



Conservation Highlights Guide



2018-2019

A Message from the Director of Conservation

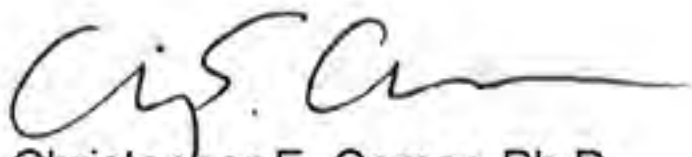
"There can be no greater issue than that of conservation in this country." These words from Theodore Roosevelt ring as true today as they did in 1912. Here at the Safari Club International Foundation, we take these words and this mission seriously. Since 2000, the SCI Foundation has been putting hunter contributions to work to answer important questions about wildlife populations and address real-world conservation problems. As the new Director of Conservation, I am proud to be a part of this legacy that has contributed more than \$70 million and countless hours to wildlife research and management around the world.

This Conservation Highlights document provides an introduction to some of SCI Foundation's flagship projects in our three priority regions: North America, Africa, and Central Asia. These projects cover a range of species from Vermont moose to Tanzanian lions, reflecting the broad range of interests within Safari Club International and its members and supporters. However, you will see common themes that tie them all together. First, they are designed to have a tangible impact on wildlife resources through improving our understanding of these species' ecology and the most effective ways to manage their populations. Second, these projects are inspired and funded by hunters and their longstanding commitment to the conservation of our wildlife resources.

Through our own efforts, those of our supporters in the Safari Club International and elsewhere, and our many partner organizations in North America and across the globe, SCI Foundation will continue to be at the forefront of wildlife research and conservation over the coming years. We have exciting and timely projects on the horizon, including examining causes for declines of barren-ground caribou, examining leopard populations in Africa, and continuing to refine our understanding of predator-prey relationships for various ungulate species.

None of this would be possible without the financial contributions of our many supporters that are dedicated to wildlife conservation. Please consider becoming one of those supporters by making a donation to the Safari Club International Foundation. We remain:

First for Wildlife,



Christopher E. Comer, Ph.D.
Director

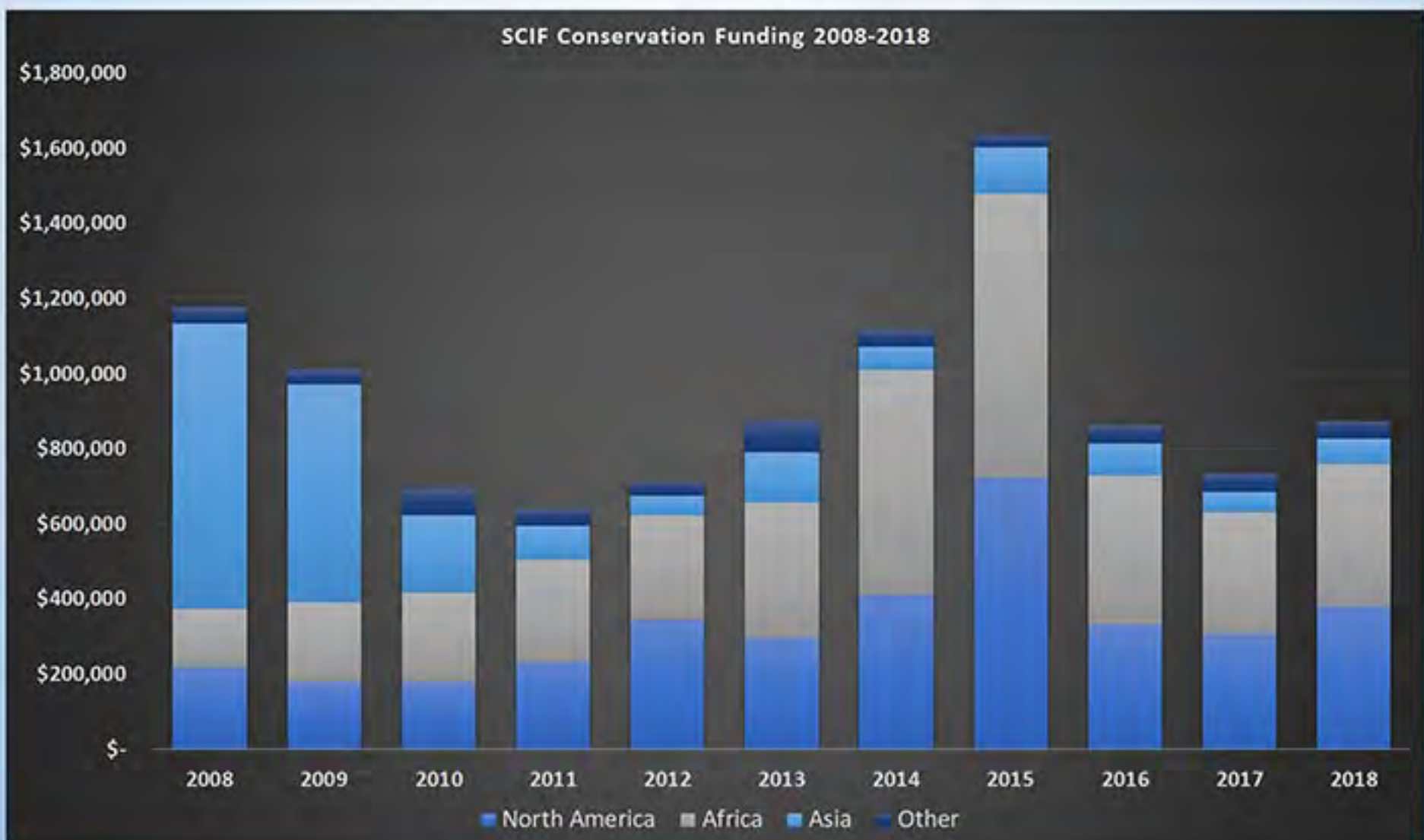
Department of Conservation
Safari Club International Foundation



