

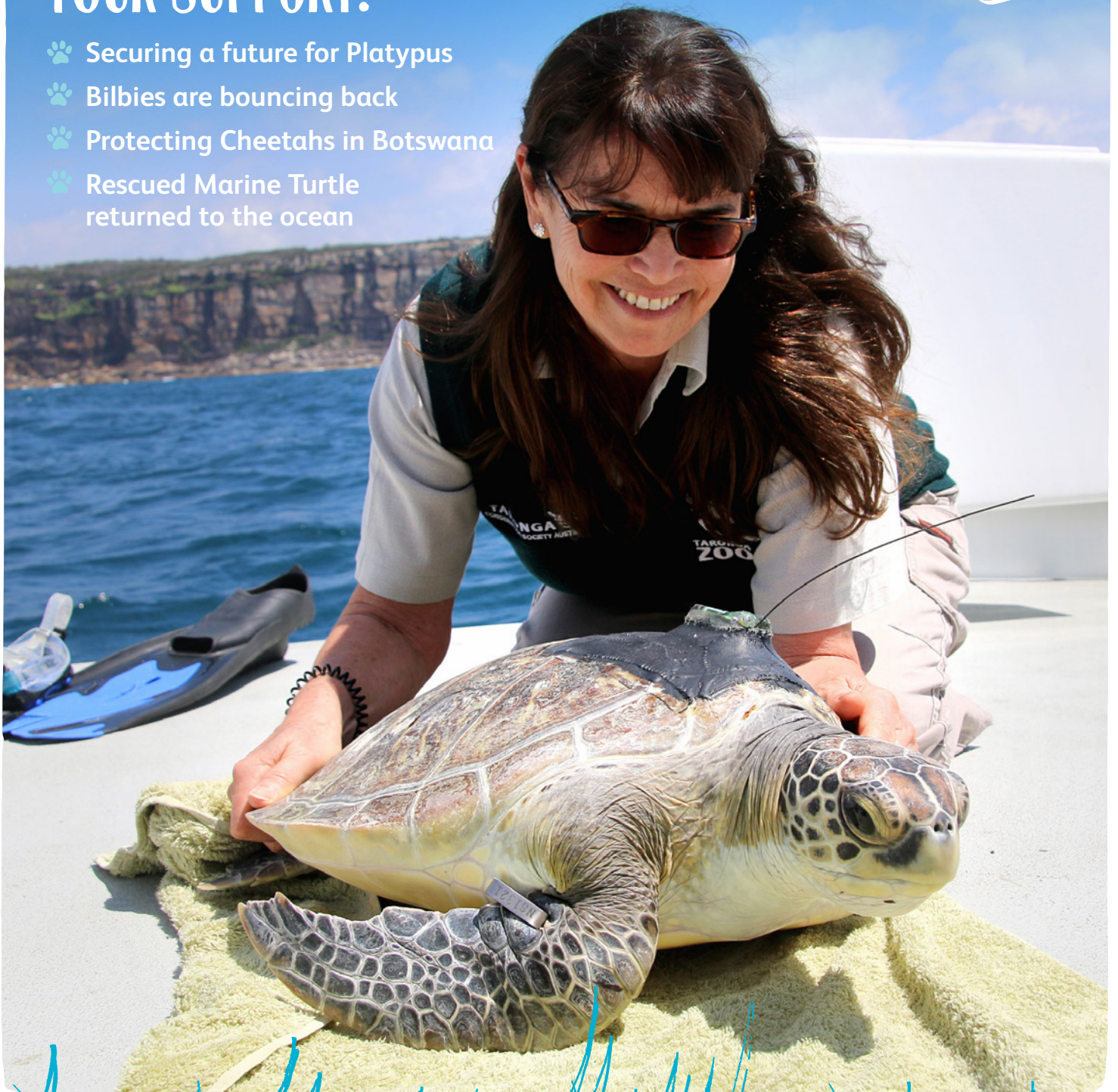
TALES FROM *the* WILD NEWSLETTER

THE IMPACT *of* YOUR SUPPORT:

- 🐾 Securing a future for Platypus
- 🐾 Bilbies are bouncing back
- 🐾 Protecting Cheetahs in Botswana
- 🐾 Rescued Marine Turtle returned to the ocean

TARONGA 
CONSERVATION SOCIETY AUSTRALIA.

For the Wild



THANK YOU!

I wanted to share with you in this newsletter how the impact of your support is helping to create a long-term, sustainable future for wildlife here in Australia and overseas.

