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# CARMEN RIVERO COLINA

De todo un poco - Toda manifestación de vida merece respeto.  
"When we learn to respect all life, we learn to love all life." ~ A.D.  
Williams



**AN OPPORTUNITY TO MELANI**



Melani's Story - (pronounced - Mel-arnni) Melani was born in 1998 and was hand raised by a variety of keepers at Surabaya Zoo. As Melani grew older and the zoo's internal conflict increased, the care of the Surabaya animals decreased. One of the things that occurred was the buying of low quality meat for the tigers. All of the tigers became extremely ill. Throughout 2010 and 2011, the media reported on "starving tigers" dying at Surabaya Zoo. This in fact was caused by the tigers, including Melani,

that ate the tainted and basically poisonous meat diet. The meat was found to have formaldehyde in it, which is an automatic killer. The formaldehyde caused horrific internal decay of vital organs and stomach linings. Once the source of the problem was found, the source of this tainted meat was stopped, and untainted meat was introduced. However it was too late for the other tigers and they all died in excruciating pain. Melani continued to fight to live but she was in a tragic condition.

Dr Sumampau of Taman Safari in Bogor, Indonesia, tried to introduce extra nutritional elements to Melani's diet, however the staff at Surabaya Zoo who "did not like" Dr Sumampau refused and rebelled against his advice, and Melani continued to suffer.

In June 2013, after wide media reports on the frail Melani, the Minister of Forests, ordered that Melani be removed from Surabaya Zoo and taken for treatment to Taman Safari, Bogor, Indonesia.



Melani was to begin her move to Taman Safari in Bogor, however her transport arrangements were halted after Dr Sumampau found out she would be transported in the back of a normal truck. Melani's condition was so frail that she could neither be flown due to the altitude that would cause probable death, nor could she travel by road in a normal truck as the humidity would kill her.

Dr Sumampau arranged an air-conditioned vehicle for Melani to be transported. So over a 20 hour period, Melani arrived at Taman Safari in Bogor.



On her arrival on the 25th June 2013, she was diagnosed as severely dehydrated and there was fear she would die within hours. But this dear

girl hung on. She was placed on intravenous drips which rehydrated her and supplied her with the much needed vitamin supplements that she had been missing from her diet for so long. In addition, her diet was completely changed and which included minced meat for easier digestion, formula of nutrition and vitamin supplements, carnivore supplements and more. Melani underwent blood testing and other testing to determine her organ functions. She was dangerously low in weight, at 48kg.

Note: A healthy female Sumatran Tiger weighs at least 75kg - 120kg. Melani was on deaths door.

The blood test and function test results were processed at the Taman Safari Veterinary Hospital, and the results were shocking. Melani's liver and kidney tests were so low, that she should have been dead. But again, she hung on for her life. This is a tiger that wants to live.

By 11th July 2013, Melani had gained 7kg, and now weighed in at 55kg. By 22nd July 2013, Melani was 58kg.

The years of neglect that Melani has endured along with the horrific damage done to her internal organs has resulted in the fact that Melani will never gain full health again. Her condition is chronic and she is being maintained. However, forever the fighter, she continues to survive and increase in her weight.

Another strange fact arose from Melani's arrival at Taman Safari. In all of the earlier pictures of Melani she is extremely dark, nearly black in colour. This is highly unusual for a tiger.



On viewing Melani on the 22nd July 2013, the one thing that struck me first, was Melani was more “orange” and fluffy. I asked about this and found out the following. When Melani arrived it was noticed that she was covered in a thick black oily substance.

The Vets at Taman Safari bathed Melani, and the black oil began to leave her fur. Melani has now been bathed a number of times and she continues to lose the black oily substance, and becoming cleaner. Even when I was stroking her, my hand became coated with a fine black oil. It had a very strong smell to it however I cannot place the smell.

If you look at the 2 photographs above you will notice that in the older picture of Melani at Surabaya Zoo, there is black oil on the walls and on the path she has walked on the floor with her paws. This is disgraceful.

At this time it is still unknown what type of oil has caused this, however it is being tested and I will let you know when I know.

In conclusion, Melani is still an incredibly frail girl. She is being kept in the hospital for now as she is highly prone to pneumonia and she is watched 24/7 including on CCTV cameras. She could go either way at this time. The cage that you see her in, in recent pictures, is not her “real” cage but it is a holding cage which enables the ongoing treatment of her.

In the hospital, there are also some little Orangutans, so when Melani is walking around in the hospital, staff have to really keep an eye on her as she goes up to the Orangutans to have a look and they attempt to reach out to this frail girl. Orangutans could cause some real injury on Melani, so these “outings” are closely monitored of course.

I have offered to help assist with Melani’s upkeep and veterinary care. If you can help with this please donate to [www.wildlifecalling.org.uk](http://www.wildlifecalling.org.uk) and clearly mark the donation as Melani Cee4life. We will get all donations to her and we will film and photograph everything and continue to report on her progress.



Melani Update - 14th Oct 2013 - After eating her food up today, she stood up and had a big stretch. Here is a body shot of her just before she was moved back into her large enclosure.

Once back in her bigger enclosure some journalists from the Indonesian media arrived today and myself and the Vet Dr Retna I were interviewed.



It will air tomorrow on Indonesian 11am - 12am news in the mid morning on MNC TV and RTTV. So if there is a youtube clip I will try and find it and post it up or if anyone can help with that, that would be great. Melani is very bright and incredibly affectionate. I have never met a Tiger that has been through so much pain and suffering, yet her demeanor is so incredibly positive.

This dear girl is an inspiration to all.

She WANTS to live

Please if you can donate anything towards her formula, medicines, enrichment, or anything, it would be greatly appreciated. Wildlife Calling Charity - [www.wildlifecalling.org.uk](http://www.wildlifecalling.org.uk) or please contact Donna or Sybelle(Me) via the Cee4life website [www.cee4life.org](http://www.cee4life.org)



Melani Update - Hello pretty face and bright eyes 14th Oct 2013 - And here is the face we all love  
Finally after her food and stretches and chuffs she sat still long enough so I could get a photo of her bright eyes

The expression on Melani's face is no longer "on guard" or "shocked" or "fearful" she is now very relaxed and virtually smiles at you !! Im not joking she really does smile. She closes her eyes, chuffs and the sides of her mouth turn upwards!

