



Your latest EU updates

Dear Friend,

The last few weeks have been very eventful for IFAW's EU team. The EU institutions have taken several political decisions that will have a direct impact on the conservation and welfare of wild animals.

Of note are the agreements on the texts of the landmark Nature Restoration Law and the revision to the Environmental Crime Directive. Both laws represent a step forward. However, the compromises between the institutions also mean that shortcomings remain. IFAW will continue to work to close any remaining gaps.

Together with its partners, IFAW has taken stock of the situation one year after the revision of the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking. In addition, IFAW has also set up a global e-learning platform that will enable law enforcement officials to better deal with confiscated wildlife species.

Finally, the COP28 climate conference closed last week. IFAW was on site and championing the role of nature, and specifically animals, as a solution to the climate crisis. Read our assessment of the conference and its results below.

At the end of this year, it is a good time to reflect on victories for animals in 2023. Check out our summary video. And now all that remains is for us to thank our partners and supporters for their excellent cooperation. We wish you happy holidays and a peaceful New Year.

Ilara Di Silvestre and the IFAW EU team

Agreement on Nature Restoration Law



In November 2023, following challenging negotiations, the EU institutions agreed on the Nature Restoration Law, aiming for a minimum of 20% restoration of EU land and sea by 2030. This is a major milestone for the protection of nature and wildlife. While commendable expansions were made, loopholes might hinder efforts, especially in preventing deterioration. Concerns remain about its effectiveness due to compromises diluting key aspects and offering member states more flexibility.

[Learn more >>](#)

EU revises Environmental Crime Directive



Also in November, the EU completed the revision of the Environmental Crime Directive, broadening the scope of offences and imposing higher penalties for serious, long-lasting, and irreversible ecosystem damage.

IFAW welcomed the updated directive which now also includes measures for a wider range of environmental crimes, improved implementation strategies, and specific thresholds and sanctions. Notably, it addresses for the first time underwater noise pollution impacting marine mammals, a change supported by IFAW. Unfortunately, maximum limits for penalties and sanctions on environmental crimes remain inadequate.

[IFAW's latest report >>](#)

EU Parliament acts on shipping-related marine pollution



In November's plenary session, the European Parliament adopted its position on revising the Ship-Source Pollution Directive. IFAW appreciated this move due to the alarming rise in maritime transport-related pollution over recent decades. While acknowledging the incorporation of several recommendations into the text, IFAW noted that the Directive's scope remains limited, and the number of enforceable measures falls short.

[Read more >>](#)

Stakeholders review EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking



In Brussels on November 16, representatives from Member States, the EU Commission, the European Parliament, experts, and civil society convened to mark one year since the publication of the Revised EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking. Discussions highlighted progress, urging dedicated implementation, and addressing challenges such as care for confiscated animals, enforcement hurdles, and legislative gaps enabling illegal species entry into the EU. The information we receive from Jack's GPS collar is integral to our Room to Roam initiative. With every ping of Jack's GPS, we learn about the dynamics and travel habits of his herd. By pinpointing their routes, we can ensure those specific areas remain accessible and safe into the future.

[See more >>](#)

Nature takes centre stage in climate talks



The COP28 climate change conference in Dubai marked a significant shift towards integrating nature into global climate strategies. IFAW's experts highlighted a pivotal shift towards including biodiversity in global climate strategies, emphasizing the crucial role of animals in combating climate breakdown. While recognizing the importance of protecting ecosystems, urgent action remains paramount for an integrated approach merging climate and biodiversity agendas.

[Learn more >>](#)

IFAW launches online courses on handling seized wildlife



Law enforcement agencies globally can now access a pioneering online learning initiative focused on safely and compassionately handling live animals seized in illegal trade. This program developed by IFAW and several partners aids law enforcement officers in safe confiscation practices. Available or soon to be offered in eight languages, it aims for

widespread accessibility. The courses are hosted through IFAW's Academy of Rescue and Conservation and are exclusively accessible to authorized law enforcement agencies.

[Learn more >>](#)

IFAW in the media



To mark the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction on 13 October, EurActiv published an op-ed by Staci McLennan, Director of Policy, Europe. Among other things, the author called for animal welfare to be recognised as part of the response to emergencies and disasters.

[Read more >>](#)

Top 10 animal victories of 2023



As 2023 draws to a close, let us reflect on ten impactful ways your support has empowered us to safeguard and preserve animals throughout this year. Through the generosity of our supporters, IFAW facilitated the transportation of a dozen big cats from conflict-affected regions in Ukraine, inaugurated a new Dolphin Rescue Center, and provided swift aid in response to global disasters.

[See more >>](#)

Follow Us



International Fund for Animal Welfare

290 Summer Street, Yarmouth Port, MA, 02675, United States

This email was sent to recipient@email-address.com

[Unsubscribe](#) [Manage Email Preferences](#) [Privacy Policy](#)

Want to get in touch? Contact us at info-int@ifaw.org

Don't miss a thing! Add info@ifawnews.org to your address book.

Photo 1: Wild goat on a mountain in Annecy, France. © Juliette Felix

Photo 2: The European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium.

Photo 3: Whale fluking with tanker in the background.

Photo 4: A Philippine porcupine rescued from the illegal wildlife trade. © Robert Quest

Photo 5: Aerial view of smoke from a bushfire rising from a forest of the East Gippsland region in Victoria. Stacey Hedman / © IFAW

Photo 6: IFAW's Céline Sissler-Bienvenu carefully checks a rescued tortoise for infections and specific wounds from the wildfires in Greece in August 2023. Floris Tils / © IFAW