

# Africa newsletter



**ifaw**

November 2022





**how to protect  
elephants and  
communities  
in Africa?**



**create room  
to roam**

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**About IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare)** - IFAW is a global non-profit helping animal and people thrive together. We are experts and everyday people, working across seas, oceans and in more than 40 countries around the world. We rescue, rehabilitate and release animals, and we restore and protect their natural habitats. The problems we're up against are urgent and complicated. To solve them, we match fresh thinking with bold action. We partner with local communities, governments, non-governmental organizations and businesses. Together, we pioneer new and innovative ways to help all species flourish. See how sat [ifaw.org](https://ifaw.org)

Cover photo: Donal Boyd / © IFAW  
Aerial view of a group of elephants walking through water.

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# CITES and the global shark fin trade

Panama will host the 19th meeting of the [Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora \(CITES\)](#) in November 2022, where 184 member nations will come together to make decisions on the governance of international trade of the world's most threatened species.

In response to the alarming decline of global shark populations, [The Government of Panama](#) itself is leading a ground-breaking effort to control the unsustainable global trade in shark fins. Panama has the support of 40 countries, including the [Dominican Republic](#), [Ecuador](#), [Colombia](#), [El Salvador](#), [Seychelles](#), [Maldives](#), [Bangladesh](#), [Sri Lanka](#), [Senegal](#), [Gabon](#), [Israel](#), the [United Kingdom](#), [Syria](#) and the [European Union](#) and its [Member States](#) (27 countries).

Panama is proposing that CITES regulate the trade in all requiem sharks—a family that includes the endangered grey reef shark,

beloved by scuba divers throughout the world, as well as species such as the Dusky and Ganges shark, which have been driven closer to the edge of extinction due to overfishing and the trade of fins. Additional proposals look to secure similar protections for coastal hammerhead sharks and guitarfish—flattened relatives of true sharks.

These [three proposals would place nearly 100% of all shark species traded for their fins under CITES oversight and controls](#), up from only 25% today.

Recent science has shown the urgency of this action, with 37% of all sharks (and closely related rays), and 70% of species traded for their fins already threatened with extinction—the second highest rate of threatened species of all animal groups on the planet.

“If adopted, these listings would change the face of shark conservation, leading to proper protections and sustainable

management for species that have been largely overlooked,” said Barbara Slee, Senior Program Manager, International Policy at IFAW. “[Panama](#) and its partner governments are offering a clear pathway for the survival of these species. We hope that the rest of the world agrees and offers sharks the long overdue attention these listings will bring.”

The CITES Conference of the Parties will make a decision on these shark protections at its meeting in [Panama City, Panama](#), from 14 to 25 November 2022.

▲ Hundreds of shark dorsal and/or pectoral fins of all shapes and sizes drying out on a rooftop of an industrial building in Kennedy Town, Sai Wan, Hong Kong SAR, China, January 2, 2013.

◀ Grey reef sharks (*Charcharhinus amblyrhynchos*) underwater in the Great Barrier Reef of Australia.





# ifaw joins Zimbabwe's first lady to celebrate wildlife rangers

IFAW had plenty to celebrate this World Ranger Day in the knowledge that our support for ZimParks' rangers has made it possible for them to prevent elephant poaching for more than two years in a vast section of Zimbabwe's largest national park.

IFAW joined First Lady Dr. Auxillia Mnangangwa, Zimbabwe's Wildlife Ambassador and Environmental Patron and other environmentalists, policy makers, conservation partners and donors at ZimPark's headquarters to salute those safeguarding wildlife resources.

IFAW's partnership with ZimParks supports rangers with critical resources and training in Hwange National Park with its population of around 45,000 elephants.

"Zero elephants have been poached since 2020 in the area of Hwange National Park where IFAW and ZimParks collaborate," said IFAW's Lucky Safuli.

The First Lady described the wildlife rangers as the "backbone of conservation" and expressed gratitude to conservation partners, including IFAW, for their continued support of biodiversity conservation.

"To our partners, do not tire, let us put our heads together and work as a team," the First Lady urged.



▲ First Lady Dr. Auxillia Mnangangwa, Zimbabwe's Wildlife Ambassador and Environmental Patron.

▲ Wildlife rangers on parade during World Ranger Day celebrations held at ZimPark's headquarters.





# traditional leaders meet in Malawi

In early July, IFAW convened a second meeting of traditional leaders in Lilongwe, Malawi, drawing together senior Chiefs and Traditional leaders from Botswana, Kenya, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa. The meetings, which are ongoing, give senior community leaders the opportunity to discuss the real-life challenges faced by their communities and to explore solutions for successful human-

**wildlife co-existence.** The meetings amplify the participation of leaders in conservation efforts in the context of IFAW's Room to Roam initiative. The Lilongwe meeting included senior Chiefs and Traditional leaders from Botswana, Kenya, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and South Africa who met with IFAW's Executive Management Team, Board and advisors.

▲ IFAW President and CEO, Azzedine Downes (front row, second from left), with traditional leaders, IFAW advisors and members of the Executive Management Team in Malawi.

# ifaw board members visit Zimbabwe projects



IFAW Board members Catherine Bearder and Graeme Cottam visited IFAW-supported projects in Zimbabwe in July 2022, including the IFAW-Wild is Life (WIL) Panda Masuie Project in Victoria Falls. They were warmly welcomed by Conservation Director Jos Danckwerts (centre front), staff and forest rangers. In a full day of activities, the IFAW board members got an inside look at what it takes to rewild orphaned elephant calves that are rescued and rehabilitated with intense care by Roxy Danckwerts and her team at the WIL sanctuary in Harare—a process that can take years. The visitors also travelled to Hwange National Park with long-term IFAW supporter Brenda Bottum to meet ZimParks' Chief Veterinarian Dr. Kudzai Mpondi and learn more about how the customised animal ambulance is helping treat injured and sick wildlife.

▲ IFAW Board members Catherine Bearder, Graeme Cottam (right) and Jos Danckwerts, Conservation Director for Wild is Life (WIL) (centre), pose with staff and forest rangers at the WIL-IFAW Panda Masuie Release project in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.





Photo: ©GRI

# community care saves the life of an elephant calf in Zambia

A four-month-old female elephant calf was rescued after members of a rural community in Zambia spotted the calf without a mother and lagging behind a bachelor herd of elephants.

