



Boundless

A WCS Field Progress Report





We Stand for Wildlife.SM

Since its founding, WCS has maintained an unwavering commitment to field conservation. More than a century later, we are the preeminent science-based wildlife conservation organization in the world. Our approach is truly boundless. 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. Our veterinary and epidemiological expertise spans 35 countries and we collaborate across countless sectors to craft science-based solutions to wildlife crime, climate change, protected area management, and enterprise development, among others.

This WCS Progress Report provides our generous supporters with updates and insights on core field science and conservation action across the globe.

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. ❤️



GRAUER'S GORILLA

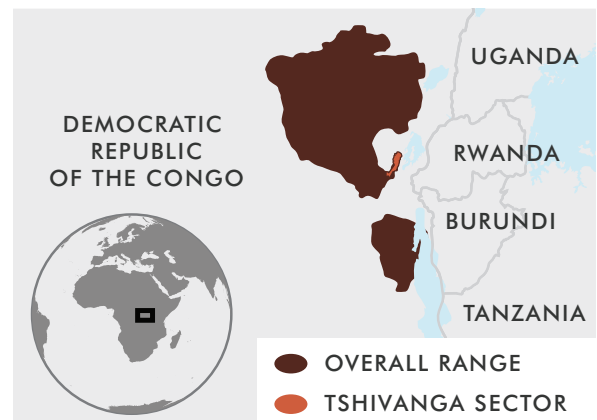
(*Gorilla beringei graueri*)

3,800 remaining in the wild

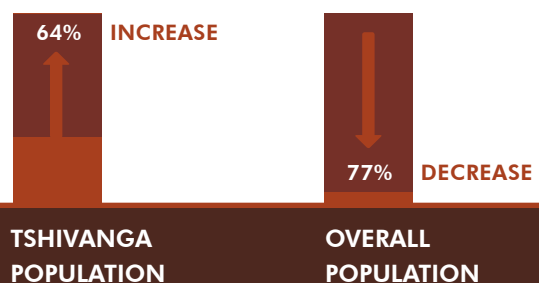
CE CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

as of August 2016

RANGE



POPULATION TRENDS SINCE 2000





Recognizing Rangers on the Front Lines

Every day, WCS men and women risk their lives to protect wildlife. These committed and courageous heroes save some of the planet's most threatened species and inspire conservationists all over the world. With wildlife demand and trafficking not yet abated, rangers remain the first line of defense for many animals, particularly elephants.

We have hard proof that these rangers are making a big difference. WCS-led research has shown that in areas of Central Africa where rangers (also called ecoguards) patrol, forest elephants are approximately seven times more prevalent when compared to unpatrolled forests. We have not only helped reduce the killing of these majestic, intelligent, and warmhearted creatures, but we have demonstrated that ecoguard patrolling is an effective strategy to protect them from slaughter.

NACHAMADA GEOFFREY
Yankari Game Reserve, Nigeria
Elephant Population: 100–200

Situated in a volatile region of Nigeria, the Yankari Game Reserve is 866 square miles of mostly savannah serving as home to buffaloes, hippos, lions, and the country's last viable elephant population. Nachamada Geoffrey, a native of the area, is WCS's lead in Yankari. WCS began managing the reserve's conservation activities in 2014, and with Geoffrey's help we have ushered in great conservation advancements.

Despite turmoil in the region including recent Boko Haram activity, only two elephant carcasses were discovered in Yankari in 2015, both of which were judged to have died of natural causes.

This represents a large drop from the 10-per-year average prior to 2014. Additionally, no rangers have been killed in action since WCS took over park management. WCS Nigeria Director Andrew Dunn largely credits Geoffrey. "Working for WCS in Yankari is not a normal job," Dunn says. "It requires 24/7 commitment at a remote, isolated site with erratic access to modern facilities. It requires bravery (when Boko Haram threatened Yankari's borders, Geoffrey never flinched) and exceptional levels of dedication, diplomacy, patience, and astute politicking."

