

Nature didn't pause in 2020 and neither did WILD's team of experts and supporters, who remained committed to diversity, biological and cultural, around the world.

# (bio) Diversity

**BIODIVERSITY** *noun*  
Biodiversity is the sum of all life on earth and the relationships between these lifeforms and their habitat. It's this diversity that makes life on Earth possible.

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## WORLD WILDERNESS CONGRESS POSTPONED, PANDEMIC SWEEPS GLOBE, SURVIVAL REVOLUTION URGED

Last March, just two weeks before delegates from around the world would convene in Jaipur, India for the 11th World Wilderness Congress (WILD11), WILD Foundation President, Vance G. Martin made one of the toughest calls in his storied conservation career.

*"The long flight to India was sleepless as I felt storm clouds gathering and I couldn't jeopardize the lives and health of WILD's friends and delegates. It was an agonizing decision, especially given how WILD11 would help intensify ambition to protect*



WILD NATURE IS A 500 MILLION YEAR OLD LIFE-SUPPORT SYSTEM. AND WE MUST TAKE ACTION IN THE NEXT 10 YEARS IF WE ARE TO KEEP IT FUNCTIONING AND INTACT.

*half the planet at a critical moment for conservation. I landed in Mumbai and consulted quickly and intensely with our closest partners in India, then we went to the*

*Government of Rajasthan, our Co-Host. The Minister concurred that force majeure was in effect and WILD11 must be postponed. I then consulted over night with*

*partners around the globe and, though shocked (as the extent of the virus was yet being realized), they all agreed. So, the Government of Rajasthan made the announcement and we pulled the plug for now," he later recalled.*

Just days after, the Indian national government reacted further and closed the country's borders to all incoming foreign nationals, expelling all lingering doubts about the wisdom of WILD11's postponement.

The postponement of conservation's longest-running international public

*Continued on page 8*

## DIVERSITY: NOT JUST FOR ECOSYSTEMS

Before George Floyd perished, gasping for breath on a Minneapolis street corner, tens of millions of people around the world – most of them in developing countries and underserved urban communities – also died struggling to breathe. Their deaths were the direct result not of police brutality, but of the brutality that industrial society perpetrates on the natural world and, by extension, its most vulnerable living natural communities including, in many cases, people.

The culprit was the same in each case: air pollution.

It remains a mystery why so little attention is paid to the global air pollution crisis. After all, according to the World Health Organization, between 7.5 and 9 million people worldwide die each year as a direct

*Continued on page 2*

### INTERNATIONAL NEW RESERVE IN MALI, WEST AFRICA

One of the largest new protected areas in the world depends on strengthening local culture.

Pages 4-5

### LOCAL PROTECTING BEARS DURING THE PANDEMIC

New threats to wildlife countered by WILD's expanding urban conservation solutions.

Page 7

### ADVICE COLUMN DEAR MAMA NATURE

Different species ask Mama Nature how they can survive and thrive.

Page 14

### HOROSCOPE SURVIVAL REVOLUTION, IT'S IN THE STARS

What do the stars say about how you can help defend nature?

Pages 12-13



## DIVERSITY: NOT JUST FOR ECOSYSTEMS

*Continued from cover*

result of air pollution – an average of 24,000 every day – more than double the number of confirmed deaths at the height of the COVID pandemic.

Compared to other leading causes of death, it exceeds most, including those caused by smoking (7 million), AIDS/HIV (1 million), diseases carried by parasites and insects, like malaria (600,000), and all forms of violence (530,000), making air pollution a leading cause of death. There may be few clearer illustrations, outside of the pandemic itself that our relationship with nature is lethal not only to wildlife but to us as well, and growing more deadly each year.

One of the reasons the air pollution mortality rate might be under-reported relates to the identity of individuals most exposed to it. The World Health Organization estimates that in Europe only 500,000 people die annually from air pollution. In North America, the numbers are even lower at 100,000 deaths. If you live in a developing country, especially if you live in an urban area, you are far more likely to

die from air pollution than in other more sheltered parts of the world.

The fact that air pollution kills disproportionately more people in populations that, due to historical inequities, are far less likely to be heard could be a major contributing factor to its relative obscurity in headline news. But that doesn't mean it must remain that way – especially in the conservation sector. Just because these populations aren't heard, doesn't mean that they aren't already calling for change. At the WILD Foundation alone, several youth leaders in the CoalitionWILD leadership development program are doing just that – fighting environmental threats where they are at.

In the wake of the George Floyd murder, as many conservation leaders redouble their commitments to becoming more inclusive, it will be individuals from the least-heard populations who could benefit from our attention most and who, in turn, can make the protection of wild nature more relevant for broader audiences.

**HUMAN DIVERSITY CAN**

### HELP SAVE BIODIVERSITY

Never before in human history have people confronted such an intimidating challenge – the planetary collapse of Earth's life support systems. From the forests that regulate rainfall and air quality to the oceans that are simultaneously sources of nutrition, carbon storage, and weather/climate regulation – Earth's wild places are fraying and with them the life-giving services we depend upon for our own survival.

A global challenge demands a global solution. How we coordinate that solution over the next 10 years will almost certainly determine the fate of our civilization over the next 100 years.

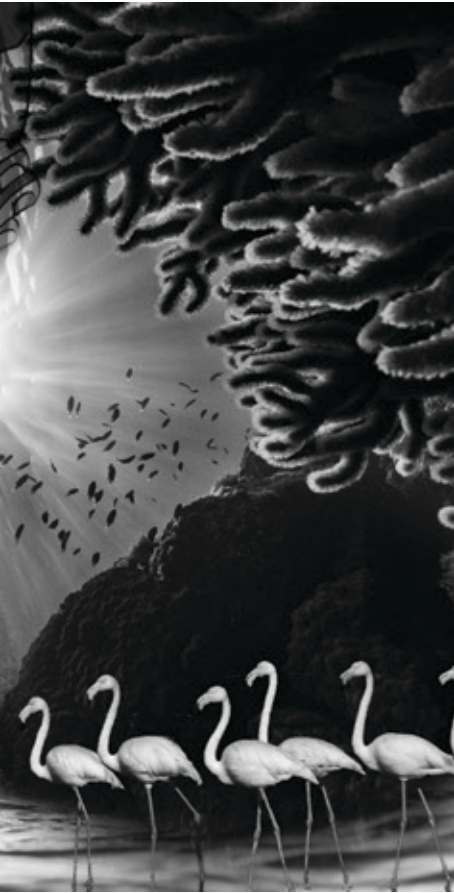
Rarely do we link the promise of human/cultural diversity to an ecologically healthier planet. Inclusivity is often relegated to the moral sphere, as in "We ought to have more inclusive leadership because it is right to do so." Far less frequently are arguments for inclusivity made based on an organization's ability to be effective. One is an obligation carried out by

a privileged group, the other is an imperative of a community – however expansive, and in this case I am referring to the entire human community – to survive and thrive.

Let us now consider the possibility that due to the nature of the global emergencies we now face, caused by a deficit of wild places, we – the conservation movement – must become more inclusive in order to carry out three much needed objectives: 1) heighten conservation's relevancy with new audiences, 2) expand the range of solutions available to manifest change, and 3) combat the destruction of nature on hundreds and thousands of fronts simultaneously.

Why is inclusivity a cornerstone of effective and lasting change?

Scientific and technocratic thinking dominated conservation for decades. Mapping and understanding nature's complexity is, after all, key to knowing what is needed to save it and how we can efficiently go about doing it. This approach has yielded many achievements, nevertheless even as our scientific understanding increases so too did the pace of wild



nature's destruction. We now have far fewer wild places than we did a half century ago even though our scientific understanding of them has vastly improved.

All but absent from this technocratic dominance were cultural and sociological strategies for change even though human behavior, not environmental factors, were at the root of nature's retreat.

And an alternative model for

protecting nature was never distant. For centuries, Indigenous Peoples sustainably managed the lands upon which they live. In fact, Indigenous lands harbor more biodiversity than any other type of protected area and up to 40% of Earth's remaining wilderness (even though Indigenous Peoples comprise only 5% of the global population).

How Indigenous Peoples have accomplished this feat is still up for debate, but it is perhaps worth considering that traditional styles of knowledge production, leadership, and cultural values are better suited to living in harmony with nature. Unfortunately, for many decades the highest echelons of conservation excluded Indigenous leadership and knowledge from decision-making forums. Not only did this hurt Indigenous Nations, but it also hurt conservation, limiting the number and types of solutions up for consideration.

