Dear BCI Members and Friends,

had a year filled with transitions. Probably the most significant was the resignation of Executive Director Nina Fascione on April 30, 2012. Nina led Bat Conservation International through two critical years following the retirement of BCI Founder Merlin Tuttle. The Board of Trustees, with input from BCI staff, has begun the search for a new Executive Director. The organization, meanwhile, is moving confidently forward under the capable direction of its dedicated staff and board.

We are approaching BCI’s wide-ranging conservation efforts, both current and planned, with a new commitment to global bat conservation. This still-developing strategy is centered on conserving the 1,250-plus bat species in the face of varied threats around the globe, with an emphasis on the bats of North America, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Specific threats and conservation needs vary greatly by geography and species. But sustainable success – whether reacting to White-nose Syndrome in the United States, protecting cave bats in Mexico, managing habitat loss in Ghana or controlling hunting of flying foxes in Indonesia – is grounded in a philosophy of working within networks, partnerships and collaborations with agencies, organizations and committed individuals. Our greatest impacts come when we help build and nurture local commitments and capabilities that will ensure bat conservation for many years to come.

The seeds of bat conservation are being sown through BCI’s research and conservation workshops, Student Research Scholarships and Global Grassroots Conservation Fund grants. Our rejuvenated Education Department has, among many other activities, forged a powerful new alliance with the international Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), including a special team centered on activities for the 2012 International Year of the Bat. Over the past year, hundreds of bat-education events have been held around North American and much of the world, often using materials produced by BCI.

We are especially excited about recent successes in forging and advancing important international partnerships. Key among these is the active role BCI is playing in the Southeast Asian Bat Conservation Research Unit (SEABCRU), including participation on its steering committee. The organization, with members from throughout the region, is developing and executing long-term plans for bat conservation. Also noteworthy is the Memorandum of Understanding for collaboration that BCI signed this year with the Latin American Bat Conservation Network (known as RELCOM). The network, with 17 member countries so far, is rapidly becoming the most important force for conservation of bats in Latin America. BCI is forging important partnerships in Africa, as well, where BCI-led efforts are bearing fruit in a multinational summit scheduled for February 2013 to create a bat-conservation network there.

The plague of WNS remains the overriding bat-conservation issue in North America. The death toll in 19 U.S. states and four Canadian provinces now exceeds 5.7 million bats. BCI is working with partners to find a solution to this devastating disease through education, congressional outreach, conservation planning and direct research and conservation efforts. This past year, we provided more than $85,000 in support for vital research projects aimed at WNS. The turbines of wind energy also exact a huge toll on bats, perhaps hundreds of thousands a year. We continue intense efforts to provide effective solutions to sharply reduce this slaughter.

That’s just a sampling of what Bat Conservation International, with its tireless staff and enthusiastic partners, is accomplishing in global conservation. And there is much more to come in the year ahead.

John Hayes stepped down as Chair of BCI’s Board of Trustees on June 1, 2012. He remains on the Board of Trustees. The Board appointed Dave Waldien, BCI Vice President of Operations and International Programs, to serve as Interim Executive Director.

Cover photo: This rarely seen Allen’s big-eared bat (Idionycteris phyllotis) was captured and released at a BCI Bat Conservation and Management Workshop in May 2012.

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his past spring, like every spring since 2007, brought sad news of the spread of White-nose Syndrome, the most devastating threat ever faced by North American bats. The disease was confirmed this year in two new states, Alabama and Missouri. These states are especially significant because they represent the most southern and western extent of WNS. Hibernating bat populations in 19 U.S. states and four Canadian provinces are now being battered.

This year also saw WNS confirmed in a new species: the gray myotis. This is not only an endangered species (since 1976), but a bat that figured prominently in BCI’s creation 30 years ago. BCI Founder Merlin Tuttle conducted the pioneering work on gray myotis (beginning when he was a teenager in Tennessee) and was a key advocate for their protection under the Endangered Species Act. Seven species, including the endangered Indiana myotis, now face the disease.

Also, the fungus that causes WNS, *Geomyces destructans*, was confirmed on bats in Iowa and now appears poised to spread to some of the largest bat-hibernation sites in the northern United States.

Hibernating colonies continue to decline, and surveys find a markedly reduced activity at summer roosts and foraging sites. Some states in the Northeast now consider virtually every hibernaculum to be infected with the fungus. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologists this year issued an alarming new estimate of bats killed by WNS, now putting the toll at 5.7 million to 6.7 million bats.

But biologists and conservationists are a stubbornly hopeful group. The spread of the disease slowed to two states in 2012, compared to five a year ago. Might it have reached an ecological barrier? A few hibernacula in New York still have a handful of bats. Are these survivors of the disease? Can we learn something from them that will help other bats? Such are the questions on the minds of our scientists today.

To oversee our WNS response, Katie Gillies joined BCI this year as Imperiled Species Coordinator. She directs a multifaceted approach that includes collaboration, education, outreach, research, conservation planning and habitat protection.

That vital effort is supported by state and federal grants, plus generous matching funds from foundations, members and friends. BCI is able to cut through procedural delays and quickly provide funding for research projects on the cutting edge of the struggle against WNS. Those research awards totaled $85,594 this past year.
One project uses molecular markers to quickly identify the presence of *Geomyces destructans* not just in bats, but on soil, guano, cave walls and other substrates. This will be a critical tool in identifying where the disease is likely to appear, rather than simply reacting to its presence. Among many other projects are studies to examine the potential for acquired resistance to WNS, to assess the risk that survivors will spread the fungus and develop tools to inhibit fungal infections.

