

Charity Navigator blog

The team from [Charity Navigator](#), the nation's largest independent charity evaluator and leading donor advocate, shares their thoughts on emerging nonprofit-sector issues and offers tips to better inform your intelligent giving decisions.

Monday, December 11, 2017

Highly-Rated Organizations Fighting for Wildlife Conservation and Preservation

Millions of Americans have seen and reacted to photographer Paul Nicklen's video footage of a starving polar bear walking through a northern Canadian territory. Nicklen and his team were filming and photographing scenes for a project on climate change with Sea Legacy, an unrated organization, when they came across the bear hungry, desperately searching for food. Nicklen wrote, "It's a soul-crushing scene that still haunts me, but I know we need to share both the beautiful and the heartbreaking if we are going to break down the walls of apathy."

Images like the ones Nicklen shared tug sharply at many of our hearts. If you are prompted to take action, consider supporting one of these highly-rated wildlife conservation organizations that are working to protect our national and global creatures and their habitats.

The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust USA

☆☆☆☆ *Embracing all measures that compliment the conservation, preservation and protection of wildlife*

The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust embraces all measures that compliment the conservation, preservation and protection of wildlife. These include anti-poaching, safe guarding the natural environment, enhancing community awareness, addressing animal welfare issues, providing veterinary assistance to animals in need, rescuing and hand rearing elephant and rhino orphans, along with other species that can ultimately enjoy a quality of life in wild terms when grown.

Wildlife Conservation Society

☆☆☆☆ *Saving wildlife*

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), founded in 1895 saves wildlife and wild places worldwide. We do so through science, global conservation, education and the management of the world's largest system of urban wildlife parks, led by the flagship Bronx Zoo. Together these activities change attitudes towards nature and help people imagine wildlife and humans living in harmony. We currently manage about 500 conservation projects in more than 60 countries; and educate millions of visitors at our five living institutions in New York City on important issues affecting our planet. Our parks include: the Bronx Zoo, New York Aquarium, Central Park Zoo, Prospect Park Zoo and Queens Zoo. The WCS parks in New York City welcome 4 million visitors each year, including helping the city to educate millions of schoolchildren in science and conservation issues.

Global Wildlife Conservation

☆☆☆☆ *Protecting endangered species and habitats through science-based field action*

Global Wildlife Conservation protects endangered species and habitats through science-based field action. GWC has built its success upon a foundation of excellence in Exploration, Research and Conservation. GWC envisions a world with diverse and abundant wildlife, a truly Wild World. We are dedicated to ensuring that the species on the verge of extinction aren't lost but prosper well into the future. Through our three key goals we are bringing together scientists, conservationists, policy makers, industry leaders and you to ensure a truly collaborative approach to species conservation. Our three key goals are to save species, protect wildlands, and build capacity. Through this approach we are ensuring that species conservation remains core to our approach while addressing larger landscape issue challenges and developing a long term support network to guarantee that our donors and partners investments have the greatest possibility of success.

Wildlife Conservation Network

☆☆☆☆ *The spirit of innovation in conservation*

Founded in 2002, Wildlife Conservation Network (WCN) is dedicated to protecting endangered species and preserving their natural habitats. We support innovative strategies for people and wildlife to co-exist and thrive. We partner with independent, community-based conservationists around the world and provide them with the capital and tools they need to develop solutions for human-wildlife coexistence. WCN's conservationists actively engage local people as effective stewards of their environment and work in a culturally-respectful manner to ensure that conservation skills and values will be passed on to future generations.

Wildlife Alliance

☆☆☆☆ *Direct protection to forests and wildlife*

Since its inception in 1994 as the Global Survival Network, the organization now known as Wildlife Alliance has worked with local governments, communities, and like-minded non-governmental organizations to implement cutting-edge programs in Southeast Asia and the Russian Far East. These programs aim to conserve the environment and stop illegal logging, poaching, and the illegal wildlife trade by directly protecting wildlife and habitats, reducing consumer demand for wildlife, and providing environmental education and legal and ecologically sustainable alternative livelihoods for local communities.

Wildlife Forever

☆☆☆☆ *Conserving America's wildlife heritage*

The mission of Wildlife Forever is to conserve America's wildlife heritage through conservation education, preservation of habitat and management of fish and wildlife. Since 1987, Wildlife Forever has provided funding to more than 600 projects in 50 states plus Canada through private special interest conservation groups, state game and fish departments and federal agencies. Wildlife Forever projects target research, management, land acquisition, and educational purposes. Special emphasis is placed upon grassroots programs.

World Wildlife Fund

☆☆☆ *Protecting the future of nature*

Founded in 1961, World Wildlife Fund's (WWF) mission is the conservation of nature. Using the best available scientific knowledge and advancing that knowledge where we can, we work to preserve the diversity and abundance of life on Earth and the health of ecological systems by: protecting natural areas and wild populations of plants and animals, including endangered species; promoting sustainable approaches to the use of renewable natural resources; and promoting more efficient use of resources and energy and the maximum reduction of pollution. We are committed to reversing the degradation of our planet's natural environment and to building a future in which human needs are met in harmony with nature. We recognize the critical relevance of human numbers, poverty and consumption patterns to meeting these goals.

Defenders of Wildlife

☆☆☆ *Dedicated to the protection of all native animals and plants in their natural communities*

Founded in 1947, Defenders of Wildlife is one of the country's leaders in science-based, results-oriented wildlife conservation. We are committed to saving imperiled wildlife and championing the Endangered Species Act, the landmark law that protects them. Defenders of Wildlife is a national membership organization dedicated to the protection of all native animals and plants in their natural communities. We work to protect and restore America's native wildlife, safeguard habitat, resolve conflicts, work across international borders and educate and mobilize the public.

Wildlife Habitat Council

☆☆☆ *Conserving and enhancing habitat and biodiversity on private land*

The Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) promotes and certifies habitat conservation and management on working lands through partnerships and education.

National Wildlife Refuge Association

☆☆☆ *Protecting America's wildlife*

The National Wildlife Refuge Association (Refuge Association) occupies a special niche as the only non-profit organization focused exclusively on promoting the world's largest wildlife conservation network, the National Wildlife Refuge System. Since 1975, the Refuge Association has worked hand-in-hand with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to protect, conserve, and restore the ecological integrity of the Refuge System. To accomplish our mission and raise the stature of the Refuge System, the Refuge Association engages thousands of supporters including Refuge Friends groups, private landowners, hunters and anglers, and educators and students from all walks of life. In addition, the Refuge Association leads a coalition of 23 diverse organizations called the Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement (CARE) and our combined 16 million members urge Congress to provide robust funding for the Refuge System. The Refuge Association is ensuring a future for wildlife across America.