



Credit: Jeremy Holden/FFI

FAUNA & FLORA INTERNATIONAL

FFI's Partner Crisis Support Fund

Update June 2020



ROMANIA

VIETNAM

UGANDA

KENYA

DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF
CONGO

SOUTH AFRICA

CAPE VERDE

BELIZE

HONDURAS

MAP SHOWING GLOBAL
SPREAD OF PROJECTS
WHERE FUNDING HAS
BEEN APPROVED



FUND UPDATE

In April 2020, Fauna & Flora International (FFI) was delighted that our longstanding donor and partner Arcadia agreed to redeploy just over \$1m of grant funding toward emergency crisis funding for FFI partners in need through our Partner Crisis Support Fund. In the last four weeks we have been busy contacting partners across our regions to invite applications, and then operationalise this funding.

As of mid June, 14 applications for funding totalling \$862,631 have been approved through the Fund. The majority of this initial round of funding has been focused on East Africa, as this is where some of the biggest impacts of Covid-19 (in terms of both loss of income, predominantly from tourism, and increased threats to wildlife) have been reported.

We envisage three phases of support under the Partner Crisis Support Fund:

SURVIVE: Maintain central core operations and conservation interventions in the face of reduced income streams

ADAPT: Strengthen their response to increased on-the-ground threats associated with Covid-19

THRIVE: Develop more resilient financial operational models and income streams (for example where previous sources of income have been disrupted) to ensure effective recovery from the current crisis

At this stage funding has been focusing on helping organisations to survive interruptions in funding and to adapt to new threats, but over the next few months we aim to focus on the third ambition of helping organisations develop more resilient models for the future.

The team has worked to turn around applications within a period of 10 days. In this time we have completed a review of the applications against fund criteria (with clarification from the applicant if needed), gained approval from FFI's Senior Management Team for each grant, updated Partner Due Diligence for all partners meeting our internal risk thresholds and developed a grant agreement which has been signed by both parties prior to the transfer of funds.

We are anticipating further applications in the coming weeks, and have already had a number of further enquiries about funding from other partner organisations.

We are seeking to raise a further £1m for our three phases of support and have already secured over £300,000 to date, including funding from the players of People's Postcode Lottery, alongside many generous private donors, to whom we are most grateful.

We have also launched an appeal to FFI supporters, and have achieved some valuable media coverage of the Fund.

DETAILS OF FUNDING AGREED/PROVIDED TO DATE



Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association, Kenya

GRANT OF \$250,000, FOR KWCA AND FOUR MEMBER CONSERVANCIES

The Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association (KWCA) co-ordinates and supports some 160 private and community-led conservancies across Kenya; these do not receive state finance, and running costs are covered by grants and tourism. Over the last three months international tourism has come to a sudden halt in Kenya, as a result of Covid-19 restrictions, impacting the funding available to maintain the protection of Kenya's wildlife across these conservancies. This threatens the results of three decades of conservation effort, across a network of wildlife conservancies that cover some 6.4million hectares and which have reduced poaching and illegal trade in ivory, rhino horn, lion claws, leopard skin and pangolins to a very low level across these landscapes. As a result of the economic impacts associated with the pandemic, an upturn in threats to critical sites and species is already being reported, which are

compounded by declining enforcement as conservancies lose critical income from tourism and struggle to maintain their operations. A grant from FFI's Partner Crisis Support Fund will provide vital emergency funding (\$200,000) to maintain operations and active ranger-led protection at four conservancies: Olentile Conservancy (10,000 hectares) in Laikipia landscape, Lemek Conservancy (7,200 hectares) in the Mara landscape, Satao Elerai Conservancy (2,000 hectares) in Amboseli landscape and Lumo Conservancy (45,788 hectares) in Tsavo landscape. These were selected based on a rapid needs assessment conducted across KWCA member conservancies. In addition, funding (\$50,000) will help maintain the important operations of KWCA itself by retaining key staff roles, given that member conservancies can no longer support its activities.



