



ADVANCING  
CONSERVATION  
THROUGH  
**EMPATHY FOR  
WILDLIFE™**

# Inclusive Conservation Resource List

2023

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## Resource Purpose

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The Advancing Conservation through Empathy (ACE) for Wildlife Network’s vision is “a conservation-minded society motivated by empathy towards all life.” Through achieving our mission of “creating and sharing effective practices to foster empathy for animals and people,” Network Partners can: foster empathy, promote conservation missions and motivate visitors to take conservation action. This resource list, co-created by our Diversity, Equity, Accessibility and Inclusion (DEAI) Committee and our Strategic Learning Committee, reflects an initial step forward to make the conservation initiatives throughout our Network more inclusive and well-rounded.

Historically, many Western conservation initiatives have failed to acknowledge and discounted the complexity of the ways humanity has interacted with and understood the natural world. Often, this has harmed local historically marginalized and overburdened communities and altered the natural systems the initiative(s) sought to protect. Repeated time and time again, this has created systemic barriers in the field of conservation that have limited what voices and perspectives are included in decision making processes. Luckily, this is changing. We must listen to the past and present perspectives of marginalized communities fighting for the protection of the environment and wildlife, to accomplish a more equitable and sustainable future. For the Advancing Conservation through Empathy for Wildlife Network to truly accomplish our mission, we must work to make our zoo/aquarium conservation initiatives inclusive. This means:

- Acknowledging that an empathy for nature mindset is not a new thought framework. People worldwide have been utilizing this and similar ways of thinking for millennia to coexist with the natural world;
- Increasing our understanding of other ways of knowing and perspectives of being in natural spaces to create more inclusive zoo and aquarium spaces; and
- Learning about the history and lasting impacts of Western conservation models on both marginalized and non-marginalized groups so we can take effective action.

We hope this Inclusive Conservation Resource List will help provide Network Members and Affiliates with tools to learn both individually and collectively, to advance their organization’s conservation mission through a holistic lens. We hope that conversations happen not only internally, but also across organizations within our Network. Much like other Network resources, this list is designed to grow with us.

Furthermore, if you know of a resource that you think would be more beneficial for staff at your zoo or aquarium to engage in than one on this list, please send us:

- The name of the resource
- A brief description of the resource

Even if your resource is free to access, we encourage you to send it our way so we can continue to strengthen this list.

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## Starting Resources Lists

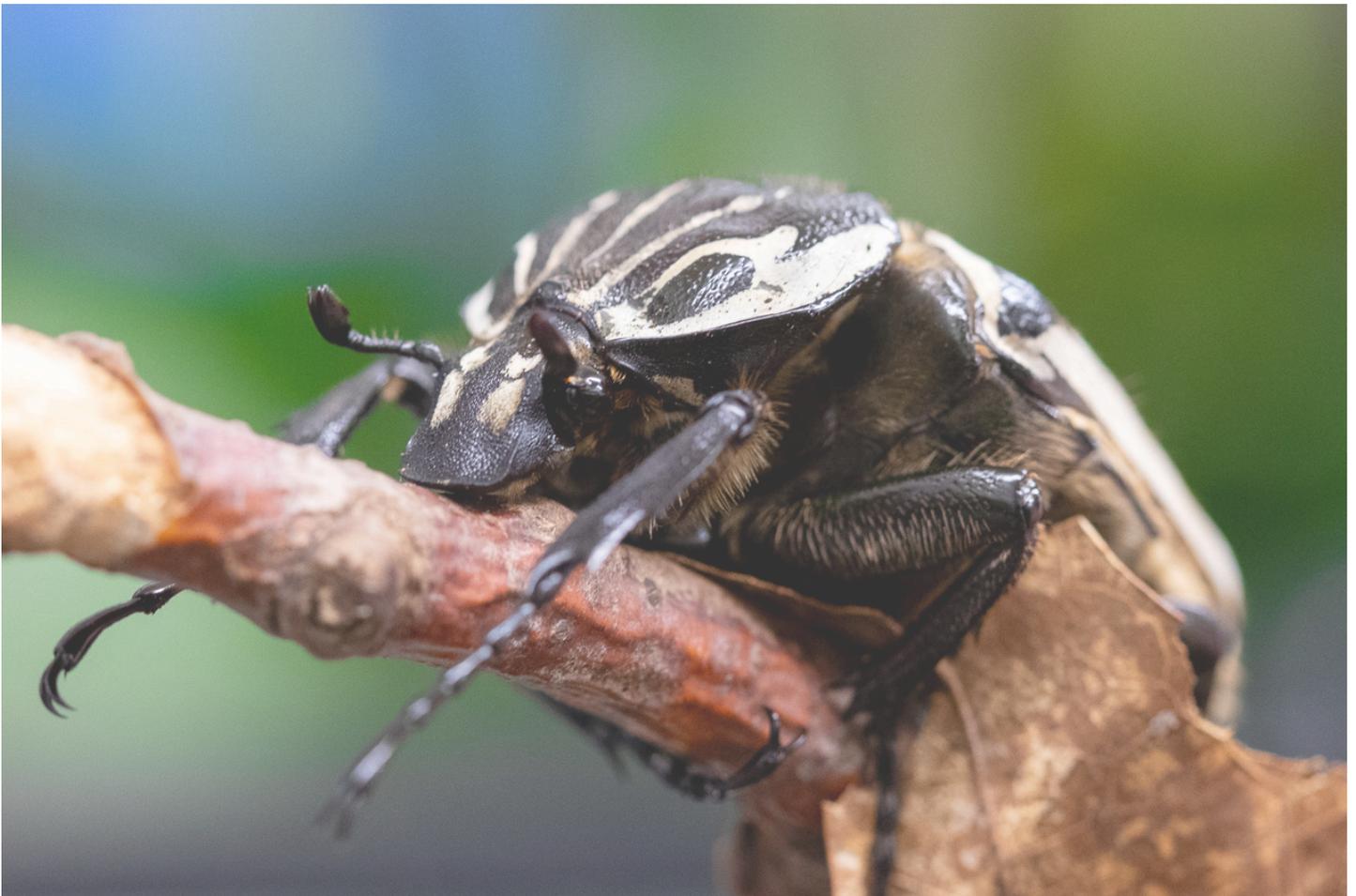
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[Books](#)

