

# Annual Report July 2022–June 2023



United States

**ifaw**





Photo © GRI

# Content

<b>Introduction</b>		<b>Wildlife Rescue</b>	
4	Animals and people thriving together	32	Rescuing wildlife because every animal matters
6	Creating lasting impact	<b>Wildlife Crime</b>	
8	Vision and mission	36	Combating illegal trade in wild animals
9	Leadership	<b>International Policy</b>	
<b>Community Engagement</b>		40	Protecting animals and habitats in global agreements
12	Putting local communities at the heart of solutions	<b>Summary Financial Statements</b>	
<b>Landscape Conservation</b>		44	Worldwide financial overview
16	Creating room to roam in Africa	48	United States financial overview
<b>Disaster Response</b>			
20	There for animals and people when they need it most		
<b>Marine Conservation</b>			
24	The future of the North Atlantic right whale hangs in the balance		
25	Protecting marine life and habitats all over the world		
<b>Marine Mammal Rescue</b>			
28	Helping more stranded marine mammals survive		

◀ Keeper Audience bottle-feeds Chikumbi at Lusaka Elephant Nursery in Zambia.

Cover photo: © IFAW, NOAA/NMFS permit #21371. A North Atlantic right whale surfaces near Song of the Whale in Cape Cod Bay, US.



# Animals and people thriving together



Since IFAW's founding more than half a century ago, our dual focus on rescue and conservation has set us apart from our peers. It has formed the foundation of our global effort to build a future in which animals and people thrive together. And we have no plans of stopping anytime soon.

The challenges our shared planet faces are urgent and complex. As an organization, we understand that our efforts to save animals will be in vain in the long-term if those animals have nowhere left to live. Consequently, the relationship between our rescue and conservation programs is more critical than ever and is vital to our focus on protecting biodiversity across the globe.

This year, we committed to creating a climate-forward future where peaceful coexistence is foundational. This definitive step comes at a crucial time for

our organization. It allows us to prioritize the long-term protection of biodiversity as well as the species that provide critical life support across our shared planet.

Through Room to Roam, IFAW is fulfilling its visionary transcontinental initiative creating connectivity in areas in Africa where humans and animals can thrive together in climate-resilient landscapes. We continue strengthening relationships and forging new partnerships with communities, traditional leaders, governments, and other NGOs, united in connecting key African landscapes to support elephant populations and other species well into the future.

When disasters struck, from large-scale wildfires in Greece to devastating earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, our teams rushed urgent aid to animals and communities in desperate need of emergency veterinary care, food, shelter,

and more. We also continued providing critical support in Ukraine. For example, we assisted partners as they rescued and evacuated wildlife that had been held captive in private collections, breeding facilities, and sanctuaries near the frontline. This work gave hope to many in the midst of conflict.

IFAW's knowledge, experience, best practices, and trust-based reputation in the field of animal rescue mean that communities, NGOs, and government agencies often reach out to us. Requests for our professional rescue skillset and experience have tripled in recent years. These requests will most likely continue to rise as the impacts of climate change, illegal wildlife trade, human population growth, and other threats drive increasing need for animal rescue. While knowledge is important, we believe that sharing knowledge is even more important.



This year we took an important and exciting step by establishing IFAW's Academy of Rescue and Conservation (ARC). Made possible by a generous contribution from the Suzanne McGraw Foundation, ARC improves our capacity to share knowledge, creates a platform for connecting experts from around the world. Most importantly, it magnifies our impact by increasing global capacity for responding rapidly and rescuing animals in need.

Our philosophy and programs express our belief that every individual animal matters. Perhaps the best example of this is our long-standing campaign to bring the North Atlantic right whale (NARW) back from the brink of extinction and onto a path of recovery. With fewer than 340 individuals left, there is no room for failure. Our efforts during fiscal year 2023 (FY23) focused on escalating our campaign across the United States and Canada to drive public awareness and advocate for policy change to protect right whales. We continued pressing for the adoption of policies to increase the use of innovative, ropeless fishing technologies, which significantly reduce whale entanglements. We also commissioned the Song of the Whale research vessel to collect lifesaving data on mother NARWs and calves all along the east coast.

During 2023 we launched new and unconventional initiatives to mitigate climate change through sustainable community-led solutions. For example, as part of our Asian Elephant Protection project in China, we worked alongside

local partners to develop an innovative carbon sequestration community model that integrates Asian elephant conservation. Beekeeping provides local communities with an eco-friendly, sustainable livelihood. It reduces human-elephant conflict because it's a livelihood that does not rely on people going into the nearby mountains where they are more likely to encounter elephants. The project produced 3,000 bottles of zero-carbon honey, the sale of which will support the sustainable development of the community.

Advancing legal frameworks and international agreements remained fundamental to IFAW's work in FY23. We continued urging the Biden administration to immediately commit to conserving biodiversity and protecting wild spaces to help mitigate the effects of climate change. We also attended the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (COP19 CITES) in Panama City, where we advocated for crucial protections for species ranging from elephants to rhinos to sharks.

After more than a decade of intense advocacy, we celebrated a huge legislative victory with the passing of the Big Cat Public Safety Act. The act prohibits the private ownership of tigers, lions, leopards, and other big cats as "pets" in the US. Another landmark legislative victory, the passage of the Planning for Animal Wellness (PAW) Act, paved the way towards inclusion of animals in disaster preparedness and response. During the COP15 United

Nations Biodiversity Conference in Montreal, Canada, IFAW supported the negotiation of a comprehensive biodiversity framework for sustainable and environmentally sound natural resource management.

IFAW also hosted the fifth annual World Wildlife Day (WWD) International Youth Art Contest in collaboration with CITES and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This year's WWD focused on people—from community members, to scientists, to wildlife groups, organizations, and governments—working together to protect and conserve endangered and threatened species. Open to youth aged 4–18 years, the contest received entries from more than 1,000 contestants. In just five years, the contest's reach has grown from 18 countries to nearly 90, helping to inspire the next generation to conserve the world's precious wildlife.

At IFAW, we continuously strive for impact. And that impact is measured primarily by our ability to save lives. Across all regions, across all species, both now and well into the distant future. We intend to ensure that future is a promising one for both people and animals.

**Azzedine Downes**  
President & Chief Executive Officer

- ▲ A lion cub rescued from the war in Ukraine drinks from a bottle at Poznań Zoo in Poland.
- ◀ IFAW, WTI, and Assam Forest Department officials release six Himalayan vultures back to the wild.



# Creating lasting impact



Photo: © George Benjamin

IFAW is a global non-profit organization with a presence across more than 40 countries, including about 350 staff members in 15 country offices. We rescue, rehabilitate, and release animals, and work to restore and protect their natural habitats. Our main objective is to help save as many animals as possible.

In alignment with our mission, we are dedicated to reducing our environmental impact and embed sustainability principles through the organization's operations. That is why, since 2020, IFAW conducts Carbon Footprint reports on the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions resulting from IFAW facilities and operations. The total carbon footprint for the 2021 calendar year was 6,279 tonnes (t) of carbon dioxide equivalents (CO2e). The report for calendar year 2022 is under development.

We fully offset our carbon emissions by supporting approved offset projects on the UN Climate Neutral Now platform. The chosen projects align with IFAW's guiding principles and with program and geographic priorities. For 2021, IFAW supported projects promoting efficient cookstoves in Malawi, composting in India, and energy efficient mass transport in China.

Throughout IFAW's offices, teams also always look for ways to adopt and improve green practices. From using energy saving solutions (also at operational centers like ranger stations), to recycling (organic) waste, offering plant-based meals at office events, cutting down the use of plastics, using recycled paper and to restricting travel by promoting a hybrid work environment to reduce daily office commuting by more than 50%. We respect everyone's habits and practices, and focus on offering alternative, more eco-friendly options.

▲ One-horned rhino calves in care at Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation in India.

## Our corporate, institutional and foundation supporters and partners

Successful conservation requires a cross-industry approach. IFAW is grateful to our corporate, institutional and foundation supporters and partners for their contributions. Without them, the incredible work accomplished over the last year would not have been possible. They enable us to deliver sustainable change at scale through financial or in-kind donations, network connections, and raising awareness. As a result, we helped nearly 150,000 animals in this past fiscal year.

We are thankful to these supporters and partners for prioritizing conservation within their business model and together, we will continue to build a world where animals and people thrive.

Our impact in FY23 was made possible by, among others:

- ▶ A Kinder World
- ▶ Alexander McCausland Charitable Trust
- ▶ American Veterinary Medical Foundation

- ▶ Andrew Sabin Family Foundation
- ▶ Anicom Holdings, Inc.
- ▶ Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation
- ▶ Brenda Brinker Bottum
- ▶ Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
- ▶ Daidone Foundation
- ▶ David Rio Chai
- ▶ Dutch Postcode Lottery (Nationale Postcode Loterij)
- ▶ EarthToday
- ▶ Enabel - Belgian Development Agency
- ▶ European Commission (Internal Security Fund)
- ▶ EdgeTech
- ▶ Fishwise
- ▶ Freshippo
- ▶ Gale Epstein
- ▶ German Agency for International Cooperation
- ▶ Girl Scouts Nation's Capital
- ▶ IDEXX Foundation
- ▶ IUCN National Committee of the Netherlands
- ▶ John and Edith Sacco Charitable Foundation
- ▶ John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program
- ▶ Joyce C. Doria
- ▶ Le Fonds Urgence & Développement de BNP Paribas
- ▶ Leonard Joel
- ▶ Lillian Lincoln Foundation
- ▶ Mrs. Margaretta J. Taylor
- ▶ Margarete-Breuer Stiftung
- ▶ Mark and Kathleen Beaudouin
- ▶ Mars, Incorporated
- ▶ Melissa and Michael Lora
- ▶ Munchkin, Inc.
- ▶ NSW Department of Planning and Environment
- ▶ Oceans 5—a sponsored project of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors
- ▶ Pegasus Foundation
- ▶ Philips Foundation
- ▶ Pioneers for a Thoughtful Coexistence
- ▶ Prince Albert II Foundation
- ▶ Richard and Jenny Bugg
- ▶ Robert Cotton
- ▶ Save Giraffes Now
- ▶ Shark Conservation Fund
- ▶ Sinking Ship Entertainment
- ▶ Smelts
- ▶ Spurlino Foundation
- ▶ Stellwagen National Marine Sanctuary
- ▶ Swire Coca Cola Limited
- ▶ The Australian High Commission in Nigeria
- ▶ The Flotilla Foundation
- ▶ The Jenny & Eleonor Siebert Family Living Trust
- ▶ The Pew Charitable Trusts
- ▶ The Suzanne McGraw Foundation
- ▶ The Walt Disney Company
- ▶ United States Agency for International Development
- ▶ US Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs
- ▶ US Fish and Wildlife Service
- ▶ Vulcan LLC
- ▶ Dr. Weinberg and Ms. Wilkinson House
- ▶ Wildlife Conservation Society

## Our partners, organizations and communities on the ground

IFAW is proud to work with dedicated partners, organizations and communities on the ground who rescue and protect animals and promote peaceful coexistence between animals and people. Without them, we would not be able to do the work we do.

