
CENTER *for* **BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

Because life is good.



2007

ANNUAL REPORT

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Kierán Suckling, Executive Director

This has been an exciting year at the Center for Biological Diversity. With a string of remarkable successes behind him, Michael Finkelstein stepped down as executive director this year to go back to campaigning work. We wish him the best of luck and know we'll be joining his wilderness protection campaigns in the future.

I've eagerly returned to the job of executive director. From the Center's founding in 1989 until four years ago I held the position, which I left in 2004 to spend more time with my baby daughter. I'm thrilled to be back at the helm, especially with the support of our excellent program directors and first-rate army of lawyers, scientists, organizers, writers, and fundraisers.

When I started the Center almost two decades ago I never dreamed we'd be affecting environmental policy on the world stage. In addition to building up the organization, we've had exceptional wins this year in our path-breaking Climate, Air, and Energy Program. Our legal victories on issues like fuel-economy standards have national and even global ramifications. Our Oceans Program launched the first-ever effort to reduce global carbon pollution by addressing the increasing acidification of the world's oceans at both the state and federal levels. The Global Warming and Endangered Species Initiative launched by our Biodiversity Program, aimed at compelling cabinet secretaries throughout the federal government to consider the effects of climate change on endangered species when making decisions, is also singularly ambitious.

The Center's combination of legal expertise, creative strategizing, and media savvy continues to raise the bar and provide a model for biodiversity and climate activism across the country.

2008 promises to be a time of transformation for the Center. As we look forward to a new presidential administration in '09—one we hope will be less hostile to environmental protection on both the climate-change and endangered species fronts—we're in great shape to expand our efforts to protect wildlife and wildlife places.

I want to thank all our members and donors for your trust and your loyalty. We simply couldn't do this without you.

Kierán Suckling
Executive Director

Protecting biodiversity is the core of the Center's mission. This year much of our focus, after direct species protection, was on exposing systematic government corruption in the Department of the Interior. Political interference in the department's scientific process has compromised species conservation across the country. We led research, education, and media campaigns to reveal internal workings at Interior — in particular the machinations of former Assistant Deputy Secretary Julie MacDonald — and sparked a public outcry that ended with MacDonald's resignation and severely hampered the Bush administration's ability to continue undermining science.

The Center then pushed for a federal investigation, now actively underway, to re-evaluate endangered species decisions in which MacDonald had played a part. We launched a campaign — unprecedented in the 34-year history of the Endangered Species Act — seeking legal redress for more than 55 species and 8 million acres denied protection because of political corruption, including the Mexican garter snake, California tiger salamander, San Diego ambrosia, and western snowy plover.

We also inaugurated a Global Warming and Endangered Species Initiative aimed at minimizing the harm done by climate change to at-risk plants and animals. If current warming trends continue, at least a third of the world's species may be committed to extinction by 2050; the Center intends to keep that number as low as humanly possible. In 2007 we filed a petition under the Administrative Procedures Act requesting that the

Hine's emerald dragonfly
Photo by Paul Burton



Mike Senatore recently took over as the Center's Biodiversity Program director. A lawyer and longtime Endangered Species Act policy expert, Mike is based in our Washington, D.C., office.

heads of the Environmental Protection Agency and the secretaries of Interior, Agriculture, Energy, Commerce, Defense, and Transportation adopt a sweeping set of regulations to consider the potential impacts of global warming on endangered species and other wildlife.

California tiger salamander
Photo by Gerald & Buff Corsi
© California Academy of Sciences

In our species-by-species work, we obtained 1.1 million acres of protected critical habitat areas for 27 species, including the Hine's emerald dragonfly in the Midwest, the oval pigtoe mussel in the Southeast, the loach minnow in the Southwest, and *Catesbaea melanocarpa* (a rare plant) in the Caribbean.

Our Mexican gray wolf campaign — responsible for reintroducing these once-extirminated animals to the wild Southwest more than a decade ago — saw concrete progress when the Fish and Wildlife Service responded to a Center lawsuit by agreeing to revamp the wolf recovery program with an eye toward allowing wolves to roam more widely, reducing the number of wolves punished for preying on livestock, and requiring better management of cattle on public lands.



Mexican gray wolf
Photo by Robin Silver

We also brought an end to the use of most lead bullets and shells in the range of the California condor when, partly in response to our advocacy, a bill was passed banning the ammunition that was killing the massive birds. And a reprieve was granted for the tiny Alabama beach mouse when a lawsuit by the Center and its allies halted a resort project that would have devastated the animal's beachside home.

