



San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance
JOURNAL

INAUGURAL ISSUE



**Building a
Better Future
for Wildlife
Together**

MARCH/APRIL 2021

“We will work with allies around the world to protect Earth’s most endangered wildlife. We must work together and collaborate as never before to achieve our most far-reaching goals.”

Page 10



Contents

- 2 President/CEO's Letter
- 3 By the Numbers
- 4 Findings
- 6 Meet Our Team
- 8 Hot Topics
- 42 Events
- 44 Kids Page
- 45 Last Look

Cover Story

10

New Vision, New Future

With this new chapter, our organization takes an exciting and significant step forward in our mission to save wildlife: we are now San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance. We will be building on the successes of our past alongside partners and allies that will aid us in creating a future where all life thrives.

Features

16

2021 Calendar

Our calendar for this year celebrates San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance’s new identity and redefined conservation priorities. Each month highlights wildlife from the main conservation hubs around the world representing the evolving focus of our work.

40

Visualize It

How well do you know small cats? Do you know how to tell an ocelot from a margay, or a serval from a fishing cat? Find out in this handy infographic view of small felids.



San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance JOURNAL

MANAGING EDITOR Erin Smith

SENIOR EDITOR Peggy Scott

STAFF WRITER Donna Parham

COPY EDITOR Eston Ellis

DESIGNER Kerri Abrams

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Ken Bohn

Tammy Spratt

DESIGN AND PRODUCTION

Kim Turner

Lisa Bissi

Jennifer MacEwen

PREPRESS AND PRINTING Quad Graphics



Let's Stay Connected

Follow @sandiegozoo

& @sdzsafaripark.

Share your #SanDiegoZoo

& #SDZSafariPark memories

on Twitter & Instagram.

The Zoological Society of San Diego was founded in October 1916 by Harry M. Wegeforth, M.D., as a private, nonprofit corporation, which does business as San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance.

The printed San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance Journal (ISSN pending) is published bimonthly, in January, March, May, July, September, and November. Publisher is San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, located at 2920 Zoo Drive, San Diego, CA 92103. Periodicals postage paid at San Diego, California, USA, and at additional mailing offices.

Copyright © 2021 San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance. All rights reserved. All column and program titles are trademarks of San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance.

If your mailing address has changed: Please contact the Membership Department; by mail at P.O. Box 120271, San Diego, CA 92112, or by phone at 619-231-0251 or 1-877-3MEMBER.

For information about becoming a member of San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, please visit our website at ZooMember.org for a complete list of membership levels, offers, and benefits.

Subscriptions to San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance Journal are \$25 per year, \$65 for 3 years. Foreign, including Canada and Mexico, \$30 per year, \$81 for 3 years. Contact Membership Department for subscription information.



As part of San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance's commitment to conservation, this magazine is printed on recycled paper that is at least 10% post-consumer waste, chlorine free, and is Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) certified. FSC® is not responsible for any calculations on saving resources by choosing this paper.



A New Adventure Begins



Spring is an extraordinary time of year for wildlife. Warmer temperatures and an increase in daylight spur new plant growth and influence wildlife in big ways: some emerge from hibernation, many migrate, some breed. It's nature's celebration of life in many ways.

We've all faced unprecedented challenges in the last year, but I'm hopeful that we, too, can embrace the spirit of spring. As San Diego Zoo Global embarks on an exciting new adventure as San Diego Zoo

Wildlife Alliance, we're all in for celebrating wildlife and furthering our efforts to save and protect endangered species around the world.

In this inaugural issue of San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance Journal, you'll read about why San Diego Zoo Global is evolving to become San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance. This is not just in name. At its core, it is about focusing us all on reaching our true potential, assembling talents across the organization and partners around the world to lead together.

This change is centered around building an alliance, and in our efforts to save wildlife, you are one of our most important allies. We are grateful to have you on board as we begin the newest adventure in our nearly 105-year history. I hope that every time you look at this calendar throughout the year, you are reminded of the incredible difference your support makes for wildlife—both those in our care and around the world.

Onward Together,

Paul A. Baribault
President and Chief Executive Officer

Meeting the Challenge

The world's wildlife is facing serious challenges, and there is greater urgency than ever to take action. That's where conservation organizations like San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance come in. Through partnerships, innovation, and ingenuity, we are determined to find answers and create solutions.



39

Wildlife species in the United States that were once listed as endangered but have fully recovered.

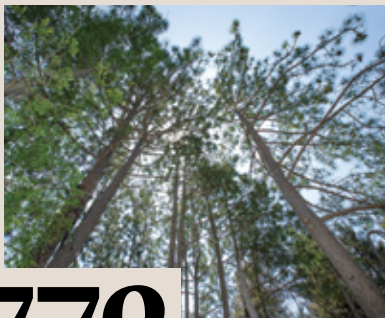
5,760

Approximate number of acres of wildlife habitat lost in the world each day.



Wildlife species listed by IUCN as threatened with extinction. There has been a 60% overall decline in wildlife population sizes worldwide since 1970.

30,178



772

Number of endangered plant species just in the United States. Worldwide, plants are facing many complex threats to their survival.

50

Number of species San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance has reintroduced to the wild.



San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance

Board of Trustees

OFFICERS

Steven G. Tappan, *Chairman*
Javade Chaudhri, *Vice Chairman*
Linda Lowenstine, *DVM, Ph.D., Secretary*
Richard B. Gulley, *Treasurer*

TRUSTEES

Rolf Benirschke
Joye D. Blount
Kathleen Cain Carrithers
Clifford W. Hague
Robert B. Horsman
Steven S. Simpson
Judith A. Wheatley

James Lauth, *General Counsel to the Board*

TRUSTEES EMERITI

Berit N. Durler
Thompson Fetter
George L. Gildred
Yvonne W. Larsen
John M. Thornton
A. Eugene Trepte
Betty Jo F. Williams

Executive Team

Paul A. Baribault
President and Chief Executive Officer

Shawn Dixon
Chief Operating Officer

David Franco
Chief Financial Officer

Dwight Scott
Executive Director, San Diego Zoo

Lisa Peterson
Executive Director, San Diego Zoo Safari Park

Nadine Lamberski, *DVM, DACZM, DECZM (ZHM)*
Chief Conservation and Wildlife Officer

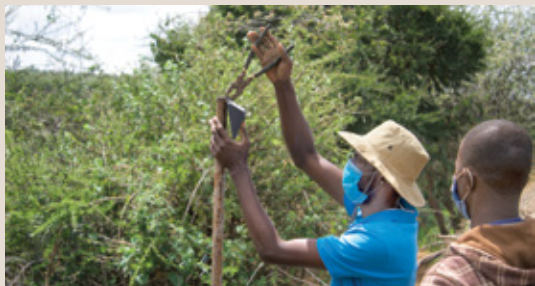
David Gillig
Chief Philanthropy Officer

David Miller
Chief Marketing Officer

Wendy Bulger
General Counsel

Aida Rosa
Chief Human Resources Officer

San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance pursues wildlife protection strategically by focusing on eight conservation hub regions on six continents. Below are recent discoveries and progress updates across our priority species.



Solar Lights Employed to Deter Leopard Livestock Attacks

The Uhifadhi Wa Chui (Leopard Conservation) team finished the latest setup of solar lights at local community livestock bomas in northern Kenya. The lights are a predator deterrent, aimed at discouraging large carnivores from visiting bomas at night. The LED lights solar-charge during the day and blink automatically at night, suggesting the presence of human activity. The Leopard Conservation Program is analyzing the effectiveness of the lights in reducing livestock attacks, which can prevent leopards *Panthera pardus* from being killed, and the impact on community tolerance for coexisting with leopards.



Growth and Flowering of Rare Orcutt's Bird's-beak Plants

San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance's Plant Conservation department is conducting a propagation experiment to determine the best conditions for growing this rare San Diego native species *Dicranostegia orcuttiana*, which has proven difficult to cultivate. Thanks go to our Plant Conservation volunteer, Tish Wussler, for braving the heat last summer to conduct biweekly measurement of growth and floral production in the Beckman Center shade house.