Northern Rangelands Trust, Kenya

GRANT OF \$250,000, INCLUDING FUNDING FOR SERA CONSERVANCY

The Northern Rangelands Trust supports 39 community conservancies, protecting some 4.2 million hectares of natural habitats within northern and coastal Kenyan landscapes. The area's conservation and development efforts are largely dependent on wildlife tourism and development funding support. Tourism revenue has stopped overnight as a result of Covid-19, and development funding has seen delays and re-prioritisation by governments as they face the same crisis in their home countries. Across the conservancies, communities have lost nearly US\$1.4 million of tourism revenue which would normally fund the employment of rangers, scouts and rangeland staff to protect natural resources. In tandem, as the people in this landscape lose government support, they are becoming more reliant on natural resources, resulting in an upturn in illegal activities, including wildlife poaching. There has

already been a dramatic 53% increase in recorded bushmeat hunting incidents. In this context it is more important than ever that community conservancies can continue to operate, and that livelihoods within these communities are maintained (including from ranger salaries). A grant of \$150,000 from the Partner Crisis Support Fund will underpin ongoing operations at Sera Conservancy (which FFI helped to establish in 2006 and which now supports a population of 15 black rhino), maintaining the salaries and operational costs for 46 conservancy rangers and 48 rhino sanctuary staff. In addition \$100,000 will support the wider operations of the Northern Rangelands Trust, enabling 28 mobile rangers (who support operations across multiple conservancies in the wider landscape) to maintain their operations.



Credit: Ol Pejeta Conservancy

Ol Pejeta Conservancy, Kenya

GRANT OF \$100,000

Ol Pejeta Conservancy has gone from success to success since it was established (with FFI's support) in 2004. Last year saw its black rhino population rise to 132, making it an important stronghold for the gradual recovery of this critically endangered species. Covid-19 has profoundly affected Ol Pejeta's operations and budget, although previous work to diversify income streams has mitigated this to some extent. However, some US\$3.1 million of income a year is directly related to tourism, which funds a significant proportion of their conservation work, and its loss could impact core functionality of the conservancy. Ongoing restrictions on movement, both globally and within Kenya, means there may be a prolonged impact on conservation funding. Ol Pejeta has already started implementing cost-saving measures, and is scaling back some of the work to focus on critical operations. Despite revising budgets for the

coming 12 months, the anticipated loss of income will result in a funding deficit for critical operational costs for rhino and wildlife protection of c. \$900,000. The Partner Crisis Support Fund has provided an initial grant of \$100,000 towards Ol Pejeta's running costs, particularly to support the ranger teams and broader management costs of the organisation, in the hope that this will also encourage others to donate to support their operations. For your interest, Ol Pejeta have also taken their operations online, and it is possible to join their virtual game drives ("[sofa safaris](#)") and '[online classrooms](#)'.



Ya'axché, Belize

GRANT OF \$80,000

Tourism is the primary contributor to Belize's economy, and the repercussions of Covid-19 have directly affected Belizean livelihoods – around 46,000 Belizeans have already lost their jobs due to the pandemic. Many people who have lost income are now moving back to rural areas, where they are looking to clear land to grow food. Fire is increasingly being used to clear land for subsistence agriculture, to flush out wildlife for hunting and also by those aiming to create conditions for forest reserve degazettement. For example, there were 90 agricultural fires detected across Belize on just one day during May this year. There is a risk of these fires taking hold – threatening people's crops (including economically important cacao trees), destroying wildlife habitats and posing a risk to human life. As a response to

the upturn in fires, the government has banned burning – but enforcement of this regulation is a significant challenge. A grant of US\$80,000 from the Partner Crisis Support Fund will enable Ya'axché to build local capacity for fire management and put in place necessary firefighting equipment (thus reducing the risk of fires spreading and getting out of control) and to assist farmers where croplands have been destroyed by fires, to avoid the need for them to clear new areas of forest.



Mukutan Conservancy, Kenya

GRANT OF \$62,000

Over the last three months Laikipia County has already seen significant impacts of the global pandemic, including some 40,000 job losses and sharp increases in threats to wildlife. Mukutan Conservancy lies at the heart of this landscape, and its rangers are already seeing an increase in snares laid for wildlife, poaching and fire-setting for honey collection – posing a risk of wildfires. In addition, a substantial element of Mukutan Conservancy's operating budget is underpinned by income from tourism, and it faces a shortfall of some \$200,000 in 2020 as a result of the collapse in the tourism market. Current predictions are that international tourism would not re-stabilise until after the 2022 elections at the earliest, and Mukutan is looking to diversify into the domestic and regional tourism market, although recognises

that competition will be intense. The conservancy has already made budget cuts, including reducing patrolling (which reduces its ability to prevent poaching and avert human-wildlife conflict around the conservancy) and cancelling planned infrastructure maintenance and development. A grant of \$62,000 from the Partner Crisis Support Fund will maintain vital conservancy operations including the employment of critical staff through this crisis, with a particular focus on ensuring the maintenance of ranger operations.