At the time I took this photo she was listening to a Lion that had started roaring outside and her eyes widened! I wanted you to see the light back in her eyes ~ Sybelle

Please if you can donate anything towards her formula, medicines, enrichment, or anything, it would be greatly appreciated. Wildlife Calling Charity - [www.wildlifecalling.org.uk](http://www.wildlifecalling.org.uk) or please contact Donna or Sybelle(Me) via the Cee4life website [www.cee4life.org](http://www.cee4life.org)



Explaining Melani's Journey to Health and Enclosure Upgrades - 14th October 2013

I wanted to show you what Melani has to look forward to. Because of her severe condition on arrival at Taman Safari Bogor, she was in what is called a Stage 1 area inside the Animal Hospital. Stage 1 is an area where critically ill or injured animals are taken. There they are given

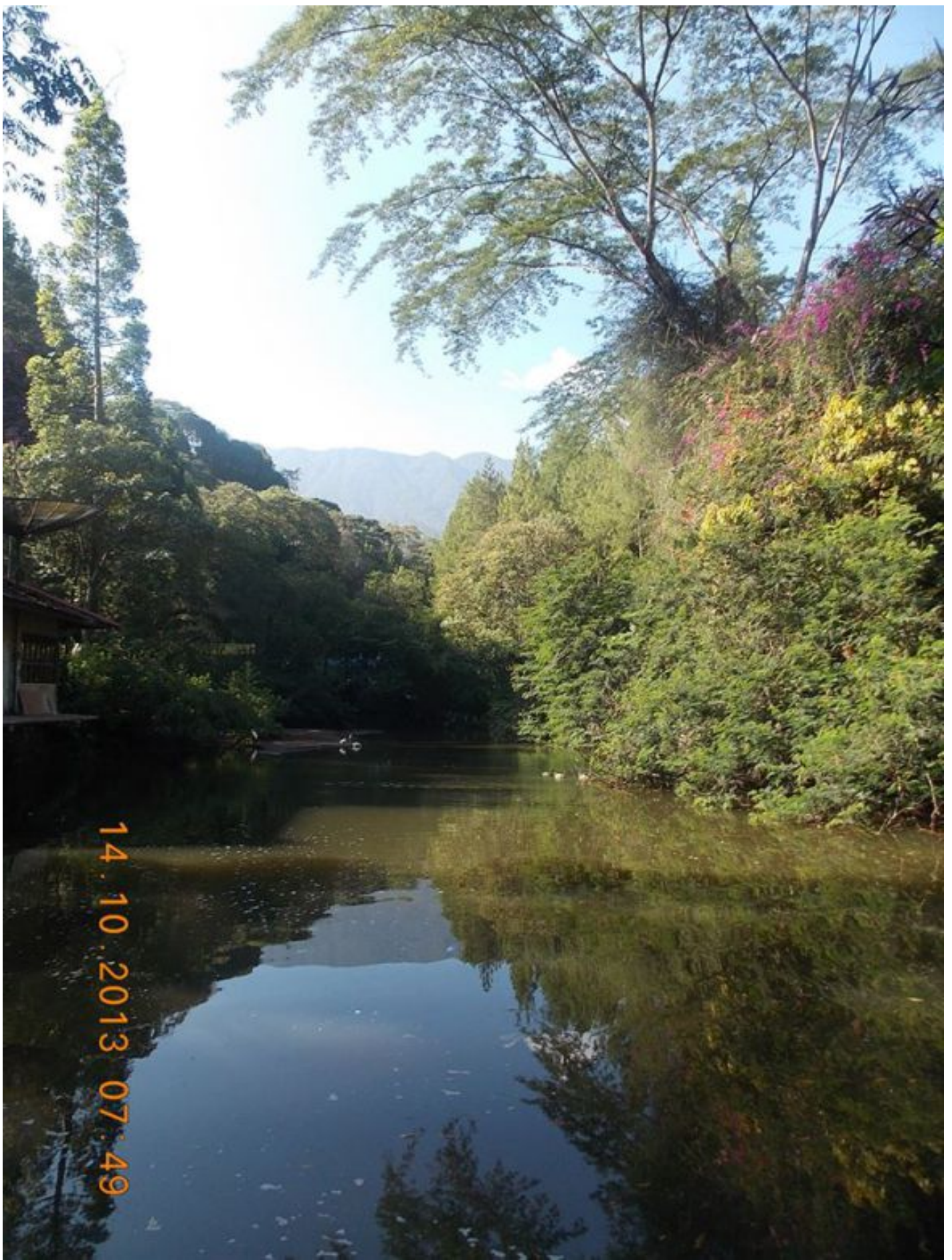
24/7 care until they are stabilised to the point where they don't need continuous intravenous drips, medication, and medical aid in case they go into a coma or heart attack etc.

Stage 2 - Melani has only just made it into Stage 2 and she started being hard to feed etc. Stage 2 is for Tigers that has just got over the critical imminent death stage, but still need observation 24/7 however not as intensely. So she is a special case and really only started to be distracted in her Stage 2 area, a cross between Stage 1 and 2 is being implemented, meaning that she goes into her smaller cage to be fed a few times per day (stage 1 cage) and then back out to her Stage 2 area.

Stage 3 is what you see below. An outside area where they are medically monitored 24/7 but are strong enough to handle the rainy weather and not get sick.

This is Tina the Tiger She was an attempted poached tiger and has recovered quite well at the moment, so she has made it to Stage 3, but is still monitored a number of times per day. Look closely, Tina is smiling  
Please stay with us on Melani's journey, and if you can help with her medical care, enrichment etc please go to Wildlife Calling Charity [www.wildlifecalling.org.uk](http://www.wildlifecalling.org.uk) and clearly mark your donation as "melani". Or please go to [www.cee4life.org](http://www.cee4life.org) and contact either donna or myself.

~ Sybelle



Guess where I am ? Melani is about 500 meters from me If anyone is in the Taman Safari Bogor area please come and say hello Will be here until 17th ~ Sybelle

When I met her, I can tell you that she is the most gentle girl. As she was

raised by humans, she loves to get affection. Something she did miss out on a lot at Surabaya. I cannot express to you the incredibly blissful way that she reacted to human affection. It was like utter bliss to her, she chuffed and rubbed closely and was content.

I will be travelling there again over time to see her and the other rescued tigers at Taman Safari that are survivors from attempted poaching incidents. In addition, Cee4life has offered our assistance at Surabaya Zoo for training and education to staff. We are awaiting the confirmation of that, and I will post more about this soon.

Thankyou so very much for your ongoing support, it is greatly appreciated.

Stay with us on this journey for animal welfare and ethical care of the Surabaya Animals.

