

AFRICA

Swaziland Elephant/Rhino Conservation

In the early 1950s, wildlife in the country of Swaziland was severely decimated by rampant hunting and habitat loss. One family, the Reillys, recognized this loss of the country's wildlife heritage and began a tireless crusade to save the remaining species and restore those that were lost. Their determination and perseverance led to the establishment of three National Parks and the beginning of wildlife conservation in the country of Swaziland. Today the Reilly family celebrates more than 40 years of successful nature conservation. They continue to work tirelessly to manage and protect wildlife as well as promote awareness of conserving both Swaziland's natural resources and the world's. Elephants, black and white rhino and many other species are now thriving due to their efforts.

In 2003, Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo along with San Diego Wild Animal Park committed to provide financial support to help the people of Swaziland with their conservation mission. Funds help to defray the cost of acquiring additional land, anti-poaching programs and public education. To date this funding has allowed for the expansion of the Mkhaya Game Reserve by 10 percent, which will help support the survival of thousands of species.

Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary and Rehabilitation Center

The Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary and Rehabilitation Center was established in 1995 and is located on 100 acres of natural forests in Western Sierra Leone, Africa. The goal of the center is to provide a home for confiscated and rescued chimps (more than 80 at present), while helping to stop the cruel and wasteful trade of this species.

Lee Ann Rottman, General Curator at Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo, assisted this project in 2002 with chimpanzee care and husbandry. Funds from the zoo's annual Conservation Day have also been used to help construct a three-acre forested enclosure for 20 of the youngest chimps at the sanctuary.

Bushmeat Crisis Task Force

The term "bushmeat" refers to wildlife that is removed from the wild for food. The bushmeat trade occurs mainly in Africa, but exists globally. Due to the fact that illegal hunting and trade is unregulated, many species are being taken at an unsustainable rate, putting many on the brink of extinction.

The Bushmeat Crisis Task Force is dedicated to promoting awareness of this problem and finding a solution. Funds were provided by Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo to support this initiative.

Colobus Trust

Wakuluzu, Friends of the Colobus Trust, is a conservation organization dedicated to the preservation and protection of primates like the rare Angolan colobus monkey and its coastal forest habitat in Southern Kenya. The Colobus Trust designs and builds "Colo-Bridges," ladder-like bridges used by many species of arboreal animals for crossing man-made areas.

Funds were provided by the Lowry Park Zoological Society to build a bridge across a high-speed road in Kenya. The zoo is also proud to be one of only a few zoos in North America to manage a successful breeding group of Angolan colobus (*Colobus polykomos angolensis*).

Goulougo Triangle Chimpanzee Conservation and Research Project

Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo annually supports the Goulougo Triangle Chimpanzee Conservation and Research Project in Africa's Nouabale'-Ndoki National Park, Republic of Congo. The goal of this project is to protect the unique central subspecies of chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes troglodytes*) in the Goulougo Triangle, while gaining a better understanding of their population size, community structure and ranging patterns. As a result of this study, the Triangle has been annexed into the protection of the Nouabale'-Ndoki National Park, thus canceling proposed logging activities.

The primary investigator for this project is David Morgan, who worked as a night site instructor at Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo before becoming a wildlife researcher in the Congo. His dedication to chimpanzee conservation and other animals of the Goulougo triangle is a wonderful example of how one person can make a difference.

Conservation Lower Zambezi

In 1992, Grant Cumming, a graduate from the University of South Florida, along with surrounding safari operators, private individuals and volunteers formed Conservation Lower Zambezi (CLZ) in response to a growing concern for the safety and protection of wildlife throughout the area. Since its inception, CLZ has successfully provided logistical support to the Zambia Wildlife Authority in the form of anti-poaching patrols, aerial surveys, guard training, research and a community based conservation education program.

The Lowry Park Zoological Society has provided funds in support of CLZ's anti-poaching efforts for the protection of elephants, white rhino, wild dogs and many other species in this area.



Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo supports primate conservation initiatives in Africa and Asia.



ASIA

WildAid – Thailand Carnivore Project

Many of Thailand's carnivores are in serious decline due to habitat loss and poaching. The goal of the Thailand Carnivore Project is to identify critical carnivore habitat in need of protection and begin to census the number of cats remaining in the wild. One of the most secretive of Thailand's wild cats is the beautiful clouded leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*). This project hopes to gain a better understanding of the clouded leopard's habits in the wild and assess its conservation needs.



The Lowry Park Zoological Society has provided funding for the purchase of motion-sensored infrared cameras to aid in this non-invasive study. A pair of clouded leopards also resides in the Asian Gardens area of the zoo.

Kinabatangan Orangutan Conservation Project (KOCP)



In both Borneo and Sumatra, wild orangutan populations are undergoing a dramatic decline due to severe deforestation and post logging conversion of forests to palm oil plantations. The Kinabatangan Orangutan Conservation Project was formed in 1998 to study the orangutans and work with the local communities to promote a peaceful coexistence and better understanding of these remarkable apes.

The Lowry Park Zoological Society provided funds to KOCP to support ongoing research and community outreach for the Bornean orangutan in Eastern Sabah, Malaysia. The zoo has managed a successful breeding group of Bornean orangutans (*Pongo pygmaeus*) since 1990.

Flying Fox Conservation Fund

Flying fox, also known as fruit bats, play a vital role in the ecology of rainforests through seed dispersal and pollination. Due to deforestation and hunting, populations are declining throughout tropical areas of Asia and Africa. The Flying Fox Conservation Fund is building a fruit bat rescue, rehabilitation and captive breeding center on the island of Sulawesi. The center will work to educate local people about the vital role fruit bats play, while rehabilitating and releasing fruit bats rescued from local markets.



