

A photograph of a giraffe with a distinctive brown and white spotted pattern. The giraffe is standing in a shallow pond, leaning its long neck down to drink water. The background shows a savanna landscape with green bushes and distant blue mountains under a clear sky. The giraffe's reflection is visible in the water.

Celebrating
CONSERVATION
IMPACT

At the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden

2024

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Working Together for A World

WHERE PEOPLE AND WILDLIFE THRIVE

At the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, the growth of our impact stems from our leadership and commitment to the human dimensions of conservation. **Our coexistence focus helps both people and wildlife thrive**, expanding our role in communities locally and globally. Coexistence represents resilience in an ever-changing world, where we find ways for humans and wildlife to co-adapt and adjust to sharing landscapes.

We are working on new ideas that combine biology, sociology, infrastructure, and culture to unlock the value of conservation for communities. Our aim is to balance the risks and benefits for both humans and wildlife, ensuring that the positive outcomes outweigh any potential negative incidents. We design solutions that are good for the environment, economically viable, and socially acceptable.

We are empowering people to safeguard wildlife populations while using methods that are socially and ethically acceptable to local communities. By uplifting the human dimensions of conservation, we are tapping into the energy and passions of people around the world.

Our conservation goals are:

- To help wildlife populations be healthy and viable,
- To enhance people’s tolerance and acceptance of wildlife in their communities and landscapes,
- To reduce risks from wildlife to manageable levels.



Photo by: Jerran Orwig

To achieve these goals, **we collaborate with other like-minded organizations grounded in communities living with the wildlife we seek to safeguard.** Our Zoo team provides resources, training and research support designed to help communities unlock positive impacts for wildlife and those who coexist with them.

Through our partnerships, we aim to:

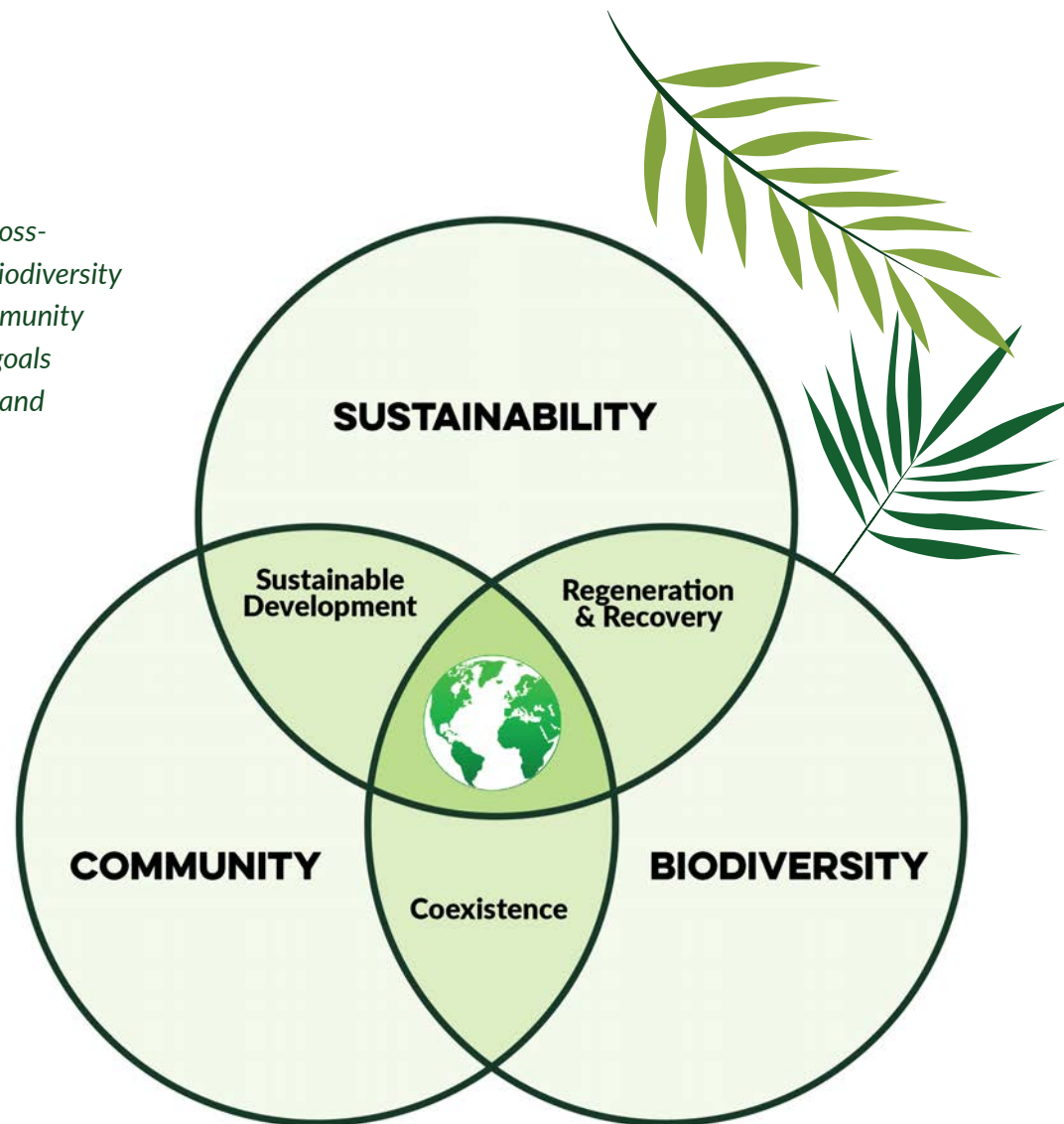
- Change how local communities view wildlife, turning them from nuisances into valuable assets.
- Reduce human-wildlife conflicts while ensuring community needs and sustainable livelihoods.
- Promote habitat connectivity in vulnerable regions and monitor wildlife movements in human-dominated areas.

The Zoo's integrated approach to conservation combines ecological and human dimensions to achieve coexistence and positive impact. We work to achieve the Cincinnati Zoo's conservation impact across multiple areas of focus, including:

- Community engagement and activation
- Wildlife coexistence, reduced conflict, and species recovery
- Sustainable regenerative practices and habitat restoration

Throughout this **2024 Conservation Impact Report**, you will read many stories about the growth of our impact in each of these areas.

Our **Positive Impact Model** guides cross-departmental collaboration around biodiversity conservation, sustainability, and community engagement through shared impact goals of coexistence, habitat regeneration, and sustainable development.



THE POSITIVE IMPACT MODEL

STEPPING UP as Conservation Leaders

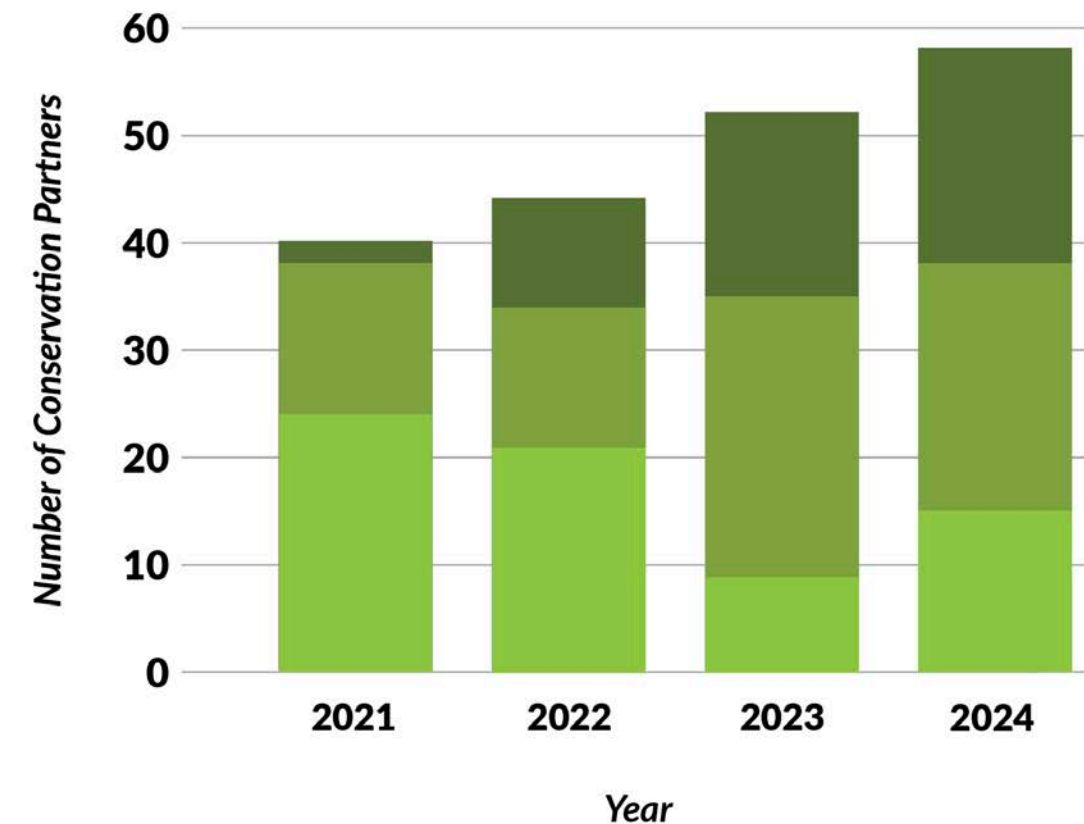
We are **intentionally deepening our partnerships toward true collaboration.** We want to mobilize our diverse staff to build buy-in and connections to our mission, while simultaneously increasing our impact and resources shared with deserving partners.