Sincerely

Sybelle Foxcroft - Director Cee4life - [www.cee4life.org](http://www.cee4life.org)



**Melani's Diet** - Due to the very severe internal damage caused from Melani's poisoning and starvation, and her dear 15 year old body, she will be on this special formula for the rest of her life. This is a lifetime commitment. Each day Melani eats multiple times in smaller meals as a starved animals has had severe damage to internal organs, basically her

body was consuming itself to sustain her. So this particular formula, the AD Hills, is mixed in with minced chicken, red meat and rabbit. She is going quite well, so each day she will go through 1 or 2 of these cans per day, mixed with all the other meats, plus she gets 1 or 2 of the haemoglobin sachets per day. We do not obviously have to buy the meat, however we need your help to keep her formula and haemoglobin sachets going. Please help if you can and donate to Wildlife Calling Charity, [www.wildlifecalling.org.uk](http://www.wildlifecalling.org.uk) or contact Cee4life directly via our website at [www.cee4life.org](http://www.cee4life.org). We have been able to source a location in Indonesia where we can get small amounts of her formula, however not always. Each box of her formula is approximately \$70 AU, she needs about 5 - 6 of these boxes per month (up to \$420), plus the haemoglobin sachets (not available in Indonesia) are \$170 AU per box. A box will last her 1 month. Freight charges are the worst, however we have found a very compassionate company called "Ship 2 Anywhere" which have Melani as a priority and have been very supportive, we can get a small discount, however the cost of the last shipment was knocked down from \$400 to \$250. Fed Ex may offer something special for us, we are waiting out on that. So again, if you can help please donate to Wildlife Calling Charity <http://www.wildlifecalling.org.uk> or please contact Cee4life directly on our website <http://www.cee4life.org> ~ Thankyou for anything you can help with Sybelle

Here is a description & a pic of the specialised food & medication we have sent to Taman Safari Bogor for Melani.

\* Hills A/d - Prescription dietary food, 96 x 156g cans.

\* Recovery - Prescription dietary food, 32 x 100g cans.

Hills A/d & Recovery are both a complete dietetic food that can be given to felines. It is formulated to promote nutritional restoration during convalescence or in the case of Feline Hepatic Lipidosis (liver disease).

This food has a high energy density and a concentrate of essential nutrients which are highly digestible.

\* Oral Hematinic, 25 x 28g sachets. This is a vitamin/mineral supplement and an aid in the prevention and treatment of anaemia in large mammals.

**A special thanks to Cee4life and Sybelle Foxcroft Senior - Conservation**

& Environmental Education Officer/Director for allowing us to use their images. It was a great help and I appreciate it immensely.

Anuncios

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## **FOTOS DE FILHOTES**

Publicado el 12 de octubre de 2013

**SAIBA QUAIS SÃO OS HÁBITOS  
DOS ANIMAIS COM SUAS CRIAS,  
DO NASCIMENTO ATÉ A CHEGADA  
À IDADE ADULTA**

Fonte: [NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BRASIL ONLINE](#) | Por: Anderson Estevan



Ameaçado de extinção pela caça, o peixe-boi-marinho encontra abrigo em alguns centros de preservação no Brasil. Este filhote, por exemplo, está sendo amamentado na sede do Projeto Peixe-Boi, na ilha de Itamaracá, em Pernambuco. Foto: Luciano Candisani



O rei das selvas só adquire a famosa juba quando chega à idade adulta, que ocorre por volta de três a quatro anos de idade. Até então, os filhotes de leões só ajudam em algumas caçadas e são dominados pelas fêmeas.

Foto: Thinkstock



Ao nascer, um urso-polar pesa menos de um quilo. Quando chega à idade adulta, porém, o animal pode ter até 700 quilos. Eles atingem a maturidade sexual aos seis anos e podem viver até 18 anos fora de cativeiro. Foto: Thinkstock



Para proteger o filhote de predadores, o tamanduá-bandeira fêmea carrega a cria nas costas até que esta atinge cerca de metade do tamanho da mãe, o que ocorre após seis a nove meses. Somente um filhote é gerado por cria, atingindo a maturidade em dois anos e meio. Foto: Fábio Paschoal



A maior das subespécies do lobo-cinzento, o lobo-do-ártico pode gerar até seis filhotes. Eles são desmamados com 10 semanas de idade e após algum tempo já começam a sair para caçar com os adultos. Os lobos-do-ártico chegam à idade adulta após dois ou três anos de nascimento. Foto:

Thinkstock



Em média, um tigre-de-bengala tem 20 listras por todo o corpo, que já aparecem nos filhotes com pouco tempo de vida. Uma das nove subespécies de tigre, o animal sofre seriamente risco de ser extinto e já recebe apoio de grupos de preservação. Normalmente são gerados de dois a quatro filhotes. Foto: Steve Winter



Ameaçada de extinção por conta da caça e de seu habitat reduzido, a anta brasileira gera um único filhote. Diferente dos adultos, que ostentam uma pelagem marrom opaca, o filhote tem uma coloração rajada que vai sumindo durante a sua vida. Foto: Zoológico de Paignton



O filhote de leão-marinho nasce com cerca de 40 centímetros e só aprende a nadar com dois meses de idade. Quando adultos, os machos ganham uma juba, que se parece com a dos leões africanos. Foto: Thinkstock



Única ave que permanece no Polo Sul durante o inverno, o pinguim-imperador apresenta uma coloração totalmente diferente da conhecida na fase adulta. Os filhotes possuem uma pelagem cinza, que os ajuda a se proteger do frio intenso até que eles aprendam a controlar a sua temperatura corporal. Foto: Thinkstock





Natural da China, o filhote de macaco-dourado-de-nariz-arrebitado já adquire uma grossa camada de pêlos quando pequeno, ajudando-o a suportar o frio intenso que acomete o seu habitat em certas épocas do ano. Foto: Cyril Ruoso



Natural de regiões tropicais, a tartaruga-verde está correndo sérios riscos de extinção por conta da caça e da poluição. Quando nascem, após eclodirem dos ovos, as dezenas de filhotes da espécie rumam até os mares para sobreviver. Foto: iStockphoto



Os filhotes de tartaruga-verde que conseguem chegar ao mar, sobrevivem e alcançam a maturidade sexual dos vinte aos cinquenta anos. A espécie costuma viver até os 80 anos. Foto: Divulgação



Após o período de acasalamento, as focas aguardam até onze meses para gerar seu único filhote, que nos próximos seis meses aprenderá a nadar para seguir os adultos. Chega à idade adulta perto de sete anos de idade, quando pesa cerca de 75 quilos. Foto: Thinkstock



A fêmea do lobo-guará esconde suas ninhadas de filhotes no meio de arbustos ou pedras, pequenas ravinas ou covas secas no interior de áreas alagadas. Os filhotes chegam à maturidade sexual com um ano de idade.

Foto: Luiz Claudio Marigo



O pato-mergulhão gera até oito filhotes por ninhada, que eclodem dos ovos após 30 dias de incubação. Os filhotes permanecem com os pais por até 10 meses. Este é outro animal que possui sérios riscos de extinção. Foto: Adriano Gambarini



Até quatro filhotes são gerados a cada gestação da jaguatirica, que pode viver até 20 anos em cativeiro. Os filhotes chegam à idade adulta com um ano e meio. Foto: Divulgação



O maior mamífero terrestre é gerado após um período de gestação de até

22 meses e pode chegar a pesar três toneladas. Em seu habitat natural, um elefante pode viver até 60 anos. Foto: Thinkstock

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## ANIMAL NEWS: VIDEO REVEALS SURPRISING HUMPBACK FEEDING BEHAVIOR

Publicado el 12 de octubre de 2013



Humpback whales are known for their unique feeding behavior—called bubble-netting—at the water's surface. But researchers noticed the whales also spent a lot of time on the bottom. By

mounting cameras on the animals, researchers saw for the first time that these whales were bottom-feeding.

