Mission
WCS saves wildlife and wild places worldwide through science, conservation action, education, and inspiring people to value nature.

Vision
WCS envisions a world where wildlife thrives in healthy lands and seas, valued by societies that embrace and benefit from the diversity and integrity of life on earth.
The Burmese star tortoise, found only in Myanmar, was on a path to extinction in the mid-1990s due to the pet trade in Asia. But its story did not end there. Our zoo and field conservation teams, along with partners, are making sure that this beautiful tortoise gets a second chance.

Currently, the tortoise population is back on the rise at a rate of about 37 percent per year in captive breeding centers in Myanmar, and the long-term objective of restoring viable populations into protected areas is now biologically attainable. This remarkable conservation effort is the result of our WCS Bronx Zoo and field conservation teams partnering with the Turtle Survival Alliance and the Myanmar Government.

The Burmese star tortoise’s comeback is just one example of positive conservation impact that we share in this report. In the Conservation Impact section, you will learn more about how WCS is restoring populations of jaguars in Latin America; savannah and forest elephants in Africa; and corals at WCS sites across the tropics.

WCS has been using the power of science, conservation, and education to save wildlife and wild places for more than a century, dating back to our work to breed and reintroduce the American bison. Thanks to the support from our donors and partners, we work in nearly 60 countries to help save the world’s biodiversity.

Our four zoos—the Bronx Zoo, Central Park Zoo, Queens Zoo, and Prospect Park Zoo—and our New York Aquarium extend our impact by welcoming more than 4 million guests a year and bringing to them the magnificence of our world’s wildlife. In 2018 we will open Ocean Wonders: Sharks! at the New York Aquarium, which will highlight our marine work globally, including in the New York seascape.

“We are proud of our impact working in nearly 60 countries to help save the world’s biodiversity.”

We are proud of our global field, zoo, and aquarium colleagues’ successful efforts to save wildlife. With species across the world vulnerable to threats such as habitat loss, illegal hunting, and climate change, WCS’s work is more critical than ever—and we couldn’t do it without you as We Stand for Wildlife®.

Antonia M. Grumbach
Chair of the Board

Cristián Samper
President & CEO

ABOVE

Hyacinth macaws (Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus), native to central and eastern South America, are the largest flying parrot species and currently listed as Vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

RIGHT

Dedicated conservation efforts by WCS and partners have brought the Burmese star tortoise (Geochelone platynota) back from the brink of extinction (see page 20).
Conservation Impact

WCS has worked for over a century to protect wildlife and wild places. We developed some of the world’s first conservation programs in collaboration with local, scientific, and government partners.

WCS now works in nearly 60 countries and across the world’s ocean, concentrating on the planet’s most important, ecologically intact places with the greatest biodiversity and resilience to climate change. Our goal is to conserve more than half of all animal and plant species and the world’s largest wild places.

Our conservation solutions draw on the unrivalled expertise of our field biologists and our zoo- and aquarium-based veterinarians, curators, and animal care staff. Our work is grounded in best-in-class science, and in strong partnerships that build the conservation capacity and livelihoods of local communities and indigenous groups. We stay as long as it takes to get the job done because conservation is not a short-term endeavor.

To design effective programs with clearly defined goals and measurable outcomes, WCS conservationists build upon the efforts of their predecessors with new knowledge gained working in the field. Most have deep connections to the places where they work, whether by birth or as forged over decades of contact with local colleagues.

To celebrate the impact we have achieved, we highlight four species the conservation of which has long been championed by WCS: Latin America’s mighty jaguar; Africa’s spectacular elephants; our ocean’s fragile corals; and Myanmar’s resurgent Burmese star tortoise.
SPOTLIGHT SPECIES

Jaguar

The top carnivore of the tropical Americas, the jaguar (Panthera onca) occupies almost two-thirds of its pre-1900 range between the semi-arid scrub forests of Mexico and the flooded forests of the Amazon.

Two threats have taken a heavy toll on the Americas’ largest cat species: habitat depletion due to the conversion of forest for development and agriculture, and killing in response to the loss of livestock. The jaguar is now nearly absent from the United States in the northern part of its range and restricted to the extreme northern limits of Argentina in its southern range, while it has been eliminated across much of its historic range in Central America.
For more than three decades, WCS has worked to conserve jaguars in their critical strongholds. Because large top carnivores need a lot of space, successful conservation requires keeping substantial areas of forest habitat intact, including beyond the boundaries of protected areas.

To this end, we have worked to support indigenous peoples who manage lands that neighbor protected areas. For example, in Bolivia’s Greater Madidi landscape, WCS has supported the Tacana and other local people in securing land rights, reducing deforestation in their territory, and maintaining suitable habitat for jaguars.

We complement this effort with assistance for improving law enforcement and ranching practices to reduce human-jaguar conflict. All told, we are working with our partners to protect 5,000 jaguars and 400,000 square kilometers of jaguar habitat—from northern Paraguay to northern Central America.

