



TURTLE CONSERVATION FUND

A Partnership Coalition of Leading Turtle Conservation Organizations and Individuals

Summary Activity Report 2002–2018



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Front Cover Photo:

Radiated Tortoise, *Astrochelys radiata*, Cap Sainte Marie Special Reserve, southern Madagascar.
Photo by Anders G.J. Rhodin.

Back Cover Photo:

Yangtze Giant Softshell Turtle, *Rafetus swinhoei*, Dong Mo Lake, Hanoi, Vietnam.
Photo by Timothy E.M. McCormack.

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A Partnership Coalition of Leading Turtle Conservation Organizations and Individuals

Summary Activity Report 2002–2018

by Anders G.J. Rhodin, Hugh R. Quinn, Eric V. Goode,
Rick Hudson, Russell A. Mittermeier, and Peter Paul van Dijk

*Strategic Action Planning and Funding Support for Conservation of
Threatened Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles*
(www.turtleconservationfund.org)

*IUCN SSC Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group • Global Wildlife Conservation •
Turtle Conservancy • Turtle Survival Alliance • Chelonian Research Foundation •
Humane Society International - Australia • The Panaphil Foundation •
EAZA Shellshock Campaign • Surprise Spring Foundation • Andrew Sabin Family Foundation •
Chelonian Research Institute • Wildlife Conservation Society*



Chelonian Research Foundation & Turtle Conservancy
Lunenburg, MA & Ojai, CA, USA

2019

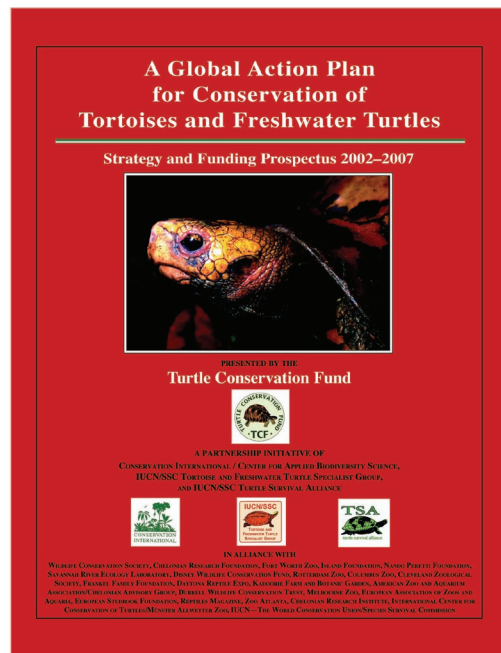
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TCF Strategies and Accomplishments

The mission of the Turtle Conservation Fund is to ensure that no species of tortoise or freshwater turtle becomes extinct and that sustainable populations of all species persist in the wild.

- Founded in 2002 as a strategic partnership coalition between the IUCN Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group (TFTSG), Turtle Survival Alliance, and Conservation International, and then gradually added other key partners—Turtle Conservancy, Chelonian Research Foundation, Global Wildlife Conservation, and several others.
- Published a strategic Global Action Plan and Funding Prospectus in 2002 (TCF 2002) to formulate a mission and vision for turtle and tortoise conservation, followed by successful fundraising and establishment of a website (www.turtleconservationfund.org).
- Convened a large and broadly representative TCF peer-review board of global turtle conservation community leaders representing several turtle organizations, with transparent and non-aligned grant disbursement allocation methodology.
- Identified and continually updated prioritization of Critically Endangered and highly Threatened species of tortoises and freshwater turtles, using a combination of the IUCN Red List, the TCF and TFTSG's Top 25 Turtles in Trouble in 2003 and 2007, the Turtle Conservation Coalition's Top 25+ Most Endangered Turtles in 2011 and 2018, and the frequently revised TCF Priority Species List.
- Disbursed 254 small to moderate grants from 2003 to 2018 to stimulate and support needed conservation initiatives, targeting those nations and endangered turtle species most in need of support, with nearly US \$1.1 million in total grants disbursed.
- Significantly and broadly raised the profile and impact of turtle conservation efforts on multiple fronts by supporting many individuals and organizations around the world, leading to many focused publications and improved conservation findings, efforts, and accomplishments for the world's most endangered tortoises and freshwater turtles.

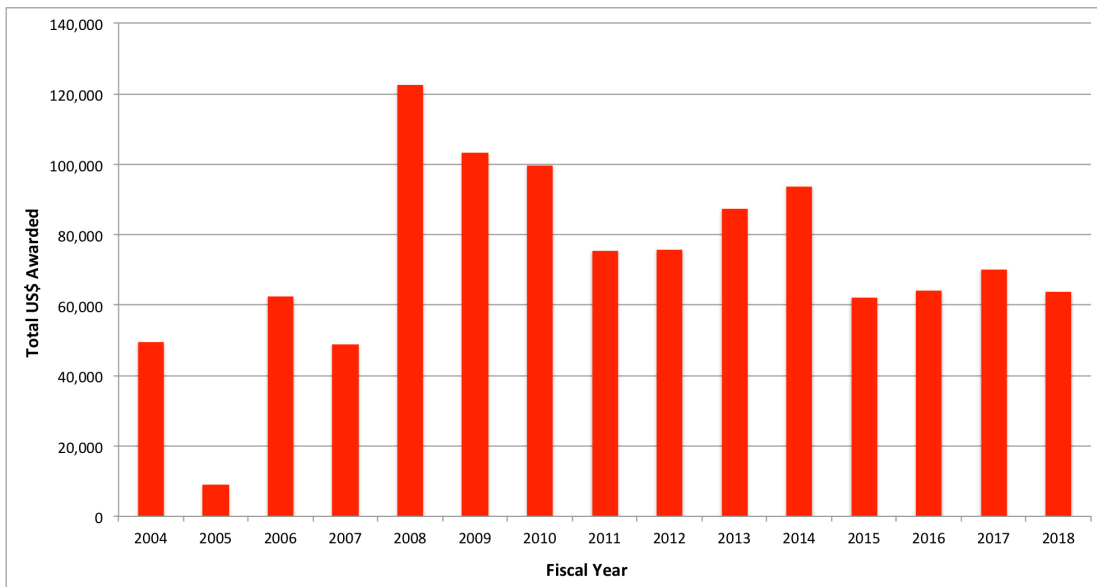


TCF Grant Totals Disbursed 2002–2018

The TCF administers a turtle conservation and research grants program focused on Critically Endangered and Threatened tortoises and freshwater turtles. Awards are granted to organizations or individuals for specific conservation or research projects dealing with highly endangered tortoises or freshwater turtles, but *not marine turtles*, with either partial or full support as funding allows.

Annual TCF Disbursements

A total of 710 grant proposals have been received by TCF from December 2003 through May 2018, of which 254 (36%) were funded. Total requests were \$3,707,025, with a total of \$1,095,260 (30%) granted.



