

Africa newsletter





Photo: Donal Boyd / © IFAW

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

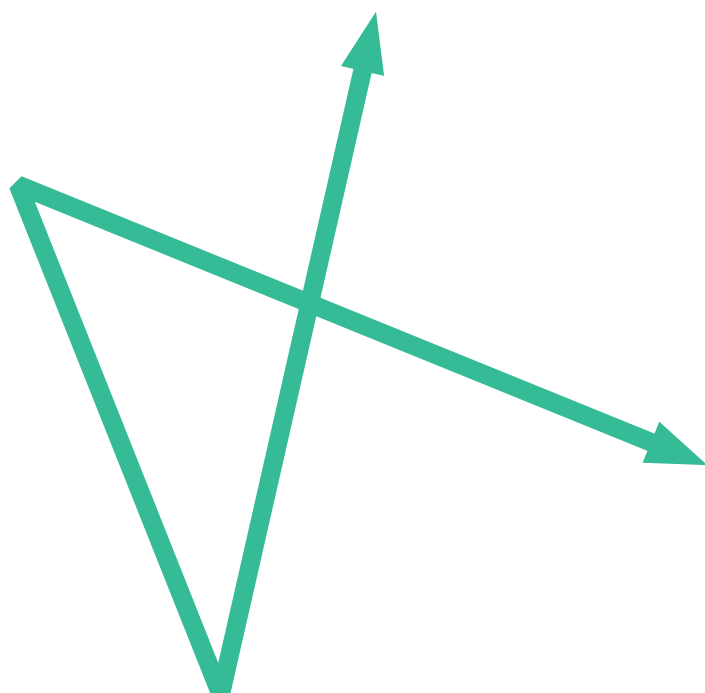


Photo: Donal Boyd / © IFAW

create room to roam

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About IFAW - IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare) is a global non-profit helping animals 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, nongovernmental organisations and businesses. Together, we pioneer new and innovative ways to help all species flourish. See how at ifaw.org

Published by: IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare), 2023

Cover photo: © Adriaan A.A Foppen
A herd of elephants at a watering hole in South Africa.



Photo: Paolo Torichio / ©IFAW



21 motorbikes and 5 vehicles were handed to Lumo Conservancy giving rangers the ability to move faster around the area to help reduce and prevent poaching and human-wildlife conflict

ifaw and USAID hand over vehicles to rangers in Kenya's Lumo Conservancy

In the past, understaffing and the restricted range of foot patrols has limited the ability of rangers in Kenya's vast Lumo Conservancy to respond to real-time threats. Addressing this challenge as part of the Sustainable Management of Amboseli and Tsavo Landscapes Project, IFAW and lead implementing partner USAID handed over 21 motorbikes and 5 vehicles to Lumo Conservancy on 16 December 2022.

Lumo Conservancy, part the Tsavo region, falls under IFAW's visionary Room to Roam

initiative. Giving rangers the ability to move faster around the area can help reduce and prevent poaching and human-wildlife conflict.

IFAW President & CEO Azzedine Downes and board members of the Taita Taveta Wildlife Conservancies Association (TTWCA) were present at the handover ceremony. Downes spoke about the area's key role in every sense so that loss of species can be avoided by quickly addressing threats.



▲ IFAW Africa Director James Isiche with Joseph Kyalo and Nicholas Njogu from Tsavo Trust; Dr. Erastus Kanga and Captain Ochieng from Kenya Wildlife Service during the handover of motorbikes and vehicles.

▲ The community in Lumo listen keenly as community leader and conservationist from Greater Amboseli Ecosystem, Daniel Leturesh, gives a speech during the handover.

◀ Flanked by IFAW CEO & President Azzedine Downes and Governor of Taita Taveta, Hon Andrew Mwadime, Principal Secretary of State Department for Wildlife Ms. Sylvia Museiya inspects the motorbikes and vehicles before the official handover at Lumo Conservancy.



Photo: ©IFAW

James Isiche promoted to ifaw Africa Director

James Isiche was promoted to the position of IFAW Africa Director on 1 October 2022. He was previously IFAW's Regional Director for East Africa.

"I'm elated with the new position of Africa Director, which I take as a great honor and also a great responsibility," said Isiche. "I cannot thank IFAW enough for giving me this new responsibility."

"In my view, the fact that IFAW is placing emphasis on developing countries in Africa and Asia means that the position comes at an appropriate time. The most exciting thing for me is that IFAW has ensured that we have the requisite staff with the necessary experience and knowledge in place, so we just need to put our heads together to ensure accurate implementation here in Africa."

Isiche now oversees all IFAW's program work in Africa,

cooperating with country directors in Malawi and—soon—a director in Zimbabwe. In his new role he will develop and maintain a network of stakeholders from funding agencies to politicians and partners, driving campaigns like IFAW's Room to Roam and further building on the successful program work in the region.

"The appointment of James as Africa Director is noteworthy and speaks to our commitment to Africa as a priority for IFAW's work. We have, and will continue to invest in protecting wildlife and habitats in Africa. This promotion recognises James' expertise and experience in wildlife conservation and rescue," said Sonja Van Tichelen, Vice President of International Operations at IFAW.

Under Isiche's leadership, IFAW's East Africa office in Nairobi, Kenya has grown to employ

more than 30 staff and will soon move to new premises. He has spearheaded IFAW's geographic expansion into Uganda, Tanzania and Ethiopia and the recently launched marine program on the Kenyan coast that is dedicated to protecting marine wildlife.

The office has been successful in attracting several grants from the European Union and, most recently, USAID, proving Isiche's abilities to work closely with donors and policy makers to form strategic partnerships and implement crucial policy.

