas Andinos - ECOAN	Peru, South America	\$25,000
CR	Newell's Shearwater	Puffinus newelli	Holly Robertson	American Bird Conservancy	United States, North America	\$9,000
CR	Príncipe thrush	Turdus xanthorhynchus	Estrela Matilde	Fundação Príncipe	Sao Tome and Principe, Africa	\$7,782
CR	Red-fronted Macaw	Ara rubrogenys	Tjalle Boorsma	Asociacion Armonia	Bolivia, South America	\$13,000
CR	Royal Cinclodes	Cinclodes aricomae	Rodrigo W. Soria-Auza	Asociación Armonia	Bolivia, South America	\$9,400
EN	Sakalava rail	Zapornia olivieri	Sama Zefania	University of Toliara, Institut Supérieur de Technologie de Menabe (ISTM), enceinte du Port Morondav	Madagascar, Africa	\$8,946

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
EN	<b>Steppe Eagle</b>	Aquila nipalensis	Igor Karyakin	RRRCN	Russia, Asia	\$5,000
CR	Townsend's Shearwater	Puffinus auricularis auricularis	Federico Mendez Sánchez	Grupo de Ecología y Conservación de Mexico, North America Islas, A.C.		\$5,000
EN	<b>White-breasted Thrasher</b>	Ramphocinclus brachyurus sanctaeluciae	Lisa Sorenson	BirdsCaribbean	Saint Lucia, North America	\$10,825
CR	<b>White-rumped vulture</b>	Gyps bengalensis	Sunny Joshi	Himalayan Institute for Sustainable Environment and Reseach Society	India, Asia	\$5,000
EN	Yellow-throated apalis	Apalis flavigularis	Tiwonge Mzumara-Gawa	Malawi University of Science and Technology	Malawi, Africa	\$6,000

## FISH



IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
CR	<b>Agaria</b>	Haplochromis Argenteus	Paul Okalo	Teso Women Development Enterprise Ltd	Uganda, Africa	\$11,875
CR	Alfred's Liquorice gourami	Parosphromenus alfredi	Wentian Shi	Parosphromenus Project	Malaysia, Asia	\$4,800
CR	Baringo lampeye	Aplocheilichthys sp. 'Lake Baringo'	Pedro Bragança	South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity	Kenya, Africa	\$7,250
CR	<b>Bowmouth Guitarfish</b>	Rhina ancylostoma	Andrea Marshall	Marine Megafauna Foundation	Mozambique, Africa	\$10,550
EN	<b>Daisy Stingray</b>	Fontitrygon margarita	Justina Ekuwa Annan	Bushmeat Crisis Foundation-Ghana	Ghana, Africa	\$10,000
CR	<b>Great Hammerhead</b>	Sphyrna mokarran	Chaitanya Krishna	Foundation for Ecological Research, Advocacy & Learning (FERAL)	India, Asia	\$20,000
EN	Greenback parrotish	Scarus trispinosus	Pedro Pereira	Projeto Conservação Recifal (PCR)	Brazil, South America	\$20,000
DD	Guatopote del balsas	Poeciliopsis balsas	Lluvia Ramírez Navarro	Conservation Research Group, Centro de Investigaciones Biológicas, Universidad Autónoma del Estado	Mexico, North America	\$4,600
CR	<b>Karomo tilapia</b>	Oreochromis karomo	Tausi Khitentya	Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute (TAFIRI)	Tanzania, Africa	\$10,325

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
CR	Naked Characin	Gymnocharacinus bergii	Federico Kacoliris	Fundación Somuncura	Argentina, South America	\$20,000
CR	Ningu	Labeo victorianus	Mark Olokotum	National Fisheries Resources Research Institute (NaFIRRI)	Uganda, Africa	\$11,130
CR	Syr-Darya Shovelnose Sturgeon	Pseudoscaphirhynchus fedtschenkoi	Bernard Kuhajda	Tennessee Aquarium Conservation Institute	Uzbekistan, Asia	\$7,970
EN	T-Bar cichlid	Amatitlania sajica	Arturo Angulo	Asociación Costarricense de Acuarismo para la Conservación de los Ecosistemas Dulceacuícolas	Costa Rica, North America	\$4,500
CR	Wayanad Mahseer	Neolissochilus wynaadensis	Anoop V K	Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies	India, Asia	\$23,900

## FUNGI



IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
NE	Brown-capped mushroom	Russula cellulata	Basile Gbètondji Hounwanou	Laboratory of applied ecology	Benin, Africa	\$6,500
NE	Fisherman's Dream	Usnea angulata	Jessica Allen	Eastern Washington University	United States, North America	\$17,000
VU	<b>Fomitiporia nubicola</b>	Fomitiporia nubicola	Genivaldo Alves da Silva	Federal University of Santa Catarina	Brazil, South America	\$11,600
EN	<b>Lemon-colored Antrodiella</b>	Flaviporus citrinellus	Reda Iršénaitė	Nature Research Centre	Lithuania, Europe	\$7,500

## INVERTEBRATE



IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
CR	<b>Bei-Bienko's Plump Bush-cricket</b>	Isophya beybienkoi	Soňa Nuhlíčková	Comenius University, Faculty of Natural Sciences	Slovakia, Europe	\$23,100
VU	Cameroon Spiny Katydid	Pantecphylus kamerunus	Charly OUMAROU NGOUTE	IUCN SSC Grasshopper Specialist Group	Cameroon, Africa	\$15,000
CR	<b>Cika mountain grasshopper</b>	Peripodisma ceraunii	Michèle Lemonnier-Darcemont	GEEM	Albania, Europe	\$7,750

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
NE	<b>Cozumel's cave sea star</b>	Copidaster cavernicola	Fernando Calderon Gutierrez	Texas A&M University at Galveston	Mexico, North America	\$4,950
NE	Firefly beetles, Glow-worms, lightning bugs, kelip-kelip	Lampyridae	Choong Hay Wong	Malaysian Nature Society	Malaysia, Asia	\$7,500
VU	Galaxea astreata	Galaxea astreata	Natalie Andersen	Kwanini Foundation	Tanzania, Africa	\$19,000
CR	Guamuhayan Stick-Insect	Malacomorpha guamuhayaense	Sheyla Lazara Yong Quintero	Sociedad Cubana de Zoología	Cuba, North America	\$3,800
NE	<b>Javan Threadtail</b>	Prodasineura delicatula	Hening Triandika Rachman	Indonesia Dragonfly Society	Indonesia, Asia	\$4,995
VU	<b>Madeiran Green Bush-Cricket</b>	Psalmatophanes barretoii	Howon Rhee	IUCN SSC Grasshopper Specialist Group	Portugal, Europe	\$16,000
CR	<b>Madeiran land snail</b>	Leiostyla cassidula	Dinarte Teixeira	Instituto das Florestas e Conservação das Naturezas, IP-RAM	Portugal, Europe	\$10,000
NE	marisco de rio	Leila blainvilleana	Cristhian Clavijo	BIVAAS South American Freshwater mussels, National Museum of Natural History and Vida Silvestre NGO	Uruguay, South America	\$8,000
DD	Native Bees/ Non-apis bees	Hymenoptera - Apidae	Yeshwanth H M	Independent Researcher	India, Asia	\$15,000
NE	<b>Neorthacris acuticeps acuticeps</b>	Neorthacris acuticeps acuticeps	DHANEESH BHASKAR	IUCN SSC Grasshopper Specialist Group	India, Asia	\$5,000
EN	Potamonautes platycentron	Potamonautes platycentron	John Kochey Kipyegon	National Museums of Kenya	Kenya, Africa	\$5,000
EX	Rocky Mountain locust	Melanoplus spretus	Jeffrey Lockwood	University of Wyoming, Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies	France, Europe	\$15,000
NE	Tarantula	Haplocosmia nepalensis	Kiran Thapa Magar	N/A	Nepal, Asia	\$5,000

