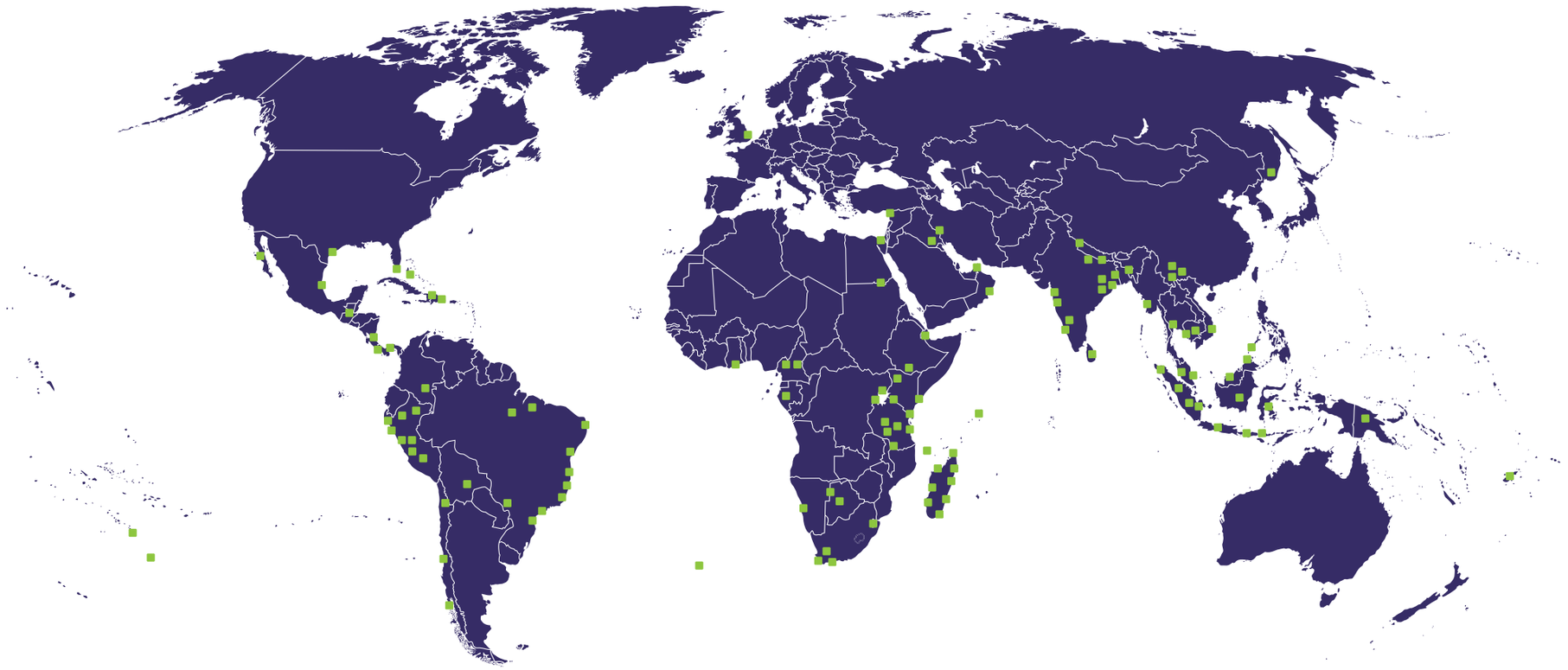

صندوق محمد بن زايد
للمحافظة على الكائنات الحية
The Mohamed bin Zayed SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND

ANNUAL REPORT 2009

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Printed on environmentally friendly paper which is acid and chlorine free. All materials used in the making of this paper are sustainable and approved by the Forest Stewardship Council.

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The Northern Rockhopper penguin, *Tristan Da Cunha*
Photo credit: Trevor Glass

YOUR HIGHNESS

The donation of 25m Euros that you have made to the cause of species conservation could not have come at a more important time. Over the last few years species conservation, as an environmental priority, has lost ground and status to other environmental causes – also worthy, but leaving a vital gap in funding. This discipline of species conservation and biodiversity is critical to the future well-being of our planet and our race. Furthermore, as the global recession took hold, those remaining traditional sources of support for species conservation became yet more scarce, making this Fund all the more significant.

The impact of this Fund on species conservation has already been felt. In the six months from June 2009 to the end of the year over 130 projects of direct species conservation have been supported by your endowment, amounting to almost $2m spent. This makes the Fund one of the largest supporters of direct species conservation worldwide. The grants have helped many organizations and individual conservationists around the world to implement important projects, which directly help endangered species, covering all animal types, in addition to many plants, and the projects range from direct intervention to population surveys and DNA testing. The flexibility of the Fund and its ability to provide timely support to a wide variety of projects has further increased its appeal and stature, as well as its effectiveness.

We hope that the Fund and its impact will grow further in order to contribute yet more to global species conservation, as Abu Dhabi continues to make an impact in environmental circles. On behalf of the Fund and the recipients of its grants, I would like to thank you for your support and we look forward to making a lasting contribution to the conservation of global biodiversity.

Announcing the Fund in Barcelona, October 2008

Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak
Managing Director

صندوق محمد بن زايد
للمحافظة على الكائنات الحية
The Mohamed bin Zayed SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND

ANNUAL REPORT 2009 FOREWORD
BOARD TO RECIPIENTS

Dear Grant Recipients,

The Fund first began to award grants in June 2009, supporting conservation of all kinds of animal and plant species, and within only six months it had disbursed almost $2m to more than 130 projects. The generous donation by HH General Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, of 25m Euros as an endowment has made the Fund possible. We hope that there will be significant interest in further contributions to grow this endowment in the future, allowing us to award more grants.

These grants are only as important as the conservation work they support, and the recipients who spend the money implementing effective species conservation projects. We are delighted that the Fund has been able to support so many crucial projects in the first six months, and we hope that this will encourage new applicants from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences. It is our intention to ensure that financial support does get to projects that make a real difference, and helps those individuals or organizations that are under-funded for various reasons.

We would like to thank all those who have applied for grants from the Fund, and those recipients who have received grants and have been enabled to contribute to species conservation. We are also very grateful to all those who have helped the Fund in kind; by spreading the word through their networks, by providing advice and comments or by raising the profile of endangered species.

It is our hope that the Fund will not simply finance species conservation projects, but will also enable the global community of species conservationists to grow, by helping to increase awareness of the importance of species conservation and assisting young conservationists to further their careers. Thank you also for your support in that endeavor.

The Board

The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund

THE MISSION AND OBJECTIVES OF THE 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 – amphibians, birds, fish, fungi, invertebrate, 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 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-situ*, that is, 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

Photo credits: Hong Liu, Dendrobium officinale

Paula Rogerio Mangini

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 individual 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 individual 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 individual and coordinated species conservation initiatives. To retain the species and habitats we treasure, and indeed need, the Mohammed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund seeks to support the on-the-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 turtle, 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 STRUCTURE OF THE FUND

The Donor

His Highness General Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces.

His Highness General Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan holds a wide range of policy, legislative and economic responsibilities in Abu Dhabi and the UAE. He is a committed conservationist and philanthropist.

As the Crown Prince of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed is Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council. Under the guidance of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE and Ruler of Abu Dhabi, the Executive Council oversees the development and implementation of all government policy and legislation in the Emirate.

The environment is one of Sheikh Mohamed's highest priorities, from a policy and a personal perspective. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi, and has led significant conservation efforts to protect the falcon, houbara bustard and Arabian oryx within the UAE and internationally. In January 2008, His Highness announced that the Abu Dhabi Government would contribute $15bn to Masdar, the global standard-setting alternative and renewable energy initiative based in Abu Dhabi, and developer of the world's first carbon-neutral, zero waste city.

In addition to these responsibilities, His Highness is Chairman of Mubadala Development Company, an investment organization owned by the Abu Dhabi Government.

The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund is a private philanthropic interest.

The Board

The fund is managed by an independent board, comprising eaders in the field of species conservation, who allocate grants on the basis of a detailed application form completed by potential beneficiaries.

The independent board of the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund oversees all aspects of its operation, including the development of policies and procedures, the recognition of leaders in the field of species conservation, the provision of financial grants to successful applicants, and the review of reports each project submits every six months.

The board provides a mix of local and international expertise in the field of environmental conservation and policy development, with a particular focus on species conservation.

At present, membership of the board is as follows:

- **H.H. General Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan** Chairman
- **H.E. Mohamed Al Bowardi** Deputy Chairman
- **H.E. Majid Al Mansouri** Board Member
- **H.E. Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak** Board Member and Managing Director
- **Dr. Fréderic Launay** Board Member and Director General
- **Dr. Russell A. Mittermeier** International Representative
- **Dr. Mike Maunder** International Representative

GRANTS AND THE PROJECTS

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.

Managed by an independent board, comprising of leaders in the field of species conservation, the Fund allocates grants on the basis of a completed detailed application form submitted 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 complex 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 on 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 three times 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
- Projects to upload their six monthly reports and the Board to review these online
- Grant recipients to upload information about their project as a case study to help highlight their work

Photo credits: Hong Liu, Eria coromaria *Benoit Goossens* *Loetters, Banana frog*

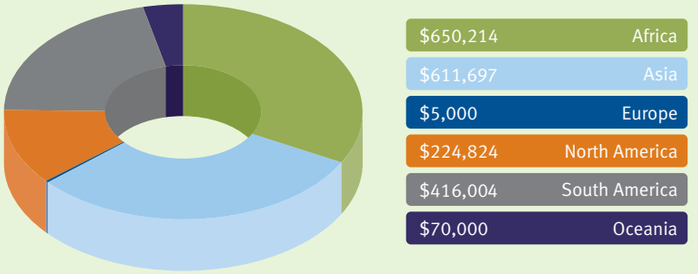
A YEAR AT A GLANCE

Since it was announced in late 2008, the Fund has made significant steps in the field of species conservation, disbursing grants, establishing a network of supporters and stakeholders, and establishing the website www.mbzspeciesconservation.org for the submission of applications and for grant information.

The Fund began to receive applications in March 2009, and by the end of 2009 had received 300 applications. Since June 2009 it has:

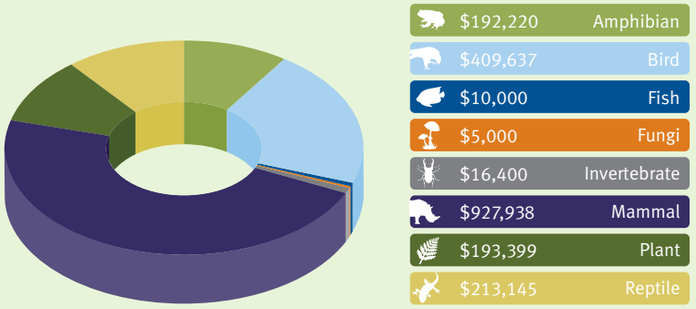
- Awarded grants to over 130 projects of direct species conservation
  - This equates to almost $2m in donations
  - With a spread across 56 countries, and six continents

Grants by continent ($)

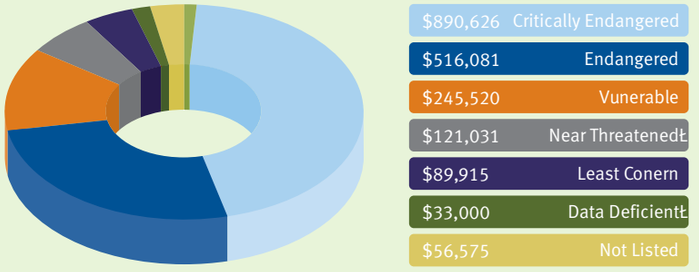


Total Grants awarded to the end of December 2009 $1,977,739

Grants by species type ($)



Grants by IUCN Red List Classification ($)



THE MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND CASE STUDIES – 2009

صندوق محمد بن زايد
للمحافظة على الكائنات الحية
The Mohamed bin Zayed SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND

The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund helps reduce retaliatory lion killings, and raise awareness of conservation amongst the Maasai people in Kenya.

Photo credit: MPT

AFRICAN LION

PANTHERA LEO

In the past 100 years, the lion population of Africa has gone from 1 million to fewer than 25,000. This terrible situation is the result of over-hunting, loss of habitat, retaliatory killing and human encroachment and without intervention, the lion will completely disappear from the wild.

In the semi-arid grassland and acacia forests between the Chyulu Hills and Mount Kilimanjaro, the Mbirikani Group Ranch resides - the natural habitat of the lion. With some male lions reaching 250 kg, the lion is the second largest member of the cat family, second in size only to the tiger.

Until recently, the Maasai people in Kenya believed that to assert your power over a lion that has killed one of your livestock, you must seek out this lion, and in turn, kill it. This retaliatory killing has accounted for tens of thousands of lion killings. However, due to the success of the Maasailand Preservation Trust (MPT), through the educational, economic and ecological initiatives of the Predator Compensation Fund (PCF), this practice is changing.

FACT "AS A CONSERVATIONIST, THE CONTINUATION OF PCF WILL SUSTAIN THE EXTRAORDINARY BENEFITS TO WILDLIFE AND HABITAT CONSERVATION BEING REALIZED TODAY, PROVIDING ME THE PLATFORM TO PURSUE ADDITIONAL AND SYNERGISTIC PROGRAMS WITHIN THE AMBOSELI-TSAVO ECOSYSTEM TO COMPLETE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FULLY-INTEGRATED CONSERVATION MODEL CAPABLE OF STABILIZING AND SUSTAINING WILDERNESS ECOSYSTEMS IN AFRICA AND BEYOND."

