

2019 Impact Report

We Stand for Wildlife®



**Wildlife
Conservation
Society**

MISSION

WCS saves wildlife and wild places worldwide through science, conservation action, education, and inspiring people to value nature.

VISION

WCS envisions a world where wildlife thrives in healthy lands and seas, valued by societies that embrace and benefit from the diversity and integrity of life on Earth.



DISCOVER

We use science to inform our strategy and measure the impact of our work.

PROTECT

We protect the most important nature strongholds on land and at sea, and reduce key threats to wildlife and wild places.

INSPIRE

We connect people to nature through our world-class zoos, the New York Aquarium, and our education and outreach programs.

In 2018, our New York Aquarium opened a groundbreaking new exhibit: *Donald Zucker and Barbara Hrbek Zucker Ocean Wonders: Sharks!*

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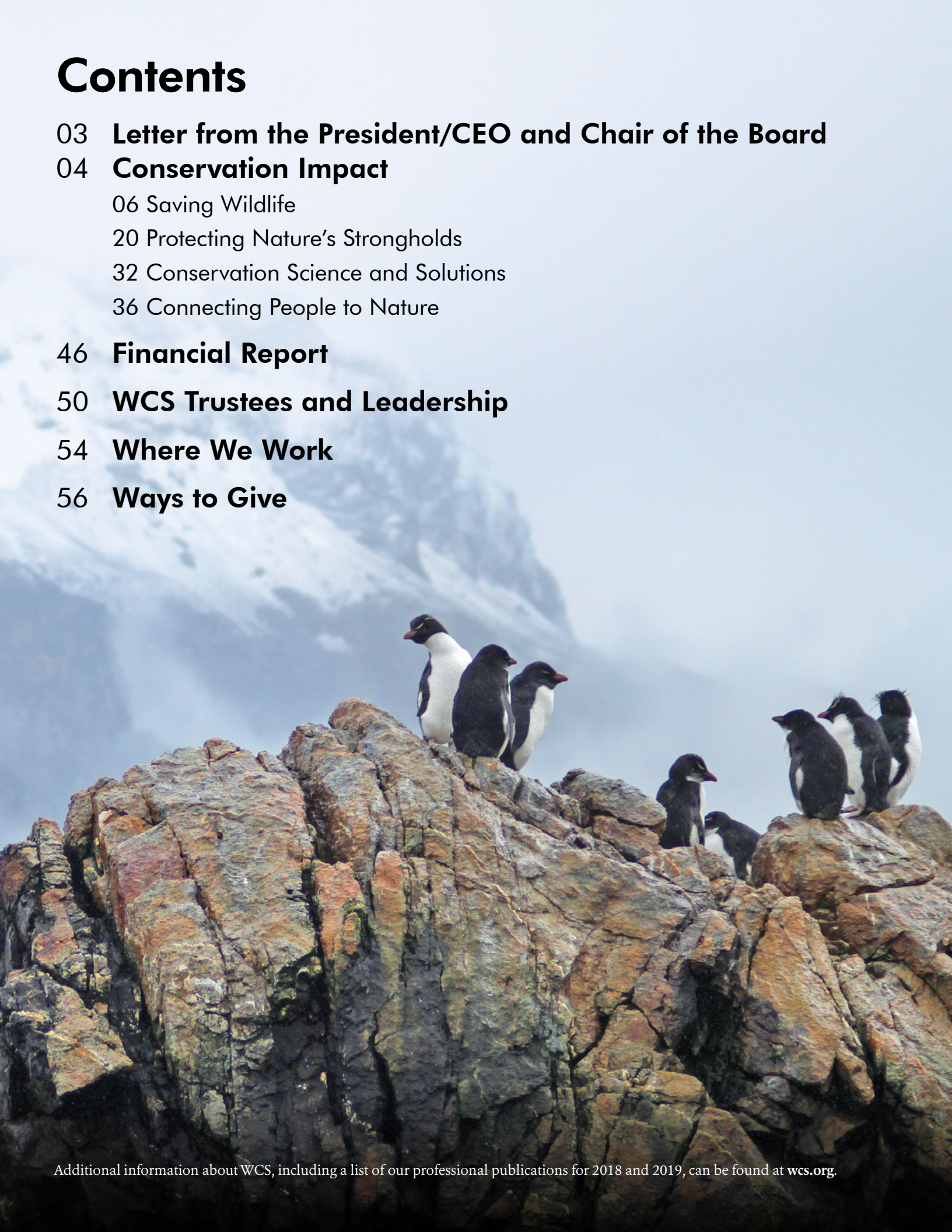
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Letter from the President/CEO and Chair of the Board

As the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) approaches its 125th anniversary in 2020, the stakes are high for wildlife and wild places.

A 2019 United Nations report confirmed that as many as 1 million species are now threatened with extinction—a potential loss of biodiversity that also threatens human survival.

But it is not too late to turn this crisis around. With your help, WCS is saving wildlife and wild places on land and at sea—while connecting people to nature through our world-class zoos and aquarium.

Tiger populations are rebounding at WCS sites. Elephant and ape populations have stabilized or grown where we have ensured effective, sustained protections, while elsewhere they have declined. Whales are now a common sight in the waters around New York.

We safeguard biodiversity by protecting nature’s strongholds in forests, grasslands, coral reefs, and other life-giving habitats, which also act as massive sinks for the carbon we urgently need to keep out of our atmosphere.

Across four continents and 60 countries, WCS is partnering with governments and communities to expand and strengthen the management of terrestrial and marine protected areas so that they can safeguard wildlife effectively. A case in point is Niassa National Reserve in Mozambique, where there have been no recorded cases of elephant poaching in over a year thanks to the introduction of aerial surveillance, a special police rapid intervention unit, and tougher sentences on poachers.


Sharing the wonders of the natural world through WCS’s urban wildlife parks is another essential element of our mission. For our 4 million annual visitors—and the millions




more who tune in to Animal Planet’s THE ZOO—seeing and learning about the astounding diversity of life on our planet fosters a love of animals, which helps us build a strong constituency for protecting them.

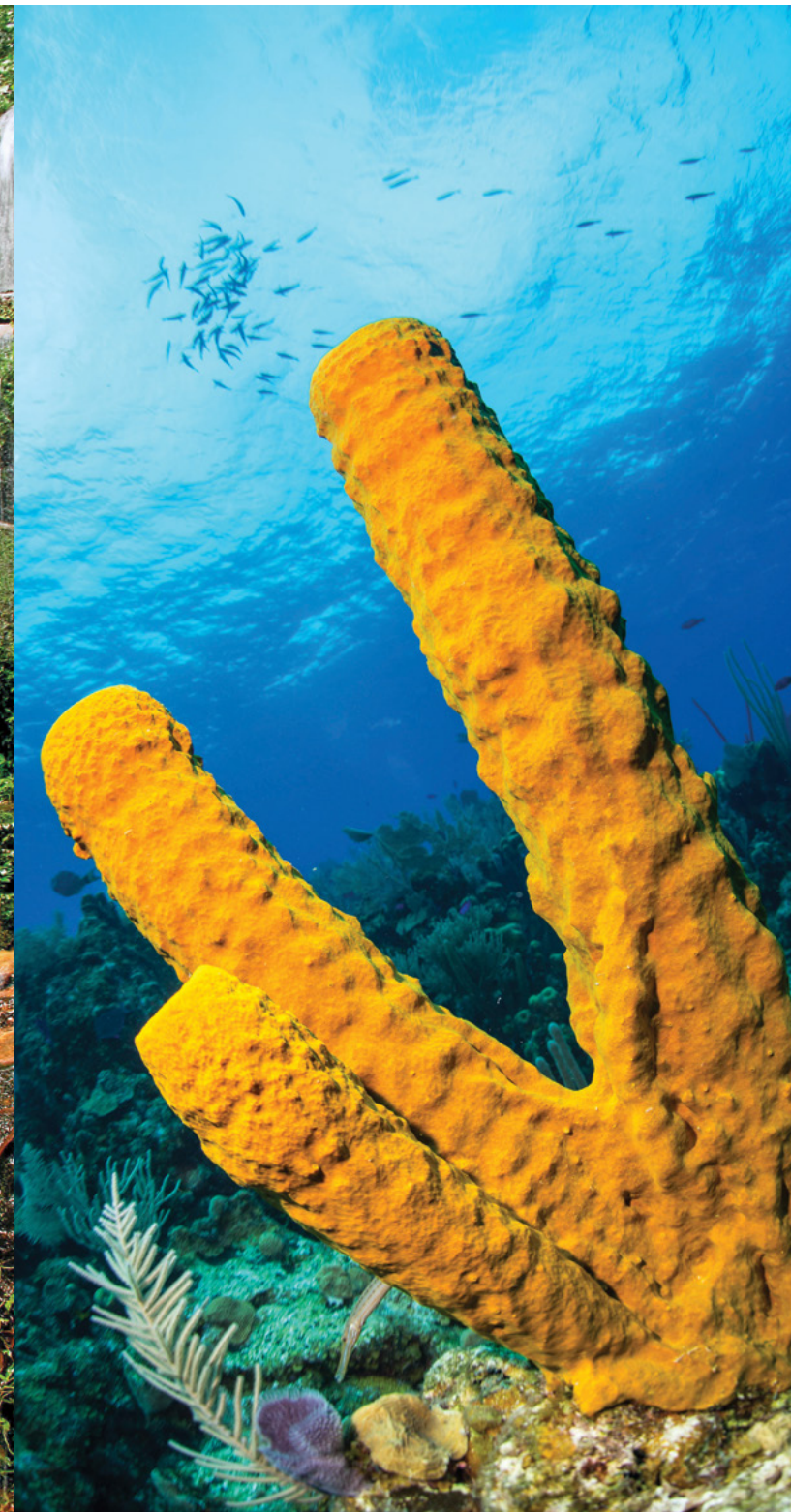
We are proud of WCS’s conservation impact, powered by our science-driven work in the field and our four zoos—the Bronx Zoo, Central Park Zoo, Prospect Park Zoo, and Queens Zoo—and our New York Aquarium, which opened the groundbreaking *Donald Zucker and Barbara Hrbek Zucker Ocean Wonders: Sharks!* exhibit in 2018.

We hope you feel proud, too. Throughout this report, you will see examples of our results—which are only possible because of your support, and the dedication of our staff and partners. Thank you.


Alejandro Santo Domingo
Chair of the Board


Cristián Samper
President & CEO

Conservation Impact



Saving Wildlife

Apex predators, ecosystem engineers, seed dispersers, pollinators: these are just a few of the vital roles that wildlife play in the habitats they call home. For that reason, species themselves are among the most important yardsticks we have to measure ecosystem health.

Declines in species numbers tell us about the threats we must address, such as habitat loss, poaching, human-wildlife conflict, and climate change. Species recovery and stable population levels show that our efforts to conserve nature's strongholds are succeeding.

WCS has had a demonstrated impact on safeguarding at-risk species. Across our long-term field sites, tiger and jaguar populations are rebounding. Elephant populations have stabilized or grown where WCS has worked over many years with our partners to ensure sustained management and protections. And whales are now a common sight in the waters around New York.

We focus on places where species have a real chance of recovery, using rigorous science to design effective strategies and continuously refine our approach. Our long-term presence and trusted partnerships in critical strongholds yield lasting results.



TIGERS

The majestic tiger, once the top predator across Asia’s vast tropical and temperate forests, is now the most endangered of all big cats, with fewer than 3,800 remaining in the wild. But there is reason for hope.

WCS is on the ground in 8 of the 10 tiger range countries, protecting approximately 60 percent of the world’s remaining wild tigers with a data-driven, coordinated conservation strategy that addresses all threats simultaneously, drawing on what we have learned over time about what works—and what does not work.

Our strategy is getting results. Tiger populations at WCS’s long-term field sites are at their natural carrying capacities or strongly recovering.

LOOKING AHEAD → → →

Our progress in the past decade tells us that it is possible to restore tiger populations to their natural carrying capacities at our field sites over time. What we do in the next few years is critical to determining whether we put the species on the road to recovery.



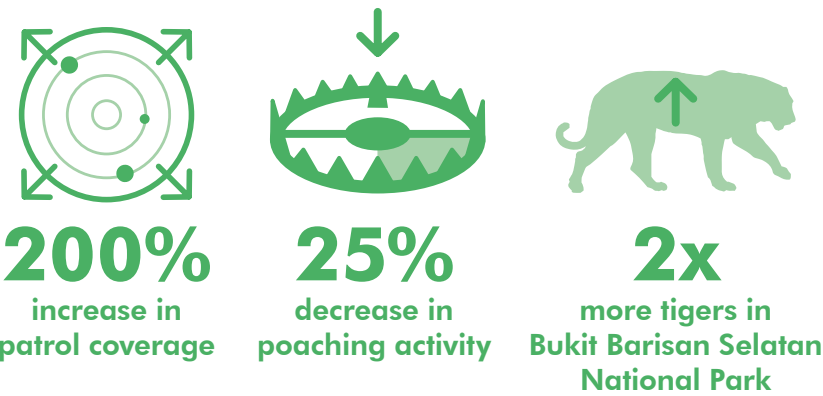
Indonesian Tigers Recovering

The Critically Endangered Sumatran tiger is the sole remaining subspecies of Indonesian “island tigers,” a group which once included the now-extinct Javan and Bali tigers. Despite intense threats from poaching, human-wildlife conflict, and habitat loss, WCS has worked in close partnership with the Government of Indonesia to nearly double the number of tigers within Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park since 2002.

This recovery was driven by a comprehensive, long-term strategy combining intelligence-driven law enforcement efforts, robust ranger patrols, and human-tiger conflict reduction. Today, WCS is supporting 11 ranger teams within the park, and over the last three years, patrol efforts have increased by more than 200 percent. As a result, we have documented a 25 percent decline in poaching activity. Furthermore, the park’s response units have quickly reacted to reports of conflict, resulting in no loss of tigers to retaliatory killing since 2011.

LOOKING AHEAD → → →

Tiger trafficking remains a major threat across the region; if we do not maintain and expand this work, tiger numbers will again decline and we will quickly lose the gains we have made. WCS aims to bolster our Wildlife Crimes Unit to dismantle criminal networks and support local judiciary partners in prosecutions, while continuing to improve anti-poaching efforts on the ground.





Poaching Reduced: Protecting Amur Tigers in Russia

Russia’s remarkable success story in conserving tigers began in 1950, when tigers began to rebound from a low of perhaps fewer than 30 animals to nearly 500 today. For the last three decades, WCS has advanced collaborative conservation in the Russian Far East, supporting the recovery and stabilization of tiger populations. We work across the tiger’s vast range in both protected and unprotected areas.

Within the Land of the Leopard National Park, WCS has helped strengthen law enforcement efforts, eliminate poaching, and increase numbers of both Amur tigers and highly endangered Amur leopards. Throughout 2018, rangers in this 2,620-square-kilometer park patrolled over 153,000 kilometers, yet recorded fewer confiscated firearms and poaching citations than ever before. Intensified anti-poaching patrols are truly having an impact.

To safeguard tigers outside reserves, WCS also works with one of the region’s dominant logging companies to reduce poacher access to logging roads. This collaboration resulted in more than 400 square kilometers of forest being made inaccessible to hunter incursion in 2018.

LOOKING AHEAD → → →

To further reduce poaching of tigers and timber, WCS must work with local partners to improve logging road management. We also seek to enhance tiger monitoring across Russia to ensure accurate population estimates and inform management decisions.



WCS EXPERT



Anak Pattanavibool
Country Director, WCS Thailand

Over my nearly 15 years leading WCS’s Thailand Program, I’ve seen the nation’s system of protected area management evolve to become more science-based and professionalized. This shift has enabled tigers, elephants, and sambar deer to return, filling the forests once again. With more of the improvements we’re making on the ground, we can grow several endangered species populations over the long run.



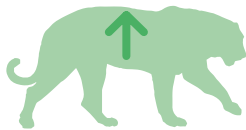
Expanding and Connecting Indian Tiger Strongholds

WCS’s long-term conservation investment in India’s Western Ghats has significantly helped grow Bengal tiger populations. The region’s protected areas now harbor more than 400 tigers, and some parks are at their natural carrying capacities.

But these tigers are threatened by habitat loss and fragmentation. To mitigate these threats, the Government of India, supported by WCS and other NGOs, has increased protections over the past two decades, including the expansion of two important protected areas in 2018. This will safeguard an additional 340 square kilometers of critical tiger habitat and restore connectivity across this landscape.

LOOKING AHEAD → → →

To ensure the survival of these big cats, we must advance our partnership with the Indian government to strengthen law enforcement, engage local communities in human-tiger conflict reduction, increase habitat continuity, and collaborate with leading experts on cutting-edge tiger science.



400%
increase in tiger
populations in
India’s Western Ghats



340 km²
of new parks
added in 2018



ELEPHANTS

WCS has a science-based global strategy to stop the killing of elephants, the trafficking of ivory, and the demand for ivory—and we are getting results. Elephant populations have stabilized or increased in African strongholds where WCS has ensured long-term, effective site management and protections.

With elephant conservation programs on the ground in 19 countries in Africa and Asia, we help secure protected areas, reduce human-elephant conflict, train and equip wildlife rangers, and monitor elephant numbers and poaching rates. We use the data we gather to push for tougher ivory trafficking legislation and policies—both at the national level and in the world’s largest conservation policy forums.

LOOKING AHEAD → → →

WCS envisions a future where elephants thrive and fulfill their ecological roles across our landscapes, coexisting with humans. Once we stabilize existing populations of elephants within WCS sites, our long-term goal is to recover elephants across as much of their former range as possible.

UK Win: Another Step Toward Banning Elephant Ivory Sales Worldwide

In 2018, on the heels of our successful efforts to advocate the closure of major domestic ivory markets in the United States and China, WCS supported the United Kingdom’s efforts to adopt one of the world’s strongest domestic ivory bans to date. To secure this crucial win, WCS provided the government with compelling scientific and technical advice, and publicly advocated for the ban.

WCS has advanced the global push to close all elephant ivory markets by providing policy expertise to governments, guiding them to implement effective domestic ivory bans that will help put a stop to the elephant poaching crisis.

LOOKING AHEAD → → →

Around the world, we are stepping up advocacy and urging countries with legal domestic ivory markets, such as European Union nations, Singapore, and Japan, to close their markets and play their part in saving elephants.



Poaching Crisis Halted in Mozambique

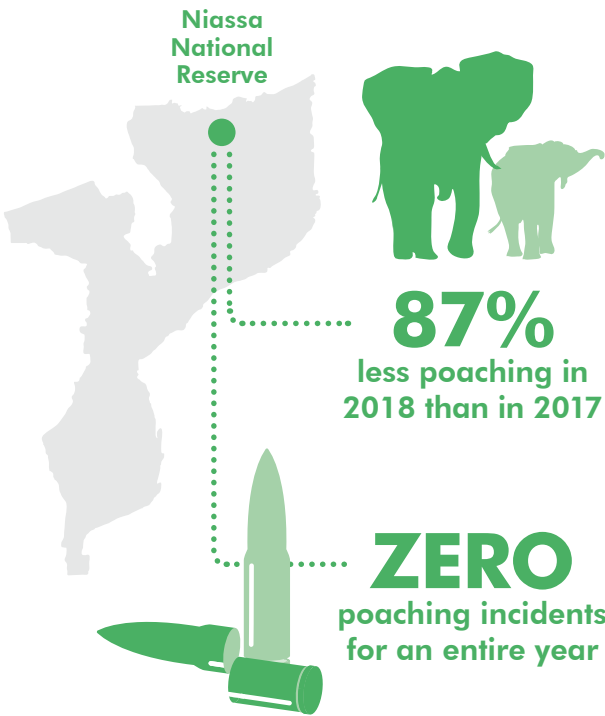
In Niassa National Reserve, Mozambique’s largest protected area and home of the country’s biggest elephant population, WCS has stemmed a 10-year poaching crisis, providing hope for recovery.

Elephant poaching dropped by 87 percent in 2018 compared to 2017. In May 2019, we reached an important milestone of zero poaching incidents for an entire year. Together with local and government partners, our anti-poaching efforts have succeeded by using a helicopter to conduct patrols in the wet season, deploying rangers and supplies quickly to remote locations, and improving communication of real-time data across the landscape.

Niassa’s elephants now stand a genuine chance of recovery. The park’s current population is estimated at fewer than 4,000, but given the enormous extent of wild habitat still available, the landscape could support as many as 20,000 elephants with continued investment.


LOOKING AHEAD → → →

Because elephants reproduce slowly, it will take time to rebuild the Niassa population to its previous level even if poaching is kept under control—so we must remain vigilant. To sustain our progress over the long term, WCS needs to hire and train additional rapid response teams to augment ongoing helicopter and airplane patrols.





WCS EXPERT



Christelle Gnalimon
Ranger, Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park

Being a female ranger gives you pride and makes you strong. My role is to protect elephants and the park's other wildlife from poaching by applying Congolese wildlife laws. If I had to send one message to poachers, it would be that when you kill an elephant, it is a loss for our entire country. I am passionate about winning the fight against illegal hunting, protecting species, and recovering what belongs to us. This will benefit our nation and its children, so they can see the elephants, gorillas, and pangolins we still have in the forests today.



Elephant Numbers Stabilizing at WCS Sites

WCS works in the most challenging elephant strongholds in Central and East Africa with some of the highest levels of elephant poaching on the continent. Yet in three key areas where we have provided long-term protection, elephant populations have stabilized. While trends in elephant numbers elsewhere are less encouraging, these wins at WCS sites demonstrate that our strategies are getting results:

- ✓ In Tanzania's Ruaha-Katavi landscape, WCS has halted the decline of East Africa's largest elephant population—currently about 20,000—for the first time since the ivory crisis began in 2005.
- ✓ In Mbam and Djerem National Park, Cameroon's largest national park and stronghold for the country's forest elephants, WCS has stabilized elephant and chimpanzee populations for the last 10 years. Today the park is estimated to have about 1,400 elephants.
- ✓ WCS's management of the Republic of Congo's Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park has helped it become one of the rare places in Central Africa where elephant populations are holding steady.

