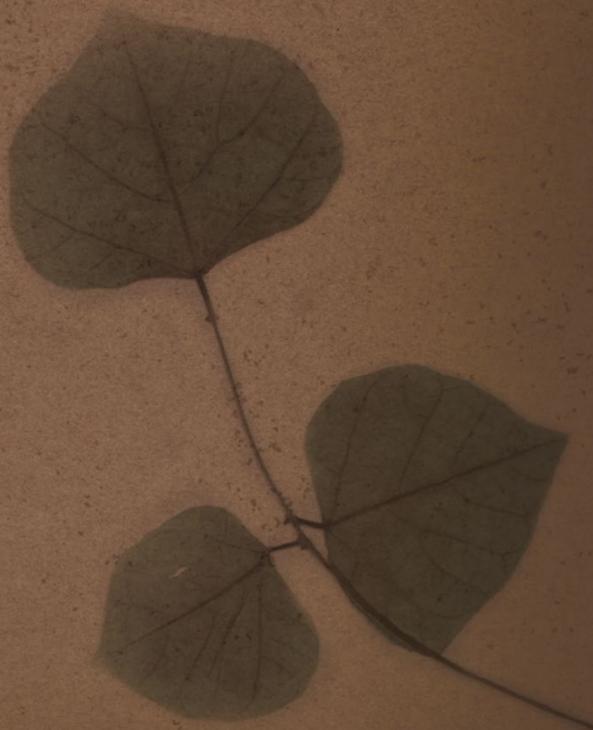


# WILD



## FOUNDATION

2016 Annual Report





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"I really like WILD,  
but what does it actually do?"

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I hear this sentiment a lot, and understandably so. The ascendancy of corporate models in the nonprofit sector created a belief that mounds of data alone indicate success. For these reasons, many donors have adopted bite-sized expectations on short timelines for change; an uncomfortable compromise made more so by a growing realization that **the future health of our planet demands nothing short of bold new thinking that can lead to innovative and truly effective solutions.**

WILD has never given-in to the demand for quick deliverables. As short-term goals take hold elsewhere, WILD remains committed to our mission of respectful exchange with nature, and a belief that regardless of the challenges in measuring it, a global ethic of care and collaboration for wild nature is what it's gonna take to preserve wild nature's capacity to care for us.

Our social structure, at its most fundamental level, takes nature for granted, and is based on the belief that we humans are competent enough to extract what we need (or want) now and repair the damage later. Of course, this view doesn't acknowledge the obvious, that healthy nature is a prerequisite to healthy people, and that *humanity's future is inextricably linked with the integrity of our relationship with the wilderness from which we all originally emerged. The concepts this view excludes—respect, reciprocity, unity—are the values most essential to sustaining a world worth living in, even if they are also the most difficult to measure.*



Photo by Boyd Norton

Though non-material, nothing is more fundamentally real than the values and intentions that spur individual action and societal change.

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I may not be able to quantify friendship and trust, but it is such qualities that inspire West African villagers to work together to protect 8 million acres of elephant habitat against armed poachers. And it would be just as difficult to measure commitment and compassion, yet these virtues are among the forces that united, for the first-time, the heads of North American land management agencies around an agreement to preserve wilderness at a continental scale.

So no, I can't always count the ways that WILD's work has improved the world this year because the scale and scope, along with the benefits, are oftentimes incalculable. People aren't just data points and neither is the natural world.

But I can tell stories.

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That's right. In 2016, WILD's staff and associates created the stuff of stories, or as I call them, legends.

**And it is through the bold individuals and ideas at the center of these tales that WILD is igniting hope for the future of our wild planet.**

I invite you to join me in discovering how WILD is transforming the world by rewriting the story about people and nature, making possible a future brimming with health and respect for each other and the natural world.

In **WILD** gratitude,

Vance G. Martin, *President*

## Chapter 1

*Equipping the future with urgently needed leadership to keep our planet wild.*

Abby is growing up in an age of bad news. A Gifted and Talented Student in the Sturgis Elementary School District (South Dakota), her talents alone are not enough to shield her from

**coalition  
WILD** pessimism about future.  
"Climate

change, terrorism, the extinction crisis – it really makes you wonder, 'what's the point?' the 9-year-old told WILD staff in the Fall of 2015. "Nothing I do can possibly make a difference."



