



**SWBG-CONSERVATIONFUND.ORG**

A 501 (c)(3) non-profit private foundation, the SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund focuses its resources in four strategic areas: Species Research, Habitat Protection, Animal Rescue and Rehabilitation, and Conservation Education. Since its launch, the Fund has granted over \$10 million to more than 500 projects in countries around the world.



# **SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund**

**2013 ANNUAL REPORT**

# Over \$10 Million Given

## REACHING A MAJOR MILESTONE

It is often hard to stay optimistic about the future of wildlife and wild places as we watch loss of habitat, increasing temperatures and species loss happening at alarming rates. Species research continues to be underfunded and animal rescue and rehabilitation organizations struggle to keep up with the growing demand of displaced and injured wildlife. The SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund was created to address all of these challenges.

One of our board members once said “The only day more important than today is tomorrow.” With potential biodiversity loss of several species a day, some that have never even been discovered, our mission has never been so important or faced such great odds. Our inspiration comes from the incredible conservation efforts that organizations around the globe are able to achieve with support from the Fund. We are privileged and humbled to work with these conservation heroes, and proud of the over \$10 million we have given to projects since the Fund was established.

This annual report is just a small sampling of the projects supported through the Fund in 2013. For more information about the Fund, these and other projects, and how you can help, visit our website at [swbg-conservationfund.org](http://swbg-conservationfund.org) and become a Facebook fan at [facebook.com/seaworldbuschgardensfund](https://facebook.com/seaworldbuschgardensfund).

# Animal Rescue and Rehabilitation

## REVERSING OUR IMPACT

There may be nothing more fulfilling than assisting an animal in need. Thousands of facilities around the world rescue wild animals, invest passion into their rehabilitation, all for the hope to successfully release these animals back into their native habitat. The Fund supports the efforts of these dedicated animal rescue professionals and believes every animal rescued, rehabilitated and released is a reminder of the positive influence we can all have for the environment.

Rescue and rehabilitation programs also provide opportunities to learn physiological information and other empirical data about individual and species biology and behavior often difficult to learn in the field. Each animal patient contributes to our overall knowledge of the species and moves us one step closer on our journey to learn about the diverse life on our planet.

The professionals that work at rescue and rehabilitation facilities are some of the most dedicated animal advocates in the world. They willingly give their time, expertise, finances and often their own safety to make a difference in the life of individual animals. Whether they are volunteers working at a local wildlife rehabilitation clinic, or veterinarians donating their time in rehabilitating endangered and threatened wildlife, each person makes a tremendous impact.

The SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund supports animal rescue, rehabilitation and release efforts of several endangered and threatened species.





## SAVING SPECIES IN PANAMA

The Panamerican Conservation Association (APPC) is Panama's leading wildlife rescue and conservation center, with a specialty in the rescue, rehabilitation and release of sloths and anteaters. The Fund has supported APPC since 2006 because of their record of success with over 2,000 native animals, including more than 350 two-and three-toed sloths and 35 tamanduas and silky anteaters. Representatives of the Fund have visited APPC to share their knowledge and assist in these rehabilitation efforts. Until APPC was formed, no dedicated facilities existed for the rehabilitation of these species, and no coordinated conservation education program focused on sloths and anteaters existed in Panama. The program is also a focal point for scientific research of these fascinating species.







## ENDANGERED BONOBOS IN CONGO

The Lola Ya Bonobo Sanctuary, led by Friends of Bonobos, is the world's only bonobo sanctuary. Friends of Bonobos plays a crucial role by providing a safe haven where confiscated bonobos can be rehabilitated. The sanctuary also helps educate important stakeholders in neighboring areas which border the bonobos shrinking habitat on the plight of bonobos and the effects of the bushmeat and pet trades. Through the support of the Fund, the sanctuary continues to be able to take in rescued bonobos and provide them an appropriate home.

Lola Ya Bonobo Sanctuary has also been successful in returning to the wild orphans rescued and reared at their facility, a critical link to preserving the existence of wild bonobos in the future.









## RESCUING KOALAS IN AUSTRALIA

Minton Farm Animal Rescue Centre is a not for profit, voluntary organization that provides rescue, rehabilitation and release work of injured, orphaned and sick Australian animals. With changes in Australian legislation, the state government became more reliant on Minton Farm to take in injured and orphaned koalas. With support from the Fund, Minton Farm was able to update their center to accommodate for this specialized species as well expand to make room for other Australian wildlife.





## SUPPORTING WILDLIFE TRIAGE CENTERS

Since 1972, Project Wildlife has been committed to the rescue, rehabilitation and release of local wildlife throughout San Diego County. Project Wildlife has grown into one of the largest wildlife rehabilitation organizations in the country serving nearly 10,000 animals and performing 14 percent of all animal rehabilitation in the State of California. The Fund supports Project Wildlife's Triage Centers where wildlife patients are examined and stabilized by medical staff before being transferred to their next phase of care.









## RESCUING CETACEANS AND OTHER MARINE LIFE

With support from the Fund, Wildlife in Need has developed training and resources to bolster the Philippine Marine Mammal Stranding Network. Through their Cetacean Stranding Response Workshop, they have trained over 2,000 government staff and local stakeholders and over fifty veterinarians have attended the Medical Management of Stranded Marine Mammals Workshop. These trainings are critical to growing and creating a sustainable network of marine mammal rescue and rehab efforts.

# Conservation Education

## THE NEXT GENERATION

Despite all of today's conservation successes and achievements, one of our most important and sacred responsibilities is to help develop the next generation of conservation stewards. Today's youth are spending more and more time indoors, disconnected to the natural world. They learn about nature online rather than through personal experience. We believe that if this trend continues, future generations will place less importance on the benefits of wildlife and wild places.

Many of today's conservation challenges are rooted in the lack of knowledge. People often don't realize how their actions directly and indirectly affect the environment, and often don't understand how they can make a difference. The most impactful conservation initiatives include conservation education efforts.





## THE NEXT GENERATION OF CONSERVATIONISTS

The Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leaders (EWCL) initiative provides training and experiences for emerging leaders in the conservation field to increase their effectiveness and capabilities. With the Fund's support of the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) on this initiative, international conservation projects on an imperiled species were planned, implemented and evaluated by the EWCL class. Participants learned media, planning and fundraising skills, and coordinated efforts with on the ground conservation partners to implement their projects.



Gracias por su apoyo...



## KIDS SAVING SPECIES

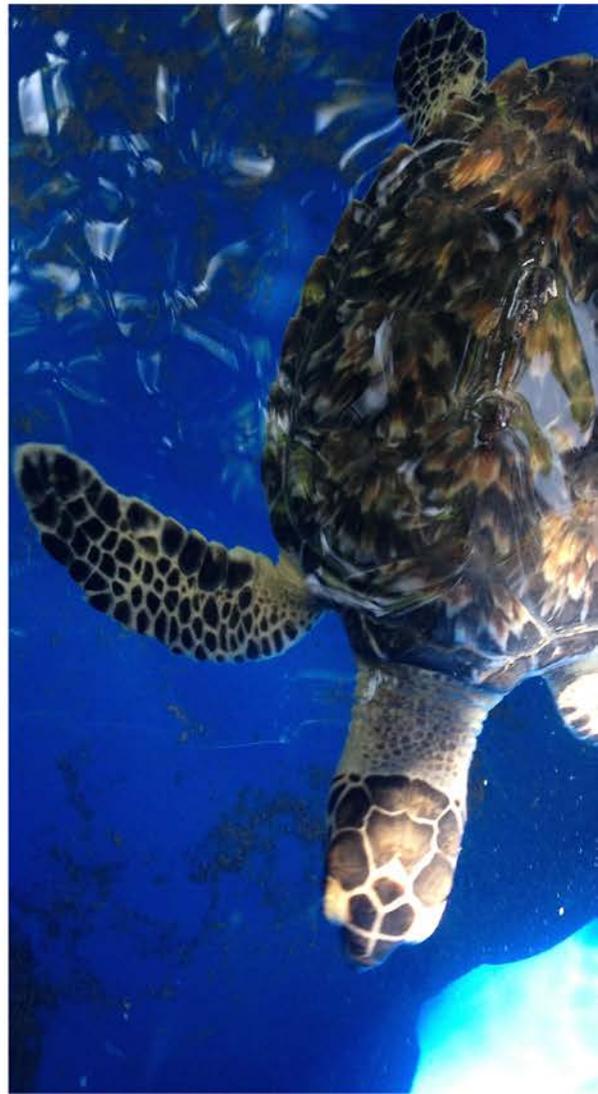
Paso Pacifico's "Junior Rangers" program imparts conservation values to Nicaragua's next generation. The Junior Rangers complete in-depth environmental education modules and community service projects, including a new citizen science component monitoring the threatened yellow-naped Amazon parrot. By engaging youth, this program will contribute to long-term recovery of this heavily exploited species.



