45 trees preserved for the future
136 lbs wastewater not created
17,401 gallons wastewater flow saved
1925 lbs solid waste not generated
3791 lbs net greenhouse gases prevented
28,015,900 BTUs energy not consumed

Additional savings for using paper manufactured with 100% windpower
1924 lbs GHG emissions not generated
2 barrels fuel oil unused
55 miles not driving
1005 reams
planting 121 trees
The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) saves wildlife and wild places worldwide. We do so through science, global conservation, education, and the management of the world’s largest system of urban wildlife parks, led by the flagship Bronx Zoo. Together these activities change attitudes toward nature and help people imagine wildlife and humans living in harmony. WCS is committed to this mission because it is essential to the integrity of life on Earth.
FROM NEW YORK CITY TO THE WORLD

WCS WAS FOUNDED IN 1895 AS THE NEW YORK ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY AT THE URGING OF CONSERVATIONIST AND FUTURE PRESIDENT THEODORE ROOSEVELT. MORE THAN A CENTURY LATER, IT IS THE PREEMINENT SCIENCE-BASED WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION IN THE WORLD.

Since our inception, WCS has dispatched leading conservationists to all corners of the globe and developed five world-class zoological parks in New York City. The first and most famous of those parks, the Bronx Zoo, was established in 1899. Within a decade, we aided the American bison’s recovery by sending some of our Bronxbred animals to western prairies. Today, we continue to harness the power of our parks and our fieldwork to protect wildlife and wild places in perpetuity.

Each year in New York City, more than 4 million people visit our wildlife parks—the Bronx Zoo, Central Park Zoo, Prospect Park Zoo, Queens Zoo, and New York Aquarium. Within the zoos and aquarium, our award-winning exhibits fascinate the public with naturalistic settings and informative graphics. Our animals are ambassadors for the protection of their wild relatives and native habitats. Our visitors encounter the planet’s amazing biodiversity and learn how they can help secure its future. Our educators reach students and teachers in New York and around the world. Our veterinarians and other experts provide the best care available to our parks’ wildlife collections while contributing to our conservation work abroad.

Across four of the world’s continents and all of its oceans, WCS conducts more than 500 conservation projects. Our staff work on the ground in the often remote localities of 60-plus countries. We do so to protect priority landscapes and seascapes, and the species that depend on them. We are committed to protecting 25 percent of the world’s biodiversity. The gorillas of Africa, the tigers throughout Asia, the macaws in South America, and the sharks and turtles traveling through our planet’s seas benefit from our foresight.

To fulfill our mission, WCS does not shy away from adversity or the complex demands of working in conflict and post-conflict areas, such as Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and South Sudan.

WCS’S STRATEGY ADDRESSES CONSERVATION AT EVERY ANGLE.

With a dedication to science-based conservation and wildlife education, our 4,000-plus team fosters environmental stewardship within schools, communities, governments, and corporations. To save wildlife and wild places, we address four global issues: climate change; natural resource extraction; the relationship between wildlife health and human health; and the connection between sustainable development and local livelihoods.

Simply put, WCS’s strategy addresses conservation at every angle. The knowledge we gain in the field, in the lab, and in the classroom serves to sustain key species and wild places, to safeguard humans, livestock, and wildlife from disease, and to keep local economies thriving.
1890s 1900s 1910s

1894 Theodore Roosevelt, as Boone and Crockett Club president, appoints a committee asking New York State to establish a zoological society in New York City.

1897 NYZS undertakes its first expedition to Alaska.

1899 The Bronx Zoo (formally, The New York Zoological Park) officially opens.

1901 The Bronx Zoo hires its first full-time zoological park veterinarian.

1902 NYZS takes over management of the New York Aquarium in lower Manhattan.

1907 A fully-equipped zoo-based animal hospital opens on Bronx Zoo grounds.

1916 NYZS work to protect fur seals in the Bering Sea’s Pribilof Islands begins, resulting in a 1912 International treaty outlawing open-ocean seal hunting for the first time.

1916 NYZS Curator of Birds, William Beebe opens a tropical research station in British Guiana. NYZS establishes the Department of Tropical Research there in 1923.

1922 NYZS begins campaign against the killing of “vermin” species: eagles and other birds, bears, and wolves.

1924 Congress passes new code of game laws for Alaska as a result of NYZS pressure.

1929 The Bronx Zoo opens its first wildlife education department, teaching zoology, conservation, and natural history to visitors and students.

1930s

1934 William Beebe completes record-setting 3,000-foot dive in bathysphere off Bermuda’s coast.

1936 NYZS analysis of whaling logs illustrates distribution and seasonal migrations of whales and becomes foundation of later cetacean conservation work.

1939 NYZS officers head a campaign against the misguided slaughter of thousands of wild ungulates in Zululand, South Africa to eradicate tsetse fly.

1924 Congress passes resolution to oppose introduction of non-native animals in U.S. national parks and urges the National Park Service to prohibit all such introductions.

1929 After 10-year battle, the Migratory Bird Conservation Act passes, calling for 14 sanctuaries across the U.S.

1923 William Beebe leads his first expedition to the Galapagos Islands.

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1940s

- 1941: The Bronx Zoo is established in New York City.

- 1941: With its 100th visitor attends, the Bronx Zoo.

- 1943: Through efforts by NYZS, the world’s first land and sea park is established at Elmina Cays in the Bahamas.

- 1944: NYZS supports research by A. Starker Leopold and Frank Fraser. DINING on wildlife conditions in Alaska, focusing on forest destruction, overgrazing, and wolf eradication.

- 1946: NYZS establishes the Conservation Foundation & NYZS study effects of pesticides on animals, 14 years before Rachel Carson’s Silent Spring.

- 1948: NYZS supports research by A. Starker Leopold and Frank Fraser. DINING on wildlife conditions in Alaska, focusing on forest destruction, overgrazing, and wolf eradication.

1950s

- 1952: NYZS supports research by A. Starker Leopold and Frank Fraser. DINING on wildlife conditions in Alaska, focusing on forest destruction, overgrazing, and wolf eradication.

- 1955: Through efforts by NYZS, the world’s first land and sea park is established at Elmina Cays in the Bahamas.

- 1956: NYZS establishes the Conservation Foundation.

- 1957: New York Aquarium opens in Coney Island, moving from its original Manhattan location after a 10-year hiatus.

1960s

- 1960: Zibride’s Lagosio Wildlife Reserve is established in Nigeria.

- 1961: NYZS begins study of a small community within the Ribadeo Forest, fostering an association with wildlife conservation and leadership in Uganda that continues today.


- 1963: Through efforts by NYZS, the world’s first land and sea park is established at Elmina Cays in the Bahamas.

- 1965: NYZS establishes the Conservation Foundation.


1970s

- 1970: NYZS builds the Wildlife Health Center, one of the first modern zoos hospitals, at Bronx Zoo.

- 1972: New York City’s first native-born gorilla, Pattycake, is delivered at what will become NYZS’s Central Park Zoo.

- 1977: Wild Asia opens at the Bronx Zoo.

- 1978: George Schaller begins long-term study of giant panda in China’s Wolong Natural Reserve.

1980s

- 1980: George Schaller begins long-term study of giant panda in China’s Wolong Natural Reserve.

- 1981: The Bronx Zoo becomes first to perform embryo transfer from ger to domestic cow.

- 1985: NYZS builds the Wildlife Health Center, one of the first modern zoos hospitals, at Bronx Zoo.

- 1986: George Schaller begins long-term study of giant panda in China’s Wolong Natural Reserve.


1990s

- 1990: NYZS elephant research and advocacy contributes to an international ban on ivory trade.

- 1992: NYZS initiates the first ever zoo-based field veterinary program.


- 1994: NYZS raises and manages $50 million in private funds to support work in gorillas.


- 1996: NYZS builds the Wildlife Health Center, one of the first modern zoos hospitals, at Bronx Zoo.

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- 2000: NYZS initiates the first ever zoo-based field veterinary program.

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- 2016: NYZS initiates the first ever zoo-based field veterinary program.

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- 2019: NYZS initiates the first ever zoo-based field veterinary program.

- 2020: NYZS initiates the first ever zoo-based field veterinary program.

- 2021: NYZS initiates the first ever zoo-based field veterinary program.

- 2022: NYZS initiates the first ever zoo-based field veterinary program.

- 2023: NYZS initiates the first ever zoo-based field veterinary program.

- 2024: NYZS initiates the first ever zoo-based field veterinary program.

- 2025: NYZS initiates the first ever zoo-based field veterinary program.
1990s


1992: NYZS work helps Cambodian prime minister declare the Sreng area a protected forest. It is the fourth protected forest in the country resulting from WCS’s Cambodian work.

1995: WCS leads Bronx Zoo’s new master plan for the Bronx Zoo’s renaissance.

1998: WCS becomes first conservation group to work in Cambodia after fall of Khmer Rouge.

2000s

2000: Bronx Zoo’s Master Plan is adopted and refreshment of its historic landmarks begins.

2003: The Bronx Zoo’s renaissance master plan is adopted and refreshment of its historic landmarks begins.


2006: WCS commissions architectural firm Ayesa, St. Gross to begin a master plan for the Bronx Zoo’s renaissance.

2007: Cambodian prime minister declares the Sreng forests a protected area. It is the fourth protected area resulting from WCS’s Cambodian work.

2008: WCS efforts lead to creation of first federally-designated U.S. wildlife migration corridor, the Path of the Pronghorn, to protect the longest land migration in the lower 48.


2010s

2010: WCS discovers nearly 6,000 Irrawaddy river dolphins, among the rarest species of marine mammals, in Bangladesh.

2011: WCS successfully concludes Gateways to Conservation, a $650 million capital campaign launched in 2004, with a total of $663 million.
SAVING WILDLIFE AND WILD PLACES

Fiji’s Totoya Reef was declared “sacred” in 2011. WCS works with local islanders to implement sustainable fishing practices, helping to ensure the island society’s rich culture, traditions, and livelihoods endure.

LANDSCAPES AND SEASCAPES

Protecting wildlife and the wild places in which they live: this is WCS’s core conservation strategy. Our renowned fieldwork informs local, national, and international policies that address widespread threats to the planet’s ecological integrity. WCS is on the ground in more than 75 important landscapes and seascapes. These premier sites are biologically outstanding and within them, the prospects for conserving species and ecological processes over the long term remain high. Protected areas are at the heart of many of these landscapes and seascapes, and since the early 1900s, WCS has helped establish more than 150 of them across the globe. In all, we have worked to conserve upwards of 2 million square miles of some of the Earth’s wildest places, from the grasslands of Mongolia to the coral reefs of Belize.

SPECIES

About 25 percent of the world’s species rely on the landscapes and seascapes where we work. Our commitment to conserve this biodiversity is broad, but it runs deep. Our efforts focus on safeguarding a suite of global priority species. These species are vulnerable to extinction, important to humans, and powerful symbols of nature. WCS is dedicated to protecting iconic wildlife across their ranges and over the long term. At local, national, and international levels, we work to ensure these species thrive and contribute to their ecosystems, so they continue to enrich our planet’s diversity of life.
To sustain Earth’s biodiversity into the future, WCS addresses issues that influence ecosystems worldwide.

Climate Change
With each passing year, climate change is transforming the playing field for conservation. We have made it our job to anticipate these changes. From Indonesian coral reefs to central African forests, WCS research and projects combat the effects of climate change on wildlife and human communities. A WCS hallmark is to hold long-term commitments to, and historical knowledge of, specific areas.

Global Health
WCS strives to lessen the impact of disease on wildlife through better understanding of the nexus of human, wildlife, and domestic animal disease. We do so through research, preventative education, and clinical care, conducted in our parks and in the field. At state-of-the-art wildlife health facilities, our veterinarians, training programs, and research combine to provide the highest quality care to the animals within our zoos and aquarium. To address animal health issues in the wild, we established a first-of-its-kind field veterinary program in 1989. Now from Patagonia to central Africa, we conduct cutting-edge disease investigations and work to prevent the transmission of pathogens—such as avian influenza, West Nile virus, and Ebola virus—between wildlife, domestic animals, and humans. In order to anticipate and mitigate potential health threats to ecosystems and communities, WCS collaborates with in-country health experts. Together, we create local training programs and formulate disease prevention guidelines and policies.

Local Livelihoods
WCS conducts conservation in remote places where many of the world’s poorest people reside. These communities depend on natural resources and local ecosystems for their food, their shelter, and their livelihoods. Investing in the quality of life within these societies is sound conservation practice. WCS aids communities across the globe in developing economic activities that are profitable, sustainable, and coincide with conservation. Collaborating with community members and their leaders, we help to ensure their legal tenure, nurture new agricultural products and practices, implement better fishing techniques and management practices, and generate ecotourism and other financial opportunities. In addition, WCS helps communities and ecosystems recover within areas devastated by natural disasters or violent conflict.

A WCS hallmark is to hold long-term commitments to, and historical knowledge of, specific areas.

This enables us to implement conservation strategies that will help species and ecosystems adapt to new climate conditions. Working with local people, corporations, and governments, WCS aims to reduce global carbon emissions by protecting the world’s remaining forests and peat bogs from destruction. Our holistic approach goes beyond the fences of protected areas to combine conservation, sustainable development, and human livelihoods into one integrated climate adaptation agenda.

Natural Resource Extraction
Natural resource extraction—mining, logging, fishing, and oil and gas development—occurs in many areas where we work. Reducing the impact of these activities, and ensuring the persistence of wildlife in the face of these threats, are key to our conservation efforts. WCS assists extractive industries in adopting business practices that minimize their influence on wildlife and habitats. Additionally, we encourage companies to help offset the impact of their actions through support of wildlife conservation.
A porcupine in the Queens Zoo’s aviary is one of many WCS animals that bring ecology lessons to life for students and teachers.

PARKS AND PEOPLE

OUR PARKS

WCS’s four zoos and aquarium comprise the world’s largest urban complex of wildlife parks. Our cutting-edge exhibits attract people in the millions to the Bronx Zoo, Central Park Zoo, Prospect Park Zoo, Queens Zoo, and New York Aquarium each year. The purpose of the parks is manifold. They connect visitors to nature and serve as hubs for environmental education, as facilities for perpetuating endangered species, and as research centers for wildlife health and international conservation.

WCS researchers in New York City exchange insights with their field colleagues that benefit wildlife at the parks and in the wild. Zoo-based research has aided vaccination efforts in African wild dogs, helped monitor jaguars in Guatemala, and provided optimal nesting grounds for maleos, an endangered bird species, in Indonesia. Our thoughtfully designed exhibits ensure the connection between the parks and the field is ever present for our guests. In the Bronx Zoo’s Congo Gorilla Forest, visitors can direct their admission fee to support the WCS fieldwork of their choice in central Africa. So far, the exhibit has raised more money for field conservation than that of any other zoo. More broadly, our parks’ combined focus on research, education, and action exemplifies WCS’s unified approach to conservation.

The Next Generation of Conservation Stewards

With more than 1,300 species and interactive exhibits spread over 308 acres, the parks serve as an informal science classroom for visitors and students.

WCS, the Urban Assembly, and the NYC Department of Education created the Urban Assembly School for Wildlife Conservation for grades 6 to 12, with curricula themed on wildlife conservation. Located in the Bronx, it is the first school of its kind. A sister institution, the Rachel Carson High School for Coastal Studies in Coney Island, is likewise affiliated with the New York Aquarium.

Each year, more than 100,000 students and 2,000 teachers participate in WCS’s award-winning education programs—from on-site academic programs to school field trips to day camp.

WCS’s Distance Learning Expeditions provide programming for more than 60,000 students in 36 states and 8 countries, including Canada, Mexico, Great Britain, the Dominican Republic, and Honduras.

[440E] In 2010, a total of six cubs (three Amur tigers and three Malayan tigers) were born at the Bronx Zoo.
Legislation and Treaties
WCS was a founding member of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and helped create important regimes for protecting wildlife: the International Migratory Bird Act, the Pribilof Fur Seal Treaty, the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), the Great Apes Conservation Fund, the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund, and the 2009 Semipostal Stamp Act for the Multinational Species Conservation Fund.

Milestones and Discoveries
- **On land:** So far, WCS has helped create more than 150 protected areas—including the U.S. Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Brazil’s Manu-Madre de Dios-Chamani (the Amazon’s largest forested forest reserve), Ecuador’s Galapagos National Park, Tibet’s Chang Tang Reserve (the world’s third largest wilderness reserve), Tanzania’s Tanangire National Park, South Africa’s Kruger National Park, and Gabon’s protected area network that comprises 30 percent of the country’s land area.

- **At sea:** WCS was instrumental in establishing the world’s first land-and-sea park at Exuma Cays in the Bahamas, the largest no-take zone in Fiji, the Hol Chan Marine Reserve in Belize (and the subsequent national network of marine protected areas there), and the first marine reserves in Argentina, Gabon, and Madagascar.

- **In our parks:** WCS is a leader in captive breeding and spearheaded the idea of the Species Survival Plan. Zoos around the world use these plans, and others like them, to protect wildlife from extinction and ensure the genetic integrity of populations in captivity.

- **Our research:** WCS conservationists have conducted the first ecological studies on many species, including mountain gorillas, humpback whales, giant pandas, tigers, lions, snow leopards, Iranian cheetahs, Tibetan antelopes, saiga antelopes, and Mongolian gazelles.

- **In communities:** WCS helped establish Bolivia’s Kaa-lya del Gran Chaco park by assisting indigenous people in acquiring rights over their ancestral lands. The park is the first in the Americas to be co-managed by an indigenous organization.

- **Conflict areas:** Through times of civil unrest in Uganda, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Afghanistan, WCS was the sole conservation organization that stayed to continue their work. After decades of war in South Sudan, WCS was the first wildlife NGO to return to the region, where we discovered the world’s second largest land migration had remained intact through the conflict.

- **Climate change:** In Madagascar’s Makira Forest, WCS established one of the first REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) projects. These initiatives address climate change by reducing CO2 emissions from deforestation while they support local, sustainable livelihoods.

- **Species discoveries:** WCS conservationists were first to identify: the Madidi monkey in Bolivia; Mura’s saddleback tamarin in Brazil; the black-and-gold salamander and bare-faced bulbul in Laos; the Mekong wagtail in Cambodia; the leaf deer in Myanmar; the Arunachal macaque in India; the kipunji in Tanzania; and many others.

- **Habitat connectivity:** For pronghorn in the western United States, WCS helped create the first federally protected migration corridor.

Where We Work

Where We Work

- **Lands**
  - America’s Heartland
  - The Amazon
  - The Andes
  - The Congo Basin
  - The Coral Triangle
  - The Mekong Delta
  - The Qinghai-Tibet Plateau
  - The Qinghai-Tibet Plateau

- **Seas**
  - Coral Reefs
  - Coral Reefs

- **Countries**
  - Afghanistan
  - Argentina
  - Australia
  - Brazil
  - Canada
  - China
  - Colombia
  - Costa Rica
  - Croatia
  - Cuba
  - Dominican Republic
  - Ecuador
  - Ethiopia
  - France
  - Germany
  - Greece
  - Haiti
  - Honduras
  - India
  - Indonesia
  - Iran
  - Iraq
  - Israel
  - Japan
  - Kenya
  - Korea
  - Lebanon
  - Malaysia
  - Mexico
  - Morocco
  - Myanmar
  - Nepal
  - Netherlands
  - Nigeria
  - Pakistan
  - Paraguay
  - Peru
  - Philippines
  - Portugal
  - Russia
  - Saudi Arabia
  - Senegal
  - Serbia
  - Somalia
  - South Africa
  - South Korea
  - Sri Lanka
  - Sweden
  - Switzerland
  - Taiwan
  - Tanzania
  - Thailand
  - Turkey
  - Ukraine
  - United Arab Emirates
  - United Kingdom
  - United States
  - Vietnam
  - Yemen
  - Yemen

**Our Conservation Footprint**

- Legislation and Treaties
- Milestones and Discoveries
- Where We Work

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

19
Throughout much of the species’ remaining habitat, WCS works to develop novel approaches for reducing human-elephant conflict and poaching for ivory.

One of six crystal blue lakes in Band-e-Amir, Afghanistan’s first national park. WCS assisted in the park’s establishment in 2009, and we have since helped create the nation’s first-ever protected species list.