



Steven L. Monfort, DVM, PhD
Director, Smithsonian Conservation Biology
Institute
National Zoological Park

Biography

Dr. Steve Monfort, an international authority in zoo and conservation biology, serves as Chief Scientist and Director of the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute with more than 200 staff conducting research and training in more than 35 countries worldwide. Headquartered in Front Royal, Virginia, SCBI serves as the Smithsonian’s “front door” for conservation – seeking to leverage the depth and breadth of the Institution’s expertise in

biodiversity and conservation sciences to support the Smithsonian Grand Challenge of *Understanding and Sustaining a Biodiverse Planet*.

Dr. Monfort is a subject matter expert in Zoo Biology, Animal Health, Reproductive Biology, Behavioral Ecology and Conservation Biology. He pioneered noninvasive hormone monitoring techniques that revolutionized assessments of reproduction and stress in wildlife species maintained in zoos and in nature. He has published 150 scientific papers in the broad discipline of reproductive physiology, endocrinology and behavioral ecology, and also was a wildlife veterinary practitioner for 20 years.

As an educator, Dr. Monfort co-founded the Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation, an in-residence program at SCBI with a mission of “Sustaining global biodiversity by advancing the theory and practice of conservation biology with transformative, transdisciplinary education.” The School seeks to provide transformative, hands-on education and professional development in conservation biology and allied fields for undergraduates, graduates, professionals, and others interested in advancing conservation.

As a conservationist, Dr. Monfort is a founder of a number of important conservation initiatives, including: the Sahara Conservation Fund; Conservation Centers for Species Survival; Panama Amphibian Rescue & Conservation Project; and the Global Tiger Initiative. He has served as the chair of the Asian Wild Horse Species Survival Plan, and currently is a member of IUCN’s antelope, cervid and conservation breeding specialist groups.

Born in San Diego, California, Steve received a BA in Biology from the U.C. San Diego, doctor of veterinary medicine (1986) and master’s (1987) degrees from the U.C. Davis, and doctorate in environmental biology and public policy (1993) from George Mason University. He lives in Virginia with his wife and two children.