



# Exploration

Conservation Strategy



## Our Conservation Strategies

Conservation Strategies are thematic areas of work that can make a significant impact to stabilize and recover our planet's wild places and wildlife. Re:wild brings deep expertise to eight Conservation Strategies, using strong, targeted programs to create meaningful impact—from the local level to the global stage. Our work in each strategy guides our engagement with partners and local stakeholders, from governments to Indigenous peoples and local communities.

Re:wild works to leverage worldwide change through each Conservation Strategy by building global partnerships, influencing policy, making data transparent and accessible, driving innovation, and developing new funding streams. Our actions work to stimulate and scale conservation efforts for impact that extends far beyond Re:wild.

Re:wild's Conservation Strategy goals are ambitious—because bold action is what's needed to protect and restore the world's wild places and wildlife. We know we can't do it alone, which is why we work at every level to create the tools, partnerships, policies, and conditions that make meaningful conservation possible. By supporting local partners, building global alliances, and helping shape the systems around them, we create the momentum needed to achieve lasting, large-scale impact.

Re:wild acts globally and implements locally through our partners. The work of Re:wild's Conservation Strategies intersects with our regional programs where our deep knowledge of local culture and politics permits the translation of global approaches to locally applicable and highly impactful action at the local level. Lessons learned from local implementation in turn inform global conversations, creating a feedback loop that strengthens approaches and permits larger impact globally.

Re:wild understands that the problems facing biodiversity are getting exponentially worse and although we know what works, the solutions are currently only making an incremental impact. We need to significantly scale the impact of conservation, speed up delivery of conservation outcomes, partner effectively, and innovate for greater impact. Re:wild's Conservation Strategies are designed to make this happen.



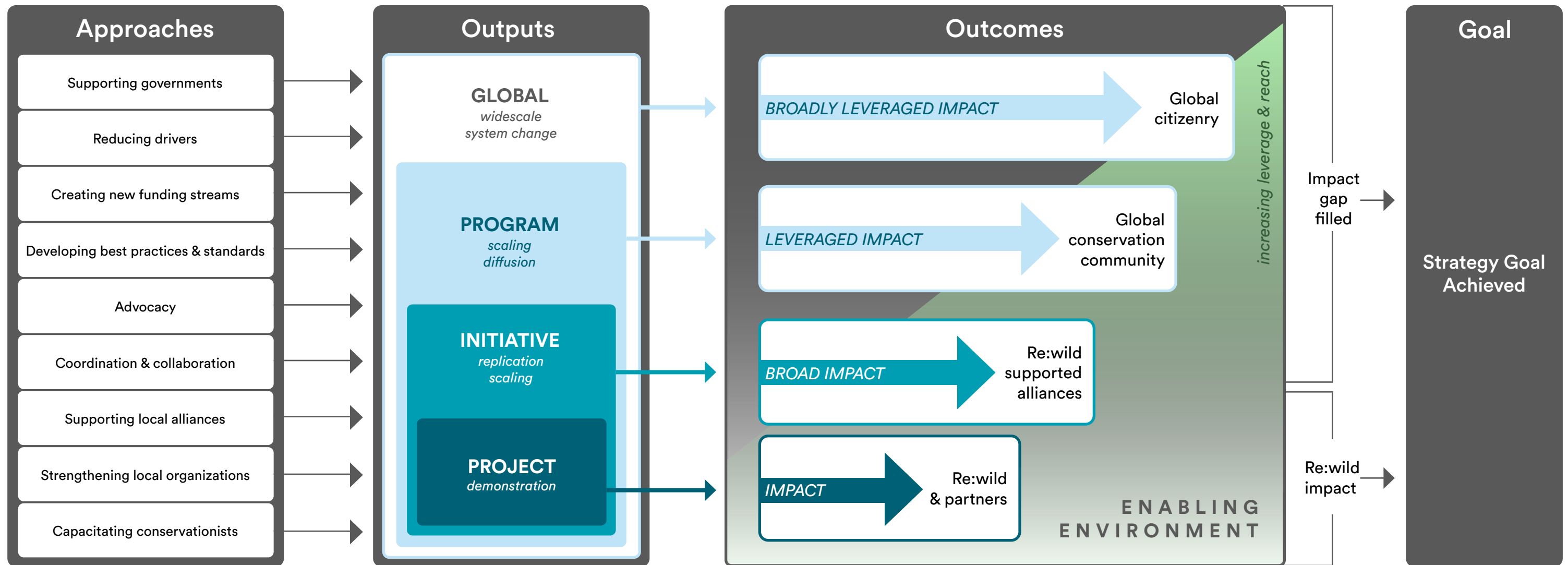
### Goal: Exploration

Inspire appreciation and action for the wild through discovery and exploration.



# How Conservation Strategies Work

Re:wild uses a number of approaches to create an enabling environment to leverage impact at the scale and speed needed to achieve audacious conservation goals.



## Impact

We strive to ensure that our work makes a measurable difference. For the species and ecosystems and areas that need to be conserved, for the people who manage and protect them and for the people who depend on them.

## Partnerships

All interventions are co-designed and jointly implemented with partners at all levels.

## Appropriate Solutions

We avoid 'one size fits all' solutions. We design our interventions in collaboration with our partners, taking into account their needs and the specific ecological and social context and acting as necessary at the local, organizational, national and international levels.

