

in the park to serve as “evacuation routes” for people in the event of volcanoes, earthquakes, flooding and other natural disasters.

“We fully understand the importance of this national park and will do everything to make sure that the environment is not destroyed,” said Nashsyah, head of Bengkulu’s development planning board, adding that a comprehensive study still needs to be done to educate all parties about the project.

Two-thirds of the tigers in the Kerinci Seblat Park are adult females. It is one of the few places where populations have actually grown over the last five years, thanks largely to untouched habitat and anti-poaching patrols that have helped protect one of the few genetically viable populations left in the world.

There already are four roads through the park. The construction of new, larger highways would bring in tons of heavy equipment, chain saws and hundreds of workers for months on end. “These roads would further fragment tiger communities and disrupt their movement corridors,” said Zen Suhadi of Indonesia’s most prominent environmental group, Walhi. “That’s our main concern.” He is among 350 conservationists from dozens of different national and international nongovernment groups that have banded together to argue that the plans would turn Kerinci Seblat into a mishmash of forest blocks putting both tigers and their habitat at risk. If approved, they say, it would open the way for road building in every protected area in Indonesia. *Source: The Associated Press, Ali Kotarumalos, 28 April 2011*

Hawaiian Endangered Bird Conservation Program Recognized for Propagation Achievements - The San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research has received the 2011 Plume Award for long-term avian propagation programs for its work with critically endangered Hawaiian birds. The award was given in March by the Avian Scientific Advisory Group (ASAG) during a session at the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) conference. The Zoo’s Hawaii Endangered Bird Conservation Program (HEBCP) is a species recovery effort in collaboration with the State of Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The program uses captive breeding and reintroduction to prevent extinction and promote species recovery through the reestablishment or augmentation of existing bird populations. Its restoration activities provide a strategy to preserve options while habitat is secured and the plummeting populations of wild birds are managed and stabilized. The HEBCP manages two captive breeding facilities: the Keauhou Bird Conservation Center (on the Big Island of Hawaii) and the Maui Bird Conservation Center. *Source: Imperial Valley News, 26 April 2011*

Prisoners Help Threatened Species Make a Comeback - A special group of workers in Washington state is saving a threatened species. Their efforts have stunned researchers. And what’s even more surprising to some is the unusual lab where the effort is taking place. Harry Greer is one of those workers. He works hands-on with 100 tadpoles, providing them with constant care so that they’ll grow into adult Oregon spotted frogs (*Rana pretiosa*) - a dwindling species that is a candidate for the endangered list. Greer is helping to bring the frogs’ numbers back up - but he’s no biologist.

“I used to sell drugs and run hookers in motels,” he says matter-of-factly. Greer is an inmate behind the fence and barbed wire at Cedar Creek Correctional Center. He’s now senior caretaker of the prison’s endangered frog program. “It’s given me a whole different outlook on life,” he says. “I know there’s more to life than the streets.” The same is true for Taylor Davis, who was locked up four years ago for car theft. “It gives me something to be good about every day,” he says. “You know, I wouldn’t want to lose this.”

Cedar Creek is a model for sustainability, already into organic gardening and composting - and that’s why The Evergreen State College and the state Department of Fish and Wildlife chose it to raise frogs. The amphibians will eventually find a home in the Joint Base Lewis McChord wetlands - a fragile ecosystem that is being rebuilt. Zoos also raise the frogs for release - but it’s the ones from Cedar Creek prison that are flourishing.

“There’s so many programs that can be done by inmates, it’s really infinite,” says Marko Anderson,



2011. "Conservation/Legislative Update: Hawaiian Endangered Bird Conservation Program Recognized for Propagation Achievements." *Animal keepers' forum* 38(6), 267–267.

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