

ifaw's international policy work to protect wildlife and habitats

250+

multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) dealing with various environmental issues. IFAW focuses on those most specifically related to animals and nature

decisions at policy level mean protection and action for vulnerable species and habitat on a global scale

▶ A sperm whale breaching with its body almost completely above the water's surface.



So why are international policy forums important?

At IFAW, when we talk about secure habitats for the places animals call home, we mean more than just security on the ground. We cannot be sure these habitats and species will be safeguarded over time unless both are adequately protected in law and policies. It is for this reason that IFAW engages so actively in advocacy work both nationally and internationally. IFAW has long participated in the workings of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and sent representatives to meetings of these MEAs to ensure their decisions are in the best interests of the world's wildlife. We recognise that actions taken in one country can affect outcomes in another. It requires cooperation and agreements between governments to achieve IFAW's vision of animals and people thriving together.

IFAW's vital international policy work takes place not just at key forum meetings but throughout the year; lending our expertise in supporting partners, governments and other

decision-makers to implement agreed work and continuing to advocate for positive change for some of our most vulnerable species.

What is achieved for wildlife at these meetings?

Some of the greatest achievements in recent decades in conservation and animal welfare have been reached through international agreements by governments around the world. These include:

- ▶ the **global moratorium on commercial whaling**, that saved many whale species from extinction
- ▶ the original **1989 ban on international ivory trade**, which was brought in after rampant poaching and uncontrolled trade had halved the African elephant population in the preceding decade
- ▶ the recent growth in protected areas, especially **marine protected areas**, as a result of global targets set in 2010



18
additional species of shark given CITES protection in 2019

governments agreed at CMS in 2020 to fully protect jaguars

1,888
CITES CoP18 media pieces quoting IFAW

◀ IFAW delegates were among those attending CITES CoP17 in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2016.

▶ Mako shark

▶ **see how at ifaw.org**



#ActsForAnimals

What are some of the key policy forums relevant to animals and nature?

- ▶ The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- ▶ The International Whaling Commission (IWC)
- ▶ The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)
- ▶ The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

The results achieved at these meetings are tangible. For example, at the CITES Conference of the Parties (CoP18) held in Geneva, Switzerland in 2019, IFAW campaigned successfully for giraffes to be awarded protection from unregulated international trade for the very first time, for a total ban on commercial international trade in otters taken from the wild, and for trade in a record 18 species of endangered sharks and rays to be regulated. At CMS CoP13 in Gujarat, India in February 2020 governments agreed greater cooperation across international borders to increase protection for three of our most vulnerable migratory wild species; the Asian elephant, jaguar and oceanic whitetip shark.

However, international policy decisions and global agreements can be hollow victories unless they are implemented and enforced. This is why IFAW’s teams around the world work closely with governments to ensure such decisions translate into meaningful benefits for animals.

How does IFAW ensure international agreements are effective?

IFAW works in a number of ways to ensure international agreements are effective at protecting animals and habitats:

- ▶ We use our experience of protecting animals on the ground and in the water to identify best practices or challenges that require policy decisions
- ▶ We use our network of advocates across the globe to ensure these issues make it onto the agendas of global agreements
- ▶ We work to ensure different agreements are working coherently, making the link between protecting animals and habitats and efforts to improve human development and combat climate change
- ▶ We work with governments and other partners to ensure global policy decisions are implemented in their countries