



VIEW
Veterinary Initiative for
Endangered Wildlife

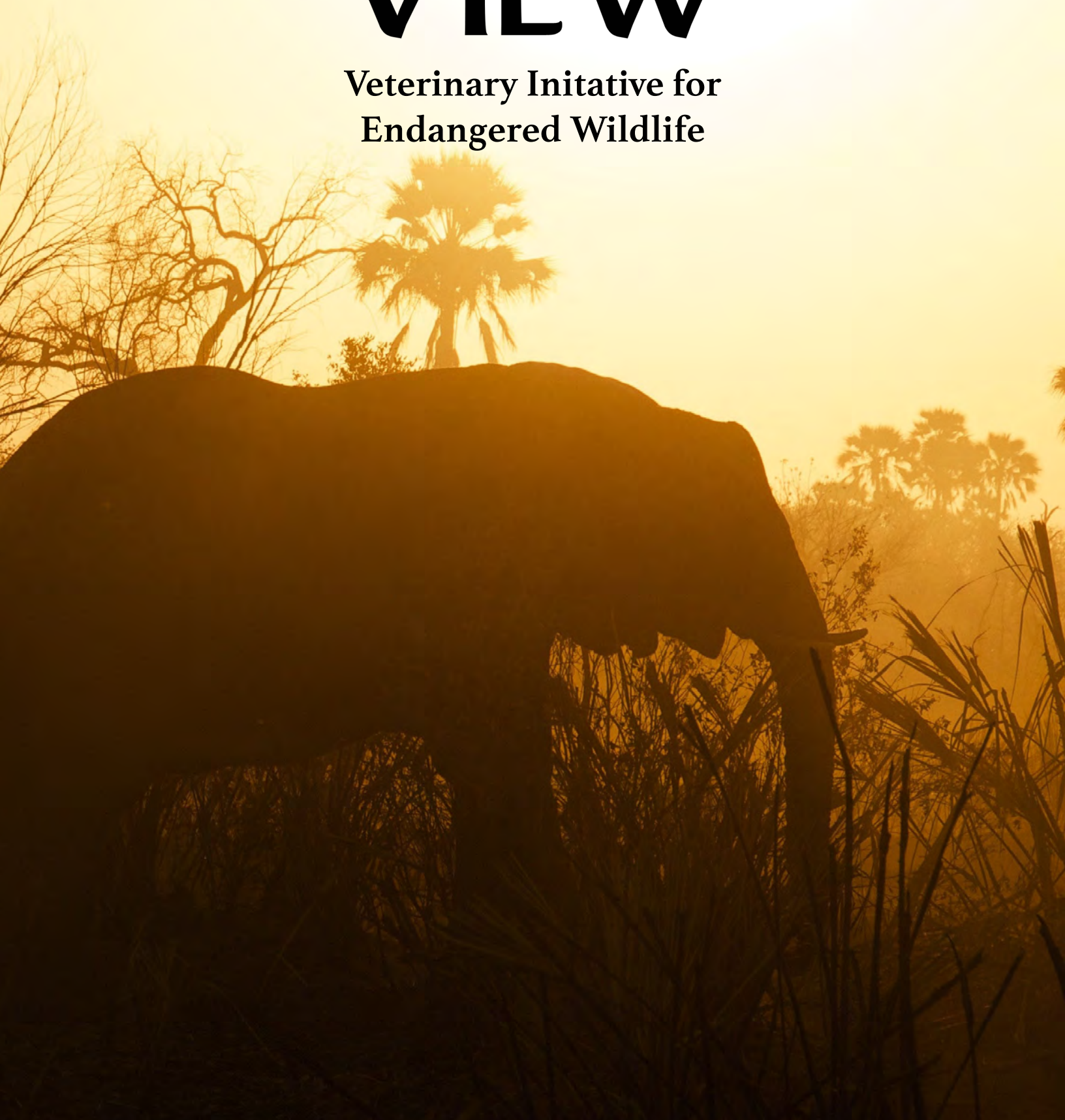


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Wildlife Health

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The Missing Piece to Conservation

We are in a race. It is widely known amongst scientists that we are in the 6th mass extinction. The UN has declared 1 million animal and plant species are threatened with extinction, and if we do not act now, **50% of all species** on the planet will **go extinct by 2025**.

The population of both humans and domestic animals has exploded over the past 40 years. This increased population presence shrinks critical habitats and forces living in closer proximity to wildlife - allowing diseases to be more easily transmitted between species.