BCI increased its presence on Capitol Hill this year, as we helped organize a coalition of conservation groups to urge increased WNS-related funding. In May, Conservation Programs Director Mylea Bayless and partners met in Washington, D.C., with officials of key federal agencies to discuss strategies for meeting the challenges of WNS.

BCI partnered with the Western Bat Working Group to analyze years of regional data to better understand what Western bats do during normal winter months. This is essential information in preparing for the likely arrival of White-nose Syndrome in the future.

BCI biologist Michael Schirmacher, meanwhile, completed a two-year acoustic-monitoring study of bat-activity patterns at sites that were infected with WNS and others that were free of the disease. This technique demonstrated its ability to identify infected sites without having to enter the caves and mines and risk transmitting the fungus or disturbing an already-stressed colony.

BCI also partnered with the Southeast Bat Diversity Network to analyze the decline of bat populations throughout the WNS-affected states, especially those in the South. We are using this information, and these partnerships, to encourage resource managers to act now to protect their remaining bats and bat habitats.
Wind power, a clean and renewable source of electricity, is an attractive alternative to fossil fuels, but harmful impacts on wildlife continue to plague this rapidly growing industry. Wind turbines are killing bats at alarming rates across the world, with bat deaths in the U.S. alone estimated as high as hundreds of thousands a year.

Research led by BCI and partners has demonstrated that bat fatalities can be sharply reduced through “curtailment” – basically shutting down wind turbines’ spinning blades on low-wind nights when bats are migrating. That research is beginning to pay off, as BCI’s Bats and Wind Energy Program is advising several wind-power companies on plans to use curtailment as part of mitigation efforts where endangered Indiana myotis (Myotis sodalis) are at risk.

Bat Conservation International has been working intensely to limit bat mortality at wind-energy sites since 2003, when we co-founded the Bats and Wind Energy Cooperative (BWEC) in partnership with the American Wind Energy Association, the U.S. Department of Energy’s National Renewable Energy Laboratory and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. BCI coordinates the work of the cooperative.

Previous BWEC research demonstrated a significant reduction in bat fatalities by curtailing turbines when wind speeds are less than 5 meters per second (11.1 miles per hour), with a loss of less than 1 percent in total electricity production. Bats and Wind Energy Coordinator Cris Hein is fine-tuning those results to better understand how bats interact with wind turbines.

Studies begun in the spring will try to optimize the curtailment strategy by correlating patterns of bat activity with weather conditions and time of night.

BCI also is working with the U.S. Geological Survey on a unique study that combines marine radar systems, near-infrared video cameras, acoustic detectors and ground surveys. The study will explore whether bats are attracted to wind-energy facilities (using radar) or to the turbines themselves (using video cameras). Comparing data gathered with these different technologies and methods should also help us determine whether (and how) bat activity is related to fatalities. Additional studies using this integrative system will continue into 2013.

BCI and its partners are also continuing our work toward an effective acoustic deterrent. These devices, which emit high-frequency noise to jam bats’ echolocation abilities, are showing potential for reducing bat fatalities at wind turbines. We are providing expertise and support for preliminary tests of the next-generation device and preparing plans to study its impact on fatalities at an operational wind-energy facility.

Last January, BCI hosted the third BWEC Science Meeting in Austin, Texas, as members and invited scientists reviewed the existing priorities and set the direction for future endeavors.

The Bats and Wind Energy Program’s next major goal is to cooperate with our international partners to exchange ideas on how best to resolve bats and wind energy issues abroad. Wind energy is spreading around much of the world, and BCI is working to give widespread communities and organizations the tools to limit bat deaths at wind facilities. We are also expanding the wind program to provide training opportunities for partners and other wind-energy professionals. We are preparing a bats and wind energy workshop for conservation organizations, natural-resource managers, government agencies and wind-industry officials on the latest research results and technologies for assessing wind-energy impacts. We are in the process of preparing agendas, materials and presentations and considering locations for our first international workshop.

Wind power is expanding rapidly throughout North America and the world. So is BCI’s Bats and Wind Energy Program.
protecting old mines and caves for bats is a tough job physically. But the complex tasks of unraveling ownership and obtaining permits and funding can be at least as challenging, especially with long-abandoned mines in the American West. These derelict old mines change hands often over the years, blurring ownerships and creating conflicts over gating projects. As a result, Subterranean Program Coordinator Jason Corbett not only spends a lot of time underground, but he also stays busy on the surface building and protecting the relationships that make bat conservation possible.

Consider the case of the Apache Chief Mine, home to Arizona's largest-known maternity colony of Townsend's big-eared bats. The mine's beleaguered bats, up to 1,000 of them, were protected in February 2012, when seven gates were installed at the mine's entrances to keep people from disturbing the bats. Building those gates took BCI and its partners about two weeks. But getting permissions and permits took more than two years and a remarkable amount of cooperation and coordination among BCI, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Arizona Game and Fish Department, the Arizona State Mine Inspector's Office and the holder of the mining claim. Not only dedication but great patience is required for conservation projects like this one.

Corbett and Subterranean Specialist Joseph Monfeli spent much of the past year underground. They focused primarily on the countless abandoned mines in the region, but they’re also increasingly adding natural caves to their bat surveys. Many Western caves have not been surveyed for hibernating bats during the winter months. In conjunction with a U.S. Forest Service initiative, BCI surveyed more than 100 caves this past winter and located a number of previously unknown hibernacula.

The program surveyed more than 600 underground features, and about a fourth of the orphaned mines were protected because of their importance to bats or other wildlife. Conservation actions range from signs and warnings to gates and fences.

Most caves and mines in our surveys are on federal land managed by the Forest Service or the BLM. BCI is working with federal officials to protect bat habitat at a broader, less-conventional level through such tactics as targeted road closures or deleting caves and mines from forest maps.