IFAW partner, [Game Rangers International \(GRI\)](#) in Lusaka, answered the community's call for help and their team drove through the night to reach [Chikumbi village](#) to collect the calf, since named Chikumbi. She is now in care at the [Lusaka Elephant Nursery](#) operated by [GRI](#) and [Zambia Department of National Parks and Wildlife](#) in Lusaka National Park.

The [Lusaka Elephant Nursery](#) is a state-of-the-art facility funded by IFAW with the support of [Sinking Ship Entertainment](#). The nursery is located at the [GRI-Wildlife Discovery Centre](#) and cares for rescued orphaned elephant calves, nursing them to full health to eventually be released into the wild at [Kafue National Park](#). The Centre opened in August 2022.



Photo: ©GRI

- ▲ The calf was given food and water while waiting for the arrival of the GRI team.
- ▲ Chikumbi, the first elephant rescue at the new Lusaka Elephant Nursery.



# transforming a home that cares for senior citizens in Zimbabwe



14

residents are currently housed at Dete Old People's home

On a cold, windy Sunday morning, 87-year-old Esther Sibanda wheels herself to a vantage point where she can enjoy the soothing rays of the sun. The sun itself is not yet too powerful but provides enough warmth to this smiling old lady with an incredible sense of humour.

She has a heart-breaking story behind how she ended up being a resident of the Dete Old People's home, a Catholic-run institution in the Dete community that borders Zimbabwe's Hwange National Park.

She bore only one child back in the 1950s—she doesn't recall the specific date—who perished in Zimbabwe's Liberation War.

She later suffered two strokes, leaving her wheelchair-bound and confined to a home, which, due to the passage of time and lack of funding, was almost derelict, making life hard.

All that has changed, thanks to the support of the IFAW-ZimParks partnership, and Sibanda and her fellow residents have their smiles back.

The partnership is renovating the home, giving a massive facelift to boarding and ablution facilities, installing solar power for electricity to heat water and improving access to ensure those in wheelchairs can move about with ease.

A state-of-the-art entertainment centre has also been set up for leisure activities, an industrial stove has been installed in the kitchen and new linen and bedding have been provided.

"We are incredibly happy with the assistance we have received. It was hard to run this place before, but we can now afford to work in a relaxed environment and helped our dear senior citizens," said Sister Cecilia Mwembe, the sister-in-charge at the institution.

"We are really privileged. The home was really in a bad state. During the rainy season, we had troubles with leaking roofs, but these have been replaced altogether and everything else has been renewed. So, we are grateful for this gesture," she said.

The home was founded by the Catholic Church in 1984. It currently houses 14 residents, all of them destitute and without family support.

For Sibanda, the transformation of the facility has been a blessing. "We count ourselves blessed. Our problems are over now," she said in her Ndebele language.

"ZimParks supports the home's operational requirements including food. The agency approached IFAW in May 2022 for support in renovating the facility as part of our shared commitment to ensuring a peaceful

co-existence between people and wildlife," said Samson Chibaya, ZimParks Regional Manager for Matabeleland North.



▲ Esther Sibanda, one of the residents at Dete Old People's Home.

▲ Aerial view of the recently refurbished Dete Old People's Home.



# her plan to become a plumber will help wildlife in Amboseli, Kenya



**60**

women from Amboseli participate in the Jenga Mama project





Out of 60 women from Amboseli, Kenya who are learning how to set up micro-enterprises through the Jenga Mama (Swahili for Empower a Woman) project, Janet Sabore is the only one who chose plumbing as her future profession.

“Where I come from, we do not have many plumbers and I will be receiving many calls for plumbing work. I am guaranteed a source of income,” says Sabore, currently a student at the [Maasai Technical Training Institute \(MTTI\)](#) in Kenya.

That income will be important for her family, which, like many others in Amboseli, has traditionally relied on farming. Living close to [Amboseli National Park](#)—home to elephants, zebras, giraffes, wildebeests, lions, cheetahs and other wildlife—means some of these animals frequently wander into Sabore’s community, destroy precious crops and kill livestock. In communities like these, wildlife can easily become viewed as an enemy, and people may resort to killing the animals that harm their livelihoods.

The solution is to help members of the community find more sustainable sources of income. So, in 2022 a German foundation called [Margarete-Breuer Stiftung \(MBS\)](#) began funding the Jenga Mama project, which has been developed jointly by [MBS](#) and [IFAW](#) and is being implemented by [IFAW](#). The 60 women from Amboseli participating in the project receive one year of vocational training, one year of support to help them establish a business, and one year of mentorship and follow-up as they settle into their new professions.

But being part of Jenga Mama requires these women to make big sacrifices. The three schools where they are completing their training—the [Isinya Vocational Training Center](#), the [Namelok Vocational Training Center](#) and the [MTTI](#)—are far from many of their villages.

For Sabore, a single mother, it’s nearly 200 kilometers (a four-hour journey) from her school to her home. “The distance is long and it would cost a lot to visit on weekends,” she says. She prefers that her mother, who is caring for her eight-year-old daughter and four-year-old son, uses the money to buy food for the children and pay their school fees.

Instead of going home, Sabore spends much of her free time visiting a children’s home near her vocational school.

“I do miss my family and especially my kids, but I am doing this for them,” she says.

A highlight of the project was this past April, when the women and their families had a chance to gather for a sports and mentorship day.

“That was one of the best days as it has helped us get to know each other, since we are in different schools. Running around playing football and netball has helped ease the school routine and busy schedule,” says Sabore.

The women also had a special treat on sports day—a chance to meet the members of the only all-women ranger unit in

East Africa called [Team Lioness](#). “We had only heard about them,” she says. “Meeting the rangers has motivated me to keep going strong and become a woman who depends on herself economically, like them, especially because we all come from the same community.”

Plumbing is an unusual career choice for a woman from the highly patriarchal Maa community, where one might be more inclined toward food and beverage production. “But I already know how to cook,” she says with a smile. So far, Sabore has learned how to install roof gutters to trap rainwater and unblock clogged sinks and drains.

