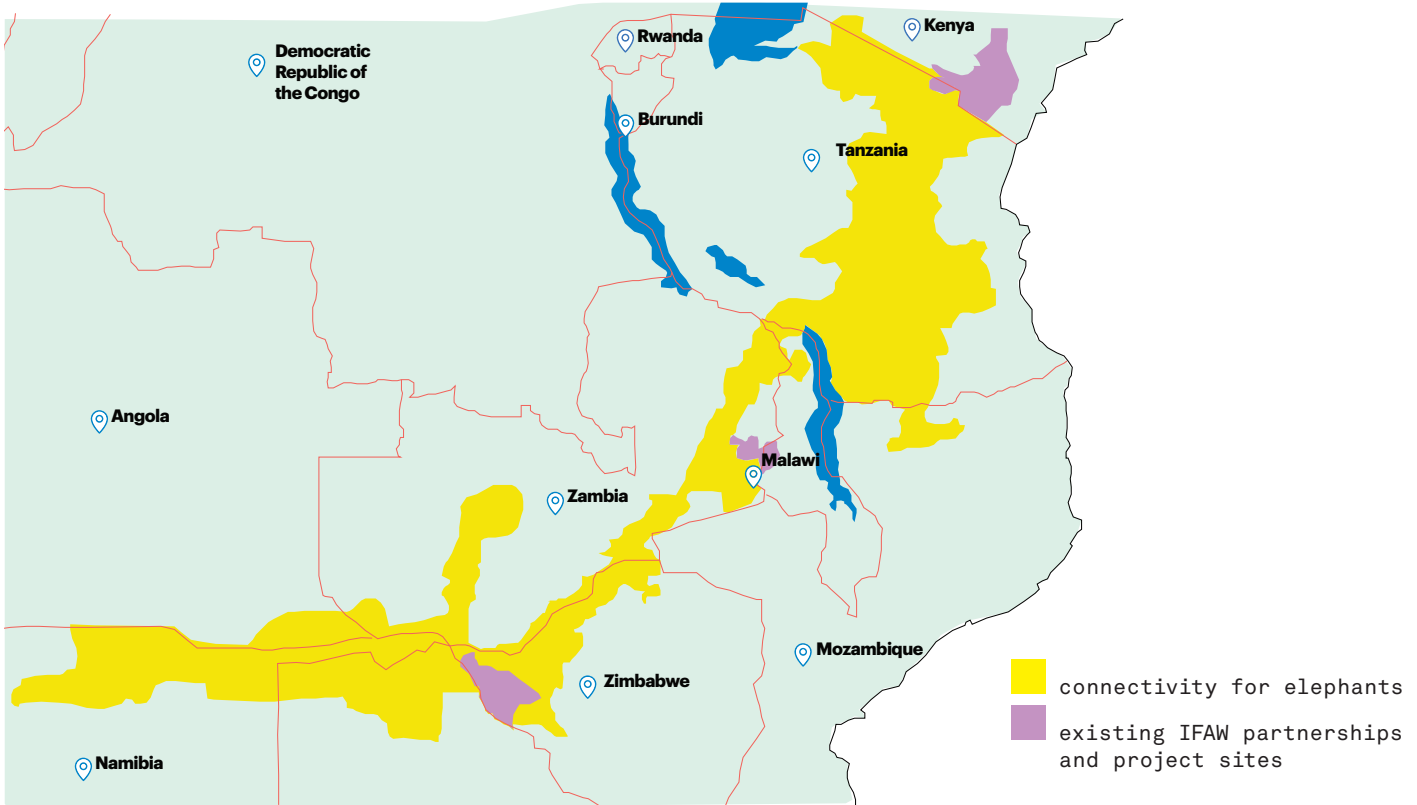


room to roam impact report

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Elephants on the move in Amboseli National Park in Kenya.



Room to Roam is about looking ahead. As our world constantly evolves, the rules of survival, sustainability and conservation must transform as well.

Backed by over 20 years of science and fieldwork, IFAW is making technical and financial investments in three priority anchor landscapes—Kenya, Malawi/Zambia and Zimbabwe—to implement evidence-based conservation solutions aimed at reducing poaching and human-wildlife conflict, securing connected habitats and enhancing community wellbeing. Through each of our Room to Roam projects we are working to ensure viable, stable, resilient elephant populations long into the future; build greater biodiversity and resilience to climate change and secure a future where animals and communities can thrive together.

