

2021

# Conservation Impact Report



# Saving Wildlife

Successes 2021

Saved

## Bears' forested homes

by reducing paper use with new paperless ticketing system.



In Galápagos

**58**  
green sea turtle nests were protected.

## MISSION

Connect communities with animals, inspiring action to save wildlife.

## VISION

Be a leader in the global movement to save wildlife.



**69**

Attwater's prairie chickens released into the wild.

The effort is saving this Texas bird from extinction.



**Over 100**  
sea turtles in Texas received medical care.

**16** Galápagos organizations, Zoo teens, volunteers, and staff

protected wild sea lions and penguins. Decreased threats to marine wildlife by reducing and cleaning up plastic trash in Galápagos and Texas.



**782,000** Houston toad eggs, **150** Houston toad tadpoles, and **450** Houston toad toadlets

reproduced at the Zoo and reintroduced into the wild.



**Protecting thousands of wild birds**

by providing Bird Friendly Coffee on Zoo grounds.



**Protected wild sharks**

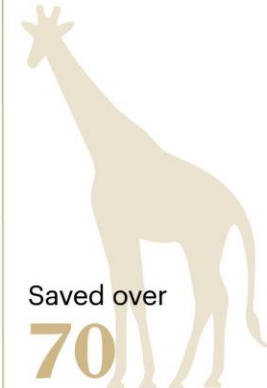
by cleaning up discarded fishing line in Galveston.



Saved over

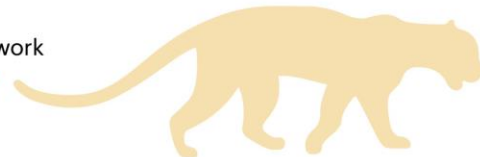
**70**  
wild giraffes

in Kenya by providing food and water during severe drought.



The Pantanal KPRC documentary done on the Zoo's wildlife-saving work

**won a Lone Star Emmy Award.**



More than **700 Houston Zoo staff and volunteers** are saving animals in the wild.



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The Houston Zoo Saving Wildlife Impact Report is a reflection of the work the Zoo has accomplished to save wildlife locally and globally, in collaboration with our wildlife conservation partners. This report is organized by geographic region and details accomplishments from 2018.



This report aligns with the Houston Zoo's strategic plan

**Brand Strategic Priority**

"Develop a Saving Wildlife Brand" — The Houston Zoo will be a leader in saving wildlife and our brand will be synonymous with this leadership.





# North American and Caribbean Wildlife Impact Report 2021

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**Partners include:** International Crane Foundation, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas A&M University, and United States Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network(STSSN), and St. Vincent Forestry Department



**Over 100 Zoo species found in region,**  
which are being protected by our partners' efforts

# North American and Caribbean Wildlife



## WILDLIFE-SAVING RESULTS 2021



### PARTNERSHIP OVERVIEW

Partner with over **10** wildlife conservation organizations.

Houston Zoo has worked to save wildlife in region since **2004**.

**Over 100** Zoo species found in region, which are being protected by our partners' efforts.

**2** sea turtle conservation staff stationed in Galveston.

**1** fishing line behavior change campaign in Galveston.



### EDUCATION

Partnered with **10** local schools to save wildlife. **125** items created for wildlife on school campuses (bird feeders, toad abodes, pollinator palaces).

Provided St. Vincent parrot breeding and husbandry training for St. Vincent Forestry Department staff.



### THREAT REDUCTION

Staff, Volunteers and Zoo teens reduced plastic use during Plastic Free July.

Over **80** Zoo staff, volunteers and teens reduced single-use plastics.

Houston Zoo plastic bag, bottle, and straw free saving **~80,000** plastic bags, **~300,000** plastic bottles, and **~23,000** plastic straws from ending up in the ocean.

Fishing line and ocean trash collected in Galveston, preventing wildlife entanglement and ingestion.

Zoo Campers kept **148 lbs.** of plastic out of the waste stream by bringing reusable water bottles to camp and recycled **37 lbs.** of snack wrappers.

Less material in the landfills means more wild space for wildlife like bobcats or porcupines in Texas.

**14** native plant areas around the Zoo.

Saved trees through new paperless admission system.

Guided **2** Bird Friendly coffee certifications for local Houston roasters.



### RESEARCH & MONITORING

**69** Attwater's prairie chickens reproduced at the Zoo, released back into the wild.

**782,000** Houston toad eggs, **150** tadpoles and **450** toadlets released to the wild in Texas.

**101** wild green sea turtles, **42** wild Kemp's ridley sea turtles, **10** wild Loggerheads received care from the Zoo's veterinary clinic team.

**40** Zoo staff assisted with rehabilitated wild sea turtle releases.

**50** specialized boots donated for St. Vincent post-volcanic eruption Parrot census expedition.

Bird-safe window treatments on new orangutan exhibit, bear exhibit, North Administration building, and Cypress Café reduce wild bird collision incidents on Zoo grounds.

The Zoo worked with the US Fish and Wildlife Service on saving migratory native birds from the local pet trade.





The Zoo rescues many sea turtles each year in Texas.



A large Galapagos tortoise is the central focus of the image, shown in profile as it eats green grass. The tortoise's shell is dark and textured, with visible scutes. Its head is lowered towards the ground, and its mouth is full of grass. The background is a lush, green field of grass, slightly out of focus. The overall scene is bright and natural.

# Galápagos and Ocean Wildlife

## Impact Report 2021

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**Partners include:** Ecology Project International/Galápagos National Parks and the Galápagos Tortoise Movement Ecology Program/Charles Darwin Foundation

**11 Zoo species found in region,** which are being protected by our partners' efforts. The Zoo provided mentoring, training and support for this wildlife-saving work.



# Galápagos and Ocean Wildlife



## WILDLIFE-SAVING RESULTS 2021



### PARTNERSHIP OVERVIEW

Partner with **3** wildlife conservation organizations.

Houston Zoo has worked to save wildlife in region since **2013**.

**11** Zoo species found in region, which are being protected by our partners' efforts.

**2** conservation partner staff salaries supported by the Houston Zoo.

**2** conservation partner from region visited the Houston Zoo.

**1** conservation partner assisted with Asante donor event.

**20** Galápagos conservation organization participated in the Zoo's Wildlife Saving Plastic Free July.

The Zoo provided **20** Plastic Free July certificates and awards for Galápagos conservationists.



### EDUCATION

Trained **5** Galápagos National Park staff and **4** students to lead the green sea turtle monitoring program on Isabela Island.



### RESEARCH & MONITORING

**3** local Galápagos teens provided grants to support conservation efforts to protect Galápagos wildlife.

**164** Galápagos community members participated in protecting green sea turtle nests on Santa Cruz Island. **32** green sea turtle nests protected on Santa Cruz Island. **26** green sea turtle nests protected on Isabela Island.

**Over 60** tagged giant tortoises monitored on Santa Cruz, Isabela and Española Island, Galápagos.

**1** Zoo staff member provided guidance for pink iguana conservation planning in Galápagos.



### THREAT REDUCTION

Galápagos students planted **108** endemic plants and eradicated 6 invasive plant species.

**64** students participated in removing **463** invasive African giant snails to protect native wildlife in Galápagos.

**2** sea turtle courses that engaged **14** local Galápagos students and provided them knowledge about sea turtle ecology, biology, conservation status and sea turtle monitoring protocols.

During Plastic Free July:

**20** local vendors in Galápagos learned about the plastic problem and its alternatives.

**60** people from Galápagos conservation organizations collected **2** tons of trash to protect wildlife.

Galápagos National Park instituted an initiative to empower local citizens to opt to use a cloth bags for bread.





The Zoo supports sea turtle nest patrols in Galapagos.





# South and Central American Wildlife Impact Report 2021

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**Partners include:** the Giant Armadillo and Giant Anteater Project, the Lowland Tapir Conservation Initiative, and Giant Otter Conservation/Jaguar Identification Project, and Proyecto Titi/Blue-Billed Curassow Conservation

**Over 120 Zoo species found in region,** which are being protected by our partners' efforts. The Zoo provided mentorship, training and support for this wildlife-saving work.



# South and Central American Wildlife



## WILDLIFE-SAVING RESULTS 2021



### PARTNERSHIP OVERVIEW

Partner with **5** wildlife conservation organizations across **3** countries.

Houston Zoo has worked to save wildlife in region since **2004**.

**Over 120** Zoo species found in region, which are being protected by our partners' efforts.

**2** conservation partner staff salaries supported by the Houston Zoo.

**2** partners visited the Zoo, one from Jaguar Project and one from Giant Armadillo Project partner.

**3** partner staff received English lessons from the Zoo.

KPRC Pantanal Saving Wildlife documentary won Lone Star Emmy.

Received AZA Wildlife Conservation Award for the Giant Armadillo Project.



### CAPACITY BUILDING

**1** partner received leadership development through the Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leaders training program.

**74** professionals trained in the field to protect giant armadillos since 2010.



### RESEARCH & MONITORING

**5** tracking harnesses for giant anteaters monitored to better understand their movement patterns in Brazil.

Supported **9** research expeditions to the Pantanal to monitored **6** giant armadillos.

**5** expeditions to the Pantanal. **16** tapir were captured or recaptured for monitoring. **4** tapirs were equipped with new GPS collars.

Created the first manual in Brazil on wildlife vehicle collision mitigation strategies that has been endorsed by the state government. New roads or roads being paved will now have to include mitigation measures.



### THREAT REDUCTION

**23** years of tapir data presented to Brazilian Red List of Threatened Species and National Action Plan for Threatened Ungulates resulted in an updated Red List assessment for tapirs and an action plan.

Houston Zoo **changed** the wood sourcing policy to ensure wood used in exhibits is sustainable, and grown in the United States.

Supported work to monitoring of a total of over **5000** saplings for habitat restoration and over **26,000** new saplings of over **50** native tree species within Proyecto Titi's forest reserve and in the forest corridors for species like sloth, howler monkeys and cotton-top tamarins in Colombia.

Created community-run firefighting brigade with **7** ranches protecting over **380** square miles of Pantanal.





The Zoo protects wild giant anteaters and other wildlife from being hit by cars in Brazil.



# African Wildlife

## Impact Report 2021

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### **Partners include:**

Conservation Heritage-Turambe, Gorilla Doctors, Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund, Okapi Conservation Project, Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association, GERP (Madagascar Conservation), Ewaso Lions, Hirola and Somali Giraffe Conservation Program Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation, and Niassa Carnivore Project.

**Over 230 Zoo species found in region,** which are being protected by our partners' efforts. The Zoo provided mentoring, training and support for this wildlife-saving work.



# African Wildlife

## WILDLIFE-SAVING RESULTS 2021



### PARTNERSHIP OVERVIEW

Partner with **11** wildlife conservation organizations across **8** countries.

Houston Zoo has worked to save wildlife in region since **2004**.

**Over 230** Zoo species found in region, which are being protected by our partners' efforts.

**4** conservation partner staff salaries supported by the Houston Zoo.



### CAPACITY BUILDING

Provided **1** Gorilla Doctors' staff with professional development opportunity, Center for Conservation Peace-Building training.

**4** virtual veterinary planning/training sessions for veterinary in Rwanda.

Conducted **12** monthly community meetings in Kenya. **1,300** local herders were engaged in conservation planning.



### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**389** community members taken to see wildlife in national reserves in Kenya.

**610** packages of vegetable seeds were distributed for more than 152 households in Madagascar.



### RESEARCH & MONITORING

Grey crowned crane census completed, revealing **997** individuals in Rwanda, an increase from previous year.

Rescued **2** sitatunga, **2** black kites, **1** baby duiker, **1** hooded vulture, **2** owls, **1** turaco and **1** roller bird in Rwanda.

**13** captive grey crowned cranes rescued from illegal pet trade in Rwanda.

Provided food and water for over **70** wild giraffe during severe drought in Kenya.

Performed **238** routine health checks and **35** interventions to remove snares and/or provide antibiotics to mountain gorillas in need.



### THREAT REDUCTION

Kenyan antipoaching scouts covered 10,992 miles. Giraffe rangers arrested **9** poachers and retrieved **200** wire snares. Rescued **7** giraffe from wire snares set by poachers.

Planted **3000** bamboo trees and **12,101** other trees for wildlife in Rwanda. Seeded **123** acres of land in Kenya. 12,000 plants established in Madagascar.

Recycled **1,137** cell phones and electronic devices to protect wildlife in Africa.



### EDUCATION

Conducted **12** school visits to educate students to protect giraffe and other wildlife in Kenya.

**120** students living around the national park received conservation programming about their local wildlife in Rwanda.

**2** bat conservation youth clubs have been set up in schools involving a total of **163** students in Rwanda.





The Zoo provides food and water for wild giraffe and other wildlife, during droughts in Kenya.



# Asian Wildlife

A young orangutan with long, reddish-brown hair is sitting on a thick, light-colored tree branch. The orangutan is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The background is a lush, green forest with out-of-focus foliage.

## Impact Report 2021

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**Partners include:** Danau Girang Field Centre, Eastern Ghats Wildlife Society, Hutan, Satucita Foundation, and Seratu Aatai

**Over 200 Zoo species found in region,** which are being protected by our partners' efforts. The Zoo provided mentoring, training and support for this wildlife-saving work.



# Asian Wildlife

## WILDLIFE-SAVING RESULTS 2021



### PARTNERSHIP OVERVIEW

Partner with **5** wildlife conservation organizations across **3** countries.

Houston Zoo has worked to save wildlife in region since **2004**.

**Over 200** Zoo species found in region, which are being protected by our partners' efforts.

**3** conservation partner staff salaries supported by the Houston Zoo.



### THREAT REDUCTION

**52** hatchlings and **3** adult painted terrapins seized from illegal market in Sumatra.

**12,151** trees planted in forest corridors of Borneo to provide shelter and food for orangutans, elephants, clouded leopard and other wildlife.

Built/installed **30** artificial nest boxes for hornbills in Borneo.

Purchased **15,458** tree seedlings from village home nurseries, providing an income to the communities living around wildlife in Borneo.

Spent more than **110** nights mitigating conflicts between people and elephants in Borneo.



### RESEARCH & MONITORING

**12** pangolins were equipped with GPS and radio tracking devices in Borneo to better understand the behavior of this species to better protect it.

**5** Borneo elephants collared with GPS tracking collars. Elephants were monitored **6** days a week, **3-5** hours a day in Borneo. This data will inform future elephant protection plans.

**40** pangolins have been rescued and rehabilitated in Borneo.

More than **600** snakes (12 different species) rescued in the Eastern Ghats of India and relocated safely.

**30** King cobras rescued in the Eastern Ghats of India and relocated safely.

**Since 2012, 4,000** painted terrapin hatchlings and juveniles released into rivers and estuaries.

**21** nests of painted terrapin with **336** eggs were successfully protected during nest patrol in Sumatra.

**52** days of orangutan observations in Borneo.

Recorded **99** terrestrial species: **37** mammal, **60** bird, and **2** reptile species in a study site in Borneo. **26** of the species are threatened in the IUCN Red List.

**36** bird species were identified in the forest, **12** in the reforestation sites and **28** in the oil palm plantations in Borneo.



### EDUCATION

**2000** books on orangutan conservation were published in English and in Malay and distributed free of charge to schools and other groups in Borneo.

Conducted **11** webinars about orangutan and wildlife conservation for more than **500** students and teachers in Borneo.

Reached more than **50** different villages for human-snake conflict mitigation programs and transformed them into snake-friendly communities.



### CAPACITY BUILDING

Supported **1** elephant conservation staff in professional development opportunity through Center for Conservation Peace-Building training.

More than **500** individuals from various stakeholder groups have been trained in various levels of snake rescue and snakebite management techniques in India.

**130** positions were offered to women from the local community to replant trees in Borneo.





The Zoo replants trees in Borneo to protect wild elephants and other animals.



# Our International Houston Zoo Wildlife-Saving Community