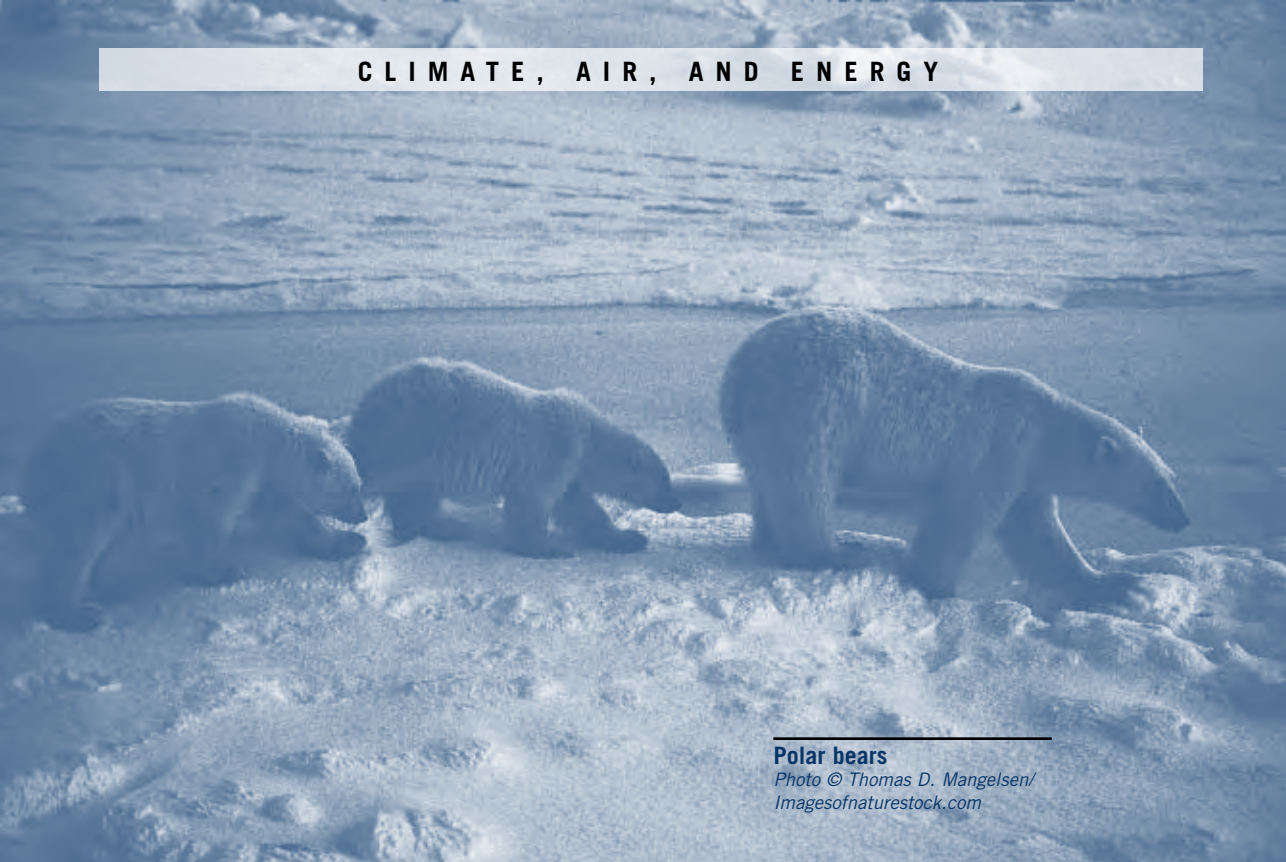
**Polar bears**

Photo © Thomas D. Mangelsen/
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The Center's program to curb greenhouse gases broke new ground in 2007 with a battery of precedent-setting legal victories using existing laws in innovative ways to stop the climate-change juggernaut.

August brought a win for both science and the Center when a federal judge rebuked the Bush administration for suppressing scientific reports on the impacts of global warming on the United States. The court ordered the Bush administration to issue an overdue Research Plan to guide federal climate research by mid-2008, as well as to prepare a National Assessment by May, analyzing the future impacts of climate change on the environment, economy, and human health and safety.

In November, we won a major case when the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals announced a ruling in our favor on national fuel-economy standards. The court said the Bush government had violated the law by ignoring global warming when it set national gas-mileage standards

for SUVs and pickup trucks. It sent the decision back to the federal government for a full environmental review — meaning new, stricter standards should be in the offing, and the Center and its allies have set important precedent under the National Environmental Policy Act. Along with allies, we also secured a court settlement with the Bush administration to address air pollutants — specifically, nitrogen oxides and sulfur oxides — that pose risks to human health and are major contributors to global warming.

The Center was the first nonprofit to press for regulation of greenhouse gases by state agencies

and local government under the California Environmental Quality Act, and in just a couple of years we've helped bring about a sea change in how land-use planning addresses greenhouse gas emissions. This year we shored up gains in this arena, advocating in Sacramento for rigorous implementation of forward-looking laws that could serve as templates for climate change

**Rockhopper penguins**

Photo © Larry Master

policy across the nation; successfully defending the California Environmental Quality Act from legislators who would have gutted this powerful tool; and winning an important settlement with San Bernardino County — the biggest county in the lower 48 — that will compel the county to address global warming emissions in its growth blueprint for the next 20 years.

In our high-profile campaign to protect species affected by global warming under the Endangered Species Act — the first such campaign in U.S. history — we continued to fight for penguin

and polar bear protection at the melting poles. We also filed new petitions this past year on behalf of the American pika, Pacific walrus, and ribbon seal. And last summer, we blocked Shell Oil from drilling in the Beaufort Sea, preventing harm to bowhead whales and polar bears.

**American pika**

Photo © Brian Crawford

**Ribbon seal**

Photo by Michael
Cameron, NOAA fisheries

Beluga whale*Photo by Mike Johnston*

Oceans cover about 70 percent of the Earth's surface and absorb about 22 million tons of carbon dioxide each day. As they do so, their waters become increasingly acidic; already the oceans have become about 30 percent more acidic from human sources of carbon dioxide. This change in seawater chemistry could prove deeply harmful to marine life, stripping the oceans of compounds marine animals need to build shells and skeletons and thus threatening the survival of species like shellfish, corals, sea urchins, and seastars, among others.

Leatherback sea turtle*Photo courtesy PRETOMA***Ochre sea star***Photo by Steve Elkins*

This year the Center inaugurated an ambitious campaign to address the rising acid content of the world's oceans as a linchpin in our work to save species. We petitioned 10 states — California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Hawaii, Florida, New York, New Jersey, Maine, and Delaware — to declare their waters “impaired” by CO₂ under the Clean Water Act due to ocean acidification. And in December, we petitioned the federal Environmental Protection Agency to confront the threat of ocean acidification by strengthening its water-quality standard for ocean pH and publishing guidelines to help states protect U.S. waters from carbon dioxide pollution. The campaign could have a revolutionary impact on the regulation of greenhouse gases as well as on the protection of biodiversity in the world's oceans.

