

insider update

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IFAW's Marine Mammal Rescue team returns two stranded harbor dolphins to the Atlantic Ocean off the northern tip of Cape Cod, Massachusetts, USA.



Limbani Chirwa, one of 12 female wildlife rangers in Malawi's Kasungu National Park, communicates with colleagues in the field via a new transfrontier radio tower system. This innovation (supported by the German Society for International Collaboration) makes it possible for rangers on both sides of the Malawi-Zambia border to stay in communication with each other and the operations bases.

In this issue of *IFAW's Insider Update* we are sharing with you stories of progress and innovation.

Housing and outposts needed by rangers to protect wildlife in Zimbabwe's world-famous Hwange National Park are being built right now—thanks to donor support.

In Malawi, more women are working as wildlife rangers and a new generation of rangers are using drones and other technology to stay one step ahead of poachers.

Our Marine Mammal Rescue and Research team is applying their proven stranded-dolphin rescue techniques to help stranded porpoises on the shores of Cape Cod, Massachusetts, USA and providing expertise to the Dutch government as it considers the impacts of offshore windfarms on ocean wildlife.

Thanks to you, we can remain committed to helping animals with innovative solutions today and with a focus on the future. Whether it's through applying technology in new ways or steadily driving forward new policies, you're helping us rescue and protect animals around the world.

With sincere appreciation,

Azzedine Downes
President and CEO



new ranger compound —Zimbabwe

In the remote Makona subsector of Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe, a team of rangers is protecting the elephants and making sure they have room to roam—with your help.

Since poor infrastructure can undermine a team's efficiency and morale, especially in remote areas, we're building a fully functional staff compound in Makona.

Construction is more than halfway complete. Makona camp will include ranger housing, an administration building and a recreational center for the 56 rangers and their families. With sufficient training and support, these rangers will continue their successes of 2020, when there was zero poaching of elephants in the subsector.

Elsewhere in Hwange NP, we've retooled a veterinary field laboratory, allowing the team to better look after ten trained conservation dogs and provide swift vet care for injured wild animals.

In addition to retraining 25 rangers in law enforcement, you made sure the entire team—176 rangers strong—were

safe, supplying them with personal protective equipment during the COVID pandemic. Hwange park rangers arrested 17 poachers and recovered two live pangolins and 359 pounds (163kgs) of ivory last year.

The rangers safeguard Zimbabwe's wildlife, boosting the park's tourism capacity and helping to create sustainable economic development for the nearby communities that share the landscape with elephants and other animals.

The rangers need funding for additional infrastructure like water pans for wildlife, community engagement, vehicles, training and support to keep Hwange's wildlife alive and thriving.

A gift to the Room to Roam Campaign would allow you to partner with Hwange's park rangers and help safeguard the animals and people of Zimbabwe.



“eyes in the air” — Malawi

“I am one of the people tasked with keeping the national park’s wildlife safe. Using technology like drones can help make our job easier,” says Catherine Sibale.

Based at Malawi’s Kasungu National Park, Sibale is a skilled wildlife ranger along with being a drone pilot trained in flying the tiny crafts to assist in mitigating human-elephant conflict.

The “eyes in the air” initiative was made possible thanks to the partnership between IFAW and the Malawi Department of National Parks and Wildlife.

“As a ranger I have not only learned the skill of flying drones, but I have also learned how to dart wildlife. There are very few female rangers in Malawi. My big hope is that more women will soon show interest in choosing this as a career path,” she said.

Drones were introduced into the park to help monitor issues such as poaching and conflict between elephants and communities living along the park boundary. With

your help, IFAW purchased two drones, adapted them for elephant management, and helped rangers get trained as operators.

“We have used drones to help in erecting radio masts and during game capture. With the drones, we will be able to cover more ground, especially the places that are impassable during the rainy season,” Sibale adds.

Kasungu National Park was home to more than 1,000 elephants in the 1990s, but the population dropped to about 50 in 2015.

Since the start of the IFAW Malawi-Zambia Transfrontier Landscape Project in 2016, there has been a marked drop in poaching in Kasungu. Elephants now number over 100. The safe landscape is attracting the return of more and more wildlife—including wild dogs and lions.



In April 2021, the team rescued two stranded harbor porpoises and released them together, one with a satellite tag.

porpoise experts meet new challenges

The Marine Mammal Rescue & Research team experienced an astoundingly busy month of March, responding to 47 live-stranded marine mammals in one month. Cape Cod is a known global hotspot, but this was one for the record books and our team of experts and volunteers met the challenge.

Among the stranded was the first harbor porpoise we ever tagged with a satellite transmitter. In April, a second stranded harbor porpoise was tagged. That tag transmitted data for over a month, giving us information about the animal’s survival status and its range. It traveled over 200 miles from Cape Cod, MA, USA to the continental shelf of Nova Scotia, Canada.

Post-release monitoring with these satellite transmitters provides critical data that proves single-stranded cetaceans can survive and rejoin social groups of their same species.

IFAW experts developed this evidence-based approach and its adoption by marine mammal rescuers around the world has significantly increased the number of stranded dolphins that are returned to the ocean.

Of recent international note, we are advising the Dutch government on post-release monitoring to mitigate and monitor any potential effects of offshore wind development on the porpoise population in the North Sea.

