

2016 ANNUAL REPORT



Our Mission

WCN protects endangered species and preserves their natural habitats by supporting entrepreneurial conservationists who pursue innovative strategies for people and wildlife to co-exist and thrive.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Charles Knowles
Akiko Yamazaki
John Lukas
Christine Hemrick
Rebecca Patton
David Berger
Bill Unger

STAFF

Veleta Allen, *Controller*
Stephanie Carnow, *Marketing and Communications Manager*
Dr. Jean-Gaël “JG” Collomb, *Executive Director*
Dave Cortright, *Director of Technology*
Sophie Croen, *Events Manager*
Seret Dirar, *Staff Accountant*
Charles Knowles, *President*
Dr. Peter Lindsey, *Conservation Initiatives Director*
Dr. Jeffrey “Jefe” Parrish, *Vice President for Conservation*
Rebecca Patton, *Vice President*
Madison Pruett, *Administrative Assistant and Office Manager*
Randy Mazzuca, *Program Assistant*
Pooja Menon, *Marketing and Communications Coordinator*
Eve Schaeffer, *Program Manager*
Becca Stievater, *Grants Manager*
Joyce Wang, *Conservation Network Manager*
Kelly Wilson, *Director of Donor Engagement*

Thanks to Vivian Twu for her work as Program Associate in 2016.



Cover photo © Frans Lanting / lanting.com

We are amazed by the remarkable changes that occurred for WCN and our partners in 2016. It was a year defined by impressive developments and fresh new approaches as we continued to grow our ardent community of conservationists and supporters. It was a complex year, but rooted in the most simple, fundamental truth: we have but one planet and we are privileged to share it with extraordinary wildlife. Whether lions, elephants, or penguins, these animals are emotionally sophisticated, deeply intelligent, and essential for healthy ecosystems. Our responsibility to preserving this diversity of life has never been greater and our ability to rise to the challenge has never been stronger.

Our strength comes from your support. Because of your commitment to wildlife our partners have been able to make significant impacts: Cheetah Conservation Botswana has reported a 76% decrease in livestock losses with increasing tolerance towards cheetahs; Okapi Conservation Project’s rangers have arrested 113 poachers and destroyed 70 poaching and mining camps; and the most recent census by Grevy’s Zebra Trust has shown zebra populations are stabilized and healthy in Kenya. Thanks to committed donors the Elephant Crisis Fund reached over 114 projects and 45 organizations in 25 countries to stop elephant poaching and end the ivory trade. These efforts have contributed to significant progress for elephants, perhaps most notably China’s announcement it will shut down its domestic ivory trade by the end of 2017. Thank you for helping to make these accomplishments possible.

With your support, WCN expanded our network and doubled our presence in Latin America by adding three new partners. Spectacled bears, sharks, rays, and 18 species of penguins joined the iconic wildlife we protect. For the first time, we are focusing on conservation efforts in our oceans and we are supporting partners working on a truly global scale. In the U.S., we held four Wildlife Conservation Expos in 2016, bringing our partners’ inspirational work to new audiences. WCN was also recognized by Charity Navigator with four stars, a perfect 100 score, and a top ranking amongst wildlife conservation charities.

We achieved a lot in 2016, but not without challenges. We saw a distressing increase in lion poaching, bushmeat snares became a dangerous threat to painted dogs, and cotton-top tamarins continued to lose habitat from deforestation. Supported by committed donors, our conservation partners addressed these challenges head on, finding solutions that work for wildlife and people alike. We move ahead with determined optimism, assured that protecting endangered species is not only worth fighting for, it’s a fight we intend to win.

Thank you for partnering with WCN in the fight for wildlife.

Charles Knowles,
President and Co-Founder



Jean-Gaël Collomb, PhD
Executive Director



Our Partner Conservationists' 2016 Highlights

CHEETAH CONSERVATION FUND

Dr. Laurie Marker

8 orphaned cheetah cubs rescued

Rescued cubs were brought to CCF's sanctuary in Namibia. CCF has developed an action plan for reintroducing the cubs to the wild as adults.