Our Oceans Program brought home victories this year across a range of species, securing legal deadlines for designation of much-needed critical habitat for the elkhorn coral, staghorn coral, smalltooth sawfish, and green sturgeon, as well as a proposed endangered listing for the Cook Inlet beluga whale. Our petitions to protect the black-footed albatross and yellow-billed loon under the Endangered Species Act cleared important hurdles in the listing process.

We also filed petitions to protect endangered leatherback and loggerhead sea turtles in both the Atlantic and the Pacific, a rare California seabird called the ash storm-petrel, and blue whales that were being hit and killed by ships in the

Santa Barbara Channel. We challenged an administration decision to open North Pacific right whale and beluga habitat to oil development. And we brought legal actions to stop the Interior Department from allowing oil companies to harass polar bears and Pacific walruses, as well as to compel it to update stock assessments for polar bears, walruses, sea otters, and manatees to factor in the impacts of global warming when making management decisions affecting these species.



Brendan Cummings and Kassie Siegel are directors, respectively, of the Center's Oceans Program and Climate, Air, and Energy Program, collaborators on the scientific petition to list the polar bear under the Endangered Species Act, and real-life partners to boot. Brendan has been the brains behind a wide array of our most successful, innovative endangered species litigation strategies for more than a decade. Kassie testified before Congress three times this year on the urgent threat posed to polar bears by global warming, and was honored as one of California Lawyer's 2007 Attorneys of the Year in the environmental law category for her work on national fuel-economy standards.

Defending national forests from old-growth logging, the Center led a coalition of 14 conservation groups this year in filing suit to block the Forest Service from implementing rules a federal court had previously deemed unlawful — rules that threaten fish, wildlife, and natural resources throughout the national forest system. We're fighting to again establish the illegality of these rules, which the Service revised in 2000 and 2005 to weaken much stronger environmental protections established 25 years ago under the National Forest Management Act.



Condors on oil rig, Los Padres National Forest

Photo courtesy USFWS

In a related action to keep harmful logging off forests in Arizona and New Mexico, we objected to an 8,000-acre timber sale in Coconino National Forest that would have sacrificed far too many ancient trees. The project was withdrawn for further analysis, meaning that the northern goshawk, which stands to lose from the cutting of old-growth, was granted a reprieve.

On the heels of a major oil spill in California's Los Padres National Forest, we filed a lawsuit, along with partners, over the Bush administration's plans to expand oil and gas drilling there. The leasing decision, which was approved by the Forest Service in July 2005 and would expand oil drilling across 52,075 acres of the forest in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, would hurt endangered California condors, as well as other wildlife and plants.

We also filed a formal notice of intent to sue the Department of Energy over its October 2007 designation of the Southwest National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor — a sweeping, 45-million-acre area that includes

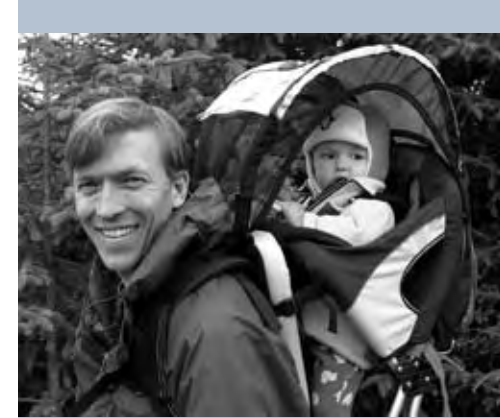
seven southern California and three Arizona counties — which could affect at least 95 endangered and threatened species, including the southwestern willow flycatcher, arroyo toad, desert tortoise, desert pupfish, Peninsular bighorn sheep, and California gnatcatcher. The Energy Department had designated the corridor pursuant to the Energy Policy Act of 2005, allowing for "fast-track" approval of utility and power line projects, nullifying state and federal environmental laws, and enabling federal condemnation of private land for new high-voltage transmission lines.

And on our work to stop the Sunrise Powerlink, a controversial 150-mile-long proposed transmission line that would run from California's Imperial Valley desert to San Diego and cut through the heart of many parks and preserves, we requested a formal, public investigation into

Desert pupfish
Photo by John Rinne



the details of San Diego Gas & Electric's role in the 2007 firestorm — the results of which would be applied to the decision on the Powerlink. Around the New Year, state and federal agencies dealt a stunning blow to the damaging Sunrise plan with the release of a draft report that identified local electricity generation as a far superior alternative to the Powerlink.



The Public Lands Program acquired a brand-new director this year when *Paul Spitler*, former executive director of the California Wilderness Coalition and fresh from law school, joined our staff.

Northern goshawk
Photo by Robin Silver



Peninsular bighorn sheep
Photo by Steve Elkins





Our off-road vehicle reform campaign works to reduce damage caused by off-road vehicles to public lands across the country. Riders of dirt bikes, all-terrain vehicles, motorcycles, jeeps, and snowmobiles are pushing their way further and further into precious wilderness, destroying unique ecosystems, ruining the habitat endangered species need to survive, and shattering the tranquil enjoyment of wilderness for which most Americans value their heritage lands.

