

# RRF

RAPID  
RESPONSE  
FACILITY

[www.rapid-response.org](http://www.rapid-response.org)



Credit: Juan Pablo Moreiras/FFH

PROVIDING EMERGENCY SUPPORT TO SITES OF *OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE*

# LEGACY REVIEW



## Background

The Rapid Response Facility (RRF) provides emergency support to natural World Heritage sites – sites of *'outstanding universal value'* in developing countries.

Launched in 2006 the RRF is a partnership between Fauna & Flora International (FFI) and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, with past and present donor support provided by United Nations Foundation and Foundation Franz Weber. The RRF provides individual grants of up to **\$30,000** and makes funding decisions within a target of eight days, making it the world's fastest conservation funding body.

## Targeting support to the most important and irreplaceable locations on the planet

World Heritage sites are places of *'outstanding universal value'* that are recognised as being important at an international level.

In 1972 UNESCO adopted the World Heritage Convention to protect irreplaceable natural and man-made wonders. To date 191 countries have ratified the treaty and as of 2014, 1007 properties are inscribed on the World Heritage list. This number includes 779

cultural sites such as Angkor Wat temple in Cambodia, 197 natural sites such as the Great Barrier Reefs of Australia and Belize, and 31 mixed sites with both cultural and natural values.

The RRF focuses on support for the 197 natural World Heritage sites. Natural sites are inscribed by the World Heritage Committee if they meet one of the following criteria:

- **Contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance;**
- **Are outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history;**
- **Are outstanding examples representing significant ongoing ecological and biological processes;**
- **Contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity.**

# Globally important sites under threat

Despite their undeniable value to society, natural World Heritage sites face a myriad of challenges that threaten their existence. The most acute challenges are often extremely time sensitive and require an immediate response. These include both natural and human-induced challenges such as:

- **Natural disasters including earthquakes and wildfires causing sudden and unpredictable damage to ecosystems and rural livelihoods;**
- **Man-made crises having knock-on effects on wildlife including armed conflicts and oil spills;**
- **Dramatic increases in the over-exploitation of wildlife such as poaching events decimating wildlife populations;**

- **Uncontrolled and unregulated fast-paced development projects such as illegal road construction and dam prospecting within outstanding natural habitats.**

When emergencies occur it is essential to respond quickly to avoid devastating consequences. Without a timely response, key elements of the natural sites could be lost; such as tracts of forest or some of the iconic species they support. To meet this need the RRF provides grants to natural World Heritage sites in developing countries where rapid alternative funding is unavailable. Funding decisions are made within a target of eight days, ensuring that funds are on the ground in time to tackle the problems directly and can avert the most urgent challenges facing these amazing and unique sites.



## What is a successful emergency response?

Both species and ecosystems have tipping points, beyond which recovery may be impossible. Emergencies occur when situations threaten to pass these tipping points and cause permanent damage.

A successful emergency response will have an **immediate** and **significant impact** on the threat driving this change. This may be to halt an illegal tourism development project that would cause permanent damage to a coral reef system, or minimising the impact of an earthquake on peoples' livelihoods and wildlife, through a fast-acting relief effort. In such scenarios, the value of an emergency response may be judged by asking – what would have happened had RRF support not been available?

But such short-term successes are of limited value unless they are sustained. What is the benefit of stopping one

illegal construction project, if next week a different project is approved in its place? In a changing world, new threats are constantly emerging.

The RRF strives to make an immediate contribution to resolving pressing conservation challenges, but also to put in place the foundations needed to achieve a lasting positive change. This may be achieved by focussing national and international attention on a newly emerging threat to biodiversity and bringing about a change in legislation to permanently stop further destructive activities. Or it may achieve lasting change by supporting a conservation programme during a funding gap, without which the group would have folded, but instead has grown into an established conservation force.

This report explores the short and long-term success the RRF has achieved in protecting natural World Heritage sites.

# Summary of RRF lasting impact

In eight years of operation the RRF has given **35** grants providing much needed support for the world's most important natural wonders when they needed help most.

This has contributed to the protection of nearly **30 million hectares** of the world's most valuable natural habitats on both land and sea, across some 21 countries. In addition, ongoing tracking of these projects has shown that RRF funds have made both an immediate and lasting difference at a moment of crisis.

