Proposal Form

**Tortoises & Freshwater Turtles in Countries of the Americas**

Fonseca Species Conservation Fund - Third Request for Proposals (RFP3)

**Fund description**

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 and taxon-specific conservation groups 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.

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# A. Proposal submission instructions

Required documents:

1. Completed proposal form in Word or PDF format
2. Completed budget form in Excel format only (no PDF)
3. A copy of your current Curriculum Vitae (CV) in Word or PDF

Deadline: 30 March 2025

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.

Submission: All proposals, budgets, CVs, and inquiries should be emailed to [speciesfund@rewild.org](mailto:speciesfund@rewild.org).

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# B. Summary information

| First name(s): | *Type your answer here* |
| --- | --- |
| Last/family name(s): |  |
| Title of project: |  |
| Country of project: |  |
| Total budget request *(amount in US Dollars)*: |  |

## 

# C. Applicant information

The FSCF will issue grants to:

* Early career individuals 18–35 years of age, no exceptions, who are
* Individuals either pursuing a degree in a relevant field or working in conservation, and
* Citizens of a [GEF-recipient country](https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/recipient-countries).

1. Attach your current Curriculum Vitae (CV) to your email when you submit your proposal.

2. Help us get to know you. Paste a photo of you that clearly shows your face in the box below:

|  |
| --- |

3. Applicant details:

| Email: | *Type your answer here* |
| --- | --- |
| Your age bracket on the date you submit your proposal *(highlight the option that applies)*: | [18-25] or [26-30] or [31-35] |
| 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? *Be specific* |  |

4. 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 or leave blank if you prefer not to answer | *Type your answer here* |
| --- | --- |
| What is the highest level of education that you have completed? | *Type your answer here* |

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# D. Project location

Proposed activities must take place in one or more of the following [GEF-recipient countries](https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/recipient-countries):

| Antigua And Barbuda | Dominica | Nicaragua |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Argentina | Dominican Republic | Panama |
| Bahamas | Ecuador | Paraguay |
| Barbados | El Salvador | Peru |
| Belize | Grenada | St. Kitts And Nevis |
| Bolivia | Guatemala | St. Lucia |
| Brazil | Guyana | St. Vincent and Grenadines |
| Chile | Haiti | Suriname |
| Colombia | Honduras | Trinidad and Tobago |
| Costa Rica | Jamaica | Uruguay |
| Cuba | Mexico | Venezuela |

1. In the box below, list the localities / sites names for your proposed activities. If the proposed activities take place in an existing or proposed [Key Biodiversity Area (KBA)](https://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/sites/search), [Alliance for Zero Extinction site (AZE)](https://zeroextinction.org/site-identification/2023-global-aze-map/), and/or [Protected or Conserved Area (PCA)](https://www.protectedplanet.net/en/search-areas?filters%5Bdb_type%5D%5B%5D=wdpa) (e.g., National Park, Wildlife Reserve, etc.), please list here (*add more rows as needed)*:

| Locality or site name | Country | Name of KBA or AZE or PCA |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *Type your answer here* |  |  |

2. In the box below, provide a map of the project area, including all of the localities listed above:

|  |
| --- |

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# E. Target species

Proposed activities **must** be related to one or more species:

* In the Order Testudines, but not marine turtle species of the families Cheloniidae and Dermochelyidae,
* Native to the countries in the table of section D above,
* Requiring conservation action.

**Priority** consideration and additional points will be given to proposals:

* Addressing the conservation needs of globally threatened species in the following categories on the [IUCN Red List](https://www.iucnredlist.org/): Extinct in the Wild (EW), Critically Endangered (CR), Endangered (EN), and Vulnerable (VU).
* 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).
* Addressing species in the genera *Mesoclemmys, Peltocephalus,* and *Ranacephala*

You can also submit proposals for target species that are:

* Recently-described and have not yet been evaluated for the IUCN Red List
* Listed in the Data Deficient (DD) category on the IUCN Red List or TFTSG Red List
* Species listed as threatened on a national red list, but non-threatened on the global IUCN Red List
* In either case, the species should be highly likely to be globally threatened, requiring urgent conservation action or research to determine necessary conservation actions. A clear justification and documentation should be provided.

1. List the Scientific name(s), common name(s), and IUCN Red List category of the target species of your project (*add more rows as needed)*:

| Scientific name | Common name  (English and local names accepted) | IUCN Red List Category | National red list category, if applicable |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Type your answer here* |  |  |  |

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

|  |
| --- |

# F. Proposed activities

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.