BCI Habitat Protection Coordinator Jim Kennedy worked with Corbett and others to develop the new and fully functioning “Abandoned Mine Closure Website.” This online resource, funded by the Bureau of Land Management, is designed to help land managers choose the best options for closing individual mines based on size, configuration, stability and importance for bats.

Kennedy also worked with a Texas Parks and Wildlife biologist to help design a remarkably natural-looking artificial cave at the High Lonesome Ranch in south-central Texas. The “cave” features a 20-by 50-foot (6-by 15-meter) concrete chamber reached through a winding tunnel. Financed entirely by owners of the ranch, the cave can easily hold about 700,000 Mexican free-tailed bats.
Water, always a precious resource in the American West, is becoming increasingly scarce as brutal drought bakes much of the region. And climate change is expected to make these disastrous dry spells more frequent and more severe. The threat to bats and other wildlife is imminent and intense.

Bats are particularly susceptible to dwindling water supplies, since they can lose up to 30 percent of their body weight to evaporative water loss in just 12 hours. In the arid Southwest, a lack of suitable drinking sites may well be the most important factor limiting bat populations. Recent research finds that Western bat populations could drop precipitously if climate change proceeds as most scientists expect.

The mission of BCI’s Water for Wildlife Program is to ensure that thirsty bats and other animals can always find a safe and reliable place to get a drink throughout the West. The program focuses increasingly on a landscape-level approach. Water for Wildlife Coordinator Dan Taylor works with federal, state, tribal, and private land managers to analyze bats’ roosting and foraging patterns and identify the most critical existing and potential water resources to conserve the area’s diverse community of wildlife. These, then, become priority sites for restoration and improvement.

With funding from Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust and Freeport-McMoRan Copper and Gold Inc., Water for Wildlife applied this landscape focus to Arizona’s Sky Island and Mogollon Rim regions, two areas with some of the greatest bat diversity in the United States and Canada. More than three dozen springs, wetlands, stock ponds and other water resources were developed to benefit bats, endangered leopard frogs and native fish. The project was implemented with biologists from the Coconino, Coronado and Kaibab National Forests, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Arizona Game & Fish Department, Upper Eagle Creek Watershed Association, Gila Watershed Partnership and the Native American Tohono O’odham Nation.

Also in the past year, the program launched a series of outreach efforts that educated thousands of range and wildlife managers and ranchers about crucial water-for-wildlife issues. A BCI information exhibit was displayed at the Quivira Coalition’s annual conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico; the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition Summit in Sacramento, California; and at The Wildlife Society’s Arizona and New Mexico conference in Phoenix, Arizona. Taylor also described the importance of water for bats at the annual conference of the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society’s Southwest Region.

Water for Wildlife worked with U.S. Forest Service staff on the agency’s impressive “Aquatic Escape Ramp” initiative, an effort to install bat- and bird-saving wildlife ramps in hundreds of livestock troughs on national forests across California.

With several partners, we also conducted three wetland and pooled-water restoration and creation workshops that provided hands-on experience for more than 200 government, tribal and private range managers.

Key Partners
American Museum of Natural History
Arizona Game and Fish Department
California Rangeland Conservation Coalition
Center for Wetland and Stream Restoration
Freeport-McMoRan Copper and Gold Inc.
Gila Watershed Partnership
Ladder Ranch
Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture
New Mexico Environment Department
New Mexico Game and Fish Department
Quivira Coalition
Tohono O'odham Nation
Upper Eagle Creek Watershed Association
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Forest Service
U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service
Wind River Ranch

Participants at a BCI Water for Wildlife Workshop near Leupp, Arizona, build wildlife-escape ramps that will be installed in livestock water troughs to benefit bats and other animals on the Navajo Reservation.
Bat Conservation International is renewing – and enhancing – its commitment to collaborative conservation on a global scale. BCI has dedicated itself to long-term conservation strategies founded on partnerships that work together to address priority bat-conservation needs within Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa and the Asia-Pacific. These regions are home to over 75 percent of the world’s bat species. Over the past year, we collaborated with conservationists, researchers, educators and government officials in 24 countries – and in most cases, our partners are on the ground leading these efforts and protecting these bats.

People make the difference for bat conservation, and truly collaborative efforts are required for success at local, regional and global levels. That is how BCI and its global partners are meeting the many challenges that face bat conservation around the world.

CI’s collaborative role in bat conservation across Latin America grew dramatically during the past year, increasing from a few joint efforts in Colombia and Mexico a year ago to today’s 19 active or completed projects with varied partners around the region. And many more are planned.

Much of that enhanced impact grew from the signing in March 2012 of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Latin American Network for Bat Conservation, known as RELCOM (Red Latinoamericana para la Conservación de los Murciélagos). The agreement establishes a cooperative approach through which BCI, RELCOM and its members (17 nation-based conservation programs) are working together to identify and resolve key bat-conservation issues.

Such issues invariably include the threat posed to countless beneficial bats of Latin America by the public and official responses to vampire bats and rabies. Conservationists must respond quickly to vampire-sparked rabies outbreaks and the predictable backlash against all bats. Many thousands of beneficial bats are routinely killed in the mistaken belief that all bats are vampires.
BCI worked with Programa para la Conservación de los Murciélagos de Bolivia (PCMB) to prevent the planned extermination of bats to reduce rabies in the Trinidad area of Bolivia. PCMB conveyed its powerful message through meetings with key decision-makers, a radio broadcast to some 50,000 listeners, and a video distributed to large-scale ranchers. PCMB is also invited to participate this coming year in an official effort to rewrite Bolivia’s National Rabies Strategy to ensure that beneficial bats are not included in vampire-control efforts. Similar efforts to save beneficial bats were conducted in Ecuador by the newly established Programa Para la Conservación de los Murciélagos del Ecuador.