Geoffrey has mastered one particular feat. "I don't really sleep," he says. Instead, the principal endeavor of his many waking hours is to boost morale among the 100 or so rangers he manages.

Geoffrey's work following up on enforcement actions helps ensure that the arrests the rangers make—including 44 poachers last year—aren't for naught. "Now it's the poachers who are scared," Geoffrey says, "because they know they will go to jail."

MARGUERITE APA
Nouabale-Ndoki National Park,
Republic of Congo
Elephant Population: Approximately 2,500

Established by the Republic of Congo in 1993, Nouabale-Ndoki National Park is situated at the heart of the Congo Basin. Today, it is managed by the Ndoki



**TRAINED ECOGUARDS BRAVE
HARSH AND SOMETIMES
DANGEROUS CONDITIONS
TO PROTECT THE IMPORTANT
WILDLIFE WITHIN THEIR PARKS.**



NACHAMADA GEOFFREY

Foundation, a partnership between WCS and the Government of Congo, and is home to approximately 3,500 gorillas, 2,500 chimpanzees, and 2,500 elephants.

It is here that 24-year-old Marguerite Apa, driven by a passion to save this extraordinary biodiversity, serves as an ecoguard. In this difficult role, Apa and her fellow rangers spend 15 days at a time in the field, hiking miles through the thick brush.

“Now it’s the poachers who are scared because they know they will go to jail.”

—NACHAMADA GEOFFREY



MARGUERITE APA

During that time they are constantly on the lookout for both wildlife and poachers that could pose a threat. The thrill of animal spotting keeps Apa motivated amid the challenging aspects of the job; and fortunately, Ndoki is rich with breathtaking biodiversity.

The only woman on her team, Apa—who descends from the Bembajele, an often-marginalized indigenous group—decided she wanted to guard this region and its incredible species two years ago, while serving as a cook. She did it, she says, “even though it is generally considered to be a man’s job.” Now, Apa encourages other women to follow. ❤️

One of Africa's Most Biodiverse Regions Formally Protected

At long last, the Itombwe Reserve in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, one of Africa's most biodiverse sites, now has formally approved boundaries. This achievement is a testament to both the long-term commitment and community participation at the heart of successful conservation. WCS has been working in the Itombwe area since the early 1990s when we performed initial surveys of the region. Unfortunately, the government took over-eager action based on these results, unilaterally establishing the Itombwe Reserve in 2006—a decision which lacked consultation of local communities and delineation of clear boundaries. While established with good intentions, the lack of stakeholder buy-in led to major friction in the area, with local NGOs calling for degazettment of the Reserve.

To rectify the failed reserve establishment in 2006, WCS led a process of regional conflict resolution, boundary identification, and consensus building. Through collaboration with conservation and human rights NGOs as well as the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation, local communities became much more directly engaged in park decision making.

The result of this effort was the expansion of the proposed area of the Reserve. The finalized borders included highland sectors in the north and east which WCS has defined as containing a majority of the threatened and endemic species and as important for climate change adaptation. These boundaries were finally agreed upon and presented to the Provincial Government, and the Governor signed the document on June 23, 2016 to legally establish the Reserve boundaries. Now with clearly defined boundaries, it is possible

This achievement is a testament to both the long-term commitment and community participation at the heart of successful conservation.

to protect the habitat and threatened species found here, including elephants and Grauer's gorillas. WCS will now work with partners and communities to zone the Reserve, defining where conservation, sustainable use, and development will take place. 🌿

**ITOMBWE RESERVE,
DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF
THE CONGO.**





Studying Muskoxen to Predict Impacts of Climate Change

ARCTIC

WCS works in some of the most remote and wild places on the planet. It is in these isolated areas that we often find the best opportunities to study climate change and resiliency. One such research location is the Wrangel Island Federal Reserve, a remote island some 300 miles north of the Arctic Circle in Russia. Here, we conducted an expedition to understand the impacts of climate change and polar bear predation on muskoxen.