# MAMMAL



IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
VU	<b>African Golden Cat</b>	Caracal aurata	Patrick Dauda	Gola Rainforest Conservation Limited	Sierra Leone, Africa	\$5,000
VU	<b>African golden cat</b>	Caracal aurata	Franklin SIMO	Cameroon Wildlife Conservation Initiative	Cameroon, Africa	\$7,300
VU	African golden cat	Caracal aurata	Badru Mugerwa	Embaka-Saving African golden cat	Uganda, Africa	\$15,070
EN	African wild dog	Lycaon pictus	Whitney Hansen	University of California Santa Cruz, Environmental Studies Department	Botswana, Africa	\$8,800
EN	African Wild Dog	Lycaon pictus	Marc Collins	Space for Giants	Kenya, Africa	\$12,500
EN	Andean cat	Leopardus jacobita	Juan Carlos Huaranca	Andean Cat Alliance	Bolivia, South America	\$10,000
EN	<b>Arunachal Macaque</b>	Macaca Munzala	Sonam Wangyel	Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary, Trashigang, Bhutan	Bhutan, Asia	\$4,992
EN	<b>Baird's tapir</b>	Tapirus bairdii	Francis Castro	Bluefields Indian and Caribbean University BICU	Nicaragua, North America	\$12,000
EN	Baird's tapir	Tapirus bairdii	Jorge Rojas	PhD Student at the University of Georgia, Costa Rica Wildlife Foundation (CRWF) & Nai Conservation	Costa Rica, North America	\$5,000
EN	Baird's Tapir	Tapirus bairdii	Esteban Brenes-Mora	Costa Rica Wildlife Foundation	Costa Rica, North America	\$15,000
EN	<b>Baird's tapir</b>	Tapirus bairdii	Diego Gómez Hoyos	Soy Conservación	Costa Rica, North America	\$8,000
CR	<b>Black Rhinoceros</b>	Diceros bicornis	Mick Reilly	Big Game Parks	Eswatini, Africa	\$12,500
CR	Brown-headed spider monkey	Ateles fusciceps fusciceps	Felipe Alfonso-Cortes	Proyecto Washu / Fundación Naturaleza y Arte	Ecuador, South America	\$12,500
EN	<b>Buffy-tufted-ear marmoset</b>	Callithrix aurita	Rogério Cunha	Universidade Federal de Alfenas	Brazil, South America	\$9,800
VU	Common leopard	Panthera pardus	Kinley Tenzin	Department of Forest and Park Service	Bhutan, Asia	\$7,000
CR	Delacour's langur	Trachypithecus delacouri	An Le Thanh	Center for Nature Conservation and Development (CCD)	Vietnam, Asia	\$7,000

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
EN	Eld's Deer	Rucervus eldii siamensis	James Lyon	Rising Phoenix Co. Ltd.	Cambodia, Asia	\$11,500
VU	Fishing Cat	Prionailurus viverrinus	Sagar Dahal	Small Mammals Conservation and Research Foundation	Nepal, Asia	\$7,962
VU	<b>Fishing Cat</b>	Prionailurus viverrinus	Ganesh Puri	N/A	Nepal, Asia	\$4,940
VU	<b>Fishing cat</b>	Prionailurus viverrinus	Zafeer Ahmed Shaikh	Fishing Cat Working Group	Pakistan, Asia	\$4,850
EN	Fishing Cat	Prionailurus viverrinus	Arjun Thapa	Small Mammals Conservation and Research Foundation	Nepal, Asia	\$16,085
VU	Fishing cat	Prionailurus viverrinus	Tiasa Adhya	Fishing Cat Conservation Alliance	India, Asia	\$11,000
EN	Golden Lion Tamarin (GLT)	Leontopithecus rosalia	Luis Paulo Ferraz	Associação Mico-Leão-Dourado	Brazil, South America	\$12,500
EN	Golden-rumped Elephant Shrew (Sengi)	Rhynchocyon chrysopygus	Markéta Antonínová	Friends of Arabuko-Sokoke Forest	Kenya, Africa	\$12,500
VU	Gursky's Spectral Tarsier	Tarsius spectrumgurskyae	Sharon Gursky	Texas A&M University	Indonesia, Asia	\$8,000
EN	<b>Indus River dolphins</b>	Platanista Minor	Haroon Rasheed	Indus Conservation Society	Pakistan, Asia	\$15,000
CR	Kolar leaf-nosed bat	Hipposideros hypophyllus	Rajesh Puttaswamaiah	Bat Conservation India Trust	India, Asia	\$12,500
NT	Marbled cat	Pardofelis marmorata	Giridhar Malla	Wildlife Institute Of India	India, Asia	\$4,986
CR	Myanmar snub-nosed monkey	Rhinopithecus strykeri	Sharon Bamberg	Fauna & Flora International (FFI)	Myanmar (Burma), Asia	\$12,500
CR	Niger Delta Red Colobus Monkey	Piliocolobus epieni	Rachel Ikemeh	SW/Niger Delta Forest Project	Nigeria, Africa	\$19,500
EN	Okapi	Okapia johnstoni	John Lukas	Okapi Conservation Project	Congo, Democratic Republic of (Congo-Kinshasa), Africa	\$15,000
VU	Oncilla	Leopardus tigrinus oncilla	José Daniel Ramírez-Fernández	Costa Rica Wildlife Foundation	Costa Rica, North America	\$6,500
CR	Preuss's red colobus monkey	Piliocolobus preussi	Epérance Atemkeng Mamekui	Society for Conservation Biology - Cameroon Chapter	Cameroon, Africa	\$6,200
CR	Riverine Rabbit	Bunolagus monticularis	Bonnie Schumann	Endangered Wildlife Trust	South Africa, Africa	\$12,000
EN	Sclater's guenon Monkey	Cercopithecus sclateri	Ikponke Nkanta	Tropical Research and Conservation Centre (TRCC)	Nigeria, Africa	\$15,000

