

# The Centre for Compassionate Conservation

innovative research | new approaches | paradigm shift



# Bringing compassion to conservation

Current conservation practice needs modernising to address the balance between human and non-human animal interests.

## A new Centre for Compassionate Conservation at the University of Technology, Sydney

Established in 2013, the Centre for Compassionate Conservation is an innovative research, education and advisory centre based at the University of Technology, Sydney.

It is the first Centre in the world that explicitly focuses on improving the welfare of wild animals using a Compassionate Conservation approach. The Centre will focus on national and international challenges involving human-wildlife conflict, wildlife trade, conservation of endangered species and their habitats, and the wellbeing of wild animals. It will achieve this by promoting change, acceptance and education in Compassionate Conservation.

The growing international movement of Compassionate Conservation represents a paradigm shift by incorporating ethics and animal welfare into contemporary conservation practice to improve conservation outcomes.

Wildlife conservation and animal welfare sciences share the common goal of preventing harm to wildlife. By bringing these sciences together it becomes possible to find new ways to conserve and protect species and ecosystems in a way that has less impact on the welfare of individual animals.

Wildlife is increasingly under pressure from an expanding human population that demands more land and resources and is pushing species to the brink of extinction.

Many of today's environmental problems are the result of traditional approaches that ignore values of compassion in environmental decision-making.

By providing a platform for stakeholders to examine the issues from multiple viewpoints the Centre will endeavour to find innovative solutions that benefit both human society and wildlife.

“*The same human activities driving the current extinction crisis are also causing suffering, fear, physical injury, psychological trauma, and disease in wild animals.*”

Prof. Paul Paquet (University of Calgary) and Dr. Chris Darimont (University of Victoria)



practice

“Solving today’s wildlife issues with compassion.”

*valuing the welfare of wildlife*

# How can Compassionate Conservation

International research is beginning to explore frameworks for the unification of animal welfare and conservation sciences, but examples are still few on the ground. We need your help to integrate animal welfare firmly in mainstream conservation practice to reduce the suffering of wild animals.



## Chacma Baboons (*Papio ursinus*), South Africa

In the Cape Peninsula, baboons are forced into conflict with humans as their habitat is increasingly becoming urbanised. A new collaboration has been established among wildlife managers, baboon experts from the University of Cape Town, conservation biologists and animal welfare scientists from the University of British Columbia, Canada and the local community to trial non-lethal paintball marker-deterrent management and other techniques to herd 11 troops away from urban areas. The aim of the research is to determine if this approach can reduce the incidence of raiding and harassment of local residents and improve baboon welfare.

More info: Liv Baker, Research Associate of the Centre based at the University of British Columbia



## Brown Bears (*Ursus arctos*), Turkey

Turkey hosts one of the largest brown bear populations in Europe. In northern Turkey crops, beehives and orchards attract and are easily accessed by bears, resulting in conflicts. A partnership was formed in 2006 between the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA), Nature Association for Turkey (Doğa Derneği) and the University of Oxford, Zoology, WildCRU to engage rural communities in effective and humane ways to reduce conflicts. Electric fences were installed around orchards, beehives were placed on elevated platforms, bears were monitored and a community education program was implemented. Economic losses, the risk of human injuries and fatalities, and the need for inhumane retaliation against bears has significantly reduced. The humane approach has become popular amongst rural communities and has helped to put human-bear conflict on the national agenda.

More info: World Society for the Protection of Animals, Institutional Member of the Centre





“ *Compassionate Conservation makes the science work harder for species in need. It brings together the most important evidence available: credible science and informed popular sentiment. An overpowering combination.* ”

Will Travers, CEO of the Born Free Foundation,  
the Centre's International Patron Organisation

### **Little Penguins (*Eudyptula minor*) Middle Island in Victoria, Australia**

A colony of Little Penguins that breed on Middle Island between September and March, was threatened by foxes. The population had decreased from 600 penguins in 2000 to just 4 penguins in 2005. Lethal control of foxes with poisons baits and traps had been unsuccessful. In 2006, a joint project was established between Warrnambool City Council and the Warrnambool Landcare group to trial the use of Maremma sheepdogs to guard the penguins. The council visits the dogs daily to feed, and interact with the dogs and walk them around the Island so that their scent is spread to deter foxes. Since 2006, there have been no incidents of fox predation on penguins and the population has increased to an estimated peak number of 187 adults.