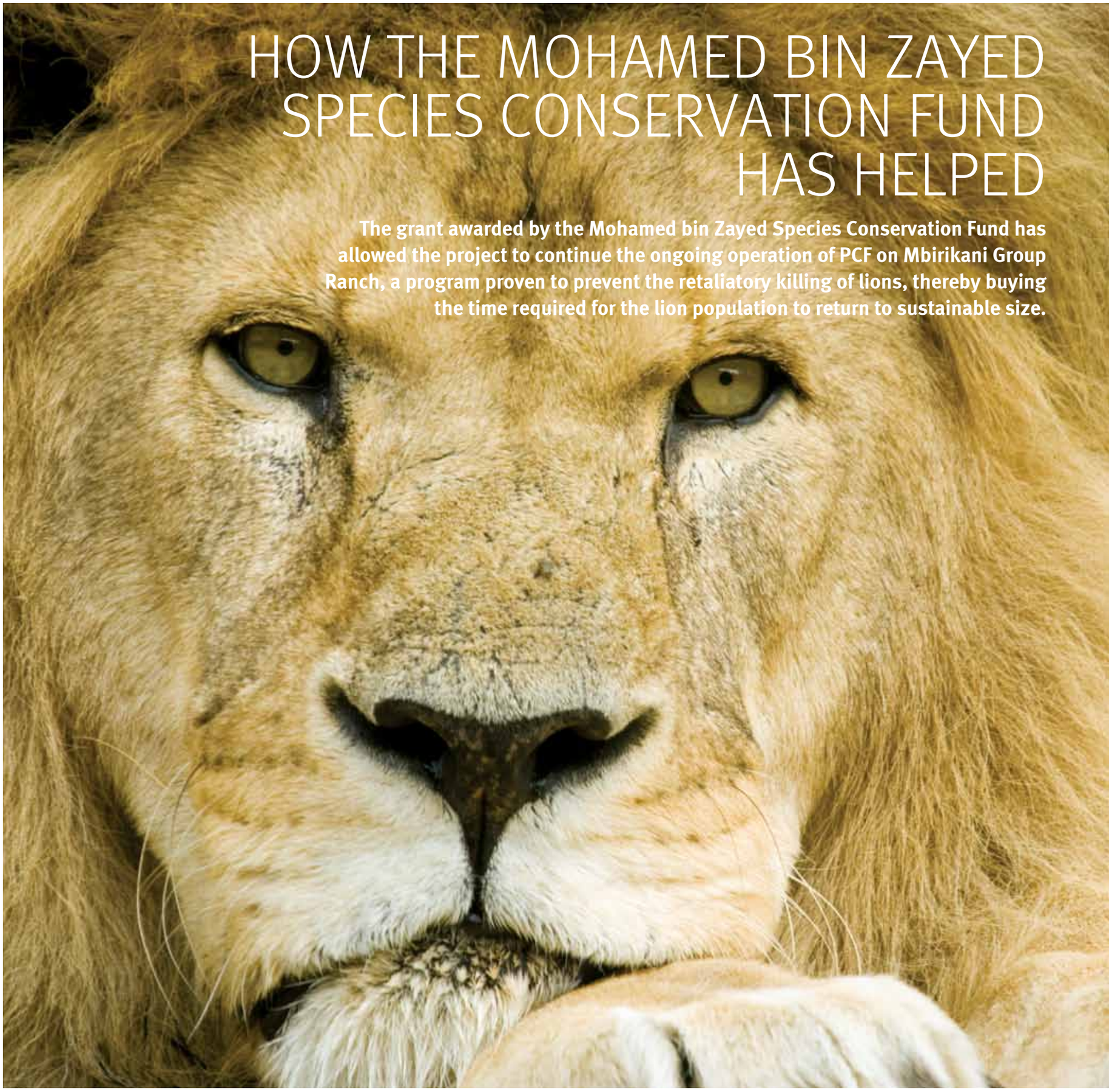
Richard Bonham – Founder of Maasailand Preservation Trust

"THE MAASAILAND PRESERVATION TRUST SEEKS TO STABILIZE AND SUSTAIN THE AMBOSELI-TSAVO ECOSYSTEM AND ITS IRREPLACEABLE BIODIVERSITY BY CONTRIBUTING TO THE SUCCESS OF THE MAASAI PEOPLE AND THEIR PASTORALIST WAY OF LIFE. THE KEY FUNDING AND SUPPORT THE MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND HAS PROVIDED FOR THE PREDATOR COMPENSATION FUND IS HELPING US DO JUST THIS."

Richard Bonham – Founder of Maasailand Preservation Trust

HOW THE MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND HAS HELPED

The grant awarded by the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund has allowed the project to continue the ongoing operation of PCF on Mbirikani Group Ranch, a program proven to prevent the retaliatory killing of lions, thereby buying the time required for the lion population to return to sustainable size.



Project objectives

In the delicate ecosystem of the Amboseli-Tsavo region in south eastern Kenya, the world's most precious natural resources and greatest biodiversity of large mammals in the world can be found. Officially categorized as an endangered species by the Kenyan government, the free-roaming lion faces complete extinction if not aided through conservation efforts. This is why the MPT has dedicated its work to the conservation of this dwindling species.

The primary objectives of the MPT's programs are to educate the Maasai residents of the Mbirikani Group Ranch (and hopefully neighbouring ranches) whose main lifestyle relies on their livestock, about the immediate need to protect the lion. With the inception of the Predator Compensation Fund (PCF), which is giving the community an economic incentive not to retaliate against these animals following livestock kills, MPT has been able to reduce the number of lion killings to three, compared to 65 in neighbouring ranches. The aim is to be able to sustain this program on the Mbirikani ranch and be able to act as a catalyst to replicate similar systems in neighbouring ranches.

The need to educate local communities of the dangers facing the lion, as well as local ecology, is crucial to the success of the program. By providing wage-paying jobs and economic incentives, the MPT has been able to alter community behavior towards threatened wildlife species. The results from the program have been real and sustainable.

Project status

The Predator Compensation Fund (PCF) was established by the MPT in 2003 and since the beginning of this community-wide commitment to conservation, only three incidents of lions being killed by livestock owners have occurred – and none since 2005. By encouraging the Maasai people not to kill endangered animals and providing them with a feasible alternative, their understanding and awareness has increased dramatically. The success of the program has lead to other avenues of endangered animal conservation and an increased interest in such initiatives.

Although other initiatives have been implemented in the past so as to curb the killings of endangered predators in the area, they have all failed due to the lack of understanding of the local community, the lack of consistency of programs or implementation without successfully engaging local communities. This project has been the only one to succeed and see tangible and real results that can be shown through scientific, economic and numerical data. However, without sustaining this project, local communities will inevitably return to their old way of life. These are difficult economic times and funding has been equally difficult to secure to continue the efforts of the Maasailand Preservation Trust and continue protecting against the very real threat of extinction of the free-roaming lion.

FACT "THE ANNUAL NET COST OF PREDATOR COMPENSATION AND THE UMBRELLA OF PROTECTION IT PROVIDES IS ONLY 20 US CENTS PER ACRE. THEREFORE THE MONEY THE MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND HAS GRANTED MPT HAS MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO COVER 125,000 (50,000 HECTARES) OF THE 1 MILLION ACRES (400,00 HECTARES) OF PREDATOR HABITAT THIS PROGRAM PROTECTS PER YEAR. THIS FUNDING SUPPORTS NOT ONLY PROTECTS LIONS BUT LEOPARDS, CHEETAH, HYENAS AND JACKALS AS WELL."

Tom Hill – Co-founder of PCF and MPT Trustee

Photo credit: MBZSCF

Maasai child with goats

Maasai leader and PCF scout

The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund helps protect a spectacular ecosystem in Indonesia.

All photo credits: Dr. Robin. D. Moore – CI and AITo

AMPHIBIANS IN INDONESIA

At the eastern tip of the central peninsula of the island of Sulawesi in Indonesia, Mount Tompotika rises to 1,600 meters and is rich in tropical forests, streams and rivers, and surrounded by mangroves and coral reefs. Mount Tompotika is also home to a varied biodiversity that includes rare amphibians, primates, marsupials, hornbills, psittacines, and flora.

Because it is considered a sacred place of origin for ethnic groups indigenous to the area, the mountain which forms the center and focal point of the Tompotika peninsula has been untouched and uninhabited until only recently. However, the new forest logging industry has begun to destroy areas of the wilderness, with villages and the infrastructure to support this business quickly expanding. In the last year nickel mining has also been introduced and a huge swath of rainforest on the flanks of Mount Tompotika is expected to be destroyed as drilling in the mountain develops. This forest not only provides habitat for endangered species, but also provides clean water, prevents soil erosion, and controls flooding for villages in Tompotika's foothills.

The unusual ecosystem that this land supports needs to be studied to find the best ways to preserve it, and ensure the survival of the species that inhabit it.

FACT "THE IRREVERSIBLE LOSS OF SPECIES HAS MANY DIRECT AND INDIRECT CONSEQUENCES; SOME DEMONSTRATED AND OTHERS ABOUT WHICH WE CAN ONLY SPECULATE; DO WE REALLY WANT TO FIND OUT THE HARD WAY WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU REMOVE SPECIES FROM A SYSTEM? HOWEVER, EFFECTIVE CONSERVATION IS OFTEN HINDERED BY A LACK OF RESOURCES."

Dr. Robin. D. Moore – Conservation International and AlTo

Project objectives

The Alliance for Tompotika Conservation (AlTo) has been established to create a new protected area in the heart of Mount Tompotika, an area that is both one of the most biologically valuable and most immediately threatened areas in the region. Situated on the slopes of Tompotika, this new preserve will consist of a core protected area covering an uninterrupted swath of 1,000 hectares of intact primary forest laced with multiple streams and rivers of various sizes, plus a buffer area of several hundred hectares of disturbed forest that lies between the protected forest and the agricultural fields of the village farmers.

The core forested area - which AlTo has already informally protected through an agreement with the local villagers - will enjoy strict protection from logging, hunting, mining, and other anthropogenic threats. It will also, in effect, serve to protect the mountain's flanks on both sides and above it, since this area is currently the main gateway for local people to access the rest of the mountain. A buffer area surrounding the reserve will be the site of forest replanting and restoration activities carried out by the local people.

This project is vitally important because it will establish a mechanism for protecting, in perpetuity, myriad species that occur nowhere else in the world. Not only will the creation of a new protected area safeguard the species that call this forest home, it will also provide immense benefits to the local communities living within and around the forest through the sustainable provision of ecosystem services. A sense of pride has been instilled in the local people, who have risen to the challenge of being guardians of their unique biodiversity.

Project status

The project has been progressing according to the plan and discussions are underway regarding the land acquisition – and the Bupati (local head of the region) has given preliminary approval for the proposed new forest reserve. Added to this is the prospect of multiplying the size of the original proposed protected area by a staggering ten times. This is taking careful negotiations with local decision makers and stakeholders, but is poised to be a resounding success and set a precedent for conservation in the region.

In effect, AlTo will manage this critical forest land in a "conservation concession" using the same laws that are normally used to allow extractive industries, such as logging or mining companies, to benefit from government-owned land. However, instead of clear-cutting the trees and then moving on (leaving local people to cope with the fallout) AlTo will use the lease to protect and maintain the biodiversity and ecosystem benefits of these pristine rainforests. Patrolling, managing, and restoring the forest will be done by teams of local villagers facilitated by AlTo, and AlTo will also sponsor training in organic farming techniques and other alternative livelihoods that will help to ensure that villagers can get plenty of food and income without destroying the forest or its creatures.

In the months ahead, the AlTo team - which includes some of Indonesia's best experts in conservation law - will be working hard to refine the details of the plan and educate the community on the new approach for conserving this global treasure of biodiversity. Through this innovative approach, and thanks to the support of AlTo donors, the area of forest poised for protection is now ten times the size of what was originally envisioned - 10,000 hectares, or about 98 square kilometers.

While the plans for the new increased land size have been progressing, so has the initial survey work on the forest. These surveys have already uncovered three new species – a frog from the genus *Oreophryne*, which was not previously known from the eastern part of Sulawesi, and two geckoes of the genus *Cyrtodactylus*. 12 amphibian species were documented in total, and the project is awaiting confirmation of the species list. Six species found are endemic to the Tompotika area (one amphibian and five reptiles), and three more amphibian species are known from a highly restricted distribution. 14 species (seven amphibians and seven reptiles) are Sulawesi endemics.

FACT "BY ENABLING THE CONSERVATION OF SPECIES WORLDWIDE, THE MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND IS PLAYING A CRITICAL ROLE IN HELPING TO STEM THE CURRENT EXTINCTION CRISIS, AND MANY SPECIES THAT WOULD HAVE OTHERWISE BEEN LOST WILL STILL BE WITH US IN TEN YEARS TIME BECAUSE OF THIS FUND – OF THAT I HAVE NO DOUBT. I PERSONALLY WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND FOR MAKING A LASTING DIFFERENCE BY ENABLING THE CONSERVATION OF SOME OF THE WORLD'S MOST THREATENED SPECIES AND THEIR HABITATS."

Dr. Robin. D. Moore

HOW THE MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND HAS HELPED

Through the financial support it has provided AlTo, the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund has played a fundamental role assisting with the purchase of the land on Mount Tomptika to aid the conservation of this spectacular ecosystem, and in particular the rare local amphibian species.

Limnonectes

Limnonectes Giant Creek Frog

Genus Limnonectes

The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund helps preserve the Andean cat and educate local communities in Chile.

Photo credits: Jim Sanderson - SCCA

ANDEAN CAT

OREAILURUS JACOBITA

The Andean cat is one of the most endangered cat species in the world and the only endangered cat in the Americas, with fewer than 2,000 left in existence. The Andean cat can only be found in high elevation regions of the Andes in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile and Peru.

The Andean cat is very similar in size to house cats with a very distinct tail, usually between 66% and 75% in length proportional to its body length. Its fur is ash grey with brownish-yellow and vertical lines of dark brown or black are distributed throughout, giving the appearance of cylindrical stripes.

