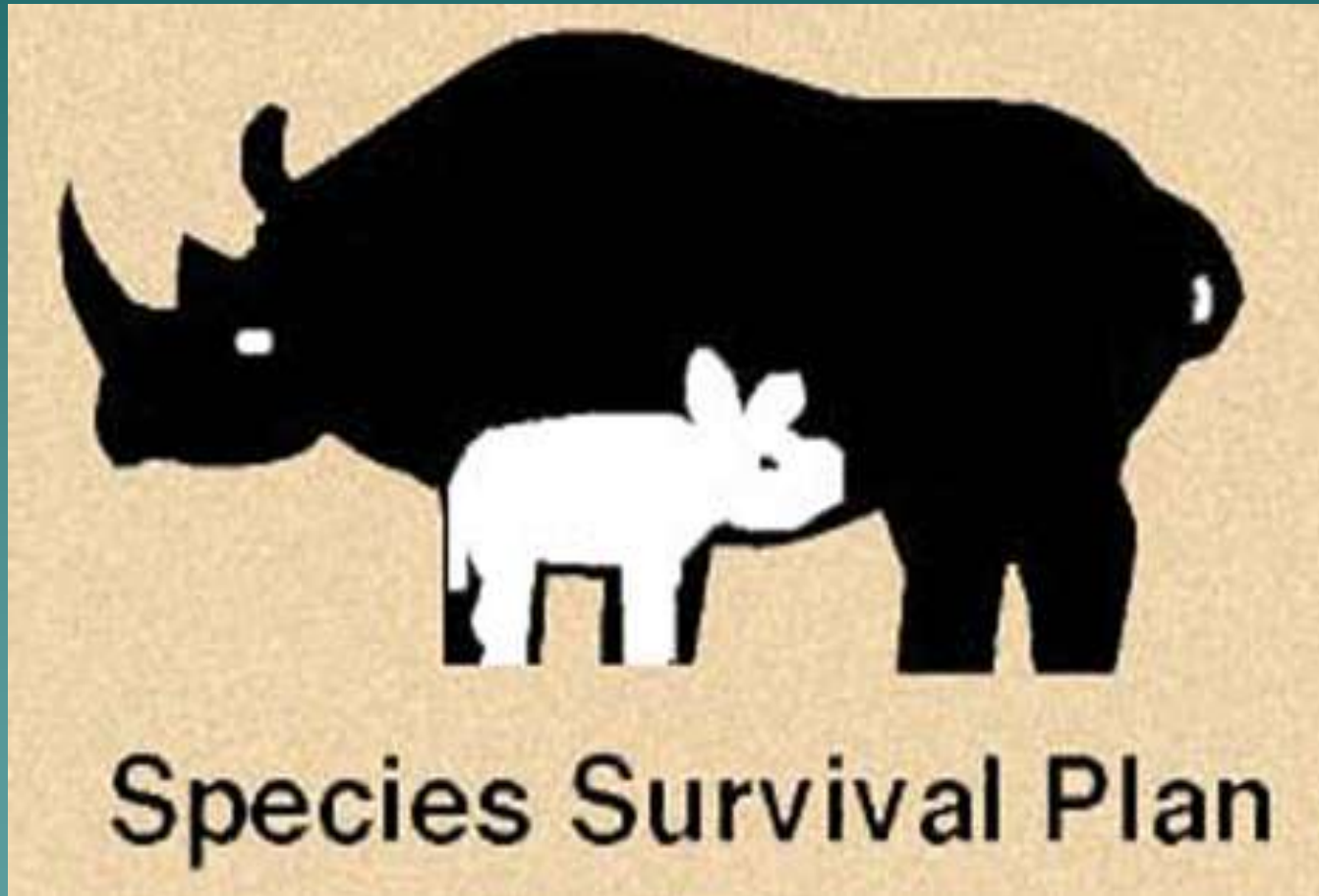


# **Roger Williams Park Zoo Rhode Island Zoological Society**



**Committed to Conservation  
Education / Research**

# Association of Zoos and Aquariums AZA



**Many plants and animals disappear because of human impacts on the environment. Extinction is claiming at least two animal species every day. Zoos are committed to preserving endangered species.**