## Good Governance & Local Ownership

We design our interventions so that they are fair to and respect the rights of all involved, in particular Indigenous peoples and local communities, who are often the best guardians of conservation areas. We strive to enable them to take leading roles in governance and management of their lands and waters. On-the-ground conservation will be done by national conservation organizations and/or government partners in response to needs they have identified. Re:wild acts in support of others to achieve their local goals

## Sound Science & Systematic Learning

The Exploration Strategy and interventions are guided by scientific principles and evaluated based on evidence. We focus on adaptive management, integrating planning, implementation and learning. We will conduct and support research where this will usefully inform conservation, rather than as an end in itself.

## Enabling Environment

Strategy and interventions will be focused on creating a more supportive enabling environment for the entire conservation community to achieve the species recovery goal with the understanding that Re:wild can't achieve this goal alone.

# Exploration Theory of Change

Only 18% of species living on earth are known to science. We cannot protect what we do not know. Biodiversity data deficiency hinders the sustainable stewardship of the planet's resources. We aim to provide a more complete understanding of biodiversity, its distribution, and its status. This will support the appropriate allocation of conservation resources, identify the sites and species most in need of conservation, and ultimately prevent extinctions.

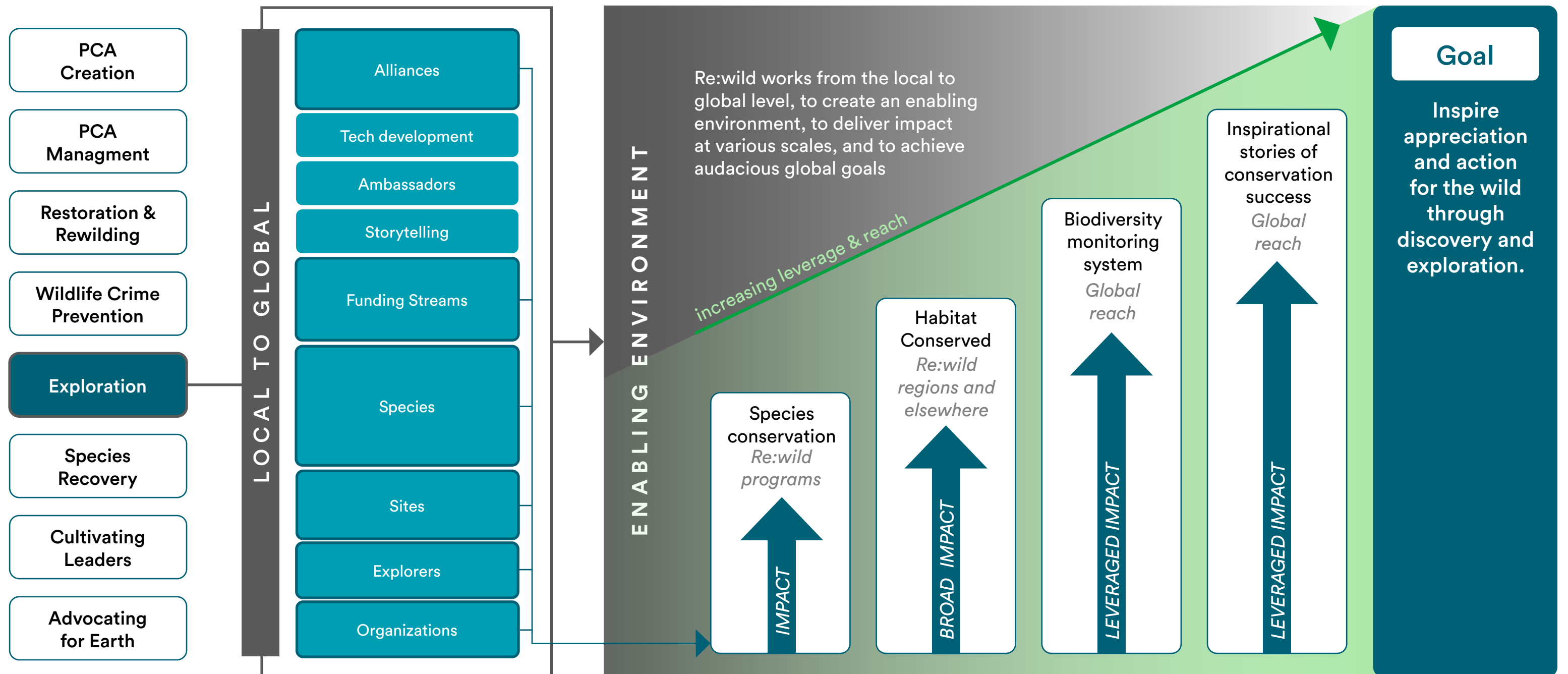
We will identify areas of dark diversity; areas where data deficiency is greatest and through exploration, research, and the traditional ecological knowledge of our local partners improve our understanding of the status of biodiversity and species. We will build national capacity for exploration and research and catalyze local engagement in the regions most in need of exploration. Re:wild will develop funding streams to support expeditions to unexplored and underexplored regions and for research on understudied species. Through corporate and technology partnerships, we will utilize new and emerging technologies to reveal even the most

rare and cryptic species. Re:wild will support the development of open access data portals and analysis engines so that data is accessible to everyone. Exploration data will be used to expand our understanding of conservation priorities through updating IUCN Red List assessments and Key Biodiversity Area and Protected Area designations.

