

STAND FOR WILDLIFE

YOUR CONSERVATION IMPACT





Winning New Protections for Jaguars

WCS's strong science helped secure important new protections for jaguars in 2022. As part of an international treaty on endangered species (CITES CoP19), 184 nations agreed to prioritize eliminating poaching and trade of these big cats, and create new protected habitats and corridors in countries where jaguars live. These countries decided to act because of WCS research which revealed growing threats, including widespread online international trade in jaguar parts.

Our jaguar protections are proving effective, with numbers steadily increasing at many of WCS's field sites—and we are working to recover jaguar populations where threats remain. In Colombia for example, WCS is partnering with communities to end retaliatory killings of jaguars in response to livestock predation—positioning water tanks to keep cattle away from wetlands where jaguars roam, and giving pigs abundant food sources away from key jaguar sites.



**Jaguars rising
6% annually in
WCS sites
since 2002**

Your Impact

Reversing an Elephant Poaching Crisis

Elephant populations are now stable in Tanzania's Ruaha-Katavi Stronghold. We recently estimated nearly 20,000 elephants are thriving there, part of a major aerial survey across more than 89,000 square kilometers—with no reduction since 2018.

WCS began working in Ruaha-Katavi in 2014 after aerial surveys revealed Tanzania was losing a shocking 10,000 elephants a year to poaching. We have partnered with the Tanzanian government to strengthen patrols; improve protected area management, infrastructure, and communications; and monitor wildlife populations. We also help local communities protect key wildlife corridors.

Elephant populations have stabilized or increased in many other areas throughout Africa where WCS has ensured long-term, effective site management and the necessary resources, anti-poaching systems, and training.

Saving Forests in Indonesia

Indonesia's high-integrity, carbon-rich forests serve an essential role for global climate stability, together with the Amazon and the Congo Basin. Indonesia's rainforests also house immense biodiversity and are vital for the livelihoods and well-being of tens of millions of people.

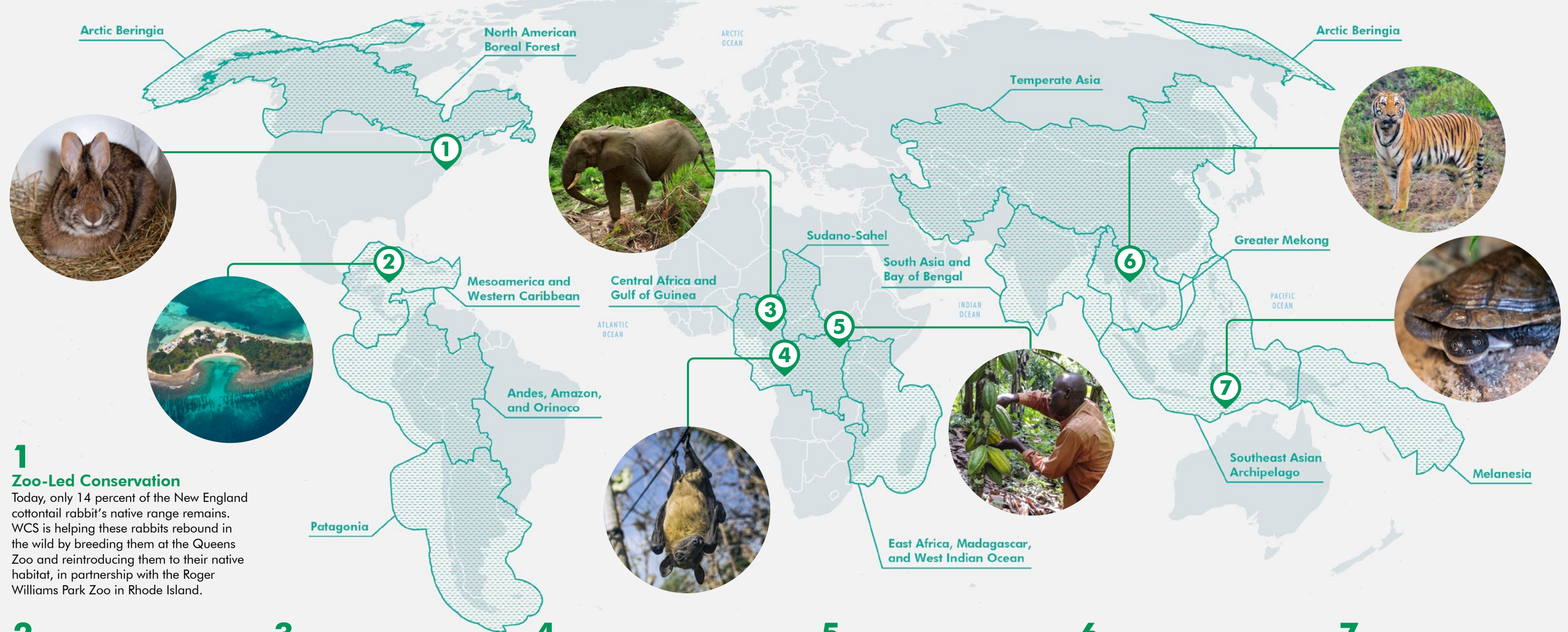
WCS has helped reduce annual deforestation in three Indonesian strongholds by more than 90 percent over the last 6 years, from over 1.2 million hectares in 2014–2015 to less than 120,000 hectares in 2020–2021. With WCS support, our government and community partners have expanded and strengthened ranger patrols in Bukit Barisan, Gunung Leuser, and Bogani Nani Wartabone national parks. We also support and train local farmers in sustainable, deforestation-free methods of agricultural production, improving their access to markets while preserving the integrity of forest landscapes.

