



## Disney Conservation Fund 2023 Grant Opportunity Details

Disney Conservation is committed to saving wildlife and building a diverse global community inspired to protect the magic of nature together. Since 1995, Disney Conservation has directed more than \$120 million and the expertise of our dedicated teams to support organizations working with communities to save wildlife, inspire action and protect the planet.

In honor of the 25th anniversary of Disney's Animal Kingdom in April 2023, we are offering a special opportunity for eligible organizations to apply for a two-year conservation grant of \$100,000 to advance their efforts to work alongside communities to reduce biodiversity loss and restore habitats.

**This will be our only open call for conservation funding proposals in 2023 and our standard Inspiring Action grants and Conservation Heroes programs will be paused for the next year** as our team also uses this time for strategic planning to meaningfully evolve our program and help us continue to work together for the greatest impact for global communities, wildlife and habitats.

### Eligibility

- Any nonprofit organization program that has received Disney Conservation Fund support for five or more years through the annual DCF Inspiring Action grants program. *We define a conservation program as a suite of multi-faceted projects centered around a species/habitat of interest. Projects complement each other to achieve overarching, long-term goals of the broader program.*
- The most recent grant for the program must have been received in 2019 or after.
  - Note: Organizations that receive a conservation grant in September 2022 are also eligible for this additional award if they meet other eligibility criteria.
- **Only one submission per organization will be considered.**

*Please contact the DCF team ([Corp.Conservation@disney.com](mailto:Corp.Conservation@disney.com)) with any questions about eligibility, or to discuss which of your organization's multiple eligible programs may be most competitive for this opportunity.*

### Application and Reporting

- Grantees will be required to submit a simple application through our Cybergrants platform. Log in using your Cybergrants credentials at <http://www.cybergrants.com/disney/dcfspecial> to get started.
- If awarded, a progress report will be due one year after funding (June 2024), and a final report due two years after funding is awarded (June 2025). Grantees will be expected to report on tangible outcomes achieved in the areas of species and habitat protection and community engagement. Grantees will also be asked to create a professional, 90-second video representing their work, to be submitted with the first progress report, and may be asked for other assets or a spokesperson for media interviews throughout the grant period.

## Awards

- Grantees will receive an award of \$100,000 with the following restrictions:
  - *Funds should support strategies and operations of the wildlife conservation program the organization presented in the application (rather than another program), and/or general organization operations.*
  - *Funding should not be used for purposes intended to benefit a Government Official, either directly or indirectly (as defined in [The Walt Disney Company's Anti-Corruption Policy](#)), or intended to influence an act or decision by a Government Official.*

## Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed by a committee of Disney Cast Members (employees) with a range of expertise in wildlife conservation, animal care, field research, community outreach and engagement, evaluation, business, communications, and diversity, equity, access and inclusion.

## Timeline

- September 2022 – Applications open, please note this **invitation is non-transferable**
- **November 1, 2022 – DEADLINE** for application submission (11:59pm Eastern Time UTC-4:00)
- November 2022 – April 2023 – Proposals reviewed by Disney committee
- May 2023 – Grant decision announcements
- Requests for storytelling updates and resources should be expected ahead of Earth Month (April) each spring.
- June 2024 – Progress report due, to include a professional, 90-second video representing the program
- June 2025 – Final report due



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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### **WHO IS MY CONTACT?**

### 1. Why is DCF offering a different grant opportunity this year, and will the “normal” opportunity return next year?

In honor of the 100th anniversary of The Walt Disney Company and the 25th anniversary of Disney’s Animal Kingdom in 2023, we will offer a special opportunity for eligible organizations to apply for a two-year conservation grant of \$100,000 to advance community-based efforts that protect biodiversity and restore habitats.

This will be our only open call for conservation funding proposals in 2023 and our standard Inspiring Action two-year grant program and Conservation Heroes program will be paused for the next year to allow for the time needed for meaningful strategic planning and evolution of our program. We hope to have more to share about future DCF grant opportunities in the Fall of 2023.

### 2. Can I nominate a Disney Conservation Hero?

The Disney Conservation Hero program is on hiatus in 2023 and we will not be accepting nominations.

## CRITERIA

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### 3. What criteria are used to evaluate each proposal?