Through training, fellowships, and side-by-side mentoring in the field, a new generation of national explorers, conservationists, and taxonomists will emerge as skilled experts on their native flora and fauna, continuing to build data collections and deliver conservation impact as their careers

progress. Building local conservation champions for sites and species will provide long-lasting capacity in the most important places, focused on previously overlooked species, providing hope for our future.

Our local explorers and global ambassadors will document their expeditions and explorations and use these assets to inspire the public and policy makers with stories of wonder and awe. An engaged, incentivized, optimistic global citizenry will grow to care about the environment and wildlife.



# Exploration Strategy Structure

## GLOBAL

Network of Explorers from the Global South

Funding Partnerships

Ambassadors

Story Telling and Communications

Development of Advanced Technologies

## PROGRAMS

Lost Species

Exploring Unexplored Areas

New KBAs and PCAs

Species Taxonomy and Distributions

Global Monitoring System

## INITIATIVES

Most Wanted

Lost Birds

Lost Fishes

Lost Amphibians

Lost Sharks

National / Regional

New Guinea

Central Borneo

Guiana Highlands

Cameroon Highlands

Western DRC

Sulawesi

Water Habitats

IPLC Land Tenure

National 30x30

PA Est. Justification

Jamaican Amphibians

Sumatran Species

Malukan Island Species

West Africa Species

Western Ghats Species

In-Country eDNA Labs

Deep Sea Shark Detection

Highland Camera Trap Grids

## PROJECTS

*multiple, see examples*



# Global

# Programs

# Initiatives

# Projects

Re:wild operates at the global level by spearheading efforts to identify, coordinate, and provide funding for a network of explorers from the global south. This network serves as a crucial platform for fostering collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and capacity building in biodiversity exploration across diverse regions.

Re:wild is committed to the establishment and maintenance of biodiversity monitoring systems on a global scale. We invest in the development and implementation of robust monitoring frameworks, while simultaneously providing training and support to ensure that young scientists are proficient in utilizing these systems to collect and analyze biodiversity data accurately.

In our pursuit of global conservation impact, Re:wild actively facilitates funding partnerships and programmatic alliances with organizations, institutions, and governments. These partnerships enable us to leverage resources, share expertise, and amplify the impact of our Exploration Strategy, driving meaningful change in biodiversity conservation worldwide.

We champion ambassadors for storytelling and wide-reaching media outreach, recognizing the power of narratives in raising awareness and inspiring action for conservation. Through strategic communication efforts, we amplify the voices of local communities, scientists, and conservationists, sharing their stories and experiences to mobilize support for exploration and biodiversity conservation.

Re:wild invests in the development of advanced exploration technologies, harnessing innovation to enhance data collection, analysis, and monitoring efforts. By investing in cutting-edge tools and techniques, we equip exploration teams with the resources needed to tackle complex conservation challenges and drive forward our global exploration agenda.



## IUCN SSC

The IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) is the preeminent professional association for species conservation, providing independent advice to governments and intergovernmental agencies. Over 9,500 volunteer experts collaborate to understand the status of species and threats, develop policies and guidelines, as well as plan and execute conservation actions. Re:wild hosts and provides no-cost operations for the IUCN SSC, sits on the steering committee, and further supports over 10% of the IUCN SSC Specialist Groups. These groups provide technical support for the Search for Lost Species, including expert nominations that populate the Lost Species list.



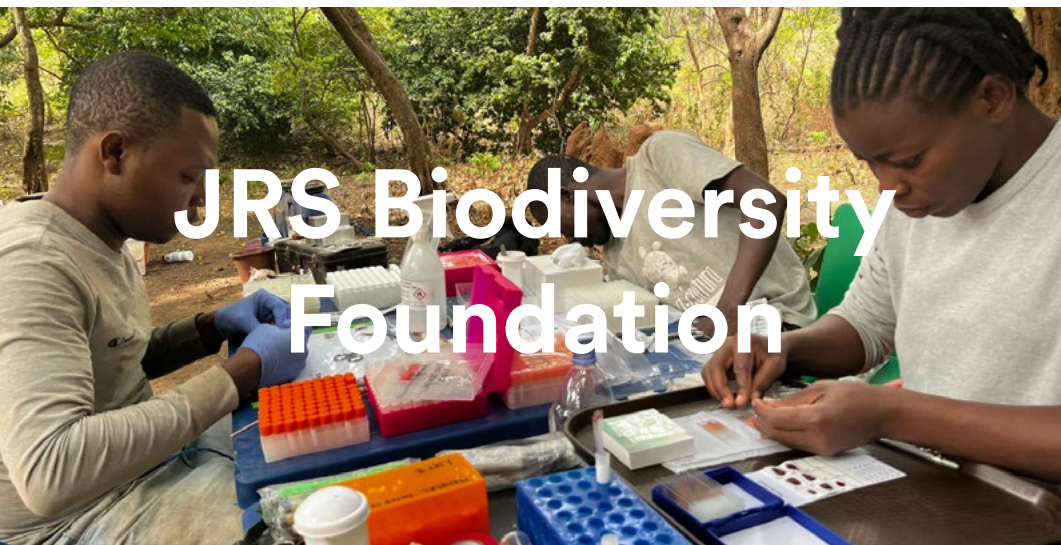
## Colossal Biosciences Ltd.

