



ABOUT WILDLIFE TRUST PROGRAMS

Wildlife Trust's Edge of the Sea Aquatic Conservation Program

Wildlife Trust's Edge of the Sea Aquatic Conservation Program was created in 2001 to address urgent conservation issues in coastal areas. The program strives to promote better management of coastal habitats to help ensure that ecosystems remain intact, endangered species survive, and coastal people and their descendents benefit from their lives at the edge of the sea.

Solid science, partnerships and local expertise are critical to the successful resolution of conservation issues. The Edge of the Sea Aquatic Conservation Program has risen to this challenge to:

- * Create solutions-based research;
- * Recruit the best scientists;
- * Leverage greater effectiveness through partnerships;
- * Promote professional development and local institutional capacity.

Based in St. Petersburg Florida, the award-winning program is active in Alaska, Southeastern U.S., Argentina, Belize, Brazil, the Caribbean, Mexico and West Africa.

Coastal habitats, including mangrove forests, estuaries and seagrass meadows, are vital to the health and well being of ecosystems, wildlife and humans. Home to remarkable biodiversity and productivity, these delicate coastal environments where land meets the sea purify water and provide the natural habitat and nursery areas for a multitude of economically important species. Left intact, coastal habitats serve as the first defense against the devastation of major storms and tsunamis.

Nearly two-thirds of the world's population is concentrated in coastal habitats. Consequently, these fragile and valuable settings are severely threatened by pollution, over-exploitation, human-wildlife conflicts and development. Wildlife Trust, through our Edge of the Sea aquatic conservation program, is one of the few conservation organizations that focuses on this critical ecosystem.

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Wildlife Trust's Conservation Medicine Program

The extinction of species across the globe is accelerating, directly or indirectly due to human activities. Biological impoverishment, habitat fragmentation, climate change, increasing toxification, and the rapid global movement of people and other living organisms have worked synergistically to diminish ecosystem function. This has resulted in unprecedented levels of disease, driven by human-induced environmental degradation, which poses a threat to the survival and health of all species.

In response to this global challenge, Wildlife Trust is pioneering the new field of Conservation Medicine, the discipline that examines the links between the health of ecosystems, wildlife and humans. Wildlife Trust plays a critical role in protecting healthy ecosystems, maintaining biodiversity and achieving sustainability.

Since its inception, the Conservation Medicine program at Wildlife Trust has pioneered this new discipline through international, collaborative research that focuses on understanding the ecology of wildlife disease and the links to human health, ecological health and the conservation of biodiversity.

The program's research has been instrumental in revealing the impact of emerging diseases of marine wildlife populations. Our international network brings applied solutions to field practitioners of Conservation Medicine accomplished through transdisciplinary teams, innovative research, scientific excellence, and long-term monitoring of sentinel species. Our goal is to influence education and policy resulting in the conservation of biodiversity.

Wildlife Trust Global Alliance

Over the last ten years, Wildlife Trust has cultivated an unparalleled network of strongly committed, award-winning conservation scientists in developing countries around the world called the Wildlife Trust Alliance. This network has been a great success because all member organizations share a common vision: that conservation is best achieved through applied science and community-based, cooperative activities designed by local professionals. Established in 2004, the Wildlife Trust Alliance currently has ten institutional members and five individual members.

Wildlife Trust and the Wildlife Trust Alliance are successfully building a unique collaboration of diverse field research programs from the ground up, employing respected and highly-trained local scientists and educators. Looking forward, Wildlife Trust Alliance members plan to increase the capacity of their scientific research to have a greater impact on policy decisions, to continue to develop model projects in conservation and to create joint research and publication ventures among Wildlife Trust Alliance members.

*To learn more about our programs and important work around the world
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