Jaguar populations remained stable or grew steadily at all WCS sites between 2002 and 2016. These results bode well for the future of jaguars. 

Road to Recovery

Jaguar populations remained stable or grew steadily at all WCS sites between 2002 and 2016. The population growth rate averaged 7.8 percent a year across all of our sites, with a 3-fold increase in Bolivia’s Madidi National Park alone.
SPOTLIGHT SPECIES

African Elephants

The African elephant population declined from about 1.3 million to 415,000 between 1979 and 2016 despite an international ban on commercial ivory trade adopted in 1989 by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). As criminal trafficking networks expanded to meet rising demand for ivory in Asia, WCS launched its 96 Elephants campaign, which helped achieve U.S. bans at the federal and state levels, while our International Policy team led in advocating for similar domestic bans through CITES and across the globe. On the ground in 15 African elephant range states, WCS is continuing to: help local communities co-exist with elephant populations; train ecoguards; implement new technologies to aid local law enforcement; and assist governments in disrupting criminal trafficking networks.
Savannah Elephants

The expanding elephant poaching crisis of the mid-2000s, combined with the loss of habitat, led to a steady decline in savannah elephant populations in most parts of Africa—Southern Africa being an exception. Through long-term conservation strategies, WCS has worked to stem this decline.

At the field sites where WCS works, there have been several positive elephant conservation stories, including in Tanzania’s Tarangire National Park and Uganda’s Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth National Parks. Cooperative relationships with local communities have been critical. Maasai living adjacent to Tarangire, for example, receive payments from tourism companies to keep their land available for grazing by elephants during the wet season, when they move out of their protected areas for food.

Led by WCS conservationist Charles Foley, WCS has been monitoring elephants in Tarangire since 1993. Between 2005 and 2017, the northern sub-population grew by an average of 4.8 percent each year, and in the entire length of our study of these animals, we have not lost a single female or juvenile elephant to poaching. This is one of the rare sites in Africa where elephants are living full lives and dying of old age.

Road to Recovery

Conservation efforts in Tanzania’s Tarangire National Park have contributed to the growth of the savannah elephant population by an annual average of 4.8 PERCENT BETWEEN 2005 AND 2017.
Forest Elephants

Forest elephants once roamed throughout Central Africa’s forests—but the population declined by a staggering 62 percent between 2002 and 2011 according to a groundbreaking study by WCS’s Fiona Maisels and Samantha Strindberg. Today, most forest elephants are found in and around well-protected national parks and in some remote areas without roads.

We know that anti-poaching efforts are critical to elephant safety; we also know that weak governance, easy road access to elephant habitat, and dense human settlement all contribute to elephant population losses. Through conservation informed by this knowledge, WCS has been able to protect forest elephants and reduce or reverse their decline.

Elephants need large areas well protected by trained staff. Over its long presence in Central Africa, WCS has helped governments to establish, maintain, and safeguard fully functional protected areas, including the Congo Republic’s Nouabalé-Ndoki and Conkouati-Douli National Parks, that are surrounded by a matrix of other land uses, including logging and mining concessions and subsistence agriculture.

At the same time, WCS is working to help secure land rights for local people, who help to maintain the integrity of habitats that elephants need to access adjacent to parks and protected areas.

Road to Recovery

After African forest elephants experienced devastating losses between 2002 and 2013, conservation interventions at WCS sites Nouabalé-Ndoki and Conkouati-Douli in the Republic of the Congo HAVE HELPED TO HALT OR REVERSE THE DECLINE.
Corals

Tropical coral reefs form the most biodiverse marine ecosystems in the world, playing a central role in the food security, cultural practices, and livelihoods of millions of people while generating billions of dollars for the global economy through benefits such as fisheries, tourism, and coastal protection.

Yet a third of the world’s coral reefs are degraded, and as much as 90 percent may be lost in this century. A changing climate is leading to warmer and more acidic waters, with dire impacts on the ocean and marine life. These impacts, in turn, have consequences for local communities and global economies, human wellbeing, health, and survival.

In response, WCS is pursuing innovative conservation approaches like fisheries management and the identification of climate refuges that are helping some corals to survive amidst the growing global bleaching crisis.
We have learned that by maintaining and increasing reef-fish size and numbers in marine reserves and coastal fisheries, we can keep coral reef ecosystems healthy and intact.

Fisheries management is therefore critical to both reef-based marine life and local fishing communities. WCS monitors and documents changes over time in fish size, fish biomass, and fish density to better understand how different interventions help to maintain coral health while providing a reliable income to local people through fishing and tourism.

To move more efficiently from data collection to decision-making, we are developing a scalable open-source technology platform called MERMAID to help collect, analyze, and report on the trends and impacts of our programs to conserve intact coral reefs worldwide.

