

insider update

Photo: Donal Boyd / © IFAW



A Maasai woman walks with cattle in Amboseli, Kenya.



Dear Friend,

I hope you enjoy this latest edition of Insider Update. Many of these stories focus on the relationships IFAW has forged with others across local communities and other NGOs to save animals and safeguard the land. We know we cannot be everywhere at once, and we appreciate every personal connection that furthers our mission of allowing animals and people to thrive together. I am grateful for the relationship you have built with IFAW and for your support in making our vision a reality.

Azzedine Downes
President and CEO

ask Azzedine

Welcome to this inaugural feature of our newsletter, offering you the opportunity to learn more about IFAW from President and CEO Azzedine Downes. This edition's question comes from supporter Iain Webb, based in Boston, MA:

Could you speak to how you engage with traditional Chiefs in Africa and how engaging with communities and traditional leaders contributes to IFAW's goal of landscape conservation?

At IFAW we're not only looking at immediate needs but also at long-term, sustainable solutions for conservation. How can the seeds we plant today continue to grow and thrive in 10, 20 or even 50 years? We work with communities and local partners, giving them equal voices and inclusive participation, to ensure that projects started through IFAW—like Jenga Mama in the rural Amboseli community in Kenya, or the Chikolongo Livelihood Project in Southern Malawi, near Liwonde National Park—contribute to the well-being of local people and, in turn, better stewardship of natural resources.

Within our Room to Roam campaign we are trying to secure habitats and create connected landscapes outside of the national parks that will allow wildlife to roam freely. However, this will result in more frequent interactions between animals and local communities. For the past two

years IFAW has convened a number of valuable meetings with traditional leaders and Chiefs, representing East and Southern Africa, to share ideas and experiences. These local leaders represent approximately 7 million people who live on the buffer of anchor elephant clusters key to our Room to Roam initiative. Their involvement and partnerships are integral in developing long-lasting solutions that will allow us to move forward with Room to Roam.

It's also important to acknowledge that, as a result of their roles within the community, women have more frequent contact with wildlife than men do. It is through their stories we come to learn about the most complex details about the day-to-day challenges of living in these areas and I am committed to working with the women in these communities on behalf of our shared goal of saving animals.

As we come to better understand how the lives of people and animals are intrinsically linked, it becomes critical that we engage those who share land with the animals we are trying to protect, to ensure positive and lasting change.

If you would like to submit a question to Azzedine, please email mdevitt@ifaw.org with the subject line "Ask Azzedine". We may feature yours in the next Insider Update.

Photo: Y. Hong / @1StopBrunel Wildlife



The Sunda pangolin (also known as the Malayan or Javan pangolin) is found across Southeast Asia.

When you hear the term 'wildlife trafficking' what comes to mind? Perhaps elephants hunted for their tusks, rhinos for their horns or big cats captured as exotic pets. It may come as a surprise to learn that the pangolin is considered the most trafficked wild mammal in the world.

There are eight species of pangolins living throughout Africa and Asia all currently threatened by extinction. Three of these species—the Chinese pangolin, the Philippine pangolin and the Sunda pangolin—are listed as critically endangered. Their scales and claws are in high demand due to their use in traditional medicine (although there is no scientific evidence that they provide any health benefits). Pangolin meat is considered a delicacy in some Asian countries and consumed as bushmeat in some African countries. But the world needs pangolins. These animals consume 70 million insects every year, providing natural pest control and thus helping to maintain a balanced ecosystem. Furthermore, their long claws aerate the soil as they dig, spreading nutrients across their habitats.

On behalf of pangolins and other species, IFAW is actively working to fight trafficking and other forms of wildlife crime. Thanks to your support we can provide training, mentorship, equipment and infrastructure to wildlife authorities, police and border agents. We are also helping customs officers and law enforcement across Asia, Africa and Latin America to develop protocols for properly handling live wildlife during seizures and confiscations. In 2018 IFAW helped launch the Coalition to End Wildlife Trafficking Online. Today, the Coalition is comprised of 47 companies with more than 11 billion user accounts, and it has blocked or removed more than 11 million posts about illegal wildlife products.

IFAW is also engaging governments and multilateral organizations to produce laws and policies that protect wild animals and their habitats. As the 118th Congress gets underway, IFAW will be working to ensure strong US policies that protect species at home and abroad.

