



FRONTLINE DISPATCHES

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CONSERVATION NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

NORTH AMERICA



A caribou herd in British Columbia has been saved thanks to intensive efforts.

First Nations' Extreme Caribou Strategy Succeeding

After logging and oil drilling fragmented Canadian woodland caribou habitat, First Nations groups in central British Columbia created a non-profit to save a dwindling herd. Success hasn't

come without controversy, [reports](#) Science. Management efforts included killing hundreds of wolves, penning pregnant caribou cows and battling to win land protections. However, efforts have been successful and caribou numbers have increased.

LISTEN: Bird Flu Quietly Killing Millions Of Birds

A new strain of bird flu exists in the US and Canada. Thought to have been carried in by wild migratory birds, the flu poses serious problems, [reports](#) NPR. Wild birds transmit the disease to domestic flocks, and millions of domestic chickens and turkeys have already died or been killed to slow the spread of the disease. With only one known human case, the risk to humans seems low, but waterfowl, as well as the birds that eat sick or dead waterfowl, are being hit hard.



Endangered California condors will be re-introduced to Northern California.

Thanks To Tribe, Northern California May See Condors

The California condor has not been seen in northern California in more than a century. California's indigenous Yurok Tribe considers bringing the bird back "a sacred responsibility,"

[reports](#) *The Guardian*. The Yurok are collaborating with state and federal agencies to fulfill a common purpose: to restore the condor, with its nine- to 10-foot wingspan, to the skies.

Ironically, The Spoils Of Utah Poachers Fund Conservation

Antlers, furs, hides and taxidermy seized from poachers over the past six years were auctioned by the state of Utah this week. Most of the illegally killed wildlife parts were collected by Utah wildlife officials as evidence in poaching investigations, [reports](#) *Outdoor Life*. All auction sale proceeds will be used for wildlife conservation in the state, according to the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.



Wild turkeys are common in New England thanks to conservation efforts.

New England Wildlife Boom Not An Accident

After a century of science-based wildlife management, New England is teeming with wildlife, [reports](#) *The Boston Globe*. Contributing to the success is the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, which has guided managers and helped implement conservation policies.

Although new threats are always around the corner, citizens are observing a wildlife renaissance, allowing for the declaration of “the new golden age of wildlife” in New England.

Mexican Wolf Increase Continues in US Southwest

Mexican wolf numbers in the US reached 196 animals in the most recent survey of the endangered species. The total marks the sixth straight year of population increase, [reports](#) the *Santa Fe New Mexican*. However, the increase was softened by higher-than-average pup mortality due to drought. Ranchers are concerned about livestock predation while environmentalists hope the Fish and Wildlife Service will allow the wolves to establish new packs in areas beyond the current recovery zone.



A special spring conservation order helps manage overabundant snow geese.

Conservation Order Targeting Snow Geese Endures

By the 1990s, numbers of nesting mid-continent snow geese were so great that they threatened sensitive arctic habitats. In response, the Spring Light Goose Conservation Order was created in 1999 to manage the exploding population. Unlike typical goose-hunting

seasons, the special season has fewer restrictions and coincides with spring rather than fall migrations. Also unique, the order can be turned off when population goals are achieved, [reports MeatEater](#). This spring marked the 23rd consecutive spring light goose season.

Wild Horses, Burros Still Strain US Public Lands

Despite modest declines, new estimates of wild horses and burros on federal lands far exceed population goals, [reports](#) the Bureau of Land Management. The BLM manages wild horses and burros on nearly 27 million public acres. The current herds, three times the agency's desired numbers, put extra pressure on feed and water, especially as drought continues to threaten wildlife across the West.



Crossing structures will improve safety for humans and animals like this moose.

Continuing Trend: Alberta Builds Key Wildlife Overpass

The Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative [reports](#) the construction of Alberta's first wildlife overpass on provincial lands. The crossing structure is at a key location in the region east of Banff National Park. Farther south, California is making way for an unprecedented

overpass in the Santa Monica Mountains, which will let wildlife safely cross a busy 10-lane highway. The overpass would be the world's largest wildlife bridge, [reports](#) *The Guardian*.

AFRICA



A trail camera image captures one of the few lions, a male, remaining in Senegal.

West African Lions Edging Back From The Brink

Senegal's 3,525 square-mile (9,130 sq km) Niokolo-Koba National Park is home to one of four surviving populations of critically endangered West African lions. The Lion Recovery Fund [estimates](#) there are now 30-40 lions in the park; their prey populations are also increasing.



A Taita falcon on a Mozambican inselberg, an isolated rocky knoll.

A New Stronghold For Africa's Rarest Falcon

Many breeding nests of the Taita falcon have been discovered on the inselbergs of Mozambique's Niassa Special Reserve, [reported](#) *Mongabay* in March. No more than 1,000 Taita falcons remain in Africa; the Niassa Reserve is threatened by poaching, mining and armed uprisings.



A South African white rhino, an intended beneficiary of the World Bank.

World Bank & South Africa Step Up For Rhinos

A first-of-its-kind 5-year “Rhino Bond” will eventually send up to \$13.76 million to rhino conservation in South Africa, [reports](#) *The Daily Maverick*, and investors will be rewarded—if rhino population targets are achieved. South Africa has also decided to sell permits to hunt up to 10 carefully selected male black rhinos this year, the significant income from which will also go to rhino conservation. A full [explanation](#) appeared in *The Conversation* last month.



Tolstoy, one of Kenya's well-guarded “super-tuskers” sedated and blindfolded.

Super-Tusker Treated For Spear Wound

Rangers in the Amboseli-Tsavo-Kilimanjaro ecosystem recently spotted Tolstoy, one of their huge elephant bulls, limping from a spear wound to his front right leg. Tolstoy was sedated and the injury cleaned and treated, [reported](#) *Africa Geographic*.

EUROPE

Wolves Are Repopulating Rural Germany

The state of Lower Saxony recently [reported](#) 35 packs, five pairs and three single wolves for 2020-21, including a total of 153 newborn pups. The Ministry of the Environment estimates there are now 350 wolves in Lower Saxony, which covers 18,388 square miles (47,624 sq km) and has a population of almost 8 million (humans, that is).



A Spanish police officer confronts the enormous haul of taxidermy.

Huge (really huge) Taxidermy Collection Seized In Spain

Two warehouses totaling 538,000 square feet (more than 12 acres) and housing 1,090 animal mounts and decorations, including 198 elephant tusks, were impounded by Valencia's Guardia Civil last month. It's likely that many of the animals were collected and/or imported legally, but police are investigating whether the owner has documentation for all of them, [reported MeatEater](#).

WORLD



A radio-collared giant anteater, with pup astride, toys with its tracker. Rafael Albuin

Rewilding Is Underway Across Argentina

Fundación Rewilding Argentina, a non-profit arm of Tompkins Conservation, has acquired hundreds of thousands of acres in Patagonia, Iberá and the Chaco regions and reintroduced pampas deer, giant anteaters and collared peccaries while conserving jaguars, coypus, Wolffsohn's viscachas, red-and-green macaws, bare-faced curassows and other key species, [reports](#) Nature.com.



A rare snow leopard approaches a trail camera in northern Kashmir.

[VIDEO](#): Protecting Snow Leopards In Northern Pakistan

Check out this March CNN [photo essay](#) from a video by environmental anthropologist Shafqat Hussain on conservation successes in the towering mountains of Gilgit-Baltistan Province.

Respect Science, respect nature, respect each other.



Mother and newborn daughter Sumatran rhinos in Indonesia's Way

Super-Rare Sumatran Rhino Born In Captivity

Indonesia, last refuge of the Sumatran rhino, reported the birth of a female at a captive breeding center. Eight rhinos, including the newborn, live in Way Kambas National Park and a lone female is at the Kelian sanctuary in Indonesian Borneo. The wild population is estimated to be no more

than 80 scattered individuals. See [more](#) from *Mongabay*.

War Halts Wildlife Tracking From Space

ICARUS, the International Cooperation for Animal Research Using Space, assesses environmental and human influences on migrating animals. A German antenna on the Russian International Space Station was tracking their journeys via GPS tags, but Russia halted the program after it invaded Ukraine, [reported](#) *Science*.



A Patagonian guanaco halted by a fence highlighted with cloth strips.

How Fences Slice Up The Natural World

Barriers of all sorts, from the US-Mexico border wall to Australia's 3,480-mile ((5,600 km) Wild Dog Barrier, divide many wildlife habitats, interrupting migrations and increasing genetic isolation. Scientists are beginning to map these barriers and their impacts, and some fences are already being modified or removed. Read "[Unnatural Barriers](#)" on e360.Yale.edu.



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Conservation Frontlines® Foundation

PO Box 917, Middleburg, VA 20118-917, USA

Email: admin@conservationfrontlines.org

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