

WCS

A Progress Report





We Stand for Wildlife.SM

WCS saves wildlife and wild places worldwide through science, conservation action, education, and inspiring people to value nature. We focus on protecting the iconic species and places least affected by human impact. Our dedication to wildlife spans more than 120 years, and today we run the world's largest field programs for great ape, elephant, and tiger conservation. We harness a constellation of expertise across our New York zoos and aquarium to conserve wildlife, advance veterinary health, stimulate learning, and inspire action.

This WCS Progress Report provides our generous supporters with updates and insights on core conservation activities.

In this edition, you will find stories that highlight the impact of our field programs, including busting illegal wildlife traffickers and addressing infectious diseases. You will also find news about our New York parks, advocacy efforts, and innovative education activities.

Stories from the Field

We work with partners of all kinds, including indigenous and local communities, to save wildlife in nearly 60 countries and all of the world's oceans. The following stories demonstrate some of the ways we are protecting wildlife across the globe.



Successful Bust Leads to Release of Two Whale Sharks

Indonesia is a country teeming with extraordinary biodiversity, making it a hotbed of various illegal wildlife activities. To combat the poaching and trafficking operations that are seriously threatening the nation's remaining populations of endangered animals, WCS relies on our dedicated Wildlife Crimes Unit (WCU). The Unit works directly with Indonesian government agencies in intelligence-based law enforcement. This close partnership has led to higher rates of arrests and successful prosecutions of those engaged in illegal wildlife activities, and the effort has reduced and deterred these crimes.

In May 2016, an 18-month investigation into a sophisticated crime ring ended with the successful release of two whale sharks back into the wild unharmed. The whale sharks were being held in submerged pens, and WCU intelligence suggests that the suspects illegally caught these animals

and other marine megafauna for sale to facilities being built in China and elsewhere in Southeast Asia.

"The bust is a testament to the dedication of the Indonesian government, the work of the WCU, and the partnerships that the WCU has been building across Indonesia to combat illegal trade in Indonesia's threatened marine megafauna," said Dr. Noviar Andayani, Director of WCS's Indonesia program. Thus far in 2016, the Unit has partnered on seven marine cases involving manta rays, seashells, sea turtles, and whale sharks, in addition to other cases involving terrestrial animals. Indonesia has the world's highest number of shark species as well as a thriving illegal wildlife trade. Therefore, while we are grateful for the WCU's successes, these cases remind us we must remain vigilant. 💚

**A RESCUER HELPS
DIRECT ONE OF
THE TWO CAPTIVE
WHALE SHARKS
BACK INTO THE
OPEN OCEAN.**

Targeted Patrol Efforts Provide Much-Needed Hope for Grauer's Gorillas

In the face of an unprecedented, devastating decline of the Grauer's gorilla, WCS researchers and partners have recently found hope for this imperiled species. Kahuzi-Biega National Park (KBNP), located in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), is the most important protected area for the conservation of the Grauer's gorilla, a species found only in eastern DRC. WCS conducts gorilla censuses in the Tshivanga high-altitude sector of KBNP every five years. Our scientists monitor changes in the gorilla population, adapt conservation efforts, and evaluate their impacts in this sector of the park.

In late 2015, WCS and our partner, the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation, surveyed dense sections of forest. The teams counted gorilla nests and trails to document all indicators of age-sex composition of the population. A total of 17 gorilla groups and 8 solitary males were found during this census. Our scientists estimate that a minimum of 213 individuals are present in the Tshivanga area. This represents an 18 percent increase since the previous census conducted by WCS in 2010, and a 64 percent increase since the drop observed between 1996 and 2000, when a civil war in DRC triggered a major decline in gorilla numbers.

Since the global Grauer's gorilla population has plummeted across its range by 77 percent over the last 20 years, with an estimated 3,800 remaining in the wild, the uptick in the high-altitude sector is an important conservation victory. This success can be attributed to sufficient, strategically-targeted conservation resources and efforts, including: **1)** the close monitoring of gorilla groups; **2)** high numbers of ranger patrols; **3)** veterinarians who are available in case of emergencies such as gorillas being caught in snares; and **4)** strong constituency building with communities and key stakeholders around the park. ♡

For more stories from the field, check out our Boundless Progress Report at wcs.org/ProgressReports.



GRAUER'S GORILLA

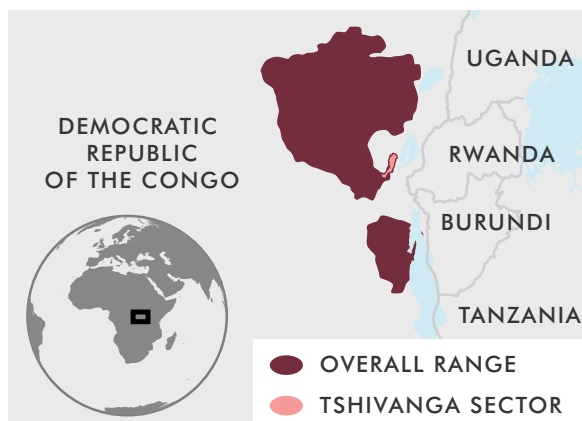
(*Gorilla beringei graueri*)

