

annual report
july 2020 – june 2021

ifaw
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European Union / Belgium



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Cover photo: Yi Lin/ © IFAW
IFAW's Beijing Raptor Rescue Center (BRRC) released a Eurasian eagle-owl (Bubo bubo) back to the wild at the Qianling Mountain in Beijing, China.

◀ Elephant in Amboseli National Park, Kenya.

animals and people thriving together



Photo: Luiz Felipe Mendes / © IFAW



Photo: Steven Ngombay / © IFAW

IFAW protects individual animals by rescuing animals in need, rehabilitating them back to health and safely releasing them back into safe and secure wild habitats.

We believe **every individual animal counts** and there is no better example of an IFAW project that marries animal welfare and conservation than the **IFAW-Wild Is Life Elephant Rehabilitation Project**. It's **Zimbabwe's only project that rescues wild elephant calves orphaned due to poaching, human-wildlife conflict and natural disasters like droughts—the frequency and intensity of which are amplified by climate change—and then returns them to the wild.**

At the purpose-built **Zimbabwe Elephant Nursery (ZEN)** in Harare, rescued calves receive intense round-the-clock care from full-time handlers. Sometimes they are just a few days old and sometimes they arrive severely injured—all are traumatised. The work **to rehabilitate a rescued elephant calf can take up to 10 years**, with great attention given to their behavioural and social needs.

More than **840 kilometres to the northwest, outside Victoria Falls**, IFAW is **funding the lease of a 345-square-kilometres (85,000-acres) habitat in the Panda Masuie Forest Reserve**. The elephants come here when they are ready to learn to lead wild lives and are able to

interact with the herds of elephants that move freely in the landscape.

Panda Masuie is in a network of protected areas in Zimbabwe that form part of the **Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area**, which spans five countries. It is one of the world's largest transfrontier conservation areas and includes Africa's largest population of wild elephants. **Elephants are the central focus of the work at Panda Masuie**, but the project integrates activities that crosscut all of IFAW's programmes.

In FY21, **four rescued and rehabilitated orphaned elephant calves successfully began living among wild elephant herds in Panda Masuie**. Released elephants are tracked with collars to provide insight into their activities and monitor how well they are integrating into the wild. Placed at strategic sites, camera traps are giving us insights into the presence, diversity and distribution of wildlife that thrive and call Panda Masuie home, including two prides of lions, as well as many wild dogs, hyenas, leopards and other threatened species.

A grant from the **International Union for Conservation of Nature, Save Our Species (IUCN SOS)** has supported **16 forestry rangers and supervisors and trained eight Community Fence Attendants**. On the Forest Reserve, four permanent ranger bases have been rehabilitated to enhance

anti-poaching efforts for the protection of elephants and other wildlife.

The project also works closely with the neighbouring **Masuwe community** and **permanently employs 42 people**, including fence attendants responsible for the upkeep of the 15-kilometre fence built in FY21 to protect four villages and crops.

IFAW is here to Re:solve the issues, find solutions and create a lasting impact that ensures animals and people thrive together.

▲ IFAW's Azzedine Downes, Jason Bell, Jimmiel Mandima, and Neil Greenwood, visited Kasungu National Park in Malawi as part of an inspection tour of IFAW's Malawi-Zambia Transboundary Landscape project, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

◀ IFAW is rehabilitating giant anteaters together with our partners of Instituto Tamandua after forest fires in Pantanal in Brazil.



vision:
animals and people
thriving together.



mission:
fresh thinking
and bold action
for animals, people
and the place we
call home.



message from the board chair

From the ongoing challenges of a relentless pandemic to the threats of climate change, both humanity and the world's rich biodiversity face many perils. Time and time again nature has demonstrated its resilience, to heal and to adapt to change. It is this same spirit of resilience and adaptation that fills me with optimism as I witness the impact of IFAW's initiatives to embody the fundamental principles of animal welfare and conservation.

In a world where problems are immense and complicated, IFAW has continuously applied a robust strategic approach to the business of saving lives. There is no one-size-fits-all solution to conservation challenges. But context-specific solutions exist to benefit individual animals, wildlife populations and human communities. As a result, IFAW chooses flexibility over rigidity; compassion over indifference; hope over despair.

2021 has reinforced humanity's interconnectedness with the natural world. When nature is threatened, humans follow. To consider humankind separate from nature does a great disservice to both. We are as dependent on nature and the health of its biodiversity as we are on each other. This interdependence is a compelling reason why it is so important to focus on achieving meaningful, measurable impact.

By rescuing, rehabilitating and releasing animals into secure habitats, IFAW is enabling impact in more than 40 countries around the world. Threats to nature may ebb, flow and evolve, but they are unlikely to disappear. IFAW will continue to forge forward because individual animals matter—intrinsically—to the health of populations and to the sustainability of our planet.

My career has focused on the critical intersection between systems, science and solutions. As Chairman of IFAW's Global Boards of Directors, I have witnessed firsthand the strategic, impact-based solutions that IFAW applies to the complex problems that keep animals and people from thriving together. From challenging outdated conventions to ensuring that local communities have their voices heard and are ensured a seat at the table, IFAW is contributing to a more hopeful future for us all.

Whether in the field implementing projects or behind closed doors advocating for legislative or regulatory change with policymakers, IFAW will continue to build on decades of trust, transparency and collaboration. The work must continue if we are to save the world's animal species and the ecosystems we share.

I am proud to lead a Board that is committed to IFAW's mission of ensuring that animals and people thrive together. It is a privilege to accompany the organisation on this shared journey as a global community united in its passion and hope for a sustainable future for the wildlife of our shared planet.

As fellow stewards of the natural environment, I thank you on behalf of the International Fund for Animal Welfare.

To ever-reaching impact,

Mark T. Beaudouin
Chair, Board of Directors

▲ A koala undergoing post-release monitoring.

message from the ceo



Amidst the backdrop of a lingering global pandemic and increasing climate-driven threats from natural disasters, 2021 has been a year of immense challenge for humans and the world’s animal species. Upon this imperfect stage, IFAW reaffirms its deep-rooted, half-century commitment to achieving impact in our business—the business of saving lives.

As nature repeats warning signs of humanity’s exploitation of the environment and its wildlife, it is critical that we face these ongoing challenges not with despair, but with clarity and commitment. Whether domestic or international, terrestrial or marine, impact must be at the heart of IFAW’s work. By rescuing, rehabilitating and releasing individual animals back into secure wild habitats, IFAW is achieving that impact.

People reach out to IFAW because they have faith that we will act. We rescue, provide assistance and show compassion because individual animals matter. Envisioning a world where both animals and humans thrive alongside one another,

we promote stewardship and collaboration, fresh thinking and bold action.

To ensure that our programmes address the pace of change and maximise impact, our renewed strategic approach aligns resources geographically, across two pillars: Rescue and Conservation. With this dual focus, IFAW leads and supports strategic interventions that reduce or eliminate threats to individual animals, populations and ecosystems, generating impact in more than 40 countries through on-the-ground projects and global advocacy efforts.

To sustain the welfare of species and the places they call home, our work must be comprehensive. It must fully respect the rights and opinions of each member of the local community, because our impact will ultimately be felt by them as well.

Throughout the pandemic, my priority has been to keep the IFAW family safe so that our global work can continue. Because it simply must continue. In the business of

saving lives, IFAW remains ready to act as responsible stewards of this shared planet. Each successful rescue effort, each poaching incident or human-wildlife conflict averted, each policy win reminds me of the resilience and unwavering commitment of our people who strive daily to achieve meaningful, sustainable impact.

We invite you to share the impact of IFAW’s work in FY21, and to join us as we continue to take bold steps forward for animals, people and the place we call home.

Azzedine T. Downes
President and CEO
International Fund for Animal Welfare

▲ In April 2020, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, wildlife rangers from the IFAW-supported Olgulului Community Wildlife Rangers (OCWR) in Kenya share a positive message to everyone to protect themselves and others, while they protect wildlife.

leadership

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Barbara Birdsey, Vice Chair
Joyce Doria, Vice Chair
John Albrecht
Catherine Bearder
Constantin Bjerke
Graeme Cottam
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Sharon Livermore
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Matthew Morley
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Megan O’Toole
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Rikkert Reijnen
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Brian Sharp
Programme Director,
Marine Mammal Rescue
& Research

Shannon Walajtys
Programme Director,
Disaster Response
& Risk Reduction

regions & countries

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Regional Director,
Latin America & Caribbean

David Germain-Robin
Country Director, France

Grace Ge Gabriel
Regional Director, Asia

Neil Greenwood
Regional Director,
Southern Africa

Jeff He
Country Director, China

James Isiche
Regional Director, East Africa

Rebecca Keeble
Regional Director, Oceania

Danielle Kessler
Country Director,
United States of America

Robert Kless
Country Director, Germany

Staci McLennan
Office Director,
European Union/Belgium

Katherine Miller
Deputy Vice President,
International Operations

Dr. Elsayed Ahmed Mohamed
Regional Director,
Middle East & North Africa

James Sawyer
Regional Director,
United Kingdom

Joep van Mierlo
Regional Director, Europe
Country Director, Netherlands

Patricia Zaat
Country Director, Canada

* This leadership overview is per date of publication in March 2022.



Photo: © IFAW

Section 1

community engagement

Participative and inclusive community engagement is a core strategy of IFAW's work around the world. Helping animals and people thrive together relies on local communities participating in, benefiting from and owning the animal welfare and conservation initiatives that affect them. Our approach focuses on solutions such as developing sustainable livelihoods that benefit people, animals and habitats, and co-creating methods of reducing human-wildlife conflict. Community engagement also plays an essential role in preventing wildlife crime by reducing community support for poaching and illegal wildlife trade.

For communities at risk of natural disasters, we work together to improve resilience and reduce reliance on external support. Empowering rural communities to protect community and animal well-being when disaster strikes is more important than ever as climate change increases the frequency and intensity of natural disasters.

In FY21 we continued to inspire and support communities around the world to help animals and people thrive together. What we learn in one community we elevate to encourage other communities and we provide as input for improving public policy.



Community Engagement

creating prepared, resilient communities in Indonesia



680+

households and their animals included

1,800

seedlings planted for livestock forage

2,500

indigo seeds planted to mitigate landslides and provide future economic opportunities

When disasters strike, marginalised people and animals tend to be hit hardest and feel the impacts longer. Remote communities are often left on their own to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters, although they rarely have access to the resources and support to do so.

In partnership with the [Bali Animal Welfare Association \(BAWA\)](#), IFAW continues to implement a pilot programme in two remote communities in the disaster-prone area of Mt. Agung on the island of Bali, Indonesia. **We're working directly with community members and local governments to imbed disaster risk reduction into village-level systems to build resilience and prepare for future disasters.**

Despite the devastating impact of COVID-19, our vital work continued in FY21. The two pilot communities completed participatory risk and hazard mapping to identify potential risks to families and animals. **The mapping is helping these communities to continue developing their own locally appropriate solutions to mitigate the risks.**

The communities also held a Disaster Preparedness Day during which they planted deep-rooting trees more capable of withstanding landslides. A community fodder nursery was also completed, which will allow residents to try drought-resistant and other climate-adaptable varieties of fodder for their animals.

Our work in the Mt. Agung area began in 2017 when many local communities had to evacuate their homes for months due to a volcanic eruption. IFAW supported BAWA to provide food, water and emergency shelter to hundreds of dogs that were left behind. The communities suffered further because many families were forced to sell livestock for a fraction of its market value.

Years later, these communities have still not fully recovered. Meanwhile, the volcano remains active. Further eruptions, earthquakes, flash floods and landslides remain an imminent threat and families remain fearful about how they and their animals will cope when disaster strikes again.

- ▲ 1,800 superior grasses and leguminous forage plants donated by Denpasar Superior Cattle Breeding and Forage Feeding Center (BPTUHPT) were planted. These plants provide nutrition for Bonyoh and Bunga Hamlets' livestock, including cattle and goats, and the deep root system of the Indigofera shrubs can aid in preventing landslides.
- ◀ Indonesia commemorates Disaster Preparedness Day each year on April 26, giving Indonesians the opportunity to participate in exercises and activities that enhance their capacity to respond to disasters.

mitigating human-wildlife conflict by improving financial security



Photo: © Xuan Zheng



Photo: © IFAW

Yunnan is the last remaining habitat in China for around 300 wild Asian elephants, which have gradually moved into regions where no elephants have lived for years, coming into conflict with communities and sometimes causing human injury and even fatalities.

This year, IFAW's Asian Elephant Project (AEP) and the government of Jinghong mounted an urgent response to elephants that were destroying crops and property in villages across seven counties. The Community Hero Network, a ranger-led initiative, trained more than 30 rangers on techniques to mitigate human-elephant conflict.

These rangers are ambassadors for the conservation of elephants and provide localised, in-depth human-elephant safety trainings to villagers. By the end of August 2021, they had conducted 66 trainings, reaching more than 2,323 villagers. The help of local leadership and officials means villages in all seven counties of Jinghong benefit from in-depth safety training. IFAW also supported the equipment and supplies needed by the rangers to monitor elephant movement.

Elsewhere, we trained 60 tour guides at the Wildlife Elephant Valley Natural Reserve and 70 officers from the Xishuangbanna Natural Reserve in elephant conservation and techniques to promote conservation education to the public.

IFAW also supports communities affected by human-elephant conflict through introducing eco-friendly livelihood opportunities, like beekeeping.

In Daotangqing village, IFAW trained participants in beekeeping techniques, provided hives, honeybees and a sales channel for the honey produced in the communities. After the first year, participating families already saw a 15% increase in their annual income from selling honey. The first group of beekeepers are now eager to share their skills and knowledge with others, benefiting the entire community while making the IFAW project sustainable.

66

human-elephant conflict trainings carried out

2,323

villagers reached by the trainings by the end of August 2021

15%

increase in household income for beekeeping participants



Photo: Cao Dafan / © IFAW

▲ IFAW AEP professionals and local Daotangqing villagers sit around a table exchanging stories about the problems of bee breeding during IFAW's trip to the village for the AEP Bee Breeding project launch event in Daotangqing, Yunnan Province, China in June 2020.

▲ IFAW technician, Surong Chen, with some of the Daotangqing villagers checking on the bee colonies provided to the village by IFAW as part of its AEP project in October 2020. Under the guidance of Surong, the villagers are trying to find "queen bees" to prepare for swarming.

◀ A drone photo of an Asian elephant herd walking through a man-made path near a forest in Meng'a Town, Menghai County, Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan Province, China.

restoring landscapes and saving lives in Australia



The catastrophic “Black Summer” bushfires of 2019–2020 left a long-lasting impact on Australia’s wildlife, landscapes and communities. That’s why IFAW is committed to providing long-lasting support in affected areas.

We have partnered with the Great Eastern Ranges initiative (GER) to empower local communities to be a part of the solution, while also making them resilient to future disasters. Our aim is a holistic approach that works to prevent future disasters, prepares communities to respond to disasters and ensures that infrastructure and competence are in place to rescue, rehabilitate and release animals caught in natural disasters.

Our projects with GER target three priority areas in New South Wales (NSW) and Queensland that were heavily impacted by the bushfires. Important recovery work is being done in collaboration with GER’s network of regional and local conservation groups, private landholders, Indigenous communities and scientific experts.

Recovery activities include providing homes and food for native animals, such

as koalas, to engaging landholders in bushfire recovery planning and hosting community forums to build skills, knowledge and resilience. IFAW is also working with local community groups to plant thousands of trees across eastern Australia to restore koala habitat that was destroyed in the bushfires and create new areas for native animals to survive and thrive.

Together with Bangalow Koalas, Zero Emissions Byron, Koala Clancy Foundation and Saving Our Koalas, we planted 16,085 trees across three regions in NSW and Victoria in FY21. Through this work, we created critical habitat for koalas and other native wildlife to call home.

Koalas need trees to survive, so every tree we plant makes an impact. Koalas are a flagship species and by protecting their habitat, we are in turn securing a future for countless other species. By engaging and empowering people to be a part of the solution through tree planting, we are not only creating more places for animals to live, but we are also contributing to combating the impacts of climate change and creating space for animals and people to coexist.

23,000+

trees planted with the help of more than 500 volunteers to date

- ▲ IFAW Wildlife Campaign Manager Josey Sharrad at the IFAW-sponsored tree planting with Zero Emissions Byron in Bangalow, New South Wales in September 2020.
- ◀ IFAW Wildlife Campaign Manager Josey Sharrad and Bangalow Koalas President Linda Sparrow plant a tree at the community tree planting event in April 2021 in the New South Wales Northern Rivers region.



