

# ANNUAL REPORT

2022



Veterinary Initiative for  
Endangered Wildlife





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A close-up photograph of an elephant's face, showing its wrinkled skin and large eye. The image is used as a background for the text.

**“VIEW’s **mission** is to protect endangered wildlife by tackling the health threats they face in their native habitats.**

**VIEW **envisions** a world where all countries have the commitment and local capacity to support wildlife health as a cornerstone**

**of conservation.”**

# OUR STRATEGY

## TRAINING

VIEW conducts workshops and training for local wildlife veterinarians and managers to equip them with the skills needed to ensure healthy wildlife.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

VIEW targets its investigation to better understand and respond to wildlife health risks for endangered wildlife population recovery.

## RESEARCH

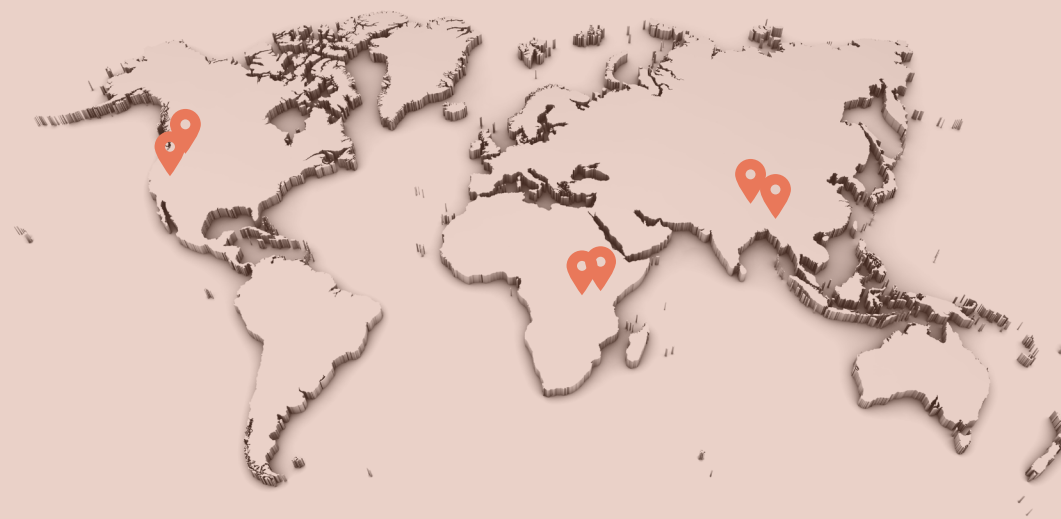
VIEW helps create and maintain local field facilities so that disease investigation and wildlife care are possible and sustainable.



# PROGRAMMING

## Where we Worked

This is a global initiative to protect the most vulnerable species. VIEW works in three main regions: North America, Asia, and Africa. In every program developed, VIEW's database, Wildlife Health Information System (WHIS), is included to further disseminate information to other wildlife health professionals.







VIEW seeks to make a global impact on wildlife health by strategically choosing the regions in which we work – considering the biodiversity and the number of critically endangered species in the region, as well as the potential to partner with government and local agencies to create a sustainable wildlife conservation program. Our fieldwork also includes using our proprietary database, Wildlife Health Information System (WHIS). Our field activities populates this wildlife digital medical record allowing wildlife professionals better share their findings and protect wildlife populations around the globe. Each program in this Annual report with also explain the role that WHIS has in our work.

#### 2022 Achievements for our WHIS program this year have included:

- Completion of a substantial upgrade to the WHIS platform by our Software Engineer that can now serve as a comprehensive wildlife health program in a wide variety of settings and will significantly streamline VIEW's support for WHIS partners going forward.
- Initiation of two very different pilot partner programs to utilize and provide feedback on the upgraded platform (Oregon, Asia).
- Significant progress on the development of a portable application of WHIS that can work on





# 01

## Our Work in North America

**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 the magnificent animals that call Oregon home. Each animal can be exposed to many disease threats which can require extensive record-keeping. That's thousands of documents and records per year!**

VIEW veterinarians have been working with one of our pilot partners, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, to begin to incorporate historical and current wildlife health data into their customized version of our Wildlife Health Information System (WHIS).

The Oregon partnership brings to WHIS a very large existing database and a very engaged wildlife health unit to fully demonstrate the ease of use, exceptional data access, and superior reporting features that are important to a large state institution.