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advocacy supporters.





IFAW's new Director for the Center of Excellence, Dr. Rob Baginski.

a new face in animal rescue

The IFAW Center of Excellence (CoE), which opened in August 2022 on Cape Cod, MA, will create a global network of trained professional responders and experts in animal rescue best practices, with the goal of improved care and outcomes for rescued animals all over the globe. As catastrophic events continue to increase, millions of animals are in dire need of help. Funded by a generous grant from the Sue McGraw Foundation, animal rescue stakeholders will receive the gold standard of training backed by IFAW's 50+ years of hard-won experience through both in-person and online courses and workshops.

Leading the center is Dr. Robert Baginski, an emergency medicine physician and Associate Clinical Professor. Dr. Baginski has served as both the medical director and program director of the Physician Assistant Program at Northeastern University as well as the Program Director of their Doctor of Medical Science Program. He has volunteered for several years with the IFAW Marine Mammal Rescue and Research team and the Mystic Aquarium Animal Rescue Clinic. He has a strong focus on the One Health paradigm, an approach

that recognizes that the health of people is closely connected to the health of animals and our shared environment, from the perspectives of medicine, rescue and teaching.

In this role, Dr. Baginski will develop the CoE to showcase our outstanding rescue work, draw in key partners to expand our knowledge and train rescuers across the globe. He and his team will work to develop the CoE into a globally recognized educational program which will save thousands of animals each year thanks to IFAW's expertise in rescue training and mentoring others.

IFAW's Deputy Vice President of Animal Rescue Katie Moore observes: "the Center of Excellence was founded to allow best practices developed through experience and research to be shared... For me there are three consistent truths in animal rescue: one, there will always be animals in need of rescue; two, we can and must learn from every response that we undertake; and three, we can accomplish more when we work with partners, colleagues and other experts."

a life-long passion for education

For Sue McGraw, helping others has always been instinctive. Growing up, whenever she saw a lost cat or dog, her first thought was always, "I need to protect this animal." Throughout her career, Sue worked in early childhood education, focusing on helping students with special needs and developing an innovative program, Jumpstart, for 2 and 3-year-olds.

She also co-founded Pegasus, a therapeutic horseback riding program for adults and children. Initially focused on helping children with physical special needs, the program has broadened to support those affected by mental health challenges, including first responders and veterans. Now, The Suzanne McGraw Foundation has expanded its focus to conservation and animal welfare initiatives—which includes support for IFAW's Center of Excellence.

An IFAW donor since 2021, and current Global Council member, Sue has been impressed by IFAW's global reach, pragmatic approach to animal rescue and the leadership teams who manage our rescue and conservation programs. When she first learned about the Center of Excellence, the teacher in Sue was immediately drawn to the opportunity to support the professional development of animal rescuers worldwide. She sees the Center as an opportunity to dramatically expand the number of experts, caregivers and rescuers who are prepared to respond in times of disaster. Making a larger impact on animals and communities worldwide.

Sue lives with two rescue cats of her own.



Azzedine Downes, IFAW President & CEO, Suzanne McGraw, and Katie Moore, IFAW's Deputy VP - Animal Rescue before the ribbon-cutting for IFAW's new Center of Excellence.

Photo: Stacey Hedman / @IFAW



Elephants feed on water hyacinth in Liwonde National Park, Malawi.

engaging communities and traditional leaders

Local people and wildlife in Africa have spent centuries living together and sharing habitats. We know that a healthy coexistence is vital for people and animals to thrive together. The current human population in proximity to Room to Roam landscapes in Africa is 7 million people — a number that’s expected to almost double by 2050. With the rapidly changing physical environment, societal values and development priorities, minimizing human-wildlife conflict is more urgent than ever if we are to achieve a balanced and stable biodiversity and ecosystem structure.

IFAW engages with those living closest to the animals and habitats we strive to protect to ensure positive and sustained change. These communities often need support that falls outside of conventional conservation approaches but that is vital to achieving our objectives.

For example, communities benefit from support to:

- ▶ improve literacy, allowing people to read and understand agreements that affect their lives.
- ▶ improve money management skills and banking access for income from land leases, small businesses and investments.
- ▶ develop sensible land-use policies.
- ▶ create frameworks and governance for land trust, conservancies, enhanced animal husbandry and veterinary practices.
- ▶ develop skills and create opportunities for livelihoods that do not rely on poaching or exploiting wildlife.
- ▶ build a logical constituency of conservation literacy, leadership, governance and policy environment.



