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## **Bat Conservation International Welcomes Seasoned New Hires**

January 30, 2014 (Austin) – Two veteran conservationists are joining Bat Conservation International in key leadership posts this month, the Austin, Texas-based organization announced today. Sue Sirkus of Tucson, Arizona, is BCI's new Director of Philanthropy, and Joy Gaddy of Arlington, Virginia, is the new Director of Operations.

"Sue and Joy are outstanding conservationists and two of the most accomplished and well-regarded individuals in their respective fields," BCI's Executive Director Andrew Walker said. "Their leadership will be instrumental as BCI expands its work throughout Texas, the United States and beyond."

Bat Conservation International works with a broad array of nonprofit, government and corporate partners to conserve bats and their habitats across the United States and around the world through science, education and direct conservation efforts. Although more than 1,300 bat species provide invaluable ecological and economic benefits as insect-hunters, plant pollinators and seed dispersers, they are among the world's most unappreciated and needlessly feared animals.

Sirkus comes to BCI from The Nature Conservancy, where she was the Senior Philanthropy Officer for the Arizona Chapter. Among highlights of her 10-year tenure, Sirkus directed "Nature Matters," the largest-ever campaign for conservation in Arizona and secured \$40 million for local, national and international programs. As a certified fundraising professional with impressive results, Sirkus will be a critical part of BCI's commitment to expand its leadership role in global bat conservation.

"The donors, members, board and staff of Bat Conservation International have been a powerful force in conserving the environment for over 30 years. I am privileged to have the chance to join with them in sustaining 1,300 bat species around the world," Sirkus said. "I am inspired by creativity and nature. I do what I can to cultivate one, and to protect the other."

Gaddy was Senior Vice President of Global Operations at Conservation International, where she managed an operations staff of 50 and a budget of \$10 million. She specializes in aligning operational functions with organizational goals. As BCI's Director of Operations, she will oversee all of the organization's administrative, human resources and finance activities. Gaddy's experience managing staff and resources on a global scale will be a great asset as BCI continues to broaden its conservation scope.

"As a lifelong conservationist and someone interested in building and developing organizations, I jumped at the opportunity to join Bat Conservation International," Gaddy said. "I am thrilled to be working with such a wonderful group of people to protect such an important order of mammals."

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Founded in 1982, Bat Conservation International (BCI) is dedicated to conserving the world's 1,300+ bat species and their habitats. BCI works around the world with local communities, scientists, corporations, public agencies and other nonprofit organizations to prevent the extinction of bat species and foster greater public awareness and appreciation for the immense role bats play in ecosystem health and human well-being.