

insider update

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A North Atlantic right whale breaches.



a message from ifaw

Dear Friends,

Climate change is having a dramatic impact on animals and people alike. It exacerbates the threats facing many species. Some have already gone extinct due to climate change and many more will follow. As many as one-third of animal species are facing extinction as a result of climate change unless action is taken.

Yet studies show nature conservation can provide approximately one-third of the carbon mitigation needed to meet the Paris Agreement. Animals can also play a role in fighting climate change in their natural ecosystems.

In this edition of Insider Update, we delve into the many ways species naturally alleviate effects of the global climate crisis and why IFAW believes that protecting the lives of all animals and giving them the space to roam freely, will give our planet the chance to restore its biodiversity and overall health.

When it comes to protecting wildlife, even the biggest animals need our help. Some of the world's largest animals — elephants, whales and sharks — are also some of the most vulnerable and are in need of our protection. Whether hunted

intentionally — elephants for their ivory and sharks for their fins — or unintentionally — such as whales caught in fishing gear — many of these titans are considered keystone species in our conservation work. Their survival is crucial to keeping the natural balance for ecosystems and our planet.

Thanks to you, our most generous supporters, IFAW has been working to protect the lives of animals for over 50 years and we have no intention of slowing down.

IFAW will continue to engage the public and educate lawmakers and politicians about how the lives of animals are intrinsically linked with ours. I hope you will do the same by “recycling” this publication with your friends and family so that they, in turn, can be inspired by the work you are helping us achieve.

With sincere appreciation,

Azzedine Downes
President and CEO



Keepers with a herd of elephants at Lilayi Elephant Nursery prior to relocating the herd to the Wildlife Discovery Centre in Lusaka National Park.

a new home for orphaned elephants

Lusaka National Park is Zambia's newest and most accessible park, which opened to the public in 2015. It has been home to more than 1,000 species, but one species of animal had been noticeably missing — until recently.

IFAW partners with Game Rangers International (GRI) to support the Lilayi Elephant Orphanage Project — the first elephant orphanage in Southern Africa and the second on the continent focusing on returning elephants to the wild. On July 12, 2022, GRI moved its entire nursery of six young elephants from its existing location to Lusaka National Park in preparation for the opening of the immersive Wildlife Discovery Centre. The relocation of the herd was a milestone for both the park and GRI.

The Wildlife Discovery Centre, which opened August 8, 2022, plans to welcome an estimated 40,000 local and international visitors and to offer

free conservation education to 5,000 local school children each year. Through interactive displays and exhibits that highlight conservation issues and efforts to resolve them, GRI, with the support of IFAW and partners, hopes to foster a connection between the people of Zambia and its wildlife, increasing environmental awareness and inspiring greater conservation stewardship.

As for the six elephants, the process of caring for them, and eventually integrating them with wild elephants and building their independence to thrive in the wild, could take over ten years. All of us at IFAW are ready to watch these little ones grow and thrive in their new home.

Scan the QR code to watch how elephant keeper Elvis spends a typical day.





Elephants are released into Kasungu National Park, Malawi.

elephants on the move

In July 2022 IFAW, in collaboration with Malawi’s Department of National Parks and Wildlife and African Parks, translocated 263 elephants from Liwonde National Park to Kasungu National Park — a journey that has been years in the making.

Kasungu National Park, the second largest national park in Malawi — four times larger than Liwonde — had once been a thriving tourist destination, brimming with wildlife. Rampant poaching diminished the elephant population until fewer than 50 remained and the tourism industry dried up. Between 2015 and 2022, IFAW’s work to strengthen law enforcement and provide employment for local community members in Kasungu resulted in the elephant population’s growth to 120 individuals signaling that the area was now a viable home for new herds.

Relocating these large mammals was no small task. Prep work included mapping the translocation route, obtaining permission from

authorities and constructing a temporary holding enclosure, or “boma,” at the release site. On the day of the move, entire family herds were darted to sedate them. A skilled team of veterinary support staff performed health checks, while researchers from the University of Pretoria’s Conservation Ecology Research Unit recorded data about the elephants. Then staff members attached straps to the elephants’ and lifted the elephants, upside down (the safest way to transport these animals), into trailers with a crane. From capture to trailer, the entire process took about 20 minutes. The elephants were then given a sedative reversal agent to wake them up inside the transport trailers.