© Christophe Lepetit

SAIGA CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

Elena Bykova

7,000 sq. km re-designated as a protected area

SCA helped to re-designate the Saigachy Reserve as a protected area for saiga antelope and other wildlife. The size of Yosemite and Olympic National Parks combined, the Reserve is now the largest protected area in Uzbekistan. It will allow saiga antelope to migrate safely to Kazakhstan and provide important mating and calving sites.



OKAPI CONSERVATION PROJECT

John Lukas

53 gold mines closed, 15,000 miners removed, 113 poachers arrested, 2,156 snares removed, 70 poaching and mining camps shut down

All done by Rangers supported by OCP.



PAINTED DOG CONSERVATION

Peter Blinston

>6,000 sq. km area protected by the Hwange Conservation Coalition

PDC played a key role in establishing the Hwange Conservation Coalition, which will lead to greater protection in Zimbabwe for painted dogs and other wildlife over an area almost twice the size of Rhode Island.



GLOBAL PENGUIN SOCIETY

Dr. Pablo Borboroglu

1.5 million Magellanic penguins

are benefitting from the secured Protected Area GPS helped create in Argentina. This area protects the largest colony of Magellanic penguins in the world.



ANDEAN CAT ALLIANCE

Rocio Palacios

2 new programs launched

One to reduce hunting and conflict between local people and large carnivores and the other to solve the mystery of the genetic diversity of Andean cats.

EWASO LIONS

Shivani Bhalla

13 lion cubs born

in Ewaso Lions' Samburu study area in Kenya.



ETHIOPIAN WOLF CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Dr. Claudio Sillero

Most of the pack females that Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Program monitors in the Bale Mountains are pregnant or have pups

EWCP is confident that by the end of the breeding season (March), when they assess wolf demographics they will see a recovery of the wolf population from the last three years when they dealt with rabies and canine distemper virus outbreaks.



CHEETAH CONSERVATION BOTSWANA

Rebecca Klein

Despite the countrywide drought in Botswana in 2016—which caused the government to declare a state of disaster—CCB’s investment in community education and support programs enabled them to

minimize human-wildlife conflict in the Western Kalahari region.



GREVY’S ZEBRA TRUST

Belinda Low Mackey

2,350 estimated number of Grevy’s zebra in Kenya

GZT conducted the first nationwide photographic census called the Great Grevy’s Rally; citizens did a census of Grevy’s zebras using state-of-the-art stripe identification software. Over 40,000 images were captured.



MARALLIANCE

Dr. Rachel Graham

Conducted first baseline studies

for large marine wildlife in Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, and Honduras, quantifying types of sharks, rays, turtles, and large finfish in the area.

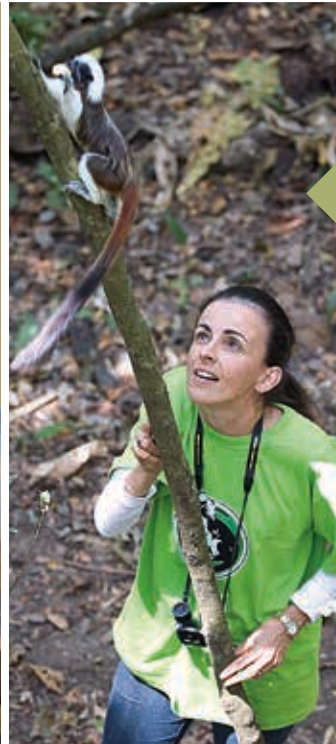


SAVE THE ELEPHANTS

Dr. Iain Douglas-Hamilton

>80% elephants deterred from entering farmland

Through their effective beehive fence concept, STE has successfully deterred over 80% of elephants in Sagalla, Kenya from destroying crops. This project is now used in 13 countries across Africa and Asia.



