**Why Wildlife?**

Wildlife is a key component of land biodiversity ensuring the provision of important ecosystem services like seed dispersal, carbon sequestration and pollination. Wildlife provides critical functions to adequately maintain forests, savannahs and other terrestrial ecosystems. Thus, adequate monitoring of wildlife is key to ensure the effectiveness of protected areas, wilderness areas, indigenous communities and other natural areas.

**We can’t manage what we can’t measure.**

Various wildlife stakeholders need unbiased, and reliable information on the ground to effectively manage wildlife in protected areas, indigenous communities, and other conservation areas. National and regional governments need this information to report on progress towards national and international conservation commitments to reduce biodiversity loss. However, there is very little near-real time information on the basic status and trends of wildlife populations. This is especially alarming because many communities, governments, and conservation organizations, are already working to conserve natural ecosystems, but without basic information on wildlife, progress is unknown. If we are not able to monitor the status of wildlife populations we have no hope to effectively manage them.

The Wildlife Monitoring Solution (WMS) is a full circle solution that combines our field and sensor expertise, cutting edge technology and advanced analytics and indicators for a data-driven understanding of wildlife population health and trends. Finally, we can shine a light into the forests and address the question of whether our lands have healthy wildlife populations. Environmental and human factors that may be impacting wildlife trends are included in the flagship indicator, the Wildlife Picture Index, providing land managers a holistic decision making tool to make more informed, data-driven conservation decisions. The WMS can be used as a complete end-to-end solution or the tools and services can be used individually to address a variety of field, scientific, data management, and analytical challenges.
Background and Experience

Conservation International launched The Tropical Ecology Assessment and Monitoring (TEAM) Network in 2002 to fill an important knowledge gap in our understanding how tropical forests are responding to climate and land use changes. In an innovative partnership with the Smithsonian Institution, the Wildlife Conservation Society, and more than 80 local, academic and government partners, TEAM is the first and largest global-scale conservation observation network on the planet—essentially an early warning system for life on Earth. Since then, TEAM has developed an integrated solution that combines—and makes it easy for other institutions to integrate and operationalize TEAM’s wide-range of capabilities.

The WMS grew out of more than a decade of experience monitoring wildlife in the TEAM Network. We’ve systematically created the world’s largest camera-trapping network and one of the most robust data sets on the changing status of tropical forests. With more than 1,000 camera traps, we have collected more than 3.1 million images of wildlife—from gigantic African elephants to the elusive jaguar. As TEAM continues to expand, we are excited to be able to provide the tools and expertise we have built over the past 10 years for land managers around the world to help to secure the health of their wildlife populations.