To help ensure the survival of coral reefs through the ongoing threat of climate change, overfishing and pollution, WCS is leading the development of the 50 Reefs conservation strategy. 50 Reefs is a partnership of Bloomberg Philanthropies, The Tiffany & Co. Foundation, and The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, whose goal is to identify and protect those coral reefs that are the least vulnerable to climate change, and that have the greatest capacity to repopulate other reefs over time.

Road to Recovery

WCS works with local fishers across the globe to improve management practices. BY PROTECTING REEF HABITATS, WCS CONSERVATION EFFORTS HAVE HELPED RECOVER FISH POPULATIONS, improve local livelihoods, and ensure a future for intact coral reefs.
Though Asian freshwater turtles and tortoises face major threats from the illegal wildlife trade and habitat loss, some recent WCS success stories offer hope for the future of this imperiled group of animals. Back from the brink of extinction is the Burmese star tortoise (*Geochelone platynota*), found only in Myanmar’s central dry zone.

Burgeoning demand from wildlife markets in southern China beginning in the mid-1990s virtually wiped out this tortoise species in a matter of years until it was considered ecologically extinct. In response, WCS began an active breeding program in conjunction with partners from the Turtle Survival Alliance and the Myanmar Government.
Beginning with an estimated 175 individuals (most confiscated from wildlife traffickers), WCS and its partners established three “assurance colonies” at facilities within existing wildlife sanctuaries to hedge against the extinction of this species. After the colonies were established, conservationists had to determine the species’ husbandry requirements—including diet, feeding, reproduction, and hatching care.

Herpetologists and veterinarians from WCS’s Bronx Zoo helped design the breeding centers as well as provide husbandry and veterinary expertise to care for tortoises, some of which have already been released into carefully monitored protected areas. In October 2017, WCS announced the recovery of the Burmese star tortoise from an estimated remaining population of fewer than 200 in 2004 to an astounding 14,000 wild and captive animals today.

Approximately 750 animals have been released into wild areas of the sanctuaries. By significantly reducing poaching pressure beforehand, we have enabled released tortoises to survive and successfully reproduce in the wild. More than a century after WCS’s Bronx Zoo worked with government and private partners to save the American bison from extinction, we are continuing to combine the power of our zoo and field knowledge to save species.

Road to Recovery

WCS conservation efforts have helped the Burmese star tortoise recover from the brink of extinction—expanding from fewer than 200 INDIVIDUALS IN 2004 TO 14,000 WILD AND CAPTIVE ANIMALS TODAY.
“Growing up in Queens, I was fascinated with wildlife and loved visiting the Bronx Zoo. When it came time to choose my major, I earned a BS in zoology with a minor in forensic science. One recent challenge has been the changing needs of our troop of four bachelor gorillas. This is our first bachelor group at the Bronx Zoo, and as they mature, the husbandry requirements are constantly changing.”

Sabrina Squillari
Senior Wild Animal Keeper, Bronx Zoo Mammal Department

“I've been with WCS since 1998, managing national parks and adjacent buffer zones in the Congo. I'm the only Japanese person who has worked for the long-term as a conservationist in Central Africa, where I've been for two decades. I like coordinating among staff within WCS. Recently, we've begun aerial surveys to support wildlife law enforcement. My work reminds me that conservation progress requires more than a love of animals.”

Tomo Nishihara
WCS Senior Technical Advisor for Protection and Operations, Northern Congo

“Growing up in Guangdong, where using wildlife products was a part of everyday life. I thought there was nothing wrong with this until I read about the inhumane conditions at bear farms, where they extract bile for traditional medicinal use. This upset me so much that I decided to study biology and eventually became a wildlife conservationist. I am currently working to combat the illegal wildlife trade in China.”

Lishu Li
Wildlife Trade Manager, WCS China

“I enjoy teaching children about animals, their habitats, and conservation efforts. I've always loved wildlife and remember being excited visiting zoos and aquariums as a kid. Now I get to experience that excitement and wonder through the children I teach every day. I've been given great opportunities to create and execute lesson plans for general audiences, school groups visiting the Queens Zoo, after-school programs, and summer camps.”

Edna Gonzales
Conservation Educator, Queens Zoo

“I've been with WCS since 1998, managing national parks and adjacent buffer zones in the Congo. I'm the only Japanese person who has worked for the long-term as a conservationist in Central Africa, where I've been for two decades. I like coordinating among staff within WCS. Recently, we've begun aerial surveys to support wildlife law enforcement. My work reminds me that conservation progress requires more than a love of animals.”

Sabin Squillari
Senior Wild Animal Keeper, Bronx Zoo Mammal Department

“In my position I have the opportunity to understand both challenges and possible solutions for conserving biodiversity in my country and in South America. Every project requires sound science and collaborative work. An exciting new initiative is the Proyecto Vida Silvestre, an effort to conserve 10 landscape species in two regions of Colombia. Target species include some of the most iconic animals in the region, like the tapir and the Orinoco crocodile.”

