



ANNUAL REPORT

2020



BORN

FREE

USA

WELCOME



The challenges we all faced in 2020 cannot be understated. We lost loved ones. Livelihoods vanished. Everyone had to adapt to a new way of connecting with one another.

I am grateful that Born Free USA not only survived the tumultuous year, but also came through even stronger. Thanks to our generous supporters, we were able to expand our impact on the welfare of animals around the world.

We found new ways of connecting in a virtual space. We held online educational webinars, and thousands of you welcomed us into your homes to deliberate the important issues facing wildlife. We moved our fundraising events online, and you showed up once again to help fight for animals. You liked and shared our social media posts that gave you and your friends personal insight into the primate sanctuary – welcoming you into the monkeys’ homes and their lives.

In this report, you will read about the many new and enhanced connections made in 2020. Rescued monkeys found new friends. West African countries worked together with our team to develop a regional strategy to combat wildlife crime. We partnered with members of Congress to push for laws to protect animals. We collaborated with like-minded organizations to bring about the meaningful changes for animals that you and I want to see.

These connections resulted in direct impact – on individual animal lives, entire species’ survival, and in communities.

I hope you enjoy reading about the life-saving accomplishments for animals in 2020 that you made possible. Thank you for your kind support of these victories, last year and always.

For the Animals,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angela". The script is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Angela Grimes
Chief Executive Officer



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AT A GLANCE —

BORN FREE USA'S 2020 WORK AND IMPACT



- **Rescued** five monkeys from a deplorable roadside zoo, giving them a spacious, natural home for life at our primate sanctuary.
- **Delivered** 17 anti-wildlife trafficking training courses to 275 customs, border patrol, and law enforcement officials in 10 nations in West and Central Africa.
- **Trainings** to counter wildlife trafficking contributed to the seizure of a total of 996 lb. (466.4 kg.) of illegally trafficked shark fins from at least 10 different shark species (including four species that are listed in CITES Appendix II) at Abidjan Airport in the Ivory Coast.
- **Prevented** the cruel and pointless deaths of an estimated 1,000 deer in Canada by stopping annual deer culls in communities across British Columbia.
- **Prevented** the killing of thousands of double-crested cormorants by working to impose limits on the Ontario government's plan to allow an open season on the birds.
- **Campaigned** for the passage of 10 federal pro-wildlife bills that address a wide range of wildlife issues, including captivity, trapping, wildlife trade, and trophy hunting.
- **Published** a new report highlighting the cruelty, danger, and lack of regulation of fur farming in the United States. The report will be an important tool for Born Free USA and other anti-fur campaigners as we take action to shut down this brutal industry.
- **Helped** bring pangolins one step closer to Endangered Species Act protections with an important legal victory that requires the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to decide whether ESA listing is warranted for all pangolin species.
- **Hosted** five webinars focused on important campaign issues, bringing together experts from across the fields of wildlife conservation and animal advocacy and creating greater awareness of these issues and our work.

PRIMATE SANCTUARY

We welcomed five new monkeys to the primate sanctuary in 2020. Macaques, Mrs. Wilkin and Anna, arrived in early January and baboons, Marlin, Violet, and Presley, joined us later in March as we needed to construct a new enclosure for them prior to their arrival. Their rescue was the result of a long legal battle, led by the Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF), to close down the terrible roadside zoo where the monkeys, along with more than 400 other animals, were held. Following the closure, ALDF approached Born Free USA to ask us to provide a home for life for the five and kindly provided funding to create the new one-acre, open-top enclosure that the three baboons now call home.

Mrs. Wilkin and Anna settled into an enclosure alongside long-term residents, Taz and Connie. They enjoy spending their days chattering (and sometimes bickering) with their neighbors, grooming with one another, exploring, and engaging with their enrichment activities, as well as benefiting from a nutritious

diet and expert veterinary care for the first time in their lives. Mrs. Wilkin, in particular, has a number of health problems caused by a lifetime of poor care and neglected health. Both grasped their second chance at life firmly and we delighted in watching them thrive under the care of our dedicated sanctuary team.

Marlin, Presley, and Violet moved into their brand new home a few months after the macaques. At first, the three stuck close together as they explored, with Presley being the most nervous and becoming visibly upset if she accidentally lost sight of her companions. After a short time, they settled in and began to



Young macaque Anna.



explore independently and make the most of their space. Marlin likes to show off his strength and agility by running from one end of his enclosure to the other, putting on a great display for the caregivers and neighboring baboons, Darwin and Kaleb. After some initial tension, the three became comfortable with the two adult males who live next door. They can now often be found grooming one another through the fence that separates their living areas. Court papers, which we received some months after the baboons arrived, confirmed that the three are, in fact, family. Marlin is father to both Violet and Presley and the two females are half-sisters. We do not know what became of their mothers, but we do know that another young baboon died in the zoo before he could be rescued.

Pressures on grant-giving organizations caused by COVID-19 meant that some of our construction plans had to be put on hold temporarily. We hope to move forward with these projects, including building a brand new enclosure to allow us to continue rescuing monkeys, and the construction of seven new warm houses for our older and more vulnerable residents.

U.S. CAMPAIGNS

Trophy Hunting

In summer 2020, Born Free USA launched a six-week awareness campaign on trophy hunting. With the aim of educating the public on the myths surrounding trophy hunting and the ways in which trophy hunting is directly linked to the United States, the campaign garnered attention in the press and among our supporters. This campaign used striking graphics on social media platforms to reach a wide audience and deliver our messaging in a way that could be easily understood and disseminated. We also educated the international public, particularly with the trophy hunting webinar. In 2021, we will expand on this theme to tackle the burgeoning trophy hunting industry within the United States itself.

