

# insider update

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Beatrix playing at Wild is Life Sanctuary, Zimbabwe.



## a message from IFAW

Dear Friends,

What a beautiful world we call home. To live amongst so many different animal species is awe-inspiring. IFAW has become essential in the protection and survival for so many of those species. There is always work to be done.

Join me in celebrating important breakthroughs in rescue and rehabilitation, disaster response, wildlife trafficking and policy, all featured in this edition.

Our teams protect animals on land, in the sky and the sea, and also on the Internet. Online trafficking is a growing concern and endangers so many animals. IFAW's dedicated Wildlife Crime team is continuously working to disrupt these illegal trades by strengthening enforcement and engaging local government to shape new policies.

As the human population swells, the space between wildlife habitats and our own is in decline. This is true on land and in our oceans. Shipping and fishing vessels are increasingly responsible for the disruption of marine mammal life. Underwater sounds, shipping speeds and fishing gear are only

some of the threats leading to injuries and strandings. Time and again, we have seen how resilient our animal friends can be, but the unfortunate truth is that we are the cause of their suffering. We must also be the solution.

I am always humbled to share our achievements and challenges with you, our supporters. You make what we do possible. Together, as partners, we are working to make lasting and positive changes for animals worldwide. We know we must be their voice. Thanks to you, and your ongoing support, our chorus grows louder by the day.

With sincere appreciation,

Azzedine Downes  
President and CEO

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An affectionate moment between Beatrix (left) and Kadiki.

## elephants helping each other

Kadiki was only one day old when she was rescued from a lion attack and brought to the Wild is Life Zimbabwe Elephant Nursery back in 2019. Despite deep claw wounds towards her trunk and surgeries to amputate part of her tail, she has recovered and is now thriving.

When newborn Beatrix arrived at the nursery in December 2021, keepers expected an older elephant to take on the role of matriarch and were pleasantly surprised when Kadiki (whose name means 'the little one') decided to play the part. The two have formed an extraordinary bond, with Kadiki providing reassurance, companionship and trunk cuddles to Beatrix.

Our goal is for Kadiki, Beatrix and the other rescued elephants to be transported to Panda-Masui, an 86,000-acre forest reserve near Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. The reserve supports both rescued elephants and wild herds, and helps prepare the rehabilitated elephants for successful re-entry back into the wild.

"IFAW believes in the value and importance of rescuing individual animals, one at a time," states Neil Greenwood, IFAW Regional Director, Southern Africa. "By doing so we can also help safeguard populations for the future and the habitat that we all call home."

Rescuing animals is only half the battle. Having the space for elephants to move freely is an integral part of our overall rescue and rehabilitation efforts — which is why our Room to Roam initiative is crucial for elephant populations to survive. As we move into Phase 2 of our campaign, we continue to focus on expanding protected landscapes throughout Southern and East Africa. New rangers and elephant caretakers will also be trained, giving employment opportunities to local communities.

Kadiki and Beatrix are doing their part to help each other. By having room to roam for elephants, and other African wildlife, we can ensure that we are doing our part as well.



Confiscated ivory about to be burned as a powerful message to consumers and poachers.

# digital markets: wildlife trafficking hidden in plain sight

Ivory disguised as mammoth tusks. Rhino horn and pangolin scales marketed for spurious “health” reasons. Taxidermied trophies. Captured animals destined for the exotic pet trade. These horrific remnants of beautiful, once-thriving wildlife are bought and sold online. The demand for illegal wildlife products is one of the driving forces leading to the extinction of many species.

Since 2004 IFAW has been monitoring online wildlife trafficking, working to put an end to this grisly fate for too many animals. In 2021, former wildlife law enforcement officials conducted a 6-week investigation of 34 online marketplaces that surveyed the digital US market for species that are under US (Endangered Species Act) or international (CITES) protection. This investigation only captured a snapshot of what the United Nations Environment Programme estimates is a US \$7 to \$23 billion per year industry.

Investigators found nearly 1,200 advertisements for almost 2,400 animals, parts, derivatives or products of protected species. The three most common types of advertisements were for elephant ivory (44%), taxidermy and trophies (27%) and live animals sold as exotic pets (19%).