Now it is time that we reverse centuries of discrimination and embrace Indigenous leaders in the conservation movement, as well as people of color and other individuals at the frontlines of Earth's most ravaged communities.

But there is another reason why science and a centralized problem-solving model are not equipped to, on their own, successfully cope with the challenges we confront. We are in the midst of a cultural crisis, one that is driving

the destruction of Earth's biosphere. Earth's ecology did not compromise itself. We compromised it when, one decision after another, we trespassed across the boundaries of ecological limits, taking more water, producing more carbon, and destroying more natural habitat than we should. In that sense the frontline of conservation has always been and continues to be the human heart, not the African Savannah or the Brazilian rainforest.

The destruction of nature begins inside of us. And science, no matter how excellent, cannot solve that equation. Only leadership – global, national, regional, and local – can. And that leadership begins with modeling better behavior and values, a uniquely sociological challenge.

Since the 1970s, the WILD Foundation has advanced a more inclusive conservation movement, one that addresses the destruction of nature where it begins: in the hearts and minds of people. Again and again, WILD has effectively advocated for the inclusion of diverse perspectives and leadership. Our programs have sought to redress centuries of discrimination, and not just because it is right to do, but because it works.

From the Mali Elephant Project to CoalitionWILD to the World Wilderness Congress, WILD has made inclusive leadership a centerpiece of its conservation methodology.

And we are continuing to do so with the Survival Revolution. Only by empowering millions of people around the world to use their voices and take powerful actions to save wild nature can we begin to confront the root cause of environmental destruction and get to the heart of the matter.

Fortunately, we have many willing advocates. Conservation leadership exists in all corners of the globe, and has done so for decades.

The WILD Foundation walks with these leaders in their pursuit for change and is working to amplify their calls for help and their strategies for action. By doing so, WILD and its many donors are helping to create a more unified, inclusive, and powerful conservation movement.

Aldo Leopold, the North American conservationist, wrote, "The last word in ignorance is the man who says of an animal or plant, 'What good is it?' If the land mechanism as a whole is good, then every part is good, whether we understand it or not. . . . To keep every cog and wheel is the first precaution of intelligent thinking."

To this we might add, if the cultural mechanism as a whole is good, then every individual is needed, whether we understand them or not. It is, after all, the first precaution of intelligent thinking. ■

## TWO MEN'S FRIENDSHIP WAS BIGGER THAN APARTHEID & HELPED MAKE CONSERVATION HISTORY



MAGQUBU NTOMBELA AND IAN PLAYER'S FRIENDSHIP CHANGED THE WORLD FOR THE BETTER AND PROPELLED THE WILD FOUNDATION ON THE CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES IT PURSUES TO THIS DAY.

South Africa's brutal and racist Apartheid regime lasted for decades and destroyed the lives of millions of black men and women.

It did not work, however, for legendary conservationist Ian Player and his Zulu mentor, Magqubu

Ntombela. Against the odds these two men learned to respect each other. Together they would save the Southern White Rhino from the brink of extinction, making conservation history, and found the WILD Foundation and its flagship

program, the World Wilderness Congress.

The idea for the Congress was Ntombela's idea. After saving the Southern White Rhino (becoming the first conservationists to successfully remove a major species from the international endangered species list), both men realized they could continue to take a species approach to conservation, winning a lot of battles but ultimately losing the war for Earth's biosphere. They needed to do something else.

Ntombela called for an indaba, a Zulu word meaning a meeting of the tribes in order to address issues that affect the nation. In our case, he called for an indaba kulu, a 'great gathering', to set common wilderness conservation priorities, create a shared ethic of care for

wild nature, and enhance international coordination – thus striking at the heart of environmental destruction.

Player and Ntombela's conservation and cross-cultural legacy continues to this day in the WILD Foundation, and its sister organizations: Wilderness Foundation Africa, Wilderness Foundation UK, and the Wilderness Leadership School. Together, they comprise Wilderness Foundation Global, a central force in the international wilderness movement.

As many people come to terms, once again, with the devastation wrought by systemic racism, let us take inspiration from those who came before and use their example to achieve even greater gains in the years and decades to come. ■

# INTERNATIONAL

## NEW RESERVE IN MALI, WEST AFRICA, IS ONE OF THE LARGEST PROTECTED AREAS IN THE WORLD

In late May, Mali's Cabinet of Ministers adopted a proposal that, once it becomes law, could lead to the creation of one of the world's largest protected areas in the Gourma region of this West African country. The proposal soon to be placed before the National Assembly would create the new Gourma Biosphere Reserve encompassing more than 42,000 square kilometers (16,000 square miles) of land, an area that ranks higher in size than that of 50 distinct countries and is equivalent in size to Switzerland. They did so in order to protect the last of the Sahelian elephants.

Similar to a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, the proposed Gourma Biosphere Reserve is designed to protect the region's last elephant herd, one of just two remaining herds of desert elephants in the world. The enhanced protection of this area was promoted by the local communities and regional government. This vast area is also home to tens of thousands of rural people who have benefitted from sustainable land management practices that have simultaneously improved elephant habitat and the quality of natural resources available for human use.

The Mali Elephant Project, a



©CARLTON WARD

resource practices of mutual benefit to people and wildlife.

In 2017, the Mali Elephant Project won the United Nations coveted Equator Prize for its work at the intersection of biodiversity protection and the sustainable development of human communities.

The policy creating the Gourma Biosphere Reserve was adopted on May 27, 2020, by the Malian Council of Ministers. It makes pos-

sible the preservation and restoration of habitat which is vital for the survival of the last wild Sahelian elephants, and recognizes that the protection of large mammals, in Mali and elsewhere, always means protecting the ecosystems and biodiversity on which their survival de-

pend. This accomplishment is even more impressive and important when one considers the many and dangerous challenges in this country that is still suffering from conflict. In the lead-up to the next meeting of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, more and more scientists and organizations are insisting on the need for increased conservation ambition, including the protection of half of

needed to protect biodiversity at scale while simultaneously securing human livelihoods.

Approximately one in five people around the world (1.6 billion) depend directly on wild nature for their daily survival. Included among these are the people of Mali's Gourma region, many of whom understand fully that should the land fail to support elephants it will also fail to support people. Pro-



A YOUNG GIRL INSIDE THE NEW BIOSPHERE RESERVE FORAGES FOR FOOD. PROTECTING ELEPHANT HABITAT HAS ALSO IMPROVED LIFE FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN. ©CARLTON WARD



A FAMILY OF ELEPHANTS FROM NORTHERN AFRICA'S LAST REMAINING DESERT ELEPHANT HERD. ©CARLTON WARD

joint program of the WILD Foundation and the International Conservation Fund of Canada, is a driving force in the creation of this mega reserve. Since 2007, the Mali Elephant Project has worked to save the Sahelian elephant by engaging local communities in sustainable

the preservation and restoration of habitat which is vital for the survival of the last wild Sahelian elephants, and recognizes that the protection of large mammals, in Mali and elsewhere, always means protecting the ecosystems and biodiversity on which their survival de-

Earth's land and seas in order to keep temperature rise under 1.5 degrees centigrade and preserve our planet's life support system. In such a context, the Mali Elephant Project offers hope, demonstrating that neither expensive new technologies nor advanced economies are

protecting wildlands and the ecological services they provide, directly benefits human populations while also defending the web of life that is the foundation of our civilization.

The Mali Elephant Project offers an outlook on a sustainable future in which humanity and wildlife thrive. ■

# COALITIONWILD IS TRANSFORMING CONSERVATION'S FUTURE

Never before has the world been so demographically lopsided. Wealthy countries in North America and Europe have historically high populations over the age of 65 while less developed countries have the highest population of young people ever seen.

A quarter of humanity is now between the ages of 10-24. Most of them live in developing countries. They are in most cases better educated than their parents, far less employed, and beset by the increasingly unprecedented and unpredictable array of global challenges.

From mass youth long-term unemployment to a fraying biosphere, today's children are awash in uncertainty.



COALITIONWILD MEMBERS WORKING TOGETHER TO ENSURE A HEALTHY FUTURE.

The WILD Foundation, and its youth leadership development program, CoalitionWILD, can't change the many problems youth confront. They can, and are, equipping young people with the powerful and necessary tools to harness their own leadership potential and leverage new opportunities for environmental and community leadership as they emerge.

Even as the pandemic rages around the world, CoalitionWILD continues to expand enrollment in the EXCEerator program, which since 2016 is responsible for training 127 youth environmental leaders from 52 different countries and involving over 10,000 people in the projects these leaders developed.

