

Annual Report July 2023–June 2024



ifaw

Oceania edition



Vision:
Animals and people
thriving together



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

Content

	Introduction		
4	Inspiration drives impact		
6	Sustainable, lasting impact		
7	Leadership		
	Biodiversity Conservation		
11	Because wildlife need a healthy home		
12	Landscape Conservation		
18	Wildlife Crime		
24	Marine Conservation		
28	Community Engagement		
36	International Policy		
	Wildlife Rescue		
45	Because every animal has intrinsic value		
46	Wildlife Rescue		
52	Marine Mammal Rescue		
56	Disaster Response		
	Partners		
66	Our corporate, institutional, and foundation supporters and partners		
67	Corporation, foundation, and government partners		
69	Our partners, organisations, and communities on the ground		
	Summary Financial Statements		
73	Worldwide financial overview		
76	Australia financial overview		

Cover photo: Luiz Felipe Mendes / © IFAW
Instituto Tamandua veterinarian Dr. Karina Molina
bottle-feeds a giant anteater.

Inspiration drives impact



Photo: Cam Whinnall / © The Big Cat Sanctuary

With over a half-century of experience across the globe, IFAW has emerged as a definitive leader in wildlife conservation, consistently implementing life-saving initiatives fundamentally focused on the two critical pillars of rescue and conservation. This is the platform through which to achieve long-term impact and the basis upon which animals and people can thrive together.

As a global organisation, IFAW focuses on conservation because animals must have a healthy environment in which to live. We focus on rescue because every individual animal matters. Threaded throughout our work is our commitment to the belief that communities should both participate in and benefit from the conservation initiatives that impact them.

In fiscal year 2024 (FY24), IFAW continued to put nature front and centre as a critical way to address the climate crisis and tackle biodiversity loss. We strengthened our global effort to implement nature-based solutions ranging from terrestrial and marine conservation to ecosystem preservation and beyond. As part of multiple global forums, IFAW advocated passionately for the idea that conserving wildlife is essential to building vulnerable communities' resilience and mitigating the effects of climate change. Indigenous peoples and local communities continue to be the true untapped custodians of nature, though sadly, they are the ones most often disregarded when it comes to issues of the natural environment. The traditional knowledge and inextricable linkages of Indigenous communities to their land and wildlife makes them an

essential component of global conservation efforts. Our vision of animals and people thriving together relies on communities both participating in and benefiting from the conservation initiatives that impact them.

One critical area where IFAW made great strides was our Room to Roam initiative, a visionary approach to elephant conservation in Africa. Through Room to Roam, we are currently securing and connecting four of 10 critical landscapes across East and southern Africa, each home to about 10,000 elephants, ultimately facilitating undisturbed animal movement and promoting peaceful human-wildlife coexistence. It is this concept of coexistence which elegantly replaces fierce competition with harmonious balance. I'm also proud to say



Photo: Stacky Hadman / © IFAW / All activities conducted under a federal stranding agreement between IFAW and NMFS under the MMPA.

that a long-term partnership with the Olgulului Land Trust in Amboseli, Kenya, has not only helped us secure more land for wildlife, but also enabled landowners to see conservation as a sustainable, worthwhile investment in their families' futures.

FY24 also saw IFAW continue its efforts to save the North Atlantic right whale, one of the most critically endangered marine mammals with only around 370 individuals remaining. We led the science on right whale necropsies and guided the conversation with both fishermen and policymakers. Our efforts were broad, but our impact proved even broader.

Illegal wildlife trade, often sourced by poaching, also remains a critical area of focus for IFAW. Both in the field and on the online marketplace, our efforts are aimed to stop wildlife crime at the source. In FY24, our Wildlife Crime programme trained more officers through partnerships with law enforcement and continued its efforts to counter the illegal online trade in wildlife.

One of the most enduring achievements of 2024 has been the advancement and professionalisation of the field of animal rescue with the expansion of IFAW's Academy of Rescue and Conservation

(ARC). Made possible by a generous contribution from the Suzanne McGraw Foundation, ARC strengthens our knowledge-sharing capabilities, ensuring the dissemination of best practices in the field of rescue and training to the next generation of rescue leaders. Increasing IFAW's global capacity has, as a result, increased IFAW's ability to generate impact both now and in perpetuity.

Our global teams responded tirelessly to both animals and people in times of crisis. Perhaps this commitment is best exemplified by our efforts in Ukraine providing emergency relief to thousands of animals affected by the ongoing war—including Yuna, the lioness recently rescued from private ownership who now resides safely in a UK sanctuary—or the heroic efforts of our marine rescue team, who successfully responded to 146 individuals in the largest dolphin mass stranding event in US history right off the coast of Cape Cod. Through disasters, including Hurricane Beryl, Tropical Storm Debby, and catastrophic floods in Kenya and India, IFAW has rushed aid to communities desperate for resources like emergency veterinary care. The scale and terrain may differ, but the commitment and mission remain very much the same.

From the local rescue, rehabilitation, and release of an individual animal to the broader safeguarding of an entire wildlife population, IFAW has remained steadfast in its commitment to stewardship of the natural environment. On behalf of the organisation which I am so proud to have led since 2012, I can say without question that IFAW will continue to do what is right. IFAW will continue to have an impact and draw inspiration from within every community where we work. This work will continue because it must. There is so much still left to do—as stewards, as global citizens, and as a first line of defence for the wildlife of this beloved shared planet.

Azzedine T. Downes
President & Chief Executive Officer

- ▲ Responders race to save dolphins in Wellfleet, MA, during the largest mass stranding in US history.
- ◀ After being evacuated from war-torn Ukraine, rescued lioness Yuna goes outside for the first time at her new home in the UK, The Big Cat Sanctuary.

Sustainable, lasting impact



Photo: © IFAW-WTI

IFAW's global network and lasting smart partnerships anchor and sustain our conservation efforts across priority regions and landscapes. Our vision is to see animals and people thriving together in the place we call home. We rescue, rehabilitate, and release animals and work to protect and restore their habitats. IFAW implements projects and activities in 40 countries, with about 330 staff members in 15 country offices.

In alignment with our mission, we are dedicated to reducing our environmental impact and embedding sustainability principles throughout our operations. This includes improving practices in both our office and field operations. From using renewable energy solutions like solar power (also at operational centres like ranger stations) and recycling waste, to offering plant-based meals at office events, cutting down the use of plastics, using recycled paper, and restricting travel by promoting a hybrid work environment and virtual meetings, we are always looking for ways to reduce our footprint.

▲ The IFAW-WTI team carefully cleans a pelican affected by an oil spill in Pulicat Lake near Chennai in Tamil Nadu, India.

Leadership

Directors

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Senior Director, Policy

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Senior Director, Animal Rescue

Phillip Kuvawoga
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Catherine Bell
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*Programme Director,
Wildlife Rescue*

John Kogada
*Programme Director,
Community Engagement*

Sharon Livermore
*Programme Director,
Marine Conservation*

Brian Sharp
*Senior Biologist,
Marine Mammal Rescue*

Shannon Walajtys
*Programme Director,
Disaster Response*

Ashley Baker
*Deputy Vice President,
Institutional Giving*

Regions & Countries

Danielle Kessler
*Country Director,
United States of America*

Akram Darwich
*Regional Director,
Middle East & North Africa*

Jeff He
Country Director, China

James Isiche
Director, Africa

Robert Kless
*Regional Representative,
Europe*

Vivek Menon
*Senior Advisor,
Strategic Partnerships*

Cynthia Milburn
*Senior Advisor,
Policy Development*

Grace Ge Gabriel
Senior Advisor, Asia Affairs

Joaquin de la Torre Ponce
*Regional Representative,
Latin America*

Alleta Nyahuye
Country Director, Zimbabwe

Patricio Ndadzela
*Country Director,
Malawi & Zambia*

Patricia Zaat
Country Director, Canada

All IFAW affiliated entities maintain a separate Board of Directors or Trustees. All affiliates operate as separate and independent entities to undertake IFAW's mission activities, consistent with the requirements governing charitable or tax-exempt entities in their respective countries of organisation.



Biodiversity Conservation



Because wildlife need a healthy home

Around the world, habitats are under unprecedented threat from the changing climate and human activity. If these habitats collapse, we will lose countless species to extinction. Once they are lost, they will be gone forever.

But as much as animals are victims of climate change, they are also part of the solution. Our approach to conservation recognises the critical, positive link between wildlife and saving our planet.

Healthy wildlife populations are essential for maintaining healthy ecosystems, which in turn play a vital role in regulating the climate. That link is one reason we're so passionate about our work—if we conserve biodiversity, we save animals and humans alike.

In fact, research has shown that protecting and restoring populations of just nine key species and species groups could facilitate the capture of a significant amount of CO². These include marine fish, whales, sharks, grey wolves, wildebeest, sea otters, musk oxen, African elephants, and American bison.

That's why we work with partners around the world to conserve land and marine environments, tackle wildlife crime, and strengthen the laws and policies that safeguard our progress.

The list of species we are saving includes our own.

◀ Blue wildebeests run through the landscape in Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe.

Biodiversity Conservation

Landscape Conservation

Photo: © Rudi van Aarde

A high-angle photograph of a herd of kangaroos in a grassy field. The kangaroos are seen from behind, moving away from the viewer. The field is a mix of green and brown grass, suggesting a natural, possibly semi-arid, environment. The kangaroos are of various sizes, including adults and young joeys.

64,237

km² of land now has conservation plans

229

landscape conservation partners improved their work with our support

125

nest boxes installed, including 20 multi-species boxes

20

marsupial dens installed

2,000

native grasses and trees planted

Almost 100,000

trees planted since 2019 creating more than 60 hectares of habitat with 31 partners across 21 communities

35

habitat linkages maintained and revitalised for animals' safe passage

7

policy actions supported in Oceania for koala conservation

20

natural hollows carved

5

raptor platforms constructed

29

different native species have been captured on film checking out the marsupial dens, with half actually using them (and no feral animals entering the dens)

Ecological connectivity is key



A visionary approach to conservation in Africa

Through IFAW's Room to Roam initiative, we're securing a network of critical landscapes so that Africa's remaining savannah elephants and local communities can flourish together. We deliver this vision by forging strong partnerships with communities, traditional leaders, governments, the private sector, and other NGOs across the target landscapes. Last year, we celebrated some exciting milestones.

Connected landscapes vital for elephant conservation

Researchers from the University of Pretoria's Conservation Ecology Research Unit (CERU) published a study reaffirming that elephant survival depends on having well-protected wildlife havens connected to each other.

Protecting critical corridors in Kenya

Supporting locally-led planning and legislation for how land is best used is central to our conservation solutions. Room to Roam is gaining traction among Kenyan decision-makers, underpinning forward thinking and decision-making around land management. In July 2023, a presidential directive spotlighted the need

to protect wildlife corridors. In September, Nairobi hosted the inaugural Africa Climate Summit, where we positioned wildlife and nature conservation as a natural climate solution. In November, we worked with Kenya's State Department for Wildlife and other conservation partners working in Kenya's Southern Rangelands to discuss steps to safeguard Tsavo, Amboseli, Loita, and Maasai Mara landscapes—all key wildlife corridors and dispersal areas for elephants and other wildlife species.

For over a decade, we've worked with leaders and landowners from the Olgulului Land Trust in Amboseli, Kenya, to lease land that elephants and other wildlife use as they travel vast distances every day. The lease fee guaranteed our support for livelihood projects and anchored tourism development. In September 2023, we returned the lease to Olgulului landowners, ensuring the community can pursue further investment through a community-private sector partnership model while conserving the land for wildlife.

As part of our expansion plans, we turned our sights to protecting Ilaingarunyoni, a 29,000-acre stretch of land northwest of Amboseli National Park and a vital elephant dispersal area. Working again with the Olgulului leaders and landowners, we created the Ilaingarunyoni Conservancy, with landowners agreeing to lease their land for wildlife conservation and eco-friendly rangeland management.

Enhancing Hwange visibility, research, and monitoring

Tourism brings vital funds to communities and conservation projects. In October 2023, construction started on a tourism complex in Zimbabwe's largest protected area, Hwange National Park. It's the latest activity in our commitment to a 25-year partnership with the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZimParks) in Hwange—home to approximately 45,000 elephants and other critical biodiversity.

ZimParks recently fitted eight elephants with GPS-enabled tracking collars, which will help us understand elephants' movements in a human-dominated landscape. This research will help support elephant conservation and human-wildlife conflict management.

