



— 2021 —
ANNUAL
REPORT

CREATING ALLIES FOR WILDLIFE



Dear Wildlife Ally,

While the past two years were the most challenging in our organization's history, they were also some of the most rewarding, bringing us together like never before. As the world faced the COVID-19 pandemic, we reflected on our role as a global conservation organization with two powerful front doors. We recommitted ourselves to our mission—and to providing a message of hope and inspiration for all who visit, while focusing on the impact we make around the world. What we were able to accomplish with you by our side during this time is simply incredible.

Your support was crucial as we continued caring for the wildlife relying on us each and every day—even in the face of historic closures of the San Diego Zoo and San Diego Zoo Safari Park. And as an ally, you made it possible for us to continue racing against the clock to save and protect endangered species worldwide, securing the future of wildlife and the ecosystems we all share.

Indeed, the pandemic made clear that we are all interconnected. As the world changed, we met the moment, together. We embarked on a new chapter as San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, forging new partnerships and using our century of expertise to meet the most pressing needs of wildlife around the globe. As we celebrate our first year of being the Alliance, we are stronger and more impactful than ever.

Today, we stand together, resilient and optimistic as we look ahead to tomorrow. The future is bright and thriving—for wildlife, for the world, and for all of us. We hope you enjoy this look back at the extraordinary work you made possible. We are forever grateful for you.

Together for wildlife,

Paul A. Baribault
President and Chief Executive Officer

Javade Chaudhri
Chair, Board of Trustees



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Who We Are



San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance is an international, nonprofit conservation organization committed to inspiring a passion for nature and creating a world where all life thrives. The San Diego Zoo and San Diego Zoo Safari Park are our two front doors, and make our mission, conservation work, and partnerships possible.

Conservation is at the heart of everything we do, and it starts with those connections we make between people and nature every day.

With more than 100 years of expertise, we integrate wildlife health and care, science, and education to develop sustainable conservation solutions across the globe. As an Alliance, we partner with allies in eight strategic regions worldwide. By pooling our strengths, knowledge, and resources, we have a greater impact as we work together to safeguard the future of the planet, its wildlife, and the spaces we all share. Because when wildlife thrives, all life thrives.



OUR VISION

A World Where All Life Thrives

OUR MISSION

San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance is committed to saving species worldwide by uniting our expertise in animal care and conservation science with our dedication to inspiring passion for nature.

COLLABORATE

We nurture alliances with diverse teams, peers, partners, and communities to expand and deepen our impact.

THRIVE

When we collaborate, innovate, and inspire, we help people and wildlife thrive together for a healthy planet.

OUR VALUES

INNOVATE

Together we pioneer new ideas and approaches to ensure the long-term health and survival of wildlife.

INSPIRE

We share our passion for nature to increase understanding, empathy, advocacy, and action for wildlife.



OUR LOGO

Our logo represents over a century of achievement, and San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance's future as a force for conservation.

THE LION

Represents the founding of our "World Famous" zoo, more than a century ago.

THE RHINO

Represents the icon of our "No Place Like It on Earth" Safari Park.

THE CONDOR

Represents our groundbreaking start and ongoing commitment to conservation.



OUR TWO FRONT DOORS

SAN DIEGO ZOO

It all started here 106 years ago. Our world-famous original location where, since 1916, we have created enduring connections between people and wildlife. Our commitment to that mission is stronger than ever.

Spanning 100 acres in the heart of Balboa Park in downtown San Diego, California, the Zoo is home to more than 12,000 rare and endangered animals representing approximately 650 species and subspecies. Known for its peaceful, lush grounds and naturalistic habitats, the Zoo is also an accredited botanical garden, with over 700,000 individual plants of 3,100 species in our care.

Each year, 3 million guests—including our community of nearly 500,000 members—join us here to connect with wildlife and make lasting memories. Through inspirational, educational experiences, guests of all ages come face to face with iconic and unusual wildlife, learning about their habitats and the ecosystems we all share.

From polar bears swimming in the Northern Frontier to endangered leopards walking overhead in Asian Passage, discovery awaits around every corner. Africa Rocks immerses guests in the biodiversity of the African continent while the Lost Forest and Australian Outback take them a world away. With trickling

streams through Fern Canyon and a rainforest aviary, plus bird’s-eye views from Skyfari® and Bashor Bridge, new perspectives abound everywhere you look.

Wildlife encounters and behind-the-scenes adventure tours including Animals in Action, Discovery Cart Tours, and the Early Morning Cheetah Experience offer an inside look at our century of wildlife care expertise. During Plant Days and Orchid Odyssey, visitors can enjoy self-guided horticulture tours and a special botanical bus tour, and the Orchid House—our safe haven for illegally trafficked plants, which was remodeled in 2021—is open to the public.

SAN DIEGO ZOO SAFARI PARK

There’s no place like it on Earth. Immersive and authentic experiences spread across 1,800 acres in Escondido, California, offering guests the opportunity to explore Earth’s awe-inspiring ecosystems and regions—from the Australian outback and rainforests of Indonesia, to the Asian plains and expansive grasslands of Africa where herds of wildlife roam.

Home to more than 3,600 animals representing over 300 species, 1 million guests each year join us for thrilling, educational, and adventure-oriented experiences, from field habitat excursions to behind-the-scenes safaris, zip lining on the Flightline Safari, Roar and Snore overnight tent camping, a hot air balloon safari, and wildlife encounters.

Inspired by legendary safari trains of Africa, the iconic Africa Tram takes guests on a guided, 2.5-mile adventure around an expansive savanna habitat to see towers of giraffes, crashes of rhinos, and flocks of exotic birds. Throughout the Safari Park, play areas engage our youngest allies, including Mawazo Woods Discovery Area, the Conservation Carousel, Savanna Cool Zone, and the Tiger Trail Play Area where a rope climb and log-walk bridge offer moments of fun.

The Safari Park’s vast accredited botanical collection has more than 1.3 million plants of 3,700 species. At the World Gardens, immersive experiences offer a chance to visit habitats and geographical areas from around the globe, including the Baja Garden and Old World Succulent Garden, Epiphyllum Trail, Bonsai Pavilion and California Nativescapes Garden.



Our Responsibility

Over the course of our 106-year history, we've conceptualized, developed, and honed a unique set of skills and strengths that have become a significant part of greater conservation efforts globally. The privilege of working with wildlife at each stage in life, with intimate access to each plant or animal's unique biology, comes with the responsibility of using that knowledge to safeguard the future of wildlife.

Whether it's our nutrition teams refining formulas for endangered orphan elephant calves, disease experts strategizing to safeguard wildlife during a pandemic, or breeding and reintroducing endangered species, all of our conservation efforts are made possible by our everyday work at the Zoo and Safari Park.

*We care for
nearly 16,000
animals and more
than 2 million plants
at the Zoo and
Safari Park.*

HEADQUARTERED AT THE ZOO

The Zoo is home to a veterinary hospital and our museum-accredited Pathology Archives. From the 8,300-square-foot Scripps Building, the Disease Investigations team carries out research on disease and health surveillance for wildlife; and at the Giant Panda Research Station, conservation scientists and wildlife care teams collaborate to fulfill our mission.

HEADQUARTERED AT THE SAFARI PARK

Half of the Safari Park's 1,800 acres is set aside as the Wildlife Biodiversity Preserve, a protected area of native sage scrub habitat. Conservation programs for the northern white rhino, burrowing owl, California condor, and others are also headquartered at the Safari Park, along with the state-of-the-art Paul Harter Veterinary Medical Center.

ARNOLD AND MABEL BECKMAN CENTER FOR CONSERVATION RESEARCH

Located at the Safari Park, the 50,000-square-foot home base for our conservation science teams also houses our 2,000-square-foot library, Wildlife Biodiversity Bank, Conservation Education Lab, and Eddy Family Outdoor Learning Lab, as well as 20,000 square feet of laboratory space, plus operations and administration for various conservation teams.



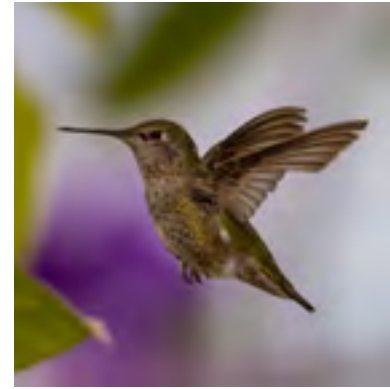
New Wildlife Adventures

You've been by our side as we've worked to transform the southeast corner of the Zoo over the past few years. During 2020 and 2021, we saw many of those projects come to life, including the openings of the **Busy Bee Café and Oasis Outpost** and an entirely new **Zoofari Party Area**. In Spring 2021, we celebrated Earth's most powerful and delicate species with the opening of two unforgettable new experiences—the **Kenneth C. Griffin Komodo Kingdom** and **William E. Cole Family Hummingbird Habitat**.

ECOSYSTEMS IN ACTION

At the all-new William E. Cole Family Hummingbird Habitat, winding pathways take you past trickling streams and walls of greenery, where you'll witness the pollinating powers of these tiny—but mighty—birds. Hummingbirds and plants are interdependent, and in the Hummingbird Habitat, guests discover these symbiotic connections.

Here, the birds rely on orchids for their energy-rich nectar, and orchids depend on hummingbirds as pollinators. Orchids are one of the most trafficked species in the world, and throughout the lush habitat, guests learn how their support protects the plants from overharvesting, illegal trade, and habitat fragmentation.



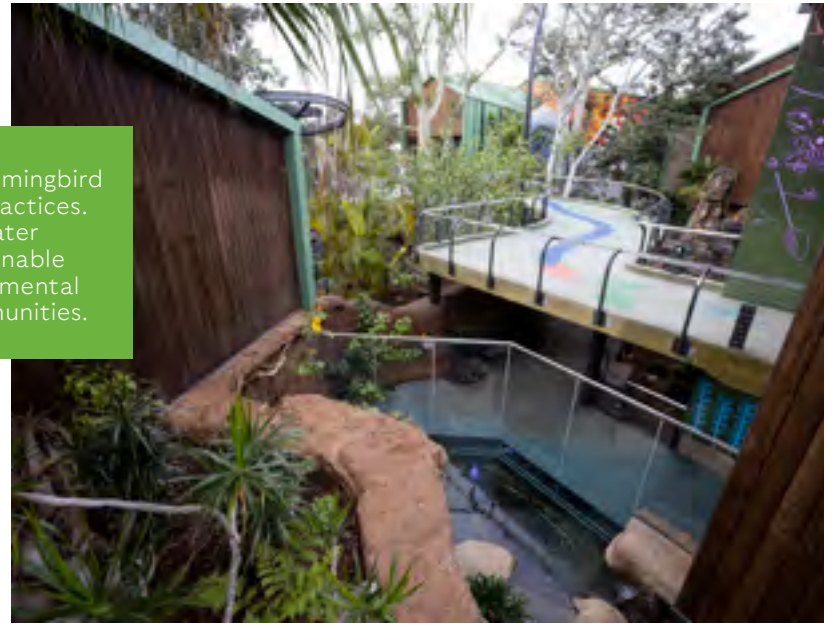
Wildlife Explorers Basecamp, Komodo Kingdom, and the Hummingbird Habitat were all developed with sustainable materials and practices. From water features and bathroom fixtures designed with water conservation in mind to energy-efficient, recycled, and sustainable building materials, we are committed to lowering our environmental and ecological impacts while adding social value to our communities.