IFAW-supported Team Lioness Olgulului Community Wildlife Rangers (OCWR) on patrol near the base camp at the Risa community in Amboseli, Kenya.

IFAW’s Room to Roam initiative centers on the understanding that community involvement is key to conservation. We are shifting away from a model overseen by central government agencies and toward community-led conservation, often with oversight by traditional leaders. We are committed to working respectfully and collaboratively with communities to find lasting solutions that work for wildlife, people and the animals under their stewardship. We know that when people are invested in the welfare and safety of animals, they are more willing to act to protect them. Here are a few of the many ways IFAW works in collaboration with the local communities:

empowering 3,598 landowners: In Amboseli, Kenya, IFAW has partnered with the Olgulului Olorashi Group Ranch to create an agreement with 3,598 landowners to safeguard elephant migration routes. This allows them to earn lease fees while creating the potential for eco-tourism.

Team Lioness: all-women ranger unit: made up of 16 women from the Maasai community, Team Lioness is the first all-women ranger unit in East Africa.

Chikolongo transformation and impact: To reduce deadly encounters with wildlife, we built a pipeline that carries irrigation and household water from the Shire River to villages outside of Liwonde National Park. Solving food security issues for the 1,400-plus people living in the 13 villages of the extended Chikolongo community.

Jenga Mama altering livelihoods: To promote sustainable livelihoods, reduce over-reliance on natural habitats and stimulate conservation literacy, we are building business and entrepreneurship capacities of 60 women in Amboseli through skill and talent-based vocational training.

Our drive to protect critical habitats will result in long-term benefits for both wildlife and people.

IFAW is shifting away from wildlife conservation that is overseen by central government agencies and toward community-led conservation, often with oversight by traditional leaders. We remain committed to working respectfully and collaboratively with communities to find lasting solutions that work for animals and people.

Photo: Stewart Cook / @IFAW



IFAW's Song of the Whale from a previous research trip in the Bay of Fundy.

song of the whale

The goal of IFAW's Marine Conservation program is to ensure that targeted populations of marine animals are stable or increasing, especially those in habitats threatened by human activity. The North Atlantic right whale is one such threatened species, with fewer than 340 animals remaining in the entire world. The main culprits for this drastic population decrease are vessel strikes and entanglements in outmoded fishing gear. But we know there is hope. In the 1980s the population had dropped to around 250, and through protection measures that were put in place, the population numbers rose. It is possible to do it again.

One major challenge for conservation efforts to help save the North Atlantic right whale is knowledge gaps around whale habitat use. The location and intensity of threats and how these two interact with one another. A new project by IFAW is currently underway to help fill these gaps, which we hope will provide governments and authorities with much needed data to help support the survival of this species.

Research sailing vessel *Song of the Whale* (SOTW) began its survey work this January in the Southeastern waters of the United States, where the right whale mothers give birth to and nurse their calves. In addition to mapping the location of

the whales and the threats they face, teams are surveying the acoustics of mothers and their calves and how they communicate with one another (they whisper to each other, which can be difficult to do in a noisy environment filled with underwater motor sounds from nearby ships and boats).

There is an urgent need for expanded surveillance and data on right whale distribution, particularly in areas and at times when there is currently little effort or limited available information. SOTW is capable of traveling, working and remaining offshore in inclement conditions and seasons, providing a unique platform to monitor for and study right whales at challenging times of year and locations. The SOTW team has dedicated passive acoustic research capacity, is experienced in behavioral tracking, photo-id and can also provide a platform for collaborators to gather data in data-deficient locations to study individual health and to inform mitigation measures.

IFAW is committed to saving the North Atlantic right whale through research, public advocacy and new technologies. Beyond our research work with SOTW, we have teamed up with local fishing communities in the Northeast US to test ropeless fishing gear to help prevent whale entanglements.

Photo: Julia Curmes / @IFAW



IFAW responder with three young fawns in care at Mountain View Wildlife Rehabilitation, Hazard, Kentucky.

