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NEWS FROM...

**RE: ALAN RABINOWITZ
TO SPEAK ON SAVING TIGERS AT PALM BEACH ZOO'S FIRST
ANNUAL CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP LECTURE**

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April 3, 2007, West Palm Beach – The Palm Beach Zoo has announced that world-renowned conservationist Dr. Alan Rabinowitz, Executive Director for Science and Exploration – Wildlife Conservation Society will be the guest speaker at the first annual Conservation Leadership Lecture on April 12th at the Palm Beach County Convention Center. Rabinowitz will present a talk entitled “A Question of Balance: Guns, Gold and Greed” about his 13-year effort to secure the world’s largest tiger reserve, the Hukaung Valley Tiger Reserve in Myanmar.

This is the first annual Conservation Leadership Lecture to be presented by the Palm Beach Zoo. Each year, the zoo will bring a major voice for conservation of endangered animals to Palm Beach County as a service to the community.

The lecture is free and open to the public, and begins at 6:30 p.m. The Palm Beach County Convention Center is located at 650 Okeechobee Boulevard in West Palm Beach. There is a \$5 fee to park in the Convention Center Garage. Make reservations by calling (561) 833-0887, Ext. 285.

Author of more than 50 scientific and popular articles and four books, Dr. Rabinowitz has tracked and studied large mammals in some of the world’s most isolated and wild places. His research over the last 25 years has involved species such as the jaguar, clouded leopard Asiatic leopard, tiger, Sumatran rhino and Asian elephant. His concern for these species has brought him to the wild habitats of Belize, Borneo, Taiwan, Thailand, Laos and Myanmar. His goal in life, and the mission of the Science and



Exploration Program, is to find a survey the world's last wild places, with the intention of saving as much land in protected areas as he can and securing habitat for some of the world's most endangered large mammals.

In 1985, his work in Belize resulted in the world's first jaguar sanctuary at Cockscomb Basin and helped start the country's now prosperous ecotourism industry. Subsequent surveys of the clouded leopard in Taiwan resulted in the establishment of Tawu Mountain Nature Reserve, the country's largest protected area and last piece of intact lowland forest. His work in Thailand between 1987 and 1993, resulted in the first field research on Indochinese tigers, Asiatic leopards, and leopard cats, in what was to become the region's first World Heritage Site. In Laos, his surveys in the Annamite Mountains brought the discovery of several new mammal species and the designation of this region as "a biodiversity hotspot."

From 1993 to 2001, Dr. Rabinowitz worked tirelessly to create a number of new protected areas in Myanmar: the country's first marine national park, the country's first and largest Himalayan national park, the country's largest wildlife sanctuary, and the world's largest tiger reserve. He also masterminded the creation of the Northern Forest Complex in Myanmar, a set of four contiguous protected areas, more than 30,000 km², that comprise one of the wildest, most pristine sets of habitats left in the world. In addition to this monumental achievement, Dr. Rabinowitz made a number of new discoveries, including the leaf deer, a new species to science and the second smallest, most primitive deer in the world.

In 2006, Dr. Rabinowitz, working with WCS staff around the world, launched a new initiative, *Tigers Forever*, which aims to increase the number of wild tigers by fifty percent within the next ten years. This bold plan will initially focus on ten critical sites in Asia, including Myanmar, where WCS has extensive experience and where the potential for tiger population growth is greatest.

The Palm Beach Zoo is a non profit zoological organization located at Dreher Park in West Palm Beach, housing over 1,500 animals within 23 acres of lush tropical habitat. Its mission is to provide an open-air classroom of living creatures to foster awareness, appreciation and respect for the natural world.

Palm Beach Zoo is located at 1301 Summit Boulevard, just east of I-95 between Southern and Forest Hill Boulevard. Admission: Regular \$12.95, Seniors 60+ \$9.95, Children 3-12 \$8.95, under 3 years and Zoo Members are free. The zoo is open every day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Closed Thanksgiving and Christmas Day) For more information visit www.palmbeachzoo.org.

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