



STAND FOR WILDLIFE

YOUR CONSERVATION IMPACT

FROM CRISIS — TO → RECOVERY

The challenges we face are steep: 1 million species at risk of extinction, accelerating climate change, and more emerging diseases as people disrupt natural systems. But with your strong support of our mission, we have hope for the future.

OUR SOLUTION

SAVING WILDLIFE AND WILD PLACES

Saving endangered species

Key species groups—big cats, elephants, great apes—are recovering in WCS sites where we have worked the longest. The abundance and well-being of these biologically important species is critical to ecosystem health. Our goal is to restore populations to their natural carrying capacity at all our sites—and sustain them.



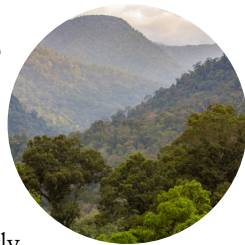
Protecting nature's strongholds

WCS conserves 60+ wilderness areas globally. These strongholds provide critical wildlife habitat, help regulate climate, and when intact, reduce the risk of humans and wildlife coming into contact and exchanging pathogens that can result in pandemics. WCS partners closely with Indigenous Peoples and local communities who provide effective stewardship of these lands and waters.



Advancing nature-positive solutions to climate change

WCS protects and restores intact forests and other ecosystems that keep climate-altering carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and pump out oxygen. These nature-positive solutions can provide nearly one-third of the climate action we need by 2030. In 2021, WCS helped ensure that natural climate solutions took center stage in international talks.



Building a diverse movement of conservation advocates

At WCS's four zoos and aquarium in New York City, millions of visitors each year learn about the critical role wildlife play in the health of our planet. Across our digital channels, people of all ages connect to animals and learn about climate change, sustainability, and more.



“ Together, we can help wildlife not only survive, but thrive. ”

—CRISTIÁN SAMPER, PRESIDENT & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

YOUR IMPACT

Reversing Forest Loss in Guatemala

In Guatemala's Maya Biosphere Reserve, WCS and partners recovered nearly 600 square miles of tropical forest that was damaged by illegal cattle ranching, while supporting Indigenous ranger teams and community groups. The Maya Reserve is the largest in Central America and critical for mitigating climate change, acting as the "lungs" of the region and storing vast amounts of carbon. This is the first increase in forest cover since the reserve's creation in 1990.

Bringing Tigers Back

The year 2022 is the Year of the Tiger, bringing new hope for these magnificent big cats. Research from WCS and partners indicates that the global population of wild tigers is now about 4,500—a 40 percent increase since 2010. Tigers are increasing at WCS sites, including in Russia, China, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, and India.

These gains have been hard fought. For decades, WCS has been conducting cutting-edge research, combating poaching, and expanding habitat in key areas. But tigers are still at great risk, so we are accelerating our work to boost their numbers, expand their range, and rewild them where they have been lost.



Rewilding North America's Bison

The Bronx Zoo has a long history in bison conservation, beginning in the early 1900s when WCS and Indigenous Peoples helped bring the species back from the brink of extinction. Our vision today is to restore bison across their historic range, interacting in ecologically significant ways with other species in their ecosystems. We recently sent six Bronx Zoo-born bison to the Osage Nation's 43,000-acre ranch in Oklahoma to help the Osage preserve their cultural heritage and the ecology of their ancestral lands. Going forward, WCS will advance the science of bison restoration and grow the constituency for bison rewilding.

