

2023

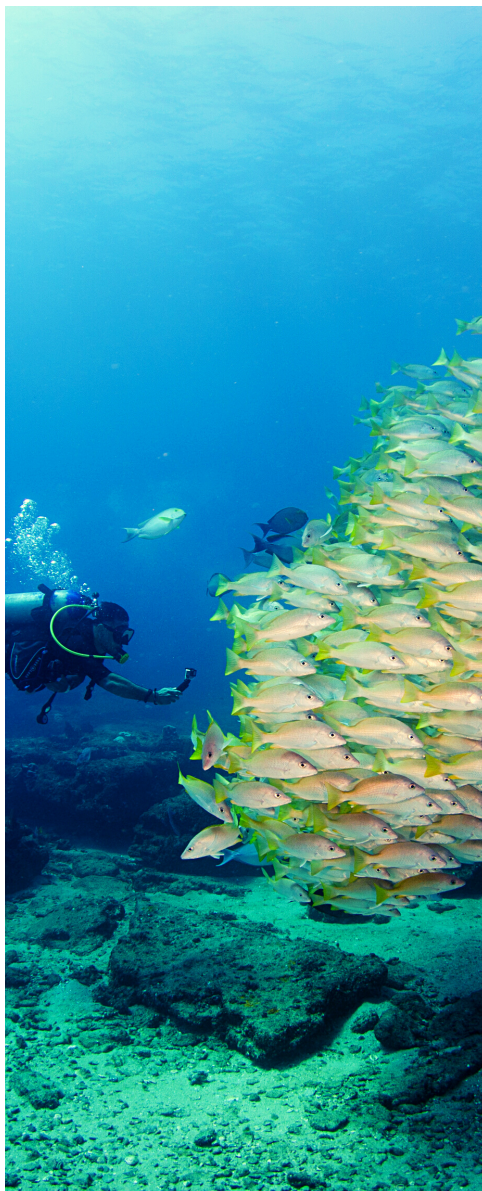
ANNUAL REPORT



**Mexico Conservation
Funders**

A PROGRAM OF THE
BIODIVERSITY FUNDERS GROUP

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2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- Minerva Rosette, new Program Manager of Mexico Conservation Funders (MCF) since April, 2023.
- Group Calls and Meetings:
 - April: Political Context by OCEANA Mexico, 19 participants.
 - June: P3N Security Initiative, 28 participants.
 - June: Binational Resilience Initiative, 20 participants.
 - June: Financial Landscape, 17 participants.
 - September: Marine Conservation Annual Meeting, breakfast table, 9 participants.
 - November: MCF Annual Meeting, 55 participants.
- In-person Annual Meeting (see next item).
- Analysis of 2021 and 2022 grantmaking by 17 Funders.
- Five monthly newsletters with information about the evolving political and conservation context in Mexico ([June](#), [July](#), [August](#), [September](#), [October](#), and [November](#)).
- Second year of environmental defenders security project (P3N).
- Addition of the San Diego Foundation as an MCF member.
- Launching of consultancy "A Prospectus of New Opportunities for Coastal and Marine Conservation in Mexico" by California Environmental Associates.

The MCF Annual Meeting was held in La Paz, Baja California Sur, from November 7 to 9, 2023, gathering 55 participants from national and international foundations, NGOs, and communities dedicated to environmental conservation in Mexico. During the meeting, attendees highlighted the crucial role of collaboration in addressing systemic change and acknowledged the potential of collective intelligence to advance and strengthen conservation initiatives.

[Report available here.](#)

ANNUAL MEETING

Steering through a shifting
financial and political
landscape

Progress toward

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

A priority for 2023 was re-energizing the MCF following the pandemic and change in program coordination. This was accomplished through issuing newsletters, holding four calls focused on priority initiatives, and holding the first in-person annual meeting since 2019. Priority initiatives included:

- Refugios pesqueros
- Defending Environmental Defenders (P3N, and include what P3N stands for)
- Conservation opportunities and challenges in Mexico, entering an election year.

MCF organized four webinars for members and partners, to advance these initiatives, with an average attendance of 21 participants and an average engagement rate of 70% among its members.

Funders investing in Mexico seek to optimize the utilization of resources for marine conservation through a targeted analysis of funding data. Over four years, they distributed 1,542 grants to 417 grantees. This analysis serves as a valuable tool for identifying pertinent opportunities for collaboration, leveraging resources, and forming partnerships. Grants data are available for review and analysis by participating foundations on the MCF data visualization platform.

The Security Strategy P3N, supported by members of MCF, is increasingly pertinent in the face of heightened aggression towards environmental defenders. In its second year, the strategy extended its reach to a broader range of beneficiaries, encompassing groups, collectives, and individuals who may not be official grantees. Additionally, two new founders expressed interest in joining the initiative.

Program

PRIORITIES FOR 2024

- Continue working with members and partners to provide maximum value to the MCF community and enhance funders' impact.
- Continue strengthening and expanding dialogue and collaboration among members and partners, including by adding new members and partners where appropriate.
- Continue fostering increased collaboration and impact, including through quarterly webinars and the 2024 annual meeting.
- Continue and refine as needed the grantmaking analysis.
- Ensure the financial health of the MCF.
- Recruit 2-3 new members to join the MCF Steering Committee.
- Analyze and track Mexico's political landscape, considering the electoral process and the entry of a new federal government.
- Revise the MCF communication strategy to highlight the grantees' and funders' successes and opportunities in the area of conservation and sustainable management in Mexico.
- Recognize and integrate foundations expressing interest in becoming part of the MCF community.

Program INFORMATION

Mission

The Mexico Conservation Funders (MCF) fosters a funding community committed to the conservation and resilience of ecosystems in Mexico, with a focus on coastal-marine biodiversity and natural systems, recognizing the critical linkages between land and sea and the potential synergies among national and local level initiatives.

Goals

- Ensure coordination and collaboration among foundations with programs supporting coastal-marine conservation work in Mexico, by providing opportunities for information sharing, dialogue, and development of complementary grantmaking strategies.
- Facilitate conversations and, when appropriate, partnerships with funders working on coastal-marine conservation and areas of influence; as well as government authorities and civil society organizations to optimize funding in Mexico.
- Increase the level of funding available for protecting Mexico's coastal-marine biodiversity and ecosystems; as well as, creating a welcoming environment for new funders.
- Provide funders with key information on broader coastal-marine conservation issues, tools and lessons learned, looking for strategic linkages to Mexico conservation.

Programmatic activities

- Program-focused funder meetings to strategize on topics of shared interest.
- Grantmaking analysis to optimize funders contributions and impact.
- Funder site visits and meetings with key actors in Mexico.
- Collaborative initiatives, within funders, to tackle challenges and improve conservation grantmaking.
- Series of regular funder conference calls on Mexico's grantmaking and conservation issues.

Members information

The MCF community comprises 11 member Foundations and 29 partner Foundations.

To be part of the membership, all the entities must share the mission and goals of the MCF; the participants can be Associates or Steering Committee members. The Steering Committee participants must be Biodiversity Funders Group Members.

The process to become a member is as follows:

1. Recommendation from at least one existing member of the MCF group is the first step toward becoming a member.
2. MCF members may consider new members by adding the request to the agenda of any meeting at which a quorum is present. For any decision making process, quorum represents over 50% of steering committee members present in the meeting.
3. All steering committee members present on the call must unanimously accept potential new members (only if quorum is reached).

For further information, please contact the Program Manager, [Minerva Rosette](#).



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