**One of our most powerful tools in combating extinction is the Species Survival Plan (SSP)**

- ◆ **began in 1981 as a cooperative population management and conservation program for selected species held at North American zoos and aquariums.**
- ◆ **Each SSP carefully manages the breeding of a species in order to maintain a healthy and self-sustaining captive population that is both genetically diverse and demographically stable.**
- ◆ **Beyond this, SSP's include a variety of other cooperative conservation activities, such as research, public education, reintroduction, and field projects.**
- ◆ **Currently, 87 SSP's covering 116 individual species are administered by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, whose membership includes 183 accredited zoos and aquariums throughout the world.**



# SSP Animals in the Roger Williams Park Zoo Collection



Lou Perrotti

Species coordinator American Burying Beetle (SSP); Co-Chair/ Field Conservation Advisor, Education Committee Member for the Terrestrial Invertebrate Taxon Advisory Group (TITAG)

Carrie Hawthorne

American burying beetle SSP Education liaison

Dr. Mike McBride

SSP Veterinary Advisor, American Burying Beetle





# Supporting International Conservation and Research Efforts: Papua New Guinea





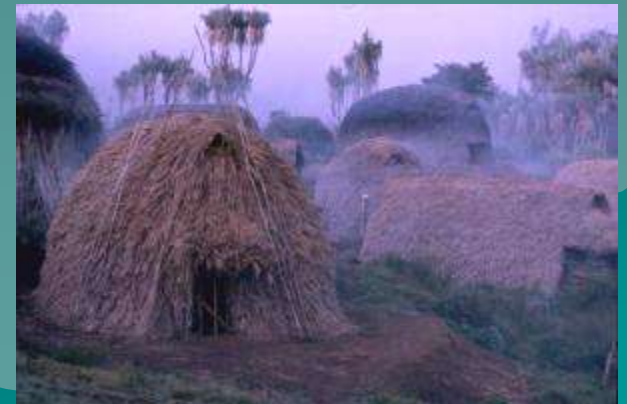
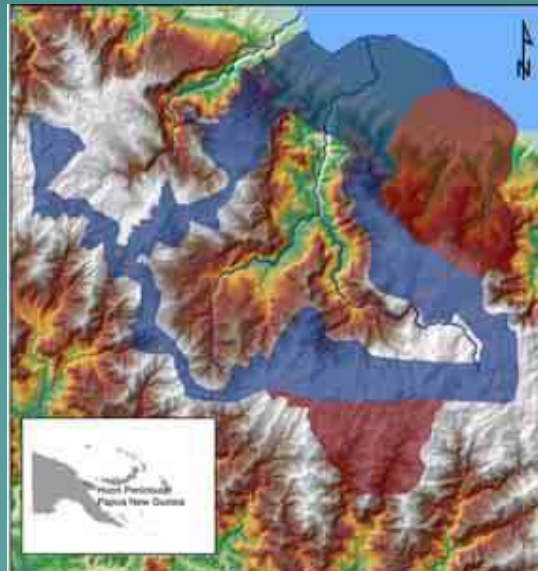