Our deepest gratitude to the William E. Cole Family for bringing this beautiful and peaceful oasis to life.



Thank you, Kenneth C. Griffin, for your generosity and leading support that made Komodo Kingdom possible.



REAL-LIFE DRAGONS

With beach, woodland, and mountain highland areas, the all-new Kenneth C. Griffin Komodo Kingdom allows you to experience the island ecosystem that's as unique as Komodo dragons. Here, visitors discover the challenges Earth's largest lizards face, and the ways their support fuels conservation programs to save them.

Resilience in Changing Times

In March of 2020, the world changed for all of us. For the first time in our 106-year history, we closed our doors to the public—the first time we’ve ever been closed for more than a single day. But despite a changing global landscape, some things remained the same.

THANK YOU

As we weathered five months of pandemic closures, you were by our side. The steadfast support of allies like you, the dedication and determination of our wildlife care and health teams, administrative staff, volunteers, and countless others made all the difference.

Donors generously stepped up to provide for our most critical needs, allowing the nearly 16,000 animals and more than 2 million plants at the Zoo and Safari Park to be cared for each and every day. And, this invaluable support enabled us to continue critical field conservation around the world, saving endangered species and preserving the ecosystems we all rely on to thrive.

We are grateful for our donors, members, employees, and supporters. For everything you have done, for all you make possible here in San Diego and around the world, and for your ongoing generosity as we continue to recover from this unprecedented period, we thank you. You have touched so many lives, including ours. We simply could not have gotten through this time without you.

COVID-19 AND WILDLIFE: INNOVATION, ADVANCES, AND TEAMWORK

In 2020, as COVID-19 spread across the globe, we began to make decisions to protect our community, team members, and the wildlife in our care. As new information about the virus became available indicating that a number of species might be susceptible, we acted to further enhance our already comprehensive wildlife biosecurity measures—and we’ve remained committed to improving safety protocols as new knowledge becomes available.



Throughout the pandemic, we’ve been a global leader in veterinary science and diagnostics, collaborating with partners to share vital information about COVID-19. The knowledge gained by working with the wildlife in our care has helped veterinarians and wildlife managers around the world mitigate outbreaks among countless species.

In late December 2020, despite going above and beyond all recommended biosecurity precautions to keep wildlife safe and healthy, members of the gorilla troop at the Safari Park contracted COVID-19. When it was discovered, we knew we were embarking on an uncharted journey. Yet, even in the face of unprecedented challenges, our teams proved they are as resilient, capable, and determined as ever to continue providing the best possible care for the wildlife counting on us each and every day.

Our veterinary, wildlife care, and science teams collaborated with partners and worked to find answers. As they treated and cared for the troop—all

of whom made a full recovery—we emerged at the forefront in monitoring, treating, and preventing infections. We shared what we learned with partners worldwide to protect other populations, and what we learned here became part of the global standard in treating infections in gorillas.

Gorillas are among the species most vulnerable to COVID-19, and the experiences of our teams in navigating the disease in these great apes proved instrumental and exemplary. Working with partners around the world—including the Jane Goodall Institute, Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International, Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation, Gorilla Doctors, and Orangutan Veterinary Advisory Group—these collaborative efforts also informed the implementation of protective measures for gorillas and apes worldwide.

In March 2021, we made history as nine great apes at the San Diego Zoo became the first non-human primates in the world to be vaccinated against COVID-19, with a vaccine made exclusively for use in animals. We have since vaccinated nearly 250 animals in our care. Since then, we’ve used the protocols developed in treating gorillas to treat other species that contracted the virus, including tigers and snow leopards.

The dedication of our teams and the advances we have made as a wildlife care community underscore the important role that we, our allies, and organizations like ours play in the protection and conservation of wildlife worldwide.

BY THE NUMBERS

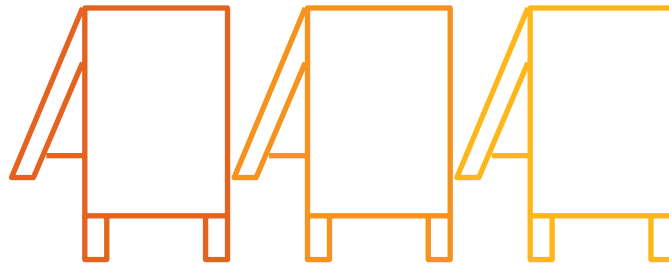
COVID-19 RESPONSE

Our teams worked tirelessly through the ever-changing challenges of the pandemic to protect guests, staff, volunteers, and the wildlife in our care. Here's a look at what it took.

OUR SIGN SHOP WAS BUSY!

2,500

Instructional and informational signs kept up with changing state and federal guidelines.



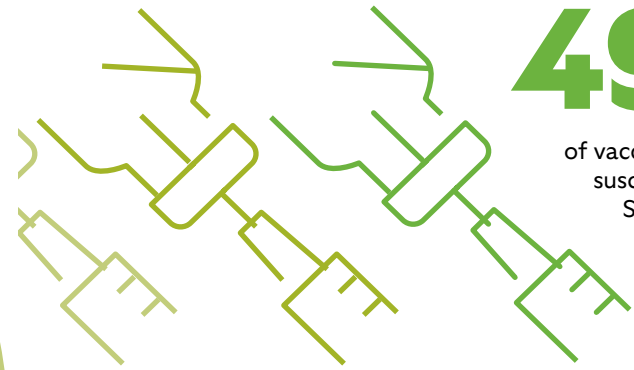
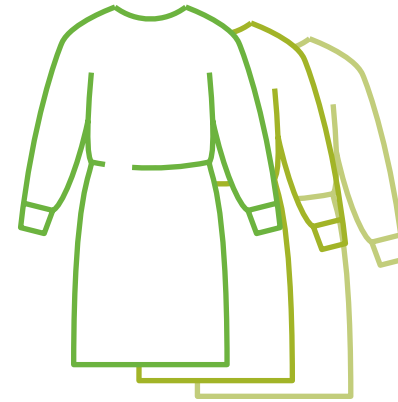
5,000

Social distancing floor graphics were created for placement throughout the Zoo and Safari Park.

PROTECTIVE MEASURES

1,200

pairs of protective coveralls for Wildlife Care Specialists



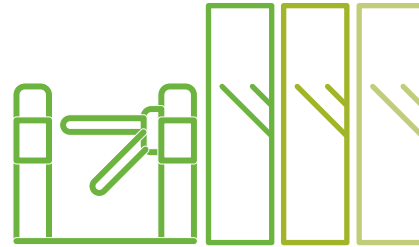
498

 doses

of vaccine protected 249 susceptible animals against SARS-CoV-2.

75+

Protective panels and sneeze-guards were added at turnstiles, counters, and other face-to-face locations.



2,300

 feet

of Plexiglas were used to make protective barriers for vehicles, restrooms, retail outlets, rolling barricades, and at wildlife habitats.

130

Hand sanitizing stations and 44 hand-washing stations were installed at the Zoo and Safari Park.



85,701

Masks were provided to staff and guests.



NEW PROCESSES

Behind the Scenes

Screening kiosks welcomed staff on grounds, employee break rooms were reconfigured for safety, and complimentary vaccination clinics were provided for team members and their families.



Finding the Fun

Screening tent and queue lines were established in the parking lots when reservations were required, with DJs and bird flyovers to engage guests while they waited. An entertainment and musical group called the HERO Pack cruised around the Zoo and Safari Park, encouraging guests to wash hands, wear a mask, and maintain social distance while providing a little extra fun.



Creating Distance

Additional protective barriers were built and installed at cat, babirusa, mongoose, maned wolf, primate, and other habitats to keep susceptible wildlife and guests safe.



Our Methods



ONE HEALTH

We are all interconnected. The health of wildlife, people, and the environment are inextricably linked—and we all rely on the health of our planet. Through our One Health approach, we honor, celebrate, and advocate for that connection every day by caring for the diversity of plants and animals at our wildlife parks, developing sustainable community-led conservation efforts across the globe, and by inspiring allies to join us.

TOGETHER FOR WILDLIFE

As people and wildlife increasingly share ecosystems and natural resources, climate change, invasive species, habitat degradation, wildlife trafficking, emerging diseases, and challenges with human-wildlife coexistence threaten the natural balance we all depend on. We work with partner organizations and allies around the world to find solutions so that all life can thrive.

Conservation Toolbox

Our Multidisciplinary Skill Sets



FULL-SPECTRUM CONSERVATION SOLUTIONS

Our approach is collaborative, innovative, and multidisciplinary. We protect and restore wildlife populations and habitats through comprehensive, evidence-based solutions addressing the immediate and root causes leading to the loss of biodiversity around the world.

Our expert teams of conservation scientists, nutritionists, veterinarians, wildlife care specialists, and educators innovate to solve even the toughest conservation challenges. We work closely with local communities and partners, sharing expertise and skills, and collaborating to empower those who live alongside wildlife to be stewards of their eco-regions.

OUR MOST IMPORTANT ALLIES

You are our most important ally. Each time you visit the San Diego Zoo and Safari Park, make a donation or support a project, purchase an item from us, or share what you know about animals, plants, and conservation, you're helping wildlife and playing a role in achieving our mission.



Oceans



Southwest



Pacific Islands



Amazonia



African Forest



Savanna



Asian Rainforest



Australian Forest



Oceans

Much of our conservation work takes place in biodiversity hotspots—the most biologically rich, and endangered regions on the planet.

Building Alliances to Thrive

Our work begins in San Diego, and spans the globe.

