CONSERVATIONALLIES

partners for wildlife

Conservation Action Fund for Africa

A Funding Opportunity from Conservation Allies in Support of Local Conservation Leadership Across Africa

Overview

Africa contains some of the world's most important Protected Areas for biodiversity, yet face immense challenges together with severe under-funding. Many of the most effective conservation leaders in these regions operate small, locally led organizations that lack access to funding. The Conservation Action Fund for Africa (CAFA) seeks to bridge that gap by identifying and empowering these organizations, supporting practical action to reduce deforestation, and building a network of trusted long-term conservation partners across Africa.

Conservation Allies will provide upwards of 8 pilot CAFA grants of up to $20,000 to local and national organizations implementing practical, results-oriented conservation actions. Specific aims include:

1) Demonstrate reduced deforestation and other tangible outcomes for Protected Areas
2) Support communities with nursing teams offering family planning and medical assistance
3) Build local leadership and long-term partnerships with effective organizations

Grantees are eligible for increased multi-year funding in subsequent years based on pilot grant results.

The fund will prioritize:

1) Local and national NGOs working in priority Protected Areas in West and Central Africa
2) Projects supporting Rangers and tactics to reduce deforestation inside Protected Areas
3) Experience or partnerships in offering family planning and medical assistance to communities

Funding Amount

- **Maximum grant size** (one per organization)**:** $20,000
- **Grant duration:** 12 months
- **Future funding:** projects may receive **expanded multi-year support** based on impact and results

Eligible NGO Applicants

Applicants must be:

- Local or nationally founded and led conservation NGO
- An IUCN member in good standing
- Support or manage a WCPA-recognized Protected Area
- Minimum three-year track record of conservation results

Eligible Countries

- Angola
- Benin
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cameroon
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Djibouti
- Equatorial Guinea
- Eritrea
- Ethiopia
- Gabon
- Gambia
- Ghana
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Liberia
- Malawi
- Mali
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Republic of the Congo
- Rwanda
- São Tomé and Príncipe
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone
- Somalia
- South Sudan
- Togo
- Uganda

Eligible Activities

We do not fund research, education, economic development, or monitoring activities. Funded activities will focus on practical, measurable conservation actions, specifically limited to:

1. Ranger Patrol Operations Targeting and Reducing Deforestation

Projects that strengthen Protected Area protection and enforcement, including:

- Recruitment, training, and equipping of Rangers
- Ranger and law enforcement patrol operations
- Legal expenses and costs for the prosecution of serious offences inside Protected Areas.

2. Family Planning and Medical Services around Protected Areas

Projects that deliver tangible reproductive and medical healthcare services in communities surrounding Protected Areas in order to reduce long-term pressures on biodiversity. Examples include:

- Mobile family planning outreach services
- Community health worker programs offering medical care and contraceptives
- Integration of conservation awareness with health outreach

Selection Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on the following core criteria:

1. **Conservation Impact:** Clear focus on protecting threatened Protected Areas and wildlife populations.
2. **Local Leadership:** Strong local governance and leadership, preference for locally founded organizations.
3. **Demonstrated Track Record:** Evidence of past success in implementing conservation actions.
4. **Clear Outcomes and Metrics:** Projects must include measurable results, such as:
    i. Number of patrols conducted
    ii. Proposed % reduction in deforestation (using only Global Forest Watch data for Protected Area)
    iii. Number of family planning and medical services delivered
    iv. Number of contraceptives provided
5. **Budget Transparency:** Clear and realistic budgets with administrative costs capped at 10%.
6. **Scalability and Sustainability:** Preference for projects that:
    - Integrate into existing family planning or Protected Area activities
    - Demonstrate potential for scaling up and long-term success

Application Process

To apply, please fill out the Application Form and send it back to us at grants@conservationallies.org.

Selected applicants may be asked to provide additional documentation, references, or financial information during the review process.