In Mexico, BCI is collaborating with researchers from Texas A&M University, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México and the nonprofit Bioconciencia for species-level studies to determine the relationship of Mexican long-nosed bats (Leptonycteris nivalis) to their cave roosts and foraging habitats over their entire range. We are also working with the Museum of Natural History in Tamaulipas and with the Naturaleza organization in Sonora on targeted educational outreach to improve bat conservation in both regions.

In Colombia, a BCI-led bat conservation workshop last year was followed by an educators’ workshop conducted by Laura Navarro of Mexico, one of Latin America’s leading environmental educators. We are also collaborating on a project to identify Colombia’s high-priority bat caves in Colombia’s Chicamocha Canyon region. In Argentina, we are partnering with Programa de Conservación de los Murciélagos de Argentina to protect a colony of Mexican free-tailed bats (Tadarida brasiliensis) roosting in a dam, where the population had crashed from an estimated 10 million bats to about 1 million.

In Nicaragua, we are working with Paso Pacifico and Northern Arizona University on research into bats’ response to forest fragmentation, as well as a bat-education project to protect a bat colony at Masaya Volcano National Park.

And, with our RELCOM partners, we produced the educational video, We Need Bats & Bats Need Us, which was translated into Spanish and Portuguese and offered as a free download over the Internet. This video was so well received that we are pursuing opportunities to translate it into additional languages for use around the world.

**Key Partners**

- Luis Aguirre
  - Bioconciencia (Mexico)
- Fundación Chimbilako (Colombia)
- Latin American Network for Bat Conservation
- Rodrigo Medellín
- Museo Nacional de Historia de Tamaulipas (Mexico)
- Naturalia (Mexico)
- Northern Arizona University (U.S.)
- Paso Pacífico (Nicaragua)
- Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador
- Program for the Conservation of Bats – Argentina
- Program for the Conservation of Bats – Aruba
- Bonaire, Curacao
- Program for the Conservation of Bats – Bolivia
- Program for the Conservation of Bats – Chile
- Program for the Conservation of Bats – Colombia
- Program for the Conservation of Bats – Costa Rica
- Program for the Conservation of Bats – Ecuador
- Program for the Conservation of Bats – El Salvador
- Program for the Conservation of Bats – Paraguay
- Program for the Conservation of Bats – Peru
- Program for the Conservation of Bats – Venezuela
- Texas A&M University at College Station

BCI’s new international approach was effectively launched this past year through BCI’s role in the Southeast Asian Bat Conservation Research Unit (SEABCRU) meeting in Bogor, Indonesia. Dave Waldien, BCI Vice President of Operations & International Programs (now Interim Executive Director), serves on SEABCRU’s steering committee and attended this important event.

SEABCRU was created in 2007 to develop a conservation and research framework for bats in the 11 nations of Southeast Asia. BCI’s participation allows us to effectively integrate our existing projects into a regional effort, to support the efforts of local conservationists and to respond more effectively to emerging conservation threats.

The steering committee established a robust five-year plan that sets key priorities for research and conservation action by SEABCRU members. The Cave Bat Team, of which Waldien is a co-chair, surveyed existing laws designed to protect cave bats and their habitats throughout the region. The study found that even those working with bats need greater awareness of existing laws to ensure compliance and improve conservation. The team is compiling a list of these laws for posting on the SEABCRU website, and will evaluate the list to identify and work to fill bat-protection gaps.
Working with the Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leaders Bat Team, we are writing guidelines to minimize threats and disturbance from guano mining. In partnership with Neil Furey of Fauna & Flora International, we initiated a pilot project to field-test both the guidelines and associated educational materials in Cambodia. The response from local leaders was encouraging, and the program will be expanding to other communities.

We are also developing best-management recommendations for “bat farming” in Cambodia, where farmers build bat houses out of native materials, such as palm fronds, to attract bats for pest control and guano, which is harvested for local use or sale as fertilizer. Such economics-based conservation can be extremely effective.

In Thailand, we are supporting a project with Prince of Songkla University to reduce the needless killing of dawn bats (*Eonycteris spelaea*) in fruit orchards. And in Malaysia, we are partnering with the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology to evaluate how bats respond when forest is replaced by palm-oil plantations. The goal is to improve conservation strategies in heavily modified landscapes.

The Chiroptera Conservation and Information Network of South Asia has been a steadfast BCI partner in the past, and this year we are supporting a project to conserve India’s bats and expand local capacity through education and training activities.

**Key Partners**

- Alliance for Tompotika Conservation
- Chiroptera Conservation and Information Network of South Asia
- Davao Speleological and Conservation Society
- Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leaders
- Fauna & Flora International (Cambodia)
- Rai Gomez
- Nina Ingle
- Tammy Mildenstein
- Norma Monfort
- Philippine Bat Conservation, Inc.
- Philippine Department of Environment and Natural Resources
- Philippine Speleological Society
- Prince of Songkla University (Thailand)
- Southeast Asian Bat Conservation Research Unit
- Texas Tech University
- Wildlife Conservation Society of the Philippines

**The Philippines**

Philippine Bat Champions, a signed pledge to support bat-conservation efforts, was introduced in April 2012 at the Wildlife Conservation Society of the Philippines (WCSP) and at the country’s annual National Caving Congress. The well-publicized program has become a symbol of the Philippines’ growing bat-conservation movement, which BCI has been nurturing for six years.

