

PROTECTING SPECIES

Protecting species is complex, and it requires working on multiple threats at once. As a conservation organization, the Maryland Zoo collaborates with other zoos, with field partners, and with our visitors to help protect species and their habitats.

This Zoo Trek describes the problems facing just a few of the species that we care for here at the Zoo. It also describes ways that you can help.

For more information, visit the Conservation section of the Zoo's website:
www.marylandzoo.org

Have a great field trip!



african penguin

THE CHALLENGE

African penguins are an endangered species. As humans take more and more of the fish that the penguins need to survive, there are fewer fish for the penguins.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Ask your family and friends to choose sustainably sourced seafood. The website seafoodwatch.org can help you and your family make seafood choices to ensure that penguins and other marine species have enough food.

Penguins in Africa?
Definitely!
They are native to a climate that is roughly similar to the climate in Baltimore.



african elephant

THE CHALLENGE

Many elephants are poached—killed illegally—for their tusks. People use the ivory to make items such as jewelry or carvings.

Ivory is very expensive because it is rare. Many people who own ivory see it as a symbol of high status.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Become part of the 96 Elephants campaign to help stop the trade in ivory. To learn more, visit www.wcs.org/96-elephants.

Elephant tusks are modified teeth. The white material that makes up most of each tooth is known as ivory.



chimpanzee

THE CHALLENGE

Chimpanzees face many threats to themselves and their rainforest homes. These include poacher snares, abuse in the pet trade, and loss of habitat through logging and mining. One major type of mining is for metals used to make the components of cell phones and other electronics.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Encourage family and friends to recycle their cell phones and tablets properly. Recycling electronics allows the metals inside them to be used in new products. Less mining for new metals means less destruction of the rainforests where they are mined.

You can drop off old cell phones and tablets at the Zoo to be recycled. There are two secure drop boxes: one at Wild Things Gift Shop and one in Chimpanzee Forest.



panamanian golden frog

THE CHALLENGE

These bright frogs are probably extinct in the wild. They have been wiped out by a disease called chytrid, which is caused by a fungus. People have moved the fungus around the world through infected animals brought as pets or for food.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Leave wild amphibians where you find them. Amphibians have very sensitive skin, and picking them up can harm them, particularly if you have chemicals such as lotions on your hands. By leaving wild animals where you find them, you can also help avoid spreading diseases between these animals and your pets.

hellbender

THE CHALLENGE

Amphibians are very sensitive to changes in the environment. As human activities—such as polluting, cutting down forests, and building dams—change streams, hellbenders are unable to survive and reproduce.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Help with a stream clean-up, and be aware of any chemicals your family uses that go down the drain or soak into the ground. A healthy home for hellbenders is also a healthy habitat for humans!

Because hellbenders absorb oxygen through their skin, they need clean, flowing water to bring them a fresh oxygen supply.