We know that a world where all life thrives is only possible when we work together: local communities, governments, conservation organizations, allies like you, and wildlife explorers of all ages. We are committed not only to wildlife, but also to the people and communities who share their ecosystems.

We spent more than a year analyzing our strengths and identifying where and how best to focus our efforts. We landed on eight conservation regions located around the globe that will anchor our conservation work, driving more meaningful outcomes for wildlife in these areas.

These are places where we're currently most invested, and where we can build on existing collaborations with internal and external partners—therefore having the biggest impact for wildlife, people, and the spaces we share.

OUR PARTNERS

We work with several hundred organizations around the world that share our conservation goals and philosophy. They represent a broad range of government, nonprofit, corporate, private, and academic organizations, as well as local communities, to accomplish our shared mission of saving wildlife. As we look toward the future, conservation of wildlife depends on working in close collaboration with partners of different backgrounds and ethnicities from around the world, as well as right here at home. That diversity is what makes our conservation work so impactful.



AFRICAN FOREST

As the world's second-largest tropical rainforest, the Congo Basin ecosystem is rich in wildlife and critically important to the health of our planet. This biodiversity hotspot, home to an abundance of rare plants and some of the most endangered primates on Earth, also acts as a globally significant carbon sink, helping mitigate global warming.

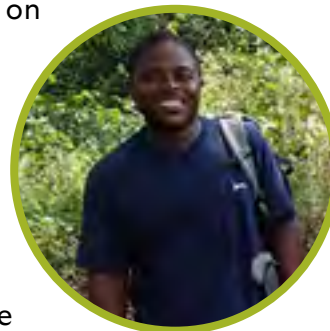
In Cameroon's Ebo forest, we work hand in hand with local communities to save and protect unique African biodiversity. Over the last two years, our teams and partners persevered to protect vulnerable species, made new discoveries, and celebrated the cultural and ecological heritage of one of Africa's most intact and important rainforests.



SAVING GORILLAS

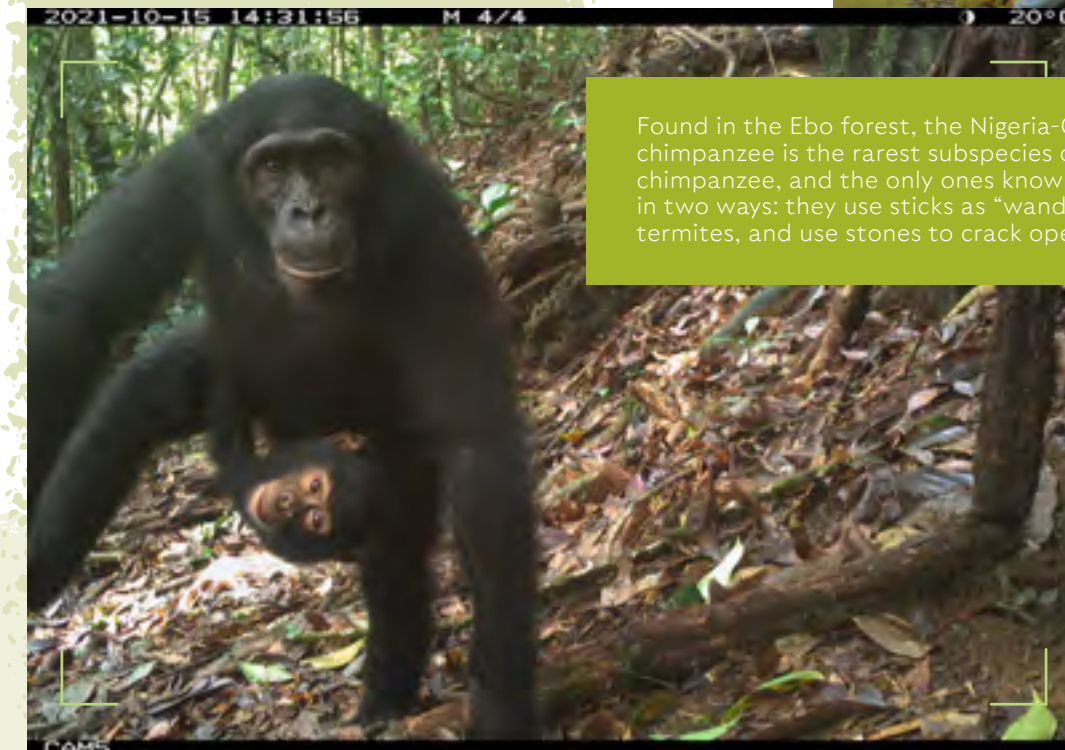
The population of Ebo gorillas is thought to be a unique, isolated gorilla subspecies, and numbers less than 30 individuals. Despite first sighting them in 2002, it took 14 years to document the gorillas on film. Today, in collaboration with our partners, trail cameras across mountainous Ebo forest terrain provide scientists an invaluable opportunity to view and understand these elusive apes in order to protect them.

In 2021, San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance scientist Ekwoge Abwe, Ph.D., was awarded Continuation Funding from the Whitley Fund for Nature, building on the prestigious Whitley Award that he secured in 2013. Dr. Abwe leads community-based protection initiatives for the Ebo forest; his tireless efforts helped saved the forest from commercial logging in 2020, while also engaging conservation allies locally and globally.



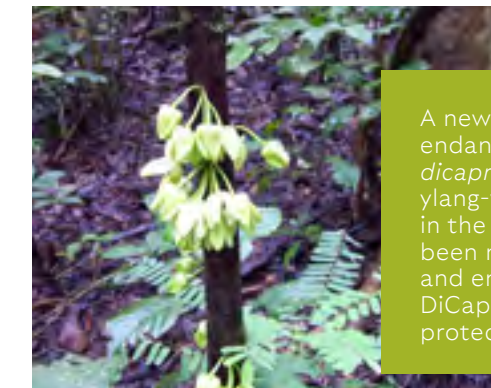
Conservation Begins With People

Local communities are at the center of conservation in the Ebo forest. Acting as stewards of their shared ecosystem, they work closely with our teams to make inclusive decisions about future land management, ensuring that their needs are met, their heritage respected, and that wildlife is protected in the process.



Found in the Ebo forest, the Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee is the rarest subspecies of chimpanzee, and the only ones known to use tools in two ways: they use sticks as "wands" to fish for termites, and use stones to crack open nuts.

When logging efforts threatened to destroy it, allies across the globe spoke up in support of saving the Ebo forest, bringing much-needed international attention to this critical ecosystem and fueling long-term plans to protect the area.



A newly discovered, critically endangered tree *Uvariopsis dicaprio*—a member of the ylang-ylang family found only in the Ebo forest—has since been named in honor of actor and environmentalist Leonardo DiCaprio for his efforts to protect the forest last year.



SAVANNA

Some of the world’s most iconic—but endangered—wildlife roam Africa’s savannas. Covering nearly half the continent, these beautiful, carefully balanced grassland ecosystems are the vital foundation for complex food chains (known as webs) and great migrations. They’re integral to the pastoralist livelihoods of local people.

On the savannas of northern Kenya, we partner with local communities and organizations on innovative, comprehensive conservation strategies. Integrating cutting-edge science with our expertise in wildlife care and health, we collaborate to save wildlife and elevate local voices.

SECOND CHANCES
Our elephant conservation efforts in Kenya are centered at the community-led Reteti Elephant Sanctuary. We work closely with local people and partners to rescue, rehabilitate, and reintroduce orphaned calves, while fostering human-wildlife coexistence so that all who rely on the savanna can thrive.

Together, we’re developing best practices for the reintroduction of rehabilitated elephant calves back into their native habitat—10 of which were reintroduced in 2020 and 2021.

In 2020 and 2021, the Reteti team recorded 870 hours of elephant calf behavioral observations; the data collected is essential to further

develop species management and reintroduction strategies.

TECH SUPPORT
When elephant calves have recovered, they’re reintroduced to protected areas of the savanna at Sera Wildlife Conservancy. Teams continue watching over them through various technological measures and patrols in the area. Supported by us and led by our Kenyan partners, expanded internet coverage and new GPS tracking devices for the calves has enhanced our ability to monitor elephants and better determine their needs in their native habitat. In 2020 and 2021, the Sera team collected 396 observations of reintroduced orphans and wild elephants—critical data that will help inform future efforts.

By shifting our Wildlife Safari experiences at the Safari Park, we’re offering more people one-of-a-kind ways to connect with wildlife, while giving wildlife further opportunities to naturally interact.

Conservation Begins with People
With the support of allies like you, our conservation work begins in San Diego and is carried out in Kenya through partnerships with Kenya Wildlife Service, Northern Rangelands Trust, Save the Elephants, Reteti Elephant Sanctuary, Namunyak Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy, and many others.

Together with The Nature Conservancy and Northern Rangelands Trust, we’re expanding rhino conservation and have begun laying the groundwork to restore the Meru to Marsabit migration corridor: a critical and ancient pathway which will provide a safe route for elephants and other wildlife to move through this area, and be managed by local community conservancies.



TOGETHER FOR WILDLIFE
During a December 2021 visit of Kenyan officials to our campuses in San Diego, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), strengthening our partnership and solidifying our shared commitment to conservation initiatives including human-wildlife coexistence, sustainable wildlife population management, and community engagement.



KENYA DAYS
In 2020 and 2021, we kicked off Kenya Days at the Safari Park, an annual celebration of the wildlife, sights, sounds, and tastes of this amazing African country—and bringing guests inside the conservation work they make possible to save elephants, giraffes, vultures, leopards, and other threatened and critically endangered savanna species.





A NEW HOME

At the heart of the Safari Park, Elephant Valley is home to our growing family of endangered African elephants—and with your support, we're reimagining it. Here, millions of visitors each year will learn about life on the savanna, make lifelong connections with these magnificent animals, and help secure a future for elephants worldwide.



The Zoo's Harry and Grace Steele Elephant Odyssey habitat is making it possible for two endangered juvenile male elephants—Sundzu and his half-brother Nipho—to socialize and develop just as they would on the savanna. This growing bachelor group came together for the first time in 2021.



Our family of southern white rhinos at the Safari Park continues to grow, with the births of calves Mwezi, Alice, and Arthur in 2020, and Kamaria in 2021.



In 2021, the Zoo hatched and fledged its first African pygmy goose chick. On the savanna, African pygmy geese inhabit swamps, marshes, shallow lakes, and flood plains.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Conservation work in Kenya is only possible through collaboration with local communities that protect wildlife and engage wildlife allies, including Twiga Walinzi ("Giraffe Guards"), a local conservation group that protects herds across the savanna, and which led 350 students and teachers in giraffe-themed field trips in the last year.



