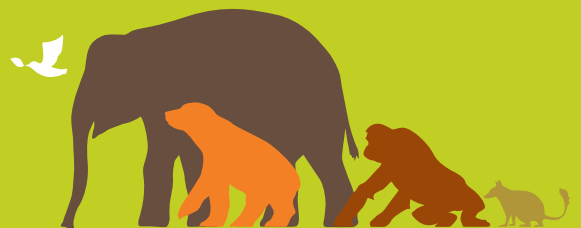


# Working Beyond Our Borders



Wildlife Conservation **Action**



## Perth Zoo is increasingly working to support the conservation of species in the wild to ensure that zoos don't become the final resting place for the thousands of threatened species in the world today.

This new direction is necessary given accelerating environmental threats, human population growth, climate change and reduction in biodiversity. Conservation cooperation on a global scale is crucial if we are to have a meaningful impact on our future.

Perth Zoo's decision to grow its activities in wildlife conservation, research and education has been gradual and deliberate. These are ways that we can improve our effectiveness and support the conservation of threatened species.

Out in the Zoo grounds and behind the scenes, in the bush and overseas, we are involved in and directly supporting leading edge and, at times, world-first conservation work.

Perth Zoo's wildlife conservation work includes breeding animals for release into the wild, conducting research into the reproductive biology of threatened fauna, providing wildlife rehabilitation services and wildlife medicine training, as well as providing support for habitat protection and conservation projects in the field.

## How You Can Support Conservation

With community support, Perth Zoo can further increase its contribution to wildlife conservation, providing increased opportunities to conserve threatened species and habitats. For this reason, we have launched a new fundraising program, Wildlife Conservation Action.

All money raised through Perth Zoo's Wildlife Conservation Action will support the conservation of threatened native and exotic species.

As an established world class zoo with award winning programs, Perth Zoo is in a unique position to harness community support and energy to raise funds for wildlife conservation.

The management and administration of Wildlife Conservation Action is provided through Perth Zoo's existing operations which means that 100% of the money raised through Wildlife Conservation Action will go to projects on the ground. Donations will support the conservation of priority species including frogs, Sumatran Orang-utan and New Guinea Tree Kangaroos.





## Which Species and Why?

### Local

One of our main priorities at Perth Zoo is native species conservation. With the largest mammalian species extinction rate in the world, Australian animals are under severe threat.

For many years now, Perth Zoo has been working with its partners to help save some of Western Australia's most threatened native animals including Numbat, Chuditch and Western Swamp Tortoise.

The primary goals of Perth Zoo's native species conservation efforts are to support Western Australian Species Recovery Plans by breeding animals for release into the wild and increasing understanding and knowledge of the reproductive biology of threatened fauna.

Responding to the devastating Chytrid fungus outbreak and consequent global amphibian crisis, Perth Zoo has established a frog breeding research program focusing on threatened Western Australian frog species.

Money raised through Wildlife Conservation Action will help Perth Zoo support the conservation of priority native species right here in Western Australia.

### Regional

We believe that in species conservation, we should look beyond country and political boundaries and support other regions that do not have the resources or infrastructure for conservation programs.

Perth Zoo has an enormous amount to contribute, with our committed and qualified staff and extensive knowledge, experience and expertise in animal husbandry, wildlife veterinary science, animal behaviour and animal biology.

Our close neighbours in Indonesia and Papua New Guinea are fortunate to have rich biodiversity. Perth Zoo is committed to assisting with the conservation of this wonderful diversity which includes some of the rarest and most endangered species on earth.

Perth Zoo has entered into an agreement to assist with habitat protection and species conservation at Bukit Tigapuluh National Park in Sumatra, Indonesia. This supports a Sumatran Orang-utan reintroduction program as part of international efforts to re-establish a population of this critically endangered species in the wild at Bukit Tigapuluh.

Key priorities at Bukit Tigapuluh include support for orang-utan breed-for-release initiatives, Sumatran Elephant surveys and habitat protection for the Park which is home to many threatened species including Sumatran Tiger, tapirs, gibbons, Sun Bear, possibly Sumatran Rhinoceros and hundreds of other species.

Another focus for Wildlife Conservation Action is the unique and highly threatened New Guinea Tree Kangaroo. Your support will assist local programs including the development of alternative food sources and livelihood strategies for villagers.

Javan or Silvery Gibbons are another species of focus for Wildlife Conservation Action. Native to the most populated island in the world, safe areas for Javan Gibbon can be secured through concerted work and financial support for this species.

Wildlife Conservation Action will also support conservation programs in Cambodia for the Sun Bear and in Africa for the threatened African Painted Dog.

