

enhance the propagation or survival of the affected species. Service regulations regarding prohibited activities with endangered species, captive-bred wildlife registrations, and permits for any activity otherwise prohibited by the ESA with respect to any endangered species are available in title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations in part 17.

### III. Permit Applications

We invite comments on the following applications.

**Applicant: Duke University, Durham, NC; Permit No. PER0056306**

The applicant requests authorization to import biological samples derived

from E. rufous mouse lemur [*Microcebus rufus*; synonym Goodman's mouse lemur (*Microcebus lehilahytsara*)] from the Institute of Zoology at the University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover Foundation (TiHo), Germany, for the purpose of scientific research. This notification is for a single import.

**Applicant: Duke University Lemur Center, Durham, NC; Permit No. PER6238013**

The applicant requests a permit to export two captive-bred Coquerel's sifakas (*Propithecus coquereli*) to Tierpark Berlin Zoo in Germany, for the

purpose of enhancing the propagation or survival of the species. This notification is for a single export.

**Applicant: Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, Cincinnati, OH; Permit No. PER6139919**

The applicant requests a captive-bred wildlife registration under 50 CFR 17.21(g) for the following species, to enhance the propagation or survival of the species. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Common name	Scientific name
Cheetah .....	<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i> .
Blue-throated macaw .....	<i>Ara glaucogularis</i> .
Aye-aye .....	<i>Daubentonia madagascariensis</i> .
Eastern black rhinoceros .....	<i>Diceros bicornis michaeli</i> .
Southern rockhopper penguin .....	<i>Eudyptes chrysocome</i> .
Black-footed cat .....	<i>Felis nigripes</i> .
Gorilla .....	<i>Gorilla gorilla</i> .
Japanese crane (Red-crowned crane) .....	<i>Grus japonensis</i> .
White-handed gibbon (Lar gibbon) .....	<i>Hylobates lar</i> .
Ring-tailed lemur .....	<i>Lemur catta</i> .
Brazilian ocelot .....	<i>Leopardus pardalis mitis</i> .
Rothschild's starling (Bali starling) .....	<i>Leucopsar rothschildi</i> .
African wild dog (African painted dog) .....	<i>Lycaon pictus</i> .
Clouded leopard .....	<i>Neofelis nebulosa</i> .
Bonobo .....	<i>Pan paniscus</i> .
African lion .....	<i>Panthera leo melanochaita</i> .
Malayan tiger .....	<i>Panthera tigris jacksoni</i> .
Sumatran orangutan .....	<i>Pongo abelii</i> .
Coquerel's sifaka .....	<i>Propithecus coquereli</i> .
Indian rhinoceros .....	<i>Rhinoceros unicornis</i> .
African penguin .....	<i>Spheniscus demersus</i> .
Siamang .....	<i>Symphalangus syndactylus</i> .
Snow leopard .....	<i>Uncia uncia</i> .
Andean condor .....	<i>Vultur gryphus</i> .

### IV. Next Steps

After the comment period closes, we will make decisions regarding permit issuance. If we issue permits to any of the applicants listed in this notice, we will publish a notice in the **Federal Register**. You may locate the notice announcing the permit issuance by searching <https://www.regulations.gov> for the permit number listed above in this document. For example, to find information about the potential issuance of Permit No. 12345A, you would go to [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) and search for "12345A".

### V. Authority

We issue this notice under the authority of the Endangered Species Act

of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and its implementing regulations.

**Timothy MacDonald,**

*Government Information Specialist, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.*

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**BILLING CODE 4333-15-P**

### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

#### Fish and Wildlife Service

**[Docket No. FWS-R4-ES-2023-0247; FXES11140400000-245-FF04EF4000]**

**Receipt of Incidental Take Permit Application and Proposed Habitat Conservation Plan for the Sand Skink and Blue-Tailed Mole Skink; Polk County, FL; Categorical Exclusion**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** We, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce receipt of an application from St. John Methodist Church of Sebring Inc. (applicant) for an incidental take permit (ITP) under the Endangered Species Act. The applicant requests the ITP to take the federally listed sand skink (*Neoseps reynoldsi*) and blue-tailed mole-skink (*Eumeces egregius lividus*) incidental to the construction of a residential development in Highlands County, Florida. We request public comment on the application, which includes the applicant's proposed habitat conservation plan (HCP), and on the Service's preliminary determination that the proposed permitting action may be eligible for a categorical exclusion pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's National

Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations, the Department of the Interior's (DOI) NEPA regulations, and the DOI Departmental Manual. To make this preliminary determination, we prepared a draft environmental action statement and low-effect screening form, both of which are also available for public review. We invite comment from the public and local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies.