# Conservation and Research



# Education and Health





# Africa





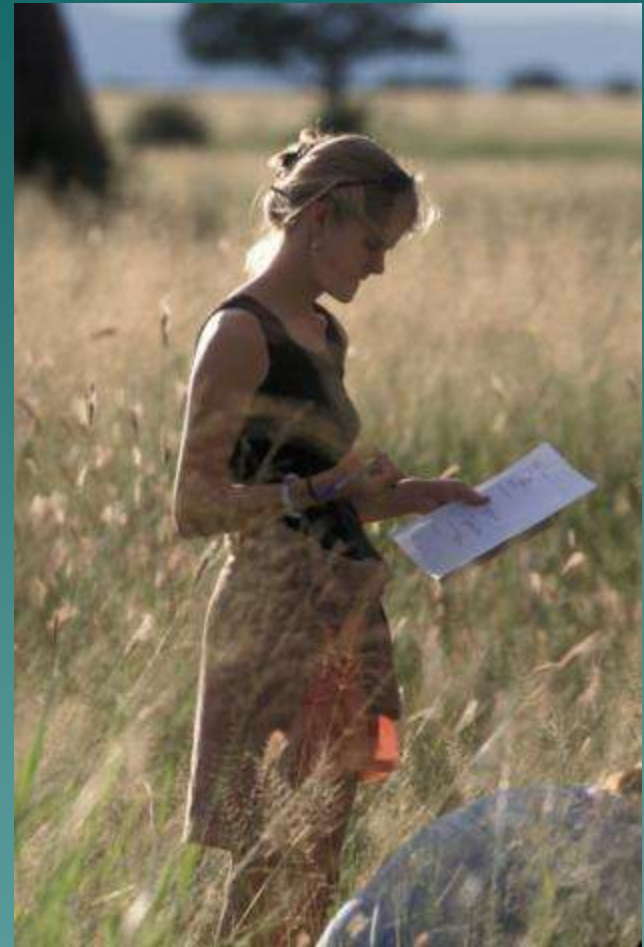




# Tarangire Elephant Project

Starting in 2007 \$7,000/year for five years was pledged to support the Tarangire Elephant Project in Tanzania









# Additional Elephant Conservation Support

- ◆ \$10,000/year for five years for the creation of the National Elephant Center
- ◆ \$5,000/year to the “International Elephant foundation”
- ◆ Contributed \$1000.00 to support: *A Least-Cost Path and Corridor Analysis of the Lower Kinabatangan Landscape, Sabah, Malaysia: Identifying Landscape Permeability and Probable Elephant Movement Pathways for Borneo Pygmy Elephants (Elephas maximus borneensis)*
- ◆ In support of efforts to build a sustainable captive population we made several attempts to artificially inseminate one of our females from 2006 through 2009. We continue to provide biological samples from our animals to contribute to the ongoing study of elephant reproductive cycles.
- ◆ Contribute samples from our African elephant cows to help support AZA approved and endorsed conservation and research projects



# Kibale Fuel Wood Project

## Conservation, Crop Raiding & Cooking with Less Wood





# Sustainable Source of Wood & Fuel Efficient Stove Technology





# Kuchumbricks



# Central and South America





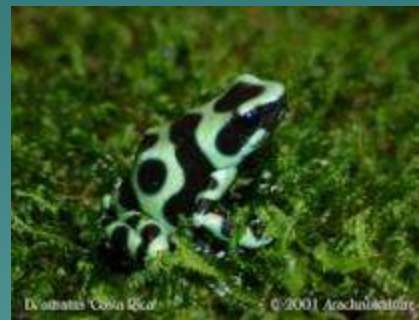
# Responding to the Global Amphibian Crisis



Since 2007 the RWPZ has supported this project annually by sending staff and financial support (\$2500.00 per year)







# Breeding Insects to Save Frogs







# Currently we have 10 species on the menu





# Organizational Support

- ◆ AZA Butterfly Conservation Initiative.....\$1000.00
  - ◆ Sonoran Arthropods Studies Institute..... \$100.00
  - ◆ Environment Council of Rhode Island.....\$365.00
  - ◆ Conservation Breeding Specialist Group.....\$350.00
  - ◆ AZA Conservation Endowment Fund..... \$500.00
  - ◆ The Jane Goodall Institute.....\$150.00
  - ◆ The Maria Mitchell Association (Nantucket Is MA).....\$250.00
- 
- A stylized, dark teal silhouette of a mountain range is positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide, partially overlapping the bottom edge of the list.


# North America





# RWPZoo Local Conservation Goals

## Goals:

- ◆ **Form solid working relationships with federal and state wildlife agencies**
  - ◆ **Provide facilities and expertise for ex-situ programs**
  - ◆ **Involve citizen scientist to work first hand with biologist and zoo professionals**
  - ◆ **Zoo educators will develop education curriculum and activates to educate the public and bring awareness to local conservation issues.**
  - ◆ **Form a working partnership with the New England Zoo and Aquarium community that will significantly contribute to local and regional conservation efforts in the field**
- 
- A stylized, dark teal silhouette of a mountain range is positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide, adding a decorative element to the background.