To accomplish this, we are transitioning our least active partnerships (**LEVEL 1**) where the Zoo shares revenue via philanthropic support toward more activity sharing, coordination, and communication (**LEVEL 2**), and lastly, true collaboration when the Cincinnati Zoo takes leadership in a component of a project, adding our unique skills to address the need of our partners (**LEVEL 3**).

Through proactive involvement of our Zoo's diverse staff, we are increasing the potential for impact for conservation projects around the world. **In 2024, we cultivated new partnerships for new conservation opportunities**, which start at Level 1, as well as transitioned many partners to Levels 2 and 3.

- **Level 1: Philanthropic Only**
- **Level 2: Activity Sharing**
- **Level 3: True Collaboration**

COLLABORATION WITH PARTNERS



The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden cultivates human connections with communities and our partners to lead conservation toward a world where people and wildlife thrive.

The Zoo diverted **40,000 lbs** of waste over the last **2** years through zero waste events.



That's equivalent to roughly **6** Asian elephants!



Aviculture zookeepers at the Cincinnati Zoo hatched, cared for, and transported **3 OF 9** Sihek chicks that were released on Palmyra Atoll in the Pacific.

That's more than any other zoo facility!



CONSERVATION IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

Zookeepers and Zoo Staff have helped rehabilitate **32** rescued manatees since **1999**.

28 of them have been returned to their native Florida waters!



The Conservation Impact team includes **7** international Coexistence Fellows who are working on **4** continents.



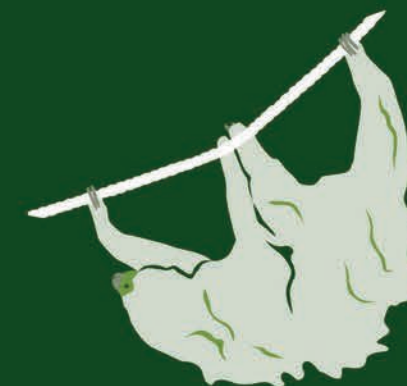
750 volunteers and ZooTeens donated nearly **143,000** hours of their time to support the Zoo's mission.



3,800 people have registered pollinator gardens through the Plant for Pollinators (P4P) program (since program inception).



45,057 visitors said YES to Zoo Staff for Rounding Up for Wildlife in 2024.



Adult volunteers, ZooTeens, and Zoo Staff helped The Sloth Institute (TSI) to collect and review over **5,500** videos of animals crossing sloth speedways.

LOCAL AND GLOBAL

Partners

- Adventure Crew
- ARCAS Guatemala
- Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA)
- Avondale Community Council
- Avondale Development Corporation
- Bahamians, Birds, & Botany
- Bird Endowment
- BLOC Ministries
- Bring the Elephant Home
- Cardinal Land Conservancy
- Cheetah Outreach Trust
- Cincinnati Children's Hospital
- Cincinnati Parks
- Cincinnati Public Schools
- City of Cincinnati
- CommuniTree Consulting
- Congo—Apes
- Conservation Initiatives—India
- Eco-Cell
- Ecology Project International
- Elakha Alliance
- Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leaders Program
- Great Parks of Hamilton County
- Groundwork Ohio River Valley
- HUTAN
- Impact by Design
- International Wildlife Coexistence Network
- Keep Cincinnati Beautiful
- Last Mile Food Rescue
- Lion Landscapes
- Lion Recovery Fund
- Lola ya Bonobo
- MadTree Brewing
- Manatee Rescue and Rehabilitation Partnership
- Miami University
- Nebraska Game and Parks
- Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves
- Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections
- Rockdale Academy
- Save Local Waters
- Save the Golden Lion Tamarin
- Snow Leopard Conservancy
- SORALO
- The SSA Group
- The Wilds
- Tusk Trust
- University of Cincinnati
- University of Georgia
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Vermilion Sea Institute
- WASIMA
- Wild Animal Conservation Institute (ICAS) Brazil
- Wild Entrust
- Wildlife Conservation Action
- Wildlife Conservation Network

50%

of all revenue from Behind-The-Scenes tours goes directly to these conservation partners chosen by Animal Keeper Teams!

- Asian Elephant Support
- EEHV Research—Asian Elephants
- International Elephant Foundation
- Kea Trust
- RAPTORS, Inc
- Red Panda Network
- SAFE Asian Elephant
- SAFE Tree Kangaroo
- SANCCOB
- The Sloth Institute
- Turtle Survival Alliance
- Uganda Conservation Foundation
- VulPro
- Wild Camel Protection Foundation
- Wild Nature Institute
- World Parrot Trust
- Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

EMERGING LEADERS

in the Coexistence Impact Fellowship Program

DR. MAHI PURI,
Coexistence Scientist

A critical challenge in global conservation today is the lack of direct, sustainable investments in grassroots conservation professionals. In response to this leadership gap, the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden created the **Coexistence Impact Fellowship program** through which we can **support global conservation initiatives by supporting researchers embedded in the communities within which this important work is happening.**

Fellows receive training, resources, and mentorship over the **two-year fellowship**, equipping them with the skills to **lead conservation initiatives in their respective regions.** This focus on capacity building also increases accessibility to conservation careers, particularly for underrepresented individuals in the field, advancing diversity in conservation. The Fellowship program highlights the Zoo's potential to be a leader in global conservation while maintaining its role as an educator and advocate for wildlife conservation at home.

Photo by: Lisa Hubbard



Photo by: Cincinnati Zoo



Photo by: Kai Davis



29 Bahamian students participated in Fellow T’Noya Thompson’s program: Bahamians, Birds, & Botany, including first-time visits to 2–3 national parks each.

24 bird audio recorders installed by Fellow Kai Davis at the Zoo’s Bowyer Farm and multiple Cincinnati Parks. Over 130 different species identified, including 111 migratory species and 41 designated as Species Identified for Conservation.

486 carnivore coexistence surveys conducted in Kenya by Fellow Steiner Sempeta.

285 interviews conducted in Brazil by Fellow Dr. Mariana Catapani to explore ways to engage new audiences like truck drivers and ranchers in giant anteater conservation.

“I will forever hold deep gratitude for the encouragement and unwavering support from the Coexistence Fellowship Program and Conservation Impact Team, which continue to inspire coexistence and make a global impact in conservation.”

—T’Noya Thompson (Coexistence Impact Fellow, Bahamas)

Photo by: Mariana Catapani



“Through [the Fellowship program], I have been able to grow as a conservationist, improve my research skills and expertise, contribute to valued local conservation efforts, connect with various local partners to add to the breadth of conservation work, and collaborate and meet fellows and partners from around the world. This fellowship opportunity has been everything I wanted and needed at this point in my career, and I will be forever grateful.”

—Kai Davis (Coexistence Impact Fellow, US Midwest)

EMERGING LEADERS

Continued



Photo by: Prospère Teberd

MEET THE 2024 FELLOWS:

Prospère Teberd, originally from the **Congo**, is a **wildlife conservationist with a deep passion for studying primate behavior** and preserving their habitats. As one of the Zoo's Fellows, Prospère focuses on **promoting gorilla conservation** through sustainable ecotourism and community engagement in the northern Congo. By creating initiatives like revenue-sharing from ecotourism, environmental education, and job creation, he hopes to **reduce human-wildlife conflict and foster long-term conservation efforts**.