As part of the expedition, senior scientist Joel Berger approached herds of muskoxen, alternatively appearing as a polar bear and caribou, to gauge the muskoxen's response to the threat of polar bears, which they may increasingly encounter due to climate change. The accelerating phenomenon of melting sea ice is forcing more and more polar bears to seek prey on land rather than ice.

The results of this work allow us to understand the quickly changing predator-prey dynamic and help guide conservation and management efforts in the Arctic.

The team also used photogrammetry, a technique used to photograph the head sizes of young muskoxen so that annual growth can be measured and related to different climatic variables. Such measurements will help determine how the Wrangel Island population is faring in comparison with other populations that WCS and collaborators study in Arctic Beringia, a region warming faster than northeastern Siberia, and where hunting is permitted on the herds. Ultimately, we will use this information to advise the conservation of the species by identifying and addressing which specific factors are limiting muskoxen health, growth, and survival. ❤️



"It's humbling to be in a land so raw and so beautiful; it's a piece of the planet where one can watch the Pleistocene still unfold with many of the players who shared the environment with mammoths."

—JOEL BERGER, SENIOR SCIENTIST, WCS BERINGIA PROGRAM



A Conversation with Melvin Gumal

Melvin Gumal has been involved in orangutan conservation since 1988, working with Malaysia's indigenous communities to encourage them to protect native animals and their habitats. In the early 2000s, he initiated orangutan population surveys in the largest protected areas for orangutans in the state of Sarawak, and in 2003, he joined WCS as the Malaysia Country Director. With Bornean orangutans (pictured on the cover of this report) now considered Critically Endangered, Gumal and his team are identifying crucial orangutan sites and fighting for their protection.

What has contributed to the loss of Bornean orangutans and the need for them to be reclassified as Critically Endangered?

MELVIN GUMAL: The plight of the Bornean orangutan mirrors the overarching struggles of many other endangered species around the world. The two primary causes for their decline are habitat destruction and hunting. A major contributor to deforestation is the ever-expanding palm oil industry, which directly removes and restricts orangutan habitat.

These threats are particularly devastating to the orangutan population because this species has a slow reproductive rate. Female orangutans typically give birth to a single offspring once every seven years. They simply cannot overcome their current rate of loss. Bornean orangutans decreased by more than 60 percent between 1950 and 2010, and conservationists now project another 22 percent decline by 2025. This extreme drop is reflected in the July 2016 reclassification of this key species to Critically Endangered.

How is WCS addressing the problem?

MG: In Malaysia, WCS is working closely with the government within the state of Sarawak to identify and protect locations where orangutans are found. In these places, we inform the government of their presence and collaborate in order to facilitate conservation action. The Chief Minister of Sarawak has indicated that the government intends to protect these animals through interventions such as limiting logging concessions and palm oil plantations, especially in areas where there are known orangutans.

Why should the international community care about orangutan conservation and what can people outside of Borneo do?

MG: Orangutans are one of the most important icons that can help focus humanity's actions towards forests and conservation, as these animals are surprisingly similar to humans in DNA as well as movement, emotion, and behavior.

Our actions as individuals, regardless of where we are located, have an impact on wildlife both at home and abroad. As mentioned, one of the reasons for the Bornean orangutan's decline is habitat loss due to palm oil cultivation. This is a complex issue, but ultimately results from a worldwide demand for products containing this ingredient. Consumers make important choices each day and these decisions have both direct and indirect consequences to the world that we live in.

Each person can contribute individually, and collectively we can make conservation progress. Taking action ensures our common future. ♥

