

**Thriving together:  
animals, people,  
and the planet**



**ifaw**



Photo: Karel Prinsloo / © IFAW

**Animals, people, and the planet face urgent threats—and their fates are inextricably linked.**

# The challenges we face

## Climate change

We are living in a time of climate crisis. Human activities have left an estimated one million species at risk of extinction. Disasters are growing in frequency and intensity, threatening wildlife, people, and the ecosystems on which we all depend.

## Broken landscapes

People are searching for new areas in which to live and grow food, forcing migrating animals—such as elephants—to roam across increasingly fragmented landscapes. As habitats shrink, human-wildlife conflicts intensify, leading to tragic consequences for both animals and communities.

## Industry

Industries such as shipping and fishing are creating ocean noise and pollution on an unprecedented scale. For iconic blue whales, the rise in ocean noise has decreased the distance over which they

can communicate by as much as 90%. And critically endangered North Atlantic right whales are dying from entanglements in fishing gear and vessel strikes.

## Illegal trade

Every year, the illegal wildlife trade pushes thousands of species closer to the brink of extinction. The internet makes it easier than ever for endangered animals—and their body parts—to be sold around the world. Poachers often come from communities that live closest to wildlife; when these communities are given the right tools and resources to earn a living, they don't need to turn to poaching.

## Every species depends on its habitat for survival. Including ours.

The problems we face are complex and interconnected. That's why we tackle complicated problems with creativity.



Photo: Fernando Turmo / © Jane Goodall Institute

▲ African grey parrots seized from the illegal wildlife trade are moved from bird-specific transport cages developed by IFAW's Confiscated Animals Rescue and Enforcement (CARE) project into a quarantine holding area.

► Confiscated ivory.



# What we do

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**We make unexpected connections and challenge the way things are done.**

Since 1969, IFAW has protected animals in need. Our work falls under two pillars.

- ▶ **Wildlife rescue**
- ▶ **Biodiversity conservation**

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◀ Thanks to IFAW and our partner Save Giraffes Now, Big G the giraffe is released into his new permanent home in Mossel Bay, South Africa.

## Wildlife Rescue

Our Wildlife Rescue and Disaster Response teams give orphaned, injured, and displaced animals a second chance.

We work with elephant nurseries in Zimbabwe, Zambia, and India that rescue and rehabilitate calves orphaned through human-wildlife conflict and poaching—their return to the wild completes our rescue-rehabilitation-release cycle.

With one of the most respected marine mammal stranding response programmes in the world, we proved that healthy, individual stranded dolphins can successfully reintegrate into a pod, changing the common practice of euthanising them. Our Marine Mammal Rescue team has responded to over 6,000 strandings.

Now we're pioneering interventions with live animals confiscated from illegal trade, returning as many as possible to the wild.

Meanwhile, when disasters strike, our rescue teams can deploy at a moment's notice, searching for and rescuing surviving wildlife, sheltering farm animals, and more.



6,000+

Our Marine Mammal Rescue team has responded to over 6,000 strandings.



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



Photo: Michael Zomer / © IFAW

## Biodiversity conservation

The places we call habitats are, for countless living creatures, home. That's why we're fighting to secure the land, water, and airspace animals need to thrive.

We work with local communities living close to wildlife, governments, and other decision-makers for the well-being of animals and people. For example, we collaborate with local wildlife conservancies in the Tsavo and Amboseli landscapes in Kenya to reduce threats, secure more space for wildlife, and boost conservation-friendly economic opportunities.

We partner with people to prevent conflict with wildlife and protect their crops and livestock from predators. When people put habitats up for sale, we go to the negotiating table for all the species in the ecosystem. And when it comes to tackling wildlife crime, we take a holistic approach that prioritises ranger welfare.

- ▲ Elephants roaming Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe.
- ◀ IFAW staff and volunteers support a pilot whale during refloating, as a second whale is prepared to be righted.

# Our top priorities

- ▶ **Room to Roam: Creating a future for Africa's elephants**
- ▶ **Saving North Atlantic right whales from extinction**
- ▶ **Partnering with wildlife to tackle the climate crisis**



Photo: Asish Immanuel Baglary / © IFAW-WTI

## Room to Roam: Creating a future for Africa's elephants

Room to Roam is a major collaborative initiative to secure and connect habitats in East and southern Africa, creating safe passages for elephants and other wildlife to travel freely through their home ranges.