Room to Roam is about transforming lives. Our overarching goal is not only to secure safe habitats for savannah elephants in Africa to thrive and grow as a population, but

also to support the local human communities who live by their sides. Through improved socio-economic opportunities like climate-smart farming, teaching technical skill trades such as plumbing or hairstyling, supporting sustainable tourism business in the region and improving safe access to clean drinking water. We can help foster emotionally invested communities who coexist harmoniously with wildlife and the landscapes they share.

IFAW and our Room to Roam partners are already reaching key milestones and producing results. In this report we measure our success through four thematic pillars: law enforcement; securing space; community engagement; and rescue, rehabilitate and release. We are pleased to share these updates that demonstrate the positive impact the Room to Roam campaign is having on the target people, animals and landscapes in Africa. Thank you for joining us on this journey.

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Photo: Jacqueline Nyagah / © IFAW

Team Lioness ranger Beatrice Nashipae with six-month old daughter Natalie, who stays with her at the community ranger base in Amboseli National Park in Kenya.

pillar #1: law enforcement

goal 1: support ranger welfare

Wildlife rangers act as the frontline warriors of wildlife protection—facing danger and making sacrifices to protect animals and the surrounding landscape. Their welfare and well-being are of the utmost importance to IFAW. We are creating new, family-friendly housing for IFAW-supported rangers in Zimbabwe and Kenya.

actions/results:

- ▶ Working with ZimParks, we built new ranger housing in the Makona section of Hwange National Park, which includes a recreational center, ranger houses and administration block. [Makona station's new infrastructure opened in April 2023 and serves 40 rangers and their families. We have provided these rangers with two patrol vehicles, rations and other equipment. Construction of the station also provided jobs for many in the area. Forty-four youths from local communities were employed, earning over US\\$30,000 in wages since construction started.](#)

- ▶ In June 2022, with support from Margarete-Breuer Stiftung, IFAW renovated the Team Lioness ranger base in Kenya to keep mothers and their young children together. [Each team associate now has her own room \(whereas they previously lived four people in a room\) equipped with her own washroom to provide privacy, safety and crucial bonding time with her children. The new building also has a laundry area and small multi-purpose area, secure from wildlife, complete with play mats, toys, cots and chairs for the caregivers. As of November 2022, there were five children living at the Team Lioness wildlife ranger unit.](#)

next steps:

To advance the protection of wildlife, IFAW is investing in infrastructure and operational support for field rangers. Top priorities include aerial support and more patrol vehicles and providing safe, clean water to rangers and their families.



Olgulului Community Wildlife Rangers stand at attention during a Guard of Honor demonstration.

goal 2: decrease the threat of poaching

Poaching has always been a major threat to elephants and other flagship species. While the challenge remains, our investments in law enforcement and training for anti-poaching efforts are helping to significantly reduce this threat throughout our priority areas.

actions/results:

- ▶ 30 Olgulului Community Wildlife Rangers (OCWR) attended workshops to develop new skills as first responders in wildlife crime scene investigation; 50 community rangers at Kenya Wildlife Service Law Enforcement Academy received professional training to effectively handle wildlife crimes. **Between July 2021 and June 2022, we saw an 86% decrease in wild animals being poached in the landscapes in which IFAW operates.**
- ▶ We have built the capacity of the Amboseli and Tsavo Community Wildlife Rangers Association. We have provided equipment and supported the training and operations of the OCWR community rangers, thus

enhancing the effectiveness of law enforcement and response times to both poaching and conflict cases. **This has resulted in a reduction of elephants poached in the Tsavo landscape from 135 elephants in 2012 to 29 elephants in 2019. In the Amboseli landscape these interventions saw a drop from 3 elephants poached in 2010 to zero elephants in 2018 and 2019 and one poaching incident in 2020. In 2022, no poaching incidents were reported in both the Amboseli and Tsavo landscapes.**

- ▶ 44 community rangers from the Amboseli and Loita landscapes received training in crime scene management and geographical information systems. **Through training, rangers have strengthened their ability to gather evidence, yielding harsher sentences and increased jail time for convicted poachers.**
- ▶ 60 field rangers in Zimbabwe completed training on the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART), which improves their effectiveness and efficiency in securing critical habitats. **Enhanced anti-poaching efforts yielded 5,415 patrols; over 10,000 km² covered by mobile patrols; 1,000 wire snares removed; and 17 poachers arrested.**



Aerial landscape, Matetsi Unit 5. Part of the larger Hwange-Matetsi-Zambezi landscape in Northwest Zimbabwe. This is one of three key landscapes of IFAW's Room to Roam initiative.