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
DD	Silver-backed chevrotain	Tragulus versicolor	Andrew Tilker	Global Wildlife Conservation	Vietnam, Asia	\$8,000
CR	<b>Tonkin Snub-nosed Monkey</b>	Rhinopithecus avunculus	Dang Nguyen Xuan	Centre for Resources, Environment and Climate change	Vietnam, Asia	\$25,000
CR	Western Lowland Gorilla	Gorilla gorilla gorilla	Nicholas Bachand	Projet Gorille Fernan-Vaz	Gabon, Africa	\$17,000
CR	<b>White-thighed Colobus</b>	Colobus vellerosus	Christopher Dankwah	A Rocha Ghana	Ghana, Africa	\$10,500
CR	<b>White-thighed Colobus</b>	Colobus vellerosus	Christopher Dankwah	A Rocha Ghana	Ghana, Africa	\$15,000

## PLANT



IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
CR	<b>Almanegra de Ventanas</b>	Magnolia polyhypsophylla	Carlos Mauricio Mazo	Corporacion Salvamontes Colombia	Colombia, South America	\$19,000
CR	<b>Aloe</b>	Aloe boscawenii	Fredrick Ojja	Mbeya University of Science and Technology	Tanzania, Africa	\$5,000
EN	Angona	Dioscorea orangeana	Rajaonah Mamy Tiana	Kew Madagascar Conservation Centre	Madagascar, Africa	\$17,000
EN	Câu điệp Evrard	Bulbophyllum evrardii	Huong Bui Van	Department of Nature Conservation, Vietnam National Museum of Nature	Vietnam, Asia	\$5,000
DD	Disa satyriopsis	Disa satyriopsis	Blessings Chingagwe	Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi	Malawi, Africa	\$5,000
CR	Ellen's Paphiopedilum	Paphiopedilum helenae	Van Dinh	Center for Nature Conservation and Development (CCD)	Vietnam, Asia	\$9,500
CR	<b>Ginger</b>	Etlingera doliiformis	Anggra Alfian	Center for Biodiversity Study, Muhammadiyah University of Palopo	Indonesia, Asia	\$6,000
CR	<b>Horstrissea dolinicola</b>	Horstrissea dolinicola	Christini Fournaraki	CIHEAM Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania (MAICh)	Greece, Europe	\$11,000
CR	kamakahala	Geniostoma helleri	Seana Walsh	National Tropical Botanical Garden	United States, North America	\$10,000
EN	<b>Lebombo Cycad</b>	Encephalartos lebomboensis	Angelina Martins	Eduardo Mondlane University, Faculty of Science, Department of Biological Science	Mozambique, Africa	\$13,000

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
CR	Malabar Rotala	Rotala malabarica	Shijith Puthan Purayil	Mahatma Gandhi Government Arts College, Mahe	India, Asia	\$5,000
CR	<b>Nepenthes aristolochioides</b>	Nepenthes aristolochioides	Firham Yasra	HERBARIUM ANDA of Andalas University	Indonesia, Asia	\$4,000
NE	<b>Orchids</b>	Orchidaceae	Tatiana Arias	Sociedad Colombiana de Orquideologia	Colombia, South America	\$20,000
CR	<b>Parana Pine</b>	Araucaria angustifolia	Carl Gakran	AEIUFSC	Brazil, South America	\$20,000
EN	<b>Pokemeboy</b>	Vachellia anegadensis	Nancy Pascoe	National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands (NPTVI)	British Virgin Islands, North America	\$20,000
EN	<b>Salmia</b>	Salvia taraxacifolia	Abdellah Aghraz	Moroccan Biodiversity and Livelihoods Association (MBLA)	Morocco, Africa	\$16,000
EN	<b>Titan Arum</b>	Amorphophallus titanum	Angga Yudaputra	Center for plant conservation and Botanic Gardens	Indonesia, Asia	\$7,500
CR	Wailua River yellow loosestrife	Lysimachia iniki	Ben Nyberg	National Tropical Botanical Garden	United States, North America	\$8,500