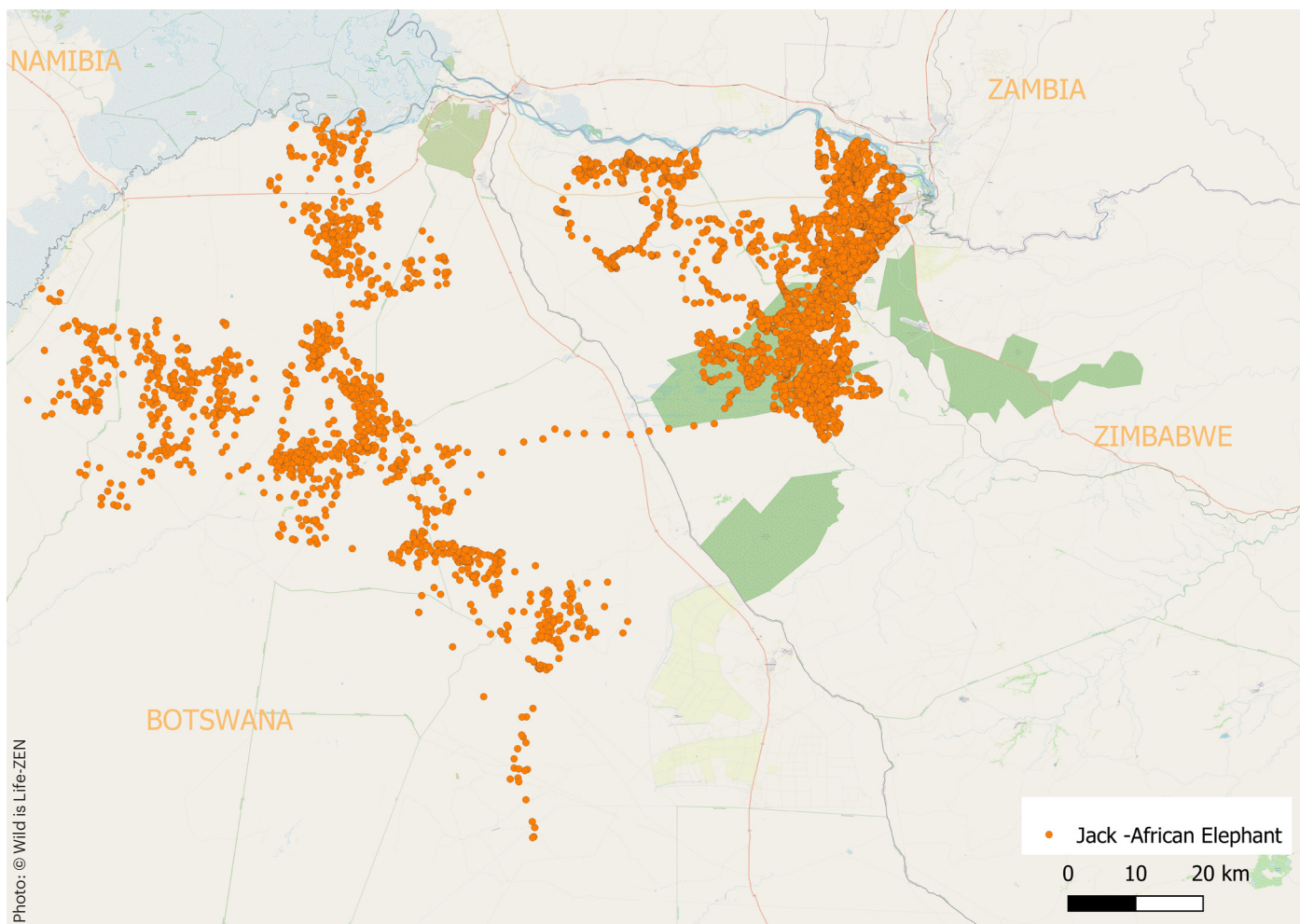
Those specialized skills will soon give Sabore the ability to generate a sustainable income for her family. A boost in socio-economic status will enable these women to become champions for wildlife conservation within their communities.

The newfound confidence from this status will grant them greater opportunities to participate in governance and decision-making with local community leadership.

▲ Janet Sabore during one of her classes studying plumbing at the Masai Technical Training Institute (MTTI) in Kenya’s Kajiado County.

◀ Ann Nailantei, a beneficiary of the IFAW MBS Jenga Mama Project plays football during the sports day.





# tracking the life of Jack, a rescued elephant who is back in the wild

Satellite tracking is giving researchers an insider's view into the remarkable life of an elephant called Jack, who was rescued and rehabilitated by IFAW partner [Wild is Life \(WIL\)](#).

In late June 2021, just weeks after being translocated to the [IFAW-WIL Panda Masuie Release Project](#) near [Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe](#), the young elephant—Jack is now about six-years old—left the safety of the boma and joined a wild herd.

A satellite collar has enabled his movements to be tracked daily. For months the herd were content to roam the [Panda Masuie Forest Reserve](#), [Zambezi National Park](#) and [Victoria Falls National Park](#).

Then, in January 2022 almost six months to the day after he joined the wild elephants, Jack and his adopted herd left for [Botswana](#). In 24 hours they walked 90 kilometres, almost in a straight line.

To ensure the safety of Jack and his herd, this satellite tracking image has never been shared before now.

Since then, the elephants have wandered back and forth across [Botswana](#) and [Namibia](#)—both countries are part of the vast [Kavango–Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area](#), which covers parts of [Zimbabwe](#), [Zambia](#), [Angola](#), [Namibia](#) and [Botswana](#).

Jack's story is a remarkable example of how it's possible to rescue, rehabilitate, rewild and release orphan elephants to live their lives in freedom.

Jack was rescued by WIL in 2018. He was about two years old when [ZimParks](#) rangers found him stuck in a muddy waterhole in [Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe](#). He had been badly mauled by hyena, and required intense care by the [WIL nursery in Harare](#) to recover.

In 2021 he was one of six rescued calves moved from [Harare](#) to [Panda Masuie](#), where the rescue herd spend their days roaming in the [Forest Reserve](#) and regularly interacting with wild herds of elephants. They are monitored by the [WIL handlers](#) and [Forestry Department Rangers](#).

▲ This satellite tracking image shows the movement of Jack and his adopted herd between July 1, 2021 and August 12, 2022.





# USAID-funded project to enhance wildlife landscapes in Kenya

IFAW is proud to be the lead implementing partner of the Sustainable Management of Tsavo and Amboseli Landscapes Project.