Partnership for wildlife protection

Leveraging landscape partners' presence and goodwill, we established a new conservation partnership in Zambia with Conservation Lower Zambezi (CLZ) in April 2024. This allows us to quickly make an impact while piloting engagement through a partnership model that can be replicated in other Room to Roam landscapes. The partnership focuses on wildlife and habitat protection, biodiversity conservation, combatting wildlife crime, wildlife rescue, and research. Lower Zambezi National Park is one of Africa's few untouched wilderness areas, and our partnership will help protect the Cape buffalo, elephants, and other wildlife species, including the lions, leopards, antelopes, crocodiles, and hippopotamuses that call it home.

▲ A hippo swimming in Lower Zambezi National Park in Zambia.



Prioritising ranger welfare

With such visionary initiatives as Room to Roam, we know we can’t achieve our goals alone. We can only achieve our conservation goals if wildlife is protected by a well-motivated, trained, and equipped ranger force. Rangers are the first line of defence against wildlife crime and human-wildlife conflict, as they secure protected areas and wildlife and protect the communities living alongside them. That’s why we strive to create a safe and healthy working environment by addressing the challenges they face.

Ranger mobility for patrol

Rangers often risk their lives to protect wildlife and communities. An International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) survey showed that over 66% of African rangers have been attacked by poachers, and 82% have had a dangerous encounter with wildlife. Motorcycles reduce rangers’ response times to security and human-wildlife conflict incidents. In July 2023, in partnership with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), we donated 20 motorcycles to rangers protecting Kutima Ranch and Choke Ranch in Kenya. The rangers had been

patrolling 25,000 acres on foot, so responses could take hours. Now, they take minutes. The project also secured vehicles for the effective management of target areas and local institutions.

Improved ranger housing

A primary factor in improving ranger welfare is housing. The nature of their job means rangers often work and live in remote areas deep in the bush and are away from their families for extended periods of time. Exhausted and weary after patrolling vast areas—usually on foot—rangers often return to low-quality, uncomfortable accommodation facilities. We have built and opened new bases and comfortable housing for the rangers in Zambia’s Lukusuzi and Luambe National Parks. With funding from America’s premier chai drink supplier, David Rio, we have built a new ranger base in Kenya’s Illaingarunyoni Conservancy. The facilities provide rangers with an ideal environment to stay safe and healthy and recharge between patrols.

Working together to advocate for ranger welfare

IFAW recently strengthened our commitment to ranger welfare and conservation by joining both the Universal Ranger Support Alliance (URSA) and the International Ranger Federation (IRF). These groups advocate for rangers, develop resources and tools for the ranger workforce, drive equality and equity in the ranger workforce, and improve ranger working conditions and welfare while building trusting relationships with communities and ensuring the responsible conduct of rangers.

Through continued partnerships, we commit to improving the welfare of rangers at home and at work, enabling us to get closer to meeting the global target of 1.5 million rangers needed to successfully protect our biodiversity and landscapes.

▲ Community rangers in Mgeno Wildlife Conservancy riding a Kibo motorbike donated by IFAW through USAID.



Sanctuary destroyed by Black Summer recovering from ground up

Countless native animals perished or lost their habitat when the Black Summer bushfires of 2019-20 destroyed Two Thumbs Wildlife Trust Sanctuary in southern New South Wales. The ferocious fire burnt approximately 95% of the 724-hectare sanctuary.

IFAW worked with Habitat Innovation and Management to restore this once wildlife-haven from the ground up. In FY24 we installed 20 innovative wildlife dens to encourage small to medium marsupials like native quolls, bandicoots,

antechinus, and echidnas to set up home. Rocks and sticks are placed onto the dens to camouflage them into the landscape and to insulate them, so they stay cool in summer and warm in winter. Within days, many different animals came to inspect them, including echidnas, a Cunningham's skink, brushtail possums, antechinuses, and a common dunnart. An eastern pygmy possum, which is a threatened species —also showed interest. The camera traps also recorded other species such as koalas and wombats in the area.

The fires also destroyed every raptor nesting site on the property. In a bid to attract these important apex predator birds, five raptor nesting platforms were constructed. These platforms provide safe sites for raptors such as wedge-tailed eagles, little eagles, brown falcons, brown goshawks, and peregrine falcons to create nests.



▲ The IFAW and Habitat teams constructing a raptor platform.



Evidence of wildlife using newly established wildlife corridors

IFAW has been collaborating with groups across the country to create new wildlife corridors across heavily fragmented landscapes.

Across many of our tree planting sites we have installed cameras to capture footage of animals using the corridors and have installed audio recorders to survey animal presence. These cameras have captured a broad range of native animals such as swamp wallabies, echidnas, koalas and gliders already using the landscapes.

In Victoria, audio recordings picked up sounds of koalas and surveys have found koala scats, scratch marks and two koalas have been spotted at an IFAW tree planting site. The exciting recordings were made just six months after the trees were planted in collaboration with the Koala Clancy Foundation. The property was historically cleared for farming—leaving koalas with 20% of what they used to have. In FY23, 3,618 trees were planted on the 459-hectare property and a further 11,374 trees were planted in FY24. The owners of the property, which has

historically been used for sheep grazing, are former farmers passionate about restoring koala habitat. They have dedicated a pocket of their land to encourage koalas to re-establish in the area.



▲ We have planted almost 100,000 trees since 2019, creating more than 60 hectares of habitat with 31 partners across 21 communities.

Biodiversity Conservation

Wildlife Crime





582

law enforcement
officials trained to
stop wildlife crime

682,417

listings for illegal
wildlife products
blocked from July to
December 2023

410

kg of ivory seized
in Uganda, Tanzania,
and Kenya

15

live pangolins seized
and returned to the
wild in Zimbabwe

4 million

people saw our Not
a Pet campaign in
Times Square

304 million

parcels sent with
WILD Life campaign
messaging in China

Protecting animals on the front lines



Photo: B. Hollweg / © IFAW

Wildlife officers train to stop organised crime

The Kenya–Tanzania border is rich in biodiversity, so it's a popular area for poachers and traffickers.

We're training law enforcement officials to secure crime scenes and detect trafficked wildlife species and illegal products. This year, 155 officers from Kenya, Tanzania, and Ethiopia, in addition to 124 community wildlife rangers, benefitted from training sessions funded by partners including the U.S. Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) and USAID.

The illegal wildlife trade is directly linked to organised crime, so we're also training wildlife officers and investigators in financial investigations and money laundering.

Protecting endangered African grey parrots

African grey parrots are some of the most intelligent birds in the world, prized for their ability to mimic voices. Illegal trade and habitat loss have shrunk their population by up to 79% over the past 40 years.

To combat this trade, we work in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda, and Kenya to foster collaboration and information sharing between wildlife management and judicial agencies. Our Wildlife Crime programme develops specialised cybercrime workshops to train investigators to uncover illegal trade and apprehend, prosecute, and convict the perpetrators.

We also educate the public on how owning exotic birds fuels demand, driving species closer to extinction.

With our support, the project enabled 16 seizures of African grey parrots between August 2022 and December 2023. These birds are now staying in rehabilitation centres until they can be released.

Dogs join training to track poachers

In Zimbabwe, two puppies named Themba and Wana are the newest recruits to the K9 unit for our partners at ZimParks, an agency that protects the country's wildlife. The mixed-breed hounds began their training as tracker dogs in December 2023 and graduated in August 2024.

The ZimParks K9 Unit currently has 13 working dogs, including Themba and Wana. IFAW supports the training of the dogs and their handlers, providing medication and vaccines to ensure the dogs' general welfare.

Three types of dogs are trained for the K9 unit: sniffer dogs that find illegally trafficked animals and animal parts, tracker dogs that follow scent trails to track poachers, and security dogs. Themba and Wana will track poachers in Hwange National Park now that their training is complete.

New project protects cheetahs from pet trade

The cheetah population has dropped to fewer than 7,000 globally, with more than 4,000 trafficked in the last decade alone.

We've launched a new project—Countering Cheetah Trafficking from the Horn of Africa to the Arabian Peninsula—to stop cheetah cubs from being trafficked and sold as exotic pets. We're delivering workshops on wildlife laws and cybercrime to law enforcement and government officials, as well as exploring mechanisms to foster improved communication and collaboration between stakeholders to best help cheetahs.

We're also taking an evidence-based, social science approach to understand the motivations behind the ownership of exotic pets like cheetahs. By using behaviour-centred design to research these drivers, or 'the why' behind 'the want', we can deter future potential owners from desiring cheetahs or other wild animals as pets in a meaningful, targeted way.

Facebook traffickers prosecuted in Indonesia

Our partners in Indonesia are helping authorities prosecute online wildlife traffickers who were caught thanks to a daring undercover investigation.

Online traffickers listed the animals—and several illegal wildlife products made from dead animals—for sale through Facebook. Our partners at the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) found the ads and alerted Jakarta Animal Aid Network (JAAN), who posed as buyers and alerted authorities. Several animals were rescued, including a critically endangered baby orangutan. Authorities are now prosecuting the criminals, and specialists are caring for the animals until they can be transferred to rehabilitation centres or released.

Young people in China pledge to be wildlife-friendly

In December, we launched a campaign in China to encourage young people to live an eco-friendly lifestyle and not to buy illegal wildlife products.

The campaign, WILD Life, is based on collaborative research we performed with the Institute of Psychology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. The research shows that the more people identify as being 'environmentally friendly', the less likely they are to buy trafficked items.

We partnered with some of China's biggest brands to spread the message. The campaign covered seven major cities in China, with 58 cinema screens, 470 lightboxes/billboards, and 10,464 LED/LCD screens. Campaign key messages were also placed on more than 304 million parcels delivered nation-wide, inviting recipients to visit campaign mini sites for further engagement.

◀ Cheetahs in the wild in Africa.



Law enforcement capacity building and international law enforcement cooperation

In May, on the 24th International Day for Biological Diversity, IFAW supported the fifth Chinese Mainland–Vietnam–Hong Kong SAR tripartite customs workshop on combatting wildlife smuggling in Fuzhou, China. This workshop, first initiated in 2018 by China and Vietnam Customs and IFAW, has been instrumental in combatting wildlife trafficking from Africa to Asia. Since 2018, the three customs agencies have seized nearly 45 tonnes of pangolin scales and over 34 tonnes of ivory.

IFAW has been supporting Operation Mekong Dragon (OMD), led by China's and Vietnam's customs, since 2021. With endorsement from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the World Customs Office, OMD has been recognised as one of the most effective enforcement mechanisms in the Asia–Pacific region. In November 2023, IFAW supported the Debrief Workshop of OMD V in Hanoi and shared the latest findings

in wildlife trafficking to law enforcement agencies from 16 member countries of OMD. During OMD V from April to September 2023, authorities in the region intercepted a total of 1,715 cases of CITES-listed species.

Innovation for combatting wildlife crime

In June 2024, the AI for Combating Wildlife Crime workshop in Hong Kong SAR, co-organised by IFAW, WWF, and UNU-Macau, united more than 120 stakeholders from enterprises, law enforcement agencies, conservation NGOs, and academic institutions to share AI-enabled solutions to tackle illegal wildlife trade. IFAW shared its latest development, the AI Guardian of Endangered Species, jointly initiated with Baidu. IFAW has been using AI to combat wildlife cybercrime since 2020. As of June 2024, the AI Guardian of Endangered Species has helped IFAW screen over 360,000 images that may contain illegal wildlife products and track down the source of nearly 8,000 infringing listings online. IFAW reports the listings to the

online platforms, which implement their policies to take them down.

New EU Act protects wildlife from online traffickers

The EU's Digital Services Act (DSA) will help to protect wildlife in the digital age.

In effect since February 2024, the DSA makes illegal online what is illegal offline. We actively engaged in the drafting and now in the implementation of the Act, and we are pleased to see that its definition of illegal content explicitly includes the illegal trade of animals. This implies that very large online platforms—those with more than 45 million users in the EU—must assess the risk of selling illegal wildlife and their parts and act to prevent it.

We work to curb demand and disrupt the trafficking of threatened species. Our work to tackle wildlife cybercrime is a vital part of that process.



Report finds EU ivory trade still thriving

A year after the European Commission implemented a revised regulation to reduce the ivory trade, we commissioned research to assess online trade in the EU.

IFAW's research suggests that, despite the new rules, ivory trafficking continues. In only 23 days, researchers found 1,330 ivory and suspected ivory items for sale in 831 adverts across 49 online marketplaces and auction house websites.

Though these measures are the EU's strongest so far, most of them are not legally binding. We believe stricter, mandatory rules may be necessary.

1.8 tonnes of ivory destroyed in France

In November 2023, we worked with the French Office for Biodiversity (OFB) to destroy 1.8 tonnes of ivory.

The event aimed to curb the trade and raise awareness of how it kills thousands of elephants every year. The ivory

destroyed in this single event represents 180 elephants. It mostly came from individuals who voluntarily gave up their jewellery and trinkets but also from customs seizures. Destroying this stock ensures these items can never be reintroduced into commercial trade.