German Forero
Science and Species Director, WCS Colombia

“I love exploring ways to better care for animals and mentor new staff in the ever-changing world of zookeeping. I enjoy working with our global conservation program to bring some of my zoo-based animal-management skills to field efforts that have a direct impact on saving species. Lately I've been working with WCS team members in Southeast Asia and Indonesia to save and protect Siamese crocodiles.”

Lonnie McCaskill
Assistant Facility Director and Curator of Animals, Prospect Park Zoo
A Year in Conservation at WCS—2017 Highlights

January
A WCS-led study finds that nearly half of mammals and nearly a quarter of birds on the IUCN Red List are threatened by climate change.

February
WCS scientists help confirm that the dorado catfish (Brachyplatystoma rousseauxii) has the longest freshwater fish migration in the Amazon.

March
A crowdsourced system for the identification of bleached coral is launched via a WCS-led initiative.

April
Eastern hellbenders (Cryptobranchus alleganiensis), a species the Bronx Zoo raised for release to the wild, debut at the Bronx Zoo’s Reptile House.

May
An Andean bear (Tremarctos ornatus) cub is born at the Bronx Zoo, becoming the first of its species to be born in New York City.

June
WCS and its New York Aquarium launch the 30-Day Plastics Challenge to reduce use of disposable plastics and highlight plastic pollution.

July
The Bronx Zoo opens its Treetop Adventure attraction—an aerial climbing experience and zipline that runs across the Bronx River.

August
WCS and partners determine that planned dams in the Amazon threaten wildlife and the food security of millions of people due to the reduction of nutrient-rich sediment.

September
WCS works with the Colombian government and conservation NGO partners to protect 13 percent of the country’s coastal marine area.

October
New SMART technology supported by WCS transforms protected area management in 46 countries across Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

November
WCS helps determine that Mozambique’s Niassa Reserve can support tens of thousands of elephants.

December
WCS documents a crisis emerging in the snaring of wild species, wiping out an unprecedented number of animals in Southeast Asia.

WCS field and zoo-based experts assist in the release of 10 Critically Endangered Cuban crocodiles (Crocodylus rhombifer) into Cuba’s Zapata Swamp.

WCS helps identify the largest bat hibernation site in Alberta, Canada outside of the Rockies. Protecting bat habitat is essential to preventing the spread of white-nose syndrome.

WCS helps to organize the crush of nearly two tons of confiscated illegal ivory in New York City’s Central Park.

WCS helps produce a roadmap to protect sharks and rays in the southwest Indian Ocean.

Staff from WCS’s Wildlife Health and Mongolia programs respond to disease outbreak among Mongolian saiga.

WCS helps to produce a roadmap to protect sharks and rays in the southwest Indian Ocean.

WCS and partners determine that planned dams in the Amazon threaten wildlife and the food security of millions of people due to the reduction of nutrient-rich sediment.

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WCS helps to produce a roadmap to protect sharks and rays in the southwest Indian Ocean.

WCS documents a crisis emerging in the snaring of wild species, wiping out an unprecedented number of animals in Southeast Asia.
THE ZOO television docu-series premiered on Animal Planet in 2017, taking millions of viewers around the world behind the scenes at the Bronx Zoo. The show was a hit in the U.S., with 98 percent of the television audience rating it excellent or very good, and an average of 1.2 million viewers tuning in for each episode. The series was successful internationally, airing in more than 200 countries. A second season will premiere in the spring of 2018.

Jim Breheny, Director of the Bronx Zoo and Executive Vice President of WCS Zoos and Aquarium, conceived of the concept for the show. After working in the zoo profession for more than 45 years, he wanted to share with others the staff’s great care and compassion for the animals, the complex skills needed to operate a zoo, and how the higher purpose of zoos is the conservation of species in the wild.

“Viewers loved seeing the obvious relationship between the animals and staff who care for them. That bond resonated with people and seeing it increased their comfort level with us keeping animals in zoos and aquariums. The other thing that came through loud and clear was our conservation message. Animal Planet’s own surveys told us that. And learning how zoos and aquariums are working to save animals in the wild allowed them to think about us in a different light. Hopefully, the show hasn’t just told the story of the Bronx Zoo, but also the larger story of the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA). This experience is proof that we need to tell our collective story in a bigger way than ever before. People need to understand that our efforts in our zoos and aquariums and in the field are integrated and not mutually exclusive; in fact they complement each other very well.”

—JIM BREHENY, Director of the Bronx Zoo and Executive Vice President of WCS Zoos and Aquarium

During the first season, stories included keepers and veterinarians helping Ntando, a silverback gorilla diagnosed with glaucoma; two keeper-raised Malayan tiger cubs preparing to be introduced to their exhibit; and Bronx Zoo staffers as they journeyed to Tanzania to reintroduce an extinct-in-the-wild spray toad.