3,800 remaining in the wild

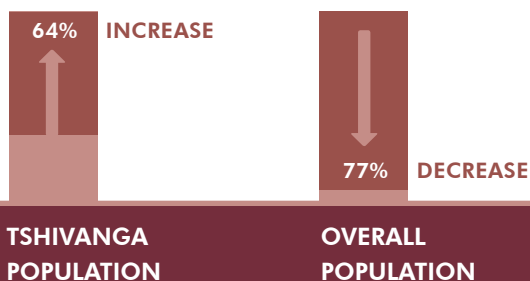
CE CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

as of August 2016

RANGE



POPULATION TRENDS SINCE 2000



WCS Parks: Gateways to the Wild

For many guests, a visit to one of WCS's zoos or aquarium is a rare chance to connect with animals and nature, which can spark a lifelong compassion for wildlife and an interest in protecting it. Our parks also serve as headquarters for conservation, from which scientists, veterinarians, and other experts direct our ever-growing field programs. Through dedication, partnerships, and science, WCS's parks advance conservation and help wildlife prevail.



AT THE BRONX ZOO

- 11 males, 10 females, 8 offspring

IN THE WILD

- 50% population drop from 1970 to 2000
- 70% resurgence over the last decade
- WCS saving markhor in Pakistan since 1997
- WCS works with 65 communities in Pakistan

Markhor Populations on the Rise

An impressive group of Turkmenian flare-horned markhor at WCS's Bronx Zoo is now even more impressive, with eight kids born in 2016. This horned herd roams an expansive habitat along the Zoo's Wild Asia Monorail, serving as ambassadors for their wild counterparts found scaling the mountains of Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

Markhor are critical to these landscapes, both as one of the few available prey species for large carnivores such as wolves and snow leopards, and as a cultural icon. However, markhor are increasingly threatened by human activity, including habitat loss for domestic livestock, diseases spread from livestock, and poaching for the markhor's large twisted horns and thick fur.

WCS has protected markhor in the mountains of northern Pakistan since 1997. We formally establish community-managed conservancies, bringing villages together for coordinated markhor monitoring and protection, and work with each conservancy to develop science-based management plans. Now working with 65 communities, we have seen a 70 percent increase in markhor populations in this region over the last decade. Thanks to this work, IUCN recently downlisted markhor by not one, but two levels—from Endangered, past Vulnerable, to Near Threatened. 🐾



Crane Chick Hatches Amid Decline

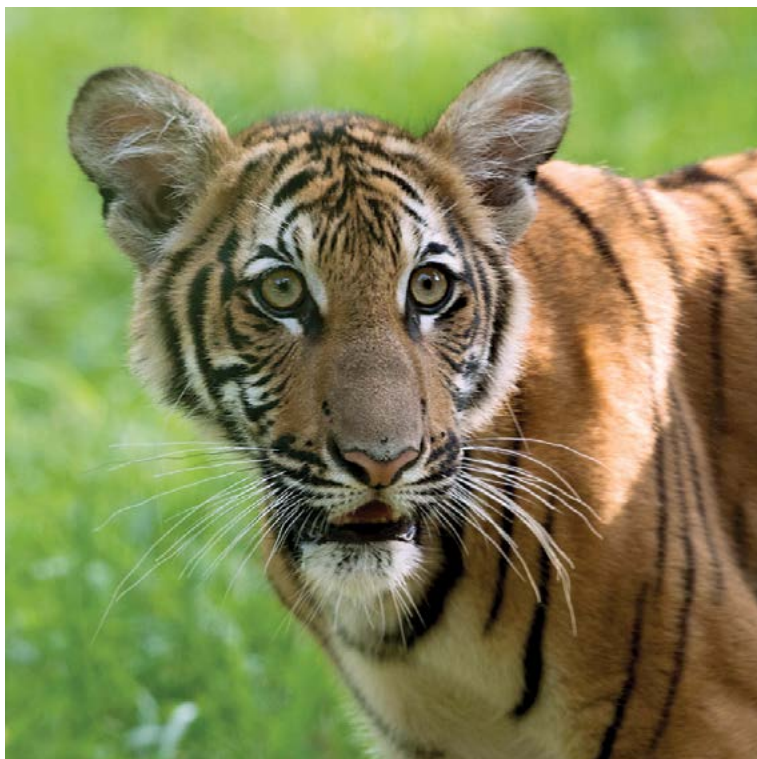
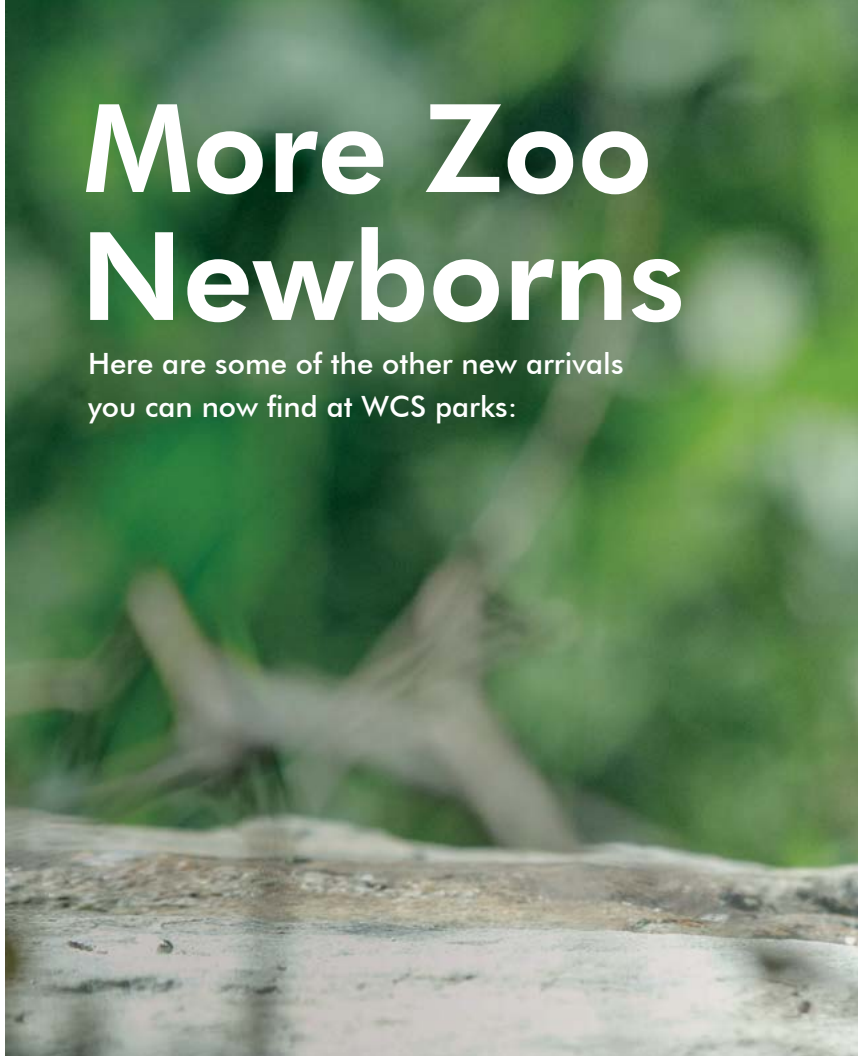
A white-naped crane chick hatched this year at the Bronx Zoo's Northern Ponds. WCS breeds white-naped cranes as part of the Species Survival Plan, a cooperative breeding program designed to enhance the genetic viability of animal populations in zoos and aquariums accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA).

