



VIEW

Veterinary Initiative for
Endangered Wildlife



OUR MISSION

To protect endangered wildlife by tackling the health threats they face in their native habitats.

OUR VISION

A world where all countries have the commitment and local capacity to support wildlife health as a cornerstone of conservation.



www.viewwildlife.org

Wildlife health is the missing piece to conservation

We are in a race as our planet is experiencing a sixth mass extinction. The United Nations (UN) has declared **1 million animal and plant species as threatened with extinction** and, if we don't act now, 50% of all species on the planet will be extinct by 2050.

Human and domestic animal populations have exploded in recent decades. This increased population shrinks critical habitats and forces wildlife to live in closer proximity to people, their pets, and farm animals – allowing diseases to be more easily transmitted between species.

While there are conservation groups addressing anti poaching, habitat encroachment and climate change, wildlife populations are still declining and **little work is being done to investigate how health threats and shared diseases are causing this decline**. It is time to prioritize wildlife health in the field of conservation, to help endangered species sustain healthy populations before extinction trends become irreversible.



“It is time to prioritize wildlife health in the field of conservation”

VIEW is an essential part of the solution

In recent decades thousands of critically important species have been declared threatened or endangered. Conservation medicine – wildlife health – not only helps us understand why these animals are dying but can help determine treatment and preventive measures necessary to avoid species extinction.

Veterinary Initiative for Endangered Wildlife (VIEW) is a nonprofit conservation organization focused on **addressing wildlife health threats as part of a comprehensive strategy** for protecting endangered wildlife populations around the world. Our approach is straightforward: **We support locally sustainable wildlife disease investigation, prevention, and treatment**. We accomplish this by providing education to local stakeholders, the tools and technology to conduct research, and promoting policies which ensure healthy environments for wildlife – and the people and domestic animals who share their habitats.

VIEW's approach is sustainable, evidence-based and collaborative

VIEW makes a **global impact on wildlife health** by strategically choosing the countries and regions in which we work – considering the biodiversity and number of critically endangered species in the region, as well as the possibility to partner with governments and local agencies to create **sustainable wildlife conservation programs**. Our main course of action includes:



EDUCATION

Education, hands-on training and mentoring are critical to empowering local wildlife professionals to better understand and respond to health risks facing endangered wildlife populations. It is also key to the sustainability of the local conservation efforts. VIEW's team of wildlife veterinarians work with local veterinarians, field professionals, students, universities, governments, and other NGOs, providing the **knowledge, skills, and resources to best serve their wildlife populations**.



TOOLS & TECHNOLOGY

Successful wildlife health programs can only be achieved with correct **tools and technology**. From the field hospital and molecular lab to the microscope and field instruments, VIEW has provided wildlife professionals with the necessary infrastructure.

Understanding the cause of illness or death of wildlife populations is critical in preventing future outbreaks or pandemics. VIEW has brought technology into the field of conservation by developing the **first digital disease surveillance system, Wildlife Health Information System (WHIS)**. This technology can help us track location, study disease dynamics, and better analyze health trends. With the use of WHIS, wildlife professionals around the world can easily collect and share information about sick or dying animals, disease, treatment, and prevention.

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RESEARCH

VIEW's training, tools, and technology provide the foundation for research, which impacts the survival of entire species. Our research not only enables the discovery of endangered wildlife health threats but also empowers local scientists to research and publish their discoveries to an international audience.



VIEW's success story from Nepal

VIEW began its work in 2012 in Chitwan National Park, Nepal, where VIEW veterinary staff collaborated with the National Trust for Nature Conservation and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation to develop the **first comprehensive wildlife health program**. Nepal was a perfect location for VIEW to begin its work as it is rich in wildlife biodiversity and is threatened by the close association between human development and wildlife in their ever-shrinking native habitats.

Highlights of our work in Nepal include:

- VIEW and its partners trained over 200 wildlife veterinarians, technicians, and park staff in multiple aspects of wildlife health, including safe wildlife capture, disease surveillance, and clinical medicine. The key was to **empower local professionals to address wildlife health threats and pass their training along to others**.

“Wildlife health is now a national priority in Nepal and has adopted its first national wildlife health action plan.”

- VIEW provided veterinary expertise with a local salaried position, built a field laboratory and necropsy area, and helped its partners build a molecular laboratory and the first wildlife health hospital. Wildlife health is now a national priority in Nepal and has adopted its first national wildlife health action plan.
- VIEW and its collaborators' research in Nepal include **diagnosing the first wild rhino with tuberculosis**, identification of shared diseases of domestic animal diseases with tigers, and **saving the first Asian elephant from the deadly herpes virus**. These discoveries and treatments are now used as templates to help other endangered species.
- As a result of VIEW's conservation work with its local partners in Nepal, **the number of tigers doubled and the rhino population improved by 15%**. This success in Nepal has provided a template for VIEW's global efforts to save endangered species from extinction.

VIEW'S
CURRENT PROJECTS





Elephant health

Elephants are highly intelligent animals with complex emotions and social relationships. Being the largest living land mammals, they are vitally important in balancing the natural ecosystem. Unfortunately, over 90% of elephants have been wiped out in the past century, and today their dwindling population is further threatened by a deadly disease: **Elephant Herpesvirus**.