GIRAFFES ON A BARGE

When rising waters in Kenya's Lake Baringo stranded eight critically endangered Rothschild's giraffes on a small island, teams sprang into action to save them. One by one, they ferried the giraffes to safety on a custom-built barge. Today, the giraffes are thriving on the mainland, where the community continues to monitor and protect this endangered species. It was a collaborative effort made possible through partnerships with Ruko Community Conservancy, Northern Rangelands Trust, and Kenya Wildlife Service.

We celebrated the births of endangered giraffe calves at both the Zoo and Safari Park this year.





SAVING RHINOS

All rhino subspecies are threatened, but the northern white rhino is most at risk. While just two are left on Earth—a mother-daughter pair living on protected reserve in Kenya—our groundbreaking program to save them continues making strides. Every advance in this genetic rescue program puts us one step closer to saving not only the northern white rhino, but all rhinos.

Our Reproductive Sciences team continues to make progress towards our goal of producing a southern white rhino embryo *in vitro*. This delicate work is a massive undertaking, requiring cutting-edge technologies and the unmatched skills of our team and partner scientists.

In 2021, our teams successfully reprogrammed cryopreserved rhino connective tissue cells from our Wildlife Biodiversity Bank into stem cells. Stem cells have the potential to differentiate into any type of cell in the body, including eggs and sperm.



DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Longtime Zoo supporters Maryanne and Irwin Pfister stepped up to be lead donors toward the Savanna hub, helping to launch the new conservation model. In addition to making a lead gift toward community conservation in Northern Kenya, the Pfisters issued a 1:1 matching gift challenge for gifts of \$100 or more to the Savanna hub. On behalf of Africa's elephants, giraffes, leopards, and all who share the savanna, we extend our deepest gratitude to Maryanne and Irwin.



The Reproductive Sciences team is conducting a genetic profiling study of the Zoo's colony of endangered African penguins to clarify penguin breeding behavior—and whether these birds are strictly monogamous. Understanding breeding behavior is crucial in maintaining healthy genetic diversity in our colony, as well as in recovery management of African penguins in their native habitat.

OCEANS

Oceans cover more than 70 percent of the Earth's surface. They're critically important to the health of our planet and are closely interconnected with life across the globe. Oceans pull in over two billion tons of carbon from the atmosphere each year, and billions of people depend on them for food and livelihood. With the health of our oceans threatened by human activities resulting in climate change and pollution, the need for protection and greater understanding of these immense ecosystems is urgent.

With the support of our allies, we're protecting oceans and marine life. Through innovative technologies and collaborative partnerships, we apply our expertise, skills, and experience working with wildlife in San Diego, across the Arctic, and in Southern Africa.

MAKING PROGRESS
Pandemic travel disruptions kept teams from making regular treks to the Arctic to collect data and visit conservation sites—but the work didn't stop! We analyzed and shared five years of data collected from a long-term study of polar bear maternal denning, which focuses on the impacts of human activities on maternal denning and cub survival. These results were presented by our partners, Polar Bears International, at the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) event in Glasgow, Scotland.

Conservation Begins With People
Polar bears are marine mammals, dependent on sea ice to hunt and find mates. But as sea ice continues to disappear, polar bears and people are increasingly sharing habitat in new ways. We work with partners and local communities on techniques for healthy human-polar bear coexistence, including bear-safe residential waste containers and other methods to deter polar bears, alert systems when polar bears come into settled areas, and ongoing community outreach and education.



BURR ON FUR
Polar bears at the San Diego Zoo are helping their cousins on the tundra and sea ice by testing out a new technology to track white bears across their vast, snowy habitat. Nicknamed "Burr on Fur," in this collaboration with Polar Bears International, 3M, and eight other zoos, scientists developed a small tracking device that temporarily attaches to bear fur. If successful, these small devices will significantly improve the ability to monitor polar bears in native habitats and determine how climate change is affecting their movements—vital information that will inform further work to save them.



ASIAN RAINFOREST

Southeast Asia is home to nearly 15% of the world’s tropical forests, including multiple biodiversity hotspots and an abundance of wildlife found nowhere else on Earth. However, human behaviors like illegal logging and wildlife trafficking are taking a toll on species across Asia.

Together with local communities and partners, we’re working to protect this region’s unique wildlife. To devise sustainable and inclusive conservation strategies, we collaborate with our allies to better understand the needs and relationships of local people and wildlife, reduce the trafficking and use of wildlife products, and preserve species and ecosystems for future generations.

ONE WORLD, ONE HEALTH

It’s never been more apparent that we’re all connected. Habitat fragmentation and illegal wildlife trafficking threaten endangered populations of tigers in Asia—and are thought to have played a significant role in the origin of several zoonotic disease outbreaks, including the COVID-19 pandemic. As it became clear that big cats were susceptible to the virus, our dedicated teams continued going above and beyond all recommended biosecurity precautions to protect those in our care. Despite these efforts, tigers at the San Diego Zoo and Safari Park contracted the virus. With dedicated care, they’ve made a complete recovery. The pandemic underscores our interconnectedness, and the need for holistic conservation approaches that address the well-being of people, wildlife, and ecosystems they share.

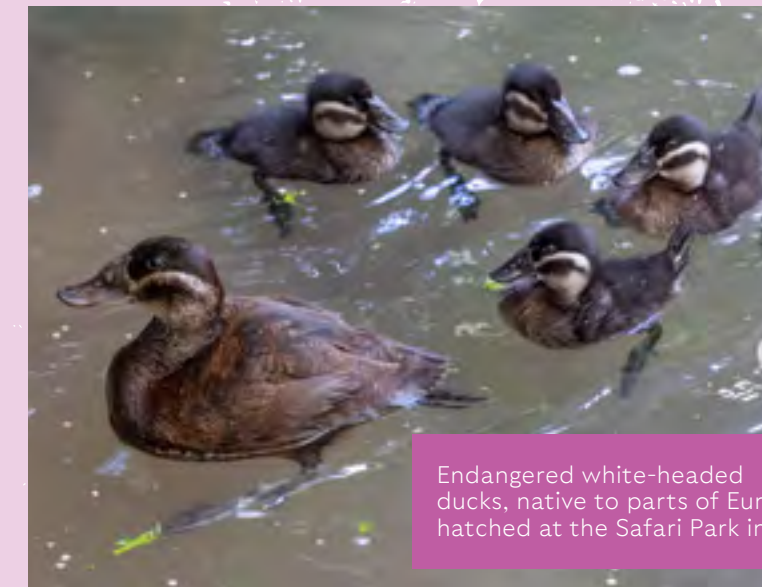
Conservation Begins With People

In 2021, a young tiger was successfully relocated from an oil palm plantation in Sumatra—where it posed a threat to people—to a more remote forest. Following the relocation, our teams and local partners connected with communities through a series of workshops about wildlife coexistence and conflict mitigation, and established two community-based patrol teams to equip them with necessary techniques for coexistence with tigers.

Wildlife is often threatened by trafficking, which includes the consumption of wildlife parts—and Asiatic black bears (also known as moon bears) are no exception. Last year, our conservationists led the first ever countrywide study of bear bile use in Vietnam. It was once the most widely consumed wildlife product in Vietnam, but encouragingly, this study shows a decline in usage in most of the country. Together with our partners, including Free the Bears, we continue to work with local people to understand perceptions, barriers, and opportunities to eliminate unsustainable wildlife consumption and trafficking.



The Safari Park welcomed greater one-horned rhino calves Lulu and Bhotu, increasing the global population of this threatened species.



Endangered white-headed ducks, native to parts of Eurasia, hatched at the Safari Park in 2021.



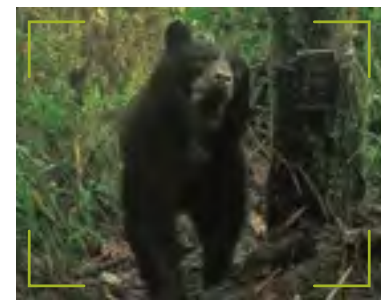
In 2021, we kicked off a collaborative breeding program to help save one of Southeast Asia’s most endangered birds, the milky stork. All of the birds in North America were brought under our care at the Safari Park, and we’re thrilled that they’ve hatched four chicks so far!



AMAZONIA

As the largest tropical rainforest in the world, Amazonia is often called the “lungs of the planet.” It generates oxygen, affects weather patterns worldwide, and plays a vital role in mitigating climate change. It’s also one of the most biodiverse places on Earth, with countless species found nowhere else. Nevertheless, many regional and global challenges threaten Amazonia’s wildlife, local people, and habitats.

We deploy cutting-edge technology, apply expertise in genomics and wildlife monitoring, and contribute to local efforts as part of our commitment to protecting the biological and cultural richness of the Peruvian Amazon.



SAVING A HARD-TO-REACH SPECIES

Andean bears are the only bears native to South America. Threatened by extinction, this elusive species lives in hard-to-access areas of the Andes—so we are working to learn more about the Andean bear in order to better devise long-term conservation strategies. To better understand Andean bear biology and behavior, our teams are using trail cameras to gather data on where they live, how they use their home range, and their interactions with other species.



ON THE TRAIL

The Ocelots are a group of dedicated supporters who raise money annually for the organization. This year, conservationists and Ocelots members alike were delighted when a rainforest trail camera provided through their grants was visited by an ocelot in Peru! Remotely monitored trail cameras are powerful conservation tools, offering critical insights into elusive wildlife populations and behaviors, especially in hard-to-reach areas.



