

PROJECT SUMMARY
Project #1

PROJECT TITLE: Sumatran Ranger Project

GOALS OF THE PROJECT:

The Sumatran Ranger Project (SRP) is a community conservation initiative, established to help provide long term protection of the Leuser Ecosystem buffer zone environment to benefit both wildlife and people. We employ a team of rangers who patrol the buffer zone (the space between the forest and where people live) of the Leuser Ecosystem in North Sumatra province; deactivating traps and snares, providing community outreach and education, mitigating wildlife conflict, collecting data and identifying and implementing alternative livelihood schemes.

Our mission: To halt activities that damage the forest edge environment and are a threat to wildlife, and to support forest edge communities living within the Leuser Ecosystem.

PROJECT OUTLINE:

The Sumatran Ranger Project (SRP) puts a heavy emphasis on animal-human conflict along the buffer zone of the Leuser National Park. They build corrals so farmers can securely lock up their livestock at night. This prevents retaliation killings of tigers. They are also working to secure farmers stock during durian season from orangutans, as well as crop protection from Asian elephants. As well as conflict mitigation, they have rangers that actively patrol the forest edge deactivating snares, checking camera traps, and engaging the community.

BACKGROUND

There is only one place left on Earth where Sumatran orangutans, elephants, tigers and rhinoceros coexist together in the wild: The Leuser Ecosystem on the island of Sumatra, Indonesia. Spanning the two provinces of Aceh (where 80% of the Ecosystem lies) and North Sumatra, and an incredible 2.6 million hectares it is the largest rainforest ecosystem conservation area in Southeast Asia. It is one of the most biodiverse environments ever described and millions of people depend on it for food, water and livelihoods. The Leuser Ecosystem is important for everyone, all over the world: it stores millions of tons of carbon in its rich peatland forests, helping to regulate global climate. The Leuser Ecosystem is often called 'the lungs of the Earth' and when you look at a map it's easy to see why.

The megafauna within this landscape is Critically Endangered. Over 85% of the remaining Sumatran orangutans call the Leuser Ecosystem home and one of the last viable populations of Sumatran tigers live here. With fewer than 80 individuals left, the Sumatran rhino exists mostly in the Leuser Ecosystem, and it is also one of the few remaining habitats left for Sumatran elephants.

METHODOLOGY

The Gunung Leuser National Park is a protected area within the Leuser Ecosystem that has its own teams of rangers to protect the forest within. The forest edge is where communities settle and the interface of significant human-wildlife conflict occurs. There is increasing pressure on wildlife to find food and safe corridors and they often venture out of the forest and into plantations and communities that have settled against the border of the National Park with no buffer zone in between. Livestock are grazed in oil palm plantations that exist both legally and illegally immediately against the forest border. This is an easy opportunity for Sumatran tigers to take livestock, and they may then be persecuted in retaliation. Sumatran elephants frequent the forest edge as their remaining habitat diminishes, and regularly feed on crops. Sumatran orangutans come into community gardens to eat durian fruit, an important income source for these poverty-stricken communities, and they too may be the subject of retaliatory attacks. Sumatran Ranger Project plays a vital role in helping to maintain a safe and productive environment for the people living along the forest edge as well as helping ensure wildlife can pass through safely without negative consequences.

The Toronto Zoo will continue to support efforts to combat human-animal conflict along these buffer zones of the National Park. The estimated cost to build a tiger corral is approximately \$1200 CDN. This initiative not only protects tigers from retaliation killings but provides jobs to local communities. These jobs keep people out of the palm plantations where they are treated and paid poorly. By supporting the SRP, we are not only saving species, but engaging local communities to appreciate animals and protect the vital ecosystem they live in.

Anticipated date of completion: 2022-12-31 (however is ongoing)

BUDGET

The total budget from the Endangered Species Reserve Fund for this larger project is \$10,000 CAD.

FUNDING

Endangered Species Reserve Fund	\$10,000 CAD
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PROJECT SUMMARY

Project #2

PROJECT TITLE: The Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds (SANCCOB)

GOALS OF THE PROJECT:

SANCCOB is a registered non-profit organization (NPO 003-134) whose primary objective is to reverse the decline of seabird populations.