Scan to learn more about IFAW's current work

- 1,173** ads for 2,372 specimens
- 81** species identified
- 8** out of 1,173 advertisements had supporting documentation
- 97.5%** of species were listed on CITES Appendix I or II
- 46.3%** were listed as threatened or endangered under the US Endangered Species Act



A female polar bear with her cub-of-the-year, about 9 months old.

Nearly half of all advertisements recorded in the investigation were identified as elephant ivory. Although the US has implemented federal regulations that severely restrict the trade of elephant ivory across state and international borders, the exceptions and loopholes that remain allow traders to circumvent these restrictions.

Sellers used code words such as “bone,” “antique” and “pre-ban” in their advertisements. In fact, 63% of elephant ivory advertisements refrained from using the word “ivory” to describe their product. Alternatively, they advertised ivory but with blurry photos that attempted to conceal the true nature of the product. Overall, investigators recorded a total of 189 advertisements that had a high likelihood in which the trader knowingly broke wildlife laws by concealing the identity of elephant ivory.

Over one quarter of all advertisements recorded were for trophies and taxidermy products—including skins, skulls, claws, or other animal parts where the primary purpose was for display. Half of

## ivory: savvy traders flout restrictions

**63%** of advertisements for elephant ivory dissemble, using code words such as “bone” or “antique” to attract buyers and avoid detection by law enforcement

**34%** of advertisements for elephant ivory claim — often incorrectly — that their product is exempt from national or international regulations

In many of these examples, it is highly likely that the seller knowingly broke wildlife laws

the taxidermy and trophy advertisements were for species only found in the wild outside of the US. These species included giraffes, African lions, caracals, and several primate species. The other half were for species native to the US and Canada. These species included black bears, grizzly bears, Canada lynx, fishers, and polar bears.

It is illegal to sell or re-sell taxidermy and trophies of certain protected species that are imported as sport-hunted trophies. However, in most of these advertisements, it is impossible to tell whether the specimen was originally imported as a sport-hunted trophy, or even imported at all. As US-native species are all found in Canada, the lines of hunting and selling become blurred. For example, a Canada lynx trophy could have been hunted in Canada and legally imported into the US (not legal to sell), hunted in Alaska legally (legal to sell), or hunted illegally in either country (not legal to sell). It remains unclear how a potential buyer, enforcement official or marketplace looking to help wildlife is supposed to determine the legality of any animal advertised.

## taxidermy and trophies

**27%** of all advertisements were for taxidermy products

**50%** of all taxidermy products were US-native species — a grey area for law enforcement given the difficulty of determining the legality of sales



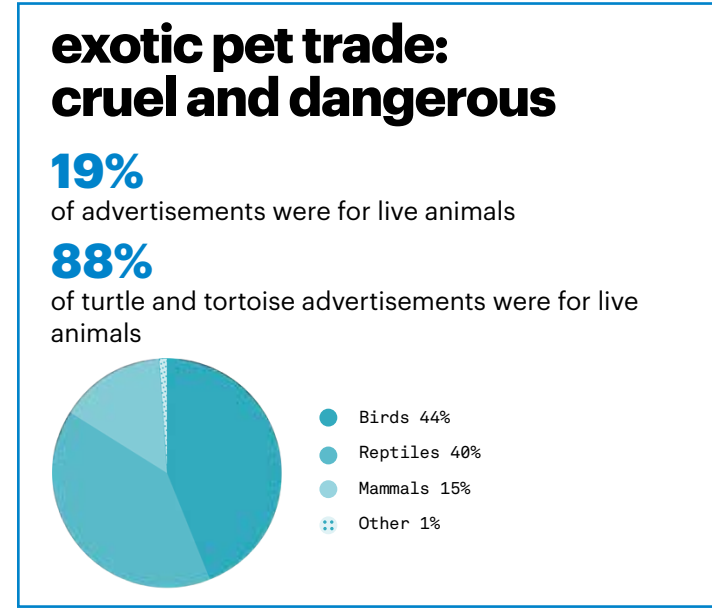
Close-up of a blue-and-yellow macaw named Ara.

