Wildlife Conservation Society Progress Reports provide you, our generous supporters, with updates and insights on core conservation activities. Together, we are securing a future for wildlife and wild places.

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

WCS envisions a world where wildlife thrives in healthy lands and seas, valued by societies that embrace and benefit from the diversity and integrity of life on earth.
North American Wild Lands Secured

Yukon Supreme Court Rules to Protect 80 Percent of Canada’s Peel Watershed

The Peel Watershed in Canada encompasses one of the last true wilderness regions in the country’s boreal mountains with intact predator-prey populations, and is home to grizzly bears, wolves, and wolverines. It is also the spiritual heartland of the four First Nations whose traditional territories overlap the area. At the end of 2014, a far-reaching Yukon Supreme Court decision ruled in favor of First Nations and conservation, reinstating a plan to protect 80 percent of the region (more than 7 times the size of Yellowstone National Park). This plan replaces the Yukon government’s 2012 plan to protect only 29 percent of the area.

In 2012, WCS’s Dr. Donald Reid led a team of biologists to assemble a comprehensive assessment of the area’s ecology and wildlife for the Peel Watershed Planning Commission, consisting of members nominated by First Nations and the Yukon government. This Commission developed a land-use plan for the Peel Watershed, taking into consideration all of its resources as well as the interests and values of the four Yukon First Nations who share the land.

The Commission recommended high levels of protection, but the Yukon government rejected the recommendation, moving forward with another plan that would not have offered adequate protection. Conservation of ecosystems at this northern latitude requires big spaces and intact watersheds. Sustainable populations of caribou and grizzly bears cover huge areas in their seasonal travels, and whitefish and grayling move hundreds of kilometers between spawning and wintering habitats. Now, thanks to the Yukon Supreme Court’s December 2, 2014 ruling, the Commission’s Recommended Plan will replace the government’s inadequate 2012 plan.

The ruling found that the Yukon government’s unilateral intervention in the Peel land-use planning process was “not consistent with the honour and integrity of the Crown.” As plaintiffs in this court case, the First Nations pursued their rights to influence the region’s future through the Commission’s Recommended Plan. The government is appealing the Court’s decision, but the conservation community will continue to advocate for the natural capital and cultural values of this region.

Montana’s Rocky Mountain Front and Flathead River Safeguarded by National Defense Authorization Act

The National Defense Authorization Act, passed on December 12, 2014, safeguards two critically important wild lands in Montana—the Rocky Mountain Front and the North Fork of the Flathead River—and the iconic wildlife that lives within them, such as grizzly bears and bighorn sheep. To support the Act, WCS supplied scientific information about the areas, provided support for conservation actions, and worked with partners to increase protection. The Act secures 275,000 acres of the Rocky Mountain Front. It also prohibits industrial development (oil, gas, and coal extraction) across 430,000 acres of the Flathead National Forest across from Glacier National Park.

WCS’s Dr. John Weaver produced scientific reports recommending protection for both the Rocky Mountain Front and the Flathead River area that contributed to the new decisions. His reports mapped key areas for regional connectivity and vulnerable species of fish and wildlife, including two native species of trout, grizzlies, wolverines, bighorn sheep, and mountain goats. WCS
Climate Change Forces Female Yaks Higher on the Tibetan Plateau

Due to the difficulty of studying wildlife in the most remote corners of the planet, scientists often use predictive models to forecast ecosystem change. Instead, a research team led by wcs’s Dr. Joel Berger braved harsh winter conditions on the ground to conduct field work in the Kekexili National Nature Reserve on the Tibetan Plateau. This is no small feat; the team of researchers from wcs, University of Montana, Qinghai Forestry Bureau, and Kekexili National Nature Reserve camped in temperatures as cold as negative 24 degrees Fahrenheit, when water is completely frozen and unavailable to both wildlife and people. In this changing environment, their mission was to study the behavior of wild yaks, which are endangered and serve as living totems for both this rugged environment and the societies that live on the “roof of the world.”

Published in March, the research findings determined that female yaks are 20 times more likely to be found adjacent to snow patches than male yaks. Why? The scientists concluded the females need snow for milk production to nurture their offspring. As the region warms—at an estimated rate two-to-three times faster than other parts of the planet—snow patches become more and more restricted. Dr. Berger posits that climate change as well as past hunting trends in the remote Tibetan Plateau have forced female wild yaks onto steeper and steeper terrain.

The team also analyzed observations of wild yaks from some 60 expeditions between 1850 and 1925 in the Tibetan Plateau region. In the years following these expeditions, wild yaks were widely slaughtered by poachers. Comparing these historical records with recent data, the researchers found that prior to the heavy poaching pressure that began in the 1930s, male and female yaks used similar habitat. However, following this spike in hunting, females shifted to areas of steeper inclines, suggesting greater sensitivity to hunting and a need to protect their offspring.

What happens in the Kekexili National Nature Reserve can provide valuable lessons as conservationists prepare for similar climate change impacts in other parts of the world. The findings of the expedition—that the sexes of a cold-adapted species respond differently to modern climate change and long-past exploitation—indicate that effective conservation action requires knowledge of the interplay between past and future.

Gabon Announces Network of Marine Protected Areas

As the world’s conservationists gathered in Sydney, Australia at the end of 2014 for the iucn World Parks Congress, the Government of Gabon announced the decision to create a marine protected area network in the country. These 10 new marine parks will cover more than 18,000 square miles, or about 23 percent of Gabon’s territorial waters and the adjacent Exclusive Economic Zone.

This is a significant increase from the one percent of marine area previously protected by Gabon, and will safeguard whales, sea turtles, and the other marine wildlife inhabiting the country’s coastal and offshore ecosystems. The new parks will prohibit any commercial fishing, except for within the Exclusive Economic Zone, which will be divided into community fishing zones, commercial fishing zones, and oil exclusion zones, where industrial fishing is not allowed close to strategic infrastructure.

The new network will protect more than 20 species of whales and dolphins—including humpback whales and Atlantic humpback dolphins—and 4 species of marine turtles—including the world’s largest breeding leatherback turtle population and the Atlantic Ocean’s largest breeding olive ridley turtle population. Gabon’s waters are also home to more than 20 species of sharks and rays, many of which are threatened, including great hammerhead sharks, manta rays, whale sharks, and tiger sharks.

Key to this news is the science behind it. Scientists used data collected over two decades of work by wcs, Gabon’s Agence Nationale des Parcs Nationaux and long-past exploitation—indicate that effective conservation action requires knowledge of the interplay between past and future.
(ANPN), and the University of Exeter to identify the priority areas for parks. During a three-week expedition undertaken in October 2012, WCS, ANPN, the Waitt Institute, and the National Geographic Society surveyed bottom habitats and collected data on the biodiversity and health of Gabon’s marine environment. WCS conservationist Mike Fay and National Geographic’s Enric Sala led the research team on these underwater surveys of previously undocumented reefs, sea floors, and lagoons.

More than a decade earlier, Fay led another team of explorers on an expedition through an intact forest corridor stretching from Congo to coastal Gabon—an astounding 2,000-mile journey. Called the “Megatransect,” the project brought to the world’s attention the last pristine forest in Central Africa and the need for its protection. This work led to a historic initiative in 2002 by the Gabonese government to create a system of 13 national parks, comprising some 11,000 square miles. The new marine protected area network complements this existing terrestrial protected area system.

Gabon is the first Central African nation to protect its marine resources with the establishment of a marine protected area network. The network will protect the country’s marine wildlife by curtailing the unregulated and unsustainable fishing of the international fleets that exploit much of Africa’s coastal waters. It will also secure the livelihoods of the people of Gabon by ensuring fisheries are sustained for future generations.
Jerdon’s babbler (*Chrysomma altirostre*) had not been seen since July 1941 in Myanmar; the bird was last found in grasslands near the town of Myitkyo in the Bago region near the Sittaung River. Yet on May 30, 2014, a team of scientists from WCS, Myanmar’s Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division, and the National University of Singapore (NUS) were surveying a site around an abandoned agricultural station that still contained some grassland habitat when they heard the bird’s distinct call. The scientists played back a recording to attract it and were rewarded with the sighting of an adult Jerdon’s babbler, previously thought to be extinct. Over the next 48 hours, the team found Jerdon’s babblers at several locations in the immediate vicinity and managed to obtain blood samples and high-quality photographs.

“**This re-discovery not only proves that the species still exists in Myanmar but that remnants of its habitat can still be found as well.**”

Jerdon’s babbler is currently considered one of three subspecies of babbler found in the Indus, Brahmaputra, and Ayeyarwady River basins in South Asia. All show subtle differences and may yet prove to be distinctive species. DNA samples taken from the re-discovered bird will be analyzed at the Department of Biological Sciences at the NUS Faculty of Science to determine if Jerdon’s babbler should be considered its own species. If so, the species would be exclusive to Myanmar and of very high conservation concern due to its fragmented and threatened habitat.

This work on the babbler was part of a larger study to understand the genetics of Myanmar bird species and determine the true level of bird diversity in the country. Already, Myanmar has more bird species than any other country in mainland Southeast Asia, and this number will likely rise as our understanding of birds in this long-isolated country continues to grow.
A WCS study found that between 2002 and 2013, 65 percent of the world’s African forest elephants were killed for their ivory. Sadly, we are losing at least 35,000 African elephants each year—96 elephants each day.

WCS is leading the charge to counter this slaughter. For decades we have worked on the ground to stop poaching, protect habitat, and help elephant populations recover. But the recent and rapid acceleration in demand for ivory requires coordinated global action. Under a Clinton Global Initiative Commitment to Action, WCS has joined forces with 15 other non-governmental organizations to stop the killing, stop the trafficking, and stop the demand.

Key to our success is a shift in global ivory policy in favor of elephants. Elephants cannot speak for themselves; we must be their voice. We must work to influence legislation so that these magnificent creatures are no longer exploited, but protected.

**Chinese Ivory Ban Announced**

In February 2015, the Government of China announced a one-year ban on ivory imports into the country. The ban is a step in the right direction toward combating China’s enduring ivory demand.

While the short-term ban is undoubtedly an improvement in China’s ivory policy, commercial trade of elephant ivory by all nations has been prohibited by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species since 1989. Additionally, unless the ban is extended past one year and expanded to include the sale of ivory within China (as opposed to just imports), it will not stem the country’s demand enough to end Africa’s poaching crisis.

As WCS President and CEO Dr. Cristián Samper has noted, “This action shows leadership by the world’s largest ivory consumer nation and we hope to see additional and stronger action by officials in China on limiting the ongoing demand of ivory in their nation.” Dr. Samper serves on President Obama’s Advisory Council on Wildlife Trafficking.

**U.S. Ivory Bans Expanding**

Although the Obama Administration has enacted a federal ivory ban to stop imports into the U.S. and trade across state lines, further legislation is needed to close still-legal ivory markets within state borders. In 2014, New Jersey and New York were the first U.S. states to sign strict bills banning the sale of ivory within their states. Now California, Florida, Hawaii, Iowa, Massachusetts, Maryland, Oklahoma, Vermont, and Virginia are considering similar bans. WCS experts have testified in support of the bans in California and Hawaii, and our 96 Elephants campaign promotes public advocacy across all 50 states to ban U.S. ivory sales for good.
New York Ivory Crush Planned

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and WCS plan to crush approximately two tons of confiscated ivory on June 19 in New York City’s Times Square. USFWS has seized the illegally-obtained ivory in this stockpile as a result of law enforcement investigations over a period of several years. The country’s last crush occurred in 2013 when USFWS pulverized nearly six tons of elephant ivory stored at the National Wildlife Property Repository in Denver, Colorado.

By destroying our ivory stockpiles, we send a clear message that the United States will not tolerate ivory trafficking and its destructive impact on global elephant populations.

Craigslist Advocacy

A joint report released by WCS and the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) has concluded that the ivory trade is alive and well on Craigslist.org. Using data collected March 16–20, 2015 from 28 Craigslist subsites, the report found posts advertising the sale of ivory, elephant skin, and similar items. Within just 5 days, investigators tracked 522 postings offering 615 items with a combined list price of nearly $1.5 million. In response, Craigslist has updated its policy to include a clear statement prohibiting the sale of “ivory and endangered, imperiled and/or protected species and any parts thereof.”

After IFAW released a similar report on eBay.com in 2008, eBay announced it would no longer allow the sale of ivory on its platform and continues to work with IFAW to improve enforcement. In 2014, WCS and 96 Elephants led a successful campaign that resulted in PBS’s Antiques Roadshow agreeing to stop appraising ivory tusks on the air, and to educate viewers about the ivory trade. We are hopeful Craigslist will now take similar action to actively enforce its updated policy and eliminate all ivory sales.

Ivory’s Diminishing Demand

Throughout China, where the world’s largest ivory market continues to imperil elephants, WCS’s Ivory Demand Reduction Program is working to eliminate ivory’s prestige factor through a variety of policy, media, and public engagement initiatives.

In November 2014, WCS partnered with Shanghai Media Group, one of China’s leading media conglomerates, to jointly promote the 3D documentary “African Safari.” The film, an immersive virtual trek across Africa, guides audiences through the continent’s wildest regions while also asking viewers to reflect on the damage caused by human demand for wildlife products. WCS provided key conservation messages for the film. As part of the promotion, WCS published 3 articles on elephant conservation which were then shared by nearly 80 websites, including influential Chinese sites such as Xinhua, Netease, People, Tencent, Sohu, iFeng, and China.com. The film, shown in 6,000 cinemas throughout 350 cities in China, was a great success.

WCS has now formed a partnership with Artron—an influential auction house that guides asset investment in China—and is working with them to diminish the appeal of ivory. Together, we are promoting the message that modern ivory is worthless and should not be perceived as a good investment.

In April 2015, Artron released an investor report highlighting this warning, and WCS China launched a coordinated social media campaign to amplify the message. These and WCS’s other anti-demand activities are vital to reversing the decline of African elephants. WCS

The 96 Elephants Campaign: By the Numbers

TOTAL PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS: 195

ZOO AND AQUARIUM PARTNERS: 124

U.S. PRESENCE: 45 states

ELEPHANT ADVOCATES ENGAGED: 465,000+

ADVOCACY ACTIONS* TAKEN: 850,000+

Figures as of February 2015
* Actions include writing letters to elected officials, signing petitions, and posting on social media.
The 96 Elephants Campaign: By the Numbers

- Total partner organizations: 195
- Zoo and aquarium partners: 124
- U.S. presence: 45 states
- Elephant advocates engaged: 465,000+
- Advocacy actions* taken: 850,000+

As seen on page 6, in 2013, USFWS crushed nearly six tons of elephant ivory in Denver, Colorado, including full tusks, jewelry, and trinkets (left). Crushing ivory renders it useless and sends the message that the U.S. will not tolerate ivory trafficking. In 2015, USFWS and WCS plan to crush two more tons of ivory in New York City.
For the first time, you can save wildlife and combat climate change by purchasing carbon credits online to preserve one of Africa’s most biodiverse tropical rainforests. Carbon credits from WCS’s Makira Natural Park Project in Madagascar are now available through the Stand for Trees campaign, an online carbon sales platform recently launched by USAID and Code REDD. For $10, supporters can buy one tonne of carbon—the equivalent of preventing that same amount of CO₂ from being released into the atmosphere as a result of deforestation. Reduced carbon emissions at Makira and associated benefits for local people and wildlife are globally certified by the Voluntary Carbon Standard and the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance.

Stand for Trees will help finance the long-term protection of Madagascar’s Makira Natural Park, a 1,438-square-mile swath of the island’s dwindling rainforests that is managed by WCS in collaboration with local communities. Makira is home to more than 20 species of lemur, including the Critically Endangered red-ruffed lemur, indri, and sifaka, as well as the fossa—Madagascar’s largest carnivore species—and countless other species of plants and animals that are found only in Madagascar. The project also benefits the lives of local people. Fifty percent of sale proceeds directly empower communities to manage natural resources and to increase their household incomes through ecotourism development, improved rice cultivation, and sustainable vanilla and clove production. WCS
Camera Traps Serve as Tools for Conservation and Monitoring

WCS uses camera traps as a non-invasive tool to estimate wildlife populations and species diversity in many of the wild places where we work. As an added bonus, these remote cameras also provide remarkable images of animals in the wild. Here’s a look at a few of our favorite camera trap pictures taken around the world over the past year.

A curious sloth bear mother and its two cubs pay a visit in India’s Bhadra Tiger Reserve.

A strolling leopard in India’s Bandipur Tiger Reserve passes between two camera traps.

A solitary pronghorn strikes a stately pose in the vast Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

A baby chimpanzee hitches a ride on its mother’s back in Gabon’s Lopé National Park in Central Africa.
Earlier this year, the first *Vaccines for Conservation* international meeting was convened at the Bronx Zoo by experts from WCS, Cornell University’s College of Veterinary Medicine and its Feline Health Center, and the University of Glasgow’s Institute of Biodiversity, Animal Health and Comparative Medicine. Colleagues from around the globe focused on canine distemper virus and the threat it poses to increasingly fragmented populations of wild carnivores. While canine distemper has been known for many years as an affliction of domestic dogs, the virus has been appearing in new areas, causing disease and mortality in a wide range of species, including tigers and lions, the Highly Endangered Ethiopian wolf and African wild dog, and the black-footed ferret in North America. In fact, many experts agree that the virus should no longer be called “canine distemper virus” given the diversity of species it infects.

Like many large carnivores, tigers face an array of serious threats throughout their range, including poaching (of tigers themselves and of their prey), habitat loss, and conflict with local people. These threats have led to shrinking and more fragmented tiger populations, which are much more susceptible to sudden population declines and even extinction from disease. In fact, analysis by WCS and international colleagues has shown that smaller populations of Amur tigers are more vulnerable to extinction from distemper than larger populations.

“The most logical approach for protecting threatened carnivores from canine distemper virus may be to target specific vaccines to each affected endangered species.”

Populations of 25 individuals or less are 1.65 times more likely to disappear in the next 50 years if the virus is present. This finding is profoundly disturbing for wild tigers given that in most sites where wild tigers persist, they are limited to populations of less than 25 breeding adults.

Previous attempts to manage the risk of infectious disease to wild carnivores have mostly focused on domestic dog vaccination. However, this often fails to prevent infections in threatened species that share the dogs’ environment due to the presence of small wild carnivores that act as an alternative reservoir of infection. The prospect of controlling an infectious disease in an abundant and wide-ranging wildlife reservoir is remote, particularly when there is no economic or public health justification for doing so. Therefore, experts believe the most logical approach for protecting threatened carnivores from canine distemper virus may be to target specific vaccines to each affected endangered species. The goal would not be to eliminate a disease like distemper from a given ecosystem, but to protect endangered species in places impacted by such pathogens.

---

**Top 5 Actions**

Experts at the *Vaccines for Conservation* conference recommended five key actions to protect endangered wild carnivores from distemper.

1. Determine the safety and efficacy of existing distemper vaccines
2. Develop field-friendly, rapid diagnostic capabilities
3. Enhance disease surveillance in the field
4. Create networks that share health data
5. Explore new vaccine technologies, like oral and aerosol vaccines
Maya Biosphere Reserve Celebrates 25 Years

This year, conservationists in Guatemala and around the world celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Maya Biosphere Reserve, a successful safe haven for jaguars, peccaries, macaws, and many other species that have disappeared from much of Mesoamerica. Created in 1990 by the Guatemalan government, the reserve is one of the few large forests remaining in Central America as deforestation has spread across the region. It covers 19 percent of Guatemala (more than 8,000 square miles) and forms Central America’s largest protected area. WCS conservationists note that, in spite of sporadic insecurity and other challenges, approximately 70 percent of the protected area’s forests and water bodies remain well preserved—a conservation milestone.

One of the great accomplishments of the reserve is the persistence of the jaguar within its borders; it is home to at least 90 percent of Guatemala’s remaining jaguar population (a number estimated to total some 345 big cats). Throughout Central America, the jaguar has suffered a range reduction of at least 40 percent. The reserve also protects a variety of other species. Over 95 percent of both the remaining white-lipped peccaries and scarlet macaws in Guatemala exist in the Maya Biosphere Reserve. The forests of the reserve also provide wintering habitat for migratory birds, and help reduce the severity of climate change through the sequestration of carbon.

WCS and a broad array of local community associations, conservation groups, and international partners have collaborated with Guatemala’s National Council of Protected Areas to ensure the preservation and sustainable management of the reserve. The approach includes biological research and monitoring, environmental governance, and the promotion of community-based management. WCS and partners have jointly established participatory natural resource management systems, including world-class sustainable timber management, improved community tourism, monitoring and management to reduce wildlife crime, and implementation of community-based fire prevention programs to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

The reserve supports tens of thousands of individuals who earn their livelihoods by sustainably harvesting timber and other forest products, as well as increasingly through tourism. Under the “community concession” system—an agreement between the Guatemalan government and local communities—residents of the reserve steward the forest and supplement their incomes through the sustainable harvest of a variety of forest products like fruits, medicinal and ornamental plants, and limited amounts of timber. All timber harvests are sustainable (only a few trees per hectare are removed every 25 to 40 years) and are monitored by the government and by the Rainforest Alliance under the aegis of the Forest Stewardship Council. Together with tourism, these income streams generate an estimated $42 million for Guatemala annually, boosting both the regional economy and local livelihoods.
New Action Plan for Great Apes of Central Africa Says Protected Areas are Not Enough

The number of gorillas and chimpanzees in Central Africa continues to decline due to hunting, habitat loss, and disease, combined with widespread corruption in the judicial process and a lack of law enforcement. A new regional action plan from WCS, IUCN, WWF, and partners outlines the growing number of threats to these great apes and proposed actions to increase protection in six range countries. The plan includes the finding that nearly 80 percent of great apes in the region occur outside of protected areas. This high percentage means that WCS and partners must expand our focus beyond protected areas and collaborate with stakeholders such as logging companies in order to make a lasting impact on great ape conservation.

While national and international laws protect the Critically Endangered western lowland gorilla and the Endangered central chimpanzee, both subspecies are continuously threatened by hunters and traders seeking to supply the illegal commercial market’s demand for bushmeat, particularly in urban areas. Habitat loss driven by the region’s growing human population, the expansion of extractive industries and industrial agriculture is another danger to great apes. Furthermore, between the 1990s and 2003, Ebola outbreaks in northeastern Gabon and western Congo are thought to have killed thousands of gorillas and chimpanzees.

For decades, WCS has run successful great ape conservation projects in many African parks. The great ape population of Conkouati-Douli National Park, Republic of Congo has stabilized due to intensified anti-poaching efforts by WCS, including new guard posts and mobile guard teams. In Langoué Bai in Ivindo National Park, Gabon, WCS monitors use of the bai—a large, open clearing—by gorillas, and also studies the risk posed by an unknown skin disease found in 20 percent of the gorillas visiting the area. WCS launched a conservation club, Club Ebobo (ebobo means gorilla in the Lingala language), in the villages of Noutabalé-Ndoki National Park, Republic of Congo over 15 years ago. The club teaches children about apes and their role in the forest, and trains Congolese students as research assistants, recruits former poachers as staff and trackers, and supports ecotourism ventures. This work is critical to protecting the populations of great apes residing in these and other parks, yet the recent action plan underscores the need to conserve great ape habitat outside of formally protected areas.

This new strategy is the product of a regional workshop attended by 70 conservation scientists, wildlife health experts, donors, wildlife authorities, and protected area managers from Angola, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and the Republic of Congo. Survey data collected between 2003 and 2013 were used to produce great ape population density maps across the entire range of both western lowland gorillas and central chimpanzees to re-assess conservation priorities.

As a result, 18 landscapes have been identified as critical for the continued survival of western lowland gorillas and central chimpanzees. These landscapes cover half the geographic range of these two subspecies, yet they harbor more than three-quarters of the great apes remaining in the region. WCS

---

Actions needed to protect the remaining gorilla and chimpanzee populations include establishing:

1. More effective management of large areas outside of formally protected areas
2. Increased law enforcement combined with stronger legal frameworks and stiffer sanctions for poachers
3. Cross-sector coordination around land use and natural resource protection, with a priority on conserving great ape populations
4. Conservation advocacy activities and law enforcement to effect behavior change
5. Deeper understanding of diseases such as Ebola to guide conservation actions
6. Monitoring of great ape abundance and distribution, habitat loss, and illegal activities
Thank you for helping us save wildlife and wild places around the globe. Learn more at wcs.org

With deep appreciation to:
Biz Agnew, James Deutsch,
Nina Holbrook, Aili Kang, Roan McNab,
Steve Osofsky, Colin Poole, Justina Ray,
Kaitlyn Sephton, Kira Topik,
Stephanie Wang, and Peter Zahler

Executive Editor: Mary Deyns Brandão
Managing Editor: Christine Westphal
Writer: Nellie Beach
Art Direction: Drew Albinson
Staff Photographer: Julie Larsen Maher
Editorial Support: Sylvia Alexander and Sarah Walker

Photos: Front and Back Covers, p. 6, p. 8 (top), p. 9, p. 11 Julie Larsen Maher © WCS;
Inside Front Page © Miguel Pedrono; p. 2 © Harvey Locke; p. 4 (top) © WCS;
p. 4 (bottom) © Tim Collins/WCS; p. 5 © Robert Tizard/WCS; p. 8 (bottom)
© Philip Ellard/Shutterstock; p. 10 (top left, top right, center right) ©WCS India;
p. 10 (bottom left) © Harri Washington/WCS Gabon; p. 10 (bottom right)
© WCS North America Program; p. 12 © Chris Packham/WCS; p. 14 © Ian Nichols