Graph showing the annual amount granted per fiscal year (two annual funding cycles, with December and May submission deadlines).

Annual reports over the years have documented the accomplishments and results of TCF funding: Rhodin (2004, 2005, 2006), Quinn and Rhodin (2007, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015), Rhodin and Quinn (2010, 2013, 2017), and Rhodin et al. (2018a, 2019). The last two reports also highlighted the results of turtle-focused funding by the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund (MBZ), which generally follows the TCF’s prioritization of species focus and needed turtle conservation actions (and Russ Mittermeier and Anders Rhodin serve on both TCF’s and MBZ’s boards).

Nations where TCF has Provided Grants

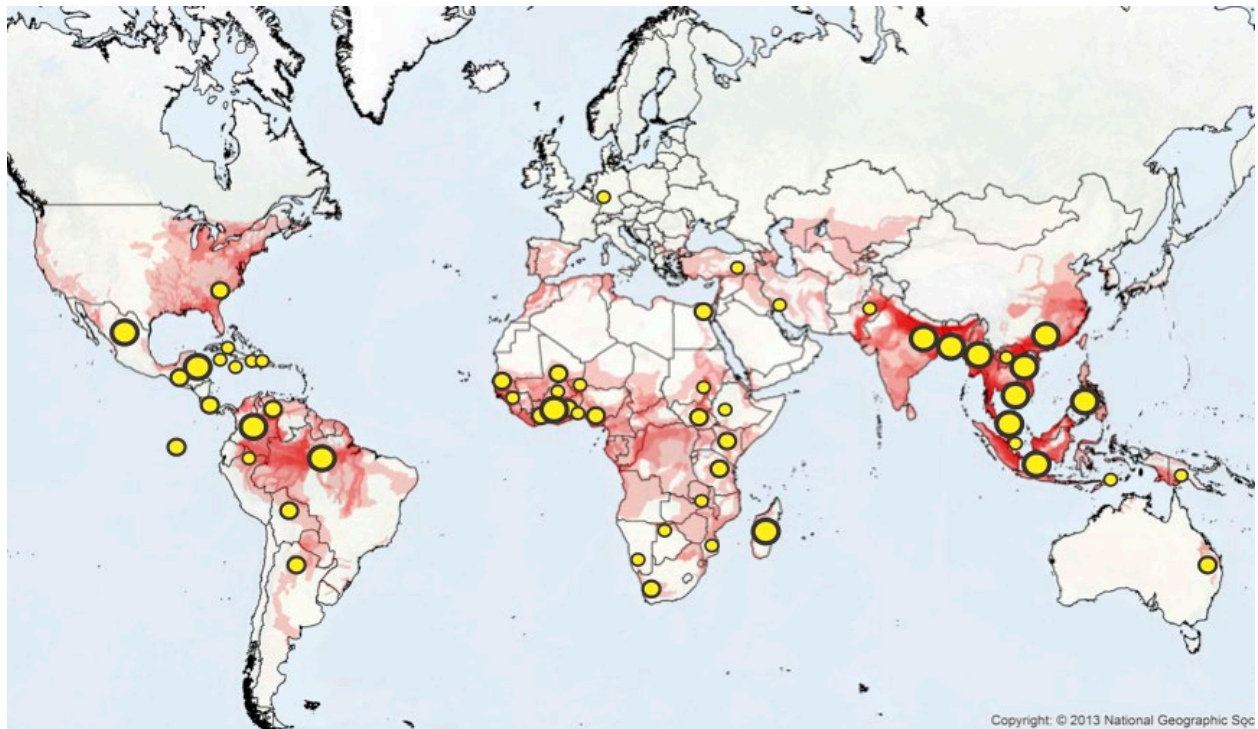
TCF has provided nearly US\$ 1.1 million in support of 254 projects conducted in 59 nations around the world, with support ranging from US \$1,000 to \$10,000, and averaging \$4,312 per grant. Such a broad geographic distribution of funds reflects TCF's significant impact on international turtle conservation.

Top 15 Nations with Most Funded Projects

1. Madagascar, 38	6. Colombia, 12	11. Malaysia, 7
2. Myanmar, 25	7. Mexico, 12	12. Ghana, 7
3. China, 20	8. Indonesia, 11	13. Bangladesh, 7
4. Vietnam, 17	9. Cambodia, 9	14. Belize, 7
5. India, 13	10. Philippines, 9	15. Brazil, 6

Top Regions with Most Funded Projects

Southeast Asia, South Asia, West Africa, South America, MesoAmerica

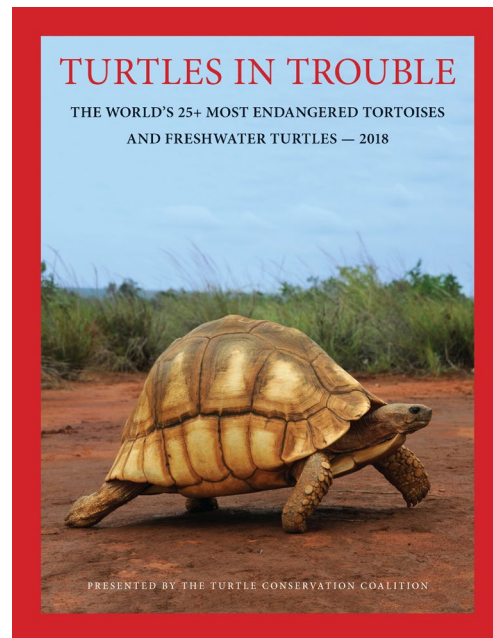
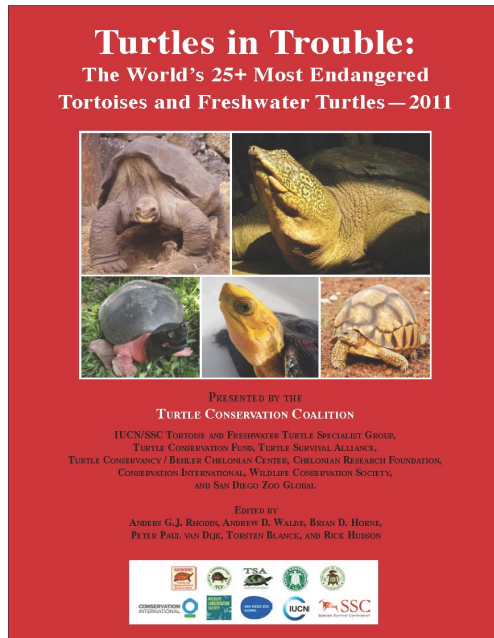


Map showing species richness (deeper red = more species) for all Threatened species of freshwater turtles and tortoises. Threatened species are those assessed as Critically Endangered, Endangered, or Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List or the TFTSG Provisional Red List (see Rhodin et al. 2018b).

Dots indicate nations that TCF grants have targeted; large dots represent nations receiving 5–38 granted projects each, medium dots = nations with 2–4 granted projects each, small dots = nations with a single granted project each.