- ▶ Since 2019, IFAW has committed to invest \$5 million over 5 years to help revitalise Hwange National Park where rangers patrol 14,651 km² of vast landscape. IFAW has provided rangers with patrol equipment, including a landscape-wide radio communication system, seven intelligence and security vehicles, drones and food rations. [In September 2022, the Corporate Social Responsibility Network of Zimbabwe presented IFAW with the Excellence in Environmental Conservation and Social Impact Award—a testament to the successes of IFAW's conservation work, which has contributed to zero elephant poaching in targeted areas of Hwange National Park in the past three years.](#)
- ▶ Providing support for the Umtshibi Canine Unit—the main coordination camp for detection dogs at Hwange National Park. These 12 detection dogs are specialised in different skills, such as contraband detection (firearms and ivory) and tracking. They have been deployed at three of Zimbabwe's national parks: Zambezi, Main Camp and Matopo. [Since 2019, the dogs have been involved in tracking and recovering a rifle, gadgets and stolen personal items from poachers.](#)

next steps:

Poaching and trafficking remain international problems, but thanks to tremendous teamwork, IFAW is aiming to replicate these successes in other regions. Continuing to improve anti-poaching measures are critical to ensure that the problem does not return. We will continue to support efforts to maintain zero poaching across our priority sites and ensure the safety of a thriving elephant population.



Women of the Olgulului Ololarashi Group Ranch Maasai community arrive at a meeting to renew a five-year land lease agreement with IFAW for the Kitenden Conservancy, at Engong Narok, near Amboseli National Park, in Kenya.

pillar #2: securing space

goal 1: secure the land needed to link together the fragmented landscapes elephants instinctually follow

We are working with community leaders to secure protected space for wildlife to roam freely while providing employment and revenue from tourism for local communities.

actions/results:

- ▶ Secured a partnership with 2,600 landowners of the Kitenden Community Wildlife Conservancy, located in the Amboseli-Tsavo-Kilimanjaro landscape of Kenya. [This partnership provided employment and revenue from lease fees and tourism for the local Maasai community.](#)
- ▶ Secured an additional 170 km² of land in the Amboseli region through 998 landowners. [In total, IFAW has secured over 291 km² of migratory corridors for wildlife, offering critical space for elephants and other animals to roam freely.](#)

- ▶ Donor commitments for the Room to Roam campaign also laid the foundation for IFAW to secure a 5-year grant from USAID for a new project in Kenya. [This undertaking, titled Sustainable Management of Tsavo and Amboseli Landscapes, will contribute immensely to the expansion of the area's habitats under improved management and to the enhancement of biodiversity in the two landscapes, the Greater Amboseli Ecosystem and Tsavo Conservation Area.](#)

next steps:

IFAW will continue to build relationships with local communities, chiefs, national parks and Members of Parliament to secure and connect key landscapes. These “anchor landscapes” are home to significant elephant population clusters. Having these viable fragments be reconnected will be crucial to the long-term continuity across the elephant range. Specifically, we plan to secure and connect landscapes in Malawi-Zambia, Zimbabwe and the Amboseli-Tsavo-Kilimanjaro region in the short-to-medium-term. Our vision calls for a combination of protected areas and community lands and spaces that cross transnational boundaries—as elephants do not distinguish these borders. (Please see the map on page 2.)



© IFAW

An elephant family at a watering hole.

goal 2: maintain healthy elephant populations

We are building on decades of science and field research to better understand what drives elephant populations to decline, stabilise and/or increase. We are working to maintain healthy elephant populations by ensuring proportionate age-sex structures that influence reproductive and survival parameters of the entire species.

actions/results:

- ▶ In July 2022, IFAW joined Malawi's Department of National Parks and Wildlife and African Parks to translocate 263 elephants from Liwonde National Park to Kasungu National Park. **Prior to the translocation, Kasungu's elephant population was only around 120 animals (up from 50 in 2015). Bringing in these new herds and improving the balance of males and females, will help establish viable populations and maintain healthy habitats for the rest of the wildlife and communities living in and near Kasungu.**

