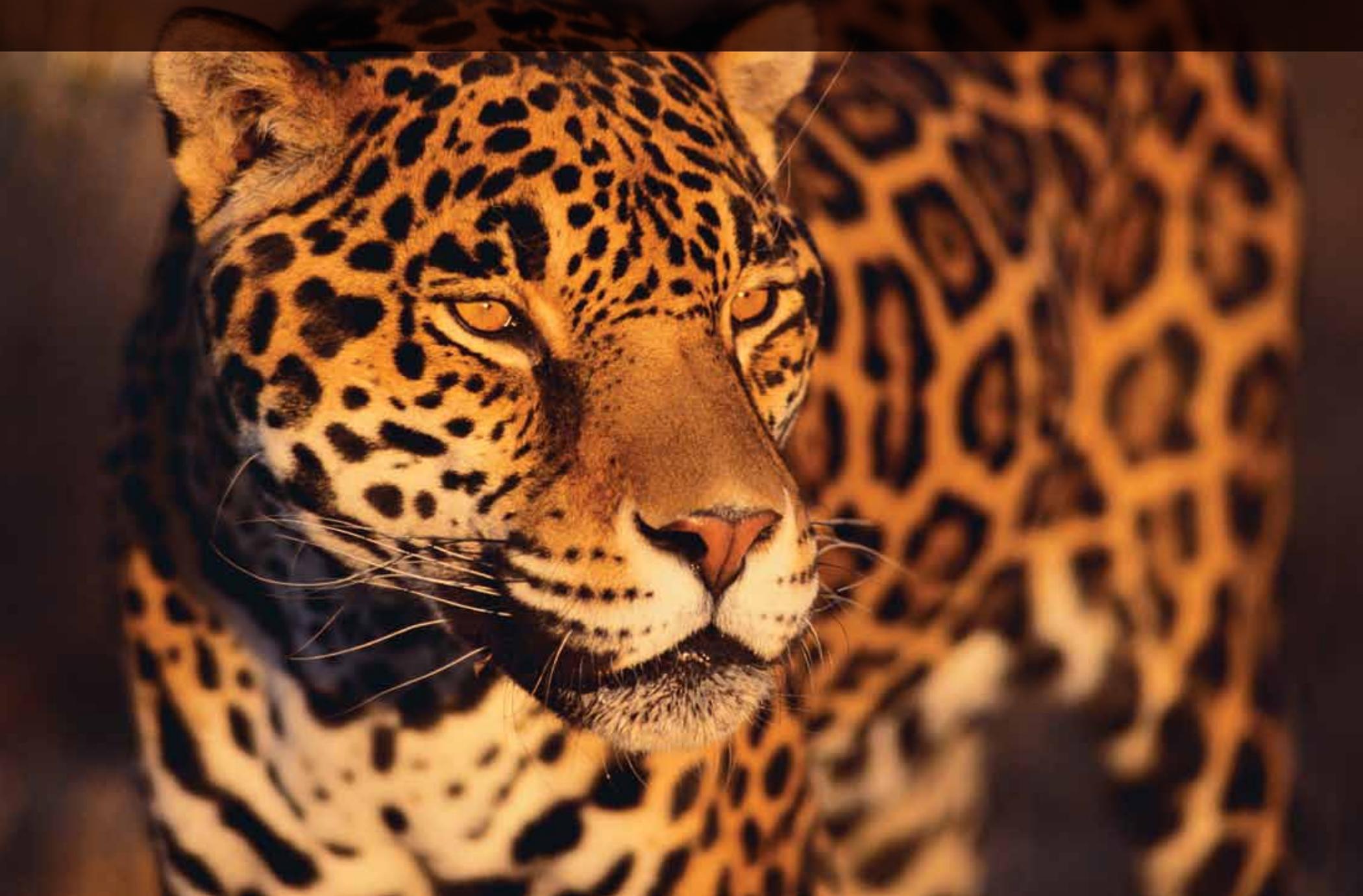


Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leaders

empowering the next generation: a 10-year report



“
**Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leaders
is an innovative, effective program that
responds to a long-recognized need within
the conservation community.**
”

**ONNIE BYERS, PH.D.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, IUCN-SSC
CONSERVATION BREEDING SPECIALIST GROUP
EWCL BOARD MEMBER**

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As wildlife conservationists working in Washington, D.C. in the 1990s, we were struck by the number of talented young conservationists working for premiere wildlife organizations—and by the lack of opportunities for them to advance into leadership positions in the field. These professionals had degrees in ecology, conservation biology, natural resources management and environmental law and policy but often lacked the hands-on experience and multi-disciplinary skills necessary to design and execute successful conservation programs.

We launched the Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leaders (EWCL) program in 2004 in direct response to this challenge. Our goals were to provide early-career conservationists with the diverse skills necessary to succeed and help them foster a professional network that would support them in their careers. Above all, we sought to empower emerging leaders within the wildlife conservation field so they could shape innovative and successful strategies to address the tremendous pressures that threaten wildlife around the globe.

In the 10 years since its launch, EWCL's impact has been greater than we ever imagined. To date, EWCL has trained 140 conservationists working at over 100 different institutions in more than 20 countries. Many EWCL graduates have advanced in the field—taking senior leadership positions, publishing scientific articles and

influencing high-level decision makers. EWCL has partnered with more than 40 conservation organizations worldwide and leveraged over \$150,000 for on-the-ground species conservation projects. Most importantly, EWCL has built a strong network of emerging leaders and seasoned conservationists from wildlife conservation organizations, animal protection groups, zoos, government agencies, corporations and funding organizations, all working collaboratively to advance imperiled species conservation.

Forging connections across disciplines, organizations and geographical boundaries has been central to EWCL's mission. Connectivity plays a crucial role in the global effort to protect wildlife, and EWCL strives to share knowledge, encourage collaboration and remove traditional barriers that often impede efforts to save species. We are proud to share—along with the participants, alumni, board members, partners, trainers and funders—EWCL's greatest success: a thriving community of domestic and international conservationists, eager to collaborate and poised to lead in the global effort to protect the world's wildlife.

We are humbled by EWCL's accomplishments and thrilled at all the program has given back to us personally as well. We invite you to join us as we celebrate the successes of EWCL's first 10 years and support its growth in the decades to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nina".