Documentary shows poaching investigation

Poacher, a riveting Amazon Originals docuseries, premiered in February 2024 to feature the untold stories behind Operation Shikar, an investigation into elephant poachers and the ivory trade across India.

Our collaboration with WTI was integral to Operation Shikar. We provided technical and resource support at every stage and initiated HAWK, a centralised intelligence management system in Kerala, providing officials with real-time information about wildlife crime-related incidents. As a result, no poaching gangs have been reported in the Kerala region since 2015.

Ten organisations unite to help maritime industry stop crime

IFAW joined nine other leading organisations to guide the maritime industry in combatting wildlife crime across global supply chains.

Together, we produced The Joint Industry Guidelines for Combatting Illegal Wildlife Trafficking, providing advice on what measures to take and questions to ask to help identify criminal wildlife trade, as well as guidance on reporting suspicious activities. An accompanying 'Red Flags' document serves as a daily reference.

▲ Sarah Sabry at IFAW France loading ivory objects for destruction.

◀ Chenyue (YK) Ma, Program Manager at IFAW China, presents on the use of AI to combat wildlife crime.

Biodiversity Conservation

Marine Conservation



>100

meetings attended
on Capitol Hill to
protect maritime
speed laws

100,000

signatures on our
Blue Speeds petition

35

turtle
conservation
groups supported

>90%

vessel compliance with
NOAA speed regulations
in our project area

6

shipping companies
signed our Blue
Speeds pledge

Protecting the ocean



Sea turtle training for community scouts

Empowered, upskilled, motivated, and supported community scouts are vital to protecting ocean resources and tackling climate change. Along the coast of Kenya, IFAW empowers community scouts by improving the capacity of community groups to effectively conserve locally managed marine protected areas.

In 2023, IFAW supported the training of community scouts at Kuruwitu Marine Protected Area in Kilifi County on sea turtle biology and the National Sea Turtle Conservation Protocol. Ten marine rangers from the local community were provided with the necessary equipment and technical expertise needed to accurately collect data for nesting turtles, record hatchlings, patrol beaches, and protect marine areas using innovative mobile apps. This helps tackle two major challenges: lack of adequate data on marine species distribution and the need to enhance locally-owned and community-driven ocean conservation efforts.

Petition urges governments to protect the high seas

As part of the High Seas Alliance, we launched a petition urging governments to ratify the High Seas Treaty so it becomes international law.

The high seas are the open ocean areas not owned or governed by a single country. They take up about half the planet and cover two-thirds of the global ocean. Once in force, the treaty will enable, for the first time ever, the creation of protected areas on the high seas, helping to prevent overexploitation and contributing to cleaner oceans, sustainable management of fish stocks, and overall ecosystem restoration.

The UN adopted the treaty in June 2023, and more than 90 countries have signed it, indicating their intent to ratify the new treaty. However, it only enters into force once 60 countries have ratified it. As of July 2024, only seven had done so. Our goal is to see 60 ratifications by the next UN Ocean Conference (June 2025).

Blue Speeds campaign to reduce ocean noise gains pace

The commercial shipping sector produces half of the world's underwater noise. This constant din disrupts critical communication between animals, interferes with their ability to find mates and prey or to detect predators, and can disorientate and disturb them.

Our Blue Speeds campaign encourages a simple, cost-effective solution: slowing ships down. Globally, if ships reduced their speed by around 10%, ocean noise

pollution would drop by 40%, the risk of colliding with whales would drop by 50%, and greenhouse gas emissions from shipping would drop by 13%.

The campaign is focused first on Europe, and this year we hit some incredible milestones.

By March 2024, we'd gathered 100,000 signatures on our petition calling for the European Union to lead the way with enhanced commercial ship speed regulations. This achievement was thanks largely to our campaign website (bluespeeds.org) and an event we held outside the European Parliament in Brussels on 25 January.

After intense campaigning, on 11 March we were thrilled to see the European Commission (EC) set binding limits for underwater noise pollution for the first time. These mandatory thresholds are a positive step, but we also need effective, enforceable operational measures to be implemented. Now the EC must provide clear guidance to Member States on how to reduce noise.

Our work continues, and engaging with the shipping industry is key to the success of the campaign. We held our first Blue Speeds roundtable event in Bilbao, Spain, this year, attracting around 30 representatives from the shipping industry to discuss topics around ship speed reduction and the threats of underwater noise and ship strikes. We explained the importance of the campaign, gained the support of at least six companies which signed our Blue Speeds pledge, and made new connections that will help us continue to protect marine life from noise pollution.

▲ An endangered green sea turtle peeks out from a coral reef in Kenya's Watamu Marine National Park.

► North Atlantic right whale #4180 swimming with her calf off the coast of North Carolina.



Saving the North Atlantic right whale

With only around 370 North Atlantic right whales left, every individual matters for the survival of this critically endangered species.

These whales migrate along one of the most industrialised areas of the ocean—the East Coast of the US and into Canada—so it's no surprise that the biggest threats they face are human-made, including vessel strikes, entanglement in fishing gear, and noise pollution, all exacerbated by the effects of climate change. Our biologists, veterinarians, and policy experts are tackling the crisis from many angles.

The high rate of mortality and injury among right whales means that at least 50 new calves need to be born every year to recover and grow the population. During this year's calving season—which ran from November 2023 to mid-April 2024—we saw 20. Sadly, one of them was spotted with several propeller wounds to the head, mouth, and lip consistent with a vessel strike. Another appeared underweight and unhealthy; that calf's mother, Half Note, lost her previous five calves. A third died after her mother, on whom she was still dependent, was killed.

Advocating for safer fishing gear

Entanglement in fishing gear is a significant reason for the low birth rate. When it doesn't drown a whale immediately, it slows them down, causes extreme stress and agonising pain, and prevents them from eating. As a result, many potential mothers simply aren't strong enough to reproduce.

In January, we saw a heartbreaking example. A dead juvenile female whale washed ashore on Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. IFAW Animal Rescue Veterinarian Dr. Sarah Sharp led a necropsy that uncovered the cause—chronic entanglement. Rope was embedded deeply in the whale's tail, and she was too thin. The loss of any North Atlantic right whale is tragic, but the loss of a young female is also the loss of all the calves she could have had.

That's why we advocate for the fishing industry to adopt on-demand or 'ropeless' fishing gear, which drastically reduces entanglement risk by removing fixed vertical lines connected to buoys from the water column.

Advocating for slower speeds

We also advocate for reasonable reductions of vessel speeds to reduce collisions. Historical records show that 90% of mariners saw no signs of a nearby whale before hitting one—they are often difficult to spot. Slowing vessels down significantly reduces the risk of striking a whale and drastically improves whales' chances of surviving a strike if collision does occur.

This past year, our advocacy work for slower speeds has included significant groundwork on Capitol Hill that successfully fended off attacks on bedrock environmental laws like the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and Endangered Species Act (ESA) via proposed amendments to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) North Atlantic right whale vessel speed rule. To facilitate greater

understanding of the issues and break through the barriers of misinformation, we participated in more than 35 meetings, hosted a well-attended educational briefing for members of Congress and staffers, created more than 10 resources on the vessel speed rule, held an interactive webinar as part of Capitol Hill Ocean Week 2024, and hosted multiple petitions.

Researching food sources

Whether the threat is fishing gear or vessel strikes, we need to predict where whales will be so maritime authorities and the fishing and shipping industries can quickly implement safety measures. We're collaborating on research with Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution that shows right whales are attracted to a particular ocean scent from a gas called dimethyl sulfide (DMS).

DMS is released when tiny crustaceans (zooplankton) eat microscopic plants (phytoplankton). North Atlantic right whales—and other baleen whales—eat zooplankton, so the scent leads them to their next meal. The better we can detect DMS, the better we can predict where whales will soon be present.

With climate change causing the distribution of food sources to shift, North Atlantic right whales are following suit. This innovative scientific research could make it easier to predict whale presence and help different industries to protect the species.

Community Engagement





598

communities improved
animal welfare and
conservation practices

>3,500

trees planted for
koalas, glossy black
cockatoos and other
wildlife

3

public workshops held to
empower and educate the
local community to help
wildlife

Ongoing

surveys to better
understand where
certain species live

357

communities improved
their coexistence
with wildlife

Dozens

of nest boxes and
wildlife water
drinkers across 53
properties.

1

Koalafest to engage
the community in
solutions that help
koalas thrive

6

target species to
benefit—koala, greater
glider, glossy black
cockatoo, brush-tailed
rock wallaby, grey-
headed flying fox, and
rainbow bee-eater

Championing locally led conservation



Photo: Daisy Ochiel / © IFAW

Agroforestry to improve soil health and incomes in Kenya

During the worst drought experienced in parts of East Africa for 40 years, we implemented a project in Tsavo to rehabilitate water catchment areas for communities that provide elephant dispersal areas and migratory corridors.

In partnership with Taita Taveta Wildlife Conservancies Association (TTWCA) and thanks to USAID support, we are looking to support communities in Taita Taveta to grow at least 2,000 trees every year over a five-year period to strengthen existing forests and increase the community's and ecosystem's resilience to climate change. The first drive saw 600 hybrid macadamia seedlings distributed to 70 farmers living adjacent to Iyale Forest in Taita subcounty. In the second drive, over 100 farmers from different farming groups living adjacent to Chawia Forest in Mwatate subcounty benefited from 1,200 avocado seedlings.

In partnership with the Amboseli Ecosystem Trust (AET), a tree nursery currently with 8,400 seedlings and a capacity for 20,000 tree seedlings has been established. This nursery is managed by 280 women and 20 youth. The tree roots will curb soil erosion and reduce flood risk, and families can benefit by selling or eating the fruit.

Bikes keep Zimbabwe's students safe

Students walking long distances through wildlife corridors in Zimbabwe are now at less risk of wildlife attack thanks to our donation of 100 bicycles in March 2024. We also gave more than 500 textbooks to 10 schools.

The bikes and books are part of our Environmental Stewardship Programme, an initiative with Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority to improve access to education and mitigate human-wildlife conflict around Hwange National Park.

New conservancy created in Kenya

The Maasai-owned land surrounding Amboseli National Park in Kenya is a critical area for elephants to find food and water. As part of Room to Roam, we worked with the leadership of the Olgulului Land Trust to create the Illaingarunyoni Conservancy. Landowners have formally agreed not to sell their land but to lease it to us for conservation, benefitting from increased tourism and healthier rangelands.

Safeguarding communities

Thanks to support from Australia's Direct Aid Program in Zimbabwe, we worked alongside ZimParks to train 20 local volunteers called Community Guardians to protect their communities from human-wildlife conflict.

Community Guardians patrol their areas and are trained first responders who can manage a conflict until professionals arrive. They also have skills to prevent conflicts from arising, such as deterring potentially dangerous animals from entering human settlements and educating others on safety.

In response to the growing encounters between people and elephants near Hwange National Park and the Malawi-Zambia landscape, which often result in negative interactions, IFAW and its partners have successfully implemented an early warning and rapid response (EWRR) system. Using the Earth Ranger management system, park authorities and response teams can receive instant SMS alerts about elephants crossing or breaching geofences.

We believe that the establishment of the EWRR system will significantly improve the effectiveness of mitigation efforts in communities affected by human-wildlife conflict.

In China, communities are at the forefront of Asian elephant conservation, but they also face the biggest risks. Based on ongoing success in neighbouring areas, we were proud to expand our Human-Elephant Conflict Prevention Community Ranger Network to Mengla County, Yunnan province, in May 2024.

Ten community members from Mengla were identified and trained to become community patrollers, complementing rangers' work to provide in-depth community human-elephant conflict mitigation education. A baseline survey was conducted with nearly 400 community members and 20 rangers and community patrollers to help us design a curriculum that empowers rangers to share safety training with community leaders, residents, and educators and evaluate the impact of the initiative. Rangers are also given outdoor gear to ensure they are protected during their daily patrols and fieldwork. The rangers will safeguard nearly 150,000 residents from around 500 communities that have had increasing sightings of elephants.

Maasai handcrafts provide new income

Our partner, David Rio, supported Maasai women in Esiteti village, Kenya, by purchasing 500 handmade bracelets crafted as part of our Inua Kijiji project, through which women earn an income from traditional handcrafts.

Purchases like this help families in Kitirua Conservancy—a crucial part of our Room to Roam initiative—benefit from an alternative income source and reduce their reliance on natural resources.

Jenga Mama entrepreneurs start businesses

Sixty Maasai women in Amboseli, Kenya, are learning how to set up their businesses in professions like hairdressing, dressmaking, and catering during their third year in our Jenga Mama programme, co-developed and funded by the German foundation Margarete-Breuer Stiftung.