Recent studies have attributed the decline of the Andean cat to several factors including the Andean cat's sacred status among indigenous Indian populations and the cat's lack of fear of human beings. For centuries the native Andean people, such as the Ayamara and Quechua, have believed that the Andean cat has good luck powers, attributing it to abundance and welfare. Unfortunately, the cat's uninhibited fearlessness of humans has contributed to its demise – allowing hunters easy access to them for their skins, which are put on display in ceremonies and stuffed to keep the presence of good luck during harvest times.

Local populations not only hunt the animal out of superstition, but also hunt its main source of food, the Mountain viscacha, limiting the Andean cat's natural diet. In addition, coal mining and tree cutting in the region has added to the cat's scarcity in recent years.

FACT ”RAISING FUNDS TO SUPPORT SMALL CAT CONSERVATION, EVEN FOR THOSE THAT ARE IUCN RED LIST ENDANGERED, PROVED DIFFICULT. WHEN I BEGAN TRYING TO FIND SUPPORT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE FIRST ANDEAN CAT CONSERVATION AND MONITORING CENTER, IT WAS AN UPHILL STRUGGLE. THERE WAS SIMPLY NO AWARENESS THAT SUCH A CAT EVEN EXISTED, THAT IT WAS ENDANGERED, THAT IT WAS A SACRED ICON OF THE AMERINDIANS LIVING IN THE ANDES, AND THAT IT SHOWED NO FEAR OF PEOPLE AND WAS EASILY KILLED. THE CONSERVATION CENTER SEEMED A DISTANT OBJECTIVE. THE BREAKTHROUGH OCCURRED WHEN THE MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND STEPPED IN TO HELP. IT DID NOT MATTER THAT THE ANDEAN CAT IS NO BIGGER THAN A HOUSE CAT. WHAT MATTERED WAS THAT THE ANDEAN CAT IS THE MOST THREATENED CAT IN THE AMERICAS AND NEEDS HELP NOW.“

Dr. James G. Sanderson – Founder and Director of Small Cat Conservation Alliance

Building to be renovated

Villagers with toy Andean Cats

HOW THE MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND HAS HELPED

Combined with funds already raised to support this effort, the money donated by the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund is enabling SCCA to renovate the existing building already donated by CONAF. This will become the Andean cat conservation and monitoring center from which our conservation efforts will take place. Until the center is established, SCCA is not able to have a permanent presence, and the local people will not consider the serious impact and work that the project is aiming to achieve.

The Fund's money has also allowed SCCA to launch a long-term monitoring program – this includes the purchase of 20 Reconyx RC55 camera traps, training local people how to operate them, and hiring them to keep the camera traps operational. The project can now connect the presence of Andean cats to the creation of local jobs. In short, more cats results in more scientists, which results in more jobs for the community.

Project objectives

With rapidly diminishing numbers of the Andean cat, conservationists are fighting a variety of obstacles to ensure the safety and prolonged existence of this species. Until recently, there was not a single research center created for the sole purpose of mitigating threats to the Andean cat – an unfortunate oversight by many environmentalists.

Conservationists have identified an immediate need to establish a long-term permanent Andean cat conservation and monitoring center, which will ensure that these animals are protected and scientists can learn more about them. Conservationists would work with local communities in an effort to use local sustained resources, as well as to educate them on the importance of the Andean cat preservation and factors contributing to its decline. Scientists and students would be encouraged to participate in the endeavors of the center to the fullest extent of their abilities to mitigate threats to the Andean cat and to research biological and ecological factors further.

Project status

Researchers and conservationists dedicated to the cause of the Andean cat have already familiarized themselves with the geographic locations and habitat of the cat through extensive studies. It is now known where the greatest distribution of these animals can be found throughout the region.

The Small Cat Conservation Alliance (SCCA) through agreements with Fundación Biodiversitas and CONAF, the Chilean government agency responsible for national parks and production forests, has already begun to make a difference. CONAF has generously agreed to donate a small building on their compound in San Pedro de Acatama, Chile, for the purpose of an Andean cat conservation center. Other equipment has also been donated for the use at the center, such as solar arrays. Although the building is in need of renovation and further equipment is needed, there is now an opportunity for a permanent center dedicated to the Andean cat, supporting efforts in Argentina, Bolivia and Chile. This project is the establishment of a permanent presence from which to safeguard the survival of Andean cats.

FACT "NOT ONLY DID THE MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND PROVIDE A SIGNIFICANT PART OF THE FUNDING I NEED TO BUILD THE CENTER, BUT PARTNERING WITH THE FUND INCREASES GLOBAL AWARENESS TO THE PLIGHT OF THE ANDEAN CAT, AND THE LATTER WILL PAY DIVIDENDS LONG INTO THE FUTURE."

Dr. James G. Sanderson – Founder and Director of Small Cat Conservation Alliance

Mohamed Bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund helps protect Zimbabwe's Black rhinos from attacks by poachers.

Photo credit: Lowveld Rhino Trust

BLACK RHINOCEROS

DICEROS BICORNIS

Although Zimbabwe is home to the fourth largest population of Black rhinos in the world, in 2008 the country's population numbered only 490. As Zimbabwe's ongoing economic crisis has deepened, the survival of these last remaining rhinos is increasingly under threat. Research indicates that throughout the country there has been a significant rise in poaching of all animal species.

Research indicates that throughout the country there has been a significant rise in poaching of all animal species. However, it is the recorded cases of Black and White rhino poaching that has been the most alarming, with 88 documented kills of both species in 2008 - more than 10% of the combined population. Black rhinos are in particular targeted by organized criminal gangs for their distinctive horn, which is sold on the black market for use in traditional Asian medicines, and for ornamental dagger handles in Middle Eastern countries. The senseless slaughter of these majestic animals continues unabated.

FACT "FUNDING FROM THE MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES FUND HAS LITERALLY HELPED TO SAVE THE LIVES OF 45 CRITICALLY ENDANGERED BLACK RHINOS. THE FUNDING SUPPORT ALLOWED US TO MOBILIZE OUR TEAMS ON THE GROUND IN ZIMBABWE'S LOWVELD AREA AND AS A DIRECT RESULT WE WERE ABLE TO MOVE THE RHINOS FROM AREAS THREATENED BY POACHERS TO SAFER ZONES. RHINO POACHING ACROSS AFRICA IS AT A 15-YEAR HIGH. MORE THAN 70 RHINOS ALREADY WERE LOST THIS YEAR IN ZIMBABWE ALONE. THE DIRECT SUPPORT OF THE FUND WAS KEY IN ALLOWING US TO AVERT AN IMPENDING DISASTER."

Dr. Susie Ellis – Executive Director, International Rhino Foundation

Project objectives

The International Rhino Foundation (IRF) is dedicated to the survival of all of the world's rhino species through conservation and research. In an effort to save Zimbabwe's remaining Black rhinos from poachers the IRF had initiated the Lowveld Rhino Project, which follows a mandate to proactively translocate the threatened rhinos from high-risk areas to safer locations. The operation to move the rhinos is extremely complex and requires the support of a team of vets, rangers and monitors; air support from helicopters and a small fixed-wing aircraft, which are used to track the rhinos; specialised trucks fitted with mounted cranes and rhino crates are used to transport the immobilized rhinos to their new safe locations. Once relocated, the project aims to maintain the rhino's safety by ensuring that they are tagged, tracked and monitored.

Another key component of the project is to treat rhinos that have been injured, an increasingly common occurrence as more rhinos are trapped in snares, and then release them back to the wild. In an attempt to make the rhinos less attractive to poachers the project is also undertaking a program of pre-emptive horn removal.

Project status

The team believes that although poaching is increasing and is having a terrible impact on the rhino population that it is not too late for Zimbabwe's Black rhino population to recover. Research indicates that births in the Lowveld conservancies, low elevation wooded savannahs in the southeast of the country, still exceed deaths. If efforts to save Zimbabwe's rhino population can survive the country's current political and economic crisis and more pressure is put on the government to tackle poaching then there may still hope for their long-term survival.

HOW THE MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND HAS HELPED

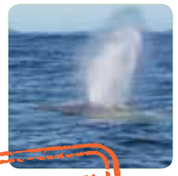
Thanks to the funding contributions by the Mohamed Bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund and other donors, the team in Zimbabwe has been able to relocate 45 critically endangered Black rhinos from areas where they were increasingly vulnerable to poachers.

In April 2009, the International Rhino Foundation and its partners launched the CRISIS Zimbabwe Campaign to raise funds for emergency operations in Zimbabwe, and to increase awareness about the need to combat poaching. The Mohamed Bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund has become one of the most important partners in this effort.

Photo credits: Rick Barongi - IRF

Rick Barongi - IRF

Orphaned Black rhino



The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund helps support Blue whale and cetacean conservation off the coast of Chile.

All photo credits: Elsa Cabrera - CCC

BLUE WHALE

BALAENOPTERA MUSCULUS

At over 30 meters in length and almost 200 metric tonnes in weight the Blue whale is the largest creature to have ever existed - their tongues alone can weigh as much as an elephant. Their vast size means that Blue whales have few predators, although they can occasionally fall victim to attacks by sharks and killer whales, and large numbers are injured or killed annually from collisions with commercial shipping.

However, the greatest threat to the survival of the Blue whale has been man; for decades Blue whales were slaughtered in their hundreds of thousands by commercial whaling fleets and they were driven to the edge of extinction. It took until 1966 for the international community to finally take notice of their desperate situation when Blue whales were finally put under protection of the International Whaling Commission. Despite this protection, Blue whales have only managed a limited recovery and current research estimates that there are still only 10,000 to 25,000 Blue whales remaining; they are currently classified as 'endangered' by the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List.

Although, there are no plans to allow the hunting of Blue whales to resume the impact of climate change may now pose the greatest threat to Blue whales long-term survival. In order to feed, Blue whales need to swim close to ice shelves and as global warming leads to a reduction in sea ice the impact on the Blue whales could be significant.

FACT "BLUE WHALES ARE ONE OF THE MOST ENDANGERED SPECIES IN THE WORLD. HOWEVER, THROUGH NON-LETHAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS AND THE ADOPTION OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION MEASURES WE ARE NOW BEGINNING TO SEE THE GRADUAL RECOVERY OF BLUE WHALE POPULATIONS, WHICH GIVES HOPE TO THEIR LONG-TERM SURVIVAL. THE SUPPORT OF ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS THE MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND TO THE ALFAGUARA PROJECT IN SOUTHERN CHILE IS ESSENTIAL IN HELPING US TO UNDERTAKE THE CRITICAL SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, WHICH IS HELPING TO DEVELOP OUR CONSERVATION EFFORTS AND HELPING TO GUARANTEE THE SURVIVAL OF BLUE WHALES AND THEIR MARINE ENVIRONMENT."

Barbara Galletti – President of Centro de Conservación Cetacea (CCC) and Science Director of the Alfaguara Project

Project objectives

Blue whales have proved to be extremely difficult creatures to study and accurate data is limited, which makes it hard to assess the current status of the different population groups, particularly in the Southern Hemisphere. The Centro de Conservación Cetacea's (CCC) Alfaguara Project is attempting to address this situation by undertaking a far reaching program of research, which will significantly increase the knowledge of the Blue whale's habitat use, distribution, population size and group structure.

The CCC's Alfaguara Project is also working to persuade the Chilean government to create and implement marine protection areas off the coast of Chile, which will not only help to safeguard Blue whale populations, but also other cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises). However, it has been recognised that the protection of Blue whales and other cetaceans cannot be fully achieved without addressing the wider conservation issues that impact their marine habitat. To this end, the CCC is currently lobbying the Chilean government for the introduction of special conservation policies designed to minimise the potential anthropogenic impact - coastal pollution, vessel traffic, commercial fishing - to cetacean populations and to safeguard the wider marine ecosystem.

Although an existing law for the protection of cetaceans (Law 20.293) sets the grounds for the regulation of non-lethal use activities with cetaceans, the CCC believes that it is imperative that marine conservation policies are consolidated for the effective protection of the delicate marine ecosystems, which are critical for cetaceans' survival. The CCC also argues that the introduction of these marine protection areas would bring long-term benefits to the local economy by helping build and improve the standards and educational values of ecotourism.

Project status

Scientific research conducted by CCC over the last few years has found evidence of a number of serious issues affecting the Blue whale populations found off the Chilean coast; in particular collisions with shipping, overly thin whales and serious skin lesions. The CCC believes the most likely cause of skinny whales is nutritional stress due to the lack of prey resources, but the underlying reasons for this situation remain unknown and require further research. The cause of skin lesions on Blue whales include among others Cookie Cutter shark bites and skin disease, which have been photographically documented during the last six years. CCC believes that the cases of skin lesions documented on Blue whales may be the result of two types of virus - calicivirus and poxvirus. These viruses have been associated to a degraded marine environment and could constitute a serious threat to the health of individuals and the wider Blue whale population. As marine mammals are indicators of the status of the marine environment, the CCC is continuing to closely monitor the health conditions of the Blue whale population and other cetacean species in order to document changes in the fragile ecosystem.

As the next stage of field work can only be conducted during the Blue whales' feeding season, which lasts from January to May, the team have focused on the preparation of the 2010 field season. This has involved the evaluation of volunteers, the preparation of workshops and the design and production of educational materials.

Early findings

In June 2009, Barbara Galletti, President of CCC, participated as the representative of the Chilean government in the scientific committee meeting of the International Whaling Commission, where she presented three papers based on the CCC's studies conducted during the 2009 Alfaguara Project field season. This update provided the committee with information on the project's status and its estimation of Blue whales numbers off the coast of Chile, recorded cases of shipping collisions and the growing concerns of skin lesions.

HOW THE MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND HAS HELPED

The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund has made it possible to conduct Alfaguara Cetacean Research Fieldwork for coastal and marine surveys. This scientific information is fundamental to effectively monitor the ongoing status of blue whale populations and to inform conservation measures. Research and analysis has been conducted to help raise awareness of the important aggregations of blue whales in the world and increase support towards adopting mandatory measures to reduce the possibility of collisions between whales and vessels.