This year, CoalitionWILD's EXCEerator accepted 49 emergent leaders to undergo the virtual, 9-month intensive leadership course that provides the education, development and mentorship needed to increase the number of environmental actions taking place

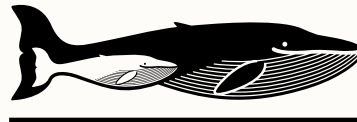
globally. Nearly two-thirds of the 2020 Cohort are young women, and at the end of the program each participant will implement a personally designed project that tackles an issue facing an ecosystem, their community, their culture, or their livelihood.

Most importantly, they will be assigned an experienced mentor who can help them navigate an unfamiliar terrain of potential pitfalls and sometimes hidden opportunities. The CoalitionWILD EXCEerator works because we never tell participants the projects they should implement, what they should be passionate about, or how they can help. We offer the space for young people to discover their own solutions, thereby ensuring commitment to their work, innovation in their ideas, creativity in their implementation, and passion in their delivery.

Past alumni of CoalitionWILD programs include: Adjany Costa (recently appointed as Angola's youngest Minister of Culture, Tourism, and Environment), Louise Mabulo and Gator Halpern, both named to Forbes Magazine's 30 Under 30, Rolex Award for Enterprise winner Miranda Wang, and Samsung's 2020 Eco-Hero Elliot Connor.

In this moment in history, opportunities for youth engagement are often lacking and the challenge to save Earth's biosphere requires all hands on deck. CoalitionWILD is providing critically needed training opportunities to the up-and-coming generation of leaders.

In the words of Kevin Lunzalu, an EXCEerator alum from Kenya, "When I first started out, I had a feeling that I was venturing into a world unknown. I had an idea but was not sure how to get it started. Thanks to CoalitionWILD I'm now better informed, have a belonging, and with a myriad of resources I need to properly implement my project. I can confidently say that with the aid of CoalitionWILD, my project is now on course, impacting the community one step at a time." ■



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[natureneedshalf.org/survival-revolution/ambassador](https://natureneedshalf.org/survival-revolution/ambassador)



BLACK BEARS FREQUENTLY ENTER BOULDER NEIGHBORHOODS. WITHOUT NATURE POSITIVE CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT, CITIES BECOME DANGEROUS AREAS FOR BEARS LIKE THE ONE PHOTOGRAPHED ABOVE. ©MELANIE HILL

## NGO HELPS TO PROTECT BEARS & PEOPLE DURING TIME OF COVID-19 CRISIS & OVERUSE OF OPEN SPACE

In the early days of the pandemic, videos of wildlife returning to stalk eerily vacant urban streets were a source of joy and fascination for many and a happy respite from otherwise bleak times. More than anything, these videos contributed to the impression that COVID-19, while terrible for human society, had at least helped restore some balance to the natural world.

Unfortunately, in city after city, that turned out to not be the case. Not only has the pandemic failed to result in lasting improvements for nature, but impending budget shortfalls in cities around the world put critical services that support and protect wildlife and nearby wildlands at risk.

This is true even in Boulder County, where the outcomes of years of progressive leadership on open space and measures to reduce human-wildlife conflict are now in jeopardy as a result of a looming revenue crisis. Those services include the creation of city policies that safeguard both wildlife and people, safe recreation

on open space, education and outreach regarding wildlife coexistence, and the ability to engage the community in crucial environmental initiatives. While Boulder County's land is more than 67% protected, making the region an example par excellence of protecting over 50% of the environment – a benefit to both people and nature – a changing social and political landscape could undermine the quality of this protection.

Additionally, sudden revenue shortfalls are not the only threats to open space and wildlife in Boulder County. Persistent and expanding long-term challenges also contribute to an increase in risk. Like many cities along Colorado's Front Range, Boulder is experiencing rapid human population growth. Colorado is among the top ten fastest growing states, which leaves cities scrambling to expand infrastructure and services on open space. These new populations also significantly increase human impact on Boulder's open space because they are oftentimes unaware of nature-positive behaviors that help protect and sustain wild areas.

In 2018, City of Boulder trails and open spaces drew more than 6.25 million human visits. Consider these figures with those in nearby Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP), which received 3.4 million visits that same year, or Yellowstone National Park's (YNP) 3.5 million visits. Taking this into account, the very real possibility emerges that Boulder's open spaces are being loved to death.

In such a context, even Boulder with its history of world-class environmental leadership needs help to protect people and wildlife in order to sustain a healthy community.

Through its Wild Boulder program, the WILD Foundation is effectively addressing some of Boulder's biggest open space and human-wildlife conflicts by building community support for and awareness of wild nature through public trainings and citizen science projects.

Since its inception in 2016, Wild Boulder has engaged hundreds of residents in city-wide bioblitzes that document and build appreciation for Boulder's abundant biodiversity. In 2020, this program will now

begin to add, at the request of concerned community members and stakeholders, training webinars that will help residents learn how they can help protect open space and reduce human-wildlife conflict in their own neighborhoods.

As the WILD Foundation continues its international work to protect half of Earth's land and seas and keep Earth wild for the benefit of all life, its local work in Boulder County successfully demonstrates how communities can come together to preserve their corner of the larger biosphere.

In this historic moment when we are called to protect nature on a global scale, every community is on the frontlines of conservation. Wild Boulder provides a roadmap for how cities can effectively engage in public conservation.

The existing Boulder County community has proven its desire to safeguard the surrounding environment. As new challenges confront that community, WILD helps to sustain and build upon past efforts to help Boulder continue to be a leader in the fight to protect biodiversity on a local level. ■

# WORLD WILDERNESS CONGRESS POSTPONED, PANDEMIC SWEEPS GLOBE, SURVIVAL REVOLUTION URGED

*Continued from cover*

forum and the closure of the world's second most populated country were not enough to halt the spread of a novel contagion, COVID-19. These actions were indicative of a pervasive perception in March of this year, the notion that we could still, at that late hour, prevent a pandemic.

Unfortunately, the equation had already fundamentally changed even if we didn't fully realize it then. By March, the virus was with us to stay. Though most of us were unaware of it at the time, we had already entered a new phase of life with COVID-19, one that would require all of us to adapt to a new way of life. The disruption, for many, would be more or less permanent.

For years, conservation scientists had warned that our lifestyles and economies were not as resilient as we thought, and that our destruction of nature was also eroding the foundation of civilization's stability. But it is one thing to know something intellectually and another thing entirely to experience it first-hand. Globally, we are now experiencing it first-hand. And that comes with numerous challenges, many of them deadly, as well as a handful of opportunities for system-wide change away from a destructive and unsustainable model of business as usual.

How had we arrived at this tense and tentative state of affairs – streets empty, businesses shuttered, the global economy in tatters and an entire civilization at a standstill, coupled with an unprecedented openness to consider what we need to do differently – and why it is igniting urgent new calls for what some conservationists are calling the “survival revolution.”

## A SHORTAGE OF VENTILATORS IS WHAT A WILDERNESS DEFICIT LOOKS LIKE

Nearly ten years ago, the award-winning author and nature writer, David Quammen wrote “Spillover,” a 500-page book describing just one of the consequences of an abused biosphere: the increased likelihood for novel

new viruses.

“Ecological disturbance causes diseases to emerge. Shake a tree and things fall out,” Quammen wrote. “[Novel viruses and the destruction of nature] are connected, evidenced by these disease outbreaks coming one after another. They represent the unintended results of things we are doing. They reflect the convergence of two forms of crisis on our planet. The first crisis is ecological, the second is medical.”

Regardless of the precise location of COVID-19's origins, a pattern is occurring in nearly every nation on Earth. The human-caused

diseases that our bodies and societies have never encountered and are ill-equipped to handle. This means that while the pandemic is the direct result of our disrespect for nature, secondary problems, such as mask and ventilator shortages, create runaway threats that compound the already dire consequences.

The destruction of nature is at the very heart of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is why the restoration of wilderness should be at the center of our efforts to prevent the next pandemic from emerging. Ironically, the COVID-19 pandemic has made the need to protect half

so on a planetary scale. But how do we protect an entire planet with its multitudes of ecosystems, and the cultures and governments that determine how those wild places are used? Never before has global coordination on such a vast scale been so urgently required.

We are living in a unique moment in which the generations now alive have an opportunity to learn something new and accomplish something that has never been done: working together across an entire planet to save and restore nature.