Photo: Joaquin De la Torre Ponce / © IFAW

Community Engagement

creating coexisting communities of jaguars, turtles, people and dogs



Photo: Scott Anger / © IFAW

Coexistence with wildlife is essential for all life, humans and animals alike. IFAW’s Casitas Azules project, launched in 2017 in Playa del Carmen, Mexico, is empowering communities with knowledge and tools to reduce interaction between local dogs and wild populations of jaguars and marine turtles. Our solutions focus on addressing concerns and changing human behaviours to reduce potentially harmful interactions.

The challenge in this area is that free-roaming dogs can easily become prey for jaguars or spread disease, such as canine distemper or parvovirus, to the jaguar population. Free-roaming dogs are also known to interfere with endangered marine turtles by disturbing nests, killing hatchlings and attacking nesting adults.

IFAW’s approach with Casitas Azules is to emphasise the connection between human, animal and environmental health, and recognise that animal welfare, biodiversity and the environment are connected to human well-being. Integrating the dogs more closely into the communities and giving them better care reduces the chance that they will wander and fall prey to jaguars or disturb the turtle populations.

We encourage and support people to keep their community animals, such as chickens, in adequate predator-proof enclosures and their dogs inside at night to avoid conflicts with local wildlife. However, many people do not have the right facilities. In FY21, we supported local communities to build 20 pens or dog houses, bringing the total to more than 130 IFAW-provided dog shelters in the community.

One key part of our approach is wellness clinics that offer vaccination, deworming and sterilisation for domestic animals. Despite the added challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, in FY21 we organised two wellness clinics that treated a total of 286 animals.

To better understand the issues and potential solutions, we conducted a community survey to measure peoples’ attitudes towards jaguars and we mapped jaguar attacks on dogs in two communities. This will provide key input that will help the project reach more people and animals in the years to come.

286
animals treated at two wellness clinics

20
pens or dog houses built in FY21

- ▲ IFAW veterinarian Dr. Erika Flores (right) holds “Zazzi” while watching footage of the dog with Poala Ramirez (left) and Azulamxdari Poot Tamayo in Nuevo Durango, Mexico.
- ◀ Veterinarians Dr. Erika Flores and Mizael Lara Acevedo monitor and measure a sedated Covi during a health assessment at the Payo Obispo Zoo. Since Covi’s eyes remain open under anesthesia, they are lubricated and bandaged so he’s not startled by the light.



Photo: © Rudi van Arde

Section 2

landscape conservation

IFAW's Landscape Conservation programme addresses the unparalleled impacts of human activities on wildlife and natural resources. Wildlife and ecosystems in IFAW priority landscapes face major threats that affect their conservation status, including habitat loss and fragmentation, poaching, climate change and human-wildlife conflict. Our Landscape Conservation programme, with its integrated approach, is finding solutions that promote long-term sustainable ecosystem management, at the same time benefiting local people and enhancing communities' coexistence with wildlife. Across our priority landscapes, we continue supporting anti-poaching efforts to secure wildlife and their habitats, engaging communities and empowering people through sustainable livelihood opportunities.

In Africa, 60% of elephants roam outside protected areas. That's why we have embarked upon Room to Roam, our most ambitious project yet as an institution. It aims to create safe pathways and functional habitats that will promote effective management of protected areas and enable wildlife to disperse and migrate across landscapes as they have done for millennia. To achieve this ambitious vision, we are fostering long-term partnerships with governments, wildlife authorities, communities, private sector actors and other non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in Kenya, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe, with expansion planned to reach Tanzania. In India, our collaboration with Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) achieved a great milestone with the declaration of a new protected area, the 422-square-kilometre Raimona National Park.

Our mission has never been more important and urgent and it will not be easy or quick, but at IFAW we are committed to ensuring that all wildlife species thrive in the landscapes we help protect.

going green on ranger bases



IFAW holds itself accountable for the environmental impact of all our operations and activities. That’s why in FY21 we installed solar energy at all seven of the IFAW-supported ranger bases on the Olgulului-Ololarashi Group Ranch (OOGR) in the Amboseli Landscape. This key landscape straddles the border of Kenya and Tanzania and provides a critical biodiversity, wildlife and cultural haven that needs protection and our joint support. The semi-arid landscape has year-round sunshine, making it possible for solar energy to provide the ranger bases with an adequate and constant supply of electricity.

Green energy now sustains and keeps the digital radio network functioning between distant bases and recharges equipment such as the GPS units used by rangers to provide data on key sightings while on patrol. Providing sustainable lighting sources through these solar-powered

systems has also facilitated a reduction in human-wildlife conflict incidents as light-averse wildlife stay away from these bases at night.

Green energy also lets rangers keep their mobile phones charged and stay in touch with family and friends. Most are the sole breadwinners for their families and are away from home on duty for weeks at a time, so the pleasure of a call home keeps spirits high and the rangers motivated. Happy rangers are productive rangers, and we’re seeing increased performance in protecting both wildlife and people.

The community rangers protect the vital Kitenden Conservancy, which allows wildlife to disperse from Amboseli National Park across the border into Kilimanjaro National Park in Tanzania. Keeping natural habitats safe and connected allows animals to adapt and move in response to changing

climatic conditions, while also preventing such landscapes from being lost to carbon-intensive land uses.

IFAW is committed to mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change. We offer fresh thinking and bold action to conserve nature in a way that can be replicated on a larger scale to tackle the climate crisis.

7

ranger bases fitted with solar power, benefiting 77 rangers

▲ A newly installed solar panel rests atop a metal support structure at a community ranger base in Isiruai, Kitenden Conservancy, Olgulului Ololarashi Group Ranch (OOGR), Amboseli community lands in Kenya in June 2021.



extending Raimona National Park: a conservation landmark for India

Extending key habitat for some of the world’s most endangered wildlife is always something to celebrate. In FY21, IFAW and our partner the Wildlife Trust of India celebrated a landmark milestone through the designation of the Raimona National Park, which adds an extra 422 square kilometres of protected land to the Greater Manas Landscape.

India’s Protected Area Network has expanded by more than 772 square kilometres since IFAW-WTI began campaigning more than 10 years ago for increased protections for the landscape. It’s a key biodiversity hotspot and home to some of the world’s most unique wildlife, including golden langurs, Asian elephants, wild buffalo and Indian greater one-horned rhinos. The Greater Manas Landscape also includes Manas National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Raimona National Park runs contiguous to two protected areas in Bhutan, thereby facilitating habitat connectivity and supporting wildlife movement between adjoining protected areas. We are hopeful that, at some point, India and Bhutan may consider the declaration of a Transboundary Peace Park between the two countries.

The “First Addition” to Manas was 350 square kilometres, added in 2016. This achievement was the result of proactive leadership of the Bodoland Territorial Region, supported by the Assam state government, community support, other NGOs and years of conservation action through IFAW-WTI’s Bringing Back Manas project. This year’s addition is another significant step in securing and strengthening the Greater Manas Landscape.

422 km²

of additional habitat protected in FY21

▲ View of Raimona National Park.

securing land for conservation development



Photo: © IFAW



Photo: Patrick Sayiel / © IFAW

IFAW’s partnership with [EarthToday](#) is helping create room to roam, one square metre at a time, for elephants and other wildlife in [Kenya](#) by sustainably securing essential communal land as migratory routes and connectivity belts. IFAW is a founding partner of the [EarthToday](#) initiative. This platform allows visitors to discover actions that IFAW and other NGOs are taking to protect the planet and invites visitors to take action by donating to protect “their own” square metre of land in target priority landscapes.

Within six months of commissioning of this innovative initiative, **more than 8,750 people from around the world have supported the protection of almost 160,000 square metres of the Kitenden Wildlife Conservancy in Amboseli, Kenya.**

The community lands surrounding [Amboseli National Park](#) constitute 90% of the habitat for free-roaming migratory wildlife. This includes a population of 2,000 elephants that roam between Kenya and the iconic slopes of [Mount Kilimanjaro](#) in neighbouring [Tanzania](#), sometimes coming into conflict with people and at risk from illegal killing and trade.

IFAW’s current footprint comprises existing leases that cover 105 square kilometres (26,000 acres) of community-owned land in Amboseli. This secured land supports the [Olgulului Community Wildlife Rangers \(OCWR\)](#), a unit of more than 70 community wildlife rangers who protect wildlife and assist communities to mitigate human-wildlife conflict. The unit includes the eight-member all-female [Team Lioness](#), the first women to take up this demanding and male-dominated job in the highly patriarchal [Maasai community](#). **Additionally, IFAW’s fully funded scholarship programme has enabled 60 people to pursue tertiary education opportunities in tourism, education and clinical medicine.**

The [EarthToday](#) initiative increases awareness on the state of the planet, accelerates nature protection and stimulates large-scale land conservation and the safeguarding of biodiversity. Our partnership with [EarthToday](#) enhances our efforts to secure and protect the [Kitenden Wildlife Conservancy](#), allowing humans and wildlife to thrive together.

8,750

people worldwide protecting 160,000 square metres

- ▲ IFAW-supported [Team Lioness Olgulului Community Wildlife Ranger \(OCWR\)](#) [Beatrice Sailepu](#) uses binoculars while on patrol near the base camp at the [Risa community](#) in the [Amboseli community lands](#) within Kenya’s larger [Amboseli Ecosystem](#), while [Eunice Peneti](#) uses the [GPS](#) and [Anastacia Kupayi](#) looks on.
- ◀ [Kitenden’s Lemomo Hill](#) is seen against a backdrop of [Mount Kilimanjaro](#) at the end of the day, in the greater [Amboseli area](#).



Photo: Dumisani Chihoto / © IFAW

Landscape Conservation

digging deep to save wildlife and support rangers



Photo: Dumisani Chihoto / © IFAW

IFAW's alliance with the [Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority \(ZimParks\)](#) thrived through the lockdowns of the COVID-19 pandemic with incredible success. **For the second year in a row, there were zero recorded elephant poaching incidents in IFAW-supported areas.**

IFAW's work in partnership with ZimParks has focused on three main pillars: law enforcement, community engagement and securing functional habitats in [Hwange National Park](#), Zimbabwe's largest protected area.

Located in [Hwange National Park](#), [Nyamandhlovu Pan](#) is a key water source for wildlife in the park. In FY21, it was scooped for the first time in about 20 years, increasing its water-carrying capacity by the equivalent of five Olympic swimming pools and restoring its appeal to tourists and wildlife alike. With no permanent water sources and longer dry seasons caused by climate change, [Hwange's](#) wildlife depend on artificially filled pans (waterholes).

In the remote south section of [Hwange National Park](#), IFAW continues its ambitious infrastructure development initiatives, which include a permanent ranger base in the [Makona subsector](#). This has significant impact and has enhanced community livelihoods by supporting on-the-job skills training and earned income for 44 community youth. The infrastructure includes an operations centre, administrative buildings, an

entertainment centre and housing facilities that will eventually cater for 56 rangers and their families.

The new [Makona substation ranger base](#) will be a game changer for conservation efforts across [Hwange National Park](#) by enhancing law enforcement capacity to reduce poaching and human-wildlife conflict incidents along the 150-kilometre border with the [Tsholotsho communal lands](#).

IFAW-partner [Save Giraffes Now \(SGN\)](#) enabled the facilitation of refresher training for 25 ZimParks rangers and supported them in finding and removing 250 snares in targeted hotspots in Sinamatella, a key giraffe habitat in Hwange National Park.

IFAW has also been instrumental in the operational support for [ZimParks](#) rangers throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. This has been achieved through providing key supplies and equipment, including fuel, workshop retooling, veterinary unit support and food rations. This support ensured the successful deployment and sustenance of 176 field rangers in [Hwange National Park](#) and raised the morale of the teams by providing them with patrol rations, uniforms, patrol equipment and other personal protective equipment.

IFAW is committed to supporting ZimParks in its work to protect wildlife and promote human well-being in the 16,000 square kilometres (four million acres) [Hwange-Matetsi-Zambezi ecosystem](#).

This work will provide room to roam for 53,000 elephants and 600 lions living in a critical part of the world's largest transfrontier conservation area, the [Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area \(KAZA-TFCA\)](#).

5

Olympic swimming pools—increased capacity Nyamandhlovu Pan

250

wire snares found and removed

44

youth employed

176

rangers supported

0

elephant poaching in IFAW-supported areas

▲ Scooping Nyamandhlovu Pan.

◀ Aerial view of Nyamandhlovu Pan.



Landscape Conservation

enhancing transboundary communications network

Wildlife crime crosses borders. Now, thanks to a sophisticated VHF radio network, law enforcers and rangers in Malawi and Zambia can communicate easily to secure wildlife habitat and vital elephant migratory corridors.

Set 70 kilometres apart, three radio towers—two in Malawi’s Kasungu National Park and one in Zambia’s Lukusuzi National Park—enhance the mission to end transboundary crimes like poaching and trafficking by keeping wildlife rangers in both countries connected and able to quickly respond to illegal activities.

The ability to communicate while on long patrols away from home base supports the safety of rangers at risk—be that from armed poachers or dangerous wildlife.

Rangers also use the network to respond to human-wildlife conflict events as Kasungu National Park shares an extensive border with Zambia and community lands surround the park.

IFAW’s Combating Wildlife Crime (CWC), Malawi-Zambia Transfrontier Landscape Project covers a 7,000-square-kilometre landscape and supports 82 rangers in Kasungu National Park, and 76 rangers in Zambia, working closely with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife in both countries.

The VHF radio masts were funded by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) through the Peace Parks Foundation.

3

VHF radio towers installed

158

rangers supported

▲ Radio training for law enforcers and rangers in Malawi and Zambia to enable quick communication.

Landscape Conservation

helping women protect wildlife and thrive in their communities



IFAW’s Female Engagement Teams (FETs) empower livelihood opportunities for women through structured socioeconomic activities such as bead art, sewing and baking clubs.

One project employed two women’s groups near Amboseli National Park in Kenya to decorate 11,000 coin purses for IFAW supporters in the UK. Despite an interruption due to COVID-19 restrictions, the groups completed the beading project in FY21.

Bead art is a critical part of Kenya’s Maasai culture and traditional clothing, worn to enhance beauty, to indicate warrior, marital or other social status in the community as well as for coming-of-age ceremonies. Older women pass down skills to younger newlywed women as

they bond and bead together in groups. They also earn an income from the pieces they sell to tourists.

With the money received from the purse-beading project, women have paid school fees, and bought nine cows for milk and four bulls to improve the yields of milk and beef from their existing cattle herds. Social cohesion has developed among the older and younger women who have all become advocates for wildlife protection and for IFAW.

Women also play a key role in helping IFAW’s all-female Team Lioness ranger unit because of their personal insights, providing intelligence that can help them stop incidents of poaching or retaliation against wildlife.

11,000

purses beaded

13

heads of livestock bought

▲ A female employee at an IFAW-sourced supplier sits at a sewing machine stitching red and black plaid ribbon onto several pieces of red coin purse fabric in Nairobi, Kenya. The coin purses were decorated with multi-coloured beading by Amboseli community women.



Landscape Conservation

adding new life to Kasungu National Park



In a first bid to restock [Malawi's Kasungu National Park](#), IFAW supported the translocation of 12 zebras and 14 waterbucks to the 240,000-hectare wildlife reserve in FY21. Thanks to our efforts to restore and safeguard the park, it is now a safe place for wildlife to roam freely without the threat of poaching.

IFAW's [Combating Wildlife Crime \(CWC\) Malawi-Zambia Transboundary Landscape Project](#) trains an effective and efficient wildlife ranger force that has put an end to rampant poaching. When IFAW began working in the area in 2015, only 50 elephants remained, down from more than 1,000 in the 1970s. Only six of 500 zebras remained and other species, such as waterbuck, were locally extinct.

A recent aerial wildlife survey shows that wildlife is now thriving and populations have increased since 2014.