Trapping

In September, we launched our “Trap Free Trails” campaign to raise awareness around and, ultimately, prohibit cruel

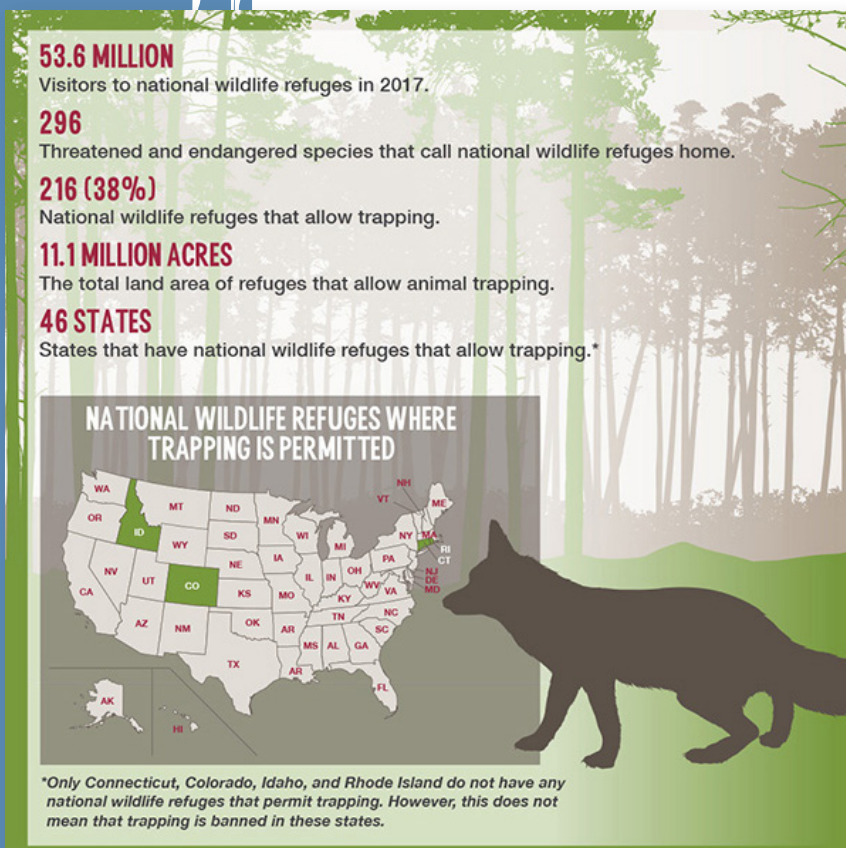


Learn more about trophy hunting and view more graphics at bornfreeusa.org/trophyhunting

trapping within the National Wildlife Refuge System. Refuges encompassing over 11.1 million acres of land allow trapping, meaning that native wildlife, companion animals, and even humans are at risk in these public spaces where all animals should be protected. Our petition to the Department of Interior garnered more than 10,000 signatures in just over a month and, as the year drew to a close, we were finalizing the next stage of the campaign. Our newest work on this issue, which will be released in spring of 2021, will update and expand upon work carried out previously to understand the regulatory landscape relating to trapping across the nation. This will lead into a concerted campaign to see bans introduced at state level, while we continue to work on the federal stage toward an overall end to this cruel and archaic practice.

Fur Farming

In November of 2020, Born Free USA launched a comprehensive report, which laid bare the worrying lack of regulation surrounding the fur farming industry in the United States. Released at a time when COVID-19 was tearing through fur farms



Learn more at bornfreeusa.org/trapfreetrails

in Europe, and just as cases of the virus had been announced in three states in the U.S. (Utah, Wisconsin, Michigan, and then, later, Oregon), the timely report, *Silent Suffering in Our Own Backyard: Fur Farming in the United States*, raised important



Learn more at bornfreeusa.org/trapfreetrails

questions on animal welfare and human health. A webinar on the subject followed which, in turn, led into work in coalition with other leading animal welfare organizations to explore policy options for a fur farming ban at federal level.

Work on this issue will progress into 2021, when we will be seeking swift action to mitigate the serious animal welfare and public health risks that the fur industry presents.

Protecting the Endangered Species Act

Born Free USA continued our work to protect and defend the Endangered Species Act (ESA) from the Trump administration's anti-ESA agenda. In 2020, Born Free USA fought to oppose the Fish and Wildlife Service's and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's proposed regulations to weaken the definition and designation of "critical habitat" for threatened and endangered species. Born Free USA also continued to oppose permitting unethical hunting by way of baiting and trapping brown bears in Kenai Wildlife Refuge in Alaska, and continued to work with partner organizations to protect the gray wolf.

A Step Closer to Endangered Species Act Protections for All Pangolin Species

In January 2020, Born Free USA and other wildlife conservation groups filed a lawsuit against the U.S.

Fish and Wildlife Service alleging their failure to issue findings on a petition to give several species of pangolins protections under the Endangered Species Act. In August, a federal judge approved a settlement that compels the agency to fulfill its duty and make a determination. Pangolins are the world's most trafficked mammals, and while most illegally sourced pangolins are destined for markets in China and Vietnam, the United States also drives demand. If all species of pangolin are protected under the ESA, the law would prohibit the import and interstate sale of pangolin parts in the U.S., except for scientific or other conservation purposes. An ESA listing would also heighten global awareness about pangolins and their threats and make funding available for anti-trafficking and habitat conservation efforts.