Your support helps us dream big with bold, ambitious projects to future-proof our Australian wildlife.

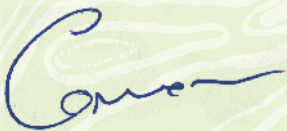
Your generosity is helping increase our capacity to care for wildlife, educate new carers and amplify conservation programs.

Thank you for being a deeply valued Taronga supporter.

Thank you for believing in the importance of conservation for a sustainable future for animals and people. I'm so grateful to be able to count on your support.

For the wild!

Sincerely,



Cameron Kerr AO
Chief Executive



Platypus receiving a health check before it's release to the wild.



PROTECTING *the* PLATYPUS

The Platypus is a uniquely Australian species and one of only three egg-laying mammals in the world.

They also play an important role in Aboriginal culture, with the oldest known Platypus fossil dating to over 110 million years old. Platypus are now extinct in South Australia, and sadly in our eastern states, there is cause for concern about their rapid population decline.

However thanks to your support, a landmark conservation project has been launched to protect Platypus.

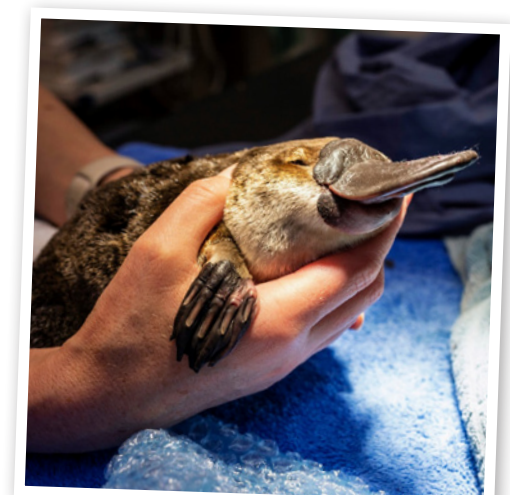
For the first time in over 50 years, the Platypus has returned to the Royal National Park, NSW. In total, 10 platypus will make the park their home, and help re-establish a self-sustaining population.

A Platypus Rescue and Rehabilitation centre has been created at Taronga Zoo, with another centre set to open at Taronga Western Plains

Zoo later this year. These purpose-built facilities will provide important refuge for Platypus during emergency translocations when intervention is required to save a population.

Learnings from this landmark project will inform future emergency response plans to translocate Platypus from drought-affected areas.

Your support ensures that vital services continue when precious wildlife is injured and in need of help.



Taronga Conservation team performing a health check at the Sanctuary.



YOUR SUPPORT GIVES BILBIES *the* BEST CHANCE TO THRIVE IN THE WILD

After over 100 years of being extinct in NSW, your support is helping the Greater Bilby bounce back from the brink of extinction.

The 110-hectare Sanctuary at Taronga Western Plains Zoo in Dubbo, NSW has been busy breeding new generations of endangered Greater Bilby for release into the wild, at multiple release sites.

The Greater Bilby was once found across 70% of the Australian mainland, however, introduced species and human impact have seen populations dwindle and fragment. In 2020, Taronga released the first cohort of bilbies back into Sturt National Park, making this the first time in over 100 years these precious marsupials had been seen in NSW.

Since then, a further release of Greater Bilby was conducted in Central Australia, returning a further 33 individuals back to the wild.

Reports show the released animals to be doing well and a future bilby baby boom looks to be imminent!

With only 10,000 individuals left in the wild, every released bilby

provides a crucial step towards re-establishing a healthy population in the Australian landscape.

It's thanks to Taronga's amazing supporters and wildlife lovers that conservation projects like this can be achieved.

Thank you for helping save this iconic Aussie species from extinction.

RESCUED MARINE TURTLE RETURNED *to* THE OCEAN

*Your support is helping
care for injured wildlife*



This beautiful Green Sea Turtle had been brought into the Taronga Wildlife Hospital in Sydney, after having been found by a member of the public.

Taronga's Wildlife Hospital team provided life-saving surgery to remove the 5 hooks that were found in her stomach.

When her condition had improved and she passed several health and fitness checks, it was time to return her to the ocean.

With the assistance of the NSW Police Marine Area Command, the turtle was released just outside the Sydney Headlands so she can continue her journey

along Australia's east coast.

