



As we enter the 3rd year with Covid 19, finally things are slowly moving in the right direction.

We first ended 2021 with the adoption of the long awaited European Commission's [new rules](#) severely restricting trade in ivory. While there is more work to be done to protect elephants, this was a great step after so many years of hard work and a [success](#) to celebrate for IFAW and all our supporters.

With the slow return of the sun, we look forward to more happening in 2022. A good omen has been the adoption of the European Parliament's position on the Digital Services Act, which will introduce new transparency requirements for companies that will make the detection of illegal wildlife products and law enforcement easier. Iceland has also announced the historic end of whaling for 2024, after over 20 years of campaigning by IFAW in the country.

Between the revision of the EU Wildlife Trafficking Action Plan and of the Environmental Crime Directive, this year has crucial topics on the EU agenda and we hope to celebrate more victories for animals and our planet.

To begin with, this month, IFAW released a new report on the global shark trade and the major role the EU plays in it. We are working hard to make sure that wish for our recommendations are heard and that strong international measures will be taken at international level during the CITES Conference of the Parties, planned at the end of the year.

We hope the content of this new edition of our newsletter interests you and as always, we remain available to discuss any issues further with you.

**Joep van Mierlo**  
Europe Regional Director



### **the shark numbers don't lie—the EU needs to limit the trade**

Only 25% of the global shark trade is currently subject to sustainable trade limits. Our latest report calls for countries, including the EU, to sustainably manage sharks and accurately track trade levels. Read the [report](#).



### **three questions to... Hilde Vautmans**

We interviewed the MEP and Chair of MEPs for Wildlife to discuss the renewal of the Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking and the new rules on ivory trade. Read the [interview](#).



### **Iceland signals the end of whaling**

Iceland has announced the end to commercial whaling as quotas will end in 2024. 1,500 whales have been slaughtered since the country had resumed whaling in 2003. Watch the [video](#).



### **briefing on the revised EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking**

Adopted in 2016 by the European Commission, the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking is currently up for renewal. IFAW has several recommendations for the revised version. Read the [briefing](#).



### **why is the Digital Services Act relevant for wildlife?**

The Digital Services Act proposal, amended by the European Parliament, introduces new transparency requirements for companies that will make the detection of illegal wildlife products & law enforcement easier. Read more [here](#).

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