Public Awareness and Webinar Series

This year saw increased public engagement on our core campaign issues allowing us to reach a wider audience with our work. A large part of this was achieved via our new series of virtual events. Launched as a tool to continue to engage with our supporters while in-person activities were not possible due to the pandemic, the success of our initial fundraising events led to the creation of a campaigns-led webinar series. Calling upon expertise from within our team and from other leading organizations, we hosted virtual events on COVID-19 and wildlife trade, trophy hunting, zoos, and fur farming in 2020. This series will continue into 2021 as a resource-effective way of raising awareness surrounding our campaign issues.



LEGISLATION

The Big Cat Public Safety Act

(H.R. 1380/S. 2561): Reintroduced

in both the House and Senate in 2019, this bill would strengthen existing law to prohibit the private possession of big cat species.

This bill also bans public contact with big cats – such as cub petting and photo ops – that drives the rampant, irresponsible breeding and interstate trade of captive big cats in the U.S. Big cats, such as lions, tigers, leopards, and pumas, are not pets and keeping them in captivity is both cruel to the animals and potentially dangerous to the public. On September 18, 2019, this important bill passed the House Natural Resources Committee by a vote of 21-14. On December 3, 2020, the bill passed the U.S. House of Representatives under suspension with a bipartisan vote of 272-114. Unfortunately,

there was not enough time in the remainder of the legislative session for the U.S. Senate to take up the bill, meaning it will need to be reintroduced in 2021.

Captive Primate Safety Act

(H.R. 1776/S. 2562): The

Captive Primate Safety Act was reintroduced in both the House and Senate in 2019. This bill prohibits interstate or foreign commerce of any nonhuman primate for the exotic pet trade. Born Free USA was a leader in crafting this bill, which is close to our hearts because of the dozens of former pets at our primate sanctuary. On June 25, 2020, the Water Oceans and Wildlife Subcommittee of the House Natural Resources Committee held a hearing on the bill. In conjunction with Dr. Stephanie

Poindexter (SUNY Buffalo), Born Free USA submitted testimony in support of the legislation.

The CECIL Act (H.R. 2245): In

April 2019, the CECIL Act was reintroduced in Congress. This bill restricts the import of trophies of species that have been proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and prohibits imports of elephants and lions from Tanzania, Zimbabwe, and Zambia. It also requires that any trophy imports to the U.S. enhance the conservation of the species, requires trophy importers to cover the full administrative costs of permit processing, and strengthens language in the ESA mandating public notice when an exemption or permit application for endangered or threatened species has been filed. Born Free USA has backed





this initiative since 2015, when an American trophy hunter killed the beloved lion, Cecil. On September 18, 2019, the bill passed the House Natural Resources Committee with a 19-16 vote.

The ProTECT Act (H.R. 4804):

Introduced in the House of Representatives in October 2019, this bill would prohibit the taking of any endangered or threatened species in the United States as a trophy, and would also prohibit the import of any such trophy into the United States. The U.S. is the world's largest importer of such trophies, and yet the vast majority of Americans oppose trophy hunting and wish to protect wildlife. Born Free USA has been a driving force behind this bill for years and will advance this legislation and the issues it addresses in the 117th Congress and with the Biden administration.

The Refuge from Cruel Trapping Act (H.R. 5127):

Introduced in the House in November 2019, this bill would prohibit the possession or use of body-gripping traps within the National

Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS). Body-gripping traps include snare, Conibear, and steel-jaw leghold traps. The purpose of these protected lands is clear: to be an inviolate sanctuary for native wildlife, and yet trapping is allowed on approximately one-third of refuges. The use of cruel body-gripping traps violates the mission of the NWRS and is a threat to the safety of wildlife, humans, and pets. Born Free USA has been a leader against cruel, indiscriminate trapping and will push for this important legislation in the 117th Congress and with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the Biden administration.

The Public Safety and Wildlife Protection Act (H.R. 8828):

Introduced on December 2, 2020, this bill would ban the import, export, or interstate commerce of leghold traps and Conibear traps. Steel-jaw leghold traps and Conibear body-grip traps are the two most widely used traps in the United States. This bill would stop their further spread and offer a buffer to states that ban traps outright or impose stricter trapping

regulations than their neighboring states. The bill was first introduced in response to an incident in which a Conibear trap caught the arm of an 11-year-old boy while he was playing in his backyard in North Carolina. Because it was introduced so late in the 116th Congress, there was not much time to advance this bill, but it remains an important part of Born Free USA's anti-trapping work.

Throughout 2020, Born Free USA also worked on bills to end the shark fin trade in the U.S. (**Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act of 2019; H.R. 737/S. 877**); to rebuild the North Atlantic Right Whale population (**SAVE Right Whales Act; H.R. 1568/S. 2453**); and combat wildlife trafficking (**Wildlife Conservation and Anti-Trafficking Act of 2019; H.R. 864**). Lastly, Born Free USA endorsed and worked on the **Preventing Future Pandemics Act (H.R. 8433/S. 4749)**, a bipartisan bill introduced in the House and Senate on September 29, 2020 to address global health risks posed by wildlife markets.

In 2020, the Africa Policy and Capacity Building Program team deployed all of its adaptive management capacity to support West African law enforcement authorities in their fight against wildlife crime.