## In summary RRF funding has achieved:

- **TEN INTERVENTIONS** resulting in an immediate reduction in the illegal exploitation of wildlife, evidenced through increased rates of snare and trap removal from protected areas or increased frequency of wildlife crime arrests.

**EXAMPLE:** In Pang Sida National Park, Thailand, RRF funding resulted in an immediate increase in the number of arrests, improved national recognition of the challenges being faced and a governmental commitment for improved long-term support to combat wildlife crime in the World Heritage site.



- **EIGHT GRANTS** achieving the swift re-establishment of park operations and prevention of further damage to wildlife resources in times of civil unrest. Without this support it is likely that poaching would have become entrenched in these areas.

**EXAMPLE:** This support has included humanitarian aid to national park staff and the rebuilding of park headquarters. In Garamba National Park, Democratic Republic of Congo, a ranger training post was established. The trained rangers continue to play an important role long after the completion of the RRF project. The project implementers commented that 'The rangers trained at Ishango went on to become Garamba's premiere ranger force responsible for protecting wildlife from widespread poaching.'



- **FIVE RAPID ASSESSMENTS** successfully halted illegal or poorly planned development projects and alleviated short-term pressure on specific critical ecosystems. These interventions helped to create stronger national recognition of the significance and sensitivity of these sites and in three cases changed legislation resulting in improved long-term site protection.

**EXAMPLE:** At Bladen Nature Reserve and Corozal Bay Wildlife Sanctuary in Belize, the RRF-supported interventions have achieved complete bans on further encroachment and have successfully stopped any further environmentally damaging developments, so ensuring both an immediate short-term solution and improved long-term protection of these critical habitats.

- **EIGHT DISASTER RELIEF OPERATIONS** minimising the devastating impact of wildfires, earthquakes, tidal surges and oil spills.



Credit: Xiaohongou Nature Reserve

**EXAMPLE:** Following an earthquake, support to Sichuan Giant Panda Sanctuaries in China enabled a swift and coordinated relief effort between different agencies. Based on the experience and learning that this improved coordination approach provided, a new strategy for dealing with future unpredictable natural disasters was approved. Plans were put in place to improve the effectiveness of future relief operations. The project implementers commented that this strategy was used to good effect in 2013, when a further earthquake hit the region and the relief strategy was put into operation – resulting in reduced disruption and a quicker reinstatement of park operations.

- **THREE BRIDGING GRANTS** to fill emergency funding gaps for organisations managing World Heritage sites. Without such funding, protection could have ceased for charismatic wildlife, and the hard won, slow population recovery of long-lived species may have been quickly undone.

**EXAMPLE:** A small conservation group named HAKA-Hutan, Alam dan Lingkungan Aceh (Forest Nature and Environment Aceh) works to protect the Sumatran rhino in its tropical forest habitat in Northern Sumatra, Indonesia. Faced with a funding shortage and having to cease the patrolling of this habitat the RRF provided bridge funding to maintain protection activities and buy time for the conservation group to secure further funding. On the back of RRF support the group was able to source an additional \$60,000 of funding, maintain patrolling and continue to collect evidence of a healthy breeding population of the Sumatran rhino which still persists today.



Credit: HAWA/FFL

## Factors underlying RRF success

### 1. Responsive and reactive to maximise impact.

Many of the world's disasters occur without warning and leave behind horrific consequences. Without a fast acting response, the devastation of such disasters can magnify. This is why the RRF plays an essential role, making funds immediately available to provide support when it is needed most.

### 2. Targeted support for a lasting legacy.

By focusing on World Heritage sites, the RRF prioritises support for sites of *outstanding universal value* that are the planet's lasting legacy for future generations. As the rate of global development accelerates, these last refuges of nature become ever more valuable to society; acting as the green lungs of the earth, safeguarding endangered species and for our own enjoyment of the natural world. By providing targeted support to these sites in times of crisis, the RRF acts as guardian to the world's most precious natural possessions.

### 3. Strong partnership to guide an effective grant giving model.

By definition emergency situations unfold quickly and often without warning. To make the best possible funding decisions that can have the largest possible impact and make efficient use of resources it is essential to make use of the best information available. UNESCO with its global reach of 195 member states has the global network needed to provide insight to the social, political and environmental context of unfolding emergency situations. FFI's innovative and 'on-the-ground' approach to conservation provides practical knowledge and often personal experience of the challenges and means of bringing about effective solutions. Through this collaboration the RRF operates a rigorous review and monitoring process that ensures the highest possible impact of investment.

