



Jejej,

As summer arrives and many prepare for holidays, it is time to reflect on both the challenges and accomplishments of these last months. We find ourselves at a pivotal time in Europe and globally. How we move forward will have profound impacts on animals, people and the places we call home.

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February, IFAW's Disaster Response team, together with our partners, has been at the forefront of the crisis providing urgent support to animals. We have worked to support refugees and their pets, fund shelters and zoos in need of critical supplies, and aid with animal rescues. More than [42,000 companion and wild animals](#), predominately cats and dogs, and wild animals like bears, bats and tigers have been directly helped.

We have seen first-hand that the lack of awareness, training and recognition of the role of animals in Disaster Response policy can hamper the capacity of civil protection and veterinary services to offer timely and critical aid. IFAW will advocate to rectify this significant gap in European policy. Below you can read a first-hand account of our Communications Manager who deployed near the Ukrainian border, as well as, an IFAW report [Animals, people and war: the impact of conflict](#).

This edition of our EU newsletter includes our latest Annual Report highlighting incredible stories and successes. One such story takes place in IFAW funded leased habitat in the Panda Masuie Forest Reserve in Zimbabwe. In this reserve located in the network of protected areas of the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area, four rescued and rehabilitated orphaned elephant calves successfully began living among wild elephant herds. The released elephants are tracked with collars to provide insights into their integration in the wild.

In early June 2022, there was further good news for elephant conservation, as the UK ban on ivory trade adopted over 3.5 years earlier finally came into force.

Now we look ahead and focus our work on the revision of the Environmental Crime Directive, the adoption of the [Digital Services Act](#) to help tackle wildlife cybercrime and calling for strong EU leadership at the CITES 19th Conference of the Parties (CoP 19) in Panama this November.

We wish you a rejuvenating summer break and look forward to meeting in-person this autumn to work together to protect animals, people and the places we call home.

Staci McLennan
EU/BE Office Director



annual report july 2020-june 2021

IFAW has remained steadfast in our dedication to protecting animals, people & the places we call home. Read about incredible stories & successes from the past year in our [annual report](#).



EU milestone decision to support sharks, congratulated by IFAW

IFAW applauds the continued EU global leadership on shark conservation by its decision to co-sponsor Panama's proposal at CITES CoP19. [Learn more about what it means for sharks.](#)



five days in Medyka with our Ukraine response team

Our Communications Manager was deployed at the Ukrainian border to join our team of responders helping refugee families and their animals.

[Learn more about his experience.](#)



animals, people and war: the impact of conflict

The impact of conflict regularly spills over into the natural environment affecting individual animals, entire species and broader communities. [Read the report.](#)



ivory trade ban finally in force in UK

IFAW and other groups campaigned tirelessly for many years calling for an end of the ivory trade in the UK. Three-and-a-half years after adoption, it finally came into force. [Learn more.](#)



Joint NGO position on Commission Proposal for a Directive on the protection of the environment through criminal law and replacing Directive 2008/99/EC

Environmental crime is the third largest crime worldwide and the European Union, as a global trade force, is a major hub for organised environmental crime. Strengthening and harmonising environmental criminal law is an imminent necessity considering the EU's international leadership role in the fight against global climate change and biodiversity loss and the Union's commitments under the European Green Deal and the 2030 Climate target plan.

As environmental, conservation, and animal protection NGOs, we therefore, warmly welcome the Commission's proposal to revise the Environmental Crime Directive. Given the weaknesses in the current legislation and the disparities in its implementation by Member States, we are pleased that the legislation is being revised, rather than simply being amended, and broadly support the key elements of the proposal.

joint NGO position on the Commission proposal for a revised Environmental Crime Directive

IFAW is joining forces with other international NGOs to advocate for an ambitious EU Directive on the protection of the environment through criminal law. [Read the position paper.](#)

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