WCS is strengthening the management and monitoring of high-integrity forests across more than 20 countries in the Americas, Asia, and Africa—partnering with Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and nations to ensure that forests and livelihoods thrive.

Advancing Conservation around the World

Thanks to your strong support, WCS is building a brighter future for wildlife and wild places. We work in 50+ countries on land and at sea where the conservation value and opportunity for impact are greatest. In places where we have worked the longest, species like big cats, elephants, apes, whales, and dolphins are not just surviving—but thriving.

WCS Priority Region



1 Zoo-Led Conservation

Today, only 14 percent of the New England cottontail rabbit's native range remains. WCS is helping these rabbits rebound in the wild by breeding them at the Queens Zoo and reintroducing them to their native habitat, in partnership with the Roger Williams Park Zoo in Rhode Island.

2 Saving Belize and Colombia's Vital Waters

In 2022, WCS played a key role in strengthening marine protections in Belize and Colombia—safeguarding wildlife, benefiting communities, and advancing the global goal of protecting 30 percent of all oceans by 2030. In Belize, our science and policy expertise helped quadruple the area of protected waters. In Colombia, we helped more than double one marine protected area to 48,000+ square kilometers, and more than triple another to 123,000+ square kilometers.

3 Creating an Oasis for Chimps and Elephants

Recent WCS surveys confirmed that forest elephant and chimpanzee populations have remained stable in Cameroon's Mbam & Djerem National Park since 2009. For the first time, elephants are expanding to new areas of the park—largely due to WCS-led improvements in patrolling, monitoring, and law enforcement.

4 Preventing Diseases by Monitoring Bats in Congo

Stressful and unsanitary conditions along wildlife trade supply chains increase the chances of dangerous pathogens moving between animals and humans—which can result in diseases like COVID-19 and Ebola. WCS is working with partners to sample adult bats previously destined for trade in the Republic of Congo, assessing exposure to zoonotic diseases. This science will provide critical insight for future disease prevention efforts.

5 Protecting Wildlife with Sustainable Cocoa

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, WCS is partnering with communities to reduce forest loss while elevating household incomes. This new WCS-led collaboration will ensure that major cocoa exporters near Okapi Wildlife Reserve play an active role in safeguarding this wildlife stronghold.

6 Stopping Tiger Poaching in Southeast Asia

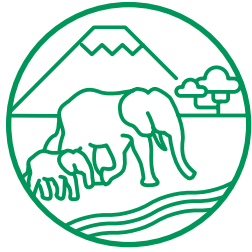
Tiger populations have steadily increased in the Tenasserims of Thailand and Myanmar, doubling since the mid-2000s. WCS has collaborated with the Government of Thailand for two decades to protect this forest and tiger stronghold. Over the past year, we helped achieve zero poaching of tigers here, and reduced poaching of tiger prey.

7 Bringing Back Near-Extinct Turtles

WCS is bringing near-extinct turtles back from the brink—including the Rote Island snake-necked turtle, which has nearly vanished in the wild due to the pet trade. WCS's Bronx Zoo and other parks are breeding these turtles for reintroduction in the wild, and led the largest transfer yet to a Singapore zoo. Once the turtles grow large enough to survive predators, we will release them in their native Indonesian habitat.

Looking Ahead

Through 2023 and beyond, WCS will:



Save wildlife by curbing poaching, wildlife trafficking, habitat loss, and other major threats in partnership with governments and communities. We aim to stabilize or increase at-risk populations of elephants, big cats, sharks, and many other endangered species—moving them from crisis to recovery.



Protect Nature's Strongholds, advancing global action to protect 30 percent of the planet by 2030. Habitat that WCS conserves shelters more than half of life on Earth—and we are setting our sights higher still with a goal of catalyzing the creation of at least 50 new protected areas by 2030. This will secure vital biodiversity and climate benefits while protecting human and animal health.



Connect people to nature at WCS's zoos and aquarium

With millions of visitors annually, WCS's parks in New York City help create future conservation champions, inspiring them to protect and advocate for nature. We offer hands-on science education to youth in our communities, with volunteer, internship, and employment opportunities that can spark a lifelong interest in wildlife.

Budgie Landing: Coming to the Bronx Zoo Spring 2023

The pet trade is one of the biggest drivers of decline in many wild bird species. A new exhibit at WCS's Bronx Zoo will allow guests to get up close and personal with budgies—colorful, friendly birds that are a responsible, sustainable option for pet ownership.



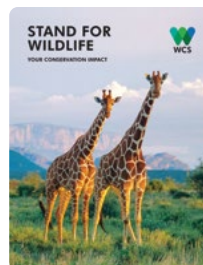
WCS stands for wildlife.
Thank you for standing with us.

STAND FOR WILDLIFE 2023



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ON THE COVER

Giraffes are an enduring icon of African savannas. WCS has a longstanding presence on the ground protecting giraffe strongholds across Africa by strengthening anti-poaching efforts and working hand-in-hand with communities to stop habitat loss.

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