

# 2018 ANNUAL REPORT



**WCN**

Wildlife Conservation Network

STAFF

Veleta Allen – *Chief Financial Officer*  
Stephanie Carnow – *Director of Marketing and Communications*  
Jean-Gaël “JG” Collomb, Ph.D. – *Executive Director*  
Sophie Croen – *Events Manager*  
Seret Dirar – *Senior Accountant*  
Amy Frankel – *Salesforce System Administrator*  
Charles Knowles – *President, Co-founder*  
Peter Lindsey, Ph.D. – *Director, Lion Recovery Fund*  
Pooja Menon – *Marketing and Communications Coordinator*  
Rebecca Patton – *Vice President*  
Madison Pruett – *Administrative Assistant and Office Manager*  
Pauline Russell – *Donor Engagement Data Manager*  
Rebecca Stievater – *Grants Manager*  
Kylie Swall – *Operations Assistant*  
Paul Thomson – *Lead, Conservation Strategies and Outreach*  
Kaitlin Tillett – *Digital Marketing Manager*  
Joyce Wang – *Director of Conservation Programs*  
Kelly Wilson – *Director of Donor Engagement*

*Thanks to Jeffrey “Jefe” Parrish for his work as Vice President for Conservation, to Randy Mazzuca for his work as Program Assistant, and to Tara Meyer for her work as Conservation Acceleration Manager in 2018.*

WCN WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR HEARTFELT THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING:

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati for their ongoing pro-bono legal support.  
Steve Mandel for his pro-bono support in presentation skills.  
The photographers who allow WCN to use their stunning photos to advance conservation.  
Our committed volunteers, without whom we could not do what we do.

PHOTO CREDITS

Covers: Spectacled bear © Gabby Salazar  
Pages 2-3: Cheetah © Susan McConnell  
Pages 4-5: Painted dogs © Nicholas Dyer  
Page 8: Fishing cat © blickwinkel/Alamy Stock Photo  
Page 10: Lioness with cubs © Correia Patrice/Alamy Stock Photo  
Page 11: Lion Fun Days © Niassa Lion Project  
Pages 12-13: Saiga antelopes © Andrey Gilev and Karina Karenina  
Page 15: Sea turtle © Daniel Friend  
Pages 16-17: Lionesses © Jon McCormack  
Pages 18-19: Elephants © Frans Lanting/lanting.com  
Page 20: Vet in Samburu © Jane Wynyard  
Page 21: Vet with Grevy's zebra © Grevy's Zebra Trust  
Pages 22-23: Whitetip sharks © Nature Picture Library/Alamy Stock Photo

Design: Monica DuClaud

Printed in the USA on FSC-certified, 100% post-consumer recycled paper, processed chlorine-free.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Berger  
Christine Hemrick  
Charles Knowles  
John Lukas  
Margaret McCarthy  
Rebecca Patton  
Bill Unger  
Akiko Yamazaki

2018: A Year of Possibilities

At WCN, we never lose sight of what is possible. **It is possible to save endangered species.** In 2018, WCN’s Conservation Partners diminished human-wildlife conflict, ensured poachers were arrested and brought to justice, and inspired countless people to cherish animals. It is possible for wildlife and people to co-exist. We see this every day as our Partners help communities and wildlife thrive alongside one another. It is possible to make a difference. Our supporters have a tremendous impact; it is their generosity that fuels the protection of endangered animals. Throughout the year conservationists and supporters proved time and again that just because something is difficult, does not mean it’s impossible.

In many ways, 2018 was a great year for wildlife. In the aftermath of disease and drought, recorded numbers of saiga antelope in Kazakhstan and Grevy’s zebra in Kenya increased. It was a year of surprises as conservationists captured the first video of a wild okapi calf following its mother through the forest and others discovered a shark species in places it was thought to be extinct. This year, our Partners secured millions of acres of forest and marine habitat and reached thousands of children through education programs. They brought new livelihoods to people co-existing with cheetahs, spectacled bears, and Andean cats, strengthening conservation in those communities. Significant progress was also made by the Elephant Crisis Fund and the Lion Recovery Fund. To date, they have supported 274 projects to end the ivory crisis that kills thousands of elephants each year and to start bringing lions back to Africa. In 2018, these Funds celebrated several milestones, including the outlaw of domestic ivory sales in China, the world’s largest end user of ivory.

This was also a great year for WCN. Thanks to the generous support of our donors, we were able to deploy \$18.4 million to effective conservation efforts around the world.

These successes occurred in the face of ongoing, pressing challenges. Serious problems, like poaching and habitat loss, persist while climate change threatens tenuous wildlife populations everywhere. Whatever the situation, we know that with the determination of our Partners and the passion of our supporters, we can overcome any challenge. We were encouraged to see that wildlife protection was stronger than ever this year. Next year, the possibilities are endless.

Thank you for being a part of the Network and for creating a better future for wildlife.