Demand for exotic pets has skyrocketed in recent years—a worrying trend. Most advertisements for live animals were for birds and reptiles with the remainder consisting of mammals. Nearly three fourths of the advertisements valued protected wildlife species at USD 10,000 or higher. Certain species of birds were particularly valuable with some ads featuring a price of over USD 25,000. These websites do not have any policies easily available to the public regarding the sale of protected species.

Trafficking live animals has severe consequences for the conservation of wildlife species and animal welfare. Demand for birds as pets, coupled with habitat loss, has led to several species becoming depleted in the wild. The pet trade is harrowing for individual animals, often shipped thousands of miles in close confines and inhumane conditions

Live animals can also carry zoonotic diseases, and when exposed to the stressors that are commonly found in wildlife trade, the chance of those diseases transferring from animals to people or other animals is increased. Some of the deadliest

diseases in human history such as the bubonic plague, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and many others originated in wildlife.



Caretaker Brian with Matabele.

## reactions and recommendations

In 2018, IFAW partnered with the world’s leading tech companies and other environmental NGOs to launch the Coalition to End Wildlife Trafficking Online. Today, the Coalition is comprised of 47 companies with more than 9 billion user accounts. It aims to unite the tech industry by creating standardized policies and procedures and educate users and staff to better detect wildlife products. With more companies involved, wildlife traffickers stand less of a chance of shifting their activities from one platform to the next. As of 2021 over 11 million posts for illegal wildlife has been blocked or removed.

While progress is being made, online trafficking remains a significant challenge. The reduction of wildlife crime hinges on governments, law enforcement agencies, online marketplaces and social media companies ramping up their efforts and taking bold next steps to increase the welfare of these animals.

The US government should focus on prioritizing language in new or existing policies that work to make online trafficking a serious crime, creating stiffer penalties for traffickers. Regulations need to be developed to close loopholes that make it easier for sellers to distort images and obscure actual products being sold. Enforcement entities, including the US Fish, and Wildlife Service’s Office of Law Enforcement, need to be provided with funding and resources sufficient to develop, implement and expand tools and techniques for disrupting wildlife cybercrime.

The good news is that agencies across the globe are devoting time and attention to the issue. Despite the growth of wildlife cybercrime, international, cross-sectoral efforts to shut down online markets for at-risk animals suggest that there is cause for optimism.



Zebras, elephants, and wildebeests in Amboseli, Kenya.

# protecting animals to protect the planet

It is no secret that the planet is getting warmer. The Earth is now about 1.1°C (2°F) warmer than it was in the 1800s. Based on current projections, global temperatures will rise by 2.7°C (4.8°F) by the end of the century. The rise in temperature is already threatening our planet's fragile ecosystems in several ways, leading to an increase in habitat loss, natural disasters, human-wildlife conflict and extinction.

Thankfully, we have a powerful ally in our fight against climate change: animals and the ecosystems they are part of. Healthy ecosystems with abundant plants and trees not only absorb carbon from the atmosphere and store it, but they also filter water, buffer against flooding, reduce the impact of disasters, improve soil health and support rich biodiversity. The United Nations estimates that healthy ecosystems could account for 37% of the carbon reductions needed to limit global temperature rise.

**Nearly all animals play vital, sometimes invisible, roles in securing biodiversity and conserving habitats.**



**Take Action and get involved**

Whales can help. Whale elimination provides nutrients to phytoplankton which captures large amounts of CO2, converting it to energy and removing carbon from the atmosphere.

Elephants can help. They disperse seeds, fertilize soil, dig wells, create trails for other animals and clear space that encourages new plant growth.

Pangolins can help. They eat ants and termites, keeping those populations regulated, and excavate dens that are used by other animals, both of which are essential in the ecosystems where pangolins live.

IFAW can help. We are working in more than 40 countries around the world across seas and oceans, partnering with local communities, governments, non-governmental organizations and businesses.