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## “CYBERPOACHING” FEARED AS NEW THREAT TO RARE WILDLIFE

Publicado el 11 de octubre de 2013

Email hacking incident in India raises concerns, conservationists say.



A tiger is fitted with a radio tracking collar by researchers in Thailand.  
Photograph by Steve Winter, National Geographic

**Sasha Ingber for *National Geographic***

**Hackers have broken into the websites of banks, news outlets, social media, and the government, but could key information on the whereabouts of endangered species be targeted as well?**

Possibly, say conservationists: An incident in India has some concerned that wildlife poachers could use the Internet as another resource for criminal activity.

In July, Krishnamurthy Ramesh, head of the monitoring program at **Panna Tiger Reserve** in central India, received an email that alerted him to an attempt to access his professional email account. His inbox contained the encrypted geographic location of an endangered **Bengal tiger**. (See [a National Geographic magazine interactive of big cats in danger](#).)



The tiger, a two-and-a-half-year-old male, had been fitted with a nearly \$5,000 collar with both satellite and ground-tracking capabilities in February 2013. The collar was configured to provide GPS data every hour for the first three months and every four hours for the next five months (the collar lasts about eight months).

In July, the battery expired and the satellite feedback in the collar stopped working. Around the same time, Ramesh received the notice that someone in [Pune \(map\)](#)—more than 620 miles (1,000 kilometers) away from his office in [Dehradun \(map\)](#)—had tried to access his email.

The attempt was promptly prevented by the server. Even if the GPS data had been obtained, it is encrypted and can be decoded only with specialized data-converter software and specific radio-collar product information, said Ramesh.

“They couldn’t even see the data—it would look like unusual numbers or symbols,” he said.

It’s unknown who was trying to access the data, or if it was simply an innocent mistake. The forest department of the state that contains the reserve, Madhya Pradesh, has started an inquiry in collaboration with the police.

Even so, the situation prompted Ramesh and others to consider the potential that online data about endangered species could fall into the wrong hands.

## **Wildlife Sales Go Virtual**

The Internet has given a new shape to the booming illegal wildlife trade.

According to the [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora \(CITES\)](#), special agents with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service began [spotting online sale postings](#) for frozen tiger cubs in the late 1990s. ([Read about a live tiger cub that was found in](#)

luggage in Thailand in 2010.)

By July 2012, the wildlife-trade monitoring network **TRAFFIC** found **33 tiger products on Chinese online auction websites**, including bracelets, pendants, and tiger-bone glue. Ads even promoted “blood being visible in items.”

Such online sales are part of a bigger wildlife-trafficking industry, which the conservation nonprofit **WWF** estimates to be worth \$7.8 to \$10 billion per year.

Traffickers have reason to shift their efforts to the Internet: They can be anonymous and camouflage their intentions with code words, such as “ox bone,” which has been used to describe illegal elephant ivory items sold through eBay.

What’s more, online transactions can happen quickly and customers can come from virtually any corner of the world. These factors, as well as the difficulty of establishing jurisdiction when a trafficker is caught, pose stark challenges for police and enforcement agencies.

Whether or not the Indian incident was a thwarted attempt at poaching, wildlife-governance specialist Andrew Zakharenka of the Washington, D.C.-based **Global Tiger Initiative** points out that “with increasing income and connectivity to the Internet, especially in developing countries, there is a threat of increased demand for wildlife products.”

Zakharenka also said that wildlife criminals are increasingly using technology. He sees cell phones, SIM cards, and emails involved in cases of arrested criminals time and time again.

According to **Shivani Bhalla**, National Geographic explorer and lion conservationist, “Poaching is completely different than the way it used to be in the eighties.”

She’s heard documented stories of “tech-savvy wildlife crime groups who

know to enter wildlife areas and kill so many animals.”

TRAFFIC has also reported that poachers are using **increasingly sophisticated methods, such as veterinary drugs**, to kill animals.

## Technology Aids Conservation

Even so, technological advances can also be used to increase conservation successes.

Just four years ago, virtually every tiger in Madhya Pradesh had been lost to poaching. Even forest officials—from guards to officers—were involved in the **suppression of poaching evidence and tiger death cases**, according to an internal report filed by the reserve’s field director.

But thanks to a tiger reintroduction and monitoring program—touted as one of the most successful in the world—the reserve now has 22 tigers. There are fewer than 2,000 Bengal tigers left in the wild. (See **“Tigers Making a Comeback in Parts of Asia.”**)

“Technology has been a great support in Panna, and in fact, the tiger population recovery has advanced because of security-based monitoring involving such technology,” said Ramesh.

Conservationist Bhalla, who heads the organization **Ewaso Lions**, believes the collars provide vital information on behavior and movement, especially in human-dominated landscapes. For instance, on September 5, an eight-year-old male lion was shot, beheaded, and partially burned as retribution by villagers in northern Kenya.

Because the animal was wearing a collar that provided real-time radio-frequency signals and GPS locations, Bhalla and colleagues knew something was wrong right away.

“The last [geographical] point we received was at 8 a.m.,” said Bhalla. “The collar was able to tell us that he had been killed, where he had been

killed, and we were able to track it straight to the community”—a remote village in Samburu.

Ramesh added that the advantages of technology outweigh the drawbacks.

“I tend to think we’re better placed than the poacher in terms of the technology, while not underestimating the desperation involved in poaching big cats,” he said. (See tiger pictures.)

## Stepping Up Security

Since the possible hacking attempt, the collared tiger in Satpura Tiger Reserve has been seen more than three times and photographed twice. Ramesh said that a dedicated team stays within 1,600 feet (500 meters) of the tiger at all times to deter poachers.

The incident has also pushed Ramesh and colleagues to ramp up Panna’s security.

In January, the conservationists will deploy drones for surveillance and set up wireless sensors to detect human intrusions into the forest.

“We shall surely counter technology-based threats from poachers, if they ever resort to them,” Ramesh said.

Credits: [National Geographic](#)

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## **DOCS REMOVE LESION ON ELDERLY FEMALE GORILLA IN VIRUNGA NATIONAL PARK**

Publicado el [11 de octubre de 2013](#)

Drs. Eddy Kambale and Dawn Zimmerman traveled to Virunga National Park (DRC) to assess elderly female Gashangi (Humba group), after Park Authorities reported that the female had returned to the group after missing for more than 4 months. Gashangi was last seen with her group in April with a large lesion on her lip that Gorilla Doctors were monitoring. She also had a 3-year-old infant. Trackers reported that when she reappeared in the group, her baby was no longer with her, and within a few weeks the lesion became much worse and she was lethargic and not eating. A veterinary assessment and possible intervention by Gorilla Doctors was planned for Saturday, October 5th.