Nina Fascione
Board Co-chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff".

Jeff Flocken
Board Co-chair

Developing Conservation Leaders for the Future

The need for conservation has never been more urgent, and the wildlife conservation field must have talented professionals who can provide creative strategies and strong leadership skills to address the growing threats to the world's wildlife.

Today's early-career professionals will lead in developing, implementing and managing the vital species-conservation projects of tomorrow. And because the most effective initiatives draw on multi-disciplinary approaches—combining science, policymaking, advocacy, coalition building, community engagement, communications and fundraising—these future leaders will need experience implementing all aspects of effective conservation campaigns before they rise to positions of leadership.

Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leaders (EWCL) was designed to address this need by providing training, hands-on experience, mentoring and networking opportunities to emerging leaders in the conservation field. Through its innovative and effective training programs, EWCL strives to empower the next generation of conservation leaders and secure a brighter future for imperiled wildlife and the communities that co-exist with them around the world.



Class 5 participants enjoy opportunity to interact directly with species at the Houston Zoo.



Class 3 participants learn in a conservation workshop at White Oak.

**EWCL
strives to
empower
the next
generation of
conservation
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and secure
a brighter
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imperiled
wildlife.**

EWCL PARTICIPANTS

Since its launch in 2004, EWCL has trained more than 120 participants representing over 100 non-profit conservation organizations, state wildlife agencies, federal agencies and university wildlife programs. Classes are comprised primarily of U.S.-based students, but have also included international participants from countries including Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mongolia, Panama, Thailand and eleven Caribbean nations.

EWCL participants represent a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences in the conservation field ranging from conservation science to policy to media to fundraising. The program is designed for emerging leaders with at least three years of experience behind them and at least 15 years of professional experience ahead of them.

THE EWCL TRAINING PROGRAM

EWCL training addresses a long-standing need for capable leaders in the conservation field who are equipped with a full arsenal of skills in order to launch successful conservation campaigns. It also provides the right experience, connections and confidence to build successful leadership careers in the wildlife conservation profession.

The EWCL training program is built upon three pillars, which serve as a foundation for participants' professional development:

- **Training in leadership and conservation-related skills**
- **Hands-on experience in designing, implementing and evaluating a conservation campaign**
- **Mentoring and networking opportunities with seasoned conservation professionals to foster collaboration, cross-pollination and sharing of best practices**

The two-year training program includes one week of in-person training each year, plus a final, two-day training session and graduation ceremony. The training sessions focus on priority topics, presented by established conservation professionals.



A Board member teaches on facilitation skills.



Class 1 participants attending a traditional Asian medicines conference for their project on stopping bear bile use.

The centerpiece of EWCL training is the conservation project. Working in small teams, participants explore key threats to a selected species; identify concrete ways they can contribute to its conservation over the two-year training; and design, implement and evaluate an international conservation campaign. EWCL teams partner directly with international conservation organizations to create campaigns that will result in tangible benefits to the target species. From training workshops that combat illegal poaching of endangered species, to new tools that raise awareness about species protection, to educational materials that engage communities in conservation, to fundraising and in-kind contributions that support conservation initiatives, EWCL projects are making a difference for imperiled species worldwide.

Throughout the program, participants work closely with EWCL board members, who advise conservation project teams and help participants build their campaign and leadership skills. These relationships frequently expand beyond the EWCL training courses, as mentors offer guidance and support to EWCL participants in their personal career development.

And finally, the EWCL training program

120

EWCL
PARTICIPANTS
TRAINED

100

NONPROFIT
CONSERVATION
ORGANIZATIONS, STATE
WILDLIFE AGENCIES,
FEDERAL AGENCIES
AND OFFICES,
AND UNIVERSITY
WILDLIFE PROGRAMS
REPRESENTED BY
EWCL TRAINEES

emphasizes networking opportunities for emerging leaders and the organizations they represent. This program component aims to counteract the barriers to collaboration that often arise between environmental groups or between different sectors of the wildlife conservation community. Class interactions also create a strong peer network to support the emerging leaders throughout their careers and help them further mutual conservation goals.

Each training closes with a final session and informational luncheon in Washington, D.C., where EWCL participants showcase their projects through presentations to invited conservation leaders and diverse representatives from the nonprofit, private and government sectors. Feedback from the seasoned professionals that attend these events has been overwhelmingly positive, as attendees praise the strength of the program and draw energy and inspiration from EWCL's rising leaders.

A Sampling of EWCL Training Topics

LEADERSHIP SKILLS

- » Introduction to Leadership
- » Team Building
- » Managing Staff and Volunteers
- » Dealing with Conflict in a Professional Setting
- » Dealing with Conflict

SCIENCE & CONSERVATION

- » Human Dimensions of Wildlife Conservation
- » Cross-Cultural and Diversity Training
- » Human-Wildlife Conflict Case Studies
- » Project Monitoring, Adaptive Management and Evaluation
- » Lessons in International Conservation

LEGAL & LEGISLATIVE

- » U.S. Legislative Process
- » Endangered Species Act and Domestic Wildlife Legislation
- » International Law and Foreign Assistance
- » The Nexus between Science and Policy

ADVOCACY & CAMPAIGN SKILLS

- » Strategies for Successful Campaigns
- » Strategic Advocacy and Negotiation
- » Building International Campaigns

EDUCATION, OUTREACH & COMMUNICATIONS

- » Strategic Education Programs
- » Public Speaking/Media-Readiness Training
- » Integrating Media into Conservation Campaigns

PROJECT & ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- » Fundraising and Development
- » International Biodiversity Funding
- » Strategic Planning

COLLABORATION

- » Collaboration and Working in Coalitions
- » Professional Networking
- » Strategic Partnerships

Our Projects

EWCL participants have executed dozens of conservation projects to help conserve imperiled wildlife around the world. These projects are central to the EWCL training program and provide trainees with the opportunity to design, implement and evaluate a multi-faceted conservation project with a goal of bringing tangible benefits to the species.





I AFRICAN PAINTED DOG

Zimbabwe

Worked to protect this critically endangered species by helping redesign and buy reflective, anti-snare collars that will reduce deaths from poaching and car collisions.