The day-to-day management of the production of the series is led by Bronx Zoo General Curator and WCS Vice President Pat Thomas, and it includes zoo staff based at the Bronx Zoo along with the other WCS parks: the New York Aquarium, Central Park Zoo, Prospect Park Zoo, and Queens Zoo. Discovery’s Animal Planet and the teams at the show’s production companies, Left/Right Productions and Copper Pot, all proved to be the perfect partners to tell our story.
Financial Report

Our many accomplishments, some of which are highlighted in the accompanying pages, would not have been possible without the strong support of our donors. We have worked hard to earn your confidence and will continue to do so. We hope you feel proud of what you have made possible.

The financials on the following pages show that revenue totaled $320.8 million for FY17, with over 40 percent from our donors in the form of gifts and grants.

General operating expenses remained largely comparable to last year, with a 5.5 percent increase year over year. General operating revenues of $262.6 million supported $223.2 million in programmatic activity in our parks and in the field, representing over 85 percent of total expenses.

Our balance sheet remains strong, bolstered by positive investment returns and significant additions associated with construction in progress at the New York Aquarium.

Habitat loss, disease, and hunting—especially for bushmeat—are the main threats chimpanzees (Pan troglodytes) face today. WCS is working with authorities to inform local people about chimpanzees’ vulnerability to hunting and provide advice on land use planning.
In the summer of 2017, WCS’s Bronx Zoo was excited to open its Treetop Adventure attraction—an aerial climbing experience and zipline that runs across the Bronx River.
### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
June 30, 2017 and 2016, in thousands

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT YEAR GENERAL OPERATING REVENUE</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributed</td>
<td>$71,084</td>
<td>$59,670</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership dues</td>
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<td>13,804</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment spending</td>
<td>22,004</td>
<td>21,521</td>
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<tr>
<td>City of New York</td>
<td>25,411</td>
<td>22,388</td>
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<tr>
<td>New York State</td>
<td>5,235</td>
<td>4,355</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal agencies</td>
<td>39,735</td>
<td>35,450</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-U.S. government and bilateral grants and contracts</td>
<td>16,849</td>
<td>16,487</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private organizations grants and contracts</td>
<td>3,088</td>
<td>5,560</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gate and exhibit admissions</td>
<td>31,872</td>
<td>34,262</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visitor services</td>
<td>26,215</td>
<td>26,666</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sponsorship, licensing, and royalties</td>
<td>1,245</td>
<td>720</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2,797</td>
<td>3,887</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total General Operating Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$262,596</strong></td>
<td><strong>$247,576</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NON-CURRENT YEAR OPERATING ACTIVITIES AND OTHER CHANGES</th>
<th>2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Permanently restricted bequests and endowments</td>
<td>671</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unrestricted bequests</td>
<td>1,088</td>
<td>2,932</td>
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<td>Grants and contributions designated for future use</td>
<td>7,611</td>
<td>11,981</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income from long-term investments in excess/deficit of funds utilized for current year operations</td>
<td>28,889</td>
<td>(33,209)</td>
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<td>Board designated funds released</td>
<td>(6,022)</td>
<td>(5,695)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funds released for capital program</td>
<td>25,958</td>
<td>36,713</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUES</strong></td>
<td><strong>$320,791</strong></td>
<td><strong>$260,299</strong></td>
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### GENERAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES

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<tr>
<th>PROGRAM SERVICES</th>
<th>2017</th>
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<td>Bronx Zoo</td>
<td>56,753</td>
<td>54,276</td>
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<td>New York Aquarium</td>
<td>12,468</td>
<td>11,630</td>
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<td>City zoos</td>
<td>24,755</td>
<td>22,834</td>
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<td>Global programs</td>
<td>112,236</td>
<td>106,127</td>
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<td><strong>Total Program Services</strong></td>
<td><strong>$206,212</strong></td>
<td><strong>$194,867</strong></td>
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<th>Visitor Services</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>$17,025</strong></td>
<td><strong>$16,314</strong></td>
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### SUPPORTING SERVICES

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<th>Management and general</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>2,097</td>
<td>2,141</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fund-raising</td>
<td>8,317</td>
<td>8,693</td>
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<td><strong>Total Supporting Services</strong></td>
<td><strong>$42,263</strong></td>
<td><strong>$40,711</strong></td>
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### TOTAL GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$265,500</td>
<td>$251,692</td>
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### DEPRECIATION EXPENSE

<table>
<thead>
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<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>$20,596</td>
<td>$19,669</td>
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### TOTAL EXPENSE

<table>
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<tr>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$286,096</td>
<td>$271,361</td>
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### EXCESS OF TOTAL REVENUES OVER TOTAL EXPENSES

<table>
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<tr>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$37,433</td>
<td>$(23,803)</td>
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### CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
June 30, 2017 and 2016, in thousands

