

## **Endangered Species 10 Pin Set - Wildlife Rescue Initiative**

### **(1) Polar Bear**

The polar bear is a carnivorous bear whose native range lies largely within the Arctic Circle, encompassing the Arctic Ocean, its surrounding seas and surrounding land masses. It is a large bear, approximately the same size as the Kodiak bear. A boar (adult male) weighs around 770–1,540 lbs., while a sow (adult female) is about half that size. Although it is the sister species of the brown bear, it has evolved to occupy a narrower ecological niche, with many body characteristics adapted for cold temperatures, for moving across snow, ice, and open water, and for hunting the seals which make up most of its diet. Although most polar bears are born on land, they spend most of their time at sea. Their scientific name means "maritime bear", and derives from this fact. Polar bears hunt their preferred food of seals from the edge of sea ice, often living off fat reserves when no sea ice is present. The polar bear is classified as a vulnerable species, with eight of the nineteen polar bear subpopulations in decline.

An Ottawa girl who has raised thousands of dollars for polar bear conservation got an up-close encounter with one of the animals at the Assiniboine Park Zoo on Friday. Olivia Clement, 11, who has made and sold polar bear figurines, launched a website, hosted fundraisers and donated more than \$12,000 for the World Wildlife Fund to help the threatened species. But the enthusiastic conservationist had never seen a polar bear in real life before last year. "Some time ago, we received a letter from Olivia. She wanted to know about our Journey to Churchill exhibit and how we care for polar bears at Assiniboine Park Zoo," said Don Peterkin, chief operations officer for the Assiniboine Park Conservancy. "We were so inspired by her passion and dedication we promised that if she ever made it to Winnipeg, we would give her the opportunity to meet our bears." In 2014, Clement and her mom, Julie Clement, toured the zoo's new state-of-the-art Journey to Churchill exhibit, which now houses eight polar bears including the polar bear named Hudson. Clement got a chance to participate in Hudson's positive reinforcement training. She returned to the zoo the next day to sell her polar bear figurines outside the Tundra Grill. All proceeds went to the zoo.

### **(2) Snow Leopard**

The snow leopard is a large cat native to the mountain ranges of Central and South Asia. It is listed as endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species because as of 2003, the size of the global population was estimated at 4,080-6,590 adults, of which fewer than 2,500 individuals may reproduce in the wild. Snow leopards inhabit alpine and subalpine zones at elevations from 9,800 feet to 14,800 feet. In the northern range countries, they also occur at lower elevations.

The snow leopard's cryptic nature, large home ranges, and small population densities make this cat hard to study. Beginning with Dr. George Schaller's work in Pakistan and Nepal in the 1970s, the Wildlife Conservation Society was a pioneer in snow leopard research and bringing the species' plight to international attention. Today WCS continues to be a leader in saving these majestic felines. In 2000, WCS co-sponsored an International Snow Leopard Conference in Beijing, where research biologists and government officials from 11 of the cat's range states shared information and discussed conservation priorities. WCS has also studied and worked to protect the species in **Mongolia**, Kyrgyzstan, **Afghanistan**, **Pakistan**, and **China**. Some of their field projects include creating public education campaigns to stop the purchase of snow leopard pelts, hosting training workshops, and providing ongoing support for government officials and community rangers who aim to stop poachers. WCS also works with local communities to help them preserve snow leopards and their prey species and assists governments in the design and management of protected areas for snow leopards.

### (3) Asian Lion

The Asiatic lion, also known as the Indian lion, is a lion subspecies that exists as a single isolated population in India's Gujarat State. Although presumed to be extinct in Persia (Iran), it is also known as the Persian lion. It is listed as Endangered by IUCN based on the small population size. The lion population has steadily increased in Gir Forest National Park, more than doubling from a low of 180 individuals in 1974 to a level of 411 individuals consisting of 97 adult males, 162 adult females, 75 sub-adults, and 77 cubs as of April 2010.