Here is Dr. Dawn's report:

Gashangi had been observed with a raised prolific lesion at the left oral commissure since the group was first visited post-M23 rebel takeover of the Mikenso sector in Virunga National Park, December 2012. Because the group could not be monitored since March 2012 due to the rebel occupation, the lesion's origin and progression up until the first observation was unknown.

When Gashangi was last visually assessed in April 2013, we were concerned with the lesion and were discussing the risks and benefits of intervening for a biopsy. However, she disappeared from the group soon after. Trackers reported that Humba group had exited the park but that Gashangi and her infant did not follow them, as she is known to do. Subsequently, the group traveled parallel to the park border before returning, and Gashangi likely lost track of where the group was when they returned to the park.



Gashangi returned to Humba group in September 2013, but without her

3-year-old infant. During the first four days of October, she appeared to deteriorate and was reportedly weak, anorexic, and moving slowly with pale hands and feet. In addition, the oral mass was growing and she was often surrounded by flies. Dr. Eddy was informed of Gashangi's condition on October 4<sup>th</sup>, and a veterinary assessment with possible intervention was scheduled for the following day on October 5.

Dr. Eddy and I, along with 5 ICCN trackers and 10 HUGO (Human-Gorilla) staff left Bukima camp at 6:40am, finding the group at 9:00am in the Rungu area. Dr. Eddy initially assessed Gashangi visually from 9:00 - 9:14am. She was found within the group, bright, alert, and responsive, but moving slowly. The mass at her left oral commissure had grown and appeared purulent. She had significant muscle atrophy, most noticeable in her arms and legs. Initially, she was not observed eating although her stomach was fairly full; however, prior to darting, she was observed eating bamboo. Due to the appearance of the mass, an intervention for diagnostic purposes was recommended. Gashangi was darted with ketamine and dexmedetomidine at 10:20am and was fully anesthetized at 10:26am.



Dr. Eddy prepares the anesthesia dart.



Dr. Eddy prepares to dart Gashangi to deliver anesthesia.





Dr. Eddy fires the dart towards Gashangi, who is hiding in thick vegetation.

A complete physical exam was conducted during the intervention. Gashangi was previously thought to be around 20 years old, but the condition of her teeth suggests that she is in fact more than 30 years old. Nasal, oral, vaginal, and rectal swabs were collected for testing, as well as multiple blood samples.



The lesion on the left side of Gashangi's mouth.

The oral mass was resected and samples were taken for histologic evaluation; a culture swab was taken of the purulent material at the surface of the mass, and impression smears were taken to help discern quickly whether the mass was granulomatous inflammation or cancer. If the former, the resection could be curative.

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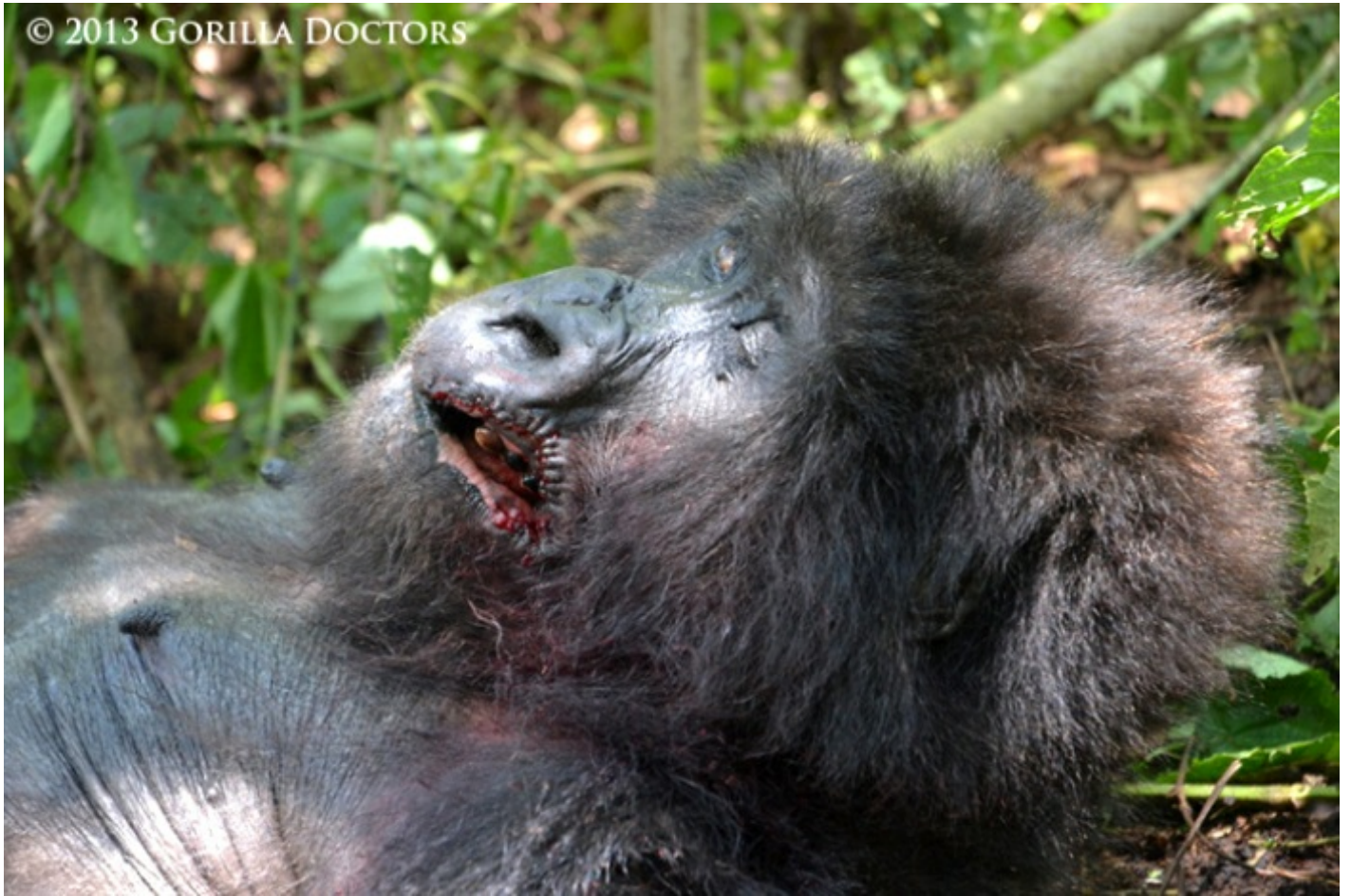


Gorilla Doctors conduct an intervention to remove the lesion on elderly female Gashangi's mouth.

© 2013 GORILLA DOCTORS



Gorilla Doctors removed the lesion from Gashangi's lip.