LOOKING AHEAD → → →

It is essential for WCS to support the long-term recovery of elephants in areas where their populations are stable or improving, while scaling up efforts in landscapes where poaching and habitat loss are driving population declines. Across our sites, we will strengthen park management, professionalize law enforcement activities, and build conservation constituencies with local communities.

Deforestation Slashed in Cambodia's Keo Seima

Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary in eastern Cambodia provides critical habitat for one of the largest remaining Asian elephant populations in the Greater Mekong region, but the park's elephants are threatened by forest clearing, poaching, and conflict with humans.

In partnership with local communities and the Government of Cambodia, we have drastically reduced deforestation within the park by improving law enforcement, strengthening community land management, developing alternative livelihoods, and establishing a carbon credit program that has helped avoid more than 11.5 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions.

Local Indigenous Peoples also rely on the forest for their survival and income. In the last two years, WCS has helped thousands of Khmer and Bunong Indigenous Peoples residing in Keo Seima to formalize their land rights and reduce their dependency on clearing forests. In 2019, we assisted in the establishment of the landscape's first Community Protected Area, which will be managed by households from three neighboring villages. This area is in addition

to the seven indigenous community titles that we already helped obtain for the Bunong Indigenous Peoples within the park.

LOOKING AHEAD → → →

Now that we have helped cut deforestation within the park, WCS must work with Cambodian government partners to counter deforestation and habitat loss around the sanctuary by further growing our presence and partnerships with local communities in Keo Seima's buffer zone.



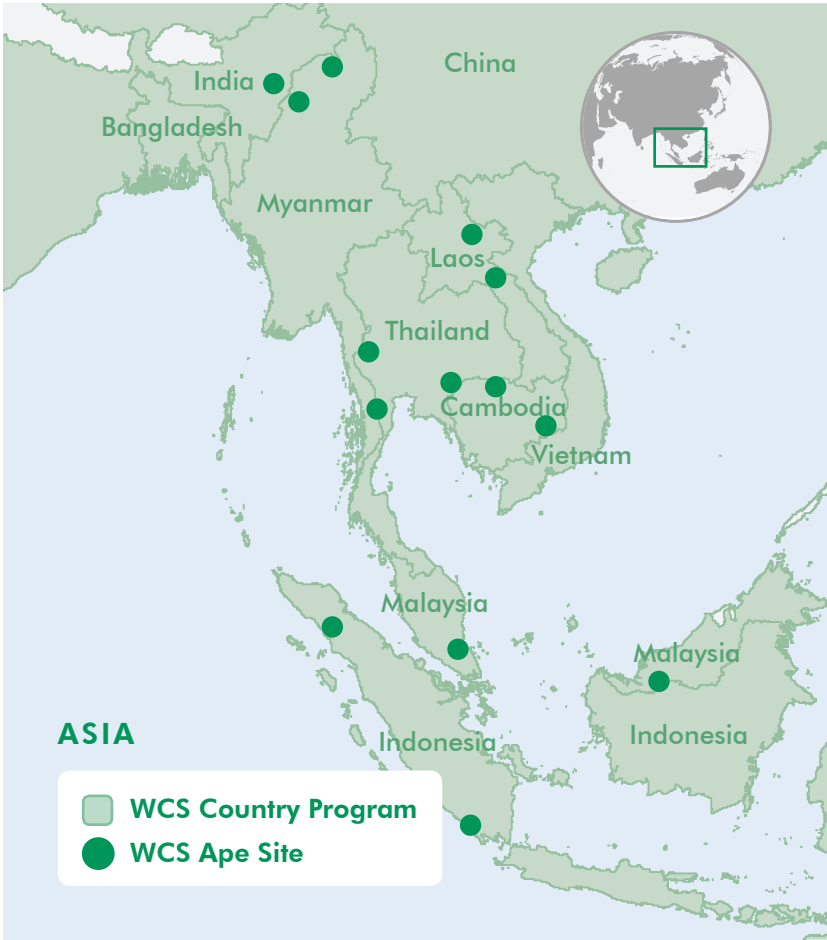
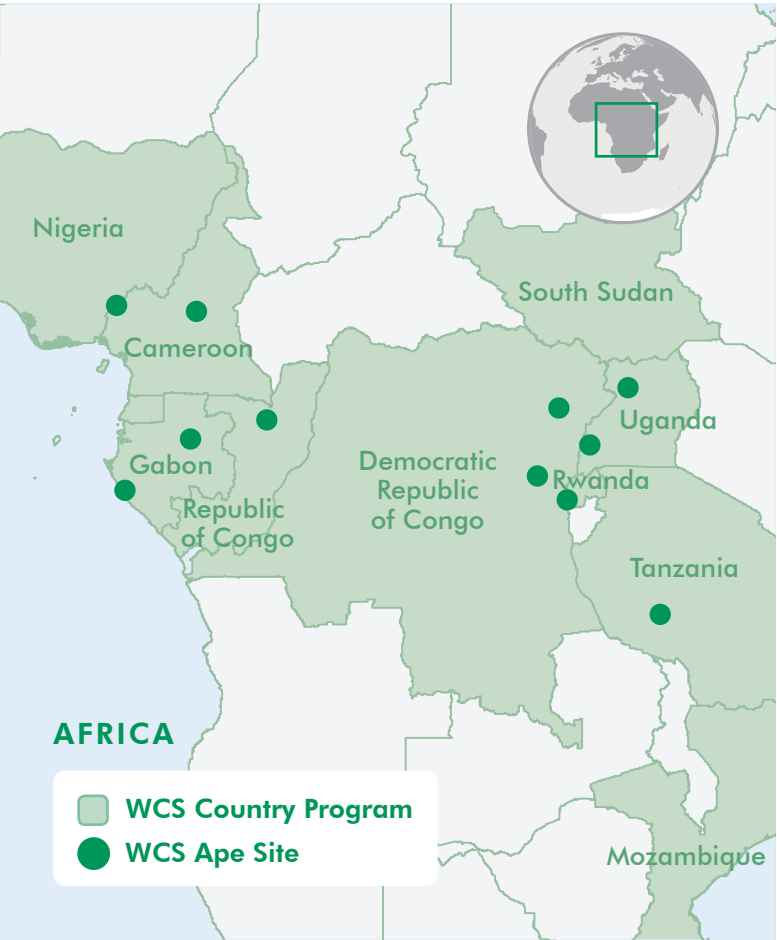
APES

Unprecedented human-caused pressures are pushing apes toward the brink of extinction. Habitat loss and fragmentation, poaching, and infectious disease have spurred the decline of nearly all species of apes worldwide. But it is not too late to turn this crisis around.

WCS is a global leader in ape conservation, with expertise spanning decades and teams on the ground in 14 countries across Africa and Asia protecting 70 percent of ape species. We are saving these animals through targeted on-the-ground measures that reduce pressure on apes and their habitats, improving their chances of survival.

LOOKING AHEAD → → →

To counter the threats facing apes, WCS must work with local communities to reduce deforestation and hunting of these animals within and beyond protected areas. With our government partners, we must also ensure that key ape strongholds are legally designated as protected areas, and provide support for effective management and law enforcement to prevent poaching.



WCS-Led Study Finds More Gorillas and Chimpanzees Than Previously Estimated

In 2018, WCS and partners completed the most comprehensive survey of western lowland gorillas and central chimpanzees to date, revealing that populations of gorillas and chimpanzees across Western Equatorial Africa are approximately one-third and one-tenth higher, respectively, than previously thought. Our decade-long study covered a 192,000-square-kilometer area and reported over 360,000 gorillas and 130,000 chimpanzees across their combined ranges.

Our research also revealed that 80 percent of these African great apes are found outside of formally protected areas. Models suggest that many populations, especially of gorillas, are declining; however, scientists confirmed that where rangers were present, apes were found in higher numbers.

LOOKING AHEAD → → →

These results are a clarion call for WCS and others to work with regional and national governments as well as local communities to establish additional protected areas, prevent conversion of intact forests to other uses, and safeguard animals both inside and outside park borders.

OUR SURVEY RESULTS:



360,000
western lowland gorillas

130,000
central chimpanzees

Ape Numbers Stabilizing in WCS Landscapes

WCS’s sustained conservation efforts have resulted in stable great ape populations at nearly all of our field sites in Africa. This is encouraging news considering the overall species losses elsewhere and the global status of these great ape species: four out of six are one step away from extinction. At all 10 sites where WCS is working to conserve chimpanzee populations, they are holding steady.

In Asia, ape numbers are more challenging to measure, but our field data indicate that where we work, the populations of Sumatran orangutans in Indonesia and Bornean orangutans in Malaysia are constant, while these species are declining across much of the rest of their range.

LOOKING AHEAD → → →

These trends are promising, yet there is still much more to be done. We seek to multiply our wins and recover apes to sustainable and thriving levels by protecting key habitat, stopping poaching and trade in apes, and conducting research, particularly on the Ebola virus and prevention of its transmission.



African apes are

STABLE

across WCS sites



WCS Protecting Orangutans in Key Bornean Landscape

Critically Endangered Bornean orangutans live in some of the world’s fastest developing areas, and their forest homes are rapidly disappearing due to commercial agriculture, particularly for palm oil, and logging. WCS is helping protect the largest Bornean orangutan population remaining in the Malaysian state of Sarawak.

Within the Batang Ai National Park and Lanjak-Entimau Wildlife Sanctuary landscape, we work closely with government agencies and together have stabilized orangutan numbers, eliminated poaching, and significantly reduced habitat loss. In 2018, WCS also partnered with local communities to strengthen and expand orangutan protections by concentrating patrol efforts in high-risk areas and engaging more villages in community patrolling.



LOOKING AHEAD → → →

Our goal is to further increase protection of orangutans inside Sarawak’s existing protected areas by minimizing encroachment and preventing poaching. Additionally, we must identify remaining orangutan populations outside of protected areas in order to ensure their long-term conservation.

Protecting Nature's Strongholds

Defending nature's strongholds—the world's remaining areas of protected wilderness on land and at sea—is our best hope for ensuring the survival of wildlife and ecosystems.

Intact forests support two-thirds of all land-based plants and animals, sustain 1.6 billion people, and absorb about a quarter of annual global carbon emissions. Healthy ocean habitats provide half of our atmosphere's oxygen, safeguard vital species, feed nearly 3 billion people, and strengthen climate resilience.

Yet these vital wild places could vanish within our lifetimes. WCS research has found that only 23 percent of the terrestrial and 13 percent of the marine surface are still ecologically intact—putting the Earth at risk of irreversible biodiversity loss. We have a limited window of opportunity to prevent the extinction of countless wildlife species and avert untold human suffering.

WCS has helped create more than 265 terrestrial and marine protected areas over the last century. Today, we work with national governments and local communities around the world to manage and monitor several hundred protected areas.