Isiche's proven ability to provide intellectual leadership, track record in building collaborative relationships, analytical depth of understanding of the key issues facing conservation and warm collegiality make him ideally placed to lead IFAW in Africa.

▲ James Isiche IFAW's Africa Director.



elephants flourish in massive Zimbabwe forest reserve

Elephant numbers are on the rise at Zimbabwe's Panda Masuie Forest Reserve, which is quickly becoming a haven for the region's iconic and endangered wildlife. 2022's wildlife census in the reserve counted **512 savanna elephants, up from 285 observed in the 2021 census—a 79% increase. There were also 212% more warthogs and 25% more kudu in the reserve compared to 2021.**

"The results are hugely encouraging. Panda Masuie is becoming a stronghold for many species of animals," says Jos Danckwerts, Conservation Director for the IFAW-supported Panda Masuie Release Project. The new counts indicate that elephants are using Panda Masuie as a safe refuge, says Danckwerts, likely due to the high level of protection from poaching and forest fires that the reserve offers.

The 85,000-square-acre reserve is located within the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA), the world's largest terrestrial transfrontier conservation initiative.

Panda Masuie is co-managed by Wild is Life and the Forestry Commission of Zimbabwe, with support from IFAW. Since this partnership began, significant time and resources have been invested to protect and restore the forest by tackling key conservation challenges, including poaching and wildfires. As a result, elephants, lions, zebras and other species can now freely roam the reserve, safe from human threats.

The wildlife census is conducted every October at the end of the dry season, during the full moon. Rangers and volunteers observe waterholes throughout Panda Masuie for 24 hours straight, counting wildlife as they arrive to drink.

The counts provide an important baseline to monitor wildlife populations in the reserve. "Having accurate and reliable figures helps us to make long-term and informed decisions about the landscape and the wildlife resources," says Phillip Kuvawoga, IFAW's Director of Landscape Conservation.

Kuvawoga adds, "The thriving

elephant population and the increase in other wildlife in the forest reserve is by no means an accident; it is a result of long-term, deliberate interventions aimed at habitat restoration and ensuring persistence of viable populations in healthy ecosystems. We are extremely delighted that our collaborative efforts and investments are now paying off."

Panda Masuie offers safe habitat for KAZA TFCA's 330,000 plus savanna elephants—the world's largest contiguous elephant population. Protecting and restoring the reserve is critical to the success of IFAW's Room to Roam initiative—an ambitious plan to secure and connect habitats, creating safe passages for elephants and other wildlife in East and Southern Africa.

79%

increase in elephants numbers since last year

▲ Elephants at a watering hole in Panda Masuie Forest Reserve, Zimbabwe.



Photo: Julia Gunther / © IFAW

ifaw intensifies community engagement in Malawi

IFAW has intensified engagements with communities bordering Liwonde and Kasungu National Parks in Malawi in pursuit of its mission to promote community-centred conservation and peaceful co-existence of people and wildlife. The ongoing participatory and inclusive community engagements have set the tone for a shared narrative and integrated vision for the extraordinary landscape.

A total of 14 IFAW-facilitated community engagement meetings and outreaches were held between October and December 2022, focused on finding the best ways of ensuring that people and wildlife can thrive together.

“Communities will remain an integral part of our conservation work in Malawi and all the other landscapes where we operate, hence we are keen to work collaboratively with communities in co-creating solutions to some of the key conservation challenges,” said Patricio Ndadzela, IFAW’s Country Director for Malawi.

“We are extremely excited about

the ongoing community engagements, which have created a firm basis for collective action in ecosystem management and realisation of resilient communities,” he added.

In October 2022, a one-day meeting held in Chikolongo attracted 24 rice and maize farmers who live along the border of the 550-square-kilometre Liwonde National Park. Participants emphasised the importance of a collaborative approach and effective engagement with the department of parks in promoting peaceful co-existence between people and wildlife.

As global climate change threatens to reverse conservation gains and push communities into extreme poverty, there are also ongoing engagements to create cost-effective solutions to enhance communities’ resilience to climate change. To that end, a total of seven climate risk assessment meetings, facilitated by the Germany Development Agency (GIZ) and IFAW, were held in Chikomeni during the

last quarter of 2022.

IFAW’s community engagement work in Malawi has also focused on ways of mitigating the challenge of human-wildlife conflict.

To help tackle human-wildlife conflict, communities bordering Kasungu National Park were also engaged in erecting a 25-kilometre boundary fence. The electric fence is expected to keep wild animals at bay and help protect villagers’ fields from raids by elephants.



Photo: Julia Gunther / © IFAW

▲ Part-time workers Annie Twaya, Mwaiwao Chaweza, Margaret Robert and Linley Chitseko pose in front of a rice paddy at IFAW’s Chikolongo Livelihood Project in Malawi. Rice is a thirsty crop, and a solar pump bringing water from the nearby Shire River provides water to grow this productive and nutritious crop.

▲ Justin Mapira and Rodrick Juan, beekeepers at IFAW’s Chikolongo Livelihood Project’s apiary, get ready to set a new hive in a baobab tree.



thousands of wild animals die in Kenya due to failed wet season

Rain has returned to the Ambosemi ecosystem, but it is too little, too late for thousands of wildlife that have already perished in Kenya's worst drought in 40 years.

Kenya's "short rains" season also delivered below-average rainfalls, making it the fifth-consecutive period of below-average rainfall.

Conservationists say the deadly drought has killed more wildlife in Ambosemi than any other on record.

Reliable information accessible to Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and IFAW indicates that the Ambosemi ecosystem lost 6,093 animals (from 20 species) to this drought between June and November 2022.