This new grant opportunity will give special consideration to programs’ demonstrated impact to date in the areas listed below, as well as potential for future impact. The Disney Conservation Fund gives priority consideration to holistic programs that address a significant and urgent conservation need (or projects that are part of a program) which reflect all of the following:

- Alignment with Disney’s priority regions/species, as defined below.
- Contribution to the conservation of endangered, threatened or vulnerable species and their habitats in the wild.
- Applied scientific field studies on species and habitats that demonstrate scientific rigor, directly inform/advance conservation strategies, and evaluate impact.
  - The Disney Conservation Fund does *not* fund ex-situ projects/project components.
  - Although the fund recognizes that basic science is a critical first step in conservation initiatives, preference is given to projects that include specific conservation action components.
- Engagement of relevant communities/stakeholders through community-based education programs or support of sustainable community development projects directly connected to protecting species and habitats, including measurement of impact on attitudes and behaviors (see below for additional information on expectations for education components).
- Proposal of feasible activities to advance conservation outcomes for wildlife/habitats over the next two years, including evidence of adequate support through cooperative efforts with relevant partners (other nonprofit organizations, government agencies, communities, etc.), additional funding sources, relevant permits, etc.
- Expansion of previous work including an established commitment to a conservation program OR demonstration that proposed project is well suited to become or contribute to a long-term conservation program.
- Consideration for welfare of the animals involved in the study. Specifically, the principal investigator affirms:
  - Capture/restraint techniques minimize stress and the potential for physical injury or psychological harm

- o Immobilization/anesthesia is done under the direct supervision of a veterinarian or other trained professional
- o Exposure to noxious stimuli and presumptive negative effects are minimized with administration of anesthetic and/or analgesic agents where appropriate

#### 4. What are the priority regions for the Disney Conservation Fund?

The Disney Conservation Fund supports programs and projects around the world, with programs in 120 different countries receiving support thus far. The fund also seeks to support projects taking place in areas where Disney has a significant business focus, including the regions below:

Region	Priority Areas *
<b>Africa</b>	Angola, Botswana, Congo, DRC, Egypt, Gabon, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe
<b>Asia</b>	Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, The Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam
<b>Central/South America</b>	Antigua, Argentina, Barbados, Bermuda, Bolivia, Brazil, British Virgin Islands, Castaway Cay, Cayman Islands, Chile, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Galapagos Islands, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, St. Lucia, St. Maarten, St. Thomas, The Bahamas, Uruguay, Venezuela
<b>Europe/Middle East/Australia</b>	Albania, Austria, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Kingdom of Bahrain, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanese Republic, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Poland, Republic of Ireland, Romania, Russia & CIS, Serbia, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sultanate of Oman, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom
<b>Marine</b>	Alaska, Antarctica, Antigua, Australia, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, California, Castaway Cay, Cayman Islands, China, Eastern Gulf of Mexico (especially in/near Florida), Hawaii, Indo-Pacific, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, St. Lucia, St. Maarten, St. Thomas, The Bahamas and Western Atlantic; will also consider marine projects occurring near other priority areas listed
<b>North America</b>	Canada: Alberta, British Columbia, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia; Mexico; USA: Alaska, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Montana, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wyoming

*\*Please note this list is subject to change.*

Organizations may submit one project application for this grant opportunity. Please contact [Corp.Conservation@disney.com](mailto:Corp.Conservation@disney.com) with any questions about eligibility.

## 5. What is the timeline for Disney Conservation Fund funding?

Application Deadline: 11:59pm ET (UTC -4:00), November 1, 2022

Notifications/Grant Distribution: May 2023

Annual Progress Report Deadline: June 2024, check Cybergrants for exact date

Final Annual Report Deadline: June 2025, check Cybergrants for exact date

Please do not contact us any earlier than May 2023 regarding the status of your proposal. It is our policy to notify all applicants at the same time regarding the status of their application.

## 6. When is the application due?

Completed proposals must be received by **11:59pm ET (UTC -4:00), November 1, 2022**. Late proposals cannot be considered out of fairness to all applicants. Please note Disney Conservation Fund or CyberGrants support will NOT be available after 6:00pm EST, on this date.

## ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATIONS

## 7. Who is eligible for this year's grant opportunity?

To be considered eligible for this grant opportunity, organizations must:

- Have received 5+ years of support from the Disney Conservation Fund through DCF Inspiring Action grants program
- Have received its most recent grant for said program in 2019 or after

## 8. My NGO has an active Inspiring Action grant for this program – am I eligible?

Yes. Grantees who received their most recent grant in September/October 2022 through DCF Inspiring Action annual grants are eligible to apply for this opportunity should they meet the other criteria.