Jean-Gaël Collomb, PhD  
Executive Director



Charles Knowles  
President and Co-founder





# Our Unique Approach to Saving Wildlife

WCN's mission is to protect endangered wildlife by supporting conservationists who ensure wildlife and people co-exist and thrive.

...this is how we do it >

Our **PARTNER NETWORK** is a select cohort of on-the-ground conservationists who operate on the frontlines and have the nimbleness and know-how to make conservation work. We offer these conservationists **ongoing, in-depth, multi-year support**, providing the financial resources, tools, and services they need to effectively protect wildlife.

We find conservationists who deploy the most effective solutions to save wildlife, and **we provide them with support** to bring those solutions to life through our **PARTNER NETWORK** and our **CRISIS AND RECOVERY FUNDS**.

No one organization or person can save wildlife alone, so we emphasize collaboration. WCN acts as a convener for a coalition of individuals and institutions who do more for wildlife working together than they can alone, accelerating real progress for conservation.

We are relationship builders, connecting conservationists and supporters, **creating a community** united in a passion for wildlife.

We establish **CRISIS AND RECOVERY FUNDS** when we see a need and an opportunity to protect threatened wildlife across a larger landscape. By **providing specific, short-term funding to projects** from institutions big and small, we harness the power of multiple organizations working to save a species throughout its entire habitat.



OUR CONSERVATION PARTNERS'

# 2018 Highlights





# Growing Wildlife Populations

## SAIGA CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

In collaboration with multiple partners, SCA conducted an aerial survey of all three saiga populations in Kazakhstan. They found an estimated 215,100 saigas; a significant 35-40% increase in population from the previous year.

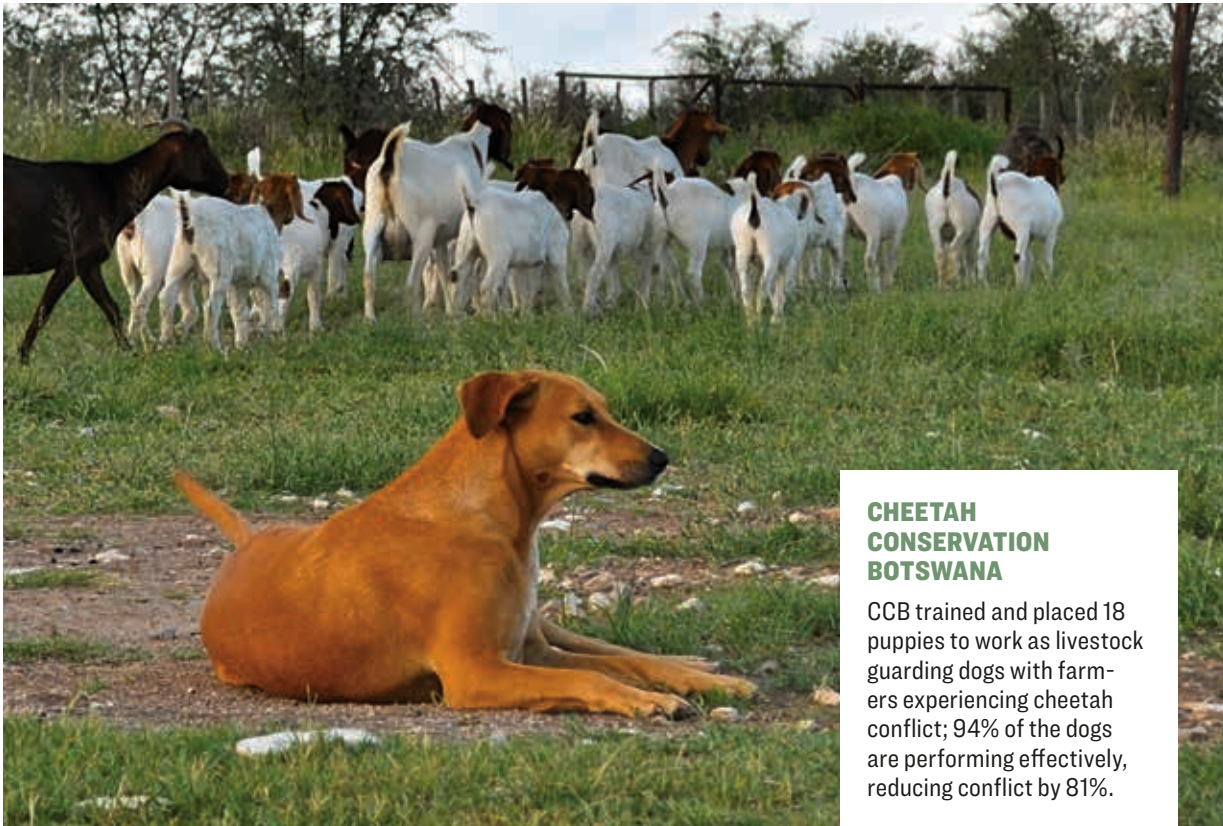


## GREVY'S ZEBRA TRUST

Working with multiple partners, GZT held the second Great Grevy's Rally to collect an accurate estimate of Grevy's zebra population in Kenya. Venturing into more remote areas, they recorded 20% more Grevy's zebras since the first rally in 2016.