# Conservation In Our Own Backyard

- ◆ Captive Reproduction
- ◆ Reintroductions
- ◆ Habitat Restoration
- ◆ Research
- ◆ Hands on Experience
- ◆ Involvement in Endangered species Conservation
- ◆ Local level Conservation
- ◆ Education









# American Burying beetle Program

- ◆ RWPZ partnered with United States Fish and Wildlife Service in 1994
- ◆ Goal- Captive breed and reintroduce beetles back to Nantucket Island MA.
- ◆ ABB had not been seen on NI since 1926
- ◆ Zoo staff has produced and released 3000 endangered beetles to date
- ◆ Continue to monitor the success of the reintroduction effort







# Conservation in Action





# Karner Blue Butterfly Habitat Restoration and Reintroduction Project



- ◆ Many components
- ◆ Host Plant propagation
- ◆ Habitat restoration
- ◆ Captive Breeding
- ◆ Reintroduction
- ◆ Monitoring
- ◆ Project Has brought Biologists, Horticulturists, and children together

# Timber Rattlesnake

*Crotalus horridus*



- ◆ Seriously threatened in all of New England
- ◆ Extirpated from Rhode Island in the 1960's
- ◆ Habitat Loss
- ◆ Road Mortality
- ◆ Hunting and Extermination
- ◆ Disease is a new issue!











# New England Cottontail Rabbit

*Sylvilagus transitionalis*

- ◆ Being called the Spotted Owl of the East
- ◆ State endangered in all NE states
- ◆ Most New England populations have been extirpated
- ◆ Habitat loss and Competition from the Eastern Cottontail
- ◆ Candidate for federal listing





# RWPZ's Role in the Recovery

- ◆ Pilot study to determine if the NECT will do well in captivity
- ◆ Start with six rabbits from a secure population
- ◆ Attempt Captive breeding
- ◆ Once the young are weaned they will be sent to Ninigret (RI) for hardening to the outdoors before release to Patience Island
- ◆ Federal and multi-state initiative

