200 MOUNTAIN YELLOW-LEGGED FROGS REINTRODUCED

The mountain yellow-legged frog team reintroduced one- and two-year-old frogs *Rana muscosa* into a new field site in Southern California's San Jacinto Mountains. No frogs had been documented at this location since 2013, when a devastating fire and erosion and flooding altered the habitat.

Reintroduction sites were located in early 2020, and the frogs were successfully transported and released into a high-elevation stream habitat. The frog team will continue to regularly monitor these reintroduced frogs.



Polar Bear Pathogen Surveillance Project

San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance's polar bear team met with collaborators from Environment and Climate Change Canada, the University of Saskatchewan, and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to review recent findings from the polar bear pathogen surveillance project. The long-term study (1986-2017) correlates changing climate patterns with changes in the exposure of polar bears *Ursus maritimus* to zoonotic pathogens. The findings were met with broad agreement, and the next stage is to begin outreach to stakeholders.



RESULTS OF 'ALALĀ ANTI-PREDATOR TRAINING

At last year's Animal Behavior Society's annual conference (held virtually), Alison Greggor, Ph.D., Bryce Masuda, and Ron Swaisgood, Ph.D. shared a San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance project that measured the effectiveness of anti-predator training for 'Alalā (Hawaiian crow *Corvus hawaiiensis*) to help them better respond to a natural predator, the 'io (Hawaiian hawk *Buteo solitarius*), in the wild. The work demonstrated how to improve this survival-relevant training in the future for 'Alalā and other species bred in human care.

PHOTOS BY (TOP, LEFT) ISAAC LIMCO, PROGRAM SUPPORT; LOISABA CONSERVANCY; MPALA RESEARCH CENTRE; THE NATURE CONSERVANCY; KENYA WILDLIFE SERVICES; AND LAIKIPIA COUNTY GOVERNMENT; (BOTTOM, LEFT) ANNA LEAVITT

Q What is the coolest thing about your job?

As a zoo and wildlife veterinarian, I have had many amazing and exciting opportunities in my career. The best part of my job today is being a connector: connecting wildlife health, human health, and ecosystem health to the health of our planet. I have the opportunity to bring teams together to address conservation challenges. These internal connections are extremely powerful, and when coupled with the energy of our external partners, they maximize conservation impact.

Q Why did you become a veterinarian? What drew you to this field?

A lifelong sense of awe for animals, and a strong desire to help those in need drew me to veterinary medicine. Respect and wonder of nature, coupled with a desire to make a difference, drew me to zoo and wildlife medicine. I carry with me a deep sense of duty and responsibility to contribute to a larger vision, regardless of the role I play.

Q What is your favorite animal? Why?

All of them, from ants to zebras! I have a fondness for things that fly. I admire the small and the mighty, the majestic and strong, animals that are clever, those that are beautiful, and ones with special skills. If I had to pick just one, it would be my cat, Monkey. He's my proof point



Nadine Lamberski, DVM

Leads the Wildlife Health and Conservation Science Team, a large and diverse group responsible for the health and welfare of the wildlife at the Zoo and Safari Park, which uses science to advance conservation initiatives.



“The future of wildlife conservation is strong leadership—authentic, transparent, empathetic, nimble, resilient, and resourceful leadership that makes space for all voices to be heard.”

that connecting to wildlife generates caring and can lead to behavior change.

Q What book or film influenced you or made a strong impression?

The James Herriot books, of course! While an undergraduate in college, I was also introduced to *A Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold, and it changed the course of my career. The resiliency and connectedness of nature and ecosystems continues to amaze me. But the impacts of humans expose nature's fragility—ecosystems are out of balance, to a point where they might not recover. The health of our planet, of wildlife, and people is at risk. The recent pandemic is a wake-up call—what better time than now to commit to helping secure a future for a world where all life can thrive.

Q What inspires you?

The colleagues who have come before me and laid the groundwork that I benefitted from throughout my career. I am inspired by current colleagues who continue to advance animal health, welfare, and conservation science. I am inspired by the next generation of wildlife veterinarians and conservation scientists who are inquisitive, challenge the status quo, and want a better future. My wish for them is that they use lessons and wisdom from the past to create a better future.