SCI Foundation Overview

Since 2000, SCI Foundation has:

- Invested over \$70 Million in Conservation, Education and Humanitarian Services.
- Funded over 100 Wildlife Conservation Projects in more than 30 countries.



North America Projects

Since 2008, SCI Foundation has:

Invested more than \$3M in large project grants to North American conservation projects.

Worked with nearly every big game animal in North America, including 21 species in 18 U.S. states, 5 Canadian provinces, and Mexico.

Focused on predator-prey dynamics, species and habitat enhancement, wildlife disease study, and sustainable-use management.

23 States & Provinces



A map of North America with the United States, Canada, and Mexico. The project areas are highlighted in blue, covering 23 states and provinces. The list of these areas is provided to the left of the map.

Alaska
Alberta
Arizona
British Columbia
California
Colorado
Georgia
Maine
Manitoba
Michigan
Missouri
Mexico
Montana
Newfoundland & Labrador
New Hampshire
New Mexico
Oregon
Texas
Vermont
Virginia
Washington
Wisconsin
Wyoming

21 Species

Alligator
Bighorn Sheep
Black Bear
Bobcat
Brown Bear
Caribou
Coyote
Dall Sheep
Elk
Grizzly Bear
Lynx
Moose
Mountain Goat
Mountain Lion
Mule Deer
Polar Bear
Pronghorn
Turkey
White-tailed Deer
Wolf
Wood Bison

VERMONT MOOSE MORTALITY AND RECRUITMENT



Species involved: Moose

Project partners: Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department, University of Vermont

Total SCIF Investment: \$92,000 (Funded by HLF)

Year SCIF began involvement: 2017 (Project timeline: 2017-2019)

Project Objectives

- 1) Determine pregnancy rate of adult female moose.
- 2) Monitor annual survival of adult and juvenile moose.
- 3) Monitor nutritional condition of moose cows and calves during winter stress period.
- 4) Document movement and dispersal distance of yearlings away from the capture site.
- 5) Perform tick counts on calves that have died and analyze the influence of winter tick loads on moose mortality.
- 6) Improve Vermont population models to estimate regional moose numbers and determine sustainable harvest levels.



Anticipated Outcomes

Moose herd numbers continue to decline due to unknown causes that may include infestations of ticks and brain worms. This has resulted in reduced hunter opportunity in Vermont and across the New England states. The VFWD recommended the state issue just 14 permits in 2018 and will issue very few permits in 2019. SCI Foundation hopes to identify causes of moose declines and develop a long-term sustainable harvest strategy.



The
UNIVERSITY
of **VERMONT**



ELK HABITAT USE IN COLORADO'S GUNNISON BASIN



Species involved: Elk

Project partners: Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Colorado Department of Natural Resources

Total SCIF Investment: \$50,000

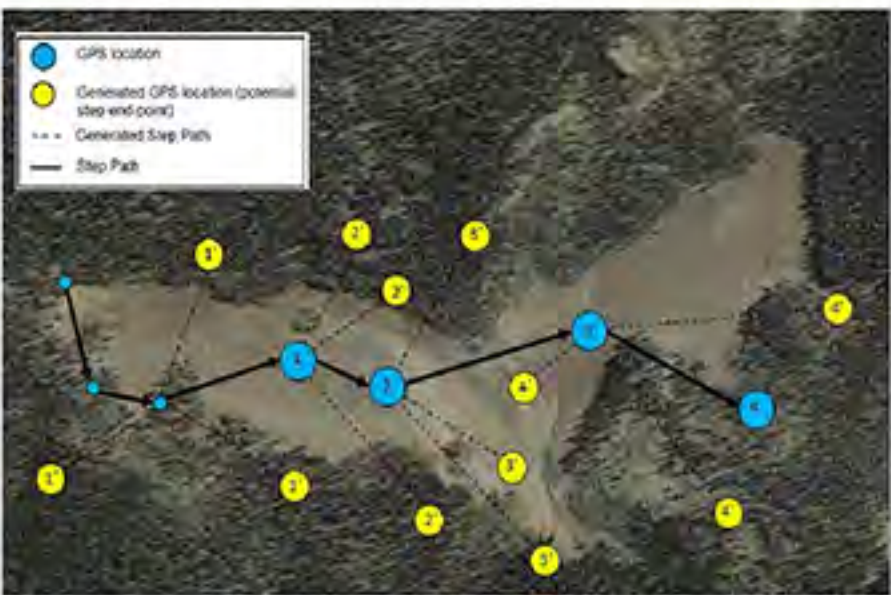
Year SCIF began involvement: 2017 (Project timeline: 2013-2019)

Project Objectives

- 1) Measure habitat use patterns elk habitat selection throughout the Gunnison Basin.
- 2) Create a better harvest management plan, based on seasonal use.
- 3) Formulate plans for habitat improvements to benefit elk populations.