Swahili for 'Empower a Woman', Jenga Mama aims to provide a safety net that reduces the financial impact families face when wildlife destroys crops or livestock while boosting women's leadership skills.

◀ Inua Kijiji project participants inspect their beadwork.



Photo: Michael Zomer / © IFAW

Livestock predator-proof bomas prove revolutionary

In villages bordering Hwange National Park, we partnered with ZimParks and the Wildlife Conservation Research Unit (WildCRU) to install 51 predator-proof enclosures that protect farmers' livestock.

The enclosures are simple opaque plastic sheets supported by posts. They are more effective against lions than traditional wooden enclosures because lions are visual hunters. Farmers sometimes kill lions in retaliation after losing livestock, so these new bomas protect livelihoods and lions alike.

Australians create safe spaces for koalas

Communities are joining us to help koalas survive increasingly devastating droughts and wildfires.

In July 2023, we worked with the Great Eastern Ranges initiative to implement the Koala Climate Corridors project. This project reconnects and regenerates habitats so that wildlife have safe spaces to move as conditions and food sources shift. Communities are central to the project, planting native tree species, hanging water drinkers, installing nest boxes, holding workshops and conducting surveys.

Caring for eco-friendly orchards

After another year of management and care, mango trees from the 38-acre Carbon Sequestration Community project have started to bear fruit. The output is expected to reach 15,000 kilograms (33,000 pounds), creating an economic income of about 50,000 yuan (US\$7,125). In June, Swire Coca-Cola, the company that supported the project in cooperation with IFAW in 2021, purchased about 1,500 kilograms (3,300 pounds) of mangoes, which will be express delivered to carbon reduction partners.



Community markets for conservation

IFAW's partner Community Markets for Conservation (COMACO) trained more than 5,000 small-scale farmers in climate-smart agriculture and forestry between October 2023 and March 2024. Farmers trained in these techniques have improved their incomes by growing and selling high-value crops like groundnuts, soybeans, and cowpeas, enabling them to upgrade their homes and send their children to school.

In addition, four elephant-proof granaries were built in chiefdoms in Malawi. These robustly built granaries protect harvests from crop-raiding elephants known to destroy homes to reach grain stores. The granaries are part of IFAW's strategies to help reduce human-wildlife conflict.

Construction workers build a future income

Since 2020, we have hired and provided skills training to a total of 543 local workers—including 195 women—to build a 130-kilometre fence along Kasungu National Park's eastern boundary in Malawi. Fence construction employed 95 people between 2023 and 2024. The park forms part of the Malawi–Zambia transfrontier conservation area. It shares a border with Zambia, which remains unfenced as part of a treaty between the two governments. The wildlife fence will

keep wildlife in the park and nearby communities safe.

In an area where few economic opportunities exist, fence construction has given many the capital they need to start new businesses, promoting the value of conservation and reducing the lure of poaching.

Honey sweetens villages' futures in China

Near Xishuangbanna National Nature Reserve, our Asian Elephant Protection project expanded to its third community, Konggeliudui, in December 2023. Villagers live on tea planting, rubber cutting, and farming. However, entering the forest brings the risk of encountering wild elephants. We provided 100 beehives and technical training to explore appropriate conservation and development strategies for this village. Eco-tourism, community waste disposal and composting, and eco-friendly products will be considered.

Honey from another project village, Daotangqing, was displayed at the COP28 climate change conference in Dubai as the first zero-carbon honey produced in China. The honey was co-launched with Alibaba's new retail brand, Freshippo.

Training of response teams in Zambia and Zimbabwe

At its core, IFAW's Room to Roam initiative emphasises the importance of community involvement in achieving conservation success. This recognition stems from the understanding that any conservation effort that overlooks the needs and aspirations of people living alongside wildlife will fail.

In partnership with local organisations in Zimbabwe and Zambia, IFAW has initiated the process of creating Primary Response Teams (PRTs) to enable and unite communities to take swift action to address human-wildlife conflicts while safeguarding both humans and elephants. A group of 40 community members has completed training in Zimbabwe, and an equal number will soon receive similar training in Zambia.

▲ 70-year-old Daotangqing villager and project participant Baolin Luo holds a photo of himself on a card that will be mailed to the carbon elimination partners along with the mangoes.

◀ Community members store their harvest in an elephant-proof granary outside Kasungu National Park, Malawi.





Photo: © Justine Rice

Case study: Reconnecting and regenerating habitat to help wildlife and communities adapt to climate change

IFAW and long-term partners Great Eastern Ranges embarked on a new project in FY24 to help wildlife adapt and communities build resilience to climate change. Koala Climate Corridors works with local groups, landholders and communities to reconnect and regenerate habitat to help local wildlife like koalas have safe spaces to move as conditions and food sources shift, while also supporting the needs of long-distance migrators such as rainbow bee-eaters. Koalas are an umbrella species and are one of the 10 global species most vulnerable to climate change and by focusing on them, we can help countless other species.

The first of these corridors was pioneered in south-east Queensland across the Bunyas to Border, which stretches from the Bunya Mountains to the Border Ranges. The region is rich in biodiversity, lush rainforest, and unique volcanic

landforms that also support a growing population of people.

On-the-ground activities led by Lockyer Uplands Catchment Inc (LUCI) included the planting of trees and shrubs, management of major threats such as weeds, installation of wildlife drinkers and nest boxes, and capacity-building workshops and events.

Key to this project has been empowering and equipping landholders to make their properties more wildlife-friendly. An example of this is through the installation of wildlife drinkers which aim to prevent the need for koalas to come to the ground as often, reducing their risk of being trampled by cattle, hit by cars, or attacked by dogs. Providing supplementary water also becomes incredibly vital for all wildlife during times of drought and post bushfires.

With climate disasters increasing in frequency and duration, it's vital we empower people to build the resilience of their communities, wildlife, and land so we can all adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Bunyas to Border is the first of many climate corridors the GER-IFAW partnership hopes to create, giving more people and animals the chance to thrive.

▲ Six target species will benefit from this project: koala, greater glider, glossy black cockatoo, brush-tailed rock wallaby, grey-headed flying fox and rainbow bee-eater.

◀ More than 3500 trees have been planted and dozens of nest boxes and wildlife water drinkers installed across 53 properties.

Biodiversity Conservation

International Policy





10

climate summit
events attended
by our policy team

52

of our policy
recommendations
adopted by parties
to international
conventions

Biodiversity needs a seat at the table

Protecting sharks and other species from international wildlife trade

CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) aims to ensure that international trade in wild animals and plants does not threaten these species' survival. The IFAW team participated in CITES Standing and Animals committee meetings, which meet regularly to ensure the Convention is being implemented effectively by governments around the world.

A key focus for IFAW at this year's meetings was to ensure the latest CITES protections for sharks are now properly enforced by governments. Extinction threatens more than 70% of species popular in the global shark fin trade, so protecting them is more important than ever. The majority of shark species in international trade are now listed under Appendix II listing by CITES, meaning governments must demonstrate any trade is legal and sustainable before it can take place.

For the first time since sharks were initially protected by CITES more than 10 years ago, governments decided to investigate several countries where trade volumes raise sustainability concerns. This compliance process can potentially lead to sanctions. IFAW supported the process with experts, attending meetings which investigated several shark trading countries, including countries in Latin America and the Middle East, where we are now working to provide policy advice and training on how to identify shark products and improve enforcement.

The support provided to governments is made possible by financial contributions from The Flotilla Foundation and Shark Conservation Fund.

Progress on protecting migratory species

Government leaders at the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP14) to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) passed a range of new measures to protect threatened migratory species. We were thrilled to see this included protection for 14 new species, subspecies, and populations, including the sand tiger shark, Lahille's bottlenose dolphin, and Baltic harbour porpoise, in line with IFAW recommendations.

Hosted in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, in February 2024, COP14 had the slogan, 'Nature knows no borders'. Because migratory species journey across borders and political boundaries, their survival depends on international collaboration and transboundary conservations efforts.

At the summit, we organised side events with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to highlight the importance of collaboration and landscape connectivity.

Children's art contest celebrates wildlife

For the sixth year, we hosted the World Wildlife Day International Youth Art Contest in partnership with the Secretariat of CITES and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

More than 3,000 entries from 141 countries and sovereign areas reflected on the theme 'Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation'.

The winners were four-year-old Isaac Alvin Lam (Hong Kong SAR People's Republic of China) in the traditional art category for his piece depicting a den of snakes, and 18-year-old Noh Sangeun (Republic of Singapore) in the digital art category, whose entry featured cranes.

The judging panel included representatives from IFAW, CITES, UNDP, Jackson Wild, and WildLabs. Guest judges included Jim Toomey, celebrated syndicated cartoonist; Trevor Tillman, manager of photo and video production at baby lifestyle brand Munchkin, Inc.; and Poonyisa Sodsai, last year's winner.

We were heartened to see such passion from the next generation of conservationists.

EU adopts Environmental Crime Directive

The EU strengthened environmental protection by adopting a revised Environmental Crime Directive. We are pleased to see that most of our key recommendations have been included in the adopted text. However, some shortcomings remain, like the still inadequate limits for penalties and sanctions on environmental crimes. IFAW remains committed to tackling environmental offences in the EU and will continue to collaborate with policymakers and stakeholders to ensure an effective implementation of the new Directive.

- IFAW's Bernard Tulito (second from right) and Evan Mkala (center) engaging with the community in Kitenden Conservancy, Kenya.



How we gave a voice to wildlife at international climate summits

When global leaders meet to discuss climate change, we join their conversations to explain how important healthy wildlife populations are to a liveable climate for us all.

Unless animals and their habitats are protected in law and policies, we cannot be sure these places will remain secure over time. But agreements alone are not enough. We also need strong funding mechanisms so all countries can implement conservation work, train law enforcement officials on wildlife crime, and ensure communities see the benefits of healthy ecosystems.

We provide direct support and advice to governments based on our extensive project experience. In FY24, we represented the interests of wildlife—and, by extension, all of us—at two global summits by encouraging decision-makers to shift from making promises to acting decisively.

Africa Climate Summit

Kenya hosted the inaugural Africa Climate Summit in Nairobi in September 2023, the first summit of its kind held on the African continent. We saw it as an opportunity to show that African nations, people, and landscapes have many of the solutions we need to address the climate crisis.

We were one of the few conservation organisations represented, and our teams are based locally in Africa. We advocated

for the protection and restoration of Africa's rich biodiversity and for actively supporting Indigenous communities and ancestral leaders as the true custodians of nature and agents of change. We underscored these messages by highlighting our Room to Roam initiative, which engages with communities on innovative conservation solutions.

We were pleased that the resulting Nairobi Declaration underscored the significance of biodiversity, but disappointed that the Declaration's Call to Action included only a limited reference to biodiversity and nature. This shows the importance of our joining these conversations and further advocating for wildlife's role in climate action.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change annual conference (COP28)

At COP28 in Dubai, we emphasised the importance of recognising wild animals as not only victims of climate change but also as a vital solution.

We hosted several side events to discuss the importance of wildlife for climate mitigation and why it is so important not only to restore vegetation but also to

actively support, rescue, and recover individual animals. Another topic was the ecological losses and damages caused by climate change; we called for ecological considerations to be included in the Loss and Damage Fund and national climate action plans.

On COP28 Nature Day, we released a report highlighting the missed opportunities for including wildlife conservation in the climate action plans of African nations and least developed countries (LDCs). We also joined a coalition of 18 organisations calling for the protection and restoration of wild ecosystems to be central to global climate policy and action.

Advocating for animals all year round

Although international summits take place for only a few days, our team works throughout the year to position IFAW as a leading global NGO in international policy forums. We have become a respected, valued contributor to these discussions, so leaders seek us out for advice and resources as they work to implement and improve wildlife conservation policies in their own countries.

It's all a vital part of our effort to ensure wildlife and people thrive together in the place we call home.

By saving nature, we can save ourselves



Photo: © Tyson Mayr

Advocating for stronger nature laws to protect Australia’s wildlife and wild places

The Australian government is rewriting the country’s national nature laws for the first time in 20 years. IFAW is working with Australia’s largest alliance of environmental groups—the Places You Love Alliance—to fight for stronger laws that protect nature. The laws to date have failed to protect our unique animals and the places we share and call home. IFAW is calling for stronger environmental laws that genuinely protect and restore nature. Critically, they need to include an independent and properly enforced Environmental Protection Authority which will monitor and enforce the laws. Australia has ambitious global environmental targets to reach, and it can only meet those obligations by creating and implementing strong national laws. As part of this campaign, we are urging the public to speak up for stronger laws that stop nature destruction and an independent regulator to enforce them.



