

The Asian Tropical Forest

People are the Conservation Solution

Much more than just expose people to rare animals, our zoo's award-winning exhibits raise awareness of the world's most endangered wild animals, inspiring millions of people to learn, care and act.

Tropical forests are extremely important to humans and animals as sources of food, shelter and medicine, and as climatic and environmental stabilizers. Sadly, many of the world's forests are under siege from human population expansion and related impacts. As a Southeast Asian saying poignantly reminds us: "No forests, no life."

People are the Conservation Solution

People protect nature when they experience it, understand it and benefit from it. To achieve this, our zoo immerses visitors in award-winning, naturalistic exhibitry. Visitors learn the natural history of rare animals — and the threats to their survival — while experiencing their habitats through the animals' eyes. Our modern exhibits also link people to our local and global conservation partners who are helping communities share resources with wildlife more sustainably.

Because of their 60-year old infrastructure, our current Asian tiger and bear exhibits fall short of achieving this goal.

The new Asian Tropical Forest initiative transforms these and surrounding animal habitats into a dynamic "conservation destination" that will inspire millions of visitors for decades.

A multidimensional, multispecies showcase of naturalistic habitats integrated with inspiration-to-action programs and sustainable design will enlighten millions of visitors. Masterful stories by keepers and first-person interpreters will capture their hearts, while hands-on learning and direct links to field conservation will empower visitors to save forests and the species that call them home. What better way to create a ripple effect of knowledge, compassion, and action!

As a natural next step in our Long-Range Physical Development Plan, this major investment elevates our zoo as a model of conservation and education excellence in the Pacific Northwest.

MORE **WONDER.**
MORE WILD.



AT A GLANCE

HABITAT

Fragmented pockets of Asian tropical forests.

NUMBERS

As few as 6,000 Asian tigers; 10,000 sun bears; 8,000 sloth bears; and 40,000 Asian elephants remain in the wild. By saving keystone species, we can save entire ecosystems and benefit many other species — including our own!

OPPORTUNITY

Transform outdated exhibits into a dynamic, naturalistic showcase of conservation-focused wildlife experiences that:

- enrich the lives of our Asian tigers, bears and elephants
- empower and inspire visitors with awesome animal encounters, fun, hands-on learning, and meaningful links to conservation action
- expand our Asian conservation partnerships
- model sustainable design for our community

PRIVATE FUNDING GOAL

\$21 million

A Multispecies, Multidimensional Showcase

Enter the Asian Tropical Forest and be immersed in the sights, sounds and smells of a lush forest teeming with life! Imagine getting nose-to-nose with a male tiger soaking up the sun, a female tiger caring for her cubs, and Asian bears busily climbing trees or foraging for insects. Other encounters may include smaller endemic mammals and tropical birds, complemented by our charismatic orangutans and elephants.

With innovative design, naturalistic landscaping, and flexible space, our animals will thrive, exploring dynamic habitats and captivating our visitors at prime viewpoints! Visitors will see animals stalking, pouncing, foraging, wading, and playing as they exhibit all their natural behaviors.

They will also enjoy unique, up-close animal encounters while expert keepers demonstrate innovative techniques in animal care, enrichment, and species conservation. And, visitors will engage in the world of saving endangered species beyond our 92 acres through technology and social media enhancements.



Artist's concept rendition



Guests will learn how our zookeepers' expertise helps conservation efforts to rehabilitate elephants in Asia.

Inspiring People to Learn, Care and Act!

A unified theme, "Sharing the Forest," will weave through keeper, first-person interpreter, and educator talks, showing how people are the conservation solution and creating a compelling sense of place, empowerment and action.

This unique education resource for families, schoolchildren and teachers will bring the science of species and habitat conservation to life through learner-centered curricula that support our state's education standards. Incorporating our Asian field conservation partners' compelling stories into exhibit experiences, such as rehabilitating orangutans and elephants in Borneo, will increase visitor knowledge of how conservation action really works.

Physical upgrades in our elephants' habitat will enrich the lives and the care of these magnificent animals while

enhancing our knowledge of species management and long-term breeding in zoos and in the wild. Every aspect of exhibit design and programming will meaningfully immerse visitors in our multi-pronged approach to conservation: species preservation, public education, saving habitats, and collaborating with leaders, such as The National Elephant Center, co-founded by WPZ and other leading zoos.

Designed with Nature in Mind

Tropical species require warm, humid surroundings. Green exhibit innovations will contribute to our sustainability goals by saving some 200,000 pounds of carbon emissions annually – the equivalent of planting 30 acres of forest! What better way to model for millions of visitors how to share the planet's resources with all living things.