The translocation was part of a national conservation initiative to maintain healthy habitats in Malawi’s national parks, establish viable elephant populations and ensure the prosperity of local communities living around the parks.

raise your trunks: a toast to the UK

As IFAW continues to push forward initiatives to protect the habitats of elephants, we celebrate an important milestone in the UK that will reduce poaching and illegal trafficking. The Ivory Act ban, enacted three years ago in the UK, makes it illegal to deal in ivory items unless they have been registered or have an exemption certificate. The Ivory Act covers ivory items of all ages, not only those produced after a certain date.

In June 2022 the UK government announced that it will begin enforcing the ban — marking one of the toughest bans on elephant ivory sales in the world, with some of the strongest enforcement measures. Those found guilty of breaching the ban will face a fine of up to £250,000 or up to five years’ imprisonment.



Elephant herd at sunset in Amboseli National Park, Kenya.

why elephants?

Our planet is home to many iconic species, each facing their own challenges for survival. So why does IFAW focus on elephants in many of our projects and partnerships?

Elephants are outstanding ambassadors for large-scale landscape conservation efforts, and therefore, our flagship species. Elephant populations keep savannah ecosystems intact. When they graze, they disperse seeds, clear vegetation and fertilize the soil, which helps build more complex and more resilient ecosystems. These activities can maintain and increase carbon stocks in the soil, roots and above-ground parts of plants, helping to reduce CO2 in the atmosphere. Savannahs are biodiversity hotspots and key for many species’ survival. Elephants drive savannah dynamics and their presence creates habitats and opportunities for other species.

Elephants act as the earth’s personal ecosystem engineers. As elephants move and feed, they create new clearings and access to light which gives other species a chance to bloom and breed. As they move and create pathways, they break

down branches, helping to bring food sources closer to the ground for animals that are too small to reach the upper branches in the trees. Their feet, trunks and tusks create holes deep enough to tap into underground water sources, creating watering holes from which other animals may drink. These natural actions all ‘engineer’ the world around them.

A global extinction crisis is currently underway. We know that elephants create countless benefits for our ecosystems. At IFAW, we believe that elephants have intrinsic value — each and every individual. Furthermore, given the impact on various local economies — including ecotourism, farming, ranger job creation and more — it is also clear that the value of an elephant is economically higher when the animal is alive than when killed for its parts. It is therefore critical that we ensure that elephant species have the space they need to live, roam and thrive.



Scan the QR code for a video showing the translocation process in action.



The 17 Sustainable Development Goals developed by the United Nations.

animals and their habitats: a critical part of a sustainable future

In 2015 the 193 member states of the United Nations (UN) developed a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that would serve as a guiding framework for policy and funding provided by the UN — and encourage better informed and coordinated action by governments, nonprofits and the private sector.

However, few of the SDGs directly reference animals, ecosystems or the natural world — despite the important role they play in building a healthy, prosperous and sustainable future.

Thriving Together: The Critical Role of Animals in Achieving the SDGs, released by IFAW in June 2022, is designed to demonstrate to policy makers and their constituencies the critical role of animal welfare and wildlife conservation in achieving the SDGs.

At IFAW, we strive for a world of peaceful coexistence between humans and the natural environment and a world where animals are both respected and protected. We have taken steps to integrate our projects into the communities that live closest to wildlife,



Jenga Mama participants practice hairdressing and giving manicures.

creating a cycle in which the communities benefit, leading to more successful conservation outcomes and, ultimately, producing long-term benefits for the community.

IFAW has partnered with Margarete-Breuer Stiftung to finance the Jenga Mama (which translates to “Empower Woman”) Project, providing vocational training for women which will create work opportunities and fuel economic growth. The project reduces their dependency and interactions with nature, giving wildlife room to roam in their habitat and creating peaceful coexistence between people and wildlife.