Reviewing the strategy in place to protect and conserve koalas into the future

Land clearing and fragmented habitat, increasing cases of disease, dog attacks, and vehicle strikes, along with the impacts of the Black Summer 2019-2020 bushfires pushed the New South Wales (NSW) koala population to be uplisted to endangered. In a bid to save Australia’s most iconic species, the NSW government asked koala experts, scientists, conservationists, and the community to have their say in a review of the NSW Koala Strategy. As part of this review, the government held a Koala Summit, which IFAW attended along with other experts, conservation groups, and Indigenous representatives. IFAW continues to advocate for a halt to the root cause of the koala crisis—which is habitat destruction.



Saving Sydney’s koala population

The Campbelltown koala population is critically important because it is one of the few NSW koala populations that appears to be growing. Despite being the only population in the Sydney basin that escaped the Black Summer bushfires, it is facing another serious and potentially irreversible threat—a housing development and series of associated road upgrades in an area already known to be notoriously dangerous for koalas. IFAW has been advocating alongside Save Sydney’s Koalas for years to make this housing development koala friendly. We have also encouraged the public to speak up by asking the federal government to act.



Photo: © Mosswood Wildlife

- ◀ IFAW continues to call for stronger nature laws to protect Australia's unique animals.
- ▲ IFAW also advocates for increased protection of our oceans.



Wildlife Rescue



Because every animal has intrinsic value

Many of the animals we rescue are teetering on the knife-edge of extinction. For critically endangered species—such as North Atlantic right whales, orangutans, African forest elephants, pangolins, and Masai giraffes—saving the life of one animal can make a difference for the survival of its population and the species.

Although the threat of extinction adds urgency to our work, it's not the only reason we rescue wildlife. We do it because we believe that every individual animal matters.

Sometimes our rescues make news headlines, and the world gets to see the ingenuity, courage, and dedication of our people. But we do this work every single day, all around the world.

Whether facing horrific wildfires to save koalas in Australia and giant anteaters in Brazil or jumping on a rescue boat on a frigid Cape Cod morning in December and rushing to the aid of stranded dolphins, our teams devote their lives to saving as many animals as we can.

And we don't stop there. We work with partners worldwide to rehabilitate and release wild animals back to where they belong, which for many rescued animals, can take months or even years. For those who can no longer survive in the wild, we find suitable sanctuaries where they can live the fullest lives possible.

Every animal is important. Rescuing them is simply the right thing to do.

◀ An endangered seahorse rehabilitated with CESTHA is released back to the wild.

Wildlife Rescue

Wildlife Rescue





4,885

wild animals
rescued worldwide

1,194

rescued wild
animals released

11

wildlife rescue
groups supported
globally, including
seven partners

344

grey parrots
seized from illegal
trade in the
Democratic Republic
of the Congo

277,828

animals helped
(117,219 wildlife)

20

elephants rescued
or treated in-situ
in Asia and Africa

8

countries improved
their capacity to
handle live animal
seizures

5

countries were
supported through
CARE: Brazil, Congo,
Uganda, Indonesia,
and Guyana

From rescue to release



Live Animals Seized in Trade (LAST)

When law enforcement officials catch smugglers with living animals, they need specialist knowledge, equipment, and facilities to prevent the animals from suffering even more. Our LAST project helps officials care for the animals they rescue.

In FY24, we supported Legal Atlas—an organisation dedicated to making the law understandable and accessible globally—to create resources that help frontline officers improve animal welfare, evidence collection, and biosafety.

We also launched two online courses to show officials how to safely and humanely confiscate live animals. The courses are available in multiple languages through our Academy of Rescue and Conservation and are part of the Confiscated Animals – Rescue and Enforcement (CARE) project, supported by the U.S. Department of State: Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs and operated with Jakarta Animal Aid Network (JAAN), the Jane Goodall Institute, and Legal Atlas.

The way animals are treated immediately after rescue can be the difference between life and death. Two examples are Ikoto the baby bonobo in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Logos the baby orangutan in Indonesia. Like many smuggled baby primates, Ikoto and Logos probably witnessed the slaughter of their families. Fortunately, our partners work closely with law enforcement and cared for them quickly after their rescue, improving their chances of rehabilitation. We are so grateful to Lola ya Bonobo (Friends of Bonobos) and JAAN for their life-saving work.

Giant anteater Joaquim released in Brazil

Fires destroyed more than one million hectares of Brazil's Pantanal—the world's largest tropical wetlands—in 2023. In November, Brazil also recorded its hottest temperature ever: 44.8 degrees Celsius (112.6 degrees Fahrenheit). Climate change and human actions are

devastating vulnerable ecosystems, threatening species like the giant anteater.

That's why every animal we can save is a victory. Joaquim, an orphaned giant anteater rescued when he was less than a month old, is one of them. Thanks to the Tamanduá Institute's Orphans of Fire project, Joaquim was rehabilitated and released in February 2024.

Orphaned African elephants learn survival skills

For endangered species such as the African savannah elephant, every individual is critical for the species' survival. Our partners work to simulate family groups to help these orphaned calves learn to interact and gain vital skills needed for survival in the wild.

Elliot the elephant calf was airlifted to safety after being separated from his herd. Now at the Wild is Life Zimbabwe Elephant Nursery, he is learning from older elephants and carers.

Ndewa ('Beloved'), another elephant calf, was found weak and alone in Zambia. She is now safe at the Lusaka Elephant Nursery, where we work with Game Rangers International to rehabilitate orphaned calves.

Beijing Raptor Rescue Center (BRRC) protects birds from extreme weather

Our BRRC admitted 218 raptors in 2023, including 111 orphans. To prevent babies from associating humans with food, rehabilitators feed them by dressing as a tree and using a hand puppet resembling a mother bird.

During the extreme summer heat—an effect of climate change—the BRRC installed shady sunscreen nets and spray devices. The cages also had shelters where the birds could stay dry. In August, China Global Television Network (CGTN) hosted a livestream to show this work to the public.

One great success story is a baby Chinese goshawk, found in a village during catastrophic rainstorms. Villagers called BRRC for advice, caring for the baby bird until rehabilitators could retrieve it. After a month of rehabilitation, we released the Chinese goshawk back into the wild.

Rangers in Africa address human threats to wildlife

In Kenya in September 2023, IFAW-supported community wildlife rangers rescued 12 giraffes trapped on a farm by fences, dying of thirst. Fences can injure giraffes and block important migration routes.

Rangers from David Rio Community Ranger Base in Kenya found two newborn lion cubs whose mother was injured by a herder protecting his livestock. The rangers took the cubs to the Nairobi Animal Orphanage and treated the injured lioness. Lion populations are shrinking due to habitat loss, conflict with herders, and climate change.

In Zimbabwe's Hwange National Park, we supported Dete Animal Rescue Trust (DART) to remove lethal snares set by poachers. In less than one year, the number of snares detected has plummeted by more than 80%, and local wildlife has flourished.

Australian rehabilitators save unique animals

Australia is home to thousands of unique species—but many face extinction. Our partners rehabilitated and released some very special animals in FY24.

Bonorong Wildlife Hospital treated and released Mouse the orphaned wombat, Ripley the platypus (who likely suffered a dog attack), and Paulie the swift parrot.

Mosswood Wildlife rehabilitated and released two tawaki (the Māori name for Fiordland penguins) found thousands of kilometres from their New Zealand home.

Finally, WA Wildlife saved the life of a critically endangered western ringtail possum who was found with pneumonia and gut stasis. After some time in care, the possum made great progress and was released back to the wild.

Rehabilitators in India save culture and bear cub

Through the Centre for Bear Rehabilitation and Conservation (CBRC), we rehabilitated and released an Asiatic black bear cub found without his mother. CBRC is the only facility in India dedicated to hand-raising and rehabilitating bear cubs and is a joint effort between IFAW, the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI), and the Department of Environment and Forests of Arunachal Pradesh.

In Assam, the Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation (CWRC) treated and released a Himalayan griffon vulture, who had likely become ill from eating a poisoned goat carcass. CWRC is a collaborative effort between IFAW, WTI, and the Assam Forest Department.

Seahorse rescue in the Adriatic Sea

In FY24, IFAW worked with Centro Sperimentale per la Tutela degli Habitat APS (CESTHA) to rescue seahorses in the Adriatic Sea. These seahorses are often killed and injured in the nets of fishing trawlers coming into the Marina di Ravenna port.

The project, which places rescuers onboard the vessels, successfully reduced the negative impact of artisanal fishing on two endangered seahorse species by collecting them immediately from the fishing gear, providing rehabilitation in off-site facilities, and relocating them to areas where fishing is prohibited. The project's 75% success rate showed that once recovered and rehabilitated, the survival rate of accidentally caught seahorses is very high. In total, 136 seahorses of both

species—129 *Hippocampus hippocampus* and seven *Hippocampus guttulatus*—were rescued from fishing nets by the team.

Saving migratory birds in Lebanon

Every year, an estimated 2.6 million birds are illegally killed as they migrate over Lebanon, mainly for sport and often with cruel methods. That makes Lebanon the fourth most dangerous country in the Mediterranean Region in terms of the number of birds killed. The Lebanese Association of Migratory Birds (LAMB) works to rescue and rehabilitate birds who have been victimised by hunting and trapping.

When LAMB was officially established in 2021, it had a very primitive rescuing facility comprised of a small cage to house rescued birds while under treatment. IFAW's support, through establishing the Levant Operation for Bird Rescue (LOBR), enabled LAMB to expand its facility to have several cages with various sizes and usages (one for rehabilitation, six large, four medium, three small, and eight individual cages) to receive more injured birds to be treated and rehabilitated for release into the wild.

This year, LAMB participated in the rescue and recovery of 1,700 wild and caged birds from smugglers during a confiscation operation in Lebanon. Some birds were able to be released quickly, as they were in good condition, while others needed rehabilitation. This was believed to be one of the largest operations of its kind in Lebanon. LAMB has carried out several rescue activities of injured birds and managed to release more than 35 individual birds in 2023, after they were treated and recovered fully, to continue their migrations.

◀ Ikoto sleeping on Mama Huguette at Lola ya Bonobo rescue center. Important Note: Bonobos are NOT PETS. The bonobos pictured are with Lola ya Bonobo Sanctuary caregivers, who are trained to rehabilitate and then release orphaned bonobos. Baby bonobos are victims of the illegal trade in endangered wildlife. They have witnessed the slaughter of their families and been ripped from their natural homes. With your support, they can recover and have a chance to return to the wild one day.



Photo: © Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary

Building veterinary capacity to save more lives across Australia

In FY24 we continued to work with wildlife veterinary teams across Australia to rescue, rehabilitate, and release animals back into the wild. By supporting veterinary teams, we are helping to ensure wildlife has access to immediate, specialist treatment giving them a better chance of survival and life back in the wild. This includes the 347 koalas treated by the IFAW-supported Friends of the Koala veterinary team in New South Wales.

New critical care nursery for Tasmanian wildlife

In Tasmania, 1619 animals were treated by the veterinary team at our long-term

partner Bonorong Wildlife Hospital—the state's first and only dedicated wildlife hospital. Due to the specialist care received, hundreds of animals were released back into the wild, including Ripley the platypus. The IFAW-supported vet team found Ripley was suffering from numerous puncture wounds across his back, neck, and head caused by a suspected dog attack. After several days in care, Ripley was deemed healthy enough to be released back into the wild. Other animals the specialist veterinary team treated included critically endangered swift parrots, endangered Tasmanian devils, wedge-tailed eagles, eastern quolls, and wombats. The hospital has been undergoing an expansion, due to be completed in FY25, which IFAW was proud to support. The expansion will include a new IFAW critical care nursery building to ensure animals in Tasmania have the resources and care they need to survive and thrive long into the future.

Boosting veterinary capacity in WA

In Western Australia, IFAW supported the state's leading wildlife rescue and rehabilitation facility, WA Wildlife by boosting the team's veterinary capacity. This support contributed to the treatment of approximately 1,000 animals in just six months.

Operational support in Victoria

In Victoria, IFAW continued supporting the vital work of Mosswood Wildlife, which rescues and rehabilitates injured and orphaned wildlife. The volunteer-run team treated hundreds of animals, including koalas, in FY24.

This included two tawaki (the Māori name for Fiordland penguins) which were found thousands of kilometres from their New

Zealand home on the coast of southwest Victoria. Both birds arrived very weak and underweight, and one had a barnacle attached to its tail—an indication that it had been too weak to preen. They spent time under the expert care of the IFAW-supported team at Mosswood Wildlife until they were ready for release back into the ocean.