PROJECT OUTLINE:

Saving seabirds is done through the rescue, rehabilitation and release of ill, injured, abandoned and oiled seabirds – especially endangered species like the African penguin

BACKGROUND:

Since 1968, SANCCOB has admitted 97,000 seabirds and treated 54 seabird species. Since 2001, they have reared 8,372 penguin chicks and continue to prove they are one of the main reasons the African Penguin still exists today in the wild.

The organization works closely with colony managers to identify birds in need of care in the wild and bring them to one of their two centres in South Africa: Cape Town (Western Cape) and Port Elizabeth (Eastern Cape).

In a normal year where no oil spills occur, SANCCOB treats up to 2,500 seabirds, of which approximately 1,500 are African penguins.

METHODOLOGY:

SANCCOB is an internationally recognized leader in oiled wildlife response, rehabilitation and chick-rearing; contributes to research which benefits seabirds; trains people to care for the birds and educates the public to develop behavioural patterns which benefit marine life and the environment.

SANCCOB is registered with the South African Veterinary Council; a member of PAZAAB, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN); is endorsed by the Department of Environmental Affairs, World Association of Zoos and Aquariums, European Association of Zoos and Aquariums and American Association of Zoos and Aquariums; and has many working partnerships globally.

Anticipated date of completion: Ongoing

BUDGET

The total budget from the Endangered Species Reserve Fund for this larger project is \$7,000.

FUNDING

Endangered Species Reserve Fund

\$7,000 CAD

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PROJECT SUMMARY

Project #3

PROJECT TITLE: The Gola Rainforest National Park (GRNP) Pygmy Hippo Conservation Project – “Pygmy Hippo Conservation – Forest of Hope”

GOALS OF THE PROJECT:

A mix of community-based conservation and protected forests for the survival of the endangered pygmy hippopotamus *Choeropsis liberiensis*. Current ongoing project “Pygmy Hippo Conservation: Forest of Hope”

PROJECT OUTLINE:

To engage youth and volunteers to study and implement camera trapping and tracking methods that may inform pygmy hippo land use, behaviour and activity patterns of which little is known about. They would like to increase their camera trap grid to get an even better understanding of not only individual pygmy hippos but populations living along rivers in the region. This will also be combined with a regional wide project with colleagues in Liberia and Ivory Coast to build a genetic database across their range.

BACKGROUND

The Pygmy hippopotamus is classified as endangered in the IUCN SCC Red List 2015. The Pygmy hippo is listed in Appendix II of CITES. In 1996, the Nigerian subspecies *Hexaprotodon liberiensis heslopi* was classified as critically endangered (CR D; meaning that it faces an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future with a population estimated to number less than 50 mature individuals). Deforestation, hunting for meat, persecution by people and oil pollution are the main threats to the Pygmy hippopotamus.

Research on pygmy hippos in GRNP has been ongoing since 2008, much of it with support from Zoo Basel. To date it has shown that, while the Gola region is likely to harbour the most important population of pygmy hippos in the whole of Sierra Leone, most pygmy hippo signs are found in community land outside of the protected area.

METHODOLOGY

They identified an urgent need for community-based conservation activities to guarantee the survival of pygmy hippos in the national park and the whole Gola region as well as securing sustainable community support for the work of the GRNP. Many of the rural communities are poor with a high unemployment rate especially among the youth, and a growing human population in the area is placing increasing pressure on the land around the forest raising concerns about potential human wildlife conflict.

A community youth conservation volunteer program started in 2018 with the aim of adding camera trapping in key pygmy hippo sites as one of the main activities. The program also focuses on developing a pygmy hippo theatre show that could tour across the communities in the region to increase awareness for the conservation of pygmy

hippos living outside of the protected area. Training was held in September of 2018 and camera trapping activities started in November of 2018 with 20 camera traps deployed in key pygmy hippo habitats and in areas of conflict between humans and hippos such as rice farms and cocoa gardens. This data is proving to be of great interest and will be invaluable to better understand behaviours of pygmy hippos and to understand the nature of the conflict between humans and hippos and work on developing solutions with the volunteers from across the Gola communities.