**You can help. Making a difference starts with taking action. Scan the QR code to access our petitions and make your voice heard for the animals that need you most.**

Together, we pioneer new and innovative ways to help all species flourish.

# delivering aid for Ukraine's animals

Photo: Ben Wlaczek / @ IFAW



IFAW responder Diane Treadwell and IFAW-contracted veterinarian Andrew Kushnir fit Malenkaia the cat with a new harness.

When Russian troops first attacked Ukraine, IFAW immediately reached out to our three partner shelters to offer emergency aid. Initially, we provided funds for food, water, supplies and salary for shelter staff. As the war continued, so did IFAW's efforts to assist those in need. Thanks to the

generous and heartfelt support from our donors, we have been able to supply aid to animal shelters, sanctuaries, zoos and other organizations across Ukraine and beyond. Grant recipients include, but are not limited to, World Central Kitchen, Save Wild's White Rock Bear Shelter and the Ukrainian Independent Ecology Institute—a bat rehabilitation center.

In March our teams deployed to the Polish border to help families and their animals displaced by the war. Teams visited several border crossings, supporting the local veterinarian staff. In Medyka, where an estimated 80% of refugees and their pets cross into Poland, IFAW assumed management of the only animal service station on location—a large blue tent—providing food, water, supplies and medical care to the hundreds of animals arriving with their families.

Photo: Julia Cumes / @ IFAW



Ukrainian refugee Iuliia and her eight-year-old Pomeranian, Hugo Boss, photographed at the refugee center in Korczowa, Poland.

# stories from the border

Surrounded by cots and a few belongings from home, Iuliia explained that she'd escaped from the shelling in Kyiv, Ukraine and was waiting to get the correct papers to bring her dog with her to the USA where she has family. IFAW's Jennifer Gardner and Shannon Walajtys advised Iuliia on the process for getting Hugo Boss the correct vaccinations and paperwork for an owned dog importation permit.

Photo: Mike Zomer / @ IFAW



Ukrainian refugee Alina with Marysia, one of her three cats.

Alina Beskrovna, her mother and their three cats traveled for five days enduring brutal treatment from Russian soldiers at the sixteen checkpoints they were required to pass to leave Ukraine. When Alina and her family crossed over the Poland border, she brought the cats into IFAW's service tent. Shannon Walajtys, IFAW's Director of Disaster Response & Risk Reduction, checked the cats' vitals and brought them to the clinic for vaccinations and microchips. After the procedures, Alina and her mother were set-up in the back of the tent where they could put down their bags, grab food and warm up.



Right whale named "Silver" by researchers who had half his tail removed when he was struck by the propeller of a boat.

## the right direction for right whales

The North Atlantic right whale teeters on the brink of extinction. Due to entanglement in commercial fishing gear and collisions with fast-moving ships there are now an estimated 336 individual animals remaining, the lowest count in 20 years. It's one of our most urgent conservation challenges.

IFAW has been collaborating alongside the fishing industry, scientists, legislators, and technology manufacturers to pursue, test, and perfect the implementation of whale-safe gear. This "ropeless gear" is designed to reduce entanglements for whales, while simultaneously offering the fishing industry a path forward through better technology. We have also developed Whale Alert 3.0, an app in collaboration with The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, that displays active whale migration areas along shipping lanes along the US and Canadian coasts. The app allows vessel operators to avoid collision with whales by slowing down and heightening their visual awareness. These new technologies hold great promise for protecting whales.

We are advocating for maritime regulations that would expand speed restrictions and alter shipping lanes to reduce collisions. This year The Right Whale Coexistence Act was introduced to the US Congress. It would authorize \$15 million annually over the next decade to support research and development grants for projects designed to significantly reduce the impacts of human activities on North Atlantic right whales and replace them with long-term, sustainable solutions.

**We know that change is possible.** In January of 2022, MSC, the largest shipping container company in the world, announced that it will re-route its shipping and cruise ships along the west coast of Greece to reduce the risk of collision with endangered sperm whales. IFAW campaigns and citizen engagement also played a pivotal role in Iceland's announcement that no new whaling quotas will be issued beyond 2024. IFAW will not stop pushing for deeper legislative change. Urgent action is needed to ensure the survival of these beloved marine mammals.