Room to Roam is our visionary approach to conservation in Africa. Creating secure habitats, leading to greater biodiversity doesn’t only help elephants and other wildlife — it also opens new opportunities for local communities to enhance

their well-being and coexist with wildlife. When we engage communities in natural resource management — whether for ecosystem health and/or as an economic driver — they can be directly involved in planning and implementing long-term solutions.

Policy makers must integrate the welfare of animals and conservation of wildlife when considering the implementation of the SDGs. Failure to do so not only ignores the intrinsic value of animals but also endangers the prospect of a healthy planet for future generations. When animals and their habitats are healthy and cared for, everyone benefits.

Scan the QR code to access the full report.





Scott Lowe breaks ground at a new community ranger base funded by the David Rio Foundation in Ilmarba, Kenya, as IFAW-supported Olgulului Community Wildlife Rangers (OCWR) look on.

donor spotlight: Scott Lowe

Scott Lowe has been passionate about animal welfare and conservation his entire life. Growing up, his grandparents served as a model of conservation, going so far as to convert a former waste management site to a wild waterfowl sanctuary where they hatched, raised and released waterfowl into the wild.

When Scott was introduced to IFAW, he was initially impressed with the pragmatic approach to conservation, recognizing the importance of animals and people thriving together. Then, in 2019, Scott had the good fortune of visiting Amboseli, Kenya with two of his children. He shares that “being with the elephants in their natural habitat, learning from Evan Mkala of IFAW and meeting and connecting with the brave rangers who put their lives in danger — every day — truly changed my life.”

As CEO of David Rio Chai & Tea, an award-winning, premium chai and tea company, Scott has been

able to combine his work with his deep commitment to animal welfare.

David Rio has been a corporate partner of IFAW’s since 2011. In 2021, inspired by his recent trip to Amboseli, Scott and the company expanded upon that impact with a generous pledge of \$206,000 to our Room to Roam campaign.

Scott elaborated on the decision to support the Room to Roam campaign: “I have tremendous respect for the women and men on the ground in Amboseli, and I believe they are the most critical link in IFAW’s mission ... Meeting the rangers, I could feel the passion and pride in the work they do to protect the elephants. Without them, programs are only ideas and cannot be executed. From the time I started my first company, I have firmly believed that being a conservationist and being in business must go together — you simply cannot be one without being the other.”



A thresher shark that suffered a propeller strike injury.

snapping back at the shark trade industry

International demand for shark fin and meat has led to the species’ global decline. Today, there are 71% percent fewer sharks in the open ocean than there were 50 years ago.

This past year IFAW released an eye-opening report (*supply and demand: the EU’s role in the global shark trade*) citing the European Union as a lead producer in shark-fin related exports. We were therefore pleased to learn of the EU’s decision to co-sponsor a significant proposal to limit shark trade during this year’s Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) meeting. IFAW is looking to take these measures one step further, by applying science-backed data to help further regulate shark catch and trade limitations outlined by CITES.

We are encouraging countries to develop their own Non-Detrimental Findings (NDFs), research and data collection on a species to determine whether its export will be harmful to its habitat. Sharks are

vital to ocean health. Diversity in shark species — and thus in their varied diets — helps to balance the underwater ecosystem. Sharks also help combat global warming. Their bodies are 10-15% carbon, and when they die naturally, their bodies sink — along with that carbon — to the depths of the ocean. When sharks are killed and fished out of the water that carbon is released back into our atmosphere.

Panama is leading the initiative to control the unsustainable global trade in shark fins, which threatens to push these ecologically important predators to extinction. The country is proposing that CITES regulates the trade in all several species of sharks, including the endangered gray reef shark. Panama City will host the CITES meeting with 184 member nations on 14-25 November 2022, which will include a final decision on shark protections by the CITES Conference of the Parties.



Photo: Friends of the Koala / @IFAW

Gulliver was rescued during the catastrophic March 2022 floods.

restoring Australia's wildlife

For nearly two years, parts of Australia have suffered the ongoing effects of climate change with disasters increasing in frequency and intensity and communities experiencing a constant onslaught of prolonged drought, catastrophic bushfires and record-breaking floods. Australia's endemic wildlife cannot handle much more and the survival of many species — including humans — depends on urgent and concerted action to address climate change.