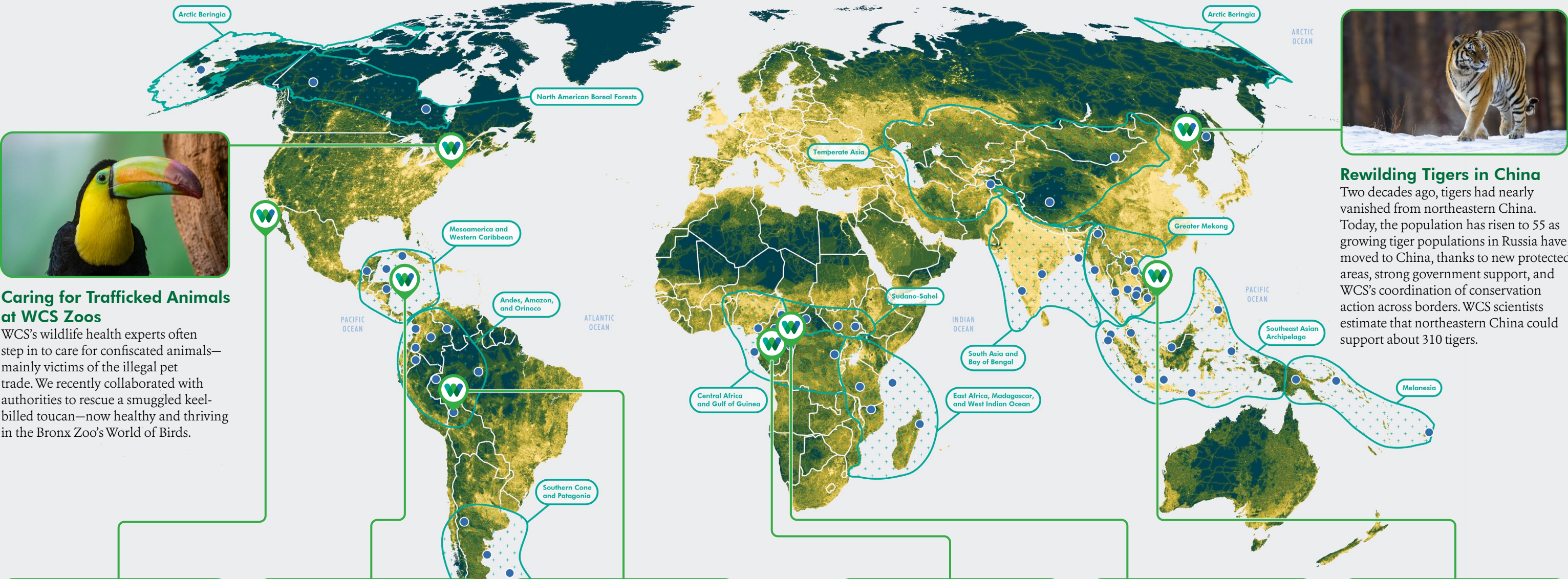


HIGHLIGHTS: HOW YOU HAVE HELPED ADVANCE CONSERVATION SOLUTIONS

WCS works in 60 strongholds globally on land and at sea, building a brighter future for wildlife and wild places.



- WCS Stronghold
- WCS Priority Regions



Caring for Trafficked Animals at WCS Zoos

WCS’s wildlife health experts often step in to care for confiscated animals—mainly victims of the illegal pet trade. We recently collaborated with authorities to rescue a smuggled keel-billed toucan—now healthy and thriving in the Bronx Zoo’s World of Birds.



Rewilding Tigers in China

Two decades ago, tigers had nearly vanished from northeastern China. Today, the population has risen to 55 as growing tiger populations in Russia have moved to China, thanks to new protected areas, strong government support, and WCS’s coordination of conservation action across borders. WCS scientists estimate that northeastern China could support about 310 tigers.



Safeguarding Sea Life

Along the Pacific coast, WCS and partners have found that using lights on fishing nets decreases sharks and rays that are accidentally caught by more than 90 percent. In the Arctic, WCS’s research is informing ways to protect whales and other marine life, including understanding and minimizing ocean noise impacts.



3 New Protected Areas

WCS helped to create three new marine protected areas in Cuba, Nicaragua, and Colombia that shelter mangroves and climate-resistant corals, as well as threatened wildlife such as humpback whales, migratory shorebirds, and several species of sea turtles—adding to the over 250 marine protected areas we have helped create over the years across the globe.



Restoring Jaguars in Bolivia

Jaguars have now fully recovered to their natural carrying capacity in Bolivia’s biodiversity-rich Madidi National Park, where WCS has worked in partnership with Indigenous Peoples and government for 25 years. There was once less than one jaguar per 100 square kilometers and now there are seven, because we have effectively strengthened protections, safeguarded habitat, and curbed threats.



Recovering African Wildlife

WCS research confirmed that Gabon is home to 95,000 Critically Endangered forest elephants—much higher than previous estimates. This important discovery will inform strategies to protect and recover them. WCS is also partnering with local businesses and social enterprises to empower sustainable coffee growers, reducing threats to the habitat of Critically Endangered Grauer’s gorillas.



Unlocking the Congo Basin’s Climate Power

For more than 30 years, WCS has worked in this region, helping to create protected areas that span more than 45,000 square miles of forest and ocean. The Congo Basin is the most biodiverse region in Africa and critically important for climate stability, with the world’s single largest tropical net carbon sink—surpassing even the Amazon.



Stemming Disease Spread

WCS and partners developed WildHealthNet, a cutting-edge surveillance network that has helped prevent the spread of diseases such as African Swine Fever, a highly contagious and fatal virus emerging in Southeast Asia that endangers wildlife and millions of people’s livelihoods.

LOOKING AHEAD

Through 2022 and beyond, WCS will:



Save wildlife

by moving vital species from crisis to recovery, and stabilizing or increasing at-risk populations of lions, elephants, sharks, and many other endangered species



Protect Nature's Strongholds

by helping to conserve 174 new wilderness areas spanning nearly 1 million square kilometers of land and sea, and by advancing global action to protect 30 percent of the planet



Curb climate change

by scaling up action to protect the planet's 1.7 billion hectares of intact forest, unlocking the power of these carbon-rich ecosystems to deliver natural climate solutions



Help prevent future pandemics

by rolling out OneHealth solutions and ending the commercial trade in wildlife for human consumption

Aliens Among Us: A New Exhibit Coming to the Bronx Zoo

The chameleon is one of many spectacular animals—along with other reptiles, amphibians, mammals, birds, fish, and more—that you will see at the Bronx Zoo's upcoming exhibit, Aliens Among Us. Visitors will learn about the unusual “superpowers” these animals possess that enable them to survive in a wide range of ecosystems.



WCS stands for wildlife. Thank you for standing with us.



ON THE COVER

WCS protects and recovers humpback whales such as this mother and calf, as well as 13 other whale species off the shores of Africa, Asia, the Arctic, and the Americas. With partners, we have deployed near real-time acoustic buoys off New York, which the government uses to request ships to slow down when critically endangered North Atlantic right whales are detected.

STAND FOR WILDLIFE 2022



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[wcs.org](https://www.wcs.org)

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