Virtually everyone involved in bat conservation and research in the Philippines attended these two crucial meetings. BCI, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, WCSP and the Philippine Speleological Society released the *Saving Philippine Cave Bats* video to build public support for bat conservation.

A highlight of the year came when Norma Monfort (*pictured at right*) was recognized as a 2011 Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund Hero for her efforts protecting the Monfort Bat Cave (the world’s largest colony of Geoffroy’s rousette fruit bats) and to mainstream bat conservation in the Philippines. Norma is certainly one of BCI’s conservation heroes.
Sub-Saharan Africa, a region of incredible biodiversity and daunting challenges for bat conservation, is a new frontier for Bat Conservation International. Our previous investments in the bats of this enormous area were almost entirely through Global Grassroots Conservation Fund grants and Student Research Scholarships. That, however, is changing rapidly.

Our most significant effort has been to establish a multinational steering committee charged with planning a conference, with BCI support, of bat conservationists from throughout Africa. The gathering is to define and launch the first African bat-conservation network. The goal is to jointly identity and address threats to Africa’s bats and to improve the efficiency and impact of international conservationists through active collaboration with local experts.

This unprecedented meeting is scheduled in Kenya during February 2013.

During this past year, meanwhile, BCI has been working to encourage and support conservation programs throughout the continent through collaborations with:

- the University of Swaziland to investigate the impact of varied land-use on bat activity in savanna and agricultural habitats;
- Karatina University College to study the effects of forest fragmentation on insectivorous bats at Kakamega Forest in Kenya;
- and with the Kasanka Trust in Tanzania, to protect critical roosts and foraging areas of the straw-colored fruit bats (*Eidolon helvum*) of Kasanka National Park, a critical migratory stop for the species.

Great challenges lie ahead throughout this vast land, but Bat Conservation International is committed to supporting partnerships and nurturing local conservationists who can and will meet those challenges for years to come.
Community involvement is a powerful force for bat conservation, and when neighbors are committed to protecting their bats, the impact is often long lasting. That is a primary goal of Bat Conservation International's Global Grassroots Conservation Fund. We award small grants, which average just over $2,500 each, that allow local volunteers to deal with local problems outside the United States and Canada.

And while protecting overhunted flying foxes in Madagascar or bats at a pagoda in Vietnam or in a witch doctor’s cave in Kenya sometimes seem, individually, to be modest accomplishments, success often breeds success. Small but dedicated bat-conservation efforts are growing and spreading in Nepal, Ukraine, Colombia, Kenya and other nations where Global Grassroots helped plant the initial seeds and nurture local efforts.

This is not a one-size-fits-all program, and that fact accounts for much of its success. These projects are proposed by people on the scene, mostly residents but occasionally outside scientists working with local groups. They identify local bat-conservation problems and develop their own location- and culture-based plans to solve them.

Most Global Grassroots projects provide heavy doses of education, often coupled with bat-diversity surveys or other research.

Since it began in 2000, Global Grassroots has provided 97 grants for conservation projects in 50 countries from Australia, Bangladesh and Belarus to Senegal, Uganda and Vietnam.

Generous donors, coupled with BCI’s growing commitment to international conservation, allowed us to provide 14 Global Grassroots grants for projects in 12 countries this past year. The 2012 conservation awards totaled a record $39,800.

Harmful myths are being dispelled, residents are learning about the economic and ecological benefits of bats and bat conservation is beginning to take root across much of the world, thanks to these small grants from Global Grassroots.

Global Grassroots Conservation Fund Grants and Donors for 2012

**Beneficia Foundation**

*Nurul Islam* (Bangladesh): A community approach to bat conservation through education and myths elimination. *(Additional donation from Philip & Kandy Noel)*

*Oscar Mmbali* (Kenya): Mobilizing youth and women groups for community-based bat conservation.


*Sameera Chathuranga Ariyaratna* (Sri Lanka): Investigating roosting patterns and conserving cave-dwelling bats in two climatic regions.

*Joseph & Valerie Craig*

*Mathivanan Murugan* (India): Temples as critical habitats for bats in southern India: implications for conservation.

*Igor Prokofev* (Russia): Creating a sustainable partnership for bat conservation in western Russia.

**Lenin Riquelme** (Panama): Research and conservation to save the solitary fruit-eating bat (*Artibeus incomitatus*) from extinction.

**Dennis Wansink** (Belarus): Bats and forestry in Belarus: management starts with understanding.

**Disney Friends for Change**

*Rene Cordova* (Mexico): Agaves, cactus and bats in Sonora.

*Dorina Ararao* (Philippines): Identification of cave bats and an education campaign for their conservation.

**BCI Members and Friends**

*Michael Gichia* (Kenya): The distribution, ecology and conservation of the Kenyan wattled bat.

*Eric Moist Bakwo fils* (Cameroon): Empowering local people to conserve bats in north Cameroon.


*Jafet Nassar* (Venezuela): Assessing the conservation status of diurnal roosts used by long-nosed bats in Aruba Island.
Knowledge is an essential tool for bat conservation around the world. Important projects are often delayed or thwarted by baseless fears and widespread ignorance of the many benefits of these night-flying mammals. Bat Conservation International has been dedicated to educating the public, opinion leaders and decision-makers for 30 years. Those efforts took an international leap last year, as BCI joined one of the world’s largest conservation organizations – the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). The group’s 200-plus member institutions contact 175 million visitors every year and support more than 2,200 conservation projects in almost 100 countries.

Education Director James Eggers forged partnerships with many AZA institutions and spoke at major AZA conferences. Following Eggers’ four presentations at the 2011 AZA Annual Conference in September, a formal AZA Year of the Bat Team was formed. This work group has become a powerful force in spreading the bat conservation message to AZA members, visitors and partners during the United Nations’ official celebration of bats. And AZA's worldwide bat-education efforts will continue well beyond the Year of the Bat.

