In 2010 the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund supported 214 projects in nearly 80 countries.

More than $2.4m was granted to species listed as Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable by the IUCN Red List.

These funds were distributed among mammals, reptiles, birds, amphibians, plants, fish and invertebrates.
YOUR HIGHNESS

During 2010 the Fund has been able to greatly aid the global effort to conserve the diversity of life in the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity, by expanding upon its success in 2009.

Over the course of the two years since early 2009 your donation of 25m Euros has had a significant impact on species conservation throughout the world. The Fund has been able to provide grants to dedicated and passionate individuals across six continents, in almost 80 countries. This means that from the inception of the fund in 2009 through to the end of 2010 over $5m had been disbursed in total to targeted species conservation work, implemented through nearly 380 projects on the ground. In a short time the Fund has become one of the world’s most important organizations providing small, targeted species conservation grants.

Following a rapid start to grant dispersal in 2009 amounting to around $2m, the Fund has continued to build on this in 2010, providing almost $3m in additional support. This has enabled the Fund to greatly increase the taxonomic variety and geographic breadth of the work that your donation has been able to underpin. This means that more species have been helped back from the brink of extinction, and the passionate efforts of dedicated conservationists have been given crucial financial backing.

As the Fund looks to 2011 and beyond, it will continue to build on this solid base in order to develop the Fund into a truly long-term foundation, able to help the cause of species conservation long into the future. On behalf of the Fund and the recipients of its grants, I would like to thank you for your support and vision in making this aim a reality.

Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak
Managing Director
Dear Grant Recipients,

During the course of 2010 the Fund has continued to build on the financial support provided to dedicated species conservation projects throughout the world, increasing the total amount disbursed in small grants to more than $5m by the end of the year. Even with this amount of money being spent on grants during 2010 the Fund’s endowment has continued to grow.

As 2010 was designated the International Year of Biodiversity, the Fund decided to contribute to this global effort to preserve life in all its varieties by encouraging applications for projects that involved species with wild populations of 250 individuals or less. It was both heartening and distressing to see just how many such applications the Fund received, and sadly we were not able to provide financial support to all of them. These species are on the edge of extinction and we hope that the small grants from the Fund will help to ensure their future survival, and we are grateful for the dedicated work being done.

The Fund has also been encouraging grant recipients to publish information about their invaluable work and the respective species as case studies on our web site (www.speciesconservation.org). We hope that this will help highlight the dedication of grant recipients and the impact on species conservation by bringing this information to a wider audience. As the website progresses we also hope that it will become a useful tool for conservationists in assessing what complementary work is being done in similar areas.

We would like to thank all those who have applied for grants from the Fund, the grant recipients who have helped implement the Fund’s ideals, and all those who have supported the Fund by giving their time and experience.

The Board

The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund

The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund is a significant philanthropic endowment established in October 2008 to:

- Provide targeted grants to individual species conservation initiatives
- Recognize leaders in the field of species conservation
- Elevate the importance of species in the broader conservation debate

The Fund’s reach is truly global, and its species interest is non-discriminatory. It is open to applications for funding support from conservationists based in all parts of the world, and will potentially support projects focused on any and all kinds of plant and animal species the amphibians, birds, fish, fungi, invertebrates, mammals, plants and reptiles - subject to the approval of an independent evaluation committee.

In addition, the Fund aims to recognize leaders in the field of species conservation and scientific research to ensure their important work is given the attention it deserves and to elevate the importance of species in global conservation discourse.

The Fund hopes to nurture the growth of a thriving global community of well resourced species conservationists.

The Fund was launched at the World Conservation Congress in Barcelona in 2008, with an initial endowment of 25m Euros, and it is envisaged that the Fund’s establishment will act as a catalyst to attract additional donations from third party sources to ensure the annual contribution to direct species conservation initiatives increases over time.

Put simply, the mission of the Fund is to elevate the importance of species in the conservation debate by:

- Providing timely support for grass-roots initiatives which are making a real difference to species survival
- Supporting those whose passion, dedication and knowledge is the key to saving species
- Assisting conservation of species in their natural habitat
- Elevating awareness of species conservation and stimulating renewed interest among young people in natural sciences
- Attracting further contributions to species conservation from across the globe
WHY SPECIES CONSERVATION?

The sense of loss resulting from extinction is a relatively modern phenomenon. In many ways it is the result of a new understanding of the impact of our activities, and a greater sense of responsibility for that impact. The sense of responsibility for endangered species has a complex origin. It has developed out of academic studies, concern for lost resources, the love of a species engendered through hunting, and importantly, from the sense of loss all of us have experienced as landscapes have been emptied of indigenous flora and fauna that cannot be replaced.

There is an urgent need now to re-stimulate a broad discussion on the subject of species conservation and biodiversity, and to better integrate individual environmental initiatives addressing issues such as species conservation, climate change, habitat destruction and unsustainable development. Ultimately, the conservation community must end the era of promoting one environmental cause at the expense of another, because if one of these causes (or any of the others competing for attention) fails, all of them are far less likely to succeed. Just like the species of a complex ecosystem, our individual conservation efforts are more interdependent than we tend to recognize, and we will all only be as strong as our weakest links.

Recognizing the crisis facing species conservation, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, established this dedicated fund for the provision of support to individuals and coordinated species conservation initiatives. To retain the species and habitats we treasure, and indeed need, the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund seeks to support the on-ground champions of species conservation; the individuals in the villages, field stations, laboratories and homes, that are dedicated to conserving their local (and the world’s global) threatened species.

The Fund helps their work through focused financial support and is nurturing the next generation of species conservationists by making the best conservation practices available to them using innovative methods of communication. Through additional events and activities, the fund will also seek to recognize individual leaders in the field of species conservation whose passion and commitment often goes unnoticed, and in doing so, to inspire others with an interest in the field of conservation.

The provision of this significant contribution is consistent with a long-standing tradition of philanthropy and conservation established in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. Locally, significant conservation programs have been introduced to protect nearby species as diverse as the Arabian oryx, gazelle, Houbara bustard, Dugong and marine turtles, among others.

The people of Abu Dhabi have witnessed first-hand the tangible benefits of targeted and well resourced species conservation initiatives. For example, the population of the Arabian oryx, hunted to near extinction in the early 1970s, is currently on the rise again and the Emirate of Abu Dhabi is leading efforts to reintroduce the species to its traditional desert habitat.

Through the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund this tradition continues, in the form of an innovative and genuinely international approach to philanthropy and species conservation. The Fund helps their work through focused financial support and is nurturing the next generation of species conservationists by making the best conservation practices available to them using innovative methods of communication. Through additional events and activities, the fund will also seek to recognize individual leaders in the field of species conservation whose passion and commitment often goes unnoticed, and in doing so, to inspire others with an interest in the field of conservation.

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Through the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund this tradition continues, in the form of an innovative and genuinely international approach to philanthropy and species conservation.
Managed by an independent board, comprising leaders in the field of species conservation, the Fund allocates grants on the basis of an application form completed by potential beneficiaries.

Grants are awarded based on the project’s or individual’s ability to meet criteria pre-determined by the Fund, and it is the intention of the Fund to provide small, targeted grants to local and grassroots projects. To cover a wide spectrum of species conservation efforts, two types of grants are available; up to $5,000 or those between $5,000 and $25,000.

