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# Letter from the **Chair of the Board**

I hope you feel as proud as I do when you read through the results we share in this year's Impact Report—which are all thanks to your generous support of our mission to save wildlife and wild places.

### Highlights include:

- The opening of the Bronx Zoo's new
   World of Darkness exhibit in July 2025
- WCS's successes in restoring and growing tiger populations across Asia
- New protected areas across Latin America and the Caribbean—part of our push to help achieve the global "30x30" goal of protecting 30% of the planet's most important places for nature by 2030.

This year we were also fortunate to welcome WCS's new President and CEO, Adam Falk, who started July 1, 2025. Adam is a Harvard-trained physicist who was previously President of the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, President of Williams College, and Dean of Johns Hopkins University's Zanvyl Krieger School of Arts and Sciences. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I thank Adam



for joining WCS. I would also like to express deep gratitude to Robb Menzi for serving as WCS Interim President and CEO until June 2025, and for resuming his role as WCS Executive Vice President and COO.

I know that Adam is looking forward to meeting you and other WCS supporters. He and I are both excited about what we can accomplish with your partnership at our four zoos and aquarium in New York City, and in the 55+ countries where we do field conservation around the world.

We often say that none of the work we do would be possible without you. This is always true, but given the withdrawal of most US government support from WCS and other conservation organizations in 2025, your support is more vital now than ever, and I thank you for it.

Alejandro Santo Domingo Chair of the Board

Alyandro



# Meet WCS President and CEO Adam Falk

Why did you say yes to the leadership role at WCS? / WCS is an organization that has a profound impact, both here in New York and on a truly planetary scale. And it's an institution that is deeply committed to science. For me, WCS presents a unique opportunity to bring my science background and my experience running complex, mission-based organizations to an amazing institution. My hope in leading WCS is to do so in service of all the talented professionals here—people who bring incredible passion and commitment to every aspect of our mission. That's incredibly motivating for me.

What makes WCS unique? / I moved to New York City eight years ago, and I've come to love this community. I know firsthand how important WCS's four zoos and aquarium are for kids and families here. But WCS is equally a powerhouse for science and global conservation. No other organization is so rooted in a single place, while also reaching out to the entire world. The zoos and aquarium are as strong as they are because of our conservation work, and the same is equally true the other way around.

"All animals have a dignity and purpose in their environment."

Why is it important to protect wildlife and wild places? / I have been fortunate to spend some time seeing wildlife in Botswana, Zimbabwe, and Rwanda, and it was an absolutely transformative experience for me. You're so small in those landscapes, and one of the wonderful things about being there is that it's so humbling. Out in the wild, it becomes clear that we humans aren't the center of the story, that the Earth was not created simply to be our domain. We depend on nature for our very survival. The most important issue that humanity faces is that we are not caring for our one and only planet, and we have to do so much more to protect it.

Do you have a favorite animal? / My kids and I were captivated by the elephants we saw in Africa, both for the magnificent beings that they are and for the amazing social dynamics of their family groups. I love giraffes—if you'd never heard of one, you would never imagine such an animal could exist! And the mountain gorillas in Rwanda really made an impression on me. In their habitat, they're the boss.

But no, I don't have a favorite animal. All animals have a dignity and purpose in their environment—even the little ones, and the ones some people think are ugly (I'm captivated by warthogs). Every animal in nature is there because it's found its niche, its own way to fit in and survive. And when you see them in the wild, you see how they coexist with one another. We could all take lessons from this.



### What role do zoos and aquariums play?

When my kids were young, going to zoos and aquariums was a favorite family outing. And now that they are adults, it still is. Zoos provide a very direct, active, physical experience. It's totally different from watching movies or TV shows, which is passive. And there's this constant sense of wonder. You discover something new and amazing around every corner.

Children are surrounded by books full of drawings and pictures of animals, but most of them have very little chance to see them for real. Adults too. Only the tiniest fraction of people will ever have the opportunity to see animals in nature. If people never see animals for themselves, wildlife remains something that's kind of abstract. So if we want people to care about animals and protecting their habitats, we need places like the Bronx Zoo and the Central Park Zoo where people can have lived experiences with real animals.

What are your priorities for your first year on the job? / I'm eager to spend as much time as I can with the people who do the work of WCS here in New York and around the world, so I can understand what they do, how they do it, and why. And then I hope to set a direction that supports them in that work. This has always been what I find most rewarding: looking for opportunities to enable other people to do great things. It's been a constant through line in my career.

And I'm eager to connect with as many WCS supporters as possible in my first year. With the wonderful donors I've met so far, I see their love of animals, their desire to protect nature, and their loyalty to WCS and its mission. I hope to bring the same passion and commitment, as well as ideas about how together we can build WCS, advance the mission, and enable the extraordinary work of everybody here.

WCS IMPACT REPORT 2025

### WCS Impact Around the World

### 20 million+ km<sup>2</sup> of land and sea

protected and restored across 55+ countries



430+ protected areas

Most of our scientists, conservationists,

WCS helped create since our founding



Conserves habitat for more than

40% of the world's biodiversity



### 440+ local partners

including local communities, Indigenous Peoples, and national government agencies



### 350+ peer-reviewed scientific publications

on avergae each year



### 160+ scholarships

awarded by WCS to emerging conservation leaders in the last 3 decades



### **2030 Goals**



### **Saving Wildlife**

WCS seeks to stabilize, recover, and increase priority species across the landscapes and seascapes where we work.



### Whales & Dolphins

**Elephants** 

**Biq Cats** 

**Sharks & Rays** 

**Apes** 

### **Protecting Nature's Strongholds**

WCS will help nations scale up conservation, supporting protected and conserved areas that sustain tropical forests, peatlands, grasslands, oceans, and other key ecosystems.

Our efforts to conserve Nature's Strongholds will help drive global progress on climate and biodiversity targets:



Protect and restore natural systems, which could offer as much as 1/3 of the climate action needed to meet the goals of the Paris climate agreement

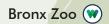


Partner with nations and communities to protect 30 percent of the planet by 2030



Advance policies toward ending wildlife trade and preventing zoonotic pandemics

### WCS Zoos & Aquarium







Central Park Zoo 
Queens Zoo

**Bronx Zoo** 

Central Park Zoo

Prospect Park Zoo

Prospect Park Zoo 🐨

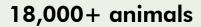




New York Aquarium w

Queens Zoo

New York Aquarium



cared for at our zoos and aquarium





### 3.5 million visitors

in 2024



### 1.5 million+

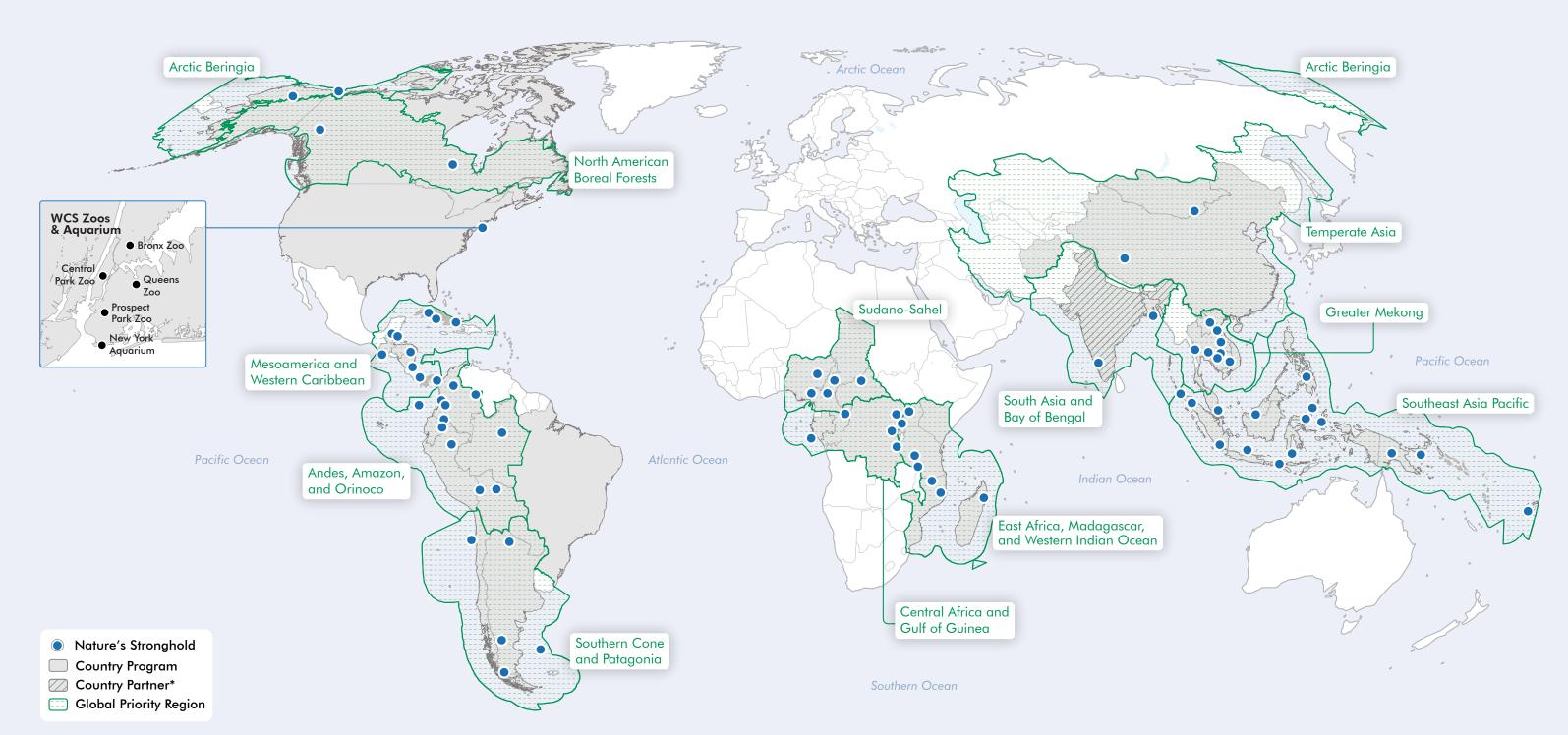
students, educators, and families with science education programming annually





### Where WCS Works

WCS is conserving high levels of biodiversity and ecological integrity in the world's most important places for nature. Nature's Strongholds store vast amounts of carbon, are more resilient to climate change, provide health benefits locally and globally, and act as a buffer against future zoonotic pandemics.



<sup>\*</sup>In India, WCS collaborates with the national NGO WCS-India

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### Tigers Rebounding across Asia

Scientists estimate that as many as 4,500 tigers roam the wild today—a number that 20 years ago, many thought was a pipe dream. WCS field staff and partners have led the recovery effort in several countries with a science-driven strategy, critical resources and financial investments, and strong partnerships.

But these gains are fragile. Sustaining our conservation successes takes continued investment in the teams protecting tigers and their habitats, and a long-term commitment to seeing the work through. Take, for example, the critical tiger habitats of the Russian Far East. WCS assisted in the translocation and recovery of Amur tigers to the northwest limits of their range, where they had been virtually absent for more than 50 years. Some of these animals are now roaming across international borders, as well as extending their range northward due to climate impacts.

Across the border in northeast China, tigers are now resident and breeding in forests where more than 15 years ago they were absent. WCS provided vital conservation support for this win, building on more than three decades of efforts with partners in this region to save orphaned tiger cubs, monitor tiger movements, support law enforcement, reduce poaching threats, and safeguard tiger habitat.

WCS is leading the recovery of tigers across Asia





### **Tiger populations:**

- Increasing in 7 sites
- **Stable** in 5 sites



### 2015

### A New Generation Emerges

Camera traps reveal Zolushka, one of the released cubs, with her own litter of cubs—evidence that these tigers could not only survive in their new home, but successfully produce cubs and restore a population in a region where they had been absent for 50+ years

### 2015-2021

### **Building the Population**

Seven additional rescued tigers are released into the recovery region

### **2025**

### **Tigers Expand Across the Region**

Data demonstrate tigers successfully hunting wild prey and producing cubs as the population moves into Northeastern China.

### 2012-2013

### **A New Home**

Six orphaned tiger cubs arrive at the newly constructed tiger rehabilitation center in the Russian Far East

### 2013

### The Zoo-Field Connection

WCS Bronx Zoo experts support the rehabilitation of the orphaned tiger cubs, providing unique expertise on caring for them and sharing techniques to prevent them from becoming habituated to humans

### 2013-2014

### Release into the Wild

WCS and partners equip the 18-month-old cubs with tracking collars and release them into the recovery region—habitat that was historically home to tigers

### 2013-2016

### **Monitor Tigers**

WCS and partners monitor the released tigers with the collars and camera traps; all but one demonstrate they can successfully hunt wild prey

### **Spotlight**

### Tigers Trending Upward in a Malaysian Stronghold

Thanks to WCS's conservation work with partners in Malaysia's Endau-Rompin Stronghold, the tiger population is stable, and our data is showing a gradual upward trend. Over the past year, we detected more than double the number of tigers compared to when we first started monitoring them in 2009. This hard-won milestone is the result of strengthening patrols and monitoring, improving park management, and reducing human-wildlife conflict—all in close collaboration with Malaysia's government and local communities.

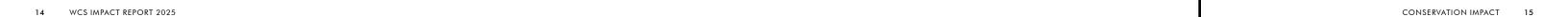


Number of tigers detected

2X since 2009



Today, about 1 million square kilometers of suitable tiger habitat remains across Asia—yet most of these forests have no tigers. WCS will replicate our successful conservation and crime prevention strategies for tigers to advance the full recovery of tigers in other key landscapes with suitable tiger habitats, such as Thailand's Eastern Forest Complex. We also aim to apply these proven strategies to saving lions and snow leopards—guiding them from crisis to recovery.