A special BCI-AZA page (www.batcon.org/AZA) on BCI’s website is now the group’s official resource for education materials about bats. More institutions signed on for bat education after Eggers’ presentations and workshops at the AZA Mid-year Meeting in March. Among them was the Zoo Conservation Outreach Group (ZCOG), which has awarded more than $250,000 to animal-management and field-research programs in Latin America and is planning to expand into Africa and Southeast Asia. ZCOG is a natural partner, since its focus on capacity building through grants for professional development and field research mirrors BCI’s most successful strategies.

The AZA materials for Party for Planet/Earth Day included BCI articles and activities on bat conservation, which were sent to all member institutions. The AZA newsletter and monthly journal for members have included articles about bats, the threats they face and how AZA members can help. The very first Year of the Bat event in the United States featured a solid week of activities at the Lake Superior Zoo, which raised thousands of dollars for BCI education projects. This was followed by events at dozens of other AZA institutions. BCI’s partnership with AZA presents unprecedented opportunities to spread the real story of bats around the globe.

BCI’s Education Department utilized International Year of the Bat to forge strategic partnerships that increased awareness and appreciation in 28 countries and 31 U.S. states. These diverse and powerful partnerships range from the multinational Convention on Migratory Species to Chicago’s Field Museum to TV program Austin City Limits.

Eggers also was invited to be keynote speaker and moderator at the South East Asian Zoos Association Bat Conservation Workshop. BCI Outreach Associate Dianne Odegard also gave a presentation at this important session in Taiwan.

Among many projects and events in the United States, the Education Department created 20 “State Bat Fact Sheets,” aimed primarily at legislators, that describe bat species, their benefits and the threats they face in each state; assembled Bat Trunks for use by BCI Members giving educational presentations; built a new webpage with a list of recommended books about bats (www.batcon.org/batbooks) that is being used for a 2012 National Libraries Summer Reading Program; and directly reached more than 20,000 people with talks and presentations, plus hundreds of thousands of others through interviews for television, radio, magazines and newspapers.

Knowledge is on the move.
The experience was intense, exhausting and wonderful,” proclaims Lee Mackenzie after a BCI Workshop in Arizona. “But most of all it was an amazing opportunity to capture and get to know some of North America’s most fascinating bat species. A bat in the hand beats an ecotour any day!”

Mackenzie, a residential remodeler and serious bat fan, is married to BCI Outreach Associate (and bat rehabilitator) Dianne Odegard. He attended one of BCI’s popular Bat Conservation and Management (BCM) Workshops in Arizona’s Chiricahua Mountains this past May.

Two BCM sessions, as well as an Advanced Capture Techniques Workshop, were based at the American Museum of Natural History’s Southwest Research Station, as they have been since 1992 — except for last year, when the station was threatened by wildfires. One 2011 Arizona workshop was canceled because of the fires and another was moved at the last minute to Portal, Arizona.

To gather information on the area’s diverse bat populations one year after the devastating fires, workshops leader Janet Tyburec matched 40 bat-detector stations with netting and trapping sites to sample much of the vast and varied landscape. The collected data are being analyzed.

The workshops’ 28 participants captured a total of 369 individual bats of 16 species. Echolocation calls of two additional species – the greater bonneted bat (Eumops perotis) and the Mexican long-tongued bat (Choeronycteris mexicana) – were recorded by acoustic monitors.

With White-nose Syndrome battering bat populations throughout eastern North America and threatening to invade the West, all BCI workshops since 2009 use and provide training in WNS decontamination protocols. This not only helps protect local bat populations, but it also gives workshop participants hands-on experience in the use of critical disinfection procedures that are still new for many researchers.

A BCI Workshop is an invaluable experience. Many of our graduates have grown into leaders in bat conservation and research. A workshop, Tyburec concludes, “really is one of the more impressive, exciting and concentrated ways to get started with bat conservation. And it’s more than just a little fun, too.”

BCI’s six-day workshops provide unmatched hands-on experience in the latest research and conservation techniques, as well as classroom lectures by leading bat experts. Since 1991, some 1,800 people — biologists, land and wildlife managers, educators, students, consultants and dedicated bat enthusiasts — from 23 countries have participated in BCI workshops.

The 2012 summer schedule also includes a Bat Conservation and Management Workshop in central Pennsylvania and an Acoustic Monitoring Workshop at California’s Lava Beds National Monument.

Key Partners
American Museum of Natural History
Southwest Research Station
Arizona Game and Fish Department
Bat Conservation and Management, Inc.
Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources
Kentucky Department of Parks
U.S. Department of Defense
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
U.S. Forest Service
U.S. Geological Survey
Several dozen guests waiting quietly for the bats to come swirling out of Bracken Cave got quite a show one late-spring evening: a mother gray fox and her two pups were playing outside their den. A bit later, as cicadas buzzed and colorful painted buntings sang, the first few bats flew out of the mouth of the cave. Hundreds followed, then uncountable thousands emerged in a great, spinning vortex, their wings spreading a continuous flutter over the rugged landscape. “Oh, my gosh!” exclaimed someone in the crowd. An 11-year-old girl (described by her mother as “nuts about bats”) pointed at the bats with both hands while smiling from ear to ear.

Watching millions of bats flying out of Bracken Bat Cave on summer evenings is an unforgettable experience that changes forever how people think about these flying mammals. Education is the core of this cave and colony that BCI owns and protects. To share that experience with a wider audience, BCI initiated in 2011 a test run of 12 public tours in partnership with longtime supporter and Bracken neighbor Natural Bridge Caverns.