Assessing the Wildlife Crime Threat in West Africa

Threat Assessment Missions

The Born Free USA team of experts conducted its two latest threat assessment missions in Niger in January and in The Gambia in February before the coronavirus began to spread around the world and countries closed their borders.

During these threat assessment missions, experts spent a week in each country collecting qualitative and quantitative data on wildlife crime via interviews with local authorities and stakeholders, such as customs officials, law enforcement experts, and NGOs. Experts also visited main airports and ports, border crossing posts, major markets, and any other strategic entry/exit or transit points for wildlife products.

Data collected during the missions allowed for the development of national and regional recommendations for the development of an effective response to wildlife crime across the subregion, including the *West Africa Strategy on Combatting Wildlife Crime* and in-depth wildlife trafficking reports.

The Gambia and Niger missions concluded a round of threat assessments led between 2017 and 2020 in 13 countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), including Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

Publication of Primary Research on Wildlife Trafficking Trends in West Africa

Born Free USA compiled findings from qualitative and quantitative data collected in the field, conclusions from legislative analyses, and reviews of latest publications in the *West Africa Regional Wildlife Trafficking Report*. The report provides an overview of regional trafficking patterns, including data on species targeted by illegal trade (elephants, pangolins, African rosewood, big cats, parrots, sharks, and rays); illegal trade routes; and methods most commonly used by traffickers.

This report also provided and in-depth analysis of regional and national legal



frameworks and policies relevant to wildlife trafficking.

Born Free USA also led a comprehensive study assessing wildlife trafficking as a compounding threat, which will be published in a second report, *Understanding Threats to West African Biodiversity and Linkages to Wildlife Trafficking*. This publication considers threats to biodiversity in West Africa, the current status of wildlife trafficking, ongoing or planned actions or programs to combat wildlife trafficking, and CITES implementation in the focal countries and across West Africa. These

comprehensive reports will be published throughout the course of 2021.

These detailed reports will support West African governments in the development of their responses to wildlife trafficking by contributing to the gathering of intelligence on the species targeted, the modus operandi, and the routes used by wildlife traffickers. Additionally, the information gathered in these reports, in particular the recommendations and list of priority capacity-building needs and wildlife enforcement needs, presented in the *West Africa Regional Wildlife Trafficking Report*, will guide ECOWAS members states on the best measures to implement a regional response to wildlife trafficking. The report also contains recommendations to policy makers, civil society and advocacy groups, international development partners, and enforcement and scientific agencies on necessary policy and legal framework adjustments and measures that are needed to better address wildlife trafficking.

This information contained in these reports already had a positive outcome in the West Africa subregion, paving the way for the development

and adoption of the West Africa Strategy on Combatting Wildlife Crime and associated implementation and funding mechanisms.

Organizing Virtual Trainings to Strengthen Law Enforcement Capacities

Given the global health emergency created by the pandemic, Born Free USA adapted its wildlife law enforcement training curriculum and collaborated with national authorities to organize virtual trainings. In order to ensure the safety of all participants during the ongoing pandemic, Born Free USA developed COVID-19 protocols, which were provided to authorities for guidance in the organization of the workshops. Trainings were organized for judges and prosecutors, customs officers, as well as rangers.

Judges and Prosecutors

After having trained French-speaking magistrates in 2019, Born Free USA organized virtual courses for judges and prosecutors in Ghana and Nigeria (September 15-16, 2020), Liberia (October 20-21, 2020), and The Gambia (November 3-4, 2020). Course topics included an introduction to CITES; how to identify criminal networks and supply chains; acquisition and processing of evidence; and more.

**THESE DETAILED REPORTS
WILL SUPPORT WEST AFRICAN
GOVERNMENTS IN THE
DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR
RESPONSES TO
WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING**



Left: Virtual training for judged and prosecutors, The Gambia, November 2020.
Right: Customs follow-up training, Togo, December 2020.

Customs Officers

Following the model of the training courses organized in Senegal in 2018 and in Benin and Ghana in 2019 for customs officers and CITES management authorities of 10 West African countries, Born Free USA delivered train-the-trainer courses for customs officers. These courses were held virtually in Nigeria (November 9-13, 2020); in Niger, with participants from Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso (November 30-December 4, 2020); and in Liberia (December 14-18, 2020). Module topics focused on CITES; learning to check if a species is listed on CITES and how to identify key species in illegal trade; the role of customs and profiling at the border; wildlife smuggling techniques, routes, and species targeted; the examination of live animals at the border; and evidence management.

Follow-up Trainings for Customs Officers

In collaboration with the trainers who took part in the workshops in 2018 and 2019, which focused on

CITES wildlife law enforcement, we assisted local authorities to organize follow-up national trainings for customs officers in Ivory Coast (September 28-30, 2020), in Ghana (November 26-27, 2020), in Benin (December 3-4, 2020), in Togo (December 21-23, 2020), and in Guinea (December 22-24, 2020) to expand the course's reach and adapt the course material to local contexts.

Born Free USA produced a training manual for customs officers and a series of 12 PowerPoint presentations in English, French, and Portuguese to support national customs trainers. This teaching material was presented to future trainers during our train-the-trainer workshops, providing attendees the materials and expertise to train others and expand the reach of our program. When leading their national follow-up customs workshops, the customs officers can easily adapt the content of this material to the needs of participants and the local context.

In 2021, Born Free USA will organize more follow-up customs trainings in West Africa with expanded modules on the identification of CITES-listed species.

