Fonseca Species Conservation Fund

First Request for Proposals:

**Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles**

**in Countries of the African Continent and the Indian Ocean**

The Fonseca Species Conservation Fund (FSCF) was established in 2024 by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Re:wild to honor the passion of the late Gustavo Fonseca, long-standing GEF Director of Programs, for species conservation and building capacity of the next generation of conservationists.

The FSCF is part of the [Fonseca Leadership Program](https://www.thegef.org/fonseca-leadership-program) and provides grants to field projects that promote species conservation and are led by early career conservationists from GEF-recipient countries. The Fund permits grants of up to $25,000 for conservation efforts in GEF-recipient countries that are directed at species groups in urgent need of intervention and conservation action.

The FSCF draws on the expertise of IUCN Species Survival Commission Specialist Groups, in this case the IUCN SSC Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group (TFTSG), and other taxon-specific conservation groups, such as the Turtle Conservation Fund, to ensure all funding goes to priority projects, mobilizes the expertise of existing review boards, and is part of a wider network of support – both funding and technical – for grantees.

**Proposal submission**

Deadline: 19 July 2024

Language: Proposals must be submitted in English. The quality of English will not affect the decision of the selection committees. However, the meaning must be clear.

All proposals and inquiries should be directed to:

Jennifer Swandby, Manager of Species Partnerships, Re:wild at [speciesfund@rewild.org](mailto:speciesfund@rewild.org).

## **Applicant requirements**

The FSCF will issue grants to:

1. Early career individuals 35 years or younger, who are
2. Either pursuing a degree in a relevant field or working in conservation, and are
3. Citizens of a [GEF-recipient country](https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/recipient-countries).

## **Location requirement**

Proposals should be submitted for activities in one of the [GEF-recipient countries](https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/recipient-countries) of the African continent and the Indian Ocean.

## **Fund priorities**

Proposed activities must be related to one or more species of freshwater or terrestrial turtles or tortoises in the Order Testudines native to Continental Africa or Indian Ocean islands, e.g., Madagascar, but not marine turtle species of the families Cheloniidae and Dermochelyidae.

Proposals should address any species requiring conservation action. Priority consideration will be given to proposals addressing the conservation needs of globally threatened species in the following IUCN Red List categories: EW, CR, and EN. Some Testudine species only have provisional Red List category assessments by the TFTSG, which will also be considered, and can be found in [Turtle Taxonomy Working Group 2021;"Turtles of the World: Checklist and Atlas (9th Ed.)")](https://iucn-tftsg.org/wp-content/uploads/crm.8.checklist.atlas_.v9.2021.e3.pdf).

Consideration will also be given to species listed on the IUCN or TFTSG Red List in the DD category or species that have not yet been assessed (NE) for the IUCN Red List that are highly likely to be threatened, require urgent conservation action or research to determine necessary conservation actions. A clear justification should be provided in the proposal.

Species listed as threatened on a national red list will be considered as long as clear documentation is provided and the need for conservation action is justified.

**Highest priority will be given to projects addressing species in West and Central Africa, especially softshell turtles - except *Cyclanorbis senegalensis.***

## **Qualifying activities**

* Field-based activities for the conservation of a qualifying species in its native habitat.
* Field-based research activities to inform the conservation needs and action for a qualifying species.
* Conservation action planning meetings may be a limited component of the proposed activities.
* Community engagement, education, and awareness may be a limited component of the budget.
* Laboratory tests may be a limited component of the budget (e.g. testing samples taken in the field).
* Minor tissue sampling, if well justified.
* *Ex situ* activities may be a limited component of the project as long as activities in the field are also included.

Activities that do not qualify:

* Specimen collection for any purpose.
* Land purchase.

## **Regulatory stipulations**

* No collection or destructive sampling of any species or other significant fauna (i.e., no museum specimen collection).
* All project activities must adhere to applicable permit requirements.