New Vision,



DID YOU KNOW?

San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance's ongoing work with partners in northern Kenya encompasses a full spectrum of conservation initiatives, including nutrition for orphaned elephant calves at Reteti Elephant Sanctuary.



New Future

Welcome to San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance. We are meeting the conservation challenges of today—and tomorrow.

Since 1916, our organization has created lifelong connections between people and wildlife. People of all ages and from all corners of the globe have visited the San Diego Zoo and San Diego Zoo Safari Park to experience powerful moments with wildlife, making memories and enhancing their appreciation for these extraordinary animals and plants. Along the way, we've also tackled conservation programs, fueling scientific initiatives and discoveries that have changed the world for endangered wildlife. Two paths—each essential, each a rich part of our history.

Now, we are at a pivotal time in that history. Our organization is evolving to address the needs of our changing world, and we have a new name: San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance. This new identity unites the guest experiences at the Zoo and Safari Park with our conservation efforts around the globe. As San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, we will create allies for wildlife with every guest who visits, member who joins us, or donor who supports us. And we will work with allies around the world to protect Earth's most endangered wildlife. We must work together and collaborate as never before to achieve our most far-reaching goals.

We hope the excitement of sighting a rhino at the Safari Park will remind you of our work using living cell lines from our biobank to save the northern white rhino. When you visit the polar bears at the Zoo, we hope you'll come away knowing about the work we've done for polar bears in the Arctic. We hope the energetic antics of one of our young elephants will inspire you to learn more about how we helped formulate milk for orphaned elephant calves at the Reteti Elephant Sanctuary in Kenya. In fact, we are in the business of hope—and we hope you'll continue to be our allies in this mission.

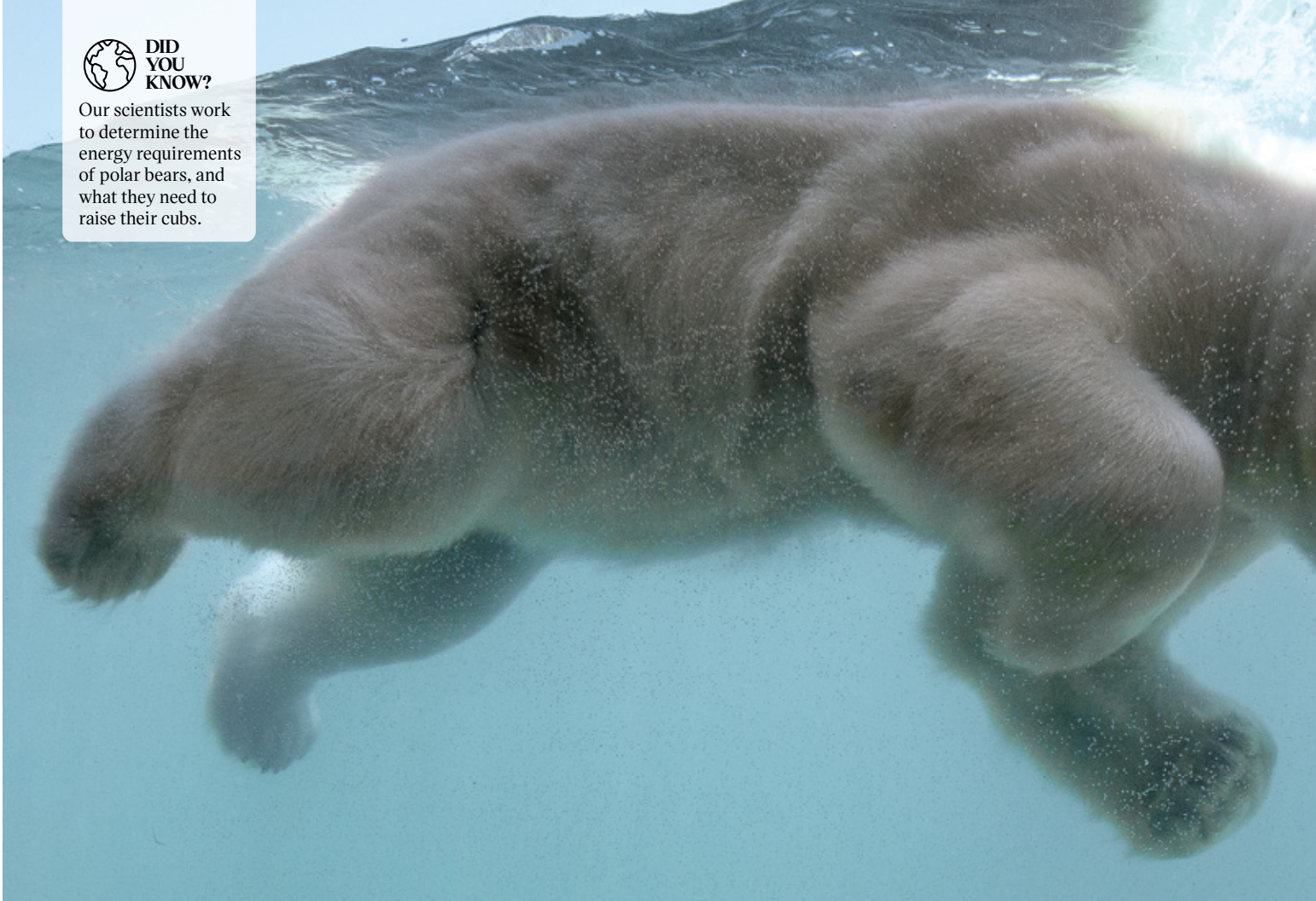
At San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, our expertise in caring for wildlife is our strength in the field of conservation. Our deep and extensive knowledge from more than a century of experience makes us invaluable in global efforts to save species. Our science-based approach leverages the diverse skills of our teams and partners, showcasing the limitless potential of how we can change outcomes for