Increasing capacity across the country

In addition to boosting capacity, IFAW also provided vital veterinary and rescue equipment to almost 20 groups across Australia to help them save more lives. This included providing emergency aid to local wildlife rescue groups in Western Australia to help assess and rehabilitate approximately 200 animals allegedly held by an unauthorised animal rescue centre. IFAW supported Native Animal Rescue with veterinary costs, medicine and care of two critically endangered western ringtail possums.

Saving more animal lives with the IFAW Wildlife Rescue App

The IFAW Wildlife Rescue App is helping more people save more animal lives after it became available nationally in FY24. The app puts people in touch with their closest wildlife rescue group to help sick, injured, or displaced animals at the press of a button. This immediate and easy-to-access assistance can be a matter of life or death for an injured animal.

The app, which was first launched in New South Wales, reached more than 15,000 downloads this year and features more than 100 wildlife rescue organisations and independent rescuers and carers, enabling everyday people to help more injured, orphaned or displaced wildlife.

◀ Ripley was suffering from numerous puncture wounds across his back, neck, and head caused by a suspected dog attack. After several days in care, Ripley was deemed healthy enough to be released back into the wild.



- ▲ An endangered western ringtail possum receives care from an IFAW-supported team.
- ◀ The free IFAW Wildlife Rescue App helps the public save native animals, no matter where they are.

Wildlife Rescue

Marine Mammal Rescue

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





140

stranded dolphins
and porpoises
released back to
the ocean

20

marine mammals
released with
satellite tags

27

necropsies completed
on stranded marine
mammals to determine
cause of death

Every animal rescued plays a part in protecting the ocean's biodiversity



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

Celebrating 25 years of rescue on Cape Cod

Having rescued over 7,000 animals, IFAW's Marine Mammal Rescue team celebrated an incredible 25 years of life-saving action in November 2023.

What began as a small group of passionate individuals has developed into a team of specialist staff and more than 200 professionally trained volunteers.

Our team has established response techniques that significantly increase stranded animals' chances of survival. In the late 1990s, we could release only 1 in 10 rescued dolphins. Today, we release 7 in 10—and we are always striving to improve.

With innovative scientific research, fresh thinking, and bold action, we challenged how marine mammal rescue was done and changed the fate of countless stranded animals. For example, in the early days, most organisations believed that releasing a single animal from a social

species would result in its certain death. Our satellite tracking technology proved that healthy, individually stranded dolphins can successfully reintegrate into a pod and survive.

The team's expertise, willingness to brave the elements, and boundless compassion have been instrumental in our success. Now, we share our knowledge with partners around the world and offer courses through IFAW's Academy of Rescue and Conservation.

Two stranded Risso's dolphins rescued in one day

We responded to two separate calls of stranded Risso's dolphins on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, in December 2023.

The first call to our stranding hotline came late at night, but response was not safe after dark. Our Marine Mammal Rescue

team reached the site early the following day and found the adult female Risso's dolphin alive.

Estimated to weigh about 315 kilograms (700 pounds), the dolphin required more than 30 responders—including IFAW veterinarians, staff, and volunteers, as well as assistance from the Cape Cod National Seashore, Center for Coastal Studies, and AmeriCorps Cape Cod—to move it into our mobile dolphin rescue vehicle.

Then a second call came about a calf a few kilometres away. Our team found the calf stranded alone and transported it to the rescue vehicle.

Responders conducted diagnostic health tests and treatments and found that, although stressed from stranding, both were healthy. Fitted with temporary satellite tags, they were released at Herring Cove Beach in Provincetown, Massachusetts.

Kenya's coastal communities learn marine rescue skills

With over 600 kilometres (370 miles) of shoreline, Kenya is a haven for marine life like whales, dolphins, and sea turtles. The coast is also vital for communities to earn livelihoods, so caring for the ecosystem safeguards families' well-being.

Sadly, East Africa's sea creatures struggle against increased marine transport activity, unsustainable fishing gear, ocean acidification from atmospheric carbon dioxide, rising water temperatures and marine heatwaves from climate change, plastic pollution, and ocean exploration. Whale and dolphin strandings and entanglements are rising.

That's why IFAW facilitated an intensive workshop, supported by the Dutch Postcode Lottery, in March 2024 to train Kenyan marine rangers, fishers, and Beach Management Unit representatives to protect marine mammals.

Led by Brian Sharp, IFAW's Senior Biologist, this world-class training showed participants the best practices in whale management and conservation. Around 35 community members joined classroom activities, with 20 participating in whale disentanglement training and dolphin stranding response.

IFAW's Academy of Rescue and Conservation will continue to hone the Kenyan marine rescuers' skills.

Marine mammals make up the world's greatest carbon sink. One whale sequesters about 33 tonnes of carbon dioxide annually, while a tree sequesters about 0.02 tonnes. Protecting these animals is essential for protecting us all from the devastating effects of climate change.

Dolphin Rescue Center opens and releases first patient

IFAW's new intensive care facility for dolphins and porpoises opened on Cape Cod in August 2023.

With cutting-edge technology and world-class expertise, the Center will improve post-release survival rates for stranded

dolphins and porpoises with acute conditions. It is also a hub for research and education, designed to welcome stranding network experts from across the country and around the globe for one-of-a-kind learning opportunities.

The first patient was a dolphin suffering from shock, seawater aspiration, and trauma from being stranded. The team provided extensive care around the clock for almost 24 hours until it regained strength. Then, fitted with a temporary satellite tag, the dolphin was successfully released.

To have the greatest chance at survival, weaker animals often require additional diagnostics, treatment, and recovery time—which we can now provide in this groundbreaking facility. The Dolphin Rescue Center is made possible by a generous contribution from the Dutch Postcode Lottery www.postcodeloterij.nl, the Girl Scouts Nation's Capital www.gscnc.org, Iain Webb and Michael Rosenzweig, and an award to IFAW from the prestigious Prescott Grant programme www.fisheries.noaa.gov/grant/john-h-prescott-marine-mammal-rescue-assistance-grant-program.

Rescuing endangered Amazon river dolphins

Cape Cod experiences more live dolphin strandings than anywhere else in the world, giving our team extensive experience with stranding response. Because of our expertise, IFAW was quickly called in to strengthen a team of rescuers on-site when unprecedented drought and extreme heat threatened the lives of many endangered Amazon and Tucuxi river dolphins in October 2023.

Water temperatures in Brazil's Lake Tefé soared to 39 degrees Celsius—more than seven degrees hotter than the normal maximum. Around 400 dolphins were trapped as water levels dropped to catastrophic lows.

Global warming has disastrous consequences for precious ecosystems like the Amazon. But these dolphins are not solely victims of climate change—by sequestering carbon and keeping their ecosystems in balance, they are also our allies in addressing it. That's one reason every individual dolphin matters.

Dr. Sarah Sharp and Kira Kasper monitored the animals, responded to dolphins in distress, and trained local teams to be prepared if a similar emergency happens in the future.

Their deployment, at the invitation of Mamirauá Institute for Sustainable Development (Instituto de Desenvolvimento Sustentável Mamirauá), was made possible thanks to the Dutch Postcode Lottery.

Seven-hour rescue saves 10 dolphins

IFAW helped release ten dolphins back to the ocean in April 2024, after an almost seven-hour stranding response in Wellfleet, Massachusetts.

Our team received a report of 11 Atlantic white-sided dolphins close to shore three hours before low tide. The dolphins were in two locations with incredibly harsh conditions.

While one animal died on scene from trauma associated with the stranding, our team rescued the others from the challenging mud. Six were transported to a deeper water release site in our one-of-a-kind mobile dolphin rescue clinic, which enables IFAW veterinarians and experts to perform health assessments and stabilise the dolphins while quickly reaching the best site for release.

The entire effort included around 45 people, including 15 AmeriCorps members and at least 30 IFAW staff and volunteers.

◀ While underway to a release site at Herring Cove Beach in Provincetown, IFAW MMR responders conduct diagnostic health tests and treatments on two stranded Risso's dolphins.

Wildlife Rescue

Disaster Response





3,249

disaster responders
trained in 13
countries

272,198

animals helped who
were impacted by
disasters

12

grants supported
to help 10 high-risk
countries prepare
for disasters

15

types of disasters
responded to,
including earthquakes,
conflicts, volcanoes,
and oil spills

Before, during, and after disasters strike



Conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

As thousands fled their homes in the DRC in early 2024, some brought livestock and pets to humanitarian camps. Sadly, families struggled to feed them, and some animals were ill.

With Sauvons nos Animaux (SNA) in the DRC and the Animal Welfare and Protection Organization (AWPO) in neighbouring Uganda, we supported animal care in camps, helped reduce the likelihood of disease outbreaks, and alleviated suffering.

Morocco earthquake and Libya floods

North Africa was hit by two devastating disasters just a few days apart in September 2023. An earthquake in Morocco and Storm Daniel in Libya killed thousands, destroyed homes, and left surviving families and animals without shelter, food, or safe water.

We helped local organisations Libyan Wildlife Trust, Al-Haya Organization for the Protection of Wildlife and Marine Organisms, and L'arche de Noé (Noah's Ark) to buy and distribute animal food and provide veterinary treatment.

Kenya flooding

In April and May 2024, heavy rains across Kenya caused devastating floods, killing 235 people and displacing over 260,000. In Nairobi's Mathare area, informal settlements were submerged, leaving homes destroyed and families stranded. Our partner, the Kenya Society for the Protection and Care of Animals, provided immediate veterinary care, built community resilience, and worked to curb the spread of disease.

Hurricane in Mexico

When Hurricane Otis hit Mexico's west coast, it threatened the vulnerable nests of critically endangered leatherback turtles.

On 30 October 2023, we deployed a disaster response team to Acapulco to coordinate rescue and relief planning. We also helped rebuild two turtle camps and provided emergency veterinary care and animal food to hundreds of pets and farm animals.

Wildfire in Hawaii

On 8 August, the Lahaina wildfire broke out on the island of Maui. Conditions of low humidity and drought combined with winds from offshore Hurricane Dora pushed the fire at a rate of about 1.6 kilometres (one mile) per minute. IFAW deployed a response team to support local partners with animal rescue, pet reunification, and recovery efforts for all species.

Floods in Brazil

As flooding devastated Brazil's southernmost state, Rio Grande do Sul, in April and May 2024, our support helped the Pantanal Technical Animal Rescue Group (GRETAP) rescue and care for over 5,000 animals.

Through our longtime partner Tamanduá Institute, we provided an emergency grant to GRETAP to mobilise their animal search and rescue and veterinary first responders. The team established temporary shelters, vaccinated animals, and reunited pets with families.

Indonesia

We supported CAN Indonesia to train 213 community members in Borneo to monitor and prevent hotspots from turning into fires and create fire breaks to protect forests and agricultural areas. During the four-month dry season, 21 animals were rescued as part of human-wildlife conflict mitigation.

In Yogyakarta, the Centre for Orangutan Protection (COP) reached another level of disaster resilience as they organised their first disaster responder training. Thirty volunteers learned from COP staff, IFAW, and local experts on how to help animals in the wake of a disaster.

On the island of Bali, the communities of Bonyoh and Bunga completed the initial phase of our pilot community resilience project in partnership with Bali Animal Welfare Association. Each community completed animal welfare assessments to develop action items, one of which was completing an animal handling training. School classrooms incorporated lessons on disaster preparedness and animal welfare to spread the knowledge across generations.

Earthquake response in Taiwan

A 7.4-magnitude earthquake jolted the sea area near Hualien, Taiwan, on 3 April 2024. This was the strongest earthquake to hit the island in 25 years. IFAW global responders deployed to assess the impact on animals and supported the recovery of two animal shelters located in remote mountain villages. Repairs to water supply systems and animal enclosures ensured rescued animals were safe and could receive the care they needed.

Oil spill in India

The team from IFAW-WTI's Emergency Relief Network (ERN) provided technical expertise on the rehabilitation and veterinary care of spot-billed pelicans rescued from the Ennore oil leak in Chennai in January 2024.

Many bird species were badly affected, including large and median egrets, pond herons, cormorants, grey herons, stilts, Caspian terns, and painted storks. The spot-billed pelicans—the only species of pelicans known to breed in India—were among the most impacted. Thanks to the team's efforts, 10 pelicans were rescued, underwent care, and were then released back to the wild.

◀ A GRETAP responder feeds stranded dogs during historic flooding in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.



Photo: © IFAW

Western Australia oil spill

IFAW deployed to help our partner WA Wildlife treat dozens of pelicans that were drenched in oil from a spill in Western Australia in July 2023.

We also hosted a webinar with a seabird and oiled wildlife response expert to share information with key stakeholders responding to this incident, and we had an expert wildlife veterinarian on standby to deploy.

