



LOS ANGELES ZOO

CONSERVATION STRATEGIC PLAN

2022 Annual Report



Conservation Strategic Plan

Guiding Principles

■ We respect people, their land, the wildlife they share it with, and their pursuit of equitable livelihoods.

■ Conservation is at our core.

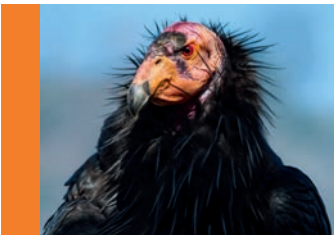



■ Conservation starts at home and extends around the world.

■ Conservation is a team effort.





■ We are both leaders and collaborators in conservation.

■ We are a Zoo without borders.

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ON THE COVER
Pregnant Peninsular pronghorn in the Llano del Berrendo breeding program. For more than 22 years the L.A. Zoo has partnered with the Peninsular Pronghorn Recovery Program to help establish a breeding program that ultimately saved this species from extinction. Photo credit Jake Owens

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01 | Launch into Implementation



After two years of background research, listening sessions, and workshops with dozens of local and regional conservation, environmental, and community organizations, and substantial planning and development, the Los Angeles Zoo launched its first Conservation Strategic Plan (CSP) on July 21, 2021. L.A. Zoo CEO & Zoo Director Denise Verret introduced the virtual keynote presentation, which included opening remarks by Mayor Eric Garcetti and City Councilmember Nithya Raman, and L.A. Zoo Director of Conservation Dr. Jake Owens provided an overview of the plan, the Zoo's vision for its future in conservation, and a call to action:

Join us to create a just and sustainable world where people and wildlife thrive, together.

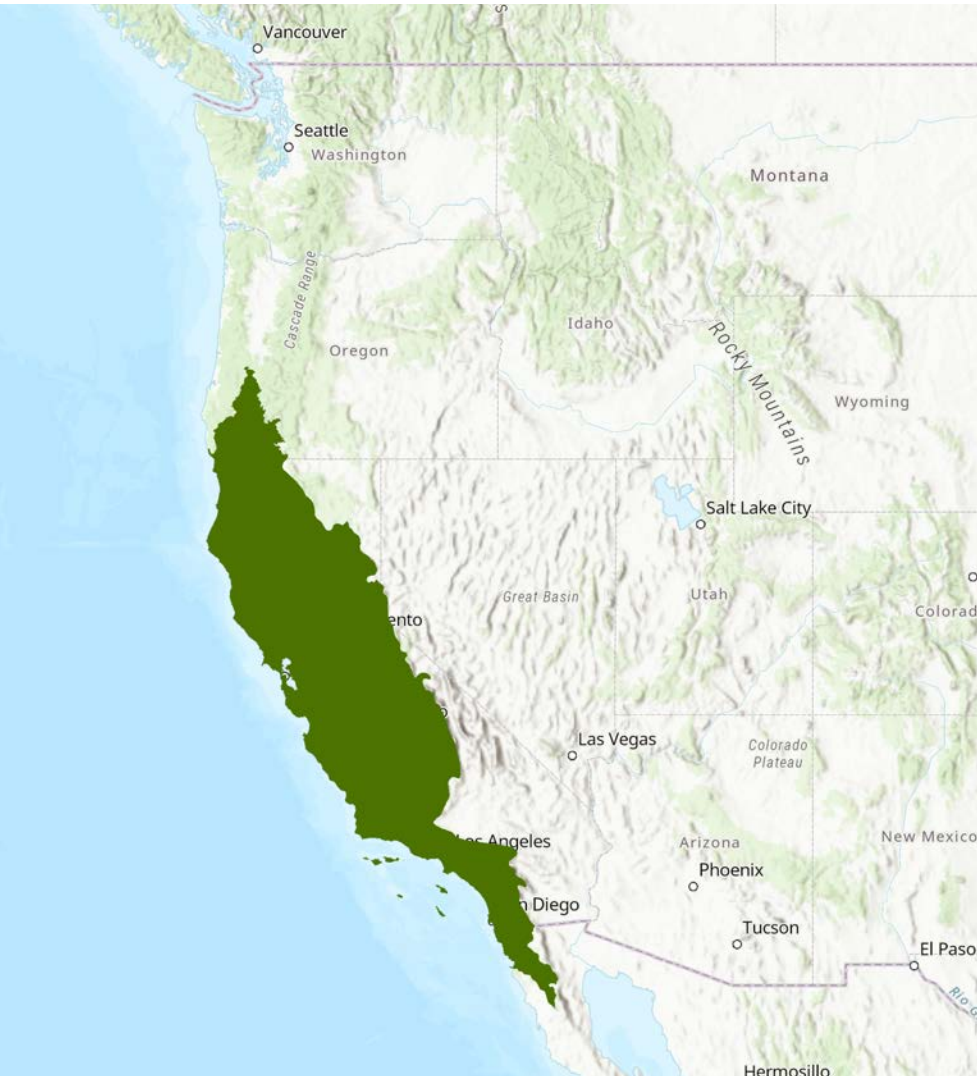
In July 2021, the L.A. Zoo launched its first Conservation Strategic Plan, guiding its efforts for the next 5 years.

FOCUSING ON SIX KEY FOCAL AREAS

- 1. Social and environmental justice
- 2. California conservation
- 3. Illegal wildlife trade
- 4. Conservation translocations
- 5. Human-wildlife co-existence
- 6. Evidence-based conservation

Over the first year of implementation, following the CSP launch, our primary focus has been to substantially grow the California Conservation and Social & Environmental Justice focal areas of the CSP for several strategic purposes:

- Los Angeles is a Global Biodiversity Hotspot and a unique and globally threatened Mediterranean climate region, its flora and fauna face significant threats from climate change, habitat fragmentation and loss, and other anthropogenic disturbances. We must increase our efforts to conserve this important habitat and imperiled wildlife.
- By leading and partnering on local conservation programs and driving forward success, our trust and reputation in the local community will grow, expanding our base of supporters that will be necessary for the long-term growth of the Zoo and its conservation impact.
- Working in our local area is cost-effective and allows us to engage Zoo staff and volunteers, visitors, school groups, and other local stakeholders in conservation action. This is a massive potential volunteer force to expedite habitat restoration, species recovery, outreach, and other actions.
- Los Angeles is a park-poor city with substantial barriers for under-represented youth to engage with nature, and develop the skills, knowledge, and confidence needed to pursue careers in conservation and environmental protection. We can and must increase our role in solving these issues.



■ The Zoo is a natural nexus point of expertise, knowledge, and careers that we can utilize to develop and apply the skills, knowledge, support, and drive the next generations of Angelenos needs to expand on our efforts. By building this intergenerational stewardship capacity through targeted and intentional programming, we can ensure the work we do today will be continued and improved on by our successors tomorrow.

(Above) The California Floristic Province (shown in green) is one of the 36 biodiversity hotspots on Earth. These hotspots are incredibly important, as they all have relatively high number of plant species (greater than 1,500 species) and face high levels of threat (at least 70% of native vegetation already lost). Map data from ESRI 2022.

02 | Conservation Culture



One of the most important strategic goals of our new Conservation Strategic Plan is to build a genuinely inclusive, deeply-rooted culture of conservation throughout the Zoo. Furthering our impact starts from within and in January 2021, we introduced the Conservation Committee, an internal working group composed of nearly fifty interdepartmental staff and volunteers. The goal of this committee is to foster a Zoo-wide culture of conservation that represents diverse voices, empowers shared ownership, instills pride, and encourages continuous evolution and growth of our impact.

The iconic entranceway of the Los Angeles Zoo. Hundreds of staff and volunteers enter these gates each day to help create a just and sustainable world where people and wildlife thrive, together. Photo Credit Drew Roberts/Wild Rabbit Aerial.

Conservation Committee

Conservation Committee Achievements

- Number of participants 48
- Number of divisions/sections represented 24
- Number of meetings held 28

COMMUNICATION & STORYTELLING	ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH	DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING
Created a thematic and layered storytelling approach	Met with 8 organizations to review partnership opportunities	Identified Professional Development Interests and Opportunities including Applied Conservation Skills and Mission-based training.
Tested Conservation Program of the Month Newsletter	Organized 6 events including the micro forest installation and monitoring program, Nature Outings, and habitat restoration/ cleanups	Codeveloped and refined Conservation Onboarding Training
Reinstituted Zoo Speaker Series with 96% viewer approval rating	Amplified LA County Natural History Museum (NHM) and Friends of LA River (FoLAR) events	Griffith Park History Tours at the Autry Museum

“I do feel that I was an instrumental part of what we all achieved and it was fulfilling to simply have this committee exist.”
—ANONYMOUS SURVEY PARTICIPANT

“I got to work closely with members of Learning & Engagement, Volunteers, and Development that I had never worked with daily. This garnered the chance to learn more about the people here and grow stronger bonds.”
—ANONYMOUS SURVEY PARTICIPANT

Conservation Onboarding Training

The Conservation Division, with support from the Learning and Engagement Division and the L.A. Zoo Conservation Committee, developed a comprehensive onboarding training based on data from the Annual Conservation Surveys. This training was offered Zoo-wide in an effort to provide equitable access to conservation information and is now given to each employee when they are hired. The training provides a deeper understanding of the L.A. Zoo's history of conservation engagement, our future, and most importantly, the important role each person in the Zoo has on our ability to create a world where people and wildlife thrive, together.

