

Animal Rescue Impact Report 2025



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

The foundation of animal rescue

As rescuers, we have the privilege and great responsibility of saving lives; however our success and global reach aren't reactive or based on luck. We invest in disaster preparedness, technology-driven research, educational outreach, and training in best practices, while focusing on advancing the science and welfare of rescue to provide the best possible care to each animal. We work closely with other IFAW teams that may initially appear unrelated—such as community engagement, landscape conservation, and advocacy—that are instrumental toward our goal of saving as many animal lives as possible.

Animal rescue is a comprehensive effort that goes far beyond the actual rescue itself. Once an animal is released back into the wild, we must continue to care for the land it inhabits and consider the people it may

encounter. When we collect data from satellite tags on released dolphins, we use that information to study movement patterns so we can predict periods when increased strandings may occur, allowing our teams to be ready for deployment. By providing funds to trusted local partners, more rescue and rehabilitation centers can be built and improved, allowing animals to receive timely and critical care.

This work is not possible without philanthropic support, so please accept my deep and sincere appreciation for you, our donors. You have entrusted your financial investment to our rescue and conservation work. Please know that our teams remain dedicated to achieving the greatest possible impact for animals around the world. We remain encouraged and inspired by your commitment to make the most of this

opportunity. Thank you for taking this journey with us. Together we advance. Together we make a difference.



Katie Moore

Katie Moore
Senior Director, Animal Rescue

▲ A dolphin is transported down a slope on the beach as ten Atlantic white-sided dolphins are released off Herring Cove Beach.

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*Reporting period between 7/1/2023-6/30/2024



IFAW Academy of Rescue and Conservation

Established with the generous support of The Suzanne McGraw Foundation, Inc.

The IFAW Academy of Rescue and Conservation (ARC) is proud to announce a 3-year, \$3M commitment from The Suzanne McGraw Foundation, Inc. The tremendous support of this generous donor has already catalyzed advancements in the creation and delivery of training and learning opportunities that support IFAW staff and partners in achieving sustained improvements in animal welfare and conservation globally. We are grateful for their generosity and visionary partnership.

The Suzanne McGraw Foundation and IFAW leadership recognize the vast potential of ARC to be an essential factor in the advancement of IFAW's mission. To ensure the realization of our vision for conservation and rescue, ARC will be included as an institutional priority in the next iteration of the organization's 5-year Institutional Strategic Plan, thereby magnifying and advancing IFAW's overarching mission and vision. ARC will play a central role as a proactive teaching and training hub for rescue and conservation efforts and in the creation of a world where animals, people, and habitats can thrive through knowledge, training, and preparedness.

Building on the strong educational foundations established during the pilot phase of ARC, we are ready to expand the scope of the Academy to encompass and advance all aspects of IFAW's mission. As we look to the future, we have made plans for dynamic growth and impact for animals, people, and habitats worldwide.

While our initial focus for the Academy was on rescue (preparedness, planning, response, rehabilitation, and release/rehoming of animals), we will now continue these critical efforts, while additionally targeting the threats to wildlife populations and habitats to ultimately reduce the number of animals in need of rescue and care. ARC will develop conservation-focused training programs to prepare teams around the world to address wildlife crime, human-wildlife coexistence, and other conservation issues.

With great thanks to the Suzanne McGraw Foundation, Inc. for this new and generous gift, we look forward to updating you on future progress within the Academy. If you're interested in supporting ARC with your own philanthropy, please contact Liz Fowler at lfowler@ifaw.org or 646-202-0771.



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Academy of Rescue and Conservation

Established with the generosity of
The Suzanne McGraw Foundation, Inc.

- ▲ "Animals in Disaster" training.
- ▲ Practicing rescue knots.



With thanks

We extend our deepest appreciation to those who contribute to fund IFAW’s programs and initiatives, including disaster response, emergency response, wildlife and marine rescue, or whale protection and advocacy. We are also grateful to those whose unrestricted support provides critical funding for our overarching mission of animals and people thriving together.

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Disney Conservation Fund

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Melissa and Michael Lora

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Anonymous (4)

Listings include individuals, family foundations, corporations, and other supporters who made cumulative gifts of 10,000 or more, in their country’s currency. This listing includes gifts made between July 1, 2023, and December 31, 2024.

To contribute, or for more information, please contact Meghan Canty at mcanty@ifaw.org or call +1 (508) 744- 2067. We have made every effort to ensure inclusion and accuracy in this listing; if you would like to correct or update your information, please let us know.

▲ Flamingos in Amboseli National Park.



Donor Spotlight: Barbara and Dave Birdsey

Barbara Birdsey devoted her career to preserving the natural habitats that define her childhood memories growing up on Cape Cod. As a founder of the Pegasus Foundation, she advocates for habitat preservation, wildlife education, and animal rescue. Barbara's passion for wildlife conservation makes her an important member of IFAW's Board of Directors. In 2024, Barbara and her husband Dave were honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award, in thanks for their dedication to IFAW programs and people, and in acknowledgment of the many animal lives they have helped save.