Rangers Working in Transboundary Protected Area

A counter-poaching/counter-trafficking course ("Protect-Detect") for rangers from Niger, Benin, and Burkina Faso was initially planned to take place in the field in the W-Arly-Pendjari (WAP) protected area complex ("Park W"). Because of COVID-19, training was reorganized as a virtual workshop using in-country experts, allowing them to deliver training in their respective countries with the materials we provided (two manuals and 23 PowerPoint presentations).

This online program took place over one week in November 2020 and focused on fundamentals of field craft, silent field signals, patrolling operations, vehicle search, cybercrime, crime scene

processing, and raid planning. Participants then took what they learned and delivered training to additional rangers in Niger, Burkina Faso, and Benin in December 2020.

Awareness-Raising Training for Airport Staff

In 2019, more than 1 million illegal wildlife products and live animals were seized at airports.

To fight illegal trafficking by air, it is therefore very important to equip airline and scanning staff with the knowledge they need to recognize the signs of wildlife trafficking (sights, smells, sounds, suspicious behavior patterns, etc.) that will allow them to make quick and accurate decisions regarding whether they should stop a particular individual or consignment.

Born Free USA developed training and awareness-raising materials for airport staff to assist them in wildlife law enforcement. These tools, based on the Reducing of Opportunities for Unlawful Transport of Endangered Species (ROUTES) modules, were produced in French and English and were made available to local training teams in Ivory Coast and Ghana. Trainings were subsequently organized for airport personnel (staff dealing with check-in, baggage, cargo, security, scanners, airlines, etc.) in both countries.

Development of a Species Identification Tool

In partnership with Freeland, Born Free USA developed a West Africa version of the mobile phone application WildScan, a no-cost tool designed to aid customs and border patrol officers in identifying wildlife species and wildlife parts and products that are trafficked across borders.

The app is available in English, French, and Portuguese, and is a useful tool for law enforcement agencies in West Africa to combat illegal wildlife trade by providing them with a comprehensive database of species in the region with photos for identification purposes along with a means for recording and reporting illegally trafficked species.

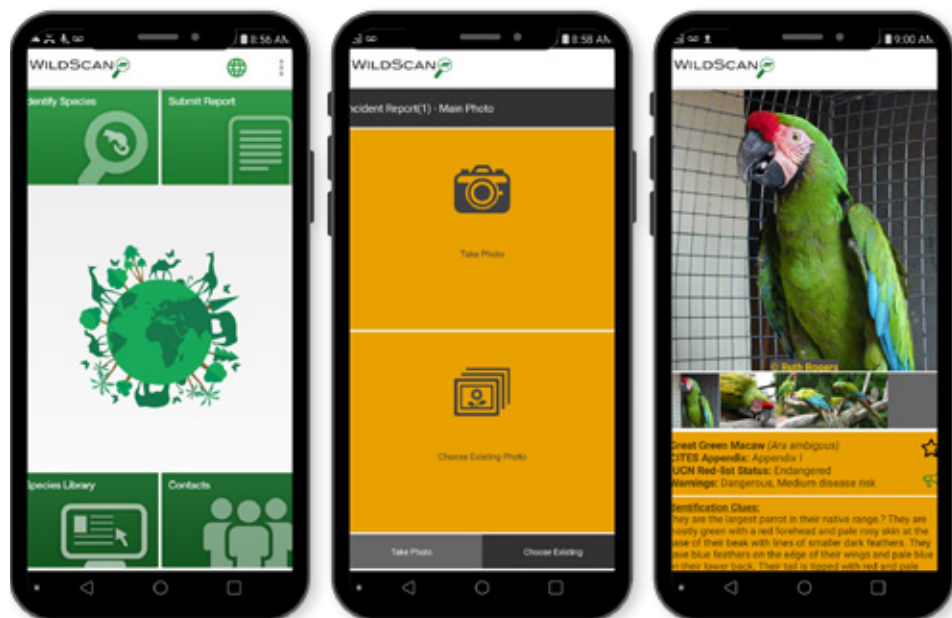
Training on the use of WildScan was included in the curriculum of the courses organized for customs officers, judges, and prosecutors.

West Africa Strategy on Combatting Wildlife Crime

Born Free USA provided technical expertise to West African authorities in development of the West Africa Strategy on Combatting Wildlife Crime.

This comprehensive strategy document provides a tailored regional response to wildlife crime in West Africa for policy-makers and decision-makers and includes national guidance on the development of national strategies and enforcement mechanisms to tackle wildlife crime at the country level.

After approval of the document at the ministerial level, it will then be adopted by the ECOWAS Parliament and by the Head of States. Once adoption is final, the strategy will become compulsory guidance on a wildlife law enforcement response across West Africa.



GLOBAL NATURE RECOVERY INVESTMENT INITIATIVE

In response to the emergence of COVID-19, which demonstrated all too clearly that human health is inextricably linked to the health of the natural world, Born Free USA and Born Free Foundation developed the Global Nature Recovery Investment Initiative (GNRII), which was launched in October 2020.

It is widely acknowledged that the natural world is in crisis, with more than 1 million species under threat of extinction in the coming years. Without a swift, bold, and ambitious response to this crisis, the world will rapidly reach the point of no return, where our planet's natural resources will be so depleted that they will no longer be able to sustain life on Earth.

In this context, the GNRII is aimed at bringing the transformative changes needed to protect people and wildlife around the globe, through large-scale international commitments and country-level actions, which aim to:

- ✓ Halt and reverse biodiversity loss and wildlife over-exploitation;
- ✓ Deliver enhanced ecosystem viability and services, alongside climate change mitigation;
- ✓ Promote public and animal health, sustainable livelihoods, and food and societal security.