The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund helps elevate understanding of Borneo's endangered elephant.

All photos credit: Benoit Goossens - Danau Girang Field Centre

BORNEAN ELEPHANT

ELEPHAS MAXIMUS

Sadly, wild Asian elephant populations are rapidly declining as expanding human development disrupts migration routes, depletes food sources, and destroys natural habitats. In particular, the decline of the elephant population in Borneo is one of the most alarming with a recent survey by the Sabah Wildlife Department estimating that there are now only 1,200-1,500 Bornean elephants left in the wild; making them the world's most endangered member of the *Proboscidae* family.

Also known as the Borneo Pygmy elephant, the Bornean elephant is the smallest elephant in the world - males rarely exceed 2.5 meters in height, whilst large females measure approximately 2 meters. It was previously assumed that the Bornean elephant had originally been artificially introduced to the country and that they were just an extension of either the Asian elephant or the Sumatran elephant. However, it is now widely accepted that they are a distinct sub-species, which makes their continued survival even more imperative and emphasizes the need for urgent conservation action.

FACT "THE STUDY OF THESE ELEPHANTS IS ABSOLUTELY VITAL TO THEIR SURVIVAL. WITH THE INFORMATION THAT WE ARE GATHERING WE CAN NOW MAKE MEANINGFUL ASSESSMENTS OF POPULATION VIABILITY AND DYNAMICS. THEY ALSO ALLOW US TO MAKE INFORMED RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE CONSERVATION MEASURES THAT NEED TO BE IMPLEMENTED."

Dr. Benoit Goossens – Danau Girang Field Centre, Sabah Wildlife Department

HOW THE MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND HAS HELPED

The contribution from the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund has provided invaluable support for this project across a range of activities being undertaken to support the conservation of the Bornean elephant.

Nurzhafarina Othman's Ph.D. research is only possible because of the help the Fund has provided; - her education and training will make her one of the most experienced elephant biologists in the area, and she will work to support this cause in the future.

As the production of reports, newsletters and articles becomes more regular, public awareness and understanding of the Bornean elephant's plight will increase and spread.
To reach the international community, scientific results will be presented and published in peer-reviewed journals bringing vital attention to the work being conducted.

With the establishment of The Elephant Conservation Unit - a community-based group located in Sukau, Kinabatangan - the local community will be participating in the project and learning how to live alongside the Bornean elephants and preserve them for future generations.

Project objectives

Although remnant populations of the Bornean elephant are now mainly confined to the northeastern part of Borneo, in the region of Sabah, accurate information on their social behavior is extremely poor. It is this urgent need for reliable information that has set the main objective for the Danau Girang Field Centre project, which is to gather crucial biological information that can be used to help form a wider Bornean Elephant Management Plan. The project team are working to provide behavioral observations and genetic data by implementing a number of integrated methods, which include satellite-collaring, behavioral observations, and paternity and relatedness analyses through non-invasive genetic sampling of dung and DNA genotyping.

Another key objective of Danau Girang Field Centre is to develop a solid foundation for the long-term and sustainable conservation of the Bornean elephant through the training and development of young local scientists and environmentalists. It is envisioned that through the provision of specialized skills training these young Borneans will become the future leaders in Borneo's conservation efforts and ultimately the saviors of the country's indigenous wild elephant population.

Project status

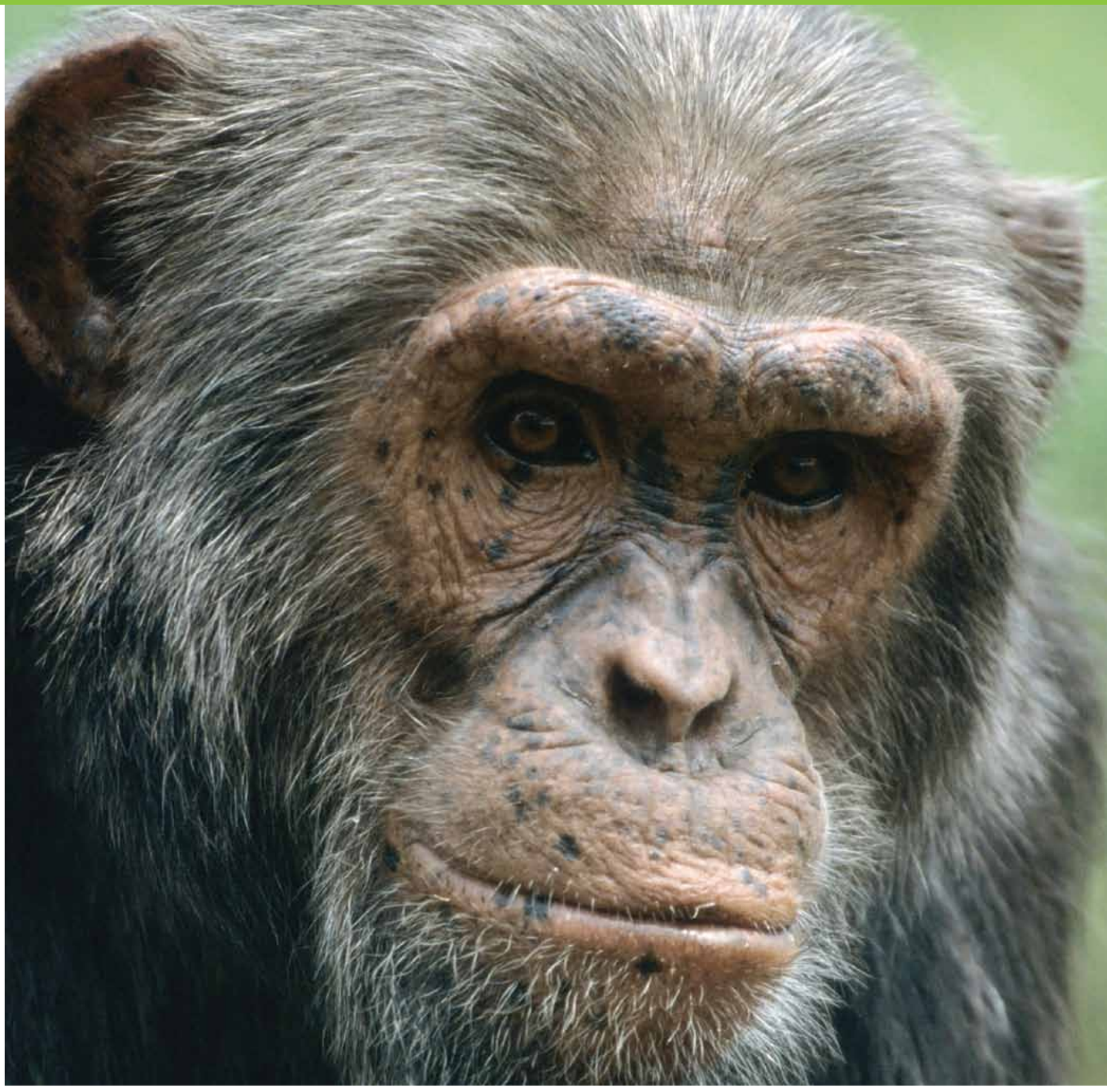
One year on, the project team are now analyzing all of the data collated. These include the findings taken from three elephants, one large bull and two adult females, that underwent satellite-collaring; the same elephants will be re-collared in March 2010. In addition, local members of the project team are working closely with the Sabah Elephant Conservation Unit and are following the elephants using radio-telemetry, which enable them to witness and record previously unknown behavioral patterns.

These findings are invaluable and are being used by the team to help prepare a state action plan for the Bornean elephant, which is being developed in partnership with a number of other conservation organizations, including the Sabah Wildlife Department, the NGO HUTAN and WWF-Malaysia. A draft version of this document was produced at the end of 2009 and delivered to the Malaysian Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Environment in order for it to be presented in front of the State Cabinet.

In fulfilling the project team's ambitions to lay the foundations for a long-term and sustainable study of Borneo's elephants, a local member of the team - a young Malaysian trainee, Nurzhafarina Othman - has been selected and registered to study for a Ph.D. at Cardiff University, UK. Nurzhafarina will attend in September 2010 and will study: conservation biology; behavioral ecology; molecular ecology; conservation genetics; GIS and management.

FACT "THE GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM THE MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND HAS ALLOWED US TO IMPLEMENT A CRUCIAL PART OF OUR PLANS, WHICH IS TO BUILD A LONG-TERM AND SUSTAINABLE CONSERVATION EFFORT IN BORNEO. WE ARE NOW IN A POSITION TO SEND ONE OF OUR LOCAL TRAINEES TO STUDY ALL MANNER OF CONSERVATION DISCIPLINES IN THE UK. ONCE OUR TRAINEE HAS COMPLETED HER STUDIES SHE WILL BECOME ONE OF THE MOST EXPERIENCED ELEPHANT BIOLOGISTS IN THE REGION AND WILL PLAY A VITAL LEADERSHIP ROLE IN THE FUTURE CONSERVATION OF THE BORNEO'S ELEPHANTS."

Dr. Benoit Goossens – Danau Girang Field Centre, Sabah Wildlife Department



The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund helps to source a sustainable diet for endangered chimpanzees in Uganda.

All photos credits: Budongo Conservation Field Station

EASTERN CHIMPANZEE

PAN TROGLODYTES SCHWEINFURTHII

The chimpanzee of the Budongo Forest in Uganda is endangered in the wild; the country has lost 90% of its primates over the last 500 years and it's now critical that this species - which shares more than 90% of its genes with humans - is preserved.

The natural forest habitat is vital for the survival of the chimpanzees, but it is now increasingly under threat from human encroachment, and from sugarcane production. Now, an additional problem has arisen with the Raphia palms on which the chimpanzees rely for their sodium intake being harvested by local tobacco farmers as string to hang their tobacco leaves on during the smoking and curing process. This has led to the depletion of these palms in many areas and they have become increasingly scarce. As yet it is unclear whether or not the chimps can find other sources of sodium, but by solving the problem of the loss of Raphia palms the chimpanzees will have this threat to their survival removed.

FACT “THE IMPORTANCE OF SPECIES CONSERVATION CANNOT BE OVERSTATED. WE ARE THE INHERITORS OF A WORLD OF EXCITING WILDLIFE SOME OF WHICH, LIKE CHIMPANZEES, HAS GREAT IMPORTANCE FOR OUR UNDERSTANDING OF OURSELVES AND OUR PLACE IN NATURE. YET IN A VARIETY OF WAYS WE ARE DESTROYING THE WILDLIFE WE SO VALUE. BY GRASPING THIS NETTLE THE MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND IS MAKING A VITAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE CONSERVATION OF THE WORLD’S WILDLIFE.”

Prof. Vernon Reynolds – Oxford University, UK, and Budongo Conservation Field Station, Uganda

Project objectives

The Budongo Conservation Field Station in Uganda is undertaking a series of initiatives to aid the conservation of its 575 chimpanzees. It aims to conduct scientific studies of the animals to compile a database of information on birth, death, disease incidents and snare injuries. Snares litter the forest habitat and the project works to remove these and reduce the maiming and injuries the traps cause when the chimps are caught in them.

The project will also research the sodium intake of the chimpanzees, analyze the sodium levels in the Raphia pith and investigate the decline in the number of these palms. Working with the local population, schools and villages through an education scheme, the project hopes to bring greater awareness about the effects that cutting down Raphia palms has on chimpanzees.

Project status

It is essential to the chimpanzees’ long-term survival that tobacco growers understand the importance of Raphia, and encourage them to use alternative sources of string. The Budongo Conservation Field Station is currently introducing them to nylon twine in the hope that the growers, and their parent companies, adopt it.

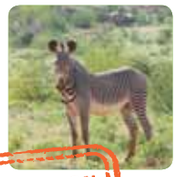
The project has also been working to collect further Raphia samples and is conducting ongoing analysis to draw conclusions on the sodium intake of the chimpanzees and plan future actions to resolve this issue affecting their survival.

HOW THE MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND HAS HELPED

The valuable donation from the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund has allowed the Budongo Conservation Field Station project to invest time and resources to discover any long-term trends in diseases, births and deaths of the chimpanzees in Uganda.

Through its work with Raphia palms, the project's funding has supported the collection and analysis of pith samples, as well as research conducted into the extent that the Raphia palms in the forest are declining, and that the use of Raphia products by humans is increasing. It has also allowed for a search of different suitable sodium sources that could be given to the chimps to match their dietary requirements.

Tobacco farmers will be re-educated on the dangers their use of Raphia palm pose to the animals, and sustainable alternatives are being offered as a replacement to the string.



The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund supports the protection of Grevy's zebra in Kenya.

All photos credit: Grevy's Zebra Trust

GREVY'S ZEBRA

EQUUS GREVYI

In 1882 the Emperor of Abyssinia (modern day Ethiopia) believed this species of zebra was so beautiful and regal that he presented one to Jules Grévy, the President of France, as a gift, and thus the name was given.

The Grevy's zebra is easily distinguishable from the more commonly known species of zebra by its round ears, brown muzzle and white belly; it is also taller and has narrower stripes. However, Grevy's zebra is endangered and in crisis. Since the 1970s the Grevy's zebra population has declined about 87% to estimations between 1,964 to 2,445 in the Horn of Africa, where they can be found – now only in Kenya and Ethiopia.

Living mainly on forbs and grasses, their habitat is an arid and semi-arid habitat of grass and shrubs with permanent water. With land degradation on the rise, Grevy's zebras must travel longer distances to reach grazing and water, with the result being high foal mortality. In addition to this, the growing threats to these species include the local population who hunt them for food, medicinal purposes and recreation – and very recently, disease and drought in northern Kenya.