# Working with Communities



## CHEETAH CONSERVATION BOTSWANA

CCB trained and placed 18 puppies to work as livestock guarding dogs with farmers experiencing cheetah conflict; 94% of the dogs are performing effectively, reducing conflict by 81%.

## CHEETAH CONSERVATION FUND

CCF placed 10 puppies as livestock guarding dogs in a new area of northwest Namibia. Since receiving the dogs, farmers have reported a dramatic decline in livestock losses and have not killed any cheetahs in the protection of livestock.

## NIASSA LION PROJECT

NLP invested over \$9,000 for conservation and development in Mbamba village in the Niassa National Reserve. This is in exchange for the community's participation in activities including reporting sightings of wildlife and avoiding conflict with elephants.



## SPECTACLED BEAR CONSERVATION

Through their Forest Guardian Education Program, SBC educated over 1,077 children about spectacled bears. These children live in villages adjacent to prime bear habitat in northern Peru.



## ANDEAN CAT ALLIANCE

Working with Wildlife Conservation Society–Bolivia and a local mining community, Andean Cat Alliance is helping to develop and implement actions to protect Andean cats and their habitat from pollution generated by gold extraction.



## SNOW LEOPARD CONSERVANCY

SLC, in collaboration with Snow Leopard Conservancy–India Trust completed a three-year project to build 31 predator-proof corrals in India. No livestock losses were reported once the corrals were in place, saving approximately 100 snow leopards from retaliatory killing.



# Strengthening Conservation Through Science

## GLOBAL PENGUIN SOCIETY

GPS was recognized for their outstanding conservation work, receiving the prestigious Whitley Gold Award and the National Geographic Buffet Award for Leadership in Conservation, and an Honor Recognition for Scientific Value by the National Senate of Argentina.



## MARALLIANCE

MarAlliance discovered the presence of largetooth sawfish, the most threatened of all shark and ray species, in multiple sites in Panama where it was thought to be extinct. They are now working to revive this species in these sites.



## SAVE THE ELEPHANTS

STE, in collaboration with partners, is tracking 400 elephants across Africa to better understand their behavior and to meet elephants' conservation needs.

# Protecting Wildlife and Habitat

## ETHIOPIAN WOLF CONSERVATION PROGRAM

EWCP vaccinated five Ethiopian wolf packs in the Bale Mountains against rabies as part of their first oral vaccine campaign. Vaccination is essential for the survival of one of the world's rarest carnivores.



## EWASO LIONS

Ewaso Lions expanded their work into three new conservancies. The area serves as great lion habitat, with a permanent water supply and plenty of prey.



## PAINTED DOG CONSERVATION

Anti-poaching dogs in PDC's K9 unit played a key role in the capture and arrest of two notorious wildlife poachers. The poachers were caught in possession of bushmeat, snares, and cyanide used to kill elephants.



## OKAPI CONSERVATION PROJECT

OCP recruited and trained 50 new rangers; they are part of a force that now includes four women and three Mbuti pygmy rangers.

## PROYECTO TITÍ

Proyecto Tití established conservation agreements with 30 new farmers and cattle ranchers in northern Colombia that will enable them to protect and restore 297 acres of forest corridors for cotton-top tamarins.

## SMALL WILD CAT CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

With help from SWCCF, new projects in Brazil, Myanmar, and Brunei were established to conserve a wide range of small wild cats, including the fishing cat, flat-headed cat, and Borneo bay cat.



WCN PARTNERS AND PROGRAMS

Global Reach  
TO DATE

► CRISIS AND RECOVERY FUNDS



**ELEPHANT CRISIS FUND**  
**SAVE THE ELEPHANTS & WCN**  
*Africa and Asia*



**LION RECOVERY FUND**  
**WCN & LEONARDO DICAPRIO FOUNDATION**  
*Africa*

► MULTI-CONTINENT



**GLOBAL PENGUIN SOCIETY**  
**DR. PABLO BORBOROGLU**  
*Worldwide (based in Argentina)*



**MARALLIANCE**  
**DR. RACHEL GRAHAM**  
*Worldwide (based in Belize)*



**SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**  
*As of 2018, WCN has awarded 102 scholarships to promising conservationists from 36 countries across Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America.*



**SMALL WILD CAT CONSERVATION FOUNDATION**  
**DR. JIM SANDERSON**  
*Worldwide*



**ANDEAN CAT ALLIANCE**  
**ROCIO PALACIOS**  
*Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Peru*



**PROYECTO TITÍ**  
**ROSAMIRA GUILLEN**  
*Colombia*



**SPECTACLED BEAR CONSERVATION**  
**ROBYN APPLETON**  
*Peru*

► LATIN AMERICA

► ASIA & EASTERN EUROPE



**SAIGA CONSERVATION ALLIANCE**  
**ELENA BYKOVA**  
*Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Russia, Uzbekistan*



