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**TURTLE CONSERVATION FUND**

**PROPOSAL TEMPLATE**

The **Turtle Conservation Fund (TCF)**,founded in 2002, awards grants twice a year to individuals or organizations for specific conservation or research projects focused

on **tortoises** **or** **freshwater turtles,** but **not marine turtles,**

with either partial or full support as funding allows.

• The maximum amount of each grant is US $5,000, focused on one of two categories of species in need of conservation action as outlined in point #5 below. Smaller grant requests of $3,000 or less are also encouraged to support pilot surveys or other conservation initiatives; they may also be provided to promote opportunities for younger emerging turtle conservationists from developing nations, including women and ethnic minorities with less prior experience.

• By submitting this application, and if funded, the proponents declare that all permits required to carry out the proposed project will be obtained as necessary, and that no work on the project will commence without the required permits.

• Further, the proponents declare that they and their project collaborators will conduct their studies with the sole goal of enhancing conservation of turtles, and will not collect, obtain, or distribute any turtles or other wildlife, whether live animals, parts or derivatives, for possession, transport, export, import, or sale, in breach of applicable national and international laws and regulations, during any phase of the supported project.

• The TCF provides grants in support of direct expenses for research and conservation of selected turtle projects and programs. TCF does not provide support for indirect organizational overhead expenses associated with administration of grants, and will not fund requests for such indirect costs.

• The proposal itself must use this template and should not exceed ca. 15 pages (excluding Literature Cited and C.V.’s). All type must be 12-point font.

• The inclusion of a photo of the study species and a map depicting the study site is required.

**Principal Responsible Investigator:**

 Given Name(s):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Family Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Institution:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
 Institutional Address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Personal Address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 E-Mail:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**1. Title of your Proposed Project:**

**2a. Name(s) of All Investigator(s) on the Project, with Institutional Affiliation(s)**

 **and E-mail Addresses. Please identify the Principal Investigator(s):**

**2b. Name(s) of Any Mentor(s) for the Project, with Institutional Affiliation(s)**

 **and E-mail Addresses:**

**3. Have any of the Principal Investigator(s) previously applied to or received support from TCF?**

 If so, which proposals were submitted (TCF-numbers)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Which projects, if any, were funded (TCF-numbers)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 If so, are final reports due, and have they been submitted? \_\_\_\_\_\_

**4. Funding Request**

 Total Project Budget $ \_\_\_\_\_\_

 Funding Requested Specifically from TCF for this Project $ \_\_\_\_

 Funding Requested from Other Sources for this Project

 (list sources and amounts separately) Already Granted?

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**5. Which of the following two species categories does your project address?**

 (Check the category that best describes the focus of your proposal)

**\_\_\_\_\_a.** species that are assessed as either Critically Endangered (CR) or Endangered (EN) on the IUCN Red List (see www.iucnredlist.org**)** or provisionally CR or EN by the IUCN Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group (see TTWG 2025 *Turtles of the World Checklist and Atlas*; www.iucn-tftsg.org/checklist/). These species are the primary focus for TCF [[1]](#footnote-1).

**\_\_\_\_\_b.** species that are assessed as Data Deficient (DD) or Not Evaluated (NE) on the IUCN Red List (www.iucnredlist.org**)** or provisionally DD by the IUCN Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group (www.iucn-tftsg.org/checklist/); **OR** species that have previously been assessed as LC, NT, or VU, but now have outdated IUCN or TFTSG Red List assessments (>10 years old) that specifically appear to need updating to reflect a significantly higher threatened level. Such projects need to provide a convincing rationale why the species’ conservation status may have changed and merits funding from the TCF. These species are a secondary but also important focus for TCF.

**6. List the principal turtle species or taxa covered by your project (and provide a photo of your primary study species):**

 Provide the current IUCN Red List Status for each species.

 If different, also provide the TFTSG Provisional Red List Status for each species.