Anticipated Outcomes

The Gunnison Basin is one of Colorado's prime elk hunting and viewing areas and has been the subject of long-term studies of elk ecology. The data collected answer many questions about drivers of elk movement response to dramatic forest changes. The development of utilization maps from these data can also influence harvest. These data will be used to design long-term habitat and harvest management plans.



COLORADO
Department of Natural Resources

INFLUENCE OF PREDATION ON WHITE-TAILED DEER POPULATIONS IN THE VIRGINIA APPALACHIANS



Species involved: White-Tailed Deer, Coyotes, Bobcats, Black Bears

Project partners: Virginia Tech, College of Natural Resources and Environment

Total SCIF Investment: \$42,000 via Hunter Legacy Fund (Future funding need: \$15,000)

Year SCIF began involvement: 2017 (Project timeline: 2017-2019)

Project Objectives

- 1) Monitor habitat use of coyotes, bobcats, and bears to assess predation versus scavenging in the study area.
- 2) Evaluate rates of carcass scavenging by coyotes, bobcats, and bears.
- 3) Develop and implement methods to identify individual deer in predator scats using DNA methods.

Anticipated Outcomes

Predation on fawns and adults can be an important limiting factor on some white-tailed deer populations. In Virginia, potential predators include coyotes, bobcats, and black bears. Comparable to the Michigan Predator-Prey Project, this allows for an accurate evaluation of white-tailed deer population trends in the region. The take-away will be a sustainable management plan utilizing the best available science.



SURVEY OF BLACK BEAR ABUNDANCE AND POTENTIAL HARVEST IN NORTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA



Species involved: Black Bear

Project partners: Integral Ecology Research Center, Humboldt State University, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Total SCIF Investment: \$50,000 (Funded by HLF)
(Future funding need: \$50,000)

Year SCIF began involvement: 2017 (Project timeline: 2017-2018)

Project Objectives

- 1) Estimate abundance and sex ratio of black bears in northeastern California.
- 2) Collect and build a database of bear DNA within the study area and estimate emigration rate.
- 3) Engage local stakeholders in potential bear harvest management.

Anticipated Outcomes

This project will help determine when a black bear hunting season can potentially be established in the northeast counties of California. In addition, comparative evaluation of survey methods will guide future management actions.



EVALUATE MOOSE POPULATION MONITORING IN MONTANA



Species involved: Moose

Project partners: Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks

Total SCIF Investment: \$80,000 (With help from HLF)

Year SCIF began involvement: 2015 (Timeline: 2013-2017)

Project Objectives

- 1) Improve MFWP understanding of the most cost-effective means to monitor moose and maximize hunter opportunity.
- 2) Improve MFWP and local communities' understanding of the status of moose trends and factors influencing vital rates and limiting population growth.

Anticipated Outcomes

This 10-year study intends to improve monitoring techniques in order to maximize hunter opportunity and involvement in conservation. If moose are declining, this project aims to determine why and how to reverse this trend.



ARIZONA DESERT BIGHORN REINTRODUCTION



Species involved: Desert Bighorn Sheep

Project partner: Arizona Game and Fish Department

Total SCIF Investment: \$150,000 (With help from HLF)

Year SCIF began involvement: 2013 (Time line: 2013-Ongoing)

Project Objectives

- 1) Restore a self-sustaining population of desert bighorn sheep onto the Santa Catalina Mountains.
- 2) Implement an Adaptive Mountain Lion Management Plan to reduce predation on transplanted female bighorns.
- 3) Use data gathered from collared bighorn sheep to drive management decisions regarding both desert bighorns and their predators.

Anticipated Outcomes

The last year desert bighorns were harvested in the Santa Catalina Mountains was 1992. This effort seeks to create a self-sustaining and potentially huntable bighorn sheep population in the Santa Catalina Mountains, using hunting tags to support long-term conservation. Nearly 100 sheep were successfully relocated to the Santa Catalina Mountain range. The population has stabilized thanks to mountain lion control and now continues to increase.