Magnus Sylvén, a Nature Needs Half Senior Policy Advisor and an early expert in the international effort to rewild Europe, has observed that humanity is in need of a new revolution. “The Industrial Revolution accelerated innovation and the destruction of nature, so much so that our very survival is at stake. We now need a Survival Revolution to reorient our efforts to live well and live respectfully with the multitude of lifeforms that make our own civilization possible.”

The single biggest challenge we face is lack of public awareness and engagement. While scientists have been urging the protection of at least half the planet for decades, the public still remains in the dark. Narrow interests and their short-term policies (that simply act as mere band-aids to symptoms of an underlying systemic problem) continue to dominate the airwaves. Second only to the number one challenge of building public awareness is the need to mobilize and coordinate millions of people in support of a healthy and intact biosphere.

That is why the WILD Foundation is redoubling its efforts to cut through the noise and educate people in many countries about the critical urgency of protecting half the planet – as soon as possible! Doing so is foundational to effectively addressing multiple problems at once: the climate emergency, the extinction crises, and the increasing frequency of pandemics. (See fact sheet on p. 9 on what we have accomplished so far!) ■



destruction of nature has reduced wilderness to its smallest areas and lowest functionality, not just in the history of our own civilization but the history of our planet. Earth is less wild than it has ever been, a direct cause of the rising rate of novel infectious disease.

Without homes, wild animals have nowhere to go. Even when they have eluded traps and confinement, our fellow lifeforms are oftentimes obliged to live nearer to us than they would if more suitable alternatives were still available. It is this lengthening interface that creates new opportunities for zoonosis – viruses crossing over from one species into another, as happened with COVID-19, SARS, HIV, and numerous other recent outbreaks,

of Earth's land and seas even more apparent than the 11th World Wilderness Congress might have done. Unfortunately, that awareness cannot replace the global coordination and coalition-building for the ambitious and large scale protection of wilderness that WILD11 surely would have sparked.

## WE HAD AN INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION, NOW WE NEED A SURVIVAL REVOLUTION

In order to transform the equation yet again, a growing number of experts are drawing attention to the need to restore what has been destroyed and protect what remains. And they insist we must do

# WHY WE NEED HALF **NOW**

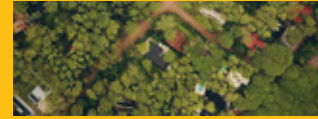
As the world prepares for the next United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, expected to vote on the question of how much nature do humans need to survive, more and more leaders from around the world are calling for the protection of half of Earth's land and seas. Below you will find answers to what that means and why it is so vital for human survival.

## HOW MUCH IS PROTECTED NOW?

**10% - 17%**  
OF EARTH'S SEAS & LANDS



**10%**  
OTHER



17% of Earth's land and 10% of its seas are covered by formal protections. An additional 10% is categorized as "other effective conservation measures." Much of this land is stewarded by Indigenous and Traditional Peoples and contains the highest level of biodiversity.

**TAKEAWAY** Currently, approximately 27% is protected.

## WHY IS PROTECTING HALF CRITICAL FOR HUMAN CIVILIZATION?



Earth's climate and biodiversity are linked. You cannot effectively address climate change without also protecting Earth's largest carbon storage container (the ocean), its largest above ground carbon storage unit (the boreal forests), its rainfall generator (forests), its nutrition production (fertile soils), and a natural pandemic prevention system (wilderness). In fact, Earth's forests prevent approximately 100 ppm carbon from being released into the atmosphere. Should we lose even a quarter of these forests, we would exceed our climate targets and trigger catastrophic climate change.

**TAKEAWAY** Wilderness is the most effective tool for addressing the climate and mass extinction emergencies and preventing pandemics.

## WHEN DO WE NEED IT BY?

**ASAP**

As soon as possible. The decisions we make in the next 10 years are critical for humanity's survival. The scientific consensus is the protection of half of Earth's land and seas by 2030.

**TAKEAWAY** The importance of your participation is at an all time high. Give today: [wild.org/diversity-protects-life](https://wild.org/diversity-protects-life).

## WILD DIVERSITY, HUMAN DIVERSITY STRENGTH IN UNITY

BY VANCE G. MARTIN



**VANCE G. MARTIN**  
PRESIDENT, THE WILD FOUNDATION

*"Ian Player has lost his marbles!"*

This direct quote appeared in a South African newspaper in 1977 made by a senior conservationist who was asked to comment on the plans made by WILD's founders, Ian Player and Magqubu Ntombele, for the First World Wilderness Congress shortly convening in Johannesburg. Player was a globally recognized conservationist who, with his brother-mentor and Zulu elder Magqubu and a diverse team, had saved the white rhino from extinction.

At that time, wilderness was an unrecognized concept internationally, considered obscure and fuzzy by the ruling science-oriented conservationists --mammalogists, ornithologists, agronomists, ichthyologists, and the like. They insisted that matters of culture or people were simply irrelevant. And, what's more, they further said, Player dared to invite Indigenous leaders, artists, politicians, bankers and other non-scientists to participate in this conservation forum. Worse yet, Player invited black people to speak from the main podium, directly flaunting the policies of apartheid, the racist national law of South Africa. My goodness, the experts complained, it will embarrass and demean the (then) highly-regarded South African conservationists in the eyes of their peers around the world.

What's going on here? Ian

knew the importance of biodiversity, but why confuse the status quo with human and cultural diversity matters that were even more messy than the concept of wilderness?

The importance of human and cultural diversity was the shared fundamental understanding that drew Ian and me together. When we met in Australia in 1980, I was in my early 30s, he was a revered global conservation leader and I was, well, just me. Despite the difference in our age and life-experience the importance of integrating human diversity and culture into effective nature conservation was obvious, without question. We both embraced, among others, these two foundational beliefs:

### 1. Wilderness is "the model"

We shared the simple understanding that human actions have natural consequences and we can choose to forge a wise, ethical, and correct relationship with nature, or accept the dysfunctional relationship we have developed that has delivered to us the existential threats of climate breakdown, mass species extinction and pandemics that stare us directly in the face today.

There is no better model for mutually beneficial and abundant coexistence than mega-diverse Mother Wilderness. She embodies successful adaptability and evolution that produces strength and resiliency---produces life. In the words of the Sufi mystics, for humans to survive and thrive on earth, Life provides the Sacred Manuscript of Nature. It is all there: we just need to observe, understand, and follow.

In today's terms, we must recognize and value the natural systems of which we are a part and upon which we unalterably depend. Nature, with all its beauty and complexity, has functioned for billions of years, right? Sounds simple, and it is...sort of. We can learn

from the example set by nature and grow beyond our selfish needs, not continuously grasping for more and only considering what we want now with little consideration of the consequences.

The key to nature's success is diversity, with myriad organisms functioning as part of many systems, the result of which is strength and endurance. This can be applied in many different ways.

For example, the "Founding Fathers" (well, they were all males) of the United States were steeped in science, agriculture, nature, engineering, governance and the philosophical "mysteries" (as they were called). They crafted all this into the symbolism and motto that is printed on American currency.

Look at a dollar bill. There is an eagle, a shaft of wheat, an ancient pyramid, an all-seeing eye, and "E Pluribus Unum" (Out of Many,

---

*"Ian Player  
has lost his  
marbles!"*

---

One), a formula for success if ever there was one. That is a message I respectfully submit to the political powerbrokers and liberty-obsessed militias in the catastrophic world of the United States today!

### 2. Culture is the hand that holds the tools

We humans are so smart that we put evolution into warp-speed and in a mere 500 years overtook a million years of prior evolutionary progress to produce detailed and diverse sciences, sophisticated engineering, elaborate economics, and many forms of governance.

All of this knowledge has been more-or-less useful in helping us to produce an expanding human race that sadly can be (frequently is) self-centered and short-sighted, highly unequal, and rapidly consuming itself out of a house while also fouling its own home.

What's missing here?

These human created tools of science, policy, economics and more can be blessings if used with wisdom but, in themselves, are not answers. What is the element that binds them together and intuitively assigns each to a proper and effective place in creating solutions? The "secret sauce" is culture, that which informs our identity, prioritizes what is important, builds our communities, and provides answers to our search for survival and meaning.

So, bring it on...the arts and humanities, sociology, recreation, faith, youth, psychology, and more. Culture is the fourth leg-- with science, politics, and economics -- that creates a stable stool upon which can sit effective conservation solutions that define a new and functional relationship with nature.

Ian was, among many things, a ground-breaking, modern conservationist and strategist accustomed to fighting for what were perceived as losing causes -- protecting wilderness, saving wildlife, and emphasizing the importance of Indigenous Peoples and traditional knowledge. He knew what made wilderness work, and that wilderness held an answer for human society. For some reason, so did I.