Some of the partners we worked with in FY23:

- ▶ Al-Ma'wa for Nature and Wildlife Foundation
- ▶ Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary
- ▶ Cape Leopard Trust
- ▶ Centro Sperimentale per la Tutela degli Habitat
- ▶ Conservation Action Network Indonesia
- ▶ Department of National Parks and Wildlife for Malawi and Zambia
- ▶ Dete Animal Rescue Trust
- ▶ Freeland
- ▶ Friends of the Koala
- ▶ Game Rangers International
- ▶ Great Eastern Ranges
- ▶ Haytap Hayvan Haklari Federasyonu
- ▶ House of Cats Ernesto Sanctuary
- ▶ HUHA Charitable Trust NZ
- ▶ Instituto Tamandua
- ▶ Jane Goodall Institute
- ▶ Jakarta Animal Aid Network
- ▶ Kenya Wildlife Service
- ▶ Lebanese Association for Migratory Birds
- ▶ Legal Atlas
- ▶ Lucky Animal Protection Shelter
- ▶ Mosswood Wildlife
- ▶ Mountain View Wildlife Rehabilitation
- ▶ Ngunya Jagoon Indigenous Protected Area Rangers
- ▶ Poznań Zoo
- ▶ Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature
- ▶ Supreme Council for Environment
- ▶ The Big Cat Sanctuary
- ▶ Two Thumbs Wildlife Trust
- ▶ Uganda Wildlife Authority
- ▶ Ukrainian Small Animal Veterinary Association
- ▶ University of the Sunshine Coast's Detection Dogs for Conservation
- ▶ WA Wildlife
- ▶ WATAN Foundation
- ▶ Wild Animal Rescue
- ▶ Wild is Life
- ▶ Wildlife Trust of India
- ▶ Wild Welfare
- ▶ World Wildlife Fund
- ▶ Yayasan Bali Animal Welfare Association
- ▶ Zimbabwe Parks & Wildlife Management Authority





Photo: Melanie Mahoney / © IFAW

**Vision:**  
**Animals and people thriving together**



Photo: Victor Rosales / © IFAW

**Mission:**  
**Fresh thinking and bold action for animals, people and the place we call home**

# Leadership

## Global Board members

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 Marine Mammal Rescue

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 Operations, United Kingdom

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 The Netherlands

Nathalie Meriaux-Callewaere  
 Operations Manager,  
 Belgium

\* This leadership overview is per end of fiscal year, 30 June 2023.



# Community Engagement



Photo: © Donal Boyd

**75**

communities implemented improved practices in animal welfare and conservation

**3,000**

bottles of Zero Carbon Elephant-Friendly Honey hit the shelves in China

**60**

women in Kenya learning to generate their own sustainable income

**624**

community animals in Mexico helped directly

The number of incidents of human-wildlife conflict is rising sharply as animals and people increasingly compete to use land and access vital resources such as food and water, with the challenges amplified by the impacts of climate change. The complex and co-dependent relationships between wild animals and people mean that community involvement is vital to the success of all our conservation work.

We take time to listen to local people, ensuring that all voices are equally heard, as we learn about their lives and understand the challenges they face. This is the starting point for empowering communities to take the lead in conservation and animal welfare initiatives. Together, we strengthen local capabilities and develop practical community approaches to wildlife conservation based on strong science and evidence.



# Putting local communities at the heart of solutions



Photo: Dominica Maek / © IFAW

## Empowering women to create new futures in Kenya

We continue supporting 60 women from local communities in Amboseli, in southern Kenya, as they train for careers as small business owners and become stronger advocates for wildlife. Jenga Mama, which means “empower a woman” in the local Swahili language, is an initiative developed and financed by the German Margarete-Breuer Stiftung and IFAW. The women graduated in FY23 after completing training in the vocation of

their choice, such as plumbing, hairdressing, garment making, food and beverage production, and information technology. Next, they will be supported to establish a business and then will receive one year of business development mentorship to help them settle into their new professions.

Helping women find more sustainable sources of income gives them more significant opportunities to speak up against poaching and human-wildlife conflict and participate in decision-making with local community leaders.

## Working with Indigenous rangers to check koala health after bushfires

The Ngunya Jargoan Indigenous Protected Area, a biodiversity and cultural hotspot in New South Wales, Australia, was devastated by fires and floods in recent years. In FY23, we worked together with Indigenous rangers to conduct surveys to determine the health of the resident koala population. A drone-mounted thermal camera detected

32 koalas, which were then reached on foot by ground teams who were guided by Bear, a koala detection dog from IFAW x University of the Sunshine Coast. Health checks showed that most of the koalas were doing well and two even had young joeys in tow. Austin (aka Dangerpaws), another detection dog and Bear’s teammate, helped sniff out koala poo, which was collected for analysis that gives a picture of the koalas’ health and genetics. The post-fire surveys were a collaboration between IFAW, Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council, Department of Planning and Environment & Saving Our Species, Ballina Shire Council, University of the Sunshine Coast Detection Dogs for Conservation, and Friends of the Koala Inc. The project is supported by the Australian Government’s Bushfire Recovery Exceptional Assistance Immediate Support Package.

## Developing resilience as communities face the worst drought in 40 years

Kenya faced the worst drought in 40 years during FY23, partly due to the adverse effects of climate change. According to data collated by Kenya Wildlife Service and partners including IFAW, the Amboseli ecosystem lost 6,093 individual wild animals from 20 different species between June and November 2022. In addition, tens of thousands of domestic livestock perished, significantly affecting communities’ livelihoods. Droughts are expected to increase in frequency and severity due to climate change. IFAW’s Room to Roam initiative seeks to mitigate climate shocks by securing wildlife habitat and building resilience for local communities that live with wildlife.

## Protecting Asian elephants while producing zero-carbon honey

As part of our Asian Elephant Protection program, a beekeeping project in Daotangqing Village in southwest China,

produced 3,000 bottles of zero-carbon, elephant-friendly honey in FY23. IFAW and Freshippo, a retail brand from Alibaba, sold the honey with proceeds used to support the sustainable development of the community. The honey is produced with zero carbon, thanks to IFAW’s partnership with Swire Coca-Cola. Beekeeping provides local communities with an eco-friendly, sustainable livelihood. It reduces human-elephant conflict because it is a livelihood that does not rely on people going into the nearby mountains where they are more likely to encounter elephants.

## Reducing human-wildlife conflict in Zimbabwe

To help mitigate human-wildlife conflict in Zimbabwe’s greater Hwange ecosystem, IFAW worked with Zimbabwe Parks & Wildlife Management Authority to construct predator-proof livestock enclosures (bomas) that keep livestock out of sight of predators. Predator-proof bomas reduce losses for farmers, which improves food security and builds resilience to potential shocks like droughts. By reducing attacks on livestock, predator-proof bomas also reduce the desire of farmers to engage in retaliatory killings of predators. The bomas have been constructed in selected wards of the Hwange district, with plans to build some in Tsholotsho district in the future.

## Establishing community conservation hubs in Zimbabwe

We are supporting the construction of community conservation hubs in the buffer communities (communities near protected areas) of the greater Hwange ecosystem. The hubs include a community shelter with a storeroom and an office, a solar-powered borehole, a fenced nutrition garden, and toilets. The first community conservation hub is being built in Malonga village and in FY23 phase one of this development was completed

with the construction of a 300-seat community shelter. By facilitating gatherings and dialogues, community hubs can help build social cohesion and foster community resilience.

## Communities helping jaguar and marine turtle conservation in Mexico

IFAW continues to support jaguar and marine turtle conservation along the south coast of Quintana Roo, Mexico. Dogs, especially those allowed to roam freely, can be preyed upon by jaguars, or may themselves prey upon marine turtles or other wildlife. Twenty-four dog pens were provided to vulnerable families, bringing the total more than 125 dog pens provided since 2019. These dog pens, which are a community initiative, protect the dogs from jaguar attacks while also keeping dogs away from defenseless marine turtles and their nests. We continue to help keep domestic animals healthy, for example by vaccinating, deworming, and sterilizing them. A total of 645 community animals directly benefited from IFAW’s work in FY23.