WESTERN US STATES BOBCAT PROJECT



Species involved: Bobcat

Project partner: Wildlife Ecology Institute

Total SCIF Investment: \$77,000 (HLF Funded)
(Total need: \$136,104)

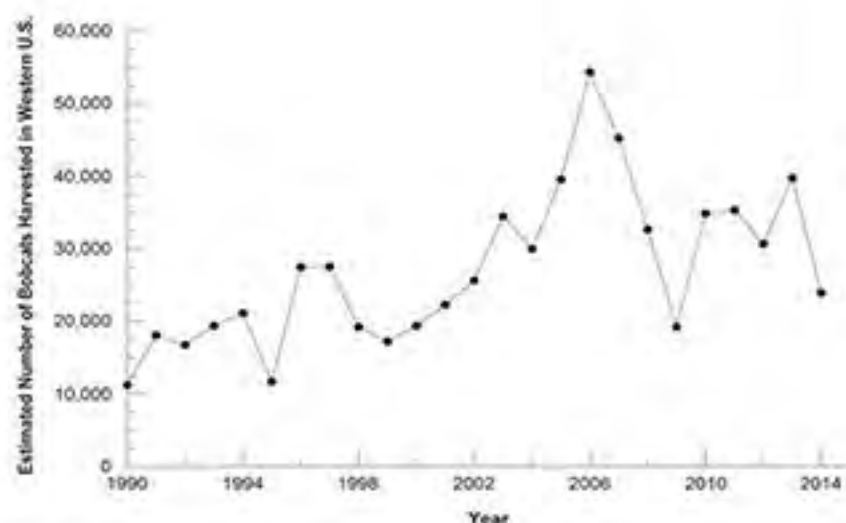
Year SCIF began involvement: 2017 (Timeline: 2017-2019)

Project Objectives

- 1) Fully evaluate harvest data available from 17 western states and identify any data gaps.
- 2) Assess aging and sex identification techniques currently in place.
- 3) Estimate bobcat population size at the state-scale.

Anticipated Outcomes

Evidence to support sustainable harvest of wildlife is becoming increasingly scrutinized, so state wildlife agencies must provide a solid foundation for informed and defensible management decisions. This project will provide a framework for all western states to follow and use as a baseline to develop their own data collection protocols. The data from this project will also give states the data to defend and possibly expand hunting opportunities regionally.



SOUTH ROCKIES BRITISH COLUMBIA GRIZZLY BEAR PROJECT



Species involved: Grizzly Bear

Main partners: British Columbia Ministry of Forests, Land and Natural Resource Operations, and the University of Alberta

Total SCIF Investment: \$120,000

Year SCIF began involvement: 2015 (Timeline: 2013-2018)

Project Objectives

- 1) Continue population monitoring of South Rockies and Flathead Grizzly Bear Population.
- 2) Examine the influences of habitat quality on grizzly bear population density.
- 3) Quantify juvenile dispersal, movement paths, and seasonal movements of grizzly bears.
- 4) Compare methods for surveying grizzly bears to inform future studies how to accurately and efficiently study grizzly bear populations.

Anticipated Outcomes

Grizzly bear hunting in British Columbia ended in 2017. This project seeks to help reestablish sustainable use by improving abundance data and ecological understanding of bear populations. Today grizzly bear population surveys are more accurate and efficient than ever before. This project also allowed formation of a network to assess grizzly population trends at a regional scale.



MICHIGAN PREDATOR-PREY PROJECT



Species involved: White-Tailed Deer, Black Bears, Gray Wolves, Coyotes, Bobcats

Project partners: Mississippi State University, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan SCI Chapters

Total SCIF Investment: \$500,000 + (With help from HLF and Michigan SCI Chapters)

Year SCIF began involvement: 2008 (Timeline: 2008-2020)

Project Objectives

- 1) Estimate white-tailed deer population trends and productivity in northern Michigan.
- 2) Determine the impact of predation on fawns and adults over multiple years.
- 3) Examine spatial and ecological relationships between deer and their primary predators in region, including black bears, bobcats, coyotes, and wolves.

Anticipated Outcomes

Since its inception in 2008, the Michigan predator-prey project has become one of our flagship projects in North America. We have defined the relative importance of various predators (including black bears, bobcats, coyotes, and wolves), winter severity and habitat quality in white-tailed deer survival and productivity. The lessons learned have influenced harvest regulations and forest management to benefit deer in Michigan. This project was recognized for its influence on deer management by the Michigan DNR and led to the formation of the Upper Peninsula Habitat Workgroup.



WILD HARVEST INITIATIVE



Species involved: All harvested for protein in the U.S. and Canada

Project partner: Conservation Visions, Inc.

Total SCIF Investment: \$85,000 (With help from HLF)(Additional need: \$50,000)

Year SCIF began involvement: 2016 (Timeline: 2012-Ongoing)

Project Objectives

- 1) Quantify the amount of wild protein procured by hunters and anglers each year in the U.S. and Canada.
- 2) Determine the nutritional, financial, ecological, and social benefits of wild protein procurement relative to modern agriculture.
- 3) Contribute to public awareness and support for sustainable wild protein harvest.
- 4) Provide numerical evidence as to why recreational hunting and angling traditions are relevant today.

Anticipated Outcomes

The purpose of this project is to demonstrate that hunting and angling not only provide an enormous financial benefit to society, they also provide substantial animal protein that otherwise must be provided through means that are financially and environmentally more costly. This project will also contribute to public awareness and support for sustainable wild protein harvest. The cultural and social importance of recreational hunting will be reinforced by this project by insuring the initiative stays as current and relevant as possible.



ASSESS STATUS AND TRENDS IN MISSOURI BLACK BEARS



Species involved: Black Bear

Project partner: Missouri Department of Conservation

Total SCIF Investment: \$82,000 (With help from HLF)

Year SCIF began involvement: 2011 (Timeline: 2010-2020)

Project Objectives

- 1) Determine age at first reproduction and reproductive rates for female bears.
- 2) Build a population trajectory model based on demographic information.
- 3) Define suitable habitat for black bears, identify areas of primary habitat, and quantify corridors for black bear movement.