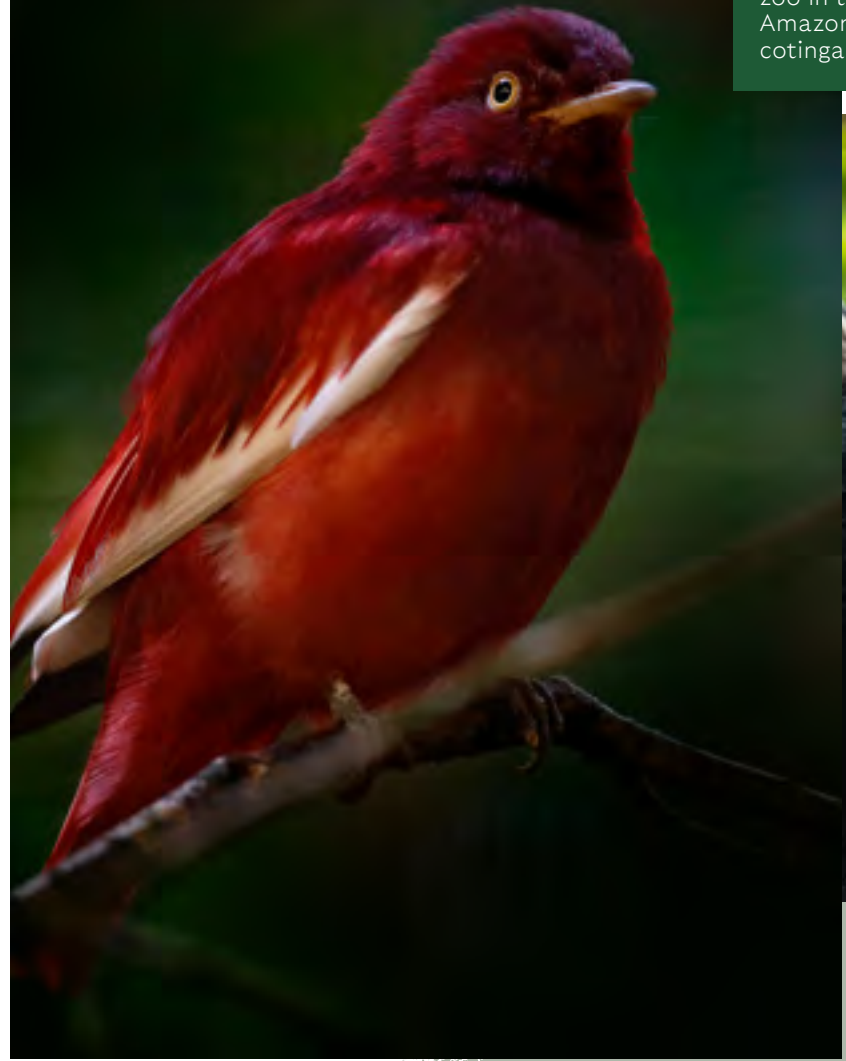
Conservation Begins with People

Jaguars in the Peruvian Amazon share spaces with local people, including areas designated for harvest and agricultural activities. Finding ways to successfully coexist is vital to ensure the security and well-being of both people and cats. Our conservation scientists use GPS and camera technologies to monitor jaguars, and better understand their needs and how they use their home range. We also work with local communities to hear their needs and foster coexistence by providing tools and knowledge to safely mitigate conflict with jaguars.



In 2021, for the first time ever, southern tamanduas at both the Zoo and the Safari Park had babies, acting as important ambassadors for their unusual species.

In an effort to decentralize, democratize, and make science and conservation more accessible, we partnered to launch the *in situ* Wildlife Conservation Laboratory initiative at Los Amigos Biological Station in the heart of the Peruvian Amazon. Despite being in the heart of a dense, wet jungle, the lab is equipped with cutting-edge technology, including DNA sequencing tools, a pipetting robot, and other tools that enable real-time, on-site analysis. The lab is staffed by local scientists and serves as a center for education, innovation, and community engagement. This lab is the first in what could be the new global model for studying biodiversity, emerging diseases, and wildlife health *in situ*.



The San Diego Zoo is the only zoo in the country breeding the Amazon forest bird pompadour cotinga, with two hatched in 2021.



Andean bears at the Zoo are helping their cousins in Peru. With the recent birth of a cub, conservationists had the rare opportunity to observe mother-cub interactions and denning behaviors. Photographs of the bears have helped train facial-recognition software designed to identify individual bears on trail camera footage, increasing understanding of how bears use their native habit.



San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance has worked in the region for decades, partnering with local communities and working out of various field sites, including the Stiefel-Behner Cocha Cashu Biological Research Station in Manu National Park.



Only two zoos in the US have been able to breed Guianan cocks-of-the-rock, and the San Diego Zoo is one of them. With 8 chicks hatched in 2021, we're contributing to the long-term sustainability of the global population of the species.



Together with our partner Field Projects International, we hosted the third "Genomics in the Jungle" field course in Summer 2021, at the new Wildlife Conservation Laboratory in Peru. The course teaches Peruvian and international students to survey wildlife in the field and identify species using DNA sequencing and molecular research techniques.



PACIFIC ISLANDS

The Pacific Islands are home to an abundance of wildlife found nowhere else on Earth. Their incredible biodiversity—including some of the rarest birds and reptiles—and unique habitats are found from coastal reefs to mountain ridges. But despite their remote locations, the islands are highly vulnerable to invasive species and diseases, habitat fragmentation, and the effects of climate change.

With initiatives on the islands of Hawai'i, Fiji, Rota, and the Galápagos, we collaborate with partners and local communities to recover threatened species, safeguard wildlife and ecosystems, and establish sustainable solutions to preserve biodiversity.

SAVING HAWAI'I'S UNIQUE BIRDS

Hawai'i's forests are full of color and song from birds found nowhere else on Earth. But as global temperatures rise, mosquitos move to higher elevations—carrying with them new threats like avian malaria—and many bird populations are now critically endangered. At our Maui

and Keauhou Bird Conservation Centers, teams apply expertise in avian ecology, disease, and behavior to restore bird populations, while engaging local people in efforts to protect native wildlife.



A PINK IGUANA?

Their color isn't the only thing that makes them unique. Fewer than 300 critically endangered pink iguanas are left, and they live on the edge of an active volcano on the Galápagos' Isabela Island. A multi-year project using GPS trackers and other technologies has shed new light on this remote, hard-to-monitor population, revealing previously unknown migrations and behaviors. This new information is essential in further developing conservation plans to save the unusual lizards.

MEASURING SUCCESS

Our efforts to save island wildlife extend beyond the Pacific. Since 1993, we've been involved in recovery of the critically endangered Jamaican rock iguana, helping save the species from near-certain extinction. Recently, our scientists contributed years of data on iguana recovery for the development of the IUCN's Green Status of Species framework—a new global standard and critical tool measuring species recovery in response to conservation action. It's the first standardized method to assess the success of current and potential conservation efforts.





Conservation Begins with People

On the Big Island of Hawai'i, our 'Alalā Reintroduction Community Inquiry Program engages Hawai'i Island science teachers and students with scientifically relevant and culturally significant curricular activities. In 2020 and 2021, workshops were canceled due to the pandemic. We are thrilled to resume them in spring of 2022.



RESCUE MISSION

When malaria threatened the last four 'akikiki (Hawaiian honeycreepers) in the Alaka'i Wilderness Preserve on Kaua'i, conservationists leaped into action to save them. In December 2021, we collaborated with partners to rescue these tiny birds from the lush 9,000-acre wilderness. Working side-by-side with Kaua'i Forest Bird Recovery Project and Pacific Bird Conservation, together we planned and carried out a 10-day search and rescue mission.

One of the birds was recovered, and is now living with a population of 41 other 'akikiki in the care of experts at our Maui Bird Conservation Center. The bird also offers critical genetic diversity to the breeding population—and thus, even more hope for the future of the species. Another effort to rescue the remaining three birds is being planned. The collaborative program to save this unique bird reminds us that hope is always possible.



AUSTRALIAN FOREST

Found primarily along the northern and eastern coasts of the continent, Australian forests are home to some of Earth’s most unique and iconic wildlife. Eucalyptus forests account for the majority of these habitats, and while they provide food, shelter, and resources for wildlife and local people, they’re also highly vulnerable to the bushfires that are increasingly growing in frequency and intensity due to climate change and habitat fragmentation.

We’ve been caring for koalas at the Zoo for nearly 100 years, and the Safari Park is currently home to the only platypuses outside of Australia. We work closely with Australian partners to put our expertise into action, studying the effects of wildfires on environments and wildlife, caring for displaced wildlife, and developing strategies to both increase habitat resilience to fires and maintain healthy habitats for native species.

ONE OF A KIND

Platypuses are egg-laying mammals with a paddle-shaped tail, sleek fur, webbed feet, and a wide bill. They may be unusual, but they’re perfectly designed for their Australian freshwater habitats—and these spaces are rapidly vanishing as human populations encroach.

Together with partners, we use innovative technology to test water for traces of environmental DNA (eDNA)—skin cells or hair that animals leave behind in their habitat—to map platypus habitat and design conservation strategies to protect them.



In the aftermath of the fires, teams continue to monitor wildlife in the area, tracking koalas with the help of both technology and GPS trackers, as they work to restore the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.



Conservation Begins with People

During the devastating 2019–2020 Australian mega-wildfires, allies like you made a lifesaving difference for injured and displaced wildlife, quickly giving more than one million dollars! With your generosity, we immediately sent in teams to assist our partners as they led emergency koala evacuations in the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. Your support continues to serve and protect the most genetically diverse colony of koalas in the world, which live in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. A special thank you is owed to a koala-loving anonymous donor who generously made a lead gift toward the Australian Wildfire Relief efforts.



Teams used scent-detection tracking dogs to locate stranded koalas and rescue them from approaching fires. The koalas were brought into our partner facilities, including the Taronga Zoo, where they received around-the-clock care.



In Rancho Jamul Ecological Reserve, home to the first reintroduced breeding population in San Diego County, multiple generations of burrowing owls have paired up and successfully fledged their own chicks.



SOUTHWEST

Headquartered in a biodiversity hotspot, we're proud to safeguard and celebrate the wildlife and ecosystems in our own backyard. The Southwest—a cross-border area spanning Southern California and northern Mexico—sprawls from coasts to deserts, and incorporates diverse landscapes, including wetlands, forests, grasslands, and mountains. The distinct habitats of the Southwest are home to an array of wildlife found nowhere else on Earth.

With projects across the region, we protect and restore the Southwest's unique species by using cutting-edge science and technology to monitor wildlife, boosting populations and reintroducing threatened species, and identifying and reducing threats to ecosystems.

900 ACRES
Half of the Safari Park's 1,800 acres are set aside as the Biodiversity Reserve—a protected area of native coastal sage scrub and chaparral habitat.

HOPE FOR LITTLE LOCALS
For the past four years, we've been part of a collaborative effort to save the endangered Western burrowing owl. Chicks are hatched and raised at the Safari Park, then reintroduced into protected local habitat—including areas from which the species had previously disappeared. This year, the Burrowing Owl Recovery Program successfully established a new breeding population in the Ramona grasslands. We were thrilled when 12 pairs of relocated owls nested together, each rearing offspring until they fledged!