IFAW's Rescue team can't have a physical presence everywhere that animal welfare challenges exist, which is why we partner with and provide support to local shelters, rescue and rehabilitation centers around the world. With the accelerated rate of disasters, smaller organizations and independent rehabilitators are often most in need of financial support, usually relying on their own personal funds to care for animals. IFAW is known as a trusted partner and it is now more important than ever for us to continue providing life-saving funding to those closest to animals and their families who need immediate support.

how IFAW helped in 2022:

tsunamis: In January, an undersea volcano erupted near the Pacific nation of Tonga, resulting in devastating tsunami waves. We provided funds to our friends at South Pacific Animal Welfare for three months to ensure uninterrupted availability of critical veterinary supplies.

drought: In June, in response to the perilous situation resulting from drought in Somaliland, IFAW teamed up with humanitarian charity Candlelight, to provide 605 barrels (121,000 liters) of emergency water for 300 individuals and 555 sheep, goats and donkeys. IFAW also committed emergency funding to support the Grevy Zebra Trust in its work to provide life-saving assistance for the Grevy Zebra population affected by droughts in northern Kenya.

reaching animals across the world in 2022

hurricanes: In August, we responded to the devastation caused by category four Hurricane Ian in Southern Florida. IFAW provided emergency funding to two accredited animal sanctuaries and two wildlife rehabilitators supporting relief efforts for both domestic pets and Florida's natural wildlife.

floods: In September, Pakistan experienced its worst flooding in history. IFAW immediately responded, partnering with Education, Awareness and Community Health to purchase and distribute food for 1,000 cattle and other farm animals, the main source of livelihood for more than 200 families. We also provided a \$20,000 emergency grant for Dog Trust Worldwide to care for more than 250 dogs. In August, IFAW's Rescue team was deployed to Kentucky, working to reunite lost pets with their families. We then provided support to three rescue and rehabilitation groups to care for the animals affected by the floods.

good news out of congress

In October 2022, US President Biden signed into law the Planning for Animal Wellness (PAW) Act, an IFAW-endorsed, bipartisan measure designed to improve planning for pets and other animals affected by disasters. It directs FEMA to form a working group of experts to review best practices and current Federal guidance related to the sheltering and evacuation of pets throughout the emergency management process.



IFAW Landscape Conservation Director Phillip Kuvawoga and IFAW Global Programs Vice President Jimmiel Mandima visit Friends of the Koala.

restoring to connect and connecting to restore in Australia

By IFAW Vice President for Global Programs Jimmiel Mandima

Australia and Africa: Two continents, many thousands of kilometers apart, both grappling with the same question—how can people and wildlife coexist and thrive amid a changing climate?

Last October, IFAW’s Landscape Conservation Director, Phillip Kuvawoga and I travelled from Africa to Australia. It was my first time visiting the continent. My mission was two-pronged: firstly, to spend time with IFAW’s Oceania team and visit their wildlife rescue, rehabilitation and restoration partners and projects. Secondly, to contribute to a meeting of minds at the Connecting People, Connecting Nature conference hosted by our partner, the Great Eastern Ranges (GER).

Our Australian team is hard at work restoring and connecting critical wildlife habitats along Australia’s east coast. This has become more important than ever with climate change increasing the frequency and intensity of disasters, further fragmenting and destroying habitats already broken by land clearing and development.

The goals of these projects parallel IFAW’s Room to Roam initiative in Africa, where we aim to protect and secure a connected network of key savannah elephant habitats in East and Southern Africa to ensure their populations persist.

African elephants and koalas in Australia both face the impending risk of extinction as humans

encroach on their habitats. On both continents IFAW works to create safe passages for these animals to help them coexist with people.

the impacts of habitat loss and fragmentation

Elephant and koala populations are becoming stuck in fragmented habitats, which are dwindling due to development and extreme weather events. IFAW’s vet team at Friends of the Koala in the New South Wales (NSW) Northern Rivers are seeing a significant increase in koalas struck by vehicles and in need of rehabilitative care as they venture in the roads to look for shelter.

To thrive in the wild koalas need safe places for release. Since 2019, IFAW and our partner Bangalow Koalas have planted more than 22,000 trees to revegetate approximately 35 acres across five properties in this local wildlife habitat. It was truly inspirational to see the growth of trees planted just three years ago thriving and in use by koalas in the area.

community collaboration is key

Our rescue and restoration work in Australia relies on collaboration with communities, Indigenous groups, governments, the private sector and other NGOs.