Anticipated Outcomes

This project will help define the feasibility and potential schedule for implementing a bear harvest. It will also provide important data for setting season timing and harvest quotas. Population models can be used to evaluate the impact of various regulations. Resource use and spatial distribution would be used to develop black bear management zones to ensure stable populations.



STATUS AND DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE ALBERTA YA HA TINDA ELK



Species involved: Elk

Project partners: University of Alberta, University of Montana

Total SCIF Investment: \$127,000 (With help from HLF) (Total need: \$50,000)

Year SCIF began involvement: 2013 (Timeline: 2000-2017)

Project Objectives

- 1) Monitor population trends of Ya Ha Tinda elk herd.
- 2) Quantify reproductive rates, age-specific survival, and movements of adult and juvenile elk.
- 3) Evaluate bed-site characteristics and factors influencing elk calf survival.

Anticipated Outcomes

The Ya Ha Tinda elk herd plays an important economic role in drawing hunters, recreationists, and wildlife enthusiasts to both Parks Canada and provincial lands. This research will guide management actions to ensure benefits of the Ya Ha Tinda elk herd are appreciated well into the future.



WYOMING MIGRATION INITIATIVE



Species involved: Mule Deer

Project partner: University of Wyoming

Total SCIF Investment: \$50,000

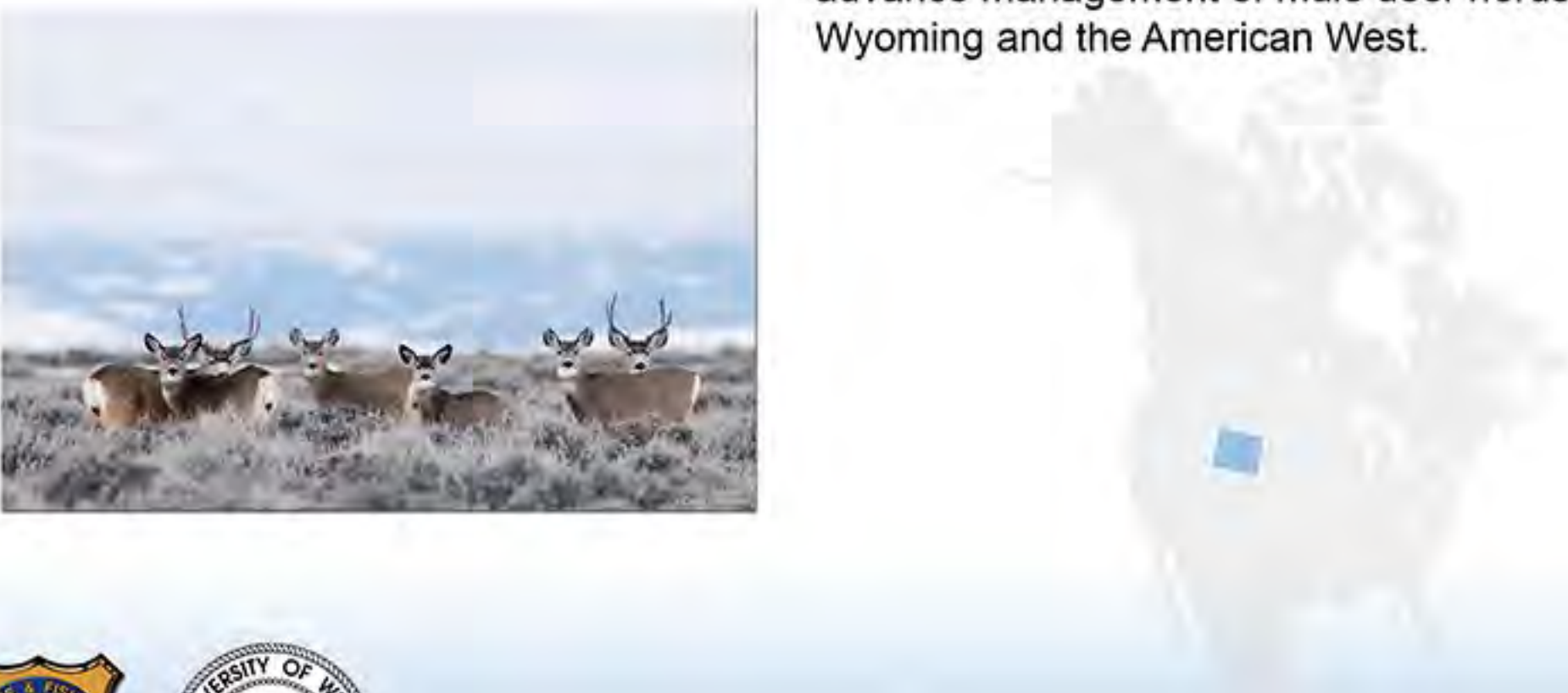
Year SCIF began involvement: 2018 (Timeline: 2012-2021)

Project Objectives

- 1) Evaluate the costs and benefits associated with different migratory strategies.
- 2) Understand the herd-level benefit of maintaining a diversity of migration tactics.
- 3) Monitor the timing of the fall migration to inform wildlife managers how best to harvest the herd.

