Each day, our partners here at home and around the globe work with us on fulfilling our shared goals. All eight objectives of the Audubon Nature Institute mission have conservation at their core, particularly our pledges to preserve native Louisiana habitats and to enhance the care and survival of wildlife through research and conservation. That’s why we wanted to show you the scope of Audubon’s conservation commitment through this report. These projects are top of mind for us every day, and we work on them together—donors, members, guests, employees, and peer organizations around the world. From the smallest act of recycling a piece of paper to multi-national coalitions saving species oceans away, we know we must keep pushing forward. The stakes are high, and together, we are making progress.

Sincerely,

Ron Forman
President and CEO
Audubon Nature Institute
New Elephant Environment
As the world’s largest land mammals, elephants have a profound effect on our ecosystem, so Audubon is part of a nationwide initiative of zoos banding together to fund elephant conservation. At Audubon Zoo our elephants settled in recently to a spacious new habitat that raises awareness to our 850,000 annual visitors and shows people how they can help keep these animals from disappearing forever.
Whooping Crane Recovery

Ongoing work in rescuing North America’s most endangered bird earned Audubon Nature Institute and three other organizations a prestigious award in 2016—the North American Conservation Award from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. The Whooping Crane Recovery Program sparked encouraging progress for this species through collaboration in innovative conservation science and breeding.

Connections to Our Wetlands

Petit Pierre and the Floating Marsh hit the shelves in time for the holidays in 2016, connecting children with the beauty and importance of Louisiana Wetlands through a partnership with Audubon Nature Institute and the New Orleans Pelicans. Proceeds supported wetlands education initiatives.

Saving Animals from Extinction (SAFE)

Audubon Nature Institute has been a supporter of AZA’s SAFE program since its inception. Audubon’s involvement in the creation of the program helped get the program operational. As such, Audubon is a Founding Supporter of the SAFE program and one of the top zoos that showed the commitment. Audubon has continued its support through a substantial, multi-year pledge to help ensure that the program continues to mature.

Since 2000, a record-breaking 85 whooping crane eggs have been laid at the Species Survival Center.
Conservation Near and Far

From far-flung locales such as Tinian and Saipan to familiar areas close to home, Audubon Nature Institute participates in field projects having a real-world impact on wildlife. Our work with Jamaican iguanas and Louisiana pines snakes found our animal experts in sometimes less-than-ideal conditions, bolstering populations of species like these to give them a shot at survival in the wild.

Creative Collaboration

On 475 acres of land on the outskirts of New Orleans, Audubon Nature Institute and San Diego Zoo Global are building an unprecedented facility to maintain numbers of species dangerously in decline—a modern-day ark safeguarding animals for generations to come, focusing on science, sustainability and survival.

Partnering for Outreach

The Zoo Conservation Outreach Group (ZCOG) promotes capacity building and collaborative zoo and aquarium-based wildlife conservation efforts throughout the Americas. Audubon is especially proud to be a member of the ZCOG Leadership Circle, which provides critical operations and programming support allowing ZCOG to pursue its core mission. Audubon also sponsors a Species Conservation and Management scholarship to help improve records-keeping standards in developing country zoos and aquariums.

$35,400

Dedicated to this program
In 2016, Audubon Zoo witnessed the birth of two critically endangered black-and-white ruffed lemurs, the first born at the Zoo since the lemur parent pair arrived in 2013. Audubon, like other zoos that are part of the Species Survival Plan (SSP), follows strict recommendations for breeding. This ensures that genetic diversity within the breeding population remains at a high level to help sustain a healthy population.
**Penguin Preservation**

Audubon Aquarium of the Americas celebrated Penguin Awareness Day in 2016 noting the 54 penguin chicks hatched at the Aquarium since 1990. Diminishing food sources in the wild reduce penguin populations so breeding in human care is important for the survival of this endangered species. Audubon’s aviculturists have dedicated more than 10,000 hours of raising chicks and helping bolster the population.

**A Rare Find**

Audubon Butterfly Garden and Insectarium introduced visitors to something they’d likely never seen before: man-faced bugs. Although common in their native Malaysia, this unusual species of stink bug is a rare find in New Orleans and made an impression on guests. Curators began efforts to breed the distinctive bugs as 2016 drew to a close.

**African Puppies Star at the Zoo**

Ten African painted dog pups mesmerized Audubon Zoo guests in the fall of 2016. The highly-celebrated pups were the first ever born at Audubon Zoo. An endangered species, these playful pups represent some of the most effective predators in Africa. African painted dogs keep prey species in check and protect local African habitat. Audubon is one of only a handful of zoos breeding the distinctively-marked canines native to sub-Saharan Africa.

**Babirusa Babies**

Quirky and unique, babirusa are extremely important to maintaining the biodiversity of their native Sulawesi forest home. With threats to the species from hunting and habitat loss, babirusa babies are always cause for celebration. Audubon is one of only a few zoos breeding and caring for these animals. Two new babirusa piglets named Ginger and Ivy pranced into the hearts of guests at Audubon Zoo in October.
Freeport-McMoRan Audubon Species Survival Center is a research center on the west bank of New Orleans dedicated to science, sustainability and the survival of disappearing animal species. The Survival Center sits on 1,200 acres of land licensed from the U.S. Coast Guard and houses several innovative and successful conservation programs.

### PROGRAMS

The Audubon Aquatic Center at the Survival Center serves as an animal rehab facility.

### 2016 Program Highlights

- **Coastal Wildlife Network**
  - $162,508 | 3,600 hours

- **Gulf United for Lasting Fisheries**
  - $550,000 | 9,400 hours

- **Whooping Crane and Mississippi Sandhill Crane Recovery Projects**
  - $175,000 | 10,700+ hours

- **International Iguana Foundation Jamaican Iguana**
  - $10,300 | 300 hours
Coastal Wildlife Network

Dolphins
A juvenile dolphin rescued in late 2015 became the first ever to be rescued, rehabilitated and released in Louisiana. He was released into the Gulf of Mexico after more than six months of rehabilitation at Freeport-McMoRan Audubon Species Survival Center. When last spotted in summer 2016, the dolphin was thriving back in his natural habitat.

Sea Turtles
Young green sea turtles nicknamed “Bubba” and “Peanut” were released into Gulf of Mexico waters after intensive rehabilitation at Freeport-McMoRan Audubon Species Survival Center. They are the latest of nearly 200 sea turtles Audubon’s Coastal Wildlife Network has rescued since 2010.

Blue Crab
Louisiana’s blue crab fishery became the first to receive G.U.L.F.’s Responsible Fisheries Management Certification in 2016, ensuring responsible practices for harvesting crabs and enhancing the marketability of these delicious delicacies.

Sustainable Seafood Dinners
The Sustainable Seafood Dinner series presented by the Gulf United for Lasting Fisheries (G.U.L.F.) Chef Council continued to be a culinary highlight of the year. 2016 took these popular dinners to a new level in the second year, with a growing roster of high-profile chefs and an expanding awareness among diners about all the reasons we want to make sure our Gulf of Mexico has a healthy fish population.
Innovative Education

Audubon Nature Institute’s education programs offer a wide range of programs for both young and old. Students love coming to Audubon attractions, and teachers know these students are budding stewards of our environment. Programs on-site are tailored to nurture with a varied curriculum of programs.

Raising Mississippi Sandhill Cranes

Audubon’s program with the endangered subspecies Mississippi sandhill crane (MSC) goes back more than 20 years and has produced more than 200 chicks, bolstering the MSC population in the only place these cranes still fly, the Mississippi Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge. This enduring labor of love includes costume-raising chicks and a host of other assisted reproduction techniques. Audubon houses about 50 of the cranes at Freeport-McMoRan Audubon Species Survival Center.

New Hope for Whooping Cranes

There was new hope for whooping cranes in 2016. Once ubiquitous across Louisiana, these imposing birds teetered on the brink of extinction. But now Audubon, Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries (LDWF), and other facilities are working to reintroduce them to their Louisiana native habitat using some of the same techniques that made the Mississippi sandhill crane program so successful.