We are now scaling up our successful models to protect the planet's five great forests, the ocean's most climate change-resilient coral reefs, and other vital strongholds around the world—drawing on best-in-class science to identify the most critical areas for conservation and species recovery.



AFRICA

Securing Africa's Strongholds

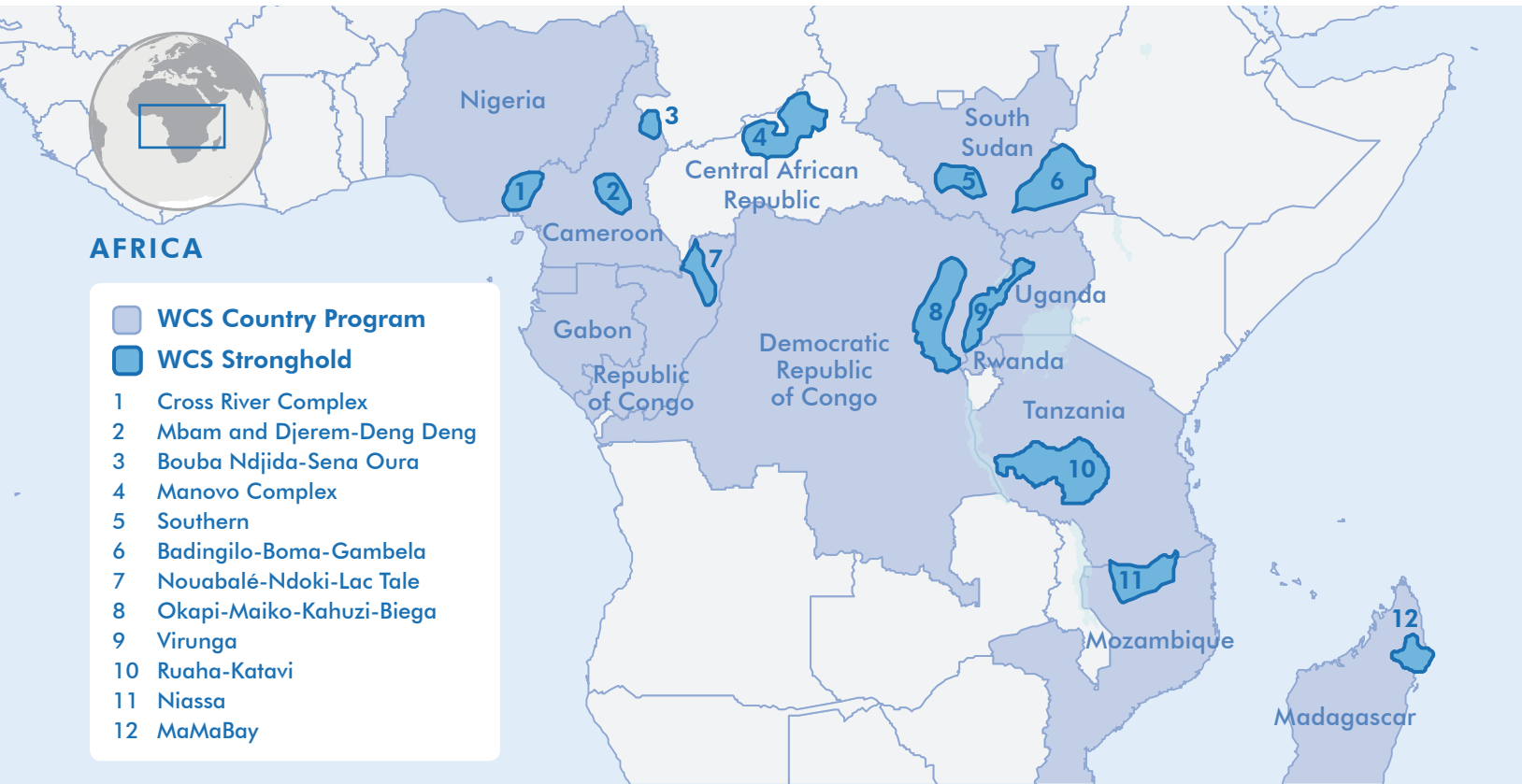
Africa presents a significant opportunity to make huge conservation gains—or suffer massive losses. The continent's last natural strongholds are large and intact enough to sustain a full array of wild species, provide the water and carbon storage essential for national development and global survival, and support the livelihoods of some of the world's poorest people.

But as Africa's human population and national economies rapidly grow, so do the intensity and velocity of threats bearing down on the continent's wildlife and wild places. They urgently need our protection. Our choices now will determine whether elephants, lions, rhinos, great apes, and other iconic African species go extinct—or survive and eventually flourish when demographic and development pressures ease, as historic global trends suggest they may.

WCS has developed an evidence-based, continental strategy for long-term conservation

and species recovery in Africa, focusing on natural strongholds with the greatest conservation value and lasting impact opportunities. For example: last fall, we helped advance the creation of the Republic of Congo's Ogooué-Leketi National Park, a 3,500-square-kilometer protected area which, together with Plateaux Batéké National Park in neighboring Gabon, safeguards a vast expanse of forest and savannah habitat. The new park will protect many threatened species, including gorillas and chimpanzees, by eliminating logging activities and ensuring local communities can continue traditional subsistence-based gathering, fishing, and hunting.

LOOKING AHEAD → → →
We aim to scale up our work within 12 strongholds (see map below) so that populations of elephants, lions, great apes, and other key species can begin to recover over the next decade.



Regional Priority Species



Elephants



Lions



Gorillas



Whales and dolphins



Sharks and rays





Ndoki: A Model for Saving Africa's Intact Forests



The Republic of Congo's Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park is a bright star—one of the few places in the region where elephant and ape populations have remained stable or increased over the last 10 years, despite escalating levels of poaching and logging that threaten the natural riches of northern Congo and several neighboring countries.

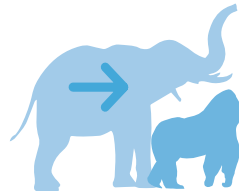
WCS has led the charge to secure this victory. Since helping to establish the park in the early 1990s, we have worked with the government to strengthen our mandate in the management of the park. In 2014, the government delegated full park management authority to WCS, which enabled us to professionalize our ranger patrols, increase patrol coverage, establish aerial surveillance operations, and introduce real-time communications technology.

In recent years, WCS has expanded the park's ranger force sixfold, with 70 rangers now trained and equipped. In 2018, these ranger teams increased patrol coverage to more than 74,000 kilometers of critical forest and river habitat, made more than 60 arrests, confiscated 200 kilograms of ivory, and rescued 95 live African gray parrots that had been destined for the illegal pet trade.



Since 2013, ranger force expanded

6x



Elephants and apes in Ndoki stable for

10+ YRS

Our Wildlife Crime Unit helps identify, investigate, and dismantle the organized criminal networks responsible for poaching and trafficking of ivory and other wildlife products in and around the park. The Unit ensures that kingpin poachers and traffickers are brought to justice: since 2016, we have secured 57 wildlife trafficking convictions, and in the last two years alone, we have doubled the rate of convictions receiving the maximum penalty.

LOOKING AHEAD → → →

WCS now seeks to apply lessons learned from Ndoki in other strongholds across Africa. WCS signed a public-private partnership agreement in 2018 confirming our management of Okapi Wildlife Reserve in the Democratic Republic of Congo over the next 10 years. This partnership will enable us to more effectively conserve the stronghold's unique biodiversity, including okapi and threatened primate and bird species.

WCS EXPERT



Germain Mavah
Community Conservation Coordinator, WCS Congo

My career in conservation is driven by my strong desire to understand natural resource issues and the needs of wildlife. My dream is to build a strong bridge between conservation and communities. I've been working with WCS for 18 years, and earlier this year, I began managing an initiative that improves food security by helping communities more sustainably manage their consumption of wild meat. Our team's efforts are critical: they protect the environment while improving the lives of Congo's rural people.

Preventing Poaching in a Southeast Asian Stronghold

Thailand’s Huai Kha Khaeng and Thung Yai Wildlife Sanctuaries and the surrounding Western Forest Complex of protected areas comprise the most important stronghold for the long-term recovery of tigers in the country. But historically, poaching has severely impacted both tigers and their prey.

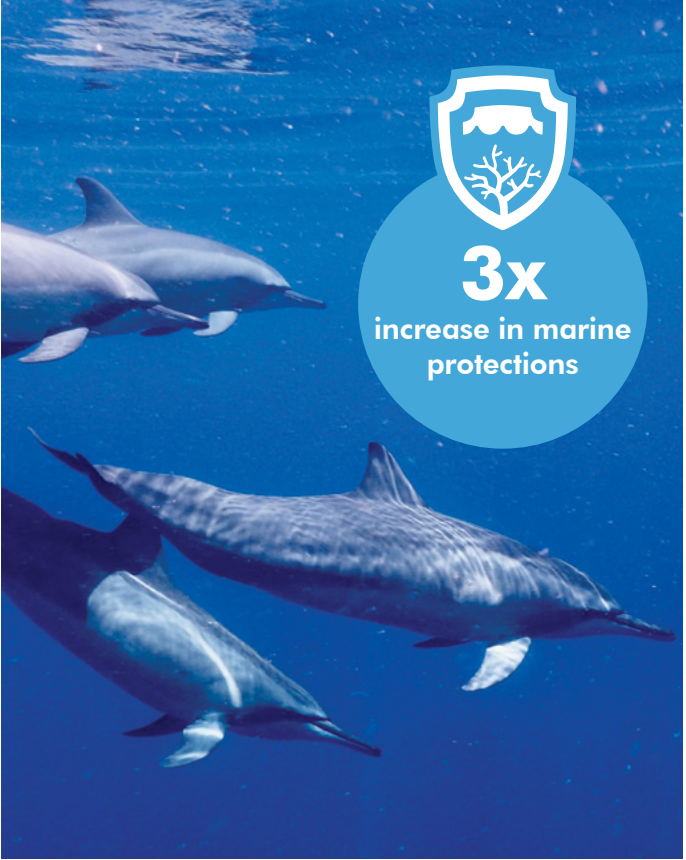
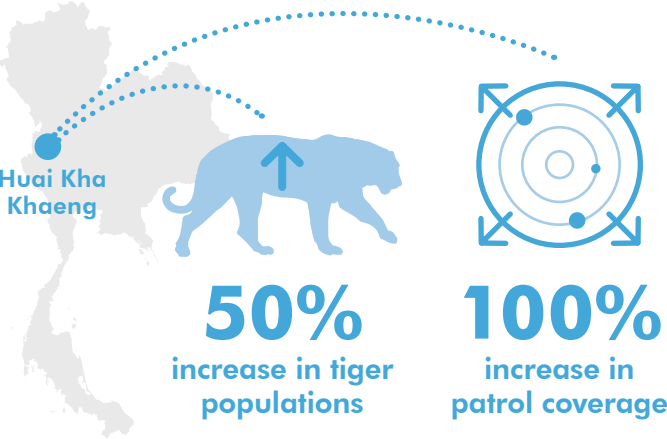
WCS conservation actions in this 18,000-square-kilometer landscape since the mid-2000s have transformed it into a model for effective biodiversity conservation in Southeast Asia. In this region alone, tiger populations have increased by 50 percent; patrol coverage has increased by 100 percent; and the Thai government’s investment in the sanctuary’s management has increased by 75 percent.