Dr. Kaiser has been working closely with the state wildlife veterinarians to implement WHIS at a time crucial for wildlife health. While visiting their lab, he saw dozens of deceased animals, reports, and calls coming in each and every day. "The sheer number of reports and cases is astounding. Implementing WHIS will allow for faster reporting of disease outbreaks, such as Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, and streamline research and conservation efforts", says Dr. Kaiser. The next steps are to help ODFW with its immense caseload by integrating the platform into its department's protocols.





# 02

## Our Work in Africa

**2022 marked the beginning of VIEW's expansion to Africa. Much of the year was focused on establishing partnerships with stakeholders and local organizations, conducting a gap analysis, planning a Wildlife Health Program for Akagera National Park, and searching for funds and support.**

In September 2022, our program veterinarian Dr. Lauren Ellis arrived at Akagera National Park to work on the ground with our in-country partners to fast-track the implementation of VIEW's Rwanda program. And later that month, in collaboration with Akagera National Park, we held a wildlife health workshop for over 20 early-career Rwandan veterinarians interested in pursuing a career in conservation medicine. Executive Director Dr. Deborah McCauley and Director of International Programs Dr. Dawn Zimmerman traveled to Rwanda to help mentor and train, with lectures and activities over a 6-day period. Working with both local and international collaborators, VIEW has spearheaded a prioritized list of diseases to direct biosurveillance efforts and drafted best-practice protocols for wildlife procedures for Akagera, conducted research on the health of critically endangered eastern gorillas, and trained Rwandan, Ugandan, and Congolese

great ape stakeholders in disease risk assessment and outbreak modeling.

In Kenya, VIEW in collaboration with the Institute of Primate Research, hosted a series of community and primary school workshops for Samburu communities living in Namunyak Conservancy. These workshops were led by Kenyan conservationists and focused on wildlife conservation and the importance of educating girls. Dr. Ellis joined the first set of workshops in September, meeting primary schoolchildren who formed a Wildlife Warriors club as part of our program at this site. Three of the girls will receive full 4-year secondary school scholarships beginning in 2023. Other activities in this program include exposure to conservation monitoring of the endangered Percival's guereza and the De Brazza's monkey.





# 03

## Our Work in Asia

**Young elephants throughout the world are at risk of developing elephant endotheliotropic herpesvirus hemorrhagic disease (EEHV-HD), caused by the EEHV virus, which is attributed to half the deaths of young captive Asian elephants in captive western settings. Little is known about the impact of this devastating disease on the 15,000 captive elephants and 40,000 wild elephants in Asia where young calves are acutely at risk of sudden death. One of the major challenges to understanding EEHV in Asian elephants is the lack of systematic data collection across a large enough population size to understand and manage the impacts of this devastating disease.**

VIEW is working with the UC-Davis School of Veterinary Medicine and other local NGO conservation partners to develop better tools to monitor and prevent EEHV. In this project, VIEW is implementing WHIS as the first digital disease surveillance system to systematically advance the health of Asian elephants and enable the people that care for elephants to easily assess health trends in their elephant populations and collect vital data specific to EEHV.

Our goals, completed in 2022, have been to customize a WHIS site specific to this large

elephant health study, provide access to the program in local languages, and begin entering information into the WHIS database. We have also begun to develop a companion smartphone app for elephant caretakers to enter information into WHIS in the field where connectivity is limited. The app will be completed in 2023. With the implementation of the WHIS program, local project partners will reap valuable benefits beyond investigating EEHV. The continued use of the WHIS program will facilitate general health surveillance and tracking of all elephants involved for years to come.







## EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Although field demonstrations, workshops, and publications to stakeholders are critical for initiating a disease surveillance program that can then be carried out by our stakeholders, we also have a responsibility to spread our message and expand our reach. As such, VIEW continues to educate more people on wildlife health and its crucial role in understanding how to better safeguard the world around us. We have done this by informing other key groups of stakeholders—universities, young people, and collaborating agencies, for example—on the paramount importance of addressing health-related concerns, and through stressing the value of education while building a foundation for a comprehensive wildlife program, providing awareness that this knowledge can potentially save a species from extinction.

Between virtual discussions, in-person workshops, mentorships, training for young professionals and students, and collaborations and symposiums, our engagement initiatives have the potential to reach over one thousand individuals this year. An essential objective has been the expansion of our audience to include more students and universities so that we can empower more individuals to make a difference in our environment and towards the conservation of endangered species.