Backed by a US\$7.8 million grant from USAID Kenya, the project will focus on supporting local conservancies with their governance and the management of natural resources, which will improve land use planning, enhance wildlife security and boost engagement with the private sector.

Speaking at the official launch of the project, James Isiche, Regional Director IFAW East Africa said, "We are grateful to USAID for the trust that has been bestowed upon IFAW to be the lead on this project and we are happy to be working with a consortium that includes partners Big Life Foundation and Tsavo Trust, as well as the local conservancy umbrella institutions in the two landscapes: Amboseli Ecosystem Trust and Taita Taveta Wildlife Conservancies Association."

## impact for important landscapes

Covering more than 32,000 square kilometres, the Greater Amboseli Ecosystem (GAE) and Tsavo Conservation Area (TCA), where the project will be implemented, is Kenya's largest contiguous wildlife rangeland. It is home to approximately 50% of Kenya's elephant population, including some of the country's iconic big tuskers.

The landscapes include Kenya's only stable giraffe population and are a bastion of the eastern black rhino. Wildlife spend

approximately 60% to 70% of their time in community lands, creating more contact with human populations and competition between animals and people for water, grazing pasture and land for settlement. Poaching and unsustainable mining are other challenges encountered in the landscapes. Climate variability has also resulted in either severe droughts or floods in both landscapes. This has affected wildlife populations and distribution and the livelihoods of communities, including livestock production.

## project interventions and key result areas

Working with the local community, and in collaboration with the Kajiado and Taita Taveta county governments and the Kenya Wildlife Service, the key implementing partners will seek to support the umbrella conservancy organisations Amboseli Ecosystem Trust (AET) and Taita Taveta Wildlife Conservancies Association (TTWCA) to:

- ▶ Build capacity of leadership at all levels.
- ▶ Better engage with the private sector to identify and market potential nature-based investment options.
- ▶ Provide law enforcement support.
- ▶ Empower women and youth.
- ▶ Construct and rehabilitate key infrastructure.

These interventions will aim to improve governance of the umbrella conservancy organisations in the two landscapes, reduce threats and improve biodiversity conservation, enhance partnerships for sustainable livelihood improvements and generate economic growth for members of the two umbrella organisations. Multiple and sustainable economic streams from conservation will improve livelihoods of communities around protected areas and, by extension, improve the attitude towards conservation and coexistence with wildlife.

## 60-70%

approximate amount of time wildlife spends in community lands



- ▲ Guests arrive at the official launch of the Sustainable Management of Tsavo and Amboseli Landscapes Project in Chyulu Hills National Park.
- ▲ James Isiche, Regional Director, IFAW East Africa addresses guests at the official launch of the Sustainable Management of Tsavo and Amboseli Landscapes Project at the Chyulu Hills National Park.





# ifaw launches marine programme in East Africa

As IFAW continues to grow with the aim of helping more animals and people thrive together, we have recently expanded the focus of our marine conservation programme to include the Western Indian Ocean area of coastal East Africa. The process of developing a marine strategy for East Africa is underway and we expect that activities in this region will focus on:

- ▶ Research and conservation of marine megafauna species, including whales, dolphins, sea turtles, sharks and rays.
- ▶ Supporting the establishment and operations of Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs) accompanied by initiatives to enhance livelihood options for local communities.
- ▶ Integrating environmental sustainability into maritime operations.

IFAW is currently **engaging with various partners including government agencies,**

**peer organisations and local community organisations.** The project in East Africa will be headed by Lillian Mulupi.

Mulupi brings a wealth of expertise in marine conservation to IFAW and she looks forward to implementing strategic initiatives and campaign projects that will help protect marine species.

“Governments, businesses and local communities in our part of the world are increasingly coming up with ways to tap into the great opportunities for economic growth offered by the marine environment and resources,” Mulupi said.

“As IFAW, we are alert to the threats that come with these unprecedented development projects on the coast of East Africa. We are joining forces with other players to support sustainable use of these precious, delicate resources; we are taking care of the ocean so that it can take care of us.”



- ▲ Lillian Mulupi, IFAW Marine Project officer, East Africa.
- ▲ Maurice Nyaligu Head of Programs East Africa poses with officials and students of Kwale County during International Coastal Cleanup day.





Photo: Paolo Torchio / IFAW

# ifaw board on inaugural visit to Amboseli, Kenya

For the first time in its more than 50-year history, IFAW's Global Board of Directors gathered in Amboseli, Kenya to see and experience first-hand IFAW's incredible work in one of its priority landscapes.

Visiting the East African country for the first time, Alexandra Pollak—a passionate advocate for female empowerment—was deeply moved by IFAW's women empowerment initiatives. "Meeting Team Lioness and all the incredible women IFAW is empowering is surreal. Spending time with them and receiving these gifts is very humbling," she added, referring to a beaded necklace presented to her by the Esiteti Osotua women's group.

The other board members also met with Team Lioness—Kenya's first all-women ranger unit—and officially opened and handed over newly constructed modern housing units to the leadership of the Olgulului Ololarashi Group Ranch (OOG).

The units offer comfortable accommodation with each member of Team Lioness in a single room, which offers the women, most of whom are mothers, privacy with their infants and space for much-needed comfort and rest. Also officially opened was a childcare nursery where youngsters will be cared for in a safe environment while their mothers go about their official duties. Ensuring that rangers are adequately and comfortably housed addresses a key component of ranger welfare needs.

In addition to the housing and the nursery, Mark Beaudouin, Chairman of the Board, handed over a vehicle to be stationed at the Team Lioness base. The vehicle was received by the first and only woman community wildlife ranger driver in Amboseli, Eunice Peneti.

"There is a movement of global importance to have women recognised in law

enforcement and Team Lioness represents a new movement of women in conservation who stand as a symbol to the world, as to what can be done and achieved in wildlife conservation if we put our mind to it," said Beaudouin as he handed the keys to Eunice.

"I am glad the board is in Kenya because they get to experience the landscape. With this experience they get to see and understand our work and provide feedback to our donors as to the importance of providing resources to the community and the rangers and not directly to the wildlife," said Azzedine Downes, IFAW President and CEO.

▲ Members of Team Lioness with members of IFAW Global Board of Directors.





# canine unit keeps poachers at bay

Distinguished for his tracking prowess, Powder helps rangers keep wildlife traffickers and poachers from plundering the wildlife-rich [Hwange-Matetsi- Zambezi landscape](#) and other parks in [Zimbabwe](#).

Formerly part of the [Airforce of Zimbabwe's Canine Unit](#), Powder, a German Shepherd, has found a new home with the [ZimParks' Canine Unit](#) and has a strong bond with his handler, Gordon "MaDhikaz" Mudenda.

Recently, MaDhikaz and Powder were deployed on a mission to recover a stolen rifle after a ranger was ambushed by poachers in [Chimanimani National Park](#) and his firearm stolen. [Powder's excellent tracking skills meant the culprits were swiftly cornered and forced to surrender the AK-47.](#)

Powder is one of six dogs based at [Umtshibi Camp](#), established in 2016 to help combat wildlife crimes following cyanide poaching incidents that killed around 300 elephants at [Hwange National Park](#) in 2013.

"The [detection dogs play an important role in the fight against poaching.](#) Their duties include tracking, reacting to incursions and backing up the investigations unit," said Mabutho Nyathi, Senior Wildlife Officer at [Umtshibi](#).

IFAW provides the conservation dog section and reaction unit patrol rations, veterinary services and food supplies to support patrol deployments and health requirements.

Spurred by the successful tracking busts and arrests, [ZimParks](#), with support from

IFAW, is mulling deployment of some of the sniffer dogs at [Victoria Falls International Airport](#)—one of the busiest airports in the region and a gateway to the [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#). The deployment will help disrupt and dismantle wildlife trafficking in the region.

▲ Canine handler, Gordon "MaDhikaz" Mudenda and tracker dog Powder during a demonstration at Umtshibi Camp.





Photo: Stacey Hedman / ©IFAW

# listen to her roar

Brave, ambitious and committed. Just like the lionesses in the wild, Team Lioness—the first all-female ranger unit in Kenya—is committed to protecting wildlife from poaching and from human-wildlife conflict in the Amboseli ecosystem. Purity Lakara, one of the team leaders of this special force, had the opportunity to speak about the team's work during the Africa Protected Areas Congress (APAC) in Kigali, Rwanda.

She drew parallels between her work and the powerful role of the lioness in the pride.

"We are mothers, we take care of our children, we look for food, just like the lionesses," she said at the Sustainability & Resilience Pavilion at the APAC conference.

She passionately believes in the continued coexistence of animals and humans without conflict. She says they have always shared the land with wildlife.

"We take our goats to feed on the land and we share this land with wildlife, we share the water sources with elephants and other wildlife, and we are able to live peacefully together."

She highlighted the important work that IFAW is doing in the area. "They have held our hands and empowered us to be women rangers," she said.

Lakara serves as an example to fellow Maa women in her community that even though they may have dropped out of school, they have options to earn an honest and noble living.

IFAW is breaking barriers by allowing women to be economically empowered, especially in what had been perceived as male-dominated fields. The women in the unit are wives, mothers and young women, all of whom are fiercely dedicated to protecting their environment. Team Lioness has shown that women can be guardians of the ecosystem just like men, or even better.

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◀ Purity Lankara, a community ranger with Team Lioness, addresses delegates at the APAC.





Photo: Shaun McMinn / ©IFAW

# newly renovated camp in Hwange National Park offers excellent wildlife viewing

For those who are keen on conservation and elephants, this is the camp to visit. Located in the northern-most part of Zimbabwe's iconic Hwange National Park, Mandabvu is a simple, rustic camp and picnic site overlooking Mandabvu Dam—a magnet for diverse species of wildlife, where herds of elephants converge to drink, often trumpeting at the many crocodiles that live there. When charged by elephants, the crocodiles retreat to deeper water, but if you are lucky, you may witness one of the reptiles snapping a gazelle.

Mandabvu is one of the reservoirs in Hwange National Park that has been reopened to international and domestic campers after a major facelift, courtesy of a US\$5 million, five-year conservation agreement between ZimParks and IFAW. IFAW's support enabled the renovation of the ablution facilities, construction of braai (barbecue) stands, repair of viewing point shade covers and installation of a solar-powered borehole. Prior to the renovations and installation of the borehole, ZimParks officials used to transport water from Sinamatela camp, about 14 kilometres from Mandabvu.

To guarantee tourist safety, IFAW also supported the erection of a perimeter fence around the facility.

Sinamatela Area Manager Mike Jonasi says the facelift has helped boost tourist traffic and will support tourism recovery post COVID-19. "As a result of the renovations, Mandabvu picnic site now significantly changes the tourism experience. Tourists used to complain about the water, the shades and all other things. Now we are starting to see an improvement in the number of tourists coming to this facility," he said.

Among other interventions, the ZimParks-IFAW partnership aims to activate Hwange National Park's tourism potential.

Resources have also been set aside to revamp the Masuma picnic site and upgrade the guest lodges at Hwange Main Camp and Sinamatela Camp. With a diverse ecosystem and incredible wildlife sighting possibilities—more than 100 mammal and 400 bird species live in the area—the 14,651 square-kilometre park has all the ingredients to become an economic engine that can stir an

ecologically sustainable development trajectory in Zimbabwe.

"Our hope is that Hwange National Park becomes an irresistible tourism destination attracting both domestic and international tourists, thus contributing to the social-economic growth agenda for the country," said Phillip Kuvawoga, Director for Landscape Conservation at IFAW.



Photo: Shaun McMinn / ©IFAW

▲ Mandabvu picnic site, which was recently refurbished thanks to ZimParks-IFAW, is popular for its premium and idyllic camping experience.

▲ Aerial view of the picturesque Mandabvu picnic site, which was recently refurbished courtesy of the ZimParks-IFAW conservation partnership.





Photo: © IFAW

# 263 elephants translocated in Malawi

In July 2022, IFAW and partners translocated 263 elephants to [Kasungu National Park](#) in Malawi.

The translocation was part of a national conservation initiative with Malawi's [Department of National Parks and Wildlife and African Parks](#). The aim is to maintain healthy habitats and establish viable elephant populations in [Malawi's](#) national parks, while also contributing to the prosperity of local communities living around the parks.