SLOW AND STEADY
What's the best place to reintroduce endangered desert tortoises? A study in the Nevada desert revealed that carefully choosing reintroduction sites—based on the availability of plants, refuge options, and ease of camouflage—boosted one-year survival to as much as 80 percent. This year, we're tracking 150 young tortoises in Edwards Air Force Base and Ward Valley to learn if those benefits hold true in California, too.

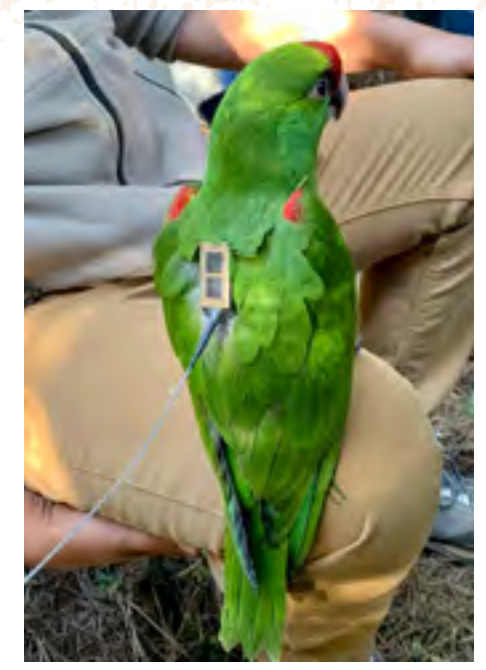
RESCUE MISSION
After fires swept through the San Gabriel Mountains, mudslides threatened a population of endangered southwestern pond turtles. While the habitat recovers, conservationists relocated them to the Zoo, where we've been helping the rare, native species for more than 10 years.



CALIFORNIA ANTELOPE

Fewer than 50 peninsular pronghorn antelope are left in their native Baja California habitat. One of the fastest mammals on Earth, they live in a harsh environment that makes tracking and studying them a grueling and nearly impossible feat—but which is essential to protect the species. We participated in the first-ever radio collaring and reintroduction of eight pronghorn to a protected reserve in Baja. The lightweight, solar-powered devices provide around-the-clock, previously unknown data on their behavior, movements, and habitat use.

We welcomed two sets of twin critically endangered peninsular pronghorn antelope at the Safari Park—a first for our conservation breeding program and critical additions for the population.



TRACKING MOUNTAIN PARROTS

One of the last remaining North American parrot species, the endangered thick-billed parrot exists today only in the high elevation pine forests of northern Mexico. Parrot populations are declining due to habitat loss and degradation from illegal logging and impacts of climate change. In collaboration with partners OVIS, World Parrot Trust, and Arizona Fish and Game Department, our teams are using innovative methods to track the birds and better understand where they go during winter months, identifying locations where additional protections may be needed. Teams recently outfitted 20 additional parrots with lightweight, solar-powered backpack harnesses, while working with local communities and government authorities to promote species conservation and sustainable forest management.



ENDANGERED ICONS

Torrey pines, a local botanical icon, are severely threatened by the impacts of climate change, including drought and invasive bark beetle infestations. Our Plant Conservation team is partnering with California State Parks and the Center for Plant Conservation to rescue this species by preserving seeds in our Native Plant Seed Bank, replanting wild populations, and studying the genes and environmental factors that impact the trees' resilience and survival.

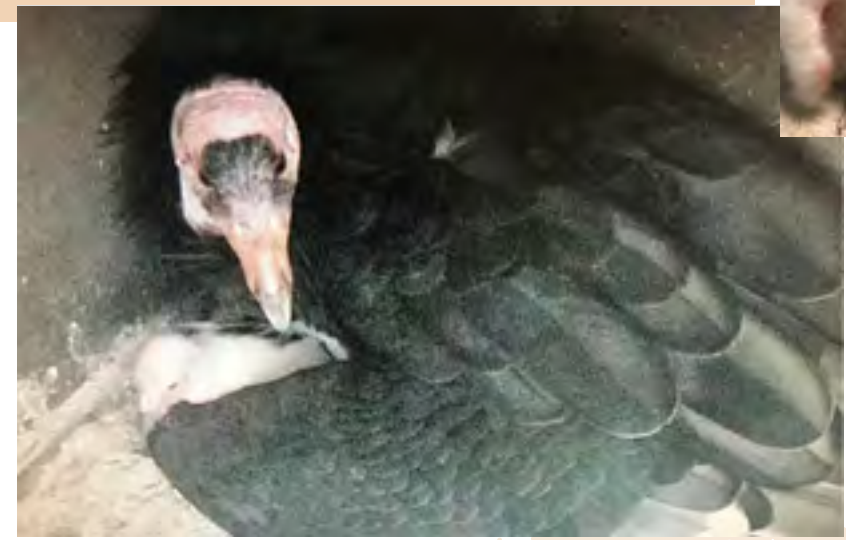


Conservation Begins with People
 For thousands of years, members of the Kumeyaay Nation have been stewards of the land and native wildlife in a large area encompassing much of Southern California and northern Mexico—including land that is now home to the Safari Park. In 2021, in celebration of their legacy, culture, and centuries of wildlife stewardship, tribal members of the San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians hosted the inaugural Indigenous Peoples’ Celebration at the Safari Park, inviting members of the community to join us for storytelling, songs, and a look at the connections between the Kumeyaay people and the land we share.

To honor the Kumeyaay Nation and their long connection to the lands and wildlife of the Southwest, we invited members to name three California condor chicks that hatched at the Safari Park in 2021. The Kumeyaay-language names reinforce the connection between native wildlife species and the cultural heritage of Indigenous people: Met-ha my wahm (“high wind rider,”) Po-mahn-kwakurr (“far-off flyer,”) and Eyaip-poman (“flies through”)—along with four other 2021 chicks—are candidates for future reintroduction into native habitats and will carry their names into the skies of the Southwest.



GROUNDBREAKING DISCOVERIES
 In our decades of working with critically endangered California condors, we’ve analyzed DNA samples from nearly 1,000 birds—an important tool in the species’ recovery program. In 2021, we discovered that female California condors can reproduce without males. This natural form of asexual reproduction, called parthenogenesis, was revealed through routine genetic testing of two birds in the conservation breeding program. It’s the first documented case in condors, and the first in any avian species where the bird had access to a mate but didn’t breed with them. The remarkable discovery sparked months of media interest and stories around the world, bringing global attention to the challenges condors face, as well as our conservation science work—and it all happened right here at the Safari Park.



At the Zoo, we’re dedicating an area as native pollinator habitat, which includes planting native milkweed—a key component in supporting western monarch butterfly populations. Though the western monarch population has declined by a whopping 99%, surveys of the 2021 western monarch migration indicate that their numbers are on the rise.

This spring, San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria signed the National Wildlife Federation’s Mayors’ Monarch Pledge, furthering our goal of creating habitats for these pollinators and encouraging our community to do the same.



In July 2020, a splendid sunbird at the Zoo successfully hatched a female chick. In September, she hatched another chick, this one male. San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance is the only institution in the US to breed this species.



Saved by Science

Our Conservation Genetics and Wildlife Biodiversity Banking teams work with partners to find innovative ways to save species—with the help of cells stored in our Wildlife Biodiversity Bank. In the last two years, we celebrated two landmark births of cloned animals that are each helping restore critically important genetic diversity for their endangered species.

KURT + HOLLY = HOPE

Kurt, the first cloned Przewalski's horse, was cloned from cells preserved since 1980 and then born to and raised by a surrogate domestic horse in collaboration with our partners Revive and Restore, and ViaGen. Kurt arrived at the Safari Park this year, along with Holly, a female Przewalski's horse. The hope is that they will have their own offspring, advancing the recovery of this critically endangered species.

ELIZABETH ANN

Once thought to be extinct, black-footed ferrets are making a comeback—but genetic diversity is a challenge in recovering an endangered species whose population descended from a small group of founder animals. Born in 2020, Elizabeth Ann is the first cloned black-footed ferret. She was sired from the frozen cells of Willa, a ferret who lived more than 30 years ago and whose cells were preserved in our Wildlife Biodiversity Bank.

Education

Inspiration Through Education

Education is crucial to our vision of a world where all life thrives. Through hands-on learning adventures for all ages, we're engaging and inspiring the decision-makers of tomorrow—the next generation of leaders, teachers, parents, and citizens—to join us in protecting biodiversity and the planet we share.

Connecting with the Next Generation

Our Education programs begin at the Zoo, the Safari Park, and the Conservation Education Lab at the Beckman Center, offering everything from all-grade-level field trips and summer camps to wildlife exploration options for teens, and teacher workshops.

With innovative new offerings, reimagined virtual programming, and dedicated staff, our commitment to education continued safely through pandemic challenges. Countless lives are touched through these programs, all of which are made possible through generous donations.

38,940

With innovation and rigorous safety protocols in place, Teacher Workshops in Conservation Science continued in 2020 and 2021 for 236 local middle and high school educators, reaching 38,940 students and inspiring crucial connections to the natural world.

21,000

Through in-person and virtual programming at the Zoo, 21,000 students joined us to learn about wildlife and the ecosystems we share.



81 Hours

Nearly 3,000 students were reached through 81 sessions of Wild Art Hour, a new virtual program created in response to teachers' concerns that students were losing art and music opportunities in schools.

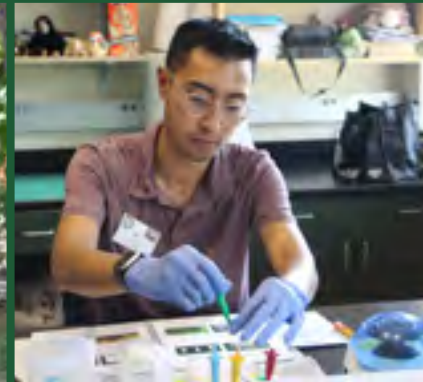
200 Zoom Calls

Virtual programs from the Safari Park engaged more than 10,000 students in 2021, including 1,750 who experienced brand-new curricula developed for virtual field trips, connecting them directly with our wildlife care specialists and conservationists through more than 200 Zoom calls!



Much-Needed Fun

In 2020 and 2021, we adapted our summer camps, successfully running safe programs providing enriching learning opportunities and much-needed occasions to socialize with other children.



45 Grads

In collaboration with Miami University of Ohio, 45 students graduated with a master's degree from the Advanced Inquiry Program. We are now in the 10th year of the program.

Millions Worldwide

When the world shut down, guests, members, and donors came to us. Our website traffic increased as much as 1,400%, with millions of people across the globe learning, discovering, and staying connected with their favorite wildlife at the Zoo and Safari Park through our wildlife cams, online content, and complimentary educational programming.

Lifelong Learning

From in-person adventures to online visits, there are endless ways to learn with us. A world of fun and facts for students and teachers awaits on our San Diego Zoo Wildlife Explorers website. The San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance Press offers books for all ages, and many opportunities to explore interactive web-based training courses are available on My Academy. And anyone with a computer or smartphone can join us to make a difference in ongoing conservation work through our Citizen Science programs.

16,000 Annually

We kicked off the Adaptations Connections program, teaching 6,000 students about biodiversity and the incredible role that wildlife adaptations play in healthy ecosystems. We are grateful to the Vassiliadis Family Foundation and their endowment of this program, which will serve 16,000 students annually.

118 Future Careers

The first cross-campus summer camp brought 118 high school students to the Zoo, Park, and Beckman Center and highlighted careers in conservation.

360/48/13

In 2021, we celebrated 8 years of San Diego Zoo Wildlife Explorers television programming. This heartwarming and educational wildlife programming is now seen in 360 hospitals, clinics, and Ronald McDonald Houses in 48 states and 13 countries—bringing happiness, hope, and healing to over 25 million children and their families.

Amazing Wildlife

Allies everywhere can now tune in to discover *Amazing Wildlife*—our brand-new podcast offering insights on rare species, and a behind-the-scenes look inside the Zoo, Safari Park, and ongoing conservation efforts worldwide as we race to save the world's amazing wildlife.



Amazing Wildlife:
A San Diego Zoo Podcast



Scan Code to listen

2,000

In-person Safari Park field trips returned in Fall 2021, benefitting 2,000 students.





Creating Future Allies for Wildlife

You've been by our side over the last several years as we worked to transform the Zoo's previous Children's Zoo into a 3.2-acre adventure brimming with inspiration and innovation. The Denny Sanford Wildlife Explorers Basecamp, which opened in March 2022, is a brand-new destination to inspire the next generation of conservationists and connect them with nature.

Here, guests of all ages explore four key ecosystems, immersed in nature and experiencing the world from wildlife's point of view. Together, as we spark empathy and offer new perspectives, we're inspiring the next generation of wildlife allies to join us in creating a world where all life thrives.

Donors **Art and Danielle Engel** chose to honor the memory of their son by naming the reptile building Jake's Cool Critters.

Bob and Marion Wilson honored their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren in their lead gift toward the play elements throughout Wildlife Explorers Basecamp.

Spineless Marvels, the invertebrate building, is named in honor of **The McKinney Family**.

The Discovery Bridge is named in honor of the remarkable generosity of **The Conrad Prebys Foundation**.

The area is also home to the new Rady Ambassadors Headquarters, named in honor of **Ernest and Evelyn Rady**.

Our deepest gratitude to **Denny Sanford** for his foundational naming gift, which led the way on this project, inspiring others to join us in this adventure, and bringing both the project and conservation to life for visitors of all ages.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

We're grateful for the generosity of the **3,701** donors who collectively gave more than **\$88 million** to bring this one-of-a-kind adventure to life.

Thank You

GLOBAL COMMUNITY

In 2020 and 2021, you helped us make history at our first-ever virtual Rendezvous In The Zoo (R·I·T·Z) galas, bringing our wildlife and conservation work live to guests on 6 continents in 21 countries and 35 states—from Canada to China, the Netherlands to New Zealand, Argentina, Germany, India, and beyond! We are deeply grateful to our R·I·T·Z donors for providing vital support as we navigated five months of pandemic closures.



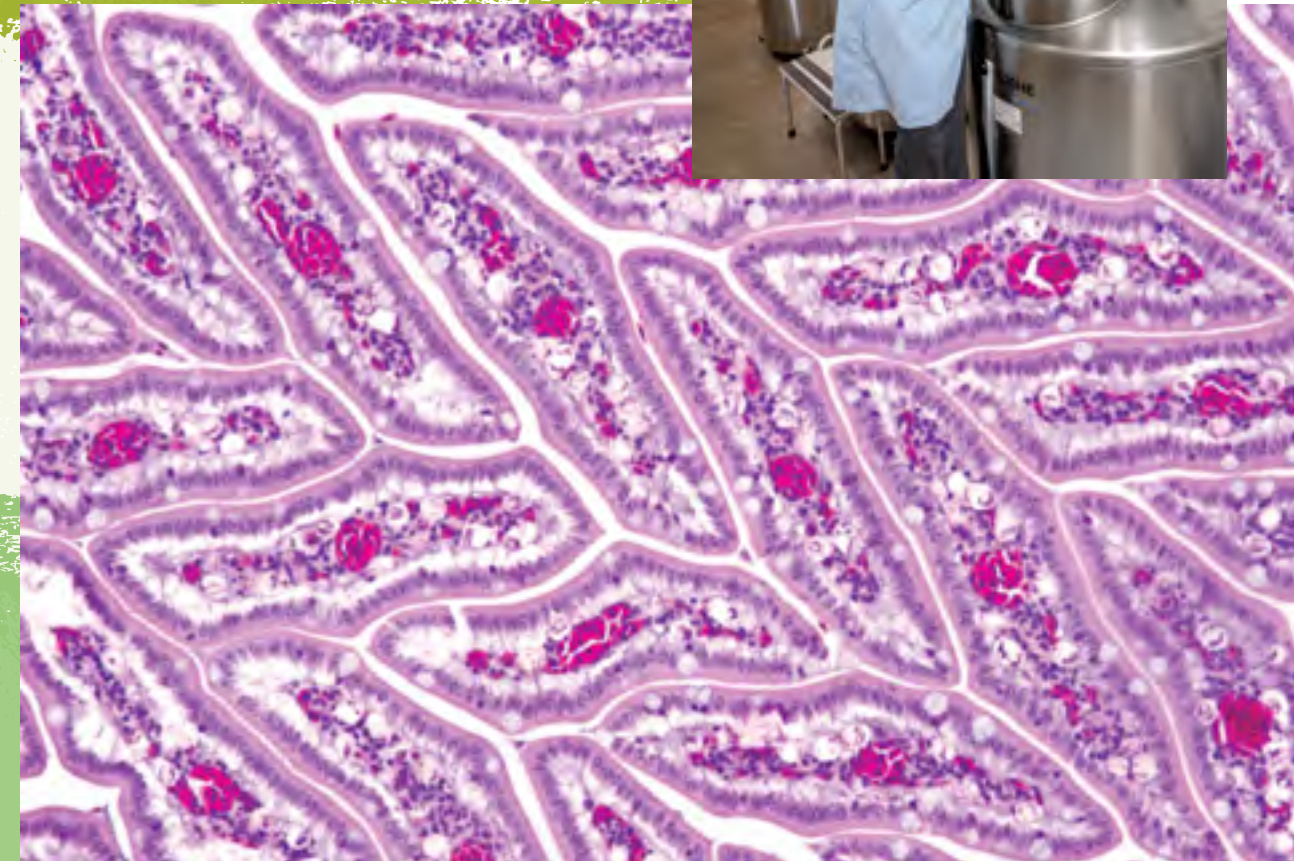
YOU HAVE EXCELLENT TASTE

In 2020, we celebrated a virtual version of our annual Food, Wine & Brew Celebration. From the comfort of their homes, guests enjoyed beverage and party boxes as they sipped along with the livestreamed event. Your support makes a world of difference, and we were thrilled to bring the iconic—and tasty—event back in person in 2021!



OUR PRESIDENT'S CLUBS MEMBERS

We extend a special thank you to our President's Clubs members for their continued generosity. Your annual, sustained support is foundational to everything we do, and has been especially vital over the last two years. During this time, President's Clubs enjoyed an array of exclusive virtual and live programming, as well as special events. For information on how to become a member, see page 64.



FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

With the support of **The Rolf Benirschke Legacy Foundation**, the position of Benirschke Endowed Conservation Portfolio Manager at the Beckman Center for Conservation Research was established in honor of Dr. Kurt Benirschke, recognizing how his passion and extraordinary vision shaped developments in reproductive medicine and conservation biology in the 20th century, and how the impact of his work continues today.

INNOVATING FOR WILDLIFE

The establishment of the William H. May/Beckman Endowed Scientist in Wildlife Biodiversity Banking drives genetic recovery and innovative reproductive technologies that will save wildlife today and for future generations. We are deeply grateful to the family of **William H. May** and the **Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation** for their extraordinary endowment.

HONORING A LIFETIME OF SUPPORT

Inspired by her late husband Richard's love for the okapi, **Barbara Elander** and her family have chosen to safeguard wildlife through their charitable giving. Over the years, the family has enjoyed supporting a new leopard habitat at the San Diego Zoo, the northern white rhino project, education programs, and more. Barbara and Richard's commitment to the future of wildlife inspired them to name San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance as a beneficiary of their Charitable Remainder Trust. For more information on planned giving options, please see page 64.



Your support makes these connections possible each and every day. *Thank you.*

THRIVING THROUGH NUTRITION

Much of the wildlife in our care are "browsers," meaning they feed mostly on non-grass plants collectively known as browse—branches and twigs, tender shoots and buds, leaves, berries, and flowers. This greenery is crucial for wildlife health and wellness, and we're thrilled that a donor has come forward to kick off a new, 282-acre browse farm project near the Safari Park.



Everyday Allies

Conservation begins with people! A half million members, volunteers, and donors just like you are the heartbeat of everything we do.

Our Teams

INVALUABLE VOLUNTEERS

Our incredible volunteers have been more engaged than ever, despite five months of closures. A total of 1,625 volunteers contributed more than 262,000 hours of service in 2021—a record in our organization’s history. But the figures tell only part of the story; the impact these inspiring individuals make on our mission is invaluable.

EMPLOYEE DEDICATION

Nearly 3,000 employees are dedicated to saving wildlife. Nearly 20 percent of them work directly with the care, feeding, and health of wildlife on grounds. Others support our mission as they work with guests, in offices, and in the field in our eight conservation hubs around the world. Nurturing alliances with diverse peers, partners, and communities further expands and deepens our impact.

Supporters

LOYAL MEMBERS

With 440,000 members, we have the largest membership base of any zoo in the world. Our family of loyal members includes 320,000 adults and 120,000 children who call the Zoo and Safari Park their home away from home.

WILDLIFE HEROES

This year, 10,000 monthly donors are saving and protecting endangered species and habitats around the world. The sustaining gifts of these Wildlife Heroes directly support our conservation efforts across the globe as we work to save species worldwide by uniting our expertise in animal care and conservation science with our dedication to inspiring passion for nature.