# Global Amphibian Crisis

Amphibians provide the clearest example of an entire class of animals facing extinction. Around the world, frog species and frog populations are being decimated by habitat destruction, environmental degradation, introduced predators and pests such as the cane toad and a devastating fungal disease called Chytrid fungus.

Nearly one-third of the 5,743 known species of frogs in the world today are facing extinction—that's about 2,000 species. Australia has recently lost two frog species to Chytrid fungus and over 50 per cent of the nation's remaining threatened frog species are infected with the disease.

As part of the battle against the world-wide frog crisis, Perth Zoo has established a frog breeding research program in a race to save local species from the onslaught of the fungal disease and the invading cane toad.

The program has been established at Perth Zoo to develop successful captive breeding and management techniques for frogs. By developing this expertise we hope to be able to provide a safety net for threatened frog species if their populations collapse in the wild.

Working with the Department of Environment and Conservation and other researchers

at the WA Museum, University of WA and Murdoch University, the primary focus of the program is south west frog species threatened by fungal disease.

One of the aims of the program is to provide Perth Zoo with the capacity to breed threatened species for release into secure habitats should this become necessary, as well as the capacity to maintain back-up populations of threatened Western Australian frog species.

Other goals include developing the capacity to freeze and store sperm and embryos of threatened Western Australian frog species.

## Bukit Tigapuluh

Bukit Tigapuluh National Park in Sumatra, Indonesia, is a unique and extremely important area of land guarded by specially trained anti-logging and anti-poaching Orang-utan Protection Units.

It is the only national park in Sumatra with a complete representation of Sumatran mega fauna including the critically endangered Sumatran Tiger and Sumatran Orang-utan. The protected area of the park currently comprises around 144,000 hectares. Adjacent to the park's boundaries there are still considerable areas of forest. The whole remaining forest complex (including the protected area) encompasses at least 250,000 hectares.

In November 2006, in a world-first, a Sumatran Orang-utan born and bred at Perth Zoo was released into Bukit Tigapuluh National Park as part of an orang-utan reintroduction program (orang-utans existed

in Bukit Tigapuluh up until the 1830's but then became extinct in the area).

Carefully monitored by dedicated trackers, 14-year-old Temara is doing extremely well in her new home in the jungle. It is hoped that she will breed in the future, providing the opportunity to increase the numbers and genetic diversity of the re-established orang-utan population at Bukit Tigapuluh.

Temara's progress in the forest is being recorded in detail, providing vital information on the adaptation of zoo-born orang-utans to a wild environment.

Here at Perth Zoo, we believe that we can and should play a major role in the battle to save the Sumatran Orang-utan and other threatened species in the Australasian region. Perth Zoo is committed to providing assistance and support for the conservation and protection of wildlife at Bukit Tigapuluh National Park.

This assistance includes financial support and the provision of staff expertise and training, as well as support for wildlife

surveys, habitat protection, and research and conservation of threatened species including Sumatran Orang-utan, Sumatran Elephant, Sumatran Tiger and Javan Gibbon.

Perth Zoo is supporting the construction of an open orang-utan sanctuary at Bukit Tigapuluh to provide ongoing care in a rainforest setting for rescued ex-pets or orphaned orang-utans that cannot be successfully reintroduced to Bukit Tigapuluh National Park, with the aim of releasing their offspring into the park. The expertise of Perth Zoo staff will be instrumental in setting up this sanctuary.

The aims of the sanctuary include providing a secondary site for orang-utan reintroductions, as well as providing a base for anti-poaching and anti-logging surveillance and a conservation research facility.

Perth Zoo is also supporting elephant surveys at Bukit Tigapuluh to assist with the development of a management plan for this species and supporting wildlife monitoring and community development.



## Tenkile Tree Kangaroo

One of the world's most endangered mammals, the Tenkile, or Scott's Tree Kangaroo, is under serious threat of extinction in its small home range in Papua New Guinea.

The Tenkile is restricted to the Torricelli Mountain Range in Sandaun Province in north-west Papua New Guinea - an area that is also home to two other species of Tree Kangaroo no longer found anywhere else.

The human population in the Torricelli Mountain Range has nearly trebled in the past 50 years. Traditionally a hunter/gatherer society, this has increased the need for people to hunt and eat native wildlife.

Together with changes in traditional beliefs and hunting methods, this has caused

dramatic declines in the area's wildlife. Most species have reduced in numbers and distribution and there have been local extinctions of various species.

The two most endangered species in the area are the Scott's Tree Kangaroo, locally known as the Tenkile (*Dendrolagus scottae*) and the Golden-mantled Tree Kangaroo, known locally as Weiman (*Dendrolagus goodfellowii pulcherimus*).

The loss of wildlife is also compromising the health and well being of the people in the area, who traditionally depend on wildlife for their protein.

