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**THE LIVING DESERT TO HOST INAUGURAL
INTERNATIONAL DESERT CONSERVATION SUMMIT**
The Virtual Event Features International Conservation Experts

PALM DESERT/INDIAN WELLS, CA – (October 15, 2020) – The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens is excited to host its inaugural International Desert Conservation Summit on Saturday, November 14, 2020 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The virtual event will be a significant gathering of experts from around the world who are focused on saving deserts and the animals, plants and communities that call the desert home.

The Summit features 12 speakers from seven countries representing 10 conservation organizations. The expert panelists will share conservation stories from the field, along with success stories, key challenges, and provide a closer look at their important work. The summit is open to the public with the goal of welcoming everyone into the vast and fascinating world of wildlife conservation. Attendees will have the unique opportunity to interact in a live question and answer session following each presentation.

“As a leader in desert conservation efforts, The Living Desert is excited to host this inaugural event to bring some of the brightest conservation minds together,” said Allen Monroe, President/CEO of The Living Desert. “Although we had originally planned to host this event on-grounds at The Living Desert, we are thrilled to welcome even more attendees from all over the world with its new virtual format.”

For 50 years, The Living Desert has been dedicated to preserving and conserving the wildlife and wild places that call the desert home. Currently, The Living Desert works with 57 global conservation partners on 35 conservation projects spanning 10 countries. Projects include efforts to protect local species such as the desert bighorn sheep and desert tortoise, as well as African species including rhino, giraffe, cheetah and African wild dogs.

“We look forward to hosting this Summit that allows our international conservation partners the opportunity to share their work and steadfast dedication to community-based conservation with attendees from around the world,” said Dr. James Danoff-Burg, Director of Conservation Learning and Engagement at The Living Desert.

Registration for the International Desert Conservation Summit is now open and available at DesertConservationSummit.org. Early-bird registration is \$25 and prices increase to \$50 on November 3. The virtual summit will be recorded and available to registrants for 60 days following the event.

The Living Desert is open daily from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. With more than 80 acres of outdoor space, numerous safety precautions, and limited capacity, there is plenty of space to socially distance. Facial coverings are required for guests three and older and advanced ticket reservations are required.

About the Living Desert:

The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens is a nonprofit, accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, ensuring the highest standards of all aspects of animal care, education, conservation, public service, and operations. The Zoo is active in conservation research, habitat protection, breeding programs and education initiatives around the world, as well as in its own community. The Zoo has been a top destination in the Palm Springs area for 50 years. The Living Desert is located at 47900 Portola Ave, Palm Desert, CA 92260. For more information: (760) 346-5694 or visit livingdesert.org.

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