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

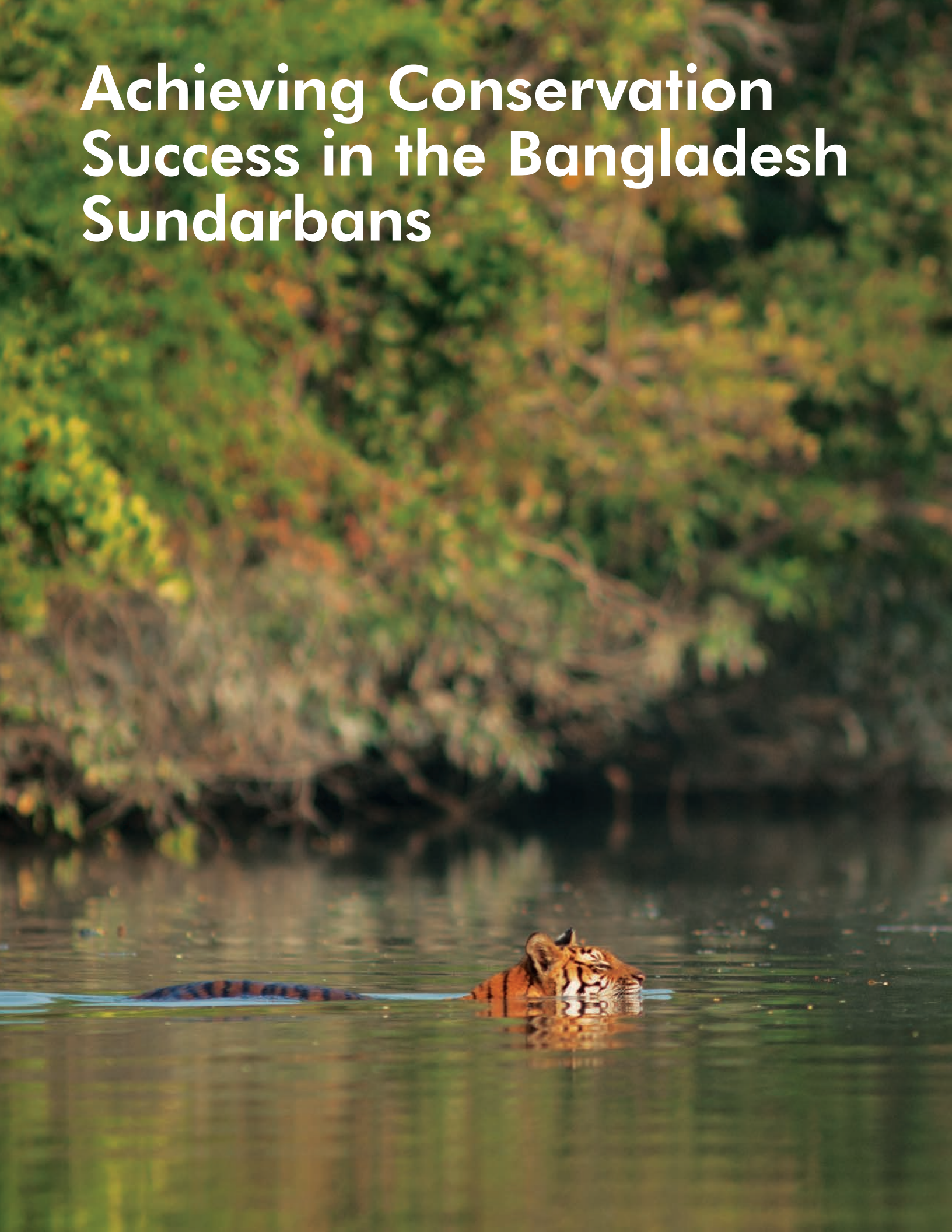
and other marine megafauna for sale to facilities being built in China and elsewhere in Southeast Asia.

"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 TWO
CAPTIVE WHALE
SHARKS BACK INTO
THE OPEN OCEAN.**



Achieving Conservation Success in the Bangladesh Sundarbans



Imagine freshwater dolphins surfacing in tidal waterways while tigers lurk nearby in the world's largest mangrove forest. This is the scene in the Sundarbans of Bangladesh, an amazing refuge for diverse and endangered wildlife, including other iconic species such as giant river turtles, masked finfoots, and fishing cats. The challenge of protecting this unique and irreplaceable ecosystem is daunting given the high density of economically impoverished people living along the rim of the mangrove forest. Rising sea levels and increasing storms caused by climate change compound the issue. WCS has never been timid about taking on a conservation challenge, especially when the cost of inaction is extinction, and with rare wildlife such as dolphins and tigers, the stakes are high and we must ensure our actions are effective over the long term. WCS is a global leader in developing scientifically robust techniques for wildlife population

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assessments, including those in Bangladesh. However, detecting wildlife population trends can take decades, so we have developed other techniques to measure short-term outcomes.

