

Annual Report 2018



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**Dreamworld
Wildlife
Foundation**

ZSL
**LET'S WORK
FOR WILDLIFE**

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About WildCats Conservation Alliance

Bringing together the knowledge and experience of 21st Century Tiger and ALTA, WildCats Conservation Alliance (WildCats) is a conservation initiative implemented by Dreamworld Wildlife Foundation (DWF) and the Zoological Society of London (ZSL). Hosted by ZSL at its headquarters in Regent's Park, London, the running costs including the salaries for the three part-time employees, are covered by an annual grant provided by DWF, continuing the support first allocated to 21st Century Tiger in 2006. This, plus the generous in-kind support provided by ZSL, enables us to continue giving 100% of donations to the wild tiger and Amur leopard conservation projects we support, which in 2018 amounted to a fantastic £261,885.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to save wild tigers and Amur leopards for future generations by funding carefully chosen conservation projects. We work with good zoos, individuals and companies to raise significant funds for our work and pride ourselves in providing a transparent and fair way to conserve wild cats in their natural habitat. We do this by:

-  Raising funds that significantly contribute to the conservation of tigers and Amur leopards in the wild
-  Selecting appropriate projects based on strict criteria agreed by the partners
-  Raising the profile of tigers and Amur leopards and promoting public awareness of their conservation through effective communication

Defining Features

The conservation projects we support are carefully chosen and subjected to peer review to ensure best practice and good conservation value.

Administration for the operation of WildCats Conservation Alliance is funded separately.

In turn, this allows 100% of donations to go directly to wild tiger and Amur leopard projects.

WildCats works with the international zoo community to encourage contributions to wild tiger and Amur leopard conservation, and to promote the work of professional zoos with high welfare standards and conservation at the heart of what they do.



Staff

Esther Conway was the manager of 21st Century Tiger from 2011, working 30 hours a week before taking on the role of managing WildCats Conservation Alliance. She is responsible for all the finance and administration and projects based in South East Asia and the Indian subcontinent.

Jo Cook holds an MSc in Applied Wildlife Conservation and managed ALTA before the merger and brings with her a wealth of knowledge on Amur tiger and leopard conservation in addition to being a conservation breeding specialist. Esther and Jo jointly share responsibility for strategic planning managing relationships with donors and the project selection process. Jo is responsible for managing relationships with projects in China and the Russian Far East.

Crissie Constantinou, Marketing Coordinator reporting directly to Esther, focuses on delivering timely and engaging online communication and building the supporter & donor network. Crissie also designs all the graphic materials used for marketing.

Esther and Jo, report directly into Monica Wrobel, Head of Asia Conservation at ZSL and have a dotted line to Chris Hibbard, Executive Director of Dreamworld Wildlife Foundation.

Monica has over 20 years' experience in endangered species recovery projects and natural resource management, working with innovative project leaders and empowering local communities in land-use decisions and mitigating human/wildlife conflict. Her management experience and species projects have ranged across Africa, Asia and North America.

Chris is well respected in the zoo world having been previously Executive Director of Zoo and Aquarium Association Australasia and is a population management specialist.



Our Scope of Work

Building on the legacy of 21st Century Tiger and ALTA, WildCats continues funding projects aimed at the conservation of wild tigers and Amur leopards which have a clear, measurable outcome. The conservation themes the projects can cover include:

- 🐾 Protection of tigers and Amur leopards, their prey and habitats in range countries
- 🐾 Education activities in tiger / Amur leopard-range and tiger / Amur leopard part consumer countries
- 🐾 Relevant ecological monitoring and research
- 🐾 Tiger & Amur leopard/human conflict resolution
- 🐾 Demand reduction of tiger & Amur leopard parts

All proposals submitted to WildCats for funding are diligently reviewed by a panel of international experts who have experience of working on relevant conservation projects. To receive funding from WildCats, projects must demonstrate practical scientific and/or conservation value, follow best practice and use local staff wherever possible. Projects must have clear measurable aims and outcomes, with regular activity and financial outputs that allow for scrutiny and transparency.

WildCats provides an uncomplicated and secure funding channel for the international zoo community to donate to wild tiger and Amur leopard conservation. We also provide a wealth of resources to enhance any fundraising and awareness campaigns being run by zoos or individuals.