The first 20 camera traps (Browning SpecOps Advanced) were set up along the Moa river and in some of the farms surrounding the Segbema community, home to two conservation volunteers. All cameras were retrieved and pygmy hippos were found at 10 locations including farmlands. This initial data has provided evidence of pygmy hippos foraging in rice farms and using the community land to move between locations on the river. This valuable information about their activity patterns and group composition with one mother and juvenile identified as well as a second adult. It is hoped that more cameras will be deployed in various community areas to better understand the interaction between humans and endangered pygmy hippos.

Currently in the process of completing the “schedule B” and final report for once the construction of the Mogbaima Pygmy Hippo Conservation School is completed and they will continue supporting the R&M department in this final report.

Anticipated date of completion: January 1, 2023 (however, the program is ongoing with recent conversations on funding with new contacts)

BUDGET:

The total budget from the Endangered Species Reserve Fund for this larger project is \$7,000 CAD.

FUNDING

Endangered Species Reserve Fund

\$7,000 CAD

PROJECT CONTACT:

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PROJECT SUMMARY

Project #4

PROJECT TITLE: Plant A Red Panda Home

GOALS OF THE PROJECT:

To support important *in situ* conservation work for the endangered red panda.

1. Increase participation of local community in management and protection of red panda habitat outside protected areas.
2. Reforest and restore degraded habitat through plantation of red panda food and shelter species, along with other high-value Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) suitable for respective areas.

Short-term Goals:

- Purchase private and degraded forest located within core red panda habitat.
- Trees planted and land fenced off.
- Nurseries will produce saplings of local species to plant in the restoration areas.

Long-term Goals:

- Reduce forest fragmentation and create habitat connectivity in important red panda habitat areas in Nepal.

PROJECT OUTLINE:

The Red Panda Network is endorsed by the Red Panda SSP and AZA Small Carnivore TAG.

BACKGROUND:

The red panda is listed as 'Endangered' in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and an Appendix I species in the CITES. The global red panda population has declined by 50% over the last 20 years; estimates have them at less than 10,000 and as few as 2,500 remaining in the wild.

Habitat loss is the primary threat to red pandas. As a tree dwelling species, red pandas struggle to survive when forests are fragmented and populations become susceptible to genetic bottleneck. In Nepal, forests are disappearing. A total of 33,800 hectares of the nation's forest cover was lost between 2001 and 2016 (Shrestha S, Shrestha UB, Bawa K. 2018). Among some of the causes of deforestation and forest degradation are unsustainable harvest of forest resources, overgrazing, conversion to agriculture and settlement, unplanned development activities (expansion of roads and infrastructure, etc.), and forest fires.

Red pandas live in remote, high altitude, montane forests of Nepal. Here, there is a high rate of dependence on forest products to sustain daily life. Field studies conducted by Red Panda Network (RPN) reveals deforestation rates at 3.2 percent along Eastern Nepal's Panchthar-Ilam-Taplejung (PIT) corridor—an important network of forests that contains approximately 25% of Nepal's red panda population.

With forest loss at such alarming rates in Nepal, restoration and reforestation activities are critical to the survival of this endangered species. The proposed project will restore more than 32 hectares of core red panda habitat. Over 30,000 native trees will be planted, that have been identified as red panda food and shelter species—as well as high value NTFPs—and help create habitat connectivity that can support viable red panda populations.

METHODOLOGY:

Activities will include the plantation of native trees (red panda food/shelter species, and NTFPs); installation of fencing to protect tree saplings; and purchase of land for restoration (Eastern Nepal only).

Saplings will be obtained from nurseries in the region and Forest Guardians will be employed to carry out plantation and fencing, as well as habitat monitoring and protection after restoration activities are completed.

Long-term monitoring of the area will take place. RPN Forest Guardians conduct ongoing monitoring of red panda populations and habitat. Camera traps will be used to record mammalian species (including red panda) in the PIT corridor. Data from pre-restoration will be compared to post-restoration to measure the impact of the project.

Short-term goals will be tracked by photos of planting and fencing, as well as field reports. Proof of purchase of the land will be obtained through the Division Forest Office. RPN will then work with Community Forest Users Groups in taking over the management, protection and utilization of the land.

Anticipated date of completion: December 31, 2022 (ongoing)

BUDGET:

- **\$5,000 USD** per hectare for planting trees, land purchase and salary of a local land steward. This will also cover the price of transport, and green manuring.
- Planting one hectare of land would create two days of employment for approximately 50 people a year. Restoration of one hectare of land would create around seven days of employment for 50 people a year.