PROYECTO TITÍ

Rosamira Guillen

200 acres of forest corridors to be restored

Proyecto Tití signed agreements with 26 land owners in San Juan, Colombia to restore 80 hectares (almost 200 acres) of forest corridors that connect the National Park Los Colorados with other forest fragments in the area, creating connectivity that is key to the long-term survival and viability of cotton-top tamarins.

SMALL WILD CAT CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

Dr. Jim Sanderson

SWCCF expanded its partnerships with local conservationists

to protect fishing cats in India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Cambodia. For example, in Sri Lanka, with support from SWCCF, Small Cat Advocacy and Research accelerated efforts to reduce incidences of fishing cats being hit by cars (a major threat); they installed road-side traffic signs with fishing cat pictures urging motorists to slow down.

SNOW LEOPARD CONSERVANCY

Dr. Rodney Jackson

12 yak herders provided with “Foxlights” to protect their herds from snow leopards

In Nepal, SLC provided 12 yak herders (about half the herders in the area) with “Foxlights”—flashing lights used to frighten snow leopards and deter them from attacking livestock. Herders respond to snow leopard attacks on their livestock by killing the big cats in retaliation, so Foxlights are a cost-effective means of both protecting the herds and saving snow leopards.



NIASSA LION PROJECT

Dr. Colleen and Keith Begg

70% of Niassa villages now have wildlife guardians

NLP’s wildlife guardian program has reached across 30 villages inside the Niassa Reserve in Mozambique. Wildlife guardians help NLP monitor wildlife while helping keep the local communities safe from lions.



SPECTACLED BEAR CONSERVATION

Robyn Appleton

>100 bears saved from wildfires

A massive wildfire destroyed over 30,000 acres of forest in Peru, threatening local people, property, livestock, and wildlife—including three major spectacled bear populations. The team at Spectacled Bear Conservation risked their lives and worked around the clock to help extinguish the fires, saving over 100 bears in the area.

Jacobo's Journey Home:

An Andean Cat's Story of Rescue and Release



The real satisfaction came from organizing and executing Jacobo's journey home.

No one knows exactly how he got there, but everyone agrees, an Andean cat wandering around an urban soccer field is an unusual sight. It was March in Patacamaya, Bolivia, a town more than 50km from Andean cat habitat, when a few locals stumbled upon him; a juvenile not much bigger than a large housecat. Not knowing if the cat was sick or lost they rounded him up into a birdcage (of all things for a cat) and delivered him to the local authorities and ultimately to the Vesty Pakos State Zoo in La Paz. It was there that he was given a name—Jacobo, from the Andean cat's scientific name, *Leopardus jacobita*.

The Zoo had many questions about Jacobo, who looked worryingly underweight, so they contacted the Andean Cat Alliance (AGA). Just a few years ago many people hadn't heard of AGA, but they've quickly grown to be a principal authority on Andean cats and their conservation—not easy considering this animal is so elusive it bears the moniker “the ghost of the Andes.” AGA became an essential part of an Institutional Committee comprised of academic, nonprofit, and governmental wildlife authorities that worked closely together to ensure Jacobo was cared for under the best of conditions. As he is a wild cat, they ensured he was well-nourished and medically evaluated, but pro-

tected from habituating to people to retain his natural instincts.

[7]

Thankfully, Jacobo would be able to return home, but in the meantime, the Committee had the opportunity to get an up-close look at Andean cat behavior that is nearly impossible to observe in the wild. Using blood samples, AGA conducted a genetic analysis and checked for pathogens to ensure Jacobo was healthy enough for release and that he wouldn't spread diseases to other wildlife. And while it was tremendously valuable to have access to such a deeply mysterious animal, the real satisfaction came from organizing and executing Jacobo's journey home.

AGA lead the release process, conducting the fieldwork to evaluate a suitable location and providing a GPS collar and the respective equipment and manpower needed to monitor Jacobo—through GPS monitoring, AGA will continue to learn about his movements and behavior long after his release. It was AGA staff together with Zoo vets who accompanied Jacobo when he finally returned home to the rocky, vast Andes. With joy and gratitude for all he was able to teach them and a little sadness that their time with him was over, they watched Jacobo as he took stock of his surroundings, leapt up on all fours, and slowly walked away. ■

Preventing an Outbreak:

Expanding Efforts to Vaccinate Ethiopian Wolves



© Eric Bechin

A recently vaccinated wolf is released.