This birth is a sign of hope for the species as it is currently on the decline in the wild. A WCS study released in July reported that breeding populations of white-naped cranes have decreased by 60 percent over the last 10 years in eastern Mongolia's Ulz River basin—a key stronghold for the species. The main threat to the species is loss of critical wetland habitats to agriculture, drought, and fire.

According to WCS veterinarian and co-author of the recent study, Martin Gilbert, "The declining number of cranes is alarming and may signal wider problems affecting many more species." For this reason, WCS's Mongolia program has identified this species as a conservation priority. Apart from conducting censuses, we work with local stakeholders and governments across the crane's range to help conserve this iconic species. Future efforts will focus on expanding science-based management and protective practices in partnership with local herder communities, in order to better manage remaining water resources as climate change progresses. ♡

More Zoo Newborns

Here are some of the other new arrivals you can now find at WCS parks:



THE MALAYAN TIGER CUBS at the Bronx Zoo are 2 of only 70 Malayan tigers in AZA zoos. The cubs raise awareness for their wild relatives, of which only 250 remain.



THREE BURROWING OWL OWLETS recently hatched at WCS's Queens Zoo. Unlike most owl species, burrowing owls are active during the day.



TWO PAINTED STORKS recently made their debut at WCS's Prospect Park Zoo. They join the Zoo's wide variety of striking bird species, and can be found in the Zoo's Discovery Trail aviary.



THIS LITTLE BLUE PENGUIN (or "fairy penguin") chick was the first ever to hatch at the Bronx Zoo. This is the smallest of the world's 18 penguin species.



TWO CALIFORNIA SEA LION PUPS were born at the Bronx Zoo in June. Clyde, a rescued sea lion, is the sire of both pups, and these are his first offspring since arriving in New York in 2013.



THIS NORTH AMERICAN PORCUPINE was born at the Bronx Zoo to mother, Alice, and father, Patrick. This is the pair's fourth offspring.



GEOFFROY'S MARMOSET TRIPLETS and **A GEOFFROY'S TAMARIN**, all native to Latin America, were born earlier this year at the Prospect Park Zoo.



Mobile Crew Launches at Bronx Zoo

A new live interpretation program launched earlier this year called Bronx Zoo Mobile Crew. This pilot program, sponsored by wireless telecommunications company MetroPCS, brings education to visitors at the Zoo, enhancing their discovery and learning. The Mobile Crew roams through various areas across the

These quick and lively interactions spark wonder and curiosity, enriching the experience for visitors of diverse ages, cultures, and backgrounds.

park engaging guests in spontaneous activities to teach them about animal behavior, from penguin parenting to pollination. These quick and lively interactions spark wonder and curiosity, enriching the experience for visitors of diverse ages, cultures, and backgrounds.

As an additional benefit for our guests, MetroPCS also supported the installation of a charging kiosk for cell phones and other electronic devices—the first of its kind in our parks.