Species Prioritization by TCF

To help provide focus to TCF's efforts, a list of the Top 25 most endangered target species was prepared by TCF in 2003 (TCF 2003), and revised by the IUCN Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group in 2007 (TFTSG 2007), and then expanded and revised to the Top 25+ by the Turtle Conservation Coalition in 2011 (TCC 2011), and most recently in 2018 (TCC 2018) to document the Top 25 and Top 50 most endangered species. To date, projects representing 24 of the Top 25 and 43 of the Top 50 species on the revised TCC (2018) list have been funded.



Understanding that many species not on the Top 25+ lists are also in urgent need of conservation action, TCF prepared an expanded priority list of the world's most imperiled turtles in September 2008, then revised it in February 2011, August 2012, February 2014, and then greatly expanded it in October 2018, primarily by adding species that have been assessed as Data Deficient (DD) or Not Evaluated (NE) on the IUCN Red List or the TFTSG Provisional Red List (see Rhodin et al. 2018b).

This latest TCF Priority Species List, which now contains 83 species (up from 63), expands by nearly 32% the scope provided by our previous lists, and more broadly reflects the task at hand to ensure that no species of tortoise or freshwater turtle slips through the cracks and slides towards extinction, especially those species for which we have inadequate conservation status assessments. Prior to this expansion, TCF had supported projects involving at least 79 total turtle and tortoise species, 55 (87%) of the identified priority species, and of the 29 taxa listed by IUCN as Critically Endangered, TCF has supported projects for 28 (97%). TCF has also provided support for facilities and projects and workshops that impact many additional species.

With our recent considerable expansion of the priority list to include many Data Deficient species, we now face the challenge of providing proportionally adequate support for the many additionally needed survey efforts and conservation assessments.

The World's Top 50 Endangered Turtle and Tortoise Species (TCC 2018)

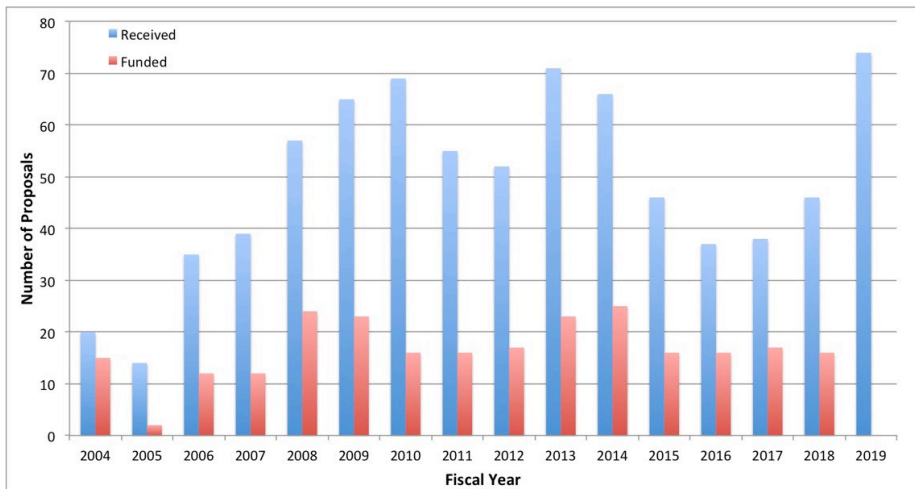


Photo Credits: see TCC 2018

Current 2019 TCF Funding Cycle Opportunities and Challenges

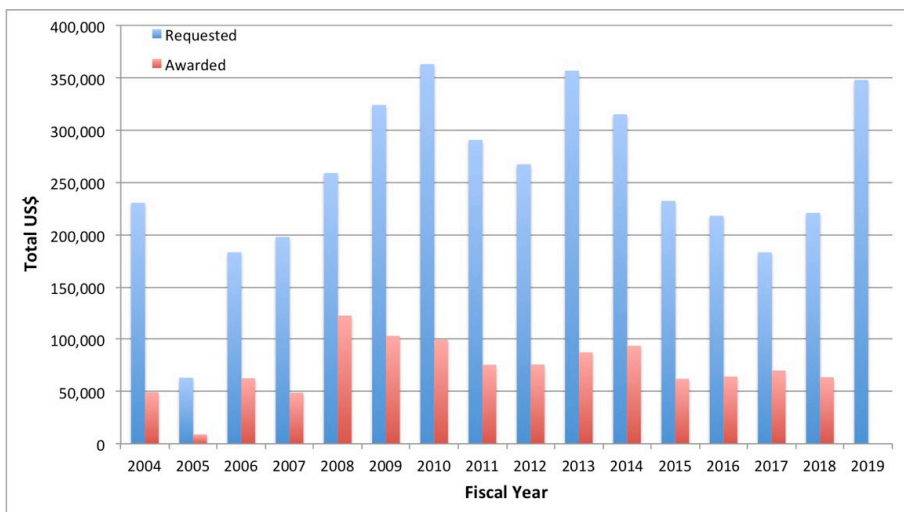
As a result of expanding the scope of the TCF Priority Species List by nearly a third, and reaching out with our most recent Request for Proposals for the December 2018 funding cycle to a broader audience within the global turtle conservation community than in the past, we have received many proposals for this cycle and are on track to receive more proposals this fiscal year than any previously. This creates both an opportunity for increased outreach and support but also the challenge of securing a proportionally increased level of support.

Number of Proposals Received and Funded



Number of grant proposals received and funded by TCF annually over 16 years (2003–2018; two funding cycles per fiscal year). The value for the current fiscal year (2019) is based on extrapolation of the single cycle of proposals received in December 2018.

Total Grant Requests Received and Funded



Total grant requests received (in US \$) and funded by TCF annually over 16 years (2003–2018; two funding cycles per fiscal year). The value for the current fiscal year (2019) is based on extrapolation of the single cycle of proposals received in December 2018.

