

# Conservation in the Wild

## Solutions that Work

If human activities continue to accelerate species decline, many of the world's most iconic animals will not have a future in the wild. What stands between animal survival and extinction? We do.

Many people know the news: whether it is elephants threatened by continued illegal ivory trade, frogs succumbing to a deadly, worldwide fungus, or forests vanishing at an alarming rate. But, what people also need to know is that conservation successes are not only possible, they are happening on a global scale.

Woodland Park Zoo supports proven conservation projects in 50 countries, linking the care of the endangered species in our naturalistic exhibits to the innovative work our partners are doing in the field to conserve wild habitats in ways that benefit both animals and local people. More wild animals and places can be saved if we — individuals, communities, businesses, governments and conservation organizations — work together.

Wildlife conservation works when it involves local people in the equation and helps them meet their needs in more sustainable ways. To broaden and deepen our impact in field conservation, we must strengthen our global Partners for Wildlife program, while also forging regional and national partnerships to leverage greater Northwest conservation. And to ensure a strong pipeline of new conservationists, researchers and scientists for tomorrow, we must cultivate and support promising leaders today.

Conservation action is essential to our mission. It is our calling card for inspiring more than one million guests to help restore the earth's ecological balance.

*Above right: WPZ supported Partners for Wildlife in Botswana are successfully deploying "biofences" to help endangered wild dogs survive in protected areas and prevent conflict with humans and livestock.*

MORE **WONDER.**  
MORE WILD.



### AT A GLANCE

#### HABITAT

Planet Earth

#### NUMBERS

More than 16,000 species of animals and plants are threatened with extinction

#### OPPORTUNITY

You can help expand our successful Partners for Wildlife programs into global centers of excellence and cultivate the pipeline of emerging conservation leaders (\$5.3 million); ensure the long-term success of the Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program (\$2 million); attract the best and the brightest to be WPZ Conservation Fellows (\$.9 million), and engage more Northwesterners in conserving critical habitat, from our backyards to the back country (\$.1 million).

#### PRIVATE FUNDING GOAL

\$8.3 million



## Strengthen our Flagship Partners for Wildlife Program

We are proving the effectiveness of community-based conservation, working as a team with local people to save elephants in Tanzania, beautiful cranes in Russia, rare Northwest raptors, and many more endangered species — projects linked directly to the exhibits in our biomes. We will strengthen these and other partnerships into full-scale, sustainable centers of excellence in three focused regions — Asia-Pacific, Africa and the Pacific Northwest — effectively doubling our commitment to field conservation.

Our conservation solutions work because they integrate four criteria: species preservation, habitat protection, local capacity building, and health and education benefits to improve economic livelihoods for local communities. We will replicate successes with new partners in critical world areas and collaborate with universities and other experts.

To ensure a pipeline of effective conservation professionals and future Partners for Wildlife (PFW), we will strengthen our small grants program — the best way to identify promising conservation leaders and develop them to meet our high standards.

## Ensure the Long-term Success of the Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program (TKCP)

Through TKCP, the zoo worked with local communities and the government of Papua New Guinea to establish the country's first, officially decreed Conservation Area — 188,000 acres of pristine rain forest habitat — to save the endangered tree kangaroo and other species threatened by habitat destruction and hunting. Following this 14-year effort, and thanks to a generous \$1 million challenge grant from Conservation International, our zoo has created a \$2 million endowment to capitalize a community-based strategy to sustainably manage the Conservation Area. The funds will develop long-term, local capacity in four key areas: conservation, research, education, and community health and livelihood. The Conservation Area's natural assets will remain for Papua New Guinea and the world in perpetuity.



*Dr. Lisa Dabek, WPZ senior conservation scientist, and the TKCP team worked with indigenous communities and government officials to create Papua New Guinea's first official Conservation Area — a model for balancing the needs of people and animals in global biodiversity priority areas.*



*Giving endangered frogs a head start: Amphibians worldwide are fast disappearing due to habitat loss and a deadly fungus. Our team has mobilized with other Northwest organizations to save the Oregon spotted frog through a captive rearing and wild release program.*

## Establish the Conservation Fellows Program

This post-doctoral, cohort-based program will enable the zoo to enhance its research portfolio by hiring promising, early-career scientists dedicated to conservation research and practice in critical areas of wildlife conservation related to WPZ's areas of emphasis. The program contributes to our emergence as a leading conservation research center partnering with universities to advance solutions to questions confronting our region and our world, while inspiring and preparing the next generation. The more research and solutions we have, the more species and ecosystems we can save.

## From our Backyards to the Back Country

As a co-founder of the Northwest Zoo & Aquarium Alliance, we will leverage the expertise and resources of more than 10 other zoos and aquaria, and government wildlife agencies, to foster species recovery for native endangered animals and engage our collective 5 million visitors in preserving our region's biodiversity.