“WE FOUND RRF TO BE EXACTLY WHAT IT DEFINES ITSELF AS – A RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM TO ADDRESS CRITICAL THREATS.

Zoe Walker,  
Project Manager  
– Wildtracks





# Projects overview: demonstrating a legacy from emergency intervention

Although the RRF's inputs to projects are one-off and short-term, by intervening at the point of incipient crisis we are able to avert otherwise disastrous change at these sites, and the support we have given is recognised as bringing about lasting change in many areas. We have maintained contact with grantees subsequently, and by following their progress we are able to assess how the RRF grants can leave an ongoing conservation legacy.

## 1 Supporting conservation in times of crisis

### KAHUZI-BIEGA NATIONAL PARK, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO CONSERVATION IN A WAR ZONE

Kahuzi-Biega National Park is a vast area of primary tropical forest in South Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo, dominated by two spectacular extinct volcanoes. It is home to one of the last groups of eastern lowland gorilla (*Gorilla beringei graueri*) consisting of only 250 individuals.

This unique natural wonder faces intense and unpredictable disruption from war and civil strife in the region. The park is sporadically used as a hideout for large militia groups, forcing the displacement of thousands of refugees, high levels of poaching and the destruction of park infrastructure including the laying of land mines. This led to an emergency situation as it had become impossible for staff to patrol the park safely and protect its precious wildlife.

In 2008 the RRF supported an emergency request from the park's managing organisation l'Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN) to re-establish park operations in the key Itebero sector of the park. This included the building of a ranger station to allow frequent patrols to discourage poaching and protect the park's wildlife. Park director Radar Nishuli commented immediately after the period of RRF support that "the construction of this station has had a considerable impact on the motivation of park rangers who have for the first time in Itebero an office where they can plan

and coordinate their work. This building is among the most beautiful buildings in the sector."

In 2013-14 the number of ranger patrols in the forest and distance covered by patrol teams in this section of the park has more than doubled compared with 2008 levels. Relationships with local communities are also much improved as the greater visibility of park staff has shown that they are making concerted efforts to manage the park effectively. Indeed the local chief of Bakano who was once a strong opponent of the park has now become a great defender of the park and conservation advocate, sensitising communities and his fellow chiefs. This has fostered greater collaboration for park management. In 2012 the chief of Bakano received the 'medaille de mérite écologique' (medal of ecological merit) for his efforts.



Credit: UNESCO/Guy Dabonne





Credit: Freeland/PROTECT



Credit: Freeland/Eric Ash

## PANG SIDA NATIONAL PARK, THAILAND SAVING LIVES AND WILDLIFE

Pang Sida National Park makes up part of the Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex natural World Heritage site of Thailand which contains the Endangered Siamese rosewood. The blood red hue of this hardwood is highly sought after by an illegal but growing Asian market. Between 2012 and 2013 the selling price for the rosewood in China rose from \$50,000 to \$95,000 per cubic metre. The high financial rewards available have fuelled an intensification of poaching efforts, with bands of poachers armed with automatic rifles reaching 30 people or more.

This situation became not just a wildlife emergency, but also a human crisis on March 14 2013, when a park ranger from Pang Sida was fatally wounded in an armed exchange with poachers.

The RRF granted funds to FREELAND Foundation to immediately secure the safety of rangers and reduce the threat to the park's biodiversity through conducting an intensive ranger training course, providing essential field equipment, supporting the establishment of a rigorous park monitoring system and promoting greater collaboration between different wildlife poaching enforcement organisations.

The sharing of park monitoring information with 17 Thai government agencies led to the allocation of additional personnel to strengthen park protection. Consequently the amount of time rangers were able to spend in the forest trebled, resulting in nine rosewood poacher encounters during the grant period, all of which ended with arrests. There has been no further park ranger loss of life and rangers commented that the training course, which included gunshot wound first aid, played a significant role in the successful evacuation of one ranger injured during an armed encounter two weeks after the training course was completed. Subsequent injuries sustained in the forest have been dealt with quickly and were deemed non-life threatening.