Photo by: Marco Marchioni

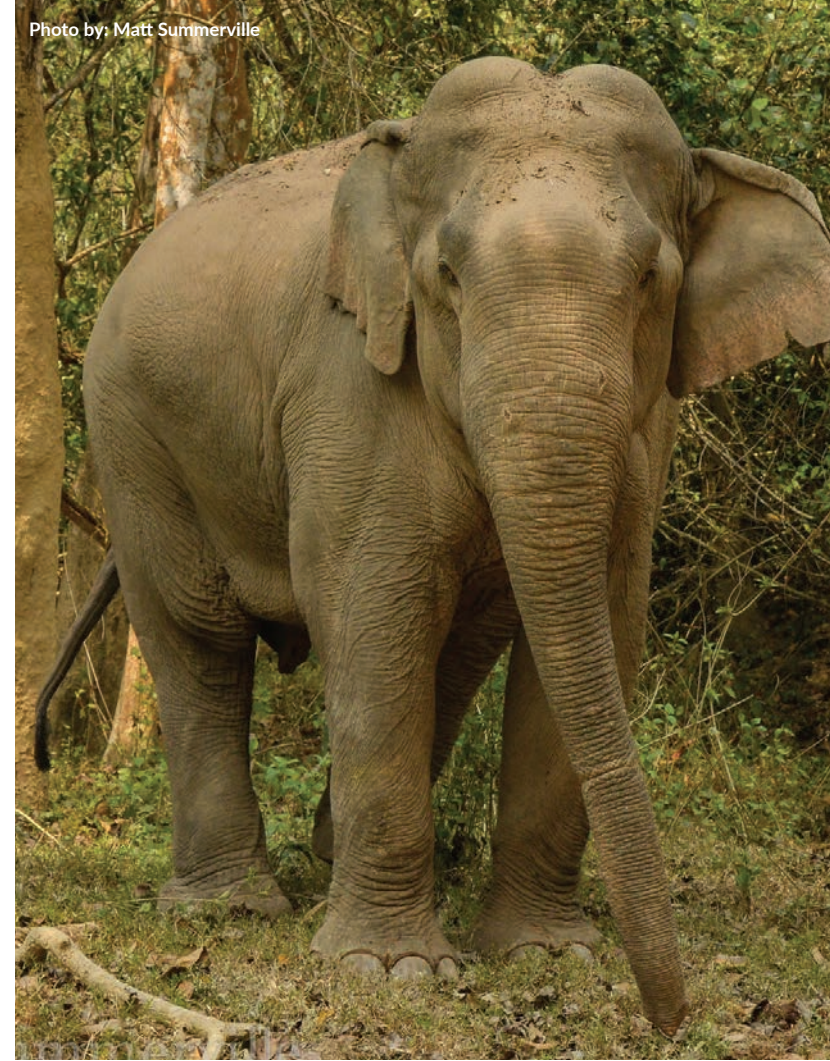


Photo by: Matt Summerville

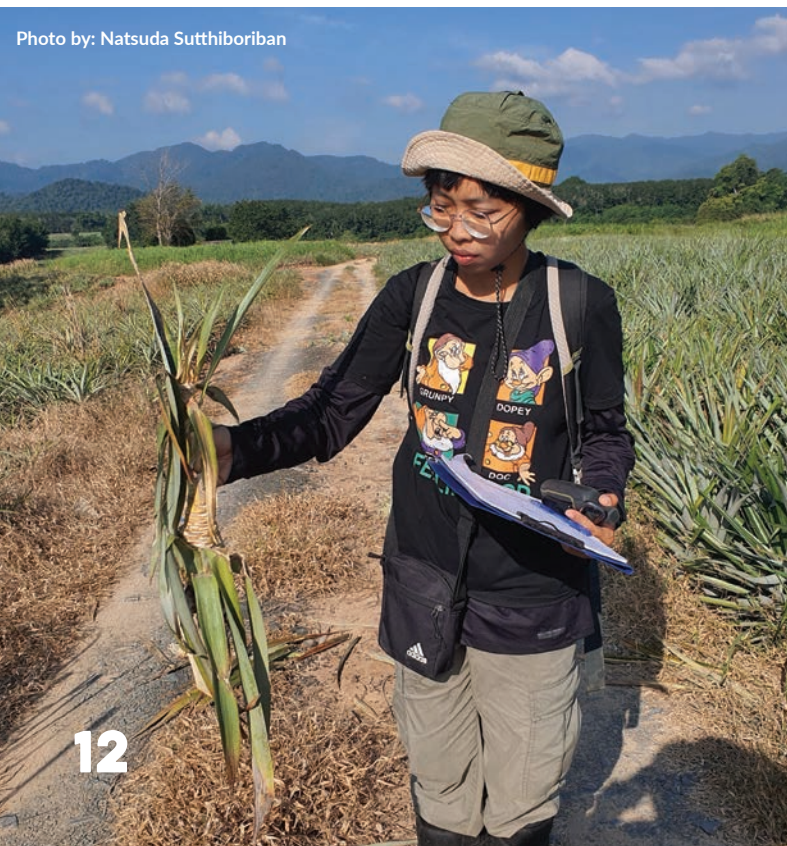


Photo by: Natsuda Sutthiboriban

Natsuda Sutthiboriban, also known as Mo, aspires to find ways for wildlife and people to coexist happily and safely, ensuring that both sides feel comfortable and secure. Mo's Fellowship project focuses on **studying Asian elephant populations and their distribution in and around Kui Buri National Park in Thailand**. By understanding where elephants are present and how they interact with local communities, she hopes to **help foster positive relationships between humans and wildlife**.

Geographic Regions of Coexistence Fellows & Scientist



A SUMMER OF GROWTH:

Confidence, Connection, and Conservation

AMANDA PACE,
Youth Conservation Programs
Manager

The ZooTeen summer program is far more than just a volunteer opportunity—it's a transformative journey that **cultivates young conservation leaders and empowers teenagers who are passionate about nature and their communities.** Over the summer, ZooTeens build meaningful connections with peers, visitors, and Zoo staff, while developing essential skills in communication, teamwork, and leadership. The program also offers teens a supportive community that connects them with others who share their passions, including full-time staff and our dedicated seasonal ZooTeen supervisors.

Throughout the summer, **ZooTeens step up to new challenges, gaining confidence in public speaking, collaborating with others, and finding their voices.** By stepping out of their comfort zones, engaging with diverse communities, and taking ownership of conservation efforts, ZooTeens leave the program with a newfound sense of confidence and purpose.

260 ZooTeens volunteered 30,657 hours in 2024 amplifying the Zoo's impact while gaining valuable skills and having fun!



"I first noticed changes at the end of June when we went on vacation. My normally shy and quiet girl would look people in the eyes and speak with confidence in restaurants or in public...I am just so impressed with what she has gained in just three months, and I can't wait to see what she will continue to gain by being a ZooTeen."

—Guardian of a ZooTeen



"I have grown so much over the summer. The largest growth I have seen was definitely a surge in my social skills, teamwork skills, and confidence."

"I loved the energy and attitude of the supervisors and ZooTeens, and it boosted my confidence and helped push me out of my comfort zone."

"I became more passionate about spreading information about how our small decisions in Ohio affect animals worldwide."

—ZooTeen Participants



GIVING MEXICAN WOLVES

A Future to Howl About

KIM SCOTT,
Curator of Mammals

“At one point in my early career, I looked around and realized that I was responsible for nearly half of the Mexican wolves in existence.” —**Kim Scott, AZA SAFE Mexican Wolf Program Lead and longtime Mexican wolf conservationist**

Mexican wolves, a once-prolific species that became extinct to the United States by 1970 due to the perceived and real threats posed to livestock, offer both a troubling reflection on human-wildlife conflict and an optimistic look towards a future of coexistence. The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden is proud to be working towards that future through the **newly established AZA SAFE Mexican Wolf program (co-led by Cincinnati Zoo staff, Bailey Cadena and Kim Scott).**

The Zoo has committed to building new, off-site enclosures to **significantly boost Mexican wolf breeding and reintroduction efforts** happening across 55 animal care facilities in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The extra space will be critical in furthering the success of this ongoing work, which has at this point resulted in over **250 Mexican wolves living throughout New Mexico, Arizona, and Chihuahua (Mexico).** The new SAFE program is also bringing partners together to address human threats to wolves in the wild, adding a social component to this important work that will support the long-term success of Mexican wolf conservation.

A bi-national team met at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden in August of 2024 to officially launch the AZA SAFE Mexican Wolf program. Partners were able to share updates on their work, build relationships, and create a plan for the new year thanks to a visioning exercise led by the Conservation Impact Team. Since this meeting, program leads have focused on developing relationships with key partners equipped to address the difficult realities of sharing space with wolves.



Photo by: Mark Dumont



ROUNDING UP FOR WILDLIFE

Connects All Zoo Staff to Conservation

BAILEY CADENA,
Coexistence Project Manager

The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden has **over 285 full-time and 375 seasonal staff members** that advance our mission through a variety of roles, including those that ensure our guests have a wonderful experience and continue coming in through our gates. The **Round Up for Wildlife program** was created to provide those very employees with avenues to feel more deeply connected to the Zoo's conservation work on a daily basis, while also raising money to support our partners doing meaningful and coexistence-driven work with threatened species and communities.

Through this **partnership between the Visitor Experience (VE) team and the SSA Group's retail team**, our staff have the opportunity to ask guests at points of sale if they would like to round up their purchase for wildlife. The funds raised by rounding up are then donated to several coexistence partners that staff from around the Zoo vote on. In 2024, **this program allowed the Zoo to grow seven partnerships**, including new relationships with Defenders of Wildlife for Mexican wolf coexistence, HUTAN for orangutans in Borneo, and Elakha Alliance for sea otters in Oregon.

Round Up for Wildlife represents an organizational commitment to **empowering all Zoo staff**, regardless of department, to be an **active part of our local and global conservation efforts**.



