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ZAA CONSERVATION

Conservation is another major pillar of our work at ZAA. Through the Hall Family ZAA Wildlife Conservation Fund together with direct support programs of our accredited members, ZAA directs vital conservation dollars to aid in the survival of many keystone species and a number of other threatened or endangered species on all seven continents. Our NGO partners in this important work are diverse and share our commitment to wildlife conservation, propagation of wildlife, and habitat conservation. On the ground in situ, we see this critical funding making a real difference and producing results that are measurable. For example, ZAA supports projects dealing with human/wildlife and predator/prey conflict avoidance, anti-poaching patrols and snare removal teams, the teaching of conservation agriculture practices, elephant beehive fencing and a number of progressive community outreach and education programs.

Beyond NGO support, ZAA members are also heavily involved in reintroduction programs, and rescue and rehabilitation work. Some of the species our members work with include Eastern or mountain bongo, Attwater's prairie chicken, Texas horned lizard, Anegada ground iguana, Kemps Ridley sea turtle, and San Joaquin kit fox.

Sadly, modern-day conservation of threatened or endangered species cannot simply be limited to protecting or reintroducing animals in their native ranges. For many, the "wild" is disappearing as humans encroach on their natural habitats. To ensure a species' long-term survival, captive propagation of wildlife has become an essential part of the conversation and the only insulation against a potential collapse of wild populations. Our managed breeding program at ZAA is named the Animal Management Program (AMP). Through the ZAA AMP, our members are also involved with cheetah, Southern white rhinoceros, mandrill, Schmidt's guenon, lowland tapir, African black-footed penguin, and siamang. Our AMP species management program is coordinated across the family of ZAA accredited members to ensure the greatest genetic variability and is recognized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.