We’re putting this into practice at Ngunya Jagoon Indigenous Protected Area, working together with the Jali rangers who are stewards of this biodiverse and cultural hotspot in Wardell, NSW. This landscape was significantly impacted by the Black Summer bushfires and recent catastrophic floods. We are surveying the land to learn about the post-fire health and resiliency of the koala population.

Our Room to Roam initiative relies on local rangers to patrol and secure wildlife living in secured habitats. To us at IFAW, community engagement is a cornerstone in maintaining our successes.

innovative solutions and resilience

At times, we must explore, innovative ways to help our wildlife and the places they call home.

I saw this innovation first-hand at Two Thumbs Wildlife Trust Sanctuary near Cooma in southern NSW—an area destroyed by the Black Summer bushfires. Many hollow-dependent animals that once inhabited this 1,729-plus-acre property now have nowhere to go.

During my visit to the sanctuary, I learned that it could take up to 200 years for natural hollows to develop in eucalypt trees. Our partners at Habitat Innovation and Management have developed Habitech nest boxes that mimic natural hollows found in trees and provide a ready-to-move-in home for endangered animals like the greater

glider and the gang-gang cockatoo. Together, we’re offering safe spaces for threatened species to return to the area and thrive.

coexistence relies on connectivity

IFAW was proud to sponsor the GER Connecting People, Connecting Nature Conference, where I introduced and detailed the progress and challenges of our Room to Roam campaign.

A highlight from the conference was the statement that multi-stakeholder engagements are key for connecting people and nature. The output from IFAW and our partners is not enough; in order to see true progress, it is necessary to rely on the assistance and guidance from local leaders, governments, Indigenous people and local communities. As I stated during the conference, “we must never try to do it alone.”

The challenges wildlife and their habitats face are tantamount across both Africa and Australia. In both these regions we’re developing the connections that will allow us to see more success in securing protected lands giving elephants, koalas and all animals room to roam and the chance to thrive in the wild.



Habitat Innovation and Management Director Mick Callan climbing up a ladder to install a camera above the nest box.

special events

Photo: Peter Stevens / @IFAW



Award winners and participants at the Animal Action Awards in October 2022. [From left to right: Graham Burton; Viscount Stansgate, Stephen Benn; Marina Bayeva; John Anderson; Jim Desmond; Jenny Desmond; Dr. Jane Goodall; Vicky Anderson; Robbie and George (dog) Durgan (front).]

events at ifaw

animal action awards

IFAW was proud to host the Animal Action Awards in October 2022, showcasing inspiring stories of people protecting animals every day. Award winners in 2022 included individuals working to secure funding for shelters in Ukraine, protecting and sheltering orphaned chimpanzees in Liberia, helping to find and rescue lost pets using drone technology, as well as George, who works as a therapy dog in prisons.



Scan the QR code to watch a video introducing the recent award winners.

recent events

In October 2022, IFAW held an event in Melbourne, AU with Director of Landscape Conservation Phillip Kuvawoga and Oceania Regional Director Rebecca Keeble. Event attendees heard about how IFAW's Room to Roam initiative is creating safe passages for

global council

Looking to broaden your connection with IFAW? Join the Global Council, which offers a means of creating innovative, lasting solutions for animals and gives you insider access to IFAW programs and leadership. Global Council members are invited to join IFAW staff on a whale watching adventure in Baja, Mexico from March 6-10 during the filming of a new documentary called "The Whale Lagoon". Please reach out directly for more information.

save the date — August 10, 2023 – Party for a Porpoise

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any of IFAW's work, please
email us at info@ifaw.org or
call us at (508) 744-2000



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IFAW supporters and experts at ICAN with IFAW at the December 2022 event in NYC. [From left: Alejandra Pollak, IFAW Board member, Danielle Kessler, US Country Director, Gale Epstein, IFAW donor, Kate Wall, Senior Legislative Manager, and Patrick Ramage, Senior Director for Outreach & Program Collaboration.]

elephants and other wildlife to move freely within their home ranges of East and Southern Africa.

In December 2022, IFAW donor Ned Benson hosted an event at his home in Venice, CA with Vice President of Global Programs Jimmiel Mandima. IFAW Board member Alejandra Pollak moderated a conversation focused on our Room to Roam initiative, specifically the work that we do in collaboration with communities in Africa, working with people to save the lives of animals.