Photo by: Lisa Hubbard

45,057 individual donations to the Round Up for Wildlife program in 2024

7 conservation projects funded by the program

"One of the conservation causes I'm most passionate about is climate change. The Zoo does an excellent job contributing to the fight against it by lowering greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing carbon storage. Being a [leader in this program] reinforces my commitment to protecting wildlife and the earth." —TJ (SSA team)

"Working at the Zoo allows me to contribute to these crucial efforts and educate the public about the importance of protecting our wildlife. It's incredibly rewarding to see the impact we can make together." —Semarias (SSA team)



"My favorite animal and conservation cause is the Mexican wolf. Beautiful animals and highly endangered, but with conservation and sustainability efforts, making a comeback. I was talking about [the wolves] driving the train one day, and after the lap a couple from Arizona came up to me to express their pleasure at the comeback in Arizona. Managed coexistence is working." —Pat (VE team)



"The tour with keepers was incredible. We had no idea what to expect, but this was way above anything we could imagine. We couldn't stop talking about how much fun we had...I know that it was well worth the drive from Minneapolis!"
—Heather Z. (BTS Participant)

BEHIND-THE-SCENES

Benefiting Both Guests & Endangered Species

ZACH NISWONGER,
*Behind-The-Scenes Program
Manager*

The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden's Behind-The-Scenes (BTS) Program offers unique opportunities for guests to connect with wildlife while fostering a deeper understanding of the Zoo's conservation efforts. The program offers twenty-three unique tour experiences that allow guests to meet animal care experts, observe behind-the-scenes operations, and engage with species like tortoises, giraffes, and elephants. **50% of overall revenue generated from tours is invested directly into conservation partnerships making a difference on the front lines of conservation.** These organizations are chosen by animal keepers who uplift the work of our partners by sharing their stories with visitors.

This program is critical to the Zoo's mission to inspire and empower action for wildlife and wild places, enabling **visitors to engage directly with endangered species**, participate in educational activities, and support vital conservation initiatives. Post-tour surveys have shown a significant increase in guest satisfaction and conservation awareness: approximately **80% of participants indicated feeling empowered to make a difference for wildlife** after their tour, with nearly 75% of those respondents also committing to trying new conservation actions.



Photo by: Zach Niswonger

IN 2024, over 5,000 GUESTS
participated in Behind-The-Scenes tours.

Over \$200,000 contributed to
conservation projects!



Photo by: Mike Cisneros

VISITOR TO VOLUNTEER:

Igniting Conservation Actions in our Guests

**BRITTANY
GARERA-STAPLETON,**
Volunteer Program Manager

During a visit to the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, **Tina B. decided to strike up a conversation with a volunteer** about pollinators. After leaving the Zoo, she went straight to a nursery to pick up a pollinator plant and installed it in her yard—and **saw beautiful butterflies in her garden for the first time the very next day!** Energized by this small yet powerful experience, **Tina decided she, too, would become a Habitat Ambassador** in the hopes that she could **inspire others to make a positive change for the environment**, just as she had been.

The Zoo's Habitat Ambassador volunteer program is crucial for enhancing visitor experiences and promoting wildlife conservation. By engaging visitors in meaningful conversations about biodiversity and sustainable practices, these volunteers are able to foster a deeper connection to the natural world. This program not only **educates the public on the importance of preserving habitats but also inspires proactive conservation efforts**—even if it's as seemingly small as putting a pollinator-friendly plant in your garden.



Photo by: Kara Rhodes



Photo by: Kara Rhodes



Photo by: Lisa Hubbard

*"Being a volunteer at the Cincinnati Zoo has given me an entirely new perspective on conservation and sustainability. Not only has it raised my awareness, but I feel better equipped to share with others the positive impact it makes in our lives."
—Tina B. (Habitat Ambassador)*



Photo by: Lindsay Garrett

FLIGHT OF THE MANATEE: From Cincinnati to Crystal River, Florida

LINDSAY GARRETT,
Head Keeper—North America

“It can be a big challenge, but I am proud to work for a zoo that has been committed to this important conservation work. Without the program, manatees wouldn’t have this second chance at survival.” —Lindsay Garrett (Head Keeper)

The ocean might be far from your mind when you trek through the hills of the Ohio River Valley, but the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden has played a major role in caring for one of its most iconic and charismatic mammals: the Florida manatee. Despite being nearly 850 miles away from their native habitat range, the **Zoo takes part in the Manatee Rescue and Rehabilitation Partnership (MRP)** and has cared for **32 rescued manatees** in the 25 years since the Manatee Springs building first opened its doors—**most of which have since returned to their native Florida waters** to help bolster the wild population.

MRP partners work together to rescue, rehabilitate, and release sick, injured, or orphaned manatees. As a secondary care facility, the Zoo takes in young manatees that need time and a safe space to gain weight and grow before their return to the wild. In February of 2024, the **Zoo sent two manatee care members to Florida to help with the release of Calliope, Soleil, and Piccolina**, three orphaned manatees who first came to the Zoo in the fall of 2022. Connecting our staff with this final stage of the MRP program helped **strengthen the partnership between the Zoo and Florida’s manatee facilities while also deepening the impact for keepers**, who were able to support this conservation project to its very end.



Photo by: Lisa Hubbard



Photo by: Lindsay Garrett

CROSSING BORDERS:

ZooTeens Build Character & Connections

MOLLIE O'NEIL,
 Director of Community Partnerships
 in Conservation

The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden has taken our investment in the future generation of conservation leaders to the next level—and to new countries! The recently launched **ZooTeen Field Experience Program** offers a unique opportunity for teenagers to build confidence as they navigate new environments and relationships, strengthen their independence, and create lifelong memories in breathtaking landscapes. **The experience teens have while abroad can shape worldviews, conservation attitudes, and behaviors that will have a lasting impact into adulthood.**

The summer of 2023 saw ZooTeens immersed in the ecology and culture of the Bahamas, while **2024 took teens west to the Vermilion Sea Institute (VSI) in Bahia de los Angeles, a small fishing village in Baja, Mexico.** The VSI Field Station offers a wonderful location to learn field study methods, explore marine ecosystems, and experience a different way of life on an amazing part of this planet. Teens snorkeled in pristine marine ecosystems alongside peers from VSI's youth program, cooked and ate foods they've never had before, navigated communicating in another language, met world-class field researchers, slept outside under the stars at the water's edge, and swam with whale sharks and sea lions. **Understanding the lasting impact of these experiences is important to us,** so participants will be part of a long-term follow-up study to capture how these travels influence their lives over time.



"I have learned to embrace myself and keep an open mind because everyone and their cultures are different, but beautiful!"

"I really found myself while I was there because any stress I had on my shoulders before we came was pretty much gone and I had time to figure out who I am."

"This trip was very eye-opening and helped me to look at all of the possibilities for my future. It really exceeded expectations as I not only got to see the land, but meet the people and truly reflect on my desires in general."

—Field Experience Program ZooTeens



URBAN LEARNING GARDENS:

Nurturing Minds, Bodies, and Wildlife

JEROME STENGER,
Senior Horticulturalist

Part of the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden's mission is serving the community, which our Horticulture team continues to exemplify through their support of the **Reds Community Makeover project**. Building off the success of school garden installations at Avondale's Rockdale Academy in 2021 and Madisonville's John P. Parker Elementary in 2023, the team **transformed an unused lawn into an immersive urban learning garden at Bond Hill's new Xavier Jesuit Academy**.

Urban learning gardens create **access to nature for students in communities that often lack critical resources, including green space**. These carefully designed gardens provide space for calm all while benefiting local species with native and pollinator-friendly plants. Many of the plants in the Xavier Jesuit Academy garden came from our Bowyer Farm property out in Mason and the Rockdale Urban Learning Garden, where they were cared for with help from Rockdale students. **The impact of the Zoo's Horticulture team extends far beyond the Zoo's gates, where their expertise and passion benefit youth and wildlife across the greater Cincinnati area.**



These spicebush plants were grown from seed at Bowyer Farm, where this spicebush swallowtail caterpillar hitched a ride from Mason to Bond Hill. The Horticulture team planted 44 spicebush plants along the fence line of the XJA Urban Learning Garden. Finding and introducing a live caterpillar to the garden, along with its primary host plant, was a special moment for the team and perfectly illustrates the Zoo's goal of connecting communities to native plants and wildlife.

8,700 sq ft garden with over 1,450 plants.



The 2021 Urban Learning Garden at Rockdale Academy set the groundwork for future Reds Community Makeover gardens.



