



MEDIA ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 24, 2011

THE EASTERN BONGO MATILDA IS EXPECTING *First-time mom represents one of Earth's rarest mammal species*

WHO: The Animal Management and Veterinary Teams at Zoo Atlanta have confirmed that Matilda, a 3-year-old eastern bongo, is expecting a calf. The calf will be the first offspring for Matilda and her mate, 3-year-old Tambo.

WHAT: Matilda's date of conception is uncertain, but her birth window is estimated to be between August and November 2011. Bongo gestation is approximately nine months.

Matilda's newborn will join the ranks of one of Earth's rarest mammal species. Recognizable by their deep, striped reddish coats and magnificent curved horns, eastern bongos are now believed to number fewer than 500 in the wild in their native Kenya. Matilda and Tambo have been recommended to breed by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' (AZA) Species Survival Plan, which seeks to maintain a self-sustaining, genetically diverse population within North American zoos and has reintroduced captive-born bongos to eastern Africa.

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ABOUT: **About Zoo Atlanta**
An accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), Zoo Atlanta inspires value and preservation of wildlife through a unique mix of education and outdoor family fun. From well-known native wildlife to critically endangered species on the brink of extinction, the Zoo offers memorable close encounters with more than 1,000 animals from around the world. Complex Carnivores, a new series of exhibits featuring

bush dogs, fossa and binturong, opened on April 1. Zoo Atlanta is also proud to be one of only four zoos in the U.S. that giant pandas call home: Lun Lun's newest cub, Po, born November 3, 2010, made his public debut in spring 2011. Other highlights include the nation's largest collection of western lowland gorillas, the nation's largest zoological collection of orangutans and a global center of excellence for the care and study of vanishing reptiles and amphibians. The Zoo is open daily with the exceptions of Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. Keeper talks, interactive wildlife shows, education programs and special events run year-round. For more information, call 404.624.WILD or visit zoatlanta.org.

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