The fund aims to reduce the unwieldy processes usually associated with grant applications, especially for smaller projects where onerous administrative processes can negate the benefits of financial grants and contributions. For a grant of up to $5,000 the Fund aims to inform applicants of the result of their application within three months of the final application being submitted. The larger grants are awarded following board meetings which are held at least twice a year.

To make the process of submitting applications more convenient for conservationists based around the world and the process of awarding and reviewing grants more efficient for the board, the Fund implemented a sophisticated online system that allows:

- Potential projects to submit applications for grant via the Fund’s website www.mbzspeciesconservation.org
- Board members to log-on and approve projects
- Grant recipients upload their reports every six months and the board reviews these online
- Grant recipients upload information about their project as a case study to help highlight their work

The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund was established to provide targeted grants to individual species conservation initiatives, recognize leaders in the field and elevate the importance of species in the broader conservation debate. Its focus is global, and eligibility for grants extends to all plant, animal and fungus species conservation efforts, without discrimination on the basis of region or selected species.

In 2010 more than $2,715,000 was awarded to species conservation in nearly 80 countries world-wide. Since its inception in 2008 the Fund has contributed $5,160,608 to 380 projects across the world.
**CASE STUDY CONTENTS**

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LONG-SPURRED ANGRAECUM
Angraecum longicalcar

Conservation Observation of Grant Recipient
“We only know of one population in the Itremo Massif, with eight plants or clumps (we have not dug up the roots to check whether the ‘shoots’ are from the same plant). We counted ‘140’ shoots from eight plants in February 2010.”

THERE MAY ONLY BE EIGHT PLANTS LEFT IN EXISTENCE AND THESE ARE LOCATED IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS OF MADAGASCAR, NEAR THE VILLAGE OF MAHAVANONA. THE ORCHID IS WELL KNOWN BY LOCALS AS A TREATMENT FOR STOMACH AILMENTS.

All Photos: Stuart Cable
The support from the Fund has enabled us to engage with the local community and ensure their participation in the conservation of the orchid. This is vital for the long-term conservation of the species as the site is located in a remote mountainous region.

The main innovation of the project is that local school children are helping to look after the seedlings as they acclimatise in a shade-house built near the village and they will help to plant the seedlings at a site near the village to establish a new sub-population.

Stuart Cable
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

**Project Details:**
The local community has constructed fire breaks and has assisted with hand-pollination and seed collection. Laboratory grown seedlings have been cared for by local school children, who will help with planting the orchids in the wild. The project is providing materials for the school including a kitchen garden, toilets, T-shirts and books. A management plan with the local community has been agreed.

**Results:**
The local community has been enthusiastic about the project and has agreed to a management plan for protecting the wild population through fire-breaks and monitoring. A shade-house was built near the village and the laboratory propagated seedlings have acclimatised well and were looked after by local school children. A mobile phone was provided for the school to communicate with the conservation team. The rains were late this season, but in early 2011 the seedlings will be planted on a rocky outcrop near the surviving wild orchids. The team is constructing toilets in the school and providing orchid T-shirts and books.

**HOW THE MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND HAS HELPED**

“The support from the Fund has enabled us to engage with the local community and ensure their participation in the conservation of the orchid. This is vital for the long-term conservation of the species as the site is located in a remote mountainous region.”

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Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

ANNUAL REPORT 2010 PAGE 14
CROSS RIVER GORILLA
Gorilla gorilla ssp. diehli
Critically Endangered
Cameroon
$4,000

**Red List Justification**
A population reduction of more than 80% over three generations (66 years) due to hunting and disease. Further reduction of 80% over three generations is likely.

**PROJECT DETAILS:**
Provide site-specific baseline ecological data on the Cross River gorilla, and to assess the potential impact of a road development plan to inform future conservation planning.

**RESULTS:**
“With less than 300 Cross River gorillas left and habitat fragmentation an increasing issue in many areas, research to identify and protect suitable dispersal corridors between the remaining groups is crucial to the long term survival prospects of the subspecies. The central aim of this project was the assessment of one such corridor, without which the Mawambi Hills gorillas would be effectively isolated. The integrity of this corridor is threatened by a road development plan. However, during the course of my research it became clear that an alternative road route would not only maintain the integrity of the corridor, but would also be of far greater benefit to local communities. In-country support for this alternative plan is now growing in momentum and it is likely that this alternative plan will be adopted. This demonstrates the solid conservation impact that even a small project can have, and this would not have been possible without the support of the Fund.”

Lucy Simone d’Auvergne
Oxford Brookes University

Despite the lack of ape activity within the corridor, this area constitutes the only viable link to other gorilla groups and is generally suitable ape habitat, thus the preservation of this area must be a priority. The fieldwork also concluded that re-routing the proposed road away from the corridor would not only maintain the integrity of the corridor, but would also be of far greater benefit to local communities, with the alternative route offering greater farm-to-market, health care and schooling access – a plan that has been proposed to the Cameroon authorities.

Despite an on-going tribal dispute, which led to Lucy and a colleague being hunted in the forest by an armed gang and subsequently taken captive, she successfully completed this field project and was recently awarded the Oxford Brookes Annual Alison Jolly Prize for outstanding contribution to conservation.

“The fact that the Fund awards small grants to individuals such as myself, in addition to larger projects, is crucial in getting projects such as mine off the ground. This support gives fledgling conservationists the opportunity to conduct valuable research and gain a foothold in a highly competitive arena.”

Lucy Simone d’Auvergne
Oxford Brookes University
LIBEN LARK
Heteromiraphra sidamoensis

Red List Justification
This species has an extremely small range. It is confined to a single location, and the remaining habitat is rapidly degrading. The total population is now believed to number fewer than 250 mature individuals.

Critically Endangered
Ethiopia
$25,000

DUE TO ANTHROPOGENIC EFFECTS, IT HAS BECOME EVIDENT THAT WITHOUT INTERVENTION THE LIBEN LARK IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE WILL LIKELY BECOME CONTINENTAL AFRICA’S FIRST RECORDED AVIAN EXTINCTION. THREATS TO THE LIBEN PLAIN - THE ONLY KNOWN HABITAT OF THIS SPECIES IN THE WORLD - INCLUDING THE SCRAMBLE FOR LAND AND CONVERSION TO ARABLE AGRICULTURE, INCREASED GRAZING PRESSURE AND SCRUB ENCROACHMENT, ARE THE MAIN DRIVING FORCE BEHIND THE LIKELY EXTINCTION OF THE SPECIES.

PROJECT DETAILS:
The Liben lark’s grassland habitat is severely degraded due to drought and overgrazing. Historically, these grasslands stood waist-high and now grow to only 5 cm. Funding helps habitat restoration (fencing, relocation of cattle watering holes, and cooperation of herders), hiring a local Project Officer, and field surveys.

RESULTS:
It was possible to put in place a Project Officer to follow up on the day-to-day activities related to the conservation of the lark and rehabilitation of the rangeland at the Liben Plain. A motorbike, purchased with monies from the grant, has completely resolved the transport constraints the Project Officer experienced due to the extreme shortage of public transport in the area. Data collection by research students is underway on the Liben Plain.

“It is extremely valuable to be involved in such a crucial project that addresses the interests of local people and of conservationists, both of whom want to save the Liben Plain from complete devastation. The experience, I believe, will have long-lasting effects on my career as head of the country’s principal biodiversity conservation NGO. It will allow me to replicate these experiences elsewhere. The Fund helped make this possible.”