Under WCS’s co-management, the patrol system in the Huai Kha Khaeng and Thung Yai Sanctuaries has grown to be the largest in Thailand, with 52 patrol teams averaging 4,000 kilometers of patrols each month. Each team is well-equipped and trained in the SMART patrol system, which integrates real-time data that boosts the patrols’ effectiveness.

Zero tiger or elephant poaching incidents have occurred in this stronghold since 2017, and monitoring efforts throughout 2019 so far indicate the largest-ever number of tigers in the region, with 78 adults identified through camera

traps. Patrol teams have destroyed 144 poacher camps and arrested more than 60 wildlife criminals.

LOOKING AHEAD → → →
WCS’s work in Huai Kha Khaeng and Thung Yai has helped recover vital tiger populations in Thailand. To save more tigers, we must now replicate this approach in neighboring protected areas.



Conserving Corals, Sustaining Livelihoods in Papua New Guinea

The Government of Papua New Guinea announced a commitment in 2018 to triple the area of its ocean protections by designating two new marine protected areas. With support from WCS, the government will establish the two new marine protected areas by 2021 to safeguard a large expanse of the Bismarck Sea, one of the key hotspots of marine life in the Coral Triangle.

Papua New Guinea’s waters support more than three-quarters of the world’s known hard coral species, nearly 2,000 species of fish, and more than 130 species of sharks and rays. WCS has helped conserve Papua New Guinea’s marine environments since 2002, building trusted relationships with the government and local communities. We conducted the scientific surveys, community outreach, and policy work needed to protect this globally important coral reef stronghold.

Through extensive consultations with more than 150 coastal communities in the region whose livelihoods and food security depend on the health of these habitats, we found that the vast majority of local people want to legally secure their natural resources.

LOOKING AHEAD → → →
WCS must advance its work with coastal communities to ensure that they can secure management rights throughout the new marine parks. Covering 7,500 square kilometers, the new parks will protect critical habitats for birds, sharks, and sea turtles, in addition to advancing the recovery of mangrove forests in the Pacific Ocean’s Coral Triangle—the global epicenter of marine biodiversity.



Sangeeta Mangubhai
Country Director, WCS Fiji

I’m fortunate to lead a group of inspiring scientists and practitioners who are committed to the health and prosperity of our beautiful country, working closely with local communities and the government. Places like Fiji must carefully balance the preservation of culture, protection of biodiversity, and the sustainable use of natural resources while fulfilling development aspirations. We are excited to develop solutions to protect the most climate-resilient coral reefs and bolster local people’s livelihoods, including women.

AMERICAS

Stopping Deforestation through Indigenous-Led Conservation in Bolivia

Within Bolivia and Peru’s lush Madidi-Tambopata landscape, WCS is saving intact forest habitat and the species that rely on it. For two decades, we have provided comprehensive, on-the-ground support to national parks and local communities.

Working with Indigenous Peoples in the landscape, we have secured low overall deforestation rates in their territories comparable to those of the neighboring national protected areas. A WCS satellite image analysis showed that the deforestation rate within the most vulnerable portion of the Tacana Indigenous Territory is 273 percent lower than in non-indigenous land outside the territory. Conservation efforts have also enabled jaguar populations within Madidi National Park to rise threefold since 2002. These wins are proof that the Tacana are powerful conservation partners.

After helping Indigenous Peoples secure their legal claim to a significant portion of the landscape, our team in Bolivia helped build consensus on a sustainable land-use plan and natural resource strategy among the 20 communities living in the Tacana’s territory. This plan and similar WCS-supported plans with a range of partners across the landscape safeguard habitat for more than 1,100 species of birds and about 300 species of mammals.

Deforestation rates in the Tacana’s territory are 273 percent lower than in non-indigenous land.

LOOKING AHEAD → → →

WCS’s conservation approach in Madidi demonstrates the clear value of providing Indigenous Peoples with the recognition and rights they need to sustainably manage their lands—and we seek to replicate this model around the globe.



Rewilding the American West

WCS has protected critical species and ecosystems throughout Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming for more than a decade by reducing human-wildlife conflict and better connecting habitats. We collaborate with Tribes and First Nations, rural communities, government, and industry stakeholders on plans that advance sustainable economies and human well-being while achieving landscape-level conservation. For example, in 2018, WCS helped protect a 4,500-acre wildlife corridor critical to connecting recovered grizzly bear populations in Greater Yellowstone to populations in the north.

We are now leveraging our conservation success in the Northern Rockies by expanding our work into the Southern Rockies and the Southwest Borderlands, working to rewild Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico.

LOOKING AHEAD → → →

Throughout the Rockies, we aim to restore and protect key wildlife corridors in river systems; further reduce human conflict with grizzly bears and beavers; and advance ecological and cultural connectivity for bison through our longstanding relationships with the Blackfoot Nation and three First Nation communities in Canada.

Regional Priority Species



Grizzlies



Bison



Wolverines



Protecting Vital Marine Ecosystems in Patagonia



WCS played a major role in a partnership to build support for two massive offshore marine parks that the Government of Argentina created in 2018 in the southwest Atlantic, nearly tripling the size of the country’s ocean protections. These parks, called Yaganes and Namuncurá-Burdwood Bank II, protect about 85,000 square kilometers of habitat

and critical feeding grounds for penguins, sea lions, fur seals, sharks and rays, cold-water corals, mollusks, sponges, and many marine species found nowhere else on Earth.

WCS has worked to protect the vulnerable wildlife and habitats of coastal Patagonia since the 1970s, and also supports a consortium of conservation partners dedicated to safeguarding this stronghold. Leveraging our close relationships with these partners, including the government and other scientists in this region, our team in Argentina proposed the concept and gathered baseline data needed to secure the two new parks.

This win is vital to maintaining the region’s productive ecosystems and improving their resilience to the impacts of climate change.

LOOKING AHEAD → → →

To counter the loss of global marine wilderness, we must further expand ocean protections, working closely with governments and communities to strengthen long-term management and enforcement in key habitats. By assisting in the strategic creation and expansion of marine protected areas, we can help reduce fishery pressures and protect the most vibrant, resilient marine ecosystems.



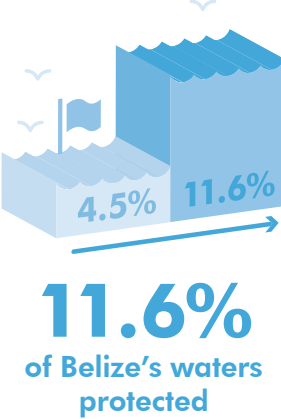
85,000 km²
of marine habitat protected



Belize: Global Model for Protecting Ocean Strongholds

Over the past three decades, WCS’s marine conservation work in Belize has evolved into a powerful model for effective marine management globally. Long-term data show the country’s ocean ecosystems thriving in areas that are strictly protected from fishing.

Since the start of our pioneering coral conservation work in Belize, the size and density of reef species in key areas has markedly improved: conches and lobsters have increased threefold; large herbivores such as the parrotfish have doubled; and populations of groupers and other large predator species have grown significantly. These improvements can be directly attributed to WCS’s sustainable management techniques, which include the establishment of protected areas with replenishment zones: areas where commercial fishing is completely prohibited to allow the recovery of fish stocks and marine ecosystems.



In 2019, following six years of extensive scientific support and stakeholder engagement from WCS, the Government of Belize announced that it will triple the area of the country’s strictly protected marine waters by creating vast new replenishment zones. WCS played a key role in identifying which areas should be protected, performing survey and monitoring work and documenting potential boundaries.

Belize’s new replenishment zones will protect the country’s vast deep reef environments from overfishing—one of the greatest threats to reefs overall—and enable the long-term health, resilience, and sustainable management of these habitats.

LOOKING AHEAD → → →

We seek to apply our successful community-led conservation model in other WCS priority regions, such as the Western Indian Ocean and Melanesia’s Coral Triangle, protecting corals through replenishment (no-take) zones and sustainable fisheries. Our efforts will assist countries across the globe in meeting or exceeding their UN targets for new marine protections by 2020.



Conservation Science and Solutions

As the world’s premiere wildlife conservation organization, WCS has been turning science into conservation action since 1895. WCS’s best-in-class scientists have a prolific record of more than 300 high-impact papers published annually in peer-reviewed journals.

To take just one example: WCS’s Kendall R. Jones was the lead author of a seminal 2018 study published in *Current Biology* which found that only 13 percent of the world’s oceans can still be considered wilderness. This research is helping to drive the global push for increasing marine protections and safeguarding vulnerable ocean habitats.

Around the world, WCS is developing science-based solutions to a range of threats to wildlife and wild places, including habitat loss, illegal wildlife trade, disease, and climate change. We are demonstrating the power of nature-based solutions to climate change through our efforts to protect the planet’s most resilient coral reefs and the world’s five great forests, which function as massive carbon sinks. We have helped win major victories for trafficked species including sharks, pangolins, and elephants. And WCS’s study of Ebola in apes and fruit bats is bringing the scientific community closer to being able to predict and mitigate the effects of future outbreaks on people and animals.



Devising Novel Solutions to the Climate Crisis

Climate change is transforming the planet. Sea ice is vanishing, oceans are warming, waters are rising, species migrations are shifting, precipitation patterns are changing, and the frequency and severity of extreme weather events are climbing. Globally, these threats have the potential to trigger unprecedented biodiversity losses.

The world’s remaining wilderness areas are natural bulwarks against this planetary shift, and WCS is at the forefront of safeguarding them—driving policy that recognizes the value of nature-based solutions. We are developing cutting-edge science to mitigate the effects of climate change, including the world’s first-ever forest integrity metric and a predictive map that will show the risks to intact forests through 2050—highlighting the importance of protecting them to minimize global temperature rise. In the field, we are putting into action solutions that bolster the ability of ecosystems to adapt. We are also helping to ensure that local communities and Indigenous Peoples, among the most vulnerable to climate threats, can adapt their economies and livelihoods.

LOOKING AHEAD → → →

In the marine realm, WCS aims to identify and protect the world’s “reefs for the future”—those coral ecosystems that show the most promising potential to escape the devastating effects of ocean warming. On land, our goal is to conserve the planet’s most carbon-rich intact forests that together absorb close to one-quarter of annual global carbon emissions.



Ending Wildlife Crime

The ivory crisis has focused global attention on the broader issue of wildlife crime. WCS's efforts to save elephants and other heavily trafficked species have made us a global leader in combatting illegal wildlife trade.

Our goal is nothing short of ending this illicit practice worldwide, tackling it with our government partners from every angle: by safeguarding wildlife strongholds, disrupting criminal networks, promoting policy changes at the national and international levels, and closing major markets for illegal wildlife.