Top Endangered Species Receiving Most TCF Support

Yangtze Giant Softshell Turtle, *Rafetus swinhoei*



Photo by Timothy E.M. McCormack

- KUCHLING, GERALD, HUDSON, RICK, AND LU SHUNQING. 2007. Facilitating reproduction for the last pair of captive *Rafetus* in China – an emergency request.
- KUCHLING, GERALD AND RICK HUDSON. 2009. Facilitating reproduction for the last pair of captive *Rafetus* in China.
- KUCHLING, GERALD, LU SHUNQING, AND RAO DINGQI. 2011. Identification and survey of *Rafetus swinhoei* in Yunnan, China.
- KUCHLING, GERALD, NANTARIKA CHANSUE, AND LU SHUNQING. 2011. Reproductive evaluation of the last male and artificial insemination of the last female Yangtze Giant Softshell Turtle *Rafetus swinhoei* in China.
- KUCHLING, GERALD, RAO DINGQI, AND LU SHUNQING. 2013. Trapping and rescuing *Rafetus swinhoei* in the upper Red River, Yunnan, China.
- KUCHLING, GERALD, RAO DINGQI, AND LU SHUNQING. 2014. Continuing the trapping of *Rafetus swinhoei* in the upper Red River, Yunnan, China.
- LE, MINH AND PRITCHARD, PETER. 2007. Genetic variability of the Critically Endangered softshell turtle, *Rafetus swinhoei*.
- LU SHUNQING. 2007. Conserve the Giant Yangtze Softshell (*Rafetus swinhoei*).
- MCCORMACK, TIM, HOANG VAN HA, AND PHAM VAN THONG. 2010. Mapping priority areas for Swinhoe's Turtle (*Rafetus swinhoei*) in northern Vietnam and sonar surveys to confirm presence.
- MCCORMACK, TIM AND PHAM VAN THONG. 2011. New surveys for Swinhoe's Softshell Turtle in Laos and conservation action at sites in northern Vietnam.
- MCCORMACK, TIM, PHAM VAN THONG, NGUYEN THI THUY, SARAH WAHL, AND NGUYEN TAI THANG. 2013. Keeping the legend alive: research and conservation of *Rafetus swinhoei* in Vietnam.
- MCCORMACK, TIM, PHAM VAN THONG, NGUYEN THI THUY, AND NGUYEN TAI THANG. 2014. Habitat improvements and protection for the only known wild population of the world's rarest turtle – *Rafetus swinhoei*.
- MCCORMACK, TIM, HOANG VAN HA, PHAM VAN THONG, AND NGUYEN TAI THANG. 2016. Intensive survey at priority sites to confirm additional individuals of the world's rarest turtle.
- MCCORMACK, TIM, LE DUC MINH, HOANG VAN HA, NGUYEN TAI THANG, AND HOANG TUNG DUONG. 2017. Confirming of additional individuals of *Rafetus swinhoei* in the wild and sexing the Dong Mo turtle.
- WANG JIAN. 2013. A chelonian survey of Daweishan National Nature Reserve, Yunnan, China, with an emphasis on *Rafetus swinhoei*, *Cuora* spp. and *Manouria impressa*.
- WEN CHENG. 2006. Proposal for a survey for *Rafetus swinhoei* in south Yunnan, China.
- WEN CHENG, WANG JIAN, ZHOU TING, AND ZHANG LI. 2007. *Rafetus swinhoei*: now or never.
- WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY, CLEVELAND METROPARKS ZOO, HANOI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, AND EDUCATION FOR NATURE – VIETNAM. 2004. Conservation of *Rafetus swinhoei* in Vietnam.

Central American River Turtle, *Dermatemys mawii*



Photo by Melvin Mérida

- BISHOP, NICOLE AND RAY CARTHY. 2017. Captive breeding for the conservation of the Critically Endangered Central American River Turtle, *Dermatemys mawii*.
- CALDERÓN-MANDUJANO, R. RENÉ, ARANA, HÉCTOR HERNÁNDEZ, AND FLORES-VILLELA, OSCAR. 2008. Habitat use and ecology of *Dermatemys mawii* in southern Quintana Roo, Mexico.
- GARCÍA, RONY, SOTO SHOENDER, JOSÉ R., AND ESPEJEL G., VERÓNICA E. 2005. Distribution and ecology of wild populations of the Central American River Turtle (*Dermatemys mawii*: Dermatemydidae) in the Corridor of the Maya Forest in Guatemala.
- GARCÍA, RONY, BALAS, ROAN, MOREIRA, JOSÉ, AND PONCE, GABRIELA. 2008. Where do they go? Determining the spatial and habitat requirements of the Central American River Turtle (*Dermatemys mawii*: Dermatemydidae) in El Perú Lagoon, Selva Maya of Guatemala.
- MARLIN, JACOB. 2016. A film to raise conservation awareness for the plight of the Hicatee, *Dermatemys mawii*, in Belize.
- McLOUGHLIN, LEE. 2011. Nationwide outreach campaign to prevent extinction of *Dermatemys mawii* (Hicatee Turtle) in Belize.
- OLIVA, MILENA, BRAD LOCK, AND DANIEL ARIANO. 2010. Evaluation of the distribution, population density and habitat quality of the Central American River Turtle (*Dermatemys mawii*) on the Sarstun River, Izabal, Guatemala.
- RAINWATER, THOMAS R., STEVE G. PLATT, AND RICK HUDSON. 2009. Status, distribution, and exploitation of the Critically Endangered Central American River Turtle (*Dermatemys mawii*) in Belize.
- RAMÍREZ-SOTO, ANIBAL FARABUNDO. 2014. Protecting and restoring habitat of *Dermatemys mawii* in Alvarado Lagoon System, Veracruz, Mexico.
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Radiated Tortoise, *Astrochelys radiata*



Photo by Anders G.J. Rhodin

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- CASTELLANO, CHRISTINA, LIZ BALL, KATE FREUND, CHARLES HUANG, ZEGEYE KIBRET, AND TALDI WALTER. 2012. Conservation through education: saving the Sokake of southern Madagascar.
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- CURRYLOW, ANDREA F. AND RYAN C.J. WALKER. 2014. Sustaining the monitoring and safeguarding efforts for Madagascar's Critically Endangered tortoises.
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- DUPLANT, GRÉGORIE AND HERILALA RANDRIAMHAZO. 2013. Expanding TSA's confiscation to reintroduction strategy for the Radiated Tortoise in southern Madagascar.
- LOUIS, EDWARD E., TSILAVO HASINA RAFELIARISOA, SUSIE MCGUIRE, AND TAHIANA ANDRIANANJAMANANTSOA. 2010. Conservation of the Radiated Tortoise (*Astrochelys radiata*): pilot program development through community training and educational outreach at Lavavolo Classified Forest, Madagascar.
- LOUIS, EDWARD E., RYAN C.J. WALKER, TSILAVO HASINA RAFELIARISOA, AND ANDREA F. CURRYLOW. 2011. Survey and monitoring of the Radiated Tortoise, *Astrochelys radiata*, and the Spider Tortoise, *Pxyis arachnoides*, in southern Madagascar.
- RANDRIAMHAZO, HERILALA. 2010. Tackle tortoise consumption problem at its root by establishing an education center focused on Radiated Tortoise.
- RANDRIAMHAZO, HERILALA, TAHAFE SOARY RANDRIANJAFIZANAKA, AND SYLVAIN MAHAZOTAHY. 2012. Development of reintroduction techniques and population monitoring of Radiated Tortoises (*Astrochelys radiata*) at two important Turtle Survival Alliance sites in southern Madagascar: Ampotaka and Antsakoamasy.
- RANDRIAMHAZO, HERILALA, ANDREA F. CURRYLOW, AND SOARY RANDRIANJAFIZANAKA. 2014. Investigation of temporary captive management and repatriation strategies of Radiated Tortoises for reintroduction in Madagascar.
- RANDRIANJAFIZANAKA, TAHAFE SOARY AND HERILALA RANDRIAMHAZO. 2016. Reintroduction program and population monitoring of Radiated Tortoises (*Astrochelys radiata*) at two important sites of Transfert de Gestion (TGRN), Tanindranto and Malangiriake / CR Itampolo in southwestern Madagascar.
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Southern River Terrapin, *Batagur affinis*