Protecting Elephants Across Africa and Asia Snapshots from the Field

Ndoki-Likouala, Republic of Congo

What's the best way to save elephants from extinction?

Though there are many answers, each starts the same way: a resolute group of people dedicated to ensuring these iconic animals do not disappear.

Across Africa and Asia, WCS—alongside Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, governments, and other partners—is a core member of that group. WCS works in more elephant landscapes than any other conservation organization. Our goal is to help elephants thrive, using strategies designed to achieve and sustain long-term recovery—and growth—not just prevent decline. Here are a few highlights of our approach.

### **Creating Science-Driven Strategies**

By monitoring elephant populations, we can tailor our strategies to better protect them. In the Republic of Congo's Ndoki-Likouala Stronghold, which includes Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park, we conduct regular field surveys that cover an area the size of the Netherlands.

Survey data from recent years tells us that elephant populations are stable in Nouabalé-Ndoki, despite poaching pressure. However, in the wider Ndoki-Likouala landscape—in areas where conservation measures are not in place—we have seen a slight decrease in elephants, likely because of poaching. WCS seeks to expand conservation to key areas of the park's buffer zone, notably on the border with neighboring Central African Republic, and expand safe sanctuary for elephants.

Meanwhile, in Tanzania's Ruaha-Katavi Stronghold, we recently completed a <u>landscape-wide aerial survey</u> across a region larger than Maine. Past monitoring data shows that elephants are on a stable course, but we expect to see an increase. The latest survey details are being prepared by the Tanzanian government for publication. Equipped with data, WCS is helping preserve the Stronghold's connectivity, ensuring elephants can move safely across the landscape.

Spotlight

### Why Are Elephants Important for Climate?

Elephants help fight climate change—as a recent WCS study illuminated.



They change the structure of the forest through their browsing, and disperse large seeds through their dung, leading to bigger, more carbon-rich trees.



They store carbon in their bodies. An adult forest elephant stores more than 1,500 pounds of carbon, equivalent to the emissions of a gas-powered car driving over 6,000 miles.

### Tackling the Trafficking of Elephant Ivory

WCS's global reach enables us to fight ivory trafficking across the entire supply chain, from poachers to consumers. At a landscape level, we work to prevent elephant poaching through improved law enforcement and ensuring that poachers have access to alternative sources of income. In places where ivory is transported and sold, such as Lao PDR, Viet Nam, and China, we target key locations and individuals trafficking ivory with highly focused interventions, ranging from behavioral science-informed programs to reduce demand to enforcement and new regulatory measures. Meanwhile our global policy work ensures that the international elephant ivory trade remains illegal, and that domestic markets are closed.

### **Reducing Human-Elephant Conflict**

Gabon is home to the largest population of Critically Endangered forest elephants in Africa. But protecting elephants successfully has led to an increase in conflict with humans, with elephants raiding crops and causing food insecurity in rural areas.

In response, the Gabonese government has partnered with WCS to implement a new project to reduce human-elephant conflict, improve food security, and support sustainable agriculture. With our partner, Space for Giants, we will support the installation of 1,800 mobile fences, support sustainable farming practices, conduct education campaigns, and pilot elephant insurance policies to compensate villagers for damage caused by elephants. Local communities helped design the project by providing insights about the impact of human-elephant conflict on their lives.

This is one of many initiatives WCS collaborates on with local communities across Africa and Asia designed to bolster community well-being and help elephants thrive.

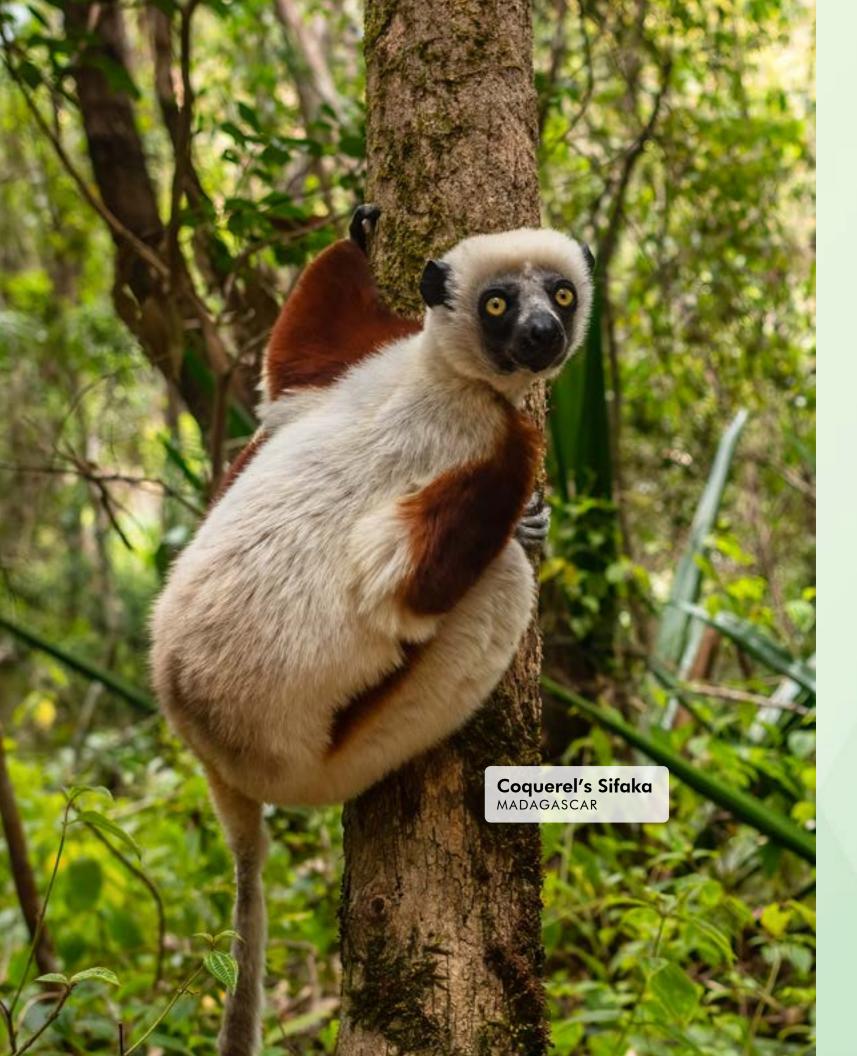


WCS IVORY IDENTIFICATION
TRAINING FOR CUSTOMS OFFICERS
Viet Nam



WCS RESEARCHER OBSERVING
FOREST ELEPHANTS
Gabon

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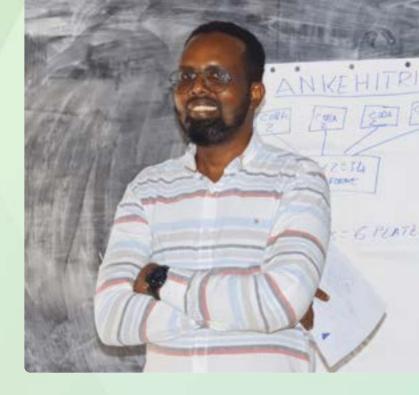
### Isa Gedi

As Community and Conservation Coordinator, I engage and support local people in protecting East Africa's forests and animals.

How did you get involved in wildlife conservation? / I grew up in a pastoral community in northeast Kenya, walking four kilometers to school each day. When I wasn't in school, I was taking care of my family's cattle, our livelihood. I often met different species of wildlife while herding. They were plentiful and culturally valued as indicators of the health of the land. I didn't understand that some were critically declining until I began my studies at Kenyatta University. I remembered seeing our endemic Hirola antelope in herds of 500 or more; there I learned we had just 400 left, in total.

That's how my conservation story started: I came home and, in the place where I was born, helped support the community during the establishment of the Ishaqbini Hirola Community Conservancy. Honoring our people's tradition that we have obligations beyond ourselves, the over 20 villages in 4 locations, all pastoralist, sacrificed a portion of their grazing land. We then fenced those hectares to protect the antelope from competition from livestock, and from predators. In five years, hirola numbers doubled. I then spent 15 years at the Northern Rangelands Trust, helping to build and bring together dozens of such community-owned conservancies, often overcoming old hostilities among neighbors.

How did you come to WCS? / I'd studied WCS in my master's program at Cambridge as a model of organizational change and as one of the big international conservation organizations. I also saw research by WCS; I appreciated its flexibility, and that it relies on science but also honors local knowledge



and traditions. When WCS asked me to present on various models for community-owned conservancies, I was happy to do so, and even more so when they asked me to come on board. Our current focus is to create stronger partnerships with communities that live around some of the most iconic protected areas in East Africa, Madagascar, and the Western Indian Ocean. For example, in Madagascar, dozens of communities live right next to Makira Natural Park and Masoala National Park's protected areas, in forests that are essential to the survival of park inhabitants like the Critically Endangered lemur. Many villages are already working to conserve their forests. Our role is to help link up those efforts in a landscape approach the elders have embraced. One of my favorite moments was the day I first saw the silky sifaka lemur in one of the forests—a hallmark of the unique biodiversity in Madagascar. I later joined communities in their villages, who gave me their side of their conservation journey and their great partnership with WCS. We all sat on the ground with fig-leaf plates to celebrate with a shared meal.

Your vision for the future? / Half of the African population is younger than 25. I myself have four boys under the age of nine. I believe that our growing young population can be seen not as a threat to conservation, but an opportunity. For nature to thrive, it is essential that local people are empowered both to manage more land and to meet their own needs: for livelihoods, water, education. By ensuring that the next generations benefit from conservation, we can build long-lasting conservation legacies.

### From Central Park to Central America Saving Forests to Save Migratory Birds

What do birdwatchers in New York City's Central Park have in common with local communities restoring remote rainforests in Guatemala? All have a role to play in protecting the migratory birds many of us love to see in our parks and backyards in spring and summer which spend most of their time in the tropical forests of Mesoamerica.

The bottom line? If you want to see birds in North America, you need to protect forests in Mesoamerica.

WCS is leading efforts to restore and protect the critical blocks of Mesoamerican forests that are vital to birds and many other species by:



**Restoring forests** 



Advancing policies to eliminate illegal, unsustainable cattle ranching



Supporting communities in developing sustainable livelihoods



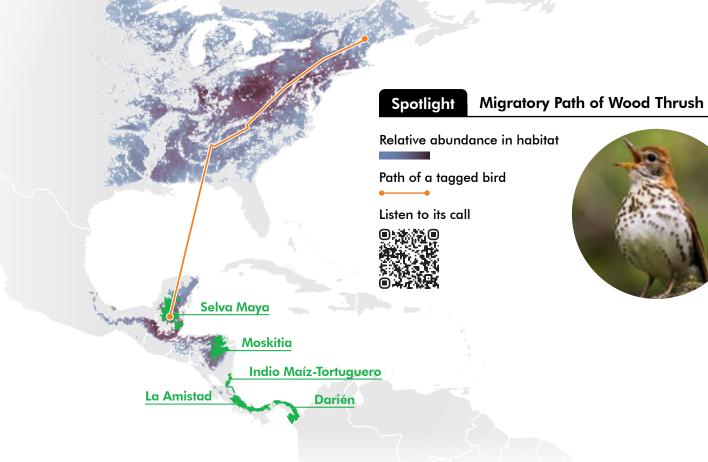
ABOVE WCS Guatemala field staff at a nursery in the Selva Maya. Together with local communities, WCS grows native tree seedlings to help restore degraded forests.

These approaches are critical to re-linking and sustaining large, contiguous stretches of forest.

Magnolia Warbler

Scarlet Tanager

# Mesoamerican forests support up to half of the global populations of 40 migratory species including: Cerulean Warbler **Broad-winged Hawk Gray Catbird**



### **WCS Research Highlights Mesoamerican Forests**

WCS and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology used data from eBird—the world's largest volunteer-driven science platform—to highlight how critical the last large forests of Mesoamerica are for migratory birds. We found that these forests support up to half of the global populations of 40 migratory species during migration or the nonbreeding season. These include several in steep decline such as the Wood Thrush and Cerulean Warbler.

#### We can thank birds for:



**Pollinating** flowers and crops



Controlling pests



Dispersing seeds and keeping forests healthy



Inspiring people and symbolizing key aspects of culture



Hear more about how WCS is protecting migratory birds



### (a) Looking Ahead

WCS will increase our efforts with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Mesoamerica to expand and sustain forest restoration. Our goal is to recover 5,000 square kilometers that have been illegally claimed or cleared for cattle, and protect 100,000 square kilometers of healthy forest. We will work with partners to conserve the Selva Maya, a forest spanning Guatemala, Mexico, and Belize—as well as the Moskitia in Honduras and Nicaragua. Both forests are especially critical for migratory birds. Another key way to protect the birds we welcome to our parks and yards each spring is to advocate in our communities for actions such as choosing bird-friendly coffee, avoiding pesticides in gardens, and bird-proofing windows.



### Recovering Cameroon's Iconic Wildlife

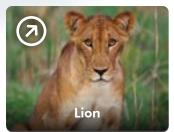
Just over a decade ago, ruthless organized poachers infiltrated Cameroon's Bouba Ndjidda National Park and slaughtered hundreds of elephants for their ivory, plunging the park's savannas into chaos.