Consider a gift to the IFAW Animal Rescue Campaign this year. Your support can help save stranded marine mammals, orphaned elephants and provide crucial resources to animals in need following the next disaster.



long-awaited victory against animal cruelty in the UK

Some campaigns are won after years of effort, which makes victory taste all the sweeter. That's the case with the Animal Welfare (Sentencing) Bill, which passed through the Houses of Parliament in April and received Royal Assent two days later. The bill, which took effect on June 29, 2021, increases the maximum sentence for animal cruelty in England from six months to five years.

"This is the most significant piece of legislation for animal welfare since the Animal Welfare Act of 2006," said James Sawyer, IFAW's United Kingdom Director. "We can be assured that those who choose to inflict cruelty on animals will find greater punishment awaits them. We hope as a result of this much-needed legislation that fewer animals will suffer in fear, pain and discomfort."



read more about the **Animal Welfare (Sentencing) Bill**
<https://g.ifaw.org/animal-welfare-bill>

IFAW had already been campaigning on this issue for years when the bill was formally introduced in 2019. That June our UK head of policy joined with other leading figures from the animal welfare sector to discuss the bill with the Prime Minister's advisers.

It might seem like passing this kind of bill would be straightforward, but the Animal Welfare (Sentencing) Bill failed to reach a vote before Parliament closed its session in 2019 and was further delayed last year when Parliament focused on COVID-related legislation. Even this year, it came down to the wire as the bill was passed just one day before the end of the parliamentary session.

"A good piece of legislation will get there in the end if you aren't willing to give up on it. IFAW didn't give up — and neither did our supporters," said Sawyer. "We are eternally grateful for your support and applaud your unwavering commitment to getting the Animal Welfare (Sentencing) Bill to this point. This monumental outcome proves that together we can make change happen."



IFAW-supported veterinary nurse Marley Christian and Triumph the koala.

ifaw's global council

Safe spaces for koalas in Australia

Global Council members enjoyed exclusive access with the team at trusted partner Friends of the Koala. Leadership and staff discussed the lessons learned in the wake of the devastating bushfires and how they have become better prepared in advance of the next fire season.

Council members were treated to up-close encounters with a few koalas in care, including Triumph, who wears a first-of-its-kind prosthetic leg. The koala veterinary care team led a unique, behind-the-scenes tour of the facilities, culminating in the tree climbing practice areas where koalas can build their strength and skills in preparation for release.

Your support helps us rescue, care for, and release koalas, and plant trees to restore critical koala habitat corridors. Thank you for supporting our integrated rescue and conservation initiatives throughout the Oceania region.

IFAW's Global Council is an international network of philanthropic leaders whose members champion and help spread the word about our global efforts to protect animals, people and the place we call home.

join us and be among our foremost supporters

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"After these seminars, one feels better informed and truly inspired by the great work...and reassured how donor funds find their way to successful, practical projects on the ground."

John Albrecht, IFAW Board Member, Global Council Founding Member, and Leonard Joel Auction House Chairman & Head of Important Collections

upcoming event for all supporters

Art to Roam October 4, 2021 1 pm Pacific 4 pm Eastern
a global, online art auction in support of Room to Roam

Hosted by John Albrecht

IFAW Board Member and Chairman & Head of Important Collections, Leonard Joel

Join the global, live auction online or pre-register to automate your bidding.

This unique art auction features works from artists around the world, in collaboration with supported-studios and partners. Supported-studios provide a creative environment for visual artists with specific health or social needs.

Proceeds benefit IFAW's Room to Roam Campaign and the participating artists and studios.

To learn more and register visit: www.ifaw.org/arttoroam



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Bob Cotton (right) and fellow volunteer Paul Thomas, care for Nugget, a rescue dog who captured Bob's heart.

donor spotlight: Bob Cotton

Bob Cotton is drawn to IFAW's Room to Roam project because he's "always been attracted to the majesty of the elephant and the intellect of the largest animal roaming the planet. I liked IFAW's intelligent approach of linking leased, private and public lands to open migratory bridges for elephants."

Cotton first learned about IFAW at a booth at a mall. "They were engaging, informed and not just spewing talking points. Passionate and refreshing," he says.

When Cotton graduated from college with a degree in ethology, the study of animals in the context of their environment, he wanted to be the next Jane Goodall.

His career took a different path, as he became a successful entrepreneur, from indigenous handicrafts to cutting-edge consumer electronics, but in a way he found a connection to Goodall. One of the world's leading ethologists, Goodall is an IFAW Global Ambassador.

Bob is a dedicated IFAW supporter, who recently pledged \$108,000 to the Room to Roam campaign, to help provide safe migration pathways for Africa's elephants and other wildlife.

He retired from a career that included frequent international travel to be his wife Anna's caretaker when she was diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia. After she passed away, he moved to Maui, Hawaii, where he could enjoy his primary passion, surfing. He fell in love with surfing and the sea at a young age when his family moved from Nebraska to Puerto Rico.

"I'm a water sports person and surfer of some 54 years. Now I can surf and snorkel right off the house, with many close encounters with sea life," he says. "I recently took up single-man outrigger canoeing for when the surf's not up."

Cotton's family always had pets when he was growing up. A long-time volunteer at an animal rescue center, he now lives with a 15-year-old Abyssinian cat named Nesu.

What Cotton likes most about IFAW is that its international rescue programs serve both wildlife and domesticated animals. "IFAW is a comprehensive one-stop shop," he says. "I have been a supporter or directly involved as a volunteer with several notable wildlife organizations since 1973. I have never experienced a better organization than IFAW, with such well laid out planning and execution on a global scale."