2 AMPHIBIANS

Mexico

See project profile on page 12.

3 BATS

Cambodia

Developed guidelines for sustainable guano harvesting to reduce the impacts of that practice on Southeast Asian bats.

4 COTTON-TOP TAMARIN

Columbia

Helped sell and certify forest-friendly Eco-Mochila bags to create jobs for local people and keep tamarin habitat litter-free.

5 GIANT ARMADILLO

Brazil

Conducted a public education campaign in Brazil to leverage the armadillo mascot of the upcoming World Cup and bring attention to this rare animal.

6 INDIAN TURTLE

India

Worked with local fishermen to introduce and distribute turtle-safe fishing nets for use in heavily fished streams and rivers.

7 JAGUAR

U.S./Mexico Borderlands

Launched the Save a Spot Campaign for U.S./Mexico borderlands jaguars by creating outreach materials and raising funds for the Northern Jaguar Reserve.

8 LION

Kenya

Helped develop a citizen-science program that trains local guides to identify and monitor individual lions using GPS and provides tourists the chance to participate in ongoing lion studies.

9 OKAPI

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Built local conservation capacity and helped create an educational video focused on the importance of natural resources in the DRC, using the okapi as the flagship species.

10 PANGOLIN

Cambodia

See project profile on page 6.

11 RADIATED TORTOISE

Madagascar

Designed, developed and distributed tortoise-themed educational materials, organized local educational outreach and provided conservation capacity for villages in southern Madagascar.

12 SAOLA

Vietnam/Laos Border

See project profile on page 10.

13 SLOW LORIS

Thailand

See project profile on page 8.

14 SNOW LEOPARD

Mongolia

Worked to create educational curricula and raise funds for a snow leopard-themed camp for teen-agers who live in areas of Mongolia with snow leopard-human conflict.

15 SOUTHEAST ASIAN BEARS I

Southeast Asia

Conducted a survey of Traditional Asian Medicine practitioners in the U.S. on the use of imperiled species products—like bear bile—and their alternatives.

16 SOUTHEAST ASIAN BEARS 2

Southeast Asia

Reviewed existing literature to determine trends in bear-bile farming, wild bear populations and harvests, and the price of bear products to better understand the economics driving the trade.

17 SUN & SLOTH BEARS

India and Cambodia

Built awareness and conservation support for bears through educational materials, reaching tens of thousands of people in India and Cambodia.

18 SUN BEAR

Malaysia

Worked with researchers to create the *Sun Bear Journals* series for distribution in North America and Southeast Asia to educate the public about this little-known bear and raise funds for further studies.

19 TAPIR

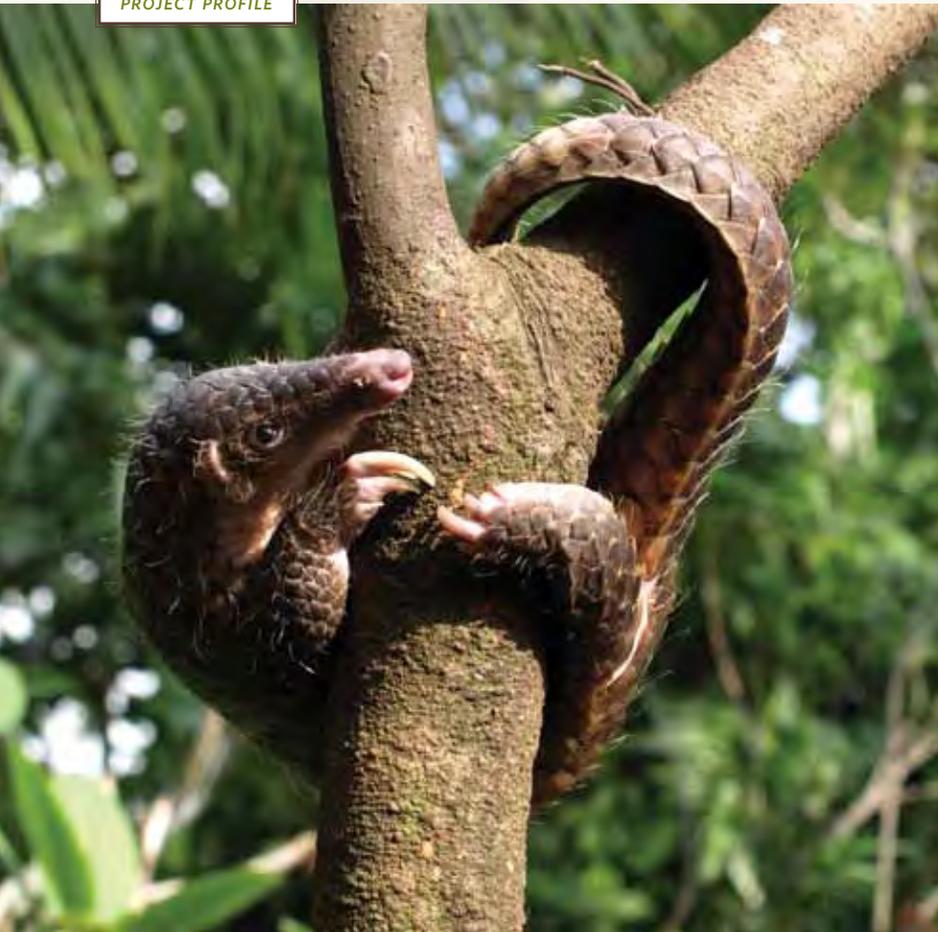
Central/South America, Southeast Asia

Produced a comprehensive press kit to strengthen tapir advocate capacity and raise awareness about the plight of tapirs through media training and education.

20 YELLOW-HEADED PARROT

Belize

Provided training for rangers combating illegal trade and raised funds for more rangers, GIS training, climbing and safety equipment, and outreach materials.



Julie Scardina / SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment Inc.