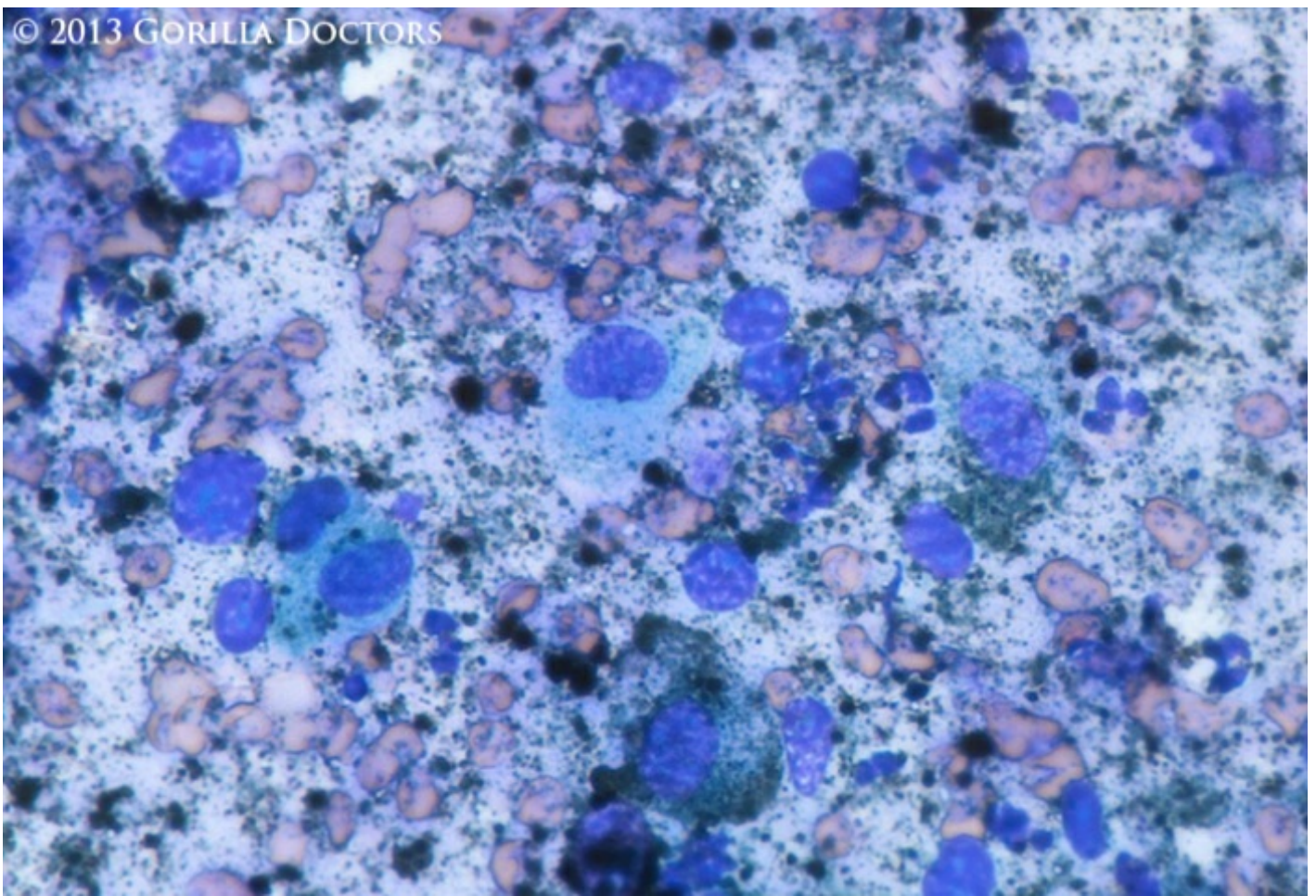


Gashangi, recovering from anesthesia post intervention.

Gashangi was still lactating, although her infant is no longer with her. It is likely that her health was too compromised, exhausting her energy resources, to effectively nurture her infant. Trackers will continue to monitor Gashangi closely and report all progress and/or changes in her condition. Results from the biopsy will be posted when available.

Update:

An initial assessment by Gorilla Doctors Veterinary Pathologist Dr. Linda Lowenstine reveals that the mass is not suggestive of cancer, but further investigation is required to determine the exact cause.



Also, Dr. Eddy assessed Gashangi's condition the day after the intervention and found the elderly female with her group, feeding and moving. The suture line was intact and there was minimal swelling.

You can follow the Gorilla Doctors health monitoring efforts on our [Facebook page](#), where we post photos and notes from our monthly visits.

Please consider supporting us by making a [secure online donation](#). Every dollar you give goes to directly supporting our gorilla health programs and One Health initiative. Thank you for your generosity.

Credits: [Gorilla Doctors](#)

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## **TWO-TAILED ANCIENT BIRD UNCOVERED**

Publicado el [10 de octubre de 2013](#)

An ancient dinosaur-era bird turns out to have two tails, one perhaps for flying and the other for showing off.



A reconstruction of a two-tailed 120-million-year-old Jeholornis.  
Illustration courtesy Aijuan Shi

**Dan Vergano / *National Geographic***

**The early bird gets two tails? A 120-million-year-old bird sported a long tail and a second, unexpected tail frond, paleontologists suggest. The discovery points to a complicated evolutionary path for the tails we see in birds today.**

One of the oldest known birds, *Jeholornis*, lived in what is today China, along with a trove of other feathered dinosaurs discovered in the region over the last decade. It was also thought to sport only a long fan-feathered tail at its back end. Now, however, paleontologists are claiming discovery of a second tail frond adorning the bird. (See **“*Did Feathered Dinosaurs Shake Their Tail Feathers?*”**)

“The ‘two-tail’ plumage of *Jeholornis* is unique,” according to the study,

which was led by Jingmai O'Connor of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing. The report of the **discovery of the tail frond** was published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

Of 11 *Jeholornis* fossils that retain evidence of ancient plumage, 6 have signs of this frond of 11 feathers, which would have jutted above the bird's back at a jaunty, upright angle in a "visually striking" manner, according to the study.

## **Two-Tailed Display**

"Clearly the display aspect of the frond would have been undeniable," says paleontologist Mark Norell, of the American Museum of Natural History in New York, who was not part of the study. "It calls to mind living birds, even peacocks, which display broad plumes of feathers."

In peacocks and other birds, such feathery features are more for attracting the attention of potential mates than for any functional purpose.

Since male birds today are the ones with the striking plumage, the authors suggest that perhaps only one sex of *Jeholornis* sported the eye-catching tail fronds.

## **Early Aviation Advantage?**

*Jeholornis* is not thought to be directly related to modern birds, which seem to have evolved from a different line of early avians. The study authors suggest that the tail frond may have played a stabilizing role in the flight of these early birds and that if the arrangement of feathers had proven advantageous enough, modern birds might have evolved to sport such two-tailed features. They see the fronds as flattening to offer a streamlined appearance when the bird was in flight.

Other researchers aren't convinced the newly discovered tail frond played much of a role in aviation, however.