IFAW knows that being prepared for disasters before they occur means saving more lives. After the 2019-2020 Black Summer bushfires, IFAW's Disaster Response & Risk Reduction team created a disaster toolkit for wildlife rescue groups featuring guidelines and tools for animal carers and groups to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters. Many wildlife carers and groups that IFAW supports were able to implement these best practices ahead of disaster events. For example, our partner, Sleepy Burrows Wombat Sanctuary, created portable wombat shelters that can be moved to higher ground during a flood or other emergency.

Since 2020 IFAW has partnered with Great Eastern Ranges, working to restore habitats and create wildlife corridors across 3,600 kilometers of the

east coast. Through the planting of new shrubs and trees, installing nest boxes for animals to move through wildlife spaces safely and helping landowners identify various species of wildlife that live on their properties. We are helping communities and habitats rebuild, recover and develop resilience against future disasters.

IFAW's critical funding to key partners throughout Australia supports specialized care and medical treatment for wildlife. In the past year, our partners have admitted almost 2,000 animals into their care and released more than 600 back into the wild. Two of those success stories involve koalas who survived the floods from earlier this year in New South Wales.

Gulliver was 14 months old when he was found alone amid the torrential downpours. He was assessed by the IFAW vet team at Friends of the Koala and spent time there until he was old enough to be released back into the wild on August 16, 2022. Five-year-old Flux was also rescued after the floods. Flux spent months under the expert care of the vet team receiving treatment and supplements to help him recover. He was released back into the wild on June 16, 2022.



Watch the moment of Flux's release.



Photo: Paolo Torchio / @IFAW

James Isiche, IFAW Regional Director-East Africa, and a Maasai community member in Amboseli, Kenya.



Photo: Dominica Mack / @IFAW

Australian actor and IFAW Regional Ambassador, Bonnie Sveen, with Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary Director, Greg Irons, and a three-legged, short-beaked echidna.

join the global council

exclusive opportunities

Participate in high-level discussions with senior leadership and experts and be invited to global events.

visit program sites

Directly connect with the work your investment makes possible.

network & discover

Meet with IFAW's key conservation and animal welfare leaders for briefings, tours and program updates. Join us at exclusive events.

receive special updates & impact reports

Stay up to date with relevant news, policy updates and stories from the field.

For more information about the Global Council and more opportunities to engage with our work regionally and globally, please reach out to Deputy Vice President, Development Liz Fowler at +1 646-202-0771 or lfowler@ifaw.org.



A veterinarian oversees the rehabilitation of rescued giant anteater pups in Brazil.

more ways to give

We hope you are inspired by this newsletter. None of this would be possible without your support. If you are seeking tax-advantaged ways to support IFAW, here are two:

Giving Appreciated Securities. Each year, many IFAW supporters choose to make their annual gift through stock. A gift of appreciated securities means you can support animals and people thriving together and avoid paying capital gains tax. Visit FreeWill.com/stocks/ifaw or scan the QR code to learn more.



Visit FreeWill.com/stocks/ifaw or scan the QR code to learn more.

IRA Charitable Rollover. Are you looking for another tax-smart way to make an impact on IFAW? Consider the IRA charitable rollover (also called the Qualified Charitable Distribution, or QCD). By making this tax-free gift to IFAW, you can support our work rescuing animals while satisfying your required Minimum Distribution (RMD).

What are the benefits?

- ▶ You pay no income taxes on the gift, so you benefit even if you do not itemize your deductions.
- ▶ If you are age 72 or older you can use your gift to satisfy your RMD without increasing your income taxes.
- ▶ Your support creates an immediate impact for IFAW.

How does it work?

- ▶ You must be 70½ years or older at the time of the gift.
- ▶ Gifts must go directly from your IRA to IFAW.
- ▶ You may give up to \$100,000 per year.

How do I make an IRA Charitable Rollover?

- ▶ Contact your IRA administrator to request a QCD from your IRA to IFAW.

Visit legacy.ifaw.org to learn more.