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>69,469</td>
<td>76,510</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
<td>3,392</td>
<td>5,205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receivable from the City of New York</td>
<td>39,207</td>
<td>18,732</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receivable from the State of New York</td>
<td>2,293</td>
<td>2,351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receivable from federal sources</td>
<td>38,782</td>
<td>30,579</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants and pledges receivable</td>
<td>69,193</td>
<td>65,062</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventories</td>
<td>2,683</td>
<td>2,432</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
<td>6,826</td>
<td>4,384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>465,111</td>
<td>456,956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amounts held in trust by others</td>
<td>1,889</td>
<td>1,843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funds held by Bond Trustee</td>
<td>20,089</td>
<td>28,293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property and equipment</td>
<td>141,879</td>
<td>131,215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,063,623</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,023,484</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued expenses</td>
<td>45,925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annuity liability</td>
<td>2,982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loans payable</td>
<td>13,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonds payable</td>
<td>135,956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-retirement benefit obligation</td>
<td>42,289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>$229,152</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### NET ASSETS (UNRESTRICTED)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General operating</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designated for long-term investment</td>
<td>112,052</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net investment in property and equipment</td>
<td>219,633</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Unrestricted</strong></td>
<td><strong>$331,685</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### NET ASSETS (RESTRICTED)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
<td>221,320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanently restricted</td>
<td>271,666</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$593,471</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>$1,063,623</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,023,484</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### RIGHT
Ocean Wonders: Sharks! at the WCS New York Aquarium is set to open in the summer of 2018. This exhibit will bring visitors up close to the magnificent and mysterious wildlife, like this cownose ray (Rhinoptera bonasus), living beneath the ocean surface. With massive tanks holding more than 500,000 gallons of water, guests will learn more about marine wildlife and how we all are stewards of the seas near us and around the world.
Contributors

Thanks to our generous supporters and their shared commitment to protecting wildlife and wild places, WCS is winning strong conservation results. We are proud to acknowledge the partnership and impact of the following contributors.

LEFT  A 20-year conservation effort by WCS-India and local partners in the Malenadu landscape has secured the world’s largest tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*) population, generating hope for dwindling tigers globally.
In 2017, WCS field conservation, education, and zoo and aquarium programs benefited from significant government and agency support. We are grateful for their partnership and confidence in our programs.

NEW YORK CITY AGENCIES
Department of Cultural Affairs
Department of Education
Department of Parks and Recreation
Economic Development Corporation
U.S. STATE AND CITY AGENCIES
Boulder County Parks and Open Space, Colorado
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
City of Boulder Open Space & Mountain Parks, Colorado
City of Fort Collins, Colorado
New Mexico Department of Wildlife
New York State Board of Environmental Conservation
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Northeast States Research Cooperative
North Pacific Research Board (NPRB)
Northwest Arctic Borough (NAB)
U.S. FEDERAL AGENCIES
Agency for International Development
Bureau of Land Management
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)
Department of Defense
Department of the Interior
Department of State
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
Fish and Wildlife Service
Forest Service
Geological Survey
Institute of Museum and Library Services

Marine Mammal Commission (MMC)
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
National Archives and Records Administration
National Endowment for the Humanities
National Geographic Society
National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
National Marine Fisheries Service
National Science Foundation
Postal Service

OTHER NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND INITIATIVES
African Development Bank (AFDB)
Agence Française de Développement (AFD), France
Agrocolección Universidad Cecohambas (AGRUCO), Bolivia
Asian Development Bank
Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)
Brazilian Environment Ministry (BASG), Nigeria
Danish Aid Agency (DANIDA)
Darwin Initiative, a joint DFID/DEPEA fund, United Kingdom
Department for International Development (DFID), United Kingdom
Development Bank of Latin America (CAF)
Fonds Français pour l’Environnement Mondial (FFEM)
Fonds Francais pour le Biodiversité (FFB)

CONTRIBUTORS

Geological Survey
Institute of Museum and Library Services

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Development Bank of Latin America (CAF)
Fonds Français pour l’Environnement Mondial (FFEM)
Fonds Francais pour le Biodiversité (FFB)

INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES AND INITIATIVES
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
Convention on Migratory Species Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)
European Commission Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Global Environment Facility (GEF)
Greater Virunga Transboundary Collaboration (GTVCT)
Indian Ocean Commission
International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)
International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (KIIDE), the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
International Trade Centre
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
Kongongland Land Governance (MBLG)
Nordic Development Fund
Norwegian Aid Agency (NORAD)
Peruvian Trust Fund for National Parks and Protected Areas Regional Autonomous Corporation of Valle del Cauca, Colombia
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

IN SUPPORT OF WCS
Senator Brad Hoylman.
Kristin Davis; and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Steve Asher. Included, left to right: David Gacheru, Deputy Chief of Mission to the U.S. for Kenya; Timothy Yeargan, Executive Director for the WCS Africa Program; John Goldblatt, WCS Executive Vice President for Public Affairs; New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Basil Seggos; New York County District Attorney Cyrus Vance, Jr.; Kristin Davis; and New York State Senator Brad Hoylman.

