

To: Board of Management

From: Dr. Andrew Lentini
Senior Director, Wildlife & Science

Subject: **TORONTO ZOO CONSERVATION PROGRAMS BOOKLET 2018**

Date: 2019-05-27

SUMMARY:

This report provides the Board with a summary of the Toronto Zoo Conservation Programs Booklet 2018. In addition, the Toronto Zoo web site has additional information on these activities and programs. There are a number of informational brochures also available.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Board receive the Toronto Zoo Conservation Programs Booklet 2018 for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The booklet is produced in-house. The cost to print the booklet is covered by the operating budget.

COMMENTS:

The annual Conservation Programs booklet, produced by the Wildlife & Science Division of the Toronto Zoo, summarizes the conservation efforts that have taken place within the past year. It is used as a communicative, promotional, and informative tool for the exchange of information between guests of the Toronto Zoo, as well as affiliated organizations and partners. Conservation efforts are made possible by the continued support of local and international grants and collaborations from various institutions and organizations. This support is managed through the Toronto Zoo Development Branch, which coordinates all donations to the Toronto Zoo.

The booklet showcases the Toronto Zoo's commitment to becoming a Zoo-Based Conservation Centre of Excellence as outlined in the 2015 Strategic Plan, by supporting the renewed mission and vision, using the Zoo's core values and institutional goals and objectives, as a guideline.

Last year was an exciting year for the Zoo with its many accomplishments including the opening of three new exhibits. A new Blanding's Turtle Exhibit was completed in the Americas Pavilion. One of the Zoo's well-known head-starting programmes involves the

Blanding's turtles, a species that was about to disappear from the Rouge Valley, and now is being reintroduced into Rouge National Urban Park. Like the many other conservation breeding and release programmes at the Zoo, most of the work is done behind-the-scenes. Now, Zoo members and guests have the opportunity to see these turtles firsthand. The Toronto Zoo opened an Asian Carp exhibit in December, the first of its kind in Canada. This exhibit--in partnership with the Invasive Species Centre, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry--helps raise awareness of Asian carps and highlight the risk they pose to ecosystems, native fish species, and the Canadian economy and society. With the departure of the giant pandas to Calgary in March 2018, staff prepared for the return of the Amur tigers and opened the new Amur Tiger Exhibit in October 2018. With the arrival of these two siblings, Kira and Vasilisa, the Zoo became an active participant again in the Amur Tiger SSP.

The booklet highlights the Zoo's Browse Program, an essential requirement for the nutrition, enrichment, and welfare of various animals that encourages natural behaviours. It also features the Behavioural Research & Enrichment Program, including carnivore enrichment; as well as a section on "From Passion to Action" which draws attention to our zookeepers' drive and desire to initiate fundraising initiatives and events such as World Giraffe Day celebrations. The booklet thanks our many partners, supporters, affiliates, and donors, including our corporate volunteers and their "Giving Actions for the Planet" initiatives.

The publication features a twelve-page spread that showcases the year's achievements including commendations, new initiatives, new exhibits, annual events, and new babies including the endangered Pygmy hippo calf Penelope!

Other initiatives included in the booklet are: Conservation, Veterinary Care & Research, Reproductive Physiology & Research, Nutrition Programs & Research, Adopt-A-Pond Programs, Great Lakes Program, Education Programs, and Outreach Activities, Green Programs, and Horticulture.

The Toronto Zoo prides itself on its programs that inspire action and facilitate public involvement in conservation. The Wildlife & Science Division carries out education programs and research dedicated to the conservation of wildlife and their habitats. Research in nutrition, veterinary medicine and pathology, reproduction, conservation biology, and species-specific studies contribute to the well-being of animals and species recovery.

The Learning & Engagement Branch offers a wide variety of formal and informal educational activities that give participants a unique learning experience. Formal education programs provide the public the opportunity to connect with the natural world and participate through interactive learning, such as Zoo School. Informal education programs such as the Serengeti Bush Camp and touch-tables throughout the Zoo, serve to share information about Species at Risk, their habitats, and related conservation projects. Toronto Zoo Volunteers dedicate over 34,000 hours annually, and are an invaluable component to the Learning & Engagement Branch.

The Toronto Zoo is a leader in local and international conservation, and has a strong record of environmental protection and of energy efficient operation management. With the help of the Zoo's Green Plan, "Wildlife Conservation and Sustainable Living," the Zoo

has motivated staff, volunteers and the public to live sustainably in balance with nature. The Zoo is actively involved in conservation awareness programs for both staff and public, such as our Phone Apes Cell Phone Recycling Program, Staff Carpooling Program, and construction of green energy projects on site to help in the Zoo's journey of becoming a carbon neutral institution. In 2018, the Toronto Zoo implemented an ISO14001 compliant environmental management system to provide the framework to actively reduce our negative environmental impacts and ensure we are able to achieve environmental targets while providing a balance with other operational needs and services.

The Horticulture Branch oversees several initiatives in accordance with the Zoo's greening efforts, many of which extend beyond the boundaries of the Zoo. New initiatives include the procurement of an African Oil Palm now on display in the Indo-Malaya Pavilion to highlight the profound impact that this crop is having on the Southeast Asian ecosystem. As well the horticulture team was very proud to showcase the special exhibit of a corpse flower—the first time this species has bloomed in the GTA and the first time one of these flowers has bloomed within Canada!

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ATTACHMENTS:

Conservation Programs Booklet 2018