Your support has helped us follow and share our mission. With your support, we have been able to assist in field activities, conduct workshops and seminars, share data on wildlife conservation, form relationships with academic institutions, and provide guidance and mentorship opportunities for the next generation. The wide array of outreach opportunities presented by VIEW this year demonstrates our increasing dedication to inspiring, mentoring, and educating.

### Highlighted Events in 2022

**January:** Yale University - VIEW veterinarian and Adjunct Professor at Yale, Dawn Zimmerman spoke at a and discussed collaboration between the people, plants, and animals within their shared environment.

**February:** Outreach event hosted by one of VIEW's donors in Hobe Sound, FL. These events connect us with other like-minded individuals that support wildlife organizations, such as VIEW, in accomplishing their mission.

**March:** National Parks Conservation Association: Dr. McCauley discussed collaboration and advocacy to help the parks on the importance of wildlife health.

**April:** Dr. McCauley spoke to the PreVet Club at MSU regarding general sustainable wildlife health in conservation, finding mentorship in the field, and guidance on where to gain further wildlife experience.

TedxBozeman - Dr. McCauley presented "The Missing Piece In Conservation," to an audience of 400+ community members. The presentation included information regarding the development and necessity of WHIS in relation to the investigation of disease and the health of wildlife in their native habitat.

**May:** Conservation Nation Speaker Series - Dr. McCauley and Dr. Suzan Murray, Program Director of the Smithsonian Institution's Global Health Program, spoke at the global forum: Conservation Nation's "The Intersection of Wildlife and Human Health," where the One Health approach that specifically focuses on the intersection of human, animal, and environmental health was discussed.

**June:** Ashoka Africa, Making More Health - Dr. McCauley was a keynote speaker, discussing One Health on a global panel.

**July:** Dr. Ginger Stout presented the Moose Study findings to an international audience at the Wildlife Disease Association Conference.

**August:** UC Davis student collaborator conducted research in Nepal with VIEW and UC Davis Nepali partner (CMDM Center for Molecular Disease Dynamics) and took the knowledge from this past year to mentor a Nepali veterinary student on the elephant herpes virus project.

**September:** VIEW on the ground in Rwanda: Dr. Lauren Ellis, VIEW veterinarian began her internship at Akagera National Park, Rwanda. Dr. Ellis joined VIEW veterinarians, Dr. Dawn Zimmerman and Dr. Deborah McCauley, to conduct a 3-day training in wildlife medicine for 22 early career veterinarians. Four of those trainees were selected for an intense further 3 days of training. Dr. Ellis participated in wildlife immobilizations at Akagera over the next several months (rhinos, elephants, and lions).