Our links with businesses are encouraged through corporate social responsibility programmes and our growing number of individual supporters are encouraged through a variety of means including social media channels, newsletters and online marketing.

WildCats Conservation Alliance Five Year Strategy

In 2018 we began developing a new five-year strategy to help us focus, fill an important niche and refine our efforts to ensure we are supporting wild tiger and Amur leopard conservation as effectively as possible. To aid us with this we carried out extensive situational and stakeholder analyses which identified what we are doing well and areas where we could make improvements. We received positive feedback particularly from our implementing agencies who value the relationships we have built with them over the years.



© Tal Chohan

Fundraising

We're always looking for ways to help our supporters raise funds and in 2018 we focused on promoting our new brand with new graphics, brochures and merchandise being produced.

We introduced new supporter packs which contain a keyring, pen, toy, information sheets and booklet, available in both Amur leopard and tiger versions. These are a great gift idea if looking for something a bit different.



A new downloadable fundraising guide was released to inspire fantastic supporters to take on challenges and hold events to raise additional funds. It is also packed with facts about tigers and Amur leopards and our conservation priorities. An information booklet was specifically tailored for our supporting zoos was produced, containing information about the benefits zoos receive from working with us and the conservation activities we fund. Visit our website or contact us if you would like to receive either of these guides.



We feel it is of upmost importance to get out and meet our supporters, giving us the opportunity to talk first hand about the progress the projects are making, and the difference your support makes to protecting wild tigers and Amur leopards.

In 2018 we visited a number of different zoos, schools, colleges and conferences to talk about WildCats. If you are interested in one of the team coming to a special event or presenting a talk, in person or virtually we would be happy to discuss it.



Fundraising activities in 2018

Zoo Support

Zoos have always provided the majority of funds for both 21st Century Tiger and ALTA and this trend has continued for WildCats. In 2018 donations from individual zoos in Europe, America, Asia and Australasia totalled more than £199,200, 72% of the total donations received. In addition DFW provided the generous grant to fund the WildCats administration.

Global Tiger Day is a focus for many zoos' fundraising and in 2018, 25 zoos worldwide used WildCats resources to help celebrate this key event.

Top 6 zoo donors 2018

Helsinki Zoo

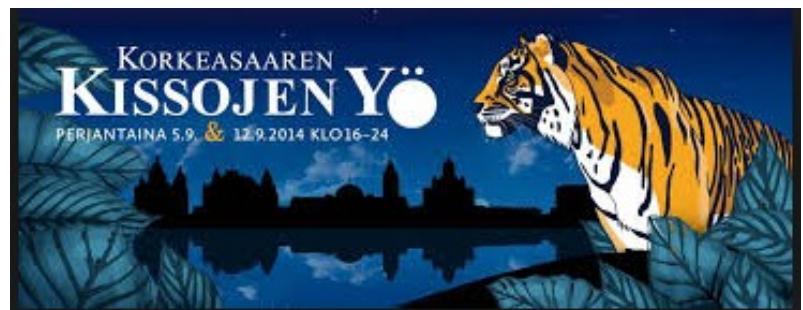
Dreamworld Wildlife Foundation

Chessington World of Adventures

Parco Zoo Punta Verde

Tayto Park

Kolmården Foundation



For our top donor Korkeasaaren Eläintarha (Helsinki Zoo), its Night of the Cats events proved ever popular and Jo Cook attended to promote WildCats and relate first hand how the visitor contributions make a tangible difference to Amur tiger and leopard conservation.



Cheques received from Shepreth Wildlife Park & The Big Cat Sanctuary.



Banham Zoo celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2018 and selected WildCats as one of the recipients of its special year of fundraising events. The celebrations culminated in the anniversary ball which raised £18,000 and the total for the year reached £25,000.

Fundraisers and corporate donations

Our public supporters raise funds for us in fun and innovative ways and in 2018 raised a total of £41,591 through their varied activities.



Cake sale in Hong Kong by young fundraisers



Arno Tessers continued his Amur Leopard Virtual Run, encouraging participants to complete 5km and receive a fabulous Amur leopard medal in return.