## Implementing science-based solutions

Based on more than 20 years of science, Room to Roam is not simply protecting Africa's remaining savannah elephants from extinction. It is also promoting greater biodiversity, natural resilience to climate change, and a future where animals and people can coexist and thrive.

## Creating climate resilience

We protect, restore, and effectively manage biodiverse ecosystems and landscapes that are highly vulnerable to climate change. We also support communities to adopt low-carbon practices and appropriate forms of renewable energy.

## Embracing community involvement

Room to Roam embraces community involvement as the key to conservation success. Our community support includes improving literacy, developing participatory land-use policies, promoting climate-resilient agriculture, creating frameworks and governance for land trusts and conservancies, and promoting alternative, sustainable livelihood practices.

## Rescuing and releasing elephants

We work with elephant nurseries that rescue and rehabilitate orphaned elephant calves, giving them a second chance at life in the wild. When they are ready, they are transferred to a reintegration site where they interact with free-roaming wild elephants. We also support their post-release monitoring to ensure their safety.

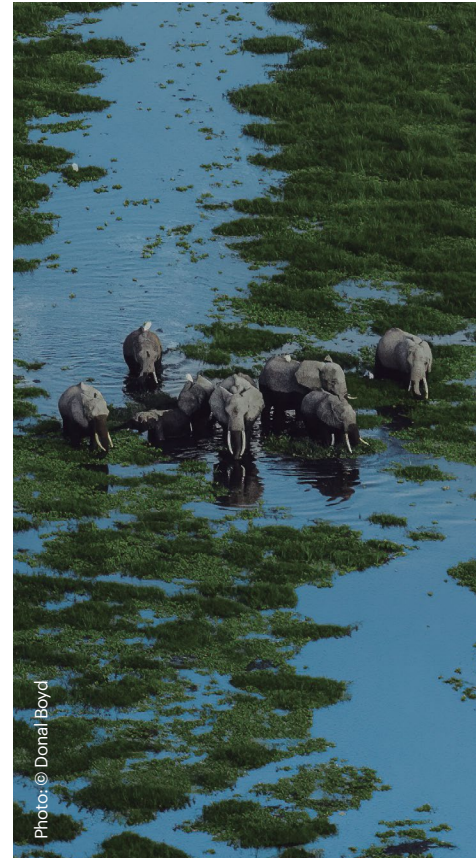


Photo: © Donal Boyd

▲ Elephants roaming Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe.

◀ Siang, an Asiatic black bear cub, drinks from a bottle at Wildlife Trust of India's IFAW-supported Centre for Bear Rehabilitation and Conservation in Arunachal Pradesh, India.

## Saving North Atlantic right whales from extinction

With approximately 350 individuals left—and less than a quarter of those being reproductive females—North Atlantic right whales are critically endangered. The death of even one whale could be the difference between saving the species and extinction.



- ▲ A North Atlantic right whale breaches.
- ▶ A beekeeping villager carefully checks each comb and cleans the excess wax.

## Stopping lethal vessel collisions

Collisions with vessels are a leading cause of whale deaths. IFAW collaborates with researchers, shipping industries, recreational boaters, NOAA, the US Coast Guard, and partner organisations to advocate for vessel speed limits in critical habitats.

## Preventing entanglements

Modern technologies in the fishing industry could make the ocean far safer for animals. IFAW is working alongside fishermen to advance trials of on-demand gear that does not use fixed vertical buoy ropes. This innovation reduces whale entanglements while preserving fishing heritage and livelihoods.

## Rescuing whales

IFAW's Marine Mammal Rescue team, based on Cape Cod in Yarmouth Port, Massachusetts, is ready to intervene at a moment's notice when a right whale is seen in distress. Our team of experienced whale veterinarians and biologists work with NOAA and the Center for Coastal Studies to support challenging cases.