Photo by Eng Heng Chan

- CHAN, ENG HENG, SOH, CHONG LENG, AND WONG, CHEE HO. 2004. The Setiu River terrapin research and conservation program in Malaysia.
- CHEN, PELF-NYOK AND ENG-HENG CHAN. 2010. Determining the performance of head-started Southern River Terrapins (*Batagur affinis*) in the Setiu River, Terengganu, Malaysia.
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- PLATT, KALYAR, STEVEN G. PLATT, KHIN MYO MYO, AND ME ME SOE. 2012. A chelonian inventory of Lampi Island National Park, Myanmar with an emphasis on *Batagur affinis* and *Manouria emys*.
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African Hinge-Back Tortoises, *Kinixys* spp.



Photo of *Kinixys erosa* by Tomas Diagne

- ADOMAKO, OHENE BOAKYE AND GILBERT ADUM BAASE. 2013. Field surveys for the Threatened Hinge-backed Tortoises (*Kinixys homeana* and *K. erosa*) in the Tano-Offin Forest Reserve, Ghana.
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- LUISELLI, LUCA. 2004. A mega-transect along the Gulf of Guinea (West Africa) to assess the status and the impact of human hunting activities on the Hinge-back Tortoises (genus *Kinixys*): a crucial step towards a large-scale conservation strategy for these forest species.
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- SHIRLEY, MATTHEW H. AND EMILIE FAIRET. 2017. Capacity-building as a platform for the identification of *Kinixys* conservation needs in the upper Guinea forests.

Asian Box Turtles, *Cuora* spp.



Photo of *Cuora picturata* by Torsten Blanck

- AHMED, M. FIROZ, ABHIJIT DAS, AND JAYANTA KUMAR ROY. 2013. Status, distribution and ecology of the Keeled Box Turtle, *Cuora mouhotii* in Dibang Valley, Arunachal Pradesh, India.
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Myanmar Roofed Turtle, *Batagur trivittata*



Photo by Rick Hudson

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Spider Tortoise, *Pyxis arachnoides*



Photo by Anders G.J. Rhodin

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Magdalena River Turtle, *Podocnemis lewyana*



Photo by Alejandra Cadavid

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Palawan Forest Turtle, *Siebenrockiella leytensis*



Photo by Rate M. Brown

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Photo by Anders G.J. Rhodin

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Giant South American River Turtle, *Podocnemis expansa*



Photo by Richard C. Vogt

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Ploughshare Tortoise, *Astrochelys yniphora*



Photo by Anders G.J. Rhodin

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Burmese Star Tortoise, *Geochelone platynota*



Photo by Kalyar Platt

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Roti Snake-Necked Turtle, *Chelodina mccordi*



Photo by Anders G.J. Rhodin

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Photo by Maurice Rodrigues

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Northern River Terrapin, *Batagur baska*



Photo by Rupali Ghosh

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Asian Giant Softshell Turtle, *Pelochelys cantorii*



Photo by Annette Olsson

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African Spurred Tortoise, *Centrochelys sulcata*



Photo by Luca Luiselli & Fabio Petrozzi

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Photo by Fabian Schmidt

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Vietnamese Pond Turtle, *Mauremys annamensis*



Photo by Jeffrey E. Dawson

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Red-Crowned Roofed Turtle, *Batagur kachuga*



Photo by Saurav Gawan

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Arakan Forest Turtle, *Heosemys depressa*



Photo by Brian D. Horne

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Leith's Softshell Turtle, *Nilssonia leithii*



Photo by Rahul Naik

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Other Species Receiving TCF Support

Bolson Tortoise, *Gopherus flavomarginatus*



Photo by Maximilian S. Maurer

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Chaco Side-Necked Turtle, *Acanthochelys pallidipectoris*



Photo by Thomas & Sabine Vinke

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Geometric Tortoise, *Psammobates geometricus*



Photo by Eric V. Goode

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Painted Terrapin, *Batagur borneoensis*



Photo by Douglas B. Hendrite

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**Chinese Red-Necked Turtle,
*Mauremys nigricans***



Photo by John B. Iverson

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**Sulawesi Tortoise,
*Indotestudo forstenii***



Photo by Jérôme Maran

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**Egyptian Tortoise,
*Testudo kleinmanni***



Photo by Omar Attum

ATTUM, OMAR. 2004. A local community and capacity building approach to the conservation of the Egyptian Tortoise.
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**Pinta Giant Tortoise,
*Chelonoidis abingdonii***



Photo by Peter C.H. Pritchard

CACCONE, ADALGISA. 2008. Extinction may not be forever: rescuing Lonesome George lineage.
CACCONE, ADALGISA AND FLANAGAN, JOE. 2009. Rescuing two giant Galapagos tortoise species from extinction.

Narrow-Bridged Mud Turtle
Kinosternon angustipons



Photo by Renae Reed

- FOLT, BRIAN, DAVID STEEN, AND CRAIG GUYER. 2015. Population demographics of *Rhinoclemmys funerea* and *Kinosternon leucostomum* at La Selva Biological Station, Costa Rica, and a comprehensive survey for *Kinosternon angustipons*.
- REED, RENAE AND ADAM GILLES. 2013. Quantifying an active population of Central America's rarest turtle, *Kinosternon angustipons*.

Yucatan Box Turtle,
Terrapene carolina yucatanana



Photo by Michael T. Jones

- JONES, MICHAEL T., LISABETH L. WILLEY, THOMAS AKRE, ERIKA GONZALEZ, AND RODRIGO MACIP-RIOS. 2013. Conservation of Coc Ac, or Yucatán Box Turtle (*Terrapene carolina yucatanana*): a multidisciplinary collaboration at the community and landscape level, phase I proposal: 2014.
- JONES, MICHAEL T., LISABETH L. WILLEY, THOMAS AKRE, RODRIGO MACIP RIOS, ERIKA GONZALEZ, AND LUIS DIAZ GAMBOA. 2015. Community-based conservation of the Yucatán Box Turtle (*Terrapene yucatanana*), phase II.

Black Softshell Turtle,
Nilssonia nigricans



Photo by Chittaranjan Baruah

- PRASCHAG, PETER AND REZA, ALI. 2005. Genetic verification of the identity of the Black Soft-shell Turtle *Aspideretes nigricans* (Anderson, 1875).
- SINGH, SHAIENDRA. 2015. Conserving Black Softshell Turtle species, *Nilssonia nigricans* in Assam, north-east India.

