



Multinational Species Conservation Funds

The **Multinational Species Conservation Funds** (MSCFs) were established by five acts that authorize the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to provide grants for on the ground conservation projects to conserve elephants, rhinos, tigers, apes, and marine turtles.

1. **African Elephant Conservation Act of 1988**
2. **Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994**
3. **Asian Elephant Conservation Act of 1997**
4. **Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000**
5. **Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2004**



The MSCFs are critical for tiger conservation efforts. While the illegal wildlife trade is a large driver of declining tiger numbers, without sound science, accurate population monitoring, and effective habitat conservation, efforts to combat the illegal trade will not succeed in saving wild tigers.

Each of the five funds established by the Multinational Species Conservation Acts are authorized for up to \$5 million with the exception of the joint Rhino-Tiger Fund, which is authorized for up to \$10 million. At the time of writing, the Multinational Species Conservation Funds have remained unauthorized since 2012.

The MSCF have seen bi-partisan support in Congress and the Administration since its inception in the 1990s. Between 2007 and 2013, \$77M has been allocated to support MSCFs and over \$115M has been leveraged in private and in-kind donations. Over 97% of the program's budget is allocated to support conservation projects, which minimizes overhead costs.

The **Rhino and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994** is one of the five acts that established the MSCFs. These funds finance the hiring and training of anti-poaching units, provide logistical and technical aid to protected area managers, build support for conservation efforts within local communities, and conserve habitats.

	FY10 \$13.2	FY11 \$11.5	FY12 \$9.46	FY13 \$8.97	FY14 \$9.06	FY15 \$9.061	FY16 \$11.061
African Elephant	\$1,866	\$1,774	\$1,645	\$1,566	\$1,582	\$1,582	\$2,582
Rhino-Tiger	\$2,897	\$2,638	\$2,471	\$2,416	\$2,440	\$2,440	\$3,440
Asian Elephant	\$1,972	\$1,530	\$1,645	\$1,542	\$1,557	\$1,557	\$1,557
Great Apes	\$4,541	\$3,869	\$2,059	\$1,955	\$1,975	\$1,975	\$1,975
Marine Turtles	\$1,874	\$1,717	\$1,646	\$1,492	\$1,507	\$1,507	\$1,507

Table 1. MSCFs funding levels for Fiscal Years 2010-2016.