



Two Million-Dollar Turtle Funds: Turtle Conservation Fund (TCF) and Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund (MBZ)

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The MBZ Advisory Board meeting in New York in September 2017. Front row, left to right: Russ Mittermeier, Mike Parr, Fred Launay, Topis Contreras MacBeath, Anders Rhodin; back row, left to right: Claude Gascon, Jim Sanderson, Bill Konstant, Sanjay Molur, Mike Maunder, Micky Soorae, Jean-Christophe Vié, Nicolas Heard. Not present: Razan Al Mubarak.

In 2017, two of the most prominent turtle conservation funding organizations in our global community, the Turtle Conservation Fund (TCF) and the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund (MBZ), each achieved the significant milestone of reaching the \$1 million mark for dedicated turtle and tortoise conservation funding. The TCF celebrated its milestone at the TSA/TFTSG Symposium in Charleston in August, and the MBZ reached its milestone in September at a combined meeting with the Turtle Conservancy in New York.

The TCF was founded in 2002 by the International Union for Conservation of Nature Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group, the Turtle Survival Alliance, and Conservation International, and through

2017 has provided funding for 234 projects focused on turtles and tortoises for a total disbursement of \$1,024,000 at an average of \$4,377 per project. Current supporting partners in the TCF now also include Turtle Conservancy, Global Wildlife Conservation, Humane Society International of Australia, George Meyer and Maria Semple, Matt Frankel, the Chelonian Research Foundation, and the Andrew Sabin Family Foundation. The TCF Board is composed of Anders Rhodin, Hugh Quinn, Gary Ades, Chris Banks, Kurt Buhlmann, Bernard Devaux, Matt Frankel, Paul Gibbons, Eric Goode, Cris Hagen, Brian Horne, Rick Hudson, John Iverson, Gerald Kuchling, Richard Lewis, Luca Luiselli, George Meyer, Russ Mittermeier, Vivian Páez, Peter Pritchard, Martina

Raffel, Maurice Rodrigues, Craig Stanford, Peter Paul van Dijk, and Andrew Walde.

The MBZ was founded in 2008 by His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, and through 2017 has provided a total of about \$16 million in grants to 1,677 projects, with 102 projects focused on turtles and tortoises, for a total turtle disbursement of \$1,019,000 at an average of \$9,988 per project. The MBZ Advisory Board is headed by Razan Al Mubarak and Fred Launay.

Over the last year, the turtle-focused distributions of these two funds have made a major difference for many worthy projects working to save endangered turtles and tortoises. MBZ funded nine turtle and tortoise

proposals: eight regular awards at an average of \$9,670, and one Chairman's Award for \$23,900, for a total one-year disbursement of \$101,260. TCF funded 17 turtle and tortoise proposals at an average of \$4,124, for a total one-year disbursement of \$70,100. The synergy between these two funds, with Mittermeier and Rhodin on the advisory boards of both, has been very beneficial to international turtle conservation efforts, with a

combined disbursement from MBZ and TCF of \$171,360 this past year, up from \$160,000 the year before.

Both TCF and MBZ greatly value the support of the turtle conservation community in our efforts and we are honored and pleased to be able to provide as much support as we do for so many of the critically important front-line and on-the-ground efforts on behalf of global

turtle conservation. By continuing to expand and grow our capacity for providing support, we hope to make an increasingly important impact on all turtle conservation efforts. Please consider submitting your grant proposals to us for consideration.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: ¹Turtle Conservation Fund; ²Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund

PROJECTS FUNDED BY TCF OVER THE PAST YEAR:

- Agyekumhene, A. *Kinixys* in Ghana;
- Bishop, N. *Dermatemys mawii*;
- Bock, B. *Podocnemis lewyana*;
- Currylow, A. *Astrochelys radiata*;
- Juvik, J. *Homopus solus*;
- Keeler, H. *Glyptemys muhlenbergii*;
- Kuchling, G. *Astrochelys yniphora*;
- Loehr, V. *Homopus boulengeri*;
- Luiselli, L. South Sudan;
- Mandimbahasina, A. *Astrochelys yniphora*;
- McCormack, T. *Rafetus swinhoii*;
- Palomo-Ramos, R. *Gopherus flavomarginatus*;
- Petrov, K. *Myuchelys georgesi*;

- Randrianjafizanaka, T. *Astrochelys radiata*;
- Shirley, M. *Kinixys* in Guinea;
- Thong, P.V. *Cuora zhoui*;
- Walker, R. *Astrochelys radiata* and *Pyxis arachnoides*.

PROJECTS FUNDED BY MBZ OVER THE PAST YEAR:

- Agyei, V. *Kinixys homeana* in Ghana;
- Alzate Estrada, D. *Podocnemis lewyana*;
- Drummond, G. *Mesoclemmys hogei*;
- Guntoro, J. *Batagur borneoensis* in Sumatra;
- Juvik, J. *Psammobates geometricus*;
- Kuchling, G. *Astrochelys yniphora*;
- Light, C. *Indotestudo forstenii* and *Leucocephalon yuwonoi*;
- Luiselli, L. South Sudan;
- Perdamaian, A. *Chitra chitra javanensis*.

TISCHLER ART FOR CONSERVATION

Renowned artist Tom Tischler's second sculpture in his Tischler Art for Conservation (TAFC) project is a Galapagos Tortoise dedicated to the Turtle Survival Alliance. The TAFC project was created to provide impact beyond what Tom's life-sized sculptures, seen in more than 100 zoos, museums, and private collections around the world, have had on their viewers. Forty percent of the purchase price of each sculpture is donated to a conservation organization selected by Tischler to support programs in the field so that the subjects of his wildlife sculptures can live on for future generations.

The Galapagos Tortoise measures approximately 6 in (15 cm) long (tail to nose) by 4 in (10 cm) wide and weighs approximately 4 lb (1.8 kg). The sculpture is cast in bronze with a hand applied and rubbed patina that makes each individual a unique creation. Forty percent of the purchase price supports TSA conservation programs and includes shipping within the U.S. Shipment confirmation and tracking information will be provided by TAFC. Please visit www.turtlesurvival.org and visit the online store to purchase your limited edition bronze today.