- ▶ Over the past 20 years IFAW has collaborated with the University of Pretoria's Conservation Ecology Research Unit (CERU) to base our approach for Room to Roam on robust and science-informed principles. **By infusing Kasungu with a healthy number of breeding females, we are giving the elephants a chance to steadily increase their population growth rate and introduce new generations to the wild.**



Maasai community meeting, with a herd of elephants in the background.

pillar #3: community engagement

goal 1: mitigate human-wildlife conflict

As the human population rises and wider environmental issues, such as climate change and habitat degradation continue to escalate, conflicts are increasing both in frequency and intensity. Elephants seeking food and water often wander into communities, destroying crops and property and endangering human lives. We are working towards practical, scalable and replicable solutions where people and wildlife can co-exist with minimal harm.

actions/results:

▶ In the Amboseli region, Human-Wildlife Conflict Rapid Response Units have been developed to address areas of potential conflict. IFAW-supported rangers have been able to cover 500,000 km² in patrols since 2012. [These interventions have led to a significant improvement in response times throughout project operational areas. The number of incidents reported has improved from an average of 97 incidents in 2012 and 2013, to 77 in 2020. In 2022, community rangers reported only 69 incidents of human-wildlife conflict.](#)

▶ Introduced environmentally friendly conditioning methods in China and Zimbabwe to keep elephants away from human spaces, which include growing chili plants and placing beehives in strategic areas to act as natural biological fences. In addition, the use of chili “bombs” restricted elephants’ access to crop fields. In China, beehives introduced two years ago have proven to be an effective method of deterring elephants from infringing upon human spaces, while the honey collected provides income for local communities. The bees also pollinate plants to help the local ecosystem thrive. [This is a great example of how IFAW tests hypotheses, makes connections and brings best practices developed across the globe to inform our Room to Roam work.](#)

▶ In Zimbabwe’s Panda Masuie community, locals installed a 14 km human-elephant coexistence fence. [The fence has resulted in a 90% reduction in crop raiding and permanent employment of more than 35 villagers to maintain the fence. Thus leading to an improved relationship between communities and wild elephants.](#)



- ▶ Supported the Environmental Stewardship Programme (ESP) in 21 primary schools in Hwange National Park to instill and foster understanding and appreciation of wildlife conservation in children living close to wildlife. Target schools continue to receive educational inputs like new/updated curriculum textbooks, bicycles for enhanced access to schools as well as construction and refurbishment of schools' infrastructure. [The students engaged have become conservation champions, influencing conservation attitudes and behaviour in local communities.](#)

next steps:

IFAW will continue to develop a human-wildlife conflict early warning system and mitigation protocols and to build on community awareness outreach initiatives. These include general "under the tree" meetings, radio talk shows, awareness meetings at nutritional gardens and community centres, visits to schools, edutainment shows and educational tours for children and teachers involved in

environmental stewardship programmes. We will also continue to engage local communities through beekeeping and chili growing markets that will help expand livelihoods through commercial honey and chili production while providing a natural mitigation of elephant conflicts.

Photo: Heiko Laschitzki / © IFAW



Jenga Mama participants practice hairdressing and giving manicures.

goal 2: provide educational and vocational training

By creating more income-generating opportunities for locals living near the border areas of the Room to Roam landscape, we are working to mitigate the negative economic impact of human-wildlife conflicts.

actions/results:

- ▶ Provided vocational training on hairdressing and beauty therapy, food and beverage production, information and communications technology, plumbing and garment/dress making for 60 local women in the Amboseli community in Kenya through the Jenga Mama project. **By the end of 2023, these women will have improved employability opportunities and be able to sustainably run business enterprises for themselves and earn incomes, reducing over-reliance on natural capital for their families' subsistence.**

- ▶ Partnered with Community Markets for Conservation to support climate-smart farming for 3,500 (mostly women) farmers across Zambia and Malawi. When locals have access to additional income opportunities, they are less likely to turn to poaching as a means of feeding their families. **Farmers are earning a living by growing nutritious, chemical-free, high-value crops that provide them with income and food security, while caring for the land and environment.**

next steps:

Continue to invest in climate-smart solutions such as energy-efficient cook stoves and solar energy. Promote expansion of regenerative and climate smart agriculture in communities where boreholes and nutritional gardens were installed and help explore possible partnerships with commercial markets. Explore opportunities for handicrafts business ventures for women in the Zimbabwe, Kenya and Malawi-Zambia landscapes.



