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Expedition: Asia Opening Soon at Loveland Living Planet Aquarium

An all-new gallery is coming to Loveland Living Planet Aquarium! Expedition: Asia, presented by America First Credit Union, features Clouded leopards, Asian small-clawed otters, giant Asian fish, colorful birds, tortoises, and more. Beginning June 15, guests can explore the Asian continent, from high mountain streams through rainforest rivers and into the ocean.

The Aquarium is excited to be part of the Species Survival Plan (SSP), administered by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, for the Clouded leopards. There is estimated to be less than 10,000 breeding Clouded leopards worldwide. In the U.S., there are 87 Clouded leopards in captivity. Loveland Living Planet Aquarium is one of 23 institutions participating in the SSP for Clouded leopards. The goals are to stabilize populations and develop conservation efforts in their natural habitat.

Another highlight of Expedition: Asia is Asian small-clawed otters. They are the smallest of the 13 otter species. Their name is derived from their small claws that do not extend beyond the ends of their fingers.

Giant Asian fish, including the Arowana, Pangasius catfish, and Giant gourami, are also on display. The Asian arowana is endangered. Habitat degradation is its main threat.

"We hope guests will enjoy learning about the Asian ecosystem and the actions they can take to protect these species in their native habitat," said Aquarium CEO Brent Andersen. "We are grateful for the opportunity to teach guests about our Living Planet every day."

The media is invited to the grand opening ceremony at 10:30am on Wednesday, June 15. Come *Explore, Discover, and Learn* at Loveland Living Planet Aquarium!

WHAT: Grand Opening of Expedition: Asia

WHEN: Wednesday, June 15 at 10:30am

WHERE: Loveland Living Planet Aquarium, 12033 S. Lone Peak Parkway in Draper

About the Loveland Living Planet Aquarium

The Aquarium is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The Aquarium's mission is to inspire people to explore, discover and learn about Earth's diverse ecosystems. Advance tickets and memberships may be purchased online at <u>www.thelivingplanet.com</u>. Ticket sales help support the Aquarium's mission. Loveland Living Planet Aquarium is located at 12033 South Lone Peak Parkway in Draper, Utah.