Anticipated Outcomes

Long-distance migration is key to productivity of some big game herds; yet, many such movements are declining globally. Wildlife researchers are beginning to piece together not only the benefit of long-distance migration, but also the benefits of maintaining multiple migratory tactics for herd-level performance. Results of this work will have applied benefits for conserving mule deer migration and will advance management of mule deer herds across Wyoming and the American West.



Africa Projects

Since 2008, SCI Foundation has:

Invested more than \$3.5 million in African conservation projects.

Worked with over 12 species in 15 countries.

Focused on wildlife population studies, wildlife genetics, anti-poaching initiatives, human-wildlife conflict, and community-based conservation.

15 Countries

Botswana
Cameroon
Congo
Ethiopia
Gabon
Kenya
Malawi
Mozambique
Namibia
South Africa
Swaziland
Tanzania
Uganda
Zambia
Zimbabwe

12 Species

Black Rhino
Buffalo
Elephant
Hippopotamus
Leopard
Lion
Mountain Nyala
Sitatunga
Spotted Hyenas
White Rhino
Wildebeest
Zebra



ANTI-POACHING PROJECTS IN AFRICA

The Dyck Advisory Group (DAG) has proven themselves to be effective and professional and is as committed as the Kruger National Park themselves to the rhino campaign There is a high level of confidence that any donation to DAG will be spent wisely and will ensure a direct contribution to ensure the much-needed longevity of the current winning recipe of integrated operations." - General Johan Jooste Head of Special Project (anti-poaching) South Africa National Parks.



MOZAMBIQUE ANTI-POACHING PROJECT

Species involved: Primarily rhino

Project partners: The GEOS Foundation, The Dyck Advisory Group Conservation Trust

Total SCIF Investment: \$50,000

Year SCIF began involvement: 2018 (Timeline: 2015 - Ongoing)

SAVE VALLEY CONSERVANCY PROJECT

Species involved: Primarily rhino and elephant

Project partner: Save Valley Conservancy

Total SCIF Investment: \$25,000 (Funded by HLF)

Year SCIF began involvement: 2018 (Timeline: 2011 - Ongoing)

COMMUNITY-BASED ANTI-POACHING TRAINING IN NAMIBIA

Species involved: Primarily rhino and elephant

Project partner: Namibian Association of Conservancy Support Organizations (NACSO)

Total SCIF Investment: \$25,000 (Total need: 25,000)

Year SCIF began involvement: 2017 (Timeline: 2017 - Ongoing)

SMART TRAINING IN TANZANIA SELOUS GAME RESERVE

Species involved: Primarily rhinos and elephants

Project partner: College of African Wildlife Management, Mweka

Total SCIF Investment: \$50,000 (Total need: \$50,000)

Year SCIF began involvement: 2017 (Timeline: 2017 - Ongoing)



TANZANIA RUAHA BUFFALO DISEASE SURVEY



Species involved: Cape Buffalo

Project partners: UC Davis, Ruaha National Park

Total SCIF Investment: \$65,000

Year SCIF began involvement: 2015 (Timeline: 2014-2018)

Project Objectives

- 1) Conduct a health assessment of up to 35 adult buffaloes from at least 3 herds within Ruaha National Park (RNP), which includes testing bovine tuberculosis, Brucellosis, Rift Valley fever virus, and various other blood-borne pathogens.
- 2) Quantify seasonal movement patterns for cape buffalo and determine ecological drivers for movements.
- 3) Identify high risk wildlife-livestock interface areas.
- 3) Collect population and demographic data on buffalo herds within RNP.

Anticipated Outcomes

This project seeks to identify the disease and other factors governing populations of Cape buffalo, one of the most desired hunted species in Africa. The results will be used to manage this population more effectively for sustainable use. The project also takes place in one of the largest remaining contiguous ecosystems in the African continent on a hunted species of international importance. It will help build in-country capacity for wildlife research and management.



POPULATION SIZE AND ECOLOGY OF SITATUNGA IN UGANDA



Species involved: Sitatunga

Project partner: University of Alberta: Department of Biological Sciences and Uganda Wildlife Authority

Total SCIF Investment: \$25,000 (With help from HLF) (Total need: \$25,000)

Year SCIF began involvement: 2017 (Timeline: 2015-2017)

Project Objectives

- 1) Estimate home range and density of adult Sitatunga in Uganda Mayanja River system in Uganda.
- 3) Use GPS collars and genetic testing to evaluate movements among Sitatunga populations in Uganda.

Anticipated Outcomes

The results of this study will be used to guide management decisions and harvest quotas for this game species. Identification of important habitat, movement corridors, and connectivity will aid in the effective administration of sitatunga conservation across their range. By expanding on existing wildlife management techniques, new data from this project will motivate landowners to conserve wetlands and contribute to the sustainable economy of well-regulated hunting.