IFAW's interventions in the area have been focused on not just mitigating the situation but also building resilience among communities. Programs like IFAW's Jenga Mama project are geared to help the community and wildlife become resilient and adjust to the increasing impacts of climate change,

6,093

animals died (from 20 species) from this drought between June and November

▲ Livestock and elephants search for pasture during Kenya's worst drought in 40 years.



Photo: © IFAW

Gladys Kamasanyu: a magistrate with a passion for animal welfare

Gladys Kamasanyu is the Chief Magistrate of Uganda's [Standards, Utilities and Wildlife Court](#), the only court in Africa that includes a special focus on handling cases related to wildlife crime. Her passion for animal welfare drove Kamasanyu to help co-found the court, which has tried more than 1,000 wildlife crime cases since 2017, including cases related to pangolin trafficking (one of the most poached mammal species), ivory smuggling and trophy hunting.

In her work, Kamasanyu applies her knowledge and skills to secure better conditions for

wildlife while promoting the rule of law in Uganda, which aligns with IFAW's vision of animals and people thriving together.

IFAW works to ensure that guardians of wildlife, including judges and magistrates, are empowered with skills to effectively combat wildlife crime. IFAW continues to facilitate not just security officers in Uganda, but also policymakers and enforcers such as Kamasanyu.

IFAW has established a lasting connection with Kamasanyu and has facilitated trainings to help

her refine her skills for protecting animals. IFAW sponsored Kamasanyu to attend the 19th meeting of the [Conference of the Parties \(CoP\) of The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora \(CITES\)](#), held in Panama in November 2022. Attending the conference gave Kamasanyu the opportunity to interact with the IFAW delegation and learn more about endangered species and the need to keep protecting them.

▲ Chief Magistrate with the Uganda Judiciary Gladys Kamasanyu.



building capacity to counter wildlife trafficking in Kenya

Kenya is a key transit country for wildlife contraband due to its well-developed transport network, including [Mombasa Port](#) and [Jomo Kenyatta International Airport](#). Many of the illegal wildlife products that are trafficked, including ivory, pangolin scales, lion bone and rhino horn, are destined for Asia and transit through these major hubs.

Extensive poaching and trafficking continue to threaten the security of [East Africa's wildlife](#) and for years [IFAW](#) and [African Wildlife Foundation \(AWF\)](#) have collaborated to find holistic solutions to counter wildlife trafficking in Kenya. This partnership—sponsored by the [U.S. State Department, International Narcotics and Law Enforcement \(INL\)](#) under the project [Combating illegal wildlife trade \(IWT\)](#) through cross-border collaboration in law enforcement in [Kenya and Tanzania](#)—recently concluded another project to secure wildlife on key transboundary community and nationally gazetted lands, interdict and prevent wildlife trafficking prevalent along the porous [Kenya-Tanzania border area](#).

Building on decades of

expertise and deep local relationships, the [Countering Wildlife Trafficking Project](#) was initiated to build capacity of investigative, enforcement officers and community rangers in the key cross-border region around [Amboseli and Tsavo National Parks](#) to interdict, investigate and prosecute wildlife crimes to help save Kenya's iconic wildlife such as elephants, rhinoceroses, giraffes and lions.

28 officers in charge of security, verification, investigations and intelligence at [Jomo Kenyatta International Airport](#) participated in [IFAW's Detecting Illegal Species through Prevention Training \(DISRUPT\)](#). Another 24 officers received the training at the [Kilindini Port](#) in Mombasa. Capacity building activities also included targeted training and mentorship of [Kenya Wildlife Service \(KWS\)](#) officers and community rangers from the [Ilkimpa Community Conservation Association \(ICCA\)](#) and the [Olgulului Community Wildlife Rangers \(OCWR\)](#) working to protect wildlife on conservancy and community lands.

IFAW and [AWF](#), with the support of [KWS](#), facilitated joint

operations targeting poachers, wildlife traffickers and other members of criminal networks complicit in wildlife crime. In the two years of implementation, 10 investigative leads were generated resulting in a series of arrests and prosecution. In the process, 54 wild animals were rescued including a zebra, 30 lions, 20 elephants, a wildebeest, two vultures and an eagle.

“We are very happy with the results of this innovative project; it addressed the full cycle of activities aimed at eliminating wildlife crime—from prevention and apprehension, right through to prosecution,” says [James Isiche](#), IFAW's Director for Africa.

52

officers in total participated in IFAW's Detecting Illegal Species through Prevention Training (DISRUPT)

54

wild animals have been rescued in two years since the implementation of the training

▲ Rhino horns from a previous seizure are now used to train security officers to detect illegal species.



Photo: © Avi Klapfer



Photo: © Brian Gratwicke

more than 500 additional species to be protected under CITES regulations

Proposals to regulate international trade of more than 500 additional species were adopted at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP) of The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), held in Panama in November 2022.

The CoP adopted 46 of the 52 proposals put forward, bringing more sharks, lizards, turtles, fish, birds, frogs and more than a

hundred tree species under CITES regulations. The regulations help to ensure the sustainability of these species in the wild, while allowing their international trade and contributing to the conservation of ecosystems and global biodiversity. Part of the changes being adopted includes innovative controls on the international trade in shark fins.

However, IFAW was disappointed that governments missed an important

opportunity by not accepting Kenya's proposal to develop a compensation fund for the destruction of ivory stockpiles.

46

of the 52 proposals were adopted by CoP.

- ▲ White spotted Cochran glass frog (*Sachatamia albomaculata*) on a leaf.
- ◀ School of scalloped hammerhead sharks.