He incorporated all those aspects into that first World Wilderness Congress and it succeeded greatly in defining a new, inclusive approach to modern nature conservation, one that integrated a relevant and important diversity of knowledge, experience, and perspective. However, pulling it together was such a challenge (financially, politically, profession-

*Continued on page 14*



# THE UN DECADE OF ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION THIS IS 2021

HUMANITY WILL BEGIN TO RESTORE  
WHAT HAS BEEN DESTROYED AND  
RETURN BALANCE TO THE WORLD.

*"A monumental and urgently  
needed effort in order to protect the  
future of life on Earth."*

- A HUMAN WHO LIKES TO BREATHE

## COMING SOON

IN SELECT AREAS NEAR YOU SOON.

VISIT [WILD.ORG](https://www.wild.org) FOR SHOWTIMES & TICKETS. (NOTE: SOME AREAS WILL REQUIRE MORE IMPACT THAN OTHERS.)

## MUSIC REVIEW

# A MOTHER'S LOVE BREAKS THE RULES TO UNCOVER WHAT IT MEANS TO GROW UP

In September 2020, actor Lena Georgas and veteran composer, Bill Barclay (former head of music for Shakespeare's Globe Theater), released a subtle new masterpiece on social media, lyrically portraying Mother Nature's response to humanity's self-destruction.

A Mother's Love doesn't sound like what one might expect from the spirit of a living planet fraying at the seams. The quiet intensity of Georgas' voice and poetry overlaying an original score composed by Barclay, who pulls inspiration from nature as much as he does from improvisational jazz, leaves an impression, not of victimhood or suffering, but of nature's strength and the unyielding consequences of betraying ourselves.

"It's almost absurd to me that

I would presume to voice Mother Nature," Georgas exclaimed in a recent interview. "But at the beginning of the pandemic, I felt like Earth was speaking to me. Telling me, so now here's this pandemic. When will you actually start to listen to my warnings?"

From such intuitive moments, a powerful new creative interpretation of the Anthropocene was born.

"When Lena approached me with this project, she met me right where I was at," Barclay said, adding, "I had recently left the Globe, in part, because I wanted to create my own North Star and use music to engage with issues of social and ecological import. But at the beginning of the pandemic I was feeling a bit paralyzed. Lena's invitation to work on this piece helped me find



AN IMAGE FROM "A MOTHER'S LOVE" VIDEO ©LENA GEORGAS

my agency in a crisis."

Barclay's score is at once ethereal and terrifying, diving to dark, oceanic depths one moment, followed effortlessly by more familiar (and reassuring) piano chords the next. Like Georgas' narration, the score perches expertly on the knife's edge of pandemonium and freedom – a foreboding reminder that individual power exercised with freewheeling license is fleeting.

"In a technical way, I broke a

major rule. It was a way to make the music work with Lena and her poetry versus the other way around. I didn't add a rhythmic grid and force it into something it wasn't. I took my cues from Lena. People keep asking me how I got her to speak in tempo. I didn't! I found my rhythm through her."

When asked about his journey from the purely theatrical to art for activism, Barclay said, "I've learned that there are things I care so deeply about that I can't not be a part of them. This project is one of them." After a reflective pause, he added, "I guess it's about growing up a little."

A Mother's Love can be found on the WILD Foundation channel, here:

[https://youtu.be/HtiR\\_IHF78w](https://youtu.be/HtiR_IHF78w)

# HOROSCOPE

## SURVIVAL REVOLUTION IT'S IN THE STARS

Hello humans, Mama Gaia here. I've got one simple question for you: how much do you actually want a life filled with prosperity, peace, love, and health? You know, all the good stuff. Okay, that's what I thought. But I had to ask because right now you are behaving as if you want a starring role in a real-life Mad Max future.

That doesn't need to happen; I'm here to help. Pay attention because in collaboration with the

stars I have some things to tell you. (Spoiler alert: To get the life you want, you're gonna have to make some BIG changes, and soon.)

You may have heard the expression "nature tosses you a pebble before hitting you with a brick." If you haven't, now you have. I've been chucking warning pebbles at you for decades and you weren't paying attention—nada, no meaningful change in behavior. So I scaled up to throwing stones AKA

bigger, stronger, more severe consequences from your abuse of the Earth. Still, you just kept on. Now you have your very own man-made disaster headed straight for you unless you change your ways faster than I can say "pandemic".

The combined damage done by and to humans in all the wars since humans climbed down from the trees and started planting fields, has not done as much damage as what you are now doing to me/

nature, and to yourselves. Your lives depend on the planet that produced you. If you don't change your behavior by A LOT starting now, the consequences will be catastrophic. You will wish it was a brick that hit you instead.

But you're in luck. There are two important astrological transits that provide an opportunity for you to change the course of human ex-

*Continued on page 13*

## MAMA GAIA'S 12 STEP PLAN

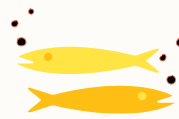
Now that I have told you about two global life-altering transits on the horizon, I have suggestions for simple things you can do to help the planet and yourselves. By working with the energy of the sun signs starting in December, when Saturn conjuncts Jupiter, and continuing through all 12 signs, each person's seemingly small effort, when considered collectively, can manifest truly meaningful change. Give them a try—you, me and everybody else will be grateful.



**CAPRICORN** ♦ Dec 21 - Jan 20  
Identify a way you can save money and be more responsible in how you consume natural resources



**AQUARIUS** ♦ Jan 21 - Feb 18  
Free yourself from being trapped in an outmoded behavior—technology and/or the arts are tools to assist you.



**PISCES** ♦ Feb 18 - Mar 20  
Serve or Suffer is a Piscean motto. Dig deep into your emotions, open your heart, discover the unconditional love of nature and humanity that exists in every person. Find a way to serve nature.



**ARIES** ♦ Mar 20 - Apr 20  
Choose a physical activity in nature that benefits your sense of self.



**TAURUS** ♦ Apr 20 - May 21  
Plant a garden, a planter, a pot—watch nature unfold and enjoy its gift to you.



**GEMINI** ♦ May 21 - Jun 21  
Teach a child to love nature and appreciate its gifts.



**CANCER** ♦ Jun 21 - Jul 23  
Help your mother, or grandmother, or someone's mother to change a behavior in their home that will benefit them and me.



**LEO** ♦ Jul 23 - Aug 23  
Be confident. Channel your energy and with the courage of a lion, contact a person of power to persuade them to take positive action for nature.



**VIRGO** ♦ Aug 23 - Sept 23  
Delve into the details of a lifestyle change that will improve your health. Anything that improves your health, improves mine.



**LIBRA** ♦ Sept 23 - Oct 23  
Develop a relationship with an organization that is helping preserve nature and find a way to support its efforts.



**SCORPIO** ♦ Oct 23 - Nov 22  
Investigate how nature regenerates itself. Learn how you can compost; use the essential workers in nature that reclaim and renew life.



**SAGITTARIUS** ♦ Nov 22 - Dec 21  
Break free of the constraints of human-built surroundings. Don't be fenced in—get out into wild-places. Move into the future, live the survival revolution.



istence and secure your very survival. One transit is generation defining, which means big, and it only occurs about every 20 years; I suggest you take advantage of it. The transit is Saturn and Jupiter conjunct, which occurs on December 21, 2020 in the sign of Aquarius. Aquarius infuses the planet's energy with progressive, scientific, humane, and altruistic characteristics --precisely what is needed at this juncture in your history. Although the exact conjunction only occurs once, the planets will provide lots of opportunity for change in the first few months of 2021, especially when they cross paths with the second transit, Uranus in Taurus. (More on that in a moment.)

By themselves, Saturn transits are times of achievement, maturity, personal responsibility, and conservation, shedding things that are not working to focus on improving and strengthening things that serve you. Jupiter is the planet of growth, generosity and fortunate opportunities. It is concerned with the social glue that holds everything together: the law, persons in power and government officials. The combined message is clear – Saturn demands that you take responsibility for your actions, while Jupiter provides the

inspiration to design effective remedies for what ails you. Stay oblivious to the man-made destruction engulfing the Earth at your own peril; the very fabric of human society is at stake.

When Jupiter and Saturn come together in Aquarius you have the opportunity to take down old forms that no longer serve you, your communities or the planet and embrace new humanistic and altruistic growth. These two planets combine to let an expansive and imaginative vision be harnessed to the structure and discipline needed to manifest constructive and life-affirming results.