**DATES:** We must receive your written comments on or before February 16, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:**

*Obtaining Documents:* The documents this notice announces, as well as any comments and other materials that we receive, will be available for public inspection online in Docket No. FWS–R4–ES–2023–0247 at <https://www.regulations.gov>.

*Submitting Comments:* If you wish to submit comments on any of the documents, you may do so in writing by one of the following methods:

- *Online:* <https://www.regulations.gov>.

Follow the instructions for submitting comments on Docket No. FWS–R4–ES–2023–0247.

- *U.S. mail:* Public Comments Processing, Attn: Docket No. FWS–R4–ES–2023–0247; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS: PRB/3W, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041–3803.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Alfredo Begazo, by telephone at 772–469–4234 or via email at [alfredo.begazo@fws.gov](mailto:alfredo.begazo@fws.gov). Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** We, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce receipt of an application from St. John Methodist Church of Sebring Inc. (applicant) for an incidental take permit (ITP) under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). The applicant requests the ITP to take the federally listed sand skink (*Neoseps reynoldsi*) and blue-tailed mole-skink (*Eumeces egregius lividus*) (skinks) incidental to the construction and operation of a church in Highlands County, Florida. We request public comment on the application, which includes the applicant's proposed habitat conservation plan (HCP), and on the Service's preliminary determination that

this proposed ITP qualifies as low effect, and may qualify for a categorical exclusion pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations (40 CFR 1501.4), the Department of the Interior's (DOI) NEPA regulations (43 CFR 46), and the DOI's Departmental Manual (516 DM 8.5(C)(2)). To make this preliminary determination, we prepared a draft environmental action statement and low-effect screening form, both of which are also available for public review.

**Proposed Project**

The applicant requests a 5-year ITP to take skinks via the conversion of approximately 1.33 acres (ac) of occupied nesting, foraging, and sheltering skink habitat incidental to the construction and operation of a church on a 16.33-ac parcel in Section 22, Township 34 South, Range 28 East, Highlands County, Florida. The applicant proposes to mitigate for take of the skinks by purchasing credits equivalent to 2.66 ac of skink-occupied habitat from a Service-approved conservation bank. The Service would require the applicant to purchase the credits prior to engaging in any construction phase of the project.

**Our Preliminary Determination**

The Service has made a preliminary determination that the applicant's project, including the construction of a church, driveways, parking spaces, green areas, stormwater pond, and associated infrastructure (e.g., electric, water, and sewer lines), would individually and cumulatively have a minor effect on the skinks and the human environment. Therefore, we have preliminarily determined that the proposed ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit would be a "low-effect" ITP that individually or cumulatively would have a minor effect on the sand skink and may qualify for application of a categorical exclusion pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA regulations, DOI's NEPA regulations, and the DOI Departmental Manual. A low-effect incidental take permit is one that would result in (1) minor or nonsignificant effects on species covered in the HCP; (2) nonsignificant effects on the human environment; and (3) impacts that, when added together with the impacts of other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions, would not result in significant cumulative effects to the human environment.

**Next Steps**

The Service will evaluate the application and the comments to determine whether to issue the requested permit. We will also conduct an intra-Service consultation pursuant to section 7 of the ESA to evaluate the effects of the proposed take. After considering the preceding and other matters, we will determine whether the permit issuance criteria of section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA have been met. If met, the Service will issue ITP number PER5348829 to St. John Methodist Church of Sebring Inc.

**Public Availability of Comments**

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made available to the public. While you may request that we withhold your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**Authority**

The Service provides this notice under section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 17.32) and the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations (40 CFR 1500–1508 and 43 CFR 46).

**Robert L. Carey,**

*Division Manager, Environmental Review, Florida Ecological Services Office.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

[Docket No. FWS–R8–ES–2023–0055; FF08ESMF00–FXES1114080000–234]

**Receipt of Incidental Take Permit Application and Proposed Habitat Conservation Plan for the Aramis Solar Energy Generation and Storage Project, Alameda County, CA; Availability of Draft Environmental Assessment**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of permit application; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, announce the availability of a draft environmental assessment under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for an