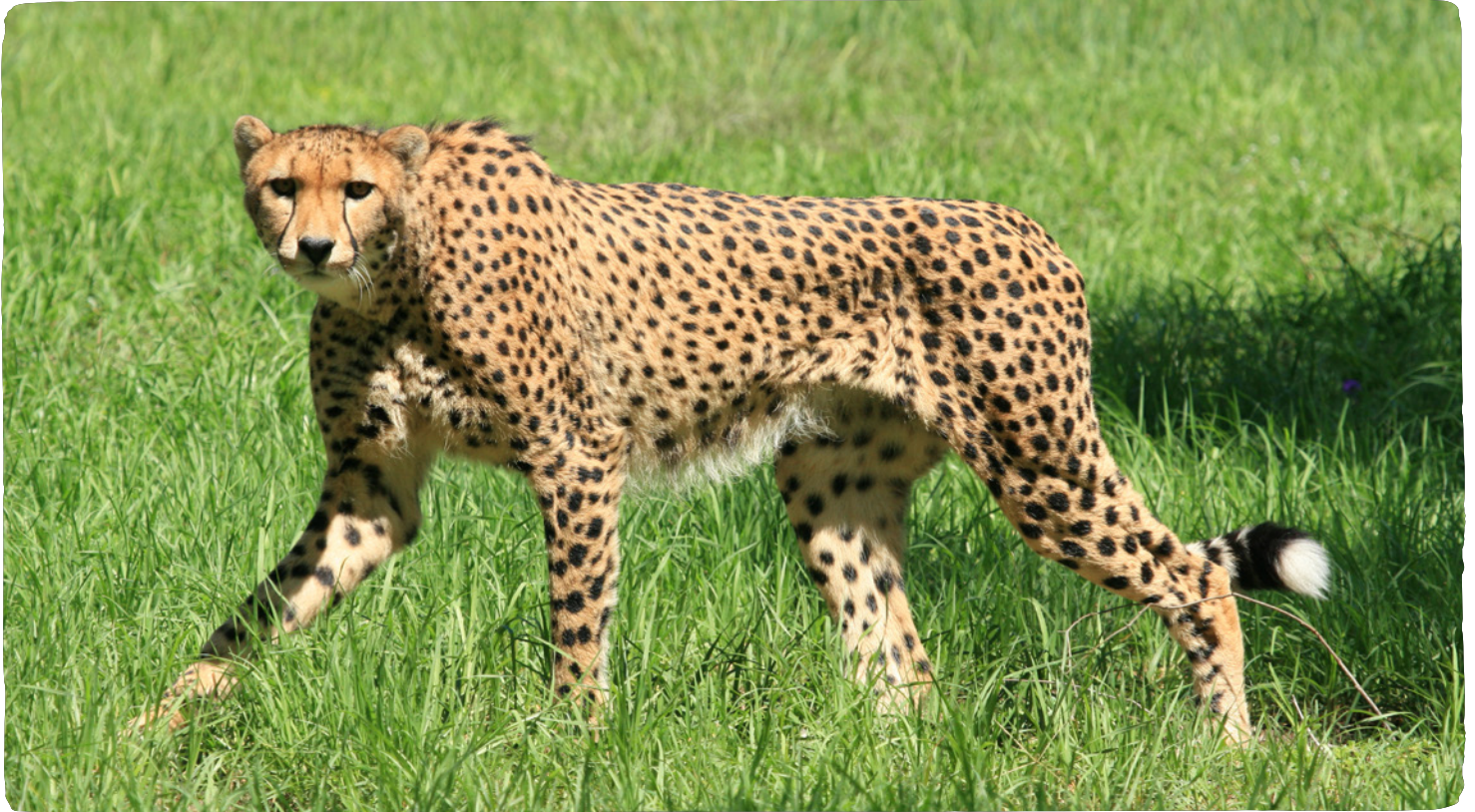
This turtle however has a very important mission – fitted with a special satellite tracker, funded by Veolia Australia and New Zealand, this female Green Sea Turtle will provide us with crucial information about turtle movements.

Taronga's Wildlife Hospital in Sydney receives over 80 injured or ill marine turtles every year, and unfortunately, this number is increasing.

The information provided by the satellite tracker will help Taronga identify crucial areas for turtle conservation.

An x-ray revealed
5 fishing hooks
in her stomach.





YOUR IMPACT PROTECTING CHEETAHS



Local teams in Botswana use guard dogs, like this puppy in training, to reduce human-cheetah conflict. Dogs are placed in hot spots and use their bark to warn off predators such as Cheetahs, whilst protecting this magnificent species as well as saving farmer's livestock.

Taronga proudly supports international partners with funding to help meet urgent conservation needs.

In 2022 fourteen grants were awarded to international conservation projects, one of which was to Cheetah Conservation Botswana (CCB).