**SNOW LEOPARD CONSERVANCY**  
**DR. RODNEY JACKSON**  
*Bhutan, India, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia*

► AFRICA



**CHEETAH CONSERVATION BOTSWANA**  
**REBECCA KLEIN**  
*Botswana*



**CHEETAH CONSERVATION FUND**  
**DR. LAURIE MARKER**  
*Namibia*



**ETHIOPIAN WOLF CONSERVATION PROGRAM**  
**DR. CLAUDIO SILLERO**  
*Ethiopia*



**EWASO LIONS**  
**DR. SHIVANI BHALLA**  
*Kenya*



**GREVY'S ZEBRA TRUST**  
**BELINDA LOW MACKEY**  
*Kenya*



**NIASSA LION PROJECT**  
**DR. COLLEEN & KEITH BEGG**  
*Mozambique*



**OKAPI CONSERVATION PROJECT**  
**JOHN LUKAS**  
*Democratic Republic of Congo*



**PAINTED DOG CONSERVATION**  
**PETER BLINSTON**  
*Zimbabwe*



**SAVE THE ELEPHANTS**  
**DR. IAIN DOUGLAS-HAMILTON & FRANK POPE**  
*Kenya*





## FISHING CATS

SMALL WILD CAT CONSERVATION FOUNDATION, SRI LANKA

# Fishing Cats in the Urban Jungle

**Bucking any assumptions about cats hating water, the fishing cat is a master swimmer and angler. Fishing cats come equipped with their own flippers and wetsuit—they have webbing in their paws that propel them in the water and a layer of short hair next to their skin that is so dense that water can't penetrate.**

**T**he gate creaked as it swung open, giving Anya access to the backyard. Past the gate was a garden sheltered by a high white wall insulating the house from cars and foot traffic. A handful of fish zigzagged in a small koi pond nestled amongst the plants. As the people living there recently discovered, this pond was an appetizing draw for fishing cats—endangered, cocker spaniel-sized wild cats that have made a home in Colombo, Sri Lanka's largest city. Anya had been in this very yard earlier that day investigating a possible fishing cat sighting. A five-word email brought her back: "Fishing cat on roof now". Sure enough, though normally nocturnal, a fishing cat was on the roof basking in the afternoon sunlight. It had been there the whole time—all Anya had to do was look up.

Conservationists like Anya Ratnayaka—a WCN scholarship recipient and founder of the Urban Fishing Cat Conservation Project, a partner of Small Wild Cat Conservation Foundation—have relatively little data on fishing cats, so every sighting acts as one more piece of the puzzle. This year, Anya took a big step closer to gathering vital information on fishing cats by obtaining funding for four new GPS collars. GPS collars are far more expensive than other varieties, but they are essential when studying wildlife in an urban area, as they are less affected by interference from phone towers. Up to now, Anya had collared five fishing cats, actually gaining the

distinction of being the first researcher in the world to collar and track fishing cats using GPS. She plans to collar an additional four cats with the new GPS collars, which will provide her with crucial data on how they move through the city and urban wetlands.

Though fishing cats do grab an occasional meal in a backyard garden, much of Anya's research is conducted in the huge network of wetlands that border and crisscross the city. True to their name, fishing cats dine primarily on fish; they live in wetlands, even wetlands that are interlaced with Sri Lanka's financial and cultural center. Not long ago, Colombo's citizens either ignored or polluted the wetlands, and they became a dumping ground for trash. That has changed in recent years—the local government has made great progress in cleaning up and rehabilitating the wetlands. Additionally, Anya has implemented education programs to help the community understand the importance of their urban ecosystem.

This year, these efforts paid off, as Colombo was awarded the Ramsar Wetland City Accreditation. This was a significant achievement because accreditation as a wetland city greatly incentivizes the local government to protect and prioritize the wetlands. This is a boon for all of Colombo's residents—people can benefit from the flood protection, eco-tourism, and disease control that healthy wetlands provide, and fishing cats can continue to thrive in their urban home. ■



# What's in a Name?



It wasn't easy given the hill was high, steep, and had no vegetation to offer shade, but Eusebio and Samuel had to hike to the top to get a radio signal. Their job is to track and collar lions in the remote area of Mozambique's Niassa National Reserve where Niassa Lion Project (NLP) operates. Summiting the hilltop allowed them to capture the signal from a satellite collar on one of the lionesses in the "A-pride"—so called because each lion in the pride has a name beginning with the letter "A". That day they were looking for a young lion named Andrew who NLP was eager to collar before he left the pride, something males do when they reach about four years old. However, since Andrew had not been

collared yet, Eusebio and Samuel would have to conduct a sort of scavenger hunt: track the signal to the lioness, the lioness to the pride, the pride to Andrew. This approach worked well; they located the A-pride and while searching for Andrew they discovered something unexpected. The pride now had four new cubs. These cubs would need names.