## Conducting critical research

IFAW commissioned the research vessel Song of the Whale to study North Atlantic right whales as they migrated through shipping corridors and fishing grounds in 2023. We partner on the research of prey availability to help inform policy and predictive measures for protection. In Canada, IFAW is helping fishermen test smart buoy and rope-on-demand technology. The team's ongoing research helps us understand how and where to reduce the life-threatening risks these whales face every day.

## Partnering with wildlife to tackle the climate crisis

Nature can account for over a third of the carbon capture needed to mitigate the worst effects of climate change. Wild animals play an immense role in enabling natural ecosystems to absorb and store more carbon. By safeguarding wildlife on land and in our ocean, we not only address biodiversity loss but also tackle climate change head-on.

## Protecting and restoring landscapes

We work to restore the ecological characteristics of a landscape using naturally regenerative techniques. While it is important to restore degraded ecosystems, we also protect existing high-biodiversity ecosystems—and the wildlife populations that inhabit them—which are under threat from exploitation, habitat destruction, and land-use conversion.

## Supporting communities

Conservation programmes must actively involve local communities. IFAW includes leaders and representatives of key interest groups—such as women, youth, and Indigenous people—as decision-makers and full partners in our projects. We also work to develop climate-resilient conservation plans and help bring them to fruition, ensuring community members receive training and technical support.

## Promoting climate-smart conservation

Through climate-smart conservation, we acknowledge that climate change is already affecting animals and their habitats, and that these impacts will only increase over time. Our climate-smart conservation efforts focus on building a broad understanding of the threats climate change poses and providing conservation agencies with additional technical expertise and resources.

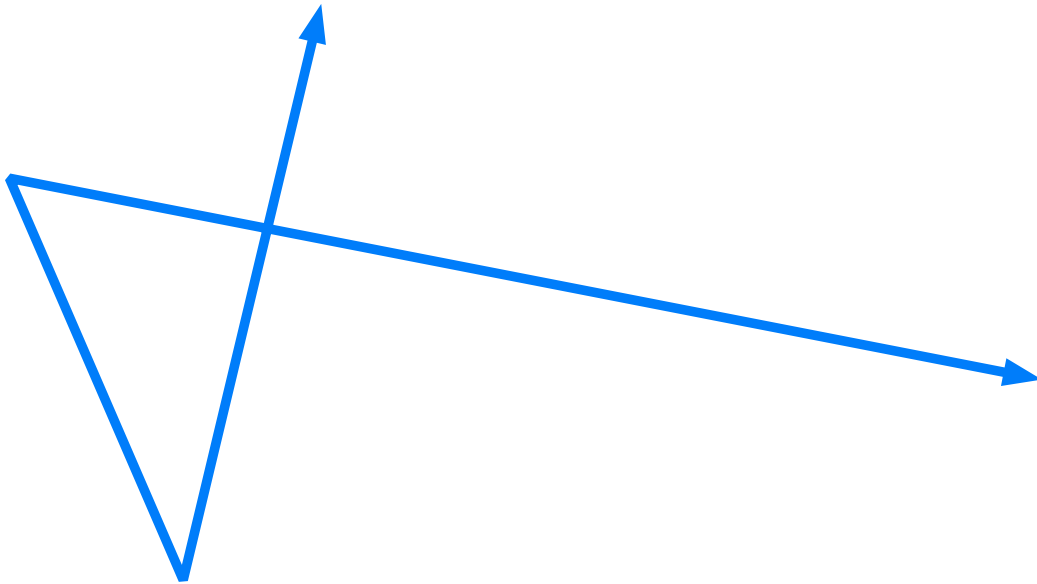
## Making food systems climate-resilient

We are developing climate-smart, nature-friendly agriculture projects that protect wildlife and secure livelihoods. Regenerative agriculture techniques not only make food systems climate-resilient but also help restore degraded landscapes. They can also increase household food security and provide climate-friendly livelihood opportunities.





**We are  
powered by**



**human  
connections**

The problems we're up against are urgent and complicated. To solve them, we match fresh thinking with bold action. We've been around for more than 50 years, but we know our solutions can't stay the same. We must be nimble, curious, and open to new ideas. In short, we must think and act differently.

We partner with local communities, governments, non-governmental organisations, and businesses—and we are always open to new partnerships. Together, we pioneer new and innovative ways to help animals, people, and the planet.

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