Australian bushfires

As bushfire season intensifies year after year, two IFAW specialists deployed to help wildlife in November 2023. The first, an IFAW animal rescue officer, joined Wildcare Australia and Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary on black walks, searching for wildlife in the charred landscape. The second was specialist koala-detection dog Bear, trained by IFAW and the University of the Sunshine Coast's Detection Dogs for Conservation team, who found five surviving koalas in a fire-affected area in Queensland.

Conflict in Ukraine

From hedgehogs and wild hamsters to captive lions, we helped animals survive the ongoing war in Ukraine.

The First Private Hedgehogery in Kyiv received support from IFAW to buy supplies and equipment, including crates, electric batteries in case of power outages, a washing machine for reusable towels, and boxes for storing animal food—all to help rehabilitate rescued hedgehogs.

With our support, the Ukrainian Nature Conservation Group rescued European



Photo: Floris Tils / © IFAW

hamsters and released them in safer areas. We also helped Wild Animal Rescue in Kyiv to rescue and transport several lions to safety when their private owners couldn't care for them. A lioness and her three cubs are now in the Yorkshire Wildlife Park in the UK, and three adult lions are in Parc de l'Auxois in France.

In March 2024, we issued a grant to Element of Life to deliver free vaccination and microchipping services to 7,000 pets of internally displaced people. Another emergency grant enabled UAnimals and other local organisations to evacuate 38 horses from a riding school in Kharkiv on 18 May 2024, just 12 days before the school was destroyed by missiles. By June 2024, we had been active in Ukraine for almost 2 1/2 years and helped close to 192,000 animals in need.

Storms and floods in France

Severe weather in France in late October and early November 2023 had a major impact on the lives of people and animals. Hundreds of thousands of people had no access to potable water or electricity, and some had to evacuate from their homes. Many animals drowned, and many farms had their infrastructure, shelter, and food storage destroyed.

IFAW supported seven local wildlife rescue organisations who took care of hundreds of injured and distressed animals, including birds, sheep, hedgehogs, turtles, tortoises, and seals.

Wildfires in Greece

Hundreds of wildfires blazed through Greece in summer 2023. Though some were human caused, they were all fuelled by extreme temperatures, prolonged heatwaves, and drought. IFAW supported ANIMA, a nonprofit near Athens that operates the main wildlife First Aid Station in Greece.

In July alone, ANIMA received over 1,700 animals, most arriving dehydrated and exhausted or burned. Among the animals were 400 tortoises, 15 griffon vultures, over 800 swifts too young to migrate to Africa, and nearly 100 lesser kestrels that tried to escape the heat by jumping from their nests. In early September, we also deployed a small team, including an expert from SOPTOM, to help with rescue and rehabilitation. Together with ANIMA and local NGO Save Your Hood, they successfully released 148 rehabilitated tortoises close to their original homes.

Disaster preparedness

Throughout the year, IFAW's response team has worked around the globe to help save as many animals as possible during disasters. What can help save even more lives is for people to be prepared before a disaster strikes. That is why IFAW runs an ongoing #DisasterReady campaign, with specific activities to coincide with National Preparedness Month in the US in September and the UN International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction in October.

The multichannel campaign has encouraged people to protect pets, wildlife, and farm animals by downloading, sharing, and acting on animal disaster preparedness resources. These resources include checklists on how to prepare pets for a disaster, what to pack in a pet disaster kit, and how to support wildlife in need in your area.

▲ IFAW's Céline Sissler-Beinvenu releases Mr. Acropolis the tortoise back to the wild after wildfires in Greece.

◀ IFAW Animal Rescue Officer Robert Leach with the rescue team cleaning a pelican impacted by the oil spill in Western Australia.



Photo: © Chris Gauthier

Preparing for Australia's bushfire season

In the lead up to summer, IFAW was busy ensuring wildlife groups and carers across the country were prepared to respond in case disaster struck. We facilitated free emergency evacuation workshops to help guide wildlife rescue groups and carers to create evacuation plans. We hosted one of these workshops at the Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference in Perth in August 2023.

We also upskilled Friends of the Koala, Northern Rivers Wildlife Hospital, Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital, Northern Rivers wildlife carers, Tweed Valley wildlife carers, and WIRES through 'black walk'

training where teams learned how to safely and effectively search firegrounds for surviving wildlife.

Bushfire preparedness and response cannot be achieved by one individual or sole group which is why IFAW continues to serve as the conduit between wildlife rescue groups and government agencies. We're ensuring that not only local wildlife groups are being heard at the policy-making level, but also that government policies are understood by those on the ground. This includes working closely with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Bushfire Emergency Response for Wildlife team and the Environmental Services Functional Area of the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). We're also leading the Northern Rivers Wildlife Network's Emergency Response group. Our support stretches to

Western Australia, where we are a core member of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development's Committee for Animal Welfare in Emergencies.

As a result, we're strengthening a well-coordinated emergency response plan for wildlife across multiple levels of government, in regional networks, and in priority regions.

Across the ocean in New Zealand, we have been working the Ministry of Primary Industries to become a member of the Animal Welfare Emergency Management group. Through this partnership, we will help strengthen animal rescue capacity while also providing expertise to the government in future disasters.





Photo: © UniSC

Emergency support after Cyclone Jasper impacts wildlife

When Tropical Cyclone Jasper caused widespread damage and flooding in far north Queensland, IFAW was quick to respond. Subsequent extreme weather events further impacted wildlife, especially birds and kangaroos, hindering rescue efforts and damaging enclosures. IFAW covered critical veterinary costs enabling animals to get expert help as soon as possible and provided vital supplies to local groups including food, medication and milk formula and bottles. We also supported groups with recovery by helping rebuild destroyed enclosures with improved resiliency against future disasters.

Two new promising candidates train to join detection dog team

IFAW and long-term partner University of the Sunshine Coast (UniSC) set out to find another four-legged member to add to Detection Dogs for Conservation (DDC) team. The right dog for the job will join a specialised team of canine conservationists—including UniSC x IFAW koala detection dog Bear who can detect koalas by the scent of their fur, Billie-Jean who finds fresh koala poo for DNA sampling, and recent recruit Austin, who can identify both koala and quoll habitat. Their high energy and obsessiveness made it difficult for all three dogs to find a suitable home at animal refuge shelters, but it's those same qualities that made them perfect for detection dogs. Two promising candidates have been

found and have been undergoing training with the IFAW and DDC teams. Summer is a border collie and an ex-frisbee show dog while Loki is an ex-farm dog. They'll continue to undergo training to determine if they're a suitable fit to join the team.



▲ Members of the Detection Dogs for Conservation team, with UniSC x IFAW koala detection dog Bear.

◀ An IFAW-coordinated rescue of a koala in a fireground.



Partners

Our corporate, institutional, and foundation supporters and partners

Successful conservation requires a cross-industry approach. IFAW is grateful to our government, corporate, institutional, and foundation supporters and partners for their contributions. Without them, the incredible work we accomplished over the last year would not have been possible. Our supporters and partners enable us to deliver sustainable, meaningful change through financial or in-kind donations, network connections, and raising awareness. Thanks to their support, we helped 277,828 animals during this past fiscal year, and we improved animal welfare and conservation practices in 598 communities.

We are so grateful these supporters and partners choose to prioritise rescue and conservation. Together, we will continue to build a future where animals and people thrive together.

Our impact in FY24 was made possible by, among others:

Individuals and family foundations

Anonymous (6)	Mr. Alan Crawford and Ms. Barbara Crawford	Robert & Kelly Kaplan Foundation	The RLH Foundation
John M. and Therese M. Adams	Daidone SF Foundation	Maue Kay Foundation	Bridget Rose Foundation, Inc.
The Almus Foundation	Joyce C. Doria	Carolyn and James S. Key	Ms. Tracy Rothstein
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Robert Cotton	Kaplan Family Foundation	A.B. Regester Foundation	Elise Zoli
		Timothy Rivenbark	



Corporation, foundation, and government partners

Anonymous foundations (2)	Greater Milwaukee Foundation's Arthur T. Anderson Family Fund	North Sails	Stichting Varda
A Kinder World Foundation		Ocean Family Foundation	The Tres Chicas Foundation
Anicom Holdings, Inc.	The IDEXX Foundation	Oceans 5	U.S. Agency for International Development
Arctic Fox	InCord (International Cordage East, Ltd.)	OMEGA	U.S. Department of State
Australian Government, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	Language Technology Group Pty Ltd.	Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund	Leonard Joel	Nationale Postcode Loterij	The Walt Disney Company
David Rio Chai & Tea	Margarete-Breuer-Stiftung (MBS)	Rescue & Recover Fund by BNP Paribas	<p>▲ One of 1,700 wild and caged birds rescued from smugglers during a confiscation operation by IFAW partner Lebanese Association of Migratory Birds (LAMB) is released back to the wild.</p>
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH	The Mary Alice Fortin Foundation	Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors	
European Commission	Mars, Incorporated	RTI International	
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency	John J. Sacco and Edith L. Sacco Charitable Foundation	
The Flotilla Foundation	Alexander McCausland Charitable Trust	Salesforce	
Fondation Equestrio	Munchkin, Inc.	Shark Conservation Fund	
Foundation M	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	The Sam Simon Charitable Giving Foundation	
Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation		Stichting High Seas Alliance	

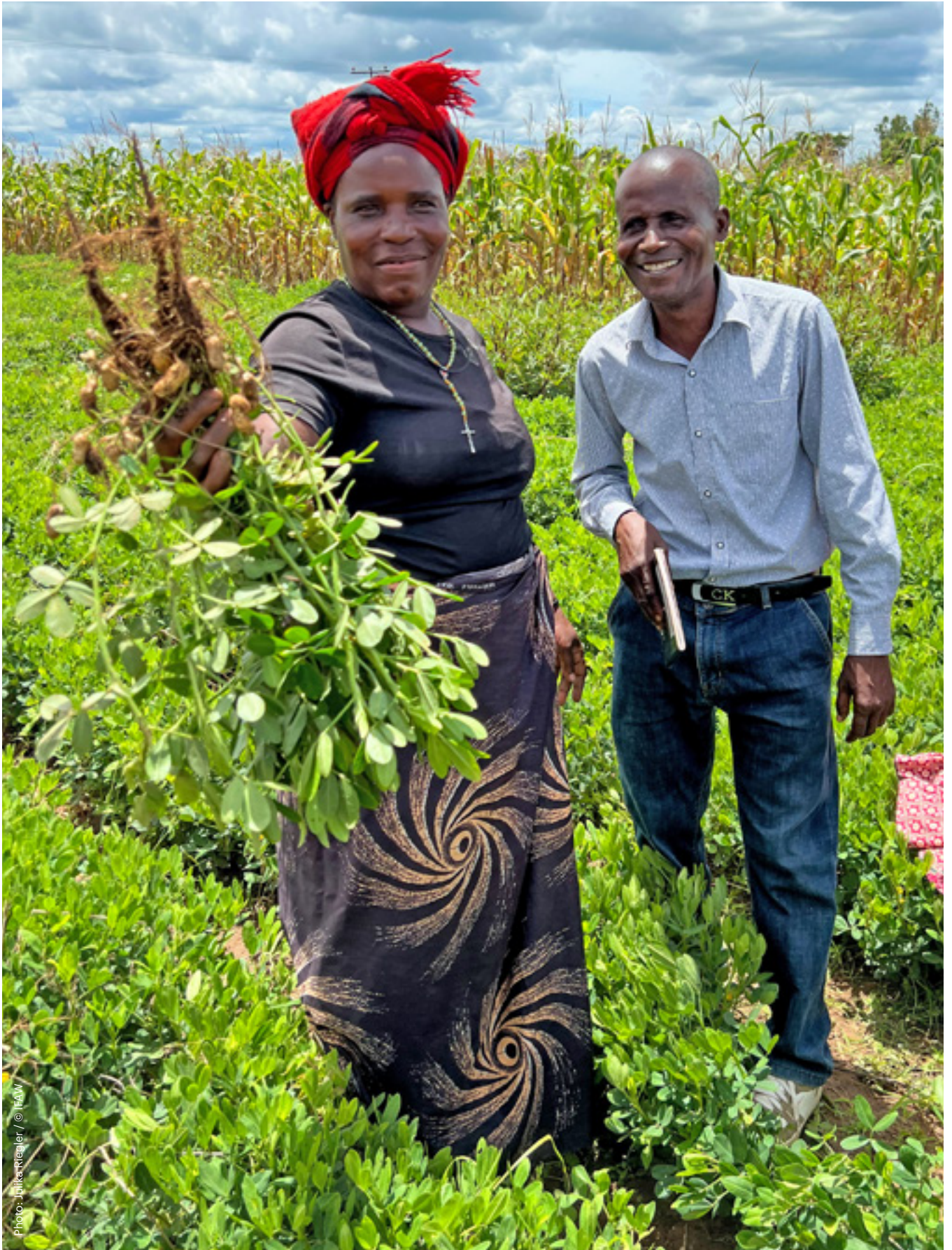


Photo: Julika Rietler / © ITAW

Our partners, organisations, and communities on the ground

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

Our work is made possible by our partners, including:

African Wildlife Foundation	Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime	Mosswood Wildlife	Union of Nature
Al Ma'wa for Nature and Wildlife Foundation	Global Rewilding Alliance	Mountain View Wildlife Rehabilitation	United for Wildlife
Amboseli Ecosystem Trust (AET)	Haytap Hayvan Hakları Federasyonu	Nature4Climate	Universal Ranger Support Alliance
Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition	High Seas Alliance	Nature Crime Alliance	University of Pretoria's Conservation Ecology Research Unit
Asia for Animals	House of Cats Ernesto Sanctuary	Nature Positive Initiative	University of the Sunshine Coast's Detection Dogs for Conservation
Big Life Foundation (BLF)	HUHA Charitable Trust NZ	Ocean & Climate Platform	WA Wildlife
Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary	Humane Society of the United States	OceanCare	WATAN Foundation
Cape Leopard Trust	Instituto Tamandú	Olgulului Land Trust (OLT)	Wild Animal Rescue
Centro Sperimentale per la Tutela degli Habitat	International Alliance against Health Risks in Wildlife Trade	Olive Ridley Project – Kenya	Wild is Life
Climate Action Network	International Conservation Caucus Foundation (US)	Pelagos Cetacean Research Institute	Wildlife Conservation Society
Coalition to End Wildlife Trafficking Online	International Ranger Federation	Poznań Zoo	Wildlife and Countryside Link
Community Markets for Conservation (COMACO)	International Union for Conservation of Nature	Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature	Wildlife Trust of India
Conservation Action Network Indonesia	Jane Goodall Institute	Seas At Risk	Wild Welfare
Conservation Lower Zambezi (CLZ)	Jakarta Animal Aid Network	Speak Out For Animals (SOFA)	World Wildlife Fund
Deep Sea Conservation Coalition	Kenya Marine Mammal Research and Conservation	Supreme Council for Environment	Yayasan Bali Animal Welfare Association
Dete Animal Rescue Trust	Kenya Wildlife Service	Taita Taveta Wildlife Conservancies Association (TTWCA)	Zambia Department of National Parks and Wildlife
Freeland Foundation	Lebanese Association for Migratory Birds	The Big Cat Sanctuary Tsavo Trust (TT)	Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority
Friends of the Koala	Legal Atlas	Two Thumbs Wildlife Trust	
Game Rangers International	Lucky Animal Protection Shelter	Uganda Wildlife Authority	
Great Eastern Ranges	Malawi Department of National Parks and Wildlife	Ukrainian Small Animal Veterinary Association	

◀ Elizabeth Chete, a farmer and single mother who has successfully implemented climate-smart farming methods taught to her by IFAW's partner COMACO, and now leads other farmers in doing the same.



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 FY24, we want to extend another heartfelt thanks to all those who have supported us and shared our vision of animals and people thriving together.



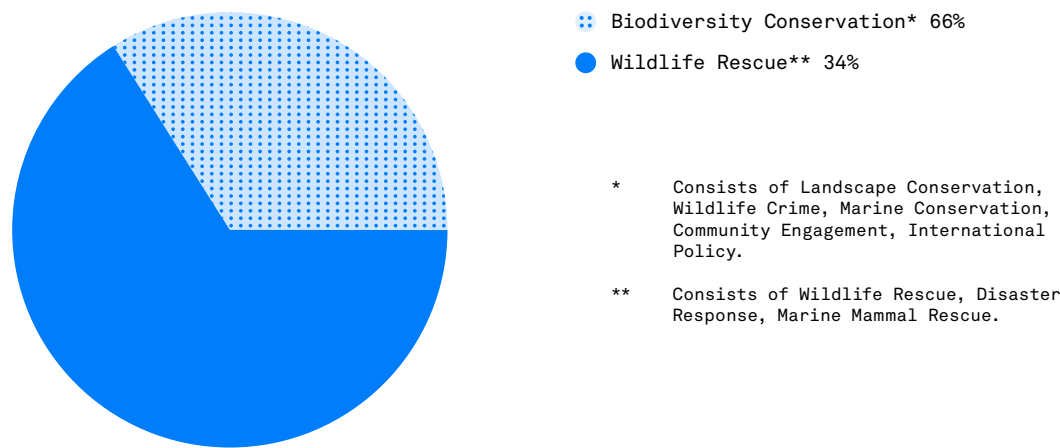
Photo: Olivia Katz / © IFAW

Worldwide financial overview

Programme priority expenditures

IFAW as a global coalition of charitable organisations, allocates donor contributions and other resources efficiently to maximise impact for animals.

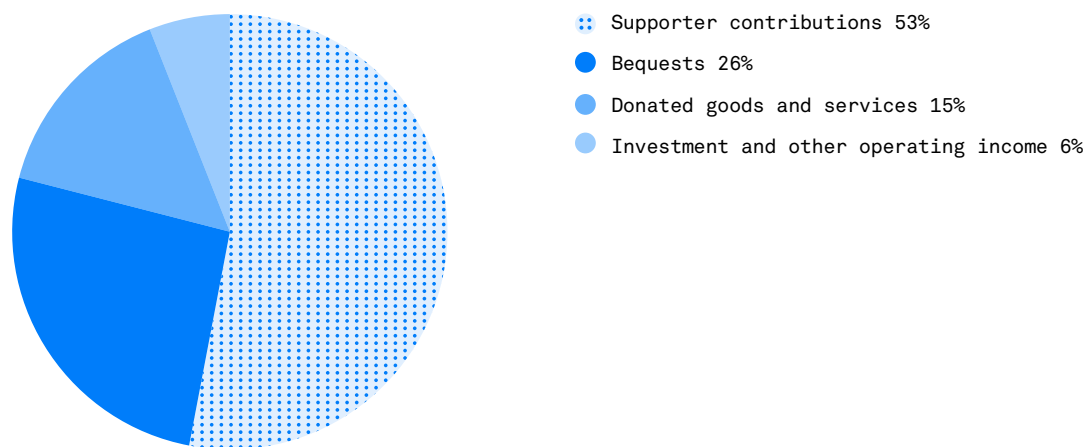
1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024



Diverse ways of support

In FY24, IFAW had 749,148 donors from around the world. IFAW welcomes gifts and bequests of all sizes.

1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024



Combined financial statements

Combined financial statements unaudited* for the years ended 30 June 2024 and 2023.
Figures below in thousands of US dollars.

Statement of financial position

Assets	2024	2023
Cash and cash equivalents	17,569	22,215
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	20,733	24,111
Fixed assets, net	18,075	19,535
Investments	48,536	48,104
Total assets	104,913	113,965
Liabilities	2024	2023
Accounts payable and other current liabilities	10,454	11,856
Notes payable	10,705	12,144
Total liabilities	21,160	24,000
Net assets	83,753	89,965
Total liabilities and net assets	104,913	113,965

* 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 of America.

Statement of activities

Revenues	2024	2023
Supporter contributions	52,265	58,335
Bequests	25,347	26,406
Donated goods and services	14,689	32,318
Investment and other operating income	5,728	4,339
Total revenues, gains and other support	98,030	121,398
Expenses	2024	2023
Total programme and operating expenses	103,697	127,372
Excess (deficit) of revenue over expenses	(5,667)	(5,974)

Allocation of programme and operating expenses

Year ended 30 June 2024. IFAW is a global network of nonprofit affiliates in the following locations:

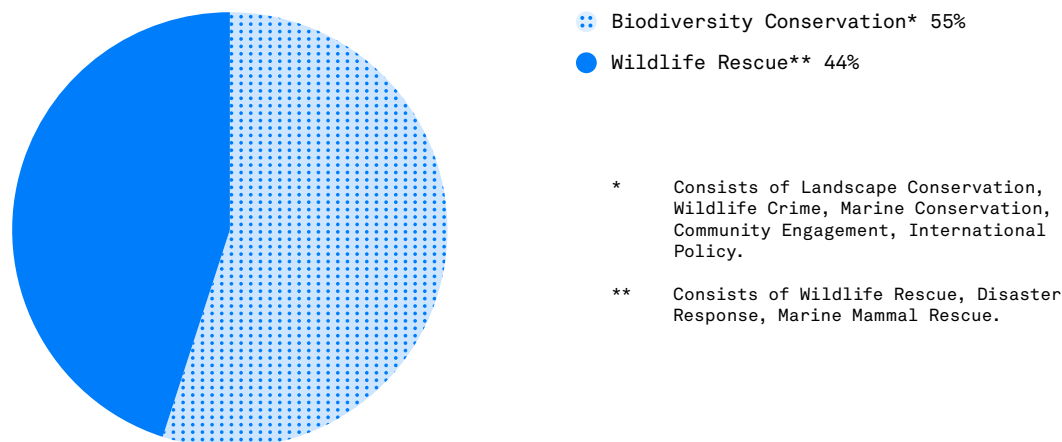
Entity	Location	Programme and programme support	Fundraising
International Fund for Animal Welfare, Inc.	United States	87.2%	12.8%
International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)	United Kingdom	85.5%	14.5%
International Fund for Animal Welfare Inc./ Fonds international pour la Protection des animaux inc.	Canada	85.9%	14.1%
Stichting IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare)	The Netherlands	85.1%	14.9%
IFAW Internationaler Tierschutz-Fonds gGmbH	Germany	87.2%	12.8%
Fonds International pour la protection des animaux (IFAW France)	France	82.4%	17.6%
International Fund for Animal Welfare (Australia) Pty Limited	Australia	90.4%	9.6%
International Fund for Animal Welfare NPC	South Africa	90.3%	9.7%
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	91.0%	9.0%

Australia financial overview

Programme priority expenditures

IFAW allocates donor contributions and other resources efficiently to maximise impact for animals. \$7,6 million went directly to advance programme priorities and save more animals.

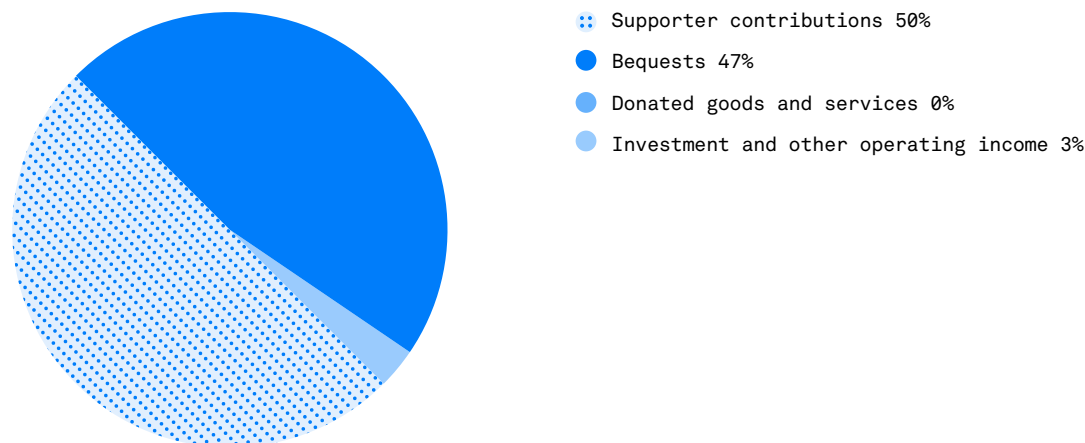
1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024



Diverse ways of support

In FY24, IFAW had 37,298 donors in Australia. IFAW welcomes gifts and bequests of all sizes.

1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024



Revenue and expenses

Figures below in thousands of Australian dollars for the years ended 30 June 2024 and 2023.

Revenues	2023	2022
Supporter contributions	3.461	4.451
Bequests	3.415	10.829
Donated goods and services	-	-
Investment and other operating income	225	243
Total revenues, gains and other support	7.101	15.523

Expenses	2023	2022
Programme	7.554	6.475
Fundraising	1.402	2.181
Administrative support	943	1.113
Total programme and operating expenses	9.899	9.769
Deficit of revenue over expenses	(2.798)	5.754

International Fund for
Animal Welfare

Annual Report 2023-2024
Australia

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United Kingdom
United States
Zambia
Zimbabwe



**IFAW acknowledges the Traditional
Custodians of country and their connection
to land, waters and culture. We pay our
respects to their Elders, past and present.**