Photo: Luckmore Safful / @IFAW

A Matetsi community supporter at the new tap that is used for the nutrition garden and domestic water needs.

goal 3: water is life

The rise in Africa's population and an increase in climate change-induced droughts means a higher frequency of contact between animals and people (primarily women and children) collecting water from streams and riverbeds. These encounters are unsafe, increasing the potential for conflict including the transmission of zoonotic diseases, poisoning of wild animals and attacks of animals on humans, which can tragically result in injury and death. To address this challenge, IFAW is tackling the issue of water supply.

actions/results:

- ▶ In Zimbabwe, we have drilled nine new boreholes and solarised one existing borehole in local communities, ranger stations and campgrounds. **One hundred sixty-six households (approximate population of 1,200) in the Hwange and Tsholotsho Districts now have access to clean water, enhancing hygiene and sanitation. Piped water supports the production of**

vegetables in nutritional gardens which were set up by IFAW. These gardens provide income for households and they act as outreach and community awareness centres that promote the idea of coexistence with wildlife. With communities having access to piped water, wildlife can utilise the perennial rivers and ponds, undisturbed, reducing human-wildlife conflict and even allowing women and children additional time—that might otherwise have been spent fetching water—to participate in community development meetings.

next steps:

Provide water to the eight Olgulului Community Wildlife Ranger bases as well as local Maasai communities and their livestock, which will protect Amboseli wildlife, local communities and their livelihoods. In Zimbabwe, drill and solarise boreholes at 21 schools in the Environmental Stewardship Programme and improve the domestic water reticulation system at the Main Camp in Hwange National Park.



Beatrix wears an IFAW blanket while recovering from leg surgery at WIL-ZEN.

pillar #4: rescue, rehabilitate and release

goal 1: provide compassionate care for orphaned elephants

Through IFAW-supported rescue and rehabilitation centres at Wild is Life-Zimbabwe Elephant Nursery and Lusaka Elephant Nursery in Zambia, orphaned and abandoned elephants receive the necessary time and care required for proper rehabilitation for a successful transition back into the wild.

actions/results:

- ▶ Orphaned elephants found in Zimbabwe spend three to five years at the Wild is Life-Zimbabwe Elephant Nursery (ZEN). Each elephant receives personal attention from full-time keepers, who ensure that elephants get the

care they need to survive and the support they need to thrive in the wild. Beatrix was only a few days old when she was found and taken to ZEN. She had happily settled into her new setting, making friends with the other orphaned elephants as well as a pair of bush piglets. In July 2022, Beatrix fell and fractured her leg, resulting in a serious injury. In an IFAW first, we enlisted the help of Dr. Jabu Mthethwa—a highly skilled orthopedic surgeon who normally operates on people and his colleague and anesthetist, Dr. Mufudzi Mushanginga. In a successful operation, the pair made small incisions and implanted titanium pins and screws into the bone. Three months after the surgery, Beatrix has made a full recovery and when she is older is expected to be moved to the IFAW-WIL Panda Masuie release site to eventually be released into the wild.



Jack the elephant (right) on a walk with other elephants at Panda Masuie.

goal 2: release elephants back into the wild to maintain viable populations

By introducing new generations into the wild, we are giving the elephants a chance to steadily increase the population growth rate.

actions/results:

- ▶ IFAW and partner Wild is Life are investing in the future of African elephants through the Zimbabwe Elephant Nursery. Once these resident elephants reach an older age, they are released into a soft release site in Panda Masuie Forest Reserve. **Jack was found as a young calf without his mother. He spent his early years at the IFAW and Wild is Life (WIL) Zimbabwe Elephant Nursery (ZEN). In 2021, he was transferred to the soft release site and**

eventually joined a wild herd: officially becoming a wild elephant. Before his release he was fitted with a satellite collar, allowing staff at WIL to track his movements, proving that transboundary movements of elephants are happening.