Colossal and Re:wild will work with and support local partners in searching for at least 50 lost species over the next five years and catalyzing conservation for those species that are found. At least 10 expeditions will deploy annually as part of the partnership, resulting in not only rediscoveries but also the discovery of previously undescribed biodiversity. In addition to financial support, Colossal brings advanced genetic-engineering technologies, such as providing baseline DNA sequencing and the development of DNA primers for lost species known only from few, old, or chemically preserved specimens, a previously insurmountable problem.



## Simon Fraser University

Data deficiency and Lost Species go together. Simon Fraser University is developing data-driven methods to identify previously overlooked locations that could benefit from exploration. Graduate students are data mining extensive IUCN species datasets and using time-to-event analysis to identify geographic gaps and pinpoint global diversity darkspots—areas predicted to lack the most information about species diversity and distribution. By combining this data with environmental, socio-economic, and safety factors, it will be possible to determine where exploration is necessary and feasible—a blueprint for this Re:wild Exploration Program.



## JRS Biodiversity Foundation

This partnership targets African lost and data-deficient species, catalyzing conservation planning and action through assessment work led by students. The partnership works closely with universities to develop country-specific cohorts of researchers dedicated to lost and data deficient species. The partnership supports capacity building, including: lost species expeditions, surveys and assessments, and conservation planning and action. Emphasis is placed on integrating data into policy, local conservation decision-making processes, identifying new Key Biodiversity Areas, advocating for new protected and conserved areas, and updating IUCN Red List assessments.



## RIDGES Foundation

RIDGES Foundation promotes research, reintroduction, and conservation of Insular, Divergent and Globally Endangered Species by supporting research projects and expeditions in locations that are identified as globally significant biodiversity hotspots and darkspots. RIDGES collaborated with the Search for Lost Birds on an expedition to Papua New Guinea that rediscovered the black-naped pheasant pigeon and, as part of a coalition of partners, supported an expedition to Makira, Madagascar, where 21 lost species were rediscovered. Re:wild and RIDGES are developing a five-year plan for exploration across Indonesia and Papua New Guinea.



## The eDNA Consultancy

The eDNA Consultancy is collaborating with Re:wild on a suite of molecular work. They have provided single-species analysis for the Search for the Pink-headed Duck in Myanmar, metabarcoding to detect Dwarf Hutia and Zapata Rail in Zapata Swamp, as well as distribution and population data for Cuban Gar. Re:wild supports The eDNA Consultancy's work to train early career scientists in molecular analysis, and the building of low-cost, in-country labs. Already underway in Viet Nam, and planned for Papua, Indonesia, these labs bypass the need to export genetic material so ownership of this knowledge remains local.



Global

# Programs

Initiatives

Reports

Re:wild’s exploration programs are large bodies of work that aim to make systemic change at scale. They obtain the data needed to identify and protect the most neglected places and species. They are grounded in building local capacity to understand local biodiversity and they utilize advanced technologies as appropriate. Exploration programs encompass work to further all three pillars of Re:wild’s body of work: Wildlife, Wild Places, and Guardians.

Re:wild’s approach to exploration programs begin with the identification of areas lacking suitable biodiversity data to make informed conservation decisions. We actively seek to uncover and use previously collected but underutilized data, tapping into local knowledge repositories and museum collections to extract valuable insights into species distributions and ecosystem dynamics. In parallel, we leverage cutting-edge technologies to reveal additional layers of biodiversity data, harnessing tools such as AI and eDNA analysis to unlock previously inaccessible information.

Through our inventory efforts, we develop robust systems for sharing biodiversity data, prioritizing accessibility and ease of use. By facilitating the transfer of data across platforms and organizations, we ensure that valuable information reaches stakeholders who can utilize it to inform land management and conservation actions effectively. New funding streams are developed by Re:wild to support partners to implement effective conservation actions and scale for greater impact. This integrated approach empowers stakeholders with the information needed to prevent extinctions, allocate land management resources efficiently, address inequities in conservation efforts, and ultimately enhance the quality of life on Earth. Through strategic partnerships and a commitment to transparency, Re:wild drives meaningful change by bridging the gap between data collection and actionable conservation outcomes.



## The Search for Lost Species

Launched in 2017, the Search for Lost Species program seeks to rediscover plants, animals, and fungi not confirmed alive by photographic, audio or genetic information for over 10 years in the wild and having no ex-situ population under human care. For some, threats like habitat destruction, catastrophic weather events, invasive species, and poaching drive their disappearance. For others, inaccessible wilderness locations or conflict-ridden regions make it extremely difficult to undertake searches. These species are often rare or cryptic; some might already be extinct. With over 4,300 species at risk, including 41% of amphibians, 25% of mammals, and 14% of birds, lost species span all taxonomies, habitats, and global regions. Teams of experts, assembled by Re:wild from diverse organizations, alongside our local partners, embark on field expeditions to document their continued existence. Each search is unique and may involve a multitude of methods including community interviews, visual searches, camera trapping, eDNA sampling, or the use of other technologies. Despite the challenges, Re:wild has executed more than 30 expeditions to date, aiming to prevent extinctions through inspiring rediscoveries and enhancing local capacity.