In January we challenged a massive off-road event called the “Truckhaven Extreme Challenge Poker Run and Satellite Safari” and negotiated a settlement protecting land and vital habitat for the Peninsular bighorn sheep and other rare wildlife and plants, as well as American Indian cultural sites. March brought the emergency closure of 3,985 acres on Nevada’s Sand Mountain for the Sand

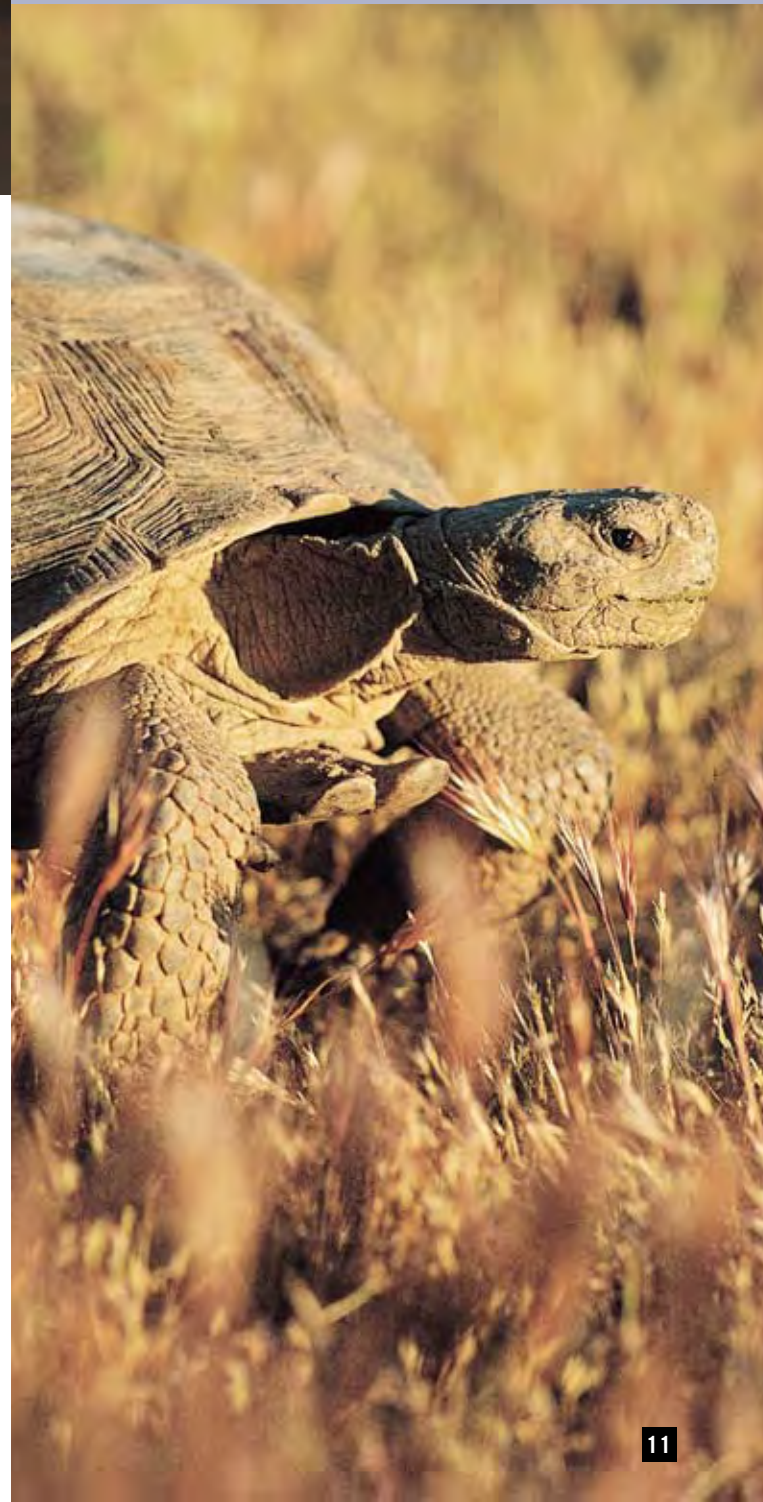
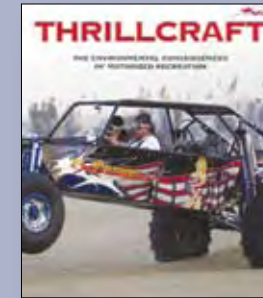


California towhee
Photo by Joyce Gross

Mountain blue butterfly, whose conservation plan was developed in response to our efforts to protect the butterfly under the Endangered Species Act. In June, the courts gave the nod to our intervention in a case in Inyo County, letting us help fight to preserve Death Valley National Park and the desert tortoise from damaging roads in remote desert areas, while July brought a second boon to Death Valley when a judge denied off-road access to Surprise Canyon — a unique oasis that is home to endangered species like the Inyo California towhee.

After we rallied opposition to construction of a new road through Furnace Creek, a rare perennial desert stream in the Sierra Nevada, the Bureau of Land Management announced it would withdraw its environmental assessment on a proposal to allow the project. And our 2006 petition to protect the Amargosa River population of the Mojave fringe-toed lizard has brought its listing under

*George Wuerthner, renowned activist and author, works closely with the Center and this year authored **Thrillcraft**, a large-format book of photographs and essays on the stunning range of damages inflicted on public lands by off-road vehicles.*



the Endangered Species Act one step closer. The greatest threat to the beautiful lizard, which uses its fringed toes to swiftly bury itself in fine dune sands, is intensive off-roading. Off-road vehicles have killed many individual lizards directly and destroyed habitat; listing would bring an array of new protections to the species.

