

TURTLE CONSERVATION FUND



A TCF-supported project on the critically endangered Northern River Terrapin (*Batagur trivittata*) in Myanmar. Me Me Soe (left) and Khin Myo Myo (right) measure hatchlings at a TSA headstarting facility at Limpha Village. PHOTO CREDIT: STEVE PLATT

Turtle Conservation Efforts Supported in 46 Nations

HUGH QUINN AND ANDERS RHODIN, TURTLE CONSERVATION FUND CO-CHAIRS

The Turtle Conservation Fund (TCF), founded in 2002, is focused on helping save the world's most critically endangered tortoises and freshwater turtles by providing funding to conservationists around the globe.

A total of 510 grant proposals have been received by TCF since 2003, of which 173 (34%) have been funded. Requests received totaled \$2,691,935, with \$778,036 (29%) granted, for an average award of \$4497. Grants were awarded to projects conducted in 46 nations, with support ranging from \$1000 to \$10,000. Of the Turtle Conservation Coalition's "Turtles in Trouble: The World's Top 25+ Most Endangered Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles – 2011," projects representing all 25 species have been funded. Of TCF's 62 *Priority Species* (February 2014 list), projects

representing 48 (77%) have been supported. Of the 29 taxa listed by IUCN as Critically Endangered, TCF has supported projects for 27 (93%). TCF has also provided support for facilities and projects that impact many additional species. Since last year's report in this publication, the TCF has provided funding for 27 turtle conservation projects, including several by the Turtle Survival Alliance, for a total annual disbursement of \$90,919.

In addition to TCF's regular grant program, a seed grant program was initiated in 2013, providing awards up to \$1000 to evaluate the status and threats to poorly-known species (often listed by IUCN as Data Deficient or Not Evaluated), potentially facilitating follow-up conservation initiatives. This program is being coordinated by

Vivian Páez and is beginning to generate some important early projects.

Working closely with its partner organizations (Conservation International, IUCN/SSC Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group, Turtle Survival Alliance, EAZA Shellshock Campaign, Chelonian Research Foundation, Fort Worth Zoo, Asian Turtle Program, Wildlife Conservation Society, Behler Chelonian Center / Turtle Conservancy, Chelonian Research Institute, and Humane Society International – Australia), TCF will continue its efforts to help save the world's most critically endangered tortoises and freshwater turtles.

For more information about the TCF, and grant application procedures, visit www.TurtleConservationFund.org.