The Lowry Park Zoological Society provided funding for this effort in Sulawesi, and in fall of 2006, 14 Indian flying fox (*Pteropus vampyrus*) will join the zoo's bat exhibit in Wallaroo Station.

New Guinea Singing Dog Conservation Society



The New Guinea singing dog (*Canis lupus Hallstromi*) is one of the most critically endangered and least studied taxonomic forms of wild canines in the world today. Due to habitat destruction and the influx of domestic dogs to singing dog territories, the species is rapidly sliding into a state of genetic extinction due to hybridization.

The Lowry Park Zoological Society provides funding to support a researcher studying the remaining wild singing dogs in the Papua New Guinea highlands. The zoo also maintains a pair of singing dogs in Wallaroo Station.

Hornbill Research Foundation



The country of Thailand has over 13 species of hornbill, most of which are endangered or threatened. The Hornbill Research Foundation is dedicated to the research, conservation and public education of these beautiful species of hornbill.

Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo provided funds to the Hornbill Research Foundation for the purchase of field binoculars and the construction of the Tapoh Conservation Education Center used by local school groups and wildlife clubs. The zoo also maintains a pair of endangered Great Indian hornbills (*Buceros bicornis*) in the main Aviary.

CENTRAL/SOUTH AMERICA

Project Golden Frog

As each day passes, the number of Panamanian golden frogs (*Atelopus zeteki*) dwindles due to agrochemicals, deforestation, over-collection and the newest threat, a chytridiomycete fungus. In response to the population decline, Project Golden Frog/Proyecto Rana Dorada was formed to assist with field research, captive propagation, habitat conservation, rescue/rehabilitation and education.



In 2005, the assistant curator of herpetology at Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo, traveled to Panama to assist with this project. The zoo also provided funding to bring a Panamanian herpetologist to the states for amphibian husbandry training. The zoo maintains three captive breeding groups of Panamanian golden frogs as assurance colonies for the wild population.

NORTH AMERICA

Butterfly Conservation Initiative (BFCI)



Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo is a founding and supporting member of Butterfly Conservation Initiative (BFCI), a coalition of organizations seeking to protect North America's most threatened butterfly species from extinction. The BFCI focuses its efforts on conservation, public education and research.

California Condor Restoration Program



In the 1980s it was estimated that there were only 22 California condors (*Gymnogyps californianus*) remaining in the wild. Through the cooperative efforts of the Peregrine Fund, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and many state wildlife agencies dedicated to captive breeding and release, their numbers have increased to approximately 127 birds now flying free.

To raise funds for this program, the Animal Ambassadors Department at Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo has created and sold bumper stickers with a picture of our resident black vulture, "Smedley," with the caption "Bald is Beautiful." In 2005, this program won the "Conservation of the Year" award by the International Association of Avian Trainers and Educators.

Puerto Rican Crested Toad



There are fewer than 300 adult Puerto Rican crested toads (*Peltophryne lemur*) left in the wild that are currently found only in the Guanica National Forest. Each year, thousands of tadpoles are returned to Puerto Rico by participating members of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and the Puerto Rican Crested Toad Species Survival Plan (SSP). The SSP is also funding the construction of two large manmade ponds in Puerto Rico to help create future breeding sites.

Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo currently houses a large breeding group of the endangered toads and hopes to release some tadpoles back to the wild.



GLOBAL INITIATIVES

Species Survival Plans (SSPs)

Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo participates in 33 SSPs established by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums to organize management of selected endangered species in U.S. zoos. Under these programs, zoos work to maintain a healthy captive population, support field research and habitat protection, educate zoo visitors, and reintroduce species to their native habitats where possible.



Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA)



TSA was organized by the IUCN-The World Conservation Union as a response to the significant decline in freshwater turtles and tortoises worldwide, especially in Asia. The TSA is comprised of individuals and organizations from 11 countries in North America, Europe, Asia and Australia.

As part of the alliance, Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo has obtained more than 100 threatened and endangered turtles from confiscations. Many turtles came directly from the food markets in Hong Kong and had to be rehabilitated. The zoo has also donated funds to support the recovery of species through the work of the TSA.

Tapir Specialist Group



The IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist Group is dedicated to raising awareness and funds to help conserve and protect the four species of tapir found around the world. By combining forces with the Tapir Preservation Fund, the AZA Tapir Taxon Advisory Group (TAG), and the European Association of Zoos and Aquariums Tapir TAG, effective conservation priorities and research have been implemented in the remaining tapir habitats in both Latin America and South East Asia.

Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo assisted in purchasing radio collars to study the mountain tapir's daily foraging patterns and in printing education materials for the indigenous people living in and around tapir habitats. The zoo also maintains a breeding pair of the Malayan tapirs (*Tapirus indicus*) on exhibit in the Asian Gardens.

Center for Ecosystem Survival Conservation Parking Meter Project

The Center for Ecosystem Survival utilizes zoos and aquariums worldwide to raise money to purchase unspoiled land for conservation. Parking meters collect public donations to support the preservation of areas in the Komodo National Park, Indonesia, Parque Nacional del Este, Dominican Republic, and Talamanca-Caribbean Biological Corridor, Costa Rica.



To find out how you can help Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo extend its work in conservation, contact:



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Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo is operated by the Lowry Park Zoological Society, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization (EIN# 59-2328289) that is committed to excellence in education, recreation, conservation and research.