While there are some conservation groups addressing health, their approach is largely focused on protecting humans and agricultural animals from diseases transmitted by wildlife. Little is being done to investigate the reverse - how wildlife is impacted by humans, domestic animals, and livestock disease. It is time to **bring veterinary medicine into the field of conservation** and help endangered populations remain healthy before more die-offs occur and extinction trends become irreversible.



WE ARE A PART OF THE SOLUTION

For decades, we have seen species fall into the threatened or endangered category, or worse, go extinct due to diseases that have wiped out their populations quickly. **Conservation medicine** not only answers the question of why these animals are dying but can determine the clear treatment and preventive measures to address the next die-off.

VIEW (Veterinary Initiative for Endangered Wildlife) is a conservation nonprofit organization focused solely on addressing health threats as part of a comprehensive strategy for protecting endangered wildlife populations around the world. Our approach is straightforward: We support locally sustainable wildlife disease investigation, prevention, and treatment. We accomplish this strategy by providing training to the stakeholders, tools and technology to conduct research, as well as promoting policies that ensure healthy environments for wildlife and the people and domestic animals that share their habitat.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to protect endangered wildlife by tackling the health threats they face in their native habitat, using proven scientific veterinary practices and protocols.

OUR VISION

We envision a world where all countries have a commitment and the local capacity to support wildlife health as a cornerstone of conservation.



VIEW’S APPROACH

Sustainable - Evidence-Based - Collaborative

VIEW seeks to make a global impact on wildlife health by strategically choosing the countries and regions in which we work – considering the biodiversity and the number of critically endangered species in the region, as well as partnering with governments and local agencies to create a sustainable wildlife conservation program. Our main **lines of action** are:

TRAINING

Education and hands-on direct training are critical to empowering local wildlife professionals to better understand and respond to health risks facing endangered wildlife populations. VIEW’s team of wildlife veterinarians works with local veterinarians, field professionals, students, universities, organizations, and governments, providing them with knowledge, skills, and resources to best serve their important wildlife populations. VIEW does this by conducting workshops and training in disease surveillance and safe capture and immobilization.

Having the correct tools and equipment is vital for carrying out a wildlife health program. From the field hospital, and molecular lab to the microscope, VIEW has helped identify and provide wildlife professionals with the essential tools needed to implement a comprehensive health program.

TOOLS & TECHNOLOGY

A key to advancing our programs, VIEW developed the first digital disease surveillance system, the **Wildlife Health Information System (WHIS)**, that brings technology into the field of conservation. Understanding the cause of illness or death in an individual animal or population is vital to preventing future outbreaks or pandemics. Technology can help us know location status, population disease dynamics, and information to analyze health trends which is critical for the future survival of any species. With the use of WHIS, wildlife professionals around the world can easily **collect and share information** about sick or dying animals, disease, treatment, and prevention.

RESEARCH

VIEW’s training, tools, and technology provide the foundation for **research** that impacts the survival of entire species. Our research not only enables the discovery of endangered wildlife health threats but also empowers local scientists to research and publish their discoveries to an international audience.



IT BEGAN IN NEPAL...

VIEW began its work in 2012 in **Chitwan National Park in Nepal** where it collaborated with the local National Trust for Nature Conservation and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation to develop the first comprehensive wildlife health program. Nepal was a perfect stage for VIEW to begin its work as it is rich in wildlife biodiversity, now threatened by the close association between human development and wildlife in their ever-shrinking habitats.

Highlights of our work in Nepal include:

- VIEW and its partners **trained over 200 wildlife veterinarians**, technicians, and park staff in multiple aspects of wildlife health, including safe wildlife capture, disease surveillance, and clinical medicine. The key was to empower local professionals to address wildlife health threats and pass their training along to others.
- VIEW provided **veterinary expertise**, and a local veterinary salary and built a field laboratory and necropsy area, and helped our partners build a molecular laboratory and the first wildlife health hospital. In partnership with VIEW, wildlife health is now a national priority in Nepal.
- VIEW and its collaborators' research highlights in Nepal include the **first wild rhino diagnosed with tuberculosis, domestic animal diseases** highly lethal to tigers, and saving the first Asian elephant from the **deadly herpes virus**. These discoveries and treatments are now used as templates to help other endangered species.

As a result of our collaborative conservation work in Nepal, the **number of tigers in the past 10 years has more than doubled** and the **rhino population** has significantly **improved**. When there are such a large number of endangered species in decline, this is a huge success story.



