



Stuart D. Strahl, Ph.D.

With 35 years of background in national and international programs, Dr. Stuart Strahl is a career conservationist with deep experience in applied science, restoration ecology, public policy and not-for-profit management. He serves as President/CEO of the Chicago Zoological Society, which operates the world-famous Brookfield Zoo - the most popular paid cultural attraction in the Midwest, serving 2.3 million guests annually. Dr. Strahl oversees a staff of 430 full-time, 1,200 part-time and seasonal employees, and a corps of 800 volunteers, all of whom who engage in numerous local, regional and international conservation, education and animal welfare initiatives.

Stuart has a long history with Audubon. His first charitable gift was made to National Audubon Society in 1970, his first paid job in conservation was as a “kitchen boy” at the Audubon Camp of Maine in 1975, and he has been a Life Member of Audubon since high-school. In addition, he has served as an Audubon Chapter leader in three States and while in Venezuela. His family donated their farm on the Eastern Shore of Maryland to the Chesapeake Audubon Society to form Pickering Creek Audubon Center, where he continues to serve as a Board member. Prior to arriving at CZS, Stuart served as Vice President/Florida State Director of the National Audubon Society founding President/CEO of Audubon of Florida. From 1996-2003 he led the organization into prominence as the acknowledged private-sector leader in the largest ecological restoration initiative in history, the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan.

Fluent in Spanish, Stuart began his career as a field biologist and later as founding Director of Latin American Programs for the Wildlife Conservation Society during the 1980’s and early 1990’s. He is

dedicated to converting conservation into mainstream public and economic issues, bringing together diverse constituencies around solutions to complex issues and creating careers for young professionals in conservation. He has worked extensively to develop lasting partnerships in the U.S. and Latin America, resulting in preservation of many millions acres of wildlife habitat and billions of dollars in conservation funding.
