



Latest News on the Fund's Grantees

The Crowder-Messersmith Conservation Fund honors Orville Crowder and Don and Sherry Messersmith, leaders in nature tourism, as a means to further global nature conservation. The Fund supports the goals of ANS by helping small, local conservation and education projects in developing countries. It provides seed money to communities and individuals whose projects have not attracted major support from other sources. In 2022 we were able to offer 10 grants selected from the 156 submitted. These grantees join those from more than 55 countries that have received awards since 1975.

With global challenges, including ongoing COVID-19 pandemic adjustments, we continue to work closely with our grantees to ensure they can receive their funding and have additional time as needed to complete their projects.

2022 Grantees:

Crane Conservation Volunteers in **Kenya** plan to stimulate interest in the local community through the recruitment and training of bird guides in an area whose avifauna is largely unstudied and/or unpublished.

Conservation of endangered populations of mountain tapirs through engagement of indigenous populations in **Colombia**, with outreach projects including youth conservation training programs.



Fishing Cat conservation outreach in Nepal, 2020-21

Developing an indigenous community-based monitoring project with the Baka pygmy communities targeting endangered elephants, gorillas, and chimpanzees in unprotected forested outside the Dja Reserve in **Cameroon**.

Focusing on connecting future generations with the conservation of the vulnerable Black Crowned Crane and its endangered wetland habitats through projects with elementary, high school and Jimma University students in southwestern **Ethiopia**.

Safeguarding the critically endangered Home's Hinge-back tortoise through engagement in a variety of mediums with hunters, community leaders and the entire local population in the Bobiri Forest Reserve in **Ghana**.

In central **Benin**, developing alternative sources of income and community sensitization for the conservation of threatened pangolins.



Awareness raising at the Sedje School, Benin

In addition to ongoing projects expanding the protection of endangered sea turtles and beach restoration (supported by past C-M grants), community training in a bird monitoring program is planned on Santiago Island, **Cape Verde**.

Literacy-based educational programs for the conservation of island species and habitats are being developed to augment teaching gaps present in the Babuyan Group of Islands in the northern **Philippines**.

In the Nayar River Valley in **India**, conservation programs for schoolchildren and non-school-going children will be developed focusing on the protection of the endangered Golden Mahseer fish.

Improved management techniques for pastures, farms and livestock are the centerpiece of a project to enhance coexistence with endangered jaguars and other predators in the lowland Choco region of **Ecuador**.

2021 Grantees:

In **Honduras**, education and outreach events focused on promoting the Spiny-tailed Iguana as a flagship species in creating biodiversity conservation goals as part of island unity in the Bay Islands.

Creation of a youth environmental leadership program at Kasungu National Park in **Malawi** introduced a “train-the-trainers” project with community schools and an awareness campaign focusing on the protection of endangered lions, rhinos, and pangolins.

In south **Benin**, local community members were recruited to undertake a census to assess the distribution of endangered Red-bellied Monkeys; and engaged the community in discussions of establishing primate-based ecotourism.

Protection of an endangered Cycad species, in **Uganda** included the successful establishment of nurseries and propagation of plants beyond the project’s goal, in addition to projects in the community raising awareness of sustainable practices.



Conservation of the endangered Encephalartos White lockii (Cycad) plants, Uganda

A multi-stakeholder approach to develop a conservation plan to protect the vulnerable West African Dwarf Crocodile in **Liberia** is underway but delayed due to COVID.

In **Madagascar**, increased threats to biodiversity and threats specifically to endangered lemur species due to COVID lockdowns preventing resources from reaching remote regions, is driving a number of initiatives with community members of all ages. This project had a late start date due to the availability of resources required.

In **Nepal**, projects focused on protection of alpine ecosystems and the endangered Himalayan Musk Deer in villages along illegal wildlife trade routes, are underway but has been interrupted by delays due to COVID restrictions.

With ever more misinformation regarding bats due to COVID, in coastal **Kenya** community projects surveying and monitoring vulnerable Hildegard's Tomb Bats and their habitats, establishing educational programs and workshops, and exploring the area for ecotourism, made great strides in the community understanding of the need for conservation. Further plans are being developed for continuing the projects.