**TEAM**

Adrian Benedetti, Summit Nature Park
 Noah Kahn, Defenders of Wildlife
 Keri Parker, US Fish & Wildlife Service
 Gina Schrader, Defenders of Wildlife
 Paul Thomson, African Wildlife Foundation
 Rowena Watson, Department of State

PARTNERS

Conservation International-Cambodia; Forestry Administration of Cambodia; Grant Wheeler; Gregory Ferrand; Will Chatham; Carnivore and Pangolin Conservation Program; Norman Lim; World Wildlife Fund-US Russell E. Train Education for Nature Program; SeaWorld Busch Gardens Conservation Fund



Pangolin

EWCL CLASS II

EWCL's pangolin team raised awareness about pangolin conservation and strengthened collaborative efforts to combat the illegal trade in Cambodia, one of the last strongholds of the Malayan pangolin. The team sought to spur on-the-ground conservation activities for pangolins and stimulate local community interest in protecting them.

Pangolins are some of the most endangered mammals in the world. These secretive, nocturnal animals live in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, where they are hunted for food and killed to supply the rampant, illegal trade in their body parts. Officials seize tens of thousands of illegally caught pangolins each year from poachers responding to high demand—principally from China—for pangolin meat, blood, skin and scales, which are sold as a delicacy and for use in traditional medicines and fashion.

EWCL's pangolin team partnered with Conservation International-Cambodia (CI-Cambodia) and the Cambodian Forestry Administration to plan, fund and implement a two-day training workshop for conservation stakeholders. The workshop covered pangolin natural history and identification, wildlife protection laws, confiscation protocols, and the role of customs, border control and law enforcement. The partners trained park rangers in correct handling and release methods, including procedures for prosecuting criminal cases involving pangolin trafficking. EWCL team members Gina Schrader and Rowena Watson traveled to Cambodia to present information and assist with logistics.

Over 50 representatives from local communities, government, and conservation organizations, as well as police and rangers from across the Cardamom Mountains, participated in the training, which was also highlighted in Cambodian news media. More than 50 local school children from the Cardamom Mountains participated in events surrounding the workshop. The EWCL team and CI-Cambodia created and distributed educational materials in English and Khmer.

EWCL's pangolin team also developed SavePangolins.org, the first-ever comprehensive pangolin website. The site highlights current conservation efforts—and even generated tips that led to a raid on a restaurant in Vietnam that was serving pangolins, resulting in the confiscation of several animals. The project spurred additional conservation initiatives, including trainings, formal confiscation standards and improvements to pangolin treatment facilities. Two pangolin team members now serve as Communication Vice-Chairs on the IUCN pangolin specialist group as a result of the EWCL project.



For more information about EWCL's Pangolin Conservation Support Initiative, visit [SavePangolins.org](https://www.savepangolins.org)

PRODUCTS

The pangolin team created a website, savepangolins.org, that provides information about pangolins, highlights the work of conservation groups working to save pangolins, and highlights ways people can help contribute to pangolin conservation.



The team worked with an illustrator to create a kids coloring page, a poster, and other educational materials.

The 2008 Pangolin Conservation Stakeholder Workshop and Outreach Campaign in Cambodia was covered by local media and promoted in a documentary video.



“
The chance
to dive into
the deep end
on a true
international
on-the-ground
project—
rather than
just read
about it—was
priceless.”

KERI PARKER
BIOLOGIST,
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE
SERVICE
EWCL ALUMNI

”

93%

OF EWCL PARTICIPANTS
AND ALUMNI POLLED
AGREED THAT EWCL
HELPED THEM DEVELOP
THE ABILITY TO BE
A MORE EFFECTIVE
CONSERVATION
PROFESSIONAL

WILDLIFE LEADER SPOTLIGHT

Shivani Bhalla

Founder and Executive Director, Ewaso Lions
Samburu, Kenya

EWCL CLASS II

Shivani Bhalla, a fourth generation Kenyan who grew up with strong connections to local landscapes and wildlife, wanted to develop an organization to study and protect lions in the Samburu region of Northern Kenya. This would require engaging the local community and developing strategies to reduce human-lion conflicts.

“Kenya’s lions now number less than 2,000 individuals and could be extinct within the next two decades,” Shivani says. “I knew I wanted to establish my own conservation project, but I didn’t know how to start a project from scratch, and I didn’t have the financial backing.” Shivani says the EWCL program came along “at an amazing time” and that the training course spurred her to launch the Ewaso Lion Project formally.

“I wasn’t entirely sure what to expect from EWCL, but I knew I wanted to learn new skills and meet other early-career conservationists,” Shivani recalls. “It was one of the best trainings I have ever done. I would pour through the materials for months afterwards.”

Ewaso Lions is now in its seventh year and has grown to include extremely effective research, on-the-ground conservation and citizen science programs. Samburu is one of the few areas in Kenya where lion numbers are generally stable and increasing. Moreover, two of Shivani’s EWCL peers now work with her on the project—Paul Thomson, who works in Africa as

Managing Director, and Nilanga Jayasinghe, who acts as U.S. Manager of Operations.

Shivani says that EWCL’s heavy focus on leadership training has been invaluable. “Today, I manage a team of 26 people, including professional conservationists, local community members, and volunteers. I don’t think I could have done that before EWCL.”



Shivani Bhalla and the Ewaso Lions team treat a sedated lioness at the Samburu National Reserve. Photo courtesy EWASO Lions.

Ewaso Lions



A. Walmsley and Little Fireface Project

**TEAM**

Bradford Latham, Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries, St. Vincent & Grenadines
 Zak Smith, Natural Resources Defense Council
 Brandon Speeg, White Oak
 Jennifer Tsang, Pollinator Partnership
 Cristina Tofoli, IPE
 Michael Gale, US Fish & Wildlife Service

PARTNERS

FREELAND Foundation; The International Fund for Animal Welfare; World Wildlife Fund;
 Dr. Anna Nekaris and Oxford Brookes University; Helga Schulze



Slow Loris

EWCL CLASS IV

While some of EWCL's conservation projects have supported adjudication of wildlife criminals, the slow loris project is the first to have directly involved EWCL participants in arresting traffickers and recovering imperiled species from the wildlife trade.

Slow lorises are nocturnal primates that range from northern India to the Philippines. There are five loris species, all of which are threatened by habitat destruction and overharvesting for the illegal pet and traditional medicine trades. According to slow loris expert Anna Nekaris, Ph.D. of the Little Fireface Project, hunters are literally emptying the forests of slow lorises, which are among the most common animals spotted in Asia's illegal animal markets but among the least common found in the wild.