[Podcasts](#)

[Documentaries](#)

[External Resources List](#)





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## Books

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***All We Can Save*** by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson & Katherine K. Wilkinson ([anthology](#), [climate change](#))

***As Long as Grass Grows: The Indigenous Fight for Environmental Justice from Colonization to Standing Rock*** by Dina Gilio-Whitaker ([colonialism](#), [indigenous](#), [environmental justice](#))

***Black Faces, White Spaces*** by Carolyn Finney ([nature & race](#))

***Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*** by Gloria Anzaldúa ([anthology](#), [DEI](#), [Chicana ecology](#) ((ecology only based on community not nature)), [colonialism](#), [essay](#), [feminism](#), [poem](#), [queer](#), [semi-autobiography](#))

***Borealis*** by Aisha Sabatini Sloan ([nature & race](#), [queer ecology](#))

***Braiding Sweetgrass*** by Robin Wall Kimmerer ([colonialism](#), [critical ecology](#), [indigenous](#))

***The Big Conservation Lie*** by John Mbaria & Mordeci Ogada ([colonialism](#), [conservation](#), [nature & race](#))

***Clean and White: A History of Environmental Racism in the United States*** by Carl A. Zimring ([environmental justice](#), [nature & race](#))

***Conservation Refugees: The Hundred Year Conflict between Global Conservation and Native Peoples*** by Mark Dowie ([colonialism](#), [conservation](#), [human-environment interactions](#), [indigenous](#), [nature & race](#))

***DEI Deconstructed: Your No-Nonsense Guide to Doing the Work and Doing it Right*** by Lily Zheng ([DEI](#))

***Essay- A Convergent Imagining*** by J. Drew Lanham ([essay](#), [nature & race](#))

***Fresh Banana Leaves*** by Jessica Hernandez, Ph.D. ([human-environment interactions](#), [indigenous](#))

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***The Home Place: Memoirs of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature*** by Drew J. Lanham  
([memoir](#), [nature & race](#))

***Kinship: Belonging in a World of Relations*** Co-edited by Gavin Van Horn, Robin Wall Kimmerer, and John Hausdoerffer ([anthology](#))

**Required Reading: *Climate Justice, Adaptation, and Investing in Indigenous Power* by NDN Collective Climate Justice Campaign** ([climate change](#), [environmental justice](#), [indigenous](#))

***Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World*** by Katharine Hayhoe ([climate change](#))

***Trace: Memory, History, Race and the American Landscape*** by Lauret Savoy ([DEI](#), [memoir](#), [migration](#), [nature & race](#))

***Undrowned: Black Feminist Lessons from Marine Mammals*** by Alexis Pauline Gumbs  
([ecofeminism](#), [nature & race](#))

***What If I Say the Wrong Thing?: 25 Habits for Culturally Effective People*** by Verna A. Myers  
([DEI](#))





## Podcasts

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\*WARNING: These episodes contain descriptions of violence that may be triggering to listeners.

*(episodes or entire series)*

**Episode:** Critical Ecology (SOCIAL SYSTEMS + ENVIRONMENT) with Suzanne Pierre, Ologies ([critical ecology](#), [environmental justice](#), [human-environment interactions](#))

**Series:** All My Relations

- **Episode:** For the Love of the Mauna Part 1-3, All My Relations ([colonialism](#), [environmental justice](#), [Indigenous](#))

**Episode:** The Ghost in Your Phone, Throughline NPR\* ([environmental justice](#), [human-environment interactions](#))

**Episode:** The Litter Myth, Throughline NPR. Features Dina Gilio-Whitaker, whose book is also featured in this resource list ([conservation](#), [indigenous](#), [nature & race](#))

**Episode:** The “Crying Indian” Ad, Not Past It. Features Dina Gilio-Whitaker, whose book is also featured in this resource list ([conservation](#), [indigenous](#), [nature & race](#))

**Episode:** Force of Nature (2021), Throughline NPR ([conservation](#), [environmental justice](#))





## Documentaries

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[Cooked: Survival by Zip Code](#) ([environmental justice](#))

## Resource Lists Compiled from External Organizations

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[Queer Nature Resource List & Further Reading](#) ([external resource list](#), [queer ecology](#))

[Gender Inclusive Biology Project – Framework and Resources](#) ([external resource list](#), [queer ecology](#))

[Movement Generation curriculum, articles, media, and productions](#) ([environmental justice](#), [external resource list](#))

[Critical Ecology Lab](#) ([critical ecology](#), [external resource list](#), [human–environment interactions](#))



If you know of something that you think would be a more beneficial resource for your zoo or aquarium or would strengthen this list, please send the name of the resource, a brief description of the resource, and how you would tag it to [empathy@zoo.org](mailto:empathy@zoo.org). Even if your resource is free to access, we encourage you to send it our way. We anticipate updating this document every 6 months to stay up to date on new publications, documentaries, podcasts, and other media.

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