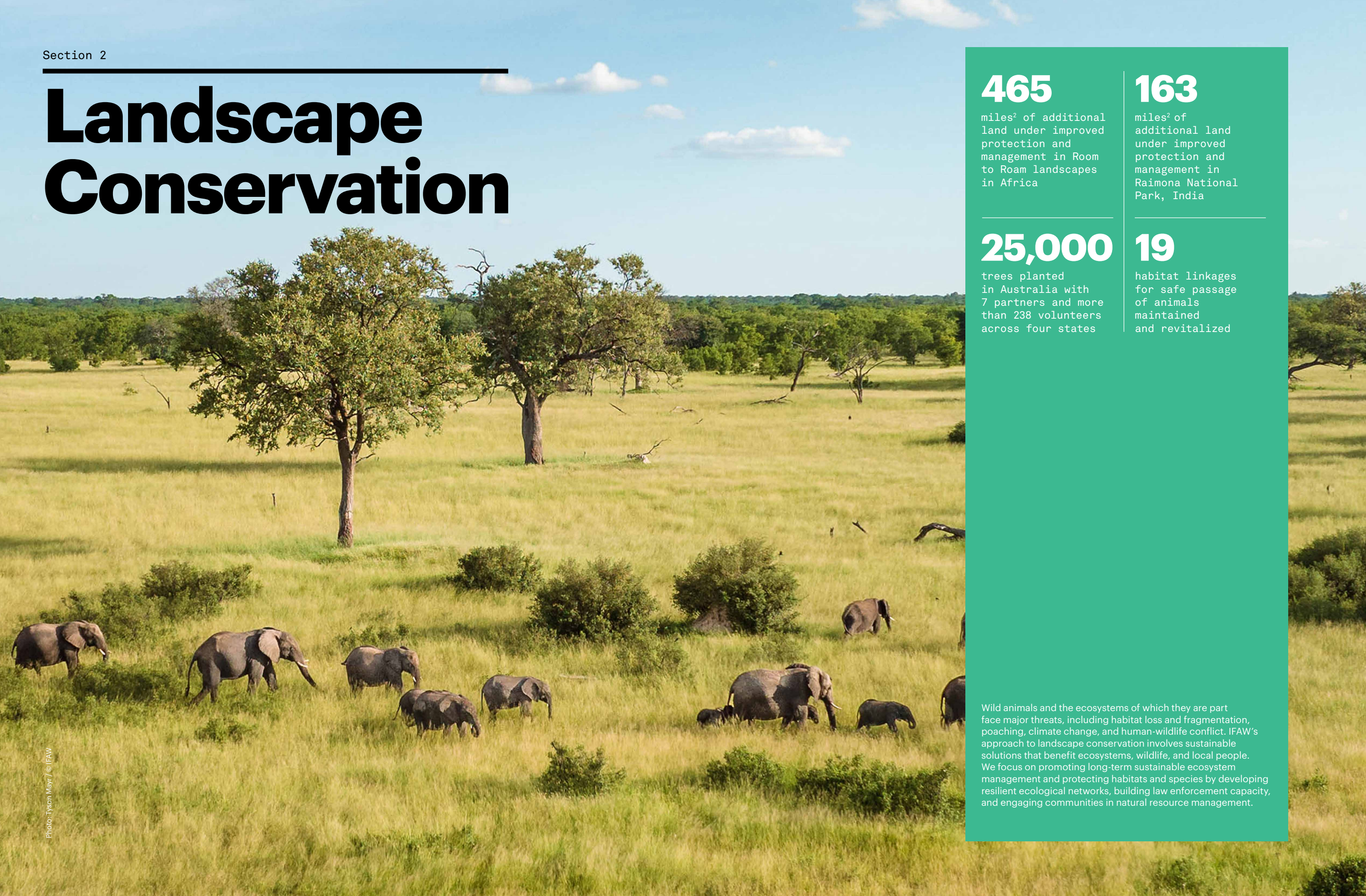
## How beehives help coexistence in Malawi

Beehives can be a sustainable and effective way to reduce human-wildlife conflict. Beehives are suspended on poles around the periphery of a community, forming a protective barrier that elephants are hesitant to cross due to their natural fear of bees. In Malawi, beehives will be installed on portions of Kasungu National Park’s boundary fence.

◀ IFAW’s Jimmiel Mandima, Steve Withnall from Port Macquarie Koala Hospital, and IFAW’s Phillip Kuvawoga with Jali Ranger James Currie looking at the GPS coordinates of land.



# Landscape Conservation



**465**

miles<sup>2</sup> of additional land under improved protection and management in Room to Roam landscapes in Africa

**163**

miles<sup>2</sup> of additional land under improved protection and management in Raimona National Park, India

**25,000**

trees planted in Australia with 7 partners and more than 238 volunteers across four states

**19**

habitat linkages for safe passage of animals maintained and revitalized

Wild animals and the ecosystems of which they are part face major threats, including habitat loss and fragmentation, poaching, climate change, and human-wildlife conflict. IFAW's approach to landscape conservation involves sustainable solutions that benefit ecosystems, wildlife, and local people. We focus on promoting long-term sustainable ecosystem management and protecting habitats and species by developing resilient ecological networks, building law enforcement capacity, and engaging communities in natural resource management.



# Creating room to roam in Africa



Photo: © Donal Boyd

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 more than 20 years of science and fieldwork, IFAW is making technical and financial investments in 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 well-being. Through the Room to Roam initiative, we are working to ensure viable, stable elephant populations long into the future, maintain biodiversity, build greater resilience to climate change, and secure a future where wildlife and communities can thrive together.

## Strengthening law enforcement capacity

Wildlife rangers are on the frontlines of protecting habitats and fighting poaching, which continues to be a major threat to elephants and other species. Rangers put their lives on the line and make sacrifices to protect animals and the surrounding landscape, so their welfare and well-being are key to protecting wildlife and communities.

In FY23, we worked with Zimbabwe Parks & Wildlife Management Authority (ZimParks) to build a new ranger base in the Makona section of Hwange National Park. The base includes a recreational center, ranger houses, an operations

center, and an administration block. We also continue to ensure that rangers are properly equipped with boots, uniforms, and patrol equipment so they can comfortably and efficiently perform their challenging work in the field.

Equipment and training are vital for effective law enforcement and for enabling rapid response to incidents of poaching or human-wildlife conflict. In FY23, we funded 30 Olgulului Community Wildlife Rangers from Amboseli, Kenya to attend workshops to develop new skills as first responders in wildlife crime scene

▲ Community rangers in Mgeno Wildlife Conservancy in Kenya surveying wildlife spotted during patrol.

investigation. And with our support, 15 community rangers were trained at the Kenya Wildlife Service Law Enforcement Academy to effectively handle wildlife crimes.

IFAW is proudly leading the implementation of the Sustainable Management of Tsavo and Amboseli project, backed by a US\$7.8 million grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). This five-year project focuses on coexistence that benefits both wildlife and communities. During the year, IFAW through the USAID grant, provided vehicles and motorcycles to help rangers combat wildlife crime, respond to human-wildlife conflict, and monitor elephants and other wildlife.

In Zimbabwe, 60 field rangers completed IFAW-supported training on the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART), which improves their effectiveness and efficiency in securing critical habitats. Enhanced anti-poaching efforts included 5,415 patrols covering 10,000 miles<sup>2</sup>, removal of 1,000 wire snares, and the arrest of 17 poachers.

## Securing space for wildlife

We are dedicated to securing space for wildlife to roam freely, while providing local communities with employment and revenue from tourism. In FY23, an additional 465 miles<sup>2</sup> of land in the Room to Roam landscapes came under improved protection and management.

This year ZimParks and IFAW signed a historic 25-year agreement to secure a US\$50 million partnership to support wildlife conservation in Zimbabwe's Hwange National Park. At 5,657 miles<sup>2</sup>, Hwange is the largest national park in Zimbabwe and forms a key part of the Kavango-Zambezi-Transfrontier Conservation Area.

And in July 2022, we joined Malawi's Department of National Parks and Wildlife and African Parks to translocate 263 elephants from Liwonde National Park to Kasungu National Park. This will help establish viable populations and maintain healthy habitats for the rest of the wildlife and communities living in and near Kasungu.

## Orphaned elephants in Zimbabwe closer to life in the wild

Through IFAW-supported rescue and rehabilitation centers—Wild is Life-Zimbabwe Elephant Nursery in Zimbabwe and Lusaka Elephant Nursery in Zambia— orphaned and abandoned elephants receive the care needed for proper rehabilitation for a successful transition back into the wild.

This year seven rehabilitated elephant calves moved a step closer to life in the wild after they were translocated to a release facility in the Panda Masuie Forest Reserve in Zimbabwe. Here orphans regularly interact with free-roaming herds, sometimes spending extended periods with wild elephants. This second rehabilitation stage is vital to enabling elephants to integrate and eventually join established wild herds migrating through the area.

## Connecting people, connecting nature

In October 2022, IFAW co-sponsored the Connecting People, Connecting Nature conference in Australia, hosted by our partners The Great Eastern Ranges. The focus of the two-day event in Queensland was to share knowledge, tools, and lessons learned with dozens of global organizations working in large-scale landscape conservation. Jimmiel Mandima, Vice President for Global Programs at IFAW, presented our Room to Roam initiative.

Following the conference, 20 leading Australian and international environmental organisations signed a declaration calling on governments to support a system of continental and regional-scale green corridors. Such corridors build community and natural resilience and help tackle our planetary crises.

## Nest boxes accelerate the return of wildlife

Hundreds of animals that make their homes in tree hollows, including possums and gliders, were left homeless at Two Thumbs Wildlife Trust after Australia's Black Summer bushfires in 2019–2020. So, in FY23, IFAW worked with Habitat Innovation and Management to restore the 1,789-acre property in New South Wales to the wildlife haven it once was.

Together, we installed 125 innovative Habitech nest boxes that mimic natural tree hollows to accelerate the return of wildlife. Gliders, possums, and rosellas have already taken up residence. Other activities to restore the sanctuary included carving out 20 tree hollows, tree planting, seed dispersal, soil erosion control, and fencing work.

◀ James Fitzgerald from Two Thumbs Wildlife Trust examines an echidna found in a burnt forest in New South Wales, Australia.



# Disaster Response



Photo: Julia Cumes / © IFAW

**142,735**

animals directly helped globally

**12**

big cats evacuated from Ukraine

**98%**

of response-related requests filled from 29 countries

**786**

animal rescue responders trained in 8 countries

Disasters are striking more frequently and with greater intensity, creating complex challenges for animals and people. With an emphasis on preparedness, our work starts before disaster strikes. IFAW's Disaster Response teams continued working in FY23 to reduce animal suffering before, during, and after disasters. We did this by building community resilience, keeping families together, and providing animal rescue efforts in person or via emergency aid.

We continue expanding our global team so that we can better respond to disasters in more parts of the world. In FY23, we added a team for the Latin American and Caribbean region, following our expansion to Europe in FY22. From Ukraine to Indonesia and Australia, our teams were busy once again in FY23 saving wildlife, keeping pets with their families, and helping communities build local capacity to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.