Ethiopian wolves prefer goat meat. That's important to know if you want to vaccinate a wolf for rabies and your choice of bait is goat meat or a grass rat. While rabies has been eradicated in many places, in the Bale Mountains of Ethiopia—home to the largest population of Ethiopian wolves—it remains a serious, deadly threat. This is why vaccination is the Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Program's (EWCP) biggest priority; they must get ahead of outbreaks because by the time rabies is detected in wolves, it's already spreading like wildfire.

This year EWCP completed an oral rabies vaccine trial on four wolf packs, confirming the ideal conditions to administer the vaccine and most importantly, what immune response it promotes. Fortunately, about 86% of the wolves studied showed high enough levels of the rabies antibodies to protect against the disease. This was the first oral vaccination trial conducted on an endangered carnivore in the wild, a great achievement for EWCP.

Rabies isn't the only disease EWCP vaccinates against. Ethiopian wolves are similarly threatened

by canine distemper virus (CDV), which nearly eviscerated their Bale population in 2015 and this year killed at least 34 wolves. This is a heart-breaking number given how precious few wolves exist at all; there are about 450 Ethiopian wolves in the entire world and only about 130 survived last year's outbreak in the Bale Mountains. Preventative vaccination is absolutely crucial to protect the fragile remaining populations of wolves.

EWCP has been expanding all of their conservation efforts into new areas beyond the Bale Mountains, with their vaccination campaigns the cornerstone of this work. In 2016 they piloted an additional small-scale CDV vaccine trial and also vaccinated over 5,200 domesticated dogs living alongside wolf habitat. Given that disease can jump from dogs to wolves, this creates added protection against any further devastation to wolf populations. As EWCP continues to expand their programs they will strengthen their efforts to spread vaccinations faster than disease can take root, with plenty of goat meat on hand. ■

This was the first oral vaccination trial conducted on an endangered carnivore in the wild.



© Martin Harvey



The real triumph in discovering the nursery is the emerging gold mine of information for developing global shark conservation strategies.

Baby Sharks Bring Hope:

Discovery of Shark Nurseries Reveals Exciting New Information

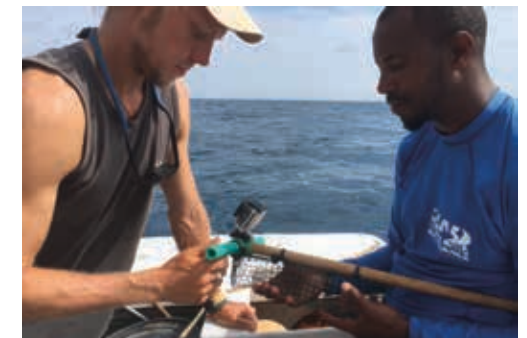
The air was still warm just after sunset in Cabo Verde—a country of islands off Africa’s west coast—when MarAlliance’s crew set out in a small, wooden motorboat. In Boa Vista, the eastern-most island in the archipelago, they headed to a bay protected from the open ocean and the sand blowing in from the Sahara. Moving at the relaxed speed of a lawnmower, they were equipped with identification tags to place on sharks and outfitted with headlamps, providing visibility in the milky waters during the twilight hours when sharks are most active and accessible. Shark populations have declined throughout much of Cabo Verde due to overfishing, but around Boa Vista these conservationists discovered something incredible: a shark nursery teeming with scalloped hammerheads, blacktips, and milk sharks.