Fundação Maio Biodiversidade, Cape Verde

GRANT OF \$37,000

Fundação Maio Biodiversidade (FMB) is an NGO on Maio Island in Cape Verde that focuses on marine conservation, and runs a long standing turtle protection project. This work is traditionally underpinned by paying international volunteers who undertake beach protection, alongside members of the local community, as part of their experience in Cape Verde. This model has seen turtle poaching on these beaches reduced from 40% in 2012 to 1.7% in 2019. The project is affected not just by the loss of volunteer manpower to patrol the beaches, but also by the funding that the international volunteers provide to the project's running costs (c. €18,500 in 2019); in addition FMB would usually host visits from UK universities which provide between €5,000 and €15,000 of core income for their work. Funding promised from the Cabo Verdean government has also been cancelled due to the pandemic. In addition, the

loss of paying visitors will affect a homestay programme that has been developed with the local community – whereby women gain an income from hosting volunteers (thus reducing the need for them to rely on turtle poaching or other unsustainable practices). In 2019, the homestay programme generated €20,500 for the local community and without this income they may be forced to return to turtle poaching to survive. A grant of \$37,000 from the Partner Crisis Support Fund will underpin key running costs of FMB, thus retaining critical staff, will enable more locals from Maio to be hired to maintain full beach protection patrols (which will also supplement their income at this difficult time) and will pay the homestay women to host these turtle guards, paying for their accommodation and full board.





Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature, Democratic Republic of Congo

GRANT OF \$30,000, HANDLED IN COUNTRY BY IGCP

Following the global outbreak of Covid-19, and subsequent closure of all mountain gorilla tourism, the Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN, the wildlife authority for the DRC) has suffered a significant drop in income. As a result, it is struggling to cover ongoing management costs at Virunga National Park, including paying the wages of community rangers who play a vital role in mountain gorilla conservation, including in managing human-wildlife conflict. At the same time the livelihoods of local communities, many of whom rely on income from tourism, have been lost which is driving an increase in poaching and the illegal use of forest resources. Not only does this increase threats to the forest, it may increase the risks of human-gorilla contact and the potential for transmission of

SARS-CoV-2 to gorilla populations. This makes the maintenance of park operations – and particularly protection patrols – more important than ever. A grant of US\$30,000 from the Partner Crisis Support Fund will cover the costs of 52 community rangers to maintain their operations for the remaining seven months of 2020. As community members, these rangers are already based permanently in their villages near the Park and are therefore able to carry out monitoring and patrol activities (including removal of snares and deterring poachers) despite current movement restrictions. In addition, they will maintain the important relationship built between the Park and local communities, and will help to mitigate any emerging human-wildlife conflict incidents.