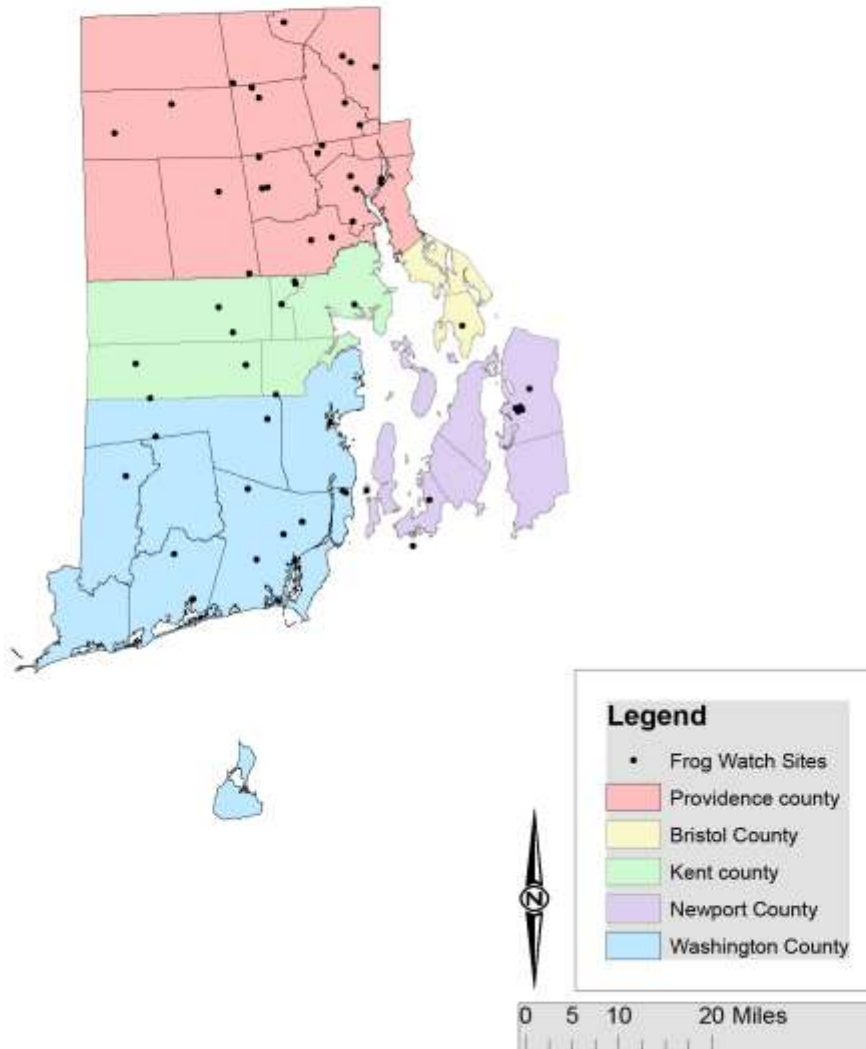


# Local Amphibian Monitoring

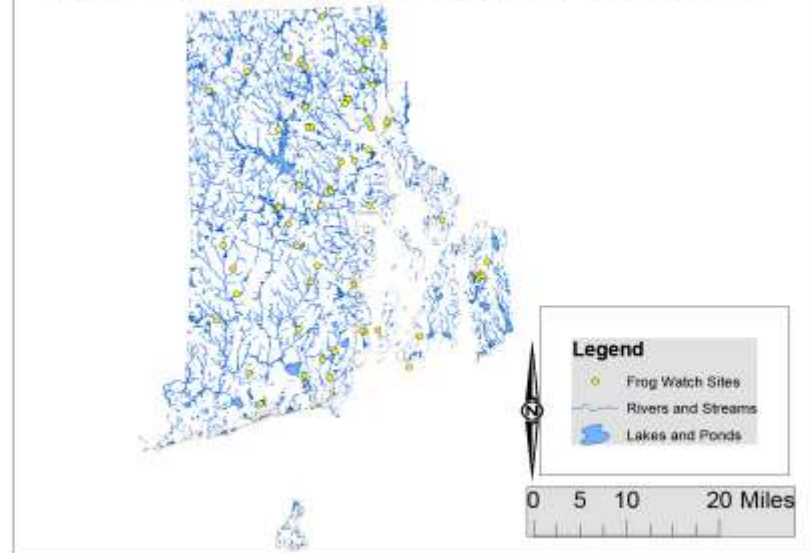




# Rhode Island Frog Watch Sites

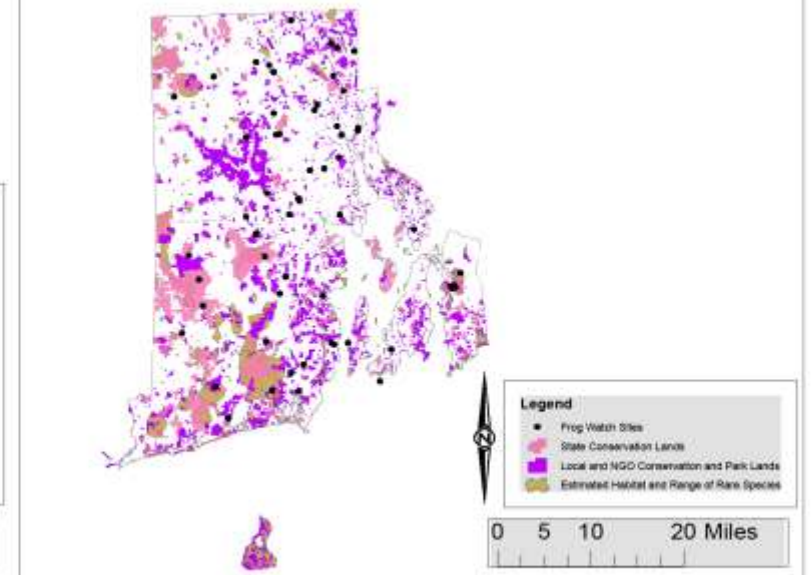


# Rhode Island Inland Waters




This series of maps was created to assist the Roger Williams Park Zoo in partners with the National Wildlife Federation with the Rhode Island Frog Watch Program. Rhode Island inland waterways, conservation lands, and counties are shown to assist with placement of future Frog Watch sites.

