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**Wildlife Conservation Expo Showcases Conservationists Who Specialize In
Community-Based Programs To Save Endangered Species**

*Resolving Human-Animal Conflicts, Creating Jobs, and Instilling Local Pride are Keys to
Community-Based Conservation Efforts*

LOS ALTOS, CALIF. - October 11, 2005 - Community-based conservation is the key to saving endangered species around the globe. Without community buy-in, the conflict that arises between man and wildlife will continue to result in the loss of animal populations who face extinction as growing human populations encroach on their natural habitat.

This was the message from leading wildlife conservationists who gathered on the campus of Foothill College in Los Altos Hills, Calif., Oct. 8 & 9, for the Fourth Annual Wildlife Conservation Expo sponsored by the Wildlife Conservation Network (WCN), a Los Altos-based nonprofit organization, dedicated to the support of conservation entrepreneurs who are working actively with local communities to protect endangered flagship species and preserve their natural habitats.

Jane Goodall was the keynote speaker at this year's event which attracted 1500 people over the two-day event. Twelve of the world's leading animal conservationists gave presentations about their conservation programs in Africa, Asia and South America. They emphasized the opportunities for wildlife conservation worldwide through community-based programs that help local communities: resolve conflicts over livestock loss from wildlife through unique livestock management programs, create jobs, encourage ecotourism and instill pride in communities for their contribution to saving endangered animal populations.

Featured speakers included Isabella Rossellini, international actress and WCN board member, along with the 7 conservation Partners in the WCN network: Greg Rasmussen of Painted Dog Conservation Project, Lilian Villalba of Andean Cat Alliance, Rebecca Klein of Cheetah Conservation Botswana, Laurie Marker of Cheetah Conservation Fund, Claudio Sillero of Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Program, Iain Douglas-Hamilton of Save the Elephants and Rodney Jackson of Snow Leopard Conservancy.

Special guest speakers were Gay Reinartz of Bonobo and Congo Biodiversity Initiative, Dale Miquelle of Wildlife Conservation Society's Russia Program for tigers and leopards, Laurence Frank of Laikipia Predator Project, Louis Nkempi of the Great Ape Project and Jaime Camacho of the Andean Bear Project

The two-day Expo included a sold-out gala dinner at the Los Altos Golf and Country Club. Charlie Knowles, WCN Executive Director and co-founder, said, "WCN is committed to raising visibility and funding for the work of dedicated conservationists. In this regard, we are committed to allocate 100 percent of all donor gifts to directly support the work of their projects."

Plans for next year's Expo are already underway. The 2006 Wildlife Conservation Expo will be held October 7th & 8th at Foothill College in Los Altos Hills.

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 fundraising model. Acting as an 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