## Catalyzing the Establishment of New Protected and Conserved Areas

The countries of the world have committed to protecting at least 30% of terrestrial, inland water, coastal, and marine areas by 2030. It is critical that this protection focuses on sites of significant importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions. Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) are sites of global significance for the conservation of biodiversity which are identified through globally standardized criteria and thresholds, based on biodiversity and/or ecosystems. KBAs still remain unidentified in some of the most biodiverse regions due to a lack of required biodiversity data. Re:wild's Exploration Strategy addresses this by assembling teams of local experts aided by international experts where required, local NGOs, and Indigenous communities to embark on field expeditions to these under-surveyed regions to collect necessary baseline biodiversity data. We provide follow-up support to local partners for the KBA proposal process to ensure that KBAs are recognized nationally and prioritized for protection. Re:wild's collaborative approach aims to ensure that the most important sites to prevent extinctions are identified and protected, and to provide the tools and knowledge for partners to replicate this approach elsewhere.



## Expeditions into the Unexplored

Re:wild emphasizes the need to fully understand nature in order to enhance conservation outcomes. We support local partners to explore the least known regions of our planet. Re:wild champions the involvement of local communities and Indigenous peoples, NGOs and university experts, utilizing new technologies when appropriate, and prioritizes cost-effective, locally led initiatives with high scientific rigor.

Our expedition program has a rich history of supporting initiatives in diverse regions, including Suriname, Guyana, Liberia, Laos, Mekong, Colombia, Cambodia, Guatemala, and Sri Lanka. The program maintains a clear focus on applying results for conservation action, such as protected area creation/expansion or Indigenous land management, ensuring a tangible and measurable conservation impact. Identified areas in need of expeditions and surveys include Indonesia (Borneo, Sulawesi, Moluccan Islands, Papua), Eastern Afromontane, Amazonia, Tropical Andes, New Guinea, the Congo Forests, Western DRC, the Cameroon and Guiana Highlands, and the marine realm and remote rivers of the tropics.



## Species Discovery

Re:wild addresses critical gaps in our understanding of biodiversity, emphasizing the urgent need for identifying new species and clarifying taxonomic revisions to fully understand the full variety of species and where and how to conserve them. For instance, experts indicate Madagascar has over 200 amphibian species yet to be described, and a very conservative estimate has the Eastern Arc Mountains of Tanzania having over 35 undescribed amphibians. The absence of such data impedes effective conservation efforts, particularly in expeditiously updating Red List assessments that guide policy and action.

Re:wild's focus includes exploring and assessing various regions to provide taxonomic or distribution resolution, such as small mammals on Indonesian islands and West Africa amphibians. Re:wild aims to support species experts, building the capacity of in-country scientists and conservationists through collaborations with international experts, with national experts taking a prominent, leading role at all times.



## Global Monitoring System

Re:wild envisions a future where technology allows for passive monitoring of biodiversity at a truly global scale. Re:wild invests in new technologies and forges global partnerships to pilot and expand monitoring systems that permit local to global monitoring of biodiversity which informs conservation responses and reforms policy. Re:wild invests in and deploys innovative technologies such as airborne and water eDNA, bioacoustics, AI, camera trapping, and remotely sensed data.

Re:wild seeks to establish a robust system for monitoring the health of species communities, providing near real-time, accurate, and holistic insights into the dynamics of biodiversity. A pivotal component of this initiative focuses on capacity building by nurturing the careers of young, in-country scientists dedicated to biodiversity conservation. Through training and mentorship, Re:wild aims to cultivate a new generation of experts proficient in cutting-edge technologies and conservation practices.



## Data-Driven Conservation

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, along with its associated knowledge products, heavily relies on up-to-date and accurate information regarding species distribution to effectively guide conservation prioritization. Environmental DNA (eDNA), acoustic recording units (ARUs), camera traps, food chain monitoring, and invertebrate DNA (iDNA) are increasingly valuable tools for updating species distributions, which in turn inform Red List status.

As a participant in a global alliance focused on the integration of such tools by IUCN, Re:wild contributes to efforts aimed at overcoming existing barriers to the use of such technological data. Our primary focus lies in standardizing data for practical application, while also addressing technical challenges and assessing broader needs and options for IUCN and its partners. The data generated through these efforts contributes to various knowledge products, including the Red List, Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), and Invasive Alien Species (IAS) assessments. Collaborative partners in this endeavor include the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) and NatureMetrics.



# Global Programs Initiatives

Each program under the Exploration Conservation Strategy includes a series of initiatives that are designed to deliver high conservation impact towards discovering, cataloging and assessing the status of life in the most data poor regions.

Re:wild supports the advancement of biodiversity research and conservation, providing essential assessments to guide activities towards long-term success. Collaborating with world-renowned scientists and conservationists, our initiatives are grounded in rigorous scientific inquiry, sometimes spanning decades to ensure comprehensive understanding and impactful outcomes. We identify strategic alliances with complementary organizations, carefully selected to effectively explore the world and address biodiversity challenges. Designed jointly with local partners, our initiatives focus on training the next generation of explorers, conservationists, and taxonomists, emphasizing a holistic approach to skills development and capacity building.