Today, Bouba Ndjidda is a source of hope. In the last decade, WCS has partnered with Cameroon's government to bring stability to this landscape and help it heal. Now the park has a recovering elephant

herd, thanks to WCS and the government's dedication, patrolling, scientific monitoring, community collaborations, and other conservation efforts. And Bouba Ndjidda is one of the only sites in Central Africa where there are early signs that lions are recovering—including by reentering neighboring Sena Oura National Park in Chad, where they were once considered extinct.

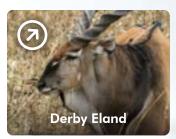
### Spotlight

### **Species on the Rise**













ABOVE WCS Biomonitoring Manager Daniel Djekda using an antenna to locate lions with collars in Bouba Njidda.

### **How Do GPS Collars Protect Lions?**



Park rangers and scientists conduct missions where they safely place GPS collars on lions in Bouba Ndjidda.



As collared lions move across the landscape, we can track their positions, collecting data on their behavior, their home ranges, and pride dynamics.



Park staff receive data about the lions' locations four times a day via satellite. From this data, rangers can prioritize patrols around those locations, creating a bubble of protection around the big cats in near real time.

### **Lions Roaring Back**

Lion populations across Africa are largely in decline. And with fewer than 1,000 lions remaining in Central Africa, the species is regionally Endangered.

Though poaching and illegal grazing pose threats to Bouba Ndjidda's lions, WCS is working with the government of Cameroon to bolster patrolling efforts in response. An important aspect of this work has been placing GPS collars on lions in the park to understand in real time what threats they face—a technique that allows us to send patrols to areas that lions rely on the most.

These conservation measures are helping to increase lion populations and enabling lions to retake their historical range. In 2023, we photographed a lion in Sena Oura National Park in Chad, where big cats had not been seen in nearly two decades and were considered technically extinct. This told us that lions are spreading out from Bouba Ndjidda as the population grows.

### (a) Looking Ahead

As WCS advances conservation measures in Bouba Ndjidda and Sena Oura, our goal is for lions to reach their carrying capacity in Bouba Ndjidda—and to help these big cats fully return to Sena Oura over time. We seek to scale up GPS tracking of lions to include those living on the edges of the national park and the surrounding areas. These efforts feed into our broader strategy of helping lion populations recover at the sites where we work across Africa and advance our work to restore and sustain populations of big cats around the world.

# Strengthening "Natural" Security Combating Wildlife Trafficking Around the World

How does an endangered songbird end up thousands of miles from home, in a cage in someone's living room? The answer lies in a complicated wildlife trafficking web: from the poachers who captured the bird, to the smugglers who carried him across oceans, to the social media post selling him, to the final buyer.

To protect songbirds, turtles, elephants, big cats and other species at risk from wildlife crime, we need natural security, strategies that fight international organized crime networks and hit on all levels of the supply chain.

With one of the most impactful counter-wildlife trafficking programs in the world, WCS experts create these strategies and help governments put them into action. At the same time, we use crime science to understand the root causes of the illegal wildlife trade and find solutions that help local communities.

Our ultimate goal is to stop wildlife crime from happening in the first place—preventing animals from being killed or removed from their habitats.

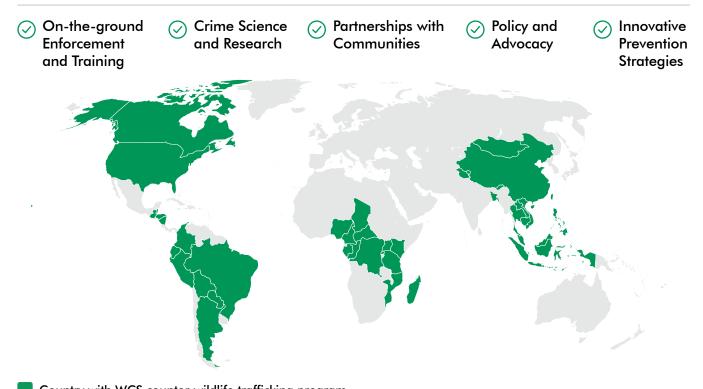


**5,700** songbirds saved from smuggling by WCS between 2019 and 2025



3,000+
counter-wildlife trafficking officials
trained by WCS over the last year

### **WCS Combats Wildlife Trafficking Through:**



Country with WCS counter-wildlife trafficking program

Note: Programs in Brazil, Canada, and Malaysia operate through a local NGO

### Saving Endangered Animals from Smuggling

WCS is supporting anti-poaching patrols and other wildlife crime solutions in strongholds around the world. In Indonesia, the government, WCS, and local organizations partnered to establish a unit of trained dogs and handlers. The unit supports the government in detecting illegally transported wildlife through three high-risk transit hubs.

Over the past six years, the unit conducted nearly 300 search operations, intercepting 60 wildlife smuggling attempts, and saving 5,700 songbirds, 19 primates, 11 civets, and 35 tortoises. These animals endure conditions that range from uncomfortable to life-threatening. For example, with support from the unit, the government confiscated two Critically Endangered infant Sumatran orangutans smuggled in small boxes aboard a bus.

### **Training Frontline Wildlife Defenders**

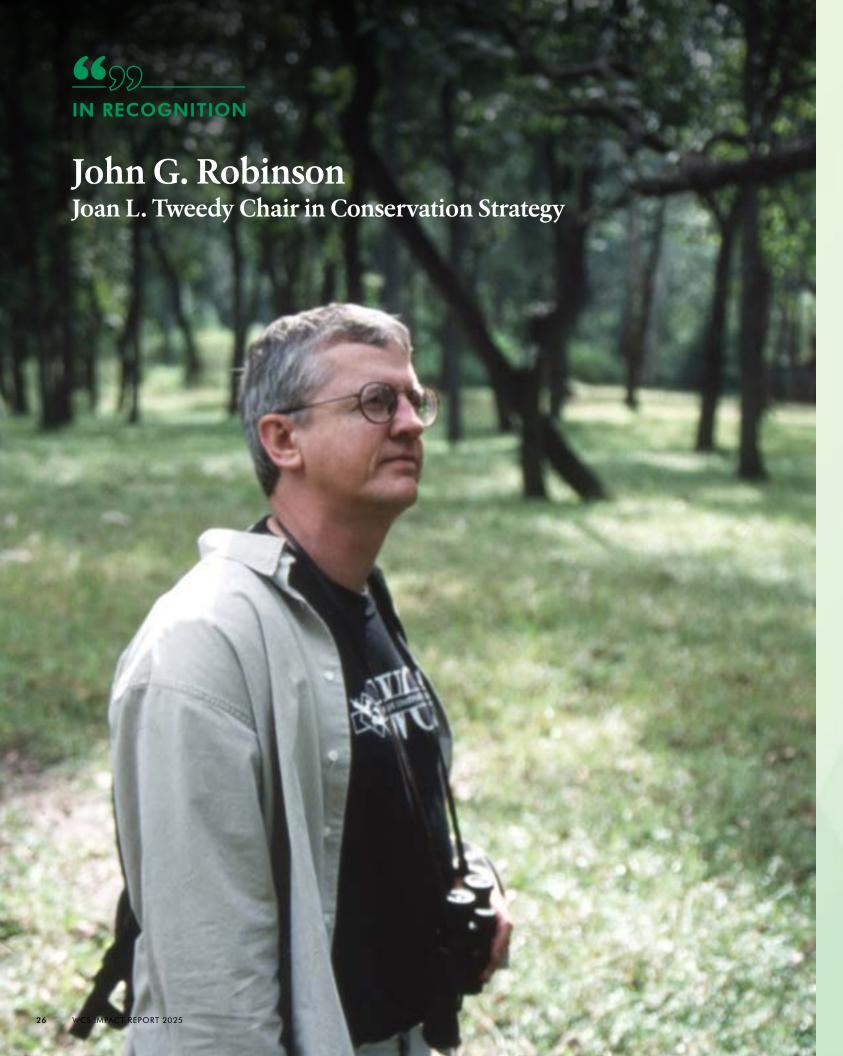
WCS collaborates with partners on the frontlines of the fight against wildlife crime, giving them cutting-edge tools. In 2024, WCS provided counter-wildlife trafficking training to over 3,000 police, prosecutors, judges, customs officers, and other officials.

A key part of scaling up expertise in this area is the Wildlife Crime Leadership Initiative, which WCS created to eliminate wildlife trafficking by investing in the next generation of nature's defenders. This long-term program has trained over 100 supervisory officers in Belize, Indonesia, Mongolia, and Viet Nam, 60 percent of whom have achieved promotions following completion of the program, and led impactful actions against wildlife trafficking. We are now in the process of expanding efforts in Lao PDR, Nigeria, Brazil, Peru, Bolivia, and Ecuador.



BELOW A professionally trained and certified wildlife detection dog and handler—part of a WCS-supported initiative with Indonesia's Ministry of Forestry—search luggage for illeaally trafficked wildlife.





John G. Robinson joined WCS in 1990, growing its international conservation program from a small group to a globally recognized leader in conservation science, field-based impact, and policy. John retired in 2025, and WCS thanks him for his many contributions to advancing our conservation mission around the world. John has also been recognized by the Zoological Society of London, which gave him its Lifetime Achievement Award in 2016, and by King Bernhard of the Netherlands, who granted him the Royal Order of the Golden Ark in 2003 for lifetime achievement and service to conservation.

### Why did you choose wildlife

**conservation?** / I've been interested in wildlife all my life. I was one of those kids who was always grubbing around after animals.

I went on to study primate socioecology in South America, examining the evolution of social organization in animals, and what that tells us about humans. Following a postdoc at the Smithsonian Institution, I went to the University of Florida, where I established a program to train emerging conservation leaders from tropical countries. In 1990, WCS\* President and General Director William Conway said, 'We've got a top-notch group of field researchers in New York—would you like to work with me to transform it into a global conservation program?'



What was it like then? / It was a small program. We had eight full-time staff and grew it from there. The original focus was scientific research, but our people understood local field conditions and conservation challenges. That local knowledge and scientific expertise was prized by those who wanted to fund conservation work on the ground.

We rapidly became a leader in conservation implementation, and it became our special strength. Bill Weber and Amy Vedder had promoted innovative gorilla tourism in Rwanda. Similarly, "Jonah" Western had worked with the Maasai community in Amboseli, Kenya. Such initiatives were driven by science and incorporated a unique understanding of the local and political context—and became the WCS model.

### In what ways was WCS forward thinking?

From the start, WCS worked with local people. For example, I worked closely with Marcio Ayres, who was also a WCS primatologist based in the Amazon flooded forests. Starting in 1996, his Mamirauá project created a whole new category of protected area in Brazil that made local people the custodians and beneficiaries of nature conservation—instead of kicking them off the land. In this new Sustainable Development Reserve model, traditional livelihood practices and sustainable ecotourism were allowed and encouraged.

Similarly, WCS partnered with the Izoçeño People in Bolivia to protect their homeland, establishing in 1995 what was, at the time, the largest protected area in Latin America. The Kaa'Iya del Gran Chaco National Park united the Indigenous community, the Bolivian national government, international funders, and the private sector—all brokered by WCS. This kind of cooperative effort to achieve large-scale conservation results still characterizes WCS today.

#### **RECOGNIZING JOHN G. ROBINSON**

### What spurred the rapid growth of WCS's international conservation program?

By the year 2000, we were highly effective as a conservation organization, but the managerial systems supporting our work remained weak. Then the philanthropist Robert W. Wilson challenged us to professionalize our operations, and provided us with the funds to do it.

We built on that support to secure significant grants from government donors and establish strong regional programs in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. And we took advantage of opportunities. To draw attention and resources to Central Africa's unrecognized biodiversity, WCS's Mike Fay had walked a 2,000-mile "megatransect" from Congo to the coast of Gabon with the help of the National Geographic Society. The US government used that spotlight to expand its national influence and support establishment of national parks, and WCS contributed its scientific expertise and partnership.

Our presence in the region led to another turning point. Research led by WCS's "Boo" Maisels and Sam Strindberg showed Central Africa's forest elephants were getting hammered by poaching for their tusks. We put conservation programs on the ground, and in the US launched the 96 Elephants campaign, linking with zoos across the country. We ramped up global counter-wildlife trafficking efforts. This led to bans on the sale of ivory, including in the US, UK, China, and Singapore.

What did you learn over time and how has your approach evolved? / Our thinking has broadened, which expanded our options and solutions. Thirty years ago, we focused primarily on species conservation. We later evolved into area-based conservation: animals need healthy habitats. Some places directly married the two, like the Coxcomb Jaguar and Hol Chan Coral Reef Reserves in Belize, created by WCS's Alan Rabinowitz and Janet Gibson respectively.





Initially WCS partnered with governments to help manage protected areas and parks. But as we looked beyond park and protected area boundaries, we increasingly engaged with local communities and other stakeholders—and our approach broadened to managing other land use areas, including Indigenous lands, extractive lands, forest concessions, and wildlife reserves. As we considered sustainable development, we asked, 'How can we integrate complex uses of nature and do conservation at scale?' In this way, people can be seen not as a threat, but as a solution to nature conservation. This has defined how WCS approaches and sustains conservation impact.

"People can be seen not as a threat, but as a solution to nature conservation."

What gives you hope? / You can't stay in conservation unless you're optimistic. Looking back on my career, we've evolved to respond to greater challenges than ever before. Conservation is no longer a minor player: it's an integral part of national and international strategies for development and natural resource stewardship.

We're operating at a large enough scale that the biodiversity impact we're having will make a real difference. Tigers, for example, are in much, much better shape than they were 10 years ago. That's encouraging. And WCS was a major player in that transition. Elephants are also in better shape on a global scale, not as dramatically, because there's still a lot of pressure on them. But we have seen strong results in places where we work. And we're helping nations and communities maintain the ecological integrity of many large, important wild places.

