

The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund: A UAE Conservation Organisation with Global Impact

November 2014



Establishment

The Fund was announced at the World Conservation Congress in Barcelona in October 2008, and began disbursing grants in June 2009.

Its establishment is as a direct result of the IUCN/SSC Specialist Group Chairs' meeting which was held in Al Ain in early 2008, acknowledging the lack of financial support for direct and targeted species conservation actions.

The Fund was established with a gift of 25 million Euros, donated by the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and which is now managed as an endowment.

Understanding the impact which small grants can have, a maximum of \$25,000 per grant was decided upon.



Grants

The Fund's was established in order to provide small-scale grants to passionate individuals for them to indulge in their passion of targeted, *in situ* conservation of their species. The Fund aims to support global species conservation by:

Supporting projects on species that are:

- Endangered (based on Red List)
- Poorly known (data deficient)
- Locally important (culturally, economically, socially)

Supporting projects working on:

- Surveys and monitoring
- Exploration
- Direct conservation actions
- Science based
- Awareness and education of local population



Grants

There is no bias on the basis of taxonomy, geography, other funding sources, or organizational affiliation, with the intention that dedication and effective conservation work should be rewarded through a flexible structure responsive to conservation needs.

The review process is conducted by an independent advisory board, and is overseen by the Fund's secretariat and board.



Competitive

The Fund is not a sinking fund and so only limited amounts available to spend per year – to a large extent dependent on the performance of the endowment.

The Fund does not spend the capital of the endowment.

Applications are reviewed in competition with other applications, not for the inherent quality of the project/application.



Applications Granted

Year	Applications Reviewed	Grants Awarded	% Awarded
2009	232	132	57
2010	454	228	50
2011	1,390	245	17.6
2012	1,189	215	18
2013	1,496	199	13.3
2014 (ytd)	1,051	120	11.4



Grant Amount Awarded

Year	Amount Requested (\$)	Amount Granted (\$)	\$ Amount Granted (%)	Average Grant Size (\$)
2009	4,769,709	1,962,774	41	14,869
2010	8,909,300	2,929,662	33	12,849
2011	27,023,478	2,265,672	8.3	9,248
2012	20,891,968	1,554,410	7.4	7,230
2013	28,007,198	1,624,971	5.8	8,166
2014 (ytd)	16,530,833	1,043,370	6.3	8,695



Grant and Species Spread

Total Grants:
1,139 for \$11,380,859

Grants by species type:

Amphibian	\$924,117	106
Bird	\$1,850,498	189
Fish	\$655,950	68
Fungi	\$158,000	11
Invertebrate	\$432,465	59
Mammal	\$4,958,195	446
Plant	\$1,025,881	110
Reptile	\$1,375,789	150



Grant and Species Spread

Total Grants:
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Grants by continent:

Africa	\$3,549,369	333
Asia	\$3,863,798	410
Europe	\$421,900	42
N America	\$1,211,179	123
Oceania	\$580,660	54
S America	\$1,753,953	177



Grant and Species Spread

Total Grants:
1,139 for \$11,380,859

Grants by IUCN

Red List Classification:

EX	\$16,000	2
EW	\$125,591	9
CR	\$5,297,174	499
EN	\$3,531,594	376
VU	\$882,062	89
NT	\$263,981	20
LC	\$132,650	12
DD	\$392,503	51
NE	\$739,304	81



Grant and Species Spread

Total number of species and sub-species:
819 from 1,139 grants

265 mammals: (24 cats, 102 primates, 53 ungulates)

100 reptiles

105 plants

139 birds

49 fish

94 amphibians

56 invertebrates

11 fungi



Passion

Ultimately it is the people who are doing the hard work in the field who are important and whose dedication the Fund tries to support.



Future and End

For more information, please have a look at our website:

www.speciesconservation.org

Where you can also sign up for our newsletter.

As the Fund expands its work by supporting more projects we intend that our website will grow to become an important resource for conservationists and interested individuals around the world.