	2014	2021
Elephants	40	121
Buffalo	61	165
Roan antelope	74	248
Sable antelope	93	397
Kudu	30	176
Hartebeest	54	147
Puku	22	45

The 12 translocated zebras will help restore species diversity in [Kasungu](#). They bring the number of zebras to 21, considered a founder or breeding herd. IFAW works with the [Malawi Department of National Parks and Wildlife \(DNPW\)](#), supported by the community. **Poaching has been reduced in Kasungu and the elephant population is steadily rising; other animals such as leopards, lions and occasionally wild dogs are also being spotted more often.**

We also began work on the refurbishment of Kasungu's eastern boundary fence exclusively employing and providing a livelihood opportunity for community members, specifically women. The fence will help prevent human-wildlife conflict, protect property and crops and support harmony between the community and wildlife.

Funding for this project is supported by the [U.S. Agency for International Development \(USAID\)](#), with the generosity of the American people.

poaching has been reduced in Kasungu and the elephant population is steadily rising

12
zebras translocated

14
waterbucks translocated

▲ At the end of her translocation journey, an adult female waterbuck darts out of the transport vehicle and enters her new home in Malawi's Kasungu National Park.

◀ A zebra is prepared for translocation.

wildlife crime

Wildlife crime is one of the largest transnational criminal activities, putting at risk the survival of thousands of species of animals and plants, and accelerating the ongoing collapse of biodiversity. The illegal trade in live wild animals is causing tremendous suffering and countless animals die while being captured, transported, and kept in homes as exotic pets. Even legal wildlife trade, particularly when there is a lack of regulation and enforcement, can facilitate the spread of zoonotic diseases, creating huge threats to humanity.

COVID-19 has increased the urgency for wildlife crime to become a higher priority for governments, policymakers and consumers alike. We've been encouraged by seeing strengthened political will to tackle this problem. Over the past year, IFAW experts have shared their insights at high-level counter wildlife crime meetings, including ones organised by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Working Groups and other wildlife enforcement networks.

IFAW is working to see this political and social will translated into strengthened government legislation, implemented company policies, adequate resourcing for law enforcement and targeted consumer education and action.

fighting crime along the trade chain



IFAW fights global wildlife crime along every link in the trade chain, which requires strong laws, global coordination, vigorous enforcement and consumer behaviour change to reduce demand for wildlife parts and products. We support wildlife law enforcement officials and judicial institutions in enforcing wildlife crime legislation and prosecuting offenders. We also proactively provide tailored trainings and mentorship programmes for law enforcers as well as workshops for judiciary experts.

When facilities closed and countries went into lockdown because of COVID-19, tourism and local revenue plummeted. As a result, numerous national parks across Africa saw a rise in poaching, which caused rangers to expand their patrols and cover more kilometres every day. Thanks to the TUI Care Foundation, we were able to support wildlife security operations of the Kenya Wildlife Service in the Tsavo Conservation Area by providing 10,000 extra litres of fuel, one vehicle for covert operations, four motorcycles, 16 laptops, four printers, four tents and 180 pairs of boots, with a combined value of close to US\$50,000.

In FY21, IFAW provided training and operational support to 236 law enforcement officers, prosecutors and judges in 10 countries across three regions. During operations executed by organisations supported by IFAW, 1,340 kilograms of ivory were seized.

In the Middle East and North Africa, we conducted trainings to increase awareness about shark conservation and the illegal trade in shark fins.

In China, we provided ongoing support to police and customs departments, focusing on identifying wildlife species and products, sharing research data and information on wildlife crime cases, and consulting on relevant laws and regulations. The intelligence we shared led to the apprehension of a suspected ivory seller.

IFAW co-organised workshops with the local anti-smuggling authorities in southern China (bordering Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam) for disrupting and preventing wildlife trafficking through the logistics and transportation channels. More than 1,000 capacity building manuals were distributed to 51 transport companies to increase their staff's awareness of regulations and improve their ability to identify commonly transported wildlife products. Another training in Yunnan included 35 government agencies, 12 logistics and transportation companies and 10 express delivery companies.

Together with the anti-smuggling bureau of the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC), IFAW organised a workshop in April 2021 on customs enforcement against wildlife trafficking in the Asia-Pacific Region. Customs

authorities from mainland China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Vietnam, Laos, Singapore and Malaysia had in-depth exchanges on the characteristics of smuggling cases of endangered species.

We were also able to start three new initiatives to protect wildlife and tackle illegal trade in Kenya, Uganda, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Zambia.



10,000

extra litres of fuel

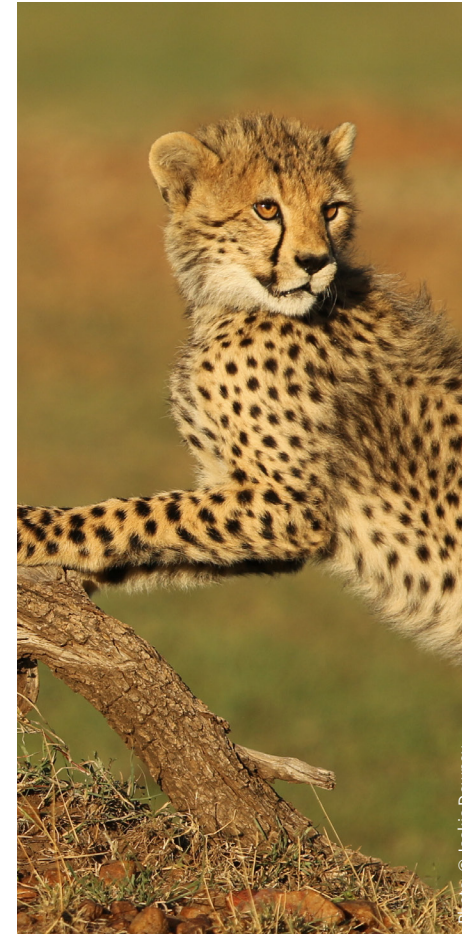
236

law enforcement officers, prosecutors and judges in 10 countries trained and supported

1,340 kgs

of ivory seized

▲ Confiscation of ivory as a result of enforcement efforts in Ouesso in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



Critical training for frontline officers to protect cheetahs

Fewer than 7,500 individual cheetahs are left in the wild. Cheetahs are trafficked for the illegal pet trade from the Horn of Africa to the Arabian Peninsula. That's why IFAW works together with the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) and Legal Atlas to disrupt the poaching and trafficking of cheetahs from Ethiopia and Somalia/Somaliland and through Yemen. Funded by the UK Government through the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, the Legal Intelligence on Cheetah Illegal Trade (LICIT) project provides support in strengthening national legislation and establishing enforcement networks to support counter-trafficking activities.

A series of law enforcement operations in Somali State and Somaliland resulted in the confiscation of more than 40 cheetah cubs in FY21. This led to the organisation of a two-day Border Summit in November 2020 with some 60 participants from Ethiopia and Somaliland to discuss the urgent

need for stronger bilateral cooperation to halt the illegal trade in live cheetah cubs.

In February 2021, IFAW and CCF jointly organised and co-funded a workshop for 20 veterinary doctors (including six women and eight participants from Ethiopia) in Somaliland. The focus was providing emergency treatment to confiscated cheetah cubs and other wildlife, understanding Somaliland's laws forbidding poaching and trade and promoting conservation of wildlife through education and engagement with local communities. Later, we held another workshop for veterinarians from Ethiopia.

40

cheetah cubs confiscated

▲ A cheetah cub plays in the savanna.

Protecting giraffes in Zambia

The number of giraffes has plummeted by up to 40% in the past three decades. IFAW and Save Giraffes Now (SGN) have partnered to support local communities and law enforcement staff in Zambia to increase the protection of Thornicroft's giraffe and other wildlife in the Luambe-Lukusuzi region.

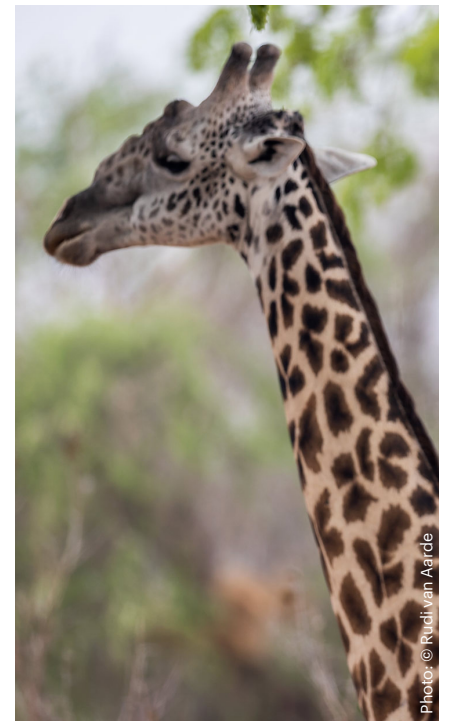
As part of IFAW's broader Community Game Scout Programme in Malawi-Zambia, four community members were equipped and trained as community scouts with funding from SGN and support from the Zambian Department of National Parks and Wildlife (ZDNPW). The scouts received grounded, practical training to conduct counter-poaching patrols and support other law enforcement activities within the Game Management Area (GMA) to deter illegal encroachment, logging and bushmeat trade.

Between October 2020 and June 2021, more than 130 arrests were made with a conviction rate close to 70%. Offences involved wildlife products of elephants, pangolins and leopards. In total, 225 kilograms of ivory were seized as well as eight pangolins, of which four were found alive and released back into the wild. We are also pleased to report that no unlawful loss of giraffes was recorded in the landscape during this time.

130

arrests with nearly 70% conviction rate

► Thornicroft's giraffe in South Luangwa National Park in Zambia.





Making a difference for jaguars

Operation Jaguar focuses on combating jaguar poaching and trafficking in Bolivia, Guyana, Peru and Suriname. IFAW's core role is to build capacity by empowering law enforcement officers with tailored train-the-trainer workshops and on-the-job mentorship, and work with prosecutors and judges to ensure adequate follow-up of criminal cases.

The project is a joint effort led by the IUCN National Committee of the Netherlands (IUCN NL), IFAW and Earth League International (ELI) and is made possible by the Dutch Postcode Lottery.

In October 2020, as a follow-up to the Guyana law enforcement training in 2019, we carried out a virtual judiciary sensitisation workshop in coordination with the Guyana Wildlife Conservation and Management Commission (GWCMC). During the two-day workshop, we covered a wide range of critical skills such as

investigative strategies and evidence collection, interviewing and working with witnesses, using non-wildlife laws to prosecute wildlife offenders, and the importance of preserving ethics.

IFAW was also able to carry out a two-day virtual judiciary workshop with 19 attendees from different agencies in Suriname in May 2021. We extended our work in Suriname with a pilot project on working with wildlife detection dogs. With the help of Scent Imprint Conservation Dogs, two dogs, Bruce and Boris, were trained in detecting jaguar parts. They are being deployed to seaports and airports in Suriname, where they will demonstrate the effectiveness of dogs in searching for jaguar scents in packages, luggage and vehicles.

In collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), we held a four-day virtual workshop for 39

trainees from diverse government agencies in Peru to strengthen the technical-regulatory capacities of the administrative authorities in the fight against wildlife trafficking. We also organised a virtual judiciary workshop to strengthen the capacities of 20 justice operators on the criminal process in matters of illegal wildlife trade.

19

workshop attendees in Suriname

39

trainees in Peru

▲ A jaguar in the jungle.



Preventing wildlife trafficking in Kenya, Uganda and DR Congo

The U.S. Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) is working with IFAW and local partners to prevent wildlife trafficking in Kenya, Uganda and Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). In August 2020, INL started funding two major projects: Countering Wildlife Trafficking in Kenya and Capacity Building to Stop the Poaching and Trafficking of Protected Wildlife between Uganda and Democratic Republic of the Congo.

These projects aim to reduce poaching and trafficking of wildlife species and their products by strengthening transboundary collaboration; building investigative, operational and prosecutorial capacities of law enforcement and judiciary agencies; and engaging community members in information gathering in protected areas.

In Uganda and DRC, IFAW works together with the IUCN National Committee of the Netherlands (IUCN NL). This past fiscal year, we provided training to 30 law enforcement officers working on both sides of the border. We also support a team of five intelligence officers and wildlife crime analysts who can review data and collaborate with governmental agencies.

Community members also play a critical role in the protection of local wildlife, and

we engaged 12 community wildlife monitors to help us gather information. Between January and June 2021, information from such informants led to the arrest of eight poachers and the removal of eight wire snares and traps, which can inadvertently trap lions and injure elephants. Approximately 100 kilograms of buffalo meat was also confiscated.

In Kenya, IFAW has partnered with the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) and Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS). Between August 2020 and June 2021, IFAW donated equipment worth US\$17,941 to KWS, including six motorbikes, five printers, five desktop computers and five uninterrupted power supply devices. The items were purchased with support from INL and will support KWS operations in data collection and processing for actionable intelligence that drives enforcement operations. Over the same period, IFAW provided rations for 77 community rangers within the Olgulului-Ololarashi Group Ranch and 17 community rangers from the Ilkimpa Community Conservation Area.

Also funded by INL, IFAW facilitated the 29th Kenya-Tanzania Cross-border Wildlife Security Meeting to improve collaboration on securing the wildlife habitats and ecosystems that are shared by both Kenya and Tanzania.

30

law enforcement officers trained

12

community wildlife monitors engaged

8

poachers arrested

100 kgs

of buffalo meat confiscated

▲ A ranger on patrol in Queen Elizabeth National Park in Uganda.



Photo: Julien Gerard / © IFAW

Detection dogs in Benin

With its expertise in wildlife protection and animal welfare, IFAW is uniquely positioned to implement a new model for training and deploying detection dogs in the fight against wildlife crime. Since 2018, IFAW has been working in Benin in West Africa to update the existing K9 brigade of the police in Cotonou. An experienced French cynotechnical expert works onsite to develop this new training method and formed select dog-handler units with officers from the police and forestry departments.

Currently, the team consists of four handlers from the Republican Police and four dogs who are each paired and trained in the detection of wildlife products, in addition to another officer and his dog who will become the unit's local trainer.

Training at the airport in Cotonou started in September 2020 with three teams. In more than 250 training exercises, the dogs searched 28,094 bags, suitcases and packages. Some of those intentionally included ivory and pangolin products, and the dogs had a success rate of more than 95%, proving the effectiveness of the dogs and their handlers.

In late 2020, we entered a partnership with Enabel, the Belgian Development Agency. With their funding support we will train four new officers from the Water and Forests Department in Benin and pair them with detection dogs. The partnership will also enable future implementation of RASCargO, a state-of-the-art control system that collects the air from containers to capture the odours on filters that are then analysed by our detection dogs.

The team welcomed the arrival of two new six-month-old puppies, Senséo and Sonic. In the coming year they will be joined by the last two new dogs and will be trained as detection dogs to complete the team.

FY21 also marked the conclusion of our partnership with Almo Nature/Fondazione Capellino, and through them, with DSV Group. We thank them both for their support in providing our detection dogs in Benin with high-quality food, so they could focus on their task at hand: helping to save other animals.

95%

success rate in detecting wildlife products

250

training exercises

28,094

bags, suitcases and packages searched by detection dogs

▲ Training exercises inside the airport at Cotonou with handler Nabile, dog Nariz and trainer Frederic.



Photo: Donal Boyd / © IFAW

Combating wildlife crime in Malawi and Zambia

IFAW's Malawi-Zambia landscape project, which is supported by USAID, targets Luambe National Park and Lukusuzi National Park in Zambia and Malawi's Kasungu National Park. In FY21, law enforcement activities continued to focus on building the capacity of the Departments of National Parks and Wildlife of Malawi and Zambia to establish dedicated institutional investigative capacity to address wildlife crime in the landscape.

Rangers received regular training and conducted a total of 300 long patrols and 130 short patrols, resulting in the arrest of 259 suspects and the seizure of 759.9 kilograms of ivory.

As part of our engagement with the communities, we held 15 community meetings to sensitise people on various issues such as human-wildlife conflict, encroachment, the formation of by-laws and fence construction. A total of US\$137,760 was earned by communities employed in tailoring and construction projects and by working at a mechanical workshop.

300

long patrols

130

short patrols

259

suspects arrested

759.9 kgs

of ivory seized

▲ Rangers are gearing up for patrol in Kasungu National Park in Malawi.

illegal wildlife trade is just a click away



Photo: © IFAW-Barbara Hollweg



Photo: © Dreamstime/Photosaurus

While the global pandemic affected many areas of our work, we were able to continue the fight against wildlife trafficking online together with online technology companies and law enforcement agencies. For instance, IFAW's continued online monitoring in the U.S. and Europe resulted in 1,808 illegal wildlife listings being blocked or removed by companies after being identified by IFAW. We also conducted online research in the UK to assess its ivory market, flagging almost 1,000 ivory items in just 12 days.

Throughout FY21, IFAW China continued its regular patrolling of Chinese websites and media platforms to monitor illegal wildlife trade activity and gather intelligence, especially across popular social media platforms. This enables us to help develop keyword filters, train online company staff and provide information to law enforcement. In total, 1,727 illegal listings involving more than 10 species were detected and acted upon by the respective marketplaces or platforms.

IFAW collaborated with [Baidu](#), the largest Chinese search engine, to educate their users about wildlife conservation and

related laws and regulations. We provided 139 key words to Baidu, after which they optimised their search results and activated pop-up banners for wildlife species commonly traded. With Sogou, another search engine, we launched a joint campaign where the first image people saw when opening the app was that of an endangered animal. The campaign received more than 25 million views and guided more than two million app users to the encyclopedia pages about animals such as jaguars, minke whales and harp seals.

Since April 2020, IFAW and tech giant Baidu have applied an artificial intelligence (AI) tool, the [AI Guardian for Endangered Species](#), to identify images of endangered wildlife products traded online. The deep learning tool then traces back to the source link of the images and feeds back to relevant network platforms for removal. By the end of June 2021, the [AI Guardian](#) had detected 7,548 illegal wildlife trade-relevant images from more than 300,000 raw images, linking to 1,085 online trade listings and contributing to the efficiency of our efforts to make e-commerce platforms a no-go area for traffickers.

1,808

illegal listings blocked or removed in the U.S. and Europe

1,727

illegal listings detected and acted upon in China

7,548

images related to wildlife trade detected by artificial intelligence

- ▲ The internet provides customers and wildlife traffickers access to various wildlife, including endangered African grey parrots.
- ◀ Lion cubs taken from the wild diminish the chances of wild populations.



Stopping online trafficking of protected wildlife

Through the [Coalition to End Wildlife Trafficking Online](#), IFAW works together with [World Wildlife Fund \(WWF\)](#), the [Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network \(TRAFFIC\)](#) and more than 35 global online technology companies to help stop the trafficking of protected wildlife via their platforms. [Between July 2020 and June 2021, around five million advertisements and posts were removed or blocked by Coalition members across Africa, Asia, Europe and North and South America.](#)

The Coalition expanded with new partners in FY21, including [TikTok](#) (700 million users), [Douyin](#) (600 million users), [37 Interactive Entertainment](#), [7788.com](#) and [Zhangyan](#). In July 2021, the French classifieds site [Marche.fr](#) and the German online marketplace [Quoka](#) joined, adopting a series of concrete measures to ensure their platforms will become free from illegal wildlife products.

In November, [Facebook](#) launched an interstitial alert system to inform users of their updated prohibited wildlife policies and to deter illegal trade on the platform. The alert pops up at the top of a user's feed when searching for one of 93 terms associated with wildlife trafficking combined with one of 15 commerce terms.

IFAW is working with [Douyin](#) to develop a tool that uses machine learning and big data methods to identify wildlife products and live animals in short videos.

As a result of the close collaboration with IFAW, [DeineTierwelt](#), Germany's leading pet community platform with four million visits per month, announced a ban of almost all wild and exotic animals on June 8, 2021.

In October 2020, IFAW, [WWF](#) and [TRAFFIC](#) co-hosted a hybrid virtual/in-person event in [Beijing](#) with almost 100 participants from 33 companies, including [Alibaba](#), [Google](#), [Baidu](#), [eBay](#) and [Tencent](#). During the event, companies shared their experiences, discussed aligning on new trends and policies related to wildlife cybercrime and received training from IFAW, [TRAFFIC](#), and government and law enforcement officials.

Another important part of the Coalition's activities is to provide training for detecting wildlife cybercrime to company staff. [In China, we held 25 in-person trainings and provided tailored online training to 1,562 people.](#) In addition, the Coalition's online training programme [OWLET](#) was carried out more than 200 unique times.

[By encouraging online platforms to take action and strengthen their policies and filtering systems, we're creating long-lasting measures that help disrupt criminal networks and wildlife cybercrime.](#)

5 million

advertisements and posts removed or blocked

35+

Coalition members across continents

25

in-person cybercrime prevention trainings held in China

1,562

people received tailored online training in China

▲ Coalition work in China.



Wildlife cybercrime in the EU

In February 2019, IFAW joined forces with [INTERPOL](#), [Belgian Customs](#) and [WWF](#), with in-kind support from [TRAFFIC](#), to combat wildlife cybercrime as part of an [EU-funded initiative](#) aiming to disrupt and deter criminals and their networks trafficking in, or via, the [EU](#) using the internet and parcel delivery services.

In July 2020, a report entitled [Stop Wildlife Cybercrime in the EU: Online Trade in Reptiles and Birds in Belgium and the Netherlands](#) was published. The report was produced by [WWF](#) and [TRAFFIC](#), with support from IFAW and [Monitor Society](#), and it provides an in-depth understanding of how wildlife criminals exploit the internet in the [EU](#).

[INTERPOL](#) and the [World Customs Organisation \(WCO\)](#) coordinated [Operation Thunder 2020](#), in which 103 countries participated, including 20 [EU Member States](#). According to [INTERPOL](#) data, 145 cyber-investigations were performed, leading so far to 58 criminal penalties, 1,194 units of illegal wildlife seized, 40 suspects identified and 18 prosecutions. [For the first time, and as a result of this EU-funded project to combat wildlife cybercrime, the operation included a cyber-enabled wildlife crime component.](#)

IFAW engaged successfully with nine of the 13 online platforms approached during the project to get those platforms to (further) commit to fighting wildlife trafficking online, with many of them agreeing on new actions including bans on specific species on their platform, improved filters to detect/block products and user education.

In May 2021, IFAW, in collaboration with [WWF](#), [TRAFFIC](#), and with support from [Belgian Customs](#) and [INTERPOL](#), organised an online multi-stakeholder workshop with more than 140 representatives from the public and private sector. In June, IFAW shared a restricted report with the workshop attendees, which identifies best practice models currently used by law enforcers and online platforms to cooperate in detecting and disrupting wildlife cybercrime. The report also outlines recommendations so that these processes can be rolled out more widely across the EU, and touches on ways in which NGOs and academics can support these efforts.

The project ended in June 2021, and [we achieved our objectives to disrupt wildlife criminals and to increase the EU law enforcement focus and operations on](#)

[wildlife trafficking online and through parcels.](#) By publicising their work, the consortium partners were able to reach at least 3.7 million people in Europe, increasing awareness of wildlife cybercrime.

103

countries participated in Operation Thunder 2020

140

participants at multi-stakeholder workshop

3.7 million

people reached across Europe to increase awareness

▲ Spur-thighed tortoise. Illegally traded exotic turtles and tortoises are still popular as pets in Europe.

reducing market supply and consumer demand



Photo: © Sanlian Lifeweek



Photo: © IFAW

IFAW works tirelessly to combat global wildlife crime in every link in the illegal trade chain—from source, to transit, to destination. **In China, we have a holistic approach to reduce both market supply and consumer demand for wildlife parts and products.** We collaborate with public and private partners, and we develop and implement demand reduction activities using social and behaviour change communication (SBCC).

Despite the COVID-19 restrictions, IFAW was able to develop and implement several integrated, multichannel marketing campaigns in China in FY21. We connected with museums, zoos, public transport, airports and cinemas to find creative ways to communicate our messages to a large audience. Media companies also routinely provided promotional space for IFAW's culturally sensitive and socially motivating campaigns aimed at creating a social norm to stigmatise wildlife consumption.

To reduce consumer demand for wildlife products and raise public awareness of conservation, IFAW's [Guard Our Shared Home](#) public service announcements (PSAs), jointly promoted with [China Wildlife Conservation Association \(CWCA\)](#), appeared in airports, transportation hubs, newspapers and magazines. On Earth Day in April 2021, the [Guard Our Shared Home](#) PSA about protecting pangolins, tigers, elephants, rhinos and raptors became an online

campaign of IFAW and the [China Customs Anti-Smuggling Bureau](#). The campaign broke a record as it was shared on social media by more than [100 Chinese government agencies](#).

In total, IFAW's campaigns in China in FY21 reached more than one billion people and leveraged more than US\$23 million in in-kind media donations, with more than 550 media articles published on wildlife crime.

IFAW also cooperated with [Animal Dialogue](#), a Chinese research and educational think tank that aims to promote discussions on human-animal-environment relationships. Together, we organised an online lecture for 50+ students from [China](#) and overseas on applying the [One Health](#) approach to curtailing wildlife trade.

We collaborated with group-buying and delivery service provider [Meituan](#) to bring more attention to environmental conservation and to educate the public not to consume wild animal meat. The campaign had more than 16 million views.

IFAW also worked with [WeMake](#), a leading technology company in China, to digitalise IFAW's story book "Laura the Elephant" through virtual reality and panorama technology. The immersive experience was launched on [World Elephant Day](#) and reached 50,000 users.

1+ billion
people reached

US\$23 million
in in-kind media donations leveraged

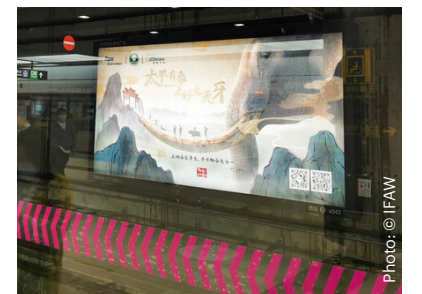


Photo: © IFAW

- ▲ IFAW China's out-of-home (OOH) PSA, "Guard Our Shared Home" featuring an Asian elephant, is displayed at a subway station in Tianjin municipality, China in April 2021.
- ▲ An English version of IFAW China's public service announcement, 'Guard Our Shared Home' featuring an Amur tiger.
- ◀ Inside front cover of the April issue of Sanlian Lifeweek Magazine in Beijing, China.



Photo: © Dreamstime/Swisshippo

Wildlife Crime

supporting policy and legislative reforms to fight wildlife crime

We urge governments around the world to develop clear legislation that strongly regulates or prohibits the commercial trade of wildlife, due to zoonotic risks for humans, animal welfare concerns, the ecological value of wildlife in the wild and the spread of invasive alien species.

In October 2020, members of the [International Union for Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\)](#) adopted, with nearly 100% support, a resolution to combat the sale of illegal wildlife products online. IFAW played an instrumental role in drafting this new resolution, which encourages effective collaboration across different sectors and urges governments to adopt and enforce effective legislation against wildlife cybercrime.

To showcase our cross-sector work and to increase the ambition of international communities to protect nature, we actively participated in key events such as [Wildlife Crime Is Financial Crime](#), organised by the [International Compliance Association](#), and the [One Planet Summit for Biodiversity](#).

In China, we continued to advocate for stronger wildlife policies and laws, believing that clear and strong laws could prevent wildlife trafficking loopholes and enhance law enforcement efficiency. When the [Legislative Committee of the National People's Congress](#) solicited public opinions on the revision of the Criminal Law, IFAW provided suggestions for amendments to expand the scope of wildlife species protected by law, strengthen the management of commercial wildlife breeding, and improve the national wildlife rescue system.

IFAW worked with the [European Commission](#) for the last four years to review the [Environmental Crime Directive](#), participating in stakeholder meetings and consultations, and submitting joint letters with other NGOs to ensure suggested revisions of the Directive were considered. We called for EU Member States to apply truly dissuasive and harmonised penalties against wildlife crime and use effective investigative tools to facilitate and promote cross-border cooperation and information sharing. The Commission should adopt the revised Directive in 2022.

In April 2021, the [European Commission](#) adopted its new [Strategy to Tackle Organised Crime](#), which complements [Europol's Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment \(SOCTA\)](#). Thanks to IFAW's advocacy, the [Strategy and SOCTA](#) acknowledge the interlinkages and devastating consequences of organised crime and wildlife crime. The [Commission's](#) strategy committed to review the [EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking](#) and revise the [Environmental Crime Directive](#).

We also worked with key stakeholders and [EU institutions](#) to operationalise this work by ensuring that the [European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats \(EMPACT\)](#), which enables collective action across [EU Member States](#), included wildlife crime as a priority environmental crime. This means more resources will be allocated to create or strengthen specialised units, undertake operations, develop new tools and improve data gathering on environmental crimes.

In the UK, IFAW continues to campaign for the Government to bring into force its domestic ivory trade ban, passed

in December 2018 but yet to be implemented. IFAW is also lobbying to ensure the ban remains as strong and robust a piece of legislation as when first passed by Parliament.

In May 2021, IFAW spoke to the [U.S. Congress](#) during a hearing entitled "[Wildlife Trafficking and the Growing Online Marketplace](#)." Although no specific legislation is currently under consideration, the willingness to learn about it suggests there is political will to address it.

Ending illegal wildlife trade takes a significant and sustained commitment from governments, online platforms and law enforcement around the globe. We will continue our efforts to encourage collaboration across borders and sectors and among key stakeholders, sharing our expertise and working to achieve real and sustainable impact for animals and people.

◀ Blue and gold macaws are poached and trafficked for the illegal pet trade.

Wildlife Crime in European Union

revising the Environmental Crime Directive

For the past four years, IFAW has been working with the [European Commission](#) to review its [Directive 2008/99/EC](#) on the protection of the environment through criminal law ([Environmental Crime Directive \(ECD\)](#)). The Directive defines environmental offences that [Member States](#) must criminalise, and requires effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions. However, its provisions are too vague to make it an effective instrument for combatting the scale of environmental crime—including wildlife crime. Consequently, revising the Directive, announced by the [Commission](#) years ago, has been long awaited.

In 2020, IFAW submitted its inputs to the Commission's public consultation for the evaluation of the Directive. We called on the [EU](#) to align its law with the [UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime \(UNTOC\)](#) declaration to elevate wildlife crime as serious, include cybercrime among the new types of criminal conduct, facilitate cooperation among Member States and invest in capacity building of enforcement agencies.

IFAW considers that the alarming surge in poaching and trafficking protected flora and fauna species affects not just biodiversity; it also undermines the rule of law, impacts economies through loss of revenues, and endangers the physical and food security of local communities. We will continue advocating our priorities during the upcoming process of revising the Directive.

marine conservation

The ocean faces more threats today than ever before. Human activities such as shipping, unsustainable fishing, industrial development and pollution are affecting marine life and habitats globally.

A healthy planet needs a healthy ocean. Healthy populations of large marine animals, particularly whales and sharks, play a key role in regulating ocean ecosystems and enabling the capture of carbon. Whales, for example, dive deep and stir up nutrients from the bottom of the sea, promoting nutrient circulation and stimulating phytoplankton growth—the foundation of the aquatic food web—which captures huge amounts of carbon and substantially enhances ocean productivity.

Protecting these large, iconic marine animals is critical, and through this work we also protect many other species and vital habitats throughout the world's ocean. For instance, this year, our Marine Conservation programme worked with our Disaster Response programme to support the restoration of coral reefs damaged by hurricanes in Colombia, in a powerful example of cross-programmatic collaboration in IFAW.

saving the North Atlantic right whale



Photo: © Nick Hawkins



Photo: © Nick Hawkins

Through the impact of our [Save the Right Whale campaign](#), IFAW continues to be a key driver of fundamental regulatory change, generating public support while promoting the adoption of innovative technological solutions in both the [U.S.](#) and [Canada](#) to save this critically endangered marine mammal.

With the most recent population estimates decreasing by 8% in just one year, only 336 North Atlantic right whales (NARWs) remain. Our efforts are acutely focused on addressing the major threats to species recovery: entanglement in outmoded commercial fishing gear and collision with vessels. Since 2017, 50 right whales (14% of the total species population) have either died or are presumed dead. Where cause of death could be definitively determined, all these deaths were due to either entanglement or vessel strikes. **As less than 90 of the remaining whales are reproductive-aged females, the death of even one individual is potentially catastrophic for species recovery.**

This year, IFAW has prioritised addressing fishing gear entanglement, one of the deadliest threats to right whales. We're working collaboratively with fishermen to test and advance ropeless fishing technology that essentially eliminates vertical buoy ropes from the water column, thus removing the main source of entanglement. Along with key early adopter fishing partners, including the [Atlantic Offshore Lobstermen's Association \(AOLA\)](#), IFAW helped lead a first-of-its-kind ropeless gear pilot testing project in the offshore lobster fishery. The pilot project has subsequently been

renewed due to increased interest from new fishermen, with IFAW helping procure additional ropeless units to increase testing capabilities.

