



# STAND FOR WILDLIFE

YOUR CONSERVATION IMPACT

# Nature is a success story waiting to happen.

—JOE WALSTON

WCS Executive Vice President of Global Conservation

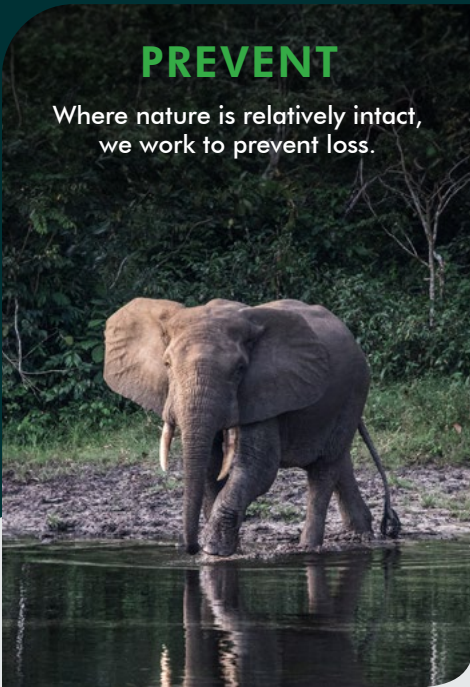
## A Renaissance of Nature

A renaissance of nature is possible within the lifetime of a child born today. By investing in nature we can save wildlife, build our resilience to climate change, and create natural buffers against infectious diseases.

## OUR STRATEGY

### PREVENT

Where nature is relatively intact, we work to prevent loss.



### PROTECT

Where nature is at its lowest point, we protect it from total loss and extinction.



### RESTORE

Where nature is recovering, we work to rewild, reconnect, and expand.



**WCS'S GOAL** is to conserve Nature's Strongholds—places that contain much of the world's biodiversity, inherently store vast amounts of carbon, and are more resistant to climate change. We are supporting nations around the world in delivering on their commitments to protect 30 percent of the planet by 2030 (30x30). Together with our global network of partners—governments, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and many more—we will strengthen protections for the forests, coral reefs, mangroves, grasslands, peatlands, and other natural ecosystems where we work, providing substantial climate, health, and biodiversity benefits.

### WITH YOUR SUPPORT WE WILL:

- ✓ **Protect habitat for 50% of the world's biodiversity**
- ✓ **Conserve over 40% of the world's most threatened ecosystems**
- ✓ **Support global commitments to protect 30% of the world by 2030 (30X30)**

## Tripling Protections in Papua New Guinea

New Ireland Province in Papua New Guinea lies at the heart of the Coral Triangle, the global center of marine biodiversity. This region supports about 75 percent of all the world's hard coral as well as sharks, rays, sea turtles, and many other marine species. In 2023, local-level governments approved two large Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in New Ireland Province, tripling MPA coverage nationally. WCS has been working since 2016 to help establish these MPAs, supporting the communities which began and led the movement to protect 16,885 square kilometers of coastal seas. This rights-based approach, with more than 9,000 people from over 100 coastal communities having a voice in the process, is now a model of community-led protected area creation.



## Bronx Zoo Celebrates 125 Years as a Beacon for Learning and Conservation

WCS's Bronx Zoo has welcomed more than half a billion visitors since it first opened in 1899, providing a window to nature and an invitation to join our mission of conservation. One of the ways we are celebrating is through Animal Chronicles, a walking trail featuring eco-sculptures that showcase key achievements in the Bronx Zoo's history of saving animals and connecting people to nature.



# Safeguarding Wildlife and Wild Places

With your support, WCS is working with diverse partners in more than 50 countries to ensure that Earth's most extraordinary species and their habitats can thrive well into the future.



## 1 Protecting Whales off New York and New Jersey

WCS and partners deployed the very first satellite tags on humpback, fin, and minke whales off New York and New Jersey, and our research will inform key protections in light of current threats such as ship strikes and potential impacts from upcoming offshore wind development.

## 2 Creating New and Bigger Protected Areas in Colombia

Through an Indigenous-led process, WCS supported the expansion of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta National Natural Park, protecting Andean rainforest and tropical dry forests that are home to spectacular wildlife including jaguars, tapirs, and howler monkeys. WCS also helped create Reserva Andinobates Boquerón, which will provide habitat for 27 frog species under threat, including many that are Critically Endangered.

## 3 Putting Resources into the Hands of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

WCS and partners launched the first-ever direct access fund for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities designed to protect forests in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). This comes at a critical time, as the DRC government has committed to deepen community partnership in protected areas. The fund will put resources directly into the hands of those who have stewarded high-integrity ecosystems for millennia.

## 4 Community-Led Farming and Forest Protection in Madagascar

We are scaling up an innovative new system in which local community members plant fruit trees, cacao plants, forest trees, high-value timber trees, and medicinal plants that enrich and improve soil health. This approach helps farmers avoid clearing lands and using chemicals. It's a win-win solution that helps farmers grow crops inexpensively while forests and wildlife thrive.

## 5 Creating a Wildlife Corridor for Tigers, Elephants, and More

WCS supported the Government of Indonesia to create a new protected corridor within the biodiversity-rich Leuser ecosystem, home to wildlife including critically endangered Sumatran orangutans. The corridor connects the deep peat swamp forests of the Singkil Wildlife Reserve with the mineral soil forests of the Leuser ecosystem, and animals including elephants and tigers use the corridor to access the northernmost parts of the area.

## 6 New Protection for a Climate-Critical Grassland

WCS assisted the Cambodian government in declaring the Bakan grassland a national protected area, safeguarding vital habitat for endangered wildlife—including the country's only known population of the elusive Chinese Grassbird—and advancing Cambodia's commitment to the global goal of protecting 30 percent of Earth's land and seas by 2030. Grasslands are excellent carbon sinks and store a substantial amount of carbon in their soils.

**“The Bronx Zoo provides a unique window to the natural world, helping to turn millions of zoogoers into conservation advocates.”**

**—JIM BREHENY**

Executive Vice President, Zoos and Aquarium  
& the Jonathan Little Cohen Director of the Bronx Zoo

## SAVING SNOW LEOPARDS From the Bronx Zoo to the Mountains of Afghanistan

The Bronx Zoo is a world leader in snow leopard care and participates in the Species Survival Plan program, a cooperative breeding program designed to enhance the genetic viability of animal populations in accredited zoos. The two snow leopard cubs born in 2023 at the Bronx Zoo’s Himalayan Highlands exhibit are descendants of Leo, who came to the zoo in 2006 after being rescued as an orphaned cub in Pakistan.

Building on our long history of wild snow leopard research and conservation, WCS has successfully protected snow leopards and their prey in Afghanistan since 2006, in partnership with local communities and the Afghan National Environmental Protection Agency.



## WCS RESEARCH Elephants, Gorillas, and Other Animals Help Curb Climate Change

WCS science found that large, browsing and fruit-eating animals such as elephants, gorillas, and hornbills play a key role in maintaining healthy, carbon-rich forests by dispersing seeds and encouraging growth of large trees that capture and store more carbon. If these animals are lost, tree species that have lower wood density—and subsequently lower amounts of carbon—become more widespread over time.

Just as we have begun to assign economic value to the climate benefits that forests provide, we are starting to look at opportunities to finance protections for wildlife based on their significant role in fighting the climate crisis.



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

### STAND FOR WILDLIFE 2024



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[wcs.org](http://wcs.org)



### ON THE COVER

A male red-knobbed hornbill delivering figs to a female inside a nest in Sulawesi, Indonesia.

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