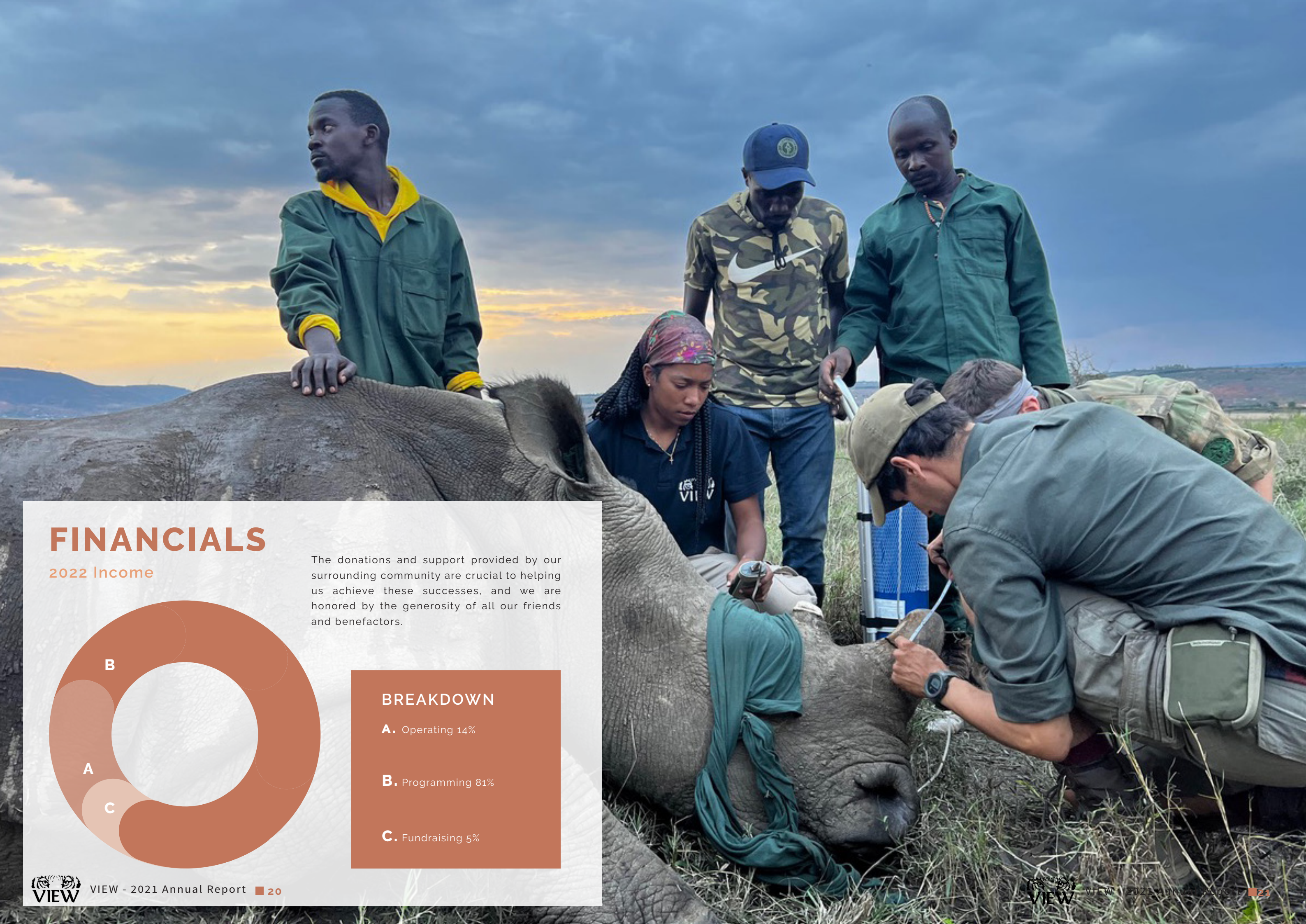
**October:** Justin Kaiser conducted a week-long course in Corvallis at the Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife lab with Dr. Burco and staff, to teach them about the platform, demonstrate its uses, and highlight its benefits to their organization and goals.

**November:** Outreach event hosted by two of VIEW's donors in Chicago & Lake Forest, IL. These events connect us with other like-minded individuals that support wildlife organizations, like VIEW, to accomplish their mission.

VIEW veterinarians Zimmerman and Ellis, with partners at the Species Conservation Toolkit Initiative at the Chicago Zoological Society, conducted a 5-day training on disease outbreak modeling in eastern gorillas for wildlife professionals in Rwanda, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

**December:** Dr. Lauren Ellis begins as a VIEW Post-doctoral Fellow in a position at Akagera National Park to help establish a wildlife health program for the Park

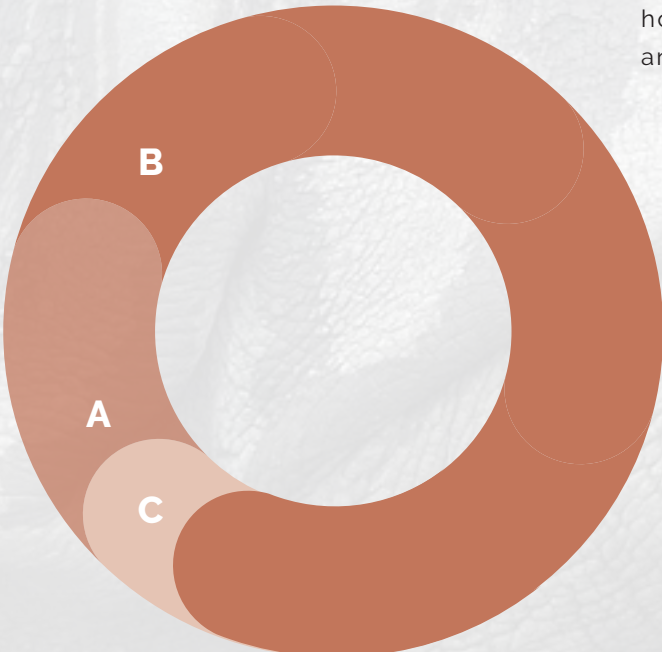




# FINANCIALS

2022 Income

The donations and support provided by our surrounding community are crucial to helping us achieve these successes, and we are honored by the generosity of all our friends and benefactors.



## BREAKDOWN

- A. Operating 14%
- B. Programming 81%
- C. Fundraising 5%





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[www.viewwildlife.org](http://www.viewwildlife.org)