FACT "THE PASTORAL COMMUNITIES IN EL BARTA HAVE BEEN ECONOMICALLY MARGINALIZED AND THERE IS INCREASING COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR CONSERVATION IN THE AREA, WITH CHANGES TO BEHAVIOR THAT HAD NEGATIVELY IMPACTED ON BIODIVERSITY ALREADY TAKING PLACE. AS A CONSERVATION BIOLOGIST WHO BELIEVES THAT THE DIRECT ENGAGEMENT OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN GREVY'S ZEBRA CONSERVATION IS CRITICAL TO THEIR FUTURE SURVIVAL, BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS IN EL BARTA IS FUNDAMENTAL TO LONG-TERM PROJECT SUCCESS. THE OPPORTUNITY EXISTS RIGHT NOW TO ACHIEVE THIS AND I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THAT OPPORTUNITY THROUGH."

Belinda Low – Executive Director, Grevy's Zebra Trust

Project objectives

The decline of the Grevy's zebra has been drastically rapid with almost no effective actions to protect this species. The Grevy's Zebra Trust (GZT) was established in 2007 to address conservation issues facing the Grevy's zebra. This project's main objective is to protect and monitor the Grevy's zebra populations against illegal killing and to raise awareness among local community members of the importance of the species' preservation.

By employing members of the local community as full-time ambassadors through the Grevy's Zebra Ambassador Programme, local people have the opportunity to understand and reach out to their communities about these animals, developing long-term community-led conservation programs dedicated to protecting and undertaking conservation initiatives in a more strategic approach.

This program is being implemented in the El Barta area of Kenya through joint patrols with the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and the Milgis Trust, and security operations must be strengthened so as to follow up poaching incidents. Through a planned radio communications network in El Barta, GZT, KWS and Milgis Trust will be able to communicate with personnel in the field.

Continued awareness building activities by engaging local communities through awareness campaigns and ambassador activities is key for sustained and long-term protection of the Grevy's zebra.

Project status

Although there are laws banning killing Grevy's zebra in Kenya and Ethiopia, the threat is ever-present. Through research and background familiarization of the local geography, ecosystems and cultural considerations, the GZT has been able to agree with community leaders on how best to address the illegal killing of the Grevy's zebra. Initial security operations and discussions have outlined a framework and more strategic plan of action to mitigate threats to the Grevy's zebra.

Research initiatives have also helped to facilitate the process of conservation, including the creation of a Grevy's zebra tracking system through photo identification and GPS radio-collars, to ensure vigilant monitoring.

The Grevy's Zebra Ambassador Programme is currently undergoing positive change through the strengthening of its security and communications network to protect Grevy's zebra, and by increasing the frequency of meetings with GZT's community partners. Additional conservation education components for the project are being developed and will be implemented in the first quarter of 2010.

Preliminary results from the Grevy's zebra ambassador monitoring data showed a higher proportion of foals to juveniles, and high numbers of adults sighted. This suggests that foal survival may be relatively low with few juveniles entering the population but further investigation is needed, which will be best achieved through capture-recapture work. To increase foal survival the ambassadors recommended that wells specifically for Grevy's zebra and other wildlife should be dug in seasonal streams to increase access to water for Grevy's zebra, and that disturbance to Grevy's zebra by communities should be reduced through awareness-raising.

FACT "THE MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND IS FACILITATING SPECIES CONSERVATIONISTS TO RAISE THE INTERNATIONAL PROFILE OF THEIR SPECIES AND PROJECTS. IN THE CASE OF GREVY'S ZEBRA, THIS SPECIES ACTS AS A LYNCHPIN FOR BUILDING A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP WHICH BRIDGES CULTURES AND CONTINENTS WITH THE COMMON GOAL OF SPECIES CONSERVATION. THE STRENGTH OF THE FUND'S APPROACH TO SPECIES CONSERVATION LIES IN ITS FOCUS ON BUILDING LOCAL CAPACITY ON THE GROUND WHICH PROMOTES OWNERSHIP AND PRIDE AND IS CRITICAL IN DETERMINING THE SUCCESS OF SPECIES CONSERVATION PROGRAMS IN THE LONG-TERM."

Belinda Low – Executive Director, Grevy's Zebra Trust

HOW THE MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND HAS HELPED

The funding provided by the Mohamed bin Zayed species Conservation Fund has contributed to the continued success of the GZT project by allowing them to double the number of Grevy's zebra scouts employed in El Barta, and provide training and technical support to the Grevy's zebra ambassador coordinator. Meetings with target communities now take place every two months to maintain dialogue and review the program's progress, there will be joint security patrols with KWS. All data from these activities will be recorded, uploaded and analyzed.

The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund aids conservancy scouts to support the endangered Hirola antelope.

All photos credit: Juliet King - NRT

HIROLA ANTELOPE

BEATRAGUS HUNTERI

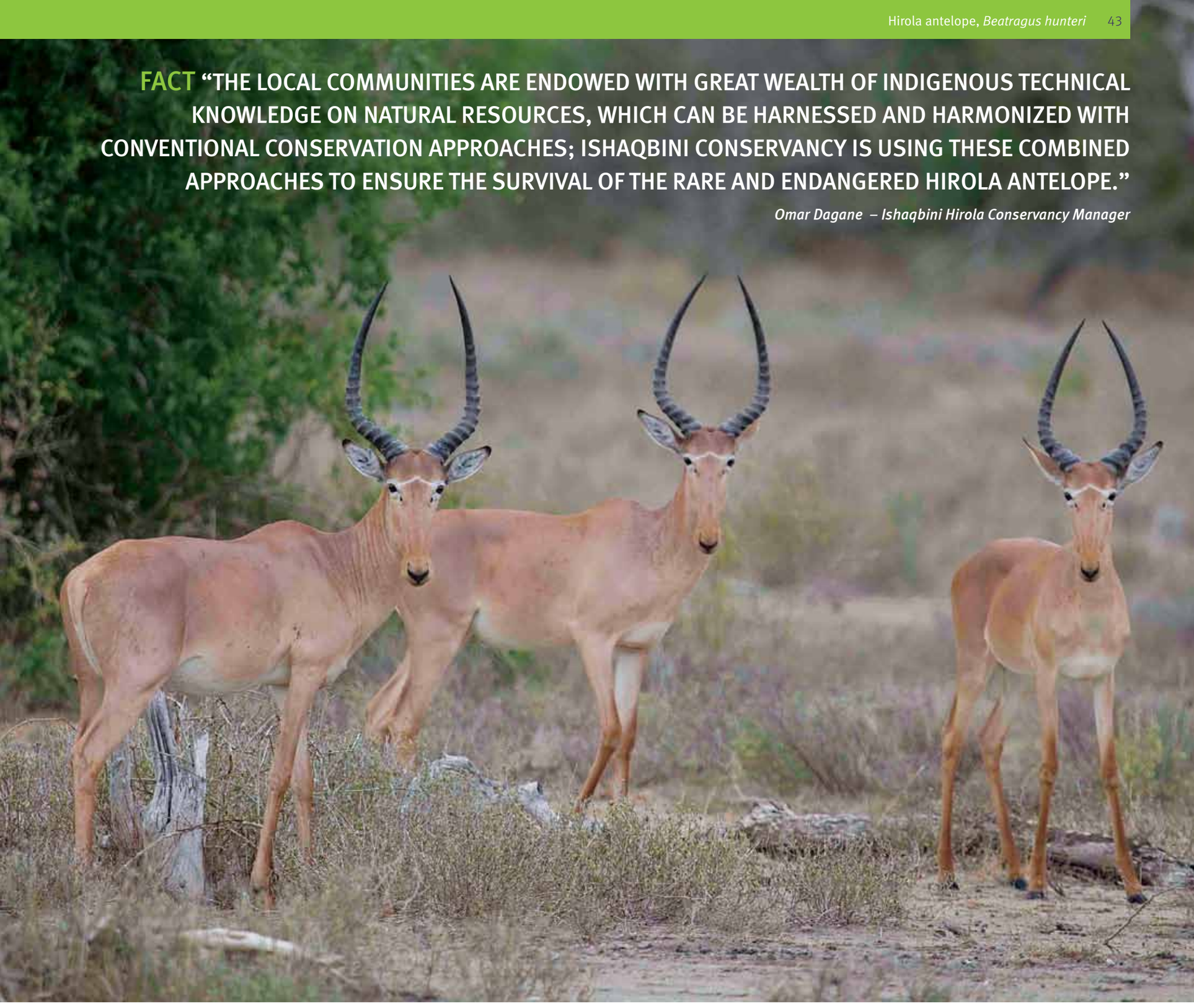
Historically, Hirola antelope – also known as the “four-eyed antelope,” due to their large preorbital glands - were found across north eastern Kenya and southern Somalia; however, it is now presumed that they are extinct in Somalia and restricted to only small areas of north eastern Kenya.

Research indicates that there has been an 85-90% decline in the Hirola population over the past 30 years and it is now believed that only 500 to 1,200 survive in the wild; making the Hirola, Africa’s most endangered antelope. There are many different factors, which have led to this situation but the main causes are believed to be competition with domestic cattle, poaching and drought.

Recognising the terrible plight of the Hirola and the impact its impending extinction would have on the region, a group of four Somali pastoralist communities in northern Kenya, in collaboration with Terra Nuova, put forward a proposal to establish the Ishaqbini Hirola Conservancy for the protection of the Hirola.

FACT "THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES ARE ENDOWED WITH GREAT WEALTH OF INDIGENOUS TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, WHICH CAN BE HARNESSED AND HARMONIZED WITH CONVENTIONAL CONSERVATION APPROACHES; ISHAQBINI CONSERVANCY IS USING THESE COMBINED APPROACHES TO ENSURE THE SURVIVAL OF THE RARE AND ENDANGERED HIROLA ANTELOPE."

Omar Dagane – Ishaqbini Hirola Conservancy Manager



HOW THE MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND HAS HELPED

With this grant from the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, NRT and the Kenya Wildlife Service have been able to support Ishaqbini scouts to be trained in Hirola monitoring skills, which include determining the age, gender and identification of individuals. Scouts are now actively monitoring individual herds and are gathering vital information on the population demography of the Hirola population within the conservancy.

One scout from Ishaqbini has undergone computer skills training and is now tasked with entering the monitoring data collected. This has greatly improved the analysis and interpretation of monitoring data by the management at a conservancy level, and monthly summaries of monitoring data are included in management reports and fed back to the conservancy scouts on a regular basis.

Project objectives

The main objective of the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) project is to develop and support the Ishaqbini Hirola Conservancy for the effective and immediate conservation of Hirola and other wildlife found within the conservancy area. Ishaqbini is the only community-led conservation initiative in the Ijara District of north eastern Kenya and its success is crucial in generating engagement with other communities, in other critical parts of the Hirola range, on the importance of conservation.

The development of a permanent headquarters, to include an office, radio room and scout accommodation is a priority, and Ishaqbini and NRT are currently in the process of finalizing building plans and selection of a contractor to carry out this work.

Project status

NRT and Ishaqbini have now opened communication with neighboring communities, which is a crucial step towards improving wildlife security in Ishaqbini, as the majority of poaching is believed to be conducted by these communities.

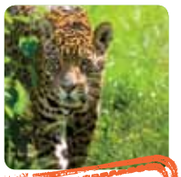
The introduction of conservancy scouts has also played a crucial role in highlighting the threat of poaching, and through vigorous anti-poaching patrols has successfully reduced the incidents of poaching of Hirola and other wildlife. However, the threat remains and scouts continue their operations.

Through monitoring the project has gathered information on adult and calf survival rates and the dispersal of juveniles as well as the age and sex ratio of the population. Preliminary results suggest low recruitment of juveniles into the population, but only the continued monitoring of population demography will reveal the factors limiting population growth of Hirola.

The NRT is also starting to gather predator scat to identify their main prey through microscopic analysis of hair samples. Analysis of Hirola hair samples has been carried out and NRT will collect hair samples of other antelopes in the area in order to carry out further analysis through predator scat samples.

FACT "ESTABLISHMENT OF A WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY AMONG THE PASTORALIST COMMUNITIES REQUIRES TOTAL COMMITMENT, PATIENCE, SUSTAINED FOCUS AND CONSISTENCY OWING TO THE FACT THAT PASTORALIST PEOPLE OFTEN TREAT ALL NEW CONCEPTS WITH SUSPICION, AND MORE SO ON ISSUES RELATED TO WILDLIFE DUE TO POLICIES GOVERNING WILDLIFE CONSERVATION WHICH HISTORICALLY EXCLUDED COMMUNITIES. THE MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND'S SUPPORT TOWARDS ISHAQBINI'S CORE OPERATING BUDGET IS VITAL TO ENSURING CONTINUITY UNTIL SUCH TIME AS ALTERNATIVE REVENUE STREAMS, SUCH AS TOURISM, ARE IN PLACE."

Omar Dagane – Ishaqbini Hirola Conservancy Manager



The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund supports a sustainable ecosystem for the successful existence of the jaguar in South America.