Photo: Jacqueline Nyagah / © IFAW

family-friendly ranger station allows women protecting Kenya's wildlife to bring children to work

Beatrice Nashipae is a 24-year-old mother of six-month-old twins, Matteo and Natalie. She is also a member of Team Lioness, East Africa's first all-woman community wildlife ranger unit based in Amboseli, in southern Kenya.

One thing that has made her experience on Team Lioness even more fulfilling is that Matteo and Natalie stay with her at the community ranger base, where their nanny, Charity, can look after them while Beatrice is out on patrol.

"I always wanted to be a protector of the community," Beatrice says of her career choice. Of Matteo and Natalie, she says, "They are my life."

Wildlife security is still a male-dominated career in Amboseli. While many complex factors prevent women from becoming rangers, IFAW is addressing one fundamental problem: the way rangers are separated from their families for weeks at a time.

Rangers spend three weeks a month at wildlife security bases

that are not comfortable or safe places for children. In a patriarchal society where women perform the childcare, this separation becomes a huge obstacle for mothers. Some give up their careers when they have babies. Many decide not to join the profession at all.

That's why IFAW, thanks to support from the Margarete-Brauer Stiftung, renovated the ranger base at Risa, Amboseli, to better meet the needs of young families.

The renovation was completed in June 2022. Each of the 16 Team Lioness rangers now has her own room with a washroom, instead of sharing one with four colleagues, as was the case at the previous building. The rooms give the rangers better opportunities for resting and for mother-child bonding.

Other facilities that make family life easier include a new laundry area and a crèche, with baby cots, toys, play mats and chairs for caregivers. When Team Lioness rangers go out on patrol, nannies or family

members look after their children.

There are currently five children at base, with three more expected. In total, 14 of the 16 Team Lioness members are mothers. Seven of them have children under a year old.

Community wildlife ranger work is physically and mentally challenging. Team Lioness rangers have defied culture by working in a largely male career. IFAW is committed to addressing infrastructure and other obstacles that prevent women from seeing ranger work as a viable career.



Photo: IFAW

▲ Team Lioness ranger Beatrice Nashipae with six-month old twins Natalie and Matteo at the community ranger base in Amboseli.

▲ The newly renovated community ranger base in Amboseli.



Photo: © IFAW

wildlife conservation roundtable

Kenya's Government, in consultation with Conservation Alliance of Kenya and IFAW, held the first-ever meeting of the Wildlife Conservation Roundtable in December 2022. This unique initiative was an opportunity to discuss the critical role of wildlife in solving biodiversity challenges, specifically climate change.

The meeting, hosted in Nairobi by the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife, brought together representatives from non-governmental organisations, the public, the commercial sector and the government.

"Our fervent wish is a unified sector where people, environment and economy, are thriving and benefiting sustainably from Kenya's real

wealth, which lies in the resources of the earth—soil, water, forests, minerals and wildlife," said Hon. Peninah Malonza, Cabinet Secretary, State Department of Tourism and Wildlife.

Azzedine Downes President & CEO of IFAW said, "The objective of the Wildlife Conservation Roundtable is to foster synergy between diverse sectors to support wildlife conservation."

"We have drawn together decision makers who may not have previously considered the critical role they can play in Kenya's development agenda while still supporting its biodiversity goals and helping limit climate change," added Downes.

Lucy Waruingi, Conservation Alliance of Kenya Board Chair said, "Today marks an important development for the wildlife and conservation sector. The roundtables will enable the conservation sector to engage on a high-level platform on the cross-cutting issues that affect sustainable management and use of our natural resources. This will create the space needed to ensure conservation is everyone's business and we welcome the leadership of the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife and H.E President Dr. William Ruto in launching this initiative."

▲ IFAW staff, including Africa Director James Isiche and President & CEO Azzedine Downes at the launch of the Wildlife Conservation Roundtable.

patrols in a time of drought



Photo: Evan Mkalala / © IFAW

The Amboseli area in Southern Kenya has been hit hard by a drought that has been ravaging the area. However, IFAW rangers continue to patrol the area in hopes of finding and assisting animals that have been orphaned, weak or even lost. During the drought, there's been a sharp increase of bush-meat hunting for commercial purposes and IFAW's rangers continue patrolling the area to deter poachers and protect frail animals that have been orphaned or separated from their packs.

▲ A two-day-old baby giraffe wandered into a homestead in Amboseli, Kenya. IFAW's rangers at Olgulului Community Wildlife Ranch (OCWR) were called out and safely transported the giraffe to Amboseli National Park.



Photo: Trevor Samson / © IFAW

joining forces to protect leopards and other wildlife in South Africa

Snare hunting is one of the cruelest methods used by poachers to trap wildlife and it threatens leopards and many other species in the [Western Cape Province of South Africa](#).

That’s why IFAW has partnered with the [Cape Leopard Trust](#), a predator conservation group that uses research as a tool for conservation and finds solutions to human-wildlife conflict.

Leopards are the apex predator in the mountainous province. They roam freely across exceptionally large territories making it hard to know their exact numbers. Their secretive nature and mostly nocturnal habits add to the challenge. What is clear is that every day they and others species are

traversing a “mine-field” of snares set by indiscriminate and criminal elements.

Poachers mostly use snares to trap wildlife like small antelope and porcupines to support their own nutritional needs—those same animals are also primary food prey for leopards and other wildcat species, like caracals.

“Our first goal is to support the Cape Leopard Trust to rapidly respond to help snared wildlife by providing them with a dedicated vehicle,” says Neil Greenwood, IFAW’s Program Director, [Wildlife Rescue](#).