Nature has a major role to play in dealing with carbon emissions and helping us adapt. While our successes in conservation alone won't solve the climate crisis, they are an essential part of the solution, and WCS has important contributions to make toward the health of the planet.

"In a world with many threats to biodiversity, it's critical for conservation organizations and funders to focus on truly understanding approaches that deliver actual positive outcomes for wildlife and nature. Thanks in part to John's leadership and vision, WCS has focused on its most important landscapes—its result-oriented "Nature's Strongholds" strategy—to produce real gains, including the recovery of tigers across much of Asia and effective conservation or recovery of species like lowland gorillas and forest elephants in the Congo Basin. John Robinson gets it. Thank you, John Robinson!"

—Acacia Fund

"Over 30 years ago, Robert W. Wilson gave WCS a challenge grant to re-organize the way it did business. Under John's exceptional leadership and WCS support, he oversaw changes that transformed WCS and positioned itself for the future.

His outstanding guidance, infectious enthusiasm, and knowledge made the global conservation program a great success. Thank you for a job well done."

—Richard G. Schneidman Robert W. Wilson Charitable Trust

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### Protecting Forests, Reefs, and Wetlands across Latin America and the Caribbean

6 4 New Marine Protected Areas

Cuyabeno-Yasuní 5 Connectivity Corridor

Jardines Submarinos

2 Lower Madeira River Mosaic

1 Islas y Canales Verdes

lel Río Uruguay

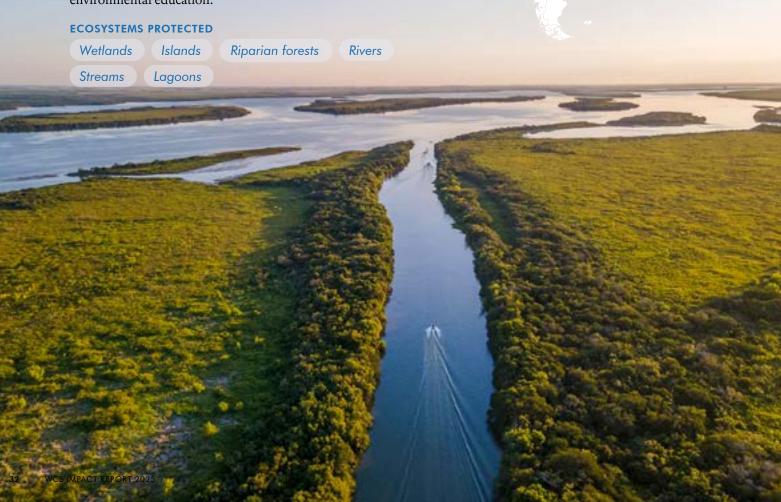
4 Cliff of the Parrots

Latin America boasts the greatest variety of ecosystems of any continent, from climate-critical forests and wetlands where jaguars, tapirs, and spider monkeys roam—to coastal habitats teeming with whales, elephant seals, and migratory birds.

WCS is dedicated to curbing climate impacts, deforestation, wildlife trafficking, and other threats to Nature's Strongholds in Latin America. In 2024, WCS played a vital role in creating and expanding important protected areas across the continent.

### Islas y Canales Verdes del Rio Uruguay URUGUAY RIVER, ARGENTINA

WCS worked closely with communities and other partners to formalize this 4,000-hectare park along the Uruguay River, Entre Ríos province. Home to more than 150 bird species and over 35 mammal species, the protected area will be a local hub for sustainable, collaborative river conservation and a model for world-class ecotourism and environmental education.





### **Lower Madeira River Mosaic** ANDES, AMAZON, & ORINOCO STRONGHOLD, BRAZIL

WCS provided vital support for the creation of Brazil's new Mosaic of Protected Areas in the Lower Madeira River region. This set of bold new protections connects 24,000 square kilometers of critical habitat, sheltering jaguars, giant river otters, and other vulnerable wildlife and enabling WCS and Indigenous and other partners to prevent unsustainable development. The new protected area mosaic will enable more effective joint management of conservation actions across the region, setting the foundation for stronger, long-term wildlife monitoring and habitat protection in the heart of the Amazon. Pictured at left is the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Marina Silva, at a workshop leading up to the new Mosaic.

#### **ECOSYSTEMS PROTECTED**

Tropical forests Rivers Lakes

### Jardines Submarinos de Vega Baja y Manatí

**PUERTO RICO** 

More than a decade and a half of grassroots efforts by local communities culminated in the creation of a marine protected area that will safeguard vital ocean habitats for endangered populations of sea turtles and marine mammals. WCS provided critical support for this win-part of a broader effort to advance marine conservation across the Caribbean.

#### **ECOSYSTEMS PROTECTED**

Mangroves Seagrass beds

Coral reefs





### **Cliff of the Parrots**

TERRESTRIAL PATAGONIA, ARGENTINA

Following nearly three decades of WCS research and conservation support, the government formalized this new protected area in El Condor, Rio Negro province, securing long-term protection for the world's largest colony of burrowing parrots (74,000 birds, 37,000 nests). These birds use their beaks to dig uniquely deep burrows in sandstone and limestone cliffs, creating vital shelter for other bird species.

#### **ECOSYSTEMS PROTECTED**

Coastal cliffs Native woodlands

### Cuyabeno-Yasuní Connectivity Corridor

ANDES, AMAZON, AND ORINOCO STRONGHOLD, ECUADOR

With support from WCS, Ecuador's Environmental Ministry officially recognized the Cuyabeno-Yasuní Connectivity Corridor. Jaguars, tapirs, spider monkeys, and other vulnerable species rely on this 2,750-squarekilometer stretch to migrate between two protected areas. This designation will safeguard against deforestation and illegal huntingensuring these Amazon forests stay healthy and play their important climate role. It will also enable WCS to build on our 20+ years of support to the region's Indigenous Peoples, helping them develop community-based tourism and other eco-friendly, sustainable livelihoods within the corridor.

#### **ECOSYSTEMS PROTECTED**

Tropical Forests Floodplains Rivers

### 6 4 New Marine Protected Areas

With support from WCS, the Cuban government established four new marine protected areas spanning more than 1,500 square kilometers of ocean habitat. These protections spell hope for the region's healthy coral reefs, diverse fish populations, sharks and rays, sea turtles, and manatees.

#### **ECOSYSTEMS PROTECTED**

Mangroves

Coral reefs

Coastal cliffs

### ( ) Looking Ahead

WCS seeks to scale up protections across Latin America over the next five years. We will work with Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and governments to secure stronger land management rights and sustainable livelihoods; combat deforestation, poaching, and wildlife trafficking; and promote sustainable finance.





### Diwigdi Valiente

As senior program manager for coral conservation, my job is to oversee daily operations with 15 WCS country programs to protect our most climateresilient reefs.

How did you come to conservation? / I am a member of the Guna Indigenous People. I was born in the Guna Yala region of Panama, a group of islands along the Caribbean coast. We are a matriarchal culture. Beyond managing the household, the women bear the responsibility of passing on the traditions of our ancestors, who lived along rivers in Colombia in a sustainable way. My grandmother and greatgrandmother taught me through chants: how the great mother and great father made animals and plants first and only then humans, to take care of them. They taught me how to use plants to make medicine, first chanting to ask permission to take a flower or bit of bark. They taught me that we have obligations to them all.

What led you to WCS? / When I was a kid, foreign marine biologists came to study our pristine corals. I learnt some English and tagged along to translate. That made me understand that we had something that people would want to visit, if we took care of it. When at age 17 I won a scholarship for Indigenous students, I went to Switzerland to study business and tourism management, then spent ten years in government service, eventually becoming Panama's first Indigenous person to hold the position of National Director of Tourism Planning and Development. Our focus was regenerative tourism experiences based on cultural and natural conservation and scientific research. Working with 55 communities across Panama, we developed the national sustainable



tourism master plan. I also participated in global meetings and conferences. When at one of those meetings I learned of an opening at WCS for someone experienced in community work, policy, conservation, and science, it seemed made for me. This past February, when Panama's Minister of Environment visited my home island, I showed him how WCS works with communities like mine to conserve climate-resilient coral reefs. In June, when WCS supported 11 countries to sign the first-ever agreement to identify and protect such reefs, I was deeply gratified that Panama was among them.

What gives you hope? / I've seen many cultural losses and new threats emerge in just my lifetime: our people are among the most vulnerable to displacement by climate change, and to the damage done by marine pollution. But we've also fought for a century to keep our territory and customs. And I see the possibility to be a bridge. We can enrich science with the regenerating knowledge of my grandmothers—knowledge that was long discounted. And the other way around. Our artists are incorporating climate change themes into our traditional mola textiles. And my grandmothers, whose habit of tossing trash into the ocean wasn't a problem when it was just plantain peels, now separate out plastic waste and garbage to be taken for disposal on the mainland. I see a future where our traditions merge with science to protect and restore our ancient coral reefs.

### Special Feature: Looking Ahead

### Investing in Women Ocean Guardians

Women fishers and rangers provide critical contributions to their communities' food, economic, and environmental security. Little known fact: nearly half those working in small-scale fisheries are women, accounting for about 56 million jobs worldwide. Yet women are grossly underrepresented in marine decision-making roles and face persistent barriers to participating in managing and governing ocean resources.

WCS is leading a new Women Ocean Guardians initiative to support women's leadership and inclusion. We have launched pilot programs in Latin America and the Caribbean, and aim to scale the initiative to reach the Western Indian Ocean and Coral Triangle. Our goal is to ensure women across the globe can fully benefit from their communities' coastal resources.

WCS will work with communities and governments to:



Support women-led sustainable livelihood initiatives through pilot financial mechanisms and innovative conservation projects



Build a network of regional hubs for women-led trainings and mentorships, enabling coastal women to gain and exercise conservation leadership skills



Amplify women leaders' voices in marine policy and conservation planning

"The Women Ocean Guardians network empowers us to raise our voices, share our experiences, and contribute our vital knowledge to our communities and the world."

—Wildres Rodríguez Wood Miskito Indigenous Leader and first marine biologist in her community, Honduras



( ) WATCH THE VIDEO

Women from 11 countries across Latin America and the Caribbean united in a call to strengthen women's leadership.





# Catalyzing Protections for Peatlands Our Powerful Climate Ally

Peatlands are our planet's quiet climate champions. Though they cover only 3 percent of the Earth's surface, these unassuming bogs and swamps store an astonishing 600 billion tons of carbon—more than all the world's forests combined.

WCS is conducting science to better understand the critical role of peatlands and to underscore what's at stake if we fail to safeguard them. In 2025, we published the first-ever study documenting which peatlands are—and are not—protected globally. Key stakeholders have amplified our message, including the World Economic Forum and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

#### **Peatlands Where WCS works**



WCS safeguards some of the most critical, healthy peatlands in the world in partnership with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities—storing an estimated 40+ billion tons of carbon.

Without our protection, nearly 155 billion tons of CO<sub>2</sub> could be released into the atmosphere.

The amount of carbon stored in the world's peatlands is equivalent to more than half a century's worth of current global emissions.

#### WCS research found that:



### **Just 17%**

of the world's peatlands are protected, and if disturbed, these fragile ecosystems will release huge stores of carbon built up over thousands of years, greatly accelerating climate change



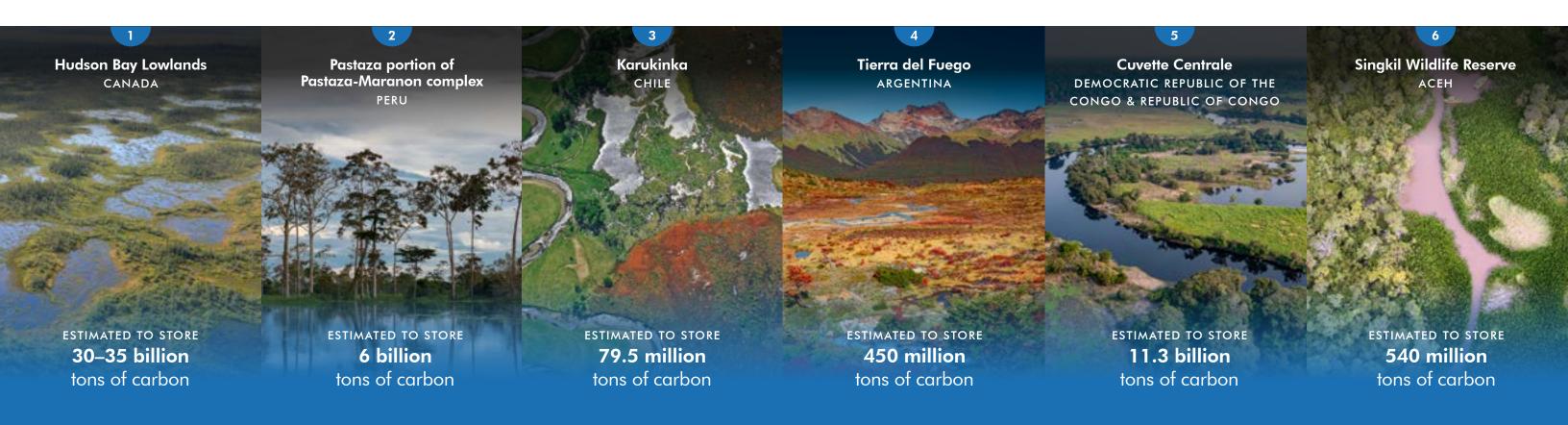
### More than 25%

of peatlands overlap with Indigenous territories, providing an opportunity to steward peatlands by strengthening Indigenous land rights



### **Strong Return on Investment**

For countries striving to honor their climate agreements, our research proves that protecting peatlands provides a high benefit-cost ratio



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# Can Ecotourism Save Wildlife and Forests? Spotlight on Cambodia

As dawn breaks, a small cluster of tourists inches through the forests of Cambodia's Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary. They are listening intently for the whoops and calls of one of Keo Seima's most famous residents: the southern yellow-cheeked crested gibbon. Suddenly, the group hears a chorus of cries, and their guide motions for them to follow. Anticipation builds. Some have traveled hundreds of miles for this moment.

