



Save The Snakes
savethesnakes.org

ANNUAL REPORT

2017 - 2022



THE MISSION OF
SAVE THE SNAKES
IS TO PROTECT SNAKE
POPULATIONS AROUND THE
WORLD THROUGH EDUCATION
AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH
TO CREATE A HARMONIOUS
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
HUMANS AND SNAKES

Nepal: Social workers and educators received important information regarding snake identification and snakebite first aid



From Our Founder

In 2017, Save The Snakes was founded with a snake conservation vision.

We believed that if Save The Snakes could support wildlife conservationists to mitigate human-snake conflict in their own communities, then they could lay the groundwork to protect threatened snake populations in their part of the world.

Over the last five years, we have seen that by empowering passionate and dedicated people to help humans and snakes peacefully coexist, our unique, community-based approach to snake conservation can save threatened snake species and reduce snakebite in the communities that need it the most.

There is so much more work to do, but I am so honored to share these snake conservation stories and successes with you in this moment. On behalf of the Save The Snakes Leadership, our Team Members, and Conservation Partners, thank you for being a part of our global snake conservation movement.



Michael G. Starkey
Save The Snakes Founder
& Executive Director





**BRIDGING THE GAP
BETWEEN SNAKE
CONSERVATION AND
HUMAN-SNAKE
CONFLICT MITIGATION**

Why Snakes?

Snakes are critically important animals for our world. Snakes maintain balance in the food web and provide humans an ecological service by controlling pest populations. Yet, global snake populations are at risk from habitat destruction, disease, over-harvesting, invasive species, climate change and persecution by humans. **Currently the conservation needs of most snake species are underfunded, remain poorly understood by researchers and garner little attention from society.**

Moreover, as human populations rapidly grow and spread into areas that wildlife depend on, conflict with snakes is becoming increasingly common. **Each year, over 2.7 million people around the world suffer a serious snakebite envenomation.** In response to this snakebite crisis, the World Health Organization classified snakebite as a neglected tropical disease as few efforts exist to reduce snakebite in the Majority World. **There is a gap between the conservation needs of snake species and the human-snake conflict solutions that exist in rural, impoverished communities.** For many, the solution to this snakebite crisis is to kill snakes. Left unaddressed, the indiscriminate killing of snakes will bring already threatened snake species ever closer to extinction while human lives continue to be lost from snakebite.

To address these issues, Save The Snakes works to protect snake populations and reduce conflict between humans and snakes by implementing mitigation strategies which will lead to peaceful coexistence.



Global Snake Conservation

Since 2017, Save The Snakes has financially supported, provided technical guidance and fueled the growth of 29 snake conservation projects in 18 countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroon, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, South Africa, Tanzania, United States and Zambia.



South Africa

Nepal

Brazil

Zambia



2017-2022 Impact

With support from our donors and through the strength of our network, we have had a greater impact on snake conservation than ever before.

85%

Percentage of STS funds that went to support snake conservation programs

\$280K+

Amount raised for snake conservation from 2017 - 2022

80K+

Number of people in local communities around the world provided with education opportunities by STS and our Conservation Partners

29

Number of projects in 18 countries supported by STS funding

212K+

Number of people who learned about snake conservation on savethesnakes.org

206

Number of professionals trained through our venomous snake handling program in the USA

131

Number of proposals received seeking support for snake conservation projects

14K+

Number of followers on social media

249

Number of people who attended the Venomous Herpetology Symposium in 2018 & 2022

18

Number of projects awarded funds through our Support Grant Program



Over the past five years, **thousands of snakes** have been safely rescued and relocated from human-snake conflict situations

343

Number of people who attended our Sacramento Snake Festival in 2022





SNAKES ARE IMPORTANT, LET'S SAVE THEM TOGETHER

Brazil: Researchers pose for a photo while conducting field work to search for the critically endangered pit viper, *Bothrops sazimai*

Conservation Partners

To accomplish successful, international snake conservation efforts on the ground, Save The Snakes relies on the expertise, dedication and passion of our Conservation Partners to protect snake populations and mitigate human-snake conflict. We support their in-situ snake conservation efforts and highlight their incredibly important work on a global platform. Here are three examples of individuals and projects we continue to support.