"The conversion was stunning, culminating in pollinator gardens, walking trails, as well as a mini amphitheater... The XJA kids and staff, not to mention the surrounding neighborhood, are already benefiting from this unique and beautiful addition."
—Charlie Frank (Executive Director of Cincinnati Reds Community Fund)





THE FROZEN FOREST:

Saving the Oak

DR. MEGAN PHILPOTT,
Conservation Scientist

Photo by: Dr. Megan Philpott



There are few tree species more significant than the **mighty oak**. They support thousands of other species with food and shelter, act as keystone species in many ecosystems, add beauty to the landscape, and are even responsible for the flavors of bourbon and wine. But **oaks are increasingly threatened** by climate change, habitat loss, and diseases like Sudden Oak Death. To ensure that oaks survive for future generations, the Lindner Center for Conservation and Research of Endangered Wildlife (CREW) is **building a backup bank of oak species** as an insurance policy against extinction.

Because **oaks are exceptional species, meaning that their acorns cannot survive seed banking**, CREW uses biotechnological tools like **tissue culture propagation and cryopreservation to preserve these species** for theoretically hundreds of years until they're needed in habitat restorations. To date, **CREW's CryoBioBank contains the only cryopreserved oak shoot tips in the world**, including the federally threatened and globally rare Hinckley oak. This research will help ensure that **future generations will be able to sit under the shade of an oak tree** in the summer and watch the birds, animals, and insects that call oaks home.

Collaborating with 20 different gardens, arboreta, and research facilities across the United States.

2 species currently banked in the CryoBioBank.

12 additional species of oak maintained in tissue culture collection.



Photo by: Larry Reis

UPDATES FROM SORALO:

Committing to True Collaboration

BAILEY CADENA,
Coexistence Project Manager

JERRAN ORWIG,
Senior Manager of Conservation Leadership Programs

ARIANNE SMITH,
Water Programs Manager

The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden's **Coexistence Champion Program** reached new heights in 2024, with **17 staff members across a range of departments** sharing and learning invaluable skill sets from partners in three different countries. Opportunities for collaboration in **Baja and Thailand** marked an expansion in scale of the program, while two cohorts of Zoo staff visiting our foundational partner and first Coexistence Champion site, **SORALO in Kenya**, allowed us to broaden our understanding and approach to coexistence-driven and community-led conservation. As part of the next phase in our 2023 commitment to helping SORALO develop a sustainable community center, these collaborative opportunities connected Zoo staff with partners to **support the advancement of the Lale'enok Community Resource Center** by sharing skill sets in **interpretive design, maintenance and aquatics management, and engineering planning.**

COHORT 1:

It began with the first cohort in March with community-wide **interpretive planning facilitated by SORALO leadership and Cincinnati Zoo.**

Over several days and hours of intentional listening, discussion, brainstorming, and reflection, the Zoo and SORALO teams developed an educational walk-through experience for community members and visitors. Through words, visuals, and activities, participants will **learn the "5 Es," values of this Maasai community that enable coexistence, conservation, and community well-being.**

"THE 5 ES"

- **Enko'pang:** our landscape
- **Eramatare:** stewardship & management practices of resources ("conservation")
- **Ele'enore:** process of seeking & gathering information ("science")
- **Enkainyit:** attribute of respect foundational to Maasai culture
- **Entaisere:** seeing a vision for the future

This collaboration resulted in a comprehensive interpretative plan that brought together the **combined ideation of community leaders and members, the women's group that owns Lale'enok's land, and SORALO staff with input from Zoo staff expertise.** SORALO is currently working on bringing that plan to life with ongoing support from our staff, proving that collaboration can continue even from several thousand miles and a few time zones away.



"During our collaborative process, we learned that there is no direct translation for the word or concept of 'conservation' in the Maa (Maasai) language. Instead, the principles of conservation are inherently intertwined within their daily practices and cultural values. It's a way of life, which truly allows coexistence to be achievable in this community."

—**Jerran Orwig (Senior Manager of Conservation Leadership Programs)**







Photo by: Jerran Orwig

UPDATES FROM SORALO: Continued

COHORT 2:

A second cohort of Coexistence Champions featured a **team more involved in the planning, design, and day-to-day maintenance of the Zoo**, who were able to translate their technical skills to **collaborate with the SORALO team on water infrastructure projects**.

Empowering this community with interpretive designs and technical water assistance represents a commitment to **partnership that extends beyond our shared interest in wildlife** and toward the well-being of the community members, truly exemplifying the Zoo's approach to coexistence-based conservation.

Photo by: Bailey Cadena



Photo by: Arianne Smith

AS OF 2024, over 10% of the Cincinnati Zoo's full-time staff have directly supported our partner SORALO in Kenya through the Coexistence Champions program.

*"We are impacting water security on the community level through education of water quality and listening to daily hardships of individuals to help motivate significant changes. We've been given the opportunity to make a huge impact on water quality and water resiliency within the community in the SORALO landscape...Seeing in-person the small modifications we made having huge impacts at a community level has been an unforgettable experience."
—Arianne Smith (Coexistence Champion)*





A PRIDE OF PARTNERS:

Joining Forces to Save an Icon

DR. LILY MAYNARD,
Director of Global Conservation

As the **leader of the AZA SAFE African Lion program**, the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden plays a significant role in guiding our partners and audiences to take meaningful action to support lions. As conflict between people and lions is one of the greatest threats to the species, working with communities who live alongside this iconic carnivore is critical—and a **recently awarded conservation grant** will enable us to do exactly that, underscoring the Zoo’s commitment to coexistence-focused approaches to conservation.

Funds from the grant will allow SAFE program leaders to kick-start a 5-year plan that includes evaluating the status and impact of **human-lion coexistence** and regional lion populations, while also building relationships between **three African community-led lion organizations and other zoos participating in the SAFE program**.



- **WASIMA:** a Tanzanian organization whose name stands for Watu, Simba na Mazingira, which translates from Swahili to English as “People, Lions, and Environment”.
- **Wildlife Conservation Action:** a Zimbabwean organization focused on strengthening the capacity of local communities to mitigate human-wildlife conflict for improved livelihoods and wildlife conservation.
- **South Rift Association of Landowners (SORALO):** a Kenyan organization focused on governance, management, livelihoods, and culture to support local communities’ decisions and actions to maintain a healthy and connected landscape for people and wildlife.

Photo by: Jerran Orwig



(EM)POWERING

Local Organizations with Solar Energy

MEGAN O'KEEFE,
Sustainability Project Manager

After spending the last 14 years investing in on-site renewable energy generation, the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden's Sustainability and Facilities teams have **taken their solar expertise outside our gates and into local communities.** Since 2019, the Zoo has installed **6 different solar arrays totaling 94 kW in Cincinnati neighborhoods** experiencing energy poverty. In 2023, the Zoo established the **Community Solar Resiliency Program (CSR)**. Through this program, the Zoo is able to annually support the installation of solar PV systems on vital community benefits organizations such as schools, community centers, and churches. By reducing greenhouse gas emissions and lowering utility costs, solar installations allow these organizations to redirect savings into mission-critical work, build organizational capacity, and better serve local communities.

Installations in 2024 included **a 10-kW solar array at Lydia's House in Norwood and a 16-kW array at Horses on the Hill in Price Hill.** The Zoo donated solar panels to Lydia's House, which serves women and children in crisis, and alongside our partner SonLight Power assisted with fundraising and installation for the BLOC Ministries-run Horses on the Hill, an urban farm that provides equine therapy and nature-based activities to underserved youth and individuals in recovery. Partnering with organizations that provide such important services for vulnerable populations allows the Zoo to **uphold our mission of serving the community while prioritizing sustainable solutions.**

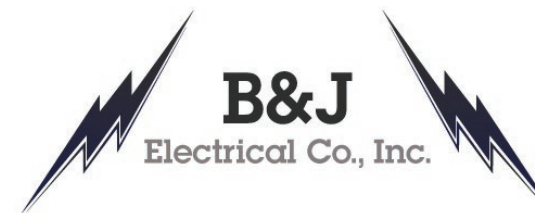


26 kW of solar renewable energy installed in 2024.

Approximately 32,300 kWh of clean, renewable electricity will be generated annually from these 2024 projects.



Thank You to the Partners Supporting These Projects:



IMPROVING OUTCOMES

For the American Burying Beetle

MANDY PRITCHARD,
Insect Team Leader

The Insect Team at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden has been working with partners from Nebraska Game and Parks and The Wilds since 2012 to **reintroduce the federally threatened American burying beetle to Ohio**. While they have seen great success over the years, our keepers noticed that when it came to reproductive success, wild-caught beetles consistently outperformed those that were hand-reared. Seeing an **opportunity to increase the positive impact of this conservation project**, the Insect Team and the Zoo's Curator of Nutrition decided to conduct nutrition experiments with American burying beetles in our own rearing facilities.

