SLOW DOWN, LOVE WIZARD. HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE HORNED LIZARD.

- Horned lizards predominately eat ants. In small doses the ants' venom does not harm the lizard; however, a swarm can kill an adult lizard.
- While the spines on the horned lizard's body are modified scales, the horns on its head are made of bone.
- When threatened, these lizards are able to burst small capillaries around their eyes and squirt blood at predators to deter an attack.

YOU CAN HELP THE HORNED LIZARD. HERE'S HOW:

Avoid off-road vehicle use. Horned lizards face serious ongoing threats from off-road vehicles, which tend to crush them frequently due to the "freeze in place" strategy they adopt when threatened.

Eat less meat. Livestock grazing and growing feed crops destroy habitat. Livestock already occupy more than 25 percent of the Earth's land, with 70 percent of all agricultural land dedicated to feed and production.

Keep the horned lizard, and other endangered wildlife, in mind when you plan your family. Human population growth and our ever-expanding demands for space, food and resources push wildlife closer and closer to extinction. Ninety-nine percent of currently threatened wildlife are at risk from human activities.

*The horned lizard depicted on the condom packaging is a flat-tailed lizard, which is found in Arizona, California and Mexico. The facts and threats listed here apply to all horned lizards in the United States.

WHAT DO CONDOMS HAVE TO DO WITH ENDANGERED SPECIES?

July 11 is World Population Day and the perfect opportunity to draw attention to the connection between our rapidly growing numbers and the wildlife extinction crisis. We add 227,000 people to the planet every day, a number that is pushing wild plants and animals to the brink of extinction. Practicing safe sex is one easy way to slow human population growth, protect yourself and protect the planet.

THE FACTS:

- Left unchecked human population could reach more than 10 billion by the end of the century far beyond what the Earth can sustain while also supporting a broad diversity of life.
- The United States has the highest fertility rate of any industrialized country, and about half of all U.S. pregnancies are unplanned.
- Most biologists agree that we have entered the planet's sixth mass extinction event, with animals and plants going extinct at the fastest rate since dinosaurs roamed the earth.
- Biologists also agree that this time the cause is not geologic or cosmic but human. So it's up to us to reduce our footprint and leave room for other species.

You can help by talking about the impact of human population growth on biodiversity with your friends, family and community.

WHEN YOU'RE FEELING TENDER, DON'T FORGET THESE FACTS ABOUT THE HELLBENDER.

- Although hellbenders' eyesight is very poor, they have light-sensitive cells all over the surface of their body that help them navigate their surroundings.
- As the largest amphibians in North America, hellbenders can grow up to two feet long.
- Hellbenders secrete toxic slime from their skin to ward off predators.

YOU CAN HELP THE HELLBENDER. HERE'S HOW:

Eat less meat, keep your rivers clean. Factory farming practices create massive amounts of manure and toxic run-off that pollutes rivers and streams.

Don't keep a wild-caught pet. Hellbenders and other amphibians are threatened by unsustainable capture and collection for the pet trade.

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FUMBLING IN THE DARK? HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE MONARCH.

- Despite weighing only a gram and having a wing span of just four inches, monarch butterflies are known for their 3,000-mile, multigenerational migration from Canada to Mexico.
- Monarch caterpillars only eat milkweed leaves which provide toxic compounds that protect the monarch from predators.
- Over the past 20 years monarch populations have declined by more than 90 percent.

YOU CAN HELP THE MONARCH BUTTERFLY. HERE'S HOW:

Plant Milkweed. Monarch caterpillars rely on this plant for food. Widespread use of Roundup on crops has nearly wiped out milkweed from the core of the butterflies' range.

Eat organic, local produce. Monarch butterflies have been hit particularly hard by the use of herbicides, such as Roundup, on crops which kills the milkweed they depend on to reproduce.

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WRAP WITH CARE, SAVE THE POLAR BEAR. HERE ARE THE FACTS.

- The great white polar bear is the youngest and largest of the world's bear species.
- The top Arctic predators, polar bears primarily eat ringed seals. Polar bears often eat only seals' skin and blubber, leaving the carcass for other animals to scavenge, and thus play a critical role in the Arctic food chain.
- Unchecked global warming could eradicate two-thirds of polar bears by 2050 and the rest by century's end.

YOU CAN HELP THE POLAR BEAR. HERE'S HOW:

Fight global warming. Reduce your carbon footprint by cutting back on electricity use and riding your bike instead of driving, and demand meaningful climate action and support for renewable energy from your representatives.

Eat less meat. Meat production creates at least 14.5 percent, and some studies say as much as 51 percent, of annual greenhouse gas emissions that are the main driver of climate change and global warming.

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BEFORE IT GETS ANY HOTTER, HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE SEA OTTER.

- Sea otters use large stones to dislodge prey and to break open shells while they forage for food. They eat 25 percent of their body weight every day, eating up to 6,000 pounds of food per year.
- Unlike many marine mammals, sea otters do not have a layer of blubber. Instead, their thick fur helps them retain heat.
- Sea otters were hunted nearly to extinction in the 1800s for the fur trade. While their numbers had been recovering, modern threats like commercial fishing and oil spills have slowed their recovery.

YOU CAN HELP THE SEA OTTER. HERE'S HOW:

Eat less seafood. Sea otters often become tangled in fishing nets. When you do eat seafood, look for companies that fish sustainably, and avoid companies with high by-catch.

Write your representative demanding stringent regulations on off-shore oil drilling. Oil spills are a huge threat to sea otters because the petroleum coats their fur and reduces its insulating properties.

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CAN'T REFRAIN? LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WHOOPING CRANE.

- At nearly 5 feet tall, whooping cranes are the tallest birds in North America.
- Humans help young whooping cranes on their first migration from Canada to Florida by leading the flock with small aircraft.
- In the 1900s, whooping crane populations plummeted as a result of hunting and habitat loss and as recently as 1967, only 48 wild cranes remained. Today there are around 300 cranes in the wild.

YOU CAN HELP THE WHOOPING CRANE. HERE'S HOW:

Protest human development into crane habitat. Whooping crane population is most threatened by human population growth and new developments that not only eat up their habitat, but require the construction of power lines that can tangle and kill cranes.

Protect wetlands. Whooping cranes depend on wetland habitats for feeding and nesting. Write your legislator encouraging improved regulations on wetland use and expansion of current protected lands.

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