Another piece of good news is that **19 NARW calves were born in the most recent calving season. With at least five born to first-time mothers, this marks the highest number of calves born in a season since 2015.** Tragically, one of the calves was killed in a vessel strike within weeks of being born. This is why we have been working with partners to enhance our [Whale Alert](#) app, a situational awareness mobile app that alerts vessel operators to the nearby presence of right whales, so they know to watch out and slow down. In conjunction, IFAW has continued to advocate for mandatory speed limits for vessels of all sizes during times of peak right whale presence.

IFAW's advocacy efforts have helped promote regulatory changes that include both federal and state funding critical to implementing NARW protection measures. IFAW's influence resulted in more than 31,000 supporters taking action and submitting comments on new proposed federal rules that support stronger protection measures for right whales and endorse using ropeless gear. This is a solution based on coexistence for both right whales and the fishing industry. IFAW's key legislative outreach efforts also led to increased funding for important conservation measures through the [U.S. Federal Appropriations](#) process. For FY21, US\$6 million was successfully allocated, with IFAW actively working to secure an additional US\$14 million for FY22.

Rounding out our strategic approach, IFAW has conducted focus group research to gain a better understanding of consumer awareness and interest in concepts that include "whale-safe" seafood products through use of ropeless fishing gear technology. Preliminary data and consumer sentiment was highly encouraging and such qualitative studies will help drive our impact by identifying ways to generate further consumer and industry support.

50 right whales

have either died or are presumed dead since 2017 (14% of the total species population)

<90

reproductive-aged females remain

19

NARW calves were born in the most recent calving season

- ▲ Members of the Campobello Whale Rescue Team attempting to disentangle a whale.
- ◀ A North Atlantic right whale, feeding at the surface and revealing its baleen plates.



Photo: © IFAW

Marine Conservation

reducing ship strike risk and ocean noise



Photo: © Vanessa Mignon

The threat of human-generated ocean noise to marine life is increasingly being recognised around the world. A multi-year study as part of the [Joint Monitoring Programme for Ambient Noise in the North Sea \(JOMOPANS\)](#) has mapped ocean noise in the [North Sea](#). The researchers identified shipping as the main source of excess noise. [Areas with intensive shipping traffic experience excess noise levels of up to 30 decibels, which is 100 times higher than in areas without shipping.](#)

IFAW teamed with [OceanCare](#) to provide expert review and co-publication of two research studies by the [Belgian government](#). [The main findings show that limiting speeds to 75% of ship design speed results in a 10% reduction in the emission of the main pollutant gases like carbon dioxide \(CO²\), nitrogen oxides \(NOx\), sulfur oxides \(SOx\) and black carbon, and a meaningful reduction of underwater noise.](#) IFAW played a pivotal role joining the [Belgian Ministry of Environment](#) webinar announcing this research and helped publicise the results, with wide recognition in the media. With the help of infographics we developed in close collaboration with the [French government](#), we also informed stakeholders about the damaging effects of noise pollution and solutions available to reduce the noise.

This year we helped achieve momentum to further recognise the problem of underwater noise at the [International Maritime Organization \(IMO\)](#), following a proposal by [Canada](#) which was supported by IFAW. This moves the issue back onto the agenda of the IMO, the UN body governing international shipping. [Now appropriate committees and governments are tasked to explore options for reducing](#)

[noise from shipping. This is a major achievement towards our overall goal of reducing shipping noise globally.](#)

As well as lowering underwater noise, reduced ship speeds also decrease the risk of ships colliding with whales (known as ship strikes). Research indicates that for every whale we see that has been fatally injured by a collision with a vessel, as many as 20 whales with the same fate go undetected.

IFAW continues to work in a coalition with the [Pelagos Cetacean Research Institute](#), [WWF Greece](#) and [OceanCare](#) to reduce the risk of ship strikes for the remaining sperm whale population in the [Hellenic Trench](#), off the west coast of [Greece](#). There is growing concern that this endangered eastern Mediterranean population, which only numbers between 200 and 300 individuals, will not survive if ship strikes continue at the current rate. According to the [Pelagos Cetacean Research Institute](#), the cause of death for 50% of stranded sperm whales in this area can be attributed directly to ship strikes.

[There is a solution! Our analysis has identified options to significantly reduce ship strike risk with a small offshore shift in the current shipping routes.](#) With these changes, the overall collision risk for sperm whales in the study area would be reduced by around 75%, while a maximum of 11 nautical miles would be added to major routes and only around five nautical miles for the majority of ships transiting the area.

The efforts of our work as a coalition encouraged [Greek authorities](#) to issue an official notice informing mariners about the presence of marine mammals in the [Hellenic Trench](#). This new [navigational](#)

[telex \(NAVTEX\)](#) warning instructs mariners to look out for whales and avoid collisions with them. This is a promising first step towards protecting these endangered sperm whales from ship strikes, and we will work to ensure shipping companies are made aware of the warning to increase the chances of this measure being a successful conservation tool.

75%

[of ship design speed as a speed limit would reduce greenhouse gases and other pollutant gas emissions by 10% plus reduce underwater noise considerably](#)

100

[times higher ocean noise levels in areas with intensive shipping traffic](#)

11 nautical miles

[added to a ship's journey would mean 75% reduced risk of collisions with sperm whales in the eastern Mediterranean](#)

- ▲ A whale and its calf swim together through the ocean.
- ◀ A surfacing Blue whale with an approaching tanker observed by Song of the Whale in Sri Lanka.



Photo: © IFAW

Section 5

marine mammal rescue

IFAW's Marine Mammal Rescue & Research (MMRR) programme is a world-recognised leader in stranding response. No location in the world sees more frequent mass strandings of dolphins than Cape Cod, Massachusetts, where IFAW's MMRR team is based. These events are not only a unique opportunity to rescue and provide cutting-edge veterinary care to these individual animals, but also to drive constant innovation and ground-breaking research that is shared with collaborators from around the world. This is a team of both local action and global impact.

In FY21, the team responded to 386 stranded marine mammals. This included responses to 137 live small cetaceans (including small whales, dolphins and porpoises), 106 of which were released back into the wild.

In addition to our hands-on work, IFAW's MMRR team trained and assisted other international response teams, thus improving the welfare, treatment and veterinary care of stranded marine mammals around the world. We also regularly engage and train passionate members of local communities to support rescue efforts as volunteer responders. It's a testament to what can be achieved for animals when we work together with the people living closest to them.

Photos in this section are of activities conducted under a federal stranding agreement between IFAW and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA).



Photo: © IFAW

Marine Mammal Rescue

a rescue story unlike any other: a 45-dolphin mass stranding event



Photo: © IFAW

In August 2020, IFAW's MMRR team responded to a report of a mass stranding in one of the trickiest areas of Wellfleet, Cape Cod, Massachusetts, a notorious stranding hotspot because of its hook-shaped topography and extreme tides. The team quickly realised the scope was **one of the largest single events in its 23-year history of marine mammal rescue—45 dolphins were out of water and exposed to the summer sun and heat.** Sadly, two had already died.

The team had to act quickly. It was not feasible to extract all 43 living animals from the mud and transport them to a more favourable location with open ocean access as is typically done. Instead, trained staff and volunteers had to quickly and skillfully adapt to the situation at hand.

The team worked tirelessly to extract the least stable animals two at a time, managing to get 11 animals into the veterinary trailer for much-needed clinical care. Due to the heat of the day and shock resulting from the stranding event, two animals had to be humanely euthanised to prevent further suffering.

At the same time, the team was providing supportive care to those animals still at the stranding site. Soon the tide changed and water returned enough that most of the dolphins were starting to refloat. They re-acclimated and started to swim on their own with the rising tide. Although the group was now swimming once again, the team knew that if they stayed in this precarious area, there was a good chance they might strand again. In order to give the dolphins the best chance of survival, response vessels were used to carefully herd them out to deeper water.

Despite the traumatic impacts of the stranding event, nine of the dolphins brought into the mobile clinic for care were deemed good release candidates and were transported to a suitable release location with easy access to deep water. **Exhausted yet determined, responders brought each animal down to the beach and released them back into the ocean.** As they swam off, every challenge faced that day faded away as the team watched nine remarkable, resilient animals swim out towards deeper waters and hopefully towards a successful second chance.

if you come across an entangled or stranded marine mammal, please stay back from the animal and contact your local stranding organisation

- ▲ Rescuers respond to the mass stranding event.
- ◀ Responders release a stranded dolphin into deeper waters following the mass stranding of 45 dolphins off Cape Cod.



Marine Mammal Rescue

the first-of-its-kind mobile veterinary clinic for marine mammals

After years of customising, testing and improvising with available equipment—and thanks to donor support in FY20—the IFAW MMRR team officially deployed “Moby,” a custom mobile veterinary clinic for marine mammals.

This one-of-a-kind vehicle took three years to design and build, merging IFAW’s extensive experience and understanding of the needs in marine mammal rescue with the brain trust of LDV, a company that builds incident command vehicles for first responders.

Moby was put to the test immediately after it arrived. The MMRR team was incredibly busy in March 2021, fondly referred to as “March madness” with more than 70 cases in a single month. In just one event, a total of nine common dolphins were transported together, given full health assessments and treated for dehydration and shock while on the road to a safer open-ocean release site. Thanks to Moby, dolphin pods such as these can be rescued together, thereby allowing them to survive and thrive together.

70

number of cases the MMRR team responded to in March 2021, fondly referred to as “March madness”.

▲ IFAW’s mobile veterinary clinic for marine mammals.



Marine Mammal Rescue

rescuing, rehabilitating and releasing entangled seals

IFAW’s MMRR team has pioneered new techniques to help rescue gray seals entangled in fishing gear. Tight wraps of netting around a seal’s neck become deadly as the seals grow and the gear cuts deeper. Our team intervenes to remotely sedate these animals so that they can be captured, disentangled and treated before being released back to the wild. These are the first-ever operations of their kind for seals and have mitigated negative human impacts to individual animals and their populations, improving animal welfare and supporting conservation.

In March 2021, IFAW’s MMRR team rescued a juvenile gray seal entangled in a

heavy fishing net in the Cape Cod Canal. After disentanglement and a health assessment, he was taken to IFAW partners at the National Marine Life Center’s rehabilitation hospital, where he more than doubled his weight from the time of rescue—to almost 45 kilograms (95 pounds)!

Atlas, named for the Titan forced to bear the weight of the heavens on his shoulders, was ready to be released in May 2021. He appeared healthy, robust and wasted little time making his way back to his ocean home. The hope is that Atlas will use the productive waters throughout the Gulf of Maine, or he may

decide to travel to other regions as well. With a temporary, specially-designed seal satellite tag, we tracked his movements in the initial weeks after his release and generated worldwide buzz as part of our Back to the Wild campaign.

▲ Atlas was rescued by MMRR on March 24, 2021, after he was spotted the previous evening entangled in fishing gear in Bourne, Massachusetts.



Photo: Andrea Spencer / © IFAW

Marine Mammal Rescue

large whales: always-on response and readiness

IFAW's ongoing response work for marine mammal rescue relies on constantly being prepared to deploy in the case of large whale strandings, rescue and disentanglement events.

In January 2020, following years of preparation, testing and practice, our MMRR team put our large whale remote drug delivery system to work for the first time. As part of a team convened by U.S. National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), IFAW staff deployed to Florida to successfully administer antibiotics to an injured newborn right whale calf that had been the victim of a ship strike. This was a groundbreaking event, as it was the first operation to remotely administer medication to a right whale calf. The species is one of the most endangered animals in the world, with fewer than 336 now remaining, and every individual matters more than ever. Our teams always strive to learn from all responses, even those that have

a negative outcome, so that we can innovate for the future. In November 2020, IFAW's MMRR team responded to a stranded humpback whale calf off Chatham, Massachusetts. Despite all the efforts of the team, the whale died, but the event prompted the team to look for new methods to rescue large whales. Weather and tide conditions were challenging, and the clock was ticking, but the animal otherwise appeared healthy. How might new efforts and solutions help in the future?

In May 2021, attempts were made to herd a pilot whale out of a shallow cove off New Bedford, Massachusetts. Eventually the whale stranded, and Dr. Sarah Sharp's examination further revealed its poor condition. Euthanasia was determined to be the most humane option, and analysis of the samples collected from the necropsy help to further our understanding in conserving these incredible animals.

Equipment for IFAW work related to large whale responses, remote drug delivery, necropsy work and more is supported by a grant from the Massachusetts Environmental Trust, which generates money by letting Massachusetts residents purchase special licence plates for their cars.

The team has not solved every challenge these animals face, but continuing our work helps drive constant innovation and groundbreaking research that can be shared with collaborators around the world.

▲ A staff member responds to the stranding of a humpback whale on Cape Cod.



Photo: © IFAW

Marine Mammal Rescue

sharing knowledge for animal welfare

Seal coexistence on 100 Cape Cod beaches

IFAW has provided beaches across Cape Cod, U.S. with signs that explain how people can enjoy the beach without disturbing wildlife. A total of 100 signs have been distributed to 14 towns and the Cape Cod National Seashore, a division of the U.S. National Parks Service. Through greater awareness of seal behaviour and habitat, the initiative aims to inspire community conversations around coexistence rather than conflict, understanding how to live harmoniously with wildlife in a human-dominated world.

International training brings success in Oman

Through the years IFAW's MMRR team has trained and advised response teams in more than 16 countries around the world, improving the welfare, rescue techniques

and veterinary care provided to stranded marine mammals. Five years after IFAW and the International Whaling Commission held disentanglement training in Oman, the country's Environment Authority successfully disentangled an endangered Arabian humpback whale in the Arabian Sea in January 2021. The whale was seen safely swimming back in deeper waters—a tremendous achievement made possible through collaboration.

Online veterinary education

In a continued effort to share IFAW expertise with the next generation, the MMRR team invested in video production of a complete dolphin necropsy (animal autopsy) for educational purposes via such groups as Cornell University's top-tier Aquavet training platform and beyond. The video will help train students, stranding responders and veterinarians around the world for years to come.

404

responses in FY21 (includes restranders and out-of-region assists)

16

satellite tags (1 seal, 15 cetaceans) areas with intensive shipping traffic

5

scientific publications on IFAW's work

▲ One of 100 signs now located across Cape Cod beaches, designed to increase community awareness about coexistence with seals.



wildlife rescue

IFAW's Wildlife Rescue team operates globally and strives to prevent the suffering and improve the welfare of individual animals. With 4,025 animals rescued and 1,989 animals released in FY21, our Wildlife Rescue programme continues to make excellent progress in achieving a better quality of life for wild animals around the world.

Although this programme centres on the rescue, rehabilitation and release of wildlife, a critical part in the success of our work is engaging with communities to facilitate a relationship where both people and animals thrive in their shared environment. Communities in and around the places where wildlife are rescued, rehabilitated and released play a crucial role in the survival of nearly every animal species on Earth.

helping one by one, because every animal matters



Rescuing Asiatic black bear cubs in India

The Center for Bear Rehabilitation and Conservation (CBRC) in northeast India, founded in 2002 with our partner Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) and the Arunachal Pradesh Forest Department, is a powerful example of how community engagement strengthens the reporting of injured or orphaned wildlife. **In FY21, five Asiatic black bear cubs were rescued and brought into care at CBRC.** Of those five, four were initially found by community members who then alerted local wildlife authorities who rescued the cubs and brought them to our CBRC facility. Not only did each bear cub survive, all five are on a journey back to the wild and are scheduled to be translocated into a forest pre-release site in FY22.

To date, IFAW-WTI has released 50 Asiatic black bears into the wild and each individual bear we rescue, rehabilitate and release plays a key role in the survival of their species.

IFAW-WTI also combats climate change and deforestation in communities throughout India with our cook stoves project, which provides alternative cooking solutions for local communities to reduce air pollutants released from wood burning stoves and to reduce further deforestation.

5

Asiatic black bear cubs rescued in FY21

50

Asiatic black bears released into the wild to date

▲ Vivek Menon feeds an Asiatic black bear cub.



Saving elephant calves in Zimbabwe

Our partner, Wild Is Life (WIL), received an urgent call to rescue an elephant calf in Zimbabwe's Hwange National Park. The calf, later named Samson, was found next to his mother who had died from a gunshot wound to her leg. Samson was safely captured by the team, sedated and transported to the ZEN-IFAW release facility in our Panda Masuie landscape project.