## rescue team responds to three species in a single day



IFAW staff and interns respond to a stranded gray seal at Crosby Beach, Brewster.

In Cape Cod, MA, IFAW's Marine Mammal Rescue & Research team responded to three calls involving three different species all in one day. In the morning the team was called to perform a

necropsy (an animal autopsy) on a 57-foot endangered whale that had washed ashore. Before that team even returned, a second team of responders were deployed to check the health of a possibly injured young gray seal reported by beachwalkers. Then just minutes later the team received another report, this time of a live stranded common dolphin. This one day shows the diverse number of species our rescue teams respond to and the need to always be prepared.

Strandings have risen notably in the past several years, making it more important than ever before that our teams are able to mount rapid responses. IFAW Rescue teams rely heavily on life-saving equipment and gear such as our rescue vehicles, mobile dolphin rescue clinic and dry suits. Our lifesaving efforts in the field and innovative research have revolutionized how marine mammals are rescued, assessed and released.

## party for a porpoise

Mark your calendars for Monday, August 8, 2022 to **Party for a Porpoise!** Our annual fundraising gala benefits the work of IFAW's marine programs throughout Cape Cod, MA and beyond.

Funds raised from previous events have supported our marine team's "wish list," including a purpose-built Mobile Dolphin Rescue Clinic and investments in innovative technology, such as ropeless fishing gear to lessen the threat of entanglement. This year's signature event will raise funds for equipment as well as advocacy campaigns to help protect the threatened North Atlantic right whale.

This celebratory evening will be hosted at the Wianno Club in Osterville, Massachusetts, with conversation, locally caught oysters, and custom-made cocktails overlooking the scenic Nantucket Sound. The festivities will continue with a sustainable and locally sourced dinner, unique auction experiences and awards to honor those tireless heroes in our community—and around the world—working to save wildlife and their habitats.



Attendees at IFAW's Party for a Porpoise.

For more information about the event and to buy tickets and tables, please scan our QR code.



Scan for more information



Grace Pavone with her rescue dog 'Penny'.

## legacy spotlight

I started supporting IFAW with small donations in the mid to late 80's. In the early 90's, I received a booklet titled "Red Ice" written by the then-CEO Brian Davies, which shocked me to the core. Thus began my journey and commitment to IFAW.

Over the years, I've seen the sad growth of the many issues faced by all species worldwide and the raising of public awareness by IFAW in their quest to help animals. As I get older, the rate of extinction, habitat loss, wildlife trade, disasters, exploitation and/or cruelty of all animals is troubling for me.

My decision to leave a Legacy to IFAW in 2009 was an easy one and one that I am proud and honored to have made. Also, through the years I have seen so much progress and work being done by thousands of IFAW people worldwide behind the scenes and on the ground. This has been encouraging and continues to reinforce my decision to leave a Gift in my Will to IFAW.

I have no doubt my Legacy will go towards IFAW continuing their awesome work for all animals that we share this earth with and that my words will inspire many others to favorably consider a Gift in their Will to IFAW. It's a good feeling.

## unlock access to worldwide events with IFAW's Global Council

Would you like to get more involved or meet IFAW experts behind-the-scenes?

In 2020, we launched IFAW's Global Council, a dedicated network of philanthropic leaders and ambassadors whose unrestricted support enables our international efforts to protect animals, people and the place we call home.

Members are invited to a range of high-level in-person and virtual events, unlocking access to IFAW's senior leadership, conservation and animal welfare leaders and wildlife experts. It's your opportunity to deepen your connection to IFAW's



Guests at the Animal Action Awards.

mission and get a front-row seat to our programs and partners around the world.

For more information about the Global Council, and even more opportunities to engage with IFAW's work regionally and globally, please reach out to **Heather Haines** ([hhaines@ifaw.org](mailto:hhaines@ifaw.org) | +1 202 536 1913).

### upcoming event - IFAW's Annual Animal Action Awards

- ▶ date: Tuesday, October 18, 2022
- ▶ place: House of Lords, United Kingdom