Typically, NLP staff name the lions, but November was approaching and with it would be the 10th annual Lion Fun Days. The staff thought that would be a special time to let children from nearby Mbamba village name the cubs. Lion Fun Days, a jubilant two-day festival, has become

NLP discovered four cubs while searching for Andrew, a lion old enough to leave his pride. They collar male lions at around four years old to understand where they go and what they do after leaving their pride. Collaring both male and female lions helps keep them safe because NLP can monitor how lions move between villages and where they are vulnerable to snaring.

key to sustaining the bond between NLP and the Mbamba village. Both lions and conservation face negative perceptions—lions because of their predilection for preying on livestock and conservation for clamping down hard on illegal wildlife trade—so lion conservation could not exist in Niassa without strong relationships between NLP and local communities. Lion Fun Days facilitates this connection while also conveying a strong conservation message through all the hallmarks of a high-energy celebration—games, races, theater, dance, and painting. People learn about animals in Niassa, not just to educate and spark interest but to emotionally connect to wildlife. NLP has found the more they show how animals are similar to people, the more the community's empathy and tolerance for wildlife grows.

Naming ceremonies also help communities connect with lions; they give people a sense of ownership over them. This makes it far less likely that people would harm lions, or tolerate others doing so. Having the villagers name the lion cubs helps them to see the cubs as their own, inspiring a desire to protect them. So, this past Lion Fun Days NLP incorporated a naming ceremony into the painting activity, the children's favorite part of the festival. Children added their brush strokes to a large piece of cloth until they had produced an image of four lions, each formally receiving a name chosen by the children. The cubs will inherit those names—Akatimbe, Asenga, Amelia, and Alusia—solidifying their place in the A-pride and the community. ■



**Top right: The 10th annual Lion Fun Days celebrations in full swing. Bottom right: Children from the Mbamba village naming lions at Lion Fun Days.**



# Protecting Saiga on Land and Online

**T**he wind picked up, bending the grass forward and putting folds in the park rangers' camouflage uniforms. There is not a tree nor a hill in sight, just the wind, the sky, and endless tufts of honey-colored grasses. This is the Eurasian steppe, the bridge between East and West, a landscape of continuous sameness where time seems to stand still. The critically endangered saiga antelope who live in these plains also seem timeless; they have migrated here since the Ice Age. Saiga Conservation Alliance (SCA) is a leader in protecting this ancient animal through research, education, and by supporting the rangers who safeguard saiga herds. Unfortunately, saiga are

facing threats in some areas that are inaccessible to rangers. The Internet, for example, houses a market for illicit saiga products that is fueling poaching. That is why this year SCA has taken steps to not only protect saiga on land but also to protect them online.

Saiga antelope may be distinguished by their unmistakable floppy noses, but it's their pair of ringed horns (found only on males) that make them desirable for consumers and a target of poachers. Saiga horns are used in traditional Asian medicines, most commonly in a mixture called "cooling water," popular in Singapore for reducing fever. Poaching occurs throughout saiga habitat,

Once numbering in the millions, the saiga population crashed by 95% in 15 years, the fastest decline ever recorded for a mammal species. Luckily, saigas are tough; they are fast breeders who can repopulate relatively quickly if given the chance. Saiga Conservation Alliance's work to protect saiga antelope is crucial to saving this prehistoric species from extinction.

but particularly in Kazakhstan, Russia, and Uzbekistan—huge countries where remoteness can make it very hard to locate poachers. SCA provides ongoing training to rangers to stop poaching and trafficking of saiga horns. They have also trained customs officials in Uzbekistan on how to identify saiga horn being transported across borders. However, as long as demand for saiga horn persists, poaching and trafficking will continue to meet it.

In 2018, SCA started collaborating with a project called the Oxford Martin Programme on the Illegal Wildlife Trade, conducted by a research center within the University of Oxford. The project was developed to better understand and address illegal wildlife trade, specifically concentrating on the demand for wildlife products, and to connect researchers with conservation practitioners. To assess the extent to which buying



*Saiga horns seized by SCA-trained rangers.*

and selling saiga horn products has moved into digital marketplaces, SCA has focused their part of the Oxford project on identifying search terms traders are using to sell saiga horn on the Internet. They started with Russian language sites because these sites are where traders in the countries most affected by poaching are likely to source and sell horns. Seeing how often saiga horn comes up in searches will help SCA and Oxford understand the extent and country of origin of the online trade, as well as what types of horn products are sold. The next step after understanding the nature of the online trade is to work with the authorities in the countries of origin to close the online market for saiga horn permanently. ■



# Saving Marine Life with Cell Phones

**Aristide Kamla is one of the only people in the world studying the little-known African manatee. Data collected with his SIREN App is an essential first step in conservation for manatees and other marine life in Cameroon. To view the web map of wildlife sightings, visit [siren.ammco.org/web/en](http://siren.ammco.org/web/en)**

Small waves surged onto the sand and hastily retreated. The water's ebbs and flows softened as Aristide got further out to sea, the shoreline receding behind him. Dawn had just broken, but fishers were already in their boats waiting to fill their gillnets. Aristide Kamla is a WCN scholarship recipient and founder of African Marine Mammal Conservation Organization (AMMCO). He is also one of the only marine scientists in Cameroon—there are

fewer than 10 in the entire country. But Aristide is not the only one on the water collecting data. The fishers have stepped in as “citizen scientists,” helping with marine conservation using just their cell phones.

