



Bornean Orangutan, Photo: HUTAN



Photo: Grevy's Zebra Trust



EXTENDING OUR REACH:

2012-13 Zoo Conservation & Science Grants Announced



Grevy's Zebra, Photo: Andrew Letura



KOCP Mapping, Photo: HUTAN

By Ruth Allard, EVP of Conservation and Visitor Experiences

Each year, the Phoenix Zoo allocates a portion of our operating budget to make good on our promise to contribute to conservation worldwide. Since our grant program began in 2009, we have awarded over \$149,000 to 52 projects in 21 countries. In January, we selected 17 projects for \$48,846 in awards. With your support, we will help address significant conservation needs in 13 countries, developing and testing new techniques and building scientific capacity and

awareness in local communities. Read on for a first look at this year's awards.

This year, we continue to demonstrate our commitment to orangutan conservation by extending our partnership with HUTAN and the Kinabatangan Orangutan Conservation Project. We will also support reforestation and community education with a grant to ASRI/Trees for Kids, which works



Photo: Giant Armadillo Project



Radiated Tortoise, Photo: Rick Hudson



Pygmy Rabbits, Photo: Michael Durham

in communities adjacent to important orangutan habitat in Indonesia. Also in Indonesia, we will further a study on Javan slow loris ecology and help provide field assistant training for ex-loris hunters. The Javan slow loris was recently named one of the 25 most endangered primates in the world.

This year's awards also draw attention to the dire need for conservation action in support of wild turtle and tortoise populations. We awarded a grant to improve conditions for rare black-softshell turtles nesting at temple sites in India, another to expand community education efforts supporting radiated tortoises in Madagascar, and a third supporting head-starting and monitoring for river turtles in Guyana.

Carnivores receive needed assistance as well, with projects focused on jaguar population ecology and local field assistant training in Guyana and carnivore habitat use in protected areas in Argentina. The Zoo will also help reduce conflicts between cheetahs and humans by funding a livestock guarding dog program in South African farmlands.

Also in Africa, the Zoo will continue its support for the Grevy's Zebra Trust and its award-winning community-based conservation and restoration work in Kenya. We will also invest in a study looking to increase our understanding

of the basic biology and population dynamics of pygmy hippos in Cote d'Ivoire.

We will extend a second year of funding to the Giant Armadillo Project, furthering our understanding of the ecological role of these animals in the Brazilian Pantanal and a first award to support a captive rearing and community education center for Abronia lizards in Honduras. Treading new ground for the Phoenix Zoo, we will support a project aimed at better understanding chambered nautilus population dynamics and behavior in Fijian waters.

Finally, much closer to home, we will support three projects based in the US: one focused on pygmy rabbit reintroduction in the Pacific Northwest, and another working to reduce the impacts of stress on endangered equids in zoo settings. Last, but certainly not least, we will help fund a study looking at black-tailed prairie dog translocation at Las Cienegas National Conservation Area in southeastern Arizona.

We are proud of the work we support through our grant program and are grateful for the opportunity to work with partners making important contributions to conservation and science worldwide. We look forward to sharing more details about their work here in *Wild Times* and at phoenixzoo.org in the coming months. ©



Radiated Tortoise, Photo: Michael Ogle