Re:wild builds partnerships and fosters collaboration to drive forward our exploration efforts, whether they're big-picture initiatives covering entire countries or regions and all taxa within, or focused endeavors centered around specific groups of species. These initiatives feed into larger programs and support global governing bodies, area-based planners, and resource managers, ensuring that our data and insights inform strategic conservation decisions worldwide. Alongside our scientific endeavors, we weave compelling narratives of awe and hope to inspire action and deepen connections with the natural world.



### Country-wide Lost Species Searches

Re:wild aims to mobilize conservation efforts for overlooked species at the national level through student- and early career-led searches. Working closely with universities, the initiative cultivates a cohort of young conservationists per country and trains them to become proficient in species-specific exploration. This multifaceted approach, spanning database development, training, surveys, media outreach, data analysis, policy linkages, and promotion of the national explorers, embodies a holistic strategy for safeguarding the forgotten species of a country. By integrating collected data into policy frameworks, the initiative contributes to local conservation decision-making, Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) and protected area (PA) designations, and updated IUCN Red List assessments. With a focus on all taxa and leveraging Re:wild's relationships, the initiative's ambitious plan includes scaling and replicating successful strategies across at least 20 priority countries. In partnership with the JRS Biodiversity Foundation, we are piloting this model in Africa, while also developing the approach for the Caribbean region.



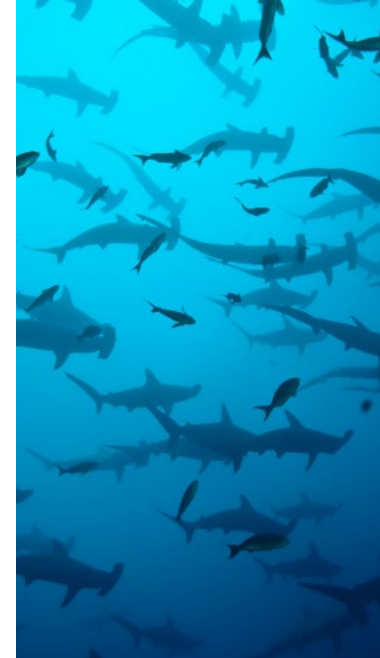
### Key Biodiversity Area Pipeline

Central to Re:wild's Exploration Strategy is the need to deliver high conservation impact. Across that strategy, Re:wild has created a pipeline process for post-expedition KBA identification. This initiative ensures that newly collected biodiversity data feed directly into conservation action through area-based planning and identification of sites critical to the persistence of biodiversity. Re:wild enhances capacity for partners through KBA training and support throughout the proposal process, especially in countries without an established KBA National Coordination Group. For example, the Pernambuco Holly was recently rediscovered in Brazil, qualifying it as both a KBA and Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) site trigger species. Consultations are underway with project partners and museum experts to identify an appropriate site boundary based on the new data and unsurveyed suitable habitat.



### The Amazonia Exploration Initiative

Building on Re:wild's partner involvement in the Protecting Our Planet Challenge, a \$5 billion pledge to protect the Brazilian Amazon through PA establishment and strengthening existing PAs, Re:wild will work jointly with Brazil, Peru, Colombia, and Ecuador around investigation of the Amazon rainforest to feed in the necessary data. Emphasis is placed on quantitative biodiversity assessments, employing systematic surveys and species inventories to quantify and document the rich ecological diversity. Conservation efforts are strategically targeted, with measurable goals for the protection of endangered species and their habitats. Canopy exploration involves the application of advanced tree-climbing techniques and the establishment of transects to quantify the distribution of plant and animal species at different vertical strata. River and aquatic ecosystem exploration utilizes eDNA and hydroacoustic recordings. Technological tools, including satellite imagery and sensor networks, will be deployed to quantify deforestation rates, monitor carbon sequestration, and track climate-related changes.



### The Search for Lost Sharks

Of the 1250 described species of sharks, rays, and chimeras assessed on the IUCN Red List, 429 species have not been documented in over a decade, the longest lost being a Papuan stingaree not sighted for nearly 200 years. To recover shark species, we harness all available tools and technologies – from eDNA and ROVs to citizen science apps and baited remote underwater video cameras (BRUVs). Our partnercentric approach combines the expertise of our staff, functioning as leaders, advisors, and collaborators, with that of organizations and local leaders best positioned to find lost sharks and enact follow up protections, like Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRAs). Re:wild's Search for Lost Sharks partners provide a wide array of connections, funding, equipment, and knowledge. Our partners include Beneath the Waves, Minorities in Shark Science (MISS), Mission Blue, PADI Aware, ReShark, and Save Our Seas Foundation.