## 9. My NGO has received multiple types of grants from the Disney Conservation Fund, which grant types “count” toward 5 years of program funding for eligibility?

- **Coins for Change** and **Disneynature** support has been provided through the Disney Conservation Fund and does count toward the 5 years of program funding for the purposes of eligibility for this opportunity.
- Organizations who have an **active Saving Wildlife** grant are not eligible to submit those specific programs for this opportunity. If the same organization would like to submit a different project for consideration that has been supported by DCF for 5+ years and meets the criteria of this opportunity, this is acceptable.
- If your organization does not currently have an active Saving Wildlife grant, a **former Saving Wildlife** program may be submitted for consideration if it otherwise meets criteria.
- **Disney Conservation Hero** awards are considered individual/team recognition and not counted as part of 5 years of program funding.

## **10. Is eligibility counted by number of grants received or number of years funded?**

Any nonprofit organization that the Disney Conservation Fund has supported for a single conservation program for **5+ years** through DCF Inspiring Action grants program. A two-year grant from the DCF is considered as two years of the program being funded.

## **11. If my NGO receives this grant, are we eligible to apply for funds next year?**

Future Disney Conservation Fund grant opportunities are in development and we will share an update by late 2023. In general, programs with active grants may not reapply for continued funds until current grant expenditure is complete.

## **12. What are Disney's charitable giving guidelines?**

Please view our full global charitable giving guidelines [here](#). Organizations must have been established for at least one year, have an annual income of at least \$50,000 (to avoid "[tipping](#)"), and able to provide supporting documentation upon request.

## **13. How does The Disney Conservation Fund consider diversity, equity, access and inclusion when determining grant distributions?**

The Walt Disney Company prioritizes diversity, equity, access and inclusion across its businesses and has committed to allocating at least 50 percent of charitable giving, including grants provided by the Disney Conservation Fund, to programs that directly impact diverse communities. Within your application, you will be asked to share how your project will support underserved or vulnerable communities where you work over the next two years, including: how you identify and define any underserved/vulnerable audiences in your region, how your project is specifically serving this audience through planned activities over the next two years, and how you will evaluate success in reaching and positively impacting this audience.

## **14. How do I receive an invitation to apply?**

An invitation is not required to apply. Organizations should self-identify whether they are eligible for this special grant opportunity based on the eligibility criteria as listed above, or contact [Corp.Conservation@disney.com](mailto:Corp.Conservation@disney.com) with any questions.

**Emergency Funding:** The Disney Conservation Fund has a long history of supporting organizations working with communities to prepare for and respond to disasters or conservation emergencies. The Disney Conservation Fund is proud to be supporting the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) to help carry forward this commitment to helping communities and animals when they need it the most. For more information on how to apply for an IFAW Disaster Response Grant and the program criteria please visit the [IFAW website](#).

## **15. Can I submit more than one proposal?**

No, each organization is limited to one application. Please see the table on the previous page of the FAQ for additional details about Disney's priority regions. If you have questions please contact [Corp.Conservation@Disney.com](mailto:Corp.Conservation@Disney.com).

## **16. If I have applied in the past, do I need to create a new login to access the Cybergrants system?**

Organizations that have applied in the past do not need to create a new login. Once an organization record is created it will be saved in the CyberGrants system for your use in future years. Although there can be multiple users that can submit on behalf of an organization, each application/proposal that is created is linked to the specific user and login that started the application. This means that if you want to see a proposal that you submitted in previous years you will need to use the same login that you used previously. It is our preference that

you keep the same login information for consistency, and if you have forgotten your information you can click the need assistance link on the site to request or update the information.

**Non-US organizations** that have previously applied under a US intermediary account should contact the DCF team for assistance in creating a new account for their non-US organization. Please note additional validation or equivalency determination may be requested; the DCF team will reach out on a case-by-case basis if necessary.

### **17. How do I combine my applications under one login if I submitted multiple applications under different logins?**

We are able to combine the applications associated with various logins into one account. Just contact us at [Corp.Conservation@disney.com](mailto:Corp.Conservation@disney.com) and provide the accounts (email addresses and passwords) you would like to combine within an organization and the single email and password you would like everything consolidated under.