The elephants were moved from [Liwonde National Park](#) to [Kasungu National Park](#), where IFAW has worked to stop poaching since 2015. Between 2017 and 2022 IFAW's [Combating Wildlife Crime in the Malawi-](#)

[Zambia Transfrontier Conservation Area](#) was supported by [United States Agency for International Development \(USAID\)](#). During this work, [the park's elephant population grew from 50 to around 120](#). The addition of 263 elephants from July's translocation is expected to help ensure the long-term conservation of elephants in [Kasungu](#).

A variety of additional wildlife were also successfully translocated to [Kasungu](#) from [Liwonde](#), including 80 buffalo, 128 impala, 33 sable, 81 warthog and 109 waterbuck.



Photo: © Jonas Strahberger

▲ A sedated elephant is hoisted into a truck prior to translocation to [Kasungu National Park](#) from [Liwonde National Park](#) in Malawi.

▲ A small family group of elephants leave a truck in [Kasungu National Park](#) after translocation from [Liwonde National Park](#).





Photo: © IFAW

# training rangers as drone pilots to better protect wildlife in Kenya

On 5 August 2022, a slightly overcast day, two female rangers from IFAW's Team Lioness at Olgulului Community Wildlife Rangers (OCWR), Patrick Papatiti, Director of Operations for the Olgulului-Ololarashi Group Ranch, and a Kenya Wildlife Service ranger— all sponsored by IFAW—earned their drone pilot certifications from Dronector Limited Flying School in Nairobi, Kenya.

The cohort completed a month-long intensive program culminating in their successful licensing as drone pilots. This makes them **pioneers in the landscape as the only ones with drone certification, putting them on the cutting edge of protecting wildlife.**

The team all agree that this skill will provide a great advantage as they carry out patrols in a harsh landscape. Drones will help with rapid and effective animal sightings, fence patrols, water point assessments and surveillance for illegal activities like poaching. In rare instances when elephants enter inhabited areas, the sound of a flying drone can be used to help drive them away from potential human-wildlife conflict.



Photo: © IFAW

▲ Peter Kimani – Researcher from WRTI (Wildlife Research and Training Institute) stationed in ANP; Evans Olais Meritei – OCWR Ranger; Patrick Papatiti – OCWR Director; Lioness Naomi Simaloi – OCWR TL; Lioness Leah Raayio Murera – OCWR TL. Together with Drone examiner from Kenya Civil Aviation Authority (KCAA) and Drone pilot trainer Kevin Ririani.

▲ Leah Raayio with drone examiner from KCAA during her practical examination.





Photo: ©GRI

# ultra-modern facility provides care for orphaned elephant calves

On 8 August 2022, a new elephant nursery at the [Wildlife Discovery Centre](#) in Zambia's [Lusaka National Park](#) opened to the public.

Director for [Wildlife Rescue](#) at IFAW, Neil Greenwood, attended the grand opening and was onsite when the elephant calves were moved into the new nursery. The nursery is a state-of-the-art facility and was built with funding from IFAW and production company [Sinking Ship Entertainment](#) (SSE). The ceremony was hosted by [Zambia's Minister of Tourism](#), Rodney Sikumba, as well as the [British High Commissioner to Zambia](#), Nicholas Woolley.

Nestled deep within the park, the nursery is open during the day and provides visitors with the opportunity to observe the calves during the initial stages of their rehabilitation.

Orphaned elephants are rescued and brought to the nursery for 24/7 care and support. The team works to return each calf to full health and so they can be released back into the wild in [Kafue National Park](#).

Each year this immersive centre will be able to **offer free conservation education opportunities to more 5,000 children and welcome 40,000 local and international guests.**

▲ The “donor” tree features the names of individuals who supported the building of the new elephant nursery.





Photo: © Grevy's Zebra Trust

# devastating drought in Kenya threatens the survival of endangered Grevy's zebras

A major drought has devastated northern Kenya, threatening the survival of one of Africa's most endangered large mammals—the Grevy's zebra. More than 90% of the 3,000 remaining Grevy's zebras live in the arid landscapes of northern Kenya, which is experiencing its fourth consecutive failed rainy season, causing a climatic event not seen in 40 years.

The future of Grevy's zebras in northern Kenya is intrinsically linked with the resilience of the pastoral communities they share the land with. Both humans and animals are threatened as their land gets degraded and fragmented, restricting access to water and driving insecurity and disease. Together with [Grevy's Zebra Trust \(GZT\)](#), IFAW is striving for solutions to improve the future for people and endangered zebras.

To assist with the crisis at hand, IFAW committed emergency funding to support GZT's drought response. GZT has 4,000 bales of hay secured and they anticipate having to feed zebras in more areas as the

drought intensifies. The highest costs are associated with the fuel needed for transporting the feed and feeding the animals, as fuel prices have almost doubled in Kenya in 2022. Additional costs are related to conducting surveys. Ensuring the health and well-being of the staff and volunteers as they undertake this challenging work is also a key priority.

The survival of [Grevy's zebra depends on co-existence with people living in northern Kenya](#), so GZT focuses on helping neighbouring communities. The organisation has the partnerships, knowledge and traditional systems in place to address environmental challenges. They support resilience practices and help communities adapt to modern realities so that they can protect their resources and wildlife can thrive.

Together with GZT, IFAW is committed to creating a better future for both animals and people in a time of climate-related disasters around the world.

**+90%**

the 3,000 remaining Grevy's zebras live in the arid landscapes of northern Kenya

▲ The next six months will be a crisis period for the endangered Grevy's zebra.





# ifaw partners with Speak Out for Animals to combat wildlife crime using the legal system

Driven by a strong desire for a just and environmentally sensitive society, international animal law champion Ever Chinoda (34) is on a mission to establish greater legal protection for wildlife in [Southern Africa](#) and to lead a generation of dedicated animal advocates.

Named one of the [100 Young African Conservation Leaders of 2021](#), the passionate Zimbabwean lawyer founded [Speak Out For Animals \(SOFA\)](#) to combat wildlife crime using the legal system.

Holding a Master's degree in Animal Law from Lewis & Clark Law School in the [U.S.](#), Chinoda leads a team of seven young lawyers who have joined forces to influence and inspire behaviour change towards animal protection.

Through its [Wildlife Crime Programme](#) IFAW is working with SOFA to ensure that wildlife crime law is offered as a subject in Zimbabwean law schools. The [Great Zimbabwe University \(GZU\)](#) wildlife law division, introduced in 2021, has enrolled 49 students drawn mainly from public institutions including police officers and prosecutors.

