

JRS Exchange Rate and Currency Conversion Policy

February 2019

Grant application budget and financial reports must be stated in U.S. dollars. The JRS Biodiversity Foundation (JRS) requires that funds received from JRS be held in U.S. dollars and are only to be exchanged into local currency as necessary or as required by institutional or national policies.

Given the uncertainty of future exchange rates, there will always be uncertainty when using foreign currencies in the grant budgeting process.

JRS is sensitive to the potential risks and benefits to our grantees due to changing currency value. As stated in the JRS Grant Agreement:

Any interest or other income generated by the Grant funds, including currency conversion gains, must be applied to the charitable purposes of the Project and incorporated into budgets and reports.

Gains

Fluctuation in exchange rates can result in real¹ gains and losses for the grantee. In order to account for this uncertainty, the grantee is obligated to report currency gains at the end of each reporting period. Net currency gains may be assessed before the final performance period to assess whether and how to apply gains towards purposes within the scope of the approved grant. As JRS allows and often requires grantees to re-budget every six months, gains are generally incorporated over time into an expanding project scope.

Losses

If exchange rate fluctuation results in real losses for the grantee, the grantee may submit a revised project budget outlining the effect of the losses on the project. If the losses are significant and may affect the planned outcomes of the project, the grantee may request additional funds from the Foundation.

Adjustments for additional funds may be allowable when the grantee provides documentation of the changed exchange rates and their effects upon project resources. The allocation of additional funds will be on a case-by-case base and at the discretion of JRS.

¹ Real gains and losses factor in current market changes and account for the effects of inflation.