DID YOU KNOW?

Our scientists work to determine the energy requirements of polar bears, and what they need to raise their cubs.

KEN BOHN/SZDZWA



Collaborative Conservation So All Life Thrives

Our conservation work is anchored by eight hubs around the world and driving strategic outcomes for wildlife in these regions. These hubs represent areas where we are currently most invested, and therefore hope to have the greatest return on mission and vision. The hubs promote synergy and collaboration among partners and stakeholders and will help us have greater impact in a region.





From polar bears to white rhinos to Hawaiian birds, San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance is dedicated to saving species around the globe.

wildlife. And it all starts with the wildlife we support right here at home. This new chapter we are embarking on will transform the future of collaborative conservation, both here and around the world. It will provide hope for wildlife, for the world, and for all of us. We are building an alliance, and our alliance starts with you.

—Paul A. Baribault, President and Chief Executive Officer

Maximizing Impact for Wildlife Conservation

Securing a future for threatened and endangered wildlife will require extraordinary conservation problem-solving and restoration efforts. To meet this challenge, San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance will now focus its efforts on the species, regions, and conservation issues for which we can make the greatest difference. We will apply innovative, science-based expertise to ensure that all wildlife in our care thrives, and we will use our reach to promote empathy and inspire people in ways that will cultivate a shared stewardship for nature.

We know we cannot do this alone. It is only by growing an alliance of passionate partners that we will have lasting influence. Working together, we will harness our strengths to focus where we can have maximum impact. In doing so, San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance will contribute to the larger, collective movement to restore biodiversity for a healthy, thriving planet.

Our organization has a long history of collaborating with zoos, aquariums, conservation organizations, governments, and communities. We have worked for decades with other zoos throughout North America and around the world to develop the best wildlife care and breeding programs, and we have expanded our reach into international communities working to save local wildlife.

Our early work with the Northern Rangelands Trust in Kenya is one example, as is our work in China, Southeast Asia, and Australia.

As we move forward, San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance will continue to grow our collaboration with aligned organizations. In order to be the best for wildlife, we are committed to building a strong and diverse alliance of partners to multiply our collective impact.