RIGHT
In August 2017, WCS led the public crush in New York City’s Central Park of nearly two tons of ivory confiscated from illegal traders. Participants included, left to right: David Gacheru, Deputy Chief of Mission to the U.S. for Kenya; Timothy Yeargan, Executive Director for the WCS Africa Program; John Goldblatt, WCS Executive Vice President for Public Affairs; New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Basil Seggos; New York County District Attorney Cyrus Vance, Jr., Kristin Davis; and New York State Senator Brad Hoylman.

City and State Support

WCS is grateful to the City of New York, which provides operating and capital funds through the Department of Cultural Affairs and the Department of Parks and Recreation. We thank Mayor Bill de Blasio, Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and members of the New York City Council, and Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. for their support this past year. The City of New York is vital to the public/private partnership on which WCS’s service to the people of New York rests. WCS is grateful to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature for maintaining important increases from last year to the Environmental Protection Fund, including two of its programs: the Zoo, Botanical Gardens and Aquariums program, administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, and the Oceans and Great Lakes initiative, administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Government and Agency Support to WCS Global Programs

In FY 2017, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) was the leading government donor to WCS field programs, including for activities in Central Africa (Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment) and the Andean Amazon (Initiative for Conservation in the Andean Amazon), as well as Indonesia, Vietnam, Mozambique, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and others. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) continues to provide significant core support to the WCS marine and terrestrial species conservation and capacity-building programs throughout Africa, Asia, and the Americas, and the U.S. Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) supports WCS activities to combat wildlife trafficking networks in Southeast Asia and Latin America. Through umbrella agreements, the National Park Service works in partnership with WCS to support bison and migratory-species conservation across North America, environmental monitoring in the transboundary Arctic Beringia region, and engagement with local communities. WCS is grateful for continued support from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; the European Commission; Agence Française de Développement (AFD); the German government, through the German Development Bank (KfW), the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB); the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP); the Norwegian Aid Agency (NORAD); the Save our Species (SOS) Fund (IUCN, Global Environment Facility, and the World Bank); and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.
In 2017, WCS trustees and supporters joined members of the WCS Council on trips to WCS field sites, where they learned about conservation efforts on the ground to protect wildlife and wild places.
The spectacular fountain at the Rainey Gate entrance to the Bronx Zoo was created in Como, Italy by sculptor Biagio Catella in 1872. It was purchased thirty years later by William Rockefeller as a gift to the zoo.

LEFT
Top row: Chris McKenzie, Joe Walton, Felicia Hamerman, John Robinson; Middle row: Pada Hanu, John Calvelli, Jim Bessey; Bottom row: Laura Stolzenhake, Robbi Menzi, Cristián Samper, Mary Dixon

RIGHT
Members of the Identidad Madidi expedition team, which explored the rich biodiversity of Bolivia’s Madidi National Park between 2015–2017.

WCS has been working in Latin America for many decades to protect Chilean flamingos (Phoenicopterus chilensis) like these at the Bronx Zoo.

John Robinson
WCS Executive Vice President for Conservation and Science

John Calvelli
WCS Executive Vice President for Public Affairs

Jim Breheny
Bronx Zoo Director and WCS Executive Vice President for Zoos and Aquariums

John was elected to chair the Board of the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA).
WCS Priority Regions/Landscapes/Seascapes

Global Priority Regions

- Arctic Beringia
- Rocky Mountain West
- North American Boreal Forests
- New York Seascapes
- Patagonia
- Sudano-Sahel
- Madagascar and Western Indian Ocean
- Greater Mekong

WCS Landscapes and Seascapes

- Mesoamerica and Western Caribbean
- Andes, Amazon, and Orinoco
- Central Africa and Gulf of Guinea
- East African Forests and Savannahs
- Temperate Asian Mountains and Grasslands
- Southeast Asian Archipelago
- Melanesia

Note: WCS is active in most, but not necessarily all, countries within a given Global Priority Region.

Arctic Beringia
Arctic coasts and seas of Alaska, western Canada, and northeastern Russia

Rocky Mountain West
From southern Canada to the US-Mexico borderlands

North American Boreal Forests
Boreal forests, mountains, and peatlands in Canada and Alaska

New York Seascapes
Coasts and seas of the mid-Atlantic

Mesoamerica and Western Caribbean
Forests, coasts, and coral reefs in Belize, Cuba, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua

Andes, Amazon, and Orinoco
Forests, grasslands, and wetlands of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela

Patagonia
Landscapes, coasts, and seascapes of southern Chile and Argentina

Sudano-Sahel
Savannas, woodlands, forests, and wetlands of Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic, and South Sudan

Madagascar and Western Indian Ocean
Coral reefs and coastal habitats of Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, and Madagascar

Greater Mekong
Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, and southern China

Southeast Asian Archipelago
Forests, coasts, and reefs of Indonesia and Malaysia

Melanesia
“Ridge to reef” in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, and Solomon Islands
The report can also be found online at wcs.org.