This virus contributes to half of the deaths of young Asian elephants in captive settings. Little is known about the impact of this devastating disease on the 50,000 wild elephants living in Asia. Intensive research is desperately needed to fully comprehend the complexities of this deadly virus which is killing young elephant calves. One of the major challenges to understanding and managing this disease is the lack of systematic data collection across the whole elephant population.

VIEW is working with veterinarians from the **UC-Davis School of Veterinary Medicine** and local NGO conservation partners in elephant-range countries to develop better tools to monitor and prevent this virus. VIEW is helping local elephant veterinarians by conducting training workshops, enhancing data collection, and implementing critical research.

VIEW's **Wildlife Health Information System (WHIS)** plays a critical role in this process, as it enables veterinarians and elephant caretakers to easily monitor the health of these animals and collect data specific to herpes virus research.

The consistent collection of health information will improve general health surveillance and tracking of elephants for years to come.

“WHIS enables veterinarians and elephant caretakers to easily monitor the health of their animals and collect data specific to herpes virus research”



“VIEW works with its local partners to design and implement a locally driven, sustainable wildlife health program”

Rewilding Rwanda

Africa is known for its diverse landscapes and iconic wildlife. The continent holds a quarter of the world’s biodiversity, is home to the world’s largest populations of mega vertebrates, and provides vital terrestrial and aquatic ecosystem services to the planet. However, the expansion of the human population is threatening many species such as elephants, giraffes and rhinos. For instance, Northern white rhinos have recently become extinct in the wild, and we urgently need measures to save the remaining rhino populations. They need a safe place to roam and be in good health to have offspring. Rhinos are among the many critical species in Africa VIEW and its partners are working to restore.

Since the genocide nearly 30 years ago, **Rwanda** has transformed significantly on many fronts: poverty has dropped, education has improved, and women have been empowered. One of Rwanda’s most immediate priorities now include wildlife conservation and rewilding its four designated national parks.

In 2021 Rwanda conducted the **largest single rhino translocation in history**, moving 30 white rhinos from South Africa to Akagera National Park. However, for the rewilding efforts to succeed, many threats related to wildlife care need to be addressed – monitoring and supporting the good health of these translocated animals, among others.

Rwanda wildlife veterinarians and officials understand the urgency of conservation efforts, and are working with VIEW to design and implement a **locally driven and sustainable wildlife health program**, which will also include other endangered species such as elephants and carnivores.

To meet these goals, VIEW:

- Trains local veterinarians, conservation stakeholders, students, and park rangers to become trainers of future teams.
- Provides the **basic infrastructure needed to implement a wildlife health program**, creating standard medical and outbreak response protocols, strengthening laboratory capacity for disease investigation, establishing a digital wildlife health information system (WHIS) for assessing data and disseminating findings, and applying best practices for health monitoring.
- Conducts impact-driven research with its local partners, which will influence management practices for key wildlife across Africa.



East Africa Center for Wildlife Health in Kenya

VIEW and Ol Jogi Conservancy, one of Kenya's oldest and most esteemed wildlife sanctuaries, have partnered to create the **East Africa Center for Wildlife Health** in Laikipia, a crucial region for wildlife conservation, especially for the critically endangered black rhino. This partnership will address the urgent need for comprehensive veterinary services, wildlife research, and disease surveillance in a region where such resources are severely lacking.

Ol Jogi is an important breeding ground for some of the most critically endangered species, and it already has a state-of-the-art central veterinary facility which can now act as a **wildlife health response hub** for the region. VIEW with its expert team of veterinarians, proven wildlife health program template and its unique wildlife health surveillance system, WHIS, will provide hands-on experience on veterinary practices and protocols, tools and technology, as well as promote research for the project.

“VIEW- Ol Jogi partnership will address the urgent need for comprehensive veterinary services, wildlife research, and disease surveillance in a region where such resources are severely lacking.”

The East Africa Center for Wildlife Health will:

- Support Kenyan veterinarians and international conservationists
- Advance wildlife health research and improve disease surveillance
- Provide veterinary training
- Extend care to neighboring communities at human-livestock-wildlife interfaces



Female empowerment and community engagement

VIEW was founded and is led by female scientists. Beyond building sustainable conservation programs which engage local communities, VIEW goes one step further by **supporting and mentoring young students, especially young women, on their path to a career in wildlife conservation**. Due to their isolated locations and the high cost of education, local youth have few opportunities to further their education and learn about the pressing conservation issues.

For wildlife conservation to succeed, local communities need to be committed and engaged, especially in remote rural areas where subsistence and ecotourism communities live side-by-side with endangered wildlife populations.

VIEW, through education, engagement, collaboration, and mentorship, works to inspire local youth to choose careers in wildlife health and conservation. This is done through various initiatives, such as creating primary school wildlife clubs, offering local girls scholarships for secondary school education, and providing access to mentors from top universities.

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What you can do to help

VIEW's mission is critical, and our success relies upon the generous support of our community – individuals and organizations who care deeply about preserving and protecting endangered wildlife. **Your financial support is essential to helping VIEW save endangered wildlife.**

Through science and technology, VIEW puts wildlife health in the forefront of conservation. We aim to change the fabric of conservation to ensure that landscapes continue to have healthy wildlife populations for generations to come.

Thank you for being part of the solution and generously supporting VIEW's important work!



Donate Online at
www.viewwildlife.org