# There for animals and people when they need it most



Photo: © House of Cats Ernesto

## Earthquake response in Turkey and Syria

When a 7.8 magnitude earthquake leveled entire towns and killed thousands of people in southeastern Turkey and northern Syria in February 2023, we immediately provided emergency funding. With our support, teams from WATAN Foundation, a relief organization in Turkey, helped 1,847 animals and provided urgently needed food to 4,079 animals. Our support also helped House of Cats Ernesto in Syria treat more than 1,200 animals, rescue and shelter 130,

administer 150 vaccinations (including to 25 police dogs), and distribute 4,960 pounds of dog food in 22 villages.

## Continuing help for the people and animals of Ukraine

IFAW's work, and that of our partners, continued to make a difference throughout FY23 for the animals and people affected by the war in Ukraine.

In this past fiscal year, we gave a total of 127 grants—100 to partners inside Ukraine and 27 to partners in surrounding countries—which directly helped 65,205 animals, supported the emergency needs of companion animals and their owners, ensured safety for wildlife, and more.

For example, our support enabled Mykolaiv Red Cross to distribute 900 insulated pet beds and provide the animals of 1,195 families with veterinary care and/or pet food. We also enabled Nova Ukraine to help nearly 13,000 animals with food and shelter. We purchased more than 280,000 pounds of food directly from Kormotech, Ukraine's

largest pet food manufacturer, which was distributed to 22 shelters and organizations, helping a total of 12,000 animals. By the end of June 2023, our support of the Ukrainian Small Animal Veterinary Association had made it possible to vaccinate 24,646 companion animals, chip 23,554, and sterilize 6,019 at 18 veterinary clinics in five cities across Ukraine.

We also supported sanctuaries and rescue centers with emergency grants and animal welfare advice for the evacuation and transportation of wildlife into safer areas, both inside and outside of Ukraine. In FY23, we helped evacuate one leopard and 11 lions from Ukraine to safety in other countries.

## Helping rescue animals from deadly floods

In the US, catastrophic flooding in eastern Kentucky killed at least 37 people and left thousands of animals at risk in July 2022. At the request of local authorities, IFAW quickly deployed trained responders to help with animal search and rescue, and emergency sheltering. We worked closely with Kentucky River Regional Animal Shelter to help manage donated supplies for local communities, care for shelter animals, and reunite cats and dogs with their owners. We also provided emergency grants to Mountain View Wildlife Rehabilitation and Starfish Animal Rescue.

When Pakistan experienced the worst flooding in its history in August 2022, we supported local partner Education, Awareness and Community Health with funds to purchase and distribute food for thousands of cattle and other farm animals belonging to hundreds of families. And through our international partner Dog Trust Worldwide, we provided an emergency grant to Lucky Animal Protection Shelter in the Khyber Pakhtunkwa province of Pakistan, whose shelter facilities were flooded in the disaster. The grant helped them cover expenses for a temporary shelter, including rent, dog food, and veterinary care.

Floods also affected Australia in FY23, with four states experiencing flooding simultaneously. IFAW provided

emergency funding and support to 11 groups to deal with the influx of wildlife needing rescue and care.

## Training animal rescue responders

With the North Valley Animal Disaster Group, in California, US, we provided technical rescue training for 25 international responders from China, Mexico, Canada, France, Australia, and the US. The three-day training in June 2023, covered fire line safety, emergency sheltering, water and rope rescue, essential working methods, and much more.

In New Zealand, with Helping You Help Animals and Massey University's Veterinary Emergency Response Team, we facilitated training responders in safety and rescue techniques for floods and swift water.

We also supported Marshall Islands-based RMI Love Animals with training to help build veterinary capacity in the Pacific region, where a shortage of veterinarians affects animal welfare during and after disasters.

## Disaster awareness and preparedness

Timed to coincide with the US national preparedness month in September 2022, we launched a #disasterready campaign in a wide variety of media. The campaign encouraged people to protect pets, wildlife, and farm animals by downloading, sharing, and acting on animal disaster preparedness resources, such as checklists on how to prepare pets for a disaster and what to pack in a pet disaster kit.

We launched the #disasterready campaign in Europe on October 13, the International Day for Disaster Reduction. We also released our report *Beyond Rescue: Animals in Disasters—Europe*, which highlights that an increase in the frequency and severity of disasters in Europe requires urgent policy changes to address the impact on animals. IFAW

continues to recommend the integration of animal welfare into disaster management in the EU, and within EU funding.

## Preparing for and responding to disasters in extreme weather

When Cyclone Gabrielle hit New Zealand in February 2023, IFAW deployed to the country and provided emergency funding to Helping You Help Animals (HUHA). The HUHA temporary shelter in Hawkes Bay sheltered 124 rescued animals and those in need of temporary fostering because their owners were displaced. Dozens of animals including dogs, cats, chickens, and even goldfish were cared for at the shelter, which had an onsite veterinarian available as well.

In Western Australia, critically endangered western ringtail possums experienced paw burns after walking on hot man-made surfaces during extreme heat events. We provided emergency funding to FAWNA Inc to treat the burns and rehabilitate 26 possums, 16 of which were released back to the wild.

We also issued an emergency grant to Aprovet, an organization providing urgent veterinary care and food relief, after Tropical Storm Bonnie flooded communities in Nicaragua in July 2022. Aprovet sent veterinarians and staff to affected communities where they provided emergency food and veterinary care for dogs, cats, horses, and poultry.

In Ontario, Canada, a powerful blizzard dumped 4.5 feet of snow on Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary in December 2022. We provided urgent aid that enabled snow removal, supported emergency operational expenses, and helped repair damaged enclosures.

◀ The House of Cats Ernesto team rescuing a cat from the rubble after the devastating earthquake in Syria.



# Marine Conservation

**3**

major shipping companies altered their routes and reduced speeds to protect endangered sperm whales

**82,677**

signatures supporting IFAW's Blue Speeds campaign

**373**

miles of Kenyan coastline covered by an aerial survey

The healthy ocean needed to sustain a healthy planet continues to face ever-increasing threats from human activities such as unsustainable fishing, shipping, industrial development, and pollution. Large marine animals, particularly whales and sharks, play a key role in regulating marine ecosystems and keeping carbon locked in the ocean. Protecting these animals is critical and provides benefits for other species and vital habitats throughout the global ocean.

IFAW works to promote alternative fishing strategies, engage governments and industry, strengthen regulations, and establish protections for marine animals and their habitats. Throughout FY23, our Marine Conservation program continued making impact in three key areas: saving the North Atlantic right whale, addressing collisions between ships and endangered whales, and reducing underwater noise pollution.



# The future of the North Atlantic right whale hangs in the balance



Photo: © Marine Conservation Research, NOAA/NMFS permit #21371-01

The North Atlantic right whale (NARW) is one of the most endangered marine animals in the world. Fewer than 340 individuals remain, of which fewer than 70 are reproductive females. Alarmingly, since 2017, 115 right whales have died or been injured in US and Canadian waters.

The two leading threats to their survival are vessel strikes and entanglement in fishing gear. Vessel strikes leave whales with agonizing injuries that usually lead to death. Entanglement in fishing gear can encumber whales with hundreds of pounds of rope and equipment, reducing their ability to swim and feed, which often leads to a slow death from starvation or injury.

Scientists believe at least 50 calves need to be born each year for many years to

allow the species to recover. But during the 2022–2023 calving season, only 12 births were documented and only 11 of the calves survived. With numbers so low, every single right whale is vital to this critically endangered species’ survival. That is why IFAW is working tirelessly to save them from extinction.

## IFAW research gives insight to help protect right whales

Tracking and monitoring NARWs is imperative for their survival as a species. In January 2023, we commissioned the research vessel, *Song of the Whale*, to conduct a major research survey to help increase knowledge of right whale habitat use, distribution, and threats. Underwater microphones, known as hydrophones,

were used to detect whales, while aerial survey teams photographed, identified, and logged the location of whales. The team also helped conduct a second field season of research focused on di-methyl sulfide—a compound released by NARW prey, and a potential predictor for NARW presence.

*Song of the Whale* is an innovative research platform and part of our rich history of exploring and protecting the ocean and its marine mammals. The original *Song of the Whale* was built in 1987 and we commissioned a replacement in 2002. It is one of the quietest research vessels in the world, so we can study whales up close without disturbing them.

## More testing of fishing gear that’s safer for whales

We continue working closely with the US fishing industry to test and improve on-demand (ropeless) fishing gear, which reduces the risk of whale entanglement by eliminating the need for a fixed rope running from lobster and crab traps on the ocean floor to buoys on the surface.

We continue collaborating with lobster boat crews that are willing to be early adopters of the technology. In FY23, we again received permits for them to conduct tests in federal waters that are otherwise closed to fixed-gear fishing operations during peak right whale occurrences. And for the first time we also received permits to test in state waters. Testing the gear is vital for improving it and finding better ways to continue fishing in ways that keep whales safe.



▲ A North Atlantic right whale surfaces near a vessel as seen from *Song of the Whale* in Cape Cod Bay, US.

# Protecting marine life and habitats all over the world



Photo: Paolo Torchio / © IFAW

## Fin whale hunt in Iceland suspended

Our decades-long effort to end whaling in Iceland was strengthened when Iceland’s Fisheries Minister made the unprecedented decision to temporarily suspend the summer 2023 whaling season. The decision followed a government study that showed more than 40% of whales killed during the most recent whaling season suffered slow and painful deaths, which did not comply with the Icelandic Animal Welfare Act. The current whaling quota is due to expire at the end of 2023, after which a new five-year quota would need to be authorized by the Fisheries Minister.



## Gathering support for reducing ship speeds for quieter oceans

Our Blue Speeds campaign continued to gather support for an EU-wide measure that would slow ships to 75% of their designed speed (or approximately a 10% speed reduction). Globally, this straightforward solution could reduce overall noise from shipping by 50%, reduce the risk of whales being struck by ships by 40%, and reduce GHG emissions by 13%.

The campaign officially launched at the European Parliament in October 2022 and attracted more than 80,000 signatures and 130,000 visits to the Blue Speeds website in FY23. In January 2023, IFAW secured a grant from the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation that will support our efforts to make Blue Speeds a reality.