A little warning, if allowed. Jupiter's expansive energy can lead to egoic greed and delusions of grandeur. Saturn can generate deep feelings of scarcity leading to authoritarian, militaristic or bullying behavior. Jupiter and Saturn are the haves and the have-nots. Together they could result in a beautiful realignment, balancing and preserving vital resources OR greed and fear could run amuck.

Uranus in Taurus will push humans to change how they live together on this planet. Known as the planet of rebellion, Uranus wields vibrant, electric energies of change. It governs discovery, innovation,

invention, novelty, and all things progressive. The characteristics of Taurus are conservative, practical, slow-moving, stubborn and materialistic. Taurus is the earthiest of the earth signs and is intimately tied to the agrarian rhythms of human life. Uranus in Taurus is going to demand that you pay attention to your relationship with the natural world, Me. Uranus in Taurus is not a marriage made in heaven so it will get a little bumpy along the way. That's okay. A few bumps now will be a lot better than miles of sinkholes later.

Some astrological predictions for Uranus in Taurus have gone full-doomsday, most often predicting a period of economic downturn worse than the Great Depression mixed with extreme cases of environmental degradation and chaotic weather. The last time that Uranus was in Taurus was from 1934 to 1941. Humans were in the middle of the Great Depression and on the brink of World War II. So, there's that.

Nevertheless, at the same time, Roosevelt implemented the Social Security Act, which mandated that society take care of those in need—people who exist outside of the capitalist-worker system: the elderly, the very young, the

differently abled. Uranus in Taurus also saw the creation of some of the most radical programs of Roosevelt's New Deal initiative, like the Works Progress Administration (WPA), which provided jobs for unemployed people.

It was a revolutionary time then; it can be again now.

These powerful transits offer hope. They provide the energy and impetus to make the change; they are not predictors of inevitable change. The stars and I have done all we can to warn you, encourage you, plead with you – for your own sake, not ours. I may be a little sad and damaged now, and it may take centuries, but I'll end up OK no matter what you humans do or don't do—but you won't. It's you I'm worried about. You matter to me, to all life on this planet BUT we can do without you. Is that what you want?

**WAKE UP PLEASE!** You need to insist that at all levels of society from activities in your own home to national and international institutions: **CEASE AND DESIST DESTROYING NATURE!**

Love yourselves and your world. Be wise, be courageous, take action. Join the Survival Revolution. ■

# DEAR MAMA NATURE

Mama Nature is here to nurture you . . . by saying it like it is. For more from the Real Mama Nature checkout #RealMamaNature on Twitter and Facebook.



*Hi Mother Nature,  
I'm really needing some of your words of wisdom. See, I'm not that beautiful (on the outside) and I'm having trouble getting humans to see that I'm worth keeping around rather than destroying and replacing. My lack of color may be an eyesore at times and trust me I know that there are thousands of other places on this planet that provide much greater beauty but, if only they could see how much value I add beneath the surface I know they'd see my true potential.  
Sincerely,  
Peat Bog*

Dear Peatty,  
Goodness, you truly have found yourself in quite the predicament. Sure, you're exterior may not be rich with the greens of the Amazon or filled with the transitioning blues of the Caribbean seas but you are beautiful in your own way. Please, don't ever forget that no one – not

even the beauty queen Amazon – can do what you do. You are unique. The amount of carbon dioxide that you keep locked away is unmatched by any other ecosystem on land. Peatty, you're basically a superhero. Don't let those humans get you down, I'll make sure to have a word with them. And until then, don't be afraid to remind them how much nature is needed for their survival.

Love,  
Mama Nature  
\*\*\*

*Hi Mother Nature,  
So um, we've got a problem. A big one. His name's Steven Spielberg. Well actually, it's not Steven so much as it's his movie "Jaws." It came out in 1975 but, before you say "too little too late, you should have created a better reputation for yourselves..." please understand that we NEVER thought anyone would take this story-line seriously. A killer, man-eating shark? I mean c'mon now Mother Nature, who on earth would believe that? Sure, we've got teeth and we eat meat, just as nearly 93% of humans do, but we're not man-eaters! Seal are a lot tastier. And now, in addition to people hunting us in pre-emptive self-defense we are now losing 100 million of because of something called "shark fin soup." And humans have the audacity accuse us of eating them?! Do they not realize how much we do as keystone species to protect the health of the entire ocean?*

*We need to change this narrative ASAP. Please write back soon, we're terrified to swim in our own waters.*

*Not doing so fantastic,  
Shark*

—  
*My toothy child,  
This is absolutely devastating news. I had no idea one movie could change the perspective of millions although, I should have anticipated this considering how many people will fall for false rhetoric surrounding the state of our climate and extinction emergencies. Believe me, I know that you are no man-eater. There would be hardly any humans left if you were! I know that we are running out of time but I beg you to be patient. Humans are very skilled at being extremely shortsighted and are keen on focusing solely on the things that will bring them immediate success and wealth.*

*You are at the top of the ocean food chain, please know that I completely recognize that without you the well-being of everything beneath my ocean's surface will inevitably collapse. I must have a word with my Homo sapien children. Until then, swim freely but I beg you to be extremely cautious.*

Love,  
Mother Nature  
\*\*\*

*Dear Mother Nature,  
I'm exhausted and I'm not sure that I can keep fighting this seemingly losing battle. The climate and biodiversity emergency feels like a*

*runaway train that none of us can stop. Things look so grim that I can't even get out of bed. No matter how hard we try, there constantly seems to be another obstacle in the way. Mama, I need your words of comfort and support now more than ever.*

*It's useless to even keep trying, right?*

*Humans*

—

*Dear children,  
I would love to say that I feel sorry for you but sadly, I don't. You very clearly got yourselves into this mess so you'll have to get yourselves out of it. They told me the terrible twos were the stage to look out for but I had no idea how much of a rough situation we'd find ourselves in come the terrible 200,000s. You know that I love you but you are not babies anymore, it's high time that you take responsibility for your actions. So pull yourselves out of bed, look at what you're doing to the ecosystems and species that are trying to do everything to support you, and once and for all, clean up the mess that you've created.*

*Get to work.*

*Mama Nature*

*Ps. I've thought of another way that you can make yourselves useful. Engage in the Survival Revolution, a global movement calling for the protection of half of Earth's land and seas as soon as possible.. I'm telling you, you'll feel a lot better about things once you've started working together to come up with solutions. ■*

## Continued from page 10 — **Wild Diversity, Human Diversity - Strength in Unity**

ally, and personally) that he had no intention of continuing with it. Fortunately, the Australians who attended the First Congress asked if they could organize a second one, to which Ian replied, "Be my guest. You lead, I will assist." Having no idea what was involved or the impact it would have on my work and life, I jumped on board.

And thus, the Congress con-

tinued and grew. Over 45 years, using diversity, integrity, and the power of a shared vision for a wilder and better world, the World Wilderness Congress has produced a globally-recognized track record of practical and inspirational results the scope of which mystifies people when they consider its budget, and yet reassures and reinvigorates them when they feel the purpose, presence, and practical solutions that such a model creates.

What lies ahead for the WWC? WILD11 in China was postponed

by our colleagues in China "until sometime after 2020," and the pivot to India for WILD11 in March 2020 met with an unfortunate but necessary pandemic-postponement, just two weeks before it was to convene.

Where to from here? We are moving ahead as always. Our planning process for WILD and the WWC is an ecosystem, based on the workings of wilderness. We consider the world we have created and what we face; seek a variety of views, ideas, structures;

collaborate with others to assemble teams diverse in age, culture and profession; and we adapt in order to build strength and endurance for a better and wilder world. Good things are in the making...we will need them!

Stay tuned.

Onwards.