Fishers are Cameroon's resident marine wildlife experts. At sea, they come into contact with wildlife like dolphins, whales, sharks, and rays. Further inland, they encounter African manatees in the murky, freshwater of Lake Ossa. For six years, fishers have helped Aristide capture data by recording these wildlife sightings. At first, they submitted their reports on paper or with phone calls, but this approach was limited and less accurate. Recently, Aristide replaced this analogue process with one that uses the advantages of the digital world.

Cell phones are essentially pocket-sized computers. They are easily accessible and user-friendly, perfect for quickly and accurately capturing data. So, Aristide worked with local developers to create a mobile app to record details of wildlife encounters called SIREN App. Now when a fisher spots a sea turtle, for example, he can snap its photo and upload it to the SIREN App, which automatically captures the GPS location and the date and time of the sighting. There are additional questions related to habitat, behavior, and weather conditions, amongst other things, that fishers can answer to ensure a comprehensive and accurate

report. Once they finish recording an observation the information gets posted to a web-map managed by Aristide, who validates and curates the data.

Data collected with the SIREN App represents some of the first and only data on large marine species in Cameroon. It is providing AMMCO with reliable information on the diversity of the country's marine life and the distribution and changes in population of marine species. Additionally, since fishers report observations of stranded or dead animals, AMMCO can locate areas of high mortality and can prioritize where to intervene and how to mitigate threats to marine life.

Simply using the SIREN App has also helped fishers understand and appreciate the importance of marine life, prompting some to change harmful behavior. Aristide now regularly receives reports from fishers who are releasing, rather than killing, marine wildlife caught in their nets.

The SIREN App has been completely transformative. It has turned cell phones into conservation tools and fishers into conservationists. It also transformed how Aristide spends his time. Needing less time for collecting data means more time developing ways to protect the spectacular marine wildlife swimming off the coast of Cameroon. ■



**Fisher recording marine life sightings via the SIREN App.**





RECOVERING LIONS, RESTORING LANDSCAPES

# Lion Recovery Fund

In just 25 years we have lost half of all lions in Africa. **But recovery is possible.** The Lion Recovery Fund is a collaborative granting initiative with a bold vision to double the number of lions in Africa—to bring back the half we lost.

In less than two years, the Lion Recovery Fund has **supported exceptional partners** tackling threats to lions like habitat loss, human-lion conflict, and loss of lions and prey from illegal bushmeat poaching. And this is just the beginning.

As of year-end 2018 the LRF has supported:

**36** projects

**25** partners

in

**17** countries


with

**100%** of donations going to the frontlines

and

**\$3.2M** deployed





PROTECTING ELEPHANTS, ENDING THE IVORY CRISIS

# Elephant Crisis Fund

Tens of thousands of elephants are killed for their tusks each year in a devastating wave of poaching that is sweeping across Africa. This poaching is driven by an international ivory trade that thrives on crime, corruption, and greed. To end the ivory crisis, the Elephant Crisis Fund (ECF) **identifies and invests in the most effective projects and partners** in Africa, and in ivory consuming nations. The ECF exists to fuel their efforts, encourage collaboration, and deliver rapid support to stop the poaching of elephants and eliminate the trafficking and demand for their ivory.

As of year-end 2018 the ECF has supported:

**238** projects

**72** partners

in  
**35** countries

with

**100%** of donations going to the frontlines

and

**\$16.4M** deployed



# Saving Lives Together



**T**he Land Cruiser rolled up slowly, trying not to startle the herd. Fully outfitted with first-aid supplies and medicine, the truck had evolved into a full-blown mobile health clinic. Dr. Njoroge cut the engine and surveyed the eight Grevy's zebra just a few yards ahead until he saw it—one of the Grevy's was limping. A local woman had reported the injury to Grevy's Zebra Trust, who contacted Dr. Njoroge. Within an hour the wounded Grevy's was in the hands of a skilled veterinarian. A few months ago, that would have been nearly impossible.

Until fall of 2018 there was no veterinarian designated for northern Kenya, an area about the size of Louisiana. Scarce veterinary care meant that many injured and sick animals went untreated, causing needless suffering and making many survivable conditions fatal. Now, Dr. Njoroge regularly patrols reserves in Samburu and Isiolo counties. He surveys for wildlife that are wounded or unwell and is

able to respond quickly to reports of animals needing medical attention. This veterinary care has research advantages as well. Conservationists can investigate diseases more thoroughly and can deploy more tracking collars, as a vet is required to sedate and revive the animal being collared. These are enormous benefits to wildlife and to the work of the three WCN Partners who operate in northern Kenya—Ewaso Lions, Grevy's Zebra Trust, and Save the Elephants.