The first year’s positive results encouraged us to explore a full schedule of public tours for 2012. These public tours allow BCI to educate more people than ever about the benefits of bats, while giving BCI members more opportunities to enjoy Bracken. All tours are led by a BCI staffer (usually Bracken Cave Coordinator Fran Hutchins) and begin with a presentation about the importance of bats. We are carefully monitoring this year’s tours to ensure that they do not disturb the bats of Bracken Bat Cave.

Last summer, Central Texas remained parched by drought as nearby crops withered in the fields. Mother bats from Bracken’s maternity colony faced intense pressure to find enough food so they left the safety of the cave earlier each night to hunt. A grant from SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund allowed us to repair our wells and build concrete basins and rainwater catchments, so the bats and other wildlife had enough water despite the drought. November rains finally allowed ponds to fill again.

Dedicated volunteers spent much of the fall working on maintenance projects, including nature trails and fencing. Rick Corbell and Bob Cowell of the Bexar Grotto in San Antonio turned dead cedar trees into benches that now welcome visitors. They also used jackhammers to install educational signs. EarthShare volunteers spread 19 tons of gravel and mulch along the nature trail, while San Antonio Zoo kids and members of the New Braunfels Roots & Shoots group cleared brush and dead trees. Our volunteers logged more than 1,900 hours on Bracken projects.

Texas Master Naturalists began conducting bird surveys, documenting 85 different species, up from the 2007 count of 43. They posted two separate sightings of endangered golden-cheeked warbler fledglings.

Texas State University graduate student Sara Weaver is studying Mexican free-tailed bats that spend the winter at Bracken, rather than migrating south to Mexico with most of the colony. She reports a dramatic 80 percent increase in the confirmed overwintering population from 2010 to 2011. And students from the University of Texas School of Biological Sciences have documented more than 155 plant species at Bracken.

### Key Partners
- Bexar Grotto
- Boy Scouts of America
- EarthShare
- Edwards Aquifer Authority
- Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
- Native Plant Society of Texas
- Natural Bridge Caverns
- The Nature Conservancy of Texas
- New Braunfels Roots & Shoots
- San Antonio Zoo
- Southwest Research Institute
- Texas Master Naturalists
- Texas State University
- University of Texas at Austin
BCI Scholarships

Tropical forests are being dramatically altered by human activities. Logging, for instance, often changes vast old-growth forests that are rich in biodiversity into modified, secondary forests of uncertain value for bats and other wildlife. Understanding the impact of such changes on bat numbers and diversity is critical for conservation.

Graduate student Anthony Turner of the University of East Anglia in the United Kingdom used a BCI Student Research Scholarship to examine insect-eating bat populations across a range of forest types, from never-logged to extensively altered, on the Southeast Asian island of Borneo. The scholarship was supported by the U.S. Forest Service International Programs.

This initial research – the first phase of a multiyear study – found, as expected, that bat numbers were significantly reduced in the most-disturbed sites. But it also found that the number of bat species remained roughly the same in old-growth and secondary forests. Some species, in fact, seem to benefit from the changes while at least one (the papillose woolly bat \( \text{Kerivoula papillosa} \)) suffers. “This study found compelling evidence for retaining secondary forests as an important tool in biodiversity conservation,” Turner concluded.

That is a critical conservation result for Borneo, where huge expanses of previously logged forests are being completely cleared to make way for more-profitable oil palm plantations. Turner’s research may help improve forest management in hopes of preserving more of Borneo’s woodlands and bats.

This was but one of 19 scholarships BCI awarded in 2011 to support critical bat research in 11 countries, from the United States and Canada to Malaysia, Mexico and Nigeria. Individual awards ranged from $2,000 to $4,980.

Since 1990, Bat Conservation International has awarded 334 scholarships to help students conduct research that’s relevant to bat conservation in 62 countries throughout the world. Besides increasing our knowledge about bats and conservation, these scholarships are nurturing a new generation of young scientists, many of whom will lead bat conservation into the future.

BCI received 99 qualified scholarship applications for the 2012-13 academic year. After review by a panel of distinguished, non-BCI scientists, we awarded 24 scholarships (see the list on this page) with a total value of $80,038.

Forest Service International Programs has been an invaluable partner since 2005, providing direct support for approximately 10 scholarships per year to support forest-related research in developing countries.

In addition to Turner, last year’s BCI Scholars included: Lynne Burns (Canada), Kevin Heist (Indiana & Minnesota, U.S.), Chun-Chia Huang (Indonesia), Jennifer Krauel (Texas, U.S.), Kate Langwig (U.S.), Dana Lee (Oklahoma & Arkansas, U.S.), Rodrigo Marciente (Brazil), Corneile Minnaar (South Africa), Nor Zalipah Mohamed (Malaysia), Ryszard Oleksy (Madagascar), Lisa Powers (Illinois, U.S.), Rubén Salinas-Galicia (Mexico), Helena Santos (Portugal), Bruno Silva (Portugal), Iroro Tanshi (Nigeria), Michael Whitty (Illinois, U.S.), Susan Whitehead (Costa Rica) and Veronica Zamora-Gutierrez (Mexico).
Friends and Financials

Foundations, Organizations & Agencies

$10,000 and above

Anonymous
Arizona Game & Fish Department
Arkansas Game & Fish Commission
Bacardi-Martini, Inc.
Bass Foundation
Beneficia Foundation
The Brown Foundation, Inc., of Houston
Disney Friends for Change
Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund
Duke Energy
Duke Energy Foundation
Evergreen II Fund
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Conservation Fund
Shared Earth Foundation
Texas Industries
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Department of Defense Legacy Resource Management Program
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
U.S. Forest Service
Wildlife Without Borders Program
U.S. Geological Survey
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
White Pine Fund
Woodtiger Fund