There has been almost no identification of shark nurseries in western Africa, not surprising given the overall dearth of information on ocean life; we know more about deep space than deep sea. This is



what makes MarAlliance’s work so pivotal; they not only conserve sharks, predators that are essential for healthy oceans, they also produce valuable research findings about sharks. The real triumph in discovering the nursery is the emerging gold mine of information for developing global shark conservation strategies, particularly establishing marine protected areas. Because these habitats are where sharks grow up and can return to breed,

nurseries provide continuous stable data, making them ideal locations to study shark populations and behavior. Additionally, nurseries are important because protecting shark pupping grounds is critical to supporting shark populations when they are most vulnerable – i.e., when mothers give birth and as juveniles mature.



MarAlliance believes Boa Vista may have several important nurseries. Given the significance for shark conservation, protecting them is a priority, though doing so is challenging. The Boa Vista nursery faces the island’s main town, Sal Rei, where a growing population and thriving tourism industry are putting undue pressure on sharks. Endangered hammerheads especially, are caught by fishers in the waters around the hotels there. To protect this marine life, MarAlliance is educating Sal Rei’s communities, and working with the local government towards safeguarding the area. They are also in the process of drafting a national action plan with the Ministry of Fisheries in Cabo Verde, a roadmap for shark fisheries management and conservation.

Discovering this new shark nursery in Cabo Verde has emphasized MarAlliance’s need to search for other pupping grounds and to continue building protected areas around them. Fortunately, marine conservationists are intrepid explorers—part scientist, part detective—they are constantly probing uncharted areas to reveal new discoveries below the water’s surface. ■

Global Reach

WCN Partners and Programs

MULTI-CONTINENT



Elephant Crisis Fund
SAVE THE ELEPHANTS
& WCN
Africa and Asia



Global Penguin Society
DR. PABLO BORBOROGLU
Worldwide (based in Argentina)



MarAlliance
DR. RACHEL GRAHAM
Worldwide (based in Belize)



Scholarship Program
As of 2016 WCN has awarded 80 scholarships to promising conservationists from 28 countries across Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America.



Small Wild Cat Conservation Foundation
DR. JIM SANDERSON
Worldwide

LATIN AMERICA



Andean Cat Alliance
ROCIO PALACIOS
Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Peru



Proyecto Titi
ROSAMIRA GUILLEN
Colombia



Spectacled Bear Conservation
ROBYN APPLETON
Peru

ASIA & EASTERN EUROPE

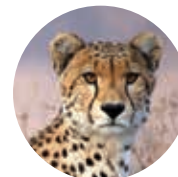


Saiga Conservation Alliance
ELENA BYKOVA
Uzbekistan



Snow Leopard Conservancy
DR. RODNEY JACKSON
Bhutan, India, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan

AFRICA



Cheetah Conservation Botswana
REBECCA KLEIN
Botswana



Cheetah Conservation Fund
DR. LAURIE MARKER
Namibia



Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Program
DR. CLAUDIO SILLERO
Ethiopia



Ewaso Lions
SHIVANI BHALLA
Kenya



Grevy's Zebra Trust
BELINDA LOW MACKEY
Kenya



Niassa Lion Project
DR. COLLEEN & KEITH BEGG
Mozambique



Okapi Conservation Project
JOHN LUKAS
Democratic Republic of Congo



Painted Dog Conservation
PETER BLINSTON
Zimbabwe



Save the Elephants
DR. IAIN DOUGLAS-HAMILTON
Kenya

Elephant Crisis Fund

Protecting Elephants, Ending the Ivory Crisis

“Over the past few years the ECF has provided timely funding to protect critical populations of elephants, dismantle poaching networks, train elite ranger teams, and stop the demand for ivory. We applaud your work to promote collaboration and rapid responses to the most critical threats to elephants and are proud to be a part of these efforts.”

— *Cristián Samper, President and CEO,
Wildlife Conservation Society*

The Elephant Crisis Fund (ECF) has supported extraordinary projects making groundbreaking progress this year toward stopping elephant poaching across Africa, surfacing and prosecuting underground criminal networks to end ivory trafficking, and supporting campaigns and policies to end demand for ivory. We are perhaps most hopeful with the news that China will ban its domestic ivory trade by the end of 2017—a landmark victory for elephants. These successes are the result of a coalition of incredible partners whose best ideas have been vetted and financed by the Elephant Crisis Fund. Yet there is more to do. Human greed created this crisis for elephants, and it is human generosity such as yours that will end it... once and for all.

As of Year End 2016

\$7.9M

deployed in 3 years
with 100% going
directly to
save elephants

ECF has invested in:

25

Countries

114

Projects

45

Organizations

Working with Communities



[16]

Trust is a Lifesaver

On a hot July afternoon in the Congo, along a pitted dirt road cutting through thick rainforest, a band of eight poachers armed with AK-47s set up an ambush. Positioned along both sides of the road, they waited for their target—a delegation that included conservationists from Okapi Conservation Project (OCP) and ICCN (Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature) rangers, who protect UNESCO world heritage sites in the Congo. Ironically, the delegation had just met to improve security and reduce the violence caused by poachers in and around the Okapi Wildlife Reserve. In a life-saving chain reaction, passersby saw the ambush and contacted the village chief who warned the delegation. ICCN rangers, who have authority to respond to poachers with force if necessary, hiked quietly through the forest and surprised the poachers from behind. A shootout ensued. A poacher was tragically killed. The rangers and the delegation survived unharmed.

Bravery and swift action saved the delegation—rangers risked their lives, the village chief risked

retribution from poachers, the passersby refused to be bystanders—all of which was predicated on trust. This trust was built over two decades of OCP working with the local community to improve their healthcare and education and provide access to healthy food and water sources. Improving quality of life for local people is important for protecting the endangered okapi because it reduces people's dependence on forest resources that okapi need to survive.

It is a longtime truism that in conservation 'people are the problem, but also the solution'. As people create threats to wildlife, it's people who must change and learn to coexist with wildlife. We see this in conservation's twin pillars of education and economic incentives: teaching people to value wildlife, and reducing poverty and increasing food security. Conservationists and local people working together, building trust, is good for everyone because when life becomes better for people, life becomes possible for wildlife. ■



© Mia Collis



[17]

Empowering Women

Many of WCN's partners provide education and income opportunities for local women. This instills a sense of accomplishment, empowers women within their communities, and strengthens their ability to care for their families. These opportunities help make protecting wildlife possible, as the value of conservation becomes linked with improved quality of life.

In 2016, our partners' work with women continued to grow in communities around the world:

Grevy's Zebra Trust now employs 19 women as Grevy's Zebra Scouts, a position of high standing in the community. Scouts collect data on Grevy's zebra and teach local communities how to address conservation challenges.

Nine new women joined Ewaso Lions's Mama Simba program which educates local women and works with them to protect livestock from lions. Mama

Simba women also make beaded animals for the tourism market; most of these women use the extra income to buy food.

In Peru, Spectacled Bear Conservation has trained over 50 women to craft "feltis", animal ornaments made from yarn. This program is providing women with a salary on par with men's and is enabling them to send their children to school.

Saiga Conservation Alliance has started training a new group of women to lead their embroidery program. They plan to establish school clubs for embroidery to bring the next generation of women into the program.

Some of Colombia's famous fashion designers incorporated Proyecto Titi's eco-mochilas, traditional-style bags, into their fashion lines. Eco-mochilas are hand-made by women using recycled plastic bags. ■

We still need conservationists who
will attempt the impossible, achieving
it because they aren't aware how
impossible it is.

—David Brower



A Year of Growth

With support from our donors and through the strength of our network, 2016 was a year of growth for WCN. We have had a greater impact on wildlife conservation than ever before.

\$15 million Funds raised for conservation in 2016. Since our inception, WCN has raised **\$80 million for conservation.**

90% of WCN funds went to support programs in the field.

3 new partners joined WCN. Spectacled bears, sharks, rays, and 18 species of penguins joined the iconic wildlife we protect.

4 Wildlife Conservation Expos held. We were able to bring our partners' inspirational work to new audiences in the San Francisco Bay Area, Chicago, and Houston.

8 scholarships awarded in 2016. To date, we have awarded 80 scholarships to promising conservationists from 28 countries.