In the Southwest, we generated broad public attention on the damage potential of a large all-terrain-vehicle “Jamboree” in New Mexico’s Burro Mountains, resulting in a Forest Service decision to deny a permit for the event. We led a coalition of conservationists to petition the Forest Service to immediately protect two crown jewel rivers, the San Francisco and the Blue, from continued damage by off-road vehicles. And throughout the Southwest national forest system, from Arizona’s Apache-Sitgreaves to New Mexico’s Lincoln, Santa Fe, and Cibola national forests, we have worked with local partners to cultivate a stronger, more active conservation presence through both earned media and public participation — and we’re steadily gaining ground.

Desert tortoise
Photo by Robin Silver

Blunt-nosed leopard lizard*Photo © Gary Nafis/californiaherps.com***Bird-footed checkerbloom***Photo by Chris Wagner*

The Center's Urban Wildlands Program worked intensively on southern California development issues in 2007. Last May, a lawsuit filed by Center attorneys on behalf of a broad coalition stopped the building of the Big Bear Lake Hilton Garden Inn, planned near the lakeshore in the city of Big Bear Lake. The hotel complex would have destroyed wetlands and endangered plants like the rare, well-named bird-footed checkerbloom — as well as posed a danger to human health through inadequate plans for fire evacuation.

And in response to a lawsuit by the Center and our partners, a Riverside County commission rejected a proposal to build a high-end golf course development on lands at the heart of the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan. The planned luxury mega-resort would have brought close to 2,700 homes, over 1 million square feet of commercial space, a 400-room hotel, and two golf courses to a sensitive ecological area that's home to protected and rare species including bighorn sheep, burrowing owls, the Palm Springs pocket mouse, Palm Springs round-tailed ground squirrel, Le Conte's thrasher, and loggerhead shrike.

We also continued to fight for the preservation of spectacular Tejon Ranch, which lies in the heart of California at the convergence of four distinct ecological regions — a rare biodiversity hotspot at

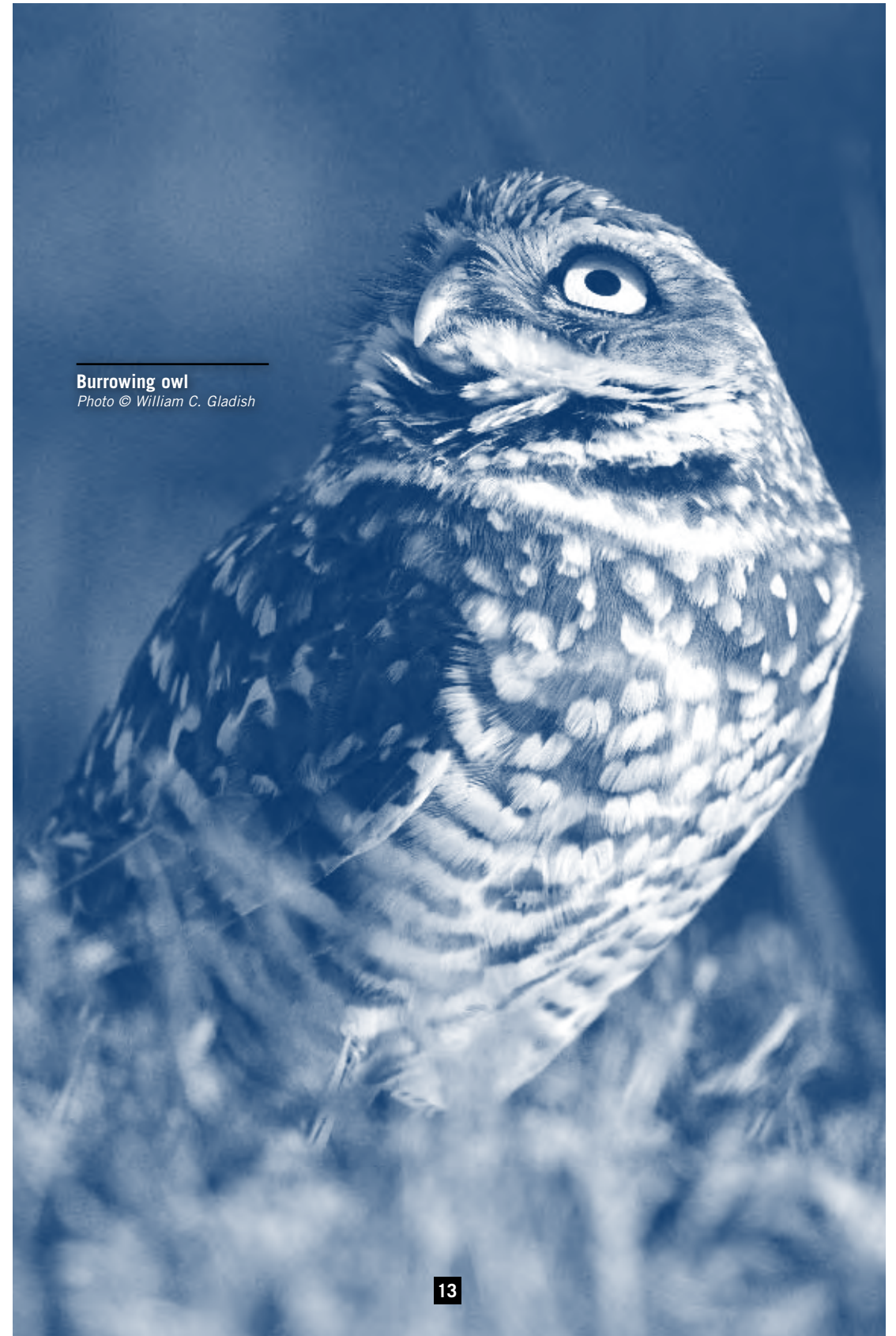
high risk of being subsumed by urban sprawl. The Center led a campaign this year, based on the evaluations of eminent scientists, to trumpet the world-class natural heritage of Tejon and push for the classification of at least 250,000 acres in the region as a state or national park.