Working with the Thai-based group FREELAND Foundation, EWCL's slow loris group secured grants from the International Fund for Animal Welfare and World Wildlife Fund to provide a comprehensive training program in Thailand for law enforcement staff from Thai and Lao agencies. Participants included Customs officials, Royal Thai Police and representatives from the Natural Resources Department. The training covered law enforcement procedures, emphasizing the local and regional wildlife trade, and technical, legal and strategic training from former enforcement officers.

The slow loris group created educational materials on wildlife trade for the training, and the team's biologist traveled to Thailand to present information at the workshop about slow loris identification, conservation status, legal protection and confiscated animal care. The workshop was designed to be easily replicable for use in future wildlife trafficking trainings in Southeast Asia.

The training concluded with an undercover training activity. Two members of the training team, including EWCL participant Brandon Speeg, posed as tourists in the wildlife market of Pattaya. When traders approached the team members and sold them photo opportunities with the captive lorises, the conservationists sent the illicit photographs to the officers-in-training, who then arrested the traders and recovered the captive animals on the spot.

"Working on the EWCL slow loris project demonstrated the importance of strong partnerships in designing an effective conservation campaign," says team member Jennifer Tsang. "It gave us the opportunity to collaborate with amazing conservation leaders from around the world to make real, positive, on-the-ground change."



For more information on how to help support loris conservation, visit nocturama.org

PRODUCTS

EWCL's slow loris group developed an **investigative training program** for Thai and Lao law enforcement officers in Southeast Asia.

The group created training materials, including:

a **presentation** about slow loris identification, confiscated animal care, legal protection, and conservation status,

educational hand-outs about placement of confiscated animals and immediate post-confiscation care, used in training, and

a slow loris **species identification guide** (originally created by Dr. Anna Nekaris).

The team worked with a loris scientist and artist in Germany to design a **logo** for use on products and apparel.



The follow-up project focused on social media as an inexpensive and effective medium to deliver slow loris information. EWCL Slow Loris Group wrote Facebook posts for the Little Fireface Project.



“
We have
been proud
supporters
of EWCL
and view the
program as
one of the
most heavily
leveraged
investments
we can make
in the world
of wildlife
conservation.”

CHARLES KNOWLES
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
NETWORK

”

93%

OF EWCL PARTICIPANTS
AND ALUMNI POLLED
AGREED THAT EWCL
HELPED THEM BETTER
UNDERSTAND THE
STEPS TO CREATE
A SUCCESSFUL
CONSERVATION
CAMPAIGN

WILDLIFE LEADER SPOTLIGHT

Nav Dayanand

Managing Director, Fauna & Flora International
Washington, D.C.

EWCL CLASS III

As Managing Director of Flora and Fauna International (FFI) in Washington, D.C., Nav Dayanand deals with conservation issues across the globe. And yet, he is amazed by “how small the conservation world is once you are in it.” Nav describes a recent trip to the Caribbean to visit FFI’s Antigua Racer Conservation Project, an effort to bring back one of the world’s rarest snakes from the brink of extinction. “I was there with a funder, Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund, where EWCL graduate Claire Martin works and whose colleagues had facilitated the visit. Then I discovered that one of our local Antigua representatives, Natalya Lawrence, is a current Caribbean EWCL cohort. Colleagues unfamiliar with EWCL were so impressed with the breadth of its network, remarking, ‘What is this program? What is its reach? It seems to be making a huge impact internationally!’”

Prior to EWCL, while working at the Wildlife Conservation Society, Nav felt that both his network and his opportunities for professional development

were limited to “inside-the-Beltway” politics. He says EWCL gave him exactly what he needed to take the next step in his career. “I wanted to seek out friends, partners and mentors to expand my reach. EWCL provided access to myriad professionals in international wildlife conservation.” Today, Nav is focused on building FFI’s

organizational strength, drawing inspiration from the conservation projects he facilitates, from counter-wildlife-trafficking to on-the-ground initiatives. “I’m humbled that my efforts are having a broader impact,” he says, “and that is thanks to EWCL, because it literally opened doors for me.”



Nav Dayanand with an endangered Antigua racer at the site of the Fauna and Flora International’s conservation project to save the species.

Nav Dayanand



© WWF/Toon Fey

**TEAM**

Amielle DeWan, Hudson River Estuary Program,
Cornell University
Alec Hutchinson, PRETOMA (Programa
Restauracion de Tortugas Marinas)
Jessica Kahler, Michigan State University
Kathryn Mannle, Rare
Serda Ozebenian, Animal Welfare Institute
Natália Tôrres, Jaguar Conservation Fund

PARTNERS

Saola Working Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature/Species Survival Commission (IUCN/SSC), Asian Wild Cattle Specialist Group; World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Vietnam; Global Wildlife Conservation; World Wildlife Fund-US Russell E. Train Education for Nature Program

**Saola**

EWCL CLASS III

The saola is a shy, little-known wild cow that only exists in the Annamite Mountains along the Vietnam/Laos border. Experts estimate that a few hundred saola live in the wild, but only 11 individuals have ever been recorded alive, making the saola one of the world's rarest and most critically endangered mammals.

The saola is threatened by intensive logging for timber and small-scale agriculture, which eliminates and fragments its forest habitat, and by widespread, illegal snaring for a variety of wildlife in the reserve. Even though saola parts have little value in the wildlife trade, the snares are indiscriminate and their impact is potentially devastating for the saola.

Targeting these threats, EWCL's saola team worked to improve snare removal in saola habitat, increase awareness about the species and build capacity for the IUCN Saola Working Group. EWCL team members secured funding from the World Wildlife Fund to conduct a workshop in the Quang Nam Province of Vietnam that could train rangers in snare removal techniques, enhance saola conservation strategies and identify key challenges to conservation. The team secured additional funds that enabled two team members to travel to Vietnam, assist with the workshop, and gather photos, interviews and video for additional conservation efforts. In total, the team raised nearly \$12,000 and provided training for 10 rangers in Vietnam.

The EWCL team also collaborated with the Saola Working Group to raise international awareness about the species. The team designed a conservation logo and created a website to centralize information and provide opportunities for people to contribute to saola conservation projects on the ground. The team also created the first-ever saola conservation video to support conservation measures worldwide, including the Saola Working Group, World Wildlife Fund and the Cologne Zoo.