FUNDING:

Endangered Species Reserve Fund Grant

\$7,000 CAD

PROJECT CONTACT:

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PROJECT SUMMARY

Project #5

PROJECT TITLE: Lewa Wildlife Conservancy

GOALS OF THE PROJECT:

The purpose of the project is outlined as stated by Lewa, “Run by Kenyans, for Kenyans, our aim is to serve as a catalyst for wildlife conservation and improvement of community livelihoods.”

PROJECT OUTLINE:

Protection of Kenya’s Wildlife (similar species managed at the Toronto Zoo) through a community based conservation model.

Background

Lewa Wildlife Conservancy is part of the UNESCO Mt.Kenya World Heritage Site, a Man and Biosphere Reserve. It has been Green Listed by the IUCN for excellence in protected area management. It consists of 93,000 acres of secure and protected habitat for some of Africa’s most threatened species. Lewa is a model for successful conservation in Northern Kenya and beyond.

Mission

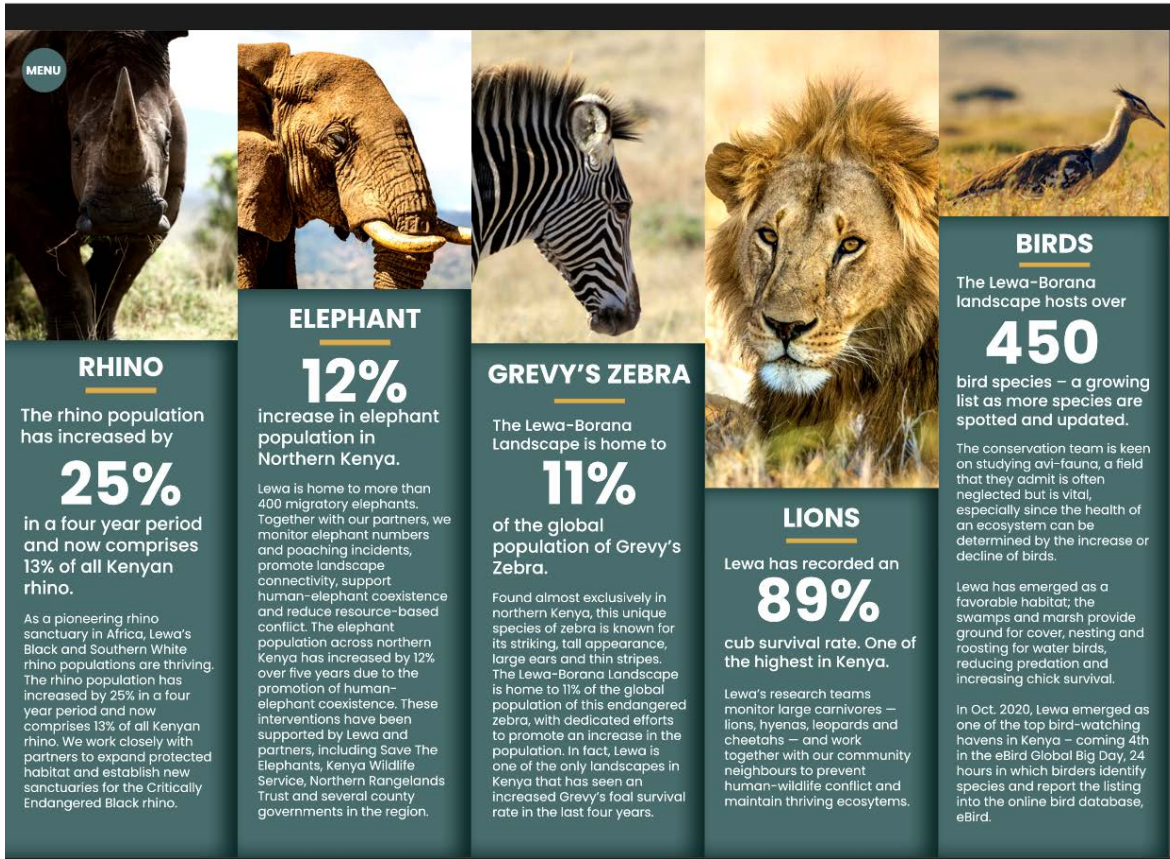
Lewa works as a catalyst for the conservation of wildlife and its habitat. It does this through the protection and management of species, the initiation and support of community conservation and development programs, and the education of neighboring areas in the value of wildlife.