## Rerouting shipping lanes to reduce threats to endangered whales

Sperm whales in the Hellenic Trench off Greece will face fewer risks thanks to commitments by leading shipping companies. In FY23, DFDS, one of Europe’s largest shipping companies, Stolt Tankers, and Armateurs de France, agreed to route and speed changes that should halve the risk of collisions with sperm whales to the west of the Peloponnese. It is estimated that only around 200 sperm whales remain in the Eastern Mediterranean and the population is classified as endangered.

The companies acted in response to scientific advice from a coalition comprising IFAW, OceanCare, the Pelagos Cetacean Research Institute, and WWF Greece. Long-term data gathered show

that if all ships avoided the areas of highest risk, the overall risk of collisions would be reduced by 70%. These companies join MSC, the world’s largest shipping container company, which agreed in FY22 to alter their routes in this key sperm whale habitat.



## Major aerial survey of Kenya’s marine megafauna

IFAW supported a first-in-30-years aerial survey of marine species along Kenya’s 373-mile coastline in March 2023. The survey aimed to better understand marine species’ distribution along the coast and the threats they face. The results will help inform appropriate conservation and management measures.

Kenya’s waters host more than 35 species of marine mammal, five species of marine turtle (all listed as endangered or critically endangered), and 105 species of bony fish, including sharks and rays. The significant species of concern were dugongs, Indian Ocean humpback dolphins, whale sharks, and whales. These are all threatened by the effects of climate change and harmful human activities such as unsustainable fisheries, habitat loss, pollution, and port construction.

The survey report calls for measures to eradicate dangerous fishing gear, such as gill nets that can kill dugongs and turtles. It also recommends involving small-scale fishing communities in implementing marine conservation best practices and sustainable fishing techniques. The aerial survey, conducted by a 50-strong survey team, was a collaboration between Wildlife Research & Training Institute, Kenya Wildlife Service, and IFAW.



▲ Patrolling the coastline during the aerial marine megafauna survey in Kenya.



# Marine Mammal Rescue



Photo: Andrea Spence / © IFAW. Activities conducted under a federal stranding agreement between IFAW and NMFS under the MMP.

**45**

stranded dolphins released back into the wild

**26**

animals released with satellite tracking tags

**13**

stranded seals transferred to rehabilitation, 7 of which were released back to the wild

**41**

stranded animal autopsies conducted

IFAW's Marine Mammal Rescue program is a world-recognized leader in stranding response. We rescue marine mammals, provide cutting-edge veterinary care, drive constant innovation, and lead ground-breaking research. We are constantly working to increase the survival rate of stranded or at-risk marine mammals. We also share our knowledge, experience and data to help improve stranding response around the world, advance the welfare of individual marine mammals, and promote conservation.

In FY23, our team responded to 350 stranded marine mammals. This included responses to 85 live cetaceans (including small whales, dolphins, and porpoises). Forty-five of these were released back into the wild, 26 with satellite tracking tags. Additionally, the team conducted 41 animal autopsies (necropsies) of cetaceans and pinnipeds that died during stranding events.





Photo: Andrea Spence / © IFAW. Activities conducted under a federal stranding agreement between IFAW and NMFS under the MMPA.

# Helping more stranded marine mammals survive

## Responding to pilot whale strandings

When six long-finned pilot whales stranded in Eastham, Massachusetts, US, in December 2022, more than 50 responders mobilized, including IFAW staff, volunteers, and surrounding area teams. One calf died during the rescue operation, but the other five were refloated and released.

Unfortunately, four soon re-stranded and their health had greatly declined. Rescue possibilities were further limited due to unfavorable weather and tides, so the team had to make the difficult decision to euthanize them to prevent further suffering. The fifth pilot whale was satellite tagged and successfully made it offshore and back to its natural habitat.

We performed necropsies (animal autopsies) on the whales that died to help us understand why they may have stranded and how to better help cetaceans at future strandings.

## Releasing endangered dolphins after illegal captivity

In a first for Bahrain, authorities convicted the people responsible for poaching three endangered Indian Ocean humpback dolphins and selling them for display at a tourist attraction. After the decision in the prolonged court case, IFAW provided expert support to ensure the dolphins, which had spent more than a year in captivity, were in good condition and healthy enough to be safely released back to the wild.

We worked together with key agencies in Bahrain, including the Supreme Council for Environment, Public Prosecution, Coast Guard Department, General

Administration of Civil Defense, Tails Veterinary Clinic, and others. Thanks to a contribution from the Dutch Postcode Lottery, each dolphin was fitted a temporary satellite tracking tag before they were released back to the sea.

Indian Ocean humpback dolphins are listed as endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List and their numbers are decreasing.

## Rescue training for team from Kenya

Two marine mammal rescuers from Kenya traveled to Cape Cod, US, for training from IFAW experts in all aspects cetacean stranding response, from live dolphin health assessments to necropsy. They were also trained in whale disentanglement at the Center for Coastal Studies in Provincetown.

Their training follows our support of a marine megafauna survey of the Kenyan coast and is part of a larger marine conservation program along the East African coastline. These trainings were arranged with the International Whaling Commission and the Center for Coastal Studies and made possible by a contribution from the Dutch Postcode Lottery.

## Establishing a short-term intensive care facility for cetaceans

IFAW has nearly completed a first-of-its-kind short-term Dolphin Rescue Center on Cape Cod, US. The Dolphin Rescue Center has an intensive care

unit for stabilizing distressed dolphins and porpoises and treating stranding-associated conditions such as shock, trauma, and capture myopathy (a condition that can be caused by the stress animals may experience during rescue). The facility is designed to care for animals for up to four days before they are released back to sea.

Progress in FY23 included hiring a rescue center manager, identifying the right location, renovating the building, and more. We also began outlining facility protocols that explain how animals should be cared for during their treatment, and we will introduce new IFAW animal handling and biosecurity procedures. The facility is scheduled to receive federal approval and be able to take patients in August 2023.

## Seal pups returned to the wild

Two abandoned seal pups were rescued by IFAW and rehabilitated at the National Marine Life Center in Bourne, Massachusetts, US. Denali, a male gray seal pup, was rescued by IFAW in Harwich in January 2023. After a full exam and on-site care Denali was taken to the center for rehabilitation. In February, Glacier, a male harp seal yearling, was rescued in Yarmouth. IFAW transported him to the center as well, where an examination showed he had ingested sand and was suffering from multiple health issues. Both seals recovered and were returned to the sea.

The pups are just two of the 13 seals we rescued in FY23 and sent for rehabilitation; seven were released back into the wild.

◀ IFAW staff and volunteers support a pilot whale during refloating, in Massachusetts, US.



# Wildlife Rescue



Photo: Luckmore Safari / © IFAW

**>200**

frontline enforcement officers trained to handle wildlife

**222**

raptors rescued and 87 released back into the wild in China

**2,523**

animals rescued globally

**2**

giant anteaters released back to the wild in Brazil

**14**

orphaned elephants moved to the near-final stages of their return to the wild in southern Africa

An important way that IFAW supports conservation efforts is by rescuing wildlife in distress, rehabilitating them and, whenever possible, releasing them back to the wild. We are committed not only to saving more animals and improving standards of welfare worldwide, but also supporting the conservation of threatened and endangered species.

Our aim is always to release as many rescued animals as possible back to the wild. However, not all rescued animals complete this journey as some remain in care, some die from their injuries or illness, and others need to be humanely euthanized to prevent further suffering.

Over the last 20 years, our teams have responded to, rescued, and cared for more than 655,000 animals across the globe. To share our knowledge and experience so it can help more animals in need of rescue, we offer advanced learning opportunities via our new Academy of Rescue and Conservation (ARC).

*Photo: This is the safest way to transport elephants under sedation during a translocation.*



# Rescuing wildlife because every animal matters



## IFAW Academy of Rescue and Conservation

This year, we opened the IFAW Academy of Rescue and Conservation (ARC), which aims to advance the animal rescue field and professionalize the response to animal-related emergencies globally. ARC offers fee-based education, training, and mentoring related to animal rescue and conservation for professional and volunteer rescue personnel. In addition to online courses, we are developing a dedicated space for on-site courses and

conferences at the International Operations Center on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, US, and we continue to enrich the available curriculum.

ARC builds on our decades of experience and will help us meet the dramatic increase in demand for advanced training in animal rescue for people and organizations around the world. ARC is a unique center of excellence made possible by a generous contribution from the Suzanne McGraw Foundation.

## Training frontline officers to handle seized animals

Between April and July 2023, we helped more than 200 frontline enforcement officers in five countries learn to handle confiscated live animals safely and humanely, preserve evidence for legal proceedings, and work with confiscator kits designed by IFAW and our partners.

This work is part of our ongoing project, Confiscated Animals—Rescue & Enforcement (CARE) that is funded

by the US Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs. Locally, IFAW partnered with Jakarta Animal Aid Network in Indonesia, the Jane Goodall Institute in Congo, and government officials in Guyana to implement CARE.

## Fighting wildlife trafficking in the Sulu-Celebes Seas

According to a report released in May 2023, more than 25,000 live animals and 132,000 tons of wildlife were seized between 2003 and 2021 in the Sulu-Celebes Seas region, an area shared by Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines.

To help fight this illegal trade we trained 97 frontline officers from 46 agencies, provided 150 confiscator kits, and published *Guidelines on the Confiscation and Transport of Wildlife* in English, Indonesian, and Malay.

This report was produced by the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network (TRAFFIC), with support from the WWF, IFAW, and Freeland. It's part of the Targeting Regional Investigations for Policing Opportunities & Development (TRIPOD) project, of which IFAW was a contributing organization. The project was funded by the US Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs.

## Big steps for orphaned elephants in Zambia

The Lusaka Elephant Nursery (LEN), a spacious new rescue and rehabilitation nursery for orphaned elephant calves in Zambia's Lusaka National Park, opened in August 2022. The nursery is part of the Wildlife Discovery Centre, operated by our partner Game Rangers International and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife of Zambia. It is also supported by the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation and Olsen Animal Trust. Sinking Ship Entertainment partnered with IFAW to fund the construction of LEN as part of their Endlings Campaign that launched alongside the family adventure series Endlings.