$5,000 – $9,999

Benjamin Moore & Co.
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Corporate Matching & Workplace giving

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Alliant Energy Foundation, Inc.
American Express Co. – Employee Giving Campaign
Arrowhead United Way
AT&T United Way Employee Giving Campaign
Bank of America United Way Campaign
Blackrock Matching Gift Program
The Boeing Company
BP Foundation, Inc.
Chevron Humankind Employees Giving Campaign
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Matching Gifts Program
Coinstar
Community Shares of Minnesota
Campaign Management
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Educational Test Service
Employees Charity Organization of
Northrop Grumman
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GE Foundation
GE United Way Campaign
GlaxoSmithKline Foundation
Goldman, Sachs & Co.
Google
GT Nexus, Inc.
Hachette Book Group, USA
Halliburton Giving Choices
Illinois Housing Development Authority Admin. Fund
ING
Kaiser Permanente Community

Giving Campaign
Kraft Foods Foundation
Matching Gifts Program
LexisNexis Cares
Macy’s Foundation
MGM Resorts Foundation
Microsoft Giving Campaign
Morgan Stanley
New York Life Giving Campaign
Nvidia
The ODS Companies
Prizer Foundation
PPG Industries Foundation
The Prudential Foundation
The Regence Employee Giving Campaign Trust
Tyco Electronics Matching Gifts Program
United Technologies
United Way of Central New Mexico
United Way of Dane County
United Way of New York City
U.S. Bank
Verizon Foundation
Wells Fargo Community Support Campaign
WPG Solutions, Inc./FINRA

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Mr. William N. Mayo
Terry and Bill Pelster
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ING
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Giving Campaign
Kraft Foods Foundation
Matching Gifts Program
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Macy’s Foundation
MGM Resorts Foundation
Microsoft Giving Campaign
Morgan Stanley
New York Life Giving Campaign
Nvidia
The ODS Companies
Prizer Foundation
PPG Industries Foundation
The Prudential Foundation
The Regence Employee Giving Campaign Trust
Tyco Electronics Matching Gifts Program
United Technologies
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United Way of Dane County
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U.S. Bank
Verizon Foundation
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CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

BAT CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL, INC.
As of May 31, 2012 and 2011

ASSETS
Current Assets:
Cash and cash equivalents $1,127,088 $825,744
Accounts receivable 353,466 481,114
Grants receivable 243,749 248,182
Inventory 20,922 36,621
Prepaid expenses 16,646 2,032
Total current assets 1,761,871 1,593,693

Property and Equipment, net $1,937,704 $1,986,865
Investments 798,097 919,791
Grants Receivable, long-term portion 200,000 100,000
TOTAL ASSETS $4,697,672 $4,600,349

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS
Current Liabilities:
Accounts payable $810,156 $98,697
Accrued expenses 123,040 149,189
Deferred revenues 72,169 23,947
Founder's retirement obligation, current portion 38,754 116,206
Tenant deposit and prepaid rent 32,523 15,538
Grants payable 25,850 13,787
Total current liabilities $422,492 $417,364

Founder's Retirement Obligation, long-term portion - 38,736
TOTAL LIABILITIES $422,492 $456,100

NET ASSETS:
Unrestricted $1,166,355 $1,201,358
Temporarily restricted 1,006,467 840,533
Permanently restricted 2,102,358 2,102,358
TOTAL NET ASSETS $4,275,180 $4,144,249

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

BAT CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL, INC.
For the Year Ended May 31, 2012
(with summarized comparative totals for the year ended May 31, 2011)

REVENUES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Permanently Restricted</th>
<th>Total 2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grant revenue</td>
<td>$303,918</td>
<td>$1,068,647</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$1,372,565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>651,695</td>
<td>534,352</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,186,047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract services revenue</td>
<td>889,411</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>889,411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership revenue</td>
<td>761,765</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>761,765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education and workshops revenue</td>
<td>55,329</td>
<td>6,252</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>61,581</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental income</td>
<td>48,797</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>48,797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royalty income</td>
<td>8,983</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8,983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catalog sales, net of costs</td>
<td>8,884</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8,884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment (loss) income, net</td>
<td>76,010</td>
<td>(88,437)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(12,427)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other revenue</td>
<td>25,710</td>
<td>1,700</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>27,410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
<td>1,356,580</td>
<td>(1,356,580)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total revenues and net assets released from restrictions $4,187,082 $165,934 - $4,353,016 $4,433,610

EXPENSES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Permanently Restricted</th>
<th>Total 2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Science &amp; conservation program expenses</td>
<td>$2,138,695</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$2,138,695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education program expenses</td>
<td>1,095,485</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,095,485</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising and development</td>
<td>512,118</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>512,118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General and administrative</td>
<td>475,787</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>475,787</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total expenses $4,222,085 - - $4,222,085 $4,330,612

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS $(35,003) $165,934 - $130,931 $102,998

NET ASSETS, beginning of year, restated $1,201,358 $840,533 $2,102,358 $4,144,249 $4,041,251

NET ASSETS, end of year $1,166,355 $1,006,467 $2,102,358 $4,275,180 $4,144,249
Revenue:

- Memberships 18%
- Contract Services 20%
- Contributions 27%
- Other 3%
- Grants 32%

Expenditures:

- General & Administration 11%
- Fundraising & Development 12%
- Education 26%
- Science & Conservation 51%
Mission Statement

Bat Conservation International’s mission is to conserve the world’s bats and their ecosystems in order to ensure a healthy planet.