“Feathering in the new specimens is quite interesting, but we have to remember it is a feature so far only known in one species,” says University of Texas paleontologist Julia Clarke, who adds the frond wasn’t seen in all the fossils.

“Thus, its implications for the origin of flight are unclear,” she says. “It could have been a peculiarity of the one species, as the authors note.”

Perhaps more likely, she suggests the frond simply evolved as an easy-to-notice “sexual display” flaunted by these early birds.

Credits: [National Geographic](#)

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## “EXTINCT” PINOCCHIO LIZARD FOUND IN ECUADOR

Publicado el 10 de octubre de 2013

Posted by *Carrie Arnold* in *Weird & Wild*

It's no lie—scientists have spotted a lizard with a nose like Pinocchio in an **Ecuadorian cloud forest**. What's more, the long-nosed **reptile** was thought extinct, having been seen only a few times in the past 15 years.

“It's hard to describe the feelings of finding this lizard. Finding the Pinocchio anole was like discovering a secret, a deeply held secret. We conceived it for years to be a mythological creature,” **Alejandro Arteaga**, a photographer and one of the lizard's spotters, **said in a statement**.



The lizard's superschnoz on display. Photograph by Alejandro Arteaga, [tropicalherping.com](http://tropicalherping.com)

Not surprisingly, the defining feature of the Pinocchio lizard—properly named *Anolis proboscis*, or the horned anole—is the male's long protrusion on the end of its nose. Far from being a sturdy, rigid structure, researchers have found that the horn is actually quite flexible. (See a [picture of a Pinocchio frog found in Indonesia](#).)

Despite its peculiar appearance, the reptile wasn't formally described by scientists until 1953. They managed to save only six specimens, all of which were male. It was spotted several times in the next few years, all near the town of [Mindo, Ecuador \(map\)](#), and then the species seemed to vanish.

"For 40 years, no one saw it. At that point, we thought the species had gone extinct," said [Jonathan Losos](#), an evolutionary biologist and herpetologist at Harvard University who has studied the animal.

## Why Did the Lizard Cross the Road?

Then, in 2005, a group of bird-watchers near Mindo spotted a strange-looking lizard crossing the road. One of them shared a picture when they got back home, and herpetologists realized that the Pinocchio lizard was still alive and well. (Also see “[Photos: Bubble-nest Frog, Other ‘Extinct’ Species Found.](#)”)



Only the males have such long noses. Photograph by Alejandro Arteaga, [tropicalherping.com](http://tropicalherping.com)

Several teams journeyed to this area of Ecuador to get a closer look. One team, led by [Steve Poe](#), a researcher at the University of New Mexico and an expert at finding hard-to-spot lizards, found that the anoles were actually quite easy to find—if you knew where to look.

Because horned anoles sleep at the end of branches, turning a pale white color as they snooze, Poe’s team discovered that they were easily spotted at night with headlamps or flashlights. The researchers identified several females, none of which had a horn. What the anoles did during the day,

however, remained a mystery.

Losos—also a member of the **National Geographic Committee for Research and Exploration**—arrived in Ecuador in 2010 to solve this mystery and study the natural history of the Pinocchio lizard. Unable to find the lizard by searching its known hideouts, Losos did what any good detective would: He set up a stakeout.

His team found the pale lizards at night and simply followed them into the day. This sleuthing revealed why the anoles were very rarely spotted during the day.

### **Slow, Elusive Lizard**

For one, Pinocchio lizards are extremely well camouflaged and live high in the canopy. They also move very, almost ridiculously, slowly—hardly faster than a crawl.



Photograph by Lucas Bustamante, [tropicalherping.com](http://tropicalherping.com)

The latest team to discover the lizard also made some new discoveries about where the Pinocchio lizard lives.

“We discovered this lizard occurs in habitats very different to what has been suggested in the literature. No one had ever found the lizard in deep cloud forest away from open areas. The other sightings were in [the] forest border,” Arteaga said in a statement. (Also see [“Pictures: 24 New Caribbean Lizards Found.”](#))

“It’s nice that this group spotted these anoles again,” Losos said. “What we really need are people to just go out into nature and study these creatures for a few months. It’s not that hard to do.”

Scientists have discovered similar horned anoles in Brazil, but a closer analysis revealed that these two species had evolved their horns independently.

And as for what the nose is used for, no one knows. Losos once suspected the males might use the horns in swordfighting-like duels, but the horns are far too flimsy and flexible to be used in such a way.

Credits: [Weird & Wild](#)

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## **LION ARK MOVIE**

Publicado el 9 de octubre de 2013

### **FROM OUR FRIENDS AT ADI**

If you have any volunteers who would want help promote this locally—leafleting at the Festival or putting leaflets around to local veg/vegan friendly businesses, restaurants, etc—they will receive a complimentary ticket to one of the screenings. If you have anyone who would be interested, please put them in touch with either myself or Amanda at [atamandahudson@ad-international.org](mailto:atamandahudson@ad-international.org).



Nikita

**Lion Ark screenings at Fort Lauderdale Film Festival:**

**Monday October 28 at 5:30pm**

at cinema Mucivo Pompano

2315 N Federal Hwy, Pompano Beach, FL 33062 [map](#)

**Thursday October 31 at 3:30pm**

at Cinema Paradiso-Hollywood

**2008 Hollywood Blvd. Hollywood, FL 33020** [map](#)

**Friday November 1 at 5:30pm**

at Cinema Paradiso-Ft Lauderdale

503 SE 6th St, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301 [map](#)

**Buy tickets here:** <http://www.fliff.com/Home>

**More about Lion Ark trailer** [www.ad-international.org](http://www.ad-international.org)



Reviewers have said: “Lion Ark is the feel-good movie of the year!” (**Reel Talk**); “one of your must-see films of 2013” (**The Independent Critic**); “A consciousness-raising milestone of a documentary” (**The Ecologist**); “will restore some faith in humanity.” (**Shockya.com**); “A deeply important film about bravely taking a stand against animal cruelty.” (**FatFreefilm**). [Read more Lion Ark reviews](#)

For further information contact: Amanda Hudson at [amandahudson@ad-international.org](mailto:amandahudson@ad-international.org) or [323-935-2234](tel:323-935-2234).

Thank you so much!

Tim Phillips  
**Director, Lion Ark**

ADI Films

6100 Wilshire Boulevard, #1150

Los Angeles, CA 90048

Tel: [\(323\) 935 2234](tel:323-935-2234)

Fax: [\(323\) 935 9234](tel:323-935-9234)

[www.ad-international.org](http://www.ad-international.org)

Credits: [Big Cat Rescue](#)

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# **CYBER CRIME: NOW IT'S GOING TO KILL TIGERS, TOO**

Publicado el 9 de octubre de 2013

by *Susan Bird*



Cyber crime is so insidious, we can barely function anymore without taking a certain amount of risk. Artful cyber criminals can steal our online passwords, hack our bank accounts, masquerade as us on Facebook and Twitter and even steal our identities outright.

