

For Immediate Release

Little Ray's raising funds to save critically endangered crocodiles

Ottawa, October 13 — Having just won a national award for turtle conservation efforts in Myanmar, Little Ray's Nature Centre has launched a new campaign to help increase wild populations of endangered crocodiles in Laos.

The Siamese Crocodile, *Crocodylus siamensis*, once occurred throughout Southeast Asia and Borneo. Populations have declined during the past 50 years, with fewer than 1,000 individuals remaining in the wild. The species is now ranked as Critically Endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Last week, Little Ray's was the recipient of the Canadian Association of Zoos and Aquariums (CAZA) Peter Karsten Award, for In-Situ Conservation Project. It recognized Little Ray's Boots-On-The-Ground Initiative in Myanmar, where they assisted the World Conservation Society in the design and build of critically important infrastructure for the breeding programs of some of the most critically endangered turtles in the world.

This new Boots-On-The-Ground Initiative will assist the World Conservation Society's Siamese Crocodile Project in expanding crocodile rearing ponds and building incubators for a breeding program.

Little Ray's is appealing to the public to help raise \$16,000 to fund these efforts through the popular crowdfunding site, GoFundMe.

"I can not put in words how much a \$20 donation can do to a conservation project in Laos," says Paul "Little Ray" Goulet, Founder and CEO of Little Ray's Nature Centre. "100% of the money raised will be going to this project on the ground in Laos."

"If you can, please donate to this wonderful program."

Donations can be made securely at the campaign site: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/siamese-crocodile-rescue-fund>

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Little Ray's Nature Center is the largest exotic animal rescue in Canada, with one of the largest and most diverse animal education and outreach programs in North America. In addition to two zoos, in Ottawa and Hamilton, Ontario, and Syracuse, NY, Little Ray's provides interactive animal exhibitions and works with other zoos and museums to create unique experiential exhibits. Little Ray's is a member of Canada's Accredited Zoos and Aquariums (CAZA). For more information, contact [email address]