CHOTI SINGH - ZAMBIA

“Mfuwe Snake Project: Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation and Community Sensitisation in Rural Zambia”

Choti’s project involves running awareness campaigns in Zambia to educate community members about snake conservation, rescue snakes, and mitigate incidents of snakebite.

KAMAL DEVKOTA - NEPAL

“Save The King & Human-Snake Conflict Mitigation in Nepal”

Kamal's project involves targeted conservation action to protect threatened king cobras (*Ophiophagus hannah*) and leading outreach programs about snakes and snakebite first aid for communities across Nepal.



JANE C. F. OLIVEIRA - BRAZIL

“Convivendo Com Serpentes & Saving Endangered Pit Vipers From Extinction”

Jane’s project involves research on the natural history and ecology of the critically endangered pit viper *Bothrops sazimai*, which is only found on one island in Brazil. Her team also creates educational programs about snake conservation, which are given to community members.



Snake Conservation in South Africa

To mitigate human-snake conflict in South Africa, Save The Snakes partnered with Hoedspruit Reptile Centre in 2020 to educate local communities in the greater Hoedspruit area.

The initiative, the **Snake Education and Community Awareness Program (SECAP)**, currently focuses on five main projects:

- Educating learners at schools to create a positive attitude towards snakes;
- Educating learners and members of various rural communities about snakes;
- Mitigating human-snake conflict within these communities;
- Working with local hospitals and clinics to ensure healthcare workers are comfortable, prepared and better equipped with dealing with snakebite; and
- Training local community members to safely rescue and relocate snakes and become snake champions.

In addition, Hoedspruit Reptile Centre currently maintains an antivenom bank, which aims to provide antivenom to individuals or to hospitals and clinics when people or animals have been bitten by a venomous snake.



Results From South Africa

The collaboration between Save The Snakes and the Hoedspruit Reptile Center has been critical to reduce snakebite in South Africa. The team continues to distribute important snake safety information and rescue and relocate snakes from conflict situations. They also co-organized the first ever South African Snakebite Symposium.

1K+

Learners educated over the past two years about snakes and snake safety

100+

Healthcare professionals that have received educational talks on snakebite

500+

Awareness surveys conducted to measure the impact of our work



100+ snakes rescued and released



30+ presentations given



10K+ people reached through our efforts



20+ schools and communities visited



10+ new collaboration opportunities

At schools, their presentations focus on snake biology and snake safety to ensure learners are prepared if they encounter a snake. Learners also see live snakes and how they behave and get excited to learn about snakes. Learners are also provided opportunities to touch non-venomous snakes and mitigate their fear of snakes. These small advances play a critical role in snake conservation.



Partial funding for this project has been received from an education grant from the International Herpetological Symposium, Roger Conant - Grants in Herpetology, Rufford Foundation and the Belton Mouras, Jr. and Dolores Ramirez Mouras Charitable Fund.

Snake Conservation Center

In 2021, Save The Snakes founded the Snake Conservation Center (SCC) in Sacramento, California. This facility represents a truly unique opportunity for our organization, which has greatly expanded our local and international snake conservation efforts and also serves as an educational resource for our community in Northern California. The SCC acts as a foundation from which to conduct our work and better serve our worldwide network of Conservation Partners. The SCC allows us to grow our regional snake education programs, drastically reduce human-rattlesnake conflict and address the snake conservation needs of threatened and endangered snake species in the United States.

Plus, the SCC serves as a physical location for all things snake education! The SCC houses multiple ambassador snakes in naturalistic habitats that were donated to Save The Snakes. Our team of volunteer wildlife biologists and environmental educators currently offer workshops, learning programs for students, on-the-go resources and information at local events, and specialized training courses about venomous snake handling and relocation.



Sacramento Snake Festival

On July 16, 2022, World Snake Day, Save The Snakes held the first annual Sacramento Snake Festival! Organized and managed completely by Save The Snakes volunteers, this educational, family friendly event raised local awareness for the snake conservation efforts of Save The Snakes and celebrated our amazing snake neighbors! Hundreds of people from all over California came out to tour our Snake Conservation Center and learn about snakes from local nature nonprofit organizations and snake-friendly businesses.