Jonathan Evans, a lawyer in our Urban Wildlands Program, works on a range of issues from controlling runaway urban sprawl to ensuring that climate-change risks like increased wildfire danger are factored into new development. Environment Now's 2007 Top Achievement awards gave top honors to Jonathan and the other members of our Urban Wildlands and Climate teams for their groundbreaking work this year to put climate change on the maps of urban planners in San Bernardino County, the largest county in the lower 48 states. In a landmark legal settlement, the County agreed to amend its growth plan to measure greenhouse gas emissions, set emissions reductions targets, and take steps to meet those targets in its blueprint for growth for the next 20 years.

More than 40 eminent natural-resource scientists signed onto a Declaration on the Conservation Significance of Tejon, citing its biodiversity and biogeographic importance, its importance to the recovery of rare and endangered species, and the critical linkages

it provides between northern and southern California. Tejon provides crucial habitat for California condors, San Joaquin kit foxes, blunt-nosed leopard lizards, and dozens of other plants and animals found nowhere else in the world.

Burrowing owl*Photo © William C. Gladish*

A series of lawsuits by our International Program brought home the first endangered species listings the Bush administration has made in almost two years — six birds that live in New Zealand, Indonesia, Laos, Cambodia, Burma, Thailand, Fiji, and Mexico. The new protections will help save the black stilt, caerulean paradise-flycatcher, giant ibis, Gurney's pitta, long-legged thicketbird, and Socorro mockingbird from extinction.

We continued our multi-nation campaign to secure World Heritage site status for La Amistad International Park in Panama, filing a petition in April, winning a commitment from the World Heritage Committee in June, and leading a broad coalition in August to demand cancellation of large dam developments in the region that would flood native villages and could drive species like the Central American tapir, resplendent quetzal, and harpy eagle further toward extinction.

And good news came down this year for the Queen Charlotte goshawk, an endangered species campaign the Center has pursued avidly for more than a decade. This rare, old-growth-dwelling raptor is now slated to be protected under the Endangered Species Act in the Canadian portion of its range, where logging is most intense. While we'll keep fighting to extend protection beyond Canada into the American range of the goshawk,

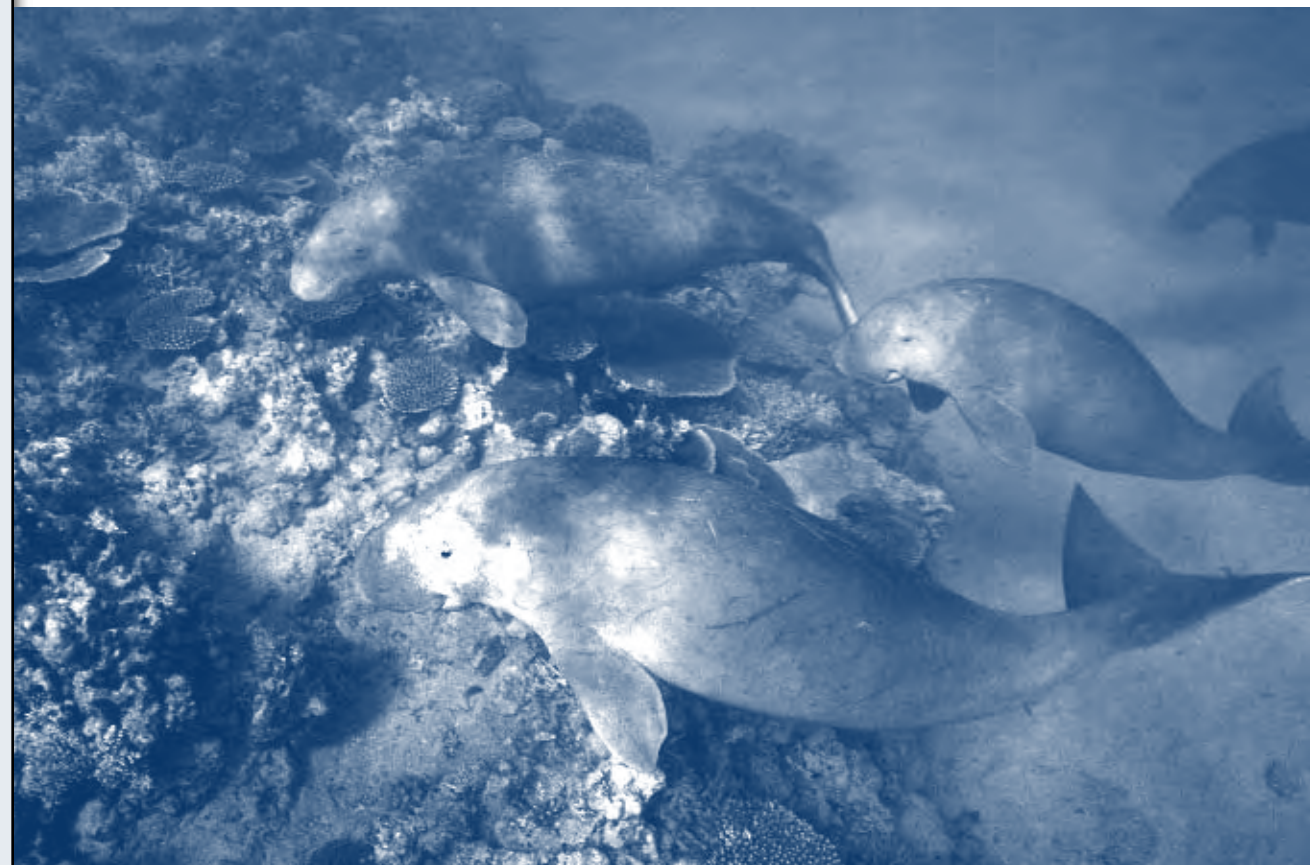
we applaud the international listing and will be working to make sure the goshawk's new legal status yields on-the-ground changes in logging in British Columbia.