In December 2022, with support from donor Gale Epstein, IFAW hosted a panel discussion at the Hanky Panky headquarters in New York, NY. Guests had the opportunity to hear from IFAW experts Danielle Kessler, US Country Director, Patrick Ramage, Senior Director for Outreach & Program Collaboration, and Kate Wall, Senior Legislative Manager, who provided insight into the U.S. legislative process. The panel discussed how they have successfully been able to enact policy change and provided attendees with ways in which they, too, can become advocates for policy through IFAW's Conservation Action Network, (ICAN).

ifaw



IFAW-sponsored Ukrainian veterinarian Veronika Herasymenko prepares to examine a Ukrainian refugee's dog at the veterinarian post inside the Przemysl train station.

IFAW's Ukraine Rescue Team

To assist IFAW's Ukraine Rescue project, we have welcomed four inspiring staff members dedicated to furthering our outreach in the area.

Veronika Herasymenko is a veterinary surgeon, experienced in the primary care of domestic animals, with expertise in surgical and emergency care. Before the war she co-owned a veterinary clinic in Kharkiv. When her city was shelled, she joined the IFAW team in Poland assisting incoming refugees. In September, she joined IFAW as Operations Coordinator, to implement emergency response activities together with our partners. She still resides in Ukraine.

Maryna Erlemgidze is an Advocacy Officer. Her primary focus is to help raise animal welfare standards in Ukraine and bordering countries. She is working to establish, maintain and strengthen relationships with key stakeholders in Ukraine and neighboring countries.

Kateryna Kyrsta works as Project Manager. She manages the project team and activities to mitigate the effects of the war on animals and will help create better welfare for them in the recovery phase.

Natalia Gozak is a Wildlife Rescue Field Officer. She strives to mitigate the effects of the war on wildlife, through data collection and by supporting wildlife rescues and evacuations. Natalia is based in Kyiv, Ukraine.



The IFAW team, including Shannon Walajtys, carry dogs of Ukrainian refugees in new carriers provided by IFAW.

It has been a year since the start of the war in Ukraine. When the news broke, IFAW turned to our supporters for help, and you answered the call with open hearts. Thanks to our generous advocates, we provided immediate aid at a most critical time to our established partner shelters in the country.

Between March and May 2022, **43** IFAW responders, including **seven** veterinarians, were deployed to greet and care for refugees and their pets as they entered Poland and began the next part of their journey. Our responders came from all over the world to help.

After IFAW's deployment ended, we continued to support shelters, zoos, sanctuaries and other partners with over **80** grants totaling over **US \$1.5M**, helping more than **100,000** companion and wild animals.*

In the past year donors contributed **\$12.3M** in response to our work in Ukraine and for our ongoing Rescue project. Funds have been, and will continue to be used primarily for programmatic activities — emergency and other grants, deployment costs, and aid for critical resources needed on the ground. Additionally, IFAW will allocate a portion of these funds to our European Disaster Response Fund and other future needs beyond our planned Ukraine Rescue project. In times of disaster, there is often no time to raise money to mobilize an emergency response. This fund allows IFAW teams to rush to rescue and aid animals in need immediately, resulting in more lives saved.

UKRAINE UPDATE: YOUR IMPACT FOR VULNERABLE ANIMALS

As you read about the IFAW-led and partner activities in and around Ukraine over the past year, please know of our gratitude for your generous response to a crisis that has already affected so many — animals and people alike.

All of us at IFAW join you in hope for the end of the war in Ukraine. Thank you for enabling us to respond effectively with your support. We know our work is far from complete, but together we can help return Ukraine to a place where animals and people will — once again — thrive together.



This past year has been life-changing for thousands of families. But thanks to you, and your belief in IFAW, we have been able to transform these stories of tragedy into opportunities for recovery and regrowth. We know there is still a lot of work to be done. IFAW is committed to the well-being of animals, people and landscapes of Ukraine — now and in the future.

Thank you once again for your support of the animals this past year.

Céline Sissler-Bienvenu
Disaster Response & Risk Reduction Director, Europe

hope in the face of tragedy

deployment in Poland



Photo: Benjamin Wlasek / @ IFAW
Inside the 'blue tent' located at the Medyka footpath border crossing between Ukraine and Poland.