Mengistu Wondafrash
Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society

How the Mohamed Bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund Has Helped
Due to anthropogenic effects, it has become evident that without intervention the Liben lark in the very near future will likely become continental Africa’s first recorded avian extinction. Threats to the Liben Plain - the only known habitat of this species in the world - including the scramble for land and conversion to arable agriculture, increased grazing pressure and scrub encroachment, are the main driving force behind the likely extinction of the species.
NORTHERN WHITE RHINOCEROS
*Ceratotherium simum ssp. cottoni*

Critically Endangered
Sudan
$35,825

Red List Justification
Recent surveys have failed to establish the presence of the last wild individuals in the Democratic Republic of Congo, so no confirmed wild population remains, down from 2,230 individuals in 1960.

The 30-day trip in March/April 2010 was completed, but the presence of Northern white rhino was not documented. However, the team is confident the Northern white rhino exists in the area because extensive interviews with local people consistently reported sightings. Furthermore, the inaccessibility and remoteness of the area offers protection to animals, and thus, it is certainly possible the reports are accurate.

Mounting a small field expedition to southern Sudan in spring 2010; concentrating field time on the Nile’s west bank – the source of Northern white rhino reports; interviewing residents about sightings with subsequent ground-truthing; liaising with authorities.

How the Mohamed Bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund has helped

The Mohamed Bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund has initiated and provided the momentum for ground searches for Northern white rhino in South Sudan. Following the initial reconnaissance in spring 2010, a more methodical and longer survey of purported rhino areas was warranted. This is now underway. Since spring 2010 there have also been further purported sightings, which have fuelled enthusiasm and confidence that this survey effort is indeed very worthwhile and should continue.”

Matthew Rice
Fauna & Flora International

**RESULTS**

The 30-day trip in March/April 2010 was completed, but the presence of Northern white rhino was not documented. However, the team is confident the Northern white rhino exists in the area because extensive interviews with local people consistently reported sightings. Furthermore, the inaccessibility and remoteness of the area offers protection to animals, and thus, it is certainly possible the reports are accurate.

Mounting a small field expedition to southern Sudan in spring 2010; concentrating field time on the Nile’s west bank – the source of Northern white rhino reports; interviewing residents about sightings with subsequent ground-truthing; liaising with authorities.

**PROJECT DETAILS**

The Northern white rhino is in a perilous state. Only eight confirmed animals remain of the subspecies – four of which are held in zoos and the other four, also former zoo animals, have now been moved to Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya in a last ditch attempt to catalyse breeding by placing them in a more natural environment. However, persistent and credible rumours have emerged from southern Sudan indicating that a wild population may remain there.

All Photos: Matthew Rice

A 30-day expedition yielded no physical evidence of the Northern white rhino.
SPECIES OF THE PODOSTEMACEAE FAMILY
Podostemaceae

There are more than 250 species of Podostemaceae throughout the world. Podostemaceae are aquatic flowering herbs, annual, often of bizarre shape, sometimes resembling lichens or mosses. They have no clearly differentiated roots, stems or leaves. They live submerged, fixed on the surface of rocks in swift waterfalls and rapids. Apart from the need for fast-flowing water, very little is known about the factors determining their presence or absence in a river. The species under examination in this project exist within a waterfall beside the Edea dam in Cameroon.

Fieldwork at the Edea dam site and surrounding area to assess the population of the plant family. Meetings with stakeholders including villagers and regional officials.

RESULTS:

The fieldwork was productive resulting in Winklerella dichotoma, a critically endangered species of the Podostemaceae family, being re-discovered at the Edea dam site. The research team also discovered a new species of Dicraeanthus (Dicraeanthus sp. nov.), as well as a new site for the critically endangered Zehnderia microgyna on the nearby Ngwei River.

Now, the stakeholders and the people of the Edea region can identify the Podostemaceae plants and are aware of their conservation status and the need to protect and conserve them. These discoveries will improve or reorient future conservation objectives around the Edea dam.

“...When an unknown man arrives in a village and asks for the way to a waterfall, claiming that he is going there to look for small plants living inside the fast stream, he is looked upon suspiciously, as according to folk legend water falls and rapids host mysterious deities. Today, with the help of the Fund, the people of Edea are familiar with us and the psychological barrier has been broken and more exchange with the riverside people has given us, among other factors, a clearer in-situ view of the Podostemaceae’s population size and extinction risk; and therefore, many of our primary objectives have been subsequently improved and reoriented for better species conservation.”

Jean-Paul Gogue
National Herbarium, Yaoundé

HOW THE MOHAMMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND HAS HELPED

The critically endangered Winklerella dichotoma was rediscovered at the Edea dam site.

All Photos: Jean-Paul Gogue

Risky research on Podostemaceae
COMOROS REPTILES

Conservation Observation of Grant Recipient

“Although none of the Comoros reptiles (currently 35 taxa, 90 of them endemic) are included in the IUCN Red List, preliminary results indicate that several are highly threatened and deserve a status of endangered or critically endangered.”

COMOROS REPTILES

The Comoros harbor a high diversity of endemic and rare species with close relationships to Madagascar. Due to the small size of the islands, all species have highly restricted distribution ranges. Unlike Madagascar, however, which has become a focus of research and nature conservation activities in the past 20 years, the herpetofauna of the Comoros has received little attention. The taxonomy, distribution and abundance of virtually all endemic reptile species are insufficiently studied and their conservation status has never been assessed.
“With the help of the Fund we are now able to assess the conservation status of each target reptile species on the Comoros. We are also able to denominate which species and which areas deserve priority in future measures towards the conservation of the endemic diversity of Comoros reptiles.”

Frank Glaw
Zoologische Staatssammlung München

PROJECT DETAILS:
Field studies to gain data on distribution and ecology of endemic reptile species; collect tissue samples for lab analysis; map habitats of high ecological importance; tutor Comorian students in surveying and mapping techniques.

RESULTS:
Concrete data for all Comoros reptile species were obtained, with the number of endemics higher than previously estimated. Publication of the results on endemic taxa and their conservation status is forthcoming. Habitat degradation and invasive species are significant threats to these species, and possible solutions to ensure the conservation of these species are under consideration. As the team completes its work the herpetofauna of the Comoros will be completely evaluated for conservation purposes.
ANTIGUAN RACER
Alsophis antiguae

Critically Endangered
Antigua and Barbuda
$5,000

Red List Justification
Extent of occurrence is only 0.65 km² (less than 0.1% of its natural range) and it is continually threatened by invasive species, inbreeding, and natural disasters.

By the 1990s only 50 Antiguan racers remained, all confined to a small island off Antigua, Great Bird Island (9.9 hectares), equivalent to 0.02% of the species’ original distribution range. To save the species from imminent extinction, the ten-year Antiguan Racer reintroduction plan (1999-2009) was devised. Great Bird Island and 11 other islands were restored by eradicating the alien invasive rats (*Rattus rattus*) and small Asian mongoose (*Herpestes javanicus*) that prey on the racers and other wildlife, and the racer was reintroduced to three islands: Rabbit Island in 1999; Green Island in 2003-2005, and York Island in 2008-2009. By 2009, the world population of Antiguan racers had reached 300 on four islands (65 hectares total) as a direct result of these efforts. However, the Antiguan racer is still one of the world’s rarest animals and faces serious threats.

All Photos: Jenny Daltry / Fauna & Flora International
**PROJECT DETAILS:**

The immediate goal was to increase the world population of Antiguan racers to at least 500 individuals on Antigua’s globally important offshore islands by the end of 2010.

