

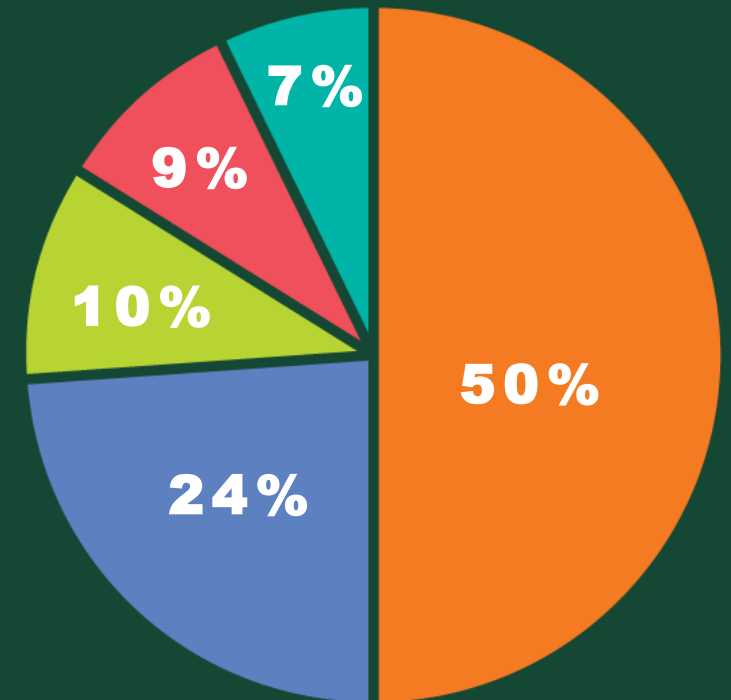
2023

# Saving Wildlife Impact Report



# Global Conservation Support

HOUSTON ZOO TO AROUND THE WORLD



**2023 WILDLIFE SAVING INVESTMENTS**

**AFRICA**

**CENTRAL AMERICA & SOUTH AMERICA**

**NORTH AMERICA**

**ASIA**

**GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS**

# North American and Caribbean Wildlife

## IMPACT REPORT 2023

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### HOUSTON ZOO PARTNERS

Galveston Bay Foundation

International Crane Foundation

National Park Service

National Wildlife Federation

Native Prairie Association  
of Texas

SPLASH (American Bird  
Conservancy + Gulf Coast Bird  
Observatory)

St. Vincent Forestry Department

Texas Parks and Wildlife  
Department

Texas A&M University

Texas Conservation Alliance

Texan by Nature

United States Fish and Wildlife  
Service



### See Them. Save Them.

The Houston Zoo cares for **100+ species** found in this region and protects them in the wild through collaborative partnerships.

# Saving North American and Caribbean Wildlife



## IMPACT REPORT 2023

### Partnership Overview

Partner with **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.



### EDUCATION

Partnered with **19** local schools to save wildlife.

**200** students at Fonville Middle School pledged to turn out their lights to protect birds migrating through the greater Houston area.



### CAPACITY BUILDING

Built nursery and propagation center supporting St. Vincent Forestry Department's parrot conservation work.



### THREAT REDUCTION

Bird-friendly coffee was introduced to the Zoo campus, conserving habitat in Latin America for birds and other wildlife.

Volunteer appreciation party avoided **30.49kg** CO2 emissions through composting and recycling.

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

**60** staff, **27** volunteers, and **10** SSA staff removed **139 lbs.** of monofilament, **198 lbs.** of recycling, and **510 lbs.** of litter pollution from Surfside Jetty.

Zoo campers kept **5,452** plastic water bottles out of the waste stream by bringing reusable water bottles to camp and recycled **53.4 lbs.** of snack wrappers.

**5** members of the Guest Engagement and Conservation Education teams worked with the Herpetology team to restore Houston toad habitat.

**3,440 lbs.** of holiday lights were recycled, reducing the amount of waste sent to landfills.

Zoo staff and volunteers participated in **2** Big Thicket planting events, restoring habitat for species like the red-cockaded woodpecker.



### RESEARCH & MONITORING

**47** Attwater's prairie chickens hatched and released back into the wild.

**1,288,800** Houston toad eggs, **1,000** tadpoles and **1,372** toadlets released to the wild in Texas.

**9** wild green sea turtles, **18** wild Kemp's ridley sea turtles, **19** wild loggerheads, and **1** wild hawksbill sea turtle received care from the Zoo's veterinary clinic team.

Collected **2,245** minutes of whooping crane behavior data on birds in traditional coastal habitats and non-traditional inland wintering areas.

Bird-safe window treatments on new Houston Zoo Headquarters building and Galápagos exhibit reduce wild bird collision incidents on Zoo grounds.

The Zoo worked with the US Fish and Wildlife Service on rehabbing and rehomeing migratory native birds.

Monarch butterfly tagging returned to Zoo grounds for the first time post-pandemic with participation from **37** Zoo staff representing **12** different departments.



Saving  
animals  
in the  
wild.

The Houston Zoo **saves**  
**~100 wild sea turtles**  
each year in Texas.

# Galápagos and Ocean Wildlife

**IMPACT REPORT 2023**

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## HOUSTON ZOO PARTNERS

Fundación ECOS/Galápagos National Parks

Galápagos Tortoise Movement Ecology  
Program/Charles Darwin Foundation



### **See Them. Save Them.**

The Houston Zoo cares for **20+ species** found in this region and protects them in the wild through collaborative partnerships.

# Saving Galápagos and Ocean Wildlife

## IMPACT REPORT 2023



### Partnership Overview

Partner with **3** wildlife conservation organizations.

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

Over **20** Zoo species found in region, which are being protected by our partners' efforts.

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

**4** conservation partners from region and representatives from the Ecuadorian Consulate visited the Houston Zoo for the Galapagos Islands exhibit opening.



### CAPACITY BUILDING

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

Houston Zoo Crew and ECOS's Mola Club worked alongside each other in the Galápagos exchanging conservation skills and knowledge.



### EDUCATION

**309** Galápagos community members learned how to protect sea turtles through International Sea Turtle Day activities on Santa Cruz Island.

Houston Zoo and KPRC filmed "Saving the Galápagos Islands" documentary which aired across Greater Houston, April 13, 2023.



### RESEARCH & MONITORING

**209** Galápagos community members participated in protecting green sea turtle nests at Tortuga Bay Beach. **16** green sea turtle nests were protected, and **4** nests were successfully excavated.

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

Juvenile pink iguanas seen and photographed in the wild for the first time in history.



### THREAT REDUCTION

**3** sea turtle courses that engaged **28** local Galápagos students and provided them knowledge about sea turtle ecology, biology, conservation status and sea turtle monitoring protocols.

**2** field trips (one beach, one city) were conducted to collect microplastic litter. **8** workshops were organized to examine samples and identify their origins.

ECOS assisted in organizing student engagement programs focused on addressing invasive species issues.

Galapagos National Park led an initiative to protect the Galapagos giant tortoise in urban areas with support from ECOS. The Giant Tortoise Protection Program (Young Protectors) has engaged **30** local students in taking measures to protect giant tortoises on main roads.



Houston Zoo supported patrols  
save Galápagos tortoises in urban  
areas across the islands.



# South and Central American Wildlife

## IMPACT REPORT 2023

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### HOUSTON ZOO PARTNERS

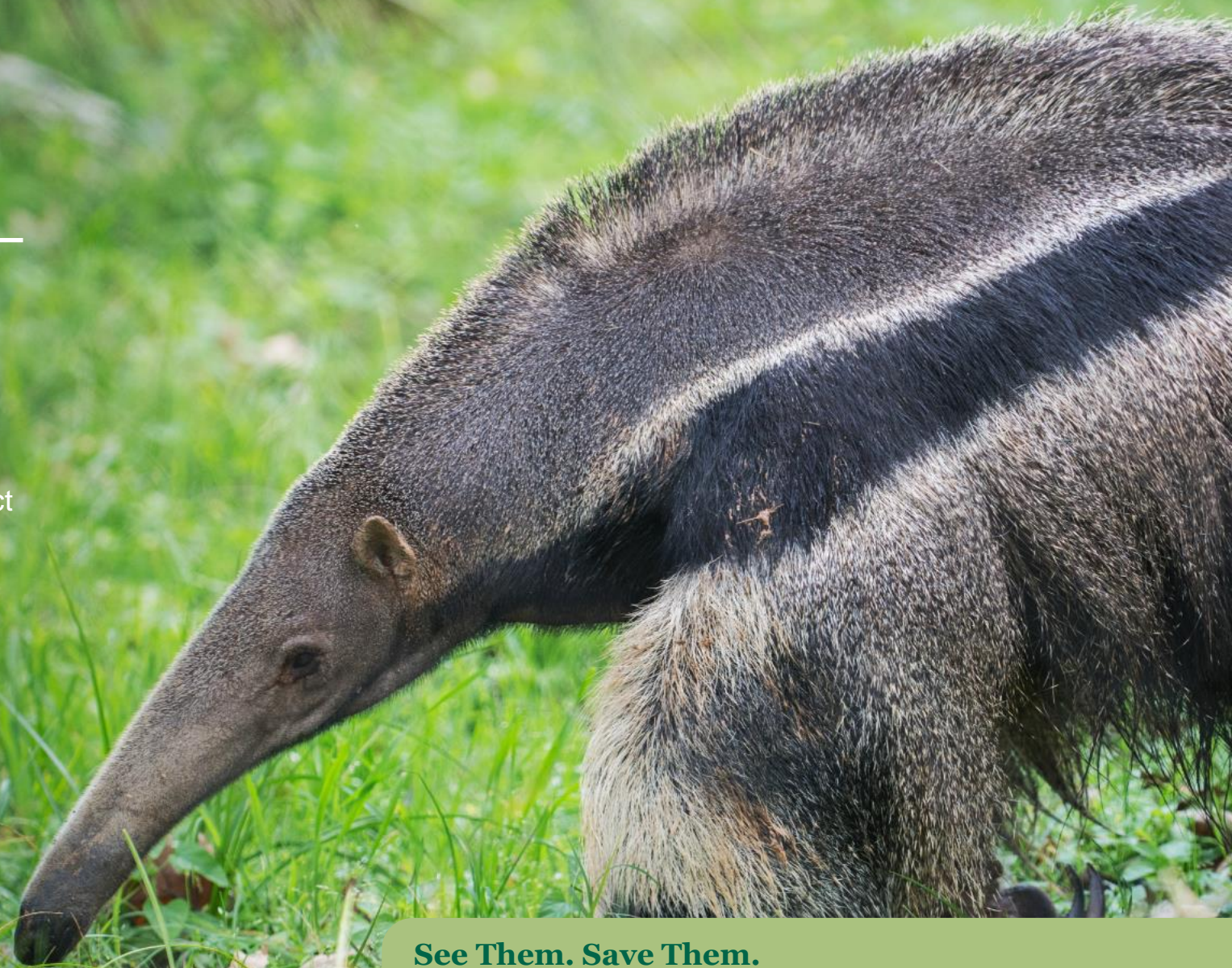
Giant Anteater Project

Giant Armadillo Project

Giant Otter Conservation/Jaguar Identification Project

Lowland Tapir Conservation Initiative

Proyecto Titi/Blue-Billed Curassow Conservation



### **See Them. Save Them.**

The Houston Zoo cares for **120+ species** found in this region and protects them in the wild through collaborative partnerships.

# Saving South and Central American Wildlife



## IMPACT REPORT 2023

### 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.



### CAPACITY BUILDING

New field research house built to support giant armadillo conservation efforts.

**342** tourism guides trained in giant otter identification and best practices for viewing giant otters during wildlife tours.

Provided **2** incubators to support blue billed curassow propagation efforts at Barranquilla Zoo.



### RESEARCH & MONITORING

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

Supported monitoring of **6** giant armadillos in the Pantanal.

**277** giant otters catalogued in the Pantanal, and **254** in Tocantins.

**2** field expeditions into the Pantanal resulted in the collaring of **8** tapirs as part of ongoing monitoring efforts.



### THREAT REDUCTION

In partnership with environmental authorities, Proyecto Titi has created **4** protected areas comprising more than **12,600** acres for cotton-top tamarins.

**22** ranches are part of a fire brigade, protecting **1600** km<sup>2</sup> of Pantanal from out-of-control fires.

Supported work to monitor over **50,000** saplings for habitat restoration and over **20,000** 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.

The Houston Zoo protects wild giant otters by **supporting efforts to improve best practices for ecotourism in Brazil.**



# African Wildlife

## IMPACT REPORT 2023

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### HOUSTON ZOO PARTNERS

Conservation Heritage-Turambe

Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund

Ewaso Lions

GERP (Lemur Conservation)

Gorilla Doctors

Integrated Rural Development  
and Nature Conservation

Niassa Carnivore Project

Okapi Conservation Project

Rwanda Wildlife Conservation  
Association

Somali Giraffe Project



### **See Them. Save Them.**

The Houston Zoo cares for **230+ species** found in this region and protects them in the wild through collaborative partnerships.

# Saving African Wildlife

## SAVING WILDLIFE 2023



### Partnership Overview

Partner with **10** 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 **2** Gorilla Doctors' staff and **2** RWCA staff with veterinary skills training.

CHT and Houston Zoo co-presented at the International Conference for Conservation Biology in Kigali.

Support and mentorship of **8** Community Champions monitoring **5** roost sites for straw-colored fruit bats.



### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Donated **4** rainwater tanks to Conservation Heritage Turambe partner schools to promote the wellbeing of children, teachers, and community members.

Distributed **2,000** lime tree seedlings to **60** group farms in Garissa, encouraging the cultivation of high-value crops that are less appealing to giraffes.



### RESEARCH & MONITORING

Monitoring of **5** lemur species conducted in Manombo.

**20** teams of trackers removed **2,000+** snares from Grauer's gorilla habitat in Democratic Republic of Congo.

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

Monitored **4** new cubs born to the Kalama Pride in Kalama Conservancy, Kenya.



### THREAT REDUCTION

Reseeded **100** hectares of land with native grass to restore wildlife habitat ahead of heavy rains in Kenya.

**108,693** trees planted in habitat used by okapi and other wildlife.

**20** solar powered flashing lights distributed to wildlife guardians in Niassa to prevent attacks on livestock by hyenas and lions, reducing human-wildlife conflict.

Recycled **1,276** cell phones and small electronic devices to protect wildlife in Africa.




### EDUCATION

Velasquez Elementary School in Houston raised **\$1,000** for our Niassa partners saving lions in the wild.

**1,237** primary school children visited Umusambi Village in Rwanda to see grey crowned cranes in their natural habitat.

Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund offered conservation courses and teacher training to **25** local schools, supporting school nature clubs, where children learn about environmental stewardship.

A photograph showing four men in a dry, open field working with several large wooden crates. One man in a dark blue shirt and cap is in the foreground, looking towards the crates. Three other men, two in light blue t-shirts, are behind him, one holding a wooden board. A grey crowned crane is perched on the edge of one of the crates. The background consists of dry brush and trees under a clear sky.

The Houston Zoo  
**supports rehabilitation  
and release efforts,**  
saving grey crowned cranes  
in Rwanda.

# Asian Wildlife

## IMPACT REPORT 2023

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### HOUSTON ZOO PARTNERS

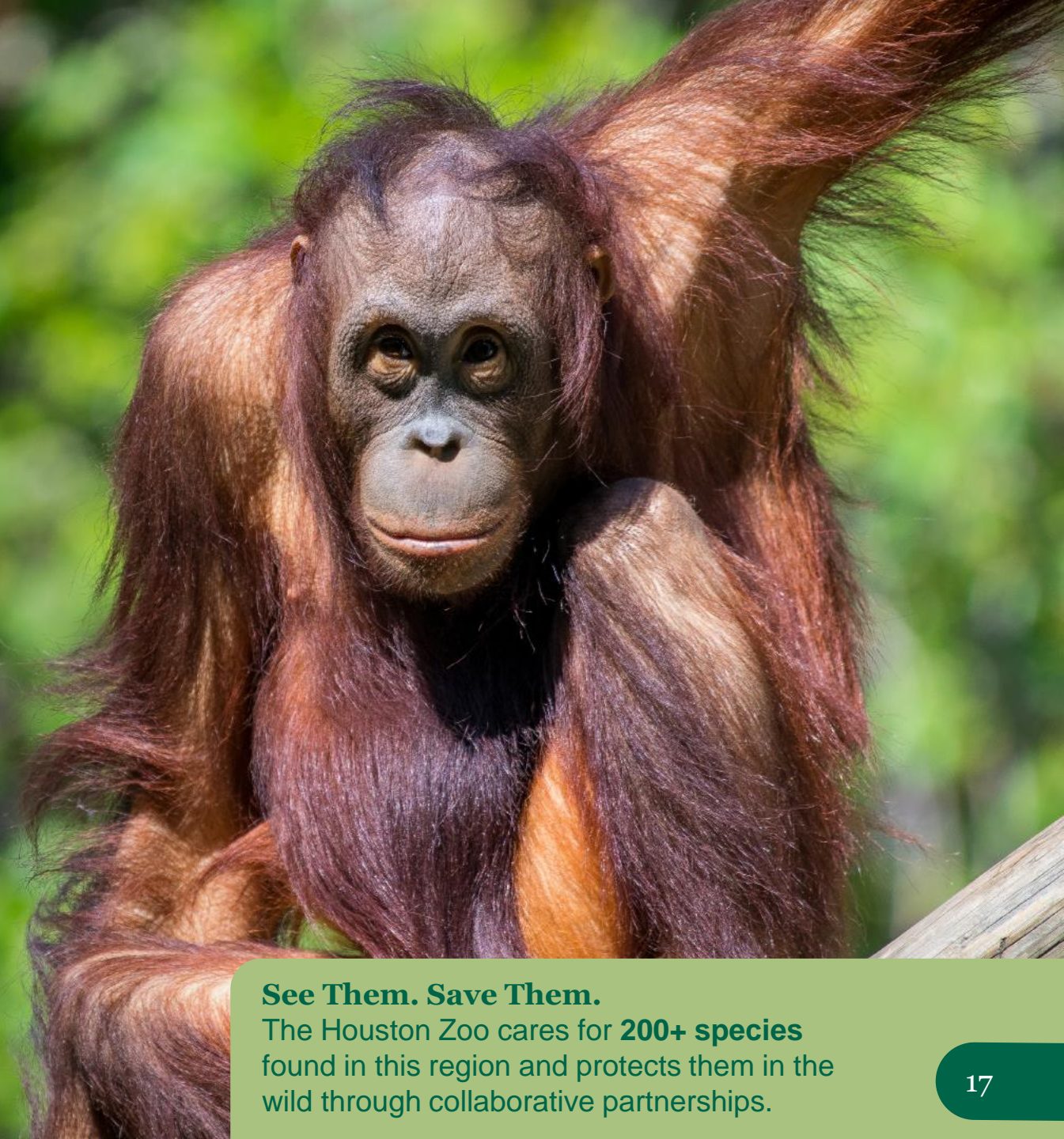
Eastern Ghats Wildlife Society

Hutan

Pangolin Aware

Satucita Foundation

Seratu Aatai



### **See Them. Save Them.**

The Houston Zoo cares for **200+ species** found in this region and protects them in the wild through collaborative partnerships.

# Saving Asian Wildlife

## IMPACT REPORT 2023



### 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.

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



### EDUCATION

Hutan Education and Awareness Program organized education events in more than **15** schools and colleges across Sabah.

**30** teachers learned about elephant ecology and conservation issues, and brainstormed ideas on how to create awareness among students.

Pangolin Aware organized wildlife camps for **88** students and **19** teachers from **16** schools located in areas identified as being most affected by wildlife challenges.



### RESEARCH & MONITORING

Identified **30** orangutan nests built on the ground in small forest patches isolated in oil palm estates.

**83** sub-juvenile and **6** adult painted terrapins monitored and evaluated for potential release.

Monitored **10** male elephants to observe their responses to various disturbances in oil palm landscapes. Research will help **20+** oil palm estates to improve their practices in managing elephants in their landscapes.

**41** Sunda pangolins have been rescued with **80%** successfully released back into their natural habitats.

More than **100** square kilometers were surveyed for identification of critical habitat patches conducive for king cobra nesting.

Sabah Wildlife Department reported an almost **50%** reduction in elephant death cases in 2023.

**679** painted terrapin eggs and **44** nests were saved through nest patrol activities, resulting in **454** successful hatchings.



### THREAT REDUCTION

Repaired and maintained **12** orangutan bridges, allowing orangutans to move freely between patches of habitat.

**25** individuals from **6** communities have become Community Honorary Wildlife Wardens, working to reduce human-elephant conflict in partnership with Seratu Aatai.

More than **40** king cobras were rescued and saved by EGWS Snake Savior Program.



### CAPACITY BUILDING

More than **1,000** individuals have been trained in various levels of snake rescue and snakebite management techniques.

Trained **75** local government officials, NGO members, and conservationists on the proper handling of rescued and confiscated Sunda pangolins, and their safe release back into natural habitats.





The Houston Zoo saves snakes in Asia by **supporting human-snake conflict mitigation programs.**



Houston Zoo saves animals  
in the wild through  
**33 partnerships**  
in 16 countries