“Trained teams find and destroy snares and educate landowners to effectively patrol for snares. Together with the [Cape Leopard Trust](#) our efforts save lives by

enabling a swift response to rescue, treat and release wildlife caught in snares. We’ll also be working with local communities to find long-term solutions to reduce reliance on illegal hunting for food or profit.”



Photo: Trevor Samson / © IFAW

▲ Close up view of a snare.

▲ Lindsay Lewis, Nature Conservationist at Drakenstein Municipality, leads a snare patrol closely followed by Silindakuhle Tokota, Conservation Field Officer with the Cape Leopard Trust.



Photo: @Wild Is Life

new quarters for Panda Masuie's elephants

Thanks to continued investments through the partnership of IFAW and [Wild Is Life \(WIL\)](#), the flourishing 85,000-acre [Panda Masuie Forest Reserve](#) now has a new elephant quarters, which will provide a safer and more stimulating environment for orphaned and rescued elephants.

Established in 2018 by [WIL](#) and IFAW, and run together with [Forestry Commission of Zimbabwe](#) and [ZimParks](#), the [Panda Masuie rehabilitation facility](#) now has a new roof and structure in addition to the existing boma and buildings. A new steel roof has replaced the old tented roof, which was

temporarily established to save time and resources.

"Since this structure was completed, it has worked very well, and all the elephants go under the roof willingly during the rains. Importantly, this also keeps all our hay and elephant food dry," said Jos Danckwerts, Conservation Director for the [IFAW-WIL Panda Masuie Release Project](#).

The green steel roof blends well with the natural beauty of the pristine reserve, which is also a safe haven for other wildlife species including endangered African wild dogs, savanna elephants, lions, kudus and zebras.

"The rehabilitation facility remains key to our conservation work as IFAW and we are pleased to have supported the construction of the new boma roof which we believe will provide a safe environment for the orphaned and rescued elephants," said Neil Greenwood, IFAW's Wildlife Rescue Programs Director.

[Panda Masuie rehabilitation facility](#), which is the first of its kind in Zimbabwe, was established to ensure that injured and orphaned elephants get the care they need to survive and thrive before they are released back into the wild.

▲ A new shed has been constructed for Panda Masuie's rescued and orphaned elephants.

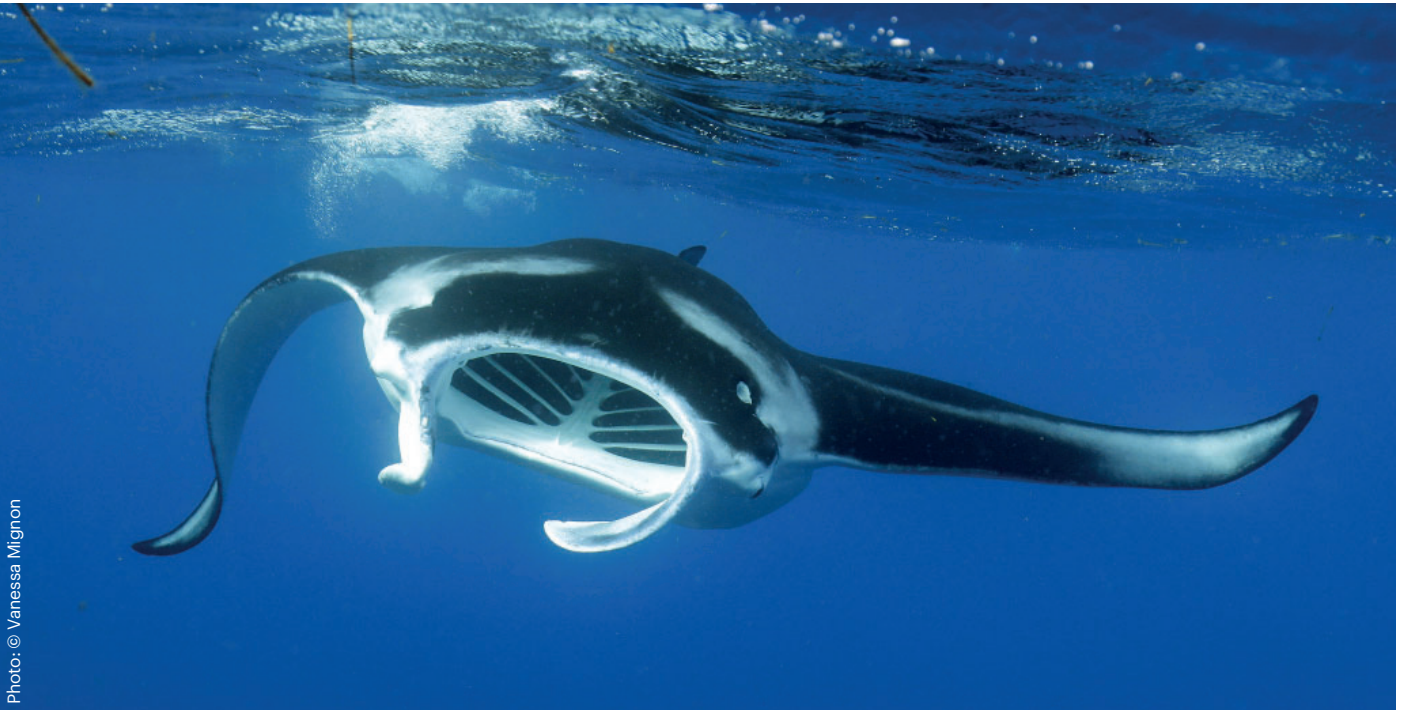


Photo: © Vanessa Mignon

marine conservation progress in East Africa

IFAW's marine conservation program in East Africa is taking shape. A meeting in 2022 to plan the program's strategy established the following outcomes and objectives for the year 2030:

goal

targeted key marine species populations and habitats along the African coast in the Western Indian Ocean are stable/increasing, protected and connected by 2030.

objectives

1. Well-designed and effective marine protected areas are in place locally, nationally and regionally.
2. Sufficient enforcement of illegal take and methods are implemented.
3. Communities have diversified livelihoods with alternative options to unsustainable/illegal fishing, reducing poverty levels.
4. Marine debris waste management is in place and sustainable.