As the home of the world's largest population of Cheetah, this region is critically important for habitat connectivity from the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park in the south-west through to the Central Kalahari Game Reserve and further into northern Botswana and west into Namibia.

This is also prime farming land, with additional environmental pressures resulting in high human-

carnivore conflict. The Cheetah Conservation Botswana organisation is supporting these farming communities with strategies to minimise predation and improve farm productivity.

Taronga is proud to provide additional support for CCB's Ghanzi demonstration farm, livestock guard dogs program, testing of light, sound and scent deterrents against predators, and educating the community on predator identification and livestock loss assessments.

Your passion for the conservation of exotic species helps make possible Taronga's long term partnership with vital Cheetah conservation projects in Botswana.

THE IMPACT *of* YOUR GENEROSITY

A young male Wedge-tailed Eagle has been successfully nursed back to health after a stay at our Western Plains Zoo Wildlife Hospital in Dubbo.

He's now been returned to the wilds of the Warrumbungles National Park.



Every year, 1,500 injured, ill, or orphaned native animals are admitted to Taronga's Wildlife Hospitals.

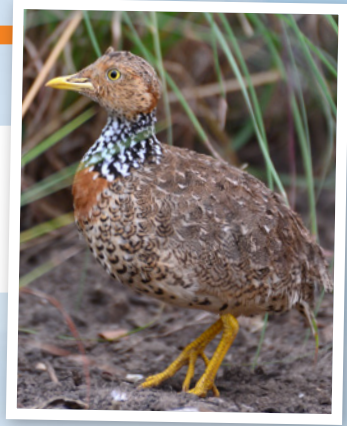
In fact, Taronga is the largest contributor to veterinary services in wildlife treatment and rehabilitation in NSW.

The Western Quoll, also known as Chuditch, have been pushed to approximately 5% of its former range.

After an incredible first-ever conservation breeding season, Taronga's Chuditch conservation team, travelled to the Gammon Ranges in South Australia to release 15 Sanctuary-raised Chuditch.



12 critically endangered Plains Wanderer chicks have been raised and released onto properties of conservation-focused farmers with suitable habitat in the Hay Plains. **A huge win for this unique species of bird.**



This year, Regent Honeyeaters had a record-breaking breeding season, with 41 chicks born at Dubbo!

Taronga staff were also involved in a recent mass tree-planting event in the Capertee valley, adding over 2000 plants to help restore this critical Regent Honeyeater habitat to what it used to be.

We welcomed our 16th Black Rhino Calf at Western Plains Zoo. This little calf is extra special as he's also the result of a world-first reproductive treatment to help mum Kufara fall pregnant.

An absolutely thrilling success for this critically endangered species!



130 endangered Loggerhead Turtle hatchlings were successfully returned to the wild after their eggs were rescued from Shelly Beach, NSW.

Taronga teams travelled to Kosciuszko National Park to release 532 Southern Corroboree Frog eggs.

As a critically endangered species, we're committed to securing a future for this little frog in the Snowy Mountains.



THANK YOU! WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT THAT HELPS MAKE BOLD AND AMBITIOUS PROJECTS, POSSIBLE!

Animals are my passion, so for me, supporting animals via Taronga was the obvious choice.

My name is Fiona. I was born in a small country town in New South Wales.

Growing up, I was always surrounded by animals. It was a big trip to come to Sydney. I remember coming to visit my grandparents, and mum took me to Taronga Zoo. I was a very small child and it was just so exciting! The wonder of the whole place just filled me with awe.

My favourite trip overseas was to Namibia in Africa where I worked as a volunteer at two different big cat sanctuaries. Helping to feed and care for wild big cats was probably the most amazing experience of my life to date. I think conservation and animal welfare is everything.

As I get older I want to do something more meaningful, and leave a legacy supporting things I feel strongly about so it made sense to me to include Taronga in my Will.

Making a Will is a very simple and straightforward process. You can obtain a Will kit and do it yourself. Or contact New South Wales Trustee and Guardian, book an appointment and have a specialist take you through the process step by step. This is what I did just to make sure I did it properly and everything was in order. I did discuss my Will with my family first.

I admire the work Taronga does in research, education, conservation, breeding insurance populations, ensuring genetic diversity, and re-introducing species to the wild.

I chose to leave a bequest to Taronga knowing that they will protect and conserve wildlife on my behalf.



I hope that by sharing my story that I'm encouraging others to also make a difference and support a cause they love.