As simply running isn't challenging enough for Tim Butler, he continued to raise money by juggling (running and juggling) and in 2018 Tim completed his 45th marathon out of a planned 100 raising funds for wild tiger conservation.



Selatan Crafted Giftware

Socks, coffee, jewellery and ice lollies all helped raise funds for WildCats in 2018 so a big thank you to Critically Endangered Socks, Selatan Crafted Giftware, Hennig-Olsen for their tiger ice lollies and Bennetts coffee importers.

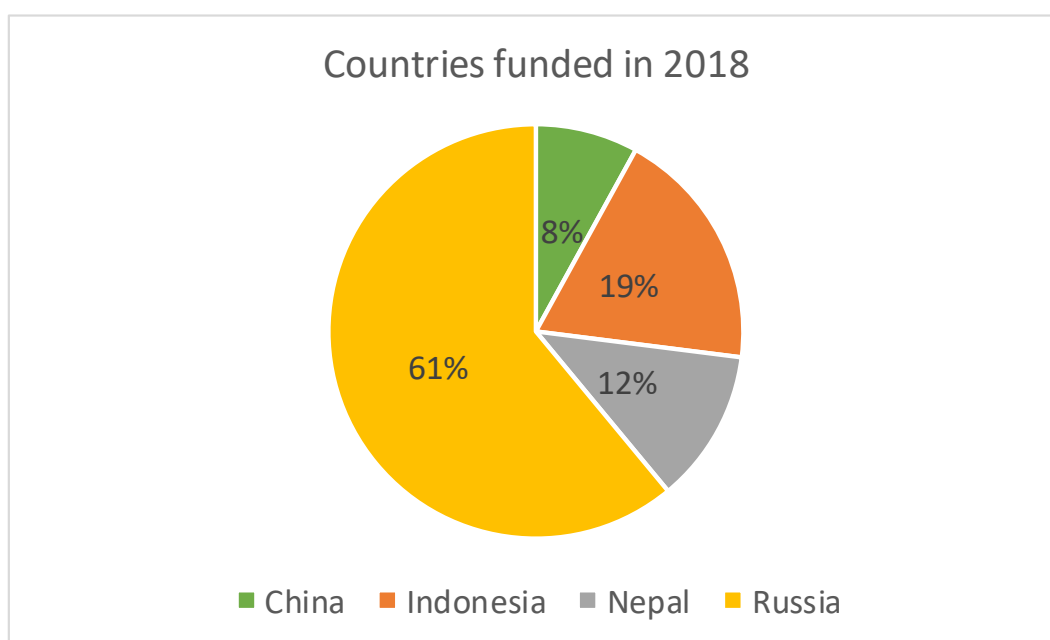
Barbara Meyer and Photography for Big Cats held events in community centres and zoos to help raise awareness and funds by giving talks and selling prints and merchandise.

Slightly closer to tiger territory, Wild Sumatra continued to raise funds through donations generated during their fantastic ecotourism trips in Kerinci Seblat National Park.



Generated income 2018

Funding Source	Amount Received
Zoos	£199,208
Public donations	£41,591
Corporate and other income	£35,530
Total	£276,329