## **Grant amount**

* Grants will be made to individuals.
* The amount requested should reflect your career stage, project maturity, and institutional capacity to manage the grant. Grant Recipient can be at any level of academic or professional experience, for example:
  + You might be a Bachelors, Masters, or PhD student studying a threatened species or a protected area, and need funding to conduct fieldwork that will inform conservation action;
  + You might be in the first few years of your career and need funding to conduct an action planning workshop or begin implementing actions from a conservation plan;
  + You might have 10 years of professional experience and want to scale up your work to conserve more species, reach a larger network of stakeholders, or expand the scope of your project, etc;
  + Or other combinations of experience and expertise not covered here.
* The maximum amount is US$25,000 per grant.
* Awarded grants may be in amounts lower than requested.
* The Fund aims to issue a reasonable number of grants of differing amounts, rather than fewer large grants. Therefore, requests in the US$5,000-20,000 range have a greater likelihood of success.
* The amount awarded must be spent by the end of the grant period.

Please get in touch with Jennifer Swandby with any related questions at [speciesfund@rewild.org](mailto:speciesfund@rewild.org).

## **Budget allowances**

The proposal budget shall conform to the following limitations:

* Budgets must be submitted in US dollars.
* Institutional overheads, educational fees, or conference registration fees are not eligible.
* The cost of permits listed in the proposal form may be included.
* Salaries, stipends, per diems, and project-related living costs for the applicant will not be prioritized but can be included with clear justification.
* International air travel should be limited to around 10% of the total request. If more is required, include a justification.
* Fuel and vehicle rental (boat, car, etc) expenses should be limited to around 10% of total request. If more is required, include a justification.
* Capital investments (e.g. computers, high-end cameras) must be critical to delivering the project outcomes.
* Land purchase and infrastructure (buildings, vehicles, major pieces of technology, etc) costs are not allowed.
* Co-financing is not required, but any funding from other sources should be in the proposal budget.

**Proposal review**

Proposals will be pre-screened in the second half of August and reviewed by the taxon review committees in August 2024. Application decisions will be announced in early September 2024. If further information is desired following initial review of the proposal by the review committee, the applicant will be contacted.

**Grant period**

Proposed activities may be part of a broader project that takes place beyond the grant period. All proposed activities should occur over a 12-18 month time period, starting from the date when a grant agreement is signed with Re:wild. Written requests for no-cost extensions may be granted. All proposed activities must be completed by or before 30 September 2026.

**Reporting requirements**

Grant recipients agree to providing the following during and at the end of the grant period:

* Submission at least 10 photos of the work throughout the duration of the project for use in promoting the Fonseca Species Conservation Fund by GEF and Re:wild.
* A short progress report (template will be provided) six months after receipt of the grant.
* A short final report no more than one month after completion of the project.
* Full financial accounting of the project (template will be provided).
* Mention the support of Fonseca Species Conservation Fund, GEF, and Re:wild in all publicity materials related to the project, including on social networks.
* Keep regular contact with Re:wild during the project.
* Inform Re:wild of any scientific or popular publications, newspaper or magazine articles, reports, action plans, etc., resulting from the project.
* Grant recipients are encouraged to publish at least some of their findings in the newsletters or blogs of the relevant IUCN SSC Specialist Group or other appropriate outlets.

**Frequently Asked Questions:** <https://www.rewild.org/fonseca-species-conservation-fund>

**Proposal Form**

Fonseca Species Conservation Fund

# Summary information

| Name of applicant: | *Type your answer here* |
| --- | --- |
| Title of project / proposed activities: |  |
| Start and end dates of proposed activities: |  |
| Country location of project / proposed activities: |  |
| Total sum requested *(amount in US Dollars)*: |  |

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# Applicant information

Paste a photo of the applicant that clearly shows their face in the box below:

|  |
| --- |

| Family name(s): |  |
| --- | --- |
| First name: |  |
| Email: |  |
| Your age bracket at time of submission *(highlight the option that applies)*: | [18-25], [26-30], [30-35] |
| Nationality / citizenship country: |  |
| Current professional position or academic program: |  |
| Institution / affiliation: |  |
| Are you currently a Fellow with the Fonseca Fellowship Program? *(highlight the option that applies)* | Yes / No |
| How did you hear about the Fonseca Species Conservation Fund? |  |

We strive to create programs and services that represent the full diversity of the conservation community. We are asking the following questions to ensure that we are meeting this goal.

| How do you describe your gender? Type your answer under option a) or highlight option b). | a) *Type your answer here* |
| --- | --- |
|  | b) I prefer not to answer. |
| What is the highest level of education that you have completed? | *Type your answer here* |

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# Project information: Fonseca Species Conservation Fund priorities

In the box below, paste a photo of the target species of your project / proposed activities:

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List the latin name(s), common name(s) of the target species of your project / proposed activities:

| *Type your answer here* |
| --- |

Describe which of the fund priorities are met by your project / proposed activities (see priorities for each taxonomic group, e.g., priority IUCN Red List categories, priority geographies, priority taxonomies, etc):

| *Type your answer here* |
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# Project information: objectives, activities, outputs, and outcomes

Describe the objective(s) of your overall project (250 word limit):

| *Type your answer here* |
| --- |

List the activities you propose to do with funding from the Fonseca Species Conservation Fund, the timelines, and anticipated outputs *(add additional rows as needed)*. Proposed activities may contribute to a broader project that takes place beyond the grant period.

| **Activity #** | **Activity description** | **Outputs** | **Timeline** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

Briefly summarize any past and ongoing conservation efforts focused on your target species and/or conservation site. These may or may not have been conducted by you. Cite previous work. (250 word limit)

| *Type your answer here* |
| --- |

Explain why the proposed activities are important for the conservation of the target species and the anticipated outcome(s) of the project (250 word limit):

| *Type your answer here* |
| --- |

Next steps and future considerations: describe your vision for a longer-term conservation strategy for the target species. The proposed activities may represent a component of this strategy. Discuss how this strategy may be achieved and who might be involved with this effort. (250 word limit)

| *Type your answer here* |
| --- |

What are the likely challenges you will encounter during the project / proposed activities and how do you plan to address them?

| *Type your answer here* |
| --- |

List the collaborators and stakeholders you are planning to work with during this project and their role in the activities *(add additional rows as needed)*:

| **Collaborator / stakeholder name** | **Role** |
| --- | --- |
| *Type your answer here* | *Type your answer here* |

If the proposed activities take place in an existing or proposed [Protected or Conserved Area](https://www.protectedplanet.net/en) (e.g., National Park, Wildlife Reserve, etc.), please list here:

| *Type your answer here* |
| --- |

In the box below, provide a map of the project area / site (a point or polygon are fine):

|  |
| --- |

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# Regulatory and Safety parameters

Type your initials in the box below if you agree with the following mandatory stipulations:

* There will be no collection or destructive sampling of any target species or other significant fauna, flora, or funga (e.g., no museum specimen collection).
* All proposed activities will adhere to applicable permit requirements.

| *Type your answer here* |
| --- |

In the table below, provide a list of any permits that you require to undertake the proposed activities and their status.

| **Permit** | **Status (not yet applied, in process, approved)** |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |
|  |  |

Describe the provisions you have / will put in place to ensure the safety of your staff and collaborators, and how will these be implemented in the proposed activities?

| *Type your answer here* |
| --- |

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# Funding request

Using the Proposed Budget Excel sheet, provide a budget for the project / proposed activities. Indicate the costs requested from the Fonseca Species Conservation Fund. Indicate any other funding, the source(s), and timeframe when you expect to receive the additional funds.

[Download the Proposed Budget Excel sheet from the Fund webpage](https://www.rewild.org/fonseca-species-conservation-fund)

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# References

List the names, emails, and phone numbers (including country and area codes) of two references that the Fund can contact about the proposed activities, if we choose to do so. If possible, at least one should be external to the applicant's current organization.

| *Type your answer here* |
| --- |