

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

March 2017



Establishment

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

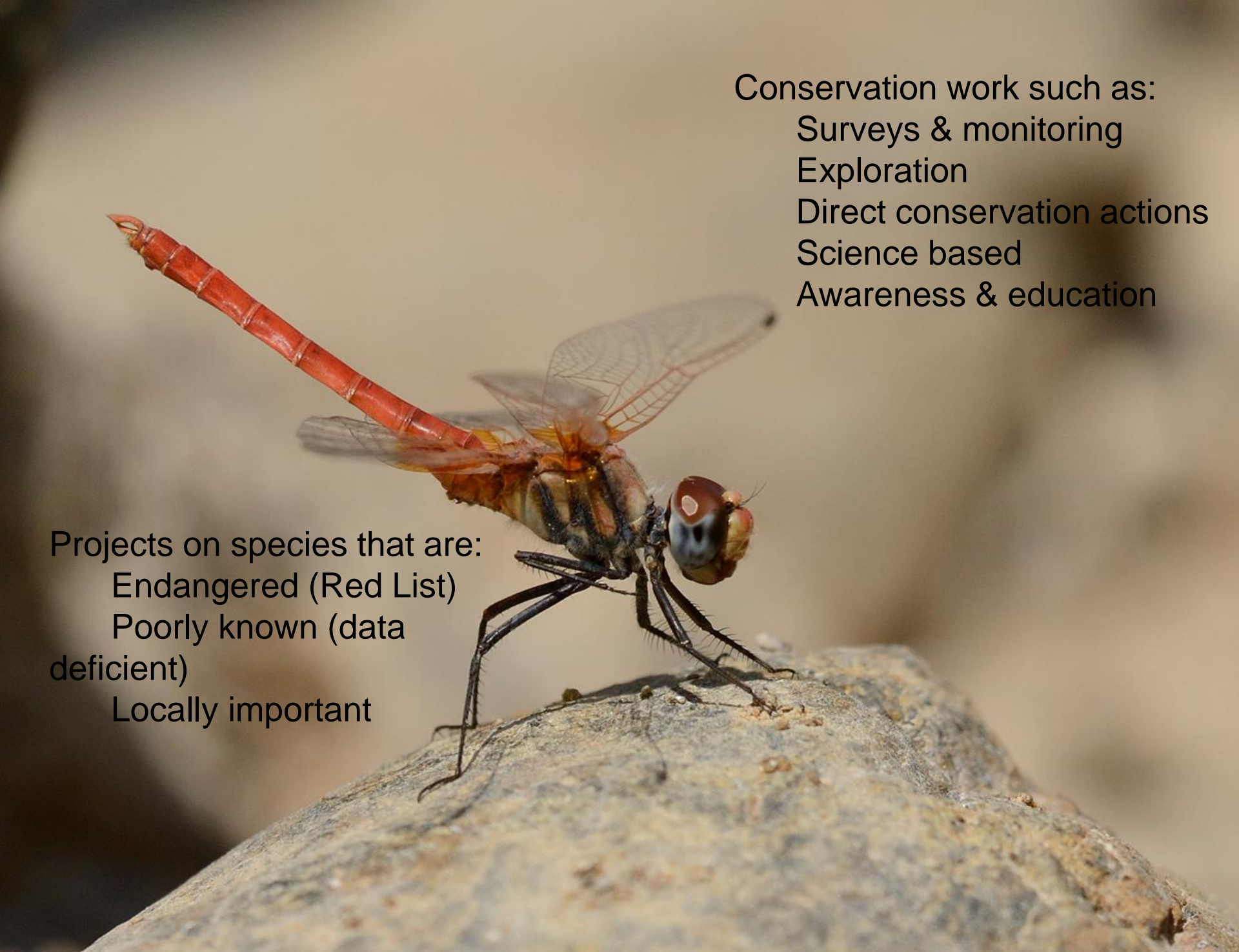
Its establishment is as a direct result of the IUCN/SSC Specialist Group Chairs' meeting which was held in Al Ain, UAE in early 2008, acknowledging the lack of financial support for direct and targeted species conservation actions.

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

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



The Fund was established to provide small-scale grants to passionate individuals for them to indulge in their passion of targeted, in situ conservation of their species.




Conservation work such as:
Surveys & monitoring
Exploration
Direct conservation actions
Science based
Awareness & education

Projects on species that are:
Endangered (Red List)
Poorly known (data
deficient)
Locally important

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



A close-up photograph of a single white flower with a yellow center, set against a background of green foliage. The flower is in sharp focus, while the background is blurred. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Not a sinking fund. Limited amounts available per year. Dependent on performance of endowment.