**George Adamson**, also known as the *Baba ya Simba* ("Father of Lions" in **Swahili**), was a British **wildlife conservationist** and author. He and his wife, **Joy Adamson**, are best known through the movie *Born Free* and best-selling book with the same title, which is based on the true story of **Elsa the Lioness**, an orphaned lioness cub they had raised and later released into the wild. Several other films have been made based on Adamson's life. George Alexander Graham Adamson was born 3 February 1906 in **Etawah**, then **British India**. Educated at **Dean Close School, Cheltenham**, England, he first visited **Kenya** in 1924. After a series of jobs, which included time as a gold prospector, goat trader, and professional safari **hunter**, he joined Kenya's game department in 1938 and was Senior Game Warden of the Northern Frontier District. Six years later, he married Joy. It was in 1956 that he raised the lioness cub, **Elsa**, who became the subject of the 1966 feature film *Born Free*. Adamson retired as a game warden in 1961 and devoted himself to his many lions. In 1970, he moved to the **Kora National Reserve** in northern Kenya to continue the rehabilitation of captive or orphaned big cats for eventual reintroduction into the wild. George and Joy separated in 1970, but continued to spend Christmas holidays together until she was murdered on 3 January 1980. On 20 August 1989 George Adamson was murdered in Kenya, East Africa, by Somali bandits when he went to the rescue of his assistant and a young European tourist in the Kora National Park. He is buried in the Kora National Park near his brother Terrance, Super Cub (Terrance's favourite lion), and his beloved lion friend Boy. He most likely would have had **Christian** (another favorite lion) buried next to him as well, but Christian was believed by George to have moved to new territory across the Tana river following a

period of time in Kora after being entrusted to George by his previous owners, John Rendall and Anthony Bourke.

#### Jane Speaks Out About Slain Lion

*"I was shocked and outraged to hear the story of Cecil, Zimbabwe's much loved lion. Not only is it incomprehensible to me that anyone would want to kill an endangered animal (fewer than 20,000 wild lions in Africa today) but to lure Cecil from the safety of a national park and then to shoot him with a crossbow...? I have no words to express my repugnance. He was not even killed outright, but suffered for hours before finally being shot with a bullet. And his magnificent head severed from his wounded body. And this behaviour is described as a "sport." Only one good thing comes out of this – thousands of people have read the story and have also been shocked. Their eyes opened to the dark side of human nature. Surely they will now be more prepared to fight for the protection of wild animals and the wild places where they live. Therein lies the hope."*

Jane Goodall, Ph.d., DBE

Founder, the Jane Goodall Institute & UN Messenger of Peace

#### (4) **Giant Panda**

Pandas are dying out mainly because of one main reason: habitat loss. Their main source of food is bamboo, which takes a long time to grow. This problem wasn't present when pandas were spread throughout the massive south-east of Asia, including China. Hence, when a forest of bamboo was being consumed by them, or a forest bloomed out, they could simply move to another bamboo forest, but as the forests have been cut down the Pandas are finding food supply harder to find after a bloom out. Industrialization needs people to clear off these ranges or lands for factories and agriculture. Hence, bamboo forests in Asia started to decline tremendously.

Wild pandas have been reported to die because of starvation simply because they cannot reach the next bamboo forest quickly enough, or at all. Habitat fragmentation affects their feeding, and mating as well, anytime the Panda has to leave their territory, they are at risk. Pandas, too, are picky regarding their mates. But an even larger problem than the panda's selective behavior is, females are only fertile, or in their reproductive cycle for about 5 days. For a male to find a female in the wild, and quickly enough to mate with her while she is still fertile, is a small miracle. The odds are against it happening, there are a lot fewer pandas surviving in the wild, and the habitat is filled with fences, walls, roads, and other obstacles.

Pandas are endangered because they are getting hunted by people who are killing off these animals without knowing that they are endangered and have no concerns, or cares about the balance and well-being of the ecosystem. The Panda is a specialized species and that creates a level of strain that is sensitive to any outside pressures and can quickly endanger the species continued survival. The panda's requirements are very restrictive, for example their diet; they really only eat bamboo, and in such quantities that it requires large bamboo forests with dense undergrowth to support them. They can now only be found in south-china. The "specialists" of the animal kingdom is in a way "predisposed" toward endangerment, and need to be watched or monitored closely when they come into contact with humans, or during any weather events that can cause serious damage to their

habitat. After decades of effort, wild panda numbers are rising, but there are still only 1,864 spread across 20 pockets of bamboo forest. And the remaining pandas still face a number of threats, particularly habitat loss and fragmentation. But the Chinese government is committed to conserving the species and its habitat, and has already drastically increased the number of panda reserves. World Wildlife Fund has been active in giant panda conservation since 1980, and is continuing to support the government's efforts to give the species more room to feed and breed.