Barney Long, who directs Asian species conservation programs for World Wildlife Fund, praised the EWCL project for its contribution to saola conservation efforts in the region. "EWCL's saola team provided critical communications support to help save this endangered species. They created a brand and identity for saola that increased the species' profile and leveraged much-needed funds for saola conservation. In addition, the team provided important training to rangers in Vietnam to help combat some of the most pressing threats to these rare animals."



For more information on how to help support the saola species, visit savethesaola.org

PRODUCTS

EWCL's saola team worked with a graphic designer to create a *saola* logo for the EWCL group and the IUCN Saola Working Group.



They created a website, savethesaola.org, to share current information on saola and saola partners and projects. The website also hosts the first *saola* video that has been used by partners for fundraising and awareness.



Kate Mannle

The *Saola Workshop*, held in Quang Nam Province, Vietnam in 2010, provided valuable training and conservation support for Forest Protection Department rangers.

The team also created *chopsticks* to raise awareness and helped sell *t-shirts* created by Global Wildlife Conservation, one of the IUCN SWG partners, to raise money for saola projects.

“
No other
training
has been as
in-depth or
rewarding as
EWCL. I feel
extremely
lucky to have
been a part of
this incredible
program.”

SARA BUSHEY OHREL,
ECONOMIST, CLIMATE
CHANGE DIVISION,
US ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY,
EWCL ALUMNI

89%

OF EWCL PARTICIPANTS
AND ALUMNI POLLED
FEEL THAT EWCL HAS
PREPARED THEM FOR
A LEADERSHIP ROLE
IN THE INTERNATIONAL
WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION FIELD

WILDLIFE LEADER SPOTLIGHT

Danielle Tedesco

Foreign Service Natural Resources Officer, U.S. Agency for International Development, Bangkok, Thailand

EWCL CLASS I

Danielle Tedesco's niche for helping wildlife is fairly unique: Her interest is in bio-diplomacy: using diplomacy to promote conservation. She was working for the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) in Washington, D.C. when she first heard about EWCL. Danielle felt that EWCL could be a real asset to her career, and says now, "The EWCL training helped me see conservation programming holistically: partnership development, fundraising, program design and planning, team building, communications, and monitoring and evaluation. These are all critical, interconnected components of successful conservation programs. EWCL brought it all together for me."

Danielle says that EWCL provided an opportunity to examine her career direction, and soon after she joined the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) as one of the select few foreign-service environment officers. She now serves as the Biodiversity Team Leader at USAID's Regional Mission for Development in Asia,

where she manages the U.S. government's largest counter-wildlife trafficking program. The region is one of the hottest spots in the world for illegal wildlife trade, and Danielle works closely with high-level international government decision-makers and NGOs to make a real difference in curbing wildlife trafficking.

And despite being half way around the world from where she completed her EWCL training, she frequently works with members of the ever-growing EWCL family. "EWCL is a rare

opportunity," Danielle reflects. "This really resonated with me at the CITES conference in Bangkok in March. A number of EWCL graduates were here, all advocating for increased protection of wildlife from unsustainable trade. Their presence really speaks to the program's impact and its success in building conservation leadership. EWCL graduates are shaping the direction of wildlife conservation at the highest levels and in global forums."



Danielle works to disrupt trafficking of wildlife products in Southeast Asia, such as rhino horn, tiger skins, and these elephant ivory tusks seized by government officials in Hong Kong.

Ivory: FAW/Alex Hefford



José Alfredo Hernández Díaz

**TEAM**

Payal Kapoor, Conservation International
 Carol Rizkalla, Disney's Animal Kingdom
 Jennifer Sevin, Smithsonian Institute
 Scott Smith, Wildlife Conservation Society
 Aimee Weldon, National Audubon Society

PARTNERS

Amphibian Ark; Conservation International; Defenders of Wildlife; Disney's Animal Kingdom; National Wildlife Federation; Smithsonian Institution; Wildlife Conservation Society; Association of Zoos and Aquariums; Fine Print Imaging; The Center for North American Herpetology; Tree Walkers International; National Association of Biology Teachers



Amphibians

EWCL CLASS III

EWCL's amphibian project surpassed all expectations by helping to save a species from extinction. The team raised the majority of the funds needed to save the critically endangered large-crested toad of Mexico from certain extinction, while bolstering much-needed support for amphibian conservation in the face of a global taxonomic crisis.

Working with Amphibian Ark (AArk), a nonprofit coalition of amphibian conservation organizations, the EWCL team designed a campaign to address the global amphibian extinction crisis during “Year of the Frog” in 2008. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature, nearly one-third of the world's 7,000 known amphibian species are threatened with extinction. The project augmented AArk's efforts to generate public awareness, create partnerships, raise funds, engage the public and stimulate long-term interest in amphibian conservation. The team solicited proposals from Latin American zoos and aquaria to create a captive colony of rare frogs in advance of the rapidly spreading chytrid fungus, cause of mass local extinctions. The group ultimately partnered with Africam Safari, a zoo in Puebla, Mexico, to implement a multifaceted initiative to save the large-crested toad.

This critically endangered toad inhabits Mexico's dwindling cloud forest habitats. The species was presumed extinct by the 1990s but rediscovered in Barranca de Xocoyolo in the northern Sierra Madre Oriental—the sole known wild population of the species. Africam Safari proposed to breed the large-crested toad in captivity to guard against extinction, work with nonprofit and academic partners to restore its habitat, monitor for disease in wild populations and conduct education programs in the two areas where large-crested toad had last been seen in 1998.

The team created helpafrog.org to share information about the amphibian crisis, as well as a suite of fundraising materials (see products at right). They compiled an amphibian educational toolkit for teachers and invited teachers and students to help raise funds for large-crested toad conservation, raising tens of thousands of dollars in the process.

With the money raised by the EWCL team, Africam Safari launched its large-crested toad conservation program and successfully bred captive toads in 2012 and 2013 and released some of the offspring from the first clutch into the wild in July 2013. The program is now focused on continued captive breeding, monitoring the species in the wild and engaging the community in ongoing conservation efforts.