**RESULTS:**

By totally eradicating the invasive rat population the project was able to demonstrate a marked improvement in the abundance and health of Antiguan racers. The immediate goal of 500 Antiguan racers was achieved, and represents a remarkable 28% increase since 2009 (and a ten-fold increase since the Antiguan Racer Conservation Project was founded in 1995). But, as is well understood, 500 individuals is still a critically tiny population.

**HOW THE MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND HAS HELPED**

“Saving a species from extinction takes time, and the Fund intervened at a critical stage. Notably, it enabled us to bring a wide range of stakeholders together to develop the new Antiguan Racer Action Plan (which will guide our recovery program for a further ten years), and trained and equipped more Antiguans for its implementation on the ground.”

Jenny Daltry
Fauna & Flora International

“The Fund helped to employ and train eight Antiguan conservationists in various aspects of wildlife monitoring, education, invasive species control and project management. This training and experience will stand them in good stead for continuing this project as well as addressing many other urgent conservation needs in this country.”

Jenny Daltry
Fauna & Flora International
AZUERO SPIDER MONKEY
Ateles geoffroyi ssp. azuerensis

Critical Endangered
Panama
$15,000

Red List Justification:
The subspecies has undergone a decline exceeding 80% over the past three
generations (45 years), due to a high rate of habitat loss and fragmentation within its
range.

RESULTS:
PROJECT DETAILS:

Assess population of the Coiba and Azuero howling monkeys, as well as the Azuero spider monkey and the Panamanian white-throated capuchin on the Azuero Peninsula and Coiba Island. The fieldwork consists of strip transects surveys, road count surveys, triangulation surveys, and conservation activities such as student internships and various community awareness activities.

THREE OF THE MOST ENDANGERED PRIMATES IN PANAMA ARE THE AZUERO HOWLING MONKEY, AZUERO SPIDER MONKEY, AND THE WHITE-THROATED CAPUCHIN. PERHAPS THE MOST UNIQUE POPULATION EXISTS ON COIBA ISLAND – A FORMER PENAL COLONY DECLARED A WORLD HERITAGE SITE IN 2005. IT IS CLEAR THAT ALL PRIMATE SPECIES IN THIS AREA OF PANAMA ARE IN NEED OF FOCUSED RESEARCH, AS WELL AS IMMEDIATE AND LASTING PROTECTION.

All primate groups still alive in the same areas where they were found in 2001. New groups were found in south Azuero, including Azuero spider monkey, howling monkeys and capuchins. Baseline population data were collected on Coiba Island and a first bachelor’s thesis was completed by a Panamanian student. Another student from the University of Panama is to start his thesis on the social behavior and distribution of the Azuero howling and spider monkeys.

“Thanks to the Fund we have been able to improve the knowledge of these little understood species, identify strategic areas for our conservation activities and detect local problems all of which are important to creating a realistic conservation plan for these primates in Panama.”

“I have had the support to develop our organization and to increase the interest of other Panamanians in conservation and primatology. This has had a positive impact on the Panamanian Environmental Authority which is now interested in supporting additional scientific research which will lead more people into primate research in Panama.”

Pedro Mendez-Carvajal
Fundación Pro-Conservación de los Primates Panameños

All Photos: Pedro Mendez-Carvajal
BLUE-THROATED MACAW
*Ara glaucogularis*

Critically Endangered
Bolivia
$15,000

THE WILD POPULATION OF BLUE-THROATED MACAWS NUMBERS 120 KNOWN INDIVIDUALS. THIS PARROT FEEDS EXCLUSIVELY ON THE FRUIT OF A PALM THAT SUFFERS FROM DEFORESTATION. DROUGHT AND FIRES HAVE SEVERELY IMPACTED PALM FRUITING THIS PAST SEASON, WHICH MEANS THAT FEW MACAW PAIRS HAVE ATTEMPTED TO NEST. ACCORDING TO THE RESEARCH TEAM, 2010 MARKED THE THIRD POOR BREEDING SEASON IN A DECADE FOR THE BLUE-THROATED MACAW.

All Photos: Jamie Gilardi

Wild pair engaged in allopreening.
With the support from the Fund this season, we have found that the threats from exceptionally dry weather combined with extensive burning of grasslands have created unprecedented impacts on key habitats, including both foraging and breeding areas. In this season, these threats have led to near complete breeding failure for the Blue-throats and the loss of established nest trees and forest patches.

The support we have received from the Fund has enabled our teams to develop new conservation methods, to test restoration techniques, and to reach out to key stakeholders in the field, at the state, national, and international level. By raising awareness of the plight of this species and its critical conservation needs, the Fund has helped build our network of supporters around the world, enabling us to apply additional resources to the conservation work both in the wild and in captivity.

James Gilardi
World Parrot Trust
CARPITA DE MORELOS
Notropis boucardi

THE GRANT FROM THE FUND HAS SERVED AS LEVERAGE WITH THE STATE GOVERNMENT OF MORELOS, WHICH HAS SUBSEQUENTLY GIVEN THE RESEARCH TEAM $100,000 IN ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO RESTORE THE WETLAND CONTAINING 20% OF THE CARPITA DE MORELOS HABITAT, BUILD ECOTOURISM ATTRACTIONS IN THE AREA, AS WELL AS ESTABLISH A SMALL MONITORING FACILITY FOR THE WETLAND.

PROJECT DETAILS:
Assess the exact distribution of Carpita de Morelos, estimate species population size in its current distributional area, and evaluate genetic diversity of the species by means of microsatellite DNA analysis. A report will then be produced to assist in the recovery and conservation of the fish.

RESULTS:

The historical extent of occurrence of the species was 11,650 hectares and is now 5,626 hectares. This represents a loss of 51.7% in 50 years, as a result of water pollution due to the growth of the cities of Cuernavaca and Temixco. However, the area which N. boucardi actually occupies is 36,500 m² (3.7 hectares), plus another 5000 m² (0.5 hectares) of the wetland — a total of 4.2 hectares. DNA samples from each of the populations have been identified and are being isolated for further analysis.

“Even though it is in its early stages, the project has attracted attention from different areas of society here in the state of Morelos and the community of Tejalpa, which has a small wetland recently declared a Ramsar site. The wetland holds about 20% of the remaining habitat of the species. Both entities are now actively involved in the conservation of Notropis boucardi and have allowed us to eradicate the rainbow trout (Oncorhynchus mykiss), which is an exotic that feeds on the N. boucardi. We believe that this action alone will have positive impact on the population of N. boucardi in the wetland.”

HOW THE MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND HAS HELPED

The grant has allowed me to collaborate with other researchers, mainly in the area of conservation genetics, a research theme which I had not been involved with prior to this project.

Topiltzin Contreras MacBeath
Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Morelos
**GOLDEN POISON FROG**

*Phyllobates terribilis*

*Endangered*

*Colombia*

*$5,000*

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**Red List Justification**

Extent of occurrence is less than 5,000 km²; all individuals are in fewer than five locations, and there is continuing decline in the extent and quality of its habitat.

