



## 2016 Donor Report

*Thank you*

To our individual donors, corporate partners and supporting foundations!  
You have given hope to endangered species, inspired the next generation  
of conservationists and enriched the lives of zoo animals.



# Your generosity has made it possible to...



Begin a partnership in Madagascar to engage local communities in lemur conservation.



Begin a new head-starting program to help boost Canada's burrowing owl population.



Care for our first critically endangered western lowland gorilla baby in eight years.



Open the first breeding facility in Canada for endangered greater sage-grouse, the Snyder-Wilson Family Greater Sage-Grouse Pavilion.



Release into the wild 13 Vancouver Island marmots raised at the zoo's Devonian Wildlife Conservation Centre.



Welcome a female Masai giraffe as part of the Species Survival Plan.



# President's Message

It is such an honour to celebrate our donors. I am always inspired by your generosity and it is a great privilege to share some of your stories. What inspires our supporters to give is always unique and personal. This year's stories reflect on a love for animals, engaging with the next generation of community leaders and a personal connection with endangered species. We hope you enjoy reading these stories and that you have the opportunity to reflect on your own inspiration.

Thank you for partnering with us to support wildlife conservation. All of you—individuals, small businesses, foundations and corporations—have helped conservation efforts for threatened and endangered species at the zoo, in western Canada and around the world. Your accomplishments over the past year create positive momentum for future generations. Thank you for your past, present and ongoing support.

Dr. Clément Lanthier  
*Calgary Zoo President & CEO*







“The world is full of beautiful biodiversity that we seem to be willing to let go of, but I’m not willing to do that.”

– *Suzanne West*  
*Zoo supporter*

## Balance, Hope and a Love of Lemurs

The week Suzanne West spent on Sir Richard Branson’s Necker Island in February 2013 changed her life. After being immersed in a think tank of entrepreneurs and academics, she returned to Calgary with the seeds of a plan to change the oil and gas industry forever in a way that places equal importance on planet, people and profit.

The founder of Imaginea Energy also came home with a newfound love of lemurs. Necker Island includes a refuge for the endangered primates whose native Madagascar has lost 90 per cent of lemur habitat.

“Every morning, I walked through the quiet calm into a huge naturalized lemur habitat, and they suddenly started jumping out of the trees,” says Suzanne. “Lemurs have this ancient beautiful energy—when you look into their eyes you know you are looking at sentient beings. I fell in love with lemurs on that island.”

When Suzanne heard about plans to create Land of the Lemurs, an immersive lemur exhibit at the Calgary Zoo, there was no question she had to be part of it. And while Necker Island was the place she discovered a new passion for lemurs, a love for animals has always been part of her life.

“My grandfather really nurtured my love of animals. He raised horses and would always tell me that animals were sentient beings—that they absolutely have emotions and thoughts, and that we need to participate with them in the world.”

It’s one of the reasons Suzanne is a Calgary Zoo donor.

“I’m happy to do whatever I can to remind people that we are not superior beings on this planet,” she says. “Mother Nature is quite happy to share but she’s a partner, not a slave. The world is full of beautiful biodiversity that we seem to be willing to let go of, but I’m not willing to do that.”

And while conserving the world’s biodiversity can seem overwhelming, Suzanne says we often ask ourselves the wrong questions when contemplating our biggest problems.

“If we ask ourselves whether what we’re doing is going to be enough, the answer will likely be no,” she says.

So she asks herself a different question.

“Can I do more? The answer to that was quite easy: Yes.”



# Inspired by Change

It wasn't long after they moved to Calgary from B.C. in 1969 that Clem and Barbara Trenholm began exploring the zoo. "Everything looked a lot different then," says Clem thinking back to the couple's first few visits. "The bears were just as you crossed the bridge where the Kitamba Café is now and the lions were just past that."

Over the years, Clem and Barbara have been loyal Calgary Zoo members and donors. They raised their kids visiting the zoo and now enjoy it with their grandkids. For them, it's a family place and a way to connect with nature.

"The zoo helps kids appreciate animals," says Barbara. "That's hard to do just by hearing about where they live in the wild and that their numbers are going down."

As Clem and Barbara describe memorable experiences bathing the elephants, watching tiger cubs and enjoying the penguin walk, it is clear that they are committed to supporting their zoo. "We have seen fantastic changes over the years," says Clem.

It's those transformations that inspired the couple's first annual donation.

"For me, Destination Africa was a turning point. The plans showed that the zoo was really moving forward," says Clem. The couple's annual donation that began with Destination Africa soon became a monthly one, supporting the zoo's ongoing transformation.

