

TURTLE CONSERVATION FUND



*A partnership initiative of
IUCN Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group, IUCN Turtle Survival Alliance,
Conservation International / Center for Applied Biodiversity Science,
and European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) Shellshock Campaign*

Grant Proposals Received and Funded

2003 – present

(Prepared 4 August 2007)

Executive Summary

A total of 108 grant proposals have been received by TCF from 2003 to the present, of which 41 (38%) were funded. Total requests were US \$674,985, with US \$169,854 (25%) awards granted. Average award was US \$4,143. Grants were awarded to projects conducted in 30 nations, with support ranging from US \$1,000–10,000. Of TCF's "Top 25 Turtles on Death Row," projects representing 9 (36%) have been funded. Of the 74 taxa listed by IUCN as Critically Endangered (CR) or Endangered (EN), TCF has supported projects for 13 (18%). However, the Top 25, CR, and EN figures do not include support for facilities or broad projects that impact additional target species. Of the 24 activity reports currently due from funded projects, 14 (58%) have been received. Past-due reports will continue to be solicited. A focused proposal solicitation effort will continue for target species, especially for those species in extreme peril.

Turtle Conservation Fund (TCF) Activity Summary 2003 - Present

Funding Cycle End Date	Number of Proposals Received	Number of Proposals Funded	% Proposals Funded	Total TCF Requests (US \$)	Total TCF Awards (US \$)	Average TCF Award (US \$)
Dec 2003	11	6	64	148,531	24,353	3,479
Jun 2004	9	9	100	82,049	25,000 ¹	2,778
Dec 2004	7	1	14	34,141	5,000	5,000
Jun 2005	7	1	14	29,023	4,000	4,000
Dec 2005	25	9	36	140,261	48,700 ²	5,411
Jun 2006	10	3	30	43,021	13,911	4,637
Dec 2006 ³	15	3	20	66,247	12,500	4,167
May 2007	24	9	37	131,712	36,390	4,043
TOTALS	108	41	38	674,985	169,854	4,143

¹ Includes one award for \$5,000 that was not collected.

² Includes one award for \$5,000 that was not collected.

³ An emergency proposal funded January 2007 for \$1,500 is included in this cycle.

Notes: Awards were given to projects conducted in 30 nations (Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, Cayman Islands, China, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mexico, Myanmar, Nigeria, Philippines, Puerto Rico, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Turkey, and Vietnam), with support ranging from US \$1,000 - \$10,000. Such a broad geographic distribution of funds reflects TCF's mounting impact on international turtle conservation.

Of the 41 projects funded, activity reports are due for 24. Of these, 14 (58%) have been submitted. Past-due reports will continue to be solicited.

To help provide focus to TCF's efforts, a list of target species was prepared (Top 25 Turtles on Death Row). To date projects representing 9 (36%) have been funded. An intense proposal solicitation effort will continue for target species, especially those in extreme peril. This list is currently being updated by the IUCN Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group, and upon its release will be adopted by TCF. The Top 25 species currently are (bold print indicates TCF support): ***Batagur baska***, *Batrachemys dahli*, *Callagur borneoensis*, ***Chelodina mccordi***, *Chitra chitra*, *Clemmys muhlenbergii*, *Cuora trifasciata*, ***Dermatemys mawii***, *Elusor macrurus*, *Erymnochelys madagascariensis*, *Geochelone nigra abingdoni*, *Geochelone platynota*, *Geochelone yniphora*, *Graptemys flavimaculata*, *Heosemys depressa*, ***Heosemys leytensis***, ***Homopus signatus cafer***, ***Kachuga trivittata***, *Leucocephalon yuwonoi*, *Mauremys annamensis*, ***Psammodon geometricus***, *Pseudemys umbrina*, *Pyxis planicauda*, ***Rafetus swinhoei***, and ***Testudo kleinmannii***.

Of the 27 turtle taxa listed by IUCN as Critically Endangered (CR), TCF has supported projects specifically involving 7 (26%), and of the 47 taxa listed as Endangered (EN), TCF has supported specific projects for 6 (13%). Of the 74 taxa in these two threat categories, TCF has supported projects specifically involving 13 (18%). The Critically Endangered (CR) and Endangered (EN) species impacted have been *Batagur baska* (CR), *Chelodina mccordi* (CR), *Dermatemys mawii* (CR), *Indotestudo forstenii* (EN), *Kachuga kachuga* (CR), *Kachuga dhongoka* (EN), *Kachuga trivittata* (EN), *Podocnemis lewyana* (EN), *Psammobates geometricus* (EN), *Rafetus euphraticus* (EN), *Rafetus swinhoei* (CR), *Siebenrockiella [Heosemys] leytensis* (CR), and *Testudo kleinmanni* (CR).

TCF has also supported projects involving species listed by IUCN as Extinct (EX) (but since rediscovered) (*Cuora yunnanensis*), and as Extinct in the Wild (EW) (*Aspideretes nigricans*). In addition, TCF has provided support for facilities or broad projects that impact additional CR and EN target species. Examples include Cuc Phuong Turtle Conservation Center, Allwetter Zoo, Madras Crocodile Bank Trust, Parque Nacional de Brazil, Parque Nacional Noel Kempff Mercado, and Guangdong Province Survey, China. TCF will continue to target its support for Critically Endangered and Endangered species, as they teeter precariously on the brink of extinction.

Turtle Conservation Fund

Grant Proposals

2003 – 2007
(108 Proposals)

Chronologic Listing

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2005

*TCF-0055 Heng Sovannara. 2005. *Batagur baska* Conservation Project: A program to protect and conserve the last known wild population of the Critically Endangered river terrapin, *Batagur baska*, in Indochina. Total requested: \$5000. Requested from TCF: \$5000. Funded \$5,000 via EAZA Shellshock Campaign. Final activity report received.

*TCF-0059 Andrews, Harry V. 2005. Hatching and headstarting programmes for endangered chelonians in the National Chambal River Sanctuary: implementing recommendations from the Conservation Action Plan for India's freshwater turtles. Total requested: \$71,900. Requested from TCF: \$10,000. Funded \$10,000 via EAZA Shellshock Campaign. Final activity and financial reports received July 2006.

2006

TCF-0065 Mwaya, Reginald T. 2006. An assessment of the effects of live trade moratorium on the pancake tortoise, *Malacochersus tornieri* (Testudinidae), wild populations in Tanzania. Total requested: \$4490. Requested from TCF: \$4490. Funded \$4490 via EAZA Shellshock Campaign.

2007

- TCF-0088 Ghaffari, Hanyeh and Taskavak, Ertan. 2007. A comparative study between the habits, conservational efforts and DNA structures of *Rafetus euphraticus* in Iran and Turkey. Total requested: \$5,000. Requested from TCF: \$5,000. Funded \$5,000 via European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) Shellshock Campaign.
- TCF-0096 Schoppe, Sabine. 2007. *Siebenrockiella leytensis* over time – are populations stable? Total request: \$20,639. Requested from TCF: \$4,900. Funded \$4,900 via European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) Shellshock Campaign. Scheduled completion date 30 April 2009. Final report due 30 July 2009.
- TCF-0098 Baard, Ernst. 2007. Updating the population status of the geometric tortoise *Psammobates geometricus* and the southern speckled padloper *Homopus signatus cafer* in the Western Cape Province, South Africa. Total request: \$5,000. Requested from TCF: \$5,000. Funded \$5,000 via European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) Shellshock Campaign.
- TCF-0106 Heng Sovannara. 2007. The *Batagur baska* conservation project, Cambodia. Total request: \$8,000. Requested from TCF: \$4,000. Funded \$4,000 via European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) Shellshock Campaign.
- TCF – 0110 IUCN Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group (c/o Rhodin, Anders). 2007. Turtles on the brink in Madagascar: A workshop on current status, conservation prioritization, and strategic action planning for Madagascan tortoises and freshwater turtles. Total project budget \$50,000. Amount requested from TCF \$5000. Funded \$5000 via EAZA Shellshock Campaign. Scheduled project completion date 6 December 2008. Final activity and financial reports due 6 March 2009. Final report requested 14 December 2009.
- TCF – 0118 Singh, Shailendra and Horne, Brian. 2007. Development of “green” headstarting facilities in the National Chambal River Sanctuary, India: the last stronghold for the red crowned roof turtle, *Batagur kachuga*. Total project budget \$38,000. Amount requested from TCF \$7500. Funded \$7500 via Shellshock Campaign. Final financial and activity reports due 1 July 2009.
- ³TCF – 0120 Walker, Ryan and Woods-Ballard, Andy. 2007. Follow up study on the population density and conservation status of the Madagascar spider tortoise (*Pyxis arachnoides*). Total project budget \$62,700. Amount requested from TCF \$5000. Funded \$5000 via Shellshock Campaign. Contract signed 6 March 2008, but no termination date indicated. Final report is due 90 days after termination date. ³On 13 July 2008 Walker requested that the funds from this project be utilized for TCF – 0153, bringing the total TCF award for that project to \$10,000. The TCF Board approved this action 18 July 2008. Thus, the contract for TCF – 0120 is void and no reports are required.
- *TCF – 0128 U Than Myint; U Win Ko Ko; Khin Myo Myo; Holmstrom, Bill; Calle, Paul; Raphael, Bonnie; Horne, Brian; Hudson, Rick; Platt, Steve; Platt, Kalyar. 2007. Developing an integrative strategy for handling turtle confiscations in Myanmar. Total project budget \$22,000. Amount requested from TCF \$5,000. Funded \$5000 via

Shellshock Campaign. Contract signed by Colin Poole of WCS. Final reports due 30 September 2008. Final activity report submitted 22 April 2009, and final financial report received 8 May 2009.

*TCF – 0141 Kuchling, Gerald; Hudson, Rick and Lu Shunqing. 2007. Facilitating reproduction for the last pair of captive *Rafetus* in China – an emergency request. Total project budget \$25,000. Amount requested from TCF \$10,000. Funded \$10,000 via Shellshock Campaign. Final report due 1 June 2009. Final activity and financial reports received 16 December 2009.

2008
(54 Proposals)

TCF – 0142 Emmett, David and Thandar Swe. 2007. Monitoring the release of 50 *Geochelone platynota* in Minsontaung Wildlife Sanctuary to support enforcement and zoning for conservation. Total project budget \$10,500. Amount requested from TCF \$5000. Funded \$5000 via Shellshock Campaign. Applicant was encouraged to conduct the release as part of the Myanmar May TSA workshop. Myanmar government will delay tortoise release. PI unable to visit (denied entry) country in May due to referendum. Grant put on hold until 1 Oct 2008. Will reconsider action to take at that time. PI will notify if entry status changes prior to that. Contract not yet signed.

TCF – 0147 Gong Shiping, Shi Haitao, and Jiang Aiwu. 2008. A survey on the status of red-necked pond turtle (*Chinemys nigricans*), a neglected endangered species in Guangdong and Guangxi, South China. Total project budget \$6000. Amount requested from TCF \$5000. Funded \$5000 via Shellshock Campaign. Final activity and financial reports due 31 March 2010.

TCF – 0150 Alacs, Erika; Georges, Arthur; Kuchling, Gerald and Rhodin, Anders, GJ. 2008. Phylogenetics and genetic guidelines for the captive breeding of the critically endangered snake-necked turtle *Chelodina mccordi*. Total project budget \$8225. Amount requested from TCF \$5000. Funded \$5000 via Shellshock Campaign.

⁴TCF – 0153 Walker, Ryan; Woods-Ballard, Andy; and Castellano, Christina. 2008. Range-wide survey of the Madagascar spider tortoise (*Pyxis arachnoides*); incorporating GIS application into conservation planning. Total project budget \$7500. Amount requested from TCF \$5000. Funded \$5000 via Shellshock Campaign. ⁴On 13 July 2008 Walker requested that the funds from project TCF – 0120 be utilized for TCF – 0153, bringing the total award for TCF – 0153 to \$10,000. The TCF Board approved this action 18 July 2008. Thus, the contract for TCF – 0120 is void and no reports are required. The total award for TCF – 0153 is now \$10,000. Final activity and financial reports due June 2010. Interim activity report submitted 30 Mar and 3 Apr 2009.

TCF – 0154 Castellano, Christina, M.; Doody, Sean; Rakotondrainy, Riana; and Randriamahazo, Herilala. 2008. Ecology and conservation of the Critically

Endangered Madagascar spider tortoise (*Pyxis arachnoides oblonga*) at Cap Sainte Marie Special Reserve. Total project budget \$28,745. Amount requested from TCF \$5000. Funded \$5000 via Shellshock Campaign. Final activity and financial reports due 31 April 2011.

TCF – 0156 Khin Myo Myo, Win Ko Ko and Kyaw Moe. 2008. Preliminary survey on the status of *Kachuga trivittata* and other endemic species occurring between the Nampoke Hka stream and upper Chindwin River. Awareness raising school programs at the upper Chindwin River between Htamanthi Village and Khamti Town. Total project budget \$5000. Amount requested from TCF \$5000. Funded \$5000 via Shellshock Campaign. Final activity and financial reports due 30 September 2009. Reporting deadline extension requested and approved (13 May 2009) for 1 January 2010 .