Today, WCS has the largest global anti-trafficking presence of any conservation organization. We have expert anti-trafficking teams on the ground in every region of the world—including source, transit, and consumer countries—that help uncover and dismantle criminal networks by converting actionable intelligence into effective law enforcement, working closely with government partners. Our skilled international policy experts are driving political will and action at the intergovernmental level.



LOOKING AHEAD → → →

We cannot rest in our fight against wildlife trafficking, and WCS must swiftly tackle emerging threats. On the strategic front, we seek to enhance cooperation between governments along the trade chain, and apply novel criminology techniques to help governments thwart trafficking networks.

Developing Groundbreaking Wildlife Health Solutions

Understanding the connections between animal and human health—and managing the risks that these links can create—is core to effective conservation. WCS is the only major conservation organization with an international team of specialized veterinarians and scientists dedicated to disease surveillance, rapid response, local training, and groundbreaking zoo and wildlife health research. We support breeding and reintroduction of endangered species, provide specialized care for thousands of animals, and innovate approaches to wildlife and livestock management. All of these efforts help save wildlife.

Consider just one example. Diseases such as the Ebola virus can devastate human communities—but also great ape populations. For 15 years, WCS researchers have been working in Ebola hotspots, monitoring great ape health and disease outbreaks, conducting research on Ebola virus ecology, and building prevention awareness in at-risk areas. Our testing of animal carcasses and bats as potential disease vectors is helping determine how Ebola spreads—and how it might be contained. We apply these and other solutions to strengthen long-term conservation efforts.

LOOKING AHEAD → → →

In our zoos and aquarium, we seek to deliver unparalleled animal care, rescue and rehabilitate illegally traded species, develop new diagnostic technology, and conduct cutting-edge veterinary treatment that informs our fieldwork. Around the world, we must deploy rapid responses to new outbreaks, study disease threats on a global scale, and train local teams to conduct surveillance and uncover growing risks.



Connecting People to Nature

WCS's five wildlife parks forge memorable, lifelong connections to nature and inspire people to become conservation advocates. WCS leads the pack in the field of zoos and aquariums through our unique animal collections; dynamic, naturalistic exhibits; and hands-on education programs.

Our reach is unmatched: the Bronx Zoo, Central Park Zoo, Queens Zoo, Prospect Park Zoo, and New York Aquarium comprise the world's largest network of urban wildlife parks. Together, our parks welcome 4 million guests each year and provide science learning opportunities for more than 150,000 students annually. Millions more around the world gain a window into WCS's work through Animal Planet's award-winning docuseries THE ZOO.

Our skilled curators and animal experts ensure the highest standard of care for every animal. They also partner with field staff around the globe to sustain threatened and endangered species, and our veterinarians investigate and develop solutions for diseases that threaten wild populations.





Ocean Wonders: Sharks! Opens at the New York Aquarium

In 2018, our New York Aquarium opened a groundbreaking new exhibit—*Donald Zucker and Barbara Hrbek Zucker Ocean Wonders: Sharks!*—which houses 18 species of sharks and rays and more than 115 other species of marine life. This immersive, interactive exhibit educates visitors about how sharks are more than just awe-inspiring top predators: they are critical to the health of the world’s oceans, face intense threats including overfishing and illegal trade, and urgently need our protection.

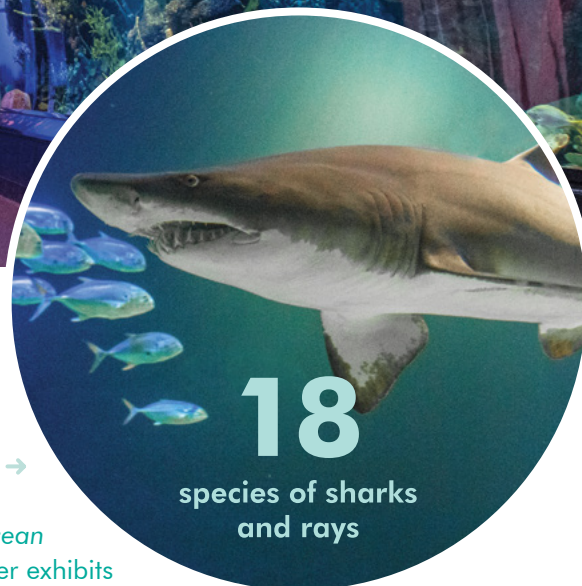
Ocean Wonders: Sharks! serves as the locus of WCS’s innovative new education programs, broad community outreach, and critical marine research. More than 770,000 people experienced this state-of-the-art exhibit in its first year, including more than 48,000 students. The exhibit is increasing visitors’ awareness of how their actions affect the ocean: more than half of those we surveyed in the last year committed to decreasing their usage of single-use plastics after learning how these products threaten marine species.

LOOKING AHEAD → → →

Through the New York-focused exhibits within *Ocean Wonders: Sharks!*, our other exhibits showcasing sea life from around the world, and new exhibits opening in 2019, we aim to provide a growing number of visitors to WCS’s New York Aquarium with up-close encounters with marine species, and inspire them to speak out against the growing threats to their local seascape and our ocean, such as pollution and unsustainable fishing.

“Sharks aren’t just movie stars and aquarium attractions. They’re also our neighbors—as much a part of Coney Island as the roller coasters and summer dreams.”

—*The New York Times* (June 28, 2018)



New Exhibits: PlayQuarium and Spineless

We continued the dramatic transformation of WCS’s New York Aquarium by creating two new exhibits that spark wonder and awe through up-close animal views and interactive experiences.

PlayQuarium connects children to the ocean’s fascinating and diverse ecosystems through immersive, imaginative play. Larger-than-life spaces modeled after coral reefs, kelp forests, and an explorer’s submarine encourage young visitors to role-play as scientists and experience the world from an ocean animal’s perspective. With displays that are fully bilingual in English and Spanish, PlayQuarium offers an accessible, fun learning experience for children and their families.

The other new exhibit—Spineless—takes guests on a journey through the weird and wonderful world of marine invertebrates. Visitors get a unique view of cuttlefish, lobsters, crabs, jellies—and even a giant Pacific octopus—while learning about these species’ roles in their ecosystems.

LOOKING AHEAD → → →

We seek to invest in more inclusive visitor experiences for our diverse visitor audiences across all of our New York City wildlife parks.





Providing Career Pathways for Youth at WCS’s Parks

Crystal Cabreja from Soundview in the Bronx is a recent alumna of WCS and Fordham University’s Project TRUE (Teens Researching Urban Ecology), a program that provides vital opportunities for students underrepresented in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) to grow as conservation professionals.

During her time in the program, Crystal studied urban ecology of the American eel in the Bronx and Hutchinson Rivers. In 2019, she was awarded a full scholarship to the University of Vermont, where she will pursue a degree in zoology with a focus on wildlife conservation. Crystal said: “I was always interested in nature and science growing up, but I never really thought I could engage in fieldwork. Project TRUE boosted my confidence 100 percent and gave me the extra push to pursue science as a career.”

The Bronx Zoo is the largest youth employer in the borough, and provides a growing group of diverse, young New Yorkers with professional development, STEM education, and peer networking to help transform their experiences with WCS into future careers. In 2018, more than 135,000 students participated in hands-on science workshops at our zoos and aquarium, and we helped more than 100 youth participants from WCS education programs transition into new careers in our organization.

LOOKING AHEAD → → →

We aim to expand our reach in under-resourced communities by hiring more educators and increasing the number of free programs we offer in the coming years.



Saving Sharks in the New York Seascape and Beyond

Ocean Wonders: Sharks! educates visitors about sharks and other species native to the New York seascape, and complements WCS’s field conservation efforts in this 41,000-square-kilometer expanse of ocean. For example, our New York Aquarium researchers have tagged and studied six species of sharks since 2012, and used these data to identify a critical sand tiger shark nursery off Long Island’s coast. Such research strengthens our advocacy for improved policies to safeguard sharks and rays in local waters, ensuring that industrial and shipping activities do no harm.

WCS’s work in the New York seascape is part of our larger strategy to stop the global shark crisis. One of our priority shark conservation sites is Indonesia where, over the last five years, WCS has worked with government and community partners to build a global model for effective shark and ray anti-trafficking efforts. Our team aids in the investigation, arrest, and prosecution of illegal wildlife traders. Manta ray killings in Indonesia have declined by 75 percent since we began this work, and about 30 percent of the country’s known shark and ray trade network has been dismantled.

LOOKING AHEAD → → →

In Indonesia, we aim to help dismantle an additional 20 percent of the shark and ray trade network, and establish at least two new marine protected areas to safeguard shark habitat and bolster the recovery of key populations.

Globally, WCS’s goal is to stop shark declines and improve the conservation outlook of 75 percent of all shark and ray species by 2029. In 10 shark hotspots worldwide, WCS will push for science-based regulations to protect sharks from being unintentionally caught as bycatch, and partner with communities to create and sustainably manage new marine protected areas.



© WCS Ocean Giants/Image taken under NMFS MMPA/ESA Permit No. 14809

Using Science to Protect Global Whale Populations

WCS is a global leader in marine mammal conservation. We gather critical baseline data that drive policy and help safeguard vulnerable whale and dolphin populations—particularly within and around their key breeding and feeding grounds.

Our conservation action in the New York seascape, led in large part by New York Aquarium marine mammal experts, is helping to spur an incredible recovery of several whale species throughout New York’s busy waters. Our scientists confirmed that 2018 was a banner year for marine mammals in this seascape, with dozens of whales and hundreds of dolphins sighted during regular surveys.

In 2019, we launched an initiative to deploy two new acoustic buoys in the seascape, following a pilot launch in 2016. These buoys will provide near real-time data on the presence and migration patterns of whale species, including the highly endangered North Atlantic right whale, the humpback whale, the fin whale, and the sei whale—a species rarely seen in New York. The data will help guide decision-making to protect whales from potential threats throughout the seascape.

LOOKING AHEAD → → →

Two of our key goals are to reduce ocean noise from shipping and industrial activities that is harmful to whales, and significantly reduce the number of dolphins unintentionally caught as bycatch, enabling their populations to recover. We also seek to identify and establish new sanctuaries and safe havens for marine mammals with our partners throughout the 23 coastal countries where we work.



7 whale species in the New York seascape



Inspiring Millions through Animal Planet’s THE ZOO



Impact: Reflections from Young Viewers

The Bronx Zoo receives letters from viewers of all ages expressing their love for the show and the impact it has had on them.

“I have been watching your Animal Planet show THE ZOO since episode one. Because of your show I want to be either a zookeeper or a veterinarian at a zoo.”

—Abraham, grade 6

“What you do is so amazing to me. I love your mindset about conservation of species in the wild. You and your team are role models to me!”

—Shelby, age 11

Animal Planet’s award-winning docuseries provides an inside look at WCS’s Bronx Zoo and other New York City parks, and brings our critical conservation message to more than 200 markets around the world, with an average of more than 1 million viewers in the US per episode. In 2019, season three provided more behind-the-scenes glimpses at how our expert staff care for the 17,000 animals at our zoos and aquarium.

Featured stories this season included the Bronx Zoo’s Wildlife Health Center staff caring for a baby Rodrigues fruit bat; an inside look at how we are using technology to protect geladas from a life-threatening heart condition; and an up-close look at what it took to move several large sharks into the new *Ocean Wonders: Sharks!* exhibit at the New York Aquarium.