This is the thrill of Jahoo, an ecotourism operation run by members of the local Indigenous Bunong community of Andoung Kraloeng, and supported by WCS. Bunong wildlife researchers and guides take guests on one, two, or three-day excursions into Keo Seima, sharing information about wildlife conservation and their Bunong customs. In return, revenue from guest stays supports the community and wildlife—a win-win.

For the last decade, Jahoo's community-driven ecotourism has provided wildlife-friendly economic opportunities for Bunong community members, while supporting them in protecting and stewarding Keo

Seima's forests, their ancestral home. Revenue from Jahoo is spent within the local community, and tourism fees support a fund that Bunong leaders have used to conserve wildlife and make community improvements. More than 30 community members benefit from full-time employment at Jahoo.

### Since 2018, Jahoo has:



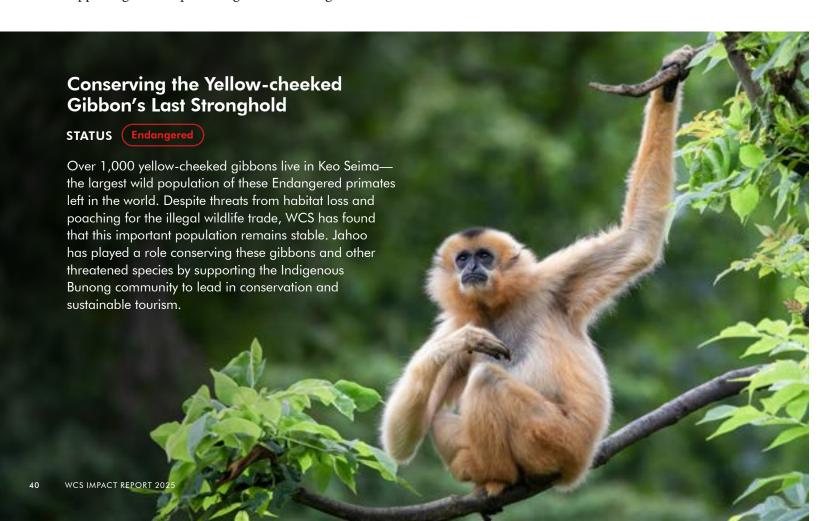
Welcomed over 2,000 tourists



Produced over \$267,000 in revenue

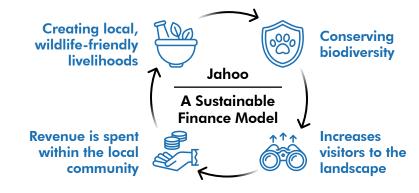


Generated \$60,000 to support community-led conservation and development through a tourism fee





ABOVE Jahoo is operated by members of the Indigenous Bunong community, who guide tourists on excursions and conduct field research in Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary.



### **Ecotourism: Financing Conservation Around the World**

WCS has been a longstanding leader in developing ecotourism opportunities for conservation around the world. We pioneered the first gorilla tourism in Rwanda and the Republic of Congo starting in the 1970s, and advanced this work through the 1990s. Today, we are partnering with the Congolese government to bring world-class ecotourism to Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park, a vital gorilla and elephant stronghold. Revenue from tourism will be an important source of funding for the sustainable management of the park.

### Looking Ahead



In Cambodia's Northern Plains, WCS is creating an ecotourism hub that will allow people to view the Critically Endangered giant ibis. WCS seeks to expand sustainable ecotourism ventures—including through our Nature Positive Tourism Fund—as part of our strategy to significantly scale up market-based initiatives and increase our conservation impact across South America, Africa, and Asia.

### WCS Science and Policy in Action Stopping Pandemics Before They Start

The COVID-19 pandemic, mpox outbreaks, and the global spread of avian influenza have starkly highlighted the destructive power of pathogens that spread from wildlife to humans. The One Health approach, which WCS helped create, centers the interdependencies of human, animal, and ecosystem health. Without such an integrated approach, we cannot prevent pathogen spillover and stop epidemics and pandemics before they occur.

### **Major Policy Victory**

For decades WCS has led pioneering research and on-the-ground work to better understand these One Health connections. In 2025, WCS scientists and policy experts helped achieve a major victory.

After more than three years of intense negotiations, the 194 member countries of the World Health Organization adopted a first-of-its-kind pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response agreement. The agreement commits governments to actions to help

prevent pathogen spillover, taking measures to identify and reduce pandemic risks associated with human-animal interactions. It recognizes the One Health approach, enables the timely sharing of samples and health data among countries, mandates collaborative disease surveillance, and calls for early warning systems that bridge veterinary, public health, and environmental data.

WCS was the only international conservation organization engaged in the process. When negotiations began, prevention was not in the conversation. Today, the agreement is rooted in the One Health approach. The final text emphasizes WCS priorities, including prevention "at source" by safeguarding intact ecosystems and addressing the commercial live wildlife trade—both critical in reducing the interfaces where wildlife can pass along diseases to humans and other animals. This agreement is the first step toward a new path to global cooperation to prevent future pandemics.

### **Spotlight**

### **Protecting Health Around the World**



# Banking on Nature: Designing Incentives to Conserve Climate-Critical Forests

Recognizing that our planet's healthiest forests deliver extraordinary benefits for wildlife and people, a number of institutions have provided seed funding to develop and pilot WCS's High-Integrity Forest Investment Initiative (HIFOR).

To date, there have been no financial incentives designed to promote the protection of healthy forests, even though they keep climate-warming CO<sub>2</sub> out of the atmosphere and save the global economy tens of trillions of dollars. Instead, many programs focus on reducing imminent deforestation or restoring degraded forest.

WCS is filling this gap in global environmental financing. Unlike carbon credits, HIFOR investors or purchasers will be able to claim quantitative contributions toward curbing global climate change and conservation, but cannot count their claim as an offset to biodiversity damage caused by their operations. Funding supports Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities to protect their high-integrity forests while developing sustainable, low-carbon economies and livelihoods.

### **Pilot programs**

Jaú National Park, Amazonas, Brazil Nouabalé-Ndoki Nationa Park, Republic of Congo

"This partnership will help us scale effective and sustainable conservation models, empowering communities and governments to maintain these critical ecosystems for generations to come."

—Johannes van de Ven Good Energies Foundation



# Growing Hope: Sustainable Forestry Practices for Farmers and the Planet

Many people look forward to drinking their morning coffee or savoring a chocolate bar. But these products can come at a high price. Cocoa and coffee are often grown at the frontiers of protected tropical forests, where demand and unsustainable farming practices are driving record-pace deforestation.

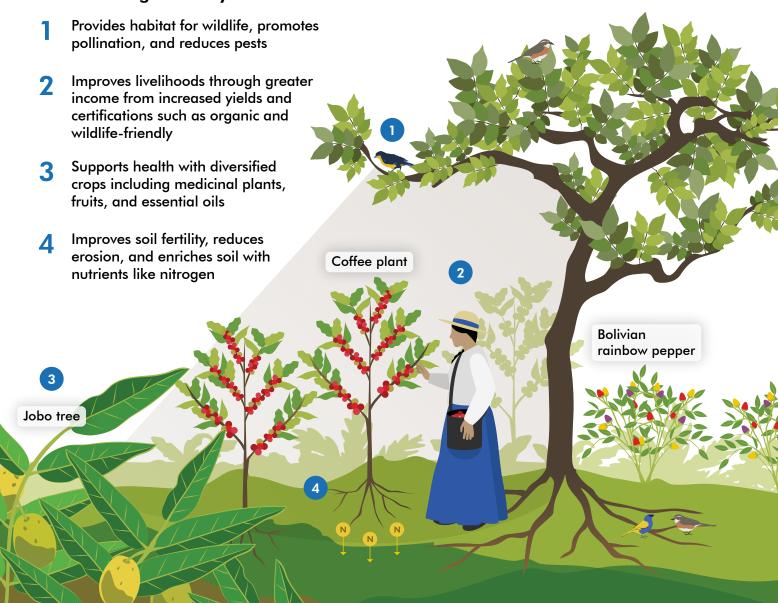
There is a better way forward that strengthens forests vital for jaguars, birds, lemurs, orangutans, and more. WCS is partnering with farmers to help them integrate a proven alternative to monocrops and slash-and-burn agriculture. As some Indigenous Peoples have practiced for centuries, agroforestry incorporates trees and bushes to support crops and soil, helping to regenerate the land over time and sustain higher yields.



### Deforestation at forest edges

- **↓ 30%**
- Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park, Indonesia
- Makira Natural Park, Madagascar

### **Benefits of Agroforestry**





### COCOA

### **Protecting Wildlife, Increasing Food Security**

In Madagascar's Makira Natural Park, our dynamic model of cocoa agroforestry includes planting cocoa trees interspersed with native trees, along with bananas, vanilla, peppers, and cloves that provide additional income for farmers. Our field teams have been training a growing number of farmers in sustainable agriculture techniques while restoring forests in critical habitats.

Morasoa began her journey with WCS in 2014 and is now a passionate advocate for sustainable agriculture. She leads a group of local farmers committed to transforming cocoa farming practices in her community.

"WCS has been a true partner. They've given us the tools to become leaders in sustainable farming. Now, we're able to protect our environment, our soil is healthier, and our yields have improved. We hope to build lasting relationships with buyers who value our efforts, and WCS has helped us make those connections."

—Morasoa

Voloina village, Madagascar

### COFFEE

### **Fostering Thriving Communities and Wildlife**

In and around Bolivia's Madidi National Park—the most biodiverse protected area in the world—WCS has increased by nearly fivefold the number of <u>Bolivian coffee</u> farmers we work with who are committed to organic and bird-friendly coffee production on their farms.

At the tropical forest frontier of Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park on the Indonesian island of Sumatra, smallholder coffee farmers grow Lampung Robusta coffee, known for its delicate and smooth chocolatey taste. WCS has helped communities roll out forestry techniques in over 1,600 farms here—including Tarjan's, located in a village at the edge of the park.

"My production improved to 300 kilograms per hectare within a year after applying newly acquired knowledge from WCS into my farming practices. In the following year production increased still more. By planting shade trees in our farms, we can increase productivity and help the environment at the same time."

—Tarjan

Village of Ujung Rembun, Sumatra

Morasoa and Tarjan use their first names in the traditions of their cultures

### Looking Ahead

WCS's goal is to eliminate deforestation at the frontiers of the world's most intact, carbon-rich forests. We seek to scale up our work with farmers, improve their access to markets, and promote sustainable supply chains in partnership with businesses. We will achieve measurable conservation gains as we weave nature into the fabric of how we live and do business.



### + New at the Bronx Zoo

# World of Darkness Mundo de la oscuridad



When the sun sets, a hidden world emerges—one where animals thrive in darkness, playing vital roles in their ecosystems as seed dispersers, pollinators, and predators. The new <u>World of Darkness exhibit</u> at the Bronx Zoo, which opened in July 2025, shares the largely untold stories of these animals. Featuring 25 rarely seen species in an innovative reverse day-night cycle lighting system, the World of Darkness is inspiring a new generation of visitors to learn about our planet's fascinating but often misunderstood darkness-dwellers.



The World of Darkness is the result of decades of WCS innovation and leadership in animal care, exhibit design, and conservation. Our expert teams of curators, keepers, and exhibit designers worked together to create this unique nocturnal experience by:



### **Designing for Darkness**

Backlit, low-reflection graphics let visitors learn about our animals without the need for bright lights that would disturb the animals. Interactive technology allows visitors to find fruit like a bat and sense their surroundings like a naked mole rat. The World of Darkness is also the first fully bilingual permanent exhibit at the Bronx Zoo, with graphics in both English and Spanish.



### Shining a Light on Conservation

The exhibit will connect more people than ever before to the conservation work WCS is doing in the field to protect nocturnal species. It will inspire people to take their own direct actions—like supporting protections for native bat populations and reducing personal contributions to light pollution.



### Enhancing the Visitor Experience

The new exhibit allows visitors to see nocturnal animals when they are most active—using a network of LED lighting throughout the 21 habitats to simulate sunrise, sunset, and other conditions in a reverse day-night cycle.

### **Meet the Animals**

These are just 6 of the 25 incredible darkness-dwelling species you will meet in the World of Darkness:

### Bats

A Seba's short-tailed bats

LIVE IN caves and forests in Central and South America

B Common vampire bats

LIVE IN caves and pastures of Central and South America

C Egyptian fruit bats

**LIVE IN** forests, savannas, and caves of the Middle East and parts of Africa

We created three distinct bat habitats with spaces to fly, climb, crawl, hang, roost, and forage. Seba's short-tailed bats and Egyptian fruit bats mainly eat fruit and insects and spend most waking hours flying. Vampire bats—as their name suggests—get most of their nutrition from animal blood, and will crawl and climb more than most other bat species.





LIVE IN forests, mangroves, and farmlands in Madagascar

The only primates with front teeth that never stop growing—a trait more typical of rodents—aye-ayes can chew through materials as hard as concrete. We furnished our aye-ayes' World of Darkness habitat with extremely dense ironwood perches, providing the perfect hardy material for them to chew and claw as they hunt for grubs, and naturally keep their front teeth a healthy length.