Seven elephants at the release facility in Kafue National Park headed off together into the wilds of the park in FY23. In 14 years, 20 elephants have been released back into the wild through this project.

## Vultures poisoned in India recover and take flight back to the wild

An unintentional poisoning in Assam, India resulted in several Himalayan vultures (status: Near Threatened) and several slender-billed vultures (status 'Critically Endangered') requiring emergency care. Communities quickly alerted the IFAW-Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) mobile veterinary unit, which responded and provided emergency veterinary treatment.

Once stabilized the vultures were transported to the WTI Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation (CWRC) and six vultures were eventually returned to the wild. Since 2003, CWRC has responded to 360 cases of vultures in distress and released 218 back to the wild.

## Rescuing raptors in China

In FY23, 222 raptors of 22 species were brought to IFAW's Beijing Raptor Rescue Center (BRRC) for rehabilitation and care; 87 were released back to the wild and three were being tracked with solar-powered GPS transmitters. BRRC was established to rescue, rehabilitate, and return to the wild sick or injured birds of prey and those confiscated from illegal trade.

During the year, BRRC conducted four online and in-person training sessions, reaching more than 600 rescuers from more than 45 institutions across China. We also continued collaborative scientific research with institutions including Beijing Normal University, China Agricultural University, and the University of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. We also welcomed 200 professional and educational visitors to the center.

With support from Uniview, a technology and security camera company, BRRC upgraded its video system. Now we can observe raptors at the center in high-definition without disturbing them and we can conduct live broadcasts for training and education.

## Rescuing, rehabilitating and releasing hundreds of animals in Australia

We work with many partners, including wildlife veterinary teams in Australia and the wider Oceania region to rescue, rehabilitate, and release animals back into the wild. Our long-standing partner Friends of the Koala in New South Wales has seen a significant increase in the number of koalas being injured or killed because of car strikes. As people continue to encroach on koala habitat, koalas are more likely to cross roads, putting them at risk of getting hit by cars. In FY23, the IFAW-supported Friends of the Koala veterinary team treated 316 koalas.

Our long-term partner Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary in Tasmania runs the state's first and only dedicated wildlife hospital. During FY23, the veterinary team treated 945 animals. The sanctuary also released several animals including critically endangered swift parrots, endangered Tasmanian devils, wedge-tailed eagles, eastern quolls, and wombats. One of them was Reidy-Bear, an orphaned wombat joey, who spent 18 months under the care of the incredible IFAW veterinary team and expert caretakers.

In Victoria, IFAW continued supporting the vital work of Mosswood Wildlife, which rescues and rehabilitates injured and orphaned wildlife. The volunteer-run team treated 163 koalas and 271 other animals in FY23.

◀ BRRC rehabilitator Lisa Li releases a recovered long-eared owl back to the wild in China.



# Wildlife Crime

Photo: Stacey Hedman / © IFAW

**770**

law enforcement, prosecution or judicial officers trained or mentored from more than 40 countries

**>500**

commonly-traded species included in IFAW's Arabic pocket manual to aid customs and wildlife law enforcers with CITES identification

**20**

Asian and Pacific Nations participated in Operation Mekong Dragon

**66%**

fewer online ivory adverts since implementation of UK Ivory Act in 2022

**9**

live pangolins seized and returned to the wild in Zimbabwe

Wildlife crime puts the survival of thousands of species of animals at risk and accelerates the ongoing collapse of biodiversity. The illegal trade in live wildlife causes tremendous suffering; countless animals die while being captured, transported, and kept in homes as exotic pets. Even legal wildlife trade, particularly when there is a lack of regulation and enforcement, can facilitate the spread of zoonotic diseases, which are a huge threat to humanity.

To combat wildlife crime, we focus on building law enforcement capacity, strengthening policies, reducing consumer demand, and disrupting online wildlife trade. We also investigate what drives wildlife consumption, and then we use that information to help develop campaigns to change behaviors by teaching people about wildlife crime and how to avoid the products created by it.



# Combating illegal trade in wild animals



## Strengthening law enforcement capacity

In FY23, we strengthened law enforcement capacity by training or mentoring 770 key people from more than 40 countries.

In July 2022, China Customs, IFAW, and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) held the China-Americas Law Enforcement Workshop on Combating Wildlife Trafficking. The online conference welcomed 70 customs and wildlife conservation authorities from 10 countries in Latin America and strengthened cooperation between agencies in China and those in Latin America.

In April 2023, IFAW, WCS, and the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network (TRAFFIC) sponsored Operation Mekong Dragon, a workshop in Shanghai that gathered customs representatives from more than 20 countries to combat wildlife smuggling in Southeast Asia.

In FY23, we held multiple sessions of our specialized capacity-building workshops, Detecting Illegal Species Through

Prevention Training (DISRUPT), reaching 211 law enforcement officers and government officials from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Eritrea, South Sudan, and Somaliland. Some of these were implemented in partnership with the African Wildlife Foundation and funded by the US Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL). Attendees included frontline security officers from Kenya Wildlife Service, who received digital forensics training to better equip them with the tools and knowledge to curb the financial dimensions of wildlife crime.

## Continuing the fight against cybercrime

More than 40 delegates, representing 16 domestic and international organizations, attended an IFAW-supported workshop in October 2022 to tackle wildlife cybercrime in the Greater Mekong Subregion and Malaysia. The workshop

was specifically designed to enhance the capacity of civil society organizations (CSOs) tackling the issue. It was financed by the EU-funded initiative Partners Against Wildlife Crime.

Through our work with the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT) framework, we co-organized and co-funded a week-long wildlife cybercrime training in Madrid, Spain in May. Thirty-eight officers from across Latin America, the Caribbean, Europe, and various civil society organizations received in-depth training on detecting and monitoring environmental crimes to disrupt online wildlife crime. The training was a collaboration between IFAW, the Nature Protection Service (SEPRONA), and the LIFE Strategic Approach for Tackling Environmental Crime project.

In a joint activity in FY23, online sites were screened and monitored by IFAW, TRAFFIC, and WWF for ads related to wildlife trafficking in five EU countries. The results were shared with relevant authorities as part of the Online Wildlife Trafficking Monitoring in the EU, an activity of the ISF-funded UNITE project.

We also continued involvement with the Coalition to End Wildlife Trafficking Online. Since its launch in 2018, the number of Coalition members has more than doubled from 21 to 47. In FY23, a total of 2,344 staff from Chinese companies were trained by the Coalition's NGO partners in detecting and combating wildlife crime.

## The fight to save the iconic jaguar

Combating illegal trade in jaguars is vital as fewer than 208,000 are estimated to remain in the Americas. Operation Jaguar, which began in 2019 and ended in 2023,

focused on empowering local organisations and communities in Peru, Bolivia, Guyana, and Suriname, to protect jaguars. A key aspect of the project was providing law enforcement officers, customs agents, public prosecutors, and judges with the knowledge and skills to improve their capacities to detect, investigate, and prosecute wildlife crimes.

Operation Jaguar was made possible by a contribution from the Dutch Postcode Lottery and was a collaboration between IFAW, IUCN NL, and Earth League International. Although the project has ended, we will continue to collaborate with our project partners to ensure the long-term protection and survival of jaguars.

## UK Ivory Act is reducing ivory trade

The number of online marketplace advertisements in the UK selling items made from ivory dropped by 66% between 2021 and 2023 according to our snapshot surveys. This indicates that the UK Ivory Act, which came into force in June 2022, is helping reduce the amount of ivory being traded online.

We also commissioned a YouGov poll in the UK in February 2023, which showed that 93% of people surveyed thought it was morally wrong to poach an animal for their ivory. And 90% supported extending the existing Act beyond non-elephant ivory.

We used these research findings to engage the UK Government, enforcement agencies, and online platforms in battling the ivory trade. In a move welcomed by IFAW, the UK Government announced plans in May to extend the Ivory Act to cover ivory from five other non-elephant species—hippo, narwhal, sperm whale, killer whale, and walrus.

## Calls for EU legislation against illegally sourced wildlife

The EU continues to be a hub, transit point, and destination for exotic pets according to *Stolen Wildlife IV*, a report

we produced with Pro Wildlife and Humane Society International. The report, released in September 2022, highlights that existing legislation is insufficient to protect global biodiversity and combat wildlife trafficking. It recommends further international trade restrictions and stricter national legislation. A key priority is EU laws to prohibit the import, sale, purchase, and possession of wildlife illegally sourced in its country of origin.

## Community members help fight wildlife crime

A three-year project between IFAW and the Uganda Wildlife Authority has highlighted the power of well-trained community members in tackling wildlife crime. Ten community members were trained and equipped to help collect and report timely information on poaching incidents in Uganda's Queen Elizabeth National Park.

Since 2020, information from community monitors has led to more than 30 arrests and the seizure of more than 30 hippo teeth, 1,540 pounds of hippo meat, 4.4 pounds of ivory, three monkey skins, 110 pounds of dried buffalo meat, three pangolin skins, and more. The project ended in September 2022, but we continue to support the community monitors with equipment and training.

## Inspiring young people to protect birds in Lebanon

More than 3,000 young people in Lebanon better understand the need to stop the poaching and illegal taking of birds, thanks to our project with Levant Operation for Bird Rescue (LOBR). Together we hosted community awareness activities at private and public schools. Our aim was to inspire young people to become bird protection advocates. Some participants also visited the LOBR center to better understand the suffering caused by bird poaching and to see the efforts to treat, rehabilitate, and ultimately release birds back to the wild.

## Protecting big cats in Saudi Arabia

In FY23, we partnered with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Saudi Arabian National Center for Wildlife to establish the Big Cats Conservation Project. This project aims to tackle the rising threats to big cats (cheetahs, lions, tigers, and leopards).

As part of the project, we conducted a law enforcement needs assessment in Saudi Arabia to evaluate how well legislation can be implemented. We brought together 40 participants from key Saudi Arabian ministries, law enforcement agencies, municipalities and more to explore the challenges regarding the illegal trade and ownership of big cats.

