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Disney Honors WCN Director Isabella Rossellini and WCN Partner Iain Douglas-Hamilton As Wildlife Advocates

Rossellini and Douglas-Hamilton Receive \$100,000 Grants from Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund to Support Critical Wildlife Conservation Work

LOS ALTOS, CA – April 6, 2006 – The Wildlife Conservation Network (WCN) today announced that board member Isabella Rossellini and WCN partner Iain Douglas-Hamilton, founder of Save the Elephants (STE), were among leading wildlife advocates honored by the Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund for their work to preserve endangered animals. Rossellini and Douglas-Hamilton along with Dr. Jane Goodall, actor John Cleese and Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Maathai received \$100,000 grants from Disney to continue their work in wildlife conservation. The announcement was made in a ceremony at Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Fla., today.

Rossellini announced she will designate half of her grant to WCN partner the Andean Cat Alliance, a multinational nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving the endangered Andean cat that lives exclusively in the remote high-altitude deserts of the Andes in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile and Peru and is considered the most endangered cat species in the Americas. The other half of her grant goes to veterinary research for endangered species.

Douglas-Hamilton's grant will support Save the Elephants' ongoing work: research, education, grass-roots conservation, monitoring and protection of elephants through projects across Africa, including Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, South Africa and Mali. STE has been a WCN partner since 2002. Understanding elephant decision making, by tracking their movements, will help guide these projects.

"We salute Disney for its commitment to wildlife conservation through these substantial grants," said Charles Knowles, WCN executive director. "We are proud of the work of all the recipients, especially Iain and Isabella who have worked with WCN since its inception. One hundred percent of these funds will go to supporting the critical work of WCN's partners who work so hard to protect endangered species and preserve their habitat."

Best known for her work as an actress and model, Rossellini also has had a lifetime passion for animals and art. In addition to her position on the WCN board of directors, Rossellini also is

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involved in the conservation and restoration of wetlands in Long Island. She served as president of the Howard Gilman Foundation, a leading institution focused on the preservation of wildlife, arts, photography and dance, and was a trustee of the Eastman Museum and of the Central Park Conservancy.

Douglas-Hamilton made a pioneering study of elephant behavior in the late '60s in Lake Manyara National Park, Tanzania, and worked on elephant status Africa-wide since, leading to the ivory ban of 1989. In 1993, he founded Save the Elephants that looks at conservation from an elephant's point of view, and is widely regarded as one of the world's leading experts on elephant ecology and behavior.

About Wildlife Conservation Network

WCN (www.WildNet.org) was founded in 2002 to fund and foster individual conservationists focused on implementing community-based conservation programs in developing countries. WCN provides back office support—fundraising, marketing, administrative and technical expertise—to individual conservationists, enabling them to work more effectively and spend more time in the field. WCN uses a venture capital (VC) fundraising model based on the relationships that have evolved between high-technology entrepreneurs, investors and corporations. Acting as a very efficient VC, WCN identifies high-potential individual conservationists and projects, ensuring due diligence is completed up-front, providing ongoing advisory services, and forging alliances between donor-“investors” and individual conservationists. WCN is the first to use this approach to fund and support worldwide conservation efforts.

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