More info: Lisa Rankin Warrnambool City Council  
[www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au](http://www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au)



### **Gray Wolves (*Canis lupus*) Idaho, USA**

Gray wolves were once widespread in North America, yet concerns over livestock predation and human safety resulted in the near eradication of wolves from many states within the US. In an effort to restore the environment Gray wolves were reintroduced to Idaho and Yellowstone National Park in the mid 1990's. The recolonising pack grew in numbers and started killing livestock resulting in human-wolf conflicts. In 2007, the Wood River Wolf project was initiated by Defenders of Wildlife this involved the collaboration of wolf advocates, ranchers, scientists and government officials to implement a non-lethal program such as turboladry corrals to sheep reduce predation in the Sawtooth Valley, Idaho. Sheep losses to wolves were found to be 90% lower in the study site than the rest of Idaho, proving that it is possible to restore the environment, reduce livestock loss and maintain a healthy wolf population.

More info: Suzanne Asha Stone, Research Associate of  
the Centre based at Defenders of Wildlife, USA



# Structure of the Centre

The Centre draws upon an established network of researchers and practitioners from across Australia and internationally, providing substantial expertise and research capacity.

Our Academic membership is comprised of core researchers from the School of the Environment, the Institute of Sustainable Futures, the Faculty of Law, and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences based at the University of Technology, Sydney.

These researchers work closely with Associate Academic members who are engaged in fieldwork, advocacy and research across a range of disciplines.

These members come from a variety of Australian and international institutions. The Centre works closely with Prof. Marc Bekoff who is the Centre's International Patron.

The Centre works with an expanding group of Institutional members that are leaders in the areas of animal welfare or conservation. These include Voiceless – the Animal Protection Institute, International Fund for

Animal Welfare (IFAW), the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA). In recognition of their integral work in establishing the concept of compassionate conservation, the Born Free Foundation is our International Patron Organisation.

We encourage the participation of members from the public who have an interest in Compassionate Conservation and support the work of the Centre.

## Matrix of expertise

This matrix demonstrates the skills and expertise of the Centre's Academic Network who engage in collaborative research projects and teaching programmes.

- Skills and expertise of the core research team based at the University of Technology, Sydney
- Skills and expertise of Associate Academics based within Australia and internationally



# Centre activities



## Research

By conducting innovative research the Centre fills knowledge gaps and find practical ways to improve the welfare and protection of wildlife. Our core research competence lies in conservation science and the welfare of wild animals, tackling a wide range of human-wildlife conflicts around the globe, but will also incorporate areas such as ethics, corporate social responsibility, social science, and environmental and animal law.



## Collaboration

The Centre forms a hub that connects researchers and practitioners across a range of disciplines to organisations working in the fields of animal welfare or conservation as well as government agencies. We assist with developing policy positions, campaigns, and education outreach. It is through partnerships that we will quickly develop the pathway to improve the treatment of wild animals.



## Expert advice

A key strength of the Centre lies in the unique combination of experts from within Australia and Internationally. The Centre will:

- Provide research expertise to strengthen the evidence base for campaigns and education programmes;
- Assist in developing specific policy positions;
- Develop non-lethal management options and strategies to minimise human-animal conflict;
- Identify deficiencies in policy and law and develop recommendations to improve the enforcement of animal protection laws; and
- Engage different stakeholders by using participatory and deliberative processes to inform decision making, policy development, planning, and evaluation.



## Teaching and learning programs

The Centre conducts a multidisciplinary teaching program in Compassionate Conservation through various courses in ecology, ethics, and law. New courses are being developed and a specific degree in Compassionate Conservation is planned for the future. Training new minds will better prepare future conservation decision-makers for the critical challenges facing environmental managers and conservationists.



## Communications and public outreach

Our interdisciplinary skill base allows us to communicate complex environmental issues to policy makers, the media, government, business leaders and the wider community. We disseminate our research findings in a wide variety of academic and public spheres to encourage dialogue and find new ways to incorporate thinking about animal welfare into environmental decision making.



## Grant writing

The Centre assists members with writing grant applications to resource specific projects. Past successes include funding from the Australian Academy of Science, the Australian Research Council, Equity Trustees, the Lord Mayor Clover Moore Salary Trust Fund, Animals Australia, and the International Fund for Animal Welfare.

# Leadership in the welfare of wildlife

Global leadership is needed to develop and expand the fields of Compassionate Conservation. The UTS Centre for Compassionate Conservation provides a focal point for the global advancement of animal welfare and ethics into conservation practice.

The Centre offers insight, creativity, knowledge, and strong visions for the future. Our researchers and practitioners see the need to build the synergies between conservation and animal welfare to tackle the interlinked challenges of conserving populations and caring for individual wild animals.

The strategic intent of the Centre is to support the advancement and unification of animal welfare and conservation in Australia and internationally through leadership in the area of Compassionate Conservation to address the critical challenges facing environmental managers and conservationists.

The Centre's vision is to improve animal welfare standards within mainstream conservation practice by:

- Leadership in the field of Compassionate Conservation
- Providing the structure for international collaborations and research efforts that explicitly addresses the welfare of wild animals alongside conservation objectives
- Developing frameworks that balance decisions made at the population and ecosystem level with those made at the level of the individual animal
- Facilitating dialogue between stakeholders to find solutions to environmental problems that are seemingly intractable
- Communicating complex environmental issues to policy makers, media, government, business leaders and the wider community
- Assisting non-government organisations to define and action wildlife welfare policies
- Fostering public debate and influencing policy outcomes, and
- Making the inclusion of animal welfare standard within conservation practice around the world.

“Bringing compassion for wildlife to conservation endeavours has many obvious benefits, and further research that cleverly explores practical synergies and outcomes is needed.”

Dr. Daniel Ramp, Director of the Centre for Compassionate Conservation  
(University of Technology, Sydney)





# Meet the team

A small team of passionate individuals manage the Centre to deliver its services. The core team includes a Director, Deputy Director and a Centre Manager.



**Dr Dan Ramp**  
Director of the Centre and  
Senior Lecturer in the School  
of the Environment, UTS.

Daniel is a conservation biologist with an interest in animal behaviour, road ecology, biogeography, and wildlife-human interactions. His research focuses on science that informs conservation initiatives aimed at addressing animal welfare concerns. He has published widely on science that informs conservation initiatives aimed at understanding, mitigating and adapting to environmental change. He has a long interest in marsupials from the family Macropodidae, including a PhD on eastern grey kangaroos, Daniel was a co-founder of THINKK as well as a Director of Voiceless, the Animal Protection Institute.



**Prof. Stuart White**  
Deputy Director of the Centre  
and Director of Institute for  
Sustainable Futures, UTS.

Stuart leads a team of researchers who create change towards sustainable futures through independent, project-based research. With over 20 years experience in sustainability research, Stuart's work focuses on achieving sustainability outcomes for a range of government, industry and community clients across Australia and internationally. Stuart has a strong interest in the interplay between food, diets and sustainability. He has written and presented widely on sustainability and is a regular commentator on these issues in the media. He recently won the 2012 Australian Museum Eureka Prize for his work on Phosphorus.



**Louise Boronyak**  
Centre Manager and Senior  
Research Consultant, Institute  
for Sustainable Futures, UTS

Louise's research focuses on environmental sustainability and the intersection of animal welfare and conservation biology. She has a strong interest in protecting biodiversity and fostering approaches that promotes results in greater conservation and protection of wildlife. Louise is an expert in community and stakeholder engagement. Her role as General Manager of the Centre will involve connecting researchers, dissemination of research, fundraising and community engagement. She has a Masters of Environmental Management from UNSW and Bachelor of Economics UWS.



**Emeritus Prof.  
Marc Bekoff**  
International Patron of the  
Centre and Prof. of Ecology and  
Evolutionary Biology, University  
of Colorado, Boulder, USA

Marc has published more than 800 essays (popular, scientific, and book chapters), 25 books including *Ignoring Nature No More: The Case for Compassionate Conservation*, and has edited three encyclopedias. Marc's main areas of research include animal behaviour, cognitive ethology (the study of animal minds), behavioural ecology, and Compassionate Conservation and he has also published extensively on human-animal interactions and animal protection. Marc is the co-founder with Jane Goodall of Ethologists for the Ethical Treatment of Animals and ambassador of Jane Goodall's roots and shoots program. He has won many awards for his scientific research including the Exemplar Award from the Animal Behaviour Society and a Guggenheim Fellowship.