#### (5) **Siberian Tiger**

It is estimated the wild population of Siberian tigers at around 350-450 tigers. Almost all wild Siberian tigers live the Southeast corner of Russia in the Sikhote-Alin mountain range east of the Amur River. Their former range included northeastern China and the Korean Peninsula, and as far west as Mongolia. They are the largest of the tiger species and can grow up to 13 feet in length and weigh up to 700 lbs. The Siberian or Amur tiger is considered a critically endangered species with the primary threats to its survival in the wild being poaching and habitat loss from intensive logging and development. Tigers are most commonly poached for their fur and for their body parts used in Traditional Chinese Medicine. It is estimated that in 1991 alone, one-third of the Siberian tiger population was killed to meet the demand for their bones and other parts used in this practice. This even though the practice is now unlawful in China. In 1993 the State Council of the People's Republic of China issued a notice declaring the use of tiger bone for medicinal purposes to be illegal. The Chinese government encouraged the Ministry of Public Health and the pharmaceutical companies to seek substitute medicines for tiger parts. However, because it is such a lucrative trade – a single tiger can bring up to \$50k on the International market- the practice is still flourishing. The other vital concern for the survival of the Siberian tiger in the wild is habitat loss. Research has demonstrated the Siberian tigers require vast forest landscapes to survive. However logging, both legal and illegal is threatening the tigers home by fragmenting their habitat thereby isolating them from each other. In addition, the continuous creation of new logging roads provide poachers with access to formerly remote areas. So in essence, for the Siberian tiger to survive in the wild, and no longer be considered an endangered species, two things must happen. First, habitat encroachment must stop and secondly, the thousands of years old tradition of using tiger parts for medicinal purposes must also end. These are formidable requirements.

Primorye in the Russian Far East is the only area in the world where both the **Amur tiger** – more commonly known as the Siberian tiger – and **Amur leopard** still exist in the wild. In spite of worldwide publicity, these big cats still face many threats – illegal poaching, human encroachment, deforestation, and a lack of natural prey species. An estimated 450 mature Amur tigers and 35 Amur leopards are left in the wild, and of the surviving tigers, only approximately 10% are found within protected areas. The numbers protected are not enough to sustain the population, and thus the future of the tiger is still at stake and depends on the attitude of the local people towards them. The Russian Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), Phoenix Fund was established in 1998 to help conserve Russia's rare and endangered wildlife. Led by Sergey Bereznuik, Phoenix works

closely with the local communities, conservation agencies and experts to develop and maintain a network committed to the conservation of the Primorye's habitats and wildlife. In the short-term, a war with poachers is being waged. But in the long-term it is re-education of the community that will ensure tiger survival. Through 'Tiger Outreach', local children are being taught about tigers and their conservation, A supported by summer camps and Tiger Festival Days is held annually at Vladivostok, Novopokrovka and Luchegorsk to celebrate the tiger. A Tiger Eco-Centre at Novopokrovka has been established with the support of other conservation organisations, visited by over 2,600 pupils in the district. As well as continuing to engage local communities to participate in conservation, Sergey is strengthening anti-poaching and habitat protection, and working to formalize research to aid the development of best practice. The Phoenix Fund is part of a coalition of organizations that recently succeeded in persuading the Russian Government to re-evaluate the routing of a 4,000 KM Pacific Oil pipeline and terminal through Amur Bay in Southwest Primorye, in the range of the Amur leopard. An essential task is to continue to address governmental inertia and bureaucracy through lobbying for greater protection of tiger habitat. Sergei has received Continuation Funding from the Whitley Fund For Nature (WFN) in 2007, 2010 and also won the first ever Whitley Fund For Nature (WFN) and World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Challenge Grant in 2010. He has also partnered with WFN in a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Wildlife Fund project to boost anti-poaching and forest-fire fighting efficiency to further protect big cats and their habitat.