WIL-IFAW has secured a critical migratory corridor for elephants and other animals through the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA-

TFCA). We protect the long-term future of this vital forest reserve so that rescued elephants in Zimbabwe can return to a wild home. Samson has joined the release herd and found maternal comfort from the older females, Annabelle, Nkanyezi and Nora.

This year, IFAW was also proud to support Zimbabwe National Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZimParks) and The Dete Animal Rescue Trust (DART) in the lifesaving rescue operation to remove a snare from an elephant calf in Hwange National Park.

The rapid intervention, led by ZimParks and their veterinarian Dr. Kudzai Mupondi, was successful. DART immobilised the calf, removed the snare, which was made from telephone wire, and treated her wound. Shortly after the sedative reversal was administered, the calf was reunited with her mother, who had waited nearby, but distant enough that she did not need to be immobilised.

▲ An image of Samson, the rescued elephant calf, standing at the waterhole surrounded by the rest of the IFAW and ZEN release herd at Panda Masuie Forest Reserve.



Photo: © IFAW



Photo: © Wangshuang Zhou

Rescuing, rehabilitating and releasing raptors in Beijing

In March 2021 a pigeon keeper in Beijing trapped an eagle-owl that had been killing and eating his pigeons. He contacted the IFAW Beijing Raptor Rescue Center (BRRC) and asked for help in getting the animal released back into the wild. Our rehabilitators examined the eagle-owl, determined that it was in good health, rehabilitated it and then released it.

BRRC, the only designated rehabilitation facility for birds of prey in Beijing, has rescued 5,549 raptors since it was established in 2001. **Despite the continued impact of COVID-19 on operations, in FY21 the team brought 150 raptors (18 different species) into the facility for rehabilitation and care.**

Our centre receives raptors confiscated in illegal trade, but many reports, like the one from the pigeon keeper, come from

members of the community. In most cases, community members respond to injured or orphaned raptors with care and tolerance. In 2009, the city of Beijing began to compensate farmers for the loss of poultry and livestock caused by birds of prey—helping ensure that animals and people can continue to coexist and thrive.

BRRC also provides capacity building support to other rescue facilities and professionals to improve raptor rescue skills in China. In FY21, IFAW provided direct financial support to two organisations, helping them rescue 42 injured raptors and produce a Chinese and Tibetan bilingual manual on raptor rescue and rehabilitation. In addition, IFAW organised two trainings reaching more than 80 animal rescue professionals from 23 rescue centres of nine provinces of China.



150

raptors brought into care,
18 different species

▲ BRRC Rehabilitator, Lei Zhou, releases the northern goshawk back into the wild.

◀ BRRC Rehabilitator, Lei Zhou, opens the carrier box, releasing the common kestrel and it flies back into the wild.

returning to the wild

For many rescued animals, rehabilitation is a critical process with success or failure determining the ability of wildlife to thrive in the wild. We invest both in research and in a network of partners and experts to support individualised rehabilitation plans for orphaned, ill or injured animals. The ultimate success is when individual animals are released back to the wild. Here are some of the fantastic releases we celebrated this year.



Photo: © IFAW-WTI

Three rhinos getting ready for the wild

In India, three greater one-horned rhinos were translocated to a soft release enclosure in Manas National Park. All three rhinos, two females and a male, were rescued by IFAW-WTI during the 2019 Kaziranga floods in Assam, India. Each rhino was cleared for release before being loaded into individual crates and driven 400 kilometres to Manas National Park. The rhinos typically spend a few months in a soft release enclosure to allow them to acclimate to a new environment. Once ready, the rhinos are released into the park.

We have partnered with the Assam Forest Department and WTI since 2006 to reintroduce rhinos to Manas National Park. This project is the first attempt to re-establish the rhino population in Manas after losing an estimated 100 rhinos to poachers in the 1990s. IFAW-WTI took a unique approach of reintroducing rehabilitated rhinos that would otherwise have perished in annual floods instead of translocating healthy adults from other areas as had been done in the past. **The approach has been wildly successful, with more than 40 released rehabilitated rhinos living in Manas with their children and grandchildren**

▲ Kuthari, awake after being darted and loaded by a team from IFAW-WTI, inside the individual crate that will be used for translocation from the CWRC in Kaziranga National Park, Assam, India, to Manas National Park.



Photo: Lesanne Dunlop / © IFAW

Translocating six elephant calves in Zimbabwe

This year, six orphaned elephant calves at the Zimbabwe Elephant Nursery (ZEN) in Harare, Zimbabwe, were translocated 900 kilometres to a soft release facility in the Panda Masuie Forest Reserve. The translocation was planned by WIL founder, Roxy Danckwerts, and the welfare of each elephant was the priority for all teams. One of the elephants was Amira, an elephant calf who was found next to her deceased mother in Mana Pools National Park. Amira's rescue team arrived onsite by plane and included IFAW President & CEO Azzedine Downes. The team safely captured Amira and airlifted her to safety at ZEN.

Amira and five other orphans received thousands of hours of intense care and rehabilitation from the keepers at the ZEN facility and were prepared for the next step in their journey back to the wild. In Panda Masuie they will continue to develop the survival skills they need to live as wild elephants in a protected area.

◀ All hands on deck as the elephants are sedated.



Photo: © GRI/IFAW

Bringing two elephant calves closer to the wild

Two rescued elephant calves at the Elephant Orphanage Project (EOP) in Lusaka, Zambia, were translocated to

the soft release facility in Kafue National Park. Ludaka and Lufutuko (Tuko), have been in care at EOP, an elephant orphanage founded by our partner Game Rangers International (GRI). Both Ludaka and Tuko still have a long way to go until they are fully released, but this is an exciting and important next step in their journey back to the wild.

Together with GRI, we also celebrated the successful rehabilitation and release of our first male elephant, Batoka. After 11

years of care at the Kafue release facility, he joined a herd of wild elephants. We follow Batoka's progress via a GPS satellite collar that allows the team to closely monitor his movements to ensure that he's thriving in the wild.

▲ Batoka (left) socialising with two other orphaned elephants at a watering hole after returning to the GRI-EOP Release Facility in Kafue National Park, Zambia, following 14 months of being considered a wild elephant.



Photo: Joaquín De la Torre Ponce / © IFAW

Returning an injured jaguar to the wild

In Mexico, a male jaguar was injured by a car, suffering a shoulder fracture and lacerations. He was rescued and transferred to the Payo Obispo Zoo for assessment and rehabilitation. As Covi's fracture healed, the team monitored and cared for him with minimal human interaction to reduce the risk that he would lose his fear of humans. Covi completed his recovery and demonstrated that he had maintained excellent hunting skills, so in June 2021, he was fitted with a GPS satellite tracking collar and released back to the wild. Data

from the tracking collar showed that three months after release Covi was integrating back into the wild, staying near the release area and not approaching any human settlements.

This success is a milestone example of collaboration between our team, government authorities, the scientific sector and local communities. The collaboration included our wildlife rescue experts, the Payo Obispo Zoo, the National Alliance for Jaguar Conservation (ANCIJ), the Federal Attorney for

Environmental Protection (PROFEPA), the State of Quintana Roo Attorney for Environmental Protection (PPA) and the Biodiversity and Natural Protected Areas of the State of Quintana Roo (IBANQROO).

▲ As seen through a ventilation hole in the IFAW-sponsored wooden cage, Covi is awake and looking up towards the top of the cage with his mouth open. He wears a satellite collar provided by the Mexican Alliance for the Conservation of Jaguars.



Photo: © SANCCOB

Supporting wildlife rescue during climate change

Climate change is having a dramatic impact on animals and has exacerbated the existing threats to many species. Our frontline rescue teams, who work in wild spaces every day, have encountered the effects of climate change in the natural world. From depleted availability of food and water resources to changes in breeding patterns, the impact of climate change is growing, further straining already threatened species.

In FY21, we supported our partner, The Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds (SANCCOB), in a mammoth operation to rescue, rehabilitate and release more than a thousand endangered Cape Cormorant chicks. This was our biggest seabird rescue event for South Africa in 20 years.

More than 2,000 chicks, some as young as two weeks old, were rescued after being found abandoned by their parents.

The cause of the mass abandonment is suspected to be lack of food due to low levels of small pelagic fish stocks and a mismatch in timing of breeding and hot weather conditions. With predicted increases in heat events due to climate change, which will also further negatively affect fish availability, these mass abandonments may become more frequent. Due to the skill of our partners at SANCCOB, more than 1,090 of the rescued chicks were released back to the wild.



2,000

abandoned chicks rescued

▲ An endangered Cape Cormorant chick is rehabilitated.



Photo: Jessica Boklan / © IFAW

Wildlife Rescue

better lives for animals

Wildlife populations are being decimated worldwide because wild animals are targeted for the exotic pet trade and for their body parts. Illegal wildlife trade poses a serious threat to our world's declining biodiversity and must be stopped.

▲ A chameleon kept as a pet.



Photo: © IFAW-WTI

Helping seized animals

Our Live Animals Seized in Trade (LAST) aims to provide sustainable solutions for live wild animals seized or confiscated from illegal trade. We have been awarded a grant, with Freeland Foundation (lead organisation) and WWF, from the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) for the Targeting Regional Investigations for Policing Opportunities and Development (TRIPOD) project.

Together with Freeland and WWF, we aim to disrupt the illegal wildlife trade in Malaysia, the Philippines and Indonesia by providing species ID technology to accurately and quickly identify and care for confiscated wildlife and, ideally, repatriate wildlife to their original wild homes. Additionally, we will train frontline enforcement staff on protocols and tools for handling confiscated wildlife safely and humanely.

◀ A Slow Loris rescued from Borgang received treatment at the IFAW-WTI Mobile Veterinary Service (MVS) field station, Arunachal, Assam.

Providing relief for zoos caught in crisis

In 2020, as the crisis in Yemen unfolded, we provided relief to the Sana'a and Taiz zoos. The welfare of carnivores in these zoos was deeply impacted by the ongoing civil war. Our support provided food, veterinary care and better living conditions for the carnivores, including 14 lions and 34 endangered Arabian leopards, at the Taiz zoo. Due to challenges on the ground and COVID-19 restrictions, additional support of the Sana'a zoo was not possible. As a result of our efforts, more than 80 animals received better care, food and medical supplies. Moreover, IFAW also supported the restoration and improvement of enclosures to secure better shelter and living conditions for these animals.

► One of the Arabian leopards at Taiz Zoo in Yemen where IFAW works to alleviate the stress of the carnivores.

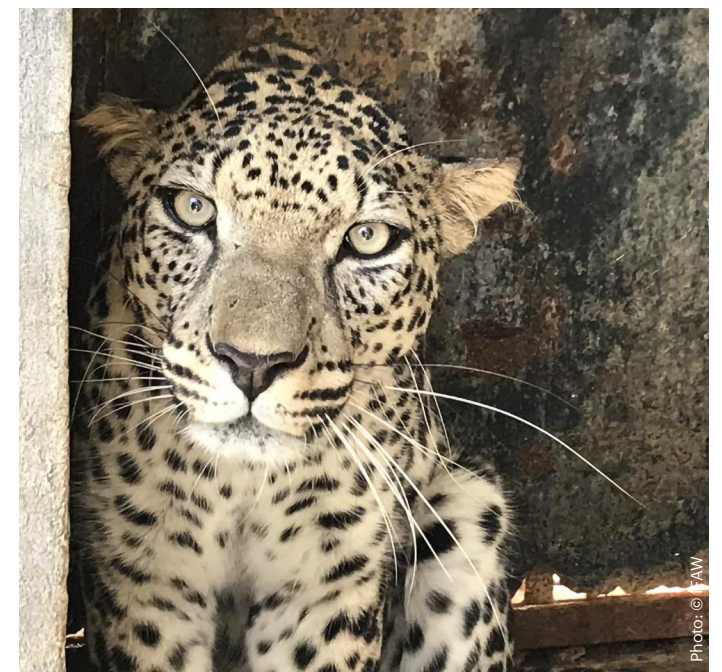


Photo: © IFAW



Photo: Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge

Helping big cats in the US

In the U.S. we continue to help big cat sanctuaries prepare for new rescues, improve sanctuary practices related to animal care and financial sustainability, and advocate for the end of private ownership and commercial exploitation of big cats like tigers and lions. Weak regulation makes it impossible to know how many big cats (lions, tigers, leopards, snow leopards, clouded leopards, cheetahs, jaguars, cougars and hybrids) live in captivity in the U.S., but estimates are around 10,000. Many of the facilities housing these big cats are not accredited zoos or bona fide sanctuaries. They are kept as pets or in roadside menageries in circumstances that are dangerous for both people and animals.

For more than a decade, IFAW has worked with the sanctuary community to identify bona fide sanctuaries, assist them to improve and increase capacity and to rescue, and provide lifetime care with good welfare for surrendered or confiscated animals. For example, the Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance (BCSA), which grew from our big cat workshops and conferences and which we continue to support, hosts conferences, drafts best practice manuals and develops mechanisms for sanctuaries to collaborate on rescues.

IFAW continues advocating for the Big Cat Public Safety Act, which will provide stronger legal protection for big cats.

Encouraging progress was made in FY21 with the Act successfully reintroduced in the U.S. House and Senate.

▲ The cats enjoy a carefree life at their home with an in-ground pool, which all three tigers love to swim and play in when they aren't relaxing and laying in the sun.



Photo: Dominica Mack / © IFAW

Improving animal welfare through expanded veterinary care in Australia

To improve the welfare outcomes and release rates for rescued wildlife, we ensured animals had access to specialised veterinarians and vet nurses to receive immediate and life-saving care 24/7. This included sponsoring the critical work of a full-time veterinary team at Friends of the Koala in NSW, Australia. Our support enabled the team to provide immediate life-saving treatment and care to injured, sick or orphaned koalas. This is more important than ever because this iconic animal faces an increased risk of local extinction from bushfires, climate change and habitat loss in NSW. The specialist vet team treated 326 koalas in FY21, releasing more than 100 back into the wild.

We also funded the veterinary team at Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary in Tasmania, allowing the wildlife hospital that IFAW helped build to operate five days a week. By increasing veterinary capacity at the

hospital, we improved welfare outcomes and release rates of rescued wildlife that came into care. Doing so ultimately gave wildlife in care a critical second chance at life back in the wild. In FY21, the specialised vet team treated 950 animals including the endangered wedge-tailed eagle, the endangered Tasmanian devil and the eastern quoll, with 406 animals being released back into the wild.

IFAW and the University of the Sunshine Coast's (USC) koala detection dog Bear continues to respond to requests from individuals and wildlife groups to rescue and survey koalas in the wild. Bear's help in the field is significant because he can smell what people cannot see. We work with our partners at the USC Detection Dogs for Conservation to help find and rescue koalas. Detection dogs, together with drone technology, greatly increase koala detection rates, which is vital during rescues.



326
koalas treated by vets in NSW

950
animals treated by specialised vet team in Tasmania

▲ IFAW-sponsored vet nurse at Friends of the Koala, Marley Christian, treating a koala with an eye injury.



Photo: Melanie Mahoney / © IFAW



Photo: Ghislain Some / © IFAW

Wildlife Rescue

innovation in the search for an orphaned elephant's herd

In a research first, we are one step closer to identifying the family herd of our rescued elephant calf, Nania. She was rescued by local community members when she was found wandering near Boromo in Burkina Faso in 2017 when she was just two months old. Our team was approached to provide long-term support for her rehabilitation and release back to the wild.

Over the last few years, we collected DNA samples from the dung of both Nania and wild elephants travelling through Deux Balés National Park (Burkina Faso). The 17 samples were processed and analysed at the lab of Dr. Sam Wasser, Director of the Center for Conservation Biology at the University of Washington. The lab typically uses DNA from elephant dung to map elephant movements and highlight poaching hotspots in Africa. This was the first time Dr. Wasser and his team analysed DNA with the aim of identifying the family herd of an orphaned calf.

Incredibly, the analysis determined that one of the elephants in the park is likely Nania's mother or less likely, a half-sibling. Since no elephant carcass was located near where Nania was found, our team and consulting experts believe that Nania's mother, grandmother and cousin are probably still alive, which raises hope that we will be able to reunite her with her family herd.

The analysis also confirmed Nania is an African forest elephant (*Loxodonta cyclotis*), a species of elephant that is critically endangered. Previously, all African elephants were considered a single species. However, in March 2021 the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) recognised forest elephants and Savannah elephants (*Loxodonta africana*) as different species, based on genetic data.