**Without CoalitionWILD, Abby would still believe that humanity "is doomed." What she needed more than anything was the opportunity to prove to herself that she could be a part of the solution.**

Photo courtesy of Michael Grover

But Abby's parents and teacher were determined to find a reason for her to hope. They contacted Crista Valentino, Chief Coalition Builder of CoalitionWILD, a global network helping young conservationists step into leadership opportunities as they tackle place-based conservation problems.



At first, Abby was skeptical, but her skepticism could not withstand Crista's passion and determination. Soon Abby discovered her own potential to change the world.

Within two months of contacting CoalitionWILD, she raised over \$800 in quarters for the Mali Elephant Project. A month later she was working with young professionals from around the world on the design and implementation of a program to help end the illegal trafficking of slow lorises.

Abby recently wrote WILD to update us on her progress. In her letter she wrote:

*"To those people who complain about the world, well, you're not helping anything by*

*complaining. You at least have to try to help a cause you hold dear."*

Thanks to CoalitionWILD and its many supporters, Abby and others like her are creating pathways for change and inspiring current and future generations. The world is never going to be saved once and for all by any single generation. Your support of CoalitionWILD equips the future with hope and the opportunity to prevail in the struggle to keep our planet wild!



*CoalitionWILD's Chief Coalition Builder, Crista Valentino, signs a partnership agreement with United States Secretary of the Interior, Sally Jewell, to mentor the next generation of conservationists.*

## Here's a look at just some of Coalition WILD's 2016 accomplishments:

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**1** partnership with the Department of Interior to mentor up-and-coming global conservation leaders. This agreement was signed on September 1, 2016. CoalitionWILD was selected as the only young professional group to work directly with the Secretary of Interior.

**3** new Alliances, place-based activity hubs, connecting visionary leaders with the practical support they need from others in their generation Boulder, Colorado; Harare, Zimbabwe; Port-Au-Prince, Haiti

**11** CoalitionWILD Ambassadors from 8 countries expanding CoalitionWILD to new regions

**40** projects led by rising leaders representing 32 different countries – a truly global network!



Photo by **Augustin Dieuseul**,  
CoalitionWILD Ambassador, Haiti



If not for the work of the Mali Elephant Project and the dedicated efforts of West African villagers fighting to protect elephants, we would have lost the last remaining herd of desert elephants in West Africa.

Photo by Carlton Ward

# MALIELEPHANTPROJECT

## Chapter 2

*Making a future for elephants possible in West Africa.*

Nomba Ganame is a 2016 Disney Conservation Hero of the Year and the field manager of the Mali Elephant Project. The son of a Dogon chief,



he grew up in the Sahel, and stays there in order to help his people and

the desert elephants. Through drought, fire, terrorist insurgency, and now a brutal poaching epidemic, Ganame has proven his unflinching commitment to the eight ethnic groups, 50+ communities, and the herd of desert

elephants that depend upon the eight million acres of arid land served by the Mali Elephant Project.



But Nomba and the people of Mali's Gourma region cannot do it alone. They are actively seeking international partners to help sustain and advance the successes they have achieved, at great personal risk.

Nomba would like to give the following message to the WILD community:

It is necessary to continue this project for the communities who live here, where poverty is so pervasive. They mobilize themselves, with sincerity, for the protection of their natural resources. It's not always evident but they have been able to produce results worthy of support. It's not easy. It can be difficult to lose sight of the goal in the short-term. But we need to hold onto a long-term vision. Their results are there and they are encouraging. They are worthy of investment so that future generations can benefit as much as possible.

This is the message I have for our partners. **Thank you.**

## The MEP's 2016 Accomplishments:

- 
 Reduced potential for poaching by initiating a national reconciliation process to reintegrate former insurgents now living as exiles and bandits in the desert
- 
 Enhanced protection for 8 million acres (a region the size of Switzerland) of elephant habitat
- 
 Improved livelihood opportunities for women and young men in 54 villages



Photo by Carlton Ward

## Chapter 3

*Creating an urban ethic of care for nature, so that nature can care for cities.*

When the residents of Penn State College apartment building called



for help with a coyote trapped in their parking

garage, they thought someone would arrive to tranquilize and relocate the animal. No one expected that an hour later, the female coyote, who was likely seeking shelter from an oncoming hurricane, would be killed by a shot from a police rifle.