For more information on how to help conserve declining frog populations, visit helpafrog.org

PRODUCTS

EWCL's amphibian group conducted a teacher workshop in Front Royal, VA, created an educational toolkit, and engaged teachers in raising both money and awareness for amphibian conservation.

The group has created and maintains a website, www.helpafrog.org, where they share current information on amphibians and links to educational materials and sell amphibian-themed merchandise.

The amphibian team also created note cards, art prints and adoption packages to raise awareness about amphibian decline and to raise funds for amphibian conservation.



The group's Year of the Frog calendar raised over \$25,000 for large-crested toad conservation.



“
I cannot
tell you how
impressed I
am with what
[the EWCL
amphibian
team] has
accomplished.
EWCL should
rest assured
that they
have indeed
unleashed the
next generation
of wildlife
leaders.”

KEVIN C. ZIPPEL, PH.D.
PROGRAM DIRECTOR,
AMPHIBIAN ARK
EWCL PROJECT PARTNER

”
.....
95%
OF EWCL BOARD
MEMBERS AND
TRAINERS POLLED
BELIEVE THAT EWCL
ALUMNI WILL BE
STRONGER AND MORE
EFFECTIVE IN THE FIELD
DUE TO THEIR EWCL
EXPERIENCE

WILDLIFE LEADER SPOTLIGHT

Brandon Speeg

Conservation Coordinator, White Oak
Yulee, Florida

EWCL CLASS IV

As a wildlife professional working with hooved animals at White Oak, a conservation center in Florida, Brandon Speeg wanted to link captive wildlife programs with on-the-ground conservation. To do this, he needed to move into leadership roles where he could better shape conservation efforts in the wild. He thought EWCL could help him expand his skills—and now he credits the program with enabling him to make the transition to program management.

As Conservation Coordinator, Brandon now oversees a variety of White Oak's applied conservation programs, including reducing conflicts between native communities and wild zebras and rhinos in Africa and working in Senegal to improve captive breeding and conservation planning for the highly endangered giant eland.

Working on his EWCL conservation project helped Brandon develop new skills. “We could take chances with our project that I couldn't have in my real job,” he says.

Brandon is also currently working with EWCL peer Neil

Carter to facilitate tiger and rhino conservation in Nepal, and with fellow EWCLer Jennifer Tsang to develop pollinator education programs at White Oak. “EWCL has created a significant network of professional conservationists, including the participants, Board and trainers. Being part of that network is tremendously important to my work on a daily basis.”

He says EWCL also provided invaluable training in a variety of areas his job demands. “It's hard to get exposure to that many experts and skill sets in one program. I keep my EWCL binders in my office, and I often look at my notes so I can apply things I learned directly to my work.”



Brandon Speeg educates guests to White Oak about the organization's endangered species breeding programs and on-the-ground efforts.

© White Oak



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2012-2014 Caribbean EWCL Class.

CARIBBEAN EWCL LEADERSHIP

Director

Beth Allgood, International Fund for Animal Welfare

Advisors

Kelvin Alie, International Fund for Animal Welfare

Michelle Behnam, Discovery Channel Global Education Partnership

Karen L. Eckert, Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network

Heather E. Eves, St. George's University, Grenada

Nina Fascione, Defenders of Wildlife

Jeff Flocken, International Fund for Animal Welfare

Nadra Nathai-Gyan, Zoological Society of Trinidad and Tobago

Amana Mayhew, Humane Society International



Caribbean EWCL Course

In 2013, EWCL launched an exciting pilot program that brought the EWCL experience to emerging conservation leaders in the Caribbean.

Funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the International Fund for Animal Welfare and modeled on the U.S.-based EWCL program, Caribbean EWCL (C-EWCL) provides promising conservation professionals in the Caribbean with invaluable experience through a combination of skills training, networking opportunities with peers and established practitioners, and the completion of a Caribbean-based wildlife conservation initiative. C-EWCL empowers participants to become future conservation leaders in the Caribbean, with the competence necessary to launch well-rounded, successful conservation campaigns.

The two-year training includes two weeks of in-person training and a two-day webinar. Throughout the two years participants also work in teams to develop, implement and evaluate a wildlife conservation project in the Caribbean. Through the program, participants work closely with seasoned conservation professionals who help guide them on their journey and provide one-on-one mentoring and career development.

The C-EWCL Conservation Projects are:

CONCH SHELLS

The Conch Shell Group is developing reference materials for wildlife officials and customs agents in the Caribbean in order to address the unsustainable trade in conch shells, corals, lizards, indigenous birds, sea turtles and other local species.

SAINT VINCENT PARROT

The Saint Vincent Parrot Group is improving census-taking techniques, training local rangers and evaluating the results of their efforts to determine if newly developed census methodology can be replicated to conserve other parrots in the region.

WHALES

The Caribbean Whale Group is providing marketing expertise and “best-practices” guides to whale-watching businesses in the Caribbean that have volunteered to use wildlife-friendly and environmentally sustainable practices as part of their operations.

MARINE TURTLE

The Sea Turtle team is developing a survey for conservation practitioners on the challenges they have encountered in the field, and will use the survey results and additional background research to develop guidelines for sea turtle conservation volunteers and professionals.

“
**Caribbean
 EWCL
 was the perfect
 way to start
 building a
 community
 of strong
 new leaders
 through
 training,
 practical
 experience and
 networking.**
 ”

BETH ALLGOOD
 CARIBBEAN EWCL DIRECTOR

.....
90%
 OF EWCL BOARD
 MEMBERS AND
 TRAINERS POLLED
 BELIEVE THAT THE
 PROGRAM EFFECTIVELY
 TRAINS PARTICIPANTS
 IN THE SKILLS
 NECESSARY TO DELIVER
 SUCCESSFUL WILDLIFE
 CONSERVATION
 CAMPAIGNS

WILDLIFE LEADER SPOTLIGHT

Feria Narcisse-Gaston

Environmental Education Officer, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Energy, Science and Technology
 St. Lucia

C-EWCL CLASS I

Feria Narcisse-Gaston was a forest officer in the Forestry Department of St. Lucia when she learned about EWCL. She wanted to leverage her work to protect local endangered species, but, to do that effectively, she needed more training.