### **18. Can multiple people work on the same application on the online system at the same time?**

No. CyberGrants has a security feature that only allows one user to log in and complete information at a time. If you log at the same time as someone else using the same login information, one of you will be blocked from the system with the risk that your work will not be saved.

### **19. What do I do if I submitted my application prematurely?**

If you feel you have submitted your Disney Conservation Fund application in error, please contact the Disney Conservation Fund team at [Corp.Conservation@Disney.com](mailto:Corp.Conservation@Disney.com) to change the status of your application.

### **20. Do non-US organizations need to submit a W-8 form?**

Non-US charity organizations without U.S. 501(c)(3) status or a qualified intermediary are now required to submit a current W-8 form to be considered for funding. Please submit the appropriate, complete W-8 form with a handwritten or electronically verifiable signature as a part of the online application. An affidavit is not required at this time.

Note, there are several versions of the W-8 form, including: W-8BEN, W-8BEN-E, W-8ECI, W-8EXP, and W-8IMY. The version of the form to be used is determined by whether or not the filer is an individual or a business and the nature of the income the filer received. *The form most commonly relevant to and submitted by charitable organizations seeking DCF funding is the W-8EXP, but please confirm with your financial team which version of the form is most appropriate for your organization.* Form W-8EXP ("Certificate of Foreign Government or Other Foreign Organization for United States Tax Withholding and Reporting") is used by certain payees in order to claim a reduction of—or exclusion from—U.S. tax withholding.

In other words, if your organization receives financial support from the U.S., the funds could be taxed by the U.S. government. The W-8 form provides clarity to U.S. taxing authorities that your organization and the funds it receives from The Walt Disney Company should not be taxed, as your organization and the support received is considered charitable under U.S. charitable support guidelines. The forms are effective for the year in which they are signed and three calendar years afterward. Additional resources, including links to translated forms and instructions, sample completed W-8 forms, etc. can be found in the application.

## **FUNDING**

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### **21. Where do I find a list of previously funded projects?**

Please visit [www.disney.com/conservation](http://www.disney.com/conservation) to access a listing of past programs supported.

### **22. What size grants do you entertain?**

Selected grantees will receive an award of \$100,000 with only the following restrictions:

- Funds should support strategies and operations of the wildlife conservation program the organization presented in the application (rather than another program), and/or general organization operations.
- Funding should not be used for purposes intended to benefit a Government Official, either directly or indirectly (as defined in [The Walt Disney Company's Anti-Corruption Policy](#)), or intended to influence an act or decision by a Government Official.

### **23. If I am funded, when are reports due?**

Each grant recipient organization will be expected to submit an **annual progress report one year and two years after funding is awarded**. Additionally, requests for storytelling updates and resources should be expected ahead of Earth Month (April) each spring, and along with the first progress report in 2024, a professionally-created, 90-second video representing your program should be submitted.

**Report Extensions:** If the reporting timeline is not feasible considering your fieldwork timeline or if other unforeseen circumstances require an adjustment, please visit "Grant Seeker Resources" at [disney.com/conservation](https://disney.com/conservation) to submit a request for a report extension. *Grant modifications must be approved by the DCF team.*

Please note, organizations and projects with overdue reports are considered *ineligible* for continued funding, unless the DCF team has approved an extension request. To determine if reports are pending, log into your organization's existing Cybergrants account (<http://www.cybergrants.com/disney/dcfannual>), leave invitation code blank. Scroll to the bottom of the page to review "Applications Requiring Action."

### **24. If I'm not funded, will you reconsider later?**

Inquiries and full applications are not re-visited after the review is completed. The committee reviews applications once per year only.

### **25. Can I obtain feedback on my proposal?**

As possible, the DCF team will provide feedback on full proposals as a part of grant notification communications. Due to the number of inquiries we receive, we cannot provide individual feedback at the inquiry phase of our process.

## **CONTACT**

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### **Who is my contact?**

Disney Enterprise Social Responsibility -- Strategic Philanthropy  
P.O. Box 10000  
Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830  
E-mail: [Corp.Conservation@Disney.com](mailto:Corp.Conservation@Disney.com)

Leslie Huetter, Program Manager, [Leslie.M.Huetter@Disney.com](mailto:Leslie.M.Huetter@Disney.com)

Caitlin Cox, Sr. Representative, [Caitlin.E.Cox@Disney.com](mailto:Caitlin.E.Cox@Disney.com)