



Contact: Amy Lewis
Tel. 303-442-8811, ext. 227
Email: amy@wild.org
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE 11th WORLD WILDERNESS OFFICIALLY POSTPONED DUE TO COVID-19

BOULDER, COLORADO, March 2, 2020 – The 11th World Wilderness Congress (WILD11) is officially and indefinitely postponed as a result of the global spread of COVID-19. This action is taken in full cooperation with the Government of Rajasthan, prioritizing the safety of international delegates and domestic participants, and recognizing the *force majeure nature* of the prevailing situation.

The overriding factor in the WILD11 Executive Committee's decision is the safety of delegates, staff, volunteers, and their families. The rapid spread of COVID-19 in locations around the world suggest a significantly increased risk of contagion if the Congress convened as planned in March. For this reason, WILD11 is postponed until further notice.

The World Wilderness Congress is the longest-running, international, public platform for the protection of wild nature. WILD11 specifically calls for the need to unify actions addressing the dual threats of climate breakdown and mass extinction behind a single solution: the defense of wild nature and nature-based solutions.

Planning continues for how best to utilize the momentum behind WILD11 to influence important global decisions occurring later in 2020, especially the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. The Survival Revolution which was to be launched at WILD 11 and is the major education and outreach campaign strengthening public support for the protection of half of Earth's land and seas, continues to reach millions of people every month.

Other WILD11 programs, including government capacity building for climate mitigation, continue apace.

Although the WILD11 Executive Committee postpones the 11th World Wilderness Congress until further notice, many of its significant conservation programs continue. For more WILD11 updates, sign up for notifications at: <https://www.wild.org/newsletter/>.

If you are a WILD11 delegate and are seeking a refund, please find more information here: <https://wild11.org/updates/refunds/>

ABOUT WILDERNESS FOUNDATION GLOBAL

Focused on developing leadership and implementing effective action for protecting wilderness and wildlife while meeting the needs of human communities, WFG is the only global conservation organization born and based in Africa. As a founding member of WFG, WILD Foundation has continuing operational responsibility for the World Wilderness Congress since its inception in 1977.

ABOUT THE WILD FOUNDATION

For over 40 years WILD has assembled leaders from all sectors of society and from all over the world to come together for the twin purposes of forging strong policy communities with shared goals and objectives for the protection of nature, and building respect for Earth's wilderness. Putting respect for nature at the center of the leadership community and stewarding coordinated action for her protection is what we do best.

ABOUT SANCTUARY NATURE FOUNDATION

With India's most established, nation-wide experience and network in conservation communications and media, Sanctuary's flagship publication is *Sanctuary Asia*, India's premiere monthly conservation publication. Considered the main "crossroads for conservation" in India, Sanctuary works at the interface of biodiversity, economics and climate change. Of its many programs, Sanctuary's *Kids for Tigers Program* is a +1 million network of youth, advocating constantly for outreach, and protection of the Bengal tiger and its wild home. The *Sanctuary Community Owned Community Operated Nature (COCOON) Conservancy* is a rewilding program, nested within the larger Nature Needs Half/WILD Foundation umbrella.

ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN, INDIA

Represented by The Honorable Ashok Gehlot, Chief Minister; Ms Shreya Guha; Principal Secretary: Department of Tourism, Art and Culture; and, Forest, Environment, and Tourism.

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