

2027 CROWDER MESSERSMITH CONSERVATION FUND
GRANT INFORMATION AND CRITERIA

Applications accepted September 1 through December 1, 2026

The Crowder-Messersmith Conservation Fund provides startup funding for nature conservation projects in developing countries.

General Criteria for all grants

Projects must:

- Focus on nature conservation and education.
- Benefit endangered or threatened species or habitat.
- Include a public education component.
- Involve the local population.
- Have lasting significance for local residents.
- Be completed within a year.
- The proposed project can be part of a larger project if it meets the following criteria: it must have an independent budget; the objectives and products must provide benefit on their own; it can be completed within the budget and time of the requested funds.

General Exclusions

- Projects in the United States or other advanced economies.
- Pure scientific research or data gathering with no obvious conservation or education benefit.
- Expeditions, particularly where the applicant has to raise funds in order to participate.
- Projects that focus on species listed as Least Concern in the IUCN Red Book of Threatened Species. <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>
- Requested funds cannot be part of pooled budget for a larger project.
- Funding for international travel, overhead expenses, taxes, utilities, or insurance.
- Money transfers to individual accounts.
- Projects in conflict zones and countries under US banking sanctions.

Other Information

Preference is given to applicants who have a record of prior conservation action relevant to the proposed project. Applicants from countries other than the United States are especially encouraged to apply. United States researchers planning work in foreign countries must have at least one local collaborator and consider how the project will benefit the local communities.

Application Time Frame

Applications are accepted beginning September 1, 2026. Deadline for receipt is December 1, 2026. Decisions will be announced in April 2027. Projects may begin in June and must be completed within twelve months of start date.

Maximum Grant Amount

The maximum grant for one year is \$3000 USD.

Grant Acceptance

Upon Notification of a grant award, the Grantee must provide bank information for an international bank transfer. The Grantee must also agree to provide a project status report 6 months after the project start date. Upon completion of the project, but no later than 12 months, a full project report is required unless an extension is requested due to unforeseen circumstances. This report must include an accounting of funds, a description of activities and populations receiving education and/or training, copies of any materials or publications that have been developed, evaluation of the project's success and failures, and photos and videos of project activities.