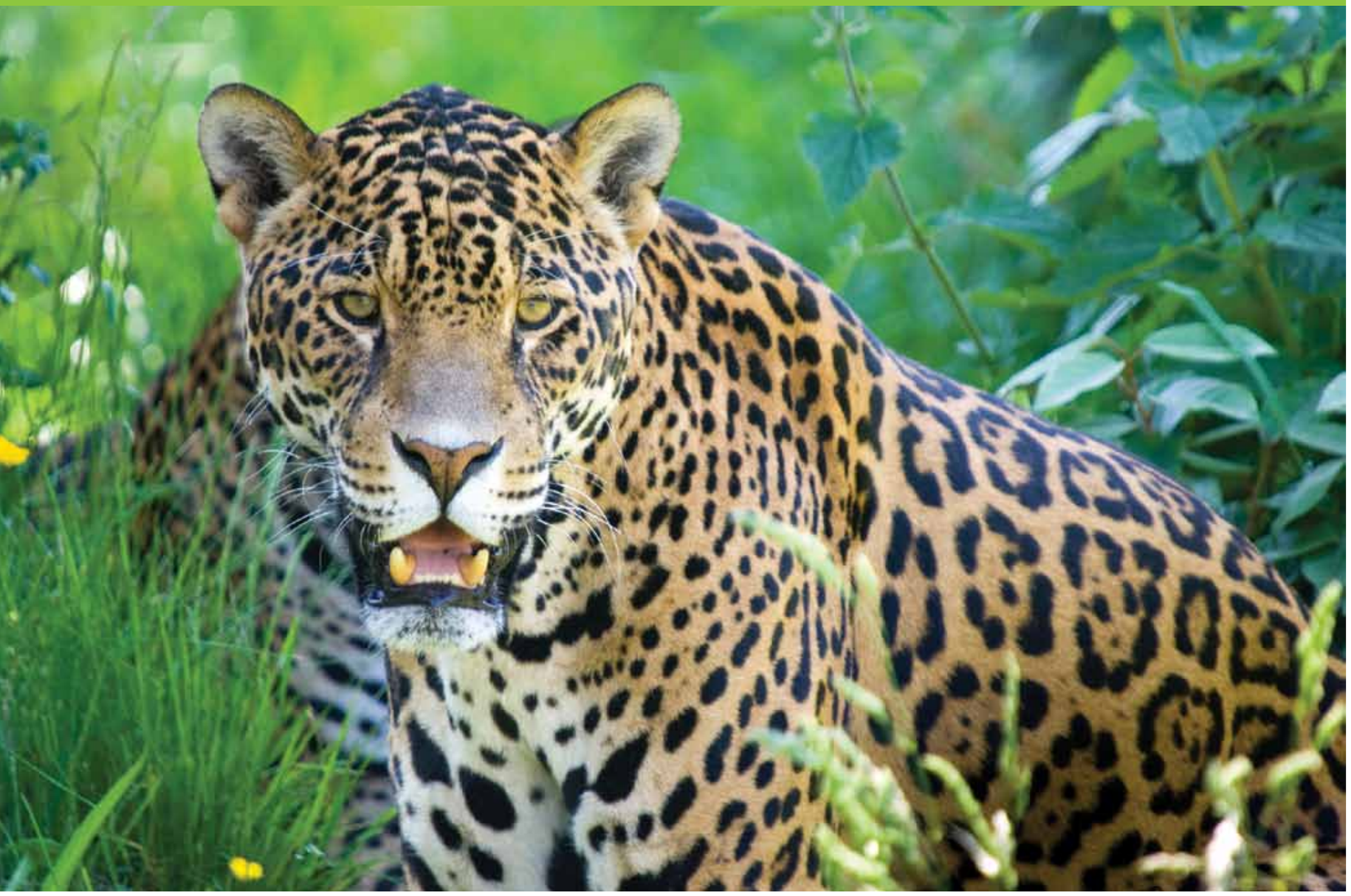
JAGUAR

PANTHERA ONCA

Habitat loss and persecution plague the jaguar and if drastic action is not taken now it will be pushed to the edge of extinction and another majestic creature will be lost forever.

After the tiger and lion, the jaguar is the third largest cat species and can range in weight from 56 to 96 kg. It is the only animal from genus *Panthera* that can be found in the Americas, and is the most powerful cat in the Western Hemisphere.

The jaguar's habitat has been dangerously reduced and is now mainly restricted to the rainforest of the Amazon Basin – not an ideal location for the sustainability of the species. Jaguars have been almost completely diminished throughout parts of the Chaco in northern Argentina, the Gran Sabana of northern Brazil and throughout Uruguay – where conservation is needed the most – amounting now to about 13% of jaguar range.



FACT "IN ADDITION TO THE ACTIVITY WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACHIEVE SINCE JULY 2009, RECEIVING THIS GRANT FROM THE MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND HAS ALLOWED ME TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE IGUAÇU PARK DIRECTOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO BRING IPÊ'S CONSERVATION BIOLOGY FIELD COURSES TO HAPPEN INSIDE THE PARK. THIS YEAR A TOTAL OF 40 STUDENTS SHOULD BE CAPACITATED WITH ALL ASPECTS OF BIODIVERSITY, LOCAL COMMUNITY AND ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION. THIS BUILDS ON THE SUCCESSFUL RELATIONSHIP WE ESTABLISHED LAST APRIL WHEN WE MET ALL IGUAÇU PARK RANGERS AND RESEARCH STAFF AND JOINTLY DESIGNED THE CAMERA TRAP GRID WHICH WILL ALLOW FOR ESTIMATING JAGUAR ABUNDANCE WITH GOOD CONFIDENCE."

Dr. Laury Cullen Jr. – IPÊ

Project objectives

The project's main objective is to improve conservation of the remaining Atlantic Forest of Brazil where local communities can coexist with jaguars through greater awareness, understanding and long-term activities to develop a network of core reserves in the Paraná Region - a more appropriate and sustainable region for jaguar conservation.

Through this project, the Instituto de Pesquisas Ecológicas (IPÊ) will be able to obtain further research on jaguar density, range, habitat selection, population genetics, and priority areas for conservation and stakeholder engagement. Creating and disseminating best practices for jaguar conservation throughout South America, especially through national conservation policy and institutions, has been critical in creating awareness about these important initiatives.

IPÊ has developed the concept of using jaguars as 'Landscape Detectives' to inform and feed into the process of reforestation. Information about how jaguars use the remaining forest helps plan and manage reserves and large interconnected eco-regions. This cost-effective approach also benefits all species that share the jaguar's forest habitat, and involves local people who are project executors as well as beneficiaries.

Together with IPÊ, Laury Cullen is now applying an exciting regional strategy with support from local decision makers to plant forest corridors between remaining forest fragments, which will benefit from this research with jaguars. IPÊ has spent the past decade coordinating efforts to conserve a large part of the remaining inland Atlantic Forest in the state of São Paulo by involving farmers, landowners, sugar plantations and local government. The project is currently undergoing expansion, linking forest fragments with new forested wildlife corridors and helping more than 400 families cultivate 120 square kilometers of degraded farmland.

Project status

IPÊ has been able to successfully conduct field studies in the region, create maps, begin genetics studies and start the process of establishing private reserves for jaguar conservation.

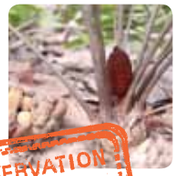
Since July 2009, IPÊ has been able to extend its project to the Iguaçu Falls National Park in Brazil, impacting 350,000 hectares of land. With this opportunity IPÊ will be able to disseminate best practices for endangered species conservation around the Morro do Diabo State Park. As a result, another 6,000 rural families and approximately 250 jaguars will be involved in community-based conservation and endangered species conservation approaches. For example, the project has started a survey of all rural properties surrounding the park. About 250 questionnaires on socio-economics have been used to understand the social situation around this protected area in order to better shape solutions for the encountered problems - eight university students are currently involved in this process.

HOW THE MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND HAS HELPED

With the support of the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, this project has been able to expand the existing study of the jaguar to improve conservation of the remaining Atlantic Forest and create a situation where local farmers, their livestock and jaguars can coexist.

The grant from the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund has specifically helped to support the continuation of jaguar field studies in the upper parts of the Paraná River. This allows the project to map and understand the most used dispersal routes in the Paraná Corridor network, and expand the Landscape Detective approach to the lower Paraná River, Argentina, Iguaçu Falls and Missiones, Argentina.

It has also enabled the project to further study jaguar conservation genetics to inform the conservation effort, as well as contribute to the process of establishing Jaguar Conservation Private Reserves.



The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund helps identify survival success for a rare plant restricted to the Bahamas.

All photos credit: Michael Calonje

LONG ISLAND BAY RUSH

ZAMIA LUCAYANA

The Bahamian Archipelago (in the Caribbean Islands biodiversity hotspot) is home to the *Zamia lucayana*, the only cycad species endemic to these islands. The leafy green plant is currently listed as 'Near Threatened' by the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List, and human activities in the area in which it is found are putting it at further risk.

It has recently been reported that urban activities such as sand mining, road construction, and housing development are threatening the unique ecosystem of Long Island where this living fossil thrives. In addition to man-made threats, the plant is also in danger of the rising sea levels around these islands because it is mostly confined to sand-dunes located near the coast line.

Project objectives

The Conservation Action Plan for *Zamia lucayana* project is concerned about the disappearing ecosystem and threatened status of the *Zamia lucayana* in the Bahamas. This project is undertaking the first ever field study to determine the distribution range of this species, and ascertain how many populations the species has. A previous visit (1999) identified only one population and this study should help shed more light on the risk the plant is in, as well as determine its actual red list status so the team can provide recommendations to the IUCN/SSC Cycad Specialist Group.

Building on previously published information, the project will use DNA and microsatellite data to determine if *Zamia lucayana* represents a unique conservation management unit in the Caribbean Islands and to document possible genetic bottlenecks and/or genetic erosion.

The team will also elaborate a conservation action plan that will aid the recovery of the species in its natural habitat in the long term, and undertake outreach with local land managers and the general public of Long Island concerning the conservation implications of the study.

Project status

In the last six months of 2009, the project team was well on its way to achieving the objectives it set out to complete. The team had already participated in its first field trip to Long Island and the study has shown that the species is restricted to a very narrow strip of approximately 100 meters by 6.5 kilometers along the central east coast of Long Island. Within this area *Zamia lucayana* is restricted to five "core" sites, all of them with sandy soils. The project estimates that the extent of occurrence of this species is approximately of 0.39 square kilometers. The plants are located near the coast line, although *Zamia lucayana* is not a truly coastal species. The species was mostly found in dense scrubs and in association with sea grape (*Coccoloba uvifera*). Only three of these sites had thousands of plants, and the team found very few plants in the other two localities. In the three sites with large populations they found that approximately 65% of the adult individuals were males. Approximately 25% of the counted individuals were juveniles. All the female individuals with mature cones had seeds and they also observed that hermit-crabs feed extensively on the seed testa. Whether this interaction promotes seed germination or not needs to be investigated further.

To date the team has identified three main conservation challenges to the plant: these were sand extraction for construction projects, housing development, and road building.

The *Zamia lucayana* grows mostly on deep sandy soils and sand dunes that are found just beyond the coast line, these areas are easily accessed by bulldozers and are a clear target for the exploitation of sand for construction projects.

Coastal areas are also attractive areas for housing developing and the project team found this to be another immediate threat for this species. As were the new roads that are being constructed to provide access the coastal areas. These roads can represent a major obstacle for gene flow among sites and will eliminate many individuals from the populations

Further data collection took place on the field trip and the team retrieved seeds from the three largest sites, sampled between four and six cones per population, and the total number of seeds collected was 1,000. Seeds will distributed among several botanic gardens with a focus on *ex situ* conservation, and the project will establish the core living collection at Montgomery Botanical Center, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, and the Bahamas National Trust Retreat Gardens.

Leaf samples were collected from the three largest populations for DNA fingerprinting studies. They sampled between 30 and 45 individuals per population and these will be processed in the DNA laboratories in early 2010.

In addition to the research and data collection, the team used the trip to meet with biologists and community organizers of the Long Island Library and Museum, and of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. They made arrangements to deliver a talk to the general public in May 2010. During this talk they plan to discuss the main findings of the projects and will aim to increase conservation awareness for this species on Long Island.

HOW THE MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND HAS HELPED

The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund has allowed the project to build a team with five institutions in Florida and the Bahamas Islands to address conservation issues from several perspectives, including plant exploration, outreach, molecular genetics, *ex situ* conservation, and environmental education.

Hermit-crab and seed

Zamia Lucayana trimmed

The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund aids the survival of the lowland tapir and Brazil's Pantanal ecosystem.

Photo credit: Krause

LOWLAND TAPIR

TAPIRUS TERRESTRIS

The Lowland tapir, also known as the South American and Brazilian tapir, is South America's largest tropical mammal and is closely related to the horse and the rhinoceros.

The distinguishing feature of the tapir is its snout, which is highly flexible and allows them to grab foliage that would otherwise be out of reach, which makes the tapir very important seed dispersers and an essential link in the biodiversity of their habitat. When young, tapirs also possess an additional distinguishing feature - they are born with striking white stripes and spots, which fade into a solid gray colour as they grow into maturity.

Lowland tapirs are attracted to wetland areas and can often be seen swimming in ponds and bywaters, with only their snouts breaking above the water. Their attraction to water makes the Pantanal a natural habitat. As the world's largest wetland, the Pantanal covers an area estimated at between 140,000 square kilometers and 195,000 square kilometers, mostly within Brazil, but also into Bolivia and Paraguay. However, as the Pantanal becomes under increasing pressure from domestic farming, deforestation, pollution and uncontrolled tourism, the Lowland tapir population is now under extreme threat and they are now generally recognised as an endangered species.

FACT "I STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT SPECIES AND CONSERVATION RESEARCH GENERATES THE SCIENTIFIC DATA AND RESULTS THAT ARE NECESSARY TO DRIVE HABITAT CONSERVATION INITIATIVES. THE SUPPORT FROM THE MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND HAS HAD A MAJOR IMPACT IN EXPANDING OUR TAPIR CONSERVATION EFFORTS ACROSS BRAZIL, GUARANTEEING A SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION OF THE ANNUAL COSTS OF THE PANTANAL TAPIR PROGRAM."

Patrícia Medici - Coordinator, Lowland Tapir Conservation Initiative

HOW THE MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND HAS HELPED

The support from the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund was a fundamental step in strengthening the Pantanal Tapir Program and the Lowland Tapir Conservation Initiative as a nation-wide tapir conservation effort. The support from the Fund had a major impact in expanding the tapir conservation efforts in Brazil, guaranteeing a significant proportion of the annual costs of the Pantanal Tapir Program.

Photos credit: Patricia Medici

Photo credit: Paulo Rogerio Mangini

Project objectives

Established in 2008, the Pantanal Tapir Program's main objective is to collect ecological, demographic, epidemiological and genetic data to assess the conservation status and viability of tapir populations across the Brazilian Pantanal.