Building on the success of the pilot Mobile Crew, we hope to continue this program in 2017 with renewed corporate support. 💚



Zoo Quests Expand Citywide

In its second year, the WCS Quests series expanded to include programming at all four of our zoos. Each Zoo Quest features fun and thematic activities like a scavenger hunt, with educators and teen docents connecting children and their families to the natural world. As kids navigate each Quest, they learn about animals in the wild, think and observe like scientists, and play challenging games that inspire them to become the next generation of stewards for our planet. During the summer season this year, our Quest leaders interacted with guests more than 1,700 times per day at our park citywide. 💚

WCS thanks these companies for sponsoring Zoo Quests in our community:

- Canon
- Empire BlueCross BlueShield
- JetBlue
- NewYork-Presbyterian



Big Victory for Small Fishes

On August 8, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council voted in favor of the Unmanaged Forage Omnibus Amendment, protecting more than 50 species that serve as prey for commercially and recreationally important fishes, from New York to North Carolina. These forage species—small fish and invertebrates, like krill—also form the base of the food chain for sharks, marine mammals, seabirds, and many predatory fishes. While they are not consumed for food in the United States and no commercial fishery for them exists in this area, global demand for their use as feed in aquaculture and livestock industries, fish oil, vitamin supplements, pet food, cosmetics, and fertilizer is on the rise.

During the Council's public comment period in May and June, WCS trained over 100 docents at the New York Aquarium and three zoos to educate visitors and gather "small poems for small fishes." In total, WCS collected and submitted the following to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council on June 16 as public support of this amendment:

437 poems and drawings

698 petition signatures

100 square feet of pledge walls

4,062 emails sent by online activists



THE VOICES OF OUR VISITORS AND ONLINE SUPPORTERS HELP US ADVOCATE FOR CONSERVATION-ORIENTED REGULATIONS THAT PROTECT MARINE WILDLIFE.

The New York Aquarium also convened a meeting with seven other aquariums to discuss best practices to sustainably source forage species as feed fish for animals, which resulted in five participating institutions signing letters to the Council advocating for conservation.

As a result of the amendment, before a new commercial fishery can develop in the mid-Atlantic, the Council must conduct a scientific assessment and implement management measures, like setting a total allowable catch. This precautionary, conservation-oriented approach will benefit the wildlife that rely on forage species for food, and help to protect the health of the mid-Atlantic ocean ecosystem. ♡

Buoy Detects Fin Whales in New York Bight

New York waters provide home and passageway for some of the world's most iconic marine life, including seven species of whale. WCS scientists are concerned how traffic and ocean noise affect whales, who rely on their acoustic environment to communicate.

In June 2016, WCS's New York Aquarium deployed a near real-time acoustic buoy with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI), our partner in a joint venture to monitor the presence of whales in the New York seascape. The buoy is located between two major shipping lanes outside of New York Harbor, 22 miles south of Fire Island. The first whale vocalization was detected less than two weeks after the launch. Researchers identified the vocalizations of a fin whale, an enormous species second in size only to the blue whale. Since that time, WCS-WHOI scientists have detected fin whales many times a day over the last few months. Additional data generated from the buoy will help our conservationists understand how whales use New York's busy waterways so we can better safeguard their passage. 🐋



The New York Aquarium has designed a digital Shimmer Wall where donations of \$25 and up will be recognized with a personalized tile. Support the New York Aquarium while acknowledging family or friends. Visit the virtual Shimmer Wall at nyaquarium.com/shimmer.

Installation of the Shimmer Wall Begins

Construction of *Ocean Wonders: Sharks!* is progressing at the New York Aquarium. Final steps preceding the installation of the Shimmer Wall began over the summer. Custom-manufactured, individual, precast concrete panels of various sizes and shapes were fitted to the exterior of the building, giving it a more uniform shape and color. The Shimmer Wall, spanning 1,100 feet, will wrap the outside of *Ocean Wonders* with 30,000 individual metal tiles. Fabrication of the tiles was completed offsite, and assembly begins this fall.

While construction and exhibit components develop, the New York Aquarium animal department continues to acquire sharks, other fish, and invertebrates. In 2016, 4 blacktip reef sharks, 3 whitetip reef sharks, a zebra shark, 17 cownose rays, 2 bluntnose rays, and 8 species of fish joined the collection. This process brings new marine animals to the Aquarium with ample time to acclimate to the exhibit and grow onsite. For more updates from the New York Aquarium, visit nyaquarium.com/blog. 🐋



A Conversation with Dr. Paul P. Calle

Paul Calle has been with WCS for 27 years. Based at WCS's Bronx Zoo, he serves as the Chief Veterinarian, overseeing all animal health activities for the organization.

What are some examples of current WCS health activities?

PAUL CALLE: Our team of international veterinarians is doing a lot of exciting things. We are studying and addressing infectious diseases that threaten species. Ebola virus infection is a problem in people, but it's a really significant issue for the conservation of gorillas and chimps, too. So we're in Congo looking at how Ebola is transmitted and where it stays between outbreaks. We are also very involved in researching fungal diseases like chytrid, which is a cause of amphibian extinctions around the world. And we have a project in North America examining white-nose syndrome in bats—a fungal infection that is devastating for bat populations. Additionally, we respond in emergency situations such as when vultures are poisoned in Cambodia,

whales die in Madagascar, or illegally-trafficked African grey parrots in Congo or endangered turtles in the Philippines are confiscated and require care.

We also look at wildlife as a source of emerging infectious diseases in people. We use what we learn about these zoonotic diseases to inform the public health community and gain partners in our conservation efforts, some which normally wouldn't be thinking of conservation. We are helping people realize the role of intact ecosystems and wildlife in human health concerns, and that conservation can actually be good for public health, too.

How do the WCS zoos and aquarium contribute to our global health efforts?