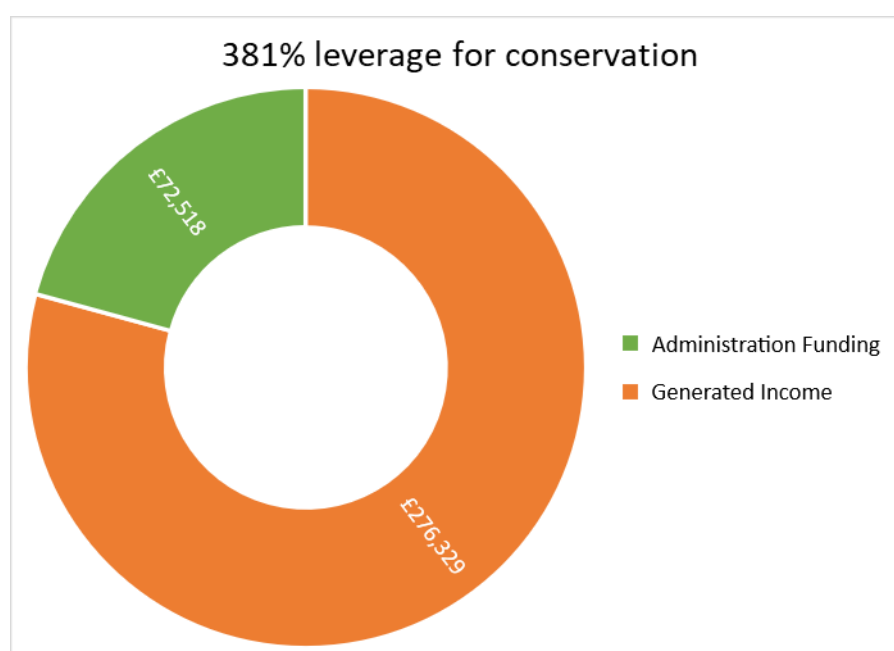
Administration funding 2018

WildCats received a grant from partner DWF for its operational costs in 2018 of £68,019.

As a major partner in the WildCats initiative, ZSL provided institutional support services, including finance, human resources and facilities. Other than a small £2,500 annual overhead to ZSL, WildCats was able to run on a very small budget.

Grant income DWF	£68,019
Total budget available	£73,800
Grant expenditure January - December 2018	
Salaries and associated costs	£64,218
Expenses and travel	£3,228
Marketing and merchandise	£2,572
Overheads to ZSL	£2,500
Total GBP	£72,518
Underspend carried over to 2019	£1,282

WildCats was able to leverage over 381% of this in income for our supported projects.



Project funding in 2018

WildCats Conservation Alliance supported eight individual projects in 2018, plus one project from 2017 with a no cost extension.

Projects funded	Amount Granted	Implementing agency
China	£20,332	WCS China
India	£0	Aaranyak (No cost extension)
Indonesia	£49,212	FFI, Lingkar Institute
Nepal	£32,893	Himalayan Nature, ZSL
Russia	£159,448	WCS Russia, ZSL, Phoenix Fund



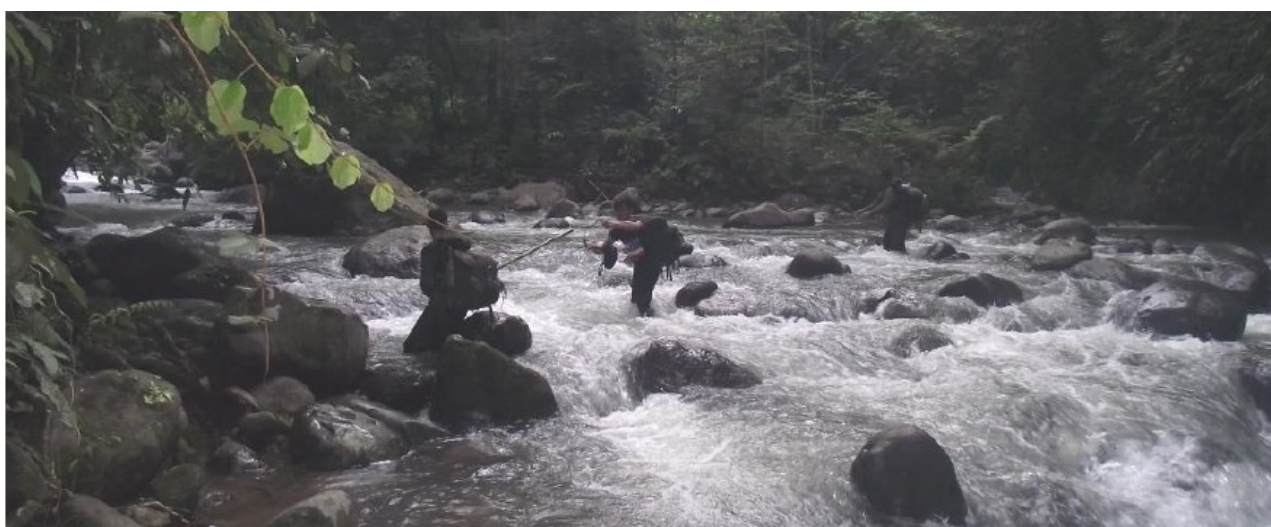
Jeremy Holden/FFI

2018 projects supported by WildCats

In 2018 we supported projects working to protect tigers and Amur leopards in Indonesia, Nepal, Russia and China, funding five different conservation organisations. A wide range of conservation activities were undertaken, reflecting the holistic approach championed by WildCats.