**7. Geographic Location(s) of your Project (and provide a map showing the location of the site):**

**8. If your Project is located in a defined priority biodiversity region (e.g., biodiversity hotspot or ecoregion), please list here:**

**9. If your Project involves an existing or proposed Protected Area (National Park, Wildlife Reserve, etc.), please list here:**

**For sections 10 to 17, you must indicate to what degree the answers were generated or rewritten using an AI program.**

**10. Executive Summary:**

 (Provide a short summary of the project objective; maximum 300 words).

**11. Background and research or conservation rationale:** For all these following sections, please indicate whether you generated some of your response using an AI program (500 words max.)

**a.** For CR and EN species (category 5a), please summarize past and on-going conservation efforts focused on your proposed species or conservation site. Cite previous work.

**b.** For DD or NE species or those needing updated assessments (category 5b), please provide a convincing rationale why the species warrants status evaluation investigations or why its current status (LC, NT, or VU) may need updating to reflect a higher threatened level.

**12. Specific methodology:**

**a.** For CR and EN species (category 5a), please describe the specific conservation efforts and their justification for the work that you are proposing for these species. Provide detailed descriptions of the planned methodology (not just general statements about proposed activities), including a description of how you will analyze your data (when appropriate).

**b.** For DD or NE species or those needing updated assessments (category 5b), please provide specific details on how your work will address the criteria needed for a revised IUCN Red List assessment (e.g., distribution, population status, relative abundance, past, present, and potential future threats, relevant demographic and natural history data, phylogeographic considerations, etc.). The proposal should indicate how the information to be collected would fill gaps in our knowledge of the conservation status of the species and how it would facilitate a revised assessment and the formulation of follow-up conservation projects.

**13. Next Steps and Future Considerations:**

(500 words max.)

**a.** For CR and EN species (category 5a), please discuss your vision for a longer-term conservation strategy for the species (for which the project may represent a component), and discuss how this may be achieved and who may be involved with this effort over the longer term.

**b.** For DD or NE species or those needing updated assessments (category 5b), please indicate what the next steps you would recommend after a re-assessment has been accomplished. The objectives should be formulated so that their outcomes may be evaluated through concrete, verifiable short term indicators.

**14. Project deliverables anticipated**

**a.** For CR and EN species (category 5a), please discuss how your accomplishments may be measured in terms of successful outcomes.

**b.** For DD or NE species or those needing updated assessments (category 5b), please indicate whether your work will lead to a revised IUCN Red List assessment or other measurable outcomes.

**15. Proposed Budget Details**

 Please provide a specific breakdown of how the proposed TCF and other support would be

 allocated.

**16. General Timetable for Proposed Work**

**17. Literature Cited**

**18. Overview of your Organization**

Please provide the following information about your organization: general history, mission, objectives, and its Website address or other online presence.

**19. Personal References**

Please provide two professional references (names, positions, email addresses) of people who can vouch for you and your organization and your ability to carry out the proposed work. Please note that these references should not be from your own organization.

**20. If you are a first-time applicant for a TCF grant, or have previously applied but have not received a grant**, **please also provide one or two references to members of the IUCN SSC Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group (TFTSG)**. Members of the TFTSG are listed at <https://iucn-tftsg.org/membership/>. Select one or two people who you know or you believe can vouch for you and your organization and your presumed ability to carry out the proposed work. If you do not know any of our TFTSG members, we will reach out to some of them to inquire whether they know you and can vouch for you. This is important.

**21. C.V.’s for the Principal Investigator(s) or Co-P.I.s**

 May incorporate here or submit as separate pdf(s) or word doc file(s).

1. TCF is unlikely to fund proposals for *Gopherus agassizii* (Mojave Desert Tortoise – USA), although it is assessed as Critically Endangered; but instead recommends that prospective applicants for projects concerning this species investigate potential grants available from the Desert Tortoise Council ([http://deserttortoise.org](http://deserttortoise.org/)) and other sources. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)