**In 2050, 70% of people will live in cities! The frontlines of conservation are shifting to the urban frontier, and WILD Cities is there to help reintroduce wild nature to urban people.**

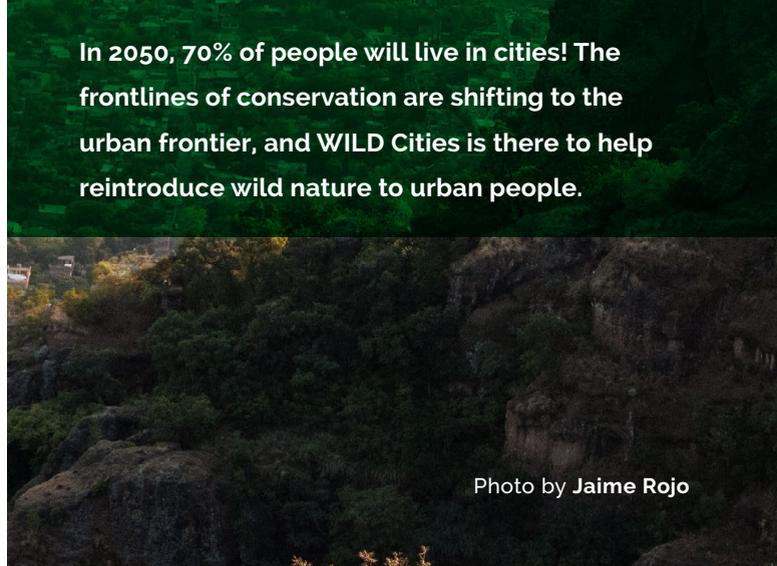




Photo by Jaymi Heimbuch,  
Urban Coyote Initiative

This was not an isolated incident. As urban land cover expands, now exceeding the amount of conservancy and national park land cover combined, cities have fragmented the natural habitats of important species like bears, coyotes, and pumas. Wildlife has few places left to go, and have been forced to adapt to city life. It's no longer uncommon to hear tales of coyotes riding subways in New York City or bears camping out for weeks at a time in backyards near downtown Boulder.

Unfortunately, cities have had far more difficulty adapting to their wild neighbors. Whether it's SWAT teams and helicopters deployed in response to a coyote sighting in Times Square (yes, that happened!) or the orphaning of bear cubs when mama bear is

euthanized, cities are struggling to proactively deal with the cause of the problem: an expanding urban-wild interface and short-sighted planning.

WILD Cities is building urgently needed community support for biodiversity planning. Bridging stakeholder groups to coordinate action across multiple sectors of society, WILD Cities is rewilding cities through partnership and smart planning, reducing the cost of inefficient wildlife policies, and harmonizing the urban-wild interface.