Sulawesi Forest Turtle,
Leucocephalon yuwonoi



Photo by Cris Hagen

- LIGHT, CHRISTINE. 2018. Conservation of the endemic chelonians of Sulawesi: Sulawesi Forest Turtle (*Leucocephalon yuwonoi*) and Forsten's Tortoise (*Indotestudo forstenii*).
- RIYANTO, AWAL. 2009. Habitat characteristic, distribution, natural history and current status of *Leucocephalon yuwonoi* in Central Sulawesi, Indonesia.

**Bog Turtle,
*Glyptemys muhlenbergii***



Photo by Brian Zarate

KEELER, HAROLD, JR. AND JASON TESAURO. 2017. Restoring habitat for the Bog Turtle (*Glyptemys muhlenbergii*) in Dutchess County, New York.

**Western Swamp Turtle,
*Pseudemydura umbrina***



Photo by Gerald Kuchling

GIUSTINIANO, DANIELLE. 2009. Paternity, sperm storage and sperm competition in the Critically Endangered Western Swamp Tortoise, *Pseudemydura umbrina*.

**Hoge's Side-Necked Turtle,
*Mesoclemmys hogei***



Photo by Russell A. Mittermeier

DRUMMOND, GLAUCIA MOREIRA, MARCOS EDUARDO COUTINHO, AND CARLA C. EISEMBERG. 2010. Investigation of the occurrence of *Mesoclemmys hogei* (Testudines: Chelidae) in the Paraíba do Sul River Basin, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

**Pig-Nosed Turtle,
*Carettochelys insculpta***



Photo by John Cann

EISEMBERG, CARLA, KATE HODGES, AND ARTHUR GEORGES. 2009. Grassroots environmental education in the Kikori Delta, Papua New Guinea.

**Bellinger River Sawshelled Turtle,
*Myuchelys georgesi***



Photo by John Cann

PETROV, KRISTEN AND RICKY SPENCER. 2017. Recovery of the Bellinger River Snapping Turtle, *Myuchelys georgesi*.

**Flat-Tailed Tortoise,
*Pyxis planicauda***

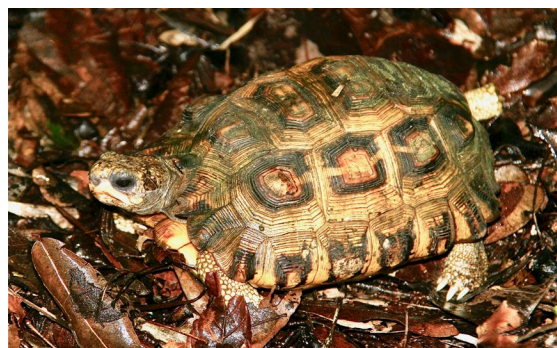


Photo by Anders G.J. Rhodin

NISKANEN, LEO AND VOLAHY, ANSELME TOTO. 2007. Survey of *Pyxis planicauda* in Andranomena Special Reserve, Western Madagascar.

**Big-Headed Turtle,
*Platysternon megacephalum***



Photo by Peter Paul van Dijk

BO BO KYAW AND STEVEN G. PLATT. 2017. Repatriation of confiscated Big-headed Turtles (*Platysternon megacephalum*) to a protected stream in Myanmar.

**Euphrates Softshell Turtle,
*Rafetus euphraticus***



Photo by Hanyeh Ghaffari

GHAFFARI, HANYEH AND TASKAVAK, ERTAN. 2007. A comparative study between the habits, conservation efforts and DNA structures of *Rafetus euphraticus* in Iran and Turkey.

**Coahuilan Box Turtle,
*Terrapene coahuila***



Photo by Jennifer G. Howeth

STANFORD, CRAIG AND GAMALIEL CASTAÑEDA. 2017. A survey and census of *Terrapene coahuila* in the wetlands of Cuatro Ciénegas, Coahuila, Mexico.

**Karoo Dwarf Tortoise,
*Chersobius boulengeri***



Photo by Victor J.T. Loehr

LOEHR, VICTOR J.T. AND MARGARETHA D. HOFMEYER. 2017. Ecology of the Karoo Dwarf Tortoise, *Homopus boulengeri*.

**Speckled Dwarf Tortoise,
*Chersobius signatus***



Photo by Victor J.T. Loehr

BAARD, ERNST. 2007. Updating the population status of the Geometric Tortoise *Psammodromus geometricus* and the Southern Speckled Padloper *Homopus signatus cafer* in the Western Cape Province, South Africa.

**Cuatro Ciénegas Slider,
*Trachemys taylori***



Photo by James R. Buskirk

MCGAUGH, SUZANNE. 2007. Conservation genetics of the endemic Cuatrociénegas Slider *Trachemys taylori*.