Vision

Lewa envisions a future where people across Kenya value, protect and benefit from wildlife.

METHODOLOGY

Lewa protects and manages many of Africa’s most threatened species by matching research and cutting-edge technology with community engagement.



“We provide a safe and secure habitat for endangered and vulnerable species such as the black rhino, white rhino, Grevy’s zebra, elephant, lion and reticulated giraffe. We use research, monitoring and technology to make informed conservation decisions and promote ecosystem health” – Martin Harvey

“Our model puts people at the core of conservation. We work with local communities to make sure our conservation efforts are inclusive, participatory and beneficial to their livelihoods through education, healthcare, water management, enterprise and more” – Ami Vitale

“We catalyse conservation by sharing our learning curve with like-minded organizations. We spearhead the reintroduction of endangered species to new habitats as well as support the conservation movement across northern Kenya, proactively enhancing the connectivity on which elephants, rhino, lion and other species rely” – Ami Vitale

Our anti-poaching work, in line with Lewa’s philosophy is centered around people. We believe our success is attributed to:

- Our work with communities – who provide the first line of defence against poachers.
- Our well-trained and motivated team – our rangers are passionate about conservation and wildlife protection
- Great teamwork between radio operators, gatekeepers and the anti-poaching rangers.

- Our innovative use of technology that allows us to gather the best intelligence

The collaboration between Lewa and neighbouring Borana Conservancy to merge two separate land areas has created 93,000 acres of contiguous rhino rangeland. This expanded landscape is home to a growing rhino population, 14% of Kenya's entire rhino population.

Source: [2019 2020 Lewa Impact Report \(adobe.com\)](#)

Anticipated date of completion: Ongoing

BUDGET

The total budget from the Endangered Species Reserve Fund for this larger project is \$7000 CAD.

FUNDING

Endangered Species Reserve Fund	\$7000 CAD
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PROJECT CONTACT:

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PROJECT SUMMARY

Project #6

PROJECT TITLE: Planet Madagascar - Conservation, Education, and Community Development Project

GOALS OF THE PROJECT:

Planet Madagascar's aim is to create sustainable forest communities for people and wildlife in Madagascar, focusing on lemur conservation, education, and community development.

PROJECT OUTLINE:

1. Environmental education of local people in Madagascar about the importance of lemurs to forests.
2. Forest protection consisting of fire management and lemur monitoring through hiring of local residents.
3. Forest restoration by restoring fragmented landscapes to create corridors to continuous forest, and erosion control where trees are planted to reduce the impact of erosion.
4. Inclusive forest conservation through a women's cooperative program that expands beyond sustainable agroforestry and forest restoration to other projects including sanitation, women's health, and education; and also provides employment opportunities for women in Madagascar.

BACKGROUND

Planet Madagascar is a conservation, education, and community development non-profit organization. The organization's purpose is to build sustainable forest communities by conserving Madagascar's unique biodiversity while improving the livelihood of people living in Madagascar.

Planet Madagascar undertakes lemur conservation efforts in and around the Ankarafantsika National Park, in northwestern Madagascar and protects eight species of lemur, as well as other animal species. They primarily work in three communities focusing on conservation education, fire management, and community livelihoods programs. Their strategy provides employment for local residents and also mitigates fire risk for lemurs and their habitat.

METHODOLOGY

1. Educate local communities about the importance of lemurs to forests through directly speaking with people as well as showing a film about fire management to locals.
2. Employ fire management and lemur monitoring teams consisting of hired local residents. The data collected will help with conservation efforts.
3. Restore forests by creating forest corridors where habitat fragmentation has

occurred. Nurseries have been built and are managed by local community members using indigenous species.

4. Providing employment opportunities for women through the women's cooperative which engages in sustainable tree planting and thus provides more income to families as most people in Madagascar live on less than \$2 a day.

Anticipated date of completion: December 31, 2022 (ongoing)

BUDGET:

The total budget for this donation to a larger project is \$7,000 CAD.

Endangered Species Reserve Fund	\$7,000 CAD
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PROJECT CONTACT:

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