# Meet some others in the team



**Prof. William Gladstone**

**Lead researcher Marine Conservation & Ecology. Head of School of Environment, UTS.**

Bill's is a marine biologist who focuses on the conservation of marine biodiversity, fish behavioural ecology, and marine environmental management. Bill has worked on major national and international projects including outbreaks of crown-of-thorns starfish on the Great Barrier Reef, management of marine protected areas in the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden and the Sulu- Sulawesi Sea Marine Eco-region.



**Dr Dror Ben-Ami**

**Lead researcher in Ecology, University of Tel Aviv, Israel.**

Dror is an ecologist with interests in applied ecology, environmental management, and conservation biology. His current focus is on integrating science, policy and non-lethal wildlife management. Dror studied his PhD at the University of New South Wales on the ecology of the eastern grey kangaroo and the swamp wallaby.



**Dr Sophie Riley**

**Lead researcher in law. Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Law, UTS.**

Sophie is an expert in environmental law, ethics and animal welfare. A focus of her research is on the governance systems for the regulation of introduced species. Sophie is the co-chair of the Teaching and Capacity Building Committee of the Academy for Environmental Law, International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). She sits on the committee that is currently drafting 'Guidelines for Reintroductions and Other Conservation Translocations'. She has undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in law including a PhD from UNSW.



**Dr Jeremy Walker**

**Lead researcher in Social Sciences. Lecturer, Social and Political Change, UTS.**

Jeremy researches and teaches in the sociology of science, technology, and environmental studies. He has researched the science of biodiversity and the construction of financial markets to value Ecosystem Services. His current research explores the ecological and knowledge labour involved in managing Indigenous estates for conservation goals.



**Dr Chris Draper**

**International expert in the welfare of captive animals. Senior Scientific Researcher, the Born Free Foundation, UK.**

Chris is a zoologist and chartered biologist, he works on Born Free's Compassionate Conservation initiative and the Zoo Check programme investigating the welfare of wild animals in captivity. He has worked for several animal welfare organisations on issues involving laboratory animals primarily with 50 retired laboratory chimpanzees, farmed animals and wildlife. Chris is the European Coordinator for the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS). He is undertaking a PhD at the University of Bristol on the implementation of legislation and assessment of animal welfare in zoos.



**Dr Kate Littin**

**International expert in animal welfare. Senior Adviser Animal Welfare, Ministry for Primary Industries, New Zealand.**

Kate's main interest is in animal welfare assessment and its application to policy, legislation and trade, particularly in regard to 'pest' management and interventions with wildlife. Kate's PhD investigated the animal welfare impacts of methods used to control brushtail possums, considered an invasive species in NZ. She was part of a panel developing a framework for assessing the relative animal welfare impacts of pest management techniques.

# Support the Centre for Compassionate Conservation

Only with financial assistance from the community can the Centre for Compassionate Conservation continue its vital work. Your gifts will allow the Centre to grow this movement and push for change in legislation and policy to better protect our wildlife.

## Centre resourcing

Drawing upon the expertise of many researchers and external organisations, the Centre's resourcing requirements remain relatively small.

You can choose to support any number of the Centre's activities:

- Research
- Teaching and learning
- Scholarships
- Mentor programs
- Collaboration with animal protection and conservation organisations
- Communication programs to educate the wider community.

## Benefits of support

In supporting the Centre you will be contributing to the Compassionate Conservation of wildlife – you will be ensuring that wildlife have better lives.

The Centre also offers great benefits to its donors such as:

- Immediate access to academic members for feedback on evidence-based research, policy, and campaign information
- Enhanced opportunity for research collaboration
- Introduction of common values and ethics to students and academics through teaching and publishing
- Invitations to exclusive events
- Recognition and naming opportunities.

## Current supporters

The Centre has received seed funding from Voiceless: the Animal Protection Institute, International Fund for Animal Welfare, World Society for the Protection of Animals, and Naomi and Ken Henry.

*Your donation is tax deductible and 100% of your gift will be used to support the Centre.*



*“ Please, help us help our wildlife. ”*



## Contact us

For more information on how you can support the Centre for Compassionate Conservation, please contact us:

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