



# International Species Conservation Funds

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## **Summary**

International species conservation is addressed by several funds, including those under the Multinational Species Conservation Fund and the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund. These funds are implemented by relatively small programs within the Fish and Wildlife Service, yet generate enormous constituent interest, chiefly concerning their funding levels. This report describes the funds briefly, and summarizes recent and proposed appropriations levels.

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International species conservation is addressed by several funds, including those under the Multinational Species Conservation Fund (MSCF) and the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (NMBCF). This report provides a brief overview of MSCF and NMBCF and their funding and legislative status.

## Multinational Species Conservation Fund

The Multinational Species Conservation Fund, which currently benefits tigers, the six species of rhinoceroses, Asian and African elephants, marine turtles, and great apes (gorillas, chimpanzees, bonobos, orangutans, and the various species of gibbons), has generated a tremendous amount of constituent interest. The fund supports conservation efforts benefitting these species, often in conjunction with efforts under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) to which the United States is a party.<sup>1</sup>

MSCF provides funding in the form of technical and cost-sharing grants to range countries for the conservation of African and Asian elephants, rhinoceroses, tigers, great apes, and marine turtles and their habitats. The grants target species and address habitat conservation, law enforcement, and technical assistance for conserving species under the MSCF. Efforts to conserve species under the MSCF benefit from funding and in-kind support provided by partners and collaborators. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which runs the program,<sup>2</sup> \$75.0 million was provided by partners and collaborators for efforts under the MSCF from FY2004 to FY2009. This is nearly double the amount appropriated for these efforts during the same period.

For FY2011, the Administration has requested \$10.0 million, which is \$1.5 million less than the FY2010 enacted level of \$11.5 million.<sup>3</sup>

**Table 1** shows funding levels for the MSCF and the NMBCF for FY2005-FY2010 and the FY2011 request. The MSCF is authorized under five acts, described below. In the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, the African Elephant Conservation Act, Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund, and Asian Elephant Fund were reauthorized for funding until 2012. The 111<sup>th</sup> Congress might consider reauthorizing the Great Ape Conservation Fund, which is authorized through 2010, and the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund, which is authorized through 2009.

The African Elephant Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. §4201) authorizes matching grants for conservation, research, management, and protection of this species. Projects are carried out in cooperation with African nations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

The Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund (16 U.S.C. §5301) assists in conserving tigers and the 6 species of rhinos. Matching grants support governments and NGOs in projects to conserve habitat, survey populations, improve law enforcement, and educate the public.

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<sup>1</sup> For more information, see CRS Report RL31654, *The Endangered Species Act: A Primer*, by M. Lynne Corn, Kristina Alexander, and Eugene H. Buck, and CRS Report RL32751, *The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES): Background and Issues*, by Pervaze A. Sheikh and M. Lynne Corn.

<sup>2</sup> CRS Report R40776, *Fish and Wildlife Service: Appropriations and Policy*, by M. Lynne Corn.

<sup>3</sup> P.L. 111-88.

The Asian Elephant Fund (16 U.S.C. §4261) is similar to the above programs in purposes and scope. An additional emphasis, where the elephants are draft animals, is to promote their humane treatment and encourage captive breeding.

The Great Ape Conservation Fund (16 U.S.C. §1603) is similar to the above programs in purposes and scope. Species of interest are lowland and mountain gorillas, chimpanzees, bonobos (a species very closely related to chimpanzees), orangutans, and the species of gibbons (Genus *Hylobates*—about 8-10 species, according to anthropologists). The authorization for appropriations expires in 2010.

The Marine Turtle Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. §6601) was passed on July 2, 2004. This law provides grants for the conservation of marine turtle populations and their nesting habitats in the wild. This law authorizes \$5 million in annual appropriations from FY2005 to FY2009 for conservation efforts and establishes a marine turtle conservation fund within the MSCF.

## Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund

The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. §§6101-6109) provides grants for the conservation of hundreds of bird species that migrate among North and South America and the Caribbean. The act requires spending 75% of the funds on projects outside of the United States. The act was reauthorized in 2006. The legislation expands the program to include Canada, authorizes appropriations until 2009, and creates a separate fund for the NMBCF. The NMBCF is no longer included in the Administration's request under the MSCF.