PC: Our zoos and our global programs mutually reinforce one another. The vast experience we have across our zoos, aquarium, and field conservation sites is where WCS's greatest strength lies. The field programs' capacity to draw on the expertise of the zoo and aquarium staff is a very synergistic thing, and I think that's especially marked in health. We care for individual animals every day in the zoos and aquarium, and when colleagues need that kind of expertise in a field setting, we can provide it. And the knowledge that our field staff have about the natural biology and behavior of animals allows us to better exhibit and care for them here in the zoos and aquarium.

What is your vision for the future of WCS health activities?

PC: My vision is for us to continue the long tradition of excellence in animal care that we've always had. We've had a full-time clinician and pathologist at the Bronx Zoo since 1902, and for over 100 years we've been providing the best possible care to the animals that we're responsible for. That emphasis on individual animal care has grown over the years and extends to the field, in terms of best practices in areas like immobilizations and animal handling. It also extends to informing policy and working with other agencies, governments, and partners to better integrate health into global conservation. 💕

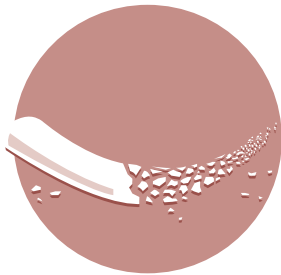
Inspiring a Conservation Movement

People around the world depend on nature, not only for its resources and services, but for inspiration and a connection to something larger than themselves. Our goal is to ignite a conservation movement—a diverse, influential, and enduring global audience that is invested in saving wildlife.

96 ELEPHANTS

Since 2013, WCS's 96 Elephants campaign—named for the number of African elephants killed each day—has fought to end the global ivory trade for good. Over the last year, we have:

ADVOCATED for the historic U.S. federal ivory ban and for Hawaii's domestic ivory ban, both of which passed in June. More information on these and other bans is on the following page.



SUPPORTED public ivory crushes and burns in several nations including Kenya and Singapore, sending a powerful message that no one needs ivory except for elephants.



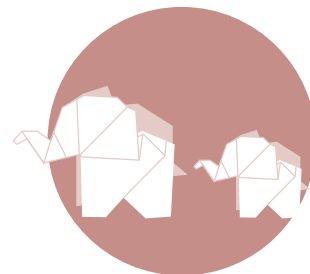
KICKED OFF the third phase of the campaign, called "Fight the Crime," aimed at strengthening penalties and enforcement of laws that condemn ivory trafficking. As part of this phase, we fought for the END Wildlife Trafficking Act—a bi-partisan bill that will help bolster resources for wildlife rangers—and applauded its successful passage in September.



STARTED the Elephant Yoga Challenge, a social media campaign to raise awareness and funds for elephants through yoga. This campaign successfully garnered 3.5 million online impressions.



PROMOTED public awareness and support around World Elephant Day on August 12. More than 38,000 people used our online petition form to encourage the U.S. delegation at the September CITES CoP17 convention to come out in strong support of all governments closing their domestic elephant ivory markets. Additionally, over 30,000 people signed a thank-you card to wildlife rangers, and our 96 Elephants badge promotion generated over \$15,000 in donations, with an average gift of \$41.27.



SET OUT to break the GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS™ title for the largest display of origami elephants. We partnered with more than 40 zoos across the country to fold 35,000 paper elephants in order to draw attention to the plight of Africa's elephants. The effort resulted in more than 200,000 individual origami elephants, folded and sent to us by contributors across all 50 states and more than 40 countries—more than doubling the previous record. ♡



Banning Ivory Across America

THE RECENT BANS WERE SUPPORTED BY WCS'S 96 ELEPHANTS CAMPAIGN WHICH ENGAGES THE PUBLIC IN ADVOCATING TO END THE KILLING OF ELEPHANTS.

WCS applauded the Obama Administration's announcement on June 2 of a near-total federal ivory ban. This ban—a modification of the 4(d) rule of the Endangered Species Act for African Elephants—closes most of the ivory trade in the United States, only allowing exceptions for items containing negligible amounts of ivory and documented antiques. According to WCS President and CEO Cristián Samper, "Our scientists have found conclusive evidence that the only way to save elephants is to ban ivory sales. WCS applauds this action by the U.S. government and stands ready to continue educating the public about the plight of the world's elephants."

Due to the complexity of the ivory trade, the best way to ensure a complete and total halt of ivory trafficking is for states to pass their own bans in addition to the federal ban. Only days after the federal ban passed, Hawaii's domestic

ivory ban was signed into law. For these types of bans, WCS's 96 Elephants campaign has generated more than 460,000 advocacy actions such as petitions, and more than 90,000 social media mentions in

These bans lead the way for other nations to shut down their ivory markets for good, which is our best chance to reverse the decline of elephants.

162 countries. This momentum from concerned citizens will aid us as we continue to push for the proposed domestic bans in 14 additional states.

These U.S. bans, along with commitments of bans in China and several African nations, lead the way for other influential nations to shut down their ivory markets for good, which is our best chance to reverse the decline of elephants. ♡



Bison Becomes National Mammal

After years of advocacy work, WCS was proud to see the recent passage of the National Bison Legacy Act, which officially adopted the bison as the National Mammal of the United States. WCS introduced this idea more than four years ago and worked with the National Bison Association and the Inter Tribal Buffalo Council to form the Vote Bison Coalition, a group that now consists of more than 60 organizations, tribes, and businesses. The Coalition pushed continuously for the bill's success by cultivating Congressional champions, building a diverse group of stakeholders, and engaging public support. As the National Mammal, the bison now takes its place as a U.S. emblem alongside the bald eagle, and validates WCS's work after more than a century of successful bison conservation.