**VANCE G. MARTIN** is President of The WILD Foundation.

The people  
behind  
the scenes

# WILD STAFF MEMBERS



**VANCE G. MARTIN** President



Vice President,  
Policy &  
Communications  
**AMY LEWIS**



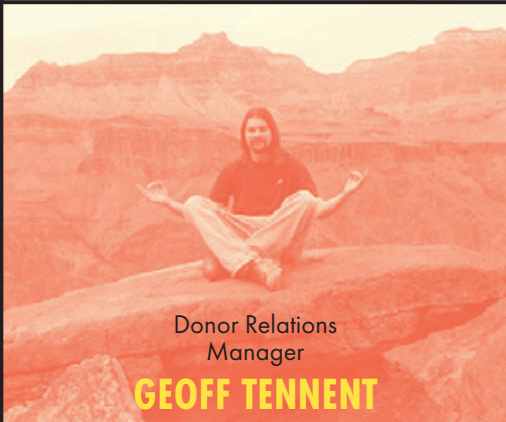
**CAROL BATRUS** Corporate Secretary



Director of Operations  
**JENNIFER MEYER**



**MELANIE HILL** Director of  
Communications &  
Outreach



Donor Relations  
Manager  
**GEOFF TENNENT**



**CASSIE CLUSMAN** Design & Visual  
Content Lead



Social Media &  
Content Specialist  
**HARRISON GOODALE**



Conservation  
Advisor &  
Project Lead  
for Mali  
Elephant  
Project  
**SUSAN CANNEY**



NAWPA  
Facilitator &  
Manager of  
Conservation  
Programs  
**ADAM HANSON**



Project Manager for  
CoalitionWILD  
**CRISTA VALENTINO**



**ZHANG QIAN** China Representative



**MAGNUS SYLVÉN** Senior Policy  
Advisor



**KARL WAGNER** Senior Campaign  
Advisor

# CLASSIFIEDS

## HELP WANTED

### GENERAL ASSISTANT

Looking for full-time help during the day, especially safely crossing roads, finding my way around an increasingly unfamiliar landscape, and how to avoid getting in trouble with my human neighbors. For more info @UrbanMountainLion  
\*\*\*

### HOUSE CLEANER WANTED

Having trouble keeping a large multi-unit home clean. Especially need someone experienced at filtering chemical pollutants out of billions of gallons of water so that occupants can breathe. Please contact @GulfofMexicoWildlife  
\*\*\*

### SECURITY GUARD NEEDED

Recently, our neighborhood has become more violent. The new neighbors are starting fires, and the homes of several of our longtime friends have been destroyed. Seeking help preventing the destruction of our own home. We just want to live our lives in peace. Contact @AmazonianRainforestWildlife  
\*\*\*

## BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

### JOBS JOBS JOBS

Looking for a great job? Want to help others? The World Economic Forum an-

nounced that hundreds of millions of jobs will be created if we invest in the restoration of nature. Learn more @UNDecadeofEcosystemRestoration  
\*\*\*

### PEST SOLUTIONS

We provide FREE mosquito control, lowering the incidence of mosquito born diseases. We also pollinate crops. For more info check @Bats&MigratoryBirds  
\*\*\*

## PERSONALS

### SINGLE MOM SEEKING SOULMATE

Well-built, mature single white rhino with older daughter seeking soulmate,

but even just a friend would be nice. Please contact @LastNorthernWhiteRhino  
\*\*\*

### SWR

(single, wild, romantic)  
"If you like piña coladas And getting caught in the rain  
If you aren't into MAGA  
If you like to campaign  
If you are praying until midnight  
For the dunes on the cape  
Then I'm the love that you've looked for  
Write to me, and let's mate"  
\*\*\*

## OTHER



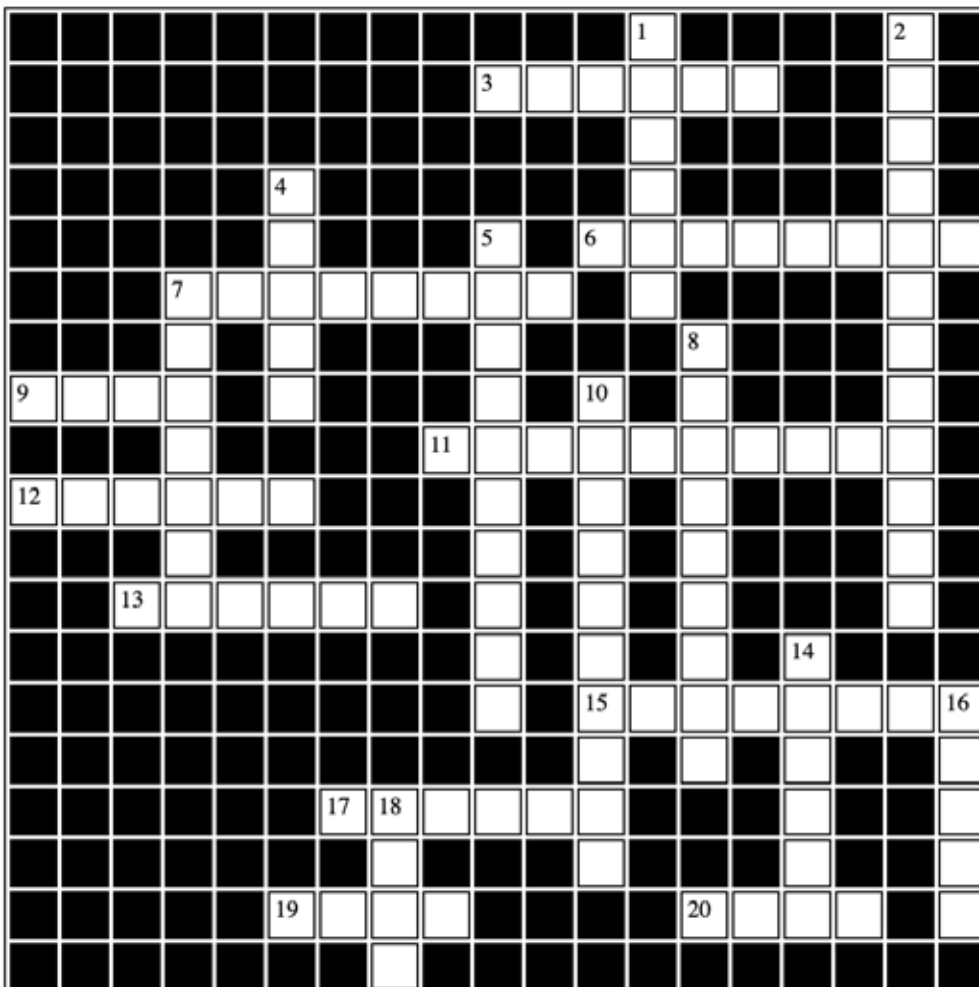
### CONGRATULATIONS, LENA GEORGAS -

board member, actor, and fundraiser! You're significant contributions to WILD make you a conservation champion!

XOXO,  
Your WILD Family

\*\*\*

# SOLVING FOR BIODIVERSITY



## ACROSS

- 3. Home to more unknown than known species
- 6. Cause of many postponements
- 7. Earth's current status
- 9. Country housing one of the largest protected areas
- 11. Peoples who protect the most biodiversity
- 12. Out of balance with 2 down
- 13. One pathway to change
- 15. The level of government that makes protected areas
- 17. Species important to the production of oxygen
- 19. We all are it
- 20. When we should take action

## DOWN

- 1. Movie that could depict our future
- 2. Life and all its inter-relationships
- 4. Necessary for protecting Earth at a planetary scale
- 5. Spirit, goddess, advice columnist
- 7. Can be addressed by protecting 18 down
- 8. Major keystone species in West Africa
- 10. The womb of all life
- 14. An African region the size of Switzerland
- 16. A good place to start
- 18. Amount of Earth we MUST protect

## MICHAEL SOULE



Michael had an unshakeable commitment to wilderness, and over many decades his was a seminal voice in re-orienting nature conservation and defining a new, ecologically-based human relationship with wild nature.

In 2001 we had a global alert, a wake-up call that shook the world and especially the United States like nothing else before it. “9/11” was the terrorist contribution to globalization, and it galvanized us in a way never previously imagined in the post-WWII era. On that day in early September we were just seven weeks away from convening the 7th World Wilderness Congress in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, with almost 1000 delegates from some 50 nations committed to advancing the global agenda for wilderness protection from Africa, where humankind had evolved in wild nature and from whence the modern human species began its migrations some 300,000 years ago that eventually began to subdue wild nature around the world.

Our planning was thrown asunder as we faced a new, seemingly existential threat – should we postpone...cancel ...or continue? We needed to act quickly. With colleague and friend Andrew Muir (Wilderness Foundation Africa and Executive Director, 7th WWC), we made the decision to continue, thereby becoming the first major global gathering to convene post 9/11. We lost hundreds of delegates who were unwilling or not allowed to travel, but we eventually convened 700 who were committed to the role of wilderness as a visionary answer of hope for a united and positive future. Michael Soule was one of them, and he said to me when I asked him if we could count on him being at the Congress, “Of

course I will be there. We need to counter the real terrorism, that which we are inflicting on wilderness.”

