



Taronga Field Conservation Grants Application

Please use this form to prepare your answers. Applications must be submitted via the online portal.

Principles of Funding

Field Projects will be selected using the *criteria* listed below, but only after the following *principles* have been accepted; if any one of these principles cannot be satisfied, then the institution should consider very carefully whether the project should be undertaken at all.

Principles:

1. Only projects that demonstrate measurable conservation outcomes in the field will be supported. Projects with an education component are strongly encouraged but measurable outcomes must relate to the species/habitat impact expected rather than community impact alone.
2. Projects must consider alignment to applicable IUCN Sustainable Development Goals (<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>).
3. It is understood that *in situ* conservation projects do not need to have captive breeding/management components, nor that the focal/target species need to necessarily be held in zoos.
4. Where *in situ* conservation projects involve reintroduction or relocation, such processes must be endorsed by relevant government bodies (evidence required) and adhere to all relevant policies and conventions governing the movement and reintroduction of animals and plants, and their component parts established by the IUCN (Reintroduction Guidelines and Position Statement on Translocation of Living Organisms), CITES and IATA.
5. Humane treatment must be a priority for all animals impacted as part of this project and captive populations must be held in conditions considered acceptable by ZAA. Taronga recognises the importance of sensitive integration of wildlife conservation goals and human needs in successful *in situ* conservation programs.
6. No project should present an unreasonable level of risk to participant safety, project financial stability or reputation.
7. Successful projects will be funded over a defined period commencing January 2024 – December 2026, with reporting requirements at 12 months and at the completion of the funding period.
8. Projects and their personnel must adhere to all laws of the country in which the project is undertaken.
9. Organisations must not have any convictions related to fraud, corruption, wildlife trade, inhumane treatment of animals or other criminal charges to be eligible for funding. A declaration is required to be signed acknowledging this and further background checks will be undertaken for shortlisted applicants.
10. Organisations located in countries listed in the Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Sanctions List may not be eligible for funding.

Selection Criteria:

- Clear and defined SMART goals and conservation benefits.
- Demonstrated alignment to relevant IUCN Sustainable Development Goals.
- Consideration of 360degree approach to conservation, connecting wildlife, habitat and communities.
- Clear modular budget (using template provided) that aligns with project goals within the defined period of funding.

Field Conservation Grant Application

Project summary page:

- a) Project title (100 characters or less)
- b) Name of project leader, organisation and contact details
- c) Total project budget
- d) Funds sought from Taronga
- e) Brief project summary (max 500 words) clearly stating the problem, purpose, methods and expected conservation impact of work in lay terms.

The following questions are based on specific criteria that will be used to assess each project.

- 1. Detail your projects objectives and the strategies for achieving them, using SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound) goals.**
Successful applications will clearly articulate project objectives and outline clear SMART goals that align with the projects desired outcomes.
- 2. Please describe the expected measurable conservation benefits of your Project and how they will be achieved to improve target species population and/or habitat viability by addressing key threatening processes.** *Successful applications must outline measurable benefits achievable through your SMART goals and demonstrate how they lead to measurable conservation outcomes.*
- 3. Describe the project design and how this will logically lead to the expected outcomes.**
Successful applications will demonstrate that the project has a high likelihood of success because:
 - *The proposed actions are directly related, and/or have the capacity to bring about the desired outcome, taking into account origin or threat, geographic location & relationship to the threatening processes;*
 - *The effects of climate change have been considered, and if the target area and species are at the border of changing climate bands, this has been incorporated into the design;*
 - *The methods proposed are likely to be successful, as they have considered the social, cultural or political context of the project;*
 - *The project demonstrates consideration of interactions between wildlife, habitat, and communities (360 degree approach to conservation);*
 - *Possible pitfalls have been considered and appropriate contingency actions considered; and*
 - *The project is linked to previously identified regional or global conservation priorities.*
- 4. Please identify which IUCN Sustainable Development Goals your project supports and aligns with (max 6).**

5. **What is the expertise and track record of partners in effecting conservation outcomes?** *Successful applications will provide details of expertise and documented evidence of success in similar projects, taking into account sector expertise and history within the regions.*
6. **Describe the anticipated scenario if action is delayed or no action is taken.** *High scoring projects will provide evidence that the project is necessary and clearly urgent – there is an opportunity that is time sensitive, or the situation will worsen significantly if the project is not put into action now.*
7. **How long will the project continue to deliver benefits and what is the required ongoing input?** *High scoring projects will demonstrate that benefits will be long lived or that there is a clear strategy for developing the capacity of local stakeholders to continue into the future with little ongoing input.*
8. **Is the project embedded into the local community and governments, does it incorporate capacity building into the plan, and have buy in from governing bodies?** *Successful applications will provide evidence that there are working teams on the ground which include a high proportion of local staff, with a clear goal of building capacity, and the project has well-developed working relationships at all levels within the region, from local villages through to government agencies.*
9. **Is Taronga funding sufficient for the overall success of the project?** *Successful applicants will demonstrate that funding for the project, aside from requested involvement by Taronga zoos, is either not necessary or is secured.*

Budget

Please use the below template for your budget.

All funds should be requested in Australian (AUD) dollars. Successful projects will receive the full amount funded in a lump sum payment at the commencement of the funding period.

Total Project Budget Estimate

- a) Funds sought from Taronga (max \$20,000AUD over a 2 year period):
- b) Additional funds to be secured (Yes/No/Not Applicable)
- c) Additional funding already secured (Yes/No/Not Applicable)
- d) Please note if your organisation is a registered charity, business or not-for-profit:
- e) Please provide details of how the support of the Taronga Foundation would be acknowledged.

Budget Table

Example:

TARONGA FUNDING			
Budget Item Description	Cost	Year 1	Year 2
<i>e.g. field equipment</i>	\$2500	\$2500	
<i>e.g lab testing</i>	\$700	\$350	\$350
TOTAL	\$3200	\$2850	\$350

Template:

Budget Item Description	Cost	Year 1	Year 2

Additional information is not necessary but may be provided to support your application, including:

- a) Curriculum vitae of project leader (maximum of 2 pages)
- b) Letters of reference, recommendation and collaboration
- c) Copies of permits (if applicable)

Proposal Review and Timeline

Project applications will be reviewed by the Taronga Conservation Committee which is comprised of conservation staff from many divisions.

The deadline for proposal submission is midnight June 9th 2024 (Australian Eastern Standard Time). No late proposals will be considered. The review panels will be convened by mid-September and we aim to have final decisions sent to all applicants by October.

Please ensure that all contact details are correct as this is how we will contact you to notify you of successful funding. We regret that due to the number of applications unsuccessful applicants will not be notified.

Definitions for Terms in Field Project Criteria

Conservation outcomes: outcomes that directly benefit the conservation status of a species or ecosystem, ie. protection of habitat; increased protection of the target/focal species. Activities such as education, research or planning may contribute to achieving conservation outcomes, but are not conservation outcomes themselves. It is very important that the outcomes are measurable in ecological terms.

Conservation benefits: positive impacts on wildlife, ecosystems, or natural resources, resulting from actions aimed at preserving, protecting, or restoring the natural environment and wildlife populations e.g increased biodiversity, habitat restoration, species recovery, sustainable practices.

Ecosystem: a community of organisms, the environment within which they live and interact, and their interactions (ie. decomposition, nutrient release, etc.).

In situ wildlife conservation: in the field, as distinct from in captivity. Usually also relates to activity within the range or future range of the focal/target species.

Threatening processes: processes or activities that threaten wildlife, habitats or ecosystems, e.g. habitat loss, climate change, hunting/poaching, introduced species, pollution and identified diseases.