Following the announcement, the Vote Bison Coalition (now renamed the American Bison Coalition) held a special reception at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian. Speakers, including Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, hailed the bison as a national icon and underscored the guiding principles that bison represent as America's national symbol: unity, resilience, and healthy landscapes and communities. ♡



Climate change predictions for New York City suggest the future will bring warmer temperatures, increased precipitation, and rising sea levels along with fiercer weather. Individuals, communities, institutions, and the government face numerous decisions on how to adapt and restore our natural defenses in order to increase climate resiliency along the coasts. Dr. Eric W. Sanderson, WCS Senior Conservation Ecologist and author of *Mannahatta: A Natural History of New York City*, and WCS Spatial Analyst Kim Fisher developed **Visionmaker.nyc**, a free online tool that enables students, educators, city planners, architects, and the general public to create their own vision of climate resiliency. Through the application, climate-resilient designs are developed; evaluated through model assessments of carbon, water, biodiversity, and population; and shared among other users. Visionmaker helps residents and the government use data and science to develop consensus and priorities for solving issues of sustainability, resilience, and livability.

Jamaica Bay is a densely inhabited urban estuary where people live close to a water edge that is rising due to changing climate. When Hurricane Sandy ravaged the Northeast, the communities surrounding Jamaica Bay suffered unprecedented damage. Visionmaker was used during the rebuilding period and provided community members, researchers, land managers, conservationists, and teachers with a new mechanism to solve issues of resiliency through collaboration.

Additionally, from summer 2014 to spring 2016, WCS provided Visionmaker coaching support and curricular resources to more than 60 teachers from over 20 schools. Through professional development partnerships, over 5,000 students used Visionmaker to explore how different combinations of ecosystems, lifestyles, and climate scenarios impact urban environmental performance. In addition, WCS will continue to teach Visionmaker in professional development courses for teachers. ♡



Photographing the Splendor of Local Marine Life

The New York Aquarium has exposed New Yorkers to the wonders of the ocean for more than 100 years, and continues to build awareness of the marine conservation needs of New York and nearby waters. The Aquarium has partnered with renowned underwater photographer Keith Ellenbogen to capture the beauty of local marine wildlife in their natural habitat (including the flying fish on this report's cover), and to inspire public support for marine conservation in New York. We invite you to experience the diversity and splendor that surrounds this great city through a selection of images of marine life within our local waters.

Loggerhead sea turtle

(*Caretta caretta*)

The threatened loggerhead is just one of four sea turtle species that regularly migrate through New York waters. Major threats include entanglement in fishing gear and ingested plastic pollution.

15 nautical miles south
of Shinnecock Inlet,
New York. Summer 2016.

© KEITH A. ELLENBOGEN



Blue shark

(*Prionace glauca*)

The blue shark can grow up to 12 feet long. Tiny pores on its head, called ampullae of Lorenzini, allow the shark to detect weak electrical signals generated by the movement and speed of its potential prey. The rusty hook near this shark's mouth is a likely result of being caught and released by a recreational fisherman.

10 nautical miles southeast of Montauk, New York. Summer 2016.

© KEITH A. ELLENBOGEN



Northern star coral

(*Astrangia poculata*)

This stony, non-reef-building coral can be found from the Gulf of Mexico up to Cape Cod. Other coral species thrive in the deep and cold waters of the Hudson Canyon, an underwater canyon just off the coast of New York that rivals the Grand Canyon in scale and majesty.

Beach 8th Street, Far Rockaway, New York. Summer 2015.

© KEITH A. ELLENBOGEN



American conger eel

(*Conger oceanicus*)

American conger eels are commonly 3 to 4 feet in length, but can grow to more than 7 feet and weigh up to 90 pounds. These eels are one of many species that use shipwrecks and other artificial reefs for shelter. Hundreds of shipwrecks can be found off the coast of New York, acting as aggregators of marine life large and small.

Panther wreck, Atlantic Ocean, New York. Summer 2015.

© KEITH A. ELLENBOGEN



WCS and Morgan Stanley: Lights on Broadway

Throughout the month of June, WCS's organizational mission was featured across billboards in Times Square, courtesy of Morgan Stanley. The Morgan Stanley Lights on Broadway program has helped to raise brand awareness for several leading nonprofit organizations. Through this partnership, WCS was able to reach New Yorkers and visitors from all over the world, promote our mission and striking wildlife photography, and ask viewers to share why they **#StandForWildlife**. The billboards comprise 12,800 square feet of digital content across 7 screens with 460,000 average daily impressions. This campaign generated 10.3 million total potential impressions of **#StandForWildlife** across social channels, as well as more than 190,000 engagements (likes, comments, and shares) across Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook. WCS is grateful for this high-profile opportunity to spread awareness of the need to protect wildlife. 🐾

AUDREY CHOI, CEO OF THE MORGAN STANLEY INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE INVESTING, STANDS WITH WCS PRESIDENT AND CEO CRISTIÁN SAMPER IN FRONT OF THE LIGHTS ON BROADWAY BILLBOARDS.

Become a Corporate Member

WCS is proud to partner with a broad range of companies in New York and around the world. Through our corporate membership program, companies can reward their employees with zoo admission, entertain clients at exclusive events, and support conservation and education. Encourage your employer to join WCS! Contact us at **718 741 1603** or corporations@wcs.org.