Furthermore at the conclusion of this project, Thailand's Minister of Natural Resources and Environment and Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation announced the formation of a rosewood suppression task force specifically for the Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex. With this commitment the forests of Pang Sida National Park will receive a sustained investment in law enforcement and protection in the future.

“THE RRF FUNDS ARE VERY SPECIAL. THE RRF'S DESIRE TO SOLVE A SPECIFIC PROBLEM IN A SHORT TIME MADE THESE FUNDS EXCEPTIONALLY VALUABLE, ESPECIALLY FOR THE PROTECTED AREAS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHERE EMERGENCY FUNDS ARE NOT AVAILABLE FOR UNFORESEEN CHALLENGES. **Park Director, Kahuzi-Biega National Park**

## 2 Rapid interventions to manage fast-paced, uncontrolled development:

### RAPID ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT FOR ROAD DEVELOPMENT WITHIN **MASSIF DU RETEZAT TENTATIVE WORLD HERITAGE SITE, ROMANIA**

Retezat is Romania's oldest National Park and is home to wolves, Eurasian lynx and brown bears. The region is shaped like an hour glass, with a

narrow section in the middle connecting two larger wilderness areas. This central connecting region is crucial for these large, wide roaming species; acting as a wildlife corridor and allowing the lynx and bear safe passage between the two larger wilderness areas. In 2012 plans for a motorway through this corridor were drawn up without due consideration for the environmental impact it would have. This called for immediate action to safeguard this corridor before time ran out for one of Europe's last refuges for large bodied wild mammals.

An emergency intervention was funded by the RRF to enable international specialists to carry out a rapid environmental assessment and recommend mitigation measures before the National Park was cut off from the rest of the Carpathian Mountains. Surveys showed bears and wolves frequently crossing the proposed route of the motorway on specific tracks and identified priority areas to plan the construction of wildlife overpasses, tunnels and viaducts. These were successfully incorporated into the final construction plan for the motorway due to the swiftness that wildlife monitoring funds were made available, allowing concrete evidence to be presented ahead of the motorway's construction.

This data of wildlife movement in Retezat National Park has since enabled the project to leverage an additional 2.4 million euros of European Union funding to expand the monitoring and wildlife protection work in the Carpathians.



“WE CONSIDER RRF TO BE THE MOST RESPONSIVE DONOR WE HAVE WORKED WITH, CONSIDERING THE URGENCY OF THE RESEARCH THIS WAS A KEY FACTOR IN OUR SUCCESS.

**Radu Mot, President, Zarand Association**

## PROTECTING THE WORLD HERITAGE OF **BELIZE**

The Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System is the largest barrier reef in the northern hemisphere and second longest in the world. It is home to manatees, turtles and over 500 tropical fish species. It has been designated as a World Heritage site in Danger and is particularly vulnerable to siltation that threatens to cloud the clear tropical waters and destroy the beautiful but fragile coral reef ecosystem. In 2009 the RRF was approached by the Ya'axché Conservation Trust (Ya'axché), reporting that unauthorised prospection work for a hydro-electric dam had been carried out in Bladen Nature Reserve, a pristine upstream forest whose waters feed into the Belize Barrier Reef. If completed, the dam could have been a serious source of sediment leading to the siltation of the barrier reef waters, and could have general negative impacts on downstream areas of the watershed.

Given this imminent threat, emergency funding was provided for Ya'axché, with the participation of the Belize Forest Department to carry out immediate monitoring trips to ensure that prospecting activities had ceased, compelling the prospectors to comply with existing laws and regulations.

The survey findings compelled the government to place an immediate ban on the illegal actions of the development company and no further dam development has occurred in the reserve.

This grant fast-tracked the development of Ya'axché's advocacy programme and the consequent ruling of the government raised the profile and influence of the growing Belizean NGO. Using this platform Ya'axché has gone on to run a successful campaign to place a national moratorium on unsustainable rosewood harvesting. In 2012 the Executive Director of Ya'axché, Lisel Alamilla, was appointed Minister for Forestry, Fisheries and Sustainable Development in the cabinet of the Belizean government and is today well placed to guide the country towards more sustainable use of the country's rich natural resources.

“THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE RRF CONTRIBUTED TO THE FOREST DEPARTMENT'S DECISION TO PLACE A CEASE AND DESIST ORDER ON THE DEVELOPMENT

**Lee Mcloughlin, Protected Area Manager**  
– Ya'axché Conservation Trust

Credit: Juan Pablo Moreiras/FFI

Credit: Juan Pablo Moreiras/FFI



## AVERTING DESTRUCTION OF BELIZEAN CORAL REEF AND MANGROVES

In February 2010 local Belizean conservation group Wildtracks became aware of a planned tourism development project in the largely untouched Spanish Point area of Corozal Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, which empties on to the Belize Barrier Reef World Heritage site. This project would have caused the clearance of large areas of mangrove trees and dredging of the bay, resulting in siltation and damage to the sensitive coral reefs that make up Belize's precious marine heritage and most popular ecotourism attraction.

With support from the RRF, Wildtracks conducted an awareness raising campaign about the environmental consequences of this short-sighted development, attracting local and national attention and successfully halting the damaging activities.

Thanks to these awareness raising efforts, governmental appreciation of the critical ecological role of the site was enhanced, leading to the Sanctuary being designated with the highest conservation status during an environmental analysis by the Department of Petroleum when investigating ecological sensitivity to oil exploration. As a result, the long-term

conservation of the site is more secure and any further developments in the area would be heavily scrutinised by the Department of the Environment.

The project has also been described as a launch pad for improving sustainable use of Belizean coastal resources; fostering stronger collaboration between local fishermen and women, conservation groups and the Belize Fisheries Department. Furthermore the project has contributed to the leveraging of further funding for other initiatives for the collaborative management of the region's marine resources such as a major new trans-boundary conservation planning initiative between the Belize and Mexican protected areas authorities.



“THE EXPERIENCE OF UNDERTAKING THIS RRF PROJECT STRENGTHENED THE CAPACITY OF WILDTRACKS TO WORK WITH LOCAL FISHERMEN AND PROVIDED AN IMPORTANT LEARNING OPPORTUNITY. THIS HAS BEEN IMPORTANT IN THE SUCCESS OF SUBSEQUENT SUSTAINABLE FISHERY ACTIVITIES.

**Zoe Walker – Project Manager, Wildtracks**

### 3 Supporting recovery from man-made and natural disasters

#### RAPID RELIEF AFTER RIVER NILE OIL SPILL

In September 2010, 110 tons of diesel oil were spilled into the River Nile near Aswan, Egypt. Slicks dispersed rapidly and oil overwhelmed aquatic life. Located 7km from the area of the oil spill is a UNESCO tentative natural World Heritage site called Bird Migration Routes.

This location is an important stopover site for many bird species travelling between Europe and their African wintering grounds. The oil spill, in early autumn, came at a time when the area is used heavily by migrating birds.

An RRF grant was provided to the Nature Conservation Sector of the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency to evaluate the situation and take restorative action. Oil containment measures were immediately put in place by pumping contaminated water out of the river system and cutting and removing aquatic weeds that absorb and act as a reservoir for the oil.

The RRF funds made it possible to conduct the first systematic bird survey in southern Egypt. The rapid survey methods developed during this grant have since been repeated each year. Evidence of the prolific numbers of migratory birds that pass through the site is enabling the site to be nominated as an Important Bird Area and gain greater global recognition and access to additional conservation funding.



“ IF THE RRF GRANT WAS NOT AVAILABLE THE HABITATS WHERE THOUSANDS OF WATER BIRDS SPEND THE WINTER WOULD NO LONGER BE USABLE.

HAITHAM IBRAHIM, EGYPTIAN ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AGENCY.

Credit: Haitham Ibrahim

Credit: Haitham Ibrahim

## EMERGENCY EARTHQUAKE RECOVERY IN CHINA

In May 2008 an earthquake of 8.0 magnitude struck China's Sichuan Province. The epicentre of the earthquake was only 50km from the Sichuan Giant Panda Sanctuaries World Heritage site, which is home to more than 30% of the world's remaining wild giant pandas.

The earthquake halted all daily management and conservation activities within the sanctuaries that make up this World Heritage site and caused substantial damage both to the ecosystem and to sanctuary infrastructure.

To assist the reserves to restore management operations as quickly as possible, the RRF supported the Dujiangyan World Heritage Conservation Association to evaluate the scale of the damage and replacement of critical equipment to allow panda monitoring to recommence. Based on this work a reconstruction plan for the Sichuan Giant Panda Sanctuaries was swiftly drafted and put into action.