The [University of Zimbabwe \(UZ\)](#) has also introduced the programme on the request of student studying veterinary sciences, humanities and agricultural sciences.

Focusing on critical issues including combating wildlife crime, human-wildlife conflict and the state of wildlife laws, [the course will equip students to become conservation champions and contribute to creating of safe spaces for wildlife.](#)

IFAW has also supported SOFA's Wildlife Law Casebook, which will serve as an easy reference for prosecutors and judges who are working with wildlife crime cases. The IFAW-SOFA partnership will also support training for prosecutors and judges to improve the capacity of the judiciary to effectively prosecute wildlife crimes.

"We are extremely excited by the news that [Government is mulling the establishment of an Environmental Court](#). As [SOFA](#) lawyers we build the capacity and skills lawmakers need to become the presiding officers of that court," said Chinoda. She went on to add: "To me the end game of my career is becoming an environmental judge."

▲ [Speak Out For Animals \(SOFA\)](#)  
Executive Director and Founder,  
Ever Vimbai Chinoda.





# wildlife trafficker gets 63-month prison sentence in the US

In August 2022, a court in New York **sentenced a notorious wildlife trafficker to 63-months in prison** for conspiring to illegally trade rhinoceros horns and elephant ivory worth millions of dollars.

The sentence was the outcome of a groundbreaking U.S.-led investigation involving law enforcement and partners from Uganda and other countries.

The court found Moazu Kroma, a resident of Uganda, played a central role in the transport, distribution, sale and smuggling of rhino horn worth about US\$3.4 million and ivory worth about US\$4 million between December 2012 and May 2019.

He and his gang exported approximately 190 kilograms of horns and 10 tons of ivory to foreign buyers, translating to an estimated 35 rhinoceros and 100 elephants illegally killed.

Intended for buyers in the U.S. and Southeast Asia, the horns and ivory originated from several countries including Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Guinea, Kenya, Mozambique, Senegal and Tanzania. The ivory and horns were smuggled by concealing them in masks, statues and other pieces of art.

Moses Olinga, Programme Manager for Uganda and the Horn of Africa at IFAW,

said the sentence was “welcome, but not satisfactory.”

“Tough sentencing is needed for wildlife traffickers to send a signal to others engaged in these crimes that what they are doing is not acceptable,” said Olinga.

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▲ A black rhino in South Africa with a bird perched on its back.





Photo: © IFAW

# DISRUPT training to combat illegal smuggling of trophies and wildlife species

As poachers become more nefarious in their dealings, the ways to combat and intercept them must keep evolving and advancing. To this effect IFAW, in partnership with [African Wildlife Foundation \(AWF\)](#), and in collaboration with [Kenya Wildlife Service \(KWS\)](#), facilitated a training for frontline law enforcement officers. The [Detecting Illegal Species through Preventive Training \(DISRUPT\)](#) took place in July 2022 at Nairobi's [Jomo Kenyatta International Airport](#).

The training was one of the activities undertaken and supported by the [Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs \(INL\)](#) under the [INL Kenya grant](#). In all, 31 law enforcement officers (11 women and 20 men) attended, representing:

- ▶ [Kenya Wildlife Service \(KWS\)](#)
- ▶ [National Police Service \(Airport Police, Directorate of Criminal Investigations\)](#)
- ▶ [Kenya Revenue Authority \(Customs\)](#)
- ▶ [Kenya Airports Authority \(KAA\)](#)
- ▶ [National Frontier](#)
- ▶ [Department of Immigration](#)
- ▶ [Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service \(KEPHIS\)](#)

The five-day training covered modules on the status of illegal wildlife trade in Kenya, identification of wildlife trophies and their products, wildlife smuggling techniques and concealment techniques. The facilitators were drawn from IFAW, AWF, KWS, United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC) and the Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHR).

One major objective of the training was to improve networking and information sharing among the officers on issues regarding trafficking within the airport. The project enhances this work through simple solutions like dedicated WhatsApp information and networking platforms, which IFAW is a part of. Free and open lines of communication amongst each other further enhances wildlife enforcement agencies' capacity to collaborate.

- 
- ▲ Trainees participate in a species detection exercise.





# ifaw participates in the first-ever Africa Protected Areas Congress

In July the first-ever [Africa Protected Areas Congress \(APAC\)](#) was held in [Kigali, Rwanda](#). This pioneering meeting gathered leaders, stakeholders and citizens to discuss issues and ideas related to human-led conservation efforts across [Africa](#), with an emphasis on the inclusion of youth, Indigenous peoples and local communities.

IFAW is a founding party of [APAC](#) and has worked over the past four years to bring the conference to life. Additionally, IFAW co-led the “People” stream and the [Youth Pre-Congress event](#). One of three main streams, the People stream focuses on the importance of engagement, participation and even leadership by communities themselves—as the true guardians of [Africa’s](#) land and wildlife. Congress participants all agreed that for biodiversity to be successful we need to involve people, Indigenous people, local communities and youth as key stakeholders.

As [Africa’s](#) population grows, protected areas are coming under increased pressure, boundaries are becoming sharper and protected areas risk becoming “islands”

in a sea of human developments. Managers of protected areas need to know how to manage the areas in harmony with people and human developments. That’s why [IFAW held a training campus aimed at equipping managers of African protected areas with knowledge of the Ecosystem Approach and practical guidance on how to apply it when managing wildlife and habitats.](#)

IFAW gained new and increasing support at [APAC](#) for key elements of our approach. A huge nod was given to our approach of placing communities at the core of how we help people and animals thrive together. Throughout the congress, IFAW stressed the importance of connectivity and promoted our [Room to Roam initiative](#) as part of the solution.

Now IFAW is looking forward to solidifying regional relationships with the [East African Community \(EAC\)](#), the [South African Development Committee \(SADC\)](#), [Uganda](#), [Tanzania](#), [Zimbabwe](#) and [Zambia](#), all of which will play key roles as we continue to strengthen our [Room to Roam initiative](#). [APAC](#) also presented an opportunity for

IFAW to engage with African organisations on marine conservation. The [Marine Conservation Program, East Africa](#) started in September 2022 offering opportunities to continue the conversations and engagements started at APAC.