Far to the south, the Center filed suit in federal district court in Tucson to compel the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to develop a recovery plan and designate critical habitat for endangered American jaguars. Just after New Year's 2008, the Service declined to take this vital step to protect the few jaguars that remain on American soil; the Center will do everything possible to overturn that decision and give jaguars a stronger foothold in the United States.

And in a resounding victory for the highly imperiled Okinawa dugong, the Center won a court ruling stopping the U.S. Department of Defense from charging ahead with a plan to build an airbase in the gentle, manatee-like creature's seagrass habitat. The precedent-setting ruling affirmed the close connection between biological and



Owl aficionado David H. Johnson heads the Center's Global Owl Project, which unites hundreds of scientists, geneticists, and students in 56 countries around the world working on foundational science and conservation strategies for the *Strigiformes*.



Dugongs graze on coral reef
Photo © Seapics.com

cultural diversity by requiring that the Defense Department treat the dugong as a culturally important icon under the U.S. National Historic Preservation Act. Japan, unlike the United States, has placed a number of endangered species on its list of culturally protected objects, meaning that the United States is bound to treat the dugong as such under its own historic preservation laws — even though those same laws exclude endangered species.



Jaguar
Photo by Robin Silver



Giant ibis
Photo by Allan Michaud

2007

was a big year for the Center's effort to educate and mobilize the public through traditional and new media. We ranked fifth in the nation for sheer number of media stories produced, with every group ahead of us — save the media-oriented Greenpeace — ranging from 17 to 40 times our size. Taking size into account, the Center produced more earned media stories than any other environmental group by far. (See graph, page 17.)

Capitalizing on the explosive popularity of cell phones and the increasing sophistication of cell phone users, the Center beamed our message into the day-to-day lives of more than 107,000 people by offering free endangered species ringtones at **www.rareearthtones.org**. As each call brings the mysterious and beautiful sounds of animals to phones around the country, it also creates an opportunity to tell those in earshot about the importance of saving endangered species.



The First Annual Rubber Dodo Award honored Secretary Dirk Kempthorne's Department of the Interior.

In another testament to the power of timeliness and humor, we inaugurated our Rubber Dodo Award — to be given annually to a deserving individual in public or private service who has done the most to drive endangered species extinct. This year's award — commemorating the egregiously poor record of Secretary Dirk Kempthorne's Department of the Interior — took the blogosphere by storm, garnering more than 1,160 blog and Web site postings everywhere from the environmental site Grist to petmonologues.com, and from the Yellowstone Park News to Secretary Kempthorne's own Wikipedia profile.

Last summer, we launched a more science-driven but equally successful campaign coinciding with the national delisting of the bald eagle, publishing a Web-only report detailing the management and population history of the bald eagle in each of the lower 48 states. We tailored this resource for local consumption by reporters, with minute-to-minute updates flowing in from biologists. Our live-and-local science reporting event spawned hundreds of state-specific stories on the bald eagle's recovery and the success of the Endangered Species Act. The Web site also served as the basis of dozens of op-eds placed in newspapers across the country, which noted that the eagle is just one of many endangered species whose status is improving thanks to the Act.

We unveiled our own brand-new Web site this year as well, with easy navigation for reporters, students, supporters, and the general public. The Center's **www.biodiversity.org** offers more than a hundred pages on the natural and political histories and cultural importance of species we protect. Also featuring striking photography, the site will function as a vital Internet

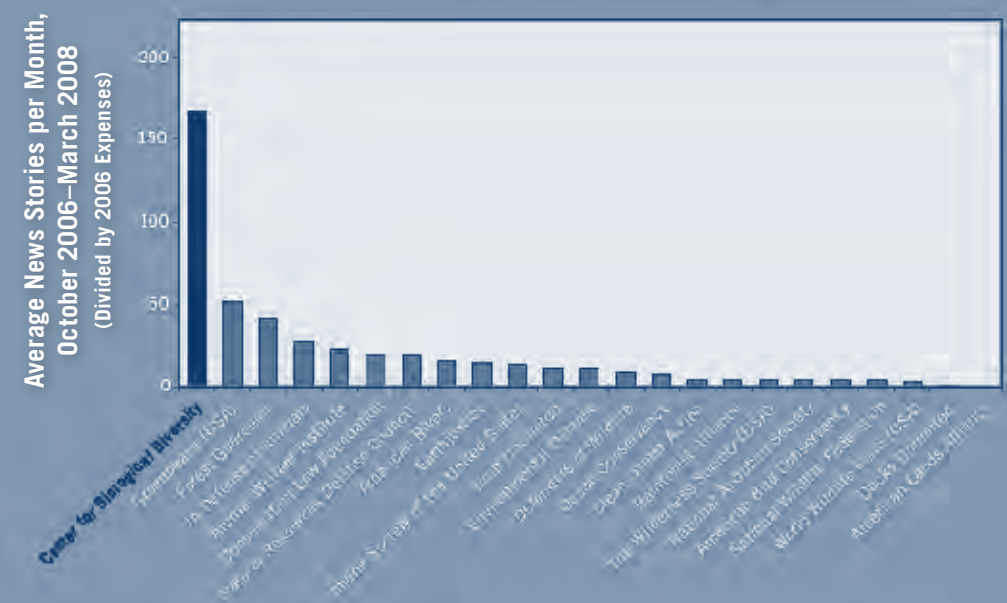
clearinghouse for endangered species information and activism, and promises to bring the beauty and uniqueness of the animals and plants themselves to a wider audience.

www.BiologicalDiversity.org



Webmaster Bill Haskins
and **Publications team Julie Miller, Lydia Millet, and Anna Mirocha (far left)** spent many months guiding the unique aesthetic of the Center's new Web site — as well as writing, editing, and building many hundreds of pages of content in preparation for its January 2008 launch.