- Fiona

Taronga is incredibly grateful for the generosity of our Friends of the Future supporters, who have chosen to leave a gift in their Will to the conservation of wildlife.

FRIENDS *of the* FUTURE



Friends of the Future
Christmas lunch 2022.

Taronga's two zoos have always been a place to connect like-minded individuals in their passion and love for wildlife. That's why we were thrilled to host our annual Friends of the Future Christmas lunch once again in December 2022.

It was wonderful to welcome back our loyal supporters and share the updates from our conservation work and plans for the future.

Taronga is proud to offer special opportunities like these to those who have made the generous

decision to leave a gift to Taronga in their Will.

Our Friends of the Future program not only recognises our most loyal supporters who love wildlife, but also ensures their legacy continues by supporting long-term conservation initiatives.

If you'd like to learn more about our **Friends of the Future** program, please email: bequests@taronga.org.au and our team will be in touch.

HEARTFELT THANKS *to the* FOLLOWING DONORS

We pay our respects and are deeply grateful to the following people who chose to include a gift to Taronga in their Will.

Not only is their love of wildlife fondly remembered by their actions, but by leaving a gift they're helping Taronga continue to secure a future for endangered animals for many future generations to come.

With thanks to the late;

- Alma Bower
- David & Christa Brown
- Danielle Coles
- Joan Davis
- Lynette Forbes
- Jane Mary Frolich
- Helen Elizabeth Kemp
- Otilie Gertrude King
- Irene Mona Martin
- Gweneth Dawn Mossman
- John Neely
- Milena Nemec
- Sheila Storrs
- Charles Kimble Sumner
- May Wilson

HOME RENOVATIONS ALMOST DONE

*Your support helps
secure the future of
this critically
endangered species*



Senior Keeper Adam
with the first clutch
of Bellinger River
Turtle eggs.

Taronga's new Bellinger River Turtle breeding facility is nearing completion!

Endemic to the Bellinger River on the mid-north coast of NSW, this species of short-necked freshwater turtle was almost completely wiped out in 2015 when a novel

virus infiltrated the river.

Roughly measuring the length of an envelope, at 10 inches, the Bellinger River Turtle only exists along a 25-kilometre stretch of the Bellinger River in NSW.

Scientists managed to retrieve 16 healthy

turtles from the river in 2015, which were later relocated to a special quarantine breeding facility at Taronga Zoo in Sydney. Following a successful breeding season in 2022, Taronga teams are keeping a close eye on the development of the hatchlings.

Today, the first of the purpose-built outdoor tubs are in place at Taronga Zoo and teams will soon be moving these precious animals to their new homes. Final touches on the indoor hatchling facility are still being completed and we look forward to sharing with

you how the turtles are settling in.

The project aims to release the healthy turtles bred at Taronga back to the Bellinger River. Our scientists and keepers continue to work closely with conservation partners and the local community to monitor the Bellinger River and ensure the survival of this unique Australian turtle species.

Thank you for helping continue and scale up this vital breed for release program, and supporting the work to ensure the survival of this important species.

LEADING *the* FIELD IN CRYOPRESERVATION

Did you know – Taronga is home to the largest frozen repository of living coral cells in the world?

Housed at both Sydney and Dubbo, the CryoDiversity Banks contain important samples, not only of precious coral species from the Great Barrier Reef but also several species of endangered animals such as the Booroolong Frog.

These frozen samples allow Taronga to

perform critical research for conservation management programs.

Recently, our conservation biologists also visited the Australian Institute of Marine Scientists to conduct further fertilisation experiments on-site and collect more samples of our precious corals.

As a global leader in cryopreservation technology, Taronga is working with international partner

organisations and First Nations Peoples to look at how to make coral more resilient to changing temperatures, and the optimal timings and conditions to

transplant coral back into the wild.

Your support is helping Taronga embark on ground-breaking and ambitious long-term projects.



Reproductive scientists
Dr Justine O'Brien and
Dr Rebecca Hobbs.



The Reef Recovery Program involves cryopreserving cells of reef-building coral species from the yearly spawning event.

THE POWER *to* PROTECT

Thank you for believing in the importance of wildlife conservation.

As a valued Taronga supporter, your generosity is helping create a shared future for animals and people. Here are some of the ways your support is helping protect animals in Australia and around the world.



Breeding, Rehabilitation & Release



Wildlife Care & Welfare



Dedicated Science & Research Team



Environmental Leadership



Impact through Education & Experience



Conservation Action & Behaviour Change

*Thank you for your
generosity and support
to save wildlife!*



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