## Campaigns to discourage purchases of illegal wildlife products

Our China Wildlife Free Traveler campaign was launched in November to discourage Chinese nationals from purchasing illegal wildlife products, especially ivory, during travel. In surveys of people who saw the campaign, 96% expressed no intention to consume wildlife products in future and 95% said they found it unacceptable for family or friends to do so.

We also developed a social media campaign with the Institute of Psychology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences highlighting how wildlife consumption could lead to social embarrassment and legal risks. In the campaign evaluation survey, 52% said the campaign made them less likely to consume wildlife parts and products in the future.

◀ Workshop to enhance capacity of cybercrime security officers to combat wildlife cybercrime in the Greater Mekong region, Malaysia, and China.



# International Policy



**97**

additional shark and ray species protected by CITES

**47**

IFAW recommendations adopted fully or in part at international policy forums

**30%**

of the planet targeted for protected and conserved areas as part of the new Global Biodiversity Framework

**66%**

of the global ocean covered by the new High Seas Treaty text adopted by governments at the UN

Through our powerful advocacy work we call for laws and policies to safeguard habitats and species for the long-term. We forge strategic partnerships with governments, non-governmental organizations, institutional funders, and other stakeholders. Throughout our policy work we continue to press for our priorities, which are focused on animals and people thriving together, to be included in political agendas.



# Protecting animals and habitats in global agreements

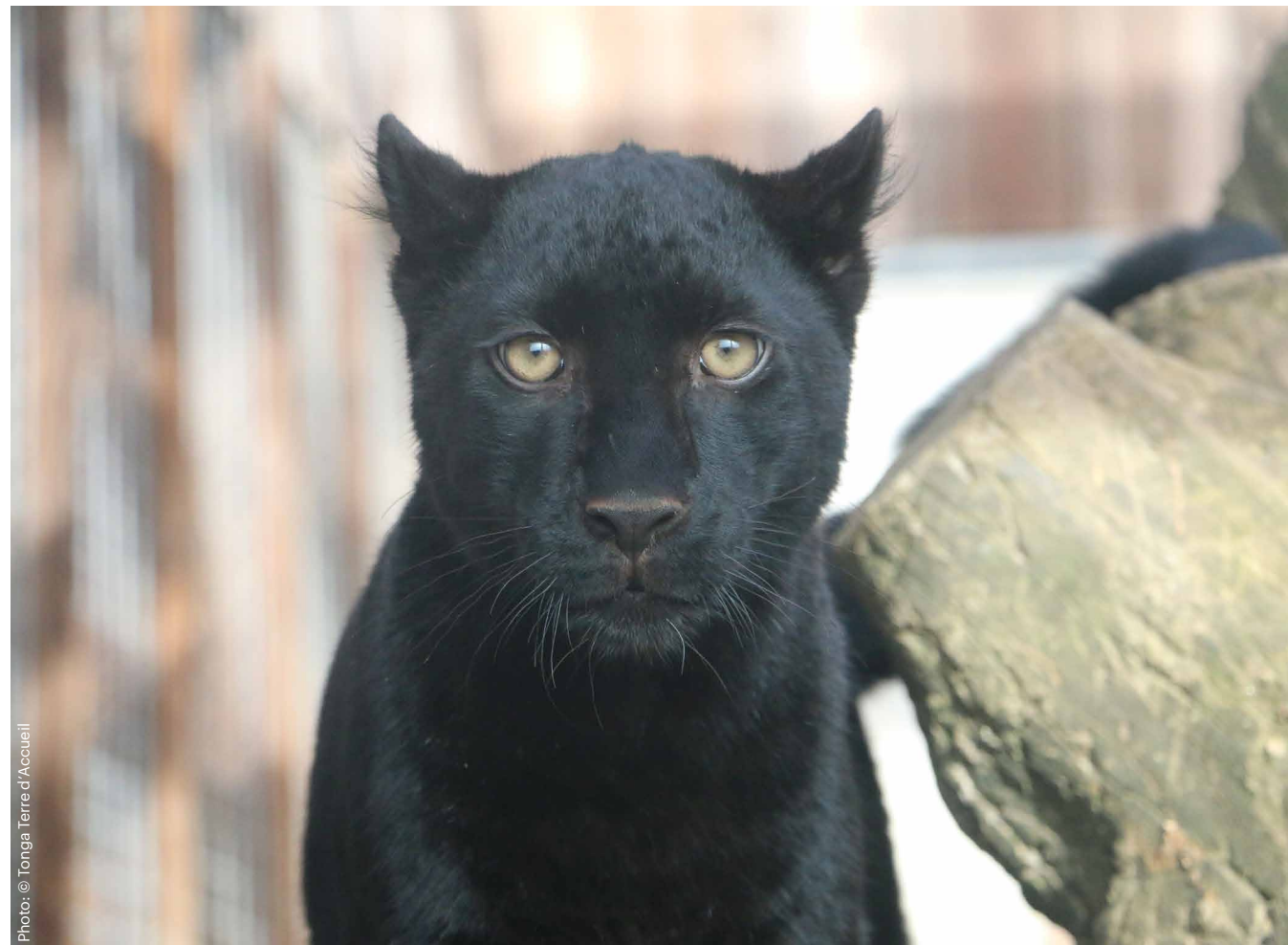


Photo: © Tonga Terre d'Accueil

## Groundbreaking vote to control shark trade

IFAW welcomed a groundbreaking decision by world governments to strengthen protection for nearly 100 species of sharks and rays by increasing regulation and monitoring of international trade to ensure that it is sustainable, traceable, and legal. Sharks and rays are the second-most threatened vertebrate group on the planet, often fished to excess for their fins and meat.

The decision was made at the 19th Conference of the Parties (COP19) of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), held in Panama. All 54 species of the requiem shark family, six additional hammerhead shark species, and 37 guitarfish (shark-like species of rays) are now listed on CITES Appendix II. This puts nearly all shark species traded for their fins under CITES oversight and controls. The Appendix II listing makes it far easier for customs and enforcement officials to ensure only legal and sustainable trade is taking place.

We will continue to help governments implement CITES shark protections, for example with training on how to identify shark products and enforce trade restrictions. We will also provide policy advice on fisheries management and national regulations and legislation to reduce the number of sharks killed.

## New global goals for nature conservation

We participated in key UN negotiations in FY23 to champion the cause of nature. A pivotal outcome was the agreement of world governments for a new 10-year framework to address the nature crisis facing our planet. The agreement was made at the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity.

The Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) includes targets such as protecting 30% of the planet by 2030. It also includes targets for restoring degraded land, conserving species, and preventing overexploitation of wild animals and plants. Despite negotiations watering down some goals and targets, the GBF still represents a major step forward—if implemented effectively. We are calling for governments to start implementing this framework immediately; the next 10 years are critical in solving the nature crisis engulfing our planet.

## Working for marine protected areas

After nearly two decades of talks, UN Member States adopted a legal framework aimed at greater protection and management of the high seas in June 2023. As part of the High Seas Alliance, we have worked for more than a decade to achieve this outcome. The new treaty is significant because it will make it possible to establish high seas marine protected areas. It also sets new standards for the assessment and management of human activities on the high seas, setting the stage for strengthening conservation of marine life.

The high seas are parts of the ocean that lie outside of national boundaries; they cover half of our planet's surface and account for two-thirds of the global ocean. Consequently, the high seas are the largest habitat on Earth, home to millions of species, and our greatest ally against the impacts of climate change.

## Calling on the EU to combat environmental crime

Throughout FY23, we continued to draft key recommendations for the revision of the EU's Environmental Crime Directive. Together with other environmental, conservation, and animal protection organizations we called for European Parliament and Member States' negotiators to include a definition of what constitutes an environmental crime. We also called for strong and dissuasive terms of imprisonment and sanctions for people and entities that perpetrate environmental crimes.

In addition, we've called for listing underwater noise as one of the pollutants that cause substantial damage to marine environments and marine life. All IFAW's main calls were included in the Position of the European Parliament adopted in March 2023. This provides a strong basis for the upcoming negotiations with EU Member States.

## New EU Action Plan to fight wildlife trafficking

We have long campaigned for stricter regulation of wildlife trade in the EU. In November, we welcomed the new five-year Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking, launched by the European Commission. The renewed EU Action Plan includes ambitious actions and addresses many shortcomings and loopholes of the previous plan, which was introduced in 2016.

It has created a framework from 2022–2027 for European countries to step up their role in the global fight against wildlife trafficking. The plan prioritizes prevention, enforcement, and strengthening global partnerships. It also prioritizes strengthening the legal EU framework, something we have strongly and consistently called for.

Other key aspects of the plan include implementing demand reduction activities to change consumers' behavior and monitoring of the implementation of the new EU rules on ivory trade. In line

with our calls, wildlife cybercrime will be addressed through dedicated guidance on online wildlife trade under the new Digital Services Act. It will also involve specific training for enforcement agencies, and engagement with the Coalition to End Wildlife Trafficking Online, launched in 2018 by IFAW, WWF and TRAFFIC.

## Ending private ownership of big cats in the United States

The Big Cat Public Safety Act, signed into US law in December 2022, prohibits the private ownership of tigers, lions, leopards, and other big cats as "pets". It also restricts dangerous contact between members of the public and these apex predators. IFAW has been a leading advocate and expert on this issue for more than a decade, working closely with policy makers, animal sanctuary partners, and first responders to lobby for this critical legislation.

Privately-owned big cats are often subjected to mistreatment and woefully inadequate living conditions. Plus, keeping exotic cats as pets creates serious public safety challenges and results in hundreds of dangerous incidents nationwide, including maulings, escapes, and deaths.

Our ongoing work with law enforcement agencies and sanctuaries will ensure that the Big Cat Public Safety Act is properly implemented and enforced so that these cruel practices are ended for good.

◀ Kiara the leopard cub in care at Tonga Terre d'Accueil in France.



# Summary Financial Statements



IFAW donors and supporters include individuals, corporations, foundations, communities and governments. Our work and the progress we are making together is only possible thanks to this continued support. As we reflect on what we achieved in FY23, we want to extend another heartfelt thanks to all those who have supported us and shared our vision of animals and people thriving together.