After trialing eight different prey items, keepers found that beetles that had been fed fresh fly larvae instead of their standard diet of mealworms performed as well as their wild-caught counterparts. By altering the beetles' diet, **the Insect Team has been able to more easily and reliably rear a cohort for release** that maintains the genetic diversity of founder populations, which can increase the number of hand-reared beetles for release in Ohio while decreasing the need to collect founder populations in Nebraska. The success of this American burying beetle experiment is a prime example of **our staff's commitment to progressive thinking and data collection, the outcomes of which amplify the Zoo's impact in wildlife conservation.**



Photo by: Mark Dumont

Photo by: April Pitman



Photo by: Mandy Pritchard



SAVING A RARE CLOVER:

Horticulture and CREW Join Forces

MAIREAD KENNEDY,
*Plant Lab Manager/
Conservation Horticulturalist*

Kentucky clover (*Trifolium kentuckiense*) might look like just any ordinary clover, but it was only first described as a distinct species in 2013. It is considered to be **globally rare and state endangered**, existing in only two populations in Kentucky. But **collaborative conservation efforts between the Lindner Center for Conservation and Research of Endangered Wildlife (CREW) Plant Lab, the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden's Horticulture team at the Zoo's off-site farm, and the Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves have given new hope for this unlucky clover.** This new project aims to ensure the longevity of the Kentucky clover by producing clonal propagules for outplanting efforts and harvesting seed for long-term storage in CREW's CryoBioBank.

The CREW Plant Lab maintains a living collection of Kentucky clover from the original populations, with over 20 distinct and diverse genetic lines. Within the first year of this project, **CREW has successfully rooted and acclimatized almost 1,600 plants through tissue culture propagation.** After coming out of a test tube, these plants are sent to Bowyer, where they have plenty of room to thrive and flower. Hundreds of thousands of seeds have been harvested and many of the plants have made their way **back down to Kentucky to be planted back into their native habitat,** bringing the species one step closer to being re-established in the wild.



"We are happy to report up to 60% survival rates in these newly established populations and are excited to continue to work with CREW on building up the seedbank to ensure long term success."

—Tara Littlefield (Botanist and Biological Assessment Branch Manager at the Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves)



Photo by: Mallory Geresy

GOING ZERO WASTE:

Ohio Partners Join Forces

MALLORY GERESY,
Net Zero Project Manager

For the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden to **achieve its Zero Waste target by 2025**, we must divert at least **90% of our waste from local landfills** through composting, recycling, and waste reduction. We are getting closer to achieving that goal thanks to **recent partnerships with Last Mile Food Rescue and the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections (ODRC).**

Since 2023, volunteers from Last Mile Food Rescue have joined Zoo staff at ticketed events like Zoofari and Zoo La La to either **divert leftovers to local organizations or collect waste.** That waste is sent to ODRC's London Facility where it is sorted by hand to be properly recycled, composted, or sent to the landfill. ODRC's composting program features a competitive application process, as inmates in the program **receive their CDL and driver's licenses, Compost Certification from Ohio State University, and job experience** and connections that they can use post-incarceration. The Zoo also subsidizes their pay so that they **receive the state minimum wage.**



Photo by: Alexandra Keating

Over 40,000 lbs of waste diverted over last 2 years.
4,300 lbs of food recovered and donated.
Event waste diversion rates are above 90%.

Members of the Zoo's Sustainability Team periodically visit ODRC's facility to check-in with program participants, many of whom have expressed gratitude for the experience. One inmate shared with the team that he was able to help his son buy a new car, even while incarcerated. Feedback about the **life-changing nature of the composting program** emboldens the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden to continue to expand such partnerships while encouraging other institutions to take part.

COEXISTENCE IN THAILAND:

Supporting Asian Elephants & Communities

BRIDGET REILLY,
Conservation Impact Coordinator

The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden demonstrated our **commitment to Asian elephant conservation** with the recent opening of the new Elephant Trek habitat—the largest in the history of the Zoo. Just a few weeks after the habitat opened, the Zoo reaffirmed and bolstered that commitment by sending a cohort of **employees to Thailand to support a new partner doing in situ research on Asian elephants and the communities that live alongside them.**

Following the success of in-person collaborations between Zoo staff and our partner SORALO in Kenya, the Coexistence Champions program was expanded in order to pour into a new partner: **Bring the Elephant Home (BTEH), based in Ruam Thai Village** outside of Kui Buri National Park. **Employees from our Animal, Horticulture, Marketing, Sustainability, and Conservation departments brought their skills and expertise to Thailand,** while getting an opportunity to learn more about the impactful work being done by our partners, both for wild elephant populations and the agricultural community of Ruam Thai. This Coexistence Champion cohort was the second to include **a representative from the SSA Group,** our food and retail partner, signaling enthusiasm from other organizations to **follow in the footsteps of the Zoo** as we work to deepen partnerships while investing in staff members.

Over the course of a week, Zoo and SSA staff learned about **conflict mitigation techniques** from Ruam Thai villagers whose agricultural livelihoods are impacted

by their larger-than-life neighbors. Swapping out tasty pineapple for less attractive crops like lemongrass and chili, testing out beehive and hormone fences, and studying movement patterns with camera traps are just a few of the approaches that BTEH, with the buy-in and help of community members, have implemented in the Kui Buri region. Our staff members **assisted with study design and data collection methods, expanding market reach of the Tom Yum project, and exploring the development of a new community center**—all while laying the groundwork for continued **collaboration between BTEH, the Zoo, and the SSA Group** as we continue to share the important story of coexistence between people and wildlife.





SLOTH SPEEDWAYS:

The Fast Track to Deeper Partnerships

PATRICK COLE,
*Global Conservation
AmeriCorps Member*

Despite their slow-and-steady reputation, sloths in the wild are very skilled at moving through tree canopies—but what happens when there isn't another tree to move to? The sloth has a difficult decision to make: either change course and find another route through the trees, or move to the forest floor and navigate threats like vehicles and other animals. **The Sloth Institute (TSI), located in Manuel Antonio, Costa Rica, has been working to ensure sloths can stay off the ground through the installation of "sloth speedways":** ropes that re-connect canopies in areas that have been altered by humans, such as clearings for roads and walkways.

More research was needed to see what makes the best speedway for sloths and other arboreal species in Costa Rica, so TSI approached the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden for support managing data collected from the four cameras they had placed on ropeways. **The Zoo equipped three staff members with 20 additional cameras to assist TSI with the planning, data collection, and camera installation needed for the study,** and committed to research support throughout the entirety of the study.

This ongoing support has been **partially led by a group of trained ZooTeens and adult volunteers** who have assisted with data collection from videos generated on the ropeways. By tapping into the energy and expertise of our own staff and volunteers, the Zoo has lessened the research burden on TSI's small but mighty team while supporting their organization with valuable data findings that highlight the tremendous impact of their work. **Over 5,500 speedway videos have been collected so far,** and while further data analysis may take some time, watching sloths navigate the Costa Rican canopies reminds us that slow and steady steps can still take us to some far and remarkable places, and that patience indeed pays off.

"It was fun and interesting to do! I think it's pretty cool that we as teenagers can be involved with a project with as much impact as this one, and the amount of learning I was able to get from it was really beneficial for me!"

"I loved the opportunity to feel like I was making a difference, and enjoyed learning more about research."

—ZooTeen Data Collectors



“NATURE’S NAVIGATORS”

Intergenerational Interpretation Opportunity

BRITTANY GARERA-STAPLETON,
Volunteer Program Manager

Photo by: Mark Dumont



Through the **ZooTeen and Habitat Ambassador programs**, the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden is fortunate to have a large number of passionate volunteers who seek to enhance visitors’ experiences and promote conservation action. Participants in the two groups are often in vastly different stages of life—sometimes separated by decades—and that gap had seemingly created barriers between these two groups, but a new project proved that **a dedication to conservation and wildlife has no age limit.**

“**Nature’s Navigators,**” an interpretive experience located in Wolf Woods, featured a mixture of adult and teenage volunteers guiding visitors in identifying animal tracks and understanding their significance. Through texture rubbings and 3D animal track models, visitors were able to explore the natural world in a hands-on, interactive way. The project was designed to deepen connections between visitors and local nature through a **unique intergenerational volunteer experience.** By uniting our ZooTeens and Habitat Ambassadors, this initiative aims to bridge generational gaps and break down perceived barriers between age groups so that passionate volunteers can better work together to inspire our visitors.

Over 750 volunteers and ZooTeens donated nearly **143,000** hours of their time to support our mission.

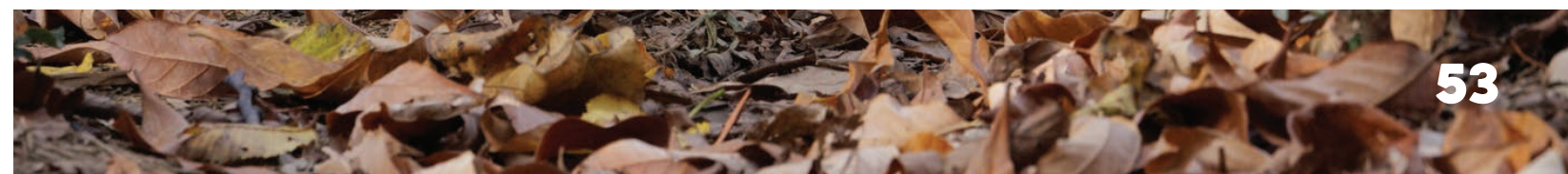


“Working with the teens was fun. I always like learning from them as they can teach old wolves new tricks. The teens did a fantastic job engaging guests and presenting the messages.”