In March, IFAW deployed to Poland. Our disaster response team began caring for the pets of refugees at several points set up along the Ukrainian-Polish border.

The Przemyśl train station was a key border crossing spot with thousands of refugees coming and going daily, each one trying to get to a safe destination in Europe. Two IFAW-supported veterinarians assisted these families and their pets, providing vaccinations, microchipping and other items for **3,355** animals.

For seven weeks from March to mid-May 2022, IFAW-trained responders and veterinarians managed the only animal care tent at the Medyka border crossing, nicknamed the 'blue tent,' caring for an average of 50 animals a day. We provided triage veterinary care and purchased and distributed animal food, leashes, collars, pet carriers and clothing to **2,425** refugees and their pets.

ukraine rescue project

Since the beginning of the war, IFAW has been implementing a comprehensive, multi-year rescue and recovery plan in and around Ukraine, centered on two primary initiatives:



Photo: Dominica Mack / @ IFAW
Richard the dog with one of his owners in the animal service station tent at the Ukraine-Poland border.

► **Feed, Treat, Heat & Reunite:** We provide support to local shelters and other organizations to purchase and distribute food and pet supplies and to treat animals with appropriate veterinary care. Throughout the winter months, our efforts have been focused on keeping pets warm by providing support to purchase and distribute beds, mattresses and blankets and to adapt and construct appropriate (thermal/insulated) sheltering.

► **Assess, Rescue, Rehome / Rehab & Release:** During war time, our focus is on working with local organizations to help rescue and evacuate captive wildlife from zoos, sanctuaries and other locations. When the war is over and landscapes are safe enough (have been de-mined), we will support authorities in establishing a network of regional centers for the rescue and rehabilitation of wild animals.

Feed, Treat, Heat & Reunite

Mykolaiv Red Cross

IFAW has partnered with the Mykolaiv Red Cross to provide for the basic needs of pets of vulnerable families in the region. During the cold winter months, we are providing mattresses, blankets and insulated houses for cats and dogs, as well as food for animals of families in need and free home visits by veterinary specialists.

Ukrainian Small Animal Veterinary Association (USAVA)

IFAW and USAVA have partnered to provide free vaccination, chipping and sterilization for pets from displaced and resident families. The project aims to vaccinate and chip 20,000 and sterilize 4,000 pets from displaced and resident families at partner veterinary posts in four key cities—Kyiv, Lviv, Kharkiv and Odessa.



Photo: USAVA
A woman and her cat after being helped at a partner veterinary clinic.

Nova Ukraine

Together with IFAW, Nova Ukraine is delivering relief support to animals and their owners or guardians affected by the ongoing war. By providing food, veterinary care and shelter, our goal is to ensure basic mental and physical health as well as the overall well-being of those in need of immediate support.



Photo: Nova Ukraine
Evacuated dogs from Kherson, Ukraine.

Assess, Rescue, Rehome / Rehab & Release

wildlife rescue

Ukrainian wildlife was also in desperate need of assistance as the shelling and bombings spread throughout the country.

IFAW awarded grants to Kyiv's Save Wild's White Rock Bear Shelter—where staff were able to relocate the bears and provide food and supplies—as well as to the Ukrainian Independent Ecology Institute. The Institute has been rehabilitating Ukraine's bats for 20 years, and with support from donors like you, biologists and veterinarians were able to release 3,287 bats back into the wild.

IFAW funded the rescue and safe evacuation of four lion cubs and one black leopard cub surrendered from the country's exotic pet trade. Having survived drone attacks and sporadic bombings, the cubs were safely transferred to the Poznań Zoo in Poland while being cared for by IFAW veterinarian Dr. Andrew Kushnir. In December 2022, the four lion cubs—Taras, Stefania, Lesya and Prada—were transported to The Wildcat Sanctuary in the United States, an accredited natural sanctuary which will provide the lions with ample space to live out the rest of their days as a pride. Kiara, the leopard cub, was transferred to Tonga Terre d'Accueil in France—a charity that takes in exploited wildlife—as they search for a permanent home for her.



Photo: Julia Curnes / @ IFAW
From left to right: Taras, Stefania and Lesya shortly after arrival at The Wildcat Sanctuary.