TCF – 0157 McCormack, Tim; Hendrie, Douglas; and Nguyen Xan Thuan. 2008. Ensuring a future for the Vietnamese pond turtle: establishing the *Mauremys annamensis* conservation project (MAP), in central Vietnam. Total project budget \$30,000. Amount requested from TCF \$5000. Funded \$5000 via Shellshock Campaign. Final report due 30 September 2009. Final report requested 14 December 2009.

TCF -0182 Poschadel, Jens R.; Blanck, Torsten; Raffel, Martina; Meier, Elmar; Plath, Martin; Tiedemann, Ralph; and Zwartepoorte, Henk. 2008. Studying the genetic variability of the Critically Endangered *Cuora trifasciata* group, *Cuora aurocapitata*, *Cuora pani* and *Cuora zhoui* using microsatellite markers. Total project budget \$19,000. Amount requested from TCF \$13,000. Funded \$6500 via Shellshock Campaign. Final activity and financial reports due 1 April 2010.

TCF – 0189 Veloso, Juliette. 2008. Proposal for the 2nd release of side-necked turtles (*Erymnochelys madagascariensis*) in Ankarafantsika National Park. Total project budget \$25,000. Amount requested from TCF \$5092.50. Funded \$5092 via Shellshock Campaign. On 1 April 2009 Requested postponement of release until October/November 2009 due to a political crisis. Delay granted 2 April 2009.

2009

TCF – 0203 Giustiniano, Danielle. 2009. Paternity, sperm storage and sperm competition in the critically endangered western swamp tortoise, *Pseudemys umbrina*. Total project budget \$33,500. Amount requested from TCF \$5000. Funded \$5000 via Shellshock Campaign. Final activity and financial reports due 15 June 2011.

TCF – 0207 Rashid, S.M.A. 2009. Survey of *Batagur baska* in the Sunderbans, Bangladesh. Total project budget \$5000 Amount requested from TCF \$5000. Funded \$5000 via Shellshock Campaign. Final financial and activity reports due 1 August 2010.

TCF – 0209 Ihlow, Flora and Böhme, Wolfgang. 2009. Release study of *Indotestudo elongata* in the Kulen Promtep Wildlife Sanctuary in the Northern Plains of Cambodia with

regards to the species' ecology and natural history. Total project budget \$6522. Amount requested from TCF \$1350. Funded \$1350 via Shellshock Campaign. Final activity and financial reports due 1 April 2011.

- TCF – 0211 Walker, Ryan and Rakotondrainy, Riana. 2009. Range-wide population density survey of the mid range Madagascar spider tortoise (*Pyxis arachnoides arachnoides*); incorporating GIS application into conservation planning. Total project budget \$13,900. Amount requested from TCF \$5000. Funded \$5000 via Shellshock Campaign. Final activity and financial reports due 1 May 2011.
- TCF – 0214 McCormack, Tim; Ha, Hoang Van; and Nhan, Nguyen Chi. 2009. Ensuring a future for the Vietnamese pond turtle: Establishing the *Mauremys annamensis* conservation project (MAP), in central Vietnam. Total project budget \$30,000. **Request for multiyear support:** Amount requested from TCF \$25,000 over five years (\$5000 per year). Funded \$5000 for one year via Shellshock Campaign with the understanding that if CEPF (application currently pending) or Mohamed bin Zayed funds are not available for the work that TCF funds are supporting for this project, then TCF funding would be granted for two additional years, contingent upon successful completion of first and second year activities, along with acceptable interim reports (1 May 2010, 1 May 2011).
- TCF – 0220 Kholis, Munawar. 2009. Painted terrapin (*Callagur borneoensis*) distribution and status in northern Sumatra, Indonesia. Total project budget \$7000. Amount requested from TCF \$5000. Funded \$5000 via Shellshock Campaign. Final financial and activity reports due 1 Dec 2010.
- TCF – 0223 Tri, Ly; Think, Phung Ba; Huy, Hoang Duc; Stuart Bryan L.; and Huy, Hoang Duc. 2009. Surveys to find the southern Vietnamese box turtle (*Cuora picturata*) in the wild. Total project budget \$4628. Amount requested from TCF \$4628. Funded \$4628 via Shellshock Campaign. Final financial and activity reports due 15 December 2010.