LOOKING AHEAD → → →

Filming for season four of THE ZOO began in April 2019; when it airs in spring 2020, it will bring us to a total of 50 eye-opening and inspiring episodes over the course of all four seasons.



1M+
US viewers
per episode



200+
global markets

Restoring Bison Across North America

WCS’s Bronx Zoo has a storied connection with bison—or buffalo as early settlers called them—having helped save these animals from extinction more than a century ago. Today, we are working to restore free-ranging bison populations across their historic North American range through partnerships with Indigenous Peoples, accredited zoos, and others.

This work is critical to retaining the bison’s role as an ecosystem engineer: the species sustains and strengthens grassland ecosystems, which are among the most threatened on Earth. By restoring bison, we are also helping to preserve a sacred cornerstone of Native American culture, economy, and social well-being.

Most bison today have domestic cattle genes, a result of past hybridizing. Our vision is to ensure the survival of free-ranging, pure bison for generations to come. At the Bronx Zoo, we are breeding bison to build numbers for eventual reintroduction in suitable habitats across North America. Nine purebred bison calves have been born at the Bronx Zoo over the past two years; as descendants of a genetically pure herd we received as a generous gift in 2016 from the Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes in Montana, these offspring are critical to our reintroduction efforts.

WCS is working with state, federal, and Tribal and First Nation governments, as well as private partners, to collaboratively define the ecological, cultural, and economic benefit of bison restoration—laying the groundwork to focus these efforts in northern Montana and southern Alberta.

LOOKING AHEAD → → →

Our goal is to repopulate bison across the species’ historic range. If we do not advance our efforts to restore bison, this cultural and ecological icon of the American West could be lost forever.

WCS EXPERT



Tyrone Nickens

Assistant Supervisor, Special Animal Exhibits, Bronx Zoo

My love for animals began when I was a child, visiting the Bronx Zoo every year with my family as WCS Members. I started at WCS as a seasonal employee in 2005, and in 2012 I realized my dream of becoming a full-time Children’s Zoo keeper. Last year, I moved into a supervisor role for the Children’s Zoo and Special Animal Exhibits. I train our newer Wild Encounters keepers and help them prepare to properly handle animals for hands-on experiences. It is gratifying to see our younger staff learning and growing in the profession, just as I did.

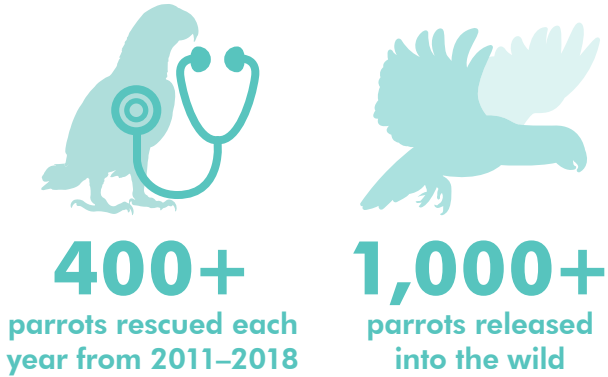
Saving Parrots from the Illegal Wildlife Trade

In late 2017, a team of specialists in veterinary medicine and animal care from WCS’s Bronx Zoo worked closely with our team on the ground in Congo to develop a large African gray parrot rehabilitation facility at the headquarters of Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park, where law enforcement officials have regularly seized parrots illegally caught for the pet trade.

Our Bronx Zoo team was on site to ensure best practices are being used for rehabilitating parrots at the field site. Reducing stress for the birds is a critical factor in increasing survival rates. Sadly, many African gray parrots die during their illegal transport for the pet trade.

Since 2011, our field conservation team has helped triage and treat an average of more than 400 rescued parrots each year. As of 2018, we have successfully rehabilitated and released more than 1,000 parrots back into the wild. As WCS has ramped up law enforcement efforts to combat illegal parrot trafficking in and around Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park, we have seen a notable reduction in the number of seizures of illegally trafficked parrots, with only 85 rescues in the last year.

LOOKING AHEAD → → →
We must now support investigative teams to better understand how parrot traffickers operate in the area, in order to identify and preempt new illegal networks or transport routes. At national and international levels, we seek to strengthen our advocacy to secure stronger protections for gray parrots against traffickers.



Tracking Bats in New York City

Bats play a key role in ecosystem health as seed dispersers and pollinators for a large variety of plants; they also help control insect populations. But bats are declining as they are increasingly threatened by habitat loss, climate change, and a catastrophic fungal disease called white-nose syndrome that has claimed the lives of over 6 million bats.

Since 2012, a team led by Bronx Zoo Curator of Mammalogy Dr. Colleen McCann has been recording bat echolocation calls at four sites across the Bronx to better understand bat ecology in this region. The research has confirmed that five of New York State’s nine bat species are present in the Bronx.

Acoustic monitoring surveys expanded to Manhattan, Queens, and Brooklyn indicate that three of these species are also present throughout the city. These data prove that even in one of the largest megacities in North America, there are sufficient green spaces to provide healthy habitats for bats and other wildlife.

LOOKING AHEAD → → →
Across North America, WCS health experts are developing methods to better predict areas where bats are especially vulnerable to disease. This research is critical to determining where additional protections are needed to allow for future bat recoveries.



WCS EXPERT



Jill Kevorkian
Wild Encounters Program, Bronx Zoo

When guests meet our animals, tour the park, and attend our special experiences, it has a huge impact on their lives—it becomes a starting point for them to fall in love with wildlife conservation. And the total number of visitors my team has reached has quadrupled in one year alone. We have affected their hearts and strengthened their dedication to wildlife. Now imagine how many people they can help inspire!

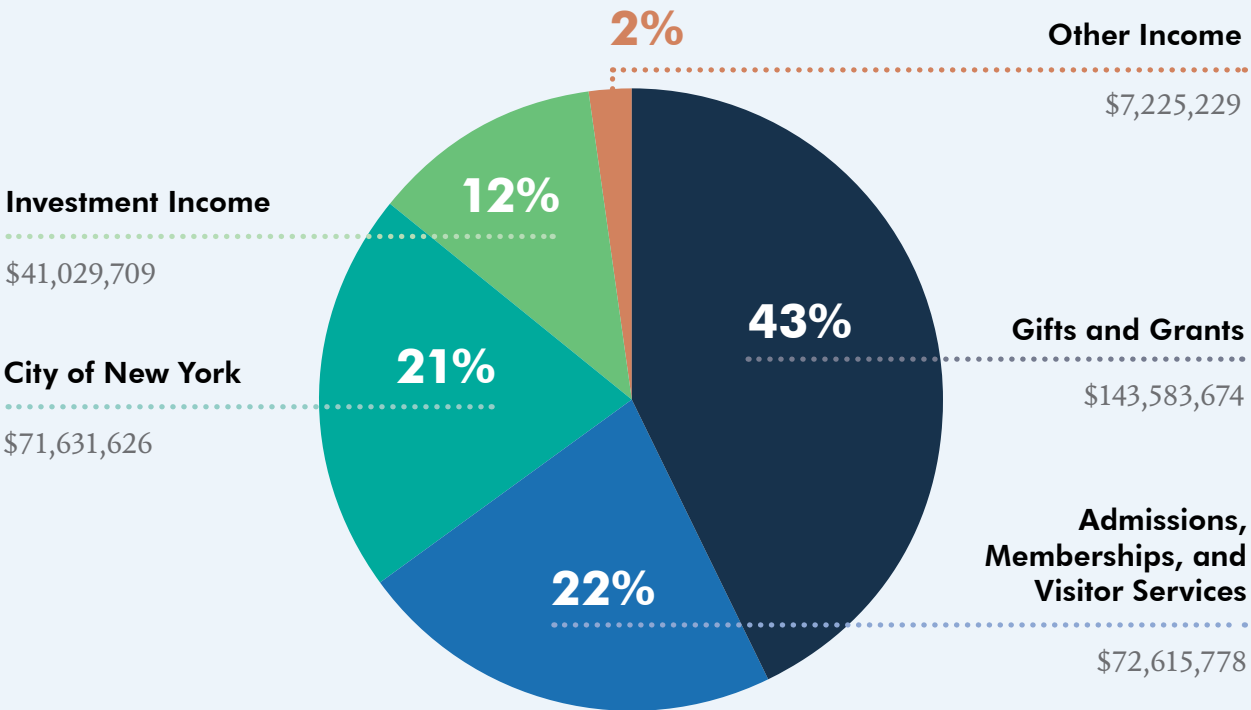
Financial Report

Our achievements, some of which are highlighted in this report, would not have been possible without your strong support and partnership. We hope you feel proud of the results you have helped win for wildlife and wild places.

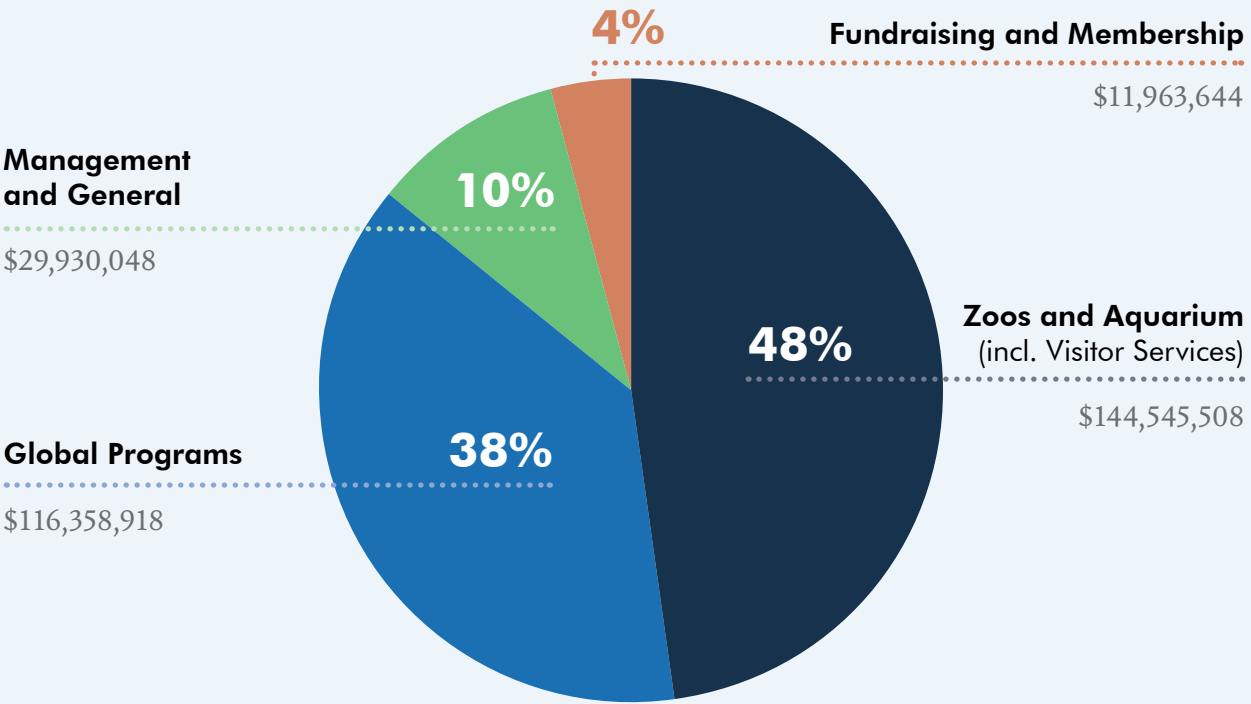
WCS's financials show that revenue totaled \$336.1 million for FY18, with more than 40 percent from our supporters in the form of gifts and grants.