The geographic scope of the program will cover the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region, spanning the coasts of Somalia (possibly), Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique and South Africa. The program will enhance the protection of marine megafauna species and the connectivity of their habitats in the WIO region. IFAW's interventions will start from the coast of Kenya and cascade to the WIO region. In Kenya, the first area where IFAW will engage is the 256-kilometre coastline of Kilifi County.

Governments in the region have embraced co-management of marine resources through legislation such as The Fisheries Management and Development Act no. 35 of 2016 in Kenya. The legislation provides for the establishment of community-managed marine protected areas (MPAs). These are key in providing adequate range space for marine megafauna species such as sea turtles, marine mammals, sharks and rays. This will be achieved by building the technical capacity of community members and government agency personnel, supporting MPA operations, scientific research, policy advocacy and diversifying and

enhancing livelihood options for local communities.

The planning and strategy meeting brought together an IFAW team including the Director for Marine Conservation, Sharon Livermore; Director for Africa, James Isiche; Director for Community Engagement, John Kogada; Head of Programs, East Africa, Maurice Nyaligu; Program Officer, Marine Conservation, Lillian Mulupi, and MEL Data Specialist, Amber Devereson.

Other stakeholders at the meeting included the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Department of Fisheries, County Government of Kilifi, Oceans Alive Trust and Bahari Hai Community Based Organization (CBO). They highlighted marine conservation gaps and challenges that they face, including an inadequate number of personnel in government agencies, limited technical capacity, inadequate field equipment and supplies and limited alternative livelihood options for local communities.

▲ Reef manta ray swimming.



Photo: @ZimParks

ZimParks flagship camp undergoes refurbishment

Hwange Main Camp sits in a beautiful natural setting at the western edge of the giant Hwange National Park—an ideal location for safari lovers. Wild animals like impala, buffalo, giraffes, kudus and zebras can all be spotted roaming freely near the camp. Hyenas occasionally come sniffing around the camp and visitors might hear lions roaring in the distance.

It is, thus, befitting that the camp was included in post-COVID-19 recovery efforts to revive wildlife tourism as part of a US\$5 million-dollar five-year ZimParks-IFAW partnership. Under Phase 2 of the project, four cottages at Hwange Main Camp have been upgraded.

“Improved tourism infrastructure is critical in delivering a magical tourism experience in Hwange National Park. **Our vision is to support investments in such catalytic infrastructure, and help accelerate the recovery of the tourism industry thus contributing to transformational**

socio-economic outcomes for Zimbabwe,”

says Phillip Kuvawoga, IFAW’s Program Director, Landscape Conservation.

The upgraded cottages have a fresh and vibrant look. This includes new bathrooms with more spacious showers, new fittings and new ceilings. For greater convenience, guests staying at the four cottages will have access to free WiFi, allowing them to connect with loved ones back home.

“We are delighted about the positive impact that the value-driven conservation partnership between IFAW and ZimParks continues to make. With all these investments towards tourism development, we foresee Hwange becoming a destination of choice for our domestic, regional and international tourists,” says Samson Chibaya, ZimParks Matebeleland North Regional Manager.

Considered one of the most

important countries for species richness in Southern Africa, Zimbabwe is targeting to grow the tourism sector into a US\$5 billion-dollar industry attracting at least 5 million visitors per year by 2025.

To help revitalise the sector and contribute to the country’s socio-economic aspirations, the IFAW-ZimParks partnership is working on sprucing up key tourism facilities around the Park, home to an estimated 45,000 savanna elephants.

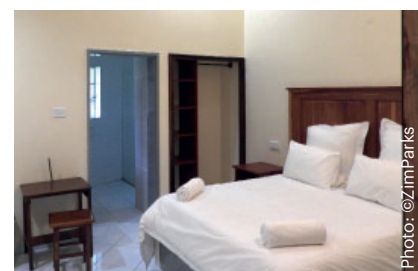


Photo: @ZimParks

▲ The upgraded cottages include new bathrooms with more spacious showers, new fittings and new ceilings.

▲ The first phase of the refurbishment of Hwange Main Camp has been completed.



Photo: © ZimParks



community water provision to enhance co-existence of wildlife and people in Hwange

One of Africa's truly natural wildlife reserves, the [Hwange National Park](#), is quite miraculously run.

The vast park—measuring 14,600 square-kilometres—is home to mega-fauna, including more than **45,000 elephants who drink large volumes of water daily**. Yet not a single perennial river flows through or even skirts the park, so the area relies largely on groundwater pumped from boreholes for most of the year.

It is not only the wild animals that suffer from the great thirst that impacts this arid part of [Zimbabwe](#); it also affects outlying communities who have had to scramble for the few water sources available, often running into contact with some dangerous wild animals like lions, elephants and buffalo.

Between 2017-2022, Zimbabwe estimates that 400 people died due to human-wildlife conflict as wildlife and people compete for food and water.

To avert the crisis and improve access to clean water, IFAW and ZimParks have, under the [Water Is Life](#) project, set up solar-powered boreholes in [Hwange](#) and [Tsholotsho](#) districts.

