

Indianapolis Zoo

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 2, 2008

**George Schaller Honored with Indianapolis Prize
Nominations for the 2010 Prize Due December 1, 2008**

INDIANAPOLIS --- Dr. George Schaller, the winner of the 2008 Indianapolis Prize, received the Lilly Medal and a check for \$100,000 at the Indianapolis Prize Gala presented by the AES Corporation on September 27, 2008. Schaller received the plaudits, not only of the audience of over 800 at the downtown Marriott Hotel, but of three fellow finalists for the largest individual monetary award for animal conservation – elephant researcher Dr. Iain Douglas-Hamilton, cheetah conservationist Laurie Marker and snow leopard advocate Dr. Rodney Jackson. Prompted by Gala co-hosts Jane Alexander and Sam Waterston, all stood in a rousing standing ovation to honor the world's pre-eminent field biologist and his lasting contributions to preserving many of the world's most endangered creatures.

The deadline for nominations for the next Indianapolis Prize in 2010 is fast approaching. **Nominations will be accepted through December 1, 2008.** The biennial award is given to an individual animal conservationist who has made significant achievements in advancing sustainability of an animal species or group of species. It is given as an unrestricted gift to the recipient, who is chosen from among the nominees by a jury of the top conservation scientists in the world.

Anyone can nominate a candidate for the Indianapolis Prize. To be accepted as nominees, individuals must have accomplished a personal achievement or series of achievements that have resulted in a demonstrable positive impact on a species or group of species that is likely to improve the species' likelihood of long-term survival.

For complete guidelines and to learn more about the nominating process, persons should send an e-mail to nomination@indianapolisprize.org.

The 2006 winner was Dr. George Archibald, co-founder of the International Crane Foundation, who has dedicated more than 30 years to trying to save the 15 remaining species of these magnificent and increasingly endangered birds.

Past nominees and finalists for the Indianapolis Prize are representative of the most significant conservationists throughout the world. Among them have been: renowned whale and ocean researcher Roger Payne; wolf expert and champion Dr. David Mech; and, two representatives of the world's largest conservation organization, Holly Dublin and Simon Stuart of the World Conservation Union (IUCN).

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The Indianapolis Prize was initiated in 2004 by the Indianapolis Zoo as a significant component of its mission to inspire local and global communities to celebrate, protect and preserve our natural world through conservation, education and research. Eli Lilly & Company provided funding for the 2006 and 2008 Indianapolis Prize.

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