Through this initiative, Born Free will advocate for financial investment for nature to be placed on an equal footing with other global financial investment priorities, by encouraging international bodies and national governments to prioritize nature recovery and protection.

**WITHOUT A SWIFT, BOLD, AND
AMBITIOUS RESPONSE TO THIS
CRISIS, THE WORLD WILL RAPIDLY
REACH THE POINT OF NO RETURN**

Stopping Deer Culls

Born Free USA's work in Canada paid off in 2020 with the first use of immunocontraception for mule deer in British Columbia achieving final government approval. Early findings from Vancouver Island indicate that this is a promising method of controlling "nuisance" numbers of deer in urban settings and may work as a relatively humane alternative to lethal culling. In central British Columbia, we have greatly reduced, to just one community, the number of mule deer killed, and even there the number was quite low and we expect that lethal culling of mule (and some white-tailed) deer in B.C. may soon be eliminated. In Ontario, efforts to protect white-tailed deer from a provincially funded private hunt/cull at Short Hills Provincial Park near Niagara Falls continued even in the midst of COVID-19, with local activists documenting numerous violations of government orders and agreed-upon protocols. Born Free USA will use the information to

prevent further hunting. We also helped prepare opposition to a proposal to expand mule deer culls eastward into Okotoks, Alberta, a suburb of Calgary, which so far has prevented the culling.

Stopping the Commercial Harp Seal Hunt

There was a virtually no commercial hunt for harp seals off the east coast during the spring of 2020 because of pandemic restrictions. Additionally, much hunting for big game species saw significant declines across Canada due to the border being closed to U.S. visitors, a major source of big game hunting in Canada. The pandemic helped our ongoing campaigns against the use of fur by closing the last of major fur auctions in North America, although mink "production" has not yet declined. An effort by west coast fishers to open a cull for sea lions failed when Born Free USA, our numerous colleagues, and private citizens strongly objected.

Countering Cormorant Culls

The pandemic generated good news from Middle Island in Lake Erie where, for the first time since federally funded culling of nesting double-crested cormorants began in 2008, no cull took place.



Born Free USA's Director of Canadian and Special Programs, Barry Kent MacKay, visited offshore waters and determined that, in all likelihood, white pelicans, a threatened and thus fully protected species, probably took advantage of the lack of gunfire to nest on the island, but dangerous lake conditions prevented landing to obtain proof. Nevertheless, this could be a breakthrough to protecting the cormorant since culling activities would illegally disturb the pelicans.

Sadly, Ontario went ahead with a bizarre plan to allow a legal hunt for cormorants by hunters with small-game permits. The good news, however, is that we were able to beat them back from the original plan, which would have allowed the hunt to occur from March 15 to January 31, to not start until September 15. The bag limit was also cut to less than half. Meanwhile, work continues, reactively, to prevent, end, or limit various wildlife culls across Canada. More importantly, Born

Free USA is seeking to have the cormorant and a suite of other migratory bird species moved under federal protection, as the U.S. did some years ago, making it easier to protect cormorants, hawks, owls, and other species.

Banning the Use of Strychnine Poison

Born Free USA was part of the successful effort to get a ban of the use of strychnine to poison Richardson's ground squirrels (which are the primary targets of the poison, though it also kills non-target species). In 2020, our Canadian office helped prepare a review of the supportive materials to demonstrate the validity of supporting a ban on the use of sodium cyanide M-44 cartridges and Compound 1080. The ban will take effect in two years.

Standing Up for Captive Wildlife

A private zoo in southwestern Ontario, which Born Free USA had helped to close down, tried to move to another community and we were able to prevent the move from taking place. The zoo is trying to start up in a third community in a different part of the province and we are working to stop that from happening, as well, with the backing of local citizens and businesses.

We have also helped with a major Senate bill, Bill S-218, at the federal level. It is an act to amend existing legislation to ban great apes, elephants, and other species considered ill-suited to life in captivity from being kept in zoos, imported, exported, moved interprovincially, and to prohibit, with rare exceptions, import or export of elephant-sourced ivory.

We also have initiated an effort to challenge the constitutionality of Ontario's recently passed Bill 156, one of several "ag-gag" bills provinces have passed that could be used to hurt our ability to investigate zoos, mobile live animal programs, and the exotic pet industry. This work will be ongoing into 2021.



FUNDRAISING

ELSA'S LEGACY WILDLIFE CIRCLE

Lenore Lewis Abels Estate
Bernard Bates Estate
Patricia Belt Estate
Beverly Boecher Estate
Wilbur Brom Estate
Leslie Drew Estate
Charles & Audrey Faust Foundation Trust
Evelyn Gaul Estate
Bernard & Angela Harr Trust
Zuma Raybun Herring Estate
Ouida Mundy Hill Memorial Fund
Nancy Wood Holmes Trust
Lynn Lewis Estate
Maureen E. Florence Estate
Patricia Minnick Estate
Coleman Molloy III Estate
Saul Moskowitz Estate
Gloria Nelson Estate
Joyce Nitsche Estate
Charmian Peska Estate
Theodora R. Raven Estate
Jane Rowley Estate
The John Howard Tyler Trust
Anna Lou Wooldridge Estate

FOUNDATION AND GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Ahimsa Foundation
Alfred E. Mann Nevada Foundation
American Anti-Vivisection Society
Ashland Creek Press Foundation
Burt Family Foundation
James A. "Buddy" Davidson Charitable Foundation
Josephine Peiser Charitable Foundation
Julius L. and Libbie B. Steinsapir Family Foundation
Leuthold Family Foundation
National Anti-Vivisection Society
Rights, Education, Adoption, and Protection for
Animal Welfare Foundation, Inc. (R.E.A.P.)
Summerlee Foundation
USAID

FUNDRAISING



CORPORATE PARTNERS

Our corporate partners span from large, international corporations to local, small business.