The FY2011 request for this program is \$4.0 million, \$1.0 million less than its FY2010 enacted level of \$5.0 million. (See **Table 1**.)

## Legislative Activity

In the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress, 10 bills address the MSCF. Four would expand the MSCF, two would reauthorize existing programs; two would address administration of the MSCF; and two would provide an added stream of revenue for MSCF. The proposed bills are described below:

- The Great Ape Conservation Reauthorization Amendments Act of 2010 (H.R. 4416) would reauthorize funding for Great Ape conservation through 2015 and multi-year grants.
- The Crane Conservation Act of 2009 (H.R. 388 and S. 197) would authorize funding for conserving cranes with ranges in Africa, Asia, Europe, and North America, and a Crane Conservation Fund.<sup>4</sup> Under this bill, \$5 million would be authorized to be appropriated to the fund from FY2010 to FY2014.
- The Great Cats and Rare Canids Act of 2009 (H.R. 411 and S. 529) would provide funding and foster international cooperation to restore and conserve rare

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<sup>4</sup> Not more than 20% of the funds are to be used for the conservation of cranes in North America under the bill.

felids<sup>5</sup> and rare canids<sup>6</sup> in the wild. Under this bill, \$5 million would be authorized to be appropriated to the fund from FY2010 to FY2014.

- The Marine Turtle Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2009 (H.R. 509) would reauthorize funding for conserving turtles through 2014.
- The Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp Act of 2009 (H.R. 1454 and S. 1567) would provide proceeds to implement the MSCF from the sale of certain postage stamps. According to bill language, funds from the stamps should not offset annual appropriations to the MSCF, nor should they be taken into account in any decision related to funding the MSCF or FWS. The stamps would be available to the public for at least five years.
- The Global Wildlife Conservation, Coordination, and Enhancement Act of 2009 (H.R. 3086) would create a program to administer MSCF funds and other similar funds for wildlife conservation, among other things.
- The Wildlife Without Borders Authorization Act (H.R. 3198) would create a species program to administer MSCF programs.

Two bills address the NMBCF. One extends the authorization for appropriations to FY2015, with steadily increasing funding levels (H.R. 2213); and the second (S. 690) also would reauthorize appropriations to FY2015 in increasing increments.

**Table I. Appropriations for Multinational Species Conservation Fund and Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, FY2006-FY2010**

(in U.S. \$ thousands)

Multinational Species Conservation Fund	FY2006 Enacted	FY2007 Enacted	FY2008 Enacted	FY2009 Enacted	FY2010 Enacted	FY2011 Requested
African Elephant	\$1,379	\$1,379	\$1,477	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Tiger and Rhinos	1,576	1,576	1,969	2,500	3,000	2,500
Asian Elephant	1,379	1,379	1,477	2,000	2,000	2,000
Great Apes	1,379	1,379	1,969	2,000	2,500	2,000
Marine Turtle	691	691	984	1,500	2,000	1,500
<b>Total MSCF</b>	<b>6,404</b>	<b>6,404</b>	<b>7,876</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>11,500</b>	<b>10,000</b>
<b>Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund</b>	<b>3,941</b>	<b>3,941</b>	<b>4,430</b>	<b>4,750</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>4,000</b>

<sup>5</sup> Felid species include lion (*Panthera leo*), leopard (*Panthera pardus*), jaguar (*Panthera onca*), snow leopard (*Uncia uncia*), clouded leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*), cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*), Iberian lynx (*Lynx pardina*), and Borneo bay cat (*Catopuma badia*), including any subspecies or population of such a species. This does not include any species, subspecies, or population that is native to the United States, or any tiger (*Panthera tigris*).

<sup>6</sup> Canid species include dhole (*Cuon alpinus*), gray wolf (*Canis lupus*), Ethiopian wolf (*Canis simensis*), bush dog (*Speothos venaticus*), African wild dog (*Lycaon pictus*), maned wolf (*Chrysocyon brachyurus*), and Darwin's fox, (*Pseudalopex fulvipes*), including any subspecies or population of such a species. This does not include any subspecies or population that is native to the United States, Canada, or the European Union.

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