Forging New Alliances

THE NEXT GENERATION IS OUR FUTURE

We employ thousands of San Diego’s young people, and some of our current management team got their start here in entry-level positions. San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria honored our employment history and local partnerships by inviting us to join him in the new Youth Work Readiness Program, helping new workers ages 16 to 24 explore career options. He announced the initiative at the Zoo, bringing attention to the program and boosting candidate interest.



ACCESSIBLE EMPLOYMENT

We’re working to expand our audiences and reach a more diverse pool of job candidates. We’re hiring more team members with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and are forging new alliances as we work with various workforce groups and leaders to be an employer of choice for all.



INCREASING ON-GROUNDS ACCESSIBILITY

On grounds, Zoo and Safari Park leadership worked with our new Diversity and Inclusion director to play a more active role in ensuring our grounds are accessible to all our guests.

SENSORY INCLUSIVITY

To help all guests enjoy a comfortable visit, the Zoo and Safari Park officially became Sensory Inclusive sites in 2021, certified by KultureCity, a nonprofit that advocates for people with sensory processing disorders, who may find noises, smells, lights, or crowds overwhelming. The Zoo and Safari Park are two of the three attractions in San Diego County listed as certified Sensory Inclusive sites on KultureCity’s app, which directs people to sensory-friendly venues across the nation.

At the Zoo or Safari Park, visitors can now reduce sensory overload by checking out “sensory bags” with items including noise-canceling headphones and fidget toys. Signage in noisy, busy areas signals that guests are entering an area where they may wish to don their headphones.



COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

Our two beautiful parks bring guests from San Diego, and around the world, together in joy, inspiration, and connection. Our global conservation efforts begin with the people who share ecosystems with wildlife. We are a richer community—and have an even greater impact—when we empower and enable diverse voices. In 2021, we appointed our first-ever director of Diversity and Inclusion, a role that leads our efforts to pursue an effective Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion strategy.



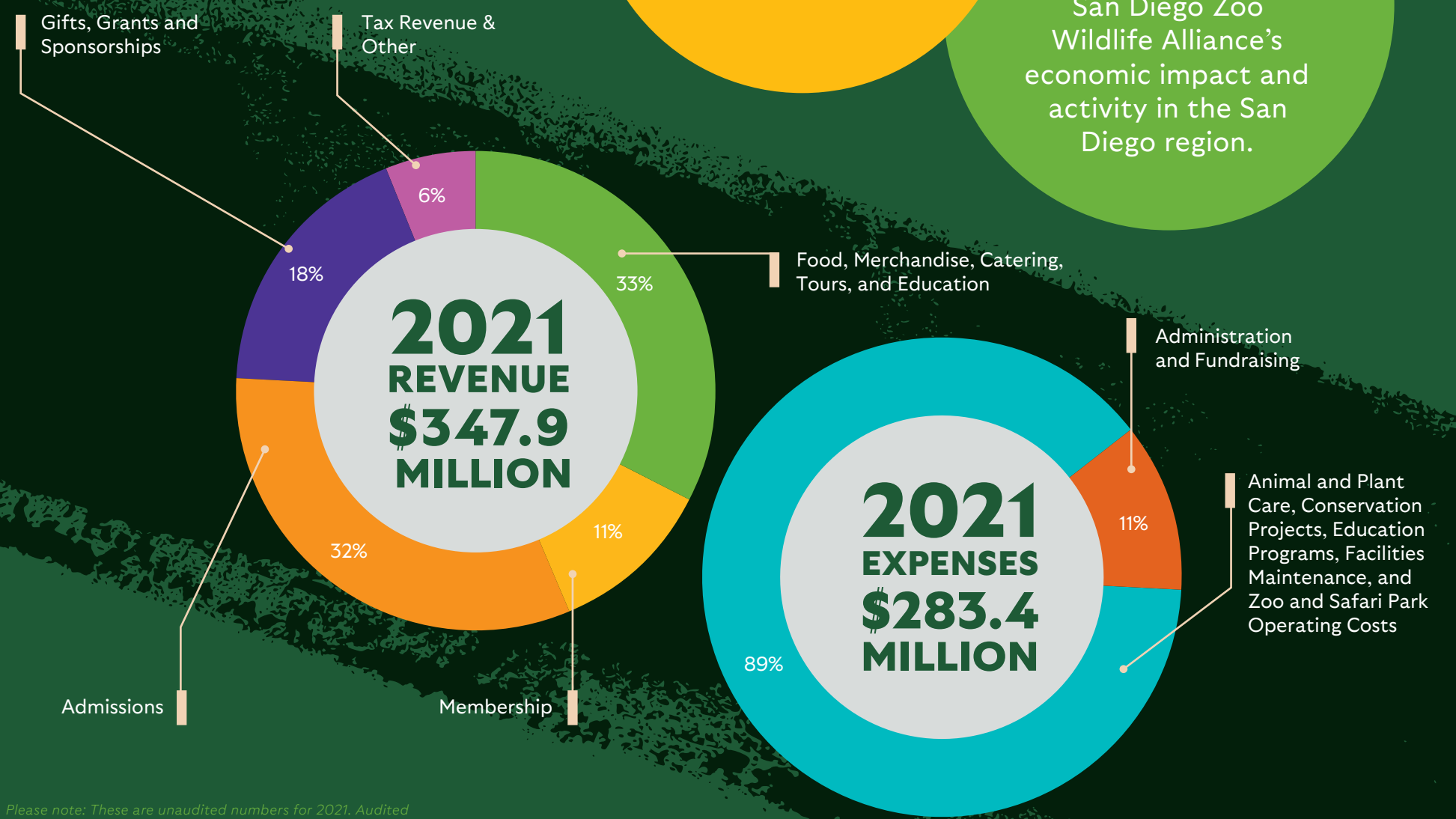
SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEB

- 52.4 million YouTube views
 - 1.7 million Facebook fans
 - 2 million TikTok followers
 - 1 million Instagram followers
 - 151,000 Twitter followers
 - 13.8 million Flickr photo views
 - 675 million Giphy views
-
- 95.5 million views on live animal cams
 - 35.5 million visits to our websites

Financials

MORE TOWARD OUR MISSION
 As a nonprofit organization, all revenue supports our mission. Revenue above expenses, which totaled \$64.5 million this year, is reinvested to pursue conservation priorities, capital projects, and operational needs.

\$1.7 BILLION ANNUALLY
 San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance's economic impact and activity in the San Diego region.



Please note: These are unaudited numbers for 2021. Audited financials and IRS Form 990 will be available on sdzwa.org once they are completed. Economic impact study prepared in 2018 by San Diego Taxpayers Educational Foundation.

Milestone Moments

As we continue to recover from 5 months of pandemic closures, we are heartened to have had some remarkable months in the last year!

- At the Safari Park, we continue to delight guests with innovative new programming like our 2021 Autumn Festival.
- Boosted by 15 nights of Ha!GLOWeen fun, the Zoo had the highest October attendance on record.
- July 2021 saw the highest ticket sales ever for both the Zoo and Safari Park.

Innovative Collaborations

We're committed to leveraging every aspect of our organization to make a difference for wildlife. In 2021, to amplify and support our collaborative efforts, we launched new merchandise collections with our conservation partners at Reteti Elephant Sanctuary and Sintas Indonesia. Merchandise is an important communication tool, and our partners receive a part of the proceeds from every sale. For us, it's also a long-term commitment, as we've established quarterly collaborations with various partners going forward.



You Can Be an Ally for Wildlife

We are all connected. Everything we do to save, protect, and care for wildlife in San Diego and eight conservation regions across the globe is only possible because of the generosity of allies like you. Please join us in securing the future for animals, plants, communities, and the natural places we all share.

Membership

Your ongoing support is vital to the Zoo, Safari Park, and conservation efforts worldwide. Visit sdzwa.org/membership to explore membership options, including our prestigious President's Clubs.

Current Gifts

Cash

The gift of cash provides immediate support for San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance and is a tax-deductible charitable donation.

Securities and Real Estate

For gifts of appreciated property such as stocks and real estate, you can receive a charitable income tax deduction for the full, fair-market value of the property and avoid paying capital gains tax on the appreciation.

IRA Rollover

If you are 70½ or older, you can transfer up to \$100,000 from your IRA directly to San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance. This transfer counts toward your required minimum distribution.

Foundation Grants

Partner with us to advance a broad range of projects and programs that create new habitats, help underserved populations in our community, inspire the next generation, save endangered species, and more.

Monthly Giving

Your monthly gift fuels critical conservation worldwide, cares for thousands of animals and plants at the Zoo and Safari Park, and offers sustainable hope to the world's most extraordinary wildlife relying on us to survive—and thrive—each and every day. To learn more or become a Wildlife Hero, visit sdzwa.org.

Legacy Gifts

Bequests

A bequest is made through your will or living trust and can be for a specific amount, a specific asset, or a percentage of your estate.

Retained Life Estate

You may donate your home to San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance now, while retaining the right to live there for the rest of your life.

Charitable Remainder Trust

With a charitable remainder trust, you can choose to receive a fixed annuity payment or receive variable payments based on the trust principal. When the trust matures, the remaining amount passes to San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance.

Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA)

A charitable gift annuity enables you to receive fixed payments, based on your age, for the rest of your life (or lives). When the annuity matures, the remainder passes to San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance.

Individual Retirements Account (IRA)

Naming San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance as a beneficiary of your Individual Retirement Account is a tax-effective way to make a charitable gift, because it avoids multiple estate and income taxes.

Life Insurance

Naming San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance as a beneficiary of your life insurance is a simple way of supporting us without giving up current assets.

For More Information:
Visit zoolegacy.org, call us at (619) 557-3947,
or email donations@sdzwa.org.



Leadership

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President and Chief Executive Officer

Shawn Dixon
Chief Operating Officer

David Franco
Chief Financial Officer

Erika Kohler
*Interim Executive Director
San Diego Zoo*

Lisa Peterson
*Senior Vice President and Executive Director
San Diego Zoo Safari Park*

Nadine Lamberski
DVM, DACZM, DECZM (ZHM)
*Chief Conservation and
Wildlife Health Officer*

David B. Gillig
Chief Philanthropy Officer

Aida Rosa
Chief Human Resources Officer

David Miller
Chief Marketing Officer

Wendy Bulger
General Counsel

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**San Diego Zoo
Wildlife Alliance**