And so we gathered at this most unusual time, as stated in the opening lines of the Port Elizabeth Accord that framed the 7th WWC:

*At this time in our history, when the shadow of uncertainty pervades our thoughts and the presence of peril dictates our actions, all our aspirations and initiatives must, by necessity, be positive, determined, visionary, and collaborative.*

Michael was very on-target and uncompromising, of course. He called for an overhaul of the global conservation agenda in his plenary presentation, “Wildlands Network Design”:

“Larger reserves and better connectivity constitute the foundation for any meaningful program of wilderness protection or nature conservation on a regional or continental scale, and the needed transformation is still possible in many parts of the world (...). The major elements of this new view of nature protection include: (1) recognition of top-down regulation in ecosystems and the need for large core areas and regional wildlife linkages; (2) the need for ecological restoration on unprecedented scales; and (3) a critique of ‘fashionable alternatives’ such as sustainable development.”

His critique of sustainable development was as precise and charming as it was scathing, yet calmly delivered as was his style, ending in:

“In fact, the ascendance of the notion of sustainable development has slowed efforts to increase the size and number of strictly protected areas worldwide, and sustainable development projects do more harm than good for nature and wildness.”

In keeping with the 7th WWC’s call to action for positive solutions, Michael’s presentation ended with a summary of the value of the New Conservation Program presented in his plenary paper, that he had developed in collaboration with the recognized and resolute conservation biologist, John Terborgh:

“A central concept of the new program for conservation is that large, interconnected, core protected areas are critical elements in regional wildland networks and, in these areas, the needs of large carnivores, other keystone species, and large-scale natural processes such as fire must be given priority over capital-intensive economic activity. Fortunately, it appears that nature protection benefits local communities materially and spiritually more, in the long run, than most economic development schemes that ultimately destroy environmental values and erode the communal bonds that bind people to the land and to each other.”

Fast forward to 2020, and Michael passes from this planet in the year that the threat of pandemic is added to the list of escalating, existential environmental threats, joining climate breakdown and mass species extinction as a triad of systemic issues seriously obscuring humanity’s future. In the greater scheme of things and despite our own actions to the contrary, humans are not special and are, after all, just another species disregarding at its own peril the niche it occupies, and polluting the promise it should not squander.

We can and must act on Michael’s words. His vision and ‘new conservation program’ two decades ago are even more relevant and urgent today than they were then, because protecting intact wilderness and implementing large scale ecological restoration is still the best, most rational, economically-minded, and sustainable solution we have to the ever-increasing, radically-present threats that we face today.

\*\*\*

## IMAN



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Sumatran Rhinoceros (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*), passed away in November 2019, the last of her

kind in Malaysia. The Sumatran Rhino is now locally extinct with only 80 remaining worldwide.

\*\*\*

## CHINESE PADDLEFISH

(*Psephurus gladius*), declared extinct in December 2019 due to overfishing and habitat fragmentation. There are no known surviving relatives. No ceremony held. Please send condolences and calls for change to government and societal leaders in your communities and networks.

\*\*\*

## XIANGXIANG



©SUZHOU DAILY

The last female Yangtze giant softshell turtle (*rafetus swinhoei*) died in April 2019 during an artificial insemination procedure. Only three male Yangtze giant softshell turtles survive her, making the species effectively extinct.

\*\*\*

## INDIAN CHEETAH

(*Acinonyx jubatus venaticus*) was declared extinct in September 2019. The Indian Cheetah fell victim to intense desertification, the result of the heavy use of pesticides and habitat fragmentation. This desertification has had significant negative impact on the entire food chain, to the detriment of local human populations that rely on subsistence farming. No ceremony.

\*\*\*

## CATARINA PUPFISH

(*Megupsilon aporus*) declared extinct in 2019. The pupfish lived in Mexican freshwater areas and died due to excessive groundwater extraction. No ceremony.

\*\*\*

Surviving species respectfully prefer action over condolences.

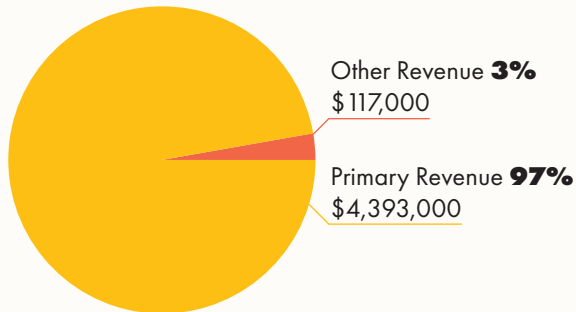
# OUR FINANCES

Fiscal Year 2019

The WILD Foundation has earned six consecutive 4-star ratings from Charity Navigator, placing us in the top 9% of all charities for trustworthiness and effectiveness.

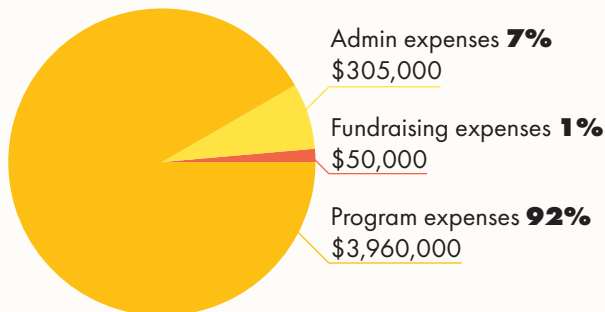
## REVENUE

Total Revenue  
\$4,510,000



## EXPENSES

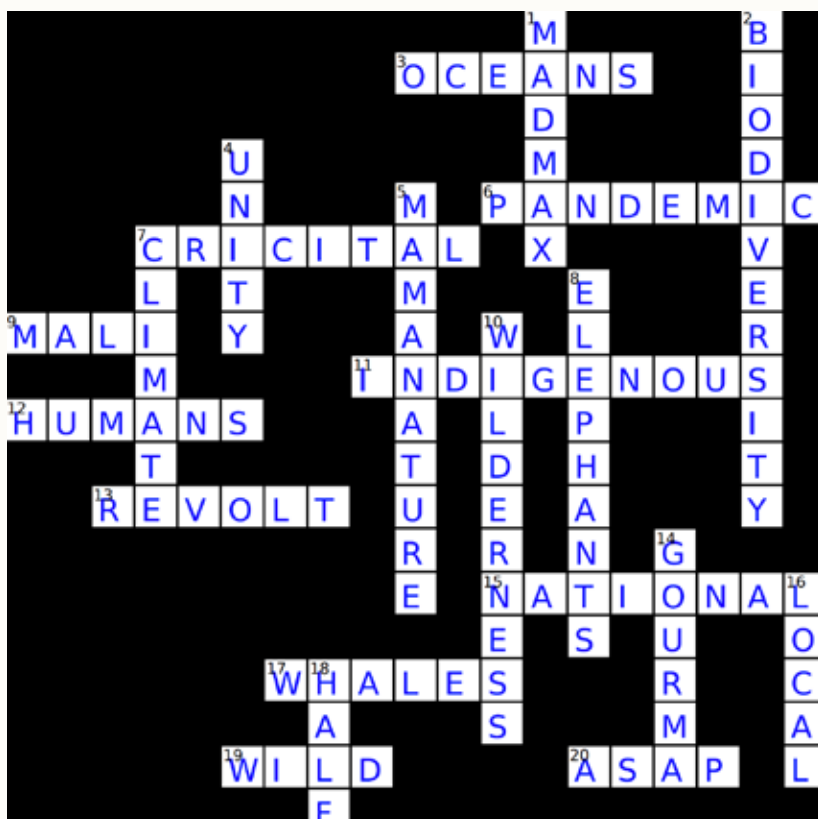
Total Expenses  
\$4,315,000



**9 OUT OF 10 DOLLARS DONATED TO WILD DIRECTLY SUPPORT CONSERVATION PROGRAMS**

## CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Puzzle located on page 16



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With special and sincere thanks to these individuals who help protect and restore wild nature when they give to WILD. They are helping to keep Earth wild.

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**YOU HELP  
ENSURE  
HUMANITY'S  
FUTURE BY  
KEEPING  
EARTH WILD  
WHEN YOU  
GIVE TO WILD.**

**YOUR GIFT AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS HISTORICALLY IMPORTANT DECADE  
FOR LIFE ON EARTH WILL HELP FUEL TRANSFORMATIVE ACTION.**

---

**CONSIDER JOINING THE MOVEMENT DRIVING GLOBAL COMMITMENT TO  
DEFEND WILDERNESS AND PROTECT LIFE ON EARTH.**