

**SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL –
Why is it
important?**

The biggest threat to Sumatran orangutans and Malayan tigers is deforestation due to agriculture. The main crop that is planted after the forest is cleared is palm oil. Palm oil is an ingredient in many foods and products used every day, like ice cream, cookies, crackers, detergent, toothpaste and lotion. Palm oil is a crop that is important to the economy and people of Malaysia. However, if palm oil is produced sustainably, there is less clear cutting and damage to the rainforest. As consumers of palm oil, the easiest thing we can do to help Critically Endangered orangutans and tigers is to support companies that are committed to using sustainable palm oil.

FACTS:

- Palm oil is the biggest reason for forest (habitat) loss facing Sumatran orangutans, Malayan tigers, and white-handed gibbons
- Orangutans use different trees for nesting, traveling and eating. When the forest is replaced by palm plantations, there is only one type of tree
- Palm plantations disrupt the forest, reduce tigers' territory and cut them off from other animals, sources of food and potential mating partners
- Consumers can have a big impact on these Critically Endangered species by what products we purchase

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo has a comprehensive sustainable palm oil shopping guide app with a scanner to rate an item's sustainability. The app can be downloaded on **Android** or **iPhone**.



**AZA Grants Accreditation
to the Birmingham Zoo**

On September 8, the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) announced that the Birmingham Zoo was granted accreditation by AZA's independent Accreditation Commission.

To be reaccredited, the Birmingham Zoo underwent a thorough investigation to ensure it has and will continue to meet the ever-rising standards, which include animal care, veterinary programs, conservation, education and safety. AZA requires zoos and aquariums to successfully complete this rigorous accreditation process every five years in order to be accredited members of the Association.

The accreditation process includes a detailed application and a meticulous on-site inspection by a team of trained zoo and aquarium professionals. The inspecting team observes all aspects of the institution's operations in areas such as animal care, keeper training, safety for visitors, staff and animals, educational programs, conservation efforts, veterinary programs, financial stability, risk management, visitor services

and other areas. The inspection team prepares an extensive written report for AZA's independent Accreditation Commission. Finally, top officials are interviewed at a formal Commission hearing, after which accreditation is granted, tabled, or denied.

"By meeting high Association of Zoos and Aquariums Accreditation Standards once again, the Birmingham Zoo has demonstrated it is in the top tier of Zoo's within North America and around the world," said Dr. William Foster, Birmingham Zoo President and CEO. "On behalf of the staff and Board of Directors, I invite the community to experience your Birmingham Zoo and see why it is such an important staple of the Birmingham Community. We will continue to work to meet and exceed the ever rising standards of the AZA, and are excited as we close in on the \$18 million goal of the Renew the Zoo Capital Campaign."



2630 Cahaba Road,
Birmingham, AL 35223



The Birmingham Zoo would like to thank the generous donors that have contributed to the Renew the Zoo campaign. Without their leadership gifts, the building process would not be where it is today.

- Alabama Power Foundation
- Altec/Styslinger Foundation
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- AutoTec, LLC and its employees
- Mrs. Jane H. Brock
- City of Birmingham
- Mr. and Mrs. Phillip J. Carroll, III
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Birmingham Zoo

Winter 2016/2017

Message from the Chair

Dear Friends of the Zoo,

The New Year is a time for beginnings and renewals. At the Birmingham Zoo, the Renew the Zoo capital campaign efforts are clear from the moment visitors arrive. The new event lawn, which will be built in place of two ponds near the front entrance, will be completed in summer 2017. This event lawn will permit large gatherings for festivals, performances and celebrations, but will also allow for families to relax and play while visiting the Zoo. The Zoo looks forward to creating a family-friendly space that the Birmingham community can utilize and enjoy for years to come.

Due to be completed in 2018, the Zoo will open a welcoming and inviting entrance and orientation plaza with interactive water features and seating where groups and families will congregate. These new facilities will create a welcoming first impression as visitors arrive, and an enduring farewell as they leave. The Asian Passage exhibit will open in late 2018 to early 2019 and will create new homes for endangered species, such as the Malayan tiger, Sumatran orangutan and other Asian species.



F. Dixon Brooke, Jr.

If you have not contributed to the Renew the Zoo campaign, please do. This is your Zoo. The Birmingham Zoo is continually improving and needs your financial support in order to do so. There are new species to see, amenities to enjoy and greater services provided by energetic staff members that are eager to share their passion for the natural world. Visit the Zoo's website at birminghamzoo.com/get-involved/donate to learn more and

to make your gift today. Best wishes to you and yours in 2017.

Sincerely,

F. Dixon Brooke, Jr.
Campaign Chair



**Renew the Zoo
Campaign Cabinet**

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F. Dixon Brooke, Jr.

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Capital Campaign Update

As of December 2016, the Birmingham Zoo's Capital Campaign has less than 7% left to raise for the \$18 million goal! Shovels hit the ground in November to begin the first phase of construction on the new Arrival Experience. Two ponds, which were formerly fish hatcheries, are being replaced with a lawn and a new park area. The new event lawn will be able to host a myriad of Zoo events, including performances, movies, and the ever-popular Zoo, Brews, and Full Moon Bar-B-Que event. This innovative multi-purpose space will also be available for weddings, events and corporate gatherings, and is due to be completed by the summer of 2017.