#### **(6) Asian Elephant**

The Asian or Asiatic elephant is distributed in Southeast Asia from India in the west to Borneo in the east. Asian elephants are the largest living land animals in Asia. Since 1986, they has been listed as endangered by IUCN as the population has declined by at least 50% over the last three generations, estimated to be 60–75 years. Asian elephants are primarily threatened by degradation, fragmentation and loss of habitat, and poaching. In 2003, the wild population was estimated at between 41,410 and 52,345 individuals. Female captive elephants have lived beyond 60 years when kept in semi-natural surroundings, such as forest camps. In zoos, elephants die at a much younger age and are declining due to a low birth and high death rate.

Dame Daphne Marjorie Sheldrick, (née Jenkins; born 4 June 1934) is a Kenya-based British author, conservationist and expert in animal husbandry, particularly the raising and reintegrating of orphaned elephants into the wild for over 30 years. The Kenya-born Daphne Jenkins was educated at Nakuru Primary School and the Kenya High School where she matriculated in 1950 with Honours and the possibility of a bursary to attend university; however she opted for marriage. From 1955-76, she was co-warden of Tsavo National Park with her late husband, David Sheldrick (MBE). During that time she raised and rehabilitated back into the wild community orphans of misfortune from many

different wild species, including elephants, black rhinos, buffalo, zebras, elands, kudus, impalas, duikers, reedbuck, dikdiks, warthogs, civets, mongooses and birds. She is a recognized authority on the rearing of wild creatures and is the first person to have perfected the milk formula and necessary husbandry for both infant milk-dependent elephants and rhinos. After her husband's death in 1977, Daphne Sheldrick created the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust (DSWT) in Nairobi, Kenya. Embracing the conservation, preservation and protection of wildlife in Kenya, the DSWT today operates the most successful orphan-elephant rescue and rehabilitation program in the world alongside Anti-Poaching Teams, Mobile Veterinary Units and Aerial Surveillance and a Sky Vet initiative in partnership with the Kenya Wildlife Service. Other projects which aim to safeguard the natural environment and enhance community awareness include Saving Habitats and Community Outreach projects. Best known for their pioneering Orphans' Project, the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust has successfully rescued over 180 orphaned elephants and reintegrated over 90 back into the wild.

#### (7) Chimpanzee

Chimpanzees are an endangered species and are found in only 21 countries in equatorial Africa. There are four subspecies of chimpanzee, and each subspecies lives in a different area. There are an estimated 150,000 chimpanzees remaining in Africa. All of the factors contributing to the endangerment of chimpanzees can be attributed to humans including: habitat loss, logging, mining, drilling, hunting and human disease. Dame Jane Morris Goodall is an English primatologist, ethologist, anthropologist, and UN Messenger of Peace. Considered to be the world's foremost expert on chimpanzees, Goodall is best known for her 55-year study of social and family interactions of wild chimpanzees in Gombe Stream National Park, Tanzania. She is the founder of the Jane Goodall Institute and the Roots & Shoots program, and she has worked extensively on conservation and animal welfare issues.

#### (8) Gray Wolf

The gray wolf was once one of the world's most widely distributed mammals, living throughout the northern hemisphere north of 15°N latitude in North America and 12°N in India. However, deliberate human persecution has reduced the species' range to about one third, due to livestock predation and fear over attacks on humans. The species is now extinct in much of Western Europe, in Mexico and much of the USA. In modern times, the gray wolf occurs mostly in wilderness and remote areas, particularly in Canada, Alaska and northern USA, Europe, and Asia from about 75°N to 12°N. Wolf population declines have been arrested since the 1970s, and have fostered recolonization and reintroduction in parts of its former range, due to legal protection, changes in land-use and rural human population shifts to cities. Competition with humans for livestock and game species, concerns over the danger posed by wolves to people, and habitat fragmentation pose a continued threat to the species. Prior to 1995, wolves in Yellowstone National Park had been hunted to extinction which was a great tragedy. After Canadian wolves were reintroduced in the park in 1995, it had a dramatic effect on the park's animal and plant life. Overgrazing by elk and deer had been killing off the natural grasses as well as some of the trees. This was completely reversed when wolves

were reintroduced. Nature's natural checks and balances came back into play. With natural predators living and hunting in the park, the elk and deer started to avoid areas where the wolves hunted allowing natural grasses and trees to come back and providing opportunities for other species such as beavers and red fox to flourish. Unbelievably, these changes started to affect vegetation around rivers and streams even changing the direction that they flowed. Species that used to live in the Yellowstone National Park started to reappear. See the Youtube video link describing this amazing phenomenon below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ysa5OBhXz-Q>