### Naked Mole Rats

**LIVE** underground in the grasslands, shrublands, and savannas of East Africa

This unusual yet iconic species is adapted to live in constant darkness. Their protruding teeth enable them to dig without ingesting soil; their sensitive body whiskers allow them to easily navigate complex underground tunnel systems; and they sleep for short bursts of time so the colony can remain active around the clock. The World of Darkness is perfectly outfitted for these adaptations: our exhibit designers worked with our animal care staff to create a system of tunnels that include nursing, latrine, and other distinct areas—supporting the naked mole rats' natural behaviors in a simulated wild habitat.



### Sand Cats

**LIVE IN** the deserts of North Africa, the Middle East, and Central Asia

Our two sand cats have been exploring and playing together in their new World of Darkness habitat—complete with complex rock work that allows the cats ample choices of places to climb and rest. Visitors can get an up-close view of one of the smallest wild cat species in the world.

### (a) Looking Ahead

WCS will invite visitors to learn about nocturnal animals through the new World of Darkness exhibit using a broad, inclusive approach to formal and informal education programming. We will host special programs in the World of Darkness for children with high sensory needs; our Discovery Guides will interact with visitors through Quest stations themed around nocturnal animals; and the Bronx Zoo's Wildlife Theater program will present a puppet show that explores adaptations of life in the dark.

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## Puppet-Rearing a King Vulture Innovative Care at the Bronx Zoo

For the first time in three decades, a king vulture chick hatched at WCS's Bronx Zoo in April 2025. To give her opportunities to form social bonds and learn natural behaviors, the chick's keepers needed to prevent her from imprinting on her human caretakers. So they raised her using a clever technique: puppetry.

Bronx Zoo experts pioneered this approach four decades ago as a way to care for chicks, since mother vultures sometimes reject their young. Using a specially crafted hand puppet fabricated by our exhibit design team to look like the head of an adult vulture, keepers hide their faces before feeding the chick inside its artificial nest. An adult king vulture remains visible nearby, allowing the chick to hear, see, and observe vulture behavior. Conservationists have adopted this technique to successfully hand-raise and release at-risk vulture species into the wild, including the Critically Endangered California condor.

The 55-year-old sire of this chick has only one other living descendant, making the chick a genetically important member of the king vulture population in accredited zoos. Once she reaches adulthood, we hope she will breed and produce offspring of her own as part of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' Species Survival Plan program.







### **MEET A WCS EXPERT**

### Jessica Moody

As Curator of Primates & Small Mammals at the Bronx Zoo, my job is to plan our collection, oversee the care of our animals, and collaborate with other zoos to ensure the sustainability of the species we care for.

How did it all begin for you? / I became fascinated with great apes as a child, reading books about Jane Goodall, Dian Fossey, and Birute Galdikas. By college I was working with them. I had been interning at the Pittsburgh Zoo and when they offered me a job as a keeper, I transferred to the university there so that I could accept it. Zoos gave me my first deep connection with animals, and my first field experience: a researcher studying black and white colobus monkeys took me along to Kenya.

In 2005, when I moved to New York for graduate school, I took classes at night and worked days as a keeper at the Bronx Zoo. I've been here almost ever since, though I did leave briefly for more field work, assisting my graduate advisor in censusing primate populations in Borneo. My zoo experience turned out to be good preparation: I knew how to behave so the animals didn't feel threatened, and how to interpret and respond to their sophisticated social interactions. My best moment came a couple months in, walking a transect on my birthday. Wading across a big stream, I spotted a huge adult male orangutan. As soon as he spotted us, he took off, swinging through the trees. Though a momentary encounter, the impact it had on me was enormous.

What has kept you at the Bronx Zoo all these years? / Early on, I struggled to choose between working at a zoo or in the field. Fortunately, a paradigm shift was underway, strengthening the connection between the two: using zoo-based conservation to help protect species in the wild. I experienced this link firsthand through my PhD work



on silvered langurs. The Bronx Zoo houses two of what were then three known species of silvered langur. I used our knowledge of these zoo animals to help shed light on a little-known sister species: the Indochinese silvered langur. Teaming up with the WCS team in Cambodia, I collected genetic, acoustic, and other data to answer key conservation questions such as: are there two species and, if so, is one more isolated or endangered than the other?

Looking ahead, what excites you? / It's been a rewarding process reopening our World of Darkness exhibit and filling it with nocturnal animals from around the world, which have the most interesting behaviors and adaptations. A favorite is the aye-aye, the largest nocturnal lemur, endemic to Madagascar. It has rodent-like teeth that never stop growing so have to be worn by chewing, and a long thin finger for tapping on trees to find hollows beneath the bark and dig out the grubs. We give them branches and rotten logs to encourage both of these behaviors, which keeps them stimulated and busy. The exhibit also features sand cats, several bat species, blind cave fish, pygmy slow lorises, and naked mole rats. It's the kind of challenge we all love: figuring out how to meet each species' unique needs—while also creating an experience that will inspire our visitors. Most people will never get to see these animals in the wild; that's especially true for nocturnal animals. By giving visitors the chance to experience them up close, and to understand how what we do at the zoo connects to our work around the globe, we hope to spark future generations of conservationists to carry on our mission.

### WCS's Zoos and Aquarium **Caring for Confiscated Animals**

When authorities confiscate wild animals from criminal traffickers, who do they call for help? Often, the Bronx Zoo is at the top of the list. Experts at WCS's zoos and aquarium play a vital role in combating wildlife trafficking and the illegal pet trade-in New York, across the US, and globally. Our animal care staff have a unique blend of knowledge from caring for zoo animals, and from close collaboration with WCS field conservationists. With this breadth of expertise, we help save hundreds of confiscated animals that would otherwise be euthanized or left without proper long-term care.

Here are just a few examples of the animals we have helped save in recent years.

### **Spider Monkeys**

**Authorities:** 

STATUS (Vulnerable-Endangered

In the last three years, Bronx Zoo staff have helped find permanent homes for 70+ spider monkeys rescued from the illegal pet trade. These primates are now one of the most trafficked at the southern US border, and frequently require intensive, round-the-clock care following confiscation. Primate experts at the Bronx Zoo are often the first people federal and state authorities call for help in assessing these monkeys' nutritional, veterinary, and behavioral needs. We then work with our network of accredited zoos and sanctuaries to find them appropriate, permanent placements. We also help ensure the confiscated monkeys are properly socialized within the established zoo groups they join so they can thrive in their new homes.

### How does the Bronx Zoo help confiscated spider monkeys?

WCS:

### Guides the Works closely Helps organize with AZA and transportation of Apprehend immediate triage for Call primate criminals and its members to the monkey and the experts at WCS's the monkey find long-term careful integration confiscate the **Bronx Zoo** and evaluates its within an existing spider monkey placement for the specific needs monkey social group Average time from confiscation to integration in their permanent home: 3 months to a year



### Corals

STATUS (Near Threatened-Critically Endangered

WCS's New York Aquarium has partnered with authorities to rescue hundreds of live coral specimens confiscated from the illegal aquarium trade. These corals cannot be returned to the wild as they could contaminate wild populations. Through a careful process called "fragging," our scientists extract small fragments of existing corals and use those cuttings to grow new coral colonies. We have successfully propagated many of the confiscated specimens we have received in our coral lab and added them to the 80-species coral colony at the aquarium. They are now helping educate visitors about climate change and other threats to coral reefs.

### **Spotlight**

### **How Zoos Help Fight Wildlife Trafficking**

Wildlife trafficking, including of animals intended for the pet trade, is often tied to large-scale organized criminal activity and poses an increasing threat to the safety of people and our planet—eroding security, economic stability, the rule of law, and long-standing conservation endeavors.

WCS is combating this threat on the ground while pressing for international policies to protect species in the wild, strengthen law enforcement, and reduce demand. Our New York parks have a vital part to play in educating the public and spurring action. For example: the Bronx Zoo's World of Birds and Budgie Landing teach people about responsible, sustainable pet ownership.

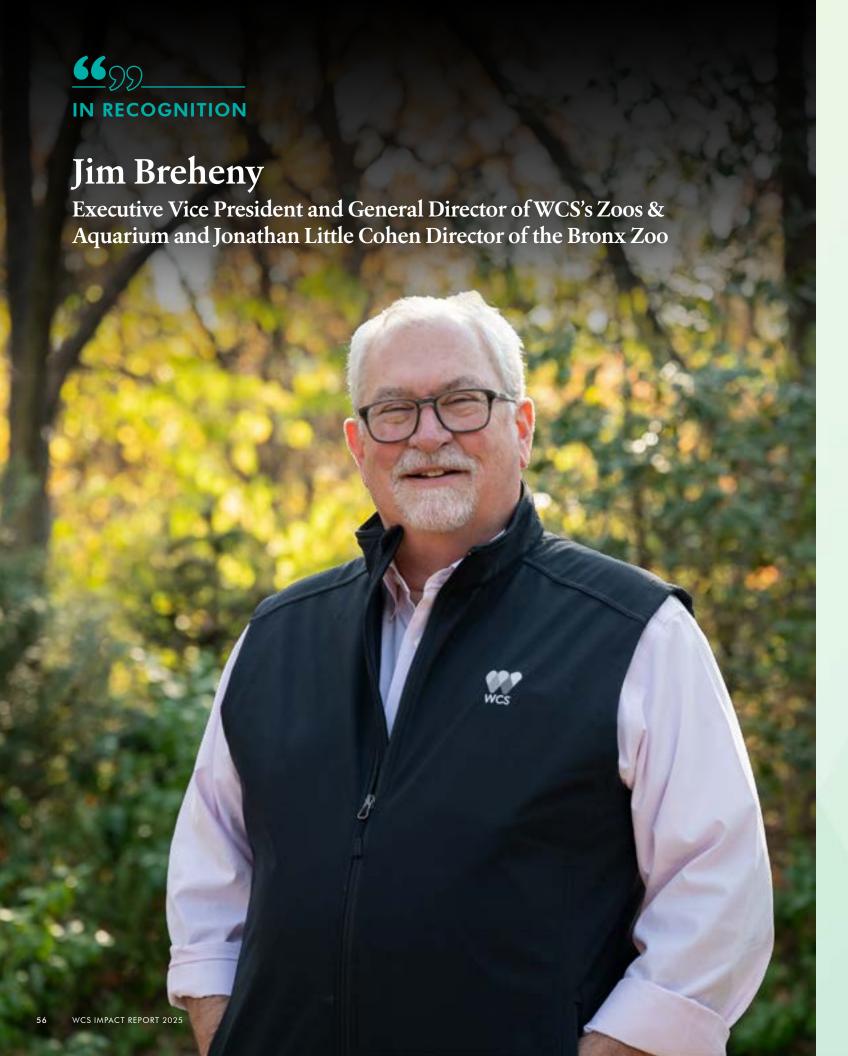
### **Parrots**

STATUS Endangered

In recent years, Bronx Zoo bird experts have traveled to Congo to help rehabilitate and release dozens of rescued African gray parrots that were illegally captured for the pet trade. The World of Birds at the Bronx Zoo has become a home for over 30 parrots from various species that have been rescued from smuggling operations and cannot return to the wild due to injuries or other issues. The illegal pet trade significantly affects many of the world's endangered bird species, and more wild bird populations are put at risk year after year; the Bronx Zoo's rescued parrots are important ambassadors who have helped educate countless people about this harmful trade.

### Looking Ahead

WCS is working to end wildlife trafficking, and all over-exploitation of wildlife on a global scale. In areas where demand for wildlife and their parts is escalating, we will advance targeted anti-poaching, training, policy, and prevention initiatives. For example, we will work with partners to curb parrot trafficking across Central and South America by identifying specific points along the supply chain where targeted interventions will have the most impact.



Over the course of a distinguished career at WCS spanning more than 50 years, Jim has changed the global perception of zoos and aquariums by taking viewers behind the scenes on Animal Planet's innovative docuseries THE ZOO. He also connected WCS's zoo- and field-based conservation work, leading reintroduction programs for a number of species, from the tiny Kihansi spray toad to the mighty American bison. And he oversaw the opening of many new exhibits at our four zoos and aquarium, which collectively house over 18,000 animals from more than 1,250 species—the largest coordinated collection of animals in the world. Jim will retire in early 2026, and WCS is grateful for his contributions toward advancing conservation and species sustainability, animal care, exhibit design, and education.

### How did you get started at the Bronx Zoo?

I grew up in the Bronx. My cousins worked at the Bronx Zoo, and when I was 12, I started volunteering there and learning what people did. At 14, I got my working papers and took a job at the Children's Zoo, and then began caring for the camels. I never dreamed that summer job would evolve into a career that would last a half century.

Did you always know this was what you wanted to do? / Well, I always liked being around animals: I started keeping fish when I was five and my family always had dogs, parakeets, canaries, turtles, and hamsters.

From the start, I felt comfortable around animals. I liked observing their behavior, learning from it, and then using that knowledge to set up appropriate, engaging environments for them. Long before the internet, I read every book I could in order to learn more about the animals I was keeping. That's a passion I have to this day, and I have an extensive natural history library to show for it!

How has the Bronx Zoo changed over time, and what have you learned over the years? / Our knowledge and understanding of what animals need to thrive has evolved and transformed the profession. Fifty years ago we were still trying to understand the basic needs of some species like the specific diets and environmental parameters they required. Take, for example, the silvered langurs in JungleWorld. They are primarily leaf eaters, and as a result, their gut works differently than other species of monkeys. They have specialized nutritional requirements, and we had to come up with a diet that worked for them. When you visit JungleWorld today,

you can see a large breeding troop of these langurs that have been part of that exhibit since it opened in 1985.