Additional Species Receiving One Funded TCF Project Each

Black Spiny-Necked Turtle,
Acanthochelys spixii

Chaco Tortoise,
Chelonoidis chilensis

Floreana Giant Tortoise,
Chelonoidis niger

Nama Tortoise,
Chersobius solus

Asian Narrow-Headed Softshell Turtle,
Chitra chitra

Indian Narrow-Headed Softshell Turtle,
Chitra indica

Sahelian Flapshell Turtle,
Cyclanorbis senegalensis

Mary River Turtle,
Elusor macrurus

Elongated Tortoise,
Indotestudo elongata

Dunn's Mud Turtle,
Kinosternon dunni

White-Lipped Mud Turtle,
Kinosternon leucostomum

Asian Giant Tortoise,
Manouria emys

Impressed Tortoise,
Manouria impressa

Vanderhaege's Toad-Headed Turtle,
Mesoclemmys vanderhaegei

Turkana Mud Turtle,
Pelusios broadleyi

Geoffroy's Side-Necked Turtle,
Phrynops geoffroanus

Six-Tubercled Amazon River Turtle,
Podocnemis sextuberculata

Yellow-Spotted River Turtle,
Podocnemis unifilis

Black Wood Turtle,
Rhinoclemmys funerea

Hispaniolan Slider,
Trachemys decorata

Cuban Slider,
Trachemys decussata

Jamaican Slider,
Trachemys terrapen



Photo by Craig B. Stanford

Asian Giant Tortoise, *Manouria emys*

Initiatives Receiving Most Support from TCF

Red Listing & Action Planning Workshops and Organizational Support



Photo by IUCN Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group

- CUC PHUONG TURTLE CONSERVATION CENTER, DOUGLAS B. HENDRIE. 2004. Operational support.
- FORERO-MEDINA, GERMAN AND CAMILA R. FERRARA. 2013. First workshop for developing a regional monitoring program for the Giant South American River Turtle, *Podocnemis expansa*.
- HASLIB, NATHAN. 2014. *Cuora* complex construction at the Turtle Survival Alliance Turtle Survival Center.
- HORNE, BRIAN D. 2010. A workshop on the conservation of large river turtles in the genus *Batagur*.
- HUDSON, RICK. 2012. Launching the TSA's Turtle Survival Center.
- INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR CONSERVATION OF TURTLES, ALLWETTERZOO MÜNSTER, MARTINA RAFFEL. 2003. Conservation of Critically Endangered Asian turtle species.
- IUCN TORTOISE AND FRESHWATER TURTLE SPECIALIST GROUP, RHODIN, ANDERS G.J. 2007. Turtles on the Brink in Madagascar: a workshop on current status, conservation prioritization, and strategic action planning for Madagascar tortoises and freshwater turtles.
- KATALA FOUNDATION, SABINE SCHOPPE. 2015. Emergency recovery effort for confiscated Philippine Forest Turtles, *Siebenrockiella leytensis*.
- PLATT, KALYAR, STEVEN G. PLATT, AND ME ME SOE; WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY; TURTLE SURVIVAL ALLIANCE. 2011. Technical assistance for the Turtle Rescue Facility in Lashio, Myanmar.
- RAHMAN, SHAHRIAR CAESAR. 2014. Mro tortoise guardian program: a model for turtle hunting mitigation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh.
- RAHMAN, SHAHRIAR CAESAR. 2015. EcoGuardian Program: a model for turtle hunting mitigation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh.
- SINGH, SHAILENDRA. 2015. Conservation Action Planning Workshop for Indian Freshwater Turtles and Tortoises.
- THAN MYINT, WIN KO KO, KHIN MYO MYO, HOLMSTROM, BILL, CALLE, PAUL, RAPHAEL, BONNIE, HORNE, BRIAN, HUDSON, RICK, PLATT, STEVE, AND PLATT, KALYAR. 2007. Developing an integrative strategy for handling turtle confiscations in Myanmar.
- VAN DIJK, PETER PAUL, TOMAS DIAGNE, LUCA LUISELLI, BRIAN HORNE, AND ANDERS RHODIN. 2013. Red List assessment workshop for tortoises and freshwater turtles of Sub-Saharan Africa.
- VINKE, THOMAS AND SABINE VINKE. 2011. Red-listing workshop "Chelonians of the Southern Cone of South America", 11–15 April 2011, Filadelfia, Chaco, Paraguay.
- WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY, CLEVELAND METROPARKS ZOO, HANOI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, AND EDUCATION FOR NATURE – VIETNAM. 2004. Conservation of *Rafetus swinhoei* in Vietnam.
- ZHANG FANG. 2010. Action plan for the conservation of the Golden-headed Box Turtle under the community participation.

Educational and Community Outreach Support



- AGYEKUMHENE, ANDREWS AND PHIL ALLMAN. 2015. Community education and expansion of traditional protection for *Kinixys homeana* and *Kinixys erosa* in communities surrounding Kakum National Park and Pra Suhien Forest Reserve.
- AGYEKUMHENE, ANDREWS AND PHIL ALLMAN. 2016. Community engagement as a tool for research and conservation of Endangered Hingeback Tortoises in southern Ghana.
- CASTELLANO, CHRISTINA, LIZ BALL, KATE FREUND, CHARLES HUANG, ZEGEYE KIBRET, AND TALDI WALTER. 2012. Conservation through education: saving the Sokake of southern Madagascar.
- CHEN, PELF-NYOK AND ENG-HENG CHAN. 2011. Production and distribution of awareness posters and various educational materials for the Critically Endangered Southern River Terrapin (*Batagur affinis*).
- EISEMBERG, CARLA, KATE HODGES, AND ARTHUR GEORGES. 2009. Grassroots environmental education in the Kikori Delta, Papua New Guinea.
- HERNANDEZ, OMAR. 2016. First course of ecology and conservation of freshwater turtles in Venezuela: directed to university students.
- HERNANDEZ, OMAR. 2018. Third course on ecology and conservation of freshwater turtles in Venezuela.
- KHIN MYO MYO, WIN KO KO, MYINT MYINT OO, KAW MOE, AND STEVEN G. PLATT; WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY. 2011. Conservation outreach program in communities surrounding Minzontaung Wildlife Sanctuary, Myanmar.
- LOUIS, EDWARD E., TSILAVO HASINA RAFELIARISOA, SUSIE MCGUIRE, AND TAHIANA ANDRIANANJAMANANTSOA. 2010. Conservation of the Radiated Tortoise (*Astrochelys radiata*): pilot program development through community training and educational outreach at Lavavolo Classified Forest, Madagascar.
- MCCORMACK, TIM, HENDRIE, DOUGLAS B., HA, HOANG VAN, AND CHI NHAN, NGUYEN. 2008. Production and distribution of an awareness poster for the endemic Vietnamese Pond Turtle (*Mauremys annamensis*).
- McLOUGHLIN, LEE. 2011. Nationwide outreach campaign to prevent extinction of *Dermatemys mawii* (Hicatee Turtle) in Belize.
- RANDRIAMAHAZO, HERILALA. 2010. Tackle tortoise consumption problem at its root by establishing an education center focused on Radiated Tortoise.
- REQUENA, ELMAR. 2013. Raising national awareness of the Hicatee (*Dermatemys mawii*) and support for its protection in Belize.
- SCHOPPE, SABINE. 2011. Community-based conservation of the Palawan-endemic Philippine Forest Turtle *Siebenrockiella leytensis* through information education.
- VOGT, RICHARD C. 2009. Methods for studying freshwater turtles: research, conservation, and management (graduate level field course).
- WIN KO KO, KHIN MYO MYO, MYINT MYINT OO, AND KYAW MOE; WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY. 2010. Integration of the education activities of the Turtle Team with the Mobile Education Team of the Hukaung Tiger Reserve for a Collaborative Conservation Education Program on the upper Chindwin River between Htamanthi Village and Khamti Town.

TCF Administration and Board

Since the **Turtle Conservation Fund** is an informal partnership coalition, its finances and disbursements are currently handled under the formal financial umbrellas of **Global Wildlife Conservation** (GWC; www.globalwildlife.org) under the direction of Russell A. Mittermeier, and **Chelonian Research Foundation** (CRF; www.chelonian.org) under the direction of Anders G.J. Rhodin. Both GWC and CRF are IRS-designated 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations, and receive and process donations and disbursements on behalf of the TCF, with dedicated TCF accounting.

From 2003–2017, part of TCF finances were also handled under the financial umbrella of **Conservation International** (CI, www.conservation.org) under the direction of Russell A. Mittermeier, but since Mittermeier moved to Global Wildlife Conservation in 2018, those TCF finances were also transferred. We acknowledge and gratefully thank Ella Outlaw, Executive Assistant to Russ Mittermeier, for her tireless work and administrative efforts of behalf of TCF at both Conservation International and Global Wildlife Conservation.



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TCF Board



Photo by Paul M. Gibbons

TCF Board Meeting, The Maritime Hotel, New York, New York, February 2014.