4 stars and a perfect 100 score Rating WCN received from Charity Navigator, America's leading independent charity evaluator. WCN has a top ranking amongst wildlife conservation nonprofits from Charity Navigator and is one of only 48 nonprofits that received a perfect 100 score.

Financial Statement

Statement of Revenue and Expenses

CALENDAR YEAR ENDING 2016

REVENUE

Contributions – Donor Designated	\$11,899,245
Contributions – Undesignated	\$3,176,865
Income from Activities (Net)	\$229,730
Income from Investments	\$453,136

Total Revenue	\$15,758,976
----------------------	---------------------

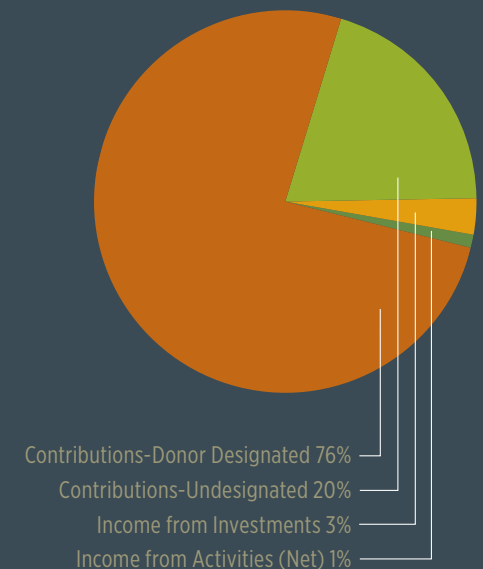
EXPENSES

Program Grants and Services	\$11,328,671
Management and General	\$1,077,944
Fundraising	\$163,724

Total Expenses	\$12,570,339
-----------------------	---------------------

Change In Net Assets	\$3,188,637
-----------------------------	--------------------

2016 TOTAL REVENUE



Statement of Financial Position

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2016

ASSETS

Unrestricted Cash and Equivalents	\$2,305,173
Restricted Cash and Equivalents	\$8,115,027
Grants and Pledges Receivable	\$386,591
Scholarship Fund	\$1,698,116
Mary S Boardman Fund	\$2,578,012
Property and Equipment (Net)	\$39,724
Other Assets	\$124,927

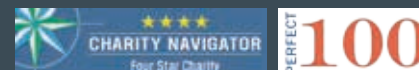
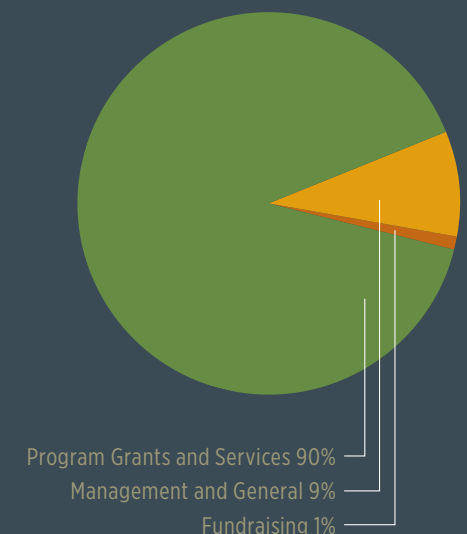
Total Assets	\$15,247,570
---------------------	---------------------

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	\$1,184,780
Beginning Assets	\$10,874,153
Change in Net Assets	\$3,188,637

Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$15,247,570
---	---------------------

2016 TOTAL EXPENSES



WCN continued to receive Charity Navigator's highest-possible 4-star rating, and in 2016 obtained a perfect score. Charity Navigator is America's leading independent charity evaluator, and rates over 8,000 charities on their Financial Health and Accountability & Transparency.

Complete financial reports are available upon request. Wildlife Conservation Network is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)3 organization - #30-0108469



WCN

Wildlife Conservation Network

209 Mississippi Street, San Francisco, CA 94107, USA

415.202.6380

www.wildnet.org