#### (9) **Cheetah**

Cheetah cubs have a high mortality rate due to predation by other carnivores, such as the lion and hyena, and perhaps genetic factors. It has been suggested that the low genetic diversity of cheetahs is a cause of poor sperm, birth defects, cramped teeth, curled tails, and bent limbs. Some biologists even believe that they are too inbred to flourish as a species. Note, however, that they lost most of their genetic diversity thousands of years ago (see the beginning of this article), and yet seem to have only been in decline in the last century or so, suggesting that factors other than genetics are mainly responsible. Cheetahs are included on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) list of vulnerable species (Africa subspecies threatened, Asiatic subspecies in critical situation). Approximately 12,400 cheetahs remain in the wild in twenty-five African countries; Namibia has the most, with about 2,500. Another 50 to 60 critically endangered Asiatic cheetahs are thought to remain in Iran. There have been successful breeding programs, including the use of in vitro fertilization, in zoos around the world. The Ann Van Dyk Cheetah Center in South Africa was established in 1971, initially as a cheetah breeding project. The Centre has during the past 40 years bred over 800 cheetah cubs. Various conservation projects have been initiated since its inception which also includes a successful African wild dog breeding program. Known in the past as the De Wildt Cheetah Centre the name has recently been changed to the Ann Van Dyk Cheetah Centre as a tribute to the woman who has devoted her life to the survival of the cheetahs as well as other rare and endangered species.

#### (10) **Mountain Gorilla**

Mountain gorillas are one of the most endangered animals in the world. Scientists estimate that there are about 600 individuals, living in 2 populations of about 300 each, separated by about 20 miles. Their entire world consists of 285 square miles of high-elevation rain forest in east-central Africa. They are endangered from habitat

loss, poaching, and war. Despite their endangered status, until recently mountain gorillas were one of conservation's brightest success stories. Decades ago they were on the brink of extinction, when conservation measures reversed the decline and started them on the road to recovery. Today, they face a new threat — the aftermath of a tragic civil war that erupted in Rwanda in the early 1990s, claiming the lives of 500,000 people, and creating refugee camps with 750,000 people living in destitution on the borders of the gorillas' reserves. Continuing political unrest threatens to undo almost 20 years of remarkable conservation work. Dian Fossey (January 16, 1932 – c. December 26, 1985) was an American zoologist, primatologist, and anthropologist who undertook an extensive study of gorilla groups over a period of 18 years. She studied them daily in the mountain forests of Rwanda, initially encouraged to work there by anthropologist Louis Leakey. Her 1983 book, *Gorillas in the Mist*, combines her scientific study of the mountain gorilla at Karisoke Research Center with her own personal story. It was adapted into a 1988 film. Fossey was murdered in 1985; the case remains open.

The pins are priced at \$5.00 each. Some of the proceeds from the sale of the pins are going towards a wildlife rescue facility in Manitoba. To purchase one or more of these limited edition pins:

**Contact:** Ron Boily, President, Winnipeg Pin Collectors Club, 16 Donald McClintock Bay, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, R2G 3N3 Website: [www.winnipegpincollectorsclub.com](http://www.winnipegpincollectorsclub.com) (photos of the pins can be seen on this website) Phone: 204-667-6811 Cell: 204-771-7657

Special Thanks: A special thanks goes out to Dr. Robert Wrigley, renowned author, scientist and former curator of the Assiniboine Park Zoo in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Dr. Wrigley was my inspiration for creating this limited edition endangered species 10 pin set. Not only did he help me formulate the list of endangered species animals but he also personally selected the award winning wildlife photos that were used as the inspiration for the pin designs. A special thanks also goes out to Laurie Artiss in Regina which produced these high quality pins. The company has achieved international fame for its World Curling pins, Pan Am Games pins, Canada Games pins, CFL pins & Olympic pins from the 1988 Calgary Olympics and the 2010 Vancouver Olympics just to name a few. The quality of pins produced by this company is outstanding. People from all over the world marvel at the unique designs, the brilliant colors and the attention to detail that goes into each and every pin. If you happen to have a Laurie Artiss pin in your collection, then you know that you own a true work of art which will stand the test of time.