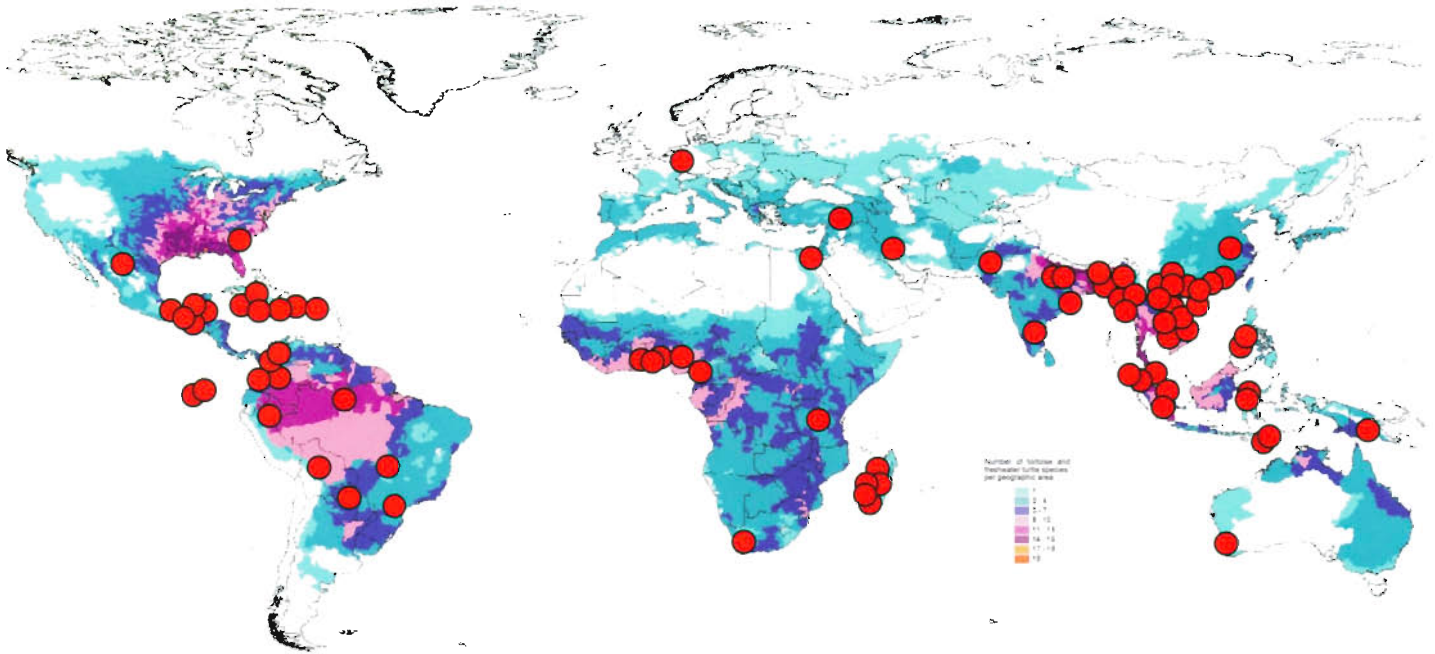


## TURTLE CONSERVATION FUND



Approximate locations of all TCF projects funded from 2003 to 2013. Each dot represents one or more projects in the same approximate location (multiple projects in China, Myanmar, and Madagascar and elsewhere are represented by only a few dots each).

# The Turtle Conservation Fund: 2002–2013 Update

ANDERS G. J. RHODIN AND HUGH R. QUINN

The Turtle Conservation Fund (TCF) was founded in 2002, initially as a partnership initiative of Conservation International, the IUCN/SSC Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group, and the Turtle Survival Alliance. It has since expanded to also include the Shellshock Campaign of the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria, Humane Society International–Australia, the Turtle Conservancy, and Chelonian Research Foundation. Primary support for the TCF and its grant-making capabilities has come from the Shellshock Campaign, Humane Society International–Australia, the Frankel Family Foundation, and extraordinarily generous private donations from George Meyer and Maria Semple, with logistic and operational support from Conservation International and Chelonian Research Foundation, and welcome venue support for its meetings from the Turtle Conservancy, the Maritime Hotel, the TSA Symposium, and the National Aquarium.

Attesting to its international perspective, the TCF advisory and review board is composed

of 27 turtle experts from ten nations who are globally active in turtle conservation: Hugh R. Quinn and Anders G. J. Rhodin (Co-Chairs), Gary Ades, Chris B. Banks, Kurt A. Buhlmann, Antoine Cadi, Bernard Devaux, Matt Frankel, Eric Goode, Douglas B. Hendrie, Brian D. Horne, Rick Hudson, John Iverson, Gerald Kuchling, Richard Lewis, Luca Luiselli, George Meyer, Russell A. Mittermeier, Vivian Páez, Hans-Dieter Philippen, Colin Poole, Peter C.H. Pritchard, Martina Raffel, Walter C. Sedgwick, Peter Paul van Dijk, Andrew Walde, and Henk Zwartepoorte.

From its first grants awarded in 2003 through its most recent funding cycle in February 2013, the TCF has supported turtle conservation projects in 40 nations around the globe (see map). An impressive total of over \$687,000 in grants has been awarded to 147 projects, directly benefitting 93% of the IUCN Red List's Critically Endangered tortoises and freshwater turtles. Last year alone TCF provided \$71,955 to 17 projects in nine nations, helping more than a dozen highly imperiled

species, as well as providing support for the TSA's new Turtle Survival Center in South Carolina.

A total of 436 grant proposals for a total of \$2,325,642 in requests have been received by TCF to the present, of which 34% have been funded. The average award has been about \$4700, with support ranging from \$1000 to 10,000 per project. Of the Turtle Conservation Coalition's "Turtles in Trouble: The World's Top 25+ Most Endangered Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles – 2011," projects representing all 25 species have been funded. Of TCF's 57 Priority Species (August 2012 list), projects representing 40 (70%) have been supported, and the TCF has also provided support for facilities and projects that impact many additional species.

Through the ongoing efforts of TCF and its partner institutions and individuals, we will ardently and passionately continue to pursue our mission to conserve the world's tortoises and freshwater turtles so that no more species become extinct in our time.