# Rhode Island Conservation Lands



Source: This map was created from the Rhode Island GIS website. The shapefile "Frog Watch Sites" were created by Mandy Gaudreau on 9/17/08. Map created by Mandy Gaudreau, 9/17/08; Antioch University New England Keene, NH.

# Local Partners

- ◆ United States Fish and Wildlife Service
  - ◆ RI Department of Environmental Management
  - ◆ MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
  - ◆ CT Department of Environmental Protection
  - ◆ ME Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
  - ◆ NH Fish and Game Department
  - ◆ RI Natural History Survey
  - ◆ Audubon Society of RI
  - ◆ The Nature Conservancy
  - ◆ Environment Council of RI
  - ◆ Brown University
  - ◆ University of Rhode Island
- 
- A stylized, dark teal silhouette of a mountain range is positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide, partially overlapping the bottom edge of the list.



# Local Project Support

<u>Project</u>	<u>Keeper Hours</u>	<u>Vol. Hours</u>	<u>Project Costs</u>	<u>Project Management Hours</u>	<u>Vet Staff Hours</u>	<u>Cash Total</u>
<b>American burying beetle</b>	360	120	6035	300	25	30429.65
<b>Karner blue butterflies</b>		406	3300	40	0	10748
<b>NE Cotton-tails</b>	183		77948	240	75	95168.12
<b>Timber Rattlesnakes</b>	90		2000	40	25	7292.35
<b>FrogWatch</b>	N/A	60		40	0	2258
<b>Bio-blits</b>	N/A	140	3125	40	0	6583
<b>Total Hours</b>	633	726		700	125	
<b>Total Dollars</b>	19869.87	10890	92408.00	23765	5546.25	152,479.12

# Research



- ◆ Animal Husbandry
- ◆ Animal behavior
- ◆ Physiology
- ◆ Reproduction
- ◆ Conservation



# Sophie Danforth Conservation Biology Fund

- ◆ Since 1989, Roger Williams Park Zoo and the Rhode Island Zoological Society have awarded over 50 annual grants
- ◆ Five \$1000.00 Grants awarded each year
- ◆ An additional \$5000.00 was added to this fund starting in 2008



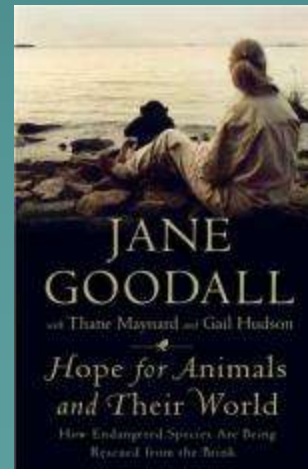
# Honors and Awards

## Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA)

- ◆ **2000**-AZA Significant Achievement Award American Burying Beetle Recovery
- ◆ **2001**-AZA Significant Achievement Award Ruffed Lemur Release and Conservation Program
- ◆ **2002**-AZA International Conservation Award Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program
- ◆ **2003**-AZA International conservation Award Rodrigues Fruit Bat Conservation Program
- ◆ **2006**-AZA Edward H. Bean Award American Burying Beetle
- ◆ **2006**-Top 10 Conservation Success stories American Burying Beetle Recovery
- ◆ **2007**-AZA Top Honors North American Conservation award Red Wolf Recovery Program
- ◆ **2009**-AZA International Conservation Award Tarangire Elephant Project
- ◆ **2010**-AZA Significant Achievement Award Karner Blue butterfly Program
- ◆ **2010**-AZA Outstanding Service Award FrogWatch USA Program
- ◆ **2010**-AZA Top Honors International Conservation Award ElValle Amphibian Conservation Center

## Other Achievements

- ◆ 2000-United States Fish and Wildlife Service Certificate of Appreciation for contributions made to the recovery of the American Burying Beetle
- ◆ 2009- Senator John H. Chafee Outstanding Conservation Award FrogWatch USA
- ◆ 2010-AZA Population Management Center Best Invertebrate Planning Meeting





# Thank You!!