"I love Penguin Plunge! It is a great place for kids to experience the penguins," says Barbara. Both she and Clem are looking forward to experiencing the new Land of Lemurs exhibit when it opens this summer, and next year's return of giant pandas, the charismatic bears that inspired their first annual zoo membership back in 1988. But they are happy for their donations to lend extra help in any way they can, like during the 2013 Alberta floods that devastated the Calgary Zoo.

"We don't direct our giving to a specific area, we want the zoo to decide how it is used, whether that is caring for the animals or wherever it is most needed."

Inspired by a love of animals, Clem and Barbara's longtime generosity has enriched the lives of many threatened and endangered species at the zoo, helped visitors gain an appreciation for nature and supported wildlife conservation efforts.

Seeing them explore the zoo today, their appreciation for animals is just as apparent as their generous spirit.

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“It is these types of unique learning experiences that we believe will make a lasting impression on today’s youth—the next generation of community leaders—and help strengthen their commitment to the environment.”

– *Scott Saxberg*  
*President and CEO*  
*Crescent Point Energy*

## Giving “the talk” about Conservation

There are bound to be at least a few giggles as a classroom full of 14-year-olds gets ready to learn about mating behaviours of some of the zoo’s most endangered residents. But with biodiversity loss around the globe happening at alarming rates, the take-away from the four hours these students will spend learning about the science behind managed breeding programs is no laughing matter.

That’s why Crescent Point Energy is passionate about supporting one of the zoo’s high school programs—the Crescent Point Energy Biological Diversity Program, which welcomed over 60 classes last year.

“We are proud to support the communities in which we live, work and operate, and this program is a great fit for us for a few reasons,” says President and CEO of Crescent Point Energy, Scott Saxberg. “It gives Grade 9 students from all over the city an engaging alternative to classroom learning, it provides them with an education and understanding of the environment and how we can protect it.”

Throughout the day, students analyze models of animal skulls searching for similarities and differences, and then take on the role of penguin Species Survival Coordinator determining how to preserve genetic diversity within the zoo’s flock. They finish up the experience with a tour through the Canadian Wilds where they learn about the reproductive tactics of each species—role-playing how male bighorn sheep lock horns to establish dominance and reenacting the graceful courtship dance of a whooping crane.

For Crescent Point, the lessons students learn about finding creative solutions to what can sometimes feel like insurmountable problems is one of the most appealing parts of the program.

“We encourage innovation and opportunities to try new things, and we hope students are able to step outside of the box in this program and learn without fear of failure,” says Saxberg.

In the fall of 2016, a Crescent Point community investment representative joined a class from Mountain Park School and experienced the program firsthand.

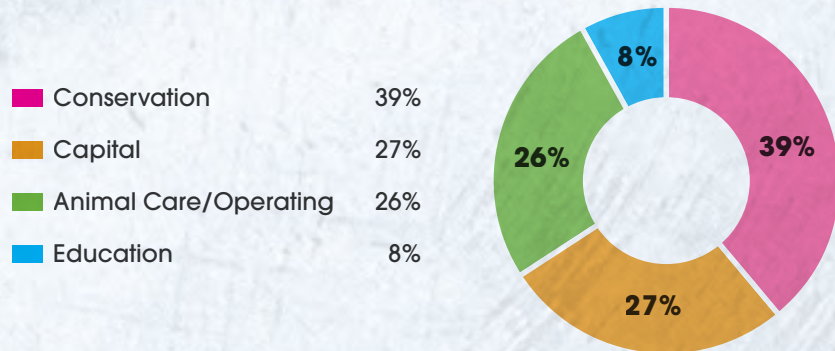
“He was particularly intrigued by how interactive and collaborative it was, which helped the students focus and absorb more of the program’s content,” says Saxberg. “It is these types of unique learning experiences that we believe will make a lasting impression on today’s youth—the next generation of community leaders—and help strengthen their commitment to the environment.”



# Funds Raised

BY GIFT AREA/FUNDING DESIGNATION

TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED (CASH & PLEDGES): \$5,960,907



## Ways to give

Financial support for the Calgary Zoo can be provided in a variety of ways: from annual gifts and ZooCare contributions, to donations for special projects and planned gifts. We invite you to review our projects and programs to see what might interest you.

[www.calgaryzoo.com](http://www.calgaryzoo.com)

For more information please contact the Calgary Zoo development office at:

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Photography: Sergei Belski, Sheila Holmes, Toronto Zoo



Your generosity is supporting community conservation initiatives to help the critically endangered mountain bongo in Kenya.





## VISION

CANADA'S LEADER IN WILDLIFE

# Conservation

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## MISSION

TAKE AND INSPIRE ACTION TO SUSTAIN

# Wildlife AND Wild Places