VIEW'S CURRENT PROJECTS



GREATER YELLOWSTONE GRIZZLIES

Since 2018, VIEW has been active in the Greater Yellowstone Region with bison and moose in collaboration with state and federal agencies and universities. Our current project is with grizzly bears.

For thousands of years, **grizzly bears** have been an integral part of the Rocky Mountain ecosystem. However, as of 2023, they have been extirpated from 98% of their original habitat, and the Northern Rocky Mountains – including the Greater Yellowstone Region and Glacier National Park– represent one of their last remaining strongholds.

Federal, state, and tribal wildlife management have relentlessly worked together to bolster grizzly bear populations and recover the species in the region. However, collected health information from their research is still dispersed across the different agencies in separate databases. This valuable information harbors many clues to health trends of grizzly bear populations, and if combined into one database, would help define improved protocols for field operations.

To avoid catastrophic disease outbreaks in the future, it is imperative to have full access to this valuable information about preventive measures across all state agencies. A systematic data-sharing effort is needed to help manage, mitigate, and prevent disease. It is also important to establish smooth capture techniques that help experts in their efforts to protect grizzly bears.

VIEW’S INVOLVEMENT

VIEW, together with members of protective agencies, collects and analyzes important health data in VIEW’s digital disease surveillance system, Wildlife Health Information System (WHIS). Once the initial dataset is complete, a customized WHIS site will be constructed to facilitate sharing and serve a unique multistate grizzly bear health collaboration.

WHIS can play an important part in empowering recovery teams to better serve the health of grizzly populations, as well as showcase how the **collaboration of different agencies** and stakeholders adds value to conservation efforts.



NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE

The Pacific Northwest has diverse landscapes that support many threatened or endangered species of plants and animals. **Oregon State’s Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)** oversees the health of over 900 different vertebrate species. This responsibility includes investigating disease outbreaks that threaten its magnificent animals. Each animal can be exposed to many disease threats that require extensive record-keeping.

Unfortunately, the resources for cataloging and sharing information on wildlife health are limited, and scanning and digitally storing past and current records and data into a simple data system doesn’t fully realize the vast amount of information available in these documents.

To gain a true picture of the State’s wildlife health requires the **creation of an integrated and streamlined disease surveillance system** that not only assists in data organization but also supports research and facilitates reporting and analysis.

VIEW’S INVOLVEMENT

VIEW’s Wildlife Health Information System (WHIS), the unique digital disease surveillance system, tailored for endangered wildlife and field professionals, has been instrumental in solving this problem. WHIS allows in-the-field wildlife professionals to collect, analyze and report data on wildlife health trends. It is the only wildlife health platform that creates a profile for each animal that is comprehensive and completely searchable. Furthermore, WHIS provides a **permanent and secure repository of critical information to allow retrospective studies** from years of accumulated records in easy-to-use data spreadsheets generated directly from the WHIS platform.

VIEW veterinarians are working with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to **incorporate historical and current wildlife health data** into their customized version of WHIS.

The Oregon partnership is a critical pilot for WHIS. This unique tool allows for the creation of a large existing database and a fully engaged wildlife health unit, as it demonstrates the ease of use, exceptional data access, and superior reporting features, important for any large state institution.



ELEPHANT HEALTH IN ASIA

Elephants are highly intelligent animals with complex emotions and social relationships. Being the largest living land mammals, they have vital importance in balancing the natural ecosystem. Unfortunately, over 90% of elephants have been wiped out in the past century, and today their dwindling population is further threatened by a deadly disease: **Herpesvirus**.

Elephant endotheliotropic herpesvirus hemorrhagic disease (EEHV-HD) is attributed to half the deaths of young Asian elephants in captive western settings. Little is known about what impact this devastating disease has on the 55,000 wild and captive elephants living in Asia. Intensive research is desperately needed to fully comprehend the complexities of this deadly virus which kills especially young elephant calves. One of the major challenges to understanding and managing EEHV is the lack of systematic data collection across a large enough elephant population.

VIEW’S INVOLVEMENT

VIEW is working with veterinarians from the **UC-Davis School of Veterinary Medicine** and local NGO conservation partners in elephant-range countries to develop better **tools to monitor and prevent EEHV**. VIEW is helping local elephant veterinarians by conducting **training workshops**, enhancing **data collection**, and implementing **critical research**. Also in this project, Wildlife Health Information

System (WHIS) plays a critical role, as it enables the vets and elephant caretakers to easily monitor the health of their animals and collect data specific to EEHV research. The consistent use of this digital database will improve general health surveillance and tracking of the studied elephants for years to come, and will also positively impact all captive and wild elephants worldwide.