The total number of Tenkile left in the wild was thought to be as low as 100 in 2001 but, thanks to the efforts of a conservation organisation working in the Torricelli Mountains, the population is now estimated to be over 200. This is still extremely low and, as the human population encroaches

on more of the Tenkile's habitat, these animals are pushed further into the mountains, restricting their range.

Conservation efforts concentrate on working with local communities to establish hunting moratoriums and to develop alternative food sources and livelihood strategies for the villagers. The ultimate goal for the protection of Tenkile is to establish the Torricelli Mountain Range as a protected conservation area.



Here at Perth Zoo, we believe that we can and should play a major role in the battle to save the Sumatran Orang-utan and other threatened species in the Australasian region.



## African Painted Dog

The unique African Painted Dog is a highly social animal facing extinction in the wild due to the actions of humans.

Once widespread across Africa, it is estimated that there are now fewer than 2500 individuals remaining in the wild, making it one of the world's most endangered native dog species.

A wolf-like carnivore unrelated to the domestic dog, the Painted Dog represents a separate evolutionary line unique to Africa going back 15 million years.

Painted Dogs live in packs and develop strong family bonds which are reinforced at special greeting ceremonies. Unlike most animals, they often care for their old, sick and injured pack members, although social hierarchy can be determined by aggressive

behaviour – highlighting their enigmatic nature.

Until recently, Painted Dogs occurred in large populations in the tens of thousands across Africa but numbers in the wild have declined dramatically over the past 30 years as a result of road kills, snares, culling by farmers, introduced diseases from domestic dogs and habitat loss.

Now an endangered species, the remaining populations are small and scattered.

The establishment of anti-poaching patrols, a rehabilitation centre for injured Painted Dogs, release and translocation programs, community education and snare removal efforts have seen the number of Painted Dogs in Zimbabwe increase from 300 to 700.

## Sun Bears

Large numbers of bears in South East Asia continue to be illegally hunted for the restaurant trade, illegal pet trade and for their body parts for use in traditional medicine.

Poaching and habitat destruction are major threats to Sun Bears and other bear species and, while efforts are being made to curb the illegal wildlife trade, conservation efforts are hampered by a lack of information on the species.

Very little is actually known about Sun Bears in the wild because they are difficult to track and observe. They are mostly nocturnal and spend the day sleeping and sunbathing in trees.

With large areas of forest still remaining in Cambodia, this country is thought to hold important populations of Asiatic Black Bears and Sun Bears.

The collection of data on these bears and their life in the wild is vital in assisting conservation efforts to protect bear populations in the wild.





## Did you know...

- More than 1,500 Australian animals and plants are threatened with extinction.
- Two Australian frog species have been lost to the deadly and highly contagious Chytrid fungus in recent years, with over 50% of Australia's threatened frog species infected with the fungus.
- It is estimated that as few as 7,300 Sumatran Orang-utans are left in the wild.
- Three of the eight tiger species became extinct in the 20th Century and there are now fewer than 500 Sumatran Tigers left in the wild.
- Found only in Papua New Guinea, as few as 200 Tenkile Tree Kangaroos remain in the wild.
- The African Painted Dog, once widespread across Africa, is now reduced to small, scattered populations totalling no more than 2,500 individuals.

## Every donation and every dollar helps:

- \$10** can provide one rescued orang-utan with nutritional food for one week
- \$30** can buy a pair of boots for a member of an anti-poaching unit in Sumatra or Africa
- \$50** can fund the wage of a Wildlife Monitoring Leader – local people trained to lead Tree Kangaroo surveys in the mountains – for a week in Papua New Guinea
- \$70** can contribute to life saving veterinary supplies including anaesthetics, antibiotics and vitamins/minerals for African Painted Dogs in Africa
- \$100** can help purchase vital wildlife monitoring equipment
- \$200** can help buy an anti-snare and radio collar for an African Painted Dog
- \$300** can help fund critical research into the deadly Chytrid fungus in our native amphibians
- \$500** can build a research hut at a wildlife monitoring site in Papua New Guinea



## How you can help

You can make a donation through any Commonwealth Bank branch, in person at Perth Zoo, by calling (08) 9474 0350 or by completing the attached donation slip.

All receipted donations of \$2 or more are fully tax deductible. Perth Zoo covers all administration costs for Wildlife Conservation Action which means that 100% of your donation goes to projects on the ground.

## YES! I wish to make a donation

Please find enclosed my donation of (please tick):

\$100  \$50  \$30  \$20  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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- Credit card – Please fill in details below or call (08) 9474 0350
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I am interested in receiving further information on:

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Return this coupon with your donation to:

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Email/address details will be used to send you Wildlife Conservation Action updates as well as other Perth Zoo information. We will not disclose your email address to any third party without your explicit consent, nor will you receive any unsolicited bulk email ("spam").