We are so grateful for our community in California who supported the first annual Sacramento Snake Festival and our global snake conservation efforts.

See you all for #SacSnakeFest 2023!

The 2022 Sacramento Snake Festival was generously sponsored by:



Highlights From Save The Snakes

Save The Snakes Conservationists presented the work of our organization at wildlife conservation, herpetology, and snakebite symposiums in countries across the globe, including Belize, the Netherlands, Nepal, New Zealand, South Africa, and the United States.

In 2018 and 2022, Save The Snakes and The Rattlesnake Conservancy co-hosted the **Venomous Herpetology Symposium**, which brought together zoo professionals, researchers, students, private herpetoculturists, and conservationists in a common setting to discuss various issues in venomous herpetology and the latest advancements in snakebite management.

In 2019 and 2022, Save The Snakes organized **wildlife conservation ecotours to Costa Rica**. More ecotours are planned for South America and the Mojave Desert for 2023 and 2024!

In 2021, in partnership with The Rattlesnake Conservancy, Save The Snakes implemented our **Venomous Snake Training Program in California**, which empowers wildlife biologists, first responders, zoo keepers and other professionals to safely work with venomous snakes.

In 2022, a group of dedicated Save The Snakes **volunteers cleaned up over 300lbs of trash at the Yolo Wildlife Area**, located west of Sacramento, CA. The Yolo Wildlife Area protects critically important wetland habitat, which is home to the threatened giant gartersnake, the largest gartersnake species in the world!



Financial Statement

Because of the dedicated support from our community, Save The Snakes can continue our mission to protect snake populations around the world through education and community outreach to create a harmonious relationship between humans and snakes.

Statement of Revenue & Expenses

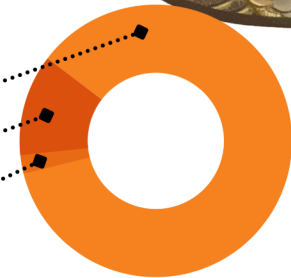
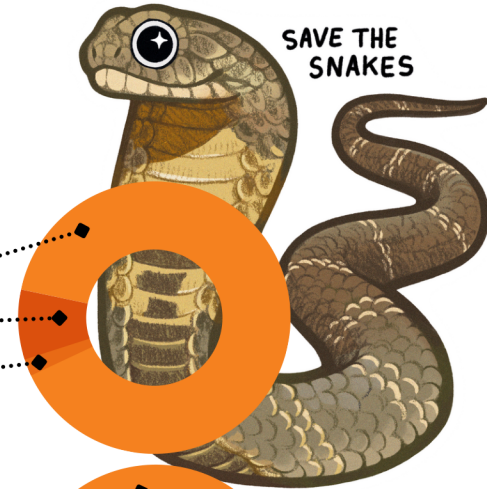
Calendar Year 2017 - 2022

Revenue

Contributions - Undesignated - \$250,241 (89.7%)
Contributions - Donor Designated \$23,111 (8.3%)
Income from Activities - \$5,620 (2%)
Total Revenue - \$278,973

Expenses

Program Grants and Services - \$228,340 (85.8%)
Management and General - \$32,087 (12.1%)
Fundraising - \$5,843 (2.2%)
Total Expenses - \$266,270



Statement of Revenue & Expenses

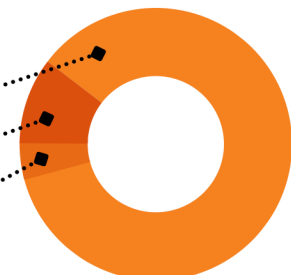
Calendar Year 2022

Revenue

Contributions - Undesignated - \$115,957 (93%)
Contributions - Donor Designated \$3,099 (2.5%)
Income from Activities - \$5,620 (4.5%)
Total Revenue - \$124,676

Expenses

Program Grants and Services - \$115,144 (85.4%)
Management and General - \$13,828 (10.3%)
Fundraising - \$5,843 (2.2%)
Total Expenses - \$134,815



Complete financial reports are available upon request. Save The Snakes is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)3 organization - #82-2680134



Save The Snakes

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