



Climate Adaptation Fund

NEWS RELEASE

WCS Climate Adaptation Fund Awards Over \$2 Million in Grants to Conservation Nonprofits Implementing Climate Adaptation for Wildlife

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Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge, one of WCS Climate Adaptation Fund's 2020 grant partners, will install 185 durable, climate-resilient ceramic nests for endemic seabird species in California. This photo shows 3 climate solutions employed on Año Nuevo Island: durable clay nests, erosion control matting, and native dune plants.

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) has announced 10 new grants to nonprofit organizations implementing on-the-ground, science-driven projects that will help wildlife and ecosystems adapt to climate change. These grants are made through the [award-winning Climate Adaptation Fund](#), part of WCS's Forests and Climate Change division, which awards grants between \$50,000 and \$250,000 to conservation non-profit organizations annually, for a total of \$5 million in grantmaking over the course of two years. The Fund's work contributes to WCS's mission to protect wild places across our globe and connect communities to nature. Organizations funded in 2020 are as follows:

[Borderlands Restoration Network](#)

[National Wildlife Federation, Texas](#)

[North American Butterfly Association](#)

[Northwest Natural Resource Group](#)

[Piikani Lodge Health Institute](#)

[Practical Farmers of Iowa](#)

[Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge](#)

[Mountain Studies Institute](#)

[The Nature Conservancy, Oklahoma](#)

[Tolani Lake Enterprises](#)

With funding from the [Doris Duke Charitable Foundation](#) (DDCF), the WCS Climate Adaptation Fund has awarded over \$21 million to 114 conservation projects since its inception. This year's cohort adds four projects working with Indigenous partners on tribal lands, including:

- **Mountain Studies Institute:** Working with partners, including the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, this project aims to slow down water, improve fish habitat connectivity, restore riparian areas, and build community and cultural resilience in the face of climate-driven drought.
- **Tolani Lake Enterprises:** Working with the Navajo Nation – whose land, culture and traditions, grazing operations, wildlife habitat, human health, and water supply are threatened by climate change – this project will restore over 100 acres with native, climate-adapted plant species. It will also serve as a replicable model for climate-informed and Indigenous-led restoration in this region.

The 2020 award recipients span a number of geographies and a variety of ecosystems, from the southernmost part of Florida to islands off the Pacific coast, impacting species far and wide. Information obtained from these projects will help conservation practitioners better understand the effects of climate change on a range of habitats, as well as make adaptation strategies more accessible through tangible examples. To increase these learning opportunities, the Fund seeks out techniques that are underrepresented in its portfolio and aims to support projects that are cross-sectoral or have leaders from a diverse set of communities. Some of the innovative approaches explored by this year's projects include:

- Constructing durable, climate-resilient ceramic nests that will serve as long-term climate-adapted habitat for endemic California seabird species, who are at risk due to increasing temperatures. (Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge)
- Making patch cuts in Pacific Northwest forests to form “snow gaps” that will accumulate snow more effectively than a continuous forest canopy. These gaps will extend spring and early summer snowmelt, and improve water supply. (Northwest Natural Resource Group)
- Applying a Joint Mitigation Adaptation approach by building rock structures across an eroding landscape to stabilize soils, re-establish native vegetation that will increase soil carbon, and restore a corridor between the Santa Rita and Huachuca Mountains to help wildlife species such as the jaguar adapt to climate change. (Borderlands Restoration Network)
- Transforming degraded agricultural land into high elevation pine rocklands within their historic range. In the US, these unique and rare ecosystems are found only in Florida, and 80% are threatened by sea-level rise. (North American Butterfly Association)

These solutions serve a purpose beyond producing climate adaptation results within each of their physical project sites. The Fund encourages grant recipients to dedicate a portion of the awarded funds to strategic communications efforts, which serve to inform other conservationists of successful methods, garner public and funder support, inspire regulatory change, and engage new audiences to bring greater awareness to climate change adaptation for biodiversity. Such actions can amplify funded projects' results, leading to enhanced benefits for wildlife in a changing climate and faster learning within the conservation field.

For detailed descriptions and videos of projects supported by the WCS Climate Adaptation Fund, visit our website: <http://wcsclimateadaptationfund.org>

Stay updated on the Climate Adaptation Fund by following us on Twitter and Instagram at @WCSAdapts.

WCS (Wildlife Conservation Society)

WCS saves wildlife and wild places worldwide through science, conservation action, education, and inspiring people to value nature. To achieve our mission, WCS, based at the Bronx Zoo, harnesses the power of its Global Conservation Program in nearly 60 nations and in all the world's oceans and its five wildlife parks in New York City, visited by 4 million people annually. WCS combines its expertise in the field, zoos, and aquarium to achieve its conservation mission. Visit: newsroom.wcs.org Follow: @WCSNewsroom. For more information: [347-840-1242](tel:347-840-1242).

About the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the Environment Program

The mission of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (DDCF) is to improve the quality of people's lives through grants supporting the performing arts, environmental conservation, medical research and child well-being, and through preservation of the cultural and environmental legacy of Doris Duke's properties. The mission of DDCF's Environment Program is to ensure a thriving, resilient environment for wildlife and people, and foster an inclusive, effective conservation movement. For more information, please visit www.ddcf.org.