---

**Extent of occurrence is less than 5,000 km², all individuals are in fewer than five locations, and there is continuing decline in the extent and quality of its habitat.**

---

*The species population is even more threatened than previously thought with several traditional populations now extinct as a wave of habitat destruction from logging, mining, illicit crops, and African oil palm spreads across its entire range. It is critical that private lands are acquired to establish a protected area for the species.*

**Conduct field surveys at known sites to assess population abundance; identify threats and conservation action; establish a species action plan and a protected area.**

---

**RESULTS:**

**PROJECT DETAILS:**

*Conduct field surveys at known sites to assess population abundance; identify threats and conservation action; establish a species action plan and a protected area.*

---

*The Fund has allowed us to gather the most up-to-date information on this extremely threatened species, including establishing its population level and current threats, and with that data ProAves has produced an emergency conservation action proposal that we hope will help establish an amphibian reserve for this species.*

---

*Alonso Quevedo*

*Fundación ProAves*
LAKE JUNÍN FROG

*Batrachophrynus macrostomus*

**Endangered**

Peru

$4,900

**Red List Justification**

Population decline estimated to be more than 50% over the last three generations, inferred from harvest levels, observed shrinkage in distribution, predation and anecdotal information on habitat destruction and/or degradation.

ALTHOUGH CATEGORIZED AS ‘ENDANGERED’, THE RESEARCHER ESTIMATES THAT ONLY 500 LAKE JUNÍN FROGS REMAIN IN THIS 530 KM² PERUVIAN LAKE LOCATED 4,000 METERS ABOVE SEA LEVEL. FOR YEARS FISHING IN LAKE JUNÍN WAS THE MAIN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY WITHIN THE REGION. DURING THE 1970s AND 1980s THERE WERE MORE THAN 100 HUNTERS WORKING ON THE LAKE TAKING 30 FROGS PER DAY AND SELLING THEM AT $0.48 PER FROG. THE CONSTANT PRESSURE SIGNIFICANTLY DEPLETED THE SPECIES. TODAY, THE FROG IS FURTHER THREATENED BY POLLUTION AND HABITAT DEGRADATION.

**LAKE JUNÍN FROG**

*Batrachophrynus macrostomus*

**PROJECT DETAILS:**

Increase community awareness about the impact of overexploitation, testing ex-situ management and breeding techniques to help the endemic frog survive.

**RESULTS:**

To date ex-situ breeding has not been successful and alternative techniques must be tested. The Fund helped improve the breeding center facilities.

**HOW THE MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND HAS HELPED**

“The Lake Junín frog is one of the most endangered species of amphibians in the world. At present, there are less than 500 individuals of this endemic species in the lake. With the help of the Fund it was demonstrated that habitat degradation was the main problem affecting the last remaining frogs.”

**HOW HAS THE FUND HELPED YOU DEVELOP AS A PROFESSIONAL?**

“I have never been an expert in amphibians, what is more, amphibians have never received enough attention in my country. So, this grant gave me the opportunity to get into the field first hand and gather information to communicate the Lake Junín frog problem to the world.”

Patricia Rios Mejía
San Marcos University

All Photos: Menesio Arias/Patricia Rios

PROJECT DETAILS:

HOW THE MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND HAS HELPED

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Patricia Rios Mejía
San Marcos University
ARABIAN LEOPARD
Panthera pardus ssp. nimr

PROJECT DETAILS:
Purchase, place, and maintain camera traps in the Hawf Protected Area to search for an unconfirmed subpopulation of Arabian leopard. Researchers interview local residents, locate skulls, pelts, other artifacts, as well as engage authorities to establish the cross-border protected area.

RESULTS:
The project team has succeeded in proving that the Arabian leopard still utilizes the Hawf Protected Area, even though some residents stated that the leopard had disappeared from the area 10 years ago. The presence of 10 mammal species and numerous birds, including potential prey species, has been documented giving the project team preliminary data regarding the carrying capacity of the area.

HOW THE MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND HAS HELPED
"One cannot conserve an animal on the basis of hearsay; you have to prove the animals’ existence and the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund has enabled us to do this. Now that we have proven that there are leopards in the Hawf Protected Area we can use this information to leverage more support for on the ground activities in Hawf."

"The Arabian leopard images have generated a lot of interest in the conservation of the species because many people doubted their existence here. We have been able to document the existence of other animal species in the Hawf Protected Area, as well. This gives us a good idea of what prey species are here and their abundance. This will allow us to develop a strategy for leopard conservation in the area."

David Stanton
Foundation for the Protection of the Arabian Leopard in Yemen

WITH FEWER THAN 200 WILD ARABIAN LEOPARDS REMAINING, EFFORTS TO PROTECT THEIR HABITAT ARE CRUCIAL. USING CAMERA TRAPS POSITIONED IN REMOTE AREAS OF EASTERN YEMEN, THE GOAL FOR THE FOUNDATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE ARABIAN LEOPARD IN YEMEN IS TO PARTNER WITH OMAN TO FORM THE HAWF-DHOFAR TRANSBOUNDARY CONSERVATION AREA.

ARABIAN LEOPARD
Panthera pardus ssp. nimr

Critically Endangered
Republic of Yemen
$25,000

Red List Justification
Fewer than 200 leopards remain on the Arabian Peninsula in three subpopulations. In Yemen a confirmed subpopulation exists in the Wada’a mountains 120 km north of Sana’a; leopards may occur in four other areas of Yemen.
SIR DAVID’S LONG-BEAKEd ECHIDNA

Zaglossus attenboroughi

**Critically Endangered**

**Indonesia**

$10,000

**Red list justification**

Its extent of occurrence is less than 100 km², all individuals are in a single location, there is continuing decline in the extent and quality of its habitat, and a decline in the number of mature individuals due to hunting.

Data gathered from local community interviews indicate that the main threat to the species is from hunting. However, the presence of apparently healthy populations of avian ‘megafauna’ (e.g. cassowaries, megapodes, hornbills) in the immediate vicinity of active villages in the Cyclops region demonstrates that long-term human forest usage by indigenous communities may be sustainable, suggesting that valuable lessons could be learned for tropical forest conservation from local subsistence practices.

The grant helped develop monitoring protocols to measure population numbers, measure the significance of hunting and feral pigs as threats to survival, identify in situ field agents to continue the monitoring programme and additional geographic sites the species may inhabit.

“**This project has allowed us to gather new baseline data on long beaked echidna occurrence and threats, and work directly with local partners and communities to design a long-term conservation programme to protect this culturally significant species and its habitat.”**

**Results:**

“The time I spent with local communities in the Cyclops Mountain region helped me to gain a greater understanding of local people’s traditions, needs and aspirations, and factor these into the design of the longer-term conservation project.”

Carly Waterman

Zoological Society of London

**Project Details:**

This species represents a significant amount of evolutionary history. Fossil records indicate that it has changed very little in the last 100M years and it is one of only five existing egg-laying mammals.

SIR DAVID’S LONG-BEAKEd ECHIDNA is only known to science from a single specimen collected in 1961, but researchers believe it is not extinct because of recently discovered “nose poke” evidence. Scientists, as recently as 2007, found impressions of the echidna’s beak in mud where it had foraged for earthworms near a village on the same mountain peak where it was first discovered 50 years ago. This echidna is hunted by local villagers and its meat is used in ritualized peace offerings to rivals.

HOW THE MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND HAS HELPED
BORNEO EARLESS MONITOR
Lanthanotus borneensis

Conservation Observation of Grant Recipient
“Not much is known about this species. There have been no official field sightings in 50 years.”