Two crucial components of WCS's approach to protecting wildlife and their habitat in the Sundarbans have been to educate and inspire local communities, and to improve and strengthen the wildlife law enforcement and monitoring patrols conducted by the Forest Department. Through an innovative, boat-based, educational outreach exhibition, WCS reached more than 50,000 villagers in 15 remote fishing communities bordering the Sundarbans over a four-year period. This interactive platform has



enabled conservationists to share information on threatened freshwater dolphins, sustainable fisheries, and climate adaptation. To measure the impact of our community education programs, we conducted standardized interviews before and six months after our educational outreach activities. Through these surveys we documented significant positive changes in the knowledge, attitudes, and practices of local fishers. Examples include greater awareness about wildlife protection laws and increased willingness to cut fishing nets to release an entangled dolphin.

To strengthen patrolling and measure the effectiveness of this effort, WCS is working with the Forest Department to implement the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) in the region. This tool standardizes patrol data collection and allows wildlife managers to take ownership of conservation goals, as well as to be accountable for achieving them. During the last year, more than 50 frontline staff from the Forest Department have been trained in SMART. These wildlife patrols have already documented poaching camps, helped law enforcement arrest fishermen using illegal techniques, and revealed rarely observed species. Through this work, WCS is bolstering the survival prospects of some of the world's most endangered and iconic wildlife. In the process, we are also protecting natural resources vital to the well-being of local people. 🍀

SUNDARBANS: WORLD'S LARGEST MANGROVE FOREST

THREATS:

Climate change, poaching, illegal fishing

WCS IMPACT:

Education:

50,000 villagers reached in
15 remote fishing communities

Patrol Strengthening:

50 rangers recently trained in SMART

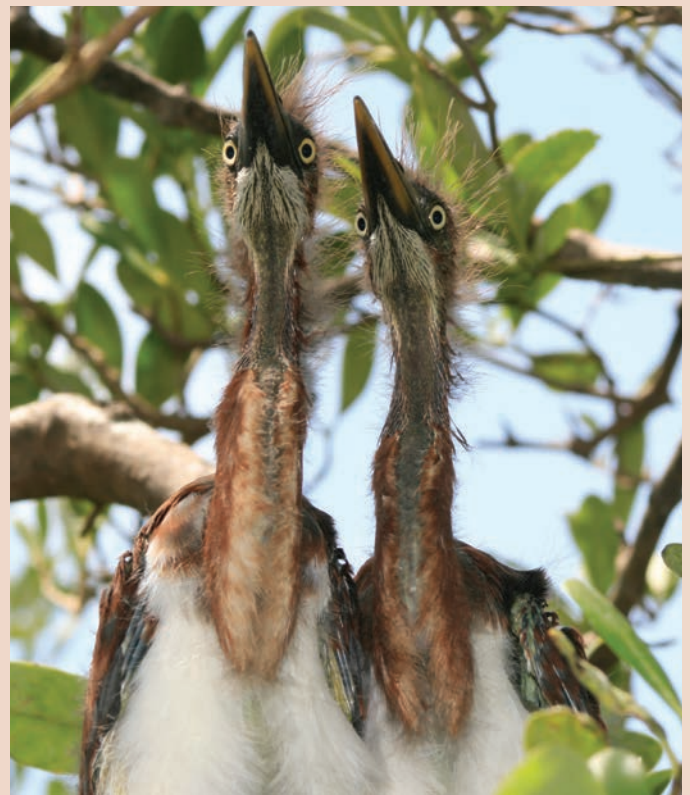
A New Dawn for Cuba's Unique Wildlife

Cuba's wildlife and wild places are at a crossroads. Until now the country has experienced relatively low rates of development and tourism, greatly benefiting the critical habitats and species in and around the island. The country has an extensive network of protected areas covering approximately 20 percent of its surface, and in contrast to other Latin American and Caribbean nations, these areas are still largely intact and undisturbed. Cuba's marine protected areas host some of the region's healthiest coral reefs, highly diverse fish assemblages, and megafauna such as manatees, cetaceans, and sea turtles. Inland protected areas harbor outstanding levels of endemic species and contain the country's most important watersheds. However, as bilateral relations between Cuba and the United States normalize and Cuba further opens doors to development and economic changes, pressures on Cuba's protected areas and biodiversity are expected to intensify, especially in the tourism sector.

WCS is prepared to address the opportunities and challenges that come with this transition. With more than 15 years of experience working with local and international colleagues within Cuba, we have laid the groundwork for successful conservation. Our program has protected key species, trained conservation educators and decision makers, and established strategies for the country's most important protected areas.

We are now rolling out a comprehensive plan to prioritize environmental governance and ensure the long-term protection of Cuba's unique biodiversity. WCS is in the process of establishing a permanent, in-country program in Cuba to expand conservation efforts on protected area management and monitoring, endemic and migratory species, sustainable fisheries, and academic exchanges.

WCS activities will be implemented in four project sites based on their impressive levels of biodiversity and endemism: the Zapata Swamp National Park, the Birama Swamp, the Isla de la Juventud and adjacent Canarreos Archipelago, and the Alejandro de Humboldt National Park. ❤️



WCS's strategy for preserving Cuban biodiversity:

1. Strengthen protected area management
2. Support the development of sustainable fisheries
3. Ensure protection of migratory species
4. Integrate Cuba into regional conservation initiatives

Nationwide Fishing Rights in Belize

Small-scale fisheries provide coastal communities with a large portion of the fish they consume and employ over 90 percent of the world's fishers. However, in many countries, fisheries are completely unregulated. As a result, they are quickly becoming depleted, often triggering larger ecosystem decline, poverty, and food insecurity.

In June 2016, with support from WCS, Belize became the first country in the world to adopt a national fishing rights system for small-scale fisheries. The country is utilizing Managed Access, a national system that licenses fishers and gives them access to operate in designated areas, as well as responsibilities to help manage those areas and observe regulations. Licenses require fishers to comply with regulations and report their catch. The Managed Access Committees, which include elected fisher representatives, review license applications and guide the progress of the program. Managed Access was first tested in Belize in 2011 by WCS in partnership with the Belize Fisheries Department and the Toledo Institute of Development and Environment. Since the start of the pilot programs at Glover's Reef Atoll and Port Honduras, more than 90 percent of fishers are submitting their catch data, illegal infractions decreased from 9 percent to 4 percent, and reef fish are showing the first signs of recovery.



Unlike traditional approaches to managing fisheries, Managed Access empowers fishers and managers to collaborate on conserving vital fisheries for the long-term. Approximately 15,000 Belizeans rely directly on extractive fishing. In addition, the rich biodiversity of the reef is crucial for the tourism industry, which contributes 36.6 percent of the country's GDP. This program gives fishers a vested stake in protecting and stewarding their own resources. The approach helps to not only protect the ecology of Belize's barrier reef, one of the most magnificent ocean ecosystems in the world, but also to improve livelihoods. ♡

PRESERVING THE RICH BIODIVERSITY OF THE REEF BY PREVENTING OVERFISHING IS CRUCIAL TO THE LIVELIHOODS OF BELIZEANS.





Discoveries Abound in Bolivia's Madidi

Madidi National Park is truly a place of wonder. Even in the second year of the Identidad Madidi expedition, the intense beauty of the region's pristine vistas and unique wildlife continues to amaze and inspire WCS's most seasoned biologists. Beyond its beauty, Madidi is likely the world's most biologically diverse protected area. Identidad Madidi, a multi-institutional initiative to document the extraordinary biodiversity of Madidi and share knowledge with Bolivian society, is bringing global attention to this unparalleled biodiversity.

