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Images: Selection of high resolution images available on request

Zoological Society of London to benefit from Royal Wedding Charitable Gift Fund

The Zoological Society of London (ZSL) is delighted to have been chosen by Prince William and Miss Catherine Middleton as a beneficiary of their generous wedding charitable gift fund.

Prince William and Miss Middleton have asked that anyone who might wish to give them a wedding gift, consider instead making a donation to a chosen list of charities. ZSL is extremely proud to have been selected as one of these charities.

Operating around the globe to save many of the world's most iconic species, ZSL works in the front-line of wildlife conservation, with projects ranging from alleviating human-elephant conflict in Thailand to protecting both Sumatran tigers and carbon-rich peat forests in Indonesia.

ZSL works in Thailand with the Elephant Conservation Network (ECN) to help encourage a peaceful co-existence between elephants and humans. They work closely with government agencies and local communities to help reduce human-elephant conflict and improve protection of the conservation areas. This generous gift will allow ZSL to further develop conservation projects to save these animals and more around the world.

Donations to the gift fund can be made through the website www.royalweddingcharityfund.org and grants will be distributed by the Foundation of Prince William and Prince Harry.

Zoological Society of London Director General, Ralph Armond said: "We are delighted and immensely proud to have been selected by Prince William and Miss Middleton as one of the charities to benefit from their kind gesture.

Belinda Stewart-Cox, the director of ZSL's partner organisation in Thailand, adds: "We are thrilled that ZSL is a beneficiary of the Royal Wedding Charitable Gift Fund and will use that support to further our collaborative conservation work with wild elephants in Thailand. This generous gift will enable us to develop our conservation projects to ensure that we really make a difference to the lives of these amazing animals and the villagers who accommodate them".

ZSL is an international animal conservation charity dedicated to the preservation of animals and their habitats around the world. The Society runs ZSL London and Whipsnade Zoos, has field conservation projects around the world, and carries out world-leading scientific research in the Institute of Zoology in Regent's Park.

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Notes to Editors

The Elephant Conservation Network (ECN) was founded in 2005 and is a non-profit organisation whose aim is to conserve wild elephants and their habitat. ECN uses a collaborative, research-based approach to plan and implement sustainable solutions to human-elephant conflict in and around the Salakpra Wildlife Sanctuary and Chalerm Rattanakosin National Park in Kanchanaburi province. More information about ECN can be found at www.ecn-thailand.org or by calling Jittin Ritthirat 089 411 9154.

Working closely with local communities, the Department of National Parks, Plant and Wildlife Conservation, and other government and non-government agencies, ECN is currently implementing a variety of projects, including:

- Monitoring human-elephant conflict around Salakpra
- Supporting the development of a Smart Patrol System in Salakpra
- Helping to establish conservation corridors between Salakpra and WEFCOM
- Facilitating alternative livelihood enterprises for forest-users around Salakpra
- Assisting the creation and management of an elephant electric fence around Salakpra

Founded in 1826, the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) is an international scientific, conservation and educational charity: the key role is the conservation of animals and their habitats. The Society runs ZSL London Zoo and ZSL Whipsnade Zoo, carries out scientific research in the Institute of Zoology and is actively involved in field conservation in other countries worldwide. For further information please visit www.zsl.org