RESULTS:
Fieldwork on the occurrence of the species was undertaken where the species was recorded in the 1960s (and presumed extant in the literature). All areas visited have lost their original forest cover, in the range of 80-100%, and no recent records of sightings could be collected via interviews. Several hundred baited traps were set in potential areas. No trap successfully recorded a Borneo earless monitor. These findings indicate that the species no longer occurs in areas of former abundance. The next step is to establish traps in other areas of reported abundance occurring within national parks with sufficient forest cover.

PROJECT DETAILS:
Field surveys in and around peat swamps and streams within national parks where accidental catches in fish traps have been reported. In addition to traditional fish traps, researchers will interview Iban, Chinese, and Malay people, active in and around forests as fishermen, hunters, foresters, and road construction crews.

HOW THE MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND HAS HELPED
Some old-time hunters in Malaysia recall the bounty placed on the Borneo earless monitor in the early 1960s by the former curator of the Sarawak Museum, Tom Harrisson, who was successful in gathering, via media publicity, between 30 and 40 individuals. Few animals have been sighted in the past 50 years, and there are indications that the species is in demand for the manufacture of Chinese traditional medicine.

“This grant was the first our research group received for pursuing investigations on a single species, and one of the few on conservation ever received by our young university. It therefore revealed the importance of autecology, conservation and management to both university administration and our graduate students, one of whom is employed part-time in field data collection.”

Indraneil Das
Universiti Malaysia Sarawak

All Photos: Indraneil Das
Conservation Observation of Grant Recipient

“Although globally the Humpback whale is listed as Least Concern, the Arabian Sea subpopulation is geographically distinct, and plausibly contains fewer than 250 mature individuals and is thus considered Endangered.”

HUMPBACK WHALE

Megaptera novaeangliae
(Arabian Sea subpopulation)

Endangered

Oman

$15,000

THE WORLDWIDE POPULATION OF THE HUMPBACK WHALE NUMBERS MORE THAN 60,000 AND IS INCREASING, ACCORDING TO THE IUCN RED LIST. HOWEVER, A GENETICALLY AND GEOGRAPHICALLY ISOLATED YEAR-ROUND SUBPOPULATION OF HUMPBACKS EXISTS IN THE ARABIAN SEA CROSSING THE INTERNATIONAL BORDERS OF YEMEN, OMAN, AND IRAN. VERY FEW EXIST HERE AND CALVES ARE RARE, MAKING THIS AN ENDANGERED POPULATION ON THE WANE.

All Photos: Andrew Wilson
“THIS PROJECT SEeks TO SURVEY THE EXISTING SUBPOPULATION TO PROTECT WHALES FOR THEIR OWN SAKE, BUT ALSO TO STUDY THEM FOR THE GOOD OF PEOPLE. WHALES ARE AMONG THE BEST INDICATORS OF THE OVERALL HEALTH OF THE MARINE ECOSYSTEM, AND THIS ECOSYSTEM IS IMPORTANT TO ALL: FROM LOCAL FISHERMEN WHO RELy ON THE SEA FOR THEIR LIVELIHOOD, TO TOURISTS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC WHO ENJOY IT FOR RECREATION, AND ULTIMATELY FOR THE HEALTH OF THE VERY PLANET WE LIVE ON.”

Robert Baldwin
Environment Society of Oman

PROJECT DETAILS:
Fieldwork (sightings and acoustic monitoring) to study the spatial and temporal patterns of distribution of this endangered subpopulation and factors influencing their movements.

RESULTS:
The survey revealed that threats to Humpback whales in Oman have escalated and will continue to escalate if increased management intervention is not forthcoming. This survey was used in presentations to update previous studies by members of the team to the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission at the recent annual meeting in Morocco (June 2010).

HOW THE MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND HAS HELPED

The funding allowed our project to resume field surveys of the Humpback whales off the coast of Oman. Following a hiatus of four years, it was vital that researchers attempt to re-assess the population and its core habitats to monitor this endangered population. The lack of field observations of the species, and the heavy construction and fishing effort observed in the other areas previously identified as core habitat, served as an alarm call, rallying the international research community and the Oman government to focus more attention on research and conservation efforts. This focused research is already underway, with members of the team deploying hardware for the static in-situ passive acoustic monitoring of Humpback whales in the ‘core’ areas of distribution and the coastline of Oman. These will be retrieved for data download and then redeployed during boat surveys which will also include photo-identification, biopsy and line-transect surveys.

Robert Baldwin
Environment Society of Oman
KURDISTAN SPOTTED NEWT
Neurergus microspilotus

Field survey; rescue into conservation and breeding program; increase conservation breeding program at Iran’s Razi University from current nine specimens; study water quality; develop reproduction technologies and program for regional habitat protection.

RESULTS:

HOW THE MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND HAS HELPED

“...The survey is complete. The project team has found the species in three additional streams. DNA samples were collected and analyzed to assess sub-populations and test for chytrid (a virulent disease of amphibians in some regions). Forthcoming work will enable additional field surveys and the establishment of a full conservation breeding population at Razi University. The project team is investigating reintroducing N. microspilotus to a stream where it was once found."

“...We have enabled the establishment of a model conservation program that will ensure the survival of N. microspilotus. Partial use of the funds has resulted in a survey of distribution that has confirmed N. microspilotus in three new streams making the total number of streams now seven. The combination of our field surveys and population genetics will enable us to write a classic study on the meta-population dynamics of both this species and Neurergus kaiseri.”

“The confidence of the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund in the project has enabled a follow-on effect of additional funding in finance and in kind. It will now continue for at least two more years.”

Robert Browne
Royal Zoological Society of Antwerp

KURDISTAN SPOTTED NEWT
Neurergus microspilotus

Critically Endangered
Iran
$20,000

Red List Justification
Area of occupancy is less than 10 km², and it was only known from four fragmented streams. There is a continuing decline of its stream habitat, as well as drought and over-collection of animals for the pet trade.

UNLESS A CONSERVATION PLAN FOR POPULATION STABILIZATION OF THE KURDISTAN SPOTTED NEWT IS FURTHER IMPLEMENTED, ALMOST ALL POPULATIONS OF THIS SENSITIVE TAXON WILL BECOME EXTINCT IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. THE HABITAT ASSOCIATED WITH THE CONSERVATION OF N. MICROSPILONUS PROVIDES NOT ONLY FOR A WIDE RANGE OF OTHER AQUATIC SPECIES BUT ALSO THE SOURCE OF WATER FOR THE LOCAL HUMAN POPULATIONS. THE EFFECTS OF SEVERE DROUGHT DURING RECENT YEARS HAVE INCREASINGLY RESTRICTED THE AMOUNT OF FREE WATER IN THE REGION RESULTING IN FURTHER PRESSURE ON N. MICROSPILONUS AND OTHER AQUATIC SPECIES.

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ANNUAL REPORT 2010 PAGE 55
SAKHALIN TAIMEN
Hucho perryi

THE SAKHALIN TAIMEN IS A CRITICALLY ENDANGERED SALMONID IN EASTERN ASIA THAT CAN LIVE MORE THAN 30 YEARS AND REACH TWO METERS IN LENGTH. THE SPECIES EXISTS IN REMOTE CORNERS OF THE RUSSIAN FAR EAST THAT IS RAPIDLY DEVELOPING ITS OIL AND GAS INFRASTRUCTURE. THE WILD SALMON CENTER AND ITS PARTNERS WORK IN THIS REGION WHERE IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO MOUNT EXPEDITIONS TO THE RIVERS THAT SUPPORT THE LAST REMAINING SAKHALIN TAIMEN POPULATIONS.

