

2010-2011 Annual Report

President's Message

It's hard to believe another year has gone by. When I look back at how the Zoo has grown and what we've achieved this year, I couldn't be more appreciative of our supporters and more proud of our staff. Our staff's professionalism and dedication to our conservation mission is remarkable, and their unwavering commitment to providing a high level of care for our animals and quality experience for our guests gives me hope we are truly making a difference in Colorado Springs and around the world.

With the recent passing of our magnificent male African lion Elson, his impact on both conservation and the community became abundantly clear. Elson arrived at the Zoo in 1995 from the Kapama Reserve in South Africa. At that time, many lions in U.S. zoos were a hybrid of Asian and African lions. African born, Elson's genetics were quite valuable to the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Species Survival Plan program, ensuring genetic viability in the future. In 2000, Elson was introduced to Angie, who was also wild-born, and soon they welcomed their first litter of cubs. Elson and Angie went on to have four litters, a total of 13 cubs, now living in zoos across the country. His offspring are an important contribution to the African lion population in AZA-accredited zoos.

Elson was a magnificent ambassador for his species. He was a strikingly beautiful animal who inspired the admiration of staff and guests. Every morning and evening, Elson's incredible roar would reverberate through the Zoo. He was also a great father to his cubs, patient and playful, and undeniably the leader of his pride. After his passing, I understood the impact he had on our staff, but I was overwhelmed by the many comments we received and what he meant to our guests, young and old.

Elson's legacy will not only live on through his cubs and grandcubs across the nation, but also in the hearts of our staff and guests. We hope all the animals in our care at the Zoo will have a similar impact on our guests, and inspire caring and respect for the natural world.

— Bob Chastain
President & CEO

Our Mission

A leader in conservation, captive breeding and animal care, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo connects people with wildlife and wild places through experiences that inspire action.

Our Vision

Every Kid. Every Time. Goosebumps!

Every kid, of any age, will have an experience for a lifetime with every visit.

A Record Year!



Cheyenne Mountain Zoo welcomed a record 574,209 guests this year! More than 60 percent of our guests came from right here in the Pikes Peak region, 22 percent visited from other areas of Colorado, and the remaining 17

percent came to the Zoo from outside Colorado. We are also proud to report 15,163 local households held a Zoo membership.

Of more than 200 zoos accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), Cheyenne Mountain Zoo is one of only nine operating without tax support. We couldn't do it without the tremendous support we receive from our community! Volunteers provided the Zoo with more than 24,000 valuable service hours this year. And, our dedicated group of 106 active docents provided 15,066 volunteer and interpretive service hours. Thank you for supporting your Zoo!

Field Trip

Schools from every district in our region bring students to the Zoo to learn first-hand about animals, the environment and conservation. This past year, 12,000 students visited the Zoo with their class. In fact, the Zoo was named "Best Field Trip" in 2011 by the *Gazette*.

Our Zoo on the Move animal outreach program, sponsored by Central Bancorp, continues to travel throughout the community, connecting with people unable to visit Zoo grounds. This past year, outreach animals such as our popular red-tailed boa snake, striped skunk and opossum connected with 33,750 people! Outreach programs are presented to students in Title One schools and residents of adult care facilities through scholarship funds. To date, Zoo on the Move has visited 80% of Title One schools in our region.



Did You Know?

This past September, the Zoo celebrated the distinction of accreditation by the AZA through 2015. We underwent a detailed application process and rigorous on-site inspection by a team of trained professionals to ensure the Zoo meets animal care, veterinary program, conservation, education, and safety standards. The Zoo passed with flying colors! In fact, the AZA accreditation review team commented that Cheyenne Mountain Zoo had one of the best inspections they had seen. Fewer than 10 percent of the approximately 2,400 animal exhibitors licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture are AZA-accredited.

At the end of 2010, the Zoo welcomed a six-year-old female Mexican gray wolf named Weeko (meaning beautiful girl). Weeko joined our 10-year-old male, Masadi (meaning moon), in Rocky Mountain Wild. She was sent from the California Wolf Center on a breeding recommendation as part of the AZA Species Survival Plan (SSP). Weeko and Masadi immediately showed signs of comradeship and we hope to welcome wolf pups in the near future.



The Zoo's famous reticulated giraffe herd went green in February! The growth in attendance means more people are feeding the giraffes. Nutritional research indicated it was time for us to cut back on the starchy treats, so romaine lettuce was added to the feeding experience as a healthy alternative to the traditional giraffe crackers. The giraffes still occasionally get crackers, but mixing in a little salad offers the giraffes a healthy variety throughout the day.

In March, the first-ever red river hoglets were born at Cheyenne Mountain Zoo. The hoglets, a boy and a girl, weighed in at a little over two pounds at birth. The female, Safara (meaning fire), now weighs in at 25 pounds and the male, Akoni (meaning brave warrior), tips the scales at a healthy 45 pounds. The pair can be seen with their parents rooting and wallowing in African Rift Valley.



The Zoo continued to connect with the community in unique ways. Throughout the year, events such as Run to the Shrine, the Annual Plant Sale, Moonlight on the Mountain, Stargazing Series, Boo at the Zoo and Electric Safari grew attendance and helped introduce a more diverse audience to the Zoo.