## Protecting Sea Turtles in the Caribbean Through Education

Community involvement is the key to provoke a long term positive impact on sea turtle conservation. The sea turtle rescue and conservation center in Pacuare beach, Costa Rica, enhances conservation efforts through the protection of nesting females and their nests as well as raising awareness about the critical situation of marine turtles and their habitat. With the Conservation Fund's support, WIDECAST developed and implemented educational outreach in coastal communities that reduced the human threats for sea turtles in the area and recruited participation in beach monitoring and habitat protection.









## Kibale Fuel Wood Project

The New Nature Foundation works in communities around Uganda's Kibale National Park. Kibale is home to countless species, all residing in a patchwork of rainforest, grassland, swamp and riverine habitats. Small scale logging for energy by an ever-growing population is a major threat to Kibale as it destroys important habitat for wildlife. The Kibale Fuel Wood Project facilitates the building of efficient stoves, encourages native firewood crops, and has an extensive environmental education campaign to reduce the need to harvest wood. The Kibale Eco Char Initiative creates eco-briquettes, reducing the need for firewood to directly benefit Kibales trees and wildlife.

# Habitat Protection

## RESTORING AND PROTECTING THEIR HOME

Every living creature needs food, water, shelter and a place to raise their offspring. An animal's habitat provides all of these core necessities of life. Nearly all endangered and threatened species are impacted by changes to their habitat, and scientists and conservationists agree that habitat loss and changes are the #1 threat to wildlife. Human encroachment, habitat loss, natural and man-made natural disasters can take away the basic needs of animals to survive and thrive and can forever change nature's balance.

Habitat conservation is vital to maintaining biodiversity. As plants and animals adapt to their changing environment, the natural cycle of life is often disrupted. Through the efforts of our conservation partners, we hope to restore and protect vital habitat to help ensure species survival.





## GORILLA RESEARCH AND MONITORING

Mountain gorillas have a population that is incredibly fragile with only 480 individuals inhabiting the Virunga massif and a total of only an estimated 880 gorillas in the world. Daily protection efforts are the primary defense against significant threats such as snares, animal trafficking, disease, and illegal forest use. Through the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International's Karisoke Research Center in Rwanda, the Conservation Fund supports their efforts of dawn-to-dusk protection to approximately 25 percent of the remaining Virunga mountain gorillas.





## SAVING PUFFINS

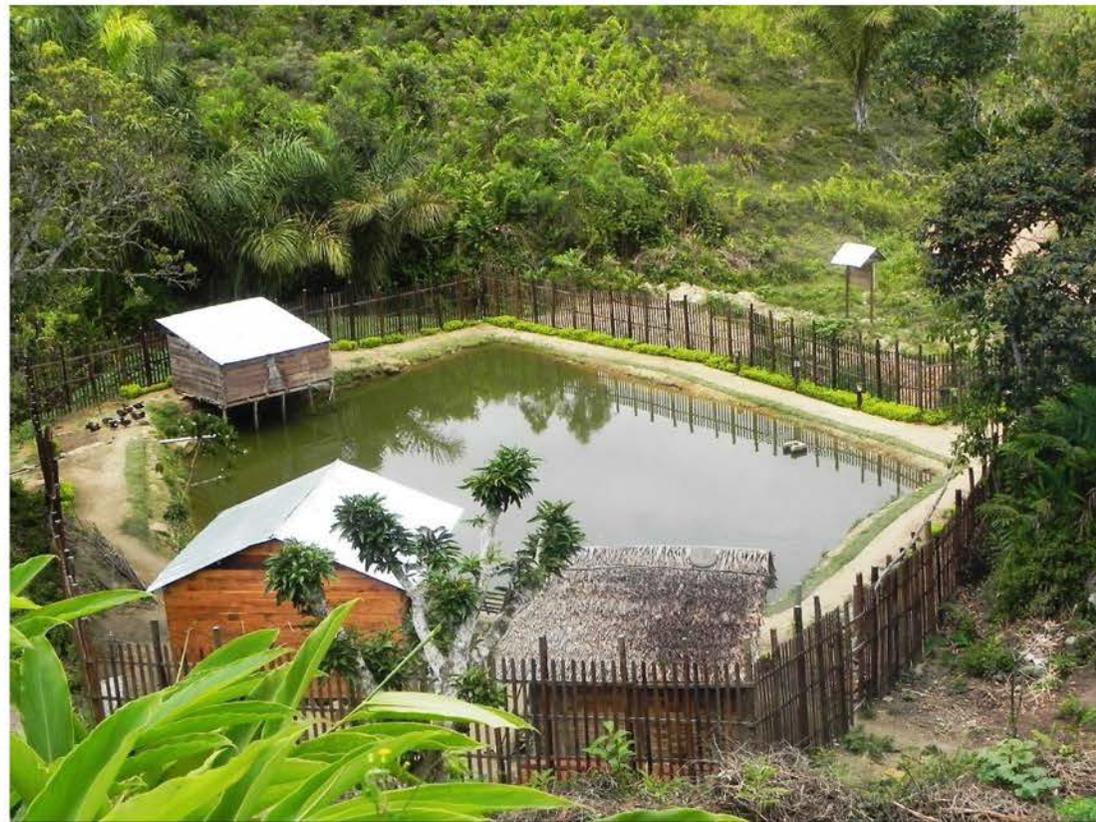
National Audubon protects Atlantic Puffin colonies on Matinicus Rock and Seal Island National Wildlife Refuge in Maine. The Conservation Fund supports the staffing necessary to protect these colonies from predatory gulls and human disturbance and equipment to measure the impacts of climate change and ecosystem health. Audubon also installed puffin decoys to encourage puffin nesting at higher elevations where nests are more secure from storms.

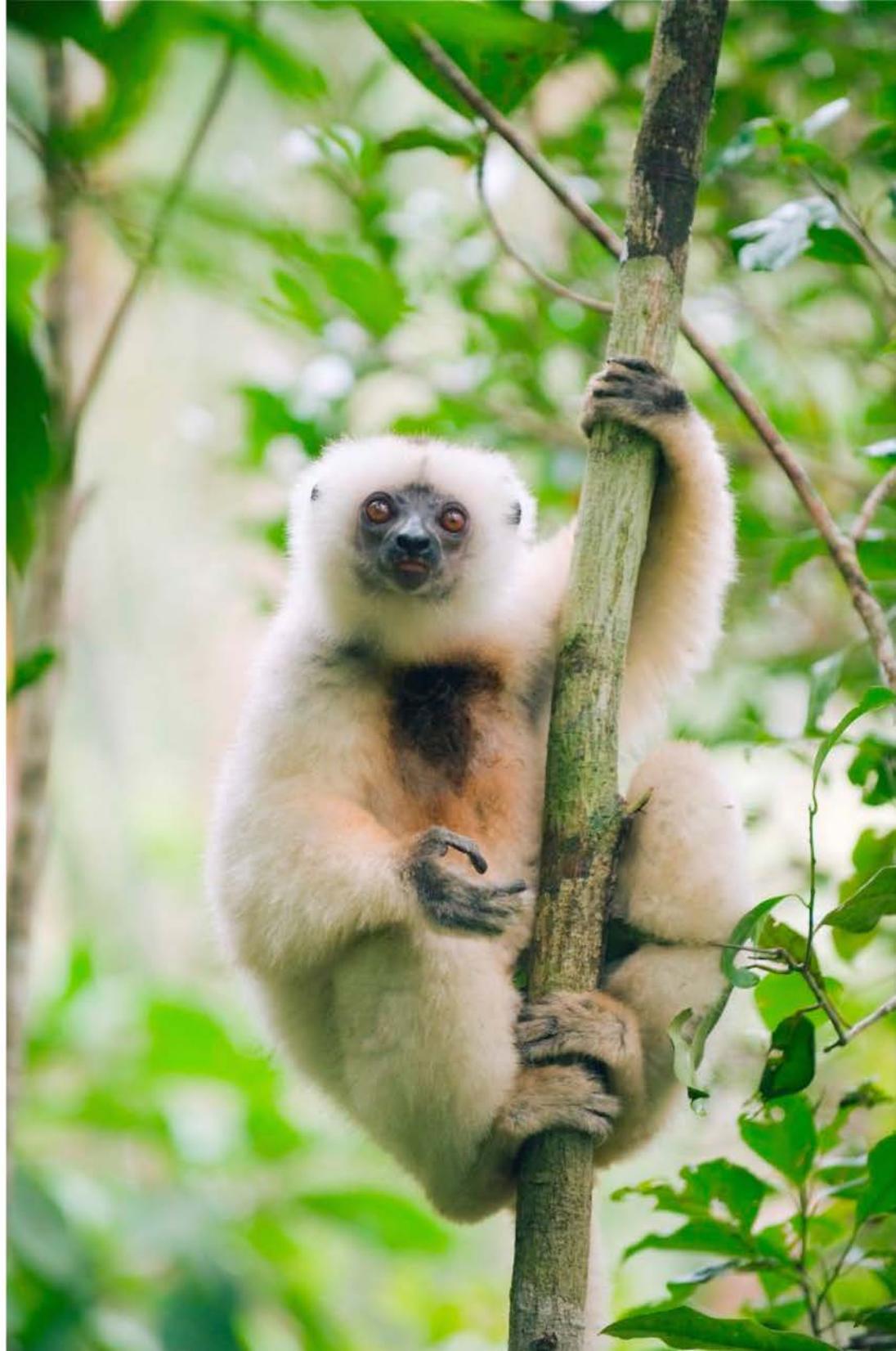




## CONSERVATION THROUGH SUSTAINABLE FISH FARMING

Lemurs are identified as the most endangered group of mammals on the planet by the IUCN. While many factors lead to the decline of lemur populations, bushmeat hunting is one of the most serious threats. To combat this destructive trend, the Conservation Fund supported the Duke Lemur Center in building sustainable fish farms in the villages that surround native lemur habitats. By providing an economical and reliable protein source, the need to hunt lemurs diminished.





# Species Research

## CONTRIBUTING TO SCIENCE

Although our knowledge of animals, ecosystems and their interrelationships has greatly expanded over the past several decades, every day brings new discoveries and sparks new questions. Each year we are delighted by discoveries of new species, troubled by the rapid changes happening to our planet, and inspired by learning something that can truly make a difference in protecting our natural world.

The SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund supports research projects worldwide that contribute to the scientific body of knowledge. The research we support not only provides insight into the lifestyle, behavior and success of a species, but also may lead to innovations on how we can lessen our impact and protect our environment.







## SAVING WOLVES IN MEXICO

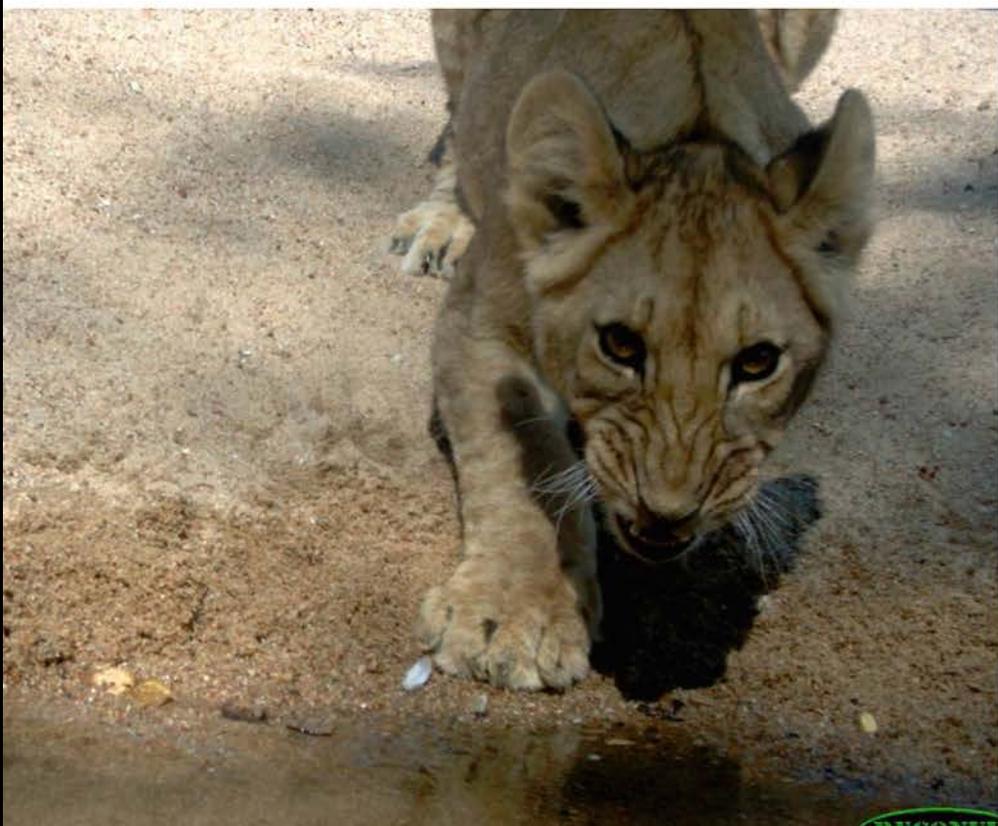
The Mexican Wolf Fund was established to assist the restoration of the highly endangered Mexican Gray Wolf to its native habitat. The Mexican Wolf Fund supports non-lethal, proactive methods, tools and actions that help prevent wolves from being killed or removed from the field due to conflicts with humans and livestock. The Conservation Fund's support helps implement key components of the Mexican Gray Wolf Recovery Program, including protection of thirteen existing wolf packs in New Mexico and Arizona, and several new wolves which may be released to the wild in Arizona.



## KENYAN LION RESEARCH

African lions are rapidly declining mainly due to habitat loss and conflict with humans. At the current rate, lions could be extinct in Kenya in just 20 years. The Ewaso Lions Project promotes the conservation of lions through research and community-based outreach programs. With the Fund's support, Ewaso Lions reduces human-wildlife conflict, gathers data on lions living in community lands, protects private ranches, and enhances community watch programs.







## STOPPING RHINO POACHING

The Wilderness Foundation and the Fund have partnered to take a three pronged approach to rhino conservation in South Africa. First, the Wilderness Foundation is tracking rhinos in the Eastern Cape and maintains a DNA database of the population. This both assists in population studies but also provides evidence that can be used against poachers. Secondly, we are increasing the capacity of veterinarians to care for rhinos injured by poachers in Kruger National Park. Finally, the Fund's support provides a dedicated anti-poaching unit in the Stanley and Livingstone Private Game Reserve to protect the only viable rhino population in the area against potential poachers. These programs, along with several other projects conserving rhinos throughout Africa, may just be saving this species from extinction.



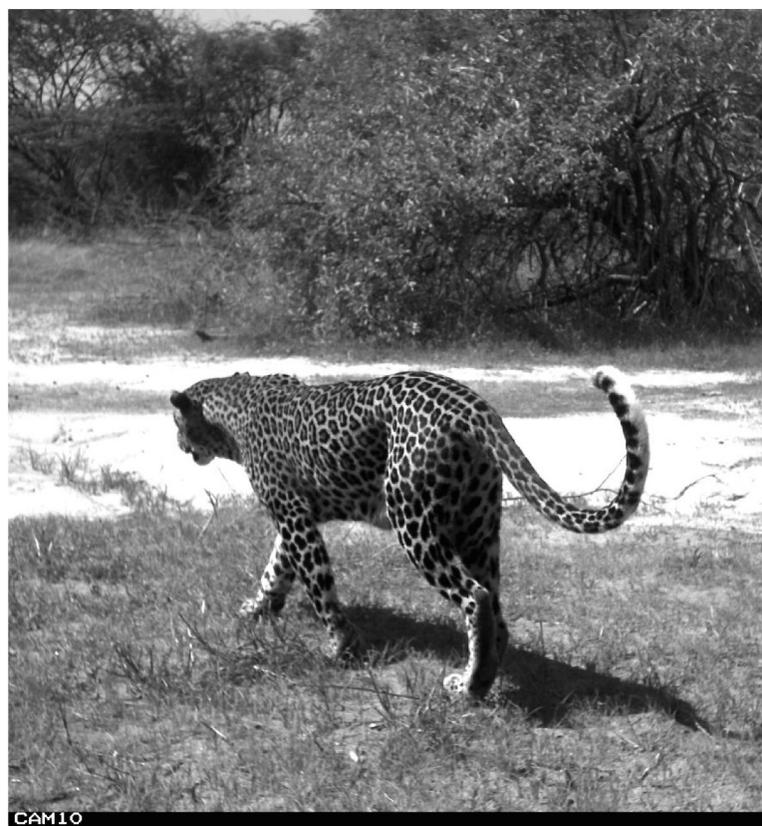






## HUMAN/ELEPHANT CONFLICT

There is a significant Asian elephant population in Thailand's Thap Lan National Park with severe human/elephant conflict. Much of the area has experienced habitat loss, encroachment and poaching. With support from the Conservation Fund, FREELAND works with the parks to provide ranger training, data collection, wildlife monitoring, and improved elephant protection through conflict mitigation with surrounding communities.

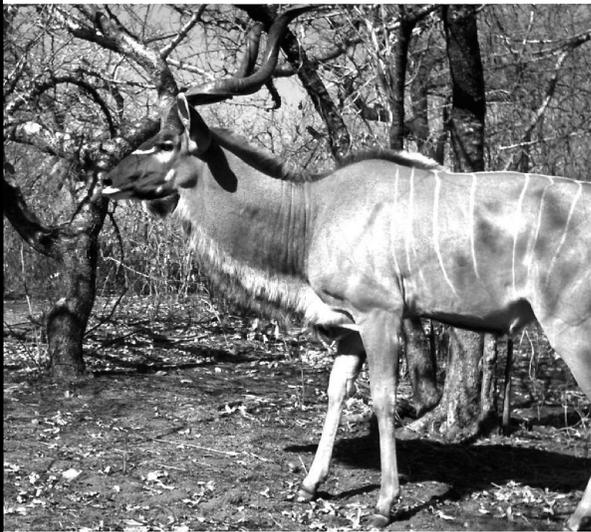


CAM10

## Camera Traps

Camera traps are an important research tool, and the SeaWorld and Busch Gardens Conservation Fund supports several projects that use this technology. We are always delighted by the images that researchers share with us as it gives us a glimpse into the interconnectivity between wildlife and people.

These images are just a sample of those collected by the Wildlife Conservation Research Unit, or WildCru. The Fund has supported WildCru for several years.



# 2013 Organizations Supported

## \$1,200,000 Granted to 93 Conservation Projects in 2013

African People & Wildlife Fund, African Predator Conservation Research Organization, Inc., Alaska SeaLife Center & University of Alaska –Fairbanks, Asociacion Panamericana para la Conservacion, Audubon Center for Birds of Prey, Bat Conservation International, California Wolf Center, The Center for Teaching and Learning, Centre for Education, Research and Conservation of Primates and Nature, Cheetah Conservation Fund, Cheetah Outreach, South Africa, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Conservation Lower Zambezi, Coral Restoration Foundation, Deakin University, Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International, Duke University, Ecology Project International, Elefence International, Inc., Ewaso Lions Project, Fauna & Flora International, Inc., Florida Keys Wildlife Rescue Inc., FREELAND Foundation, Friends of Bonobos, Friends of Conservation, Fundacion Ecologica Rescate Jambeli, Fundacion Proyecto Titi, Galveston Bay Foundation, Giraffe Research & Conservation Trust, Global Conservation Connections, Grevy's Zebra Trust, Gunung Palung Orangutan Conservation Program, Health In Harmony, Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute, International Elephant Foundation, International Fund for Animal Welfare, International Rhino Foundation, Instituto de Pesquisas Ecologicas, Land Empowerment Animals People, The Mabula Ground Hornbill Research and Conservation Project, Marine Conservation Institute, Marinelife Aquarium Society of Michigan, Minton Farm Animal Rescue Centre, Naked Whale Research, National Audubon Society, National Marine Mammal Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, New Nature Foundation, Niassa Lion Project, Orangutan Conservancy, Orangutan Foundation International, Painted Dog Conservation, Pan African Sanctuary Alliance. Paso Pacifico, The Peregrine Fund, Project Wildlife, Projeto BioPesca,, Restore America's Estuaries, The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, SANCCOB, Save The Elephants, Scripps Institute of Oceanography, Sea to Shore Alliance, Sea Turtle Conservancy, South-East Zoo Alliance for Reproduction & Conservation, Tampa Bay Watch, Think Elephants International, Inc., Uganda Conservation Foundation, University of Central Florida Research Foundation, Inc., University of Florida Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory, Vina Wildlife Foundation, Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network, Wild Canid Survival and Research Center, WildAid Inc., WildCRU, Wildlife Alliance, Wildlife Conservation Society, Wildlife In Need, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, World Land Trust-US, World Wildlife Fund , Xerces Society, Zoological Society of San Diego

# FUND PRIORITIES

As the SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund continues to grow, we will be developing strategies to combat several of today's conservation challenges, including:

Removing Marine Debris

Sustainable Marine Ornamental Aquaculture

Protecting the MesoAmerican Reef

Developing the Next Generation of Conservation Leaders

Cheetah Reproduction and Reintroduction

Animal Rescue and Rehabilitation Efforts

Protecting Sea Turtles and Their Nests

Reducing Human/Elephant Conflict

Saving Polar Bears Through Efforts to Reverse Climate Change



## Board of Directors

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Bill Street  
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# ASSETS AND EXPENDITURES

## Statements of Financial Position as of December 31, 2013

<b>Assets</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$412,993	\$578,663
Property - Net	\$18,489	\$38,660
<i>Total Assets</i>	<i>\$431,482</i>	<i>\$617,323</i>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Grants Payable	\$133,000	\$0
Accrued Bank Fees	\$1,000	\$1,000
<i>Total Liabilities</i>	<i>\$134,000</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Temporarily Restricted	\$182,008	\$107,312
Unrestricted	\$115,474	\$509,011
<i>Total Net Assets</i>	<i>\$297,482</i>	<i>\$616,323</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$431,482</b>	<b>\$617,323</b>

# HOW YOU CAN HELP

## Take Action to Support Wildlife - Learn, Act, and Give

Just by reading the SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund Annual Report, you've shown an interest in conservation. Thank you. One of the easiest ways to support the Fund is just learning more about the projects the Fund supports and sharing that information with your friends and family. Become a Facebook “fan” at [www.facebook.com/SeaWorldBuschGardensFund](http://www.facebook.com/SeaWorldBuschGardensFund) and receive timely animal stories and wildlife conservation news from around the world. Just start somewhere, and the difference you make will keep growing.

You can easily take your interest even further. Challenge yourself to do one thing different this week that helps save natural resources...then keep doing it. You can also join SeaWorld’s myActions ([myactions.seaworld.com](http://myactions.seaworld.com)), a fun way to track the behaviors you do each day that benefit the environment. Each behavior you report on SeaWorld’s myActions results in a donation to the Fund.

One of the greatest benefits of donating to the SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund is that 100% of your contribution will support animal rescue, habitat protection and conservation education programs in the U.S. and around the world. All expenses and overhead for the Fund are provided by SeaWorld Parks and Entertainment, so every single penny you donate goes directly to the projects supported by the Fund. There are two easy ways to donate to the Fund:

Visit [www.swbg-conservationfund.org/donate](http://www.swbg-conservationfund.org/donate) and make an online contribution to the Fund. Your donation is 100% tax deductible.

Text the word “ANIMALS” to 50555 to make a quick \$5 donation to the Fund.