In 2007, Feria had developed the Forestry Department’s successful Save St. Lucia Iguana campaign, which aimed to protect the iguana and other endemic species that share its habitat and made strides towards protecting St. Lucia’s dwindling dry forests. Nonetheless, Feria says she benefitted significantly from EWCL’s hands-on conservation project training, which has given her the opportunity to work directly with local communities, understand their concerns, and motivate them not to destroy their local environment.

“When I talk about conservation, the locals talk about their livelihoods and ask, ‘What’s in it for me?’ I like to respond by talking with them about our local resources, developing ecotourism and other sustainable options.”

In 2013, Feria was promoted to Environmental Education Officer for the entire Ministry of Sustainable Development, Energy, Science and Technology, where she is already putting her EWCL skills to work. She is collaborating with other Caribbean EWCL participants to share best practices from a successful St. Lucia parrot conservation program with

EWCL’s St. Vincent parrot team. Feria credits EWCL with bolstering her outreach skills and giving her the tools she needs to work with diverse community interests.

“I look forward to doing a lot more with what I’ve learned,” she says, “and developing a lot more campaigns to motivate local people to protect our local wildlife.”



Feria Narcisse-Gaston shows off a billboard she designed as part of a campaign to save the Santa Lucia iguana.



Julia Byrd/SCDNR

Alumna Julia Byrd says she draws on her EWCL skills to strengthen her work in fisheries management along the Eastern seaboard.

Julia Byrd

Coordinator, SEDAR

EWCL CLASS I

Since her EWCL graduation, Julia Byrd has worked on sea turtle and fisheries management issues with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and with the Southeast Data Assessment and Review program. Julia says the EWCL program helped her develop the skills needed to work closely with fishery scientists and fishermen in the southeastern U.S. “Fishermen want to know that they are being heard by the scientists and fisheries management councils—not just listened to, but heard. When we build relationships, we work together better, and that’s how we ultimately gain their support for conservation.”

Julia adds, “I was able to apply so much of what I learned about partnerships and collaboration to the state and regional level. There’s no question that EWCL can make a big difference, not only for global conservation, but on a local level here in the United States, too.”

Board of Directors

EWCL owes much of its success to the excellence and dedication of its Board of Directors. EWCL board members are established leaders in the wildlife conservation field, who help to shape programs, policy and conservation science at some of the nation's most effective conservation organizations. These talented professionals volunteer their time each year to train EWCL participants, advise them on the development of EWCL conservation projects and mentor them as they develop their own careers in wildlife conservation. Board members also play a crucial role in the development and effectiveness of the EWCL program itself. Their expert guidance has helped EWCL achieve success in its first decade and will continue to ensure that EWCL realizes its goal of training and connecting the next generation of wildlife conservation leaders for years to come.

BOARD CO-CHAIRS AND CO-FOUNDERS

Nina Fascione, Defenders of Wildlife and Jeff Flocken, International Fund for Animal Welfare

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Sara Barth
The Wilderness Society

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Environmental Leadership Program

David Mizejewski
National Wildlife Federation

Jackie Ogden
Walt Disney Parks and Resorts

Krishna Roy
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Julie Scardina
SeaWorld/Busch Gardens

Participant Organizations

Over 100 organizations have benefitted from staff members or students participating in the EWCL training program during its first decade. Some groups that have had participants include:

African Wildlife Foundation
Animal Welfare Institute
Bat Conservation International
Bushmeat Crisis Task Force
Cheetah Conservation Fund
Chicago Zoological Society
Conservation International
Defenders of Wildlife
Disney's Animal Kingdom
Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Program
Fauna & Flora International
Florida Museum of Natural History
FREELAND Foundation
Gibbon Conservation Center
Grevy's Zebra Trust
Houston Zoo
Humane Society of the United States
International Fund for Animal Welfare
Island Press
Jaguar Conservation Fund
Michigan State University
Minnesota Zoo
Missouri Department of Conservation
National Audubon Society
National Museums of Kenya
National Trust for the Cayman Islands
National Wildlife Federation

Natural Resources Defense Council
Philadelphia Zoo
Pollinator Partnership
Rainforest Alliance
RARE
Save the Elephants
SeaWorld
Sierra Club
Smithsonian Institute
St. Lucia Forestry Department
St. Vincent Ministry of Agriculture,
Forestry & Fisheries
The Nature Conservancy
Turtle Conservancy
University of South Florida
USAID
U.S. Department of State
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
U.S. National Oceanic & Atmospheric
Administration /National Marine
Fisheries Service
Ventana Wildlife Society
White Oak
Wildlife Conservation Society
Wildlife Institute of India
World Wildlife Fund
Ya'axche Conservation Trust

Funders

EWCL is a collaborative effort sponsored by:

Defenders of Wildlife, Houston Zoo, International Fund for Animal Welfare, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Division of International Conservation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wildlife Refuge System, White Oak, and Wildlife Conservation Network

Additional supporters include:

Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund, National Wildlife Federation, RARE, SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund, Wildlife Conservation Society, and World Wildlife Fund

EWCL's conservation projects have also received generous support from the following foundations and organizations:

Columbus Zoo, Conservation International, Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund, International Fund for Animal Welfare, Little Rock Zoo, Minnesota Zoo, Oakland Zoo, Oregon Zoo, Sea World/Busch Gardens Conservation Fund, The Walt Disney Company, Turtle Conservation Fund, Ulysses Seal Fund-Minnesota Zoo, USFWS Wildlife Without Borders, and WWF Education for Nature Program



Shailendra Singh



EWASO Lions

Report Author and Coordinator

Elizabeth Murdock

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Cover photograph: fuse/thinkstock

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

EWCL is supported almost entirely through grant programs. If you are interested in supporting this training program or the conservation projects, please visit wildlifeleaders.org or contact Jeff Flocken at jflocken@ifaw.org.

HOW TO APPLY

EWCL seeks diverse candidates from nonprofit organizations, foundations, federal and state governments and the private sector. Participants will be expected to devote time throughout the two-year period to designing and implementing a group wildlife conservation project. Applicants should have at least three years experience in the wildlife conservation field, with at least 15 years in the profession ahead of them.

If you are interested in applying for the EWCL program, please visit wildlifeleaders.org.