We do not spend the capital of the endowment.

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

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

Applications Granted

| Year | Applications Reviewed | Grants Awarded | % Awarded |
|------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------|
| 2009 | 232 | 139 | 59 |
| 2010 | 454 | 250 | 55 |
| 2011 | 1,390 | 242 | 17.4 |
| 2012 | 1,191 | 220 | 18.5 |
| 2013 | 1,498 | 198 | 13.2 |
| 2014 | 1,507 | 184 | 12.2 |
| 2015 | 1,285 | 183 | 14 |
| 2016 | 1,780 | 172 | 9.7 |



Grant Amount Awarded

| Year | Amount Requested (\$) | Amount Granted (\$) | \$ Amount Granted (%) | Average Grant Size (\$) |
|------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 2009 | 4,769,709 | 2,089,300 | 43.8 | 15,031 |
| 2010 | 8,909,300 | 3,207,534 | 36 | 12,830 |
| 2011 | 27,023,478 | 2,196,900 | 8.1 | 9,078 |
| 2012 | 20,891,968 | 1,527,581 | 7.3 | 7,007 |
| 2013 | 28,029,678 | 1,627,451 | 5.8 | 8,219 |
| 2014 | 23,531,144 | 1,553,475 | 6.6 | 8,443 |
| 2015 | 20,697,630 | 1,586,031 | 7.7 | 8,667 |
| 2016 | 29,095,054 | 1,523,118 | 5.2 | 8,855 |



Grant and Species Spread

Total Grants:
1,558 for \$14,985,491
1,062 species / sub-species

Grants by continent:

| | | |
|-----------|-------------|-----|
| Africa | \$4,388,460 | 426 |
| Asia | \$4,981,882 | 556 |
| Europe | \$741,370 | 78 |
| N America | \$1,751,706 | 184 |
| Oceania | \$839,485 | 75 |
| S America | \$2,282,588 | 239 |



Grant and Species Spread

Total Grants:
29 for \$12,925,017

Grants by IUCN

Red List Classification:

| | | |
|----|-------------|-----|
| EX | \$45,500 | 4 |
| EW | \$141,631 | 11 |
| CR | \$7,115,397 | 698 |
| EN | \$4,565,135 | 499 |
| VU | \$1,031,318 | 108 |
| NT | \$317,106 | 28 |
| LC | \$146,250 | 14 |
| DD | \$532,963 | 71 |
| NE | \$1,090,191 | 125 |



Grant and Species Spread

Grants by species type:

| | | |
|---------------|-------------|-----|
| Amphibians | \$1,236,764 | 156 |
| Birds | \$2,419,118 | 249 |
| Fish | \$970,300 | 99 |
| Fungi | \$256,000 | 21 |
| Invertebrates | \$746,184 | 97 |
| Mammals | \$6,061,625 | 576 |
| Plants | \$1,422,021 | 152 |
| Reptiles | \$1,872,879 | 208 |



Reviewers – What they like

Reviewers generally want to support a species conservation project, but must still be won over. Most applications are worthy of support, but given the constraints, how to choose?

Criteria and FAQs have been read

Concise and clear text in application

Honesty

That the project will make a difference and relates to other initiatives relating to the species.

Funding: Total project, initial grant, or final donation to ensure implementation of a project. Also budget items.



Reviewers – What they like

- Build trust in your project through your proposal
- Tell a good story - Make sure your proposal flows naturally within the provided guidelines
- Be sure you could justify your proposal to colleagues
- Your project proposal will be reviewed by external reviewers familiar with your field – make sure it can withstand this critique



Reporting

- Very important indeed. When competition is so tough a report from a previous project could be the difference between receiving a grant or not.
- Show clearly and concisely how the grant helped the project and the conservation prospects of the species.
- Funders like recognition (media articles, academic papers, photos, anything) – it makes them feel good and can help them raise more money to spend on species conservation.



Leveraging

- Is this grant going to make a difference to the project/species?
- Would money added to an existing pot complete the budget requirements and enable a project to go ahead?
- Would an additional grant expand the scope of a project?
- Would this grant be “swallowed” by other funding in the project?
- Will it help attract other donors if larger project, or will it ensure that this project is adequately implemented if stand-alone?
- If added to existing funding for a project, does it support overheads or conservation?



Passionate People



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



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

www.speciesconservation.org

Where you can also sign up for our newsletter.

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