A Month in the Media: American Nonprofit Environmental Organizations



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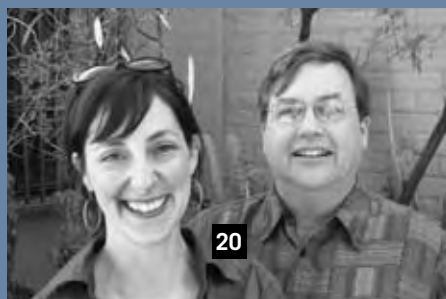
*The Center for Biological
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thank all those who gave
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Wanda M. Ehret
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Barry Hopkins

*We would also like
to pay special tribute
to the following long-
time supporters who
passed away this year,
and to those who
continue to honor their
enduring commitment to
endangered species and
wild places:*

Richard Genser
Natalie Hopkins
Maureen Suckling
Thomas Wooten

*Jennifer Shepherd and Kevin Dahl stepped into
new roles in our Development Program this year
as development director and major gifts officer,
respectively. The two are no strangers to the
Tucson community, however; both landed at the
Center fresh from projects firmly rooted in a sense
of place. Before she joined the Center in 2004,
Jennifer, while completing a master's degree in
geography from the University of Arizona, co-
edited the department's journal, *You Are Here*.
Kevin, who holds a degree in ethnobotany from
Arizona's Prescott College, was executive director
of Native Seeds/SEARCH prior to joining the
Center in 2007 and has also worked for Friends
of the Earth and Tucson Audubon Society in his
35-year conservation career.*



2007 STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY

*For Year Ended 12/31/07**

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Grants and Donations

Grants	\$ 1,765,700
Membership and donations	3,596,101

Total public support *5,361,801*

Revenue

Legal returns	486,032
Contracts	19,333
Miscellaneous	8,020
Investment income	135,221

Total revenue *648,606*

Total Support and Revenue **6,010,407**

EXPENSES

Program Services

Conservation programs, education and information	4,290,468 (84%)
---	-----------------

Total program services *4,290,468*

Supporting Services

General and administrative	246,777 (4%)
Fundraising	594,933 (12%)

Total supporting services *841,710*

Total expenses **5,132,178**

Change in net assets 878,229

Net assets, beginning of year **2,476,778**

Net assets, end of year **\$ 3,355,007**

**Totals include restricted and unrestricted income.*

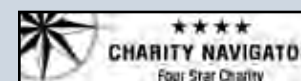
Audited financial statements are available upon request.

*Marcey Olajos,
who's also on the
board of the Wyss
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Great Old Broads
for Wilderness,
has been with
us since 2004
and became the
Center's new board
chair this winter.*

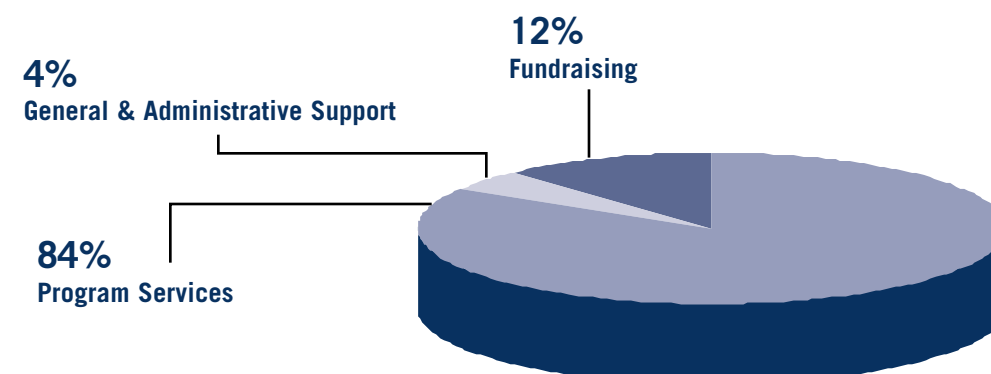


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USAGE OF FUNDS



Cover Photo: Ribbon seal pup, Alaska

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For ribbon seals (*Histiophoca fasciata*), sea ice is *life*. For most of the year, ribbon seals depend on the ice to survive — especially from late winter through early summer, when the sea-ice edge in the Bering and Okhotsk seas off Alaska and Russia provides safe habitat for birthing and nursing pups. The seals take their name from the spectacularly unique light-on-dark banding pattern that allows adult males to “disappear” underwater (see page 7); newborn pups, like the one shown on our cover, boast long, white, woolly fur.

But as greenhouse gas emissions drive temperatures higher, global warming is rapidly melting Arctic sea ice and signaling an alarming fate for this strikingly beautiful animal. Its winter sea-ice habitat is projected to decline 40 percent by mid-century, leaving the seal without enough ice to finish rearing its pups — among other catastrophic results — and current ice-loss trends threaten to drive the species extinct by the end of the century. The Center for Biological Diversity is leading the charge to fight global warming through the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and on other fronts, and to protect the ribbon seal and other Arctic species from the combined threats of shipping, oil and gas development, and loss of sea-ice habitat.



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