



Restoring balance between wildlife and human life, together.

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The President and CEO Annual General Meeting 2023 Report to the Community

Bonjour,

Thank you for being here with us today as we look back on our 2022 successes.

By the numbers

2022 was an exceptional year. Our passionate team of 586 staff members and 540+ volunteers once again provided exceptional care to the animals that call your zoo home, we continued to educate and inspire our community about the importance of wildlife conservation and we delivered more memorable experiences to our visitors than ever before:

- We welcomed over 1.2 million visitors to the zoo through day visits, special programs, 30+ special experiences and over 500 private client events;
- 11,772 generous donors invested in the future with their financial support;
- 85,510 members supported our critical conservation work, locally and globally, through their purchase of a membership;
- We connected with 18,000 students through school programs and over 1,900 youths during summer camps;
- We told wildlife stories in new and beautiful ways through signage updates and mural installations;
- During the 26th anniversary of ZOOLIGHTS, we introduced five new immersive experiences and welcomed over 110,000 visitors to gather under the glow of over 6,000 strings of lights.

The animals we love

We provided exceptional care to over 4,000 animals across 112 species at the zoo and are recognized around the world for excellence in animal care, health and wellbeing. We welcomed some incredible new arrivals, wished fond farewells to those heading on new adventures and said heartfelt goodbyes to some beloved members of the zoo family.

To highlight just a few, 2022 saw some exciting births and hatches:

- Western lowland gorilla infant, 'Eyare' (F)
- Red panda cub twins, 'Sundari' (F) and 'Ravi' (M)
- African crested porcupine siblings, 'Rocco' (M) and 'Mikumi' (F)
- Gentoo penguin chick, 'Amery' (M)
- King penguin chick, 'Alfred' (M)
- Humboldt penguin chick, 'Rio' (M)
- North American river otter pups, 'Meadow' (F), 'Maybell' (F), 'Fiddle' (M) and 'Fraser' (M)
- Woodland caribou calf, 'Avens' (F)
- Rocky Mountain goat kid, 'Hara' (F)
- Great grey owl chicks, 'Strix' (M) and 'Nebulosa' (F)
- And many more!

Conservation successes

It's inspiring to see what our team has accomplished for wildlife and for communities over this last year. While challenges may persist, hope does exist. The resiliency of species, as well as the determination of people around the world to protect them, paints an optimistic future for both wildlife and wild places. Here's a roundup from 2022 of some of the ways that we've been connecting people and wildlife:

- We celebrated the first anniversary of the launch of the 'Wilder Institute'. With community conservation specialists and population ecologists at the helm, we are a force of nature in wildlife conservation.
- We launched our national awareness campaign for the Wilder Institute, hosting events in British Columbia, Alberta, and Ontario to connect philanthropists with opportunities to support our mission.
- Our conservation activity amplified with the release or translocation of more than 4,000 animals and plants into the wild through collaborative efforts with our partners.
- We reached 290+ million people with our message of restoring balance between human life and wildlife.
- 84,845 community members have, directly and indirectly, benefitted from our collaborative conservation initiatives operating in regions in Kenya.
- We engaged over 2000 individuals in sustainable bio-enterprises in Ghana & Kenya.
- We celebrated the opening of the Eburu Natural Forest Honey Cooperative Office in Kenya through the Kenya Mountain Bongo Partnership, an initiative that we have been a part of since 2014.
- We expanded our community conservation portfolio to add the collaborative Cross River Gorilla Initiative, working together with the Nigerian Conservation Foundation and the Centre for Biodiversity Conservation Research.
- We authored or co-authored 3 papers to advance knowledge in the fields of community conservation and conservation translocations.
- We engaged over 6000 attendees in conservation at our first-ever Alberta Biodiversity Festival educating visitors of all ages about what can be done to protect the wildlife and wild places we love.

From reintroducing threatened species to the wild to empowering communities to safeguard natural resources, our conservation initiatives have positively impacted the environment and its inhabitants. And we have no plans of slowing down! We hope to expand our conservation impact and deepen our connections with the communities that are stewards for these species at risk.

Introducing the Archibald Biodiversity Centre (ABC)

A dream 40 years in the making was unveiled in 2022 – as we officially opened the doors of the zoo's new conservation breeding and reintroduction facility, the Archibald Biodiversity Centre.

This one-of-a-kind facility, located on 333 acres in rural Alberta, is remote enough to afford the level of seclusion necessary for successful conservation and research programs yet close enough to be easily serviced from the main Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo property.

The new campus not only enables our organization to improve breeding facilities for our current programs, such as whooping cranes, burrowing owls, greater sage-grouse and Vancouver Island marmots, but also sets the stage to dramatically increase our ability to add new wildlife and plant breeding programs to the Institute's portfolio.

The Archibald Biodiversity Centre represents the best of what conservation charities are capable of. It is a step forward in our journey toward making the world a wilder place.



What's ahead

As I look ahead through 2023 and beyond, I've very excited!

The Canadian Wilds Zone at the zoo has been educating visitors and future conservationists for 40 years. In 2021, we set about to undertake one of the largest projects in our organization's history - to reimagine the Canadian Wilds.

Our goals through this project are to showcase our active role in the conservation of native Canadian species and create larger, more complex habitats for our North American river otters, whooping cranes, woodland caribou and muskox, as well as create a sanctuary for polar bears.

Through this project, we look to honour Indigenous knowledge, science and art by collaborating with Indigenous communities to deepen our storytelling about the connection between humans, wildlife and the land. When the Canadian Wilds reopen this fall, our hope is for our visitors to see themselves as part of the wonder, right alongside the magnificent wildlife that calls Canada home.

None of this would have been possible without the generous support of our valued donors, funders and government partners. We would like to thank the Taylor Family Foundation, the Brawn Family Foundation, the Province of Alberta, the City of Calgary, the Department of Canadian Heritage and Prairies Economic Development of Canada, along with many other donors for their generous support.

During the summer months, our gardens are going to get a little wilder. WildScapes will be a botanical takeover of the zoo, with 10 larger-than-life topiary installations masterfully crafted in the shape of some of the world's most stunning creatures. Ranging from human size to colossal, these eye-catching works of art are sure to delight visitors of all ages.

And there's more to come!

- We are cautiously optimistic about the birth of another critically endangered western lowland gorilla infant to the troop this May, and more zoo babies are expected soon!
- We will be surprising and delighting our visitors all summer with a daily festival of parades, music, dancing, conservation education and animal enrichment moments. No two days will be the same.
- The Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo family continues to grow. We will be welcoming several new individuals as Species Survival Plan breeding program recommendations, and we will continue to inspire people young and old to protect wildlife and wild spaces.

In closing, thank you to our amazing employees and volunteers for your passion, dedication, and commitment. Thank you to our donors for your support to help make our important work possible. Finally, a heartfelt thank you to our community – your support means the world to us.

Thank you for supporting wildlife conservation!

Merci,



Dr. Clément Lanthier
President and CEO
Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo

