C2S2: A Large-Landscape Conservation Network

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As biodiversity loss accelerates globally, conservation organizations are being challenged to move beyond isolated institutional efforts toward scalable, collaborative models that ensure long-term species sustainability. Conservation Centers for Species Survival (C2S2) will present a conservation framework built on cross-sector partnerships, large-landscape management, applied science, and coordinated population sustainability strategies designed to bridge ex situ and in situ conservation efforts through a One Plan approach.

This presentation will highlight how C2S2's alliance-based model brings together conservation centers, accredited zoos, private landowners, researchers, and wildlife professionals to collaboratively manage genetically and demographically sustainable populations of endangered species. Through programs including the Source Population Alliance (SPA), Partnership for Species (PFS), and the Southern Black Rhino Sustainability Program (SBRSP), C2S2 has developed scalable systems that increase carrying capacity, strengthen genetic management, support applied research, and create pathways for future reintroduction and ecosystem restoration.

The presentation will also examine how collaborative governance structures, shared expertise, and integrated conservation planning can expand institutional impact while addressing common challenges facing zoological and conservation organizations, including space limitations, long-term population management, and species sustainability beyond traditional SSP frameworks. Lessons learned from nearly two decades of alliance-driven conservation work will be shared alongside opportunities for broader collaboration across AZA and non-AZA partners.