Butterfly Effect

While it’s true that small things can have large impact, at Audubon Butterfly Garden and Insectarium the term “butterfly effect” has broader meaning. The museum imports these insects only from butterfly farms that do the important work of keeping tropical forests intact by slowing clear-cutting, and providing livelihood for locals. It is a small act that impacts habitats around the world.
Reaching Around the World

Audubon Nature Institute participates in more than 100 Species Survival Plans and Studbooks across amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals.

Highlights from our participation in AZA Cooperative Programs include:

1. UNITED STATES
   - American Black Bear
   - Desert Pupfish
   - Lined Seahorse
   - Louisiana Pine Snake
   - Sand Tiger Shark
   - Southern Sea Otter
   - Texas Blind Salamander
   - Whooping Crane

2. CUBA
   - Cuban Amazon Parrot

3. PANAMA
   - Panamanian Golden (Ahogado) Frog
   - Panamanian Golden (Sora) Frog

4. CENTRAL/SOUTH AMERICA
   - Black Howler Monkey
   - Hoffman’s Two-toed Sloth
   - Hyacinth Macaw
   - Jaguar
   - King Vulture
   - Maned Wolf
   - Plush-crested Jay
   - Stingrays:
     - Bigtooth River Ray
     - Ocellated River Ray
     - Tiger River Ray
     - White-Blotched River Ray

5. AFRICA
   - African Painted Dog
   - African Penguin
   - Bongo Antelope
   - East African Eland
   - Eastern Black and White Colobus
   - Mandrill
   - Pink-backed Pelican
   - Red River Hog
   - Southern White Rhino
   - Western Lowland Gorilla

6. INDIA
   - Nicobar Pigeon
   - Zebra Shark

7. ASIA
   - Asian Elephant
   - Asian Small-clawed Otter

8. MALAYSIA
   - Malayan Great Argus
   - Malayan Sun Bear
   - Malayan Tiger
   - False Gharial

9. INDONESIA
   - Bali Mynah
   - Komodo Dragon
   - North Sulawesi Babirusa
   - Sumatran Orangutan

10. MARIANA ISLANDS
    - Mariana Fruit Dove

11. AUSTRALIA
    - Abdominalis Seahorse
    - Prehensile-tailed Skink
The ZOOmobile, AquaVan, Bugmobile and Wetlands Express are rolling ambassadors for Audubon’s conservation mission, visiting schools throughout the metro area—free of charge! Other stops at libraries, summer camps and community events meant that nearly 50,000 people—most of them children—experienced a visit from one of these memorable outreach vehicles in 2016.
Walking the walk, Audubon employees value the contributions we make behind-the-scenes through recycling and our Green Team efforts. We constantly seek out new ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

Our green team leaders meet every month to discuss new ways to reduce waste at work.
MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Audubon Nature Institute is a 501(c)3 not for profit that operates a family of ten museums and parks dedicated to nature. Working together, we can create a bright future for generations to come.

AudubonNatureInstitute.org

JOIN

The Audubon Nature Institute family is growing every day. Join this forward-thinking group of environmental citizens who are ensuring our children have a future surrounded by the wonders of nature. Become an Audubon Nature Institute member.

AudubonNatureInstitute.org/join

VOLUNTEER

As an Audubon volunteer, we put you to work helping wildlife! For example, in 2016, Audubon volunteers planted 1,696 native trees, shrubs, grasses and flowers at Audubon Louisiana Nature Center over the course of three weekends. That’s making a difference!

AudubonNatureInstitute.org/volunteer

DONATE

Donate to Audubon Nature Institute and invest in the future of our natural world.

If you have any questions about making a donation, you can reach the Development Department at (504) 861-5107 or Give@AudubonInstitute.org.

AudubonNatureInstitute.org/donate

ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS & AQUARIUMS

Audubon Zoo ACCREDITED

Audubon Aquarium of the Americas ACCREDITED

Freeport-McMoRan Audubon Species Survival Center CERTIFIED

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