We appreciate all of their gifts, large and small, financial, and in-kind.



A special thanks to the gracious individuals who hosted and contributed to our 2020 virtual benefits:

Brook Ashley
Eric Bear
Sean Cassidy
Tiger Darrow
Rocky Dawuni
Carla Fraser
Louise Linton
Miriam Margolyes
Virginia McKenna OBE
Jessica Nelson
Ellen O'Connell
Christine Perry
Michael Reyner
Stephanie Schuster
Charles Siebert
Abigail Spencer
Ginny Tranchik
Will Travers OBE
Mary Mitchell Trimble
Ann Volkwein

A special thanks to everyone who participated as hosts and panelists in our webinars and online events:

Eric Bear
Tiger Darrow
Rocky Dawuni
Chris Draper
Carla Fraser
Eduardo Gonçalves
Amanda Howell
Mark Jones
Marta Korzeniak
Miriam Margolyes OBE
Virginia McKenna OBE
Jennifer Place
Charles Siebert
Abigail Spencer
Joanna Swabe
Ginny Tranchik
Will Travers OBE

A special thanks to our interns and volunteers:

Erin O'Neil
Maximus Papsadore
Sasha Perry
Jennifer Wells

BOARD & STAFF

Board Members

(AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2020)

Sean Cassidy

Board Chair

Brook Ashley

Board Vice-President

Will Travers

*Board Treasurer and
Born Free President*

Jessica Nelson

Board Secretary

Jane Lodato

Board Member

Christine Perry

Board Member

Michael Reyner

Board Member

Rebecca Torrey

Board Member

Mary Mitchell Trimble

Board Member

Staff

(AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2020)

Angela Grimes

Chief Executive Officer

Elise Arnold

Primate Caregiver

Eva Bryant

Primate Caregiver

Maria Cadena

Primate Caregiver

Manisha Chaudhari

Accounting Clerk

Kathryn Conway

Primate Sanctuary Manager

Suzanne Emerson

Individual Giving Manager

Kathleen Johnson

Primate Sanctuary Veterinarian

Julie Kluck

Campaigns Associate

Alison Lamolinara

Primate Caregiver

Karen Lauria

Communications Director

Aurora Luongo

Africa Policy & Capacity

Building Program Associate

Barry Kent MacKay

Canadian & Special

Programs Director

Tyler Pierson

Primate Caregiver

Holly Roberts

Primate Caregiver

Devan Schowe

Primate Caregiver

Nikki Skelton

Primate Caregiver

Alice Stroud

Africa Policy & Capacity

Building Director

Rebecca Strunc

Development Assistant

Melissa Tomlinson

Development Director

Elizabeth Tyson

Primate Sanctuary Director

FINANCIALS

Born Free USA United with Animal Protection Institute

Statement of Financial Position December 31, 2020

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 357,968
Grants and Contributions Receivable	104,132
Accrued Interest	4,846
Inventories	12,116
Prepaid Expenses and Deposits	9,455
Investments	975,105
Total Current Assets	1,463,622
Property and Equipment - Net	1,120,577
Security Deposits	5,954
Total Assets	\$ 2,590,153

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable	\$ 33,344
Pass-Through Payables	11,097
Accrued Expenses	63,277
EIDL Note Payable	149,900
Deferred Rent	15,347
Total Current Liabilities	272,965
NET ASSETS	
Without Donor Restrictions	2,204,782
With Donor Restrictions - Perpetual	112,406
Total Net Assets	2,317,188
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 2,590,153

FINANCIALS

Born Free USA United with Animal Protection Institute
Statement of Activities For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

	WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS – PERPETUAL	TOTAL
Supporting			
Grants and Contributions	\$ 1,616,709	\$ (8,943)	\$ 1,607,766
Contributions – PPP Forgivable Loan	189,000	–	189,000
Bequests	597,263	–	597,263
Investment Income – Net	98,620	–	98,620
Special Events, Net of Related Expenses of \$2,248	17,559	–	17,559
Other	16,889	–	16,889
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	10,000	(10,000)	–
Total Revenues	2,546,040	(18,943)	2,527,097
Expenses			
Program Services			
Education and Advocacy	1,109,254	–	1,109,254
Rescue & Care	847,375	–	847,375
Total Program Service Expense	1,956,629	–	1,956,629
Supporting Services			
General and Administration	157,830	–	157,830
Fundraising	301,948	–	301,948
Total Supporting Service Expense	459,778	–	459,778
Total Expenses	2,416,407	–	2,416,407
Change in Net Assets	129,633	(18,943)	110,690
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	2,075,149	131,349	2,206,498
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 2,204,782	\$ 112,406	\$ 2,317,188