Nania's mother, grandmother and cousin are probably still alive.

▲ One of Nania's keepers, Abdoulaye, collects dung samples to be used for DNA testing in hopes of locating genetic matches to Nania's DNA.

◀ Nania enjoying a mud-bath before her translocation.



Photo: Julia Guines / © IFAW

Section 7

disaster response

Disaster events continue to increase in both frequency and severity around the world, unleashing devastation at a level we have not seen before. Humans are not alone in facing the immediate and long-term effects of these ongoing natural disasters—animals share our same burdens.

IFAW has witnessed first-hand the escalating intensity and destructiveness of natural disasters, whether a hurricane, an earthquake or a wildfire; these events are devastating to both people and animals. Our team of dedicated and trained experts operates globally to offer immediate emergency support when disasters hit and to develop resiliency planning in high-risk communities.

escalating threats

Anthropogenic drivers of climate change are contributing to the increasingly destructive impact of natural disasters on our world, which is putting added pressure on already-dwindling resources. In FY21, our Disaster Response programme was busy around the world helping animals and people in the face of current disasters, from wildfires to cyclones, while also preparing for disasters of the future. We cannot solve this alone, but as an organisation, we work to address every climate touch point possible.



Photo: Hunter Wildlife

Providing critical support for animals in Australia

In Australia, the east coast of the country was significantly impacted by prolonged heavy rain, strong winds and floods. This disaster impacted native wildlife, especially burrowing animals such as wombats. Many animals were displaced from their homes and injured while seeking shelter. We worked with our partners to provide critical emergency support for wombats and other native wildlife in need of care. Our team helped secure food, medication and rescue equipment, and covered transport costs for the teams who rescued orphaned or injured wildlife.

Severe weather impacted the coast of Victoria with smashing waves and strong winds. Our team immediately prepared for any requests for support and reached out to our partners for any unmet needs. Our partner, Mosswood Wildlife, reported a higher number of penguins in need of care and anticipated an even greater influx of penguins as the extreme weather system progressed. We worked closely with the team to provide the emergency care and supplies needed for rescued penguins.

◀ Annie is a rednecked wallaby joey whose mother was killed on a flooded road in Wollombi.



Photo: Julia Cumres / © IFAW

Rescuing and caring for animals during the California wildfires

The California North Complex fires demonstrated a clear increase in the voracity of natural and man-made disaster events. At the request of our partner, North Valley Animal Disaster Group (NVADG), our team supported animal search and rescue, emergency sheltering and emergency operations centre planning and logistics across Butte County.

This was the worst fire season on record for the state. The North Complex fires burned at a rate of four square kilometres (1,000 acres) every 30 minutes. We worked with NVADG to rescue and care for more than 600 animals.

600

animals rescued and cared for

▶ Responders conduct animal search and rescue during the North Complex Fire in California.

Restoring coral damaged by a hurricane

During the 2020 hurricane season, our team provided critical assistance to the Colombian Archipelago of San Andrés, Providencia and Santa Catalina. This group of islands in the southwestern Caribbean suffered destructive impact from hurricanes Iota and Eta. The eye of Hurricane Iota caused historical devastation resulting in nearly 100% destruction across a 40-mile region near Providencia.

Our partner, Blue Indigo Foundation (BIF), assessed the damage to four coral reefs and requested emergency support for coral restoration, including debris removal, relocation and nursery installation. This project is an initiative with our Marine Conservation team, pointing to the importance of cross-programmatic collaboration in IFAW.

▶ Turtle swimming upwards along a coral wall.



Photo: © Vanessa Mignon



Photo: ©Dmitry Tonkopi

Responding to volcanic eruptions

Two volcanoes, one on the island of St. Vincent and one in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, violently erupted, spewing ash and toxic gases that caused thousands to evacuate.

LaSoufrière volcano on St. Vincent erupted in April 2021 and forced 16,000 people to evacuate. We immediately reached out to the Ministry of Agriculture and the Vincenian Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (VSPCA) to provide remote disaster management guidance, logistical support, and food, fresh water and supplies for dogs, cats and small pets.

When Mount Nyiragongo in the Democratic Republic of the Congo suddenly erupted, it displaced 30,000 people as large rivers of lava flowed towards the city of Goma. Following the eruption, a 4.7 magnitude earthquake struck the city, causing damage to roads, buildings and homes. We supported Sauvons Nos Animaux (SNA), an animal rescue organisation located near Goma, to conduct a rapid needs assessment across impacted communities in the region.

51,499

companion animals helped in FY21

4,637

livestock helped in FY21

10,000

bees helped in FY21

3,805

wild animals helped in FY21

▲ Clouds of ash over the volcanic Caribbean island of Saint Vincent after the eruption of La Soufrière volcano in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.



Photo: © BAWA

Disaster Response

creating a safer world

In FY21, IFAW launched an exciting initiative, the Risk Assessment & Mapping Project (RAMP) in partnership with our country offices and regional partners. With these assessments, our goal is to position our team and partners to be able to act quickly and precisely when disasters occur and minimise the disaster's impact on animals and people through risk reduction initiatives. So far, RAMP assessments for countries including The Bahamas, Barbados, Cambodia, Dominica, France, Germany, Laos, Mexico, the Netherlands, and Thailand have begun and have already influenced policy actions that include animals in disaster planning.

In Australia, we recognised a critical need to further develop disaster preparedness plans among local wildlife caregivers and rescue groups. IFAW held its first virtual training workshop for our partner, Friends of the Koala in New South Wales, where we guided the team in creating their own emergency evacuation plan to help them better prepare for disasters.

Most countries around the world continued to be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and we received an overwhelming number of requests for emergency grant funds and operational guidance. Our primary goal was to help our partners, their teams and facilities safely serve during the pandemic. We addressed various requests from several organisations based in Thailand, Democratic Republic of Congo and the U.S.

We continue to work with communities near Mt. Agung in Indonesia, building community resilience for future disaster events. Following deadly mudslides, community members organised and hosted an event for National Disaster Preparedness Day, which included inviting the National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB) to launch a new forage nursery by engaging the community to plant soil-stabilising trees. These trees will be planted as part of a restorative initiative in mudslide-prone areas. This project demonstrated how nature-based solutions and cross-programmatic initiatives can lead to positive actions that reduce the risks associated with climate change in communities where we work.

4

rescue vehicles and 1 animal rescue trailer provided to our partners

▲ Representatives from Ban Village, Kubu Police, and Kubu District listen to a member of IFAW / BAWA Foundation's Disaster Response and Risk Reduction programme.

keeping families together



Photo: © Animals Lebanon



Photo: © Animals Lebanon



Photo: © Animals Lebanon

With the COVID-19 pandemic affecting economies around the globe, IFAW saw a need to help families—people and their beloved animals—stay together by providing urgent veterinary care assistance and pet food distribution. This effort was an extension of our COVID-19 relief work in FY20, called Keeping Families Together. In FY21, our goal was to provide pet food, pet supplies or veterinary support at a greatly reduced cost so families experiencing hardship would not have to relinquish their furry family members. In total, we helped more than 18,000 animals through this initiative.

Early in the pandemic, IFAW and our partners in the U.S. focused on west coast communities and then assisted communities in Mississippi later in 2021. IFAW’s disaster programme has deep roots in the Mississippi area and we worked with our team on the ground there to assess needs and to intervene for the benefit of families and their pets. IFAW’s compassionate efforts ranging from food distribution to veterinary care and beyond were critical for the community to help weather such difficult circumstances.

Planning for disasters

As a founding member of the National Animal Rescue and Sheltering Coalition (NARSC) in the U.S., IFAW worked with coalition partners as well as state and federal authorities to understand more about COVID-19 virus biology and its effect on pets. These efforts continued in tandem with our outreach efforts on

disaster response and preparedness during the challenges of a global pandemic when travel was severely limited. IFAW led training sessions and participated in seminars to assist state preparation in disaster planning and management during a pandemic, while also working with NARSC partners to develop new emergency sheltering guidelines and other valuable resources.

Recovering from disaster in Beirut

In August 2020, Beirut, Lebanon, experienced a devastating explosion that impacted a six-mile radius around the city’s port. While humanitarian relief agencies rushed to help people affected by the blast, our partner, Animals Lebanon, began to rescue animals and prepare their facilities for an influx of animals in need. We have worked with Animals Lebanon for several years and immediately reached out to make sure their team was safe and to offer our support.

Animals Lebanon reported their office was dangerously close to the blast and suffered a tremendous amount of damage, yet within two hours they had already started to save many animal survivors. Their team worked 24/7 to rescue pets and other animals. In addition to animal search and rescue efforts, Animals Lebanon created a dispatch for owners to report lost pets or inquire if their pet was among those the team had rescued. They received more than 430 requests for help

and 320 volunteers worked to search, rescue and care for animals. Eighty-six animals received emergency veterinary care. In just a few days, several dozen pets were reunited with their families.

This is the work that keeps us going—seeing families reunited so they can comfort each other as they recover together.

5,056

families benefited

18,000+

animals helped

- ▲ Crates are prepared for Animals Lebanon rescue teams following the explosion at the Port of Beirut on 4 August 2020.
- ▲ Some of the devastation in the aftermath of the explosion.
- ◀ A cat is spotted by the Animals Lebanon rescue team in a destroyed building in Beirut, Lebanon.

innovation in studying post-release koalas



This year, we supported two studies focused on the post-rehabilitation survival of released koalas in eastern Australia. **These studies filled a significant and long-standing knowledge gap in the wildlife rehabilitation space about the survival success and welfare outcomes of rehabilitated koalas in the wild.**

Monitoring bushfire-affected koalas in Victoria

In our continued work to rebuild after the catastrophic Black Summer bushfires of 2019–2020, we provided critical funding towards Zoos Victoria’s study into the post-release survival, health and welfare of 14 fire-affected koalas following rehabilitation.

Zoos Victoria released the koalas, each fitted with radio and GPS collars, back into the wild in eastern Victoria in December 2020 and monitored their health for several months. We specifically supported the veterinary aspect of this project, which allowed specialist vets to track these koalas and conduct critical health checks.

The findings of this study, the first of its kind in Victoria, will be published in a peer-reviewed journal to help wildlife rehabilitators across Australia understand the behaviours and welfare outcomes of bushfire-affected koalas that have been rehabilitated and released into the wild.

Monitoring rehabilitated koalas in New South Wales

We also worked with Science for Wildlife in their study, which is being undertaken in partnership with the National Parks and Wildlife Service with support from the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment under the NSW Koala Strategy. This study radio-tracked released rehabilitated koalas in the Greater Western Sydney region of NSW.

Through our support of and involvement in this study, the first of its kind in the region, we aim to help inform the sector’s understanding of the factors contributing to a koala’s successful reintegration in the wild.

IFAW and NSW government funding allowed for the extension of this critical project and the purchase of a drone to assist the team in radio-tracking koalas in remote areas. Our support has allowed the team to better understand what actions can be implemented during the rehabilitation process to ensure koalas survive and thrive when released back into the wild.

As we continue to rescue, rehabilitate and release koalas back into the wild, these projects will aid us in understanding the best practices and protocols that we can implement to help koalas survive and thrive in the wild.

▲ Toby the koala being released by Zoos Victoria Senior Veterinarian Dr Leanne Wicker.

◀ Wally, a recently rehabilitated and released male koala, perches on a tree in Mt. Riverview in the Lower Blue Mountains, New South Wales, Australia.



Photo: B. Hollweg / © IFAW

Section 8

international policy

IFAW actively engages in advocacy work both nationally and internationally because when we talk about secure habitats for the places animals call home, we mean more than just security on the ground or in the water. Unless animals and their habitats are protected in law and policies, we cannot be sure these places will stay secure over time.

IFAW has long participated in the workings of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), International Whaling Commission (IWC), International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and other intergovernmental agreements and institutions with environmental and animal welfare aspects. We send representatives to meetings of these MEAs to ensure their decisions are in the best interests of the world's wildlife and habitats.

The global pandemic affected many of these meetings in FY20 and continued to lead to postponements of in-person meetings in FY21, although some have taken place remotely. IFAW's vital international policy work has adapted to these challenges as we continue to advocate for positive change for some of our most vulnerable species and threatened habitats.

continuing international policy work during COVID-19



Photo: © Guy Stevens



Photo: © Alejandro Prieto

Although many decision-making meetings of international policy forums were postponed during FY21 due to the ongoing global pandemic, important implementation of previous international policy decisions was put into practice for wildlife and habitats.

IFAW experts provided implementation assistance and technical advice to 22 governments during this period across most of IFAW's programme of work. Issues ranged from connectivity to migratory species and from wildlife cybercrime to other aspects of illegal wildlife trade. IFAW and partners have continued to assist with the implementation of CITES listings for sharks and rays. For example, we've provided technical expertise on developing sustainable trade limits of listed species in the Middle East and North Africa as well as Latin America. We've also supported governments such as Costa Rica and Colombia as they develop stricter regulations and catch prohibitions for the most threatened shark species in their waters, with the aim to host implementation and enforcement workshops for these new measures in 2022.

IFAW's continued work on Operation Jaguar has supported jaguar range states in their efforts to implement and enforce

the CMS Appendix I listing that took place in February 2020 and decisions on jaguar trade from the last CITES Conference.

The IUCN World Conservation Congress was postponed due to the pandemic, but many motions were discussed and voted on virtually in October 2020. Successes included the adoption of the IFAW-drafted Resolution on Wildlife Cybercrime, but IFAW also championed other key subjects during the online vote. Of note, IFAW co-sponsored and supported adopted resolutions to address priority conservation issues such as ensuring the inclusion of ocean mitigation and adaptation issues in broader climate change discussions, recognising the importance of ecological corridors for sustaining biodiversity, and calling for greater protections for threatened marine species from accidental capture in fishing gear.

In addition, many intersessional meetings of the main forums took place virtually, including meetings of CITES, CMS, CBD and IWC, with IFAW policy experts taking part remotely to lend their expertise and ensure progress in key areas.

Some outcomes of note included our work to encourage governments to commit to an ambitious Post-2020 Global

Biodiversity framework that includes meaningful goals and metrics to halt biodiversity loss, improve ecosystem health and connectivity, and develop adequate funding mechanisms to implement the Framework once developed. We made recommendations that CITES Parties analyse the potential for the occurrence of illegal trade of oceanic whitetip sharks outside of compliance with its Appendix II listing. We also joined the new CITES Working Group on the role of CITES in reducing zoonotic disease risk.

Although virtual sessions of international policy meetings have raised their own set of difficulties, progress has been made, even when meeting in person was not possible. We look forward to continuing our partnerships with governments, NGOs and intergovernmental organisations at in-person meetings, whenever they can take place again.

- ▲ Two female jaguar cubs that were rescued by Mexican authorities in Campeche, a state in Mexico.
- ◀ Spot patterns visible on the underside of a reef manta ray, North Male Atoll, Maldives.



International Policy

addressing wildlife cybercrime at a global policy level

The [IUCN World Conservation Congress \(WCC\)](#), scheduled for June 2020, was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but the [Congress](#) held online discussions and voted on most motions in late 2020.

Unlike other international policy fora, [NGOs](#) can vote and submit motions for discussion and adoption at [IUCN WCCs](#). IFAW led the effort, which secured the successful adoption of a motion on wildlife cybercrime, focused on combating the sale of illegal wildlife products online. It aims to strengthen the earlier commitments of [CITES Parties](#) and others, highlighting the issue and calling for action to prevent animals and their parts from being traded on a vast scale online.

The IFAW-drafted motion *Implementing international efforts to combat the sale of illegal wildlife products online*, ultimately passed to become a resolution in November 2020, via online electronic voting with support from more than 130 governments and nearly all NGOs that voted.

Now adopted, the [IUCN Commissions](#) are called to convene a cross-sector workshop, review national legislation, make recommendations for best practices and assist in raising awareness for cybercrime prevention. In addition, the resolution calls on governments to join the [Global Wildlife Cybercrime Action Plan](#), engage with the private sector, take measures to raise public awareness and strengthen their laws and enforcement efforts.

The IUCN's global convening power and influence is well-placed to further enhance efforts to combat wildlife cybercrime by encouraging the necessary collaboration between sectors, reinforce initiatives and further the important work that has taken place to date on this issue by IFAW and others.

