

2020 2021 annual report

Friends of the Island Fox

a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization • EIN #84-5114320

Standing Together During a Difficult Year

Even during a pandemic, donors like you supported island fox conservation and groundbreaking science. While drought and disease increased threats to island foxes, you helped fund vital efforts to keep island foxes safe.

25 radio-tracking collars

FIF funded radio collars for island foxes across Santa Rosa, San Miguel, Santa Cruz, and Catalina Islands. Ten radio collars were refurbished through a grant from the Fresno Chaffee Zoo Wildlife Conservation Fund. Radio collars remain the best way to monitor island fox populations.

350 foxes vaccinated

When an outbreak of canine distemper virus struck Long Beach, CA, increasing the threat of the deadly disease's return to Catalina Island, FIF responded by purchasing \$4,845 worth of distemper and rabies vaccine to protect Catalina foxes.

851 swabs and 300 blood samples

The 2020 FIF Research Grant is analyzing the DNA of microbes found in and on island foxes. Island foxes have recovered from small survivor populations. This "microbiome" research will help inform the scientific and conservation community about long-term impacts to island fox health and survival.

Dr. Alexandra DeCandia's project is in conjunction with the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, Princeton and Georgetown Universities.

2 additional studies supported

FIF provided \$4,000 in additional research grants to continue investigations into island fox diet and the relationship between island foxes and island spotted skunks. Stable isotopes in island fox whiskers are revealing that some island foxes use beach foods and modify their diet to survive drought.

Monitoring interactions between island foxes and island spotted skunks suggested island fox territory size on Santa Cruz may be larger than previously reported. More research is needed to understand island fox territory and whether foxes are contributing to declines in island spotted skunks.

How are the island foxes doing?

Reduced rainfall in 2020–2021 adjusted some island fox populations downward. Island foxes remain healthy, but fewer pups were born.

Stay current with island fox news through FIF's e-newsletter. To subscribe, visit islandfox.org or use your smart phone's camera to scan the QR code at the right.



FIF Newsletter

Images, top to bottom: Juliann Schamel, NPS; Catalina Island Conservancy; Alexandra DeCandia, Ph.D.; Calypso Gagorik and Victor Zhang; reverse by Mike Watling



2390 C Las Posas Road, Suite #120, Camarillo, CA 93010
805-228-4123 • islandfox.org • admin@islandfox.org



More numbers to yip about

576

people learned about the island fox through virtual programs with schools, adult education, and private organizations even during the COVID-19 shutdown

\$3500

helped provide testing for five viruses threatening island fox health on Catalina Island

45%

of the students participating in FIF's free education programs were of economic need

127k

people visited FIF's website, islandfox.org, and a new "Research" page was added

island fox radio collars were funded by Island Fox Ambassador students: 4th graders from Lincoln Elementary and a middle school student with a conservation project

10 volunteers

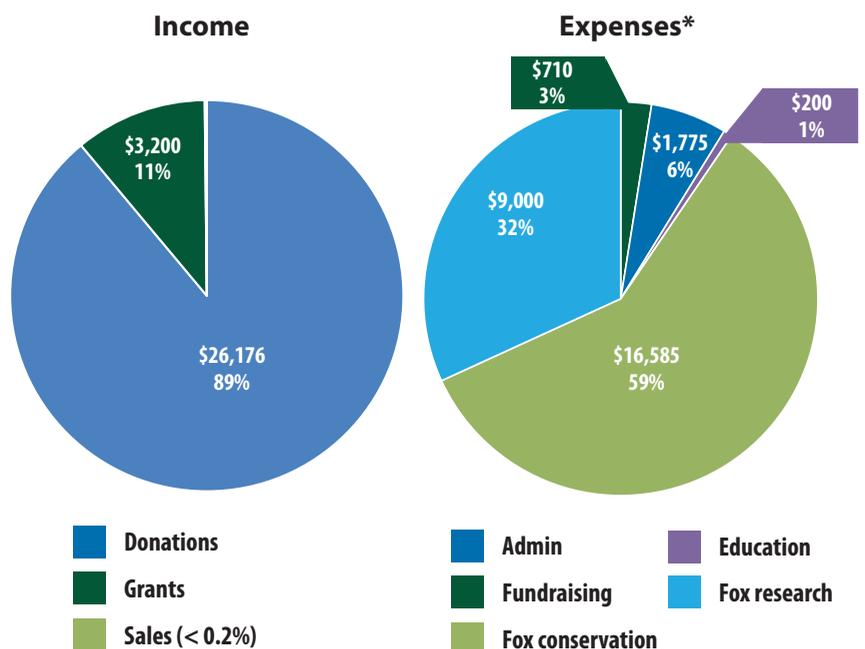
worked to establish FIF as an independent nonprofit and staffed FIF's programs. Interested in volunteering? Contact admin@islandfox.org

What comes next?

FIF's priorities for 2021–2022 are:

- Funding radio-tracking collars across the islands to continue population monitoring
- Supporting a large research project updating information on island fox territory size in the recovered population on Santa Rosa Island
- Establishing a quarterly Island Fox virtual chat "Date with an Island Fox," where the public can interact with fox biologists, researchers, and a broader conservation community
- Continuing to champion island fox research and increasing funding for needed conservation efforts

Friends of the Island Fox 2020–2021 Financials



*Due to rounding, total exceeds 100%

FIF's financial records are maintained by an independent bookkeeper.