—Adult Volunteer

“Once we got started, I realized we actually had a lot to talk about, and they were really interested in what I had to say. I even learned a lot from their stories and experiences! It ended up being a lot more fun than I expected, and I felt like we were really a team by the end. Now I’m excited to keep doing more projects like this at the zoo!”

—ZooTeen Volunteer



GOING VIRTUAL

To Cultivate Coexistence

DR. MAHI PURI,
Coexistence Scientist

Asian elephants are facing an array of threats across their range. Habitat fragmentation is one of the most pressing issues, as expanding human settlements encroach on traditional migration routes. This leads to isolated elephant groups and a **surge in human-elephant conflicts**. Deforestation and land encroachment exacerbate the situation, eroding the historical tolerance local communities once had for these animals. The result is an increasingly hostile environment for elephants, necessitating innovative conservation strategies.

The **Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden** has partnered with **Conservation Initiatives (CI)** in India to engage community youth in positive interactions with elephants through an educational video game called “Harmony: Heroes of Elephanta.” This initiative aims to reshape the way young people perceive elephants by providing them with a better understanding of elephant behavior and habitat. The game teaches positive ways to interact with elephants, helping them to unlearn harmful chasing and harassing behaviors that are common among the target audience of the game. This initiative is **expected to instill a deeper understanding and appreciation for elephants among the youth**, fostering a generation that values coexistence.



Photo by: Conservation Initiatives

Between August and November 2024, CI held programs in 25 schools, reaching 1,038 students from classes 7–9.

Testing the video game with youth at many schools was received well, and students played with it with alacrity and thrill. We collected structured feedback on the game and are making improvements aligned with their preferences and the best ways to engage players to reduce the behaviors that can lead to conflicts with elephants. **Many players are returning to the game for more sessions beyond the activities with CI staff!** In the future, after making improvements to the game based on the results of the testing, we will promote the game to more villages throughout the region where elephants overlap with people.

Game design by Conservation Initiatives, Game Design Plus, and Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden



Photo by: David Jenike



Photo by: Conservation Initiatives



Photo by: Conservation Initiatives





EDUCATION & CONSERVATION

in Tanzanian Classrooms

BAILEY CADENA,
Coexistence Project Manager



Photo by: Bill Carr

Miami University's Project Dragonfly program equips students seeking graduate degrees in conservation with the tools and skills they need to truly move the needles on ecological issues both close to home and abroad. **As a host institution for the Advanced Inquiry Program (AIP), the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden has connected students with zoological professionals, wildlife educators, and local environmental organizations for the last 15 years, while students have likewise supported the Zoo's animal wellness initiatives and conservation projects through their coursework.**

One such collaboration this past year brought the **Zoo's Conservation Impact Team and AIP students into Tanzanian classrooms.** Through our team's connections to global partners, **Rachel M., Sue P., and Heidi E. were able to share their curriculum expertise with the Wild Nature Institute in Tanzania.** These AIP students built upon the Wild Nature Institute team's environmental education curriculum called Celebrating Africa's Giants, to create needed educational content. The multimedia, interactive content is being translated into Swahili and will be used in school programs throughout Tanzania in order to **equip both teachers and students with the vital skills needed to contribute to conservation in their landscape.**



M MIAMI UNIVERSITY | PROJECT DRAGONFLY



WILD NATURE INSTITUTE



Photo by: Veila Makundi

"This project has helped us to bind together all of our materials into a comprehensive and connected environmental education package that can be used throughout the school year."

—Dr. Monica Bond,
Wild Nature Institute



Photo by: Erica Hayton

"Knowing that we played a small role in supporting WNI's efforts to encourage positive human-wildlife coexistence in Tanzanian communities is an experience that I will always hold dear." **—Rachel M.**

"As a participant [in creating the content], I learned so much about a culture that was totally different from anything in my part of the world...[we were able to] spotlight taking pride in one's place, heritage, and cultural connections, and responsibilities to the animals and land they share." **—Sue P.**

"Working on the project truly brought to life the ideals of Project Dragonfly and using the voice of the community in order to address human/animal interactions." **—Heidi E.**



Photo by: Dr. Monica Bond

LEADING OUR INDUSTRY

Stepping Up to Save Animals from Extinction

DR. LILY MAYNARD,
Director of Global Conservation

The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden is committed to collaborative conservation with other accredited institutions across the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) by participating in various Saving Animals from Extinction (SAFE) programs. **In 2024, we increased the number of AZA SAFE programs in which we are actively involved as Program Partners.** With leadership and active engagement from multiple departments across the Zoo, the AZA SAFE programs enable our staff to share expertise and provide guidance to others in our industry to advance our conservation goals with more resources and people involved.

ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS &
AQUARIUMS &

SAFE
SAVING ANIMALS
FROM EXTINCTION

In addition to the list of the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden's conservation partners earlier in this report, there are **18 AZA SAFE programs we are officially partners on**, differentiated by the three levels of involvement:

LEVEL 3 True Collaboration with active leadership by Cincinnati Zoo staff:

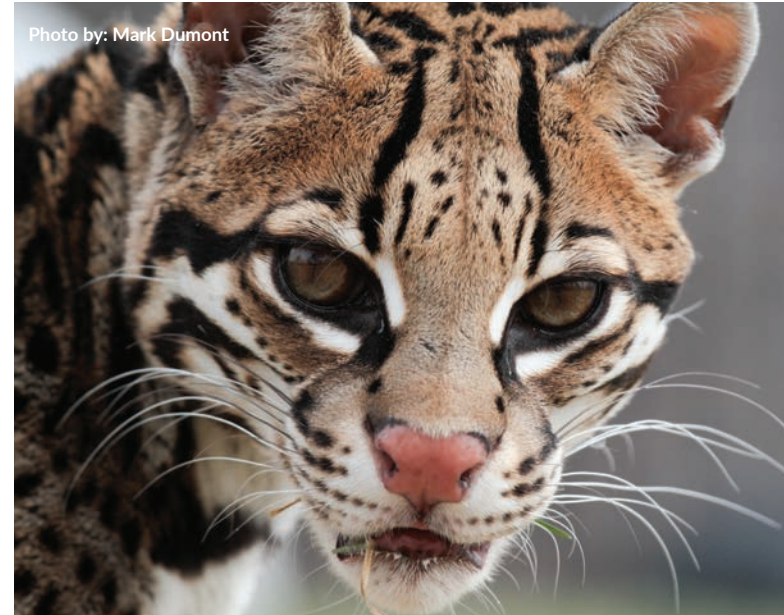
- SAFE African Lion
- SAFE African Painted Dog
- SAFE Asian Elephant
- SAFE Mexican Wolf
- SAFE Ocelot
- SAFE Red Panda

LEVEL 2 Activity sharing and communication by Cincinnati Zoo with other partners to coordinate program:

- SAFE Gorilla
- SAFE Indigo Snake
- SAFE Jaguar
- SAFE North American Monarch
- SAFE North American Songbird
- SAFE North American Turtle
- SAFE Snow Leopard

LEVEL 1 Official program partnership with resources from Cincinnati Zoo enabling the program:

- SAFE African Penguin
- SAFE African Vulture
- SAFE Cheetah
- SAFE Giraffe
- SAFE Orangutan
- SAFE Radiated Tortoise
- SAFE Tree Kangaroo





RECOVERING THE SIHEK: A New Hope for the Guam Kingfisher

AIMEE OWEN,
Senior Aviculture Keeper

The **Guam kingfisher—or the sihek**, as it's known by the indigenous CHamoru people—has significant ecological and **cultural importance to the island of Guam**. It was **declared extinct in the wild in the mid-1980s**, but with the support of the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden and other conservation organizations, **it has a chance to once again thrive in its native habitat**.

A multi-year collaboration between zoological and conservation partners led to the first major milestone in efforts to reestablish sihek in the wild. **Nine sihek chicks hatched at different AZA institutions were transported to Palmyra Atoll**, a USFWS National Wildlife Refuge similar to the landscape of Guam, to be released with the **hope of eventually establishing breeding pairs, the next step in bringing the sihek back to Guam**. The first release yielded promising results: the chicks have begun setting up territories, exploring new habitats, hunting and foraging regularly, and showing signs of social bonding with other sihek.

The entire **Bird Team played a critical role in various stages of the Sihek Recovery Project** and have gotten to celebrate this huge conservation win together. The **Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden is committed to ensuring all employees have opportunities to feel connected to conservation**, and the involvement of our bird keepers in this project is a testament to the powerful impact on both individual people and our collective staff.