In addition to the evolution of animal husbandry and behavioral science, the advances in veterinary care have been a game-changer over the last half century. Our Wildlife Health Center was designed to meet the veterinary needs of a vast array of species, and our sophisticated medical equipment rivals that of many human hospitals.



When I first started, the animal care staff was made up almost exclusively of men. Today, there are many women in all aspects of the field adding valuable perspectives and insights, and contributing a wide range of talent and skills to the mission.

Also, people didn't think humans and animals could communicate, and interactions between keepers and animals were often based on dominance. Today, we know much more about communicating with animals

#### **RECOGNIZING JIM BREHENY**

and building positive relationships based on trust and voluntary participation by the animals. So when we do medical checks or move an animal from one location to another, the animals exercise choice. It's much more enjoyable and far less stressful for both the animals and the staff because of the bond of trust between them.

"When I first started, people didn't think humans and animals could communicate. Today, we know much more."

When we need to move a 5,000-pound rhinoceros from the Bronx Zoo to another zoo, for example, we slowly introduce him to a shipping crate and start feeding him in there and rewarding him with treats whenever he enters it. After a few days, he's comfortable going in and out for food and spending time there. When the time comes for us to move him, he enters the crate on his own, we secure the door, and he's ready to go. It's so simple when you think about it.

What spurred this change? / We have a much deeper understanding of our animals' needs and their ability to cooperate with keepers. We also started prioritizing the relationship between the animals and the people who care for them. Recently, we moved a tiger to another zoo and made sure his favorite keeper was the one to accompany him on the journey. When I see some of the things that our keepers can do with animals, I'm amazed. Wherever possible, we give the animal a level of choice and control. So training an animal for a voluntary blood draw, vaccination, or other procedure that in the past would've been stressful to animals—think of your pet at your vet's office—is much more straightforward when the animal chooses to participate. It works because of the respect our keepers have for the animals, and the trust the animals have in our keepers.

What are some of the milestones you're proudest of? / Our work on Kihansi spray toads really made me stop and think. This species has one of the smallest home ranges of any vertebrate, living only

in the spray zone of Tanzania's Kihansi Falls. In 2000, a newly constructed hydroelectric dam eliminated the waterfall that fed the spray zone, threatening the toads' only wild habitat and existence. At the invitation of the Tanzanian government, we brought 499 toads—a species that had never been kept in zoos to the Bronx Zoo and Toledo Zoo. We figured out the environmental parameters they needed to thrive, how to breed them, and what to feed the young. We created an "assurance colony" that acted as a safeguard against extinction and enabled us to propagate toads that could be released into a restored Kihansi Gorge habitat. One day, I took a journalist from National Geographic Magazine to our Amphibian Propagation Center to visit the toads. I opened the door to the bio-secure room where I heard a deafening chorus of thousands of tiny male toads singing to attract mates. And it struck me: here I was in the Bronx, listening to something that you couldn't hear anywhere else in the world—only in the Bronx and Toledo—since the toads were by that time declared extinct in the wild. If we had not gotten involved, no one would have ever heard their singing again. The Kihansi spray toad would have been lost forever. Since that day, more than 10,000 zoo-bred toads have been released into the wild, making them the first restoration of an extinct-in-thewild amphibian species.



"Here I was in the Bronx, listening to something that you couldn't hear anywhere else... If we had not gotten involved, no one would have ever heard their singing again."

I'm also very proud of the partnership we fostered with Animal Planet on THE ZOO docuseries. It was the first time we pulled back the curtain so people could get a behind-the-scenes view of what goes into caring for our animals at the Bronx Zoo and our other parks. The show was very well received, appearing in over 200 markets around the world and changing people's perception of zoos for the better.



What messages would you like people to remember? / We have an innate connection to wildlife—and the more we understand nature, the better we can protect it.

Every day I see people moved by their experiences with animals. And the Bronx Zoo, along with our other zoos and the aquarium, are the face of WCS, and a platform for our field conservation work. We're unique as an organization because we have two distinct mission elements that strengthen one another.

"When I volunteered as a zoo guide, I saw firsthand the value of exposing kids of all backgrounds to animals and their habitats. It was a privilege for me to support Jim Breheny and his team in opening the snow leopard exhibit at the Central Park Zoo. His larger-than-life personality, dry sense of humor, and professionalism have made him a star of the zoo community. And Jim has run the Bronx Zoo and all WCS parks with such obvious joy and care for the animals."

—Allison Stern

"Jim Breheny always has great ideas that I've been proud to support. At the Bronx Zoo, he introduced bold new species like the African painted dogs. He has played such an important role connecting many generations, including my children, grandchildren, and now great-grandchildren. He cares for everyone, and with a heavy dose of humor, his passion comes through clearly."

-Barbara Hrbek Zucker

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# Launching Science and Conservation Careers in New York City and Around the World

Building a strong pipeline of emerging leaders is essential to developing effective solutions in the wildlife, climate, and health fields. Each year, WCS draws on our rich expertise in New York City and more than 55 countries around the world to launch new science and conservation careers—from wildlife health veterinarians to educators to field conservationists.

### **Training Wildlife Health Professionals**

WCS's Zoological Health program based at the Bronx Zoo provides unique, first-hand experiences in veterinary medicine that few others offer, leveraging innovative zoological and wildlife medicine honed over more than a century.



During his time as WCS Eddie Gould Resident in Zoo and Wildlife Pathology, Carmen broadened his knowledge of animal diseases. With experienced veterinarians, he performed exams on a wide range of animals, including an Amur tiger and Andean bear. Today, Carmen is the inaugural Fellow in Free-Ranging Wildlife Pathology at the Cornell K. Lisa Yang Center for Wildlife Health.

"I help identify causes of death in endangered species around the world, such as rhinos and snow leopards. My WCS training gave me the tools to help solve mysteries and support conservation efforts globally." Priscilla began her career at the Bronx Zoo in 2022 in the Veterinary Technician Externship program. She learned about preventive medicine, daily medical and surgical care, anesthesia, clinical laboratory analysis, and more. In 2023, Priscilla became a full-time Bronx Zoo Veterinary Technician.

"My WCS Veterinary Technician Externship was transformative, equipping me with practical skills and a deeper understanding of zoological veterinary medicine. It solidified my passion for working with wildlife and prepared me to provide the highest level of animal care."

Laura began her career at WCS when she was just 16. Working at both the New York Aquarium and the Queens Zoo, she learned about a range of wildlife and conservation topics, and developed speaking skills that helped her to engage with visitors effectively. Laura now oversees youth programs at the New York Hall of Science, one of our NYC STEM education partners.

and volunteer opportunities.

Inspiring the Next Generation of Conservation Leaders in New York City

Each year, we welcome 1,900 local young people to launch their careers at our parks through the WCS Career Lattice

program. With our unique network of New York City wildlife parks, WCS is well positioned to help youth of varied

backgrounds enter the science and conservation fields through seasonal and part-time jobs, internships, mentoring,

"In high school, I lacked confidence in my science and math skills and never thought that a science career was for me, despite my interest in it. Working at WCS showed me that I can pursue my dream job in a way that I'm very good at—through education. I now bring science to other students: I'm the bridge, just like WCS was the bridge into my career."

Analisa led a team of three high school students studying wild songbirds at the Bronx Zoo through Project TRUE (Teens Researching Urban Ecology), an award-winning internship program that connects Bronx high school students with mentors from Fordham University. The teams carry out urban ecology research under the guidance of Bronx Zoo staff and present their findings at local research symposiums. Analisa is a junior at Fordham University majoring in General Sciences.

"My Bronx Zoo supervisor introduced me to birdwatching, and I shared this passion with my mentees, who never realized the diversity of birds you can see in the Bronx. Project TRUE helped me gain other skills such as researching and organizing, which are serving me well."

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CONSERVATION IMPACT

# Launching Science and Conservation Careers in New York City and Around the World

### **Supporting Emerging Global Conservation Talent**

WCS works in more than 55 countries, each with its own unique circumstances and dynamics. To help future leaders achieve impact in their home countries, we launched the Graduate Scholarship Program in 1996. Today, many alumni lead efforts in government, universities, local organizations, and WCS itself—building lasting conservation capacity from within and delivering tangible results on the ground.



162 scholarships in 42 countries



98% are advancing conservation in their home countries



Imong obtained his PhD in Conservation Biology from Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, and is now WCS Country Director, Nigeria.

"The WCS Graduate Scholarship Program allowed me to earn an advanced degree at a top international institution, which would not otherwise have been possible. Now I work at WCS, partnering with local communities on conservation of Africa's most endangered ape, Cross River gorillas. I'm proud that in the Mbe Mountains, thanks in great part to WCS efforts, no gorillas have been killed by poachers since 2005."

After completing his Masters of Science at Oxford Brookes University, Jesus became a Threatened Species Research Scientist, WCS Bolivia.

"My WCS-supported master's training deepened my research on the biology and ecology of Bolivian titi monkeys and helped me promote effective actions for their conservation. Our local education and awareness activities have led to new protected areas aimed at protecting the biodiversity of the entire region."



### Dr. Pornkamol "Joob" Jornburom

As Director of WCS Thailand, I lead our team's efforts to protect large landscapes and recover elephant and tiger populations through research, community engagement, and strengthened law enforcement.

### How did you get interested in wildlife?

I come from a family of farmers. We grew sugarcane, cassava, long beans, peanuts, and rice. The first animal that ever caught my attention was a bird, hopping about between our rice fields and the nearby forest. I'd learned in school how to use a field guide, so I looked up its beak and what it was eating and identified it as a sunbird. That was the spark.

I went to Kasetsart University because it offered Thailand's only major in wildlife management within the Faculty of Forestry. I then got a great first job with the Department of National Parks (DNP), working in the Western Forest Complex (WEFCOM), which is 17 protected areas that make up the largest remaining forest in mainland southeast Asia. I got to survey elephants, tigers, and the deer and wild cattle that are the tigers' main prey. Back then I was one of only two women on the project doing field work; it was DNP officer Anak Pattanavibool who gave me that lifechanging opportunity.

What brought you to WCS? / When Dr. Pattanavibool became country director for WCS in 2004, I followed him here. WCS was just beginning to apply its living landscape concepts to WEFCOM, sorting out how to conserve a large ecosystem shared by wildlife and humans. We'd already protected habitat to support more large prey animals, which meant tigers were having more cubs. My first-ever sighting was of one of those mothers with two cubs—charging our truck. My second was better. I was walking back to



camp late one afternoon, alone. As I walked down into a ravine a male tiger came walking up. We both froze for 20 seconds. Then he ran away.

The University of Minnesota accepted me to do a PhD based on my wildlife surveys. I was able to go thanks to WCS, which supported me with one of the global scholarships they award to young graduate students from around the world. They also provided me incredible mentors like Ullas Karanth and Jim Nichols, world experts on camera traps and population modeling, and Dale Miquelle, a pioneering conservationist of Siberian tigers.

What gives you hope? / That we are building the next generation of researchers. We support a field class for university students, inspiring many to work in conservation. I do trainings in monitoring and counterwildlife trafficking for rangers and conservation staff from all 13 tiger range countries. And I'm no longer an outlier; two of our five site managers and several coordinators of our SMART patrol system are women.

We also now have a model, in WEFCOM, for how to return tigers to places like Khao Yai National Park, where the last recorded sighting was in 2001. The key is to improve habitat in the larger forest complex, to recover prey, which boosts tiger populations and helps disperse some of them into the Park. Their recovery is our indicator of success: that we have enough protection, prey for them to eat, and community understanding.

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### **Investing in Conservation**

Your generous support made every win described in this report possible. There are many places you could contribute to, and we are grateful that you choose to partner with WCS.

WCS received donations of \$1,500 or more from nearly 1,100 private individual and institutional supporters in FY 2024 (July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024). Each of these dollars allows us to leverage additional public funding from government partners around the world who put their trust in WCS. In FY 2024, our global conservation programs received substantial support from more than 57 government funders and 21 multilateral agencies.

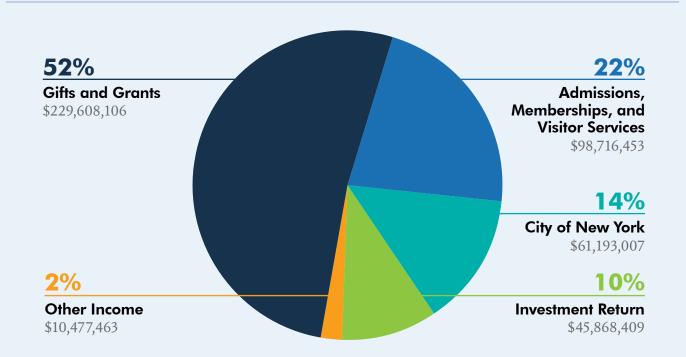
The City of New York and State of New York provide another important source of funding for our zoos' and aquarium's operations, capital upgrades, animal care, and education. As we develop and grow our impact at the Bronx Zoo and across our parks, we are grateful for more than 125 years of partnership with New York City and New York State.

WCS's net assets decreased in FY 2024 due to depreciation and multi-year grant expenditures against revenues that were recognized in prior years. Although not reflected in the time period of this financial report, the 2025 withdrawal of most US government support from WCS and other conservation organizations had a significant impact. However, it accelerated our strategy of growing and further diversifying other revenue streams. WCS's overall financial position remains stable thanks to our dedicated supporters, as well as strong attendance-driven income at our New York zoos and aquarium.