The second phase of construction, which includes the Zoo's new front entrance, is due to be completed in 2018. Guests will be greeted by water features, colorful botanicals and

animal-themed experiences as they enter the Zoo.

This new arrival experience will provide enhanced features to allow Zoo members easy entrance into the Zoo, self-service kiosks, concierge services and a new 2,500 square-foot gift shop expansion. Other Zoo amenities include a new expansive restroom facility, which will include family rooms and nursing rooms, as well as stroller rentals and other unique rental opportunities. The design of the new arrival experience is being handled by the architecture and engineering firm Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood.

The third phase, which will feature the Asian Passage exhibit, is currently being designed, and is scheduled to be completed in late 2018 to early 2019. This exhibit will be home to the

Zoo's Sumatran orangutans, Komodo dragon, red pandas, white-handed gibbons, Malayan tiger and other Asian species. The majority of the species that will call the Asian Passage home are listed as Endangered or Critically Endangered by the International Union of Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

The Birmingham Zoo has several naming opportunities still available, including a donor wall for gifts of \$1,000 or more. If you would like to Renew your Zoo and support the Zoo's capital campaign, please visit www.birminghamzoo.com or call the Development office at 205-397-3856 for more information.

See the Renew the Zoo campaign two-minute video on the website at www.birminghamzoo.com/get-involved/donate/capital-campaign.



Sumatran orangutan

STATUS: The Sumatran orangutan is classified as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List 2007.

DESCRIPTION: Orangutan means "person of the forest." This Asian ape is arboreal, meaning they live in trees. Orangutans have distinctive body shapes with very long arms that may stretch as far as two meters. They have a coarse, shaggy reddish coat and grasping hands and feet. Adult male orangutans are distinguished by their size, throat pouch and flanges on either side of the face.

BIOLOGY: Orangutans are long-lived and females tend to only give birth after they reach 15 years of age. The infant spends its first two to three years being carried constantly and will still remain close to the mother for at least another three years.

THREATS: Orangutans were hunted throughout Southeast Asia. Their large size and slow movements made them easy targets for hunters. However, the main threat to orangutans today is loss of habitat. In the past 20 years, 80 percent of orangutan habitat has been lost to illegal logging, gold mining and conversion to permanent agriculture, particularly palm oil plantations. These animals are especially vulnerable to exploitation. This may be attributed to their extremely long inter-birth interval, typically eight years, making them the slowest breeding primates on earth.

CONSERVATION: The key to saving this species is protecting tracts of unexploited forest that are interconnected and contain sufficient habitat. A massive national park has been proposed in the north of Sumatra.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT – David Loper

How do you entertain three rambunctious boys? In the 1960s, William and Dorothy Loper took their children to the zoo nearly every weekend, where they rode the train and visited their favorite animals, the monkeys and elephants. Not only was it a terrific way for an active family to expend some energy, but it was also quality time spent together. They were able to create memories that David, the Lopers' youngest son, will never forget. "Almost every Sunday, we'd visit the zoo after church," David recalls. "My brothers and I were fixated on monkey island and the elephant exhibit. My poor parents would have to drag us away at the end of day each time we visited."

David, a local lawyer and Birmingham Zoo Board Member, wanted to honor his parents for the many memories they shared during their visits to the zoo. The time that David shared with his family was so meaningful; he decided to make a gift in their honor for the Renew the Zoo Capital Campaign. The Zoo is privileged to play a part in making family memories and to have a role in honoring those who helped make them.

The Birmingham Zoo has been, and will continue to be, a unique place where families spend time in nature learning about animals and conservation. A generous and supportive community is essential to maintaining the highest standards of animal care and creating exhibits that engage and educate visitors. Gifts to the Asian Passage and Arrival Experience of



Dorothy & William Loper

\$1,000 or more will be recognized on a permanent plaque inside the Zoo.

To make your gift to the Asian Passage, visit the website at www.birminghamzoo.com/get-involved/donate. This is a wonderful way to honor loved ones and family. Naming opportunities are available at higher levels of giving. For details, please contact Karen Carroll, VP of Development, at kcarroll@birminghamzoo.com.



YES, I will support the Asian Passage and Arrival Experience.

I/We pledge the sum of \$_____. Enclosed is \$_____.

The remainder is to be paid (circle): Quarterly Semi-annually Annually
Please set up my installments to be billed each year on _____
Month/Year Amount

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Signed/Date _____
Please list my name in print materials as _____
Phone/Email _____

- Please provide me with additional information on gift and sponsorship opportunities.
 Please provide me with information on charitable trusts, gifts of property or other planned gifts.

Birmingham Zoo, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible as provided by law. You may make an outright gift or a pledge payable over a period of up to three to five years. Payment on your gift may be made by check, credit card, appreciated securities or other property. Gift or payments other than cash are subject to the approval of Birmingham Zoo, Inc.

Invest in the future of the Birmingham Zoo. Create a gift for the Birmingham Zoo, Inc. through your will or estate plan.

For more information, contact **Karen Carroll, Vice President, Development**
2630 Cahaba Road, Birmingham, AL 35223, Phone: 205-397-3856, Fax: 205-879-9426, Email: kcarroll@birminghamzoo.com

If you prefer to make a donation online, please visit:
www.birminghamzoo.com/get-involved/donate/donation-form/?type=capital.