Front to back rows, left to right: 1) Peter Paul van Dijk, Anders Rhodin, Kurt Buhlmann, John Iverson, Russ Mittermeier, Andrew Walde, Paul Gibbons, 2) Rick Hudson, Ross Kiestler (guest), Matt Frankel, Eric Goode, Hugh Quinn, Peter Pritchard.



Photo by Anders G.J. Rhodin

TCF Board Meeting, TSA/TFTSG Symposium, New Orleans, Louisiana, July 2016.
Front to back rows, left to right: 1) Rick Hudson, Paul Gibbons, Maurice Rodrigues, Peter Paul van Dijk,
2) Gerald Kuchling, Peter Pritchard, Hugh Quinn, Andrew Walde, Brian Horne,
John Iverson, Eric Goode, Kurt Buhlmann.



Photo by Maurice Rodrigues

TCF Board Meeting, The Maritime Hotel, New York, New York, March 2009.
Front to back rows, left to right: 1) Colin Poole, 2) Peter Paul van Dijk, Hugh Quinn, Rick Hudson,
3) Brian Horne, Hans-Dieter Philippen, 4) Russ Mittermeier, Walter Sedgwick, Eric Goode,
5) Peter Pritchard, Anders Rhodin, Kurt Buhlmann.

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Executive Vice Chair, IUCN SSC Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group
Chairman of the Board, Turtle Conservancy

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Executive Committee, IUCN SSC Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group

Rick Hudson

President, Turtle Survival Alliance
Deputy Chair, IUCN SSC Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group

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Chief Conservation Officer, Global Wildlife Conservation
Past President, Conservation International
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Peter Paul van Dijk, Ph.D.

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Deputy Chair, IUCN SSC Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group

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Henk Zwartepoorte †

Rotterdam Zoo, Netherlands; Co-Chair, Turtle Survival Alliance – Europe

† = Deceased

TCF Support

We are extremely grateful for the dedicated support we have received over the years from multiple organizations and committed individuals, especially our major benefactors. Special mention needs to be made of the very substantial support received from the European Association of Zoos and Aquariums (EAZA) and their highly successful system-wide Shellshock Campaign carried out under the direction of Kevin Buley and Chester Zoo, United Kingdom. Generous multiple donations received from George Meyer and Maria Semple, as well as from Matt Frankel via his various trusts, have also been key contributing factors in our ability to fund global turtle conservation efforts. The Panaphil Foundation has continued the laudable legacy of Frances Velay in her support of turtle conservation initiatives, and the Humane Society International of Australia has been a steadfast major supporter for many years. We thank these extremely generous benefactors and all other generous supporters of our efforts to make a global difference for the survival of threatened tortoises and freshwater turtles.

Cumulative TCF Donations from 2002 to 2018

\$100,000 – \$500,000

*EAZA Shellshock Campaign and Chester Zoo
George Meyer and Maria Semple
The Panaphil Foundation
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\$10,000 – \$99,000

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Global Wildlife Conservation
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Conservation International
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Herbert Von Kluge
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Wildlife Conservation Society*

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*\$1,000 – \$9,999
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<i>Willem M. Roosenburg and</i>	<i>Frank J. Schwartz</i>
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<i>Ken Vellin</i>	

All Grant Proposals Funded by TCF December 2003 – May 2018

254 Proposals Funded
\$1,095,260 Total Granted (Average Grant \$4,312)

Proposals Listed Alphabetically and Chronologically by Principal Grantee

- ADOMAKO, OHENE BOAKYE AND GILBERT ADUM BAASE. 2013. Field surveys for the Threatened Hinge-backed Tortoises (*Kinixys homeana* and *K. erosa*) in the Tano-Offin Forest Reserve, Ghana.
- AGYEKUMHENE, ANDREWS AND PHIL ALLMAN. 2014. A formal assessment of the relative abundance and protection status of *Kinixys homeana* and *Kinixys erosa* in Kakum National Park and Muni-Pomadze Lagoon Ramsar Site.
- AGYEKUMHENE, ANDREWS AND PHIL ALLMAN. 2015. Community education and expansion of traditional protection for *Kinixys homeana* and *Kinixys erosa* in communities surrounding Kakum National Park and Pra Suhien Forest Reserve.
- AGYEKUMHENE, ANDREWS AND PHIL ALLMAN. 2016. Community engagement as a tool for research and conservation of Endangered Hingeback Tortoises in southern Ghana.
- AHMED, M. FIROZ, ABHIJIT DAS, AND JAYANTA KUMAR ROY. 2013. Status, distribution and ecology of the Keeled Box Turtle, *Cuora mouhotii* in Dibang Valley, Arunachal Pradesh, India.
- ALACS, ERIKA, GEORGES, ARTHUR, KUCHLING, GERALD, AND RHODIN, ANDERS G.J. 2008. Phylogenetics and genetic guidelines for the captive breeding of the critically endangered snake-necked turtle *Chelodina mccordi*.
- ALCALDE, LEANDRO, JULIETA SANCHEZ, AND MARIO C. BRAVI. 2013. Ecology, population genetics and distribution of *Acanthochelys pallidipectoris* across the species range in the dry and humid Chaco Eco-regions from Argentina.
- ALCALDE, LEANDRO AND MARÍA JULIA CASSANO. 2017. Ecology, population genetics and distribution of *Acanthochelys pallidipectoris* across the species range in the Dry and Humid Chaco Eco-regions from Argentina.
- AMOAKO, EMMANUEL. 2014. The ecology and conservation of vulnerable Home's Hinge-back Tortoise (*Kinixys homeana*) in Bobiri Forest Reserve.
- ANADON, JOSE D., ROSALINDA PALOMO-RAMOS, ANDRES GIMÉNEZ, EVA GRACIÁ, AND JORGE LUIS BECERRA LÓPEZ. 2017. Detailed distribution and abundance cartography of the entire range of *Gopherus flavomarginatus* and impact of intensive land use changes.
- 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.
- ARBELÁEZ, FERNANDO AND VARGAS-RAMÍREZ, MARIO. 2008. Program towards conservation of three species of endangered river turtles by Colombian and Peruvian indigenous communities of the Amazon – nests translocation pilot program.
- ATTUM, OMAR. 2004. A local community and capacity building approach to the conservation of the Egyptian Tortoise.
- ATTUM, OMAR. 2009. A local community and science based approach to conserving the Critically Endangered Egyptian Tortoise.
- 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.
- BAKER, PATRICK J. 2014. Identifying critical habitat for the Nubian Flapshell, *Cyclanorbis elegans*, in Ethiopia: a survey of Baro and Gilo Rivers.
- BAKER, PATRICK J. AND JACOB MUETI. 2014. A habitat suitability map for the Turkana Mud Turtle (*Pelusios broadleyi*): assessing current distribution and the impact of fluctuating lake levels on an Endangered, endemic species.
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