## REPTILE



IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
EN	Asian Giant Softshell turtle	Pelochelys cantorii	Ayushi Jain	Wildlife Institute of India	India, Asia	\$5,000
EN	Big-headed turtle	Platysternon megacephalum	Kalyar Platt	Turtle Survival Alliance	Myanmar (Burma), Asia	\$9,000
CR	<b>Central American River Turtle</b>	Dermatemys mawii	Jacob Marlin	Belize Foundation for Research & Environmental Education (BFREE)	Belize, North America	\$20,000
CR	<b>Cuban Khaki Trope</b>	Tropidophis hendersoni	Tomas Michel Rodríguez Cabrera	Sociedad Cubana de Zoología	Cuba, North America	\$4,500
CR	Darevsky's Viper	Vipera darevskii	Konrad Mebert	Institute of Development, Ecology, Conservation and Cooperation	Turkey, Asia	\$4,965
CR	Forsten's Tortoise	Indotestudo forstenii	Asnim Alyoihana Lanusi	PROGRES (Prakarsa Konservasi Ekologi Regional Sulawesi)	Indonesia, Asia	\$4,500

IUCN	Vernacular Name	Scientific Name	Name	Name of Organization	Country, Continent	Funding
CR	Geometric Tortoise	Psammobates geometricus	Ross Kiester	Southern Africa Tortoise Conservation Trust	South Africa, Africa	\$6,500
CR	Gharial	Gavialis gangeticus	Mina Shrestha	N/A	Nepal, Asia	\$3,000
VU	Indian Softshell Turtle	Nilssonia gangetica	Shailendra Singh	Turtle Survival Alliance-India	India, Asia	\$12,000
CR	Lygodactylus mirabilis	Lygodactylus mirabilis	Radosoa A. Andrianaivoarivelo	Aro Velona	Madagascar, Africa	\$8,000
CR	Northern River Terrapin	Batagur baska	Shailendra Singh	Turtle Survival Alliance	India, Asia	\$19,000
CR	Nubian flapshell turtle	Cyclanorbis elegans	Luca Luiselli	N/A	South Sudan, Africa	\$12,000
CR	Okoloma worm lizard	Cynisca gansi	Lotanna Micah Nneji	Kunming Institute of Zoology, China	Nigeria, Africa	\$9,000
CR	Philippine crocodile	Crocodylus mindorensis	Merlijn van Weerd	Mabuwaya Foundation	Philippines, Asia	\$22,000
CR	<b>Rote Island snake-necked turtle</b>	Chelodina mccordi	Jimmy Helgesson	Nordens Ark	Indonesia, Asia	\$4,500
CR	Siamese crocodile	Crocodylus siamensis	Herdhanu Jayanto	Yayasan Kolaborasi Inklusi Konservasi (KONKLUSI)	Indonesia, Asia	\$5,000
NE	Turtles and Tortoises	Order Testudines	Tomas Diagne	African Chelonian Insitute	Senegal, Africa	\$4,500
CR	Utila Spiny-tailed Iguana	Ctenosaura bakeri	Ana Daniela Sansur Pavon	Kanahau Utila Research and Conservation Facility	Honduras, North America	\$9,000
CR	<b>Utila Spiny-tailed Iguana</b>	Ctenosaura bakeri	Tom Brown	Kanahau Wildlife Conservation Organization NGO, Utila Island, Honduras	Honduras, North America	\$15,225

A photograph of a rocky stream bed. In the foreground, a dark grey backpack with orange and yellow accents is open, lying on a bed of small, reddish-brown stones. To the left of the backpack, a green mesh net is partially visible, resting on a patch of green moss. The stream bed is composed of various sized rocks and pebbles, with some larger, moss-covered boulders. The background shows more rocks and some green foliage, suggesting a natural, forested environment.

# PARTNER PROJECTS

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

# MUBADALA INVESTMENT COMPANY GRANTS



MUBADALA

## LARGE PROJECTS, SPONSORED BY MUBADALA

Mubadala Investment Company, the Abu Dhabi-based sovereign investor, has entered a three-year partnership with the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund to support conservation initiatives around the world.