A new development, however, might just make you throw your hands in

the air and mutter a choice expletive. You see, some tech-savvy poachers have figured out that they might not need to stomp around the jungle anymore, searching for days on end to find an endangered species to murder for its pelt or horns. Instead, they just hire a computer whiz.

Wildlife officials who keep tabs on the Bengal tigers in India's protected **Satpura-Bori Tiger Reserve** reported recently that someone **hacked their computer database**. The data stolen was information from a tiger's GPS collar.

Location data for one collared tiger, known as Panna-211, is suspected to have been **compromised**. Unfortunately, if would-be poachers are able to track this collar, it is likely to give them real time data on where Panna-211 is. All they'd have to do is go find him and kill him. Because no one has determined who hacked this information, the best Indian officials can do for the time being is keep a watchful eye on Panna-211 over the next several months.

Many programs and organizations use GPS collars to track animal locations and movements for study and conservation purposes. From endangered **hirola antelopes** in Kenya to **Asiatic cheetahs** in Iran, GPS collaring is invaluable in the fight to save species on the brink of extinction.

These collars allow scientists to track animal movements and travel routes so they can understand things like habitat needs, social behavior, predator avoidance techniques, hunting methodology, migration patterns and interaction with other local wild and domestic animals.

A good example is the work done in Kenya in 2008 tracking the Grevy's zebra. The data collected from GPS collaring of these zebras **provided researchers** with critical information about how zebras juggle the need to find food with the constant danger of predatory lions.

“[W]e've been able to show the zebras change behavior markedly when they use the plains at night to minimize the risk of being preyed upon by

lions,” Daniel Rubenstein, director of the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Princeton University, [told CNN](#).

Researchers also use GPS collars to track the [Cross River gorilla](#) near the border dividing Nigeria and Cameroon. Bushmeat hunters and other threats have forced these apes to move into mountainous areas that make tracking their movements challenging. GPS data helps researchers understand where the gorillas go and how they deal with human threats to their existence.

It’s hugely frustrating when technology advances that are meant to help animals are instead misappropriated by criminals and used to harm them instead.

It was only a matter of time before smart poachers realized that GPS collar data was ripe for the taking, if they could figure out how to steal it. In India, for the first time as far as we know, they’ve finally done just that. Other poachers will take note.

This hacking event should serve as a wake up call to all conservationists who use GPS collars – beef up your computer safety measures. Don’t let the animals suffer the consequences of lax security. The bad guys are coming for your data – and for the animals.

Credits: [CARE2](#)

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## **ORANGUTANES EN VÍA DE EXTINCIÓN**

Publicado el [9 de octubre de 2013](#)

Orangutanes descansan en el parque nacional de Tanjung Puting en Kalimantan (parte Indonesia de la isla de Borneo). Los orangutanes son animales en vía de extinción y tan sólo viven en Borneo y Sumatra, donde el número de ejemplares desciende de forma alarmante.



Foto: EFE

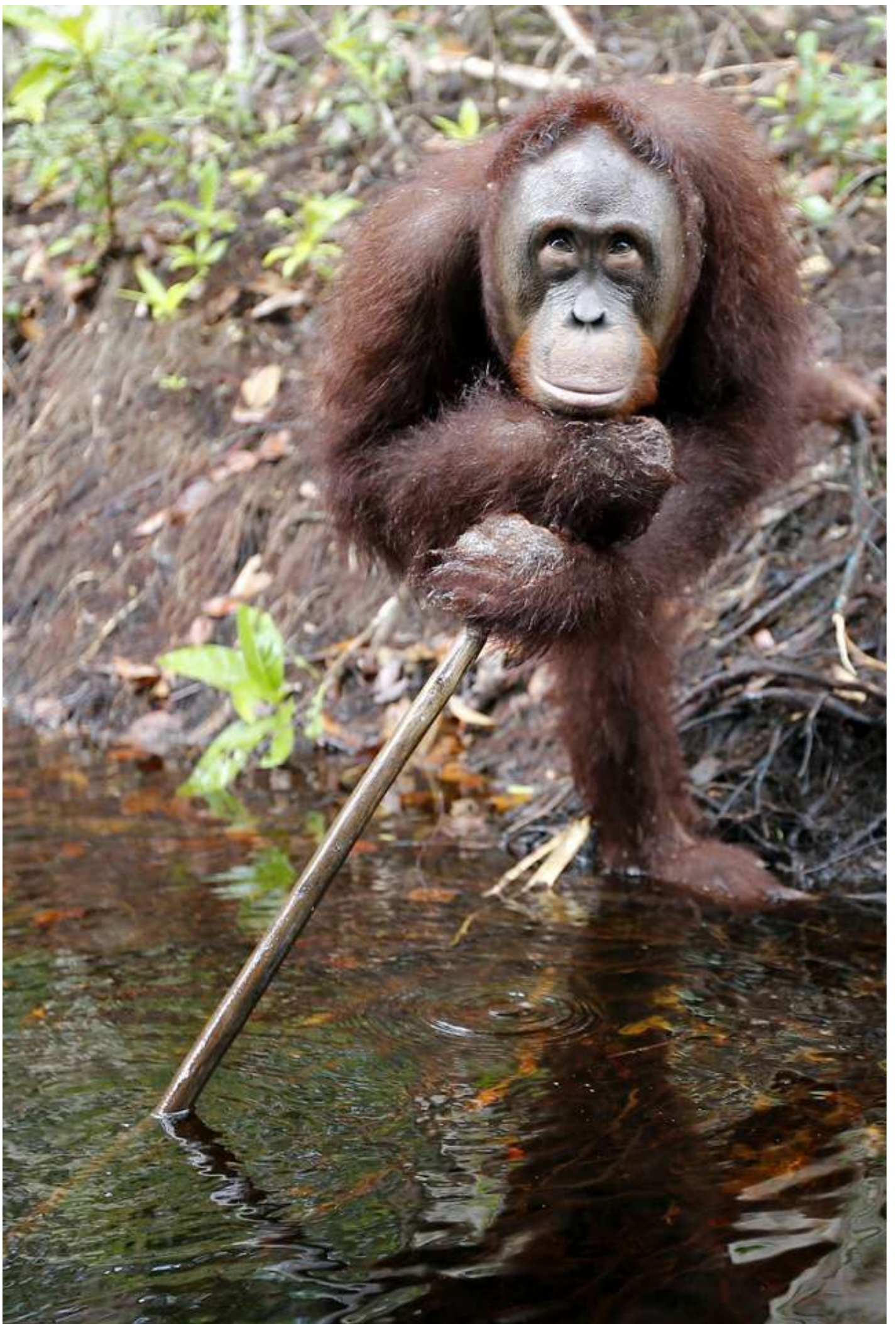


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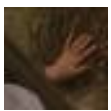
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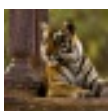
UPDATE - In memory of Julie



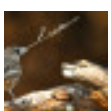
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