As the expedition reached its halfway mark this summer, the participating scientists announced they had recorded the 1,000th known bird species within the park—a substantial milestone. The team was surprised by the presence of this 1,000th bird, the dusky-tailed flatbill, as they suddenly heard its song while analyzing hours upon hours of audio recordings. Victor Hugo Garcia, the scientist who first discovered the species on

the recording, said: “As a young Bolivian ornithologist, it is so exciting to be working in this incredible park... Listening through hours of recordings after every field trip is a major commitment, and perhaps not particularly thrilling, but surprises like this make it all worthwhile.”

In addition to 1,000 bird species, 1,673 vertebrate species and 1,080 butterfly varieties have now been recorded on the formal park species list. The expedition has also resulted in the discovery of several brand new species, including three catfish, a high-altitude iguana, and three species of frogs. ❤️

Follow the expedition as it continues throughout the next year at IdentidadMadidi.org and on social media at Facebook.com/IdentidadMadidi and [@IdentidadMadidi](https://Twitter.com/IdentidadMadidi).



THE DUSKY-TAILED FLATBILL (LEFT) BECAME THE 1,000TH BIRD SPECIES RECORDED IN MADIDI.


1,000
bird species
recorded




7
new species
discovered




1,673
vertebrates
recorded




1,080
butterfly species
recorded



NORTH AMERICA

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. ❤️



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. ♥



Investing in the Next Generation of Conservationists

WCS’s commitment to saving wildlife and wild places includes an inherent commitment to people around the world. One critical element of achieving our mission involves investing in the next generation of conservationists and environmental leaders by actively supporting their formal and informal education. To this end, WCS has three established programs to further learning opportunities for emerging conservationists: the Graduate Scholarship Program, the Research Fellowship Program, and the Conservation Leadership Programme. Each provides the precise support new conservationists need to thrive. Our three programs for training, graduate scholarships, and field research grants have established WCS as a global leader in advancing the careers of talented international conservationists.

WCS PROGRAM	PURPOSE	SINCE INCEPTION	TODAY
Graduate Scholarship Program	The Graduate Scholarship Program is dedicated to building leadership capacity for wildlife conservation on a global scale by providing support for the best young conservation professionals to obtain master’s or PhDs at prestigious international academic institutions.	Established in 1996, the GSP has made advanced study possible for 83 graduates from 30 countries . We recently partnered with the Wildlife Conservation Network to broaden our pool of candidates and expand our collective impact.	In 2016, WCS awarded six graduate scholarships to promising conservationists from Afghanistan, Belize, Bolivia, Mexico, Nigeria, and Russia.
Research Fellowship Program	The Research Fellowship Program provides funding for critical research, along with key mentoring from expert WCS conservation staff, to build developing countries’ capacity to fight the growing threats to wildlife and wild places.	Since 1993, 346 young career conservationists have received more than \$3 million in fellowship grants for individual field research projects that have a clear application to the conservation of threatened wildlife and wild places.	WCS currently has seven active fellows completing research in Cambodia, Colombia, Congo-Basin Coast (Gabon and the Republic of Congo), Fiji, Guatemala, Nigeria, and Russia.
Conservation Leadership Programme	CLP is a partnership between WCS, Birdlife International, and Fauna & Flora International that provides project funding, training, and mentoring to early career leaders from developing countries who are tackling conservation challenges.	For the last 31 years, CLP has supported more than 2,500 individuals with team-based grants or internships—an investment of over \$9 million in 734 projects across more than 100 countries .	In 2016, CLP presented 18 awards to recipients in 11 countries .

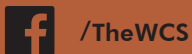
CLP AWARD WINNERS TOOK A BREAK FROM A TWO-WEEK MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING COURSE FOR HIKING IN BANFF NATIONAL PARK, CANADA.



Thank you for helping
us save wildlife and wild
places around the globe.

Learn more at wcs.org

Follow us and share why
you #StandforWildlife



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