

REPORT ON THE ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION “THREATENED SPECIES  
PARTNERSHIP / SAVE YOUR LOGO FUNDING PROGRAM”

KATHY MACKINNON<sup>1,2</sup> AND VALERIE HICKEY<sup>1,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*The World Bank, 1818 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20433, USA;* <sup>2</sup>e-mail: [kmackinnon@worldbank.org](mailto:kmackinnon@worldbank.org);

<sup>3</sup>e-mail: [vhickey@worldbank.org](mailto:vhickey@worldbank.org)

The World Bank’s mission is to alleviate poverty and support sustainable development. The conservation and sustainable use of natural habitats and biodiversity directly contributes to this mission. As such, the World Bank Group is a major global funder of biodiversity initiatives, providing support to 598 projects in over 120 countries since 1988, amounting to over \$6 billion in biodiversity investments. These projects directly support biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in a range of natural habitats, from coral reefs to some of the world’s highest mountains, and from tropical evergreen and monsoon forests to savannas grasslands and unique dry lands, limestone, marine and freshwater ecosystems, and small island developing states. Many are in centers of recognized global importance for biodiversity: mega-diversity hotspots, remaining wilderness areas, the Global 200 Ecoregions described by Worldwide Fund for Nature, and Endemic and Important Bird Areas.

ROUND-TABLE PURPOSE

Save Our Species (SOS) is a proposed new global partnership that will provide funding for action on threatened species through a secretariat housed at the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). It will consist of a core, grant-making mechanism that will be resourced with initial funding from the GEF grant and the World Bank, and supplemented by a complementary innovative fund raising initiative which will seek contributions from corporations that showcase species as part of their logos - the Save Your Logo Fund. The program will aim at complementing existing schemes that protect charismatic species. Too often those conservation efforts are site-specific, not well coordinated, or fail to secure habitats critical to less well-known, but equally endangered, species. SOS plans to provide medium-sized grants likely to have significant impact on conservation of both charismatic and lesser known threatened species and their critical habitats. In addition, and in order to respond to emergency situations that could affect threatened species or

could threaten them in the short term (oil spills, mass-stranding, disease outbreaks, etc) as well as to initiate local capacity building, a small-grants facility will be dedicated to supporting early and/or emergency action. SOS will be implemented through collaboration among scientific institutions, government agencies, international NGOs, as well as local stakeholders. Participation of local NGOs will be essential. The members of the Species Survival Commission will provide technical advice and play a critical role in guiding implementation of sub-grants to address conservation of threatened species.

As a result, Kathy MacKinnon, the World Bank’s Lead Biodiversity Specialist, moderated a round-table for the purpose of soliciting input on how to best structure SOS so as to capture lessons learned from other global grant programs, learn which size grants are most useful but thus far least available, uncover which types of projects are most effective at safeguarding threatened species on small island states, and identify the most effective way to advertise funding opportunities and solicit interest among the conservation community there.

DISCUSSION

Several threads arose during the discussion, focusing especially on timelines, grant processing, and types of support. Bank staff were very grateful for the thoughtful comments and helpful insights provided by participants, and look forward to incorporating them in the final design of SOS.

TIMELINES

Participants suggested that projects longer than two years better suit conservation needs, and allow a recipient to spend more time doing conservation than applying, reporting on, and managing grants. Moreover, these could include a one-year renewal option to enable a recipient to focus on sustainability and institutionalizing their results following the actual implementation of the initial two-year project. Also, even longer projects (e.g. ten years)

would be useful if they could be funded in two stages, with the second stage depending on a successful mid-term review of the first five-years. However, participants noted that the reporting requirements on projects over four years tend to be very onerous, especially for small NGOs with limited capacity.

#### GRANT PROCESSING

Participants proposed that providing a targeted call for proposals with a clear proposal format would make it easier for smaller NGOs to compete. A preference was voiced for financing only applied research (including inventories and monitoring work) that could be used within the framework of an existing management plan. Participants suggested that making an initial small grant available could allow grant recipients to develop a project and test their ideas, with the potential for a larger grant (~\$100,000) to enable implementation thereafter. Participants felt that this would reduce pressure on smaller NGOs in island states that often lack the dedicated capacity to produce grants and develop projects without financial support. Similarly, these

NGOs would greatly benefit from a two-step application process that would allow them to outline a project, and then if considered to have potential, receive both financial and technical input to produce a more lengthy and detailed project proposal.

#### TYPES OF SUPPORT

Participants identified several gaps that exist in conservation in the Caribbean, including the need to: (1) nurture a private philanthropic ethos; (2) build constituencies for conservation through public awareness and education; (3) provide emergency funds as long as the application process is heavily streamlined; (4) finance captive breeding and reintroductions in landscapes where the habitat is managed but species continue to decline; (5) support habitat management, restoration, and species-specific grants (e.g. tackling the wildlife trade) in areas where habitat fragmentation and species-specific threats are easily identifiable; and (6) expand baseline monitoring to measure the impact of the many interventions underway.