



## COLOSSAL SPECIES REINTRODUCTION FUND

Request for Partnerships

### Project Guidelines

On its mission to make extinction a thing of the past, The Colossal Foundation has established the Colossal Species Reintroduction Fund, in partnership with Re:wild, to support critical reintroduction efforts through funding and organizational support. This fund is designed to fuel conservation actions to restore the wild through species and ecosystem recovery around the world. The Species Reintroduction Fund will provide vital support to partners for reintroduction projects aligning with IUCN reintroduction [guidelines](#), promoting impactful species recovery and genetic diversity restoration endeavors.

The fund will initially distribute up to \$250,000 in grants each year, with funds provided by The Colossal Foundation, with an aim to grow the fund to become a global driver of species recovery. Alongside financial support, The Colossal Foundation and Re:wild will additionally offer partnership support to grantees through requested and approved provisions of collaboration, capacity-building, genetic technology, networking, technical support, communications assistance, and media promotion.

**Funding Priorities:** For consideration into the Colossal Species Reintroduction Fund, the project should prioritize the following:

1. Species will be prioritized if they are a keystone species, have a high EDGE score, or are Endangered, Critically Endangered, or Extinct in the Wild.
2. Projects that are in biodiversity hotspots, are Indigenous-led, or support species' adaptation to climate change will be preferred.
3. Funding will prioritize animal species with a 4-year generation time or less and/or species needing support for specific efforts in the release/reintroduction stage to the wild.
4. Projects will be prioritized if applicants desire to partner with The Colossal Foundation and/or Re:wild beyond financing, in support of the project's long-term goals.
5. The fund will support projects at any stage of the reintroduction process. This could include a focus on conservation genetics, genetic rescue, habitat restoration, translocation, conservation breeding, reintroduction, and post-release monitoring.
6. Projects that include an evaluation component to demonstrate population recovery of the focal species within the project timeline will be prioritized.

**Strategy & Conservation Value Focus Areas:** The Colossal Species Reintroduction Fund will support responsible and impactful reintroduction programs across the world, but special emphasis will be placed on keystone species, Extinct in the Wild species, biodiversity hotspots, Indigenous-led recovery, and climate change adaptation to ensure conservation and strategic value.

- **Focal Area 1: Keystone species.** These species provide essential and powerful functions to ecosystems. Strengthening or restoring keystone species yields wide-ranging benefits for the restoration of ecosystems and carbon capture on a landscape scale.
- **Focal Area 2: Extinct in the Wild (EW) species.** EW species are the most threatened species globally, gone from the wild and dependent on human assistance for their return to native ecosystems. The return of such species to wild areas allows specialized functions to restore ecosystems. Successful reintroductions highlight how conservation can overcome great challenges.

- **Focal Area 3: Biodiversity hotspots.** Conservation translocations currently occur mostly in developed countries with low biodiversity; however, most threatened species needing assistance are in underdeveloped regions and within biodiversity hotspots.
- **Focal Area 4: Indigenous-led recovery.** This factor focuses on Indigenous Peoples aiming to restore species for which they have deep traditional knowledge, cultural ties, and sacred beliefs. Indigenous-managed lands are among the least developed and vast landscapes within and beyond officially protected areas, with great potential for recovery.
- **Focal Area 5: Climate change adaptation.** Species that can neither adapt nor disperse face regional or global extinction due to cumulative effects including climate change. Reinforcement of populations may help them buffer climate impacts, and assisted colonization may help to avert certain extinction.

**Eligibility:** Nonprofit, government, and academic organizations are welcome to apply.

**Geographic Focus:** No limitations exist regarding location of project, with both in situ and ex situ components of reintroduction being considered for support, though note funding priorities listed above.

**Duration & Amount:** Projects will be supported for up to 12 months at a time, with annual review of partnership goals and project progress determining subsequent support. Grant requests up to \$50,000 per year will be considered.

**Indicators of Success:** Species Reintroduction Fund initiatives will be considered based on the following indicators of project impact and overall success:

- Strengthening of target species populations, via population numbers, demographic support, genetic rescue support, or capacity for breeding or translocations.
- Restoring habitats and creating feasible management plans for the successful reintroduction of the target species.
- Supporting human populations that co-exist with the species through avoiding conflicts and promoting sustainable income sources and alternative livelihoods.
- Collaborating with local partners for project components.
- Supporting enabling conditions that collectively strengthen conservation initiatives and contribute to the long-term success of species reintroductions and the communities they impact.

**Grant Cycle Timeframe:**

The Colossal Species Reintroduction Fund will offer two application opportunities annually, with submission openings each spring and fall. The deadline for submitting the initial *Request for Partnership* letter will be 11:59pm EST per the deadlines below. This letter of request is required before qualifying for the full application submission. Upon approval of the initial request, qualifying applicants will be notified and invited to submit a full proposal per timelines and protocols provided below.

**Submission Deadlines:**

The fund will offer two grant cycles each year, following the timeline outlined below:

<u>Spring Grant Cycle:</u>	Jan 1 - May 9
Spring application window opens:	Jan 1
Request for Partnership deadline:	Jan 27
Request review period:	Jan 27 - Feb 24
Application Opportunity offered:	Feb 25
Full Application deadline:	March 25
Application review period:	March 26 - April 23
Comms/Accounting:	April 24 - May 8
Funding date:	May 9
<u>Fall Grant Cycle:</u>	July 1 - Nov 14
Fall application window opens:	July 1
Request for Partnership deadline:	Aug 4
Request review period:	Aug 4 - Sept 2
Application Opportunity offered:	Sept 3
Full Application deadline:	Sept 30
Application review period:	Oct 1 - Oct 29
Comms/Accounting:	Oct 30 - Nov 13
Funding date:	Nov 14

**Proposal Process & Deadline:**

The first phase is to submit a one-page expression of partnership interest for preliminary consideration, which needs to include species, project scope and overview, 1-year deliverables, partnership ideas, cost, and timeline. Expressions of partnership interest should be submitted to [SRF@colossal.com](mailto:SRF@colossal.com), with 2026 partnership request deadlines of **January 27 for the spring grant cycle** and **August 4 for the fall grant cycle**.

Pending the proposal strength, a partnership discussion with the applicant will occur to co-design next steps. Fund advisors may be brought into this co-design process as needed. If these discussions are successful, a full proposal will be requested. The full application guidelines can be found below.