Red List Justification
Estimated regional population reductions over three generations (42 year period) of up to 98%. The leading threats are loss of critical habitat and illegal fishing.

All Photos: WSC Salmon Center
The main research objective is to build on existing data to describe the population structure in river systems on Sakhalin, Iturup and Kunashir Islands in the Russian Far East. Sensitive genetic markers (microsatellite DNA) and other biological data are employed to help describe the degree of reproductive isolation across a network of populations residing in the rivers under examination and to help estimate the population size in key rivers. The resulting data will be used to inform conservation planning and help justify the creation of protected areas for the species in this region.

RESULTS:

The project team discovered that Sakhalin taimen in rivers in the northeast region of Sakhalin Island, including the Dagi River, are unique genetically from other taimen populations. Some analyzed populations exhibit limited genetic diversity which is indicative of a small population size. The genetic data, coupled with the fact that this species grows very slowly and has a very long generation time, underscore the need to take immediate conservation action. The results are informing the development of a protected areas plan for Sakhalin and for specific protected area proposals.
The goal was to determine the relative impact of human versus natural predation on the White-shouldered ibis nest success rate using nest cameras, and to implement a nest guarding scheme and monitor the outcome of the scheme.

The project is demonstrating that effective conservation may be best directed towards minimizing human interference rather than targeting natural predator species. Nest cameras applied to nine nests captured Large-billed crow taking eggs from nests, but after nests had already failed due to other factors. The factors relating to nest failure may include opportunistic collection and hunting of chicks and adults, and disturbance of nest sites by humans. This study of more than 45 nests is finding that protecting nests using guardians may not be the most cost-effective method. Instead, awareness-raising and nest-finding reward schemes may be the best strategy for ensuring the future of the White-shouldered ibis.

“The Fund has helped to develop our understanding of factors affecting breeding ecology and failure of White-shouldered ibis nests, and the best methods for protecting these nests. Better understanding of why nests fail, and how breeding success can be improved is enabling us to advise conservation practitioners on the most effective interventions, thereby helping to secure the species’ future.”

“The Fund has helped me to successfully make the link between conservation scientific research and applied conservation. This project combines the two and has enabled me to interact and develop partnerships with conservation stakeholders in Cambodia, both local and national. It has also given me considerable technical experience in the use of cameras for understanding bird breeding ecology.”

Paul M Dolman
University of East Anglia

PROJECT DETAILS:

The white-shouldered ibis is the most threatened of South-East Asia’s water birds. Having previously occurred across Indochina, including Thailand, Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam, the majority of White-shouldered ibis remaining globally are in Cambodia. The surviving fragmented population may only be comprised of 50-249 mature individuals, although 310 birds were counted this year. The largest known populations are in unprotected areas. The reasons for this critically endangered species’ decline are not well understood, although hunting and habitat destruction are likely factors.

RESULTS:

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HOW THE MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND HAS HELPED

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Paul M Dolman
University of East Anglia

Red List Justification
Extremely small fragmented population because of degradation of wetlands and forest habitats, hunting, and disturbance.

WHITE-SHOULDERED IBIS
Pseudibis davisoni

Critically Endangered
Cambodia

$4,996

How the Mohamed Bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund has helped

WhIte-ShOuldered IBIs

Pseudibis davisoni

THE White-SHOulDERed IBIs IS THE MOST THREATENED OF SOuTH-EaST ASIA’S WaTER BIrDS. hAVING PREVIOUSLY OCCURRED ACROSS INDOCHINA, INCLUDING THAILAND, MYANMAR, LAOS AND VIETNAM, THE MAJORITY OF WHITE-SHOULDERED IBIS REMAINING GLOBALLY ARE IN CAMBODIA. THE SURVIVING FRAGMENTED POPULATION MAY ONLY BE COMPRISED OF 50-249 MATURE INDIVIDUALS, ALTHOUGH 310 BIRDS WERE COUNTED THIS YEAR. THE LARGEST KNOWN POPULATIONS ARE IN UNPROTECTED AREAS. THE REASONS FOR THIS CRITICALLY ENDANGERED SPECIES’ DECLINE ARE NOT WELL UNDERSTOOD, ALTHOUGH HUNTING AND HABITAT DESTRUCTION ARE LIKELY FACTORS.

All Photos: Hugh Wright

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The images seen below are infrared nest camera photographs.

Male and female White-shouldered ibis at seasonal waterhole
FIJI PETREL
Pseudobulweria macgillivrayi
Critically Endangered
Fiji
$25,000

Until 1984, the species was known from only a single museum specimen collected in 1835. Data from landed petrels have since been gathered in 2005, 2007 and 2009. In 2009 five or six individuals were recorded at sea during a mission to locate the species. Significant efforts are underway to locate their breeding ground and nesting burrows using various methods including the employment of specially trained wildlife search dogs.

Photo Credit: Hadoram Shirihai
The first Fiji petrel to be photographed at sea, May 2009

Photo Credit: Eleazar O’Connor
Using a burrow scope to investigate a Collared petrel burrow

Red List Justification
Given the paucity of recent records, it is estimated that there is only a tiny population confined to a very small breeding area.
The Fund has played a key role in strengthening the project as a community-wide conservation effort on the island of Gau. Support from the Fund has allowed the purchase of key equipment such as the burrow scope and the telemetry receivers, as well as antennae and transmitters. In addition, the Fund has enabled us to develop expertise in local and community level enabling the people of Gau to have direct involvement in conserving a bird that is part of their cultural heritage.”

Dick Watling
Fiji Nature Conservation Trust

PROJECT DETAILS:
Searching for the Fiji petrel among the colonies of Collared petrels that nest in the rugged interior of Fiji’s island of Gau. The project utilizes acoustical tracking, burrow scopes, and spotlighting to locate and identify the Fiji petrel. In addition to the search techniques, the research team engages the local community in conservation activities for the Collared petrel which by default protects the Fiji petrel’s habitat.

RESULTS:
No Fiji petrels found among the Collared petrel populations. Significant engagement and raised awareness of local community in the conservation project. Islanders from local communities are participating in burrow searches, acoustic nocturnal surveys, spotlighting, controlling the population of invasive cats, rats and feral pigs in known Collared petrel nesting areas, and other potential nesting habitats.

HOW THE MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND HAS HELPED
Preliminary results of the project indicate that in Queensland the species stays in close proximity to the coast. Two specimens tagged in Cleveland Bay and Hervey Bay for three and two months respectively, over summer, stayed within the bounds of both these bays. Additionally, an animal tagged with a depth recording tag demonstrated a clear diurnal and nocturnal pattern of depth use over a 20-day period. This animal actively used all depths of Hervey Bay (from 0-30m) during the day, but remained very close to the bottom during the night. This is presumably a foraging technique as the majority of their prey is large demersal fish such as stingrays and flounder.

The purpose of this study is to satellite tag the Great hammerhead to monitor its movements along the Queensland coast.

RESULTS:

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"I am at the beginning of my scientific career. As such, the Fund provided me with invaluable support allowing me to establish a project for which I have a very strong passion. As numerous funding bodies are more likely to support well established researchers, your funding provided a massive confidence boost on a personal level and helped show me I was on the right path. On a professional level, your involvement in the project will help future funding applications and possible collaborations with researchers in other parts of the world. This is extremely important due to both the wide distribution of the species and the work that is required in the future to gain adequate and relevant information for the ongoing conservation of the Great hammerhead shark."