▲ Cheetah and lion cub seizures in Jordan.



International Policy

better protecting marine biodiversity

IFAW, supported by the [Pew Charitable Trusts](#), held a [Virtual Regional Workshop](#) with marine protection experts and regional decision-makers for 87 participants from [Middle East and North African governments](#) in January 2021 to highlight the need to include comprehensive management of marine biodiversity under the [Convention on Biological Diversity \(CBD\)](#).

The purpose of the workshop was to provide opportunities for collaboration in the [Middle East and North Africa](#) to support calls for a robust 2030 target to increase protection of the ocean and marine biodiversity. *Ensuring commitment under the CBD for strong ocean and marine biodiversity management is essential to conserve ocean life from the effects of human activities as well as to mitigate the effects of global climate change.*

During the pandemic, we have become well versed in hosting virtual workshops to continue to gather governments together and progress critical negotiations. We received very positive feedback from participants, who in addition to supporting the subject matter, praised the technical features and organisation of the workshops.

Of note, governments voiced the need for a financial plan on how any established protected areas will be financed, and additional guidelines around establishing an effective protected area and improving cooperation between regional governments.

The workshop concluded with statements on the increasing importance of establishing effective marine protected areas—with several participants noting the rapidly increasing threats to biological

diversity, such as climate change, and plastic and oil pollution—and establishing plans for IFAW to host future gatherings to further expand on discussions held at this workshop.

▲ A hammerhead shark at night.



International Policy in European Union

European Parliament report on the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2030

Following the publication of the new EU Biodiversity Strategy, during the first half of 2021, the European Parliament worked on a report to provide specific recommendations for the implementation of the Strategy. This offered the opportunity to include crucial commitments to protect the EU's marine and terrestrial biodiversity, ecosystems and environment, while ensuring that adequate tools and resources are made available.

Because some important elements were missing or only partially covered in the first draft of the European Parliament's report, IFAW joined forces with other EU conservation and animal advocacy NGOs to work with Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and political advisors of the various involved Committees to influence the drafting process. Through two position papers and our recommendations for amendments to the draft report, IFAW stressed the need to incorporate lessons learned from the SARS-CoV-2 outbreak into the Biodiversity

Strategy, by switching from a "reactive" model to a "proactive" and precautionary model. This would initiate a decisive change of the EU policies away from the exploitation of wildlife for domestic and international trade.

In January 2021, IFAW co-organised an event to launch a joint NGO paper on EU marine biodiversity. This included a press briefing to create awareness about how key marine policy gaps in the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 can be overcome, and present NGO recommendations for areas of improvement to the EU Parliament Report. During the event, IFAW presented its recommendations to reduce underwater noise pollution, which negatively affects whales, dolphins, porpoises, fish and other marine life. Finally, before the Parliament's vote on the amendments, we submitted detailed voting recommendations.

We wholeheartedly welcomed the report adopted in June 2021, because it included

most of our key recommendations. MEPs called for the protection of at least 30% of the EU's land and sea by 2030 and for the stricter protection of at least a third of these areas. Importantly, the report stressed that the EU must lead efforts to end the commercial trade in endangered species and their parts. Finally, following our recommendations, the report noted the critical importance of whale populations to marine ecosystems and carbon sequestration. It strongly supported continuing the global moratorium on commercial whaling and banning international commercial trade in whale products, and urged Norway and Japan to cease whaling operations.

The European Commission is expected to provide a written answer to the European Parliament's report in 2022.

▲ The European Parliament building in Brussels, Belgium.



International Policy in European Union

advocating against EU ivory trade

In October 2020, the European Commission presented and discussed their new proposal concerning EU rules on ivory with a wide range of stakeholders. IFAW and other NGOs sounded the alarm bell that this proposal is weaker than an earlier version, which the Commission presented in 2019, and that it would effectively permit intra-EU ivory trade to continue unhindered. In November 2020, the cross-party parliamentary interest group MEPs For Wildlife organised a webinar, with the

support of IFAW, Humane Society International (HSI) and other conservation groups. The session brought together members of the European Commission, law enforcement, researchers, NGOs and other stakeholders to discuss the closure the EU domestic ivory market.

In January 2021, the Commission finally made public its propositions regarding new measures to ban ivory trade and submitted them for public consultation. This new proposal was an encouraging

step forward because it had been substantially modified to include some of the feedback IFAW had previously shared. These draft measures, if passed, would effectively ban the trade in ivory in the EU with limited exceptions. The final announcement is expected in November 2021.

▲ Ivory destroyed by the French government following an important seizure in 2014.



Photo: B. Hollweg / © IFAW

International Policy in European Union

advocating for stronger EU legislation against online wildlife crime

The world's most endangered species are under threat from the online trade. The scale and anonymous nature of online trafficking means it is essential that tech companies and national authorities take charge in detecting and disrupting online wildlife criminals.

An opportunity for effective change in [EU legislation](#) arose in 2020, when the [European Commission](#) proposed two legislative initiatives to upgrade rules governing digital services in the EU: the [Digital Services Act \(DSA\)](#) and the [Digital Markets Act \(DMA\)](#). These should form a single set of new rules applicable across the whole EU to create a safer and more open digital space.

In December 2020 and as part of the DSA package, the European Commission

published a draft [Regulation](#) that primarily concerns online intermediaries and platforms and proposes new and revised rules to deepen the internal market for digital services. The [European Parliament](#) started to work on amendments to the Commission's text in 2021 and their final version will be voted in [Plenary](#) in December 2021.

Building on the experience on this topic gained through our work with the [Coalition to End Wildlife Trafficking Online](#), IFAW works with MEPs to ensure that the final text of the DSA Regulation provides stricter and harmonised rules and mechanisms to prevent illegal wildlife trade online.

Although the European Commission proposal is a good step in the right

direction, IFAW believes that improvements are needed and we urge MEPs to support amendments that include a clear liability regime for marketplaces and imply more protection from harmful or illegal trade, making the detection of illegal wildlife products and law enforcement easier. In addition, it is crucial to ensure that service providers take quick and effective measures within a short time, not only to remove illegal content from their services but also to ensure that such content remains inaccessible after being removed.

▲ A family of black rhinos with a calf.



Photo: Dreamstines / © Paurgrecard

International Policy in European Union

lobbying for increased EU funding for climate action and biodiversity

The [EU](#) is the world's largest aid donor and a major political actor with strong influence on global policies. IFAW welcomed the external dimension of the [European Green Deal](#) as an important tool to align the EU's global development, climate and biodiversity policies. Together with other environmental and climate NGOs, IFAW lobbied over three years for a comprehensive target for 50% of spending/aid provided under the EU's [Neighbourhood, Development, and International Cooperation Instrument \(NDICI\)](#) to be spent on climate and environment issues, with 10% specifically for biodiversity conservation. In [December 2020, a political agreement was achieved on NDICI funding worth EUR70.8 billion, including an increased 30% climate action target, and a biodiversity spending target of 7.5% by 2024 and 10% from 2026.](#)

We then got to work with our regional and country offices in [Africa](#), [Asia](#), the [Caribbean](#), and [Latin America](#) to input into the programmatic spending consultations between the EU and third countries to provide comprehensive, local feedback and justifications for biodiversity spending.

The [NDICI-Global Europe regulation](#) came into force in June 2021. It includes the [Global Challenges programme](#) to drive the EU's global leadership in addressing the interlinked challenges the world is facing, such as biodiversity loss, deforestation and climate change. The COVID-19 pandemic serves as a dramatic wake-up call that the emergence of zoonotic disease from the destruction and exploitation of wildlife can have profound socioeconomic costs.

It is vital the [NDICI-Global Europe Instrument](#) provide adequate funding to ongoing and future global biodiversity, environment and climate action to ensure a post-COVID-19 green recovery. IFAW continues to work with a coalition to hold the EU accountable for delivering global commitments to climate and biodiversity, including the [Paris Agreement](#), the [2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) and the upcoming [Global Biodiversity Framework](#).

▲ Waving EU flags in front of the European Commission in Brussels, Belgium.

summary financial statements

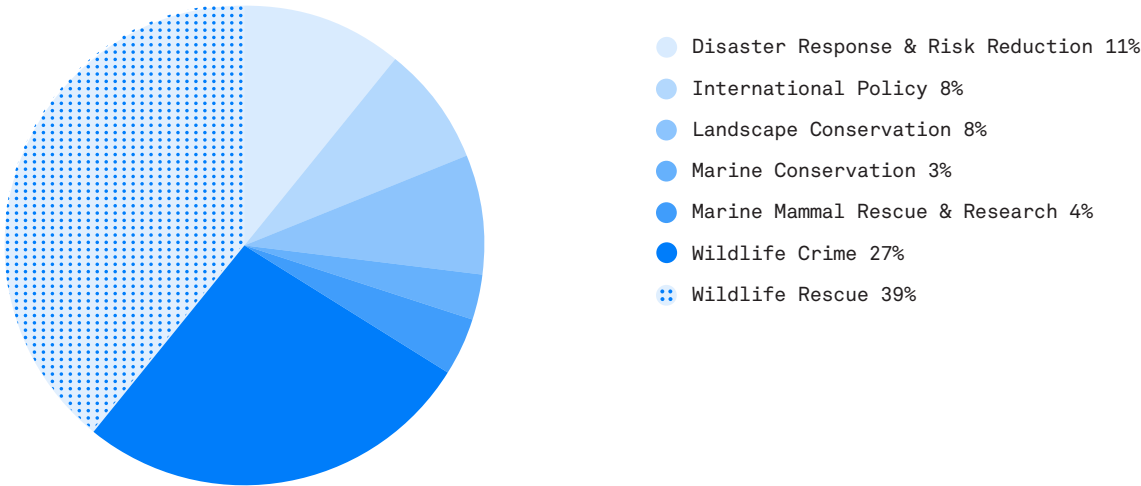
IFAW donors and supporters include individuals, corporations, foundations, communities and governments. Our work and the progress we are making together is only possible thanks to this continued support. As we reflect on what we achieved in FY21, we want to extend another heartfelt thanks to all those who have supported us and shared our vision of animals and people thriving together.

worldwide and country specific financial overview

Germany* programme priority expenditures

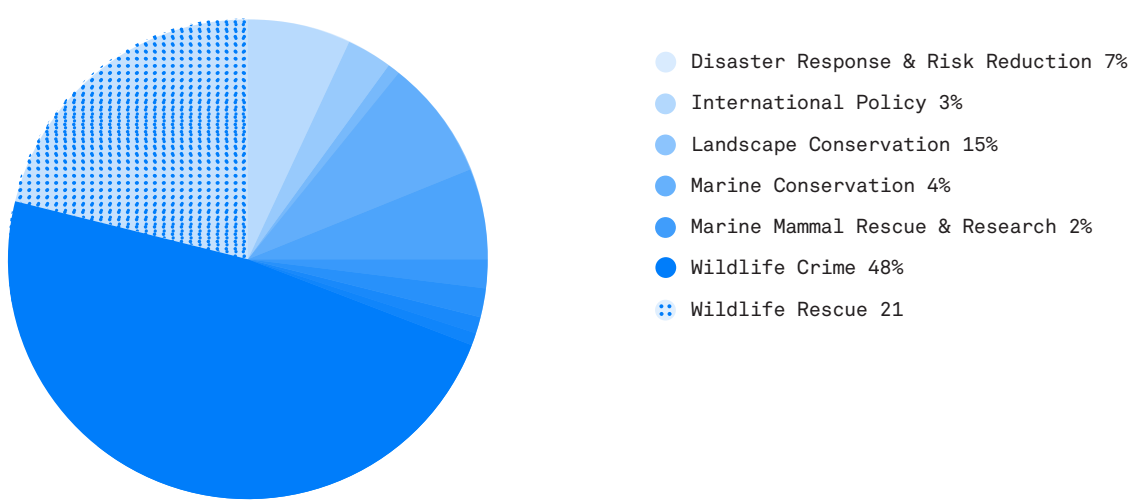
1 July 2020 – 30 June 2021

*The European Union office was a branch of IFAW International Tierschutz-Fonds gGmbH until December 2020.



worldwide programme priority expenditures

1 July 2020 – 30 June 2021



combined financial statements

Combined financial statements unaudited* for the years ended 30 June 2020 and 2021. Figures below in thousands of dollars.

statement of financial position

Assets	2021	2020
Cash and cash equivalents	28,740	21,039
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	14,965	14,993
Fixed assets, net	17,935	18,463
Investments	62,325	53,960
Total assets	123,965	108,455
Liabilities	2021	2020
Accounts payable and other current liabilities	11,278	11,600
Notes payable	14,196	14,148
Total liabilities	25,474	25,748
Net assets	98,491	82,707
Total liabilities and net assets	123,965	108,455

* Financial statements for each IFAW entity are prepared in accordance with local country accounting principles and are audited separately. The combined financial statements are prepared on a basis that approximates accounting principles used in the United States.

statement of activities

Revenues	2021	2020
Supporter contributions	57,466	57,864
Bequests	19,573	19,387
Donated goods and services	25,774	29,217
Investment and other operating income	12,004	903
Total revenues, gains and other support	114,817	107,371
Expenses	2021	2020
Total programme and operating expenses	102,824	106,962
Excess (deficit) of revenue over expenses	11,993	409

ifaw allocation of programme and operating expenses

Year ended 30 June 2021

Entity	Location	Programme & programme support	Fundraising
International Fund for Animal Welfare, Inc.	United States	88.8%	11.2%
International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)	United Kingdom	79.6%	20.4%
International Fund for Animal Welfare Inc./ Fonds international pour la Protection des animaux inc.	Canada	85.0%	15.0%
Stichting IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare)	The Netherlands	83.0%	17.0%
IFAW Internationaler Tierschutz-Fonds gGmbH	Germany	87.2%	12.8%
Fonds International pour la protection des animaux (IFAW France)	France	78.5%	21.5%
International Fund for Animal Welfare (Australia) Pty Limited	Australia	79.9%	20.1%
International Fund for Animal Welfare NPC	South Africa	92.7%	7.3%
International Fund for Animal Welfare Limited	Zambia	100%	0.0%
International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) Limited	Malawi	100%	0.0%

ifaw revenue/expenses – Germany

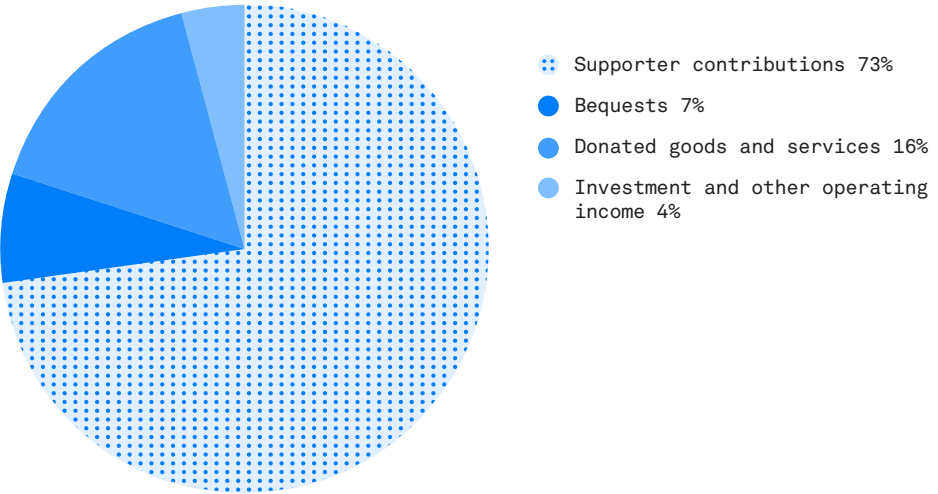
Figures below in thousands of Euros for the years ended 30 June 2021 and 2020.

Revenues	2021	2020
Supporter contributions	9,126	9,126
Bequests	877	1,180
Donated goods and services	1,937	4,375
Investment and other operating income	524	185
Total revenues, gains and other support	12,464	14,866

Expenses	2021	2020
Programme	9,143	13,025
Fundraising	1,506	1,968
Administrative support	1,151	1,195
Total programme and operating expenses	11,800	16,188
Excess (deficit) of revenue over expenses	664	-1,322

Germany* total revenue gains and other support

1 July 2020 – 30 June 2021
*The European Union office was a branch of IFAW International Tierschutz-Fonds gGmbH until December 2020.



International Fund
for Animal Welfare

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European Union / Belgium

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