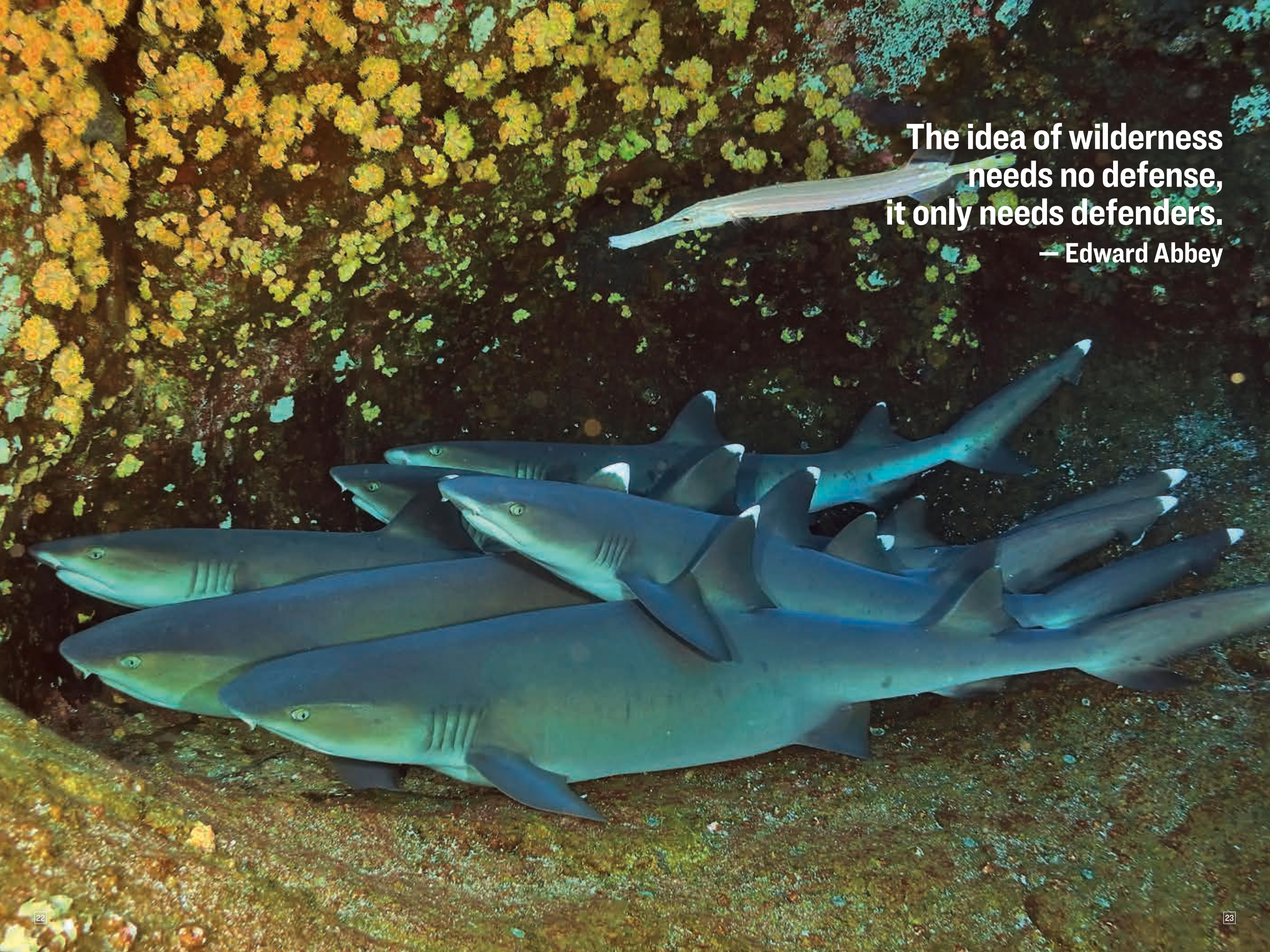
Establishing veterinary care in northern Kenya became a reality thanks to a small group of forward-thinking donors. While visiting the area, they recognized the problem and banded together to offer a solution. Over the course of this year, they collectively contributed more than \$250,000 to establish a veterinary laboratory, convert a Land Cruiser into a quasi-ambulance, and pay for all the medical supplies the vet needs to function effectively. They also committed to an additional \$183,000 over the next four years to help sustain the project. WCN's Conservation Partners are in continuous communication with these donors, offering updates on how their funds are transforming into treatment for wildlife in need. As the project has flourished, so has the level and momentum of support, with one visionary donor creating a new, distinctive way to sustain funding for the vet project. Rebecca Birdsall, whose family owns Black Kite Cellars in California, created "Africa Quest Pinot Noir" and is dedicating 100% of profits to the vet project in its inaugural year.