The results of the studies will be used to develop a set of recommendations that ensures the long-term survival of tapirs, other species of wildlife and the Pantanal ecosystem. It is expected that these recommendations will include population and habitat conservation and management, reinforcement of protected areas, the establishment of new protected areas, and the promotion of conservation awareness among local landowners.

The long-term objectives for the project are the establishment of a wider conservation initiative, using the Lowland tapirs of the Pantanal as a catalyst to protect other Brazilian biomes, such as the Amazon. Once established, these new projects will look to support and safeguard tapir populations, as well as a large number of other species and key habitats. It is envisoned that the combined database of tapir information, collected from these different Brazilian biomes, will lead to the implemention of a national action plan for tapir research and conservation in Brazil.

Project status

The Pantanal Tapir Program of the Lowland Tapir Conservation Initiative includes six different components:

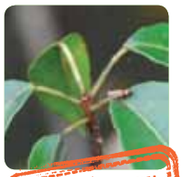
1. Tapir Research
2. Epidemiological Studies (tapirs and domestic livestock)
3. Action Planning
4. Environmental Education
5. Training and Capacity-Building
6. Scientific Tourism

To date the Tapir Research, Epidemiological Studies and Scientific Tourism components are well under way and very well structured. The team are in the process of establishing the Environmental Education and Training, and Capacity-Building components. The Action Planning component will be the last stage of the program, which will be implemented once the results of the research component provides the scientific basis for the development of conservation recommendations.

The team have had to adapt previously effective methods of capturing tapirs, from pitfall traps, which are not appropriate for the Pantanal due to the presence of cattle, to box traps. However, the use of box traps has proven time consuming as the tapirs have to build confidence before they will enter the traps. Whilst the team wait for the box traps to be ready they have resorted to darting from a distance, which has also presented a number of challenges.

Preliminary data shows that tapirs in the Pantanal are in general smaller than tapirs found in other areas of Brazil and the team are working to understand the reasons behind this discovery. Epidemiological studies on tapirs and domestic livestock has revealed that tapirs are exposed to a number of different infectious diseases found in the domestic horses and cattle of the Pantanal - the close proximity between wildlife and domestic livestock in the Pantanal certainly provides plenty of opportunities for the transmission of infectious diseases to occur.

Whilst the team expected deforestation and the establishment of sugarcane plantations to be the main threats to the tapir population, it has emerged that road-kill is also a serious threat, especially in the areas that surround the Pantanal floodplains.



The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund supports research into the Malaysian Congregating Firefly and wider ecosystem.

Photo credit: Wan Faridah Akmal - UPM MNS

MALAYSIAN CONGREGATING FIREFLIES

PTEROPTYX

Fireflies have fascinated man for centuries and have become part of mythology, folklore, fashion, medicine and literature. The anatomical feature, which attracts such attention, and the one that earns them their evocative name, is their ability to produce light. Research has revealed that fireflies use this ability as a means of sexual communication between the males and females. In Malaysia, these extroverted mating displays have led to a thriving new industry for locals who have been quick to realise the financial opportunities that fireflies provide for ecotourism.

Malaysia is home to the *Pteroptyx* species of congregating firefly, which are found in abundance; however, their habitats, along the inter-tidal mangroves of estuarine river systems, are increasingly under threat from human development. This fragile habitat acts as an important ecosystem and is vital not only to the long-term survival of the fireflies but also a diverse collection of flora and fauna. Although interest has been growing, there has been very little research conducted into firefly behaviour and their habitats. This lack of recorded scientific data has hampered conservation efforts to protect and preserve the fireflies and the fragile ecosystem they inhabit.

FACT "THROUGH THE GENEROUS FINANCE PROVIDED BY THE MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND WE ARE ABLE TO SHOW JUST HOW IMPORTANT SPECIES CONSERVATION PLAYS IN CONSERVING A MUCH WIDER ECOSYSTEM. ALTHOUGH SMALL, THE FIREFLIES ARE PLAYING A BIG ROLE IN MANGROVE CONSERVATION AND THE FRAGILE ECOSYSTEM THAT THEY SUPPORT."

Mr YEAP Chin Aik – Project Leader

Project objectives

The Malaysian Nature Society's (MNS) project team has a number of key objectives, all of which are guided by the need to actively conserve and protect all of Malaysia's indigenous species and natural environments.

One of the first, and most important, tasks identified by the team was the need to survey and document the existing and potential congregating firefly habitat areas, threats and current quality of the mangrove river habitats across Malaysia.

In conjunction to this research, the team is engaging with the local community to try and involve them as active 'conservation management tools' to work in partnership with the local authorities in management and protection of the natural habitat. The project team also have plans to train local communities to accurately and effectively monitor and record firefly habitats, feeding back their findings to the central team.

Once a solid bond with the local community has been developed, the team want to use this relationship to raise awareness and educate the people involved in the local firefly ecotourism enterprises on the importance of protecting and conserving the fireflies and habitat, to safeguard their new business ventures.

Project status

The team quickly identified the need for a rapid assessment and documentation of firefly habitats, Congregating Fireflies Zones (CFZ), in locations across Malaysia, and to research how they interact with these various habitats.

Having divided the research into two regions, Peninsular Malaysia and East Malaysia region, the team are now working, day and night, with local fishermen on an ongoing survey of firefly populations and their mangrove habitat. The researchers have been instructed to record - current land use, threats, and condition of mangrove areas - to help determine the current status of each CFZ. This year the society celebrates 70 years of conservation with 'MNS 70 Years Conserving Nature. Celebrating Life. (1940-2010)'.

Early findings

Overall, the preliminary research findings have shown the importance of river buffer zones and the effect that they have in protecting firefly habitats. However, one of the main issues is that these habitats, along river reserves, are not governed by legally binding laws and as a result there is little, or no official enforcement, in the protection of these areas from land clearing, illegal felling of mangroves, water and soil pollution, all of which are threatening the survival of most of the sites.

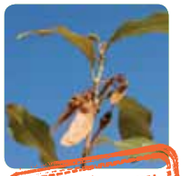
The team has also found that most of the operators involved in firefly ecotourism lack a basic knowledge of fireflies and the importance of firefly habitat conservation - most do it only for supplementary income. However, there have been some locals that have been able to provide valuable insight into firefly habitats, behaviours and also, interestingly, myths.

HOW THE MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND HAS HELPED

The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund has enabled the team to survey and document the status of the firefly habitat, particularly the threats this habitat faces from development and degradation. In addition we were able to conduct research into the ecology of these firefly species, including their lifecycle and diet. This support has also allowed us to educate the local populations on the importance of habitat preservation.

Photos credit: Sonny Wong CH, MNS

Photo credit: Wan Faridah Akmal, UPM-MNS



The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund supports scientific research to conserve one of the UAE's rarest plants.

Photo credit: Xavier Eichaker

QAFAS – ORIENTAL CHERRY

ACRIDOCARPUS ORIENTALIS

The Oriental cherry, also known as Qafas and Ethout, may be called by so many different names that it would suggest that it is a common garden plant. However, the truth is that this perennial mountain shrub is one of the rarest plants in the UAE, found in only one place in the entire country, on Jebel Hafeet Mountain in Al Ain, Abu Dhabi. Some more examples can be found in the southern Arabian Peninsula.

Although very little is known about this unique shrub and its yellow flowers, it has been recorded by herbalists as having a number of traditional medicinal uses; apparently, Qafas seeds, when ground into powder and ingested provide relief for headaches and joint pains. The reddish hair of young growth from the plant was reported to be used traditionally as tanning and to treat inflammation in udders of livestock.

Whilst there are some records, which indicate areas where the conditions are suitable for Qafas to thrive, there is still very little recorded information on the plant's habitat preferences, its growth patterns or its role within the larger ecosystem; this lack of information makes the study and conservation of Qafas in the UAE a matter of urgency.

FACT "THE SUPPORT PROVIDED BY THE MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND IS CRUCIAL IN UNDERSTANDING THE THREAT THAT THE UAE'S QAFAS IS UNDER. THE GRANT IS ALSO MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO PROACTIVELY ACT IN PRESERVING SUCH A RARE AND INTERESTING PLANT."

Dr.Taoufik Saleh Ksiksi – project leader, UAE University

Project objectives

The long-term objective for the project is to develop a Qafas nursery, which will ensure the continued survival of the plant in the UAE. It is planned that the nursery will produce Qafas seedlings that the team can introduce to areas around Jebel Hafeet, or other areas identified as potential habitats.

Before the nursery can be developed, the team will spend time assessing the best option for propagation, such as cuttings or seeds. They will also examine test tissue culture as an alternative option for propagation and other ways of making the process more efficient. Collecting Qafas seeds can be very tricky and requires careful planning and a high level of expertise; it is a matter of collecting the seed when it is ripe, but not yet parasitized.

Project status

The team is currently engaged in fieldwork, which is revealing the relationship between the Qafas and fauna in the Jebel Hafeet ecosystem; early indications reveal that the plant plays an important role in supporting several important butterfly species.

The team has also collected Qafas seeds, an extremely difficult process due to the pant's low seed productivity and compounded by the rarity of the plant itself. The collection of these seeds is an important stage in the project's evolution as it is the first stage in allowing the team to identify the best method for growing Qafas, which is essential to make the team's plans of establishing a small nursery come to fruition.

Although the team is also working to identify other areas in the UAE where Qafas may thrive beyond Jebel Hafeet, early data would indicate that the UAE Qafas is an extremely peculiar plant in that it is only found in this one place. This worrying discovery indicates that the UAE's Qafas are indeed extremely rare and under extreme threat, it also reduces the team's scope for study. However, it does lead to some interesting research as to why this may be the case.

Photo credit: Xavier Eichaker

Photo credit: Taoufik Ksiksi - UAE

Photo credit: Taoufik Ksiksi - UAE

HOW THE MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND HAS HELPED

Funding from the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund has been instrumental to the research project and scientific initiatives being conducted to preserve this threatened plant in the UAE.

Field study, expert and technical assistance, lab equipment and travel costs are just some of the activities that the grant has helped support.

ALL PROJECTS SUPPORTED

AFRICA					
NAME	NAME OF ORGANIZATION	SPECIES NAME	COUNTRY	TAXON	FUNDING
Tamrini Ally Said	Department of Commercials Crops, Fruits and Forestry	Ader's duiker	Tanzania	Mammal	$20000.00
Richard Bonham	Maasailand Preservation Trust (MPT)	African lion	Kenya	Mammal	$25000.00
Laly Lichtenfeld	African People & Wildlife Fund	African lion	Tanzania	Mammal	$15000.00
Christian Randriananto andro	Madagasikara Voakajy	Belalanda chameleon	Madagascar	Reptile	$5000.00
Susie Ellis	International Rhino Foundation	Black rhinoceros	Zimbabwe	Mammal	$25000.00
Richard Moller	Lewa Wildlife Conservancy	Black rhinoceros	East Africa	Mammal	$14880.00
Vernon Reynolds	Budongo Conservation Field Sation	Chimpanzee	Uganda	Mammal	$20900.00
Frank Glaw	Zoologische Staatssammlung Muenchen	Comora iguana	Comoros	Reptile	$20000.00
Lucy Simone d'Auvergne	Oxford Brookes University	Cross river gorilla	Cameroon	Mammal	$4000.00
Richard Bonham	Maasailand Preservation Trust (MPT)	Eastern black rhinoceros	Kenya	Mammal	$20000.00
Sara Oldfield	Botanic Gardens Conservation International	Ebony family	Africa & Indian Ocean Islands	Plant	$10000.00
Bassim Ahmed Rabea	General Community Development at Zaranik Protected Area	Egyptian tortoise	Eygpt	Reptile	$3250.00
Claudio Sillero-Zubiri	Wildlife Conservation Research Unit (WildCru)	Ethiopian wolf	Ethiopia	Mammal	$15000.00
Philip McGowan	World Pheasant Association	Galliformes	Djibouti	Bird	$25000.00
Chris Birkinshaw	Missouri Botanical Garden	Grey headed lemur	Madagascar	Mammal	$10000.00
Dolch Rainer	Association Mitsinjo	Greater bamboo lemur	Madagascar	Mammal	$24668.00
Sulemana Adamu	Together Rural Development Solidarity (Torudes)	Green turtle	Ghana	Reptile	$13700.00
Belinda Low	Grevy's Zebra Trust	Grevy's zebra	Kenya	Mammal	$18970.00
Geoffrey Chege	Lewa Wildlife Conservancy	Grevy's zebra	Kenya	Mammal	$11216.00
Claudien Nsabagasani	Association pour la Conservation de la Nature au Rwanda (ACNR)	Grey crowned crane	Rwanda	Bird	$4600.00