In addition to the immediate rebuilding work, the grant gave the team the opportunity to identify the worst hit areas, gain experience of coordinating a disaster recovery operation and put plans in place to meet similar future emergencies. In April 2013 a further earthquake of 7.0 magnitude hit the site. Based on the experience gained through the earlier RRF grant, the response team was able to put emergency relief steps into play more quickly and coordinate more effectively with other humanitarian earthquake relief teams across the region.



## QUENCHING WILDFIRES ON MOUNT KENYA

Mount Kenya National Park contains Africa's second highest mountain, an elephant population of 2000-3000 individuals and a threatened forest ecosystem. Only 2.5% of Kenya is forested and so this forest on the foothills of the mountain is of national importance. In May 2012 unusually fierce wildfires broke out, which burnt at least 58km<sup>2</sup> of forest.

The RRF provided emergency finance to Mount Kenya Trust to upscale fire-fighting efforts and bring the blaze under control before it caused irrevocable damage to the remaining forests. This support contributed to bringing together different government and private sector parties, including the NGO Rhino Ark, the Kenyan Wildlife Service and British Royal Air Force, to work together to extinguish the fires.

Based on the success of this collaborative fire-fighting effort, a partnership has been established between these organisations. This includes a protocol to help coordinate fire-fighting efforts in the future and a long-term plan for fire management in the region. As a result of these steps the Mount Kenya Trust now has more partners to call on in the event of future wildfires and is better equipped today to deal with future emergency events.



## An ongoing challenge

Since it began in 2006 the RRF has successfully supported key natural areas under threat. However in 2013 alone the RRF received ten times as many requests for emergency support than it had resources to fund. With ever expanding human development and growing climatic instability the threats to our shared World Heritage are mounting. To meet this uncertain future the RRF must be strengthened to continue to play its role as the guardian of the planet's natural World Heritage.

To date RRF has targeted some \$850,000 of funding as emergency response to threats to natural World Heritage Sites.

The RRF provides an ideal mechanism to commit to saving some of the best known and iconic sites around the globe by an immediate and cost-effective contribution to safeguarding the planet's legacy for the future.

To achieve maximum results with minimum overheads, the RRF provides:

- **Granting decisions in just eight days – getting funds on the ground when they are needed;**
- **Administration and technical knowledge – with access to a global network of experts the RRF operates an effective review process for grant selection and contract allocation;**
- **Monitoring and evaluation – ensuring timely reporting on both activities and conservation impact, to ensure that investors can see the conservation return for their inputs.**

The RRF gives the opportunity to work towards a more sustainable, safer future by intervening when and where needed to avert crises before they undermine ongoing efforts to support globally important natural areas.

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This legacy review was undertaken with generous support from IUCN

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Established in 1992, the World Heritage Centre is the focal point and coordinator within the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for all matters related to World Heritage. The Centre's staff have substantial knowledge about the biodiversity within natural World Heritage sites, and are well-placed to evaluate efforts to protect that biodiversity.

The Centre coordinates:

- all World Heritage site nomination and evaluation processes;
- international reporting on the condition of World Heritage sites;
- emergency action undertaken when a site is threatened.



The United Nations Foundation links the United Nations work with others around the world, mobilising the energy and expertise of business and non-governmental organisations to help the UN tackle issues including climate change, global health, peace and security, women's empowerment, poverty eradication, energy access, and US-UN relations.



The Fondation Franz Weber (FFW), with the aim of preserving the sites threatened by local entrepreneurs has often mobilised the international press and the worldwide public. It has also organised activities to raise awareness among local communities, programmes for the promotion of renewable resources and sustainable development. The protection of animals and their natural habitat is also included in the campaign and action programmes promoted by the FFW.



Fauna & Flora International (FFI) has over a century of experience in the conservation of threatened species and ecosystems worldwide. FFI operates primarily in developing countries, often focusing on building the capacity of local organisations in their efforts to protect biodiversity.

FFI has a strong history of undertaking conservation efforts in post-disaster or post-conflict situations – for example, in Cambodia, Liberia, and in Aceh following the 2004 tsunami. FFI also has substantial experience in the effective and transparent management of funding programmes, through the Conservation Leadership Programme, Flagship Species Fund and Halcyon Land & Sea Fund.

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