▲ Team IFAW (from l-r): John Kogada (Director Community Engagement), Stacey Hedman (Director Communications Global Programs), Patricio Ndzabela (Country Director, Malawi & Zambia), Maurice Nyaligu (Head of Programs East Africa), Jimmiel Mandima (Vice President, Global Programs & Institutional Giving Programs), Michael Wamithi (IFAW advisor to the CEO), Rosie Awori (Communications Officer Eastern Africa), Monipher Musasa (International Policy Advisor), Daisy Ochiel (Female Engagement Assistant), James Isiche (East African Regional Director), Philip Kuvawoga (Program Director Landscape Conservation), Stella Wekesa (Institutional Giving Manager, Africa), Jason Bell (EVP - Strategy, Programs & Field Operations).





Photo: © Wild is Life

# surgery and a full recovery for elephant calf with a broken leg

Beatrix (9 months old), an orphan elephant calf in care at [Wild is Life \(WIL\)](#) in Harare, [Zimbabwe](#), has made a full recovery after falling and fracturing her leg in a freak accident in June 2022.

In a first for [WIL](#), orthopaedic surgeon Dr. Jabu Mthethwa and anaesthetist Dr. Mufudzi Mshanginga—who usually treat human patients—used their medical skills to operate and to place titanium pins and screws into the broken bone. As Beatrix is a very young calf, the medical team felt she was an excellent candidate for this surgery.

Round-the-clock nursing by [WIL](#) founder Roxy Danckwerts, nursery manager

Catherine Jennings and the primary carers at the nursery made it possible for Beatrix to be as good as new just three months after the surgery.

“A big shout out to the specialists and particularly veterinarian Dr. Mark Lombard who just didn’t give up on Beatrix—making constant visits to check on her recuperation—and her carers whose infinite patience made sure she stayed cheerful and motivated,” said Roxy.

“Thanks to them **Beatrix is fully healed and back to going out on bush walks, swimming in the dam and playing with her goat friend.** She is a little champion of an elephant,

gregarious and courageous and we don’t expect any long-term adverse effects from the accident.”

Beatrix was rescued at about one-week old when she was found in a ditch and airlifted to [WIL](#). When she’s old enough she will be moved to the [IFAW-WIL Panda Masuie Release Site](#) to eventually be released into the wild.

▲ Intense care has ensured elephant calf Beatrix has made a full recovery after breaking her leg.









Photo: Shaun McMinn / ©IFAW.

# fighting fire with fire

Climate change and human activity help fuel veld fires (wild fires), posing serious threats to some of the world's most iconic wildlife species and sensitive biodiversity areas—including the [Panda Masuie Forest Reserve](#) in [Zimbabwe](#).

Situated near the western boundary of [Zimbabwe](#) and close to [Victoria Falls](#) (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), the 85,000 square-acre (345 square-kilometres) [Panda Masuie Forest Reserve](#) is among key protected areas frequently threatened by veld fires.

**To combat the problem, conservationists fight fire with fire.**

[Panda Masuie](#) is a pristine forest reserve that is home to some of the world's most endangered and threatened species, such as elephants, African painted dogs, lions, hyenas and leopards. This is where [IFAW](#), [Wild is Life \(WIL\)](#) and the [Forestry Commission of Zimbabwe](#) are partnering to fight the destructive flames by burning firebreaks to ensure veld fires don't spread into the forest reserve.

"We burn a massive 120 kilometres of firebreaks every year to prevent the rampant forest fires that happen later in the dry season from destroying our forest," said [Jos Danckwerts](#), Conservation Director for the [IFAW-WIL Panda Masuie Release Project](#).

Co-managed by the [Forestry Commission of Zimbabwe](#) and [WIL](#), with technical and funding support from [IFAW](#), [Panda Masuie](#) is also a place where orphaned and injured elephants are rehabilitated and released back into the wild. The mission to protect the wildlife and landscape from threats like climate change, poaching and veld fires is not only important, it's essential.

Burning a firebreak is time-consuming, difficult and dangerous. It entails burning a strip approximately 20-30 metres wide along the boundary roads surrounding the reserve to prevent forest fires from spreading.

Each year, prior to the onset of the July to October fire season, [WIL](#) and the [Forestry Commission of Zimbabwe](#) field a team of 14 people—escorted by three rangers at time—to burn the firebreaks.

"Veld fires are prevalent across the globe and [Zimbabwe](#) has not been spared. We are proud to join hands with our partners [WIL](#) and the [Forestry Commission](#) to develop risk-reduction initiatives and to secure the [Panda Masuie Forest Reserve](#) from bushfires," said [Phillip Kuvawoga](#), Director of [IFAW's Landscape Conservation Programme](#).

- ▲ A team manually burning a strip 20-30 metres wide alongside boundary roads to prevent bushfires from spreading.
- ◀ Prior to the July to October fire season, an incredible 120 kilometres of firebreaks are burned each year to protect the [Panda Masuie Forest Reserve](#) from wildfires. This entails manually burning a strip 20-30 metres wide alongside boundary road to prevent bushfires from spreading and endangering wildlife and the landscape.





# conservation award for ifaw

IFAW's work to address key conservation challenges in Zimbabwe has been recognised by the Corporate Social Responsibility Network of Zimbabwe.

IFAW received the Excellence in Environmental Conservation and Social Impact Award, presented at the Matabeleland North Province Environment Responsible Business and CSR Awards in Victoria Falls in September 2022.

"The award testifies to the successes of the conservation agreement between IFAW and ZimParks, which has transfigured Hwange

National Park from a poacher's playground to a much safer place for wildlife," said Phillip Kuvawoga, IFAW's Director for Landscape Conservation.

No elephants have been poached in targeted areas of Hwange National Park in the past three years as new infrastructure and other intervention measures supported by IFAW have improved management. Incidents of human-wildlife conflicts have also been significantly reduced in communities sharing frontiers with the park.

Hosted annually by the Corporate Social Responsibility Network Zimbabwe, the awards acknowledge CSR and sustainability efforts and contributions made by individuals, the private and public sectors towards community development in Zimbabwe. Winners represent diverse sectors and industries that have made positive impact on Zimbabwe's sustainable development agenda and the promotion of government's vision 2030.

▲ Communications Officer, Luckmore Safuli accepts IFAW's award.



# animals and people



Photo: Scott Ang / © IFAW

# thriving together



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for Animal Welfare

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