General operating expenses remained largely comparable to last year, with a 5.8 percent increase year over year. General operating revenues of \$283.3 million supported \$239.7 million in programmatic activity in our parks and in the field, representing over 85 percent of total expenses.

2018 TOTAL REVENUE (\$336.1 MILLION)



2018 TOTAL EXPENSES (\$302.8 MILLION)



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES (JUNE 30, 2018 AND 2017, IN THOUSANDS)

CURRENT YEAR GENERAL OPERATING REVENUE	2018	2017
Contributed	\$ 57,473	\$ 33,245
Membership dues	13,119	13,926
Investment spending	21,403	22,004
City of New York	27,860	25,411
New York State	5,056	5,123
Federal agencies	38,603	39,735
Non-US government and bilateral grants and contracts	19,623	16,849
Private organizations grants and contracts	33,467	40,927
Gate and exhibit admissions	32,463	31,872
Visitor services	27,033	26,215
Education programs	2,811	3,247
Sponsorship, licensing, and royalties	919	1,245
Other	3,495	2,797
Total General Operating Revenue	\$ 283,325	\$ 262,596
NON-CURRENT YEAR OPERATING ACTIVITIES AND OTHER CHANGES		
Permanently restricted bequests and endowments	\$ 136	\$ 671
Unrestricted bequests	3,580	1,088
Grants and contributions designated for future use	(4,376)	7,611
Income from long-term investments in excess/deficit of funds utilized	19,627	28,889
Board-designated funds released	(14,285)	(6,022)
Funds released for capital program	48,079	25,958
Total Revenues	\$ 336,086	\$ 320,791
GENERAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES		
Program Services		
Bronx Zoo	\$ 67,565	\$ 58,989
New York Aquarium	15,480	12,367
City Zoos	23,628	24,687
Global Programs	115,087	113,944
Total Program Services	221,760	209,987
Visitor Services	17,909	17,025
Supporting Services		
Management and general	29,151	25,770
Membership	1,210	2,096
Fundraising	10,717	10,622
Total Supporting Services	41,078	38,488
Total General Operating Expenses	\$ 280,747	\$ 265,500
Depreciation Expense	22,051	20,596
Total Expense	302,798	286,096
Non-operating changes	(1,935)	2,738
Excess of Total Revenues Over Total Expenses	\$ 31,353	\$ 37,433

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS (JUNE 30, 2018 AND 2017, IN THOUSANDS)

ASSETS	2018	2017
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 53,194	\$ 69,869
Accounts receivable	2,837	3,392
Receivable from the City of New York	61,707	39,207
Receivable from the State of New York	2,732	2,703
Receivable from federal sources	33,977	38,782
Grants and pledges receivable	67,274	69,193
Inventories	2,415	2,683
Prepaid expenses	6,296	6,826
Investments	472,917	465,111
Amounts held in trust by others	1,918	1,889
Funds held by Bond Trustee	14,870	20,089
Property and equipment	385,047	343,879
Total Assets	\$ 1,105,184	\$ 1,063,623
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 59,137	\$ 45,525
Annuity liability	2,969	2,982
Loans payable	7,000	13,000
Bonds payable	134,683	135,356
Postretirement benefit obligation	45,570	42,289
Total Liabilities	249,359	239,152
Net Assets (Unrestricted)		
General operating	–	–
Designated for long-term investment	102,617	112,052
Net investment in property and equipment	256,365	219,633
Total Unrestricted	358,982	331,685
Net Assets (Restricted)		
Temporarily restricted	225,440	221,520
Permanently restricted	271,403	271,266
Total Net Assets	855,825	824,471
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 1,105,184	\$ 1,063,623

Additional updates on WCS's financial information can be found at wcs.org/financials.



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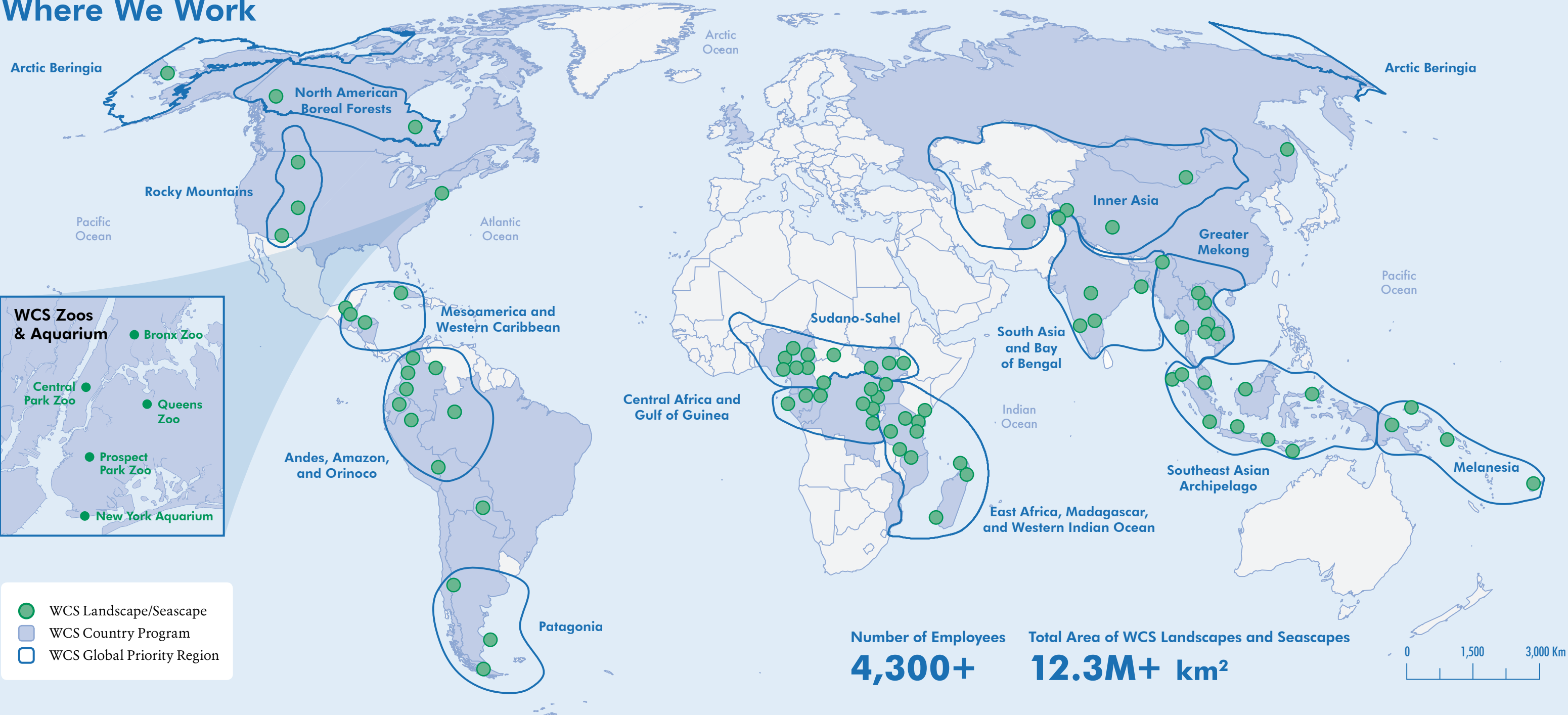
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Where We Work



Arctic Beringia
Arctic coasts and seascapes of Alaska, western Canada, and northeastern Russia

North American Boreal Forests
Boreal forests, mountains, and peatlands in Canada and Alaska

Rocky Mountains
Forests, grasslands, and riparian systems from southern Canada to the US-Mexico borderlands

Mesoamerica and Western Caribbean
Forests, coasts, and coral reefs of Belize, Cuba, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua

Andes, Amazon, and Orinoco
Forests, grasslands, and wetlands of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela

Patagonia
Landscapes, coasts, and seascapes of southern Chile, Argentina, and Paraguay

Sudano-Sahel
Savannahs, forests, woodlands, and wetlands of Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic, South Sudan, and Ethiopia

Central Africa and Gulf of Guinea
Forests and coasts of Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Republic of Congo, and Democratic Republic of Congo

East Africa, Madagascar, and Western Indian Ocean
Savannahs, forests, and woodlands of Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Mozambique; and coasts and coral reefs of Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, and Madagascar

South Asia and Bay of Bengal
Forests, mountains, and coasts of Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh

Inner Asia
Forests, grasslands, and mountains of Afghanistan, Mongolia, the Tibetan Plateau of China, Russia, and the countries of Central Asia

Greater Mekong
Forests, grasslands, wetlands, and coasts of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, and southern China

Southeast Asian Archipelago
Forests, coasts, and coral reefs of Indonesia and Malaysia

Melanesia
Highlands and islands of Papua New Guinea, Fiji, and Solomon Islands

Ways to Give

PRESIDENT’S CIRCLE

WCS is pleased to recognize those who contribute annual gifts of \$25,000 or more 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.

CONSERVATION PATRONS

Conservation Patrons who support WCS at the \$1,500 to \$24,999 level receive invitations to panel discussions and special events, access to our five New York City wildlife parks—including special exhibits, attractions, and private tours—recognition in the WCS Impact Report, and more.

For more information, contact Cindy Maur at 718 741 8180 or CMaur@wcs.org.

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP & ENGAGEMENT

WCS Corporate Partners provide vital operating support of our conservation efforts through philanthropic giving, corporate membership, sponsorship, and cause marketing. Partnerships with WCS help corporations gain brand exposure, consumer loyalty, and community engagement, while aligning with an important cause that resonates with their consumers, employees, and investors.

For more information, contact JoAnne Fairchild at 718 741 1651 or JFairchild@wcs.org.

PLANNED GIVING

You can build a conservation legacy by designating WCS as a beneficiary in your will. You can also name WCS as a beneficiary of your individual retirement account, life insurance policy, donor-advised fund, or brokerage account.

For more information, contact Emily Hirshbein at 718 741 1628 or EHirshbein@wcs.org.

NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

There are exhibits, galleries, and benches available for naming within well-loved 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 Chris Weikel at 718 741 1625 or CWeikel@wcs.org.



Learn more about these giving programs at

[wcs.org/waystogive](https://www.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](https://www.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](https://www.wcs.org).

RECOMMENDED FORM OF BEQUEST 2019

The Trustees of the Wildlife Conservation Society recommend 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 [describe gift] 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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