### Inspiring the Public with Stories of Wonder and Awe

Re:wild's communications team craft narratives that convey hope and highlight success amidst the backdrop of global environmental collapse. These stories are pivotal in raising awareness and galvanizing action towards conservation efforts. Our stories are shared through a variety of media, including books, films, social media, influencer content, events, digital communications, and traditional news outlets. The Search for Lost Species has garnered widespread acclaim from prestigious media outlets such as the New York Times, National Geographic, and BBC, among numerous others. Each narrative, from the rediscovery of Wallace's Giant Bee to finding multiple populations of Silver-backed Chevrotain, has captivated audiences globally, resulting in an audience reach of at least 5.4 billion. Recent expeditions by our partners, including the Black-naped Pheasant Pigeon in Papua New Guinea and De Winton's Golden Mole in South Africa, captured video footage of the joyful moment of rediscovery and Jessie the sniffer dog, our first canine search partner.



### Amphibians Discovery Initiative

The Amphibians Discovery Initiative is a taxonomic pursuit aimed at assessing and conserving amphibian species worldwide. As leaders of the Global Amphibian Assessment and the Amphibian Red List Authority, Re:wild undertook the monumental task of completing the second Global Amphibian Assessment (GAA2) in 2022. This collaborative endeavor, spanning over a decade and involving over 1,000 amphibian experts, evaluated the extinction risk of 8,011 (94%) of the world's known amphibian species for the IUCN Red List. Through sophisticated modeling, regions with the highest potential for discovering new amphibian species were identified, particularly in Neotropical and IndoMalayan forests, with Brazil, Indonesia, Madagascar, and Colombia highlighted as prime discovery locations. Re:wild engages in partnerships with organizations such as the Atelopus Survival Initiative, Amphibian Survival Alliance, and Amphibian Ark to ensure comprehensive conservation efforts in both biodiversity hotspots and darkspots around the globe to prevent amphibian extinctions.



Global  
Program  
Initiatives

# Projects

Re:wild works collaboratively with local conservation groups in areas identified as having dark diversity, forging partnerships to meticulously plan and execute field expeditions. Through these partnerships, we leverage local knowledge and resources, ensuring a nuanced understanding of the ecological landscape and maximizing expedition efficacy. Additionally, we facilitate the deployment of cutting-edge species detection technologies, empowering local partners with advanced tools to survey and monitor biodiversity effectively.

By harnessing the power of technological advancements, we aim to enhance conservation efforts, from data collection and analysis to monitoring and protection. Through strategic partnerships with companies at the forefront of conservation technology, we unlock new possibilities for safeguarding biodiversity and promoting sustainable practices.

Re:wild takes the lead in orchestrating global expeditions to diversity darkspots, working hand in hand with local partners to navigate diverse ecosystems and uncover hidden biodiversity. These expeditions are generally enacted by local experts, but where helpful seasoned international experts will support local partners. As data is collected, it is fed into open-access technology platforms, ensuring transparency and accessibility for researchers, policymakers, and the public.



### Search for the Pondicherry Shark, Asia

Last sighted in 1979, the Critically Endangered Pondicherry Shark is a 3ft long, stocky, gray shark that historically inhabited Indo-Pacific coastal waters, including freshwater river systems. Despite a huge range, overfishing led to a major population reduction and this rare shark is now on Re:wild's Most Wanted List, and part of Re:wild's Search for Lost Sharks. Due to its wide distribution, surveys have covered only a small fraction of its potential range. Easily confused with similar species like the Spot-tail Shark, definitive identification requires expert scrutiny. Re:wild, in collaboration with our Lost Sharks' partners, is supporting search efforts to find this elusive species so conservation action can be initiated.



### Expanding Protection Across Phou Ayon, Laos

Re:wild's engagement in south-eastern Laos is a collaboration between WWF-Laos, Wyss, and Rainforest Trust. Marked by its size, remoteness, and high habitat diversity, this area is deemed a priority for biodiversity exploration in Southeast Asia. With wet evergreen, semi-evergreen, and pine forests, it holds immense potential for discovering new species. Originating from Re:wild's longstanding involvement in supporting the extension of the Xe Sap National Protected Area, a feasibility study for the adjacent and extensive Phou Ayon forest block is being conducted including an extensive camera-trapping effort to cover a wide habitat gradient. Outputs will include comprehensive data on the biodiversity of Phou Ayon, insights from deep consultation with local communities, and a strong case for its gazettelement as a protected area.



### Exploring Makira Natural Park, Madagascar

Covering over 372,000 hectares, Makira is a critical stronghold of Madagascar's last intact rainforest, yet there remain significant knowledge gaps especially on invertebrates. Re:wild, American Bird Conservancy, Wildlife Conservation Society, and Biodiversity Inventory for Conservation (BINCO), assembled taxonomic experts to conduct a rapid multi-taxon biological inventory. The primary goal was to uncover lost or undescribed species, with 21 lost species rediscovered and dozens of new species described. The team has scientific papers under review in several peer-reviewed publications, additional funding has been secured for conservation action in Makira, and data is feeding critical IUCN Red List assessment updates.



### Freshwater Fish Survey, Lake Tota, Colombia

Five field sampling expeditions have taken place in Lake Tota since June 2023. Pre-expedition historical work provided a data set on local knowledge of the lakes' species and helped highlight localities to search for the Fat Catfish. During the field trips, collection and eDNA sampling were conducted with the support of Corpoboyaca, the local environmental authority. Only a few specimens of the once abundant catfish exist in museums and previous attempts to extract DNA have failed, however Colossal's technology offers hope for producing the species genetic sequence. In addition to determining if the Fat Catfish exists, surveys will inform future resource management.