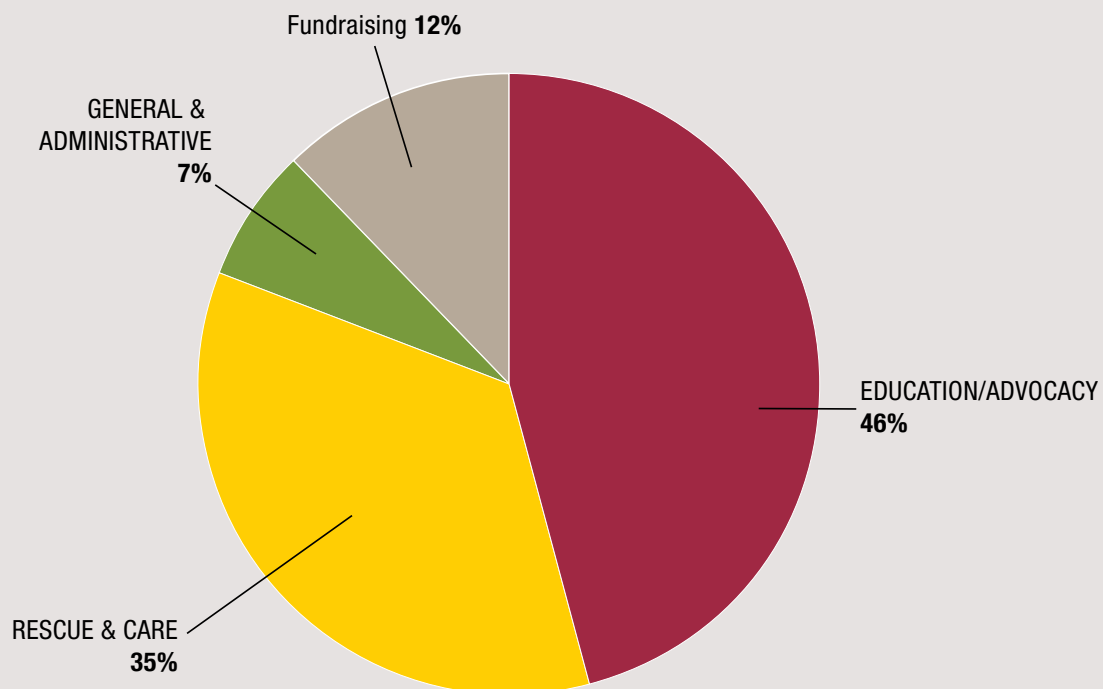
FINANCIALS

Born Free USA United with Animal Protection Institute
Statement of Functional Expense For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

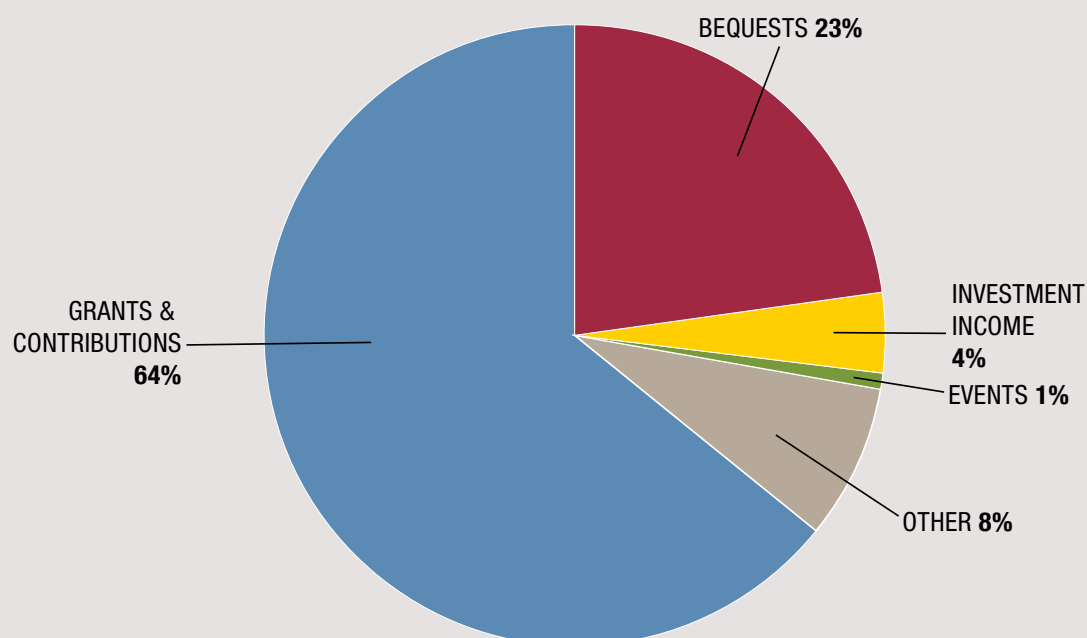
	EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY	RESCUE & CARE	GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE	FUNDRAISING	TOTAL
Personnel	\$ 311,433	\$ 448,648	\$ 99,700	\$ 149,923	\$ 1,009,704
Consulting and Professional Fees	704,526	3,461	27,032	86,399	821,418
Veterinary Care	–	88,617	–	–	88,617
Office Expense	15,297	37,476	5,099	25,626	83,498
Animal Feed	-	144,496	–	–	144,496
Occupancy	11,366	24,052	3,789	5,682	44,889
Conferences and Travel	442	1,341	147	1,225	3,155
Insurance	9,598	14,396	3,199	4,799	31,992
Advertising and Promotion	6,762	10,143	2,254	3,380	22,539
Depreciation and Amortization	49,830	74,745	16,610	24,914	166,099
Total	1,109,254	847,375	157,830	301,948	2,416,407

FINANCIALS

EXPENSES



REVENUE





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