Paul Gauguin
CRUISES

Going Wild with Paul Gauguin Cruises

WCS has partnered with Paul Gauguin Cruises to launch two new environmental education programs aboard the *m/s Paul Gauguin*. These programs—called the Wildlife Discovery Series and Stewards of Nature—will enrich guests' experiences as they sail throughout Tahiti, French Polynesia, Fiji, and the South Pacific.

The Wildlife Discovery Series features lectures for adults, giving passengers the opportunity to learn about marine wildlife and habitats directly from WCS conservationists and oceanographers. During presentations aboard *The Gauguin*, WCS scientists will share their research and expertise from the South Pacific and seascapes worldwide.

Stewards of Nature is an experiential program that reveals the wonders of the natural world to kids, teens, and their family members. The program encourages families to explore the local environment through hands-on activities with WCS naturalists onboard and ashore. ♡

Both programs will launch in 2017. To learn more and plan your trip, visit PGCruises.com/WCS.



WCS Education: Guiding the Next Generation

WCS designs every educational engagement to connect people of all ages to nature, and to guide them toward conservation advocacy. From teens and college students conducting urban ecology research in New York City, to local communities learning how to protect forests in Madagascar, we are creating a new generation of conservation leaders.

Conserving Through Education in Madagascar

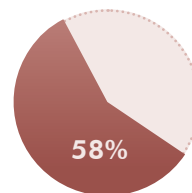
The 1,400-square-mile region of Makira Natural Park in northeast Madagascar is home not only to 20 species of lemurs and over 50 percent of the country's plant diversity, but also to 90,000 low-income people whose livelihoods rely on the park's forest ecosystem. As manager of the park on behalf of the Government of Madagascar, WCS works directly with 70 community associations made up of local villages to mitigate threats to the large and isolated region. The main threat to the park's

Since 2006, more than 5,000 local children, young adults, and parents have benefited from this program.

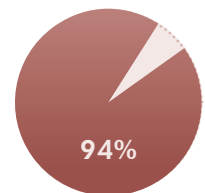
biodiversity is slash-and-burn agriculture, which communities practice in order to farm rice for their families.

Families in and around the park are large, and there is very little access to education above primary school level; most children attend school for only five to six years. For these reasons, WCS has identified youth- and child-focused environmental education as a key pillar

MAKIRA EXAM SUCCESS RATE



REGIONAL AVERAGE



WCS-SUPPORTED



of successful park management and protection. Our Makira education program allows us to target messages to the next generation of decision makers; build capacity in environmental and natural resource management issues in order to halt harmful environmental practices; and teach complementary subjects including health, nutrition, and technology.

The program is focused at the Maroantsetra Environmental Campus in Makira, which includes a modern



classroom facility, tablets and computers with internet connectivity, and demonstration sites for practical activities like beekeeping, fish farming, and mangrove and tree planting. Through the program, WCS facilitates teacher training; youth conservation clubs; art and livelihood activity workshops; breakfast programs in rural schools for kids and their parents; environmental movie screenings; and much more. There is even a program for rural children to learn about technology and social media, in which participants have weekly link-up sessions with teen Discovery Guides from WCS's Bronx Zoo. Since 2006, more than 5,000 local children, young adults, and parents have benefited from this program. Now, the rate of success in high school exams for students regularly participating in WCS education activities is 94 percent, compared to an average of only 58 percent at other schools in the area. We will continue to increase the number of program participants in order to grow the program's success in 2017. 🍷





Summer Project TRUE Activities

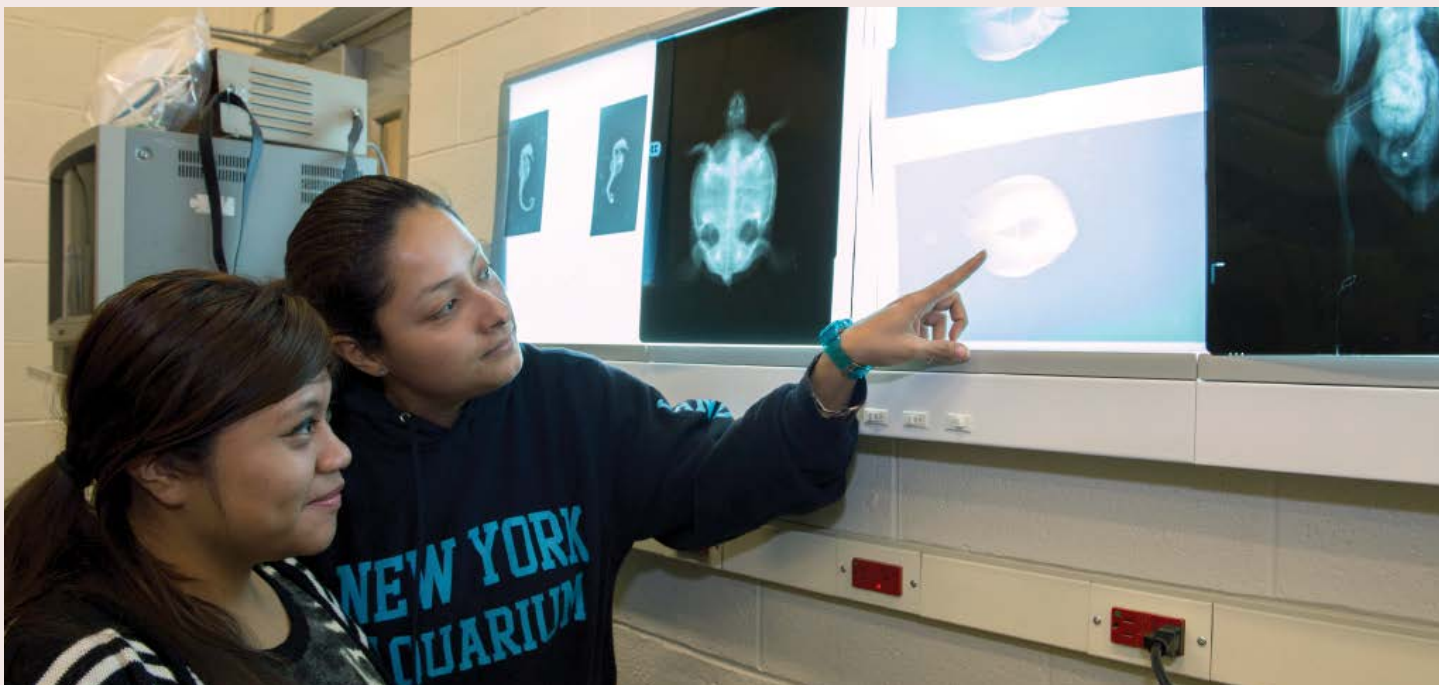
During its second year, WCS and Fordham University's Project TRUE (Teens Researching Urban Ecology) continued to inspire a new generation of conservation professionals through mentoring and urban ecology research. Recruiting from those underrepresented in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields, Project TRUE trains 50 high school students each year in scientific field research and communication methods.

Fordham University undergraduates serve as the participants' dedicated mentors. This year, they led the students in 15 different research projects, tracking urban wildlife and surveying habitat suitability at 11 parks and 8 green roofs throughout all of the city's boroughs. Research project partners included Columbia University, NYC Department of Parks and Recreation, Gotham Coyote, Brooklyn Bridge Park, and the New York Metropolitan Flora Project. Project TRUE teams were based at the Central Park Zoo, Prospect Park Zoo, and Bronx Zoo, and each was supervised by a different WCS expert educator as well as a Fordham PhD candidate. The 15 teams presented their research at the 4th annual Bronx Science Consortium Poster Symposium in September. As Project TRUE progresses, research and evaluation data collected from program participants provide insights on how to support young people and create an effective pipeline of future conservationists. ♡




TEENS RESEARCHING URBAN ECOLOGY: ANNUAL IMPACT

- 50 students** from NYC high schools
- 15 research projects**
- 11 parks and 8 green roofs** studied
- 5-year grant from National Science Foundation*



WCS Career Ladder Program

A new program will create opportunities for youth participating in WCS Education programs at our New York parks, providing long-term career training and support. The WCS Career Ladder Program will address the current lack of diversity in the STEM workforce by helping young people ages 14 to 26 advance their education and careers.

Students participating in our various programs as Discovery Guides, Project TRUE researchers, program interns, Quest leaders, and Future Leaders—more than 700 students each year—will now receive training and support over an extended period of time to obtain part-time jobs, internships, and eventually full-time jobs in

STEM fields, including jobs with WCS. To kick off this effort, we are establishing a Youth Advisory Council made up of some of the most dedicated participants in our education programs, as well as part-time staff members in various WCS departments, that will advise this process. We will improve our workforce development pipeline through a WCS job fair, workforce training, career mentoring, and college prep sessions. Additionally, we will develop a progress-tracking system and a comprehensive opportunities network with the aim of placing promising young adults who have thrived in our programs into full- and part-time positions at WCS. 💖

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us save wildlife and wild
places around the globe.**

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With deep appreciation to:

Jason Aloisio, Kristen Avery, Sierra Bush, Paul P. Calle, Merry Camhi, Noah Chesnin, Alison Clausen, Tom Clements, Ray Davis, Dave DeNardo, Jon Forrest Dohlin, Nina Holbrook, Natalie Ingle, David Johnston, Mary Kilbourn, Rebecca Kusa, Rachel Libretti, Alexandra Mattia, Caleb McClennen, Andy Plumptre, Max Pulsinelli, Howard Rosenbaum, Sofia Sainz, Kathi Schaeffer, Tim Tear, Kathryn Thompson, Karen Tingley, and Chip Weiskotten

Executive Editor: Mary Deyns Brandão

Managing Editor: Christine Westphal

Writers: Christine Westphal,
Jennifer Orlando, and Sarah Walker

Art Direction: Drew Albinson

Staff Photographer: Julie Larsen Maher

Editorial Support: Libby Whitney Del Greco

Photos: Front and Back Cover, p.16–17 © Keith A. Ellenbogen; p.2, p.5–7, p.9, p.11, p.13, p.14 (right), p.23 Julie Larsen Maher © WCS; p.3 © Paul Hilton for WCS; p.4 © Andy Plumptre/WCS; p.8, p.10 (bottom), p.19 (bottom) © WCS; p.10 (top) © John Delaney/WCS; p.14 (left) © Darren Baker/Dreamstime; p.15 © Leung Photography/Dreamstime; p.18 © Morgan Stanley; p.19 (top) © Paul Gauguin Cruises; p.20–21 © Johnnah Ranariniaina/WCS Madagascar; p.22 © Jason Aloisio



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2016
VOLUME 2