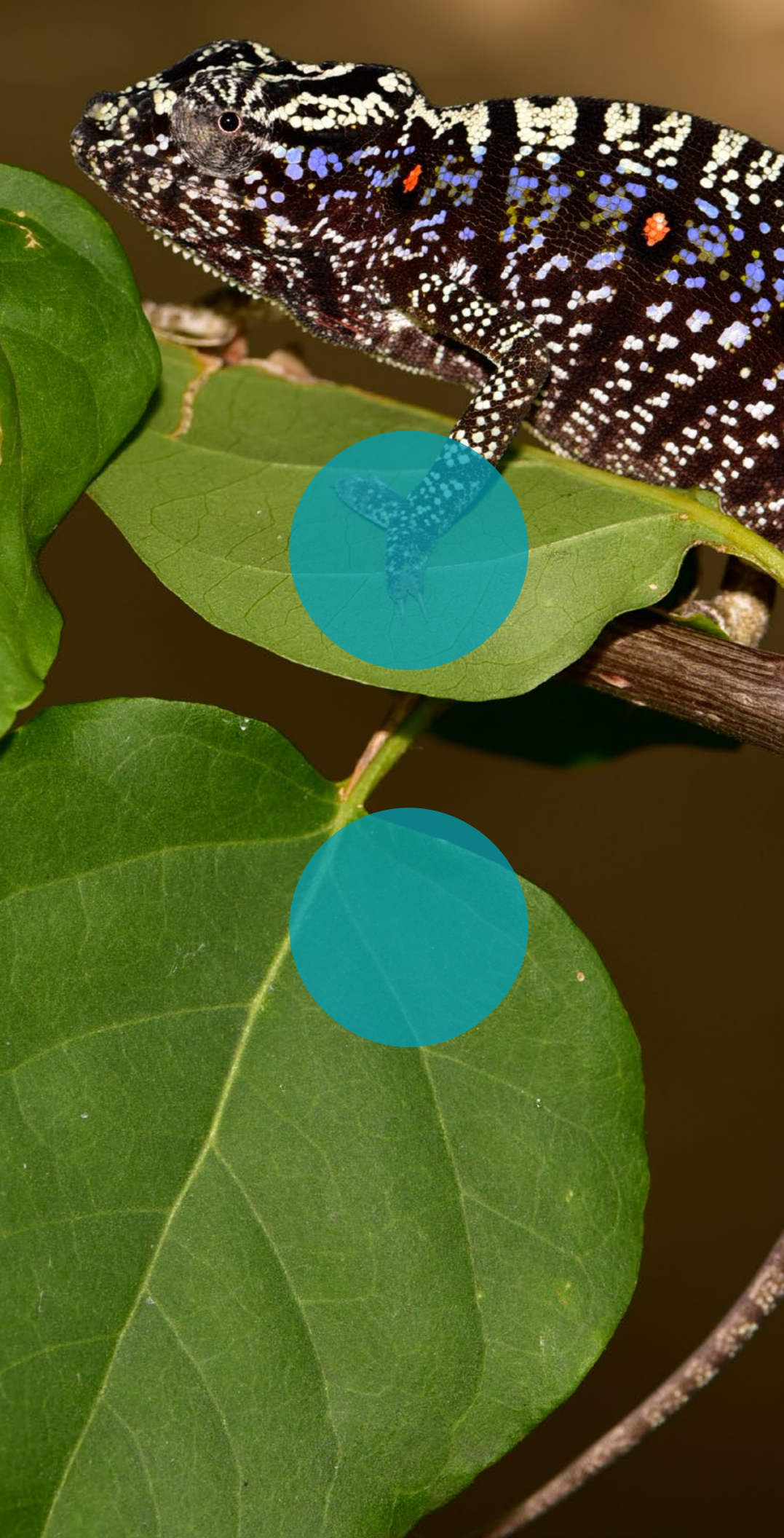
### Assessing the Health of Forest and River Systems, Papua

Unique biodiversity exists in Pegunungan Cyclops Nature Reserve National Park and Pegunungan Jayawijaya Wildlife Reserve in Papua. In collaboration with local government agencies, Yappenda, the University of Papua and Cenderawasih University, our goal is to understand the distinct flora and fauna of the area, provide baseline data to assess ecological health, and pinpoint key threats. By working with Indigenous Papuan stakeholders, Re:wild seeks to contribute culturally relevant insights to the broader global monitoring discourse. Ethical methods, including culturally sensitive events paired site comparisons, camera trapping, baseline biodiversity surveys, and eDNA assessments, will be used to ensure minimal impact on this delicate ecosystem.



### Lost Species Metrics

Scientific data underpins every program and initiative in the Exploration Strategy. It is vital for allocating resources to those species most in need of intervention. We work with the IUCN SSC Specialist Groups to compile a list of Lost Species (w/o documentation in the wild for 10+ years), then with in-country taxonomists to finalize the dataset. Our goal is a single, comprehensive list that includes all taxa and associated metadata, which will be published annually in a DOI public data repository. Re:wild sources point and polygon data to assess potential species distribution and develop heat maps of search priority to guide search efforts. We make data public to enable anyone to undertake Lost Species searches per our goal of replication, scaling and diffusion.



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