"Three out of four boreholes are now operational, each installed with a 10,000 litre plastic tank, to provide access to clean water for domestic, agricultural and livestock needs to more than 1,200 villagers in [Hwange](#) and [Tsholotsho](#)," said Simbarashe Chiseva, IFAW's Community Engagement Officer.

"Beyond improving sanitation and hygiene, the [Water Is Life](#) project will significantly reduce incidences of human-wildlife conflict, particularly predation of cattle by lions," he added.

Previously, villagers used to encroach into the forest reserves adjacent to [Hwange National Park](#) with their livestock in search of water, unknowingly attracting lions.

"IFAW-funded boreholes have improved access to clean water,

reducing the burden on women and girls, who in the past had to spend more time searching for water," said Matetsi Ward 1 Councillor Vulindlela Gasela Mhlanga.

"Our livestock will no longer have to go deep into the protected area for water and this will reduce attacks by wild animals," he added.

The [Water Is Life](#) project includes plans to set up community nutritional gardens close to the borehole sites. Around 90 households in [Kasibi](#) and [Breakfast](#) villages will each get a portion for nutritional gardening activities, which will help the communities become food secure and resilient.

The potential for villagers in the target communities to improve their livelihoods from the solar-powered boreholes is endless.

- ▲ Clean, safe water for villagers in Hwange district.
- ◀ Solar-powered boreholes to mitigate human-wildlife conflict in Hwange.



Photo: Jacqueline Nyagah / © IFAW

back to school after 12 years

Penina Lenkishon dropped out of school in grade eight when she became pregnant with the first of her five children. Later, she was able to return for a one-year garment-making program, but when that finished in 2010 it looked like Penina would not have the opportunity to continue her education.

However, in January 2022, with financial support from the [Margarete-Breuer Stiftung](#), Penina enrolled to study dressmaking at [Isinya Vocational Training Center](#), in Isinya, Kenya. She left her youngest child in the care of her husband and elderly mother-in-law to pursue her dreams of furthering the studies she had commenced 12 years prior.

the courage to be a mother and a student

Becoming a full-time student 200 kilometers from her home proved to be a challenge. “Isinya was difficult as I left a six-month old child, and she was regularly getting unwell. A child that age needs a mother’s care,” she says with a tinge of sadness in her voice. After her first term, she transferred to a school closer to her home—[Namelok Vocational Training Center](#) (where she studied garment making 12 years earlier).

“It was not easy to transfer, but I had to do it for the sake of the child. I became a day scholar so as to tend to the child and thankfully she is much better health wise,” she says.

Her one-year study in 2010 allowed her to enroll in Grade 2,

ahead of her peers. “I learned how to cut fabric to make trousers, which I did not know prior and also how to decorate traditional Maasai regalia with fabric,” she says of the additional skills acquired.

“It is good to go back to school—yes, I have a husband and children. I had no reservations at all as this course will help me and my children, my family, as I will use my skills to make money and take care of them. I was able to complete my studies in August 2022. I was on attachment from August to October 2022,” Penina says.

▲ Penina Lenkishon who went back to school after 12 years to study garment making.



elephant calf airlifted to safety

Swift action saved the life of a two-week old male elephant calf after it wandered into a community area near [Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe](#) the morning after Christmas 2022.

The tiny elephant was being harassed and pushed about by holiday revelers when rangers from the [Forestry Commission, ZimParks and Zimbabwe Republic Police](#) arrived just in time to prevent a tragedy.

Officials agreed to move the calf to safety at the [IFAW and Wild is Life \(WIL\) Panda Masuie Elephant Release Project](#), a rewilding and release facility with 12 elephants in its care.

“We’re grateful to the [Forestry Commission](#) and others who sprang into action on a holiday weekend to rescue this tiny elephant and so quickly move him into protection. They saved his life,” says [Jos Danckwerts](#), conservation director for WIL.

The calf received round-the-clock care overnight by handlers at [Panda Masuie](#), while arrangements were made to have him airlifted to the [Wild is](#)

[Life Zimbabwe Elephant Nursery \(ZEN\)](#) in Harare, which specialises in care of very young orphan elephants.

Founder [Roxy Danckwerts](#) and veterinarian [Dr. Mark Lombard](#) assessed the calf on arrival and found him to be about two weeks old, in fair condition with no serious external injuries.

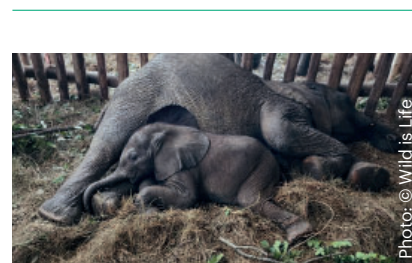
“We’ve named our little newcomer [Elliot](#),” says [Danckwerts](#). “He has been taken under the wing of another of our rescues [Kadiki](#), who at just three years old, is proving herself to be excellent foster mum and the two share a stable.”

“[Elliot](#) is drinking voraciously—consuming 21 litres a day of special neo-nate milk formula—and he is partial to having fun by chasing ducks and other large birds. He has so much energy, and it’s a joy to see such a tiny elephant having such a good time,” says [Danckwerts](#).

The [WIL ZEN elephant nursery](#) was founded by [Danckwerts](#) in 2012 and has rescued 50 orphaned elephants. Currently 30 elephants are in rehabilitation and 12 are taking their last steps

to rewilding at [Panda Masuie](#). Six elephants have been permanently released into the wild.