NAME	NAME OF ORGANIZATION	SPECIES NAME	COUNTRY	TAXON	FUNDING
Francesco Rovero	Museo Tridentio di Scienze Naturali	Grey faced Elephant-shrew	Tanzania	Mammal	$15000.00
Ruth Hannah Leeney	Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies	Haviside's dolphin	Namibia	Mammal	$10000.00
Abdullahi Hussein Ali	National Museums of Kenya	Hirola antelope	Kenya	Mammal	$25000.00
Juliet King	Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT)	Hirola antelope	Kenya	Mammal	$23200.00
Lilian Costa	BirdLife Botswana	Lapped-faced vulture	Botswana	Bird	$15000.00
Peter G. Ryan	University of Cape Town	Ludwig's bustard	South Africa	Bird	$20000.00
Alfred Owino	Kenya Wildlife Service	Martial eagle	Kenya	Bird	$15000.00
Ashraf Hussein and Ibrahim Salem	Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency	Nile Crocodile	Egypt	Reptile	$24965.00
Trevor Glass	Conservation Department	Northern rockhopper penguin	Tristan Da Cunha	Bird	$12495.00
Annae Maria Senkoro	University of Eduardo Mondlane	Pepper-bark tree	Mozambique	Plant	$10000.00
Richard E. Lewis	Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust	Ploughshare tortoise	Madagascar	Reptile	$25000.00
Jean-Paul Ghogue	National Herbarium of Cameroon	*Podostemaceae* family	Cameroon	Plant	$5000.00
Franco Andreone	Gondwana Conservation & Research Museo Regionale di Scienze Naturali	Rainbow canyon frog	Madagascar	Amphibian	$24500.00
Vicky Ahlmann	Endangered Wildlife Trust	Riverine rabbit	South Africa	Mammal	$15000.00
Christoph Schwitzer	Bristol, Clifton & West of England Zoological Society	Sahamalaza sportive lemur	Madagascar	Mammal	$10000.00
Justin Gerlach	Nature Protection Trust of Seychelles	Seychelles frog	Seychelles	Amphibian	$14020.00
Matthew H. Shirley	Rare Species Conservatory Foundation	Slender-snouted crocodile	Gabon	Reptile	$10000.00
Mamisoa Andrianjafy	Missouri Botanical Garden	Sohisika	Madagascar	Plant	$4000.00
Ann Turner	The Ground Hornbill Research & Conservation Project	Southern ground hornbill	South Africa	Bird	$20000.00
Ryan Walker	Nautilus Ecology	Spider tortoise	Madagascar	Reptile	$5000.00
Patrick Kinyatta Malonza	National Museums of Kenya	Tree frog	Kenya	Amphibian	$5000.00
Frank Weinsheimer	Zoologisches Forschungsmuseum Alexander Koenig	Turquoise dwarf gecko	Tanzania	Reptile	$5000.00
Jackson Godfrey Laizer	College of African Wildlife Management, Mweka	Uluguru bush shrike	Tanzania	Bird	$5000.00
Miza Suleiman Khamis	Department of Commercial Crops, Fruit and Forestry	Zanzibar red colobus	Tanzania	Mammal	$10900.00

ASIA

NAME	NAME OF ORGANIZATION	SPECIES NAME	COUNTRY	TAXON	FUNDING
Lauren Evens	Botanic Gardens Conservation International	Agarwood	Cambodia	Plant	$10900.00
Robin D. Moore	Conservation International	Amphibians	Indonesia	Amphibian	$25000.00
Charlotte Packman	University of East Anglia	Bengal florican	Cambodia	Bird	$20000.00
Najabit Das	Primate Research Centre NE India	Bengal slow loris	India	Mammal	$5000.00
Benoît Goossens	Danau Girang Field Centre	Bornean elephant	Malaysia	Mammal	$25000.00
M. K. Ranjitsinh	Wildlife Trust of India	Cheetah	India	Mammal	$24991.00
Muchlisin Zainal Abidin	Syiah Kuala University	Depik	Indonesia	Fish	$5000.00
Mudhafar Salim	Nature Iraq	Egyptian vulture	Iraq	Bird	$25000.00
Wong (Sonny) Choong Hay	Malaysian Nature Society (MNS)	Fireflies	Malaysia	Invertebrate	$16400.00
Abdul Wakid	Aaranyak	Ganges river dolphin	India	Mammal	$15000.00
John Thorbjarnarson	Wildlife Conservation Society	Gharial	India	Reptile	$4950.00
Rashid Sheikh	Centre for Advanced Research in Natural Resourcces & Management (CARINAM)	Gharial	Bangladesh	Reptile	$10980.00
Bilal Habib	Wildlife Institute of India	Himalayan wolf	India	Mammal	$10000.00
Jyotendra Thakuri	Bird Conservation Nepal	Hodgson's bushchat	Nepal	Bird	$3000.00
Gianna Minton	Environmental Society of Oman	Humpback whale	Oman	Mammal	$15000.00
Timothy McCormack	Cleveland Metroparks Zoo	Indochinese box turtle	Cambodia	Reptile	$3000.00
Fairul Izamal bin Jamal Hisne	Malaysian Nature Society (MNS)	Irrawaddy dolphin	Malaysia	Mammal	$20000.00
Arif Setiawan	Gadjah Mada University	Javan gibbon	Indonesia	Mammal	$2000.00
Rahul Chavan	Bombay Natural History Society	Jerdon's courser	India	Bird	$25042.00
Romulus Whitaker	Agumbe Rainforest Research Station	King cobra	India	Reptile	$25000.00
Jeri Imansyah	Komodo Survival Program	Komodo dragon	Indonesia	Reptile	$15000.00
Robert Browne	Royal Zoological Society of Antwerp	Kurdistan spotted newt	Iran	Amphibian	$20000.00
Mark Rayan Darmaraj	World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) - Malaysia	Malayan tiger	Malaysia	Mammal	$10000.00

NAME	NAME OF ORGANIZATION	SPECIES NAME	COUNTRY	TAXON	FUNDING
Jennifer McCarthy	University of Massachusetts	Marbled cat	Sumatra	Mammal	$10000.00
Kongahage Anslem Lawrence de Silva	Amphibia and Reptile Research Organization of Sri Lanka (ARROS)	Marsh Crocodile	Sri Lanka	Reptile	$5000.00
U Myint Aung	Indo-Myanmar Conservation (IMC)	Myanmar star tortoise	Myanmar	Reptile	$4800.00
K. M. Jayahari	Winrock International India	Nilgiri tahr	India	Mammal	$20000.00
Hong Lui	Florida International University	Orchids	China	Plant	$17000.00
Neil Aldrin Mallari	World Pheasant Association	Palawan peacock pheasant	Philippines	Bird	$10000.00
ZhongSheng Wang	Nanjing university	Putuo E Er Li	China	Plant	$25000.00
Taoufik Saleh Ksiksi	UAE University	Qafas	United Arab Emirates	Plant	$10575.00
Juliet Vanitharani	Sarah Tucker College	Salimali's fruit bat	India	Mammal	$5000.00
Anak Pattanavibool	Wildlife Conservation Society	Siamese crocodile	Thailand	Reptile	$10000.00
Robert Stuebing	Yayasan Ulin/Ironwood Foundation	Siamese Crocodile	Indonesia	Reptile	$19500.00
Clayton Miller	Wildlife Conservation Society	Siberian tiger	Russia	Mammal	$25000.00
Rodney M. Jackson	Snow Leopard Conservancy (SLC)	Snow leopard	Nepal	Mammal	$25000.00
Mouyu Yang	Deutsches Primatenzentrum	South china tiger	China	Mammal	$4000.00
Putu Liza Kusuma Mustika	James Cook University	Spinner dolphins	Indonesia	Mammal	$5000.00
Zoe Jewell and Sky Alibhai	Wild Track	Striped hyena	Turkey	Mammal	$20000.00
Panut Hadisiswoyo	Orangutan Information Centre (OIC)	Sumatran orangutan	Indonesia	Mammal	$24559.00
Terri Roth	Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden	Sumatran rhinoceros	Indonesia	Mammal	$20000.00
Ferdousi Begum	Development of Biotechnology & Environmental Conserbation Centre (DEBTEC)	Tali palm	Bangladesh	Plant	$5000.00

EUROPE

NAME	NAME OF ORGANIZATION	SPECIES NAME	COUNTRY	TAXON	FUNDING
David Minter	IUCN/SSC	Fungi	UK	Fungi	$5000.00

NORTH AMERICA

NAME	NAME OF ORGANIZATION	SPECIES NAME	COUNTRY	TAXON	FUNDING
Kenneth Glander	Duke University	Antillean manatee	Mexico	Mammal	$15000.00
Omar Lopez	Azuero Earth Project	Azuero spider monkey	Panama	Mammal	$22000.00
Guido Saborío Rodríguez	Friends of the Osa/Amigos de Osa	Caecilians	Costa Rica	Amphibian	$3000.00
Alberto Veloz Ramirez	Jardin Botanico Nacional	Dominican cherry palm	Dominican Republic	Plant	$25074.00
Carlos Roberto Vásquez Almazán	Museo de Historia Natural Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala	Finca chiblic salamander	Guatemala	Amphibian	$24900.00
Beatriz Schmitt	Foundation Avifauna Eugene Eisenmann	Great green macaw	Panama	Bird	$25000.00
Peter Riger	Houston Zoo	Houston toad	USA	Amphibian	$19000.00
Joyce Maschinski	Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden	Key tree cactus	USA	Plant	$6000.00
Javier Francisco-Ortega	Florida International University	Long Island bay rush	Bahamas	Plant	$24850.00
Jeff Holland	Los Angeles Zoo	Peninsular pronghorn	Mexico	Mammal	$10000.00
Geoffrey Pampush	The Peregrine Fund	Ridgway's hawk	Dominican Republic	Bird	$25000.00
Andrés López Garro	Association Conservacionista Mision Tiburon	Scalloped hammerhead shark	Costa Rica	Fish	$5000.00
Michael J. Parr	American Bird Conservancy	Yellow-billed contiga	Costa Rica	Bird	$20000.00

OCEANIA

NAME	NAME OF ORGANIZATION	SPECIES NAME	COUNTRY	TAXON	FUNDING
Dick Watling	Nature Fiji	Fiji petrel	Fiji	Bird	$20000.00
Jim Thomas	Tenkile Conservation Alliance	Scott's tree kangaroo	Papua New Guinea	Mammal	$15000.00
Maaike Manten	BirdLife International	Tuamotu kingfisher	French Polynesia	Bird	$15000.00
Noeleen Smyth	National Botanic Gardens, Ireland	Yellow fatu	Pitcairn	Plant	$20000.00

SOUTH AMERICA

NAME	NAME OF ORGANIZATION	SPECIES NAME	COUNTRY	TAXON	FUNDING
Pedro Ferreira Develey	SAVE Brasil	Alagoas foliage-gleaner	Brazil	Bird	$24500.00
Cristina Farah de Tófoli	IPÊ	Amazonian manatee	Brazil	Mammal	$5000.00
Michael Hoffmann	IUCN - International Union for Conservation of Nature	Amphibians	Latin America	Amphibian	$4000.00
James G. Sanderson	Small Cat Conservation Alliance	Andean Cat	Chile	Mammal	$22000.00
Carlos Jimenez	Natural History Museum	Andean night monkey	Peru	Mammal	$3000.00
Alexandre Túlio Amaral Nascimento	IPÊ	Black-faced lion tamarin	Brazil	Mammal	$24983.00
Karla Monteiro Paranhos	IPÊ	Black lion tamarin	Brazil	Mammal	$10000.00
Paul Salaman	World Land Trust-US	Blue-throated macaw	Bolivia	Bird	$15000.00
Bárbara Galletti Vernazzani Muñoz	Centro de Conservación Cetacea	Blue whale	Chile	Mammal	$25000.00
Juan Sebastia Correa		Brown-headed spider monkey	Columbia	Mammal	$5000.00
Barbara Goettsch	University of Sheffield	Cactus	South America	Plant	$20000.00
David Agro	World Land Trust-US	Ecuadorian white-fronted capuchin	Ecuador	Mammal	$10000.00
Melina Oliveira Melito	State University of Santa Cruz	Giant south american river turtle	Brazil	Reptile	$3000.00
Denise Rambaldi	Associacao Mico Leao Dourado	Golden lion tamarin	Brazil	Mammal	$15000.00
Eric Von Horstman	Pro-Forest Foundation	Great green macaw	Ecuador	Bird	$15000.00
Pablo J. Venegas	Centro de Ornitología y Biodiversidad (CORBIDI)	Harlequin frog	South America	Amphibian	$23000.00
Stefan Lötters	Trier University	Harlequin frog	South America	Amphibian	$24900.00
Laury Cullen Jr.	IPÊ	Jaguar	Brazil and Argentina	Mammal	$25000.00
Veronica Andrea Quiroga	University of Tucumán	Jaguar	Argentina	Mammal	$16781.00
Rios Mejia Patricia		Lake Junin frog	Peru	Amphibian	$4900.00
Michael Parr	American Bird Conservancy	Long-whiskered owlet	Peru	Bird	$25000.00

NAME	NAME OF ORGANIZATION	SPECIES NAME	COUNTRY	TAXON	FUNDING
Patricia Medici	IPÊ	Lowland tapir	Brazil	Mammal	$25000.00
Javier Barrio	Centro de Ornitología y Biodiversidad (CORBIDI)	Northern pudu	Peru	Mammal	$15000.00
Mauricio Talebi	Pro-Muriqui Association	Southern muriqui	Brazil	Mammal	$10000.00
Michael J. Parr	American Bird Conservancy	Stresemann's bristlefront	Brazil	Bird	$25000.00
Maíra Benchimol de Souza	WCS-Brasil	Woolly monkey	Brazil	Mammal	$15000.00
Fanny Cornejo	Natural History Museum	Yellow tailed woolly monkey	Peru	Mammal	$4940.00

FOR AN UPDATED LIST OF ALL PROJECTS SUPPORTED, PLEASE REFER
TO THE MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND WEBSITE:
www.mbzspeciesconservation.org

MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

ENDOWMENT:

Analysis Period	**April 7, 2009 to December 31, 2009**
Reporting Currency	**US Dollars**

Statement of Assets:

End value	34,634,189
■ Begin Value	29,202,745
■ Sum of Cash Flows	-281,100
Cash flow adjusted change in assets	5,712,544
Portfolio Performance	19.61%

The endowment is managed by Credit Suisse

Please note: Historical information and financial-market scenarios are no guarantee for future performance.

OPERATIONS FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

Analysis Period	**August 2008 to 31 December, 2009**
Currency	**UAE Dirhams**
Communications expenses	1,227,036
Payroll and related costs	593,700
Website development and related costs	249,680
Traveling expenses	166,392
Other expenses	17,414
Total operations disbursements	2,254,222

As audited by Deloitte and Touche (M.E.), March 25, 2010

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND, PLEASE VISIT:
www.mbzspeciesconservation.org

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nicolas.heard@mbzspeciesconservation.org

صندوق محمد بن زايد
للمحافظة على الكائنات الحية
The Mohamed bin Zayed SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND