

2024

Saving Wildlife Impact Report



Houston[®]
Zoo



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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 2024.



This report aligns with the Houston Zoo's strategic plan

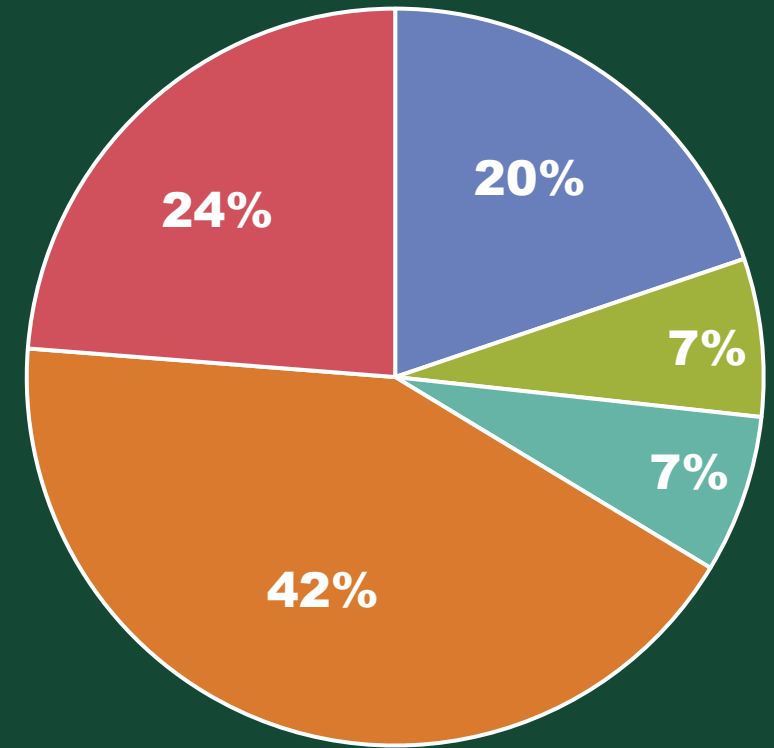
**STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1:
ADVANCE CONSERVATION TO SAVE WILDLIFE**

We will deepen our conservation work in Texas and around the world, formalize our financial commitments, and build on existing accomplishments in sustainability.



Conservation Partnership Support

HOUSTON ZOO TO AROUND THE WORLD



2024 WILDLIFE SAVING INVESTMENTS

AFRICA

CENTRAL AMERICA & SOUTH AMERICA

NORTH AMERICA

ASIA

GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

North American and Caribbean Wildlife

IMPACT REPORT 2024

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 supports **100+ species** found in this region and protects them in the wild through collaborative partnerships.

Saving North American and Caribbean Wildlife



IMPACT REPORT 2024

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 **22** local schools to save wildlife.

166 students at Liles Early Learning Academy pledged to turn out their lights to protect birds migrating through the greater Houston.



CAPACITY BUILDING

Outreach Biologist for International Crane Foundation completed training to become a Certified Interpretive Guide.



THREAT REDUCTION

ICF created new hunter education materials and distributed **124** packets to **33** hunting guides/lodges.

4,112 native plants were planted by Zoo staff and volunteers during Saving Wildlife Training Opportunities.

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.

363 native trees were distributed to Zoo guests to restore urban wildlife habitat.

Zoo campers made **157** bird houses, providing shelter for local and migratory birds in Houston.

Zoo staff and volunteers removed **3,560 lbs.** of litter pollution from wildlife habitat across greater Houston.

Zoo staff and volunteers planted **14,000** native grasses to restore the Big Thicket pine savanna for species like the threatened red-cockaded woodpecker.



PROPAGATION, RESCUE, REHAB.

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

1,865,700 Houston toad eggs, **4,300** tadpoles and **430** toadlets released to the wild in Texas.

The Zoo's veterinary team rescued 48 endangered sea turtles: **30** green sea turtles, **7** Kemp's ridley sea turtles, **10** loggerhead sea turtles, and **1** hawksbill sea turtle.

The Zoo rehabilitated and rehomed **2** indigo buntings and **1** painted bunting in partnership with the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Zoo animal care teams rescued 23 animals from the illegal wildlife trade: **4** spider monkeys, **1** kinkajou, **2** red-handed tamarins, **3** Mexican box turtles, **6** fringe-toed velvet geckos, **5** Hosmer's skinks, and **2** Centralian blue-tongued skinks.



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

Galápagos and Ocean Wildlife

IMPACT REPORT 2024

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 2024



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.

4 conservation partner staff salaries supported by the Houston Zoo.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Charles Darwin Foundation provided training for **5** students and scientists conducting field research on giant tortoises.

ECOS supported **2** park rangers in completing a Wilderness First Aid course and **12** park rangers in completing an Aquatic First Aid course, strengthening their ability to respond to emergencies in the field.

EDUCATION

31 international students and **5** staff went into the field to see giant tortoise habitat and learn about their conservation.

29 local students and **4** park rangers participated in a green sea turtle ecology and conservation camp led by ECOS.

RESEARCH & MONITORING

371 Galápagos community members participated in protecting green sea turtle nests at Tortuga Bay Beach. **29** green sea turtle nests were protected, and **19** nests were successfully excavated.

61 adult tortoises (four species) with GPS tags were regularly monitored.

14 juvenile tortoises tracked using radio telemetry to gather data on habitat selection, growth, and survival rates.

THREAT REDUCTION

24 ECOS participants conducted macro litter sampling on sandy beaches and developed an action plan to address the pollution issue.

20 Molas Eco-Club members participated in workshops on wildlife mortality on roads and began planning an awareness campaign focused on reducing bird collisions.

9 surveys were conducted to control and eradicate invasive African snail populations.

61 giant tortoise nests, totaling **628** eggs were protected by Charles Darwin Foundation ensuring hatching success in the wild.



Houston Zoo **supports nest protection patrols saving green sea turtles** across the islands.

South and Central American Wildlife

IMPACT REPORT 2024

HOUSTON ZOO PARTNERS

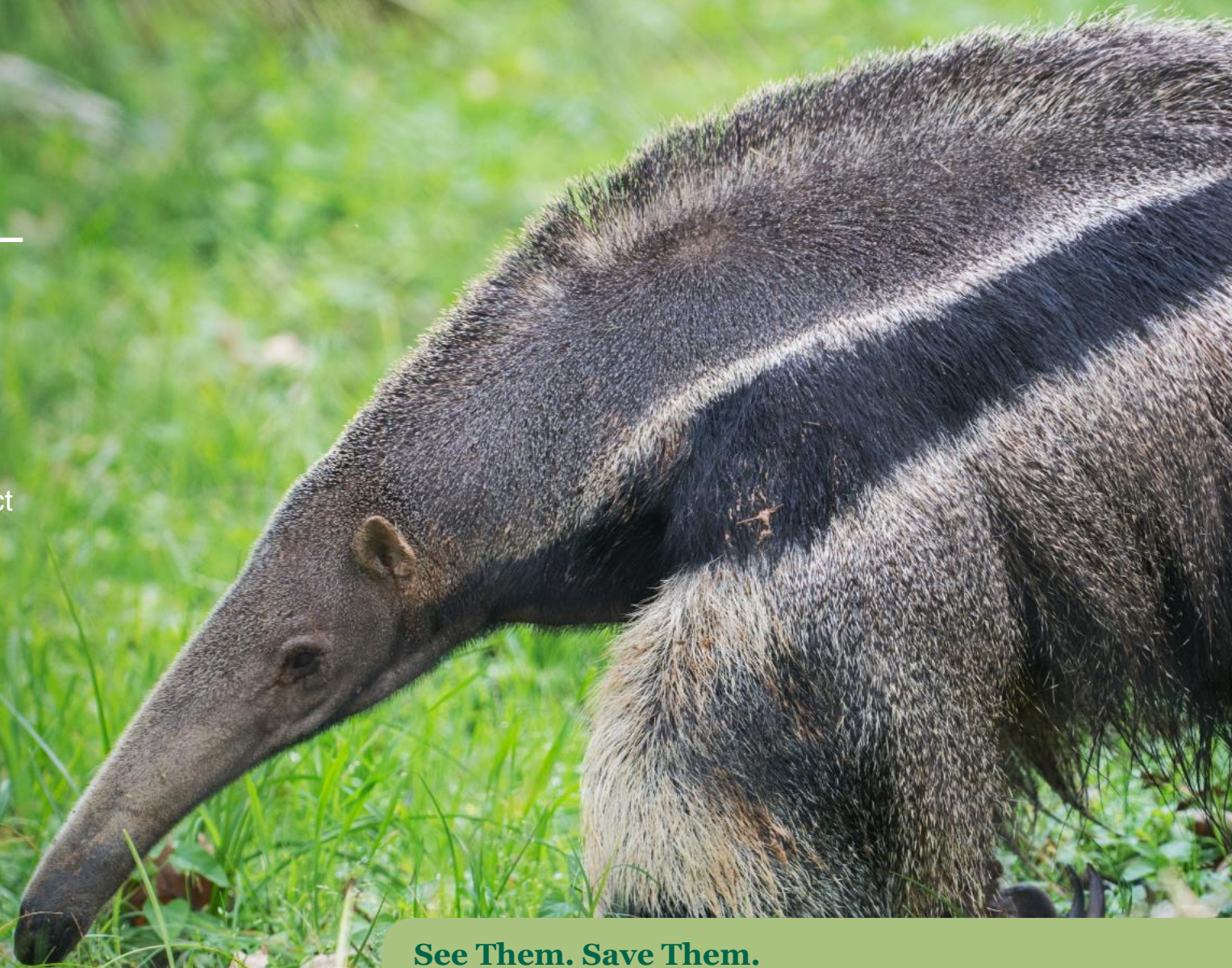
Giant Anteater Project

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 2024

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.

4 conservation partner staff salaries supported by the Houston Zoo.



EDUCATION

Dr. Arnuaud Desbiez, founder of Giant Anteater and Giant Armadillo projects visited Houston Zoo to share information about both projects with Zoo staff and volunteers.



THREAT REDUCTION

23 ranches are part of a fire brigade, protecting **1,000** square miles of land in the Pantanal. Fire brigade members successfully controlled a fire that broke out this year, protecting both people and wildlife.

11,878 new saplings of over **50** native tree species were planted within Proyecto Titi's forest reserve and in the forest corridors for species like sloth, howler monkeys and cotton-top tamarins in Colombia.



RESEARCH & MONITORING

5 orphaned giant anteaters were rehabilitated, collared, and reintroduced to the wild.

Supported monitoring of **2** new adult giant armadillos and **1** pup in the Pantanal.

263 giant otters catalogued with monitoring of individuals taking place in Porto Jofre and Rio Negro.

1 field expedition into the Pantanal resulted in the collaring of **15** tapirs as part of ongoing monitoring efforts.



CAPACITY BUILDING

150 beekeepers to date have been trained to use and implement mitigation measures to co-exist with giant armadillos through the Armadillo & Honey Project.

6 local farmers/neighbors of Proyecto Titi's forest reserve were hired to assist with tree planting in target restoration areas.

371 tourism professionals trained in proper boating practices, reducing threats to giant otters in four key study areas.

The Houston Zoo protects giant armadillos and other wildlife by **providing fire fighting equipment to partners in Brazil's Pantanal.**



African Wildlife

IMPACT REPORT 2024

HOUSTON ZOO PARTNERS

Conservation Heritage-Turambe

Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund

Ewaso Lions

GERP (Lemur Conservation)

Gorilla Doctors

Integrated Rural Development
and Nature Conservation (Rhino
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 2024



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.

39 conservation partner staff salaries supported by the Houston Zoo.

Houston Zoo and KPRC filmed "Saving Wildlife: Return to Rwanda" documentary which aired across Greater Houston, September 2024.



CAPACITY BUILDING

2 partners, Letupukwa (Ewaso Lions) and Eric (Conservation Heritage Turambe), were chosen as Houston Zoo's 2024 Wildlife Warriors.

2 partners, Dr. Adrien (Gorilla Doctors) and Dr. Jessica (RWCA), visited Houston and received training from staff in the Vet Clinic.

Houston Zoo Crew and Rwanda partners worked alongside each other Rwanda exchanging conservation skills and knowledge.



COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT

30 clean latrines were built by Conservation Heritage Turambe, reducing the risk of disease to humans, which protects nearby gorilla populations.

Okapi Conservation Project supported the creation of **182** vegetable gardens, protecting okapi habitat from deforestation through sustainable farming.

GERP provided community health consultations to **180** individuals in Maromizaha.



RESEARCH & MONITORING

RWCA's grey crowned crane census totaled **1,293** birds, up from 487 in 2017.

IRDNC's rhino patrols covered **12,837** miles.

GERP completed monitoring and counts for **5** lemur species in Manombo.

441 lion monitoring patrols completed by Ewaso Lions staff.



THREAT REDUCTION

Conservation Heritage Turambe oversaw the planting of **1,000+** bamboo seedlings, contributing to reforestation and soil erosion control.

Okapi Conservation Project provided **1,500** tree seedlings to Ngayo Congo Mining Cooperative combating deforestation at the mining site.

Ewaso Lions responded to **44** conflict incidents between people and lions.

RWCA performed **17** veterinary interventions on cranes, sitatunga, zebra, rhino, elephant, duiker, vervet monkey, serval cat, and yellow billed stork.



EDUCATION

150 children and **10** teachers participated in wildlife clubs run by Niassa Carnivore Project.

Conservation Heritage Turambe coordinated conservation and health education for **1,300** school children living near Volcanoes National Park.

The Houston Zoo saves gorillas in the wild by **supporting one health programs** that keep people and wildlife healthy.



Asian Wildlife

IMPACT REPORT 2024

HOUSTON ZOO PARTNERS

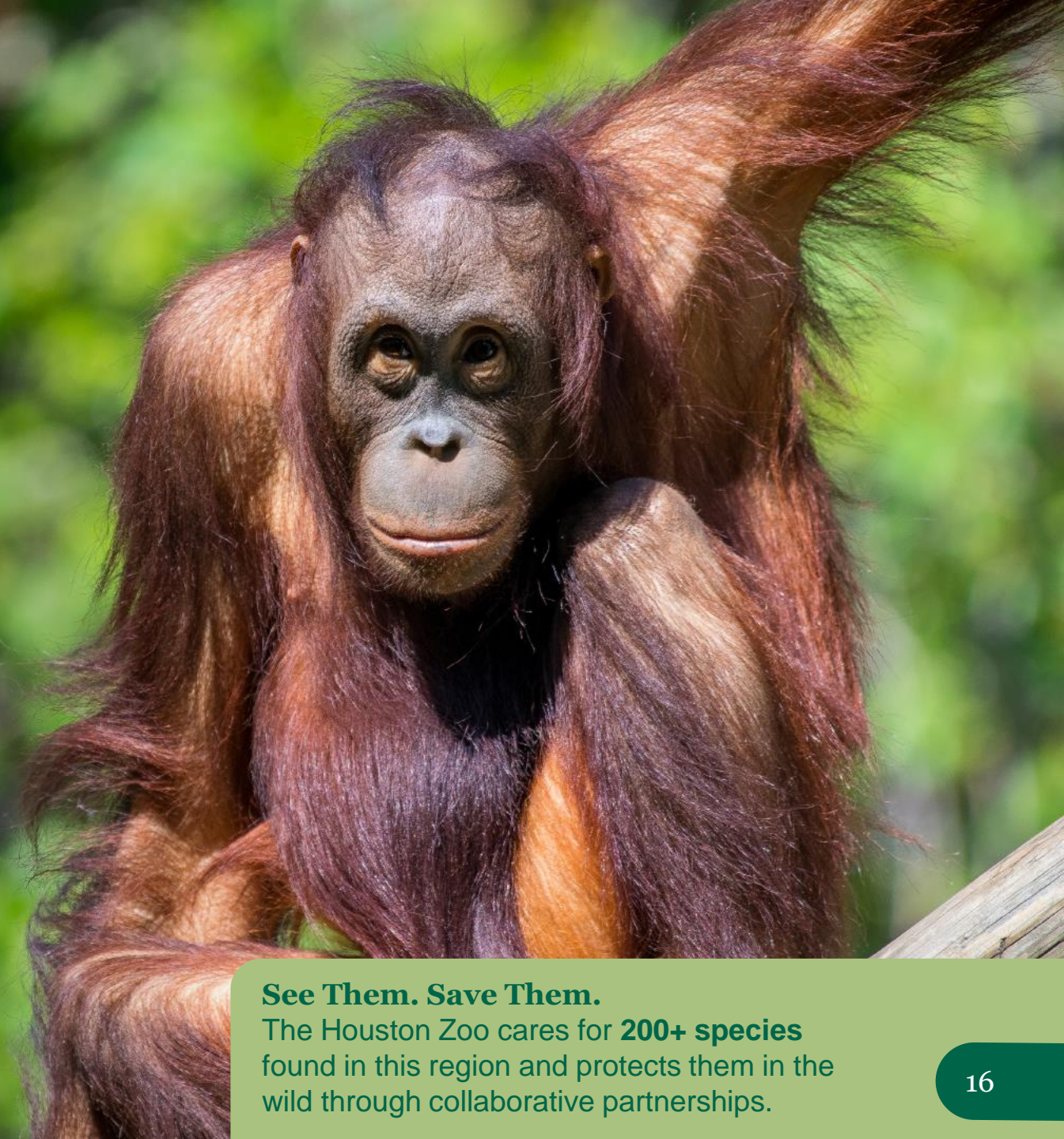
Eastern Ghats Wildlife Society

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 2024



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.

11 conservation partner staff salaries supported by the Houston Zoo.



EDUCATION

More than **1,000** individuals have been trained in snake rescue, rehabilitation, and conservation.

600+ students and **500+** individuals from various communities and general public were engaged through pangolin education programs.

HUTAN staff organized **12** different events across Sabah and in local schools to raise awareness about the conservation of orangutans and other local wildlife.



RESEARCH & MONITORING

HUTAN conducted **2** field expeditions in landscapes dominated by oil palm plantations to track the presence of orangutans and other wildlife.

Developed a statewide pangolin rescue database, enabling more efficient tracking, monitoring, and coordination of rescue operations

45 Sunda pangolins have been rescued with **89%** successfully released back into their natural habitats.

Identified **2** critical habitat corridors for king cobras and other wildlife by surveying **81** villages and their fringe habitats.

Pangolin Aware collaborated with **15** local communities, including villages, oil palm plantations, and tourism sectors to combat poaching of pangolins and other wildlife.

3,201 painted terrapin hatchlings were successfully released due to nest patrol activities.



THREAT REDUCTION

2 new orangutan bridges were erected, allowing orangutans to move freely between patches of habitat.

2 king cobra nests were identified and protected by engaging with local communities. Hatchlings were successfully released into the wild.

3 Houston Zoo elephants received the first-ever doses of an mRNA vaccine created by virologists at Baylor College of Medicine to prevent the deadly elephant endotheliotropic herpesvirus (EEHV) 1A.

EGWS Snake Savior Program expanded to **8** new locations where human-snake conflicts have been on the rise.



CAPACITY BUILDING

EGWS founder Murthy Kantimahanti traveled to Houston and received training from the Herpetology team on snake care and handling

Elisa (Pangolin Aware) passed her PhD viva – upon graduating, she will become the first pangolin PhD graduate in Malaysia.



The Houston Zoo saves painted terrapins by **supporting nest patrols and protecting eggs from illegal harvesting and natural predation.**



Houston Zoo saves animals
in the wild through
33 partnerships
in 19 countries