Adrian Gutteridge
Fish Lab / Qld Shark and Ray Research Group, University of Queensland

THE GREAT HAMMERHEAD INHABITS NEARLY EVERY CONTINENTAL SHELF WITHIN THE TROPICS, YET IS GRAVELY THREATENED, ALONG WITH MOST OTHER PREDATORY FISH. IN AUSTRALIA NOT Much IS KNOWN ABOUT THE GREAT HAMMERHEAD POPULATION AND SO IT IS LISTED DATA DEFICIENT, REQUIRING FURTHER INVESTIGATION OF ITS STATUS THERE.
Mary River Turtle

Elusor macrurus

At the beginning of the nesting season everything was working together; very favourable nesting conditions, nesting banks and nests were protected which greatly reduced predation of turtle eggs. In combination with the tracking skills of the project officer and volunteer, the team was able to protect the highest number of nests ever protected in a single season. Seventy-five Mary River Turtle nests were located. However, a monsoonal low dumped extremely heavy rain which caused the river to flood for weeks in December 2010 and January 2011, inundating all unhatched turtle nests. Fortunately some nests were able to be relocated as the river was rising. Final hatching results are as yet unknown.

How the Mohamed Bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund has helped

The grant will support work to increase survivorship of in-situ hatchlings through fencing nesting sites, covering nests with mesh to protect eggs from predators, egg rescues, monitoring female clutch size and number of hatchlings, and building community awareness.

“Not directly, however it greatly increased the interest in our project by the media, increased the profile of our group and our reputation with our local government representatives (Fraser Coast Regional Council) and the community. It was a contributor to me being awarded an Australia Day award: the ‘Citizen of the Year for Tiaro’.”

Marilyn Connell
Tiaro and District Landcare Group

Has the grant helped you secure additional funding?

“The Fund allowed us to expand the area of the river where we searched for and protected turtle nests. 2010 was a difficult nesting season due to unusually severe flooding episodes which flooded all natural nesting banks. Without the support from the Fund there would have been no recruitment in the wild for this species in this season.”

“The Fund has made us aware of the importance that international people put on this species, which lifted our enthusiasm to continue to understand and protect this turtle and its habitat.”

Marilyn Connell
Tiaro and District Landcare Group

Mary River Turtle

Elusor macrurus

Red List Justification

Because the Mary River turtle is endemic to the Mary River in Queensland, Australia, it is listed as Endangered.

Mary River Turtle

Elusor macrurus

Endangered

Australia

$15,000

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Marilyn Connell
Tiaro and District Landcare Group
TASMANIAN LONG-EARED BAT
Nyctophilus sherrini

DATA DEFICIENT
Tasmania, Australia
$15,000

Red List Justification
This species is listed as Data Deficient because there are not enough data on its population size, trends, or distribution to assess the species.

RESULTS:

PROJECT DETAILS:

The project studied the effect of forestry on bat populations, as well as developing a "bat call identification key" to aid future studies on bat population and demographics.

HOW THE MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND HAS HELPED

The Fund’s early support allowed us to purchase bat detectors (sound recorders) that we used to record the reference calls of Tasmanian long-eared bats and other Tasmanian bat species to create a bat call identification key. We then used these bat detectors to remotely monitor bats by recording their calls and identifying the recorded calls using the bat call identification key. This allowed us to collect important information on bat foraging, socialising and commuting in areas with varying degrees of forest availability.

Over 60,000 bat calls, 13,000 reference calls, and data from over 600 bat individuals including information on bat population demographics and breeding cycle were collected. A strong association was found between Tasmanian long-eared bats and mature forest, with bats most commonly found foraging in or along the edge of mature forest habitat. Breeding females roosting in tree hollows in groups of 30 to 50 individuals within mature forest were discovered. Early results suggest the retention of mature forest is important for the conservation of this species.

"For the Tasmanian long-eared bat, a species with few records prior to this study, this work has been pivotal in understanding the best methods for monitoring this species and its associated habitat. Furthermore, the bat detectors we purchased will be used for long-term monitoring of Tasmanian bats. Such an initiative would not have been possible without the Fund’s support. The Fund’s early support of this project helped secure further financial funding and in-kind support to a total of $103,000."

Lisa Cawthen
University of Tasmania

All Photos: Lisa Cawthen
YELLOW FATU
Abutilon pitcairnense

Once thought extinct, the Yellow Fatu is endemic to the very remote Pitcairn Islands in the South Pacific mid-way between South America and New Zealand. In 2004 the last wild Abutilon Pitcairnense was swept away in a natural landslide. Fortuitously, cuttings from a single plant were made two years earlier and the plant was grown ex-situ. However, the plant did not flower until 2009 and now a budding propagation program is underway at the National Botanic Gardens in Ireland.

Conservation Observation of Grant Recipient
"Endemic to and found only once on the Island of Pitcairn."

The plant produced seed ex-situ and has grown many progeny from both seed and cuttings. Progeny have been banked at the Millennium Seed Bank and Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. These actions ensure the species will be maintained long-term in ex-situ collections. Pitcairn Islanders have gathered information on the pollinators visiting cloned plants on the island and seed has also been obtained from the Pitcairn clones. Genetic analysis of 2009 and 2010 progeny is ongoing.

"Most definitely without the assistance of the Fund, DNA analysis or pollinator observation of Yellow fatu clones on Pitcairn Island could not have been achieved. The Fund has helped me develop my research skills in reporting and genetic analysis and helped raise my profile as a conservation researcher and author."

Noeleen Smyth
National Botanic Gardens, Ireland

HOW THE MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND HAS HELPED

Survey work to remote areas of the island to find the plant, ex-situ propagation of plant, reintroduction of plant seedling grown ex-situ to the island, depositing seed in seed banks, genetic analysis of progeny, pollinator observations on Pitcairn Island.

RESULTS:

PROJECT DETAILS:
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**ANNUAL REPORT 2010 PAGE 76**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2010 PAGE 77**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species/Name</th>
<th>Name of Organisation</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Recovery</th>
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<td>Great hammerhead shark (EN)</td>
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<td>Sphyrna mokarran</td>
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<td>The Hutton's Shearwater Charitable Trust</td>
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</table>
MOHAMED BIN ZAYED
SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND
2010 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

ENDOWMENT:

The Fund’s endowment started on 7 April 2009 with a value of $29,202,745
Analysis Period: 31 December 2009 to 31 December 2010
Reporting Currency: US Dollars

Statement of Assets:

<table>
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<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Begin value</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash flow adjusted change in assets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sum of cash flows</td>
<td>-3,468,407</td>
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<td>End value</td>
<td>35,433,094</td>
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<tr>
<td>Portfolio performance</td>
<td>13.73%</td>
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Note: Sum of cash flows consists of $2,000,000 for grants in 2010; $1,000,000 for operations through 2011; and $468,407 for fund management fees and taxes.

The endowment is managed by Credit Suisse

Note: Historical information and financial-market scenarios are no guarantee for future performance

OPERATIONS:

Analysis Period: 31 December 2009 to 31 December 2010
Reporting Currency: US Dollars

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fund management fees</td>
<td>457,571</td>
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<tr>
<td>Payroll and related costs</td>
<td>372,279</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public relations expenses</td>
<td>132,129</td>
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<tr>
<td>Traveling expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Website development and related costs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other expenses</td>
<td>38,764</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total operations disbursements</td>
<td>1,133,071</td>
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As audited by Grant Thornton (M.E.), 25 March 2011