Subsequent to the rescue of the elephant calf on 26 December, a small breeding herd of six elephants—possibly the orphan calf’s natal herd—was found dead in a nearby forest. The elephant’s ivory was intact so death from poaching is not suspected and investigations continue.



▲ The two-week old elephant calf, shortly after rescue, in care at the [IFAW Wild is Life \(WIL\) Panda Masuie Release Project](#) near [Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe](#).

▲ Now named [Elliot](#), the rescued calf rests with [Kadiki](#), a three-year old elephant who has taken on the role of foster-mum to the young calf at the [Wild is Life Zimbabwe Elephant Nursery](#) in Harare, Zimbabwe.



Photo: Karel Prinsloo / © IFAW

United States and South Africa partner to stem illegal wildlife trade

A new partnership between the [United States](#) and [South Africa](#) is expected to urgently boost global efforts to stem wildlife crime.

Announcing the agreement, [U.S. Treasury Secretary](#), Janet Yellen, said the treasury departments of both countries have agreed to form a task force to combat illicit finance linked to illegal wildlife trade. Yellen visited [South Africa](#) as part of an [Africa tour](#).

IFAW has long been a proponent of considering wildlife crime at the same level as other serious

international organised crimes, such as human trafficking and the drug trade, and IFAW encourages international collaboration between states as a critical part of any solution.

“[South Africa’s](#) rich wildlife biodiversity makes it a key source country for criminals involved in wildlife trafficking and its role as a transport and financial hub for the continent makes it even more important. If this collaboration leads to investigations and convictions, then it will be another useful tool in the global response to wildlife

crime,” said Matthew Morley, Deputy Vice President of Conservation at IFAW.

Morley said [South Africa](#), a biodiversity hotspot with an abundance of wild animals, has long been a destination for wildlife criminals.

“This is a welcome move by the two governments and another example of positive [U.S.](#) leadership internationally.

▲ A white rhinoceros pictured in Pilanesberg National Park in South Africa. Rhinoceros are targeted by poachers and wildlife traffickers for their horns.



Photo: Jacqueline Nyagahy/© IFAW

encouraging positive behaviour change amongst men

Lucy Nailantei Manja dropped out of school at grade eight due to lack of finances. She has a passion for beauty and hairdressing, which is why she chose to study hairdressing and beauty therapy as part of IFAW's Jenga Mama project, sponsored by the Margarete-Breuer Stiftung.

Rejoining school at the age of 35 was not easy. She is a wife and a mother of six children, aged 16, 13, 11, 9, 6 and 4. The two eldest are in boarding school, while the others were left in the company of their father, Lucy's husband Festus Manja Ntididai.

"She has a talent for beauty and hairdressing, and I was happy to let her study so that she can eventually help the family," says Festus, when asked how he felt about Lucy leaving for a year to study at the Isinya Vocational Training Center. Before she went to school, Lucy would braid her neighbours' hair and use the proceeds to help take care of the family.

male support

Despite coming from a highly patriarchal community, Festus fully supports Lucy to pursue her dreams. "I want to be a unique example to my fellow men as I have seen how my wife has helped the family."

While she was away learning, Festus took care of the children by cooking, cleaning and helping them do their homework. "There are murmurs and a lot of negative comments about me having just one wife and then in addition letting her leave for one year to go study far away from home, but I don't let them bother me as staying with my kids [while their mum is away], though it was not easy, has been very good, very fulfilling for me," adds Festus.

"It helped in bonding us together. I advise my fellow men to take the initiative and spend more time with their children and support their wives in pursuing careers outside the home," says Festus. While in school, Lucy took time

during weekends to practice her skills at salons in Isinya town. She looks forward to opening her own salon, larger than the ones she has previously worked in. "The knowledge and experience I have gained is more than I had before, and this will help me in carrying out my work better," she says.



Photo: Jacqueline Nyagahy/© IFAW

▲ Festus Manja, Lucy's husband and his daughter Sharon.

▲ Lucy Nailantei and her husband Festus Manja (both seated) and their children from left Lenkishon (in purple top), Niomon (in black top), Nosim (in yellow top), Sharon (in striped top) and Lempiris (in purple and black striped top). Not in the picture is Karen who was in school at the time.



mobile forensics training held by ifaw for frontline security officers

15 frontline security officers from Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) received a digital forensics training in November 2022 to better equip them with the tools and knowledge to curb the threat posed to animals by wildlife crimes such as poaching and bush meat hunting.

IFAW held the training in partnership with the Animal Wildlife Foundation (AWF) and it was sponsored by the United States Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) as part of the project Combating illegal wildlife trade through cross-border collaboration of law enforcement in Kenya and Tanzania.

Syndicates and individuals involved in wildlife poaching often have access to information, resources and sophisticated equipment that is

sometimes beyond the reach of those fighting this crime. Government investigative and law enforcement officers who work to stop poaching and potential trafficking are not adequately equipped with the latest technology or training to help them stop these crimes.

The training held by IFAW introduced participants to Link Analysis technology, provided by Cellebrite, which enables officers to forensically analyse phones, tablets and laptops seized when arresting offenders. Forensic analysis can extract critical data that can speed up investigations and reveal vital information about the relationships that make up the complete supply chain.

Putting technology and knowledge in the right hands is one way IFAW is working with government agencies

responsible for fighting wildlife crime to build capacity and provide equipment for them to take up investigative tasks backed by analytic evidence.

15 frontline security officers from Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) received a digital forensics training

▲ Participants from Kenya Wildlife Service at the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) training in Diani, Kenya.



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. IFAW is grateful for the generosity of donors and partners who have championed Room to Roam since 2018.

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

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Africa Newsletter
2nd Edition 2023

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