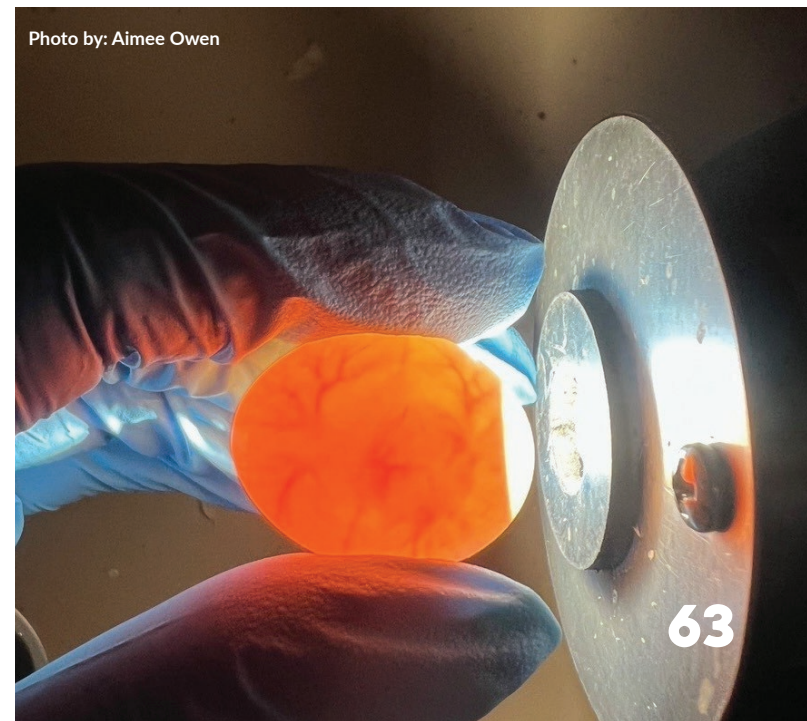
“Being a small but direct part of this translocation project brings me immense pride. There are no words to describe the feeling of seeing all those years of passionate conservation work pay off in a wild release.”
—Kim Klosterman (Senior Aviculture Keeper)

30 sihek chicks hatched at the Zoo since 1982.
3 OF 9 Palmyra Atoll chicks from Cincinnati.
First wild release in 36 years.

Photo by: Aimee Owen



Photo by: Aimee Owen



IN-PERSON AND ABROAD:

Facilitating Collaboration Around Coexistence

DR. LILY MAYNARD,
Director of Global Conservation

At the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, we understand that the human dimensions of conservation are best cultivated with in-person conversations, which led us to sponsor two leading global wildlife conservation initiatives in 2024: the **Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leadership (EWCL) program** and the **International Wildlife Coexistence Network (IWCN) conference**. The Zoo's financial commitment to these international programs underscores our belief that fostering cross-sector partnerships is essential for addressing complex conservation challenges.

The EWCL program empowers emerging leaders in conservation from around the world by facilitating access to networking opportunities, mentorship, and the latest research, which enhances the capacity of **future conservation leaders to drive impactful, sustainable change**. This year-and-a-half program provides each cohort with three in-person trainings, mentoring, peer networking, and the hands-on development, implementation, and evaluation of a group conservation project.

Zoo Representation in EWCL Class of 10 (2024–25):

- Dr. Mariana Catapani, *Coexistence Impact Fellow*
- Zach Niswonger, *Behind-The-Scenes Manager*

Class of 10's projects are **focused on African lion conservation**. Dr. Lily Maynard facilitated the collaborative **design of participants' projects to support two African-led, coexistence-focused organizations** that are likewise supported by our Zoo and others through the SAFE African Lion program: **SORALO in Kenya and WASIMA in Tanzania**.

IWCN hosted its second wildlife coexistence conference in the fall of 2024 in San Sebastiano, Italy. Experts from biodiversity hotspots around the world joined together as leading field practitioners, researchers, indigenous traditional knowledge keepers, storytellers, and more. This conference **unites wildlife coexistence leaders worldwide**, building critical, long-term working networks among peers and sharing vital information toward restoring humanity's relationship with Nature. Our peer-to-peer connections help inspire and sustain our work for years to come. As a conference cosponsor and key wildlife coexistence partner, the **Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden plays a crucial role in demonstrating its commitment to leadership at this global scale**.



"Participating in the program has been an extraordinary journey of personal and professional growth...I am deeply grateful to the Cincinnati Zoo for their essential support, which made this transformative experience possible."

—Dr. Mariana Catapani
(EWCL Class of 10 and Coexistence Impact Fellow)





Photo by: DJJAM

We Thank You

for your ongoing support of the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden's Conservation Impact Programs!

We would especially like to thank the funders who have made the projects outlined in this report possible:

- AZA Conservation Grants Fund
- The Ellen and Richard Berghamer Foundation
- The Crosset Family Fund
- Gorilla Glue
- Greater Cincinnati Foundation
- John Hauck Foundation
- Margot Marsh Biodiversity Foundation
- Simple Truth

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Each of our projects and accomplishments so far are due to ongoing partnerships with every department across the Zoo and our many external partners both locally and globally.

We are grateful for our creative, brilliant, and eager partners who motivate us every day.

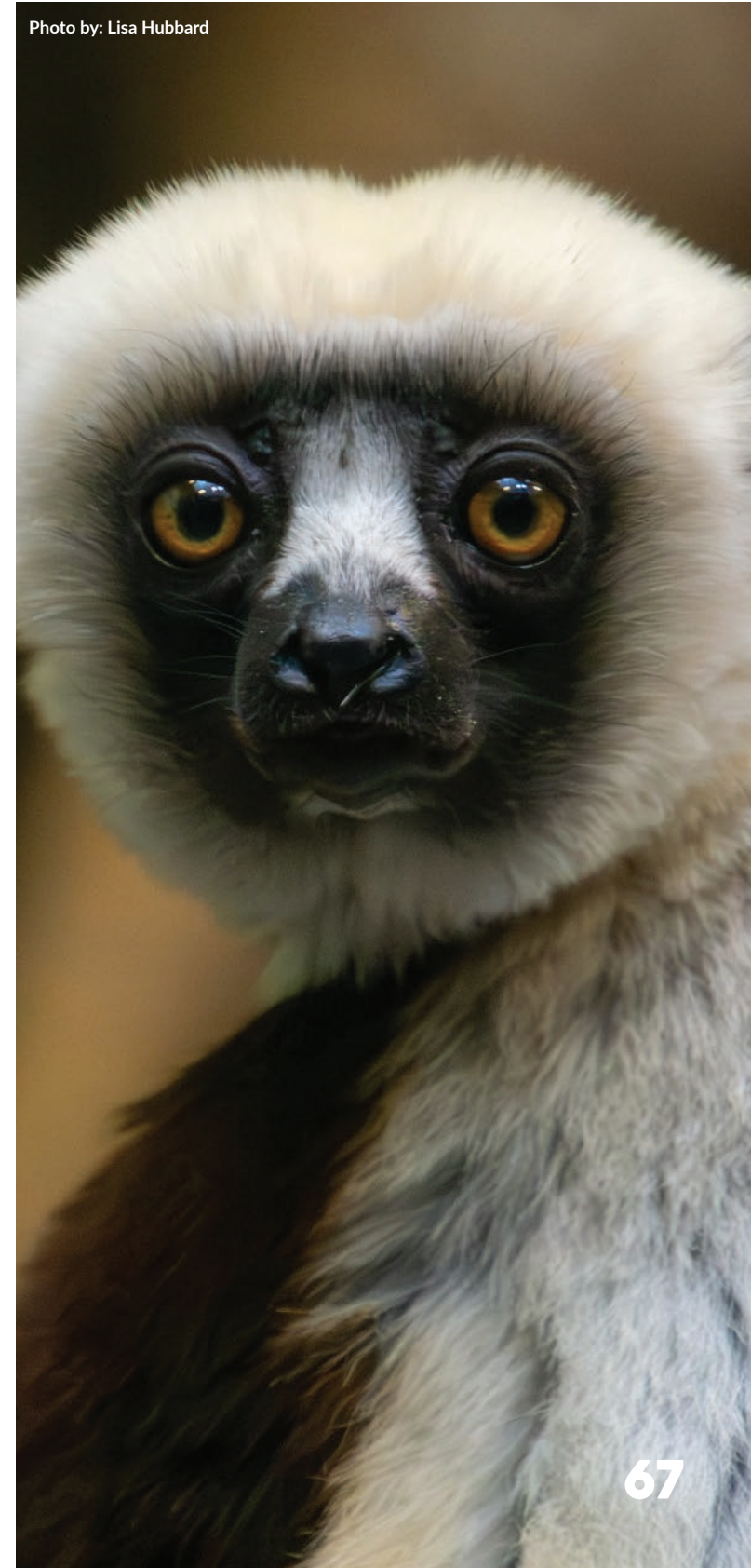
We can't wait to see what we will accomplish together in the next year!

**PLEASE FEEL FREE
TO GET IN TOUCH!**

conservation@cincinnati-zoo.org

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Cincinnati, OH 45220**

Photo by: Lisa Hubbard





2024 CONSERVATION IMPACT REPORT

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