Your Vote Can Change the World

The results are in! April 30, 2011, marked the end of the third year of our guest-driven Quarters for Conservation (Q4C) program. Thanks to your support, Q4C raised \$110,368. Of the funds raised, 50 percent supports the Zoo's existing conservation programs, such as the black footed-ferret, Wyoming toad and Pawnee mountain skipper (a native butterfly). The remaining 50 percent was distributed to the following programs based upon guest votes:

- **Wild African vultures - \$7,654.71**
- **Amphibians in Panama - \$8,421.86**
- **Wild Amur leopards and tigers - \$9,069.81**
- **African penguins - \$11,881.79**
- **Endangered wild orangutans and their forest habitat - \$12,521.36**
- **Snow leopards - \$17,666.01**

Funds raised through Q4C contributed to conservation efforts around the globe. This year, a Zoo team led by President Bob Chastain traveled to the jungles of Panama as part of a global effort to save amphibian species on the verge of extinction due to chytrid fungus. The team was searching for the endangered *Atelopus limosus* harlequin frog, and collected one female, two males, and a juvenile. Until this trip, there was only one *Atelopus limosus* female and four males in captivity in the world. The female found by the team is especially important in creating a viable, sustainable population.

Q4C funds also supported a Zoo team to travel to Indonesia to investigate the palm oil crisis first-hand. Based upon the team's findings, the Zoo is supporting companies who join the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO). Sustainable palm oil comes from a plantation committed to producing palm oil in a way that minimizes impact on wildlife, indigenous people, and the planet. To help support orangutans in the wild, the Zoo developed an online resource center to inform the public about the palm oil crisis and provide everyday choices that can make a difference. The Zoo also became a member of the RSPO, the first zoo in the world to join!

Q4C funds continue to support the Zoo's work in our off-exhibit Conservation Center. For 20 years, the Zoo has been involved in the black-footed ferret recovery program. This past year, we had a very successful black-footed ferret breeding season, with 31 new kits born! Of this total, 20 kits and one adult black-footed ferret were released into the wild. With each successful breeding and release, the Zoo is contributing to the recovery of this endangered species.

The Zoo also cares for and breeds a collection of Wyoming toads, an amphibian now extinct in the wild. This past year, we paired seven female Wyoming toads and had five lay egg masses. We had over 3,000 eggs total, but experienced low fertility, as 1,600 eggs hatched. Of this total, 1,000 were released at Buford Lake, Wyoming. Twenty eggs from the genetically valuable pairing were held back and we have five toads for future breeding.

Because of your involvement in this program, Q4C is truly making a difference for animals and the environment around the world, and good news travels fast! The success of the Zoo's Q4C program inspired 12 other zoos to begin their own Q4C program.



There is Always Something New at the Zoo

This year we began construction on the first phase of our new Encounter Africa exhibit! Encounter Africa will provide more space for our elephant herd, allow us to bring the critically endangered black rhino back to the Zoo, relocate our pride of lions, and allow us to add a second mob of meerkats.

The state-of-the-art elephant barn, featuring a splash stall, sand stall and enrichment tree, will open this summer. After the elephants transition to the new barn, the current elephant building will be torn down to make way for an incredible outdoor exhibit. The outdoor exhibit is scheduled to open summer 2012. The new lion exhibit overlooking African Rift Valley is slated to open summer 2013. As part of the capital campaign, a new Australia exhibit is also planned for summer 2014.

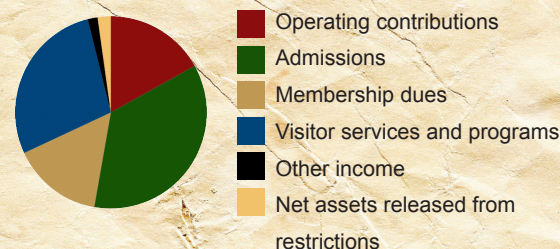
Encounter Africa is resonating with our community. Guests are participating in the "Round Up" campaign in Grizzly Grill, members are adding donations when purchasing memberships, and donors are giving generously. To date, we have raised \$10,800,000 of our \$13.5 million capital campaign goal. We can't thank you enough for your support of Encounter Africa!



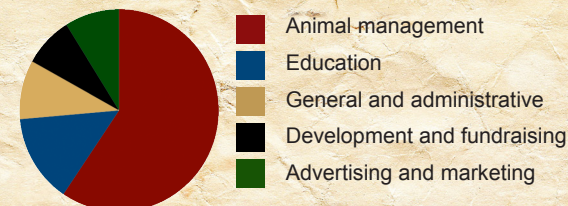
Financial Summary

May 1, 2010 – April 30, 2011

Support & Revenue – Total Operating Income \$8,869,141



Expenses – Total Operating Expenses \$7,461,403



Net Assets, May 1, 2010	\$23,847,728
Net Surplus from Operations	\$1,407,738
Add Net Assets Released for Capital Assets	\$3,394,448
Less Depreciation this Period	\$(1,620,880)
Net Assets, April 30, 2011	\$27,029,034

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, a non-profit 501(c)3, is one of a handful of accredited zoos in the nation that operates without local tax support, depending entirely on admissions, membership dues, donations and grants for funding. All gifts are tax deductible.

Guiding Our Growth

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Cheyenne Mountain Zoo is grateful to all of our patrons who support our vision of inspiring caring and stewardship of the natural world. As a self-funded facility, our donors and sponsors are critical to our success. Although all gifts are deeply appreciated, space precludes us from individually acknowledging all our generous friends. The following supporters contributed gifts of \$2,500 or more from May 2010 to April 2011:

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