In **Nepal**, organizing the first Nepal Crocodile Festival as part of World Crocodile Day has been postponed due to COVID. Outreach plans beyond the Festival are underway, including educational programs and training in safe fishing techniques.



Setting up camp at a turtle breeding beach on Santiago Island, Cape Verde.

Thank You C-M Committee Members

The Crowder-Messersmith Fund would like to thank its committee members, who volunteer their time and expertise: Daphne Gemmill (chair), Betsy Connole, Marcie Francis, Vance Hyndman, Chris Herman, Alan Johnston, Linette Landers, and welcome new member Kraemer Lovelace; and to Carol Hayes who provides the all-important staff support.

Thank you to Karen Wilhelm for the design and layout of the Newsletter.

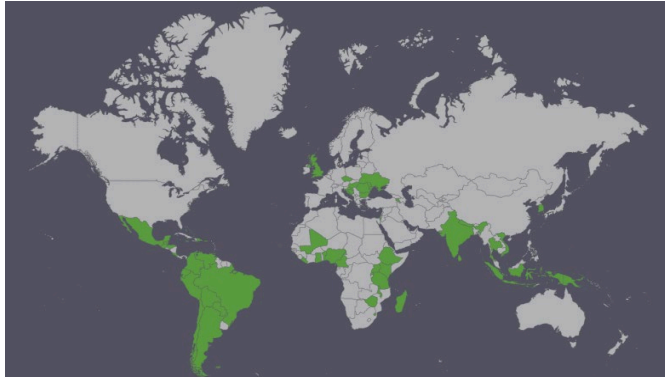
Thank you to our Donors!

A special thank you to contributions made to the C-M Fund by Barbara Nash, Alan Johnson and Annie Cross, Linette Lander, Daphne Gemmill, and Anonymous donors.

To Receive Our Annual Newsletter

Please send your email to carol.hayes@ANShome.org if you would like to receive future newsletters and announcements of C-M events. Your email will be used solely for C-M activities.

Where Are Crowder-Messersmith Conservation Grantees Located?



The map illustrates countries (in green) which have received grants.

NORTH AMERICA/CARIBBEAN	Falkland Island: 2	AFRICA	ASIA & THE PACIFIC
Bahamas 2	Guatemala 3	Benin 4	India 10
Curaçao 1	Honduras 4	Cameroon 3	Indonesia 1
Dominican Republic 1	Paraguay 1	Cape Verde 2	Nepal 12
Jamaica 1	Peru 6	Ethiopia 4	Philippines 1
Mexico 9	Venezuela 1	Ghana 3	Papua New Guinea 4
Puerto Rico 3		Kenya 10	South Korea 1
Trinidad & Tobago 2	EUROPE & MID EAST	Liberia 1	Sri Lanka 4
West Indies 1	Armenia 1	Madagascar 3	Thailand 1
	Bosnia-Herzegovina 1	Malawi 2	Vietnam 1
	Bulgaria 1	Mali 1	
SOUTH AMERICA	Croatia 1	Nigeria 1	
Argentina 4	Czech Republic 1	Rwanda 1	
Belize 3	Hungary 1	eSwatini 1	
Bolivia 4	Israel 4	Tanzania 1	
Brazil 4	Moldova 3	Uganda 6	
Chile 1	Romania 1	Zimbabwe 2	
Colombia 4	United Kingdom 4		
Costa Rica 4	Ukraine 1		
Ecuador 8			

The table shows the total number of grants to that country.

Contributions to the Crowder-Messersmith Conservation Fund

This small, innovative grants program, together with the international foray program, allows ANS members to experience other cultures and environments and to promote conservation awareness and protection beyond our borders. Your contributions to the Fund allow us to support more projects in developing countries – please be sure to designate your donation to the Crowder-Messersmith Conservation Fund. To contribute, go to the ANS Donate page <https://anshome.org/donate> and scroll down to choose Crowder-Messersmith. You can also send a check to: Crowder-Messersmith Fund, Audubon Naturalist Society, 8940 Jones Mill Rd., Chevy Chase, MD 20815.