This is the daisy-chain effect that WCN was created to cultivate. Conservationists identify a game-changing project for wildlife and connect with donors who work together to fund it. Meaningful collaboration between and amongst Partners and donors is the very essence of the WCN Network. Almost every day wildlife is being saved in northern Kenya. Now every time animals—like lions, elephants, and Grevy's zebras—receive prompt, lifesaving veterinary care, it can be traced back to a group of people who simply wanted to make a difference...and did. ■



*Left: Dr. Njoroge with vet team. Above: Vet cleaning the Grevy's zebra's leg wound with a liquid antiseptic.*



A school of grey reef sharks swimming over a coral reef. The sharks are in the lower half of the frame, moving from left to right. The reef is covered in yellow and orange coral in the upper half. A long, thin, light-colored object, possibly a piece of driftwood or a large fish, is visible in the upper right.

**The idea of wilderness  
needs no defense,  
it only needs defenders.**

**— Edward Abbey**



# Impact by the Numbers

With support from our donors and through the strength of our network, we have had a greater impact on wildlife conservation than ever before.

91%

Percentage of WCN funds that went to support programs in the field.

\$18.4M

Amount deployed for conservation in 2018.

17

Number of wildlife Conservation Partners.

274

Local, national, and international organizations supported through grants from the Elephant Crisis Fund and Lion Recovery Fund.

4★

Rating WCN received from Charity Navigator, America's leading independent charity evaluator—a top ranking amongst wildlife conservation nonprofits.

102

Scholarships awarded to date, to emerging conservationists across 36 countries.

125+

Number of wildlife species protected around the world.

68

Number of countries from which WCN has received donations.

1,600

People from over 30 states and four countries who attended our Wildlife Conservation Expos in 2018.

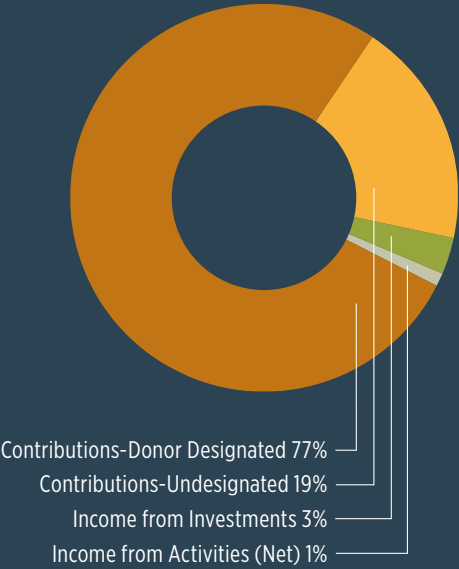
# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## Statement of Revenue and Expenses

CALENDAR YEAR ENDING 2018

REVENUE	
Contributions – Donor Designated	\$ 17,054,260
Contributions – Undesignated	\$ 4,306,078
Income from Activities (Net)	\$ 683,492
Income from Investments	(\$ 283,918)
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 21,759,912</b>
EXPENSES	
Program Grants and Services	\$ 18,407,914
Management and General	\$ 1,684,730
Fundraising	\$ 183,886
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 20,276,530</b>
<b>Change In Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 1,483,382</b>

2018 TOTAL REVENUE

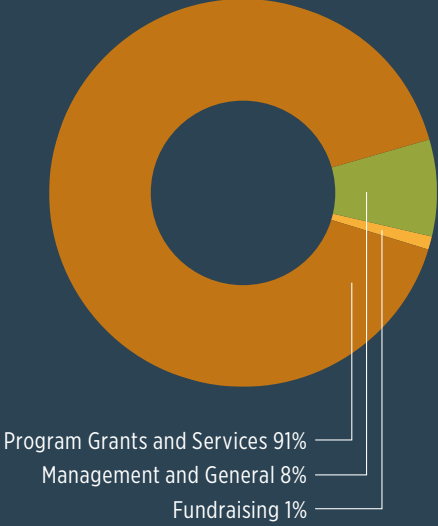


## Statement of Financial Position

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2018

ASSETS	
Unrestricted Cash and Equivalents	\$ 3,950,372
Restricted Cash and Equivalents	\$ 15,311,987
Grants and Pledges Receivable	\$ 9,600
Scholarship Fund	\$ 1,669,505
Mary S Boardman Fund	\$ 2,274,767
Property and Equipment (Net)	\$ 172,449
Other Assets	\$ 179,755
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 23,568,435</b>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	\$ 3,587,071
Beginning Assets	\$ 18,497,982
Change in Net Assets	\$ 1,483,382
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 23,568,435</b>

2018 TOTAL EXPENSES



WCN maintains Charity Navigator's highest possible 4-star rating. Charity Navigator is America's leading independent charity evaluator, and rates over 8,000 charities on their Financial Health and Accountability & Transparency.

Complete financial reports are available upon request. Wildlife Conservation Network is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)3 organization - #30-0108469





# WCN

Wildlife Conservation Network

209 Mississippi Street  
San Francisco, CA 94107  
USA  
415.202.6380

**[wildnet.org](http://wildnet.org)**