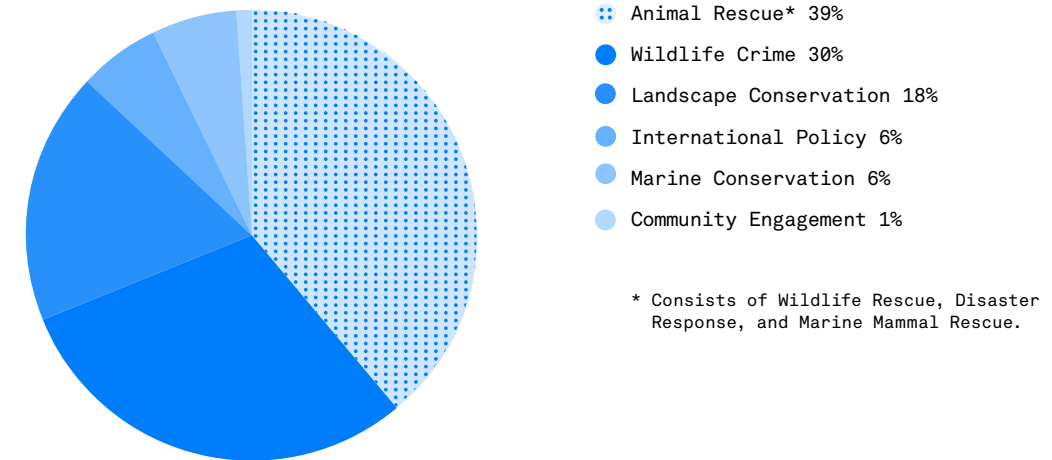
Photo: Olivia Katz / © IFAW

# Worldwide financial overview

## Program priority expenditures

IFAW as a global coalition of charitable organizations, allocates donor contributions and other resources efficiently to maximize impact for animals. US\$ 127,3 million went directly to advance program priorities and save more animals.

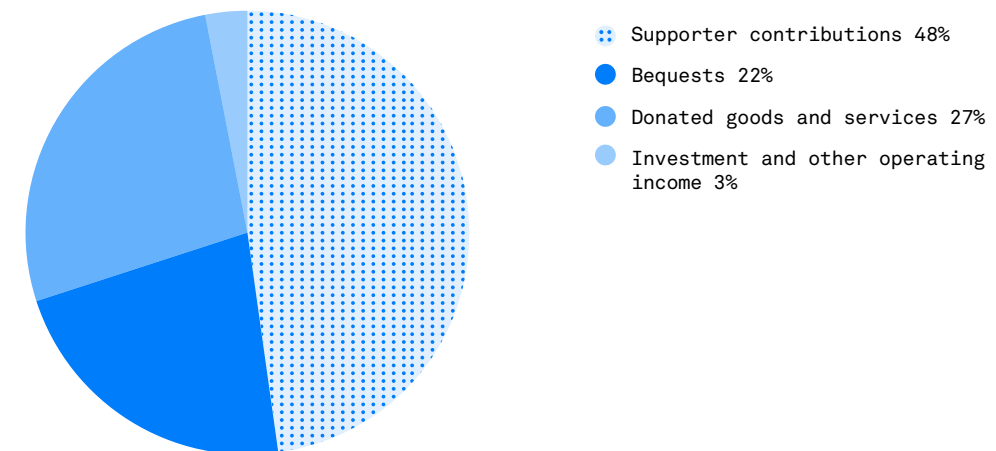
1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023



## Diverse ways of support

In FY23, IFAW had 789,713 donors from around the world. IFAW welcomes gifts and bequests of all sizes.

1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023





# Combined financial statements

Combined financial statements unaudited\* for the years ended 30 June 2023 and 2022.  
Figures below in thousands of US dollars.

## Statement of financial position

<b>Assets</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Cash and cash equivalents	22,215	30,560
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	24,111	20,038
Fixed assets, net	19,535	16,943
Investments	48,104	49,817
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>113,965</b>	<b>117,358</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Accounts payable and other current liabilities	11,856	12,084
Notes payable	12,144	10,275
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>24,000</b>	<b>22,359</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>89,965</b>	<b>94,999</b>
<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<b>113,965</b>	<b>117,358</b>

## Statement of activities

<b>Revenues</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Supporter contributions	58,335	70,053
Bequests	26,406	19,724
Donated goods and services	32,318	29,609
Investment and other operating income	4,339	1,070
<b>Total revenues, gains and other support</b>	<b>121,398</b>	<b>120,456</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Total program and operating expenses	127,372	117,367
<b>Excess (deficit) of revenue over expenses</b>	<b>(5,974)</b>	<b>3,089</b>

\* Financial statements for each IFAW entity are prepared in accordance with local country accounting principles and are audited separately. The combined financial statements are prepared on a basis that approximates accounting principles used in the United States.

# Allocation of program and operating expenses

Year ended 30 June 2023. IFAW is a global nonprofit network of affiliates in the following locations:

<b>Entity</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Program &amp; program support</b>	<b>Fundraising</b>
International Fund for Animal Welfare, Inc.	United States	89.4%	10.6%
International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)	United Kingdom	84.8%	15.2%
International Fund for Animal Welfare Inc./ Fonds international pour la Protection des animaux inc.	Canada	83.6%	16.4%
Stichting IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare)	The Netherlands	85.5%	14.5%
IFAW Internationaler Tierschutz-Fonds gGmbH	Germany	86.5%	13.5%
Fonds international pour la protection des animaux (IFAW France)	France	85.8%	14.2%
International Fund for Animal Welfare (Australia) Pty Limited	Australia	77.7%	22.3%
International Fund for Animal Welfare NPC	South Africa	92.2%	7.8%
International Fund for Animal Welfare Limited	Zambia	100%	0%
International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) Limited	Malawi	100%	0%
International Fund for Animal Welfare (Zimbabwe) Trust	Zimbabwe	100%	0%
International Fund for Animal Welfare (Belgium) AISBL	Belgium	90%	10%





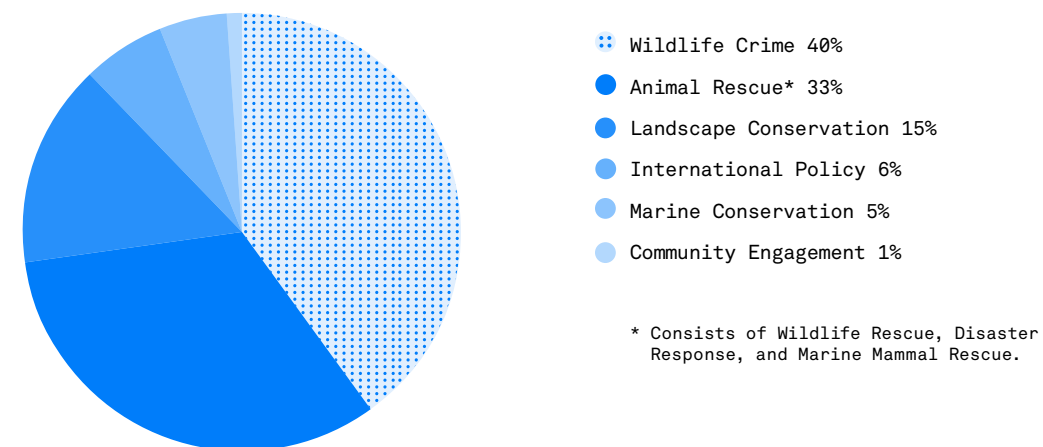
Photo: © shanemyasphoto - stock.adobe.com

# United States financial overview

## Program priority expenditures

IFAW allocates donor contributions and other resources efficiently to maximize impact for animals. US\$ 63,6 million went directly to advance program priorities and save more animals.

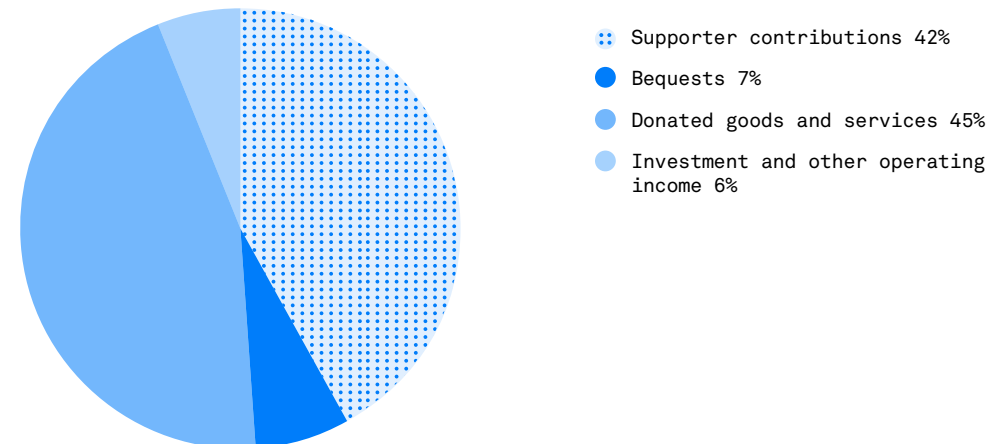
1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023



## Diverse ways of support

In FY23, IFAW had 276,248 donors in the US. IFAW welcomes gifts and bequests of all sizes.

1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023





## Revenue and expenses

Figures below in thousands of US dollars for the years ended 30 June 2023 and 2022.

Revenues	2023	2022
Supporter contributions	29,013	39,758
Bequests	4,992	2,933
Donated goods and services	30,633	28,635
Investment and other operating income	3,866	(1,604)
<b>Total revenues, gains and other support</b>	<b>68,504</b>	<b>69,722</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Program	63,599	57,371
Fundraising	8,022	8,289
Administrative support	3,878	3,796
<b>Total program and operating expenses</b>	<b>75,499</b>	<b>69,456</b>
<b>Excess (deficit) of revenue over expenses</b>	<b>(6,995)</b>	<b>266</b>

# Animals and people



# thriving together



International Fund  
for Animal Welfare

Annual Report 2022-2023  
United States

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