AFRICAN WILDLIFE INITIATIVE

Rhinos are being killed and their populations are plummeting from our planet. In the blink of an eye, we may see them disappear from the landscape. They must have a safe place to roam, plenty of food to eat, and be in good health for them to thrive and have offspring. Only then can we start to recover their populations.

Since the genocide nearly 30 years ago, **Rwanda** has transformed significantly on many fronts: poverty has dropped, education has improved and women have been empowered. Rwanda is also committed to wildlife conservation and is currently “rewilding” its four designated National Parks. This is done through dedicated protection efforts that will strengthen the thriving species, and by conducting translocations of specific species back to areas from which they were lost.

As effective anti-poaching measures have been secured, 2021 Rwanda conducted **the largest single rhino translocation in history**, moving 30 white rhinos from South Africa to its Akagera National Park. However, for the rewilding to succeed, many threats related to wildlife care still need to be addressed - monitoring and supporting the good health of all their animals in this transition is on top of the list. Rhinos are one of the many critical species in Africa that VIEW and its partners are working to restore.

VIEW’S INVOLVEMENT

Rwanda’s wildlife veterinarians and officials understand the urgency of these conservation efforts. VIEW works in close partnership with national and local stakeholders to design a **comprehensive Wildlife Health Program** that is locally driven and sustainable.

VIEW is achieving this through its **three main lines of work**:

1. VIEW trains veterinarians, conservation stakeholders, students, and park rangers to build a sustainable program with continuity over time. These local stakeholders will become trainers who will train future teams.
2. VIEW helps to provide the basic infrastructure needed to implement the Wildlife Health Program by creating standard medical and outbreak response protocols, strengthening laboratory capacity for disease investigation, establishing a digital wildlife health information system (WHIS) for assessing data and disseminating findings, and putting the best practices into place for health monitoring.
3. And finally, VIEW will work with local stakeholders to conduct impact-driven research that will influence management practices for key African wildlife.



VIEW veterinary fellow Dr. Lauren Ellis assists Akagera National Park staff to monitor anesthesia of a white rhinoceros, one of 30 recently translocated from South Africa in the largest single rhino translocation in history, a move made possible by the partnership between African Parks and the Rwanda Development Board. We are proud to work with Akagera as they re-wild Rwanda’s largest national park. Photo courtesy of Chloe Flatt, Akagera National Park.

FEMALE EMPOWERMENT & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

VIEW was founded and is led by **women scientists**. Therefore, apart from building sustainable conservation programs that engage the local communities, VIEW's mission is to include and mentor young students, especially young women, on their path to a career in wildlife conservation.

For wildlife conservation to succeed, the local communities need to be committed and engaged. Even more so in remote rural areas of Africa which are inhabited by pastoralist communities living off the land side-by-side with endangered wildlife populations.

Unfortunately, local youth often face huge obstacles on their path to professional education due to their isolated location and the high cost of schooling. This results in a lack of representation of community members in the region's conservation efforts.

VIEW'S INVOLVEMENT

VIEW, through **education, engagement, collaboration, and mentorship**, wants to inspire local youth to choose careers in conservation. This is done through various initiatives, such as creating primary school wildlife clubs, offering scholarships for secondary school education, and access to mentors from top universities. VIEW's goal is to not only provide education but also build a foundation for a career in the wildlife profession.





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A SOCIAL IMPACT INVESTMENT

Our mission is critical and it requires the generous support of individuals and organizations who care about **preserving and protecting endangered wildlife**. We need your help to keep our work going and would like to thank you in advance for your interest in this important cause.

Your investment in VIEW's pioneering work will not only help wildlife, but will have a ripple effect to achieve **optimal health for the interconnection of people, plants, and their shared environment**.

While factors, such as climate change or poaching are out of our immediate control, for wildlife conservation VIEW has a solution that works. We can adapt our solution to the needs of our clients - everything from designing and implementing a **comprehensive wildlife conservation program** to offering our unique **Wildlife Health Information System (WHIS)** to the service of wildlife professionals in the US or internationally. VIEW's proven methods and medical and scientific protocols enable the identification, prevention, and treatment of diseases in our fragile wildlife populations.

Be part of the solution and help us do our job. Your donation matters and has a huge impact on the overall health and future of our endangered wildlife, and also our future generations to come.

"Those who save and protect the wildlife lead the way in saving and protecting humanity and earth"





Support Wildlife Health



Veterinary Initiative
for Endangered Wildlife

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