Qualifying activities with limitations:

* Conservation action planning meetings may be a limited component of the proposed activities.
* *Ex situ* activities may be a limited component of the project as long as activities in the field are also included.
* Minor tissue sampling, if well justified.
* Community engagement, education, and awareness qualify, but should be a limited component of the budget.
* Laboratory tests qualify, but should be a limited component of the budget.

Activities that do not qualify:

* Specimen collection for any purpose.
* Land purchase.

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

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

2. In the box below, indicate the start and end dates of your proposed activities. The activities in this proposal may be part of a broader project that takes place beyond these dates.

All proposed activities must be completed and final reports submitted by or before 30 September 2026. Written requests for no-cost extensions will be considered on an as-needed basis.

| Start date of proposed activities: | *day/month/year* |
| --- | --- |
| End date of proposed activities: | *day/month/year* |

When entering your start and end dates, please consider the time required for the following administrative steps (these dates are subject to change):

| **Dates** | **Activity** | **Responsible party** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 30 March 2025 | proposal submission deadline | **Applicant** |
| 1-30 April 2025 | screening of proposals for eligibility | Re:wild |
| 1 May 2025 | notification sent to ineligible proposals | Re:wild |
| 1 May-31 July 2025 | review of eligible proposals | Re:wild |
| August 2025 | announcement of review results | Re:wild |
| August 2025 | submission of grant paperwork  (successful proposals only) | **Applicant** |
| August-  September 2025 | processing of grant paperwork and first payment sent to grantees | Re:wild |

3. Using the Gantt chart below, list the project phases, activities, and expected results. *(add rows and columns as needed)*:

| Project phase or Objective | Activity description | Timeline (project month) | | | | | | | | | | | | Expected results |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| *Example* | *Example* | *X* | *X* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Example* | *Example* |  | *X* | *X* | *X* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

4. 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 and list in the bibliography section below. (250-word limit)

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

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

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

6. Provide a detailed explanation of the methods you propose to use. Be clear and concise. (1,000-word limit, but shorter is better)

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

7. 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* |
| --- |

8. 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* |
| --- |

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

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

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# G. Regulatory and Safety parameters

Following are mandatory stipulations for activities supported by the FSCF:

* Collection or destructive sampling of any species or other significant fauna, flora, or funga is **not** permitted. Thus, no museum specimen collection is permitted.
* All project activities must adhere to applicable permit requirements.

1. In the box below, write your name if you agree to comply with the above mandatory stipulations:

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

2. In the table below, provide a list of any permits that you require to undertake the proposed activities and their status *(add rows as needed):*

| **Permit** | **Status (not yet applied, in process, approved)** |
| --- | --- |
| *Type your answer here* |  |

3. 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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# H. Budget

Grants will be given to individuals or their host institution. 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. The amount requested should reflect your career stage, project maturity, and capacity to manage the grant. The FSCF 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. Awarded grants may be in amounts lower than requested. The amount awarded must be spent by the end of the grant period.

The proposal budget should conform to the following limitations:

* Budgets must be submitted in US dollars.
* Institutional overheads (such as the salaries and benefits of executive, managerial, and administrative staff, professors and advisors, etc.), educational fees, or conference registration fees are not eligible.
* The cost of permits listed in this proposal form should 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.

1. Using **the RFP3 Budget Template Excel sheet in the application pack**, submit your budget as an Excel file separate from this proposal form.

2. In the table below, summarize any funding that you have or expect from other sources, the amount, purpose, and timeframe when you expect to receive the additional funds or if you have already received the funds *(add rows as needed)*:

| Funding source | Funding amount | Purpose of funding | Timeframe |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Type your answer here* |  |  |  |

# I. References

List the names, emails, and phone numbers 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.

| Reference name | Email | Phone number (with country and area codes) | Affiliation | Relationship to applicant |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Type your answer here* |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

# J. Bibliography

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

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# K. Proposal review

Proposals will be screened for eligibility 1-30 April 2025 and reviewed by the taxon review committees 1 May-31 July 2025, after which decisions will be announced to both successful and unsuccessful applicants. If further information is desired following screening of review of the proposal by the review committee, the applicant will be contacted.

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# L. Reporting requirements

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

* Submission of 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 receiving 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.

# M**. Frequently Asked Question**s

<https://www.rewild.org/fonseca-species-conservation-fund>

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