- ▶ In 2022, IFAW and Sinking Ship Entertainment supported the building of the Lusaka Elephant Nursery at the newly built Wildlife Discovery Centre in Zambia’s Lusaka National Park. **Originally housing six elephants that had been transferred from the previous facility, today, the nursery is home to 13 elephants—each on their own journey towards returning to the wild.**



An African elephant eats vegetation in the wetlands of Amboseli National Park.

introducing new staff

We have expanded the IFAW team to implement Room to Roam and its many-faceted programmes. The experience and skills of these new leaders will allow us to continue making important strides in our work.

Simbarashe (Simba) Chiseva, Community Development Officer. Chiseva has 13 years of experience engaging communities living close to protected wildlife areas. With training in wildlife conservation and community development, he is well-placed to guide IFAW's global community engagement strategy, rooted in listening and including those living closest to the animals and habitats.

Chris Kaoma, Field Operations Manager for Zambia. Kaoma has over 18 years of extensive experience in natural resources management, law enforcement, community engagement in policy and trans-frontier conservation areas. He has formulated protected area management plans in Zambia and will be onsite implementing Room to Roam initiatives.

Clement Masangano, Project Operations Officer. Masangano brings 12 years of experience in high-level project management, finance, networking monitoring and evaluation. He is well-versed in critical protected areas management conventions and principles, governance, connectivity conservation, ecological monitoring, wildlife populations monitoring and trans-boundary conservation.

Henry Ndaimani, Landscape Conservation Officer. Dr. Henry Ndaimani is a spatial ecologist with over 18 years of experience in conservation, including a decade working

at ZimParks. He has contributed to the protection of wildlife species, such as the African elephant and he has wide knowledge and skill in geographic information system (GIS) software, remote sensing and data analytics.

Alleta Nyahunye, Country Director for Zimbabwe. With more than 15 years of experience working in the public and NGO sectors, Nyahunye is adept at working with a wide array of groups including government agencies, international agencies and the private sector.

Felix Tembo, Impact & Evaluation Manager (Southern Africa). Tembo has over 15 years of experience in monitoring, evaluation of conservation and natural resource governance interventions in Africa. He has training and an educational background in sustainable development, ecological economics, project management and documenting the impact of conservation.

Gervaz Thamala, Field Operations Manager for Kasungu National Park. Thamala joins us with over 30 years of dedicated service to wildlife conservation including managing law enforcement activities, construction and maintenance of game fences and resolving human-wildlife conflicts.

Arnold Tshipa, Field Operations Manager for Zimbabwe. Tshipa has over 10 years of experience as a field ecologist. He has a background working for safaris and conservation organisations and is pursuing an MPhil on the movement patterns of elephants in Hwange.



Hippos barely above surface in the water at sunset in Hwange National Park.

IFAW has immense gratitude for our partners and grantees whose shared vision of saving animal lives and conserving the planet allows us to help animals and people.

rescue partners

Wild is Life

Wild is Life is home to Zimbabwe’s first elephant nursery, Zimbabwe Elephant Nursery, located in Harare. This facility rescues and rehabilitates young elephants orphaned due to poaching or human-wildlife conflict. Wild is Life and IFAW also work together to reintroduce these rehabilitated elephants back into the wild at Panda Masuie Forest Reserve.

Lusaka Elephant Nursery

Working with partners Game Rangers International, the Lusaka Elephant Nursery is the first elephant orphanage in Southern Africa and the second on the continent. Its mission is to return rescued elephants back to the wild. Originally located at the Lilayi Nursery in Kafue National Park, the entire herd of orphaned elephants was moved in 2022 to the newly opened Wildlife Discovery Centre in the heart of Lusaka National Park.

wildlife protection partners

Kenya

Olgulului Community Wildlife Rangers
Kenya Wildlife Service
African Wildlife Foundation
Tsavo Trust

Malawi

Malawi Department of National Parks and Wildlife

Zambia

Zambia Department of National Parks and Wildlife
Game Rangers International
Community Markets for Conservation

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZimParks)

partners

special thanks

Our vision for Room to Roam is to expand and reconnect fragmented habitats so that they are safe, climate resilient and support healthy populations of wildlife and people. The International Fund for Animal Welfare is grateful for the generosity of donors and partners who have championed Room to Roam since 2018.

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		Stephanie Sellars	

* deceased

We would also like to acknowledge all our supporters who have chosen to leave their lasting legacy to the animals through a gift in their Will. Did you know that 1 in 5 animals are rescued and protected thanks to these wonderful gifts.

International Fund
for Animal Welfare

room to roam
Impact Report

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