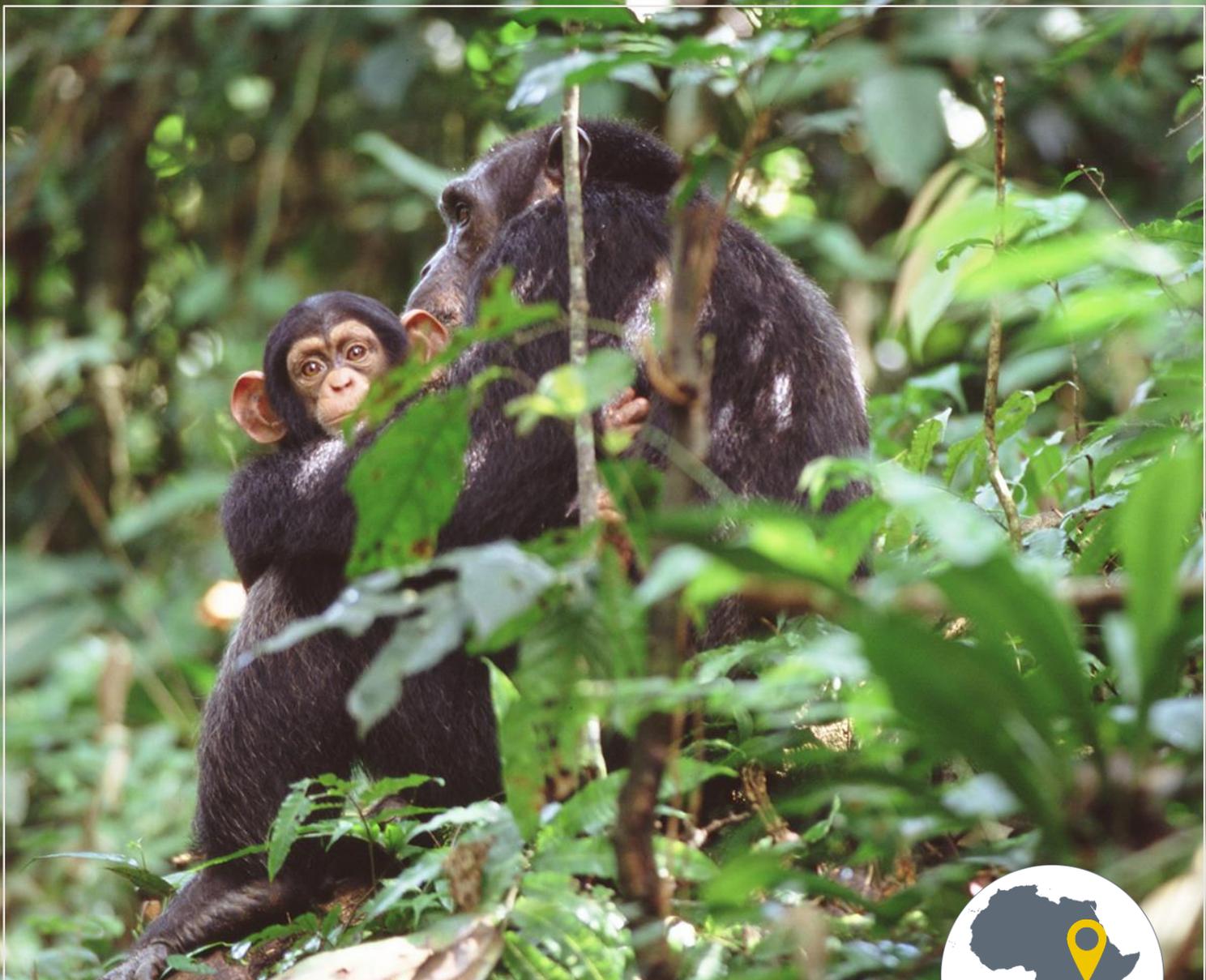


Asociata Zarand, Romania

GRANT OF \$15,042

Asociata Zarand has worked to develop sustainable livelihoods for remote rural communities in Romania that will enable them to maintain traditional land uses than underpin the biological diversity of the mosaic of forest and meadow habitats in the Zarand Corridor. The creation of markets for these products has been vital in ensuring high nature value farming remains an attractive livelihood option, encouraging community members to remain in the area and maintain traditional, environmentally beneficial management practices. However, the loss of the usual markets for these products as a result of the Covid-19 crisis reduces income for local families and undermines their commitment to maintaining traditional, low impact land management. Direct sales are no longer possible as festivals, traditional product fairs or markets and tourists are not visiting and various cultural and regional events have been cancelled. With no indication that these will be reinstated by the end of the year,

local families are preparing to significantly downscale their engagement in the preparation of such products, undermining the future plans to scale up these operations to access larger markets. In particular a need has been identified to improve market access for honey and other products, including to identify new buyers aligned with a scaling in the volume of products sourced from the community, in order to build financial resilience to overcome future external shocks. A grant of US\$15,042 from the Partner Crisis Support Fund will be used to temporarily underwrite the market for these community produced sustainable products by purchasing the products from this year's harvest and stockpiling them for sale when the situation improves, and through a web-based platform that is currently in development. In addition, funds will be used to engage specialist expertise in order to identify European market niche buyers for the Zarand community's honey enterprise.



Private Forest Owner Organisations, Uganda

GRANT OF \$15,000

In Uganda, FFI has been working with Private Forest Owners Associations since 2014 to improve forest conservation and to encourage community-supported chimpanzee conservation. Private Forest Owners Associations are community-based organisations dedicated to delivering conservation through developing effective incentive mechanisms within their communities, whether through assistance in enhancing yields, or undertaking indigenous tree reforestation. The Covid-19 pandemic, and the associated economic impacts, has affected the livelihoods of people living in these communities, with trade and farming sales brought to a standstill – and without support people are likely to have to return to unsustainable uses of

their forests, including logging. Three of these Private Forest Owners Associations (Kidoma-Bulimya, Bulyango, and Kasenene) have sought support from the Partner Crisis Support Fund, and each has been awarded a grant of US\$5,000). These grants will inject funding into the communities through Village Savings Loans Associations and Revolving Fund mechanisms (previously established by FFI), provide seedlings for community-implemented forest restoration work and maintain community patrols which also help to monitor chimpanzee populations.