In addition, unifying our internal talents will allow us to mobilize skilled teams to address complex challenges. San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance has expert teams specializing in genetics, reproduction, disease investigations, population sustainability, recovery ecology, and community engagement for both animals and plants. Our most successful initiatives are those in which our scientists work closely with our wildlife care, nutrition, and veterinary teams, showing what can be achieved when diverse disciplines work together.

For each of San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance's priority regions and species going forward, our goal will be to implement a full-spectrum approach that ensures wild populations are healthy and thriving, critical habitats are protected, threats to species survival are reduced, conservation capacity in local communities is enhanced, and the public is engaged and inspired to help. Our approach will be to first identify the most significant problems for conservation and restoration of endangered species, and then to implement creative, collaborative, and, most importantly, lasting solutions.

—Nadine Lamberski, DVM, Dipl. ACZM, Dipl. ECZM (ZHM)
Chief Conservation and Wildlife Health Officer



KEN BOHN/SDZWA

Our New Look

Along with our new name, we have a new logo.

A good logo tells a story—and ours tells three. Blending three iconic images, the logo features symbols that uniquely reflect our story: The Lion represents the founding of our “World Famous” zoo more than a century ago—how it all started with a roar. The Rhino represents our park, known for its expansive savanna “unlike anywhere on earth” — and a growing symbol of our cutting-edge conservation work. The Bird represents our groundbreaking work to save the California Condor— firmly establishing our commitment to changing outcomes for wildlife. It is a logo that represents long-term achievement and our future as a collaborative force for conservation.



The main logo is paired with the names of our parks, representing our “two front doors.”



The logo for San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance's programs for kids.



Our monthly donors are a special group of allies known as Wildlife Heroes! Their recurring and ongoing support fuels critical conservation in San Diego and worldwide. To join our Wildlife Heroes, visit sdzwa.org/hero.

A Conservation Organization with Two Front Doors

Having two front doors gives San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance an opportunity unlike any other conservation organization in the world. The millions of guests coming through our doors every year provide us with an exciting and unique platform to tell our stories and share the work of our partners. No one knows better than you, our members, how transformational each visit to the Zoo or Park can be. We believe walking through our gates is also a step toward taking action to save species. As San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, we can build on the successes we have had, and create an even brighter future for wildlife together.

At the San Diego Zoo and Safari Park, some things are core to who we are and will never change, such as the significance of the San Diego community and our commitment to providing amazing care for wildlife. Our new identity challenges us to engage our guests in our conservation mission through the habitats we develop for animals, the experiences we offer visitors, and the stories we tell.

San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance will continue to cultivate care and compassion for wildlife. Many of us can identify formative experiences with animals in our childhood that helped cultivate the appreciation for nature and wildlife that we have today. Perhaps some of your fondest memories were built here with us at the Zoo and the Safari Park over the years. We are honored to have played that role in your lives, and we are committed to providing those opportunities for future generations.

We also want to tell the stories of the great work led by our team members and partners around the world, and we want that incredible work to inspire you as much as it does us. At the Zoo and Safari Park, our habitats and experiences will be designed for you to witness the conservation work happening around the globe for yourself. We also recognize that we cannot save species alone—we need you as part of our alliance. We want to offer you a place to learn more about the species we are trying to save, and how you can take action.

Sometimes it can feel like the actions of one individual cannot really make a difference. But, every individual can contribute, and as San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, we want to elevate the important actions you have taken on behalf of wildlife. We will leverage your individual actions for change at higher levels. In partnership with other accredited zoos and aquariums and their communities, we can expand our collective reach across the globe.

—Lisa Peterson, Executive Director, San Diego Zoo Safari Park,
and Dwight Scott, Executive Director, San Diego Zoo

Our Community, Our Future

Our new identity as San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance gives us an opportunity to redefine what it means to be a conservation organization, and to be agents of change in our communities on a local and global scale. Our potential rests in all of you who believe in our mission to save species, who work side by side with us to make the world a better place for people and wildlife. We are all a part of a global movement, and no one exemplifies that devotion more than our members. With you as our allies, San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance will step forward to meet the conservation needs of the future.