



**United States Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service**

Division of International Conservation
5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, Virginia 22041



May 11, 2018

Louis Perrotti, Director of Conservation Programs
Sophie Danforth Conservation Biology Fund
Roger Williams Park Zoo
1000 Elmwood Avenue
Providence, RI 02907

Dear Louis Perrotti:

It is my pleasure to provide a letter of recommendation in support of One Earth Conservation's application entitled "*Rescuing and Restoring Populations of Endangered and Threatened Wild Parrots in Honduras*" to the Sophie Danforth Conservation Biology Fund.

The mission of the grants program of the Division of International Conservation at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is to support local human and institutional capacity building efforts for biodiversity conservation, which aligns with One Earth's approach to working with indigenous communities in a respectful and practical manner to conserve wild parrots and their habitat in the Honduran Moskitia. One Earth Conservation is currently a field partner on both a grant and a government contract awarded by the USFWS Central America Program. All aspects of project implementation and outcomes for both awards have been outstanding. One Earth Conservation has fully demonstrated its ability to be a leader in working with local communities on wildlife conservation projects for the benefit of both.

In 2017, the USFWS awarded a two year grant of \$98,651 to Fundación en Ciencia para el Estudio y Conservación de la Biodiversidad (INCEBIO) in partnership with One Earth Conservation to improve wildlife security in the Moskitia, Honduras by strengthening conservation capacity of governmental entities, indigenous communities, and other key stakeholders to reduce the illegal killing and trafficking of parrots. The project builds upon years of work by One Earth Conservation and local partners to provide viable alternatives to local communities and generate positive changes in local attitudes to protect endangered macaws. The conservation results are measurable and impressive, especially in an area plagued with economic, social, and political instability. The community-based scarlet macaw monitoring program has transformed a project area of roughly 85,000 hectares from 100% poaching to 0% poaching in the span of two years.

This project exemplifies a high-quality community-based conservation project that is successfully combating a complex poaching network. As a result, the USFWS selected this project to serve as a valuable case study and the subject of a short documentary film on why and how the USFWS combats wildlife trafficking at home and abroad. Furthermore, One Earth Conservation has provided critical input into the storyboard for the film, on-the-ground logistical support, and deep conservation knowledge to the government contractor making the film.

One Earth Conservation has demonstrated a long-term commitment to wild parrots and to the forests and people upon which they depend. It is this type of dedication and investment that produces substantial and long-lasting change. Further funding would allow them to continue to strengthen and sustain a proven methodology that works. With Dr. LoraKim Joyner, a dollar of investment produces more than a dollar of conservation impact.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like more information.

Sincerely,

Ani Cuevas
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Division of International Conservation
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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Louis Perrotti
Director of Conservation Programs
Sophie Danforth Conservation Biology Fund
Roger Williams Park Zoo
1000 Elmwood Avenue
Providence, RI 02907

Dear Mr. Perrotti,

I wholeheartedly support One Earth Conservation's application for the Sophie Danforth Conservation Biology Fund.

One Earth has worked tirelessly for decades to conserve parrots and macaws across Latin America. For many years, One Earth's founder, LoraKim Joyner, has collaborated with local partners and indigenous communities in the Honduran Moskitia to significantly reduce poaching of the scarlet macaw under difficult and sometimes dangerous conditions. The work has been truly interdisciplinary, involving field monitoring and protection of nests, captive propagation in a field laboratory, veterinary support, and different types of education. Most importantly, One Earth's focus has been to genuinely support local indigenous communities to protect their own territories and wildlife.

Despite the fact that the Moskitia is one of Central America's largest wildernesses, it is facing incredible threats. Deforestation threatens to bisect the forest, and poaching and hunting are rampant. With modest funds, One Earth has been able to reverse poaching trends in key nesting areas for the threatened Central American Scarlet Macaw, while supporting indigenous territorial management.

These incredible efforts in the face of daunting odds are deserving of further support.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jeremy Radachowsky
Director, Mesoamerica and Western Caribbean Program
Wildlife Conservation Society