AZA's Conservation Endowment Fund Announces Grants to Conservation Projects Worldwide

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Silver Spring, Maryland (Vocus) October 12, 2010 -- The Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Conservation Endowment Fund (CEF) has granted $160,000 to 8 wildlife conservation initiatives.

“From crocodiles to lemurs to ferrets, AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums and their partners are at the forefront of wildlife conservation here in North America and around the world,” said AZA President and CEO, Jim Maddy. “The scientific contribution of zoos and aquariums receiving Conservation Endowment Fund awards is vital to the wildlife conservation movement.”

Established in 1984, the AZA CEF supports the cooperative conservation-related scientific and educational initiatives of AZA members and their partners. Every major type of conservation and animal care initiative is represented — research, field conservation, education and outreach, animal welfare, animal health and animal management. Many CEF projects are collaborations among AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums and state, federal and international wildlife agencies, academia and other conservation organizations.

Between 1991 and 2010, the CEF provided more than $5 million to over 300 projects worldwide. The Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund (DWCF) and The Walt Disney Company have provided supplemental funds to the CEF for over a decade, which significantly increases the number of projects funded by the CEF each year. For more information about Disney conservation efforts, please visit www.disney.com/conservation.

People can support next year’s worthy conservation projects by donating online or by texting “AZACEF” to 20222 to donate $10 to CEF.

After a competitive review of 65 applications, 8 projects were funded for 2010. Funding sources for each project are indicated.

Cambodian Crocodile Conservation Programme: Re-introduction of Siamese Crocodiles to the Wild (CEF)  
Adam Starr, Fauna & Flora International  
Lonnie McCaskill, Disney's Animal Kingdom

Community Engagement and Capacity Building: The Northern Cheyenne Reservation and Black-footed Ferret Recovery (DWCF)  
Rachel Santymire, PhD, Lincoln Park Zoo  
Rachel Bergren, Lincoln Park Zoo

Developing Adaptive Management for Human-Elephant Conflict Across Asia (CEF/DWCF)  
Peter Leimgruber, PhD, Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, National Zoological Park
Developing Invasive Weed Control Methods In a Malagasy Rainforest Reserve (DWCF)
Karen Freeman, PhD, Madagascar Fauna Group
Ingrid Porton, Saint Louis Zoo

Ecological Interactions Between Wild and Domestic Ungulates in Arid Ecosystems: A Case Study of the Endangered Hirola Antelope (Beatragus hunteri), in Eastern Kenya (CEF)
Ali Hussein, Institute of Primate Research, National Museums of Kenya

Implementing a Conservation Strategy for the Black Warrior Waterdog (Necturus alabamensis) (DWCF)
Monica Stoops, PhD, Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden
Eric Keyster, Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden
Christopher DeChant, Innovative Zoological Solutions

Marine Fish Egg Collection and Larval Rearing - Technique Development for Sustainability (DWCF)
Judy St. Leger, PhD, SeaWorld San Diego
Allan Marshall, The Florida Aquarium
Gary Violetta, SeaWorld Orlando

Rocket Stoves and Reforestation: Ensuring the Long-term Survival of Two Critically Endangered Lemur Species in Madagascar (DWCF)
Edward Louis, Jr., DVM, PhD, Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo

Founded in 1924, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of zoos and aquariums in the areas of conservation, education, science, and recreation. Look for the AZA logo whenever you visit a zoo or aquarium as your assurance that you are supporting a facility dedicated to providing excellent care for animals, a great experience for you, and a better future for all living things. The AZA is a leader in global wildlife conservation, and your link to helping animals in their native habitats. To learn more visit www.aza.org.

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