ESTIMATING LION ABUNDANCE IN TANZANIA



Species involved: Lion

Project partners: Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute, The State University of New York

Total SCIF Investment: \$500,000+ (With help from HLF and Fighting For Lions)

Year SCIF began involvement: 2014 (Timeline: 2014-Ongoing)

Project Objectives

- 1) Compare various techniques including call-up stations, track surveys, and camera surveys to estimate lion abundance.
- 2) Evaluate improvements to survey techniques, such as call types and tracker experience.
- 3) Estimate costs to conduct surveys and identify tradeoffs among cost-efficiency, accuracy, and precision in lion surveys.

Anticipated Outcomes

This project is one of the few to quantitatively compare survey methods for lions in the field, and has produced the most efficient and accurate techniques available. As such, it is critical to assessment of lion populations in southern Africa. More effective surveys help to retain the ability to sustainably manage lions through regulated harvest.



IUCN AFRICAN ELEPHANT DATABASE



Species involved: African Elephants

Project partner: IUCN African Elephant Specialist Group

Total SCIF Investment: \$30,000

Year SCIF began involvement: 2016 (Timeline: 2011-Ongoing)

Project Objectives

- 1) Reduce illegal killing of elephants and illegal trade in elephant products by utilizing science-based management techniques.
- 2) Maintain elephant habitats and restore connectivity among elephant populations across Africa.
- 3) Reduce human-elephant conflict by utilizing the best-available science to guide wildlife management decisions.

Anticipated Outcomes

SCI Foundation became a member of the IUCN in 2016 and has been active in supporting better management of elephants for longer than that. The Elephant Status Report is a critical resource for science-based elephant management in the region. By supporting initiatives like this report, SCIF ensures that sustainable use remains important in management of elephants and other iconic African species.



African Elephant Status Report 2016

An update from the African Elephant Database

© 2016 IUCN. All Rights Reserved. IUCN is a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the World Conservation Union (WCU).



**AFRICAN
ELEPHANT
SPECIALIST
GROUP**

Asia Projects

Since 2008, SCI Foundation has:

Invested more than \$1 million in Asian conservation projects.

Worked with over 10 species in 8 countries.

Focused on population surveys, human-wildlife conflict and endangered species conservation. Emphasis on Argali sheep and predator species research and applied management in Central Asia.

8 Countries

Kazakhstan
Kyrgyzstan
Mongolia
Nepal
Pakistan
Russia
Tajikistan
Vietnam

10 Species

Argali Sheep
Brown Bears
Ibex
Annamite Muntjac
Large-Antlered Muntjac
Markhor
Urial Sheep
Saiga Antelope
Saola
Snow Leopard



KAZAKHSTAN ARGALI SHEEP CONSERVATION INITIATIVE



Species involved: Tian Shen Argali

Main project partner: Republic of Kazakhstan, Wild Sheep Foundation

Total SCIF Investment: \$5,000 plus over \$300,000 has been contributed towards conservation through the sale of hunting permits

Year SCIF began involvement: 2017 (Project timeline: 2017-2018)

Project Objectives

- 1) Build Kazakhstan ownership and political will of stakeholders (citizens, local communities, private landholders, and Kazakhstan government agencies) in the a program for community-based conservation of argali sheep.
- 2) Determine wild sheep seasonal habitat use and population movement patterns.

Anticipated Outcomes

This project seeks to promote long-term conservation of Tien Shen argali through the formation of community-based sustainable use concessions funded by the Kazakhstan Conservation Management Fee (KCMF). The project will establish wild sheep conservation management strategies based on scientific knowledge from Kazakhstan and other comparable jurisdictions.



ECOLOGY OF THE EASTERN CAUCASUS TUR



Species involved: East Caucasian tur or Dagestan tur

Project partners: Russian Academy of Sciences: Caspian Institute of Biological Resources

Total SCIF Investment: \$5,000

Year SCIF began involvement: 2017 (Project timeline: 2017-2018)

Project Objectives

- 1) Study tur density, home range size, and space-use.
- 2) Evaluate population demographics, including: sex-age structures, reproduction, and mortality rates.
- 3) Study tur dietary habits and food availability.
- 4) Raise awareness of local communities via workshops, lectures, and publications about the value and importance of Eastern Caucasian tur.
- 5) Involve local communities and create anti-poaching teams to combat resource theft.

Anticipated Outcomes

This study will provide the first quantitative assessment of Caucasian tur populations in more than 20 years. These data will be used to support a long term, community-based conservation program that includes sustainable harvest. Information about population structure can show a true state of the species and provide data to support current hunting programs that contribute to tur conservation.



PAKISTAN SNOW LEOPARD PROJECT



Species involved: Snow Leopard

Project partners: Baltistan Wildlife Conservation and Development Organization

Total SCIF Investment: \$20,000

Year SCIF began involvement: 2017 (Project timeline: 2008-2017)

Project Objectives

- 1) Conduct scat-based surveys across the range of snow leopard in Pakistan.
- 2) Train local villagers on survey techniques.
- 3) Calculate abundance estimates.

Anticipated Outcomes

The results of the study will be helpful in determining the trend in snow leopard abundance in northern Pakistan and contribute to our understanding of community-based conservation that aim at sustainable use and management of wild resources.



ABUNDANCE AND PREY AVAILABILITY FOR SNOW LEOPARDS IN NEPAL



Species involved: Snow Leopard

Project partner: KTK-BELT, Inc.

Total SCIF Investment: \$16,000

Year SCIF began involvement: 2017 (Project timeline: Ongoing)

Project Objectives

- 1) Estimate abundance of snow leopards using camera trap technique.
- 2) Assess prey availability focusing on blue sheep.
- 3) Training: Workshops to train villagers in scat collection – handling, storage and preservation techniques.
- 4) Implement community-based monitoring of snow leopards and design and develop educational modules.

Anticipated Outcomes

Little is known about snow leopard populations in Nepal or Pakistan. This project will address information gaps while also building local capacity and interest for broader conservation goals.



ABUNDANCE AND POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS OF TAJIKISTAN ARGALI



Species involved: Marcio Polo Argali Sheep

Project partner: New Mexico State University and Tajikistan Academy of Sciences

Total SCIF Investment: \$500,000+

Year SCIF began involvement: 2010 (Timeline: 2010-Ongoing)

Project Objectives

- 1) Determine population characteristics of Argali Sheep in the eastern Pamir region of Tajikistan.
- 2) Estimate population densities and male population age class structure.



Anticipated Outcomes

SCI Foundation is proud of our longest running project in Asia as it goes into its 8th year of conserving the Marco Polo Sheep. This project helped contribute to a science-based harvest quota being established in Tajikistan along with a positive ruling in Mongolia regarding Argali hunting. Community-based conservation continues to grow in Tajikistan, with sustainable harvest of argali sheep and other species as a critical component.



COMMUNITY-BASED CONSERVATION OF MARKHOR IN PAKISTAN



Species involved: Markhor

Main project partner: Wildlife Conservation Society

Total SCIF Investment: \$50,000

Year SCIF began involvement: 2016 (Timeline: 2016-2020)

Project Objectives

- 1) Train and deploy local wildlife rangers to monitor and protect wildlife, including markhor.
- 2) Maintain a permanent, locally co-managed monitoring program to assess and monitor trends in markhor populations.
- 3) Support and improve capacity to facilitate community-based management of natural resources to protect markhor.

Anticipated Outcomes

Maintain a permanent, locally co-managed program to assess and monitor trends in markhor populations. Perhaps the most impressive global indication of this success has been the recent 2015 IUCN Red List down-listing of markhor from 'Endangered' status past the next level ("Vulnerable") to "Near Threatened." This almost unprecedented two-step down-listing shows the extent with which this form of community based conservation can succeed, as local people have taken responsibility for successfully protecting markhor as their iconic emblem of these mountains.



**Wildlife
Conservation
Society**

FUTURE PROJECTS

The Safari Club International Foundation has been making a difference for wildlife conservation for more than a decade. However, conservation needs to continue to grow! The following are just a few examples of worthwhile projects we hope to support in the coming years.

Alberta Cougar Bighorn Predator-Prey Project: Our research will help to inform the Alberta government on the best way forward in managing cougars and bighorn populations on reclaimed mine lands.

Texas Bighorn Sheep Restoration Program: The Desert Bighorn Sheep Restoration Program will ensure that bighorn can recover and continue to roam the mountain ranges of West Texas for generations to come.

Deer-Elk Ecology Research (DEER) Project: This project will fill in critical gaps in our understanding of mule deer and elk population dynamics and movement ecology in the mountain West.

Namibia Leopard Census: Recent years have seen increased pressure from international regulatory agencies on hunting of big cats, including leopards. More comprehensive survey and monitoring data are critical to addressing these concerns and to addressing leopard conservation long-term. This project will provide the first leopard abundance data in Namibia since 2010/2011.

Tajikistan Bukhara Urial Community-Based Conservation: The results of the project are expected to become another showcase for conservation through sustainable use, particularly through sport hunting and involvement of local people as game managers, rangers and guides.

Nepal Blue Sheep Hunting Opportunities: Although Nepal is a primary destination for hunting blue sheep, the distribution and abundance of this species in the country is poorly understood. This project will provide preliminary information about the population, with the result of potentially opening additional areas of Nepal for sustainable use.

DONATE TO SCI FOUNDATION TODAY!

Safari Club International Foundation needs YOU! Over the past 10 years alone, SCI Foundation has spent MILLIONS on conservation worldwide and we couldn't have done it without your help! Hunters are making a difference in conserving the world's wildlife and wild places by staying involved. Let us be clear, we are FIRST FOR WILDLIFE and with your help, we will continue to help represent the sustainable use community at every turn!

\$0.79 of every dollar you spend on SCI Foundation goes DIRECTLY to projects like the ones in these pages and FUTURE projects like the ones above.



Visit our website at
www.SafariClubFoundation.org

Like, follow and share SCI Foundation on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!
And follow our First for Wildlife blog at www.firstforwildlife.com



Safari Club International Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that funds and directs worldwide programs dedicated to wildlife conservation and outdoor education. SCI Foundation ensures the best available science is used in wildlife policy and management, and demonstrates the constructive role that hunting and hunters play in the conservation of biodiversity worldwide. The organization is "First for Wildlife," investing millions of dollars into wildlife conservation and education every year. All donations to SCI Foundation are tax-deductible.