Fundación Islas de la Bahía, Honduras

GRANT OF \$10,000

The island of Utila, off the northern coast of Honduras, has been badly affected by the current pandemic, with the loss of its primary source of income - national and international tourism. Businesses have scaled down operations resulting in increased unemployment, which is compounded by food insecurity, due to reduced incoming food supplies from the mainland. Fundación Islas de la Bahía (FIB) is a conservation organisation based on the island and has previously relied on income from paying volunteers to fund a significant portion of core operational costs. The abrupt cessation of tourism has led to cancellations from volunteers through to the end of 2020 and there is now an urgent need for funds to address the shortfall if FIB is to maintain its operation. One of FIB's main initiatives focuses on protection of the critically

endangered Utila spiny-tailed iguana (*Ctenosaura bakeri*), and a conservation breeding programme is currently in a critical phase, meaning a loss of core funding could undermine the work achieved to date. In parallel, the critical situation facing local residents is resulting in a rapid increase in illegal hunting of the iguana in Utila's mangroves, either for sale on the island or for local consumption as residents turn to alternative sources of food and income. A grant of US\$10,000 from the Partner Crisis Support Fund will underpin the core costs of FIB (including the iguana breeding programme), enable increased iguana monitoring and mangrove patrols to target illegal poachers, and support enhanced environmental awareness campaigns.

Oceans Alive, Kenya

GRANT OF \$5,000

Oceans Alive engages communities on Kenya's coast through conservation, education and entrepreneurship, and it established the Kuruwitu Conservation and Welfare Association (KCWA), which has become a model of locally led marine conservation, spearheading a movement of Locally Managed Marine Areas along the Kenya coast. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic Oceans Alive has lost vital income from eco-tourism related businesses (estimated loss is £200,000). In addition, local fishing communities are struggling and there is a risk of a resurgence in unsustainable practices as a result. Although successful new income generating enterprises had been developed and had taken significant pressure off marine

resource use, as well as giving fishers a more reliable and less seasonal income, the current economic crisis is seriously undermining these enterprises. A grant of US\$5,000 from the Partner Crisis Support Fund will help Oceans Alive maintain ongoing activities, including the completion of a management plan with the local community (and KCWA), to underpin conservation activities going forward, trying to build resilience in the communities and ecosystem.



Credit: Juan Pablo Morillas/FPI

Flower Valley, South Africa

GRANT OF \$3,591

In the Cape region of South Africa Flower Valley Conservation Trust works to ensure a future where highly threatened fynbos habitats can flourish, and where associated fynbos-related livelihoods are protected (thus maintaining the value placed on this habitat locally). Flower Valley Conservation Trust has played a key role in reshaping nature conservation and developing solutions to rebuild local rural communities. These include long term efforts to instil environmental awareness in poor rural communities at an early age, and in the shorter term to create an immediate constituency of support for conservation, through providing social services needed by these communities (in this case early years childcare and teaching). The

lockdown associated with Covid-19 has stalled the local informal economy, and Flower Valley Conservation Trust have identified that the provision of food relief to families left destitute and hungry at this difficult time will be vital to maintaining their role within the community, and people's continued support for their conservation model. In addition, without this vital support local communities could be forced to return to poaching for income, given the lack of other alternatives. A grant of \$3,591 from the Partner Crisis Support Fund will provide a month's food packages for 87 local families at risk, and Flower Valley Conservation Trust has launched a public appeal to extend their provision of emergency food packs.





GreenViet, Vietnam

GRANT OF \$3,000

The GreenViet Biodiversity Conservation Centre in Da Nang, Vietnam has been working to engage the Vietnamese public with biodiversity conservation, as well as conducting research and advocacy work. They conduct daily educational activities focusing on the Son Tra nature Reserve and its population of endangered red-shanked douc langur. The funding for their educational work comes both from payments and donations from

visitors, including foreign tourists. The loss of tourists has put the ongoing funding for the educator’s position at risk. A grant of \$3,000 from the Partner Crisis Support Fund will underpin this position for 8 months, by which point it is hoped that domestic (and possibly international) tourism should be restarting.

Biflores, Cape Verde

GRANT OF \$2,000



Biflores is a small NGO on the island of Brava, and is Cape Verde’s first and only flora-focused conservation NGO. The closure of schools in Brava has interrupted the delivery of school outreach activities, which support a wider programme of work through which students were due to take over a series of plant nurseries and plantations for threatened endemic trees. The project was at a critical juncture, and without bridging funding the key member of staff in Biflores would lose their funding base and their job, and the work with the

schools would never be brought to fruition. The grant of \$2,000 from the Partner Crisis Support fund will keep the project leader employed for 4 months over the period of the crisis, allowing the work to resume as planned once schools start to reopen.

CONCLUSION

We are extremely grateful to all of our supporters for their rapid support towards the vital needs that had been identified from partners around the world. We must not allow the work of the conservation sector - which is now more crucial than ever - to be undermined by this global pandemic.



If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact:

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