Through the partnership, Mubadala Investment Company will provide the MBZ Fund with US \$1.5 million annually to be directed towards supporting endangered flora and fauna in Africa, Asia and South America; particularly in countries where Mubadala Investment Company has portfolio companies including Colombia, Guinea, Indonesia, Thailand - representing some of the world's biodiversity hotspots.

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

[View website](#)





# PHILANTHROPY

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

# PANTHERA



## SUPPORTING PANTHERA AND GLOBAL WILD CAT CONSERVATION

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

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

### **Mapping the future of the Jaguar in the Americas**

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

### **Ending poaching in Africa**

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



Lion Cubs © Panthera

### **Tigers on the rebound in South Asia**

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

### **Saving Snow Leopards with Tourism in India**

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

[View website](#)



Puma © Panthera



# FINANCIALS

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



**[View our 2020 Audited Financial Statement](#)**

# ENDOWMENT



Atelognathus patagonicus (Argentina) ©Rodrigo Calvo.

## THE ENDOWMENT

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

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

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

The endowment's capital has risen from \$27.5m (initial allocation) to \$31.1m at the end of 2020, while \$16.7m have been distributed in grants over the same period, achieving all three of the endowment's goals.

Distributions for 2020 were actually \$1.5m but the last \$0.1m were taken from the endowment bank account in January 2021, after the reporting period; and at the beginning of the reporting period, there were \$0.5m of withdrawals linked to 2019.

The Fund's Investment Policy targets a long-term rate of return on assets of 5% net, measured in USD and using a total return approach (income as well as capital gains). Since inception, the annualised net performance of the endowment has been +5.2% (MW), in line with the target.

During the year 2020, the Microfinance bucket continued to be reduced when liquidity was needed for Private Equity capital calls. The Private Debt bucket and the Hedge Fund bucket were progressively merged, to increase the investment universe. In September, after the first three full years of the Goldman Sachs mandate, the Equities bucket managed by the bank was completely revamped, in order to optimize performance.

At the end of the year, the endowment was managed by Goldman Sachs, Banque Pictet, Oaktree Capital (Private Debt) and PGIM (Real Estate).



Field work (Cuba) ©Tomás Michel Rodríguez Cabrera



## MARKETS AND PERFORMANCE IN 2020

2020 proved to be a tumultuous year for global financial markets, with the coronavirus pandemic and the subsequent policy responses leading to major swings in asset prices. By late February, as it became clear that the pandemic was not going to be contained within China, markets saw some of the biggest sell-offs since the global financial crisis, as lockdowns led to shuttered businesses and people were forced to adapt to a new way of living. But although the pandemic and ensuing global recession could have proved a disaster for markets, the unprecedented fiscal and monetary stimulus that was unleashed helped to support a strong recovery in asset prices.

In this context, the MBZ Fund portfolio delivered a net performance of +10.9% (MW). The “traditional” portfolio (equities and fixed income) managed by Goldman Sachs delivered +11.5% while the “alternative” portfolio (private equity, private debt, hedge funds and real estate) mostly managed by Banque Pictet delivered +12.0%.

It is worth noting that the Private Equity bucket (managed by Banque Pictet) achieved a record +36.2% net annualized IRR from inception to end 2020.

# DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

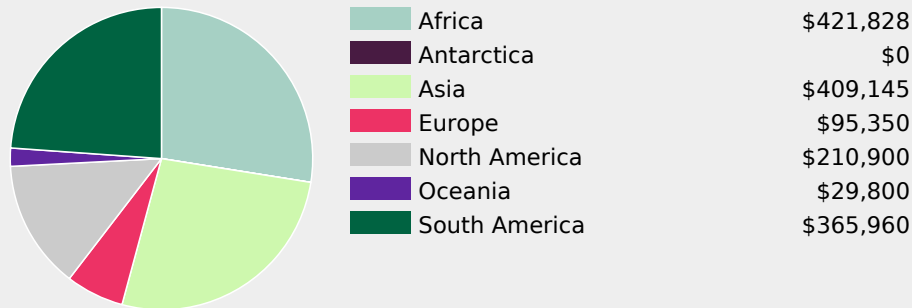
## DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEEDS

In 2020 the Fund supported 145 projects selected from 1,792 grant applications. There were fewer grants in 2020 compared to years past because the final round of grant giving in 2020 was dedicated to our 'Covid-19 Relief Grants' which helped conservation organizations pay for core costs (salary, utilities, rent, etc.) during the pandemic.

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

**[www.speciesconservation.org](http://www.speciesconservation.org)**

**MAILING ADDRESS:**

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