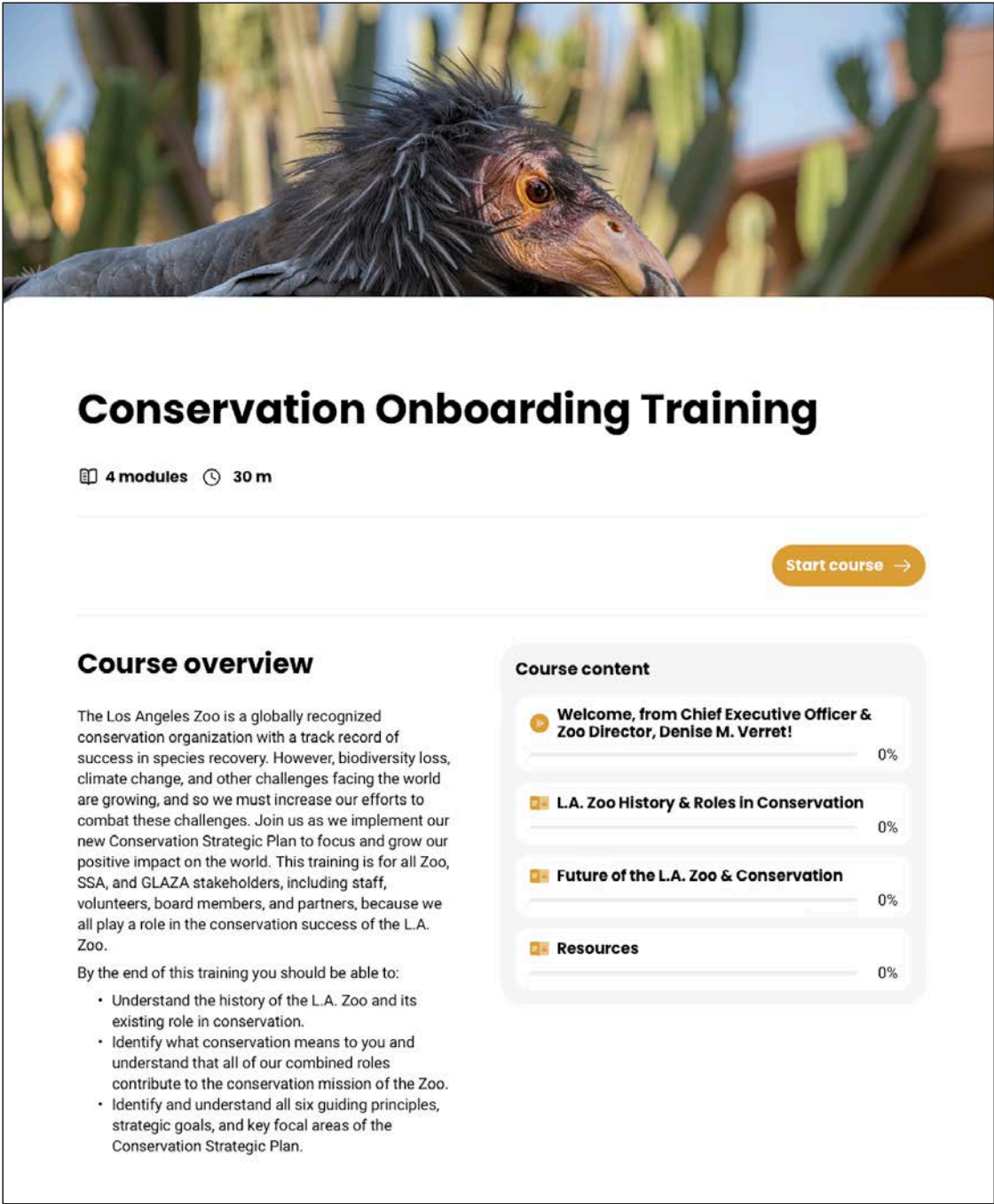
■ The majority of participants' knowledge increased about conservation and the L.A. Zoo's role in conservation

61% of respondents gave a score of 8 or above with a median response of 8 out of 10

■ There was wide agreement that the training was helpful to the staff and volunteers who completed it.

80% of respondents gave a score of 8 or above with a median response of 9 out of 10

437 Zoo City, GLAZA, and SSA team members completed the Conservation Onboarding Training



The Conservation Onboarding Training is a virtual 30-minute training available to all the Zoo's staff and volunteers.

"I didn't realize just how globally the reach was from the L.A. Zoo. It's fascinating that so many different organizations are all involved with the same goals aligned."

—ANONYMOUS VOLUNTEER

"Keeping staff updated with the latest things and history is very educational and I'm honored to learn so many amazing things. I'm glad you took the time to go over it with all the staff."

—ANONYMOUS GUEST SERVICES REPRESENTATIVE

"The quality of the videos was incredible and made me tear up. I'm proud to work for the Los Angeles Zoo!"

—ANONYMOUS ANIMAL HEALTH REPRESENTATIVE

"I am staggered by and virtually overwhelmed by what the zoo has accomplished in the present day."

—ANONYMOUS ANIMAL CARE REPRESENTATIVE

The SSA Group Retail Supporting Conservation

The Zoo has a long-standing partnership with Service Systems Associates (SSA) as the concessions provider for the Zoo, including the food and retail program. The Round-Up For Conservation program in the Zoo's Marketplace Gift Shops was started in 2015 to provide Zoo visitors an additional opportunity to support our conservation efforts by making a small one-time donation at the time of purchase.

The team at SSA Retail, under the direct leadership of Retail Operations Manager Natalie Ploos-Solis, has driven an increase in annual donations from less than \$1,500 in the fiscal year 2019 to more than

\$57,000 in 2021.

Visitors making a purchase in the LA Zoo Marketplace shop, where SSA Group Visitor Service representatives help raise critical funds for conservation through point of purchase donations. Photo credit Carl Myers.



"There are definitely a couple of reasons for the change. First of all, with our new system we received in late 2019 we started to ask for donations in dollars instead of "rounding up". We also have trained the team to ask for conservation donations with an open-ended question. For example, instead of asking if a guest would like to donate \$1 for L.A. Zoo conservation programs, we ask if they would like to donate and when they say yes we ask how much. Our biggest donation from one guest has been \$200!!! Needless to say, we definitely have guests donating more than \$1 frequently."

—NATALIE PLOOS-SOLIS
RETAIL OPERATIONS MANAGER
LOS ANGELES ZOO SSA

03 | California Conservation



California has one of the highest rates of biodiversity of any U.S. state. Los Angeles itself is a **biodiversity hotspot**, one of only 36 worldwide. These facts and multiple current threats make protecting California’s biodiversity more important than ever. Conservation programs in the Los Angeles area will help and offer new opportunities to engage local communities, nurture a lifelong commitment to conservation, develop related career paths, and create local conservation events for the L.A. Zoo team. By being leaders in efforts to save California’s native wildlife, we lead by example.

The southern mountain yellow-legged frog was once widespread in the San Gabriel, San Bernardino, and southern Sierra Nevada mountains, but is now on the brink of extinction. The Zoo has successfully released more than 4,000 zoo-bred southern mountain yellow-legged frog tadpoles into the wild, helping secure their future.

Supporting Our Environmental Community

As the Conservation Strategic Plan (CSP) begins to take action, we look toward our Guiding Principles, a framework for decision-making that reflects our values and beliefs. We are committed to strengthening new and existing relationships through direct engagement by working together to create relevant, impactful, and meaningful change. Our most incredible resource is people, with hundreds of staff and volunteers, thousands of members, and more than a million annual visitors. One of the ways we can leverage this great resource is to amplify, support, and collaborate on the local conservation efforts of other groups and individuals aligned with our Guiding Principles. Effective conservation is rooted in supporting collaboration between organizations City-wide and throughout our region.

NEW LOCAL PARTNERS



(Right) L.A. Zoo Community Conservation Coordinator, Anna Becker pulling trash from Haskell Creek on a clean-up at Sepulveda Basin with San Fernando Valley Audubon.”



Native Micro Forest Project

The L.A. Zoo supported the L.A. Parks Foundation (LAPF) and Griffith Park Commonwealth Nursery to install the first experimental micro forest plot in Los Angeles. The project is modeled after the Miyawaki method of afforestation using only local and native species. The forests can be designed to develop various native habitat types, providing an important tool to conserve threatened species and promote biodiversity for wildlife and Angelenos in spaces throughout the city.



- The Conservation Committee organized 4 native micro forest planting, monitoring, and maintenance events
- A total of 54 Zoo volunteers contributed to this project.
- Volunteers planted 145 indigenous plants from 12 different species
- The events included birding skill building on the adjacent L.A. River where we identified black-neced stilts, Egyptian geese, tree swallows, great blue herons, and a great egret.
- Abundant wildlife utilizing the native micro forest plot noted in iNaturalist one-year post installation



Insect diversity: Hoverflies, moths, butterflies, ladybugs, beetles, stinkbugs, wasps, carpenter bees, western honey bee, katydids, assassin bugs, gray bird grasshopper



Mammal Diversity: Ground squirrel, fox squirrel



Herp Diversity: Western toad, Western fence lizard



Bird Diversity: Bushtits, mourning dove, western bluebird, dark-eyed junco, Anna's Hummingbird, American Robin,



Unplanned Plant Diversity: Coast morning glory, Sacred Datura



(Far left) L.A. Zoo Conservation Committee members plant native plants in an experimental Miyawaki micro forest in the Bette Davis Picnic Area of Griffith Park. This project is in partnered support of L.A. Parks Foundation. Photo credit Carl Meyers

(Left) L.A. Zoo Conservation Committee members measuring the growth of native plants in the Miyawaki micro forest. Photo credit Anna Becker

“Being part of the planting of the Bette Davis Mirco forest was a very rewarding experience. It was great being able to work hands-on, side-by-side with fellow Zoo team members on this groundbreaking long-term project. I’m thankful to have been given this opportunity through the Zoo to participate directly towards local conservation.”

—ANDREW BAIRD
GUEST SERVICES MANAGER

North American Songbird SAFE

Songbird populations continue to decline due to habitat loss, climate change, building collisions, pesticides, and predation from outdoor domestic cats. The goal of Saving Animals From Extinction North American Songbirds (SAFE NAS) is to reduce the threats to North American songbirds and secure sustainable wild populations of these species by harnessing the collective strengths of AZA institutions. In 2022, the LA Zoo Conservation Committee has focused on increasing the Zoo's contributions to the SAFE NAS, meeting the specific objectives of the plan.



(Right) White-crowned sparrow observed at the L.A. Zoo, a member of the robust avian community that utilizes the Zoo grounds throughout the year.



California is a migratory path, known as the Pacific Flyway, for many of these songbirds, and ensuring they have safe passage and night roosts in Los Angeles is essential to their survival. Knowing which birds are in the L.A. area is an important first step. In 2022 the Zoo's Paid Conservation Interns installed two Wildlife Acoustics Song Meter Mini monitoring systems to record the vocalizations of birds and other animals, providing key data to monitor the diversity of species and prevalences over time. Similarly, the installation of a Motus Wildlife Tracking System Station will allow us to contribute to an international collaborative network of researchers that use automated radio telemetry to track hundreds of individuals of numerous species of birds, bats, and insects. This will be the first Motus system in Los Angeles, filling an important gap in the data collection landscape.



(Above) Conservation Intern, Daniel Chroman installs a wildlife acoustic monitoring system in the Zoo's 6-acre oak woodland area. This monitoring system can collect several weeks' worth of bird sounds and will be utilized as one method of data collection for native wildlife in the Zoo. Photo credit Anna Becker.

PROGRAM GOALS

- **Decrease** bird collisions with glass
- **Increase** bird-friendly habitat on and off Zoo grounds (see the Native Micro-forest Project)
- **Promote** bird-friendly coffee (now sold in the L.A. Zoo Marketplace Giftshop)
- **Install** acoustic monitors and a Motus Wildlife Tracking System Station on Zoo Grounds for citizen science



UCLA Science Policy Group Event

The L.A. Zoo hosted students from the Science Policy Group at UCLA, a student-led organization interested in engaging with issues at the intersection of science, policy, and society to advocate for evidence-based solutions. The Conservation Division led students through the conservation history and future of the L.A. Zoo and met with Curator of Reptiles, Ian Recchio, and Condor Keeper, Mike Clark to learn about conservation translocations (e.g. reintroductions) for species like mountain yellow-legged frogs and California condors. Sharing conservation stories that highlight the unique expertise of the L.A. Zoo as innovators in conservation develops trust and contributes to people viewing zoos through a conservation and community lens.



Science Policy
GROUP at UCLA

UCLA Science Policy Group learning about the L.A. Zoo's efforts with the Mountain yellow-legged frogs from Reptile Curator Ian Recchio Photo credit Anna Becker



“I was really impressed with how much quality time Anna and Jake were able to give our group. It really made me feel like they are interested in working together and open to ideas.”

— JESSICA CARSTENS-KASS
MOLECULAR BIOLOGY, BS

Thank you so much for taking the time to chat with us, show us around the zoo, and open our eyes to the amount of conservation work being done! This was such an awesome experience!

—MEGAN EDIC
ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY, MS



04 | Social and Environmental Justice

Advancing social and environmental justice is key in addressing some of conservation’s core challenges, most of which are rooted in human issues. As we continue to see communities disproportionately impacted by climate change, environmental impacts, and other threats it is important to center our efforts, engagement, and action on justice. The L.A. Zoo is committed to conservation that advances lasting relationships with nature and environmental identity for all people regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, or income to shape a more just and sustainable future.

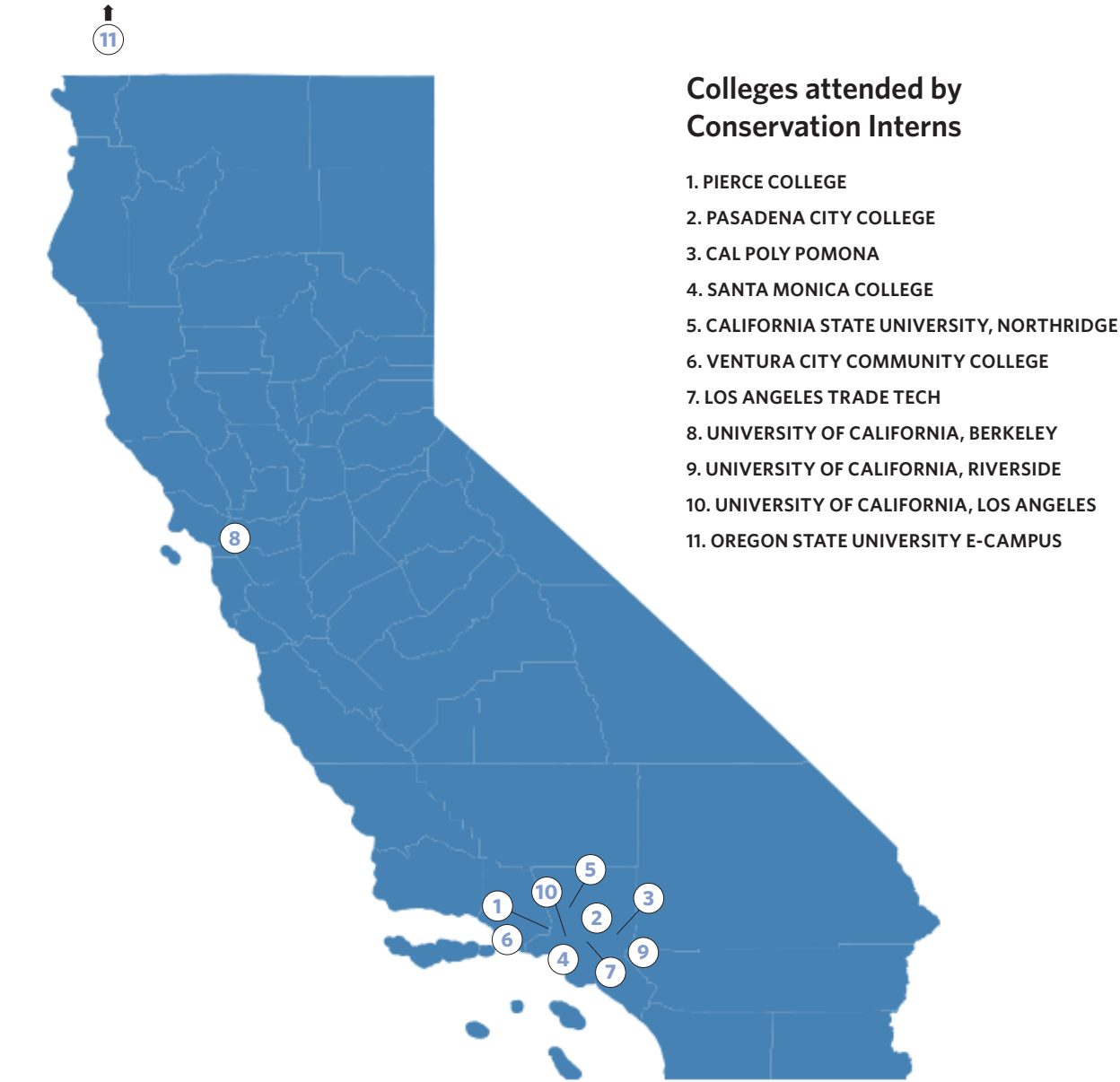
Community Conservation Coordinator, Anna Becker worked alongside conservation interns, Hored Martinez and Rachel Ortega to identify local bird species in the Zoo.

Conservation Internship

In January 2021, through a new partnership with Los Angeles College Promise Works, the L.A. Zoo piloted its first-ever paid conservation internship program. The completion of this program successfully supported the Zoo’s growing focus on local and community conservation programs that increase representation and access in support of real-world experience. With support from the Zoo’s Equity Programs Division, this internship expanded in 2022, providing additional positions and new internships in Learning and Engagement and Nutrition. A total of **152 applications** were received and following a rigorous review process, the Zoo welcomed fourteen interns representing eleven council districts throughout Los Angeles. The 10 Conservation interns designed and implemented four research projects focused on native species and ecosystems utilizing undeveloped study areas on Zoo grounds.

- 10 Conservation Interns
- Combined 3,000 hours of paid experience gained
- 4 novel research projects

This program is supported by the Stoneman Conservation Intern Endowment and we are grateful to George and Laurie Stoneman for their support.



Fourteen interns were welcomed as part of the first L.A. Zoo Paid Internship Program, including 10 Conservation Interns. Here, on the first day of the experience, interns met with the CEO & Zoo Director Denise Verret (bottom row, fifth from right), and their mentors.



“This internship really focused on people like me and people of color. It made me realize that it is really important and that I can contribute to helping this field get to where it is going.”

—IVAN ISIDORO

“I feel like ten years from now, this will be the experience that I talk about that impacted my life.”

—KRISHNA PAREKH

“As the next generation, we are going to have a lot of impact on creating a just and sustainable world and I want us to have a better future.”

—JULIE LAZARO

Outward Bound Adventures

Outward Bound Adventures (OBA) has been a community partner of the Los Angeles Zoo since the Fall of 2021. OBA is dedicated to providing access to nature, environmental education, and exposure to careers in conservation for low-income, gang-impacted, and overlooked adults and youth. Students from OBA are helping the L.A. Zoo learn about native habitats and ecosystems onsite through hands-on conservation fieldwork. The Zoo is excited to expand this partnership for the upcoming year to include adult programming in Griffith Park and collaborate on long-term project planning.

- 12 individual OBA students
- 5 week program
- Learned field techniques including habitat surveys, soil chemistry analysis, and wildlife surveys.



Students Leslie Santos and Daniel Martinez, from Outward Bound Adventures Spring Restoration Team learn scientific field research techniques, like soil testing, from Zoo staff to support data collection on native wildlife and habitats in the Zoo. Photo credit Anna Becker.

Connecting Youth Globally

In March of 2022, the Los Angeles Zoo's Learning and Engagement Division and the Gorilla Rehabilitation and Conservation Education (GRACE) Center completed an exciting new program. Students from Los Angeles in the Zoo Pals program and students from GRACE's Conservation Club in Kasugho, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), participated in a program to learn about gorillas and their conservation. Students from both organizations gained valuable observational skills through comparative studies of gorillas at the L.A. Zoo and in the DRC. In this cross-cultural exchange, students had the opportunity to ask one another questions and learn about life on two different continents. Educators at GRACE shared that this partnership has been a highlight for the community and they are looking forward to future programs.

- 32 Conservation Club students
- 20 Zoo Pal students



GRACE's Conservation Club. Photo credit GRACE



Learning and Engagement Division's Zoo Pals participants online with GRACE's Conservation Club in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Photo credit Laura Frost



Drawing by a GRACE's Conservation Club student. Photo credit GRACE



Family Nature Club

The Zoo’s Learning and Engagement Division initiated a new partnership with the City’s Recreation and Parks Department to bring free nature play programming to Griffith Park. Access to nature is a basic right and the Zoo is committed to equity in nature access for communities who have been impacted by environmental racism and injustice. The L.A. Zoo’s Family Nature Club provides hundreds of Angelenos a safe space to explore nature through unstructured play, recognizing the many ways humans connect with nature. Play is a universal language that supports human connection and childhood development and nature benefits the health and well-being of all our communities.

(Below, left) Family Nature Club member engaged in art in Griffith Park. Photo credit Elise Lolli-Bregoff

(Below, right) Family Nature Club members playing with loose parts with L.A. Zoo Learning and Engagment Curator of Education, Elise Lolli-Bregoff Photo credit Elise Lolli-Bregoff

- 344 community member participants
- 9 monthly events–October to June



Migrant Education Program

Coordinated by the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), the Migrant Education Program (MEP) is designed for children who are immediate family members of migrant workers. Children of migrant workers may switch school districts up to three times a year as their parents relocate for seasonal work, which can lead to academic and social stress or gaps. This program gives students opportunities to experience new learning environments that enhance their social and cognitive development. The L.A. Zoo is one of those places. Over the course of four weeks, students explore the Zoo, ask questions, and think critically about what species need to thrive. More than that, they meet individuals from across the Zoo and become an important part of the L.A. Zoo community. The program ends with Family Culmination Day when students become experts and share with their families the experiences and knowledge they’ve gained through a gallery display of artwork, projects, and presentations at the Zoo.

- 42 students
- 8 visits



(Above) Students participating in the Migrant Education Program on a nature outing in Griffith Park with Learning and Engagement staff. Photo by Renae Cotero

(Below) Migrant Education students and Learning and Engagement staff team on a hike at the old L.A. Zoo in Griffith Park.



05 | Illegal Wildlife Trade



The illegal wildlife trade increases the threat of extinction many animals already face due to habitat loss, human activities, and climate change. Many species like pangolins, rhinoceroses, and Asian songbirds are being unsustainably hunted for consumption, medicinal use, ornamental practices, and other purposes. In fact, some Asian songbirds face extinction solely because of the illegal pet trade which, contrary to popular belief, is rampant within the United States, even here in Los Angeles.

A scarlet macaw at the LA Zoo, one of many birds, reptiles, mammals, and other animals that arrived at the Zoo after being confiscated by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Photo credit Jamie Pham.

Southern California Confiscations Network

The Los Angeles Zoo is a founding member of the Southern California Confiscations Network (SCCN), a pilot program establishing a framework to facilitate the rapid identification, medical triage, and placement of confiscated animals and plants to qualified facilities capable of housing them. This program is led by the AZA Wildlife Trafficking Alliance and is comprised of more than **20 organizations**, representing the first in what will ultimately be a “network of networks” providing for the care and welfare of confiscated wildlife across the United States.

16 individuals from 5 species

confiscated by State and Federal authorities were transferred to the L.A. Zoo for care since September 2021.



(Above) In 2022, 8 Asian centipedes concealed in earphone cases were confiscated from an airmail shipment from Malaysia and transferred to the L.A. Zoo.



In April 2022, the L.A. Zoo hosted a two-day development workshop for the SCCN, in which Zoo staff worked with other members of the network to develop the structure and strategic priorities for the Network, including:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Establishing a process to provide better support for law enforcement, including species identification, medical triage, and both short and long-term holding for confiscated wildlife; | 2. Increasing public awareness and education on the wildlife trafficking issue; | 3. Improving the national regulatory system to close state loopholes, increase penalties for offenders, and provide greater funding for wildlife trafficking enforcement and holding or disposal. |
|---|---|---|

(Above) Southern California's Confiscation Network meeting at the L.A. Zoo.

Avian Conservation Center

The Avian Conservation Center (ACC) provides a refuge for birds illegally trafficked and then confiscated by enforcement officials at the Port of Los Angeles and LAX. The birds who survive the trafficking to the USA need special care to become stable and healthy. The ACC and its animal care specialists help these birds thrive, supporting the long-term health of the populations at Accredited Zoos through their Species Survival Plan programs.

Two Bali mynas, Star and Bayu, came in separately through two different confiscations. Bali mynas are targets of traffickers because their beauty, songs, and rarity make them highly profitable. Both Star and Bayu were paired with Bali mynas at the Zoo and produced 6 fledglings last year at the ACC. With only roughly 50 wild Bali mynas, the healthy and genetically diverse population in accredited Zoos is essential to their long-term future on Earth.

(Right) Bali myna "Bayu" confiscated at LAX International Airport, now cared for in the L.A. Zoo Avian Conservation Center. Photo by Lori Rogalski



Recovering Blue-Throated Macaws



Since 2019, the L.A. Zoo has partnered with Bird Endowment Inc. in support of their mission to prevent the extinction of the Critically Endangered blue-throated macaw in Bolivia. A key threat to the persistence of this species is a lack of natural nesting trees due to deforestation. The Bird Endowment's Nido Adoptivo™ Nest Box Project installs artificial nest boxes in the Laney Rickman Reserve to increase nest site availability, which has increased the number of nesting pairs and resulted in a more stable and growing wild population. Since 2006, 105 macaws have fledged from Nido Adoptivo™ Nest Boxes, including 7 birds from the 16 L.A. Zoo-sponsored boxes. As there are currently only 350 to 400 blue-throated macaws in the wild, this program has contributed a significant **25% of the total population!**



(Left) Pair of blue-throated macaws nesting in a Nido Adoptivo™ Nest Box in the Laney Rickman Reserve in Bolivia. Photo credit Armonia Bolivia.



(Above) Nest box "LA3" donated by the L.A. Zoo in the Laney Rickman Reserve in Bolivia. Photo credit Bird Endowment

2021-2022 ACHIEVEMENTS WITH LA ZOO SUPPORT

- The 100th Blue-throated macaw chick fledged from Nido Adoptivo™ Nest Boxes
- 12 chicks fledged
- Record-breaking number of 9 banded birds returned to breed in the nest boxes
- Record-breaking 13 breeding attempts in 10 nest boxes
- A total of 7 fledglings from L.A. Zoo nest boxes since 2019

Anti-poaching In Action

The L.A. Zoo has partnered with Global Conservation Force (GCF) since 2018, to support anti-poaching efforts in the Eastern Cape of South Africa. This partnership initially helped to establish the horseback Anti-Poaching Unit (APU) at the Amakhala Game Reserve, and expanded in 2021 to form a new mounted APU in Kariega Game Reserve. The L.A. Zoo support has continuously provided salaries and training for local community members, funding for supplies and an off-road 4-wheel ATV, essential to the program during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Key to this program has been the direct leadership and expertise of Roxane Losey, former Los Angeles Zoo Keeper and current GCF Director and Mounted Anti-Poaching Unit Coordinator. After years of trips to South Africa and remote support to develop the APU as a Zoo representative, Roxanne Losey left her keeper position to fully dedicate herself to this program and looks forward to a continued partnership with L.A. Zoo for even bigger projects in the future.



2021-2022 ACHIEVEMENTS WITH LA ZOO SUPPORT

- 765 miles patrolled on horseback
- 290 hours patrolled on horseback
- 975 hours dedicated to horse care/mounted patrols
- 320 hours of dedicated night patrols (vehicle or foot)
- 22 to 24 days per month horse unit is patrolling
- 9 rhinos are located and monitored nearly every day
- Multiple carcasses, wire groves, and invasive plant species have been found and reported by our mounted units in areas that are not accessible by vehicle



(Top) GCF's horse-mounted Anti-Poaching Unit with protected white rhinos in Kariega Game Reserve. Photo credit Roxane Losey.

(Bottom) Mounted Anti-Poaching Unit Coordinator and former Los Angeles Zoo Keeper Roxane Losey (second from right) during training with Amakhala Mounted Anti-Poaching Unit. Photo credit Global Conservation Force

"Global Conservation Fund extends great thanks to the Los Angeles Zoo for supporting the various aspects of the Mounted Unit Projects over the last five years and we are exceptionally grateful for your support in 2021 in helping us start the first fully funded GCF Mounted Anti-Poaching Unit. The generous grant to provide the yearly salary for one of our two rangers has given us the ability to ensure the project will move forward, continue to protect wildlife, and other meaningful conservation jobs to local communities."

—MIKE VEALE
CEO, GLOBAL CONSERVATION FORCE

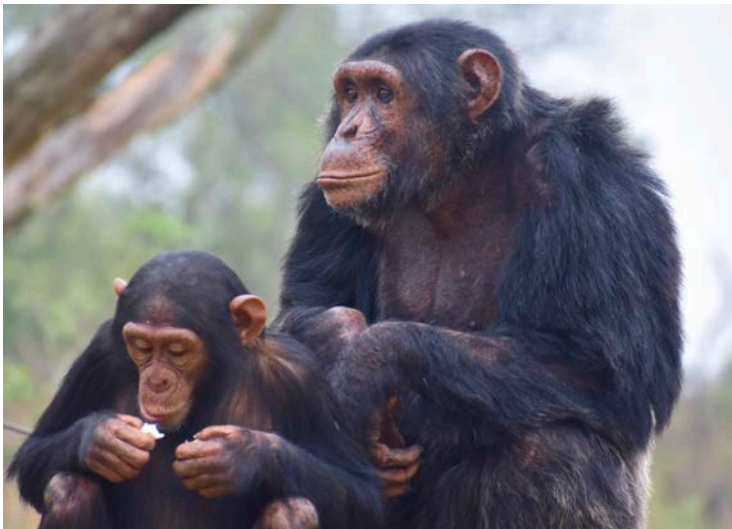
Care for Trafficked Primates

The Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA) provides life-saving funds and expertise to sanctuary organizations in Africa housing animals confiscated from illegal wildlife trade. Since 2017, the L.A. Zoo has supported PASA through its annual grants program. Unfortunately, during the pandemic and resulting global economic crisis PASA's Emergency Support program was depleted and the situation at many sanctuaries in their network became dire. Three PASA member wildlife centers in particular, including Ape Action Africa, Chimp Eden, and Colobus Conservation, were nearly out of funds needed to care for their primate inhabitants. In 2021, L.A. Zoo provided critical support enabling them to continue caring for confiscated primates and supporting wildlife trade enforcement agencies.



(Top) Rescued chimps housed at Chimp Eden.
Photo credit Chimp Eden.

(Bottom) Orphaned monkeys, Claudine and friend,
rescued by the Colobus Conservation sanctuary.
Photo credit Colobus Conservation



LA ZOO'S CRITICAL SUPPORT IN 2021 PROVIDED:

■ **Ape Action Africa** with food, veterinary care, and enclosure repair for 24 critically endangered Western Lowland gorillas, 123 endangered chimpanzees, and over 100 native monkeys of different species

■ **Chimp Eden** with vehicle repair, enclosure maintenance, PPE, straw for bedding, testing for diseases and food for 33 chimps.

■ **Colobus Conservation** with vehicle repair plus food and medication for six different primate species, including the vulnerable Angolan colobus monkey, and around 20 individual monkeys.

"On behalf of PASA and our Alliance of accredited wildlife centers across Africa, I want to express our heartfelt gratitude to the Los Angeles Zoo and GLAZA. Your support prevented three primate sanctuaries from closing their doors. Thank you!"

— GREGG TULLY
CEO, PASA

06 | Human-wildlife Co-existence



Conflicts between humans and wildlife pose significant threats to species conservation and the safety and livelihoods of local community members. This challenge requires solutions that promote co-existence, meeting the needs of both people and animals to reduce negative interactions between them. Whether the challenge is with crop-raiding elephants in Borneo or coyotes in Los Angeles, this principle is basic to the long-term survival of wildlife around the globe and essential for local communities to thrive.

*Wild Asian elephant in
Cambodia. Photo credit
Wild Earth Allies*

Coexisting with Elephants in Cambodia

Wild Earth Allies (WEA) is one of the longest-running international conservation partners of the Los Angeles Zoo, supporting the recovery of at-risk Asian elephant populations in Cambodia through targeted actions to reduce human-elephant conflict. Since 2007, the L.A. Zoo has provided financial and technical assistance to WEA, supporting the growth of this program substantially over this time. WEA studies and protects elephants in two critical areas, the Prey Lang Forest and the Cardamom Mountains. The pandemic has increased pressure on forests and wildlife in Cambodia because of economic insecurity in rural communities causing an alarming increase in human-elephant conflict. In response and thanks to L.A. Zoo support, WEA has conducted extensive field surveys of elephants and other wildlife in both sites, targeting conservation action to where it is most needed.



Tuy Sereivathana
(Vathana), Cambodia
Program Director of Wild
Earth Allies and creator of
Human Elephant Mitigation
Toolkit.

2021-2022 ACHIEVEMENTS WITH LA ZOO SUPPORT

Prey Lang Forest

- Deployed 40 remote trail cameras and performed extensive field surveys
 - Identified 25 individual elephants
 - Finalizing reliable elephant population estimate
 - Recorded 151 vertebrate species, including 25 threatened with extinction
- Elephant tree community nursery
 - 1,635 seedlings germinated from elephant dung
- Indigenous Kuy community coexistence
 - Interviewed 50 families
 - Supporting diversified livelihoods through training and supplies for environmentally-friendly farming



Phnum Samkos Sanctuary

- Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC) mitigation toolkit
 - Crop raiding deterrence deployment such as guard posts built and fireworks and flashlights provided to community members
 - Recruited 30 families to trial growing unpalatable vegetable crops (cabbage and chillies) to test elephant deterrence efficacy
 - Provided 3 community water pumps
- Deployed 13 remote trail cameras and performed extensive field surveys
 - Identified 18 individual elephants to inform conservation action
- Expanding survey and conservation efforts to target the critically endangered Sunda pangolin
- Engaging communities south of Cardamom Mountains with HEC toolkits and monitoring to track the impact of recently developed roads with high levels of conflict

“None of this would be possible without our long-time partnership with the Los Angeles Zoo/GLAZA. We are grateful for your generous support and confidence in our vision for a thriving Asian elephant population in Cambodia.”

—KATIE FROHARDT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WILD EARTH ALLIES

Tapir-Friendly Communities

The Costa Rica Wildlife Foundation’s (CRWF) mission is to lead to a path of coexistence; reducing human-tapir conflict and improving sustainable economic activities through community engagement inside Tenorio-Miravalles Biological Corridor (TMBC) in Costa Rica. Experts estimate that the current population of the South American tapir could have as few as 4,500 adults and is currently declining. In partnership with L.A. Zoo, CRWF engages farmers, tourism operators, local community members, and authorities inside TMBC in an integrated Tapir-Friendly awareness and alternatives program to reduce the human-tapir conflict and improve sustainable economic activities in the area.

The L.A. Zoo first partnered with CRWF in 2019, providing funding and the direct engagement of Community Conservation Coordinator, Anna Becker (through L.A. Zoo’s Ornato Grant program). Becker traveled to Costa Rica and worked with CRWF’s Nai Conservation Program team to amplify and collaborate on Salva-Dantas, their school education program focused on Baird’s tapir conservation.



Baird’s tapir caught on camera trap in Costa Rica. Photo credit Nick Hawkins/ Nai Conservation



- 2021-2022 ACHIEVEMENTS
WITH LA ZOO SUPPORT**
- 1. Established a Community Scientists Task-force and a 30-camera trap network to monitor tapir populations and project impact along key areas for tapir connectivity.
 - 2. Adopted measures to reduce tapir-human conflict in five farms.
 - 3. Utilized previous research to integrate a landscape ecology analysis of TMBC.
 - 4. Established a Tapir-Friendly practice manual to encourage adoption in 10 farms and lodges.
 - 5. Incorporated 5 farms along key areas for tapir connectivity into the Tapir-Friendly ecotourism program to compensate for crop loss.

Harpy Eagle Habitat Restoration

The goal of the Peregrine Fund’s Harpy Eagle Project is to increase forest connectivity, reduce deforestation and harpy eagle persecution, and protect the Darien Gap forest in Panama. The Darien Gap is a biodiversity hotspot, the largest and wildest remaining stretch of rainforest north of the Amazon, and home to more than 500 bird species—54 of them being raptors. The threats to Darien, including slash-and-burn agriculture and uncontrolled cattle ranching, are high. And so, the L.A. Zoo has supported the Peregrine Fund since 2007 to bolster their efforts to conserve the forest and increase local community resilience through science, education, and community engagement.



Ghost, L.A. Zoo
ambassador harpy eagle.
Photo credit Lori Conley



2021-2022 ACHIEVEMENTS
WITH LA ZOO SUPPORT”

- Trained 30 local leaders in Agroforestry and forest restoration techniques
- Trained 20 local Conservation Mentors to promote the harpy eagle as an ambassador for conservation education and outreach efforts in 10 native and non-native communities

Protecting Painted Dogs

The Painted Dog Research Trust (PDRT) works to protect and increase the range and population size of endangered painted dogs in Zimbabwe. The effects of human encroachment and intolerance have vastly reduced their range and population. The Los Angeles Zoo has partnered with the PDRT since 2018, providing supplies including satellite collars and camera traps to monitor the movements, behaviors, and survival of painted dog packs. As a direct consequence of this work, the species has bounced back from an untenable national population of less than 200 dogs to more than 700 individuals.

In May 2021, the Zoo held an in-person workshop with Dr. Greg Rasmussen, Founder and Director of the PDRT, and the Zoo’s Animal Care, Conservation, and Learning & Engagement Divisions. The goal of the workshop was to outline a path for additional collaboration opportunities to support the PDRT utilizing the Zoo’s unique expertise, and we are excited to expand our direct role in this important work.

2021-2022 ACHIEVEMENTS WITH LA ZOO SUPPORT

- Extensive trail and road wildlife surveys
- 3 satellite and 10 anti-snare collars fitted on painted dogs
- Satellite collar data highlighted the high risk of road mortalities and supports the PDRT’s push for authorities in Botswana and Zimbabwe to enforce speeding restrictions
- 50 camera traps deployed and monitored for eight months
- 100 community education and engagement outreach visits
- 4 community workshops held



PDRT Founder and Director Dr. Greg Rasmussen at the L.A. Zoo to present updates to Zoo staff and volunteers and workshop with the Zoo’s Learning and Engagement, Animal Care, and Conservation Divisions on new partnered programs. Photo credit Jake Owens



African painted dog in Zimbabwe. Photo credit Painted Dog Research Trust



Engaging Communities for Gorilla Conservation



The L.A. Zoo has partnered with the Gorilla Rehabilitation and Conservation Education (GRACE) since 2015. The mission of the GRACE is to rescue, rehabilitate, and release Grauer’s gorillas and support the conservation of gorillas and their habitats by engaging local communities to further conservation efforts in just and equitable ways. The award-winning GRACE sanctuary in the Democratic Republic of Congo currently cares for 14 Grauer’s gorillas rescued from the illegal wildlife trade.

Over the years, the L.A. Zoo has provided financial support for important in situ projects and initiatives and the direct engagement, training, and expertise of our staff. L.A. Zoo CEO & Zoo Director Denise Verret, is a U.S. board member of GRACE and the Zoo’s Director of Animal Programs Beth Schaefer is co-chair of the GRACE Animal Care and Welfare Advisory Group. Schaefer is also part of the newly formed Project Advisory Committee developing a scientifically-based plan to translocate suitable individuals into a wild protected area. The Zoo’s continued commitment to GRACE through in-person and virtual workshops provides them decades of experience in the management of large conservation-focused animal care facilities, and the welfare of all the animals at GRACE, including gorillas, monkeys, and African grey parrots.

2021-2022 ACHIEVEMENTS WITH LA ZOO SUPPORT

■ Maintained a healthy population of 14 critically endangered Grauer’s Gorillas.

■ Maintained the 9 km road to the GRACE facility

■ Provided critical maintenance and repairs throughout the sanctuary, including to the Gorilla night house, office, septic system, solar-powered system, climbing structures, fences, and more.

■ Initiated a team to plan for the release of suitable candidates back into the wild, which has never been done before

■ Built new gorilla climbing structure

A Critically Endangered eastern lowland gorilla, also called grauer’s gorilla, cared for at the GRACE Gorilla Center. Photo credit GRACE



“This is your work. Your partnership, support, and advice have enabled this concrete impact in a remote corner of DR Congo over the last 12 months.”

**—GRACE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TOMMIE WOLFE
WRITES ABOUT THE L.A. ZOO**

07 | Conservation Translocation



Numerous species exist in the wild today because of conservation translocations. These translocations are used to reintroduce extinct species, or to release more individuals into threatened populations to rapidly grow their numbers and genetic diversity. The L.A. Zoo is a global leader in conservation translocations. We have been integral to the recovery efforts of species in California and our support has advanced translocation programs for species around the world. We will continue fighting to save species from extinction through successful translocation programs both here and across the globe.

Adult female and subadult drill monkeys cared for at the Drill Ranch in Nigeria along with hundreds of other confiscated drills and other endangered species. The goal is to release many of these rehabilitated drills back into the forests to help recover the dwindling wild populations. Photo credit Pandrillus.

Peninsular Pronghorn Recovery Program

2021 marked an incredible year in the 22-year history of the partnership between the L.A. Zoo and the Peninsular Pronghorn Recovery Program (PPRP). Just weeks before the COVID-19 pandemic began, the Zoo co-facilitated a workshop to develop the first Species Action Plan (SAP) for the Peninsular pronghorn, also called berrendo. After a collaborative development of the SAP, led by The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens and co-authored by L.A. Zoo Director of Conservation Dr. Jake Owens, Dr. Owens coordinated with the IUCN SSC Antelope Specialist Group to review and relist the Peninsular subspecies onto the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Despite having an estimated population of fewer than 100 mature individuals free-ranging in the wild, Peninsular pronghorn were not listed. The reassessment published in the summer of 2021 found Peninsular pronghorn to be Endangered, a classification that places a higher priority on their conservation and will help open new funding and grant opportunities.



Los Angeles Zoo Peninsular pronghorn Keeper Mark Linggi at the El Vizcaino Biosphere Reserve in Baja, Mexico assisting in the first managed releases of Peninsular pronghorn, a culmination of nearly 25 years of work for the PPRP. Photo credit Julie Swenson

The L.A. Zoo also provided direct assistance via Director of Animal Programs, Beth Schaefer, Chief Veterinarian, Dominique Keller, and Pronghorn Keeper, Mark Linggi, who traveled to Baja in November 2021 to aid in the first managed releases of captive-born Peninsular pronghorns in the history of the PPRP. The Zoo team fit GPS tracking collars on eight captive-reared pronghorn and released them into the wild. This moment marked an historic achievement for the PPRP, L.A. Zoo, local community, and the future of Peninsular pronghorns.

"Each day we released pronghorn into the wild, the ranchers and landowners were there. I will never forget their passion and pride, knowing that the pronghorn roaming on their land are part of the first steps in saving the species."

—MARK LINGGI

Over the last year, L.A. Zoo Conservation, Learning and Engagement, and Animal Care Divisions have also worked with local leaders of PPRP and Museografica, an award-winning museum design firm in Mexico, to co-create a Visitor Center to meet the needs and expectations of all stakeholders. Zoo Director of Learning and Engagement Dan Keeffe said, “We have people that create interpretive graphics and think strategically about community engagement, so this was a place we might be able to help.” This Visitor Center represents partnerships, ownership, and economic and environmental empowerment that benefit both the local community and the critically endangered Peninsular pronghorn. A highly publicized grand opening is planned to occur before the next whale watching season which starts November 20, 2022, to draw in tourists and engage the tourism industry in Baja and Southern California. It is anticipated that this Visitor Center will be in use for decades to come to support local people and wildlife.

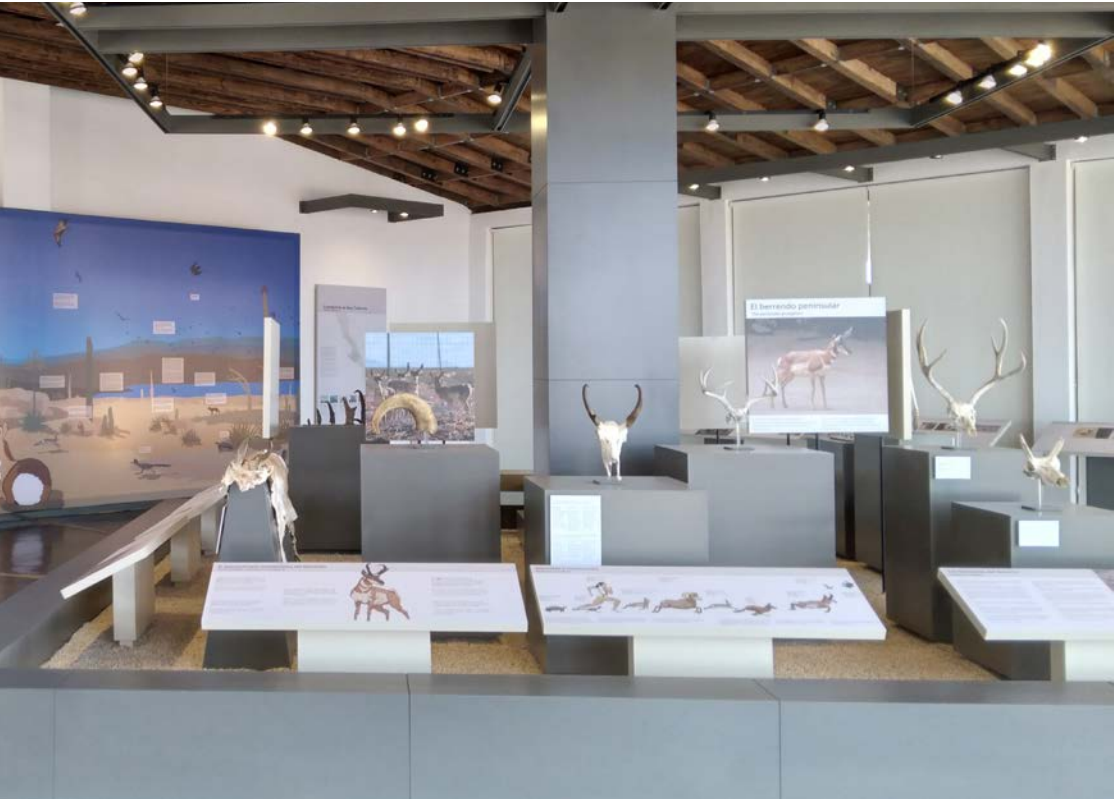
This installation was made possible by the generous donations from William and Karen Timberlake and Diane and Mark Montgomery.

**2021-2022 ACHIEVEMENTS
WITH LA ZOO SUPPORT**

- The Peninsular pronghorn were reviewed and listed on the Red List for Threatened and Endangered Species
- PPRP managed the first releases of 200 individual Peninsular pronghorn
- Species Action Plan Published
- L.A. Zoo interdivisional team co-designed, funded, and managed the full development and installation of the museum exhibitry for the PPRP Visitor Center called the Llano del Berrendo



Newly released pronghorn at the El Vizcaino Biosphere Reserve in Baja, Mexico. One of the first individuals of this Endangered subspecies to be released into the wild. Photo credit Mark Linggi



Newly constructed museum installation at the Llano del Berrendo Visitor Center, a project led and codesigned by the Los Angeles Zoo. Photo credit PPRP.

California Condor Recovery Program

The Los Angeles Zoo has been an integral partner of the California Condor Recovery Program since 1981. **By 1982, the wild population had dwindled to 22 birds, a decline due primarily to lead poisoning from bullets left in the carrion they consume.** In 1987, the last condor was removed from the wild and the total population comprised only 27 individuals, all in captive care. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in collaboration with Los Angeles Zoo and the San Diego Zoo began an intensive breeding and reintroduction program that eventually increased the population to more than 500 birds. The release of birds bred in human care into the wild began in 1992, and so far nearly 300 California condors have been introduced to the wild.

THE L.A. ZOO BREEDING PROGRAM HAS HIT RECORD NUMBERS 2 YEARS IN A ROW

- **19 eggs laid** total, 14 fertile
- **12 condors** fledged
- **2 condors** sent to collaborating facilities
- To date, **130 condors** from L.A. Zoo breeding program have been released into the wild



(Above) A California condor in a flight pen of the L.A. Zoo as part of the breeding program that has led to the recovery of this species. Photo credit Jamie Pham

(Left) L.A. Zoo Condor Keeper Chandra David checking the status of a hatching California condor. Photo credit Jamie Pham.

Restoring So-Cal's Endemic Frogs

Amphibians are the most threatened single group of animals, with 41% of the assessed species listed as threatened with extinction. By comparison, only 14% of bird species and 26% of mammal species are listed as threatened with extinction. Since 2007, the Los Angeles Zoo has been leading the recovery of one of the most endangered amphibians on Earth, the California native southern mountain yellow-legged frog, working with our partners to develop a healthy breeding population at the Zoo from which to release new individuals into their native range in the wild.

In 2021, the L.A. Zoo released 504 tadpoles into the San Gabriel Mountains and transferred the remaining captive-bred tadpoles to the Aquarium of the Pacific (AOP) to initiate a head-starting program. These tadpoles will be cared for by the AOP team until they metamorphosize into adults, which takes around two years, increasing their likelihood to survive and reproduce. So far in 2022, the L.A. Zoo has hatched over 1,100 Southern Mountain yellow-legged frog tadpoles for release and head-starting.



Southern mountain yellow-legged frog at the L.A. Zoo "frog shack" breeding site. Photo credit Jamie Pham

L.A. ZOO ACHIEVEMENTS

2021:

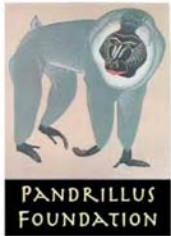
- **504 tadpoles** released into the San Gabriel Mountains
- More than **100 tadpoles** that were not released will continue growing into froglets at the Aquarium of the Pacific for later release to increase their chance of survival in the wild.
- L.A. Zoo experts **collaborated with 3 partnering zoos and aquariums** to advance their breeding and headstarting programs and expand the restoration program.

2022:

- Hatched **1,168 tadpoles**
- **125 tadpoles** were transferred to Santa Ana Zoo in July to be headstarted and then released as frogs.
- **150 tadpoles** will be transferred to the Aquarium of the Pacific in August for headstarting before being released as frogs.
- **15 froglets** that were rescued as wild tadpoles in 2019 by the L.A. Zoo were released on July 28, 2022.
- **893 Tadpoles** bred at the L.A. Zoo were released into the San Gabriel Mountains on July 28, 2022.

Rehabilitation Drills and African Grey Parrots

Pandrillus Foundation is the umbrella organization for Drill Ranch in Nigeria and the Limbe Wildlife Center (LWC) in Cameroon. The L.A. Zoo has partnered with Pandrillus annually since 1998, providing financial, and both remote and in-person technical support to advance their efforts towards conservation education and community engagement, primate confiscations and field conservation, and African Grey Parrot rehabilitation and release. The Drill Ranch maintains the largest population of endangered drill monkeys in the world, primarily coming from confiscations from illegal bushmeat and pet trade activities, and is working to release healthy individuals back into the wild. Funding from the L.A. Zoo has supported general operating expenses, feed, capital improvements and construction, education programs to reduce bushmeat and illegal live wildlife trades, and more. In 2019, L.A. Zoo Senior Aviary Keeper Kristen Grattan traveled to LWC to advise on the design of a new aviary and husbandry plan for confiscated parrots. A total of 125 parrots in four batches progressed to this new soft-release aviary and were all subsequently released.

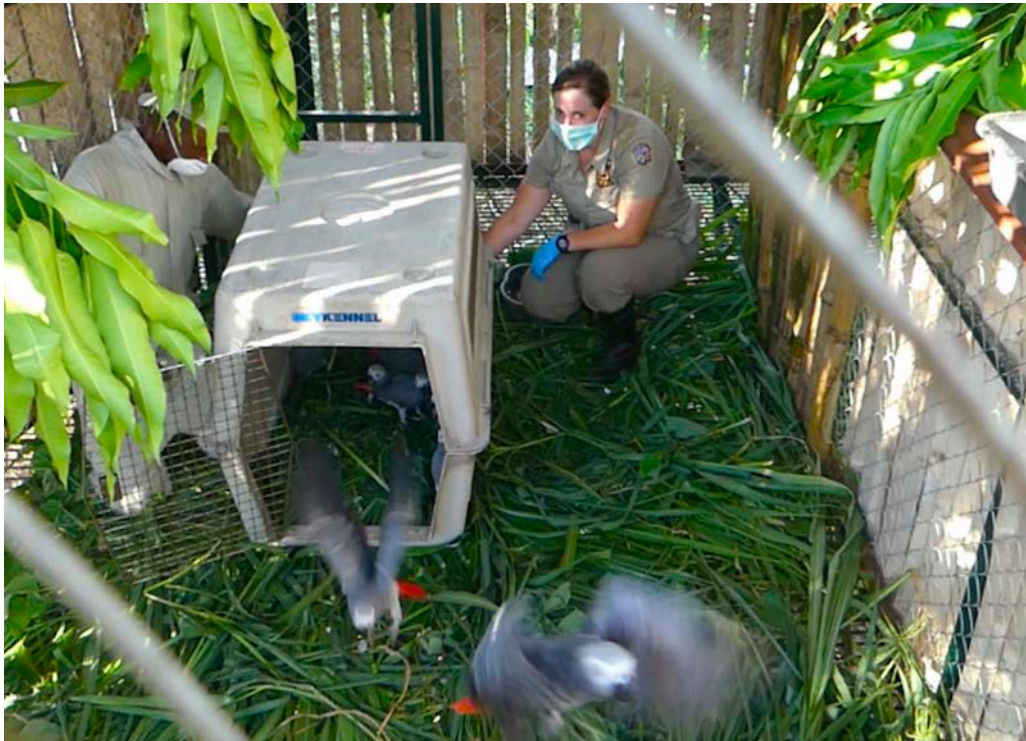


2021-2022 ACHIEVEMENTS WITH LA ZOO SUPPORT

- Construction of new food barn, installation of new fence and access doors
- Fabrication of new modular satellite cages
- Increase in the quality and diversity of drill diets
- L.A. Zoo Senior Aviary Keeper, Kristen Grattan, traveled to LWC in Cameroon in 2019 to share expert advice and skills, resulting in:
 - Construction of a 54m aviary for African Grey Parrots as a pre-release holding area in Limbe Wildlife Center.
 - Successful release of 4 flocks of African Grey Parrots (total of 125 birds) back into the wild from the new pre-release aviary
 - Continued care and maintenance of the remaining 111 birds in the rehabilitation cage



Rescued African grey parrots in LWC's new pre-release aviary. Photo credit Kristen Grattan



L.A. Zoo Senior Aviary Keeper Kristen Grattan releasing African grey parrots into the newly built pre-release aviary at Limbe Wildlife Center. Photo credit Limbe Wildlife Center

08 | Evidence-based Conservation



Research is integral to conservation action. Conservation must be based on fact-driven principles that can come only from research. As emotional as our motivations may be, our solutions must be grounded in scientific data, and have evaluations strategies for all our efforts. This is essential to tracking and increasing our impact.

(See page 38.) Photo of a young male komodo dragon at the Los Angeles Zoo, Photo credit Jamie Pham

Ensuring Evidence-based Support

Each year, the Los Angeles Zoo, in partnership with the Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association (GLAZA), provides funding through its Annual Conservation Grants Program to support the efforts of our conservation partners around the world. As part of the Conservation Strategic Plan (CSP), we overhauled the grant process to increase the efficacy of the program, better track the outcomes of the funded proposals, and ensure the projects we support are consistent with the objectives of the CSP. The application and selection process has been substantially altered to ensure applicants identify the specific outcomes the work will achieve if successful and methods to evaluate their progress. Importantly, we ask applicants to reflect on the evidence that supports the potential effectiveness of their proposed work, a critical- but often overlooked step in conservation planning. The Zoo partnered with the University of Cambridge Conservation Evidence Partnership and officially signed on as a Conservation Evidence Champion to inform our programs and demonstrate our commitment to incorporating conservation evidence throughout our efforts.

2021 L.A. Zoo Annual Conservation Grant Program Recipients



Informing Indian Gharial Recoveries

The Gharial Ecology Project (GEP) of the Madras Crocodile Bank Trust, partners of the L.A. Zoo, monitor and work to study and conserve over 500 critically endangered gharials in the National Chambal Sanctuary (NCS) in north India. This project provides the biological basis for science-based conservation actions that protect the remaining wild gharials in their natural river habitats. With L.A. Zoo support in 2020 and 2021, the GEP deployed **Iridium satellite tags on six young gharials**, providing key data on their daily and seasonal patterns of activity and movements. This information has been essential to informing the Madras Crocodile Bank Trust’s management strategies and conservation actions.



(Top, right) Hatchling gharials being released to their wild mother after being measured and weighed. Photo credit Wildlife Trust of India

(Right) Adult male Indian gharial in the Chambal River, India, a representative of the largest population of the species and the efforts of the LA Zoo partner, Madras Crocodile Bank Trust. Photo credit Charles J. Sharp



Tracking reproduction of Komodo Dragons

The mission of the Komodo Survival Program is to protect, conserve, and manage populations of the Komodo dragon. In 2021, the L.A. Zoo’s support enabled extensive fieldwork to study the distribution of Komodo dragon nests and hatchling production on Rinca Island in Indonesia’s Komodo National Park. This project’s goal is to provide Program managers with accurate census information on Komodo dragon populations. The Zoo’s support also provided the Program with transportation and accommodations, boat rental, local labor for nest observations, meals, and necessary supplies, such as batteries for camera traps, and materials to construct fences around nests for additional protection against predation.



L.A. Zoo Komodo dragon, Buru, a long-time ambassador for the dragons on Rinca Island in Komodo National Park. Photo credit Jamie Pham

Search for the Saola

Re:wild (formerly Global Wildlife Conservation) conserves the diversity of life on earth by safeguarding wildlands, protecting wildlife, and supporting guardians. Since 2012, the L.A. Zoo has supported field conservation efforts led by Re:wild for the saola, a species of wild cattle and one of the rarest animals on Earth, and the large-antlered muntjac, two Critically Endangered endemic species of the Annamite Mountain Range bordering Vietnam and Laos.

With funding from the L.A. Zoo Annual Grants Program, field surveys and camera trap deployments in this important and poorly studied mountain range have successfully confirmed populations of saola and large-antlered muntjac remain, and have led to the discovery of other rare Annamite endemic species like the Annamite striped rabbit. These data are essential to engaging local government agencies and strengthening conservation of the Annemites.



2021 Field Results:

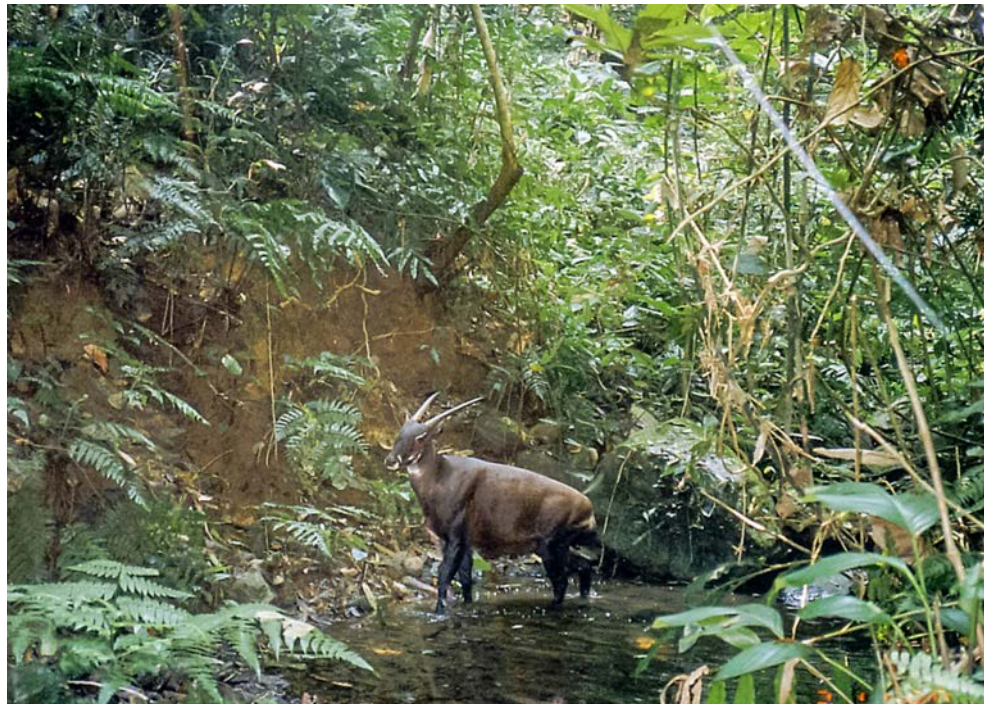
Completed extensive foot and camera trap surveys for saola and large-antlered muntjac in the remote forests of Quang Binh Province, Vietnam. Efforts were focused on a remote protected forest watershed located along the border with Laos, one of the last remote areas in the Annamites that has not been intensively surveyed.

LA Zoo's Support in 2021 Provided:

- Transportation for two teams Quang Binh Province
- Food and camping supplies for the team members

- Batteries for 50 high-end camera traps
- Local Ranger to accompany teams

- Local porters to carry in food and supplies
- Camera traps and accessories
- Handheld GPS units



(Top, left) A rare photo of a large-antlered muntjac found only in the Annamite Mountains. Photo credit Leibniz IZW, WWF VIETNAM, USAID Song Thanh Nature Reserve

(Top, right) One of a few photos of a wild saola caught on a camera trap in the Annamite Mountains. Photo from Re:wild

Acknowledgements

We acknowledge and appreciate the tremendous generosity of our donors who supported the Los Angeles Zoo’s Conservation Strategic Plan initiatives over the last year. Special thank you to these donors who provided gifts of \$10,000 or more, including:

- WALTER C. FIDLER**
- DIANE AND MARK MONTGOMERY**
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- THE SSA GROUP’S “ROUND UP FOR CONSERVATION”**
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- KAREN AND WILLIAM TIMBERLAKE**
- THE WINNICK FAMILY FOUNDATION**
- AND THOSE WHO WISH TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS**

In addition to the support of our donors, we would like to acknowledge the work that staff and volunteers do throughout the Zoo each day that supports our shared mission in conservation. This includes the fundraising activities of the teams in the Angela Collier World of Birds Theater and Show and those who make the Zoo’s Animal Adoptions possible, which both directly fund projects around the world through our Annual Zoo Conservation Grants Program.



Wild Allen’s hummingbirds and many other bird species thrive year-round at the Zoo. The native wildlife that share the Zoo’s grounds provide an opportunity for visitors and others, like our Conservation Interns, to further connect with nature.

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