Office, 3rd Floor, 120 Broadway, New York, New York 10271.

writing to the Charities Bureau, New York State Attorney General’s Office, to certify that this instrument of gift is not subject to a prior claim, and to state the amount of the bequest and the purposes it deems necessary that is most closely in accord with the intent described herein.”

In order to help WCS avoid future administrative costs, we suggest that the following paragraph be used in the will:

“Gift [ ] to be used as determined by WCS for its general purposes.”

The Trustees of the Wildlife Conservation Society recommend that, for estate-planning purposes, it is no longer practical to use the income and/or principal for whatever purposes it deems necessary that is most closely in accord with the intent described herein.”

©WCS (left); WCS Cambodia (right); JULY: Julie Larsen Maher/WCS (left, right); Emily Darling/WCS (left); Stephen Alvarez/National Geographic Creative (right), APRIL: Julie Larsen Maher/WCS (left, right); Michael Goulding/WCS (right); FEBRUARY: Michael Goulding/WCS (left); Buuveibaatar Bayarbaatar (right); MARCH: Emily Darling/WCS (left); Stephen Alvarez/National Geographic Creative (right), APRIL: Julie Larsen Maher/WCS (left); Julie Larsen Maher/WCS (right); MAY: Julie Larsen Maher/WCS (left, right); JUNE: ©WCS (left); WCS Cambodia (right); JULY: Julie Larsen Maher/WCS (left), WCS Cuba (right), AUGUST: Julie Larsen Maher (left); Michael Goulding/WCS (right); SEPTEMBER: V. Frazo (left); WCS Para (right); OCTOBER: ©WCS (left); Steve Chase, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (right); NOVEMBER: WCS Congo (left); WCS Monambique; DECEMBER: WCS Tanzania (left); Julie Larsen Maher (right); page 28: Mary Stenzel/WCS, page 29: (Animal Haven), pages 30–31 (3): Julie Larsen Maher/WCS; page 36: ©Kalyan Varma, pages 38–39: ©Design Plus Inc/National Geographic Creative, page 42: Jaime Palacios/WCS; page 45: courtesy Alejandro Santo Domingo; page 46: Jim Brashler/WCS; page 48: ©Martin Gilbert/WCS; page 47: courtesy Tony James; page 48: courtesy Ted Waid; page 49: Emily Darling/WCS; page 52: ©Georgia Alborak, pages 53–58 (3): Julie Larsen Maher/WCS; page 59: All Gloria Johnson/WCS except corals, 3 by Padi Hamarlik/WCS, pages 60–61 (2): Julie Larsen Maher/WCS; page 62: WCS Bolivia, page 65: top: Julie Larsen Maher/WCS, bottom: O. Landi/Grandi (Robinson); Julie Larsen Maher (left); Creativel, courtesy of Association of Zoos & Aquariums (Bradley); page 66: Rob Wallace/WCS (Guerra); Milomar Spano/Gowor/WCS (butterfly, inset).

For Information on how you can support the Wildlife Conservation Society, please call our Global Resources Division at 718-220-6894. A copy of this annual report may be obtained by writing to the Chair of the Board, Wildlife Conservation Society, 2300 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10460. In addition, a copy of the WCS’s annual filing with the Charities Bureau of the Office of the New York State Attorney General may be obtained by writing to the Charities Bureau, New York State Attorney General’s Office, 3rd Floor, 120 Broadway, New York, New York 10271. The report can also be found online at wcs.org.

LEF T

Entomologist Fernando Guerra registered more than 400 new butterfly records during the Identidad Madidi expedition, undertaken to identify the biodiversity found in Bolivia’s Madidi National Park, whose habitats span 6,000 meters from the Andes down to the Amazon. Pictured, inset: the Castalia Green Mantle (Caria castalia).

RECOMMENDED FORM OF BEQUEST 2017

The Trustees of the Wildlife Conservation Society recommend that, for estate-planning purposes, members and friends consider the following language for use in their wills.

“For the Wildlife Conservation Society (“WCS”), a not-for-profit, tax-exempt organization incorporated in the state of New York in 1895, having as its principal address 2300 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10460 and tax identification number EIN: 13-1740011, I hereby give and bequeath [describe gift] to be used as determined by WCS for its general purposes.”

In order to help WCS avoid future administrative costs, we suggest that the following paragraph be added to any restrictions imposed on a bequest: “If at some future time, in the judgment of the Wildlife Conservation Society, it is no longer practical to use the income and/or principal of this bequest for the purposes intended, WCS may use the income and/or principal for whatever purposes it deems necessary that is most closely in accord with the intent described herein.”

If you wish to discuss the language of your bequest and other planned giving options, please contact the Office of Planned Giving at 718-220-6894.