Indonesia

- In Kerinci Seblat six Tiger Protection and Conservation Units (TPCUs) conducted 122 foot patrols covering 1860km. Only one active tiger snare was found and destroyed, a record low number compared to nine in the previous year, and 48 the year before that.
- **FFI** reported 13 cases of human-tiger conflict, the highest number since 2013 but most of the incidents were minor and victimless with only one serious (but non-fatal) attack on a farmer.
- In 2018 a (used) replacement patrol vehicle was a welcome addition to the Bengkulu TPCU.
- **Lingkar Institute** trained 40 local religious and community leaders on how Islamic teachings and the Fatwa of 2014 say that killing endangered animals is prohibited. This message was taken back to villages surrounding the park and disseminated through 20 mosques.
- A conservation education module, designed by Lingkar, was integrated into the High School curriculum in the subjects of Biology, History, Geography and Religion.
- 11 SMART patrols were planned using information from forest edge and mosque communities. These reported six tigers present and one active tiger snare was removed.
- Encroachment from small holder farmers for coffee and oil palm; and illegal mining activities continued to be detected and reported on the edges of the park.



TPCU rangers crossing the Lumayan river on a patrol in the core area of the park in Kerinci © FFI/KSNP

Nepal

- Parsa National Park (PNP) is a key tiger recovery site and **ZSL** worked with park management to carry out camera trapping surveys to monitor tiger and prey status. There was a focus on the vulnerable Parsa extension area and areas to the east where tiger presence has been reported. This survey was part of the wider Government of Nepal's national tiger census 2018. An estimated tiger population of 18 tigers in PNP and adjoining forests was recorded.
- ZSL helped reduce the threat from poaching by supporting the implementation of patrol-based monitoring using the SMART approach. In total 172 staff received SMART training and an introduction to using hand-held android devices to document data from patrols was piloted.
- A habitat survey of Trijuga Forest, east of Parsa National Park, was carried out by **Himalayan Nature**. Only 97.88km² of 442km² was found to be immediately suitable tiger habitat. There was a high level of human activity and illegal poaching in the remaining area.
- The report was presented to the Government with recommendation that restoration of the forest and corridor, with the addition of introducing larger ungulates such as sambar deer to supplement the current prey species, mitigation of poaching and other human disturbance was critical to return this area to suitable tiger habitat.
- It was strongly recommended to declare the forest a Protected Area for the reintroduction of tiger and its principal prey species into this area of Nepal.



Staff from PNP receiving SMART training sessions © ZSL/DNPWC

China

- As the populations of Amur tigers and Amur leopards grow and their ranges expand into China, there will be more incidences of conflict with people.
- **WCS China** worked with residents in 49 villages within the boundaries of the new Tiger and Leopard National Park (TLNP) conducting questionnaires to better understand the needs and issues of these local residents on topics such as wildlife, conflict and the depredation compensation policy.
- This information was used to develop a booklet on preventing and mitigating conflict and these were and will continue to be distributed to villages during community publicity work.
- WCS co-organised Global Tiger Day activities in Changchun, the first since the establishment of the TLNP administration and more than 16 organisations attended the activities which included the distribution of the booklets to increase the public's knowledge of human-tiger/leopard conflict.



Russia

- **WCS Russia** set cameratrap at 51 locations in the Nezhinoye and Northern sectors of Land of the Leopard National Park (LLNP) for a total of 5,381 trap nights, covering nearly 800km². Of the 6,311 images of wildlife obtained, 1,719 were of leopards and 29 individuals were identified (9 males, 15 females, 2 unknown sex, and 3 cubs).
- There were also 445 images of 13 tigers, including 3 males, 5 females and 5 cubs which is the largest number of cubs recorded in this study area. Results from the whole region demonstrate consistently high densities of tigers.
- The rising numbers of tigers and leopards are evidence that SMART anti-poaching efforts are being reflected in the big cat populations. Prey species were also looked at and the prey biomass in LLNP is also increasing, again as a result of improved anti-poaching efforts.
- An additional 38.2 km² on the south slopes of the Graznaya River was also covered with cameratrap as this is considered to be potentially suitable leopard habitat. Five adult leopards were recorded here, including two that weren't recorded elsewhere.

- **Phoenix Fund** continued their support of anti-poaching efforts in United Directorate of the Land of the Leopard National Park and Kedrovaya Pad Nature Reserve, Sikhote-Alin Nature Reserve, Ussuriisky Nature Reserve and Bikin National Park. Overall, 251 violations were revealed, 13 criminal proceedings were initiated and nine rifles were seized. Far fewer serious violations, such as illegal hunting or fishing, are being revealed in the protected areas as a result of the effective implementation of SMART.
- As a result of the capacity building undertaken by Phoenix Fund, WCS and ZSL, there is a diminishing dependency of the PAs for technical and management assistance in the effective implementation of SMART. The system has now also been introduced to Annyuisky National Park and so far the programme is progressing well.
- A workshop was held to teach rangers and chiefs of security departments how to use CyberTracking software which is compatible with SMART and allows routes and observation to be recorded on smartphones during patrols. It also provides an opportunity to anticipate and prevent negative impacts through ongoing long-term monitoring of various aspects of the environment such as predator and prey distribution.



© Phoenix Fund

- Phoenix Fund continued assisting the educators working in Lazovsky, Khasansky, Terneisky and Vladivostok and teachers gave 1,129 lessons and nature-oriented events for 14,126 children. Additionally 120 drama lessons were given at the Eco-Theatre and 10 performances were staged including 'How Tiger and Leopard Lost Their Colouration' and 'How Leopard was Seeking Fortune'.
- Russian Tiger Day Festival continues to be a key date in the conservation calendar and 2018 saw 15,000 people marching in the carnival procession in Vladivostok. There were also celebrations in Luchegorsk, Novopokrovka, Kirovsky and Terney with the number of participants growing each year.
- **ZSL** continued their research into carnivore disease circulation in Lazovsky and surrounding areas and veterinary and forestry students from Primorski State Agricultural Academy (PSAA) assisted with this providing hands-on field experience which is vital for their long-term professional development. Samples were collected from 39 individuals of 8 species and are waiting to be tested.

- ZSL continues their camera trapping efforts in Lazovsky Zapovednik, Zov Tigra National park and the surrounding hunting leases. In 2018, 60 paired camera trap stations were set and from the results a total of 18-20 adult tigers was estimated. Two new litters of three cubs each were recorded, plus another litter of three cubs that was born, but not recorded in 2017.
- Wildfires driven by severe drought burned over 10,000 hectares of Zov Tigra's coniferous forest between April and May. During their firefighting efforts, the Rapid Response Team was able to save three one-month old tiger cubs found by rangers fighting fires on the edge of a burn. Fresh tracks from an adult female indicate their mother was not far away and may return so a huge effort was put in to safely put out the fire whilst maintaining a safe distance and minimising disturbance to the cubs. In November, camera trap images showed that the litter, and their mum Kim, did survive the fire so their hard work truly paid off.



© ZSL/UALZZT. Rapid response team filling backpack water sprayers from an available water source to fight forest fires in remote Zov Tigra National Park in May 2018.



Kim, the female tiger, whose cubs were found by the fire fighting teams in ZT. This photo was taken two months after the cubs were spotted and she can be seen to be lactating. Subsequent photos have shown the cubs survived.

© ZSL

Summary of activities and impact

- Running costs of £73,800 (plus in-kind support) generated £276,300 in donations for conservation
- 36 individual zoos donated £199,000
- 14 talks were given to members of the public, zoo staff and students about WildCats and its conservation initiative
- £261,800 was granted to eight projects in five countries working in 14 Protected Areas

In those conservation projects:

- WildCats funded patrolling across 42,628 km²
- 345 people received training in conservation methodology including SMART patrol monitoring data collection
- 8,123km² were camera trapped
 - Results from FFI include a fall in poaching threat to tiger in Kerinci Seblat National Park, Sumatra for the third consecutive year as a result of successful law enforcement
 - In the Russian Far East, tigers and signs of tigers were recorded across six Protected Areas. Across these areas, the tiger population is estimated at 300 individuals
 - Amur leopards are estimated to have risen to ~100 individuals across two National Parks
- In 2018, 87 additional species of mammals including elephants and pangolins were recorded as sharing these important habitats in WildCats funded projects
- 14,500 young people and adults attended education and awareness sessions
 - In Russia, Phoenix Fund surveys showed young people scored 43% higher on understanding of big cats and nature conservation at the end of education workshops than before taking part



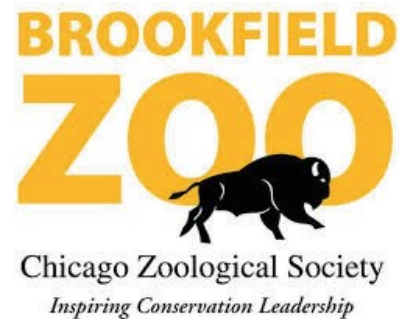
Acknowledgements

WildCats Conservation Alliance would like to thank all our supporters and donors. We would especially like to thank the following for your contributions in 2018:

- Chris Hibbard and Al Mucci from Dreamworld Wildlife Foundation for supporting the WildCats administration, allowing it to continue to spend 100% of funds raised on supporting wild tiger and Amur leopard projects.
- The following zoos which have donated in 2018: Big Cat Sanctuary, Muséum de Besançon, Blackpool Zoo, Brookfield Zoo, Chessington World of Adventures, Drayton Manor, Dublin Zoo, Dreamworld Wildlife Foundation, Erie Zoo, Feline Conservation Centre, Fort Wayne Children's Zoo, Greenville Zoo, Hamerton Zoo Park, Hamilton Zoo, Korkeasaari Eläintarha, Knowsley Safari Park, Knuthenborg Safaripark, Kolmården, Fondation Le Pal, Minnesota Zoo, New Mexico Biopark Society, Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo, Orana Wildlife Park, Paradise Wildlife Park, Parco Zoo Punta Verde, Parc Zoo de Reynou, Riga Zoo, Sedgwick County Zoo, Seoul Zoo, Shepreth Wildlife Park, Symbio Wildlife Park, Tallinn Zoo, Tayto Park, Wellington Zoo, Welsh Mountain Zoo, West Midland Safari Park, Wilhelma Zoo, Zoo Granby, Zoo Mulhouse, Zoological Society of London.
- AZA (Association of Zoos and Aquariums), BIAZA (British and Irish Zoo Association), EAZA (European Association of Zoos and Aquaria), ZAA (Zoo and Aquarium Association Australasia) and WAZA (World Association of Zoos and Aquariums).
- Natasha Balletta, Talvinder Chohan, Chris Godfrey, Harald Loeffler, Ian Moore, Barbara Meyer, Romana Misha, Andy Rouse, Mike Vickers and all the other generous photographers who provided their beautiful photos for the website and to share through social media to encourage fundraising.
- Hennig-Olsen, Critically Endangered Socks, H. A. Bennett, Selatan Crafted Giftware, and Wild Sumatra for the support of their companies.
- Stephen Humphris and Chris Budden for the continued maintenance of the bespoke online database built pro-bono for 21st Century Tiger record keeping in 2007 and which is still used on a daily basis.



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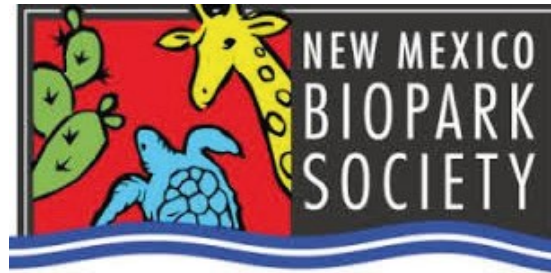


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WELLINGTON





WildCats Conservation Alliance is a unique fundraising initiative of Dreamworld Wildlife Foundation (Charity ABN # 61150274463) and the Zoological Society of London (charity # 208728).



Dreamworld
Wildlife
Foundation

ZSL
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FOR WILDLIFE



A lone male leopard enjoying an April sunset. Photo © WCS/ Land of the Leopard National Park

Dreamworld Wildlife Foundation covered all
administration costs in 2018

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