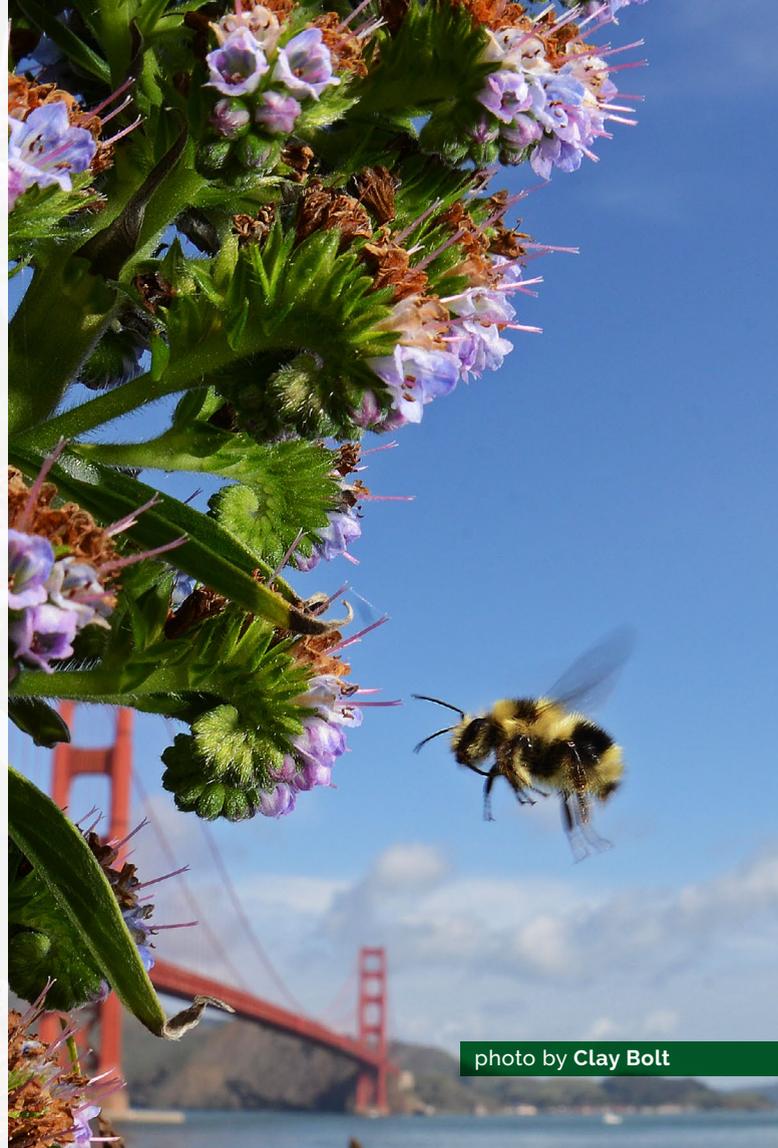


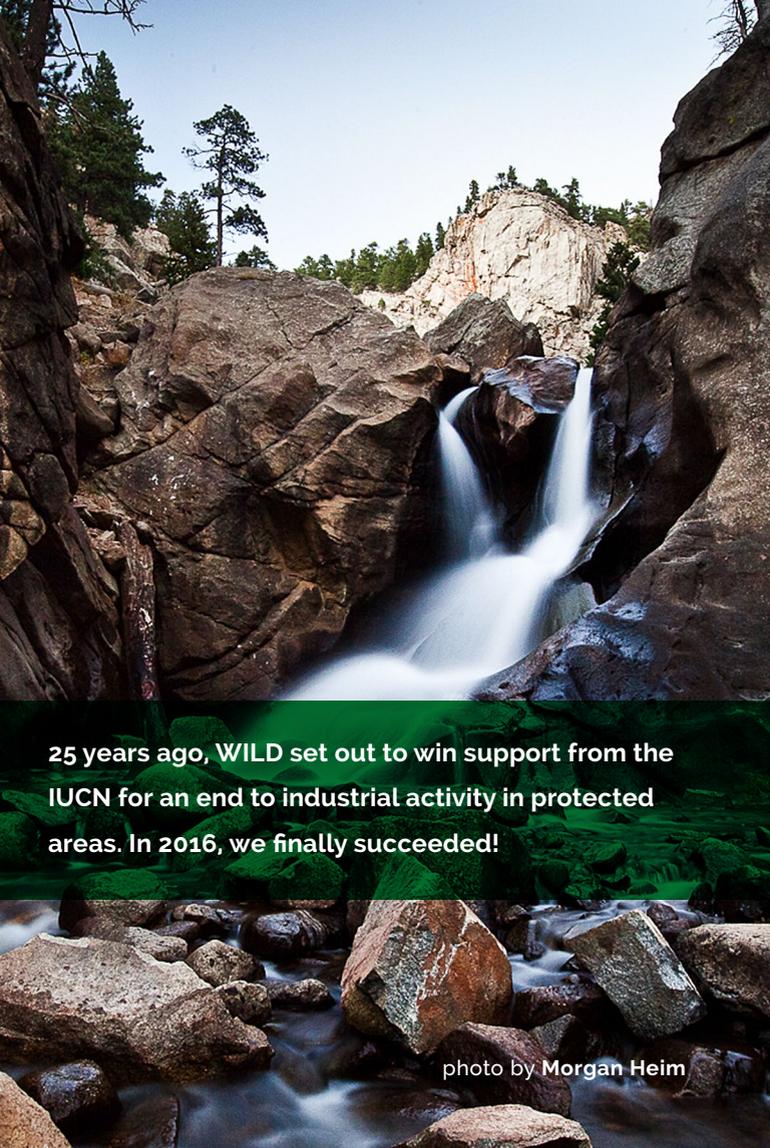
Photo by Melanie Hill

## The WILD Cities 2016 Accomplishments:

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- ④ Identified emergent problem in cities: planning (or lack thereof) around wildlife, especially large carnivores.
- ④ Recruited 6 champions ready to build a strategic vision for advancing biodiversity planning in their cities.
- ④ Assembled stakeholders for 2 pilot projects in New York City and Boulder, Colorado.





