



Finding a Way Back for Animals

Episode Six



This ten-part series is the result of a partnership between the Smithsonian Institution's Conservation Commons Earth Optimism Initiative, the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia, and the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta.

Episode Six Summary:

Can we create a world where wildlife and people both thrive? Hear from scientists and people all over the world who are mapping out a better future to save species.

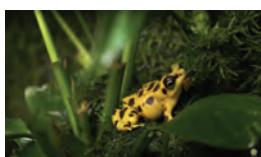
Videos:



Wild Horse Conservation in Mongolia

The Smithsonian is collaborating with its partners in northwestern China and in Hustai National Park in Mongolia to support the reintroduction of Przewalski's horses that was once extinct in the wild.

Go Deeper: <https://nationalzoo.si.edu/animals/przewalskis-horse>



Earth Optimism: Frogs

Smithsonian scientists are saving some of the world's most endangered frogs by maintaining and breeding a healthy assurance populations (a way to keep the species alive in captivity with the possibility of reintroduction to the wild).

Go Deeper: <https://www.si.edu/newsdesk/photos/earth-optimism-frogs>



Camera Trapping at American Prairie Reserve

Smithsonian ecologists set up motion-sensitive cameras called camera traps around the American Prairie Reserve in Montana. The photos they collect will help build a clearer picture of the ecosystem.

Go Deeper: https://nationalzoo.si.edu/object/yt_sYIFEPzC6A8



Earth Optimism: Oryx

Extinct in the wild for more than 35 years, scimitar-horned oryx are back in their native habitat thanks to international collaboration and the power of science.

Go Deeper: <https://nationalzoo.si.edu/animals/news/earth-optimism-oryx>

Questions for Discussion:

How does camera trap information help in conservation?

What are benefits of having a captive population of a species?

Why is it important to reintroduce species to the wild?

How can you take action to protect endangered species?

Episode 6 Vocabulary:

Amphibian

Coexist

Extinction

Reintroduce



Smithsonian
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Students Ask a Scientist about Endangered Species

Melissa Songer is a conservation biologist researching ways to help sustain and restore species in the wild. Since 1999, Melissa has worked on the conservation and ecology of endangered species in Asia with the Conservation GIS Lab at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (SCBI) in Front Royal, Virginia. She uses advanced geospatial technologies to detect human transformation of the landscape and assess its impacts on endangered species and ecosystems.



Key Facts

- The International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species classifies an animal as endangered when its numbers in the wild have dropped so low that it's at "extremely high risk" of extinction.
- According to the IUCN Red List, more than 32,000 species are threatened with extinction. That is 27% of all assessed species.
- A "camera trap" does no harm to wildlife. The name is from the manner in which it "captures" wildlife on film.
- In the last 250 years, 571 species have been confirmed extinct.
- Over 40% of all amphibians are threatened by human activity.

Educational Resources

Movement of Life:Scimitar-Horned Oryx:
<https://movementoflife.si.edu/species/scimitar-horned-oryx/>

Panama Amphibian Rescue and Conservation Project:
<https://nationalzoo.si.edu/center-for-species-survival/panama-amphibian-rescue-and-conservation-project>

eMammal:American Prairie Reserve:
<https://emammal.si.edu/american-prairie-reserve>

The Remarkable Comeback of Przewalski's Horse:
<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/remarkable-comeback-przewalski-horse-180961142/>

Smithsonian Global:
<https://global.si.edu/what-we-do>

Find out more About Earth Optimism and how you can get involved

<https://earthoptimism.si.edu>

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Earth Optimism is an initiative led by the Smithsonian Institution's Conservation Commons Network, including Movement of Life and Working Land and Seascapes Actions Areas, including The Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Office of International Relations, Smithsonian National Zoological Park, Smithsonian Marine Station, Smithsonian Enterprises, Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, Smithsonian Science Education Center, Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, and The Smithsonian Channel.