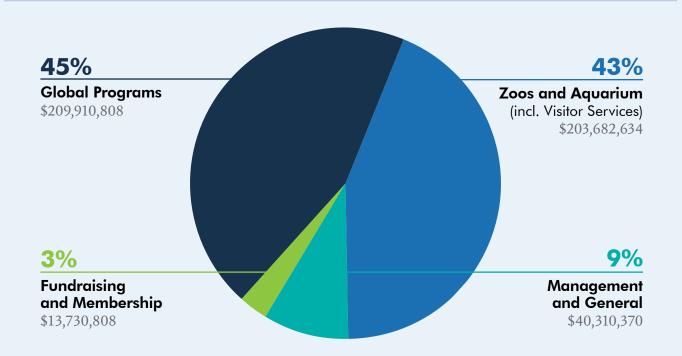


### **Financial Report**

2024 TOTAL REVENUE (\$445.9 MILLION)



### 2024 TOTAL EXPENSES (\$467.6 MILLION)



2024 TOTAL REVENUE (\$445.9 MILLION)	2024	2023
Bequests	\$ 8,178,861	\$ 4,577,949
Gifts and Grants	178,153,186	175,674,765
City of New York	61,193,007	48,564,229
Federal Agencies	43,276,059	37,839,515
Gate and Exhibit Admissions	44,965,837	42,453,214
Visitor Services	36,381,990	35,398,937
Memberships	17,368,626	17,638,149
Investment Return	45,868,409	13,419,170
Other Income	10,477,463	8,286,561
Total Revenues	\$ 445,863,438	\$ 383,852,489
2024 TOTAL EXPENSES (\$467.6 MILLION) Program Services		
Zoos and Aquarium	\$ 203,682,634	\$ 174,292,418
Global Programs	209,910,808	177,687,271
Management & General	40,310,370	34,651,009
Fundraising and Membership	13,730,808	13,782,745
Total General Operating Expenses	\$ 467,634,620	\$ 400,413,443

### CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS (JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023)

	2024	2023
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 128,982,200	\$ 150,970,623
Miscellaneous receivable	3,635,089	3,054,268
Receivable from the City of New York	74,773,023	58,178,340
Receivable from the State of New York	2,854,090	9,245,620
Receivable from Federal sources	7,999,645	8,637,50
Contributions receivable	7,962,378	9,708,85
Non-US governmental and bilateral grants and contracts receivables	22,528,337	15,690,78
Private organization grants and contracts receivables	33,512,766	33,841,69
Inventories	4,223,414	3,960,01
Prepaid expenses	16,792,911	12,362,65
Advances to sub awardees	7,025,607	6,111,23
Right to use lease assets	1,880,947	1,567,28
Investments	526,837,108	510,406,47
Supporting organization investments	48,198,863	45,998,18
Amounts held in trust by others	1,814,371	1,681,59
Funds held by Bond Trustee	1,084	3,043,14
Property and equipment	425,168,024	433,535,82
otal Assets	\$1,314,189,857	\$1,307,994,10
IABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	44,000,000	4 - 7 7 7 7
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IABILITIES AND NET ASSETS  Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 72,659,705	\$ 60,085,38
IABILITIES AND NET ASSETS  Accounts payable and accrued expenses  Grants and contracts liabilities	\$72,659,705 49,658,332	\$ 60,085,38 43,341,53
IABILITIES AND NET ASSETS  Accounts payable and accrued expenses  Grants and contracts liabilities  Escrow liability	\$ 72,659,705 49,658,332 34,812,628	\$ 60,085,38 43,341,53 26,287,05
IABILITIES AND NET ASSETS  Accounts payable and accrued expenses  Grants and contracts liabilities  Escrow liability  Right of use lease liability	\$72,659,705 49,658,332 34,812,628 2,132,134	\$ 60,085,38 43,341,53 26,287,05 1,748,30
IABILITIES AND NET ASSETS  Accounts payable and accrued expenses  Grants and contracts liabilities  Escrow liability  Right of use lease liability  Annuity liability	\$72,659,705 49,658,332 34,812,628 2,132,134 2,426,926	\$ 60,085,38 43,341,53 26,287,05 1,748,30 2,640,86
IABILITIES AND NET ASSETS  Accounts payable and accrued expenses  Grants and contracts liabilities  Escrow liability  Right of use lease liability  Annuity liability  Bonds payable	\$ 72,659,705 49,658,332 34,812,628 2,132,134 2,426,926 164,999,596	\$ 60,085,38 43,341,53 26,287,05 1,748,30 2,640,86 164,961,15
IABILITIES AND NET ASSETS  Accounts payable and accrued expenses Grants and contracts liabilities Escrow liability Right of use lease liability Annuity liability Bonds payable Post-retirement benefit obligation	\$72,659,705 49,658,332 34,812,628 2,132,134 2,426,926 164,999,596 45,278,331	\$ 60,085,38 43,341,53 26,287,05 1,748,30 2,640,86 164,961,15 45,049,84
IABILITIES AND NET ASSETS  Accounts payable and accrued expenses  Grants and contracts liabilities  Escrow liability  Right of use lease liability  Annuity liability  Bonds payable  Post-retirement benefit obligation  Total Liabilities	\$ 72,659,705 49,658,332 34,812,628 2,132,134 2,426,926 164,999,596	\$ 60,085,38 43,341,53 26,287,05 1,748,30 2,640,86 164,961,15 45,049,84
IABILITIES AND NET ASSETS  Accounts payable and accrued expenses Grants and contracts liabilities Escrow liability Right of use lease liability Annuity liability Bonds payable Post-retirement benefit obligation Total Liabilities  let Assets (Without donor restriction)	\$72,659,705 49,658,332 34,812,628 2,132,134 2,426,926 164,999,596 45,278,331 371,967,652	\$ 60,085,38 43,341,53 26,287,05 1,748,30 2,640,86 164,961,15 45,049,84 <b>344,114,13</b>
IABILITIES AND NET ASSETS  Accounts payable and accrued expenses  Grants and contracts liabilities  Escrow liability  Right of use lease liability  Annuity liability  Bonds payable  Post-retirement benefit obligation  Total Liabilities	\$72,659,705 49,658,332 34,812,628 2,132,134 2,426,926 164,999,596 45,278,331	\$ 60,085,38 43,341,53 26,287,05 1,748,30 2,640,86 164,961,15 45,049,84 <b>344,114,13</b>
IABILITIES AND NET ASSETS  Accounts payable and accrued expenses Grants and contracts liabilities Escrow liability Right of use lease liability Annuity liability Bonds payable Post-retirement benefit obligation Total Liabilities  let Assets (Without donor restriction)	\$72,659,705 49,658,332 34,812,628 2,132,134 2,426,926 164,999,596 45,278,331 371,967,652	\$ 60,085,38 43,341,53 26,287,05 1,748,30 2,640,86 164,961,15 45,049,84 <b>344,114,13</b>
IABILITIES AND NET ASSETS  Accounts payable and accrued expenses Grants and contracts liabilities Escrow liability Right of use lease liability Annuity liability Bonds payable Post-retirement benefit obligation Total Liabilities  Iet Assets (Without donor restriction) General Operating	\$ 72,659,705 49,658,332 34,812,628 2,132,134 2,426,926 164,999,596 45,278,331 <b>371,967,652</b> (720,646)	\$ 60,085,38 43,341,53 26,287,05 1,748,30 2,640,86 164,961,15 45,049,84 <b>344,114,13</b> 462,70 133,834,71
IABILITIES AND NET ASSETS  Accounts payable and accrued expenses Grants and contracts liabilities Escrow liability Right of use lease liability Annuity liability Bonds payable Post-retirement benefit obligation Total Liabilities  Iet Assets (Without donor restriction) General Operating Board Designated	\$72,659,705 49,658,332 34,812,628 2,132,134 2,426,926 164,999,596 45,278,331 371,967,652 (720,646) 136,649,917	\$ 60,085,38 43,341,53 26,287,05 1,748,30 2,640,86 164,961,15 45,049,84 <b>344,114,13</b> 462,70 133,834,71 270,593,97
IABILITIES AND NET ASSETS  Accounts payable and accrued expenses Grants and contracts liabilities Escrow liability Right of use lease liability Annuity liability Bonds payable Post-retirement benefit obligation Total Liabilities Iet Assets (Without donor restriction) General Operating Board Designated Net investment in property and equipment	\$72,659,705 49,658,332 34,812,628 2,132,134 2,426,926 164,999,596 45,278,331 <b>371,967,652</b> (720,646) 136,649,917 259,184,109	\$ 60,085,38 43,341,53 26,287,05 1,748,30 2,640,86 164,961,15 45,049,84 <b>344,114,13</b> 462,70 133,834,71 270,593,97
IABILITIES AND NET ASSETS  Accounts payable and accrued expenses  Grants and contracts liabilities  Escrow liability  Right of use lease liability  Annuity liability  Bonds payable  Post-retirement benefit obligation  Total Liabilities  Iet Assets (Without donor restriction)  General Operating  Board Designated  Net investment in property and equipment  Total without donor restrictions	\$72,659,705 49,658,332 34,812,628 2,132,134 2,426,926 164,999,596 45,278,331 <b>371,967,652</b> (720,646) 136,649,917 259,184,109	\$ 60,085,38 43,341,53 26,287,05 1,748,30 2,640,86 164,961,15 45,049,84 <b>344,114,13</b> 462,70 133,834,71 270,593,97 <b>404,891,38</b>
Accounts payable and accrued expenses Grants and contracts liabilities Escrow liability Right of use lease liability Annuity liability Bonds payable Post-retirement benefit obligation Total Liabilities let Assets (Without donor restriction) General Operating Board Designated Net investment in property and equipment Total without donor restrictions let Assets (With donor restrictions)	\$72,659,705 49,658,332 34,812,628 2,132,134 2,426,926 164,999,596 45,278,331 371,967,652 (720,646) 136,649,917 259,184,109 395,113,380	\$ 60,085,38 43,341,53 26,287,05 1,748,30 2,640,86 164,961,15 45,049,84 <b>344,114,13</b> 462,70 133,834,71 270,593,97 <b>404,891,38</b> 285,583,10
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WCS is pleased to recognize those who contribute annual gifts of \$25,000 as part of the President's Circle. At this level of giving, you receive all the benefits of Conservation Patrons, plus exclusive invitations and insider access to WCS leadership and program experts.

For more information, contact Stephen Ham at 718 741 1619 or SHam@wcs.org.

**PLANNED GIVING** 

You can build a conservation legacy by

designating WCS as a beneficiary in your

will or trust. You can also name WCS as a

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Emily Hirshbein at 718 741 1628 or

For more information, contact

EHirshbein@wcs.org.

#### **CONSERVATION PATRONS**

WCS's Conservation Patrons who donate a gift of \$1,500 or greater annually receive exclusive updates and access to insider events to learn how your support is advancing our mission, as well as recognition in the WCS Impact Report.

For more information, visit wcs.org/support/conservation-patrons or contact Jayme Manion at 718 220 5085 or Patrons@wcs.org.

### **NAMING OPPORTUNITIES**

There are exhibits, galleries, and benches available for naming within wellloved spaces at our five wildlife parks. Naming an animal is also a unique way to provide critical support for the care, enrichment, and health of the animals at WCS's Bronx Zoo, Central Park Zoo, Queens Zoo, Prospect Park Zoo, and New York Aquarium.

For more information, contact Stephen Ham at 718 741 1619 or SHam@wcs.org.

#### **CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP & ENGAGEMENT**

WCS Corporate Partners provide vital support for our conservation efforts through philanthropic giving, corporate membership, sponsorship, and cause marketing. Partnerships with WCS help meet corporate marketing, sustainability, and engagement objectives, while aligning with WCS on shared values that resonate with consumers, employees, and stakeholders.

For more information, contact Jessica Sewell at JMSewell@wcs.org or send an inquiry to Corporations@wcs.org.



Learn more about these giving programs at

wcs.org/waystogive

For information on how you can support the Wildlife Conservation Society, please call our Global Resources Division at 718 220 5090 or visit wcs.org. A copy of this annual report may be obtained by writing to the Chair of the Board, Wildlife Conservation Society, 2300 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10460. In addition, a copy of the WCS's annual filing with the Charities Bureau of the Office of the New York State Attorney General may be obtained by writing to the Charities Bureau, New York State Attorney General's Office, 3rd Floor, 120 Broadway, New York, New York 10271. The report can also be found online at wcs.org.

#### SUGGESTED FORM OF BEQUEST

The Trustees of the Wildlife Conservation Society suggest that, for estate-planning purposes, members and friends consider the following language for use in their wills:

"To the Wildlife Conservation Society ("WCS"), a not-for-profit, tax-exempt organization incorporated in the state of New York in 1895, having as its principal address 2300 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10460 and tax identification number EIN: 13-1740011, I hereby give and bequeath [the sum of \$ OR percent of my estate] to be used as determined by WCS for its general purposes."

In order to help WCS avoid future administrative costs, we suggest that the following paragraph be added to any restrictions imposed on a bequest:

"If at some future time, in the judgment of the Wildlife Conservation Society, it is no longer practical to use the income and/or principal of this bequest for the purposes intended, WCS may use the income and/or principal for whatever purposes it deems necessary that is most closely in accord with the intent described herein."

If you wish to discuss the language of your bequest and other planned giving options, please contact the Office of Planned Giving at 718 220 6894.

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Sumatran orangutans in Gunung Leuser National Park, Indonesia

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