25 years ago, WILD set out to win support from the IUCN for an end to industrial activity in protected areas. In 2016, we finally succeeded!

photo by Morgan Heim

## Chapter 4

### *Activating the power of global institutions for wilderness protections*

Imagine a world without wilderness, a place where nature was never

permitted a free hand. What would such a place look like? More importantly, what would it feel

like, to live so perfectly encircled by domesticity that there was no possible recourse to the untamed and the undomesticated?



Before WILD, no other NGO was defending "wilderness" at a global scale. Wilderness was absent from the international environmental policy sphere. Nature for its own sake was a bewildering notion to most institutions and there was no specific policy or management framework accepted internationally. Because of WILD, its global network, and the tireless efforts of its President, the situation has improved.

In the last 25 years, WILD has won a place for wilderness at the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) – the "United Nations of the environment".

Previously, there had been none. WILD is responsible for the creation of the Wilderness Specialist Group, and has developed this platform to weave extensive international

networks that promote and protect wild places. Those networks make possible protections that would have been unimaginable 25 years ago.

This year those networks paid off in the form of first-of-its-kind international commitment to the "NoGo principle" at the IUCN's World Conservation Congress. The adoption of "Motion 26" means that the IUCN and the 150 governments that voted for it encourage banning industrial-scale extraction in all protected areas and natural areas sacred to Indigenous Peoples. The #KeepItWild campaign, initiated by WILD and carried out with a strong coalition of partners, was instrumental in overcoming early controversy and acquiring near unanimous support for this motion.



## 2016 International Policy Accomplishments:

-  Near unanimous adoption by the world's governments of the "NoGo Motion"
-  Launch of the first, global Best Practice Guidelines for Wilderness Management
-  Strengthened IUCN policy to recognize and protect "primary forests" around the world.



Photo by Boyd Norton

## NAWPA Facilitation

### Taking Conservation to the Continental-Scale

WILD works effectively at home as well as abroad, and the North American Wilderness and Protected Areas (NAWPA) agreement—which we facilitate at the request of the governments involved—has created new avenues for protection in North America. NAWPA was initiated by WILD in 2009, and brings together, for the first time, the heads of federal land management agencies that oversee wilderness and protected areas in Canada, Mexico, and the United States, to strengthen the conservation and management of these areas.

NAWPA provides opportunities for these agencies to cooperate and act on the formulation and implementation of strategies related to research, monitoring, protection, and restoration of natural resources, ecosystems and their components, while facilitating opportunities for public outreach, education, visitor experience and enjoyment.

WILD's initiation and facilitation of NAWPA has helped spark cutting-edge discussions on opportunities to collaborate at a continental-scale on interconnected protected areas. Agreements like NAWPA are an utterly necessary step towards more effective conservation practices and essential for the creation and protection of large-scale conservation areas that nature requires to maintain its intact, life-giving services. Coordinating across boundaries is critical to the protection of current conservation investments and to the insurance of future viability for conservation networks. WILD salutes the visionary NAWPA partners, and looks forward to their continued leadership in this much needed process.



*Land management agency leaders from the United States, Mexico and Canada met at the December 2015 NAWPA committee meeting in La Paz, Baja California Sur.*

## NAWPA 2016 achievements:

- 
 Global release of the NAWPA report *Conservation in North America: An Analysis of Land-based Conservation in Canada, Mexico, and the United States*, a first-of-its-kind intergovernmental conservation analysis.
- 
 Presented at the World Conservation Congress (WCC) workshop on *Transboundary Conservation Areas Cooperation: Successful Case Studies from North America, North Eurasia and Southern Africa* Workshop
- 
 NAWPA presentations sharing the NAWPA model and *Conservation in North America Analysis* at the Trilateral Committee on *Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management* meeting in Canada.

Photo by **Boyd Norton**

# Chapter 5

## The World Wilderness Congress

In September 2016, WILD and its partners, EcoForum Global (China) and The Paulson Institute (USA, China) and the Government of the Province of Yunnan, announced to IUCN delegates



the location and date of the next World Wilderness Congress

(WILD11): China, late 2018. This brings great potential. Since 2007, China has promoted a national policy termed "Eco-Civilization" which seeks to bring Chinese development and society into line with environmental protection



**For nearly 40 years WILD has built "the software" through the World Wilderness Congress to make innovation and international support for wilderness possible.**



Photo by Staffan Widstrand, Wild Wonders of China

# 生态文明 绿色发展的 Civilization: Advancing Green Development

*WILD's president signs an agreement with EcoForum Global (EFG) as a co-convening partner for WILD11, currently scheduled for late 2018 in China.*



and sustainability. Part and parcel with these national goals is a recognition that returning to ancient Chinese principles that promote harmony with nature is essential to developing an authentic ecological civilization.

This is a new and unique opportunity for global and Chinese nature conservation. WILD11 will continue to expand the global wilderness community by working with Chinese and other partners to produce and exchange best practice methods, ideas, and practical solutions that enhance Eco-Civilization in China, and continue to create a wilder world.

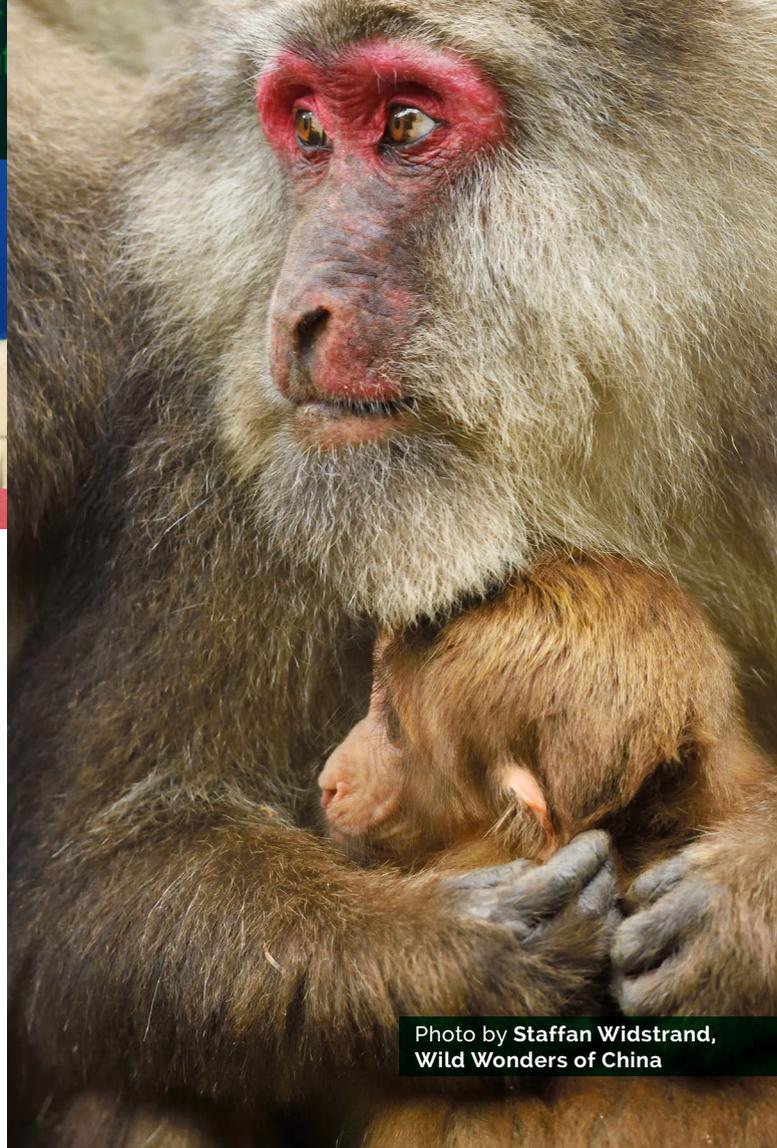
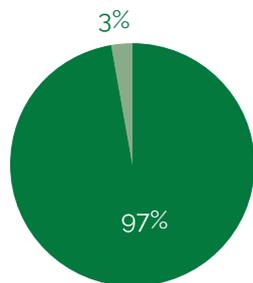


Photo by Staffan Widstrand, Wild Wonders of China

## 2015 FINANCES

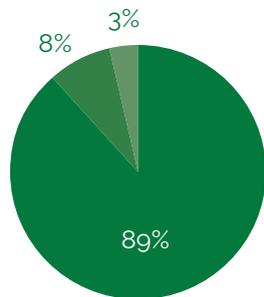


### REVENUE

**Primary**  
\$3,907,560

**Other**  
\$104,853

**Total**  
\$4,012,413



### EXPENSES

**Program**  
\$3,270,793

**Administrative**  
\$292,561

**Fundraising**  
\$128,482

**Total Functional Expenses**  
\$3,691,836

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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