

DISNEY DIRECTS \$1 MILLION TO WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROJECTS

August 04, 2003 – Endangered species received a big boost in July when the Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund (DWCF) awarded more than \$1 million in cash to 42 non-profit organizations that focus on protecting wildlife and wild places. This year, 68 projects were funded for work underway in 35 countries from the forests of South America to the aquamarine waters of the Caribbean.

Long before the public went in search of a clownfish named “Nemo,” the Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund was supporting scientists studying marine ecosystems and coral reef communities. The DWCF was established in 1995 to support research globally, on land and in the ocean, and since its inception has contributed nearly \$6 million to 250 projects. The fund includes contributions made by Guests visiting the Living Seas aquarium at Epcot, Disney’s Animal Kingdom, Disney’s Animal Kingdom Lodge and those aboard Disney Cruise Line, as well as at Disney’s Vero Beach and Hilton Head Resorts. In total, 100 percent of each Guest’s contribution was matched this year by the company and sent to non-profit organizations that have made a commitment to conservation. The Walt Disney World Co. pays all administrative and overhead costs.

“We established the fund to acknowledge our dependence upon a healthy environment and to demonstrate our commitment to sharing conservation solutions with our Guests,” said Al Weiss, president of Walt Disney World Resort. “Animals have been such a part of the Disney legacy from the beginning, the Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund is a natural extension of that.”

This year’s 68 award recipients are working in a variety of areas, including re-introducing antelope into Ethiopia, mapping coral reefs in the Florida Keys, working with Maasai villagers in Kenya, studying the Siamese crocodile in Cambodia, monitoring right whales on the Atlantic Coast, tracking California condors, and addressing issues facing Siberian tigers in the wilds of Russia. In addition to the annual awards, a Disney “Rapid Response Program” provides immediate funds of up to \$5,000 per crisis to address wildlife challenges throughout the year. Most recently supplies were purchased to assist the International Fund for Animal Welfare with the care and clean up of wildlife affected by a disastrous oil spill in Spain. A complete list of conservation programs supported by the Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund can be accessed by visiting www.disneywildlifefund.com .