Dave and I chose to support IFAW because we believe in its mission and dedication. The reason that we believe so strongly in IFAW is because of three things that it does so well: first, the decision to move forward quickly during a crisis; second, to stay there long term when others go away and move on to something else; and third, the ability to concentrate on each individual animal. It's an organization we believe will go way beyond us and our generation.

For that reason, we chose to include IFAW in our estate planning with a legacy gift to

the rescue endowment fund. We want to ensure that the charitable work we're doing now will go on after we're gone, and IFAW will still be out in the wild, rescuing animals. If you love animals and want to help wildlife, it's important to think about the long-term and plan for the things that matter most to you.

▲ Senior Biologist-Brian Sharp, Barbara Birdsey, Senior Director-Katie Moore, and Dave Birdsey.



Wildlife Rescue



277,828

animals aided by IFAW and partners, collectively

4,885

wild animals rescued worldwide

1,164

wild animals released



669

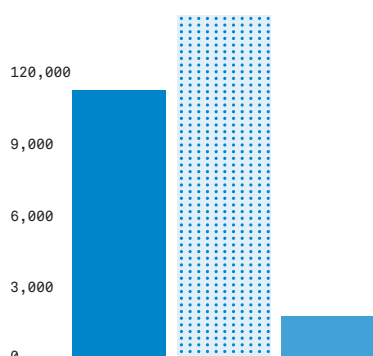
wild animals in rehabilitation

Region	Treated in-situ	Rescued	In rehabilitation	Released
Africa	18	413	127	56
Asia	493	506	125	356
Europe		153	-	136
Middle East		1,829	86	336
Oceania		1,984	331	280
Total	511	4,885	669	1,164

- ▲ Joaquim the giant anteater is released back to the wild wearing a satellite tracking harness
- ▲ A handler bottle feeds Musole at GRI's elephant orphanage.
- ◀ Endangered seahorses rehabilitated with CESTHA are released back to the wild.



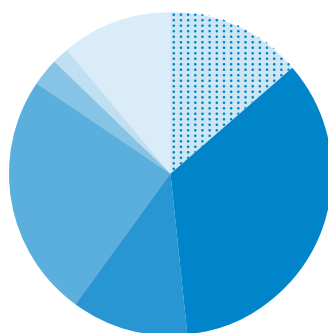
Disaster Response & Resiliency



272,198

animals helped

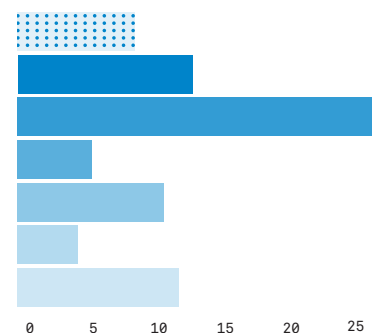
- wildlife 111,589
- companion animals 143,220
- livestock 17,389



3,249

disaster responders trained in 13 countries

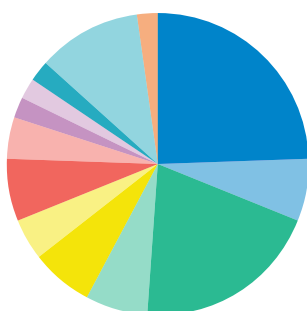
- US
- SE Asia
- Europe
- LAC*
- India
- AU
- Africa



100%

supported response-related requests from 23 countries

- LAC* 9
 - Mena** 11
 - US 13
 - Africa 5
 - Europe 26
 - Oceania 12
 - Asia 6
- * Latin America and the Caribbean
** Middle East and North Africa



15

types of disaster responded to

- Hurricane/cyclone/typhoon 11
- Earthquake 3
- Flood 9
- Oil spill 3
- Cruelty 3
- War 2
- Political conflict 3
- Disease outbreak 2
- Tornado 1
- UME 1***
- Volcano 1
- Wildfire 5
- Heat 1

*** Unidad Militar de Emergencias (Military Relief Unit)

▲ A team member from Alhaya Organization for the Protection of Wildlife and Marine Organisms treats a goat impacted by flooding in Libya.

Animal Rescue Stories



Photo: © UAnimals

38 horses from Ukraine

In 2024, IFAW issued an emergency grant to UAnimals in Ukraine to support the evacuation of 38 horses living at the Dergachi Youth Horse Riding School. These horses had already been rescued from other war zone areas of Ukraine. The school was sadly destroyed but thankfully there were no casualties.



Photo: Name / © IFAW

Derrick, the vervet monkey

Derrick was just four years old when he was rescued. Sadly, his illegal owner threw stones at him as retribution for an attempted escape—causing significant damage to his eye and spine. Our partners at Zambia Primate Project took him in for treatment and care. This year, following 3.5 years of rehabilitation, Derrick was released back into the wild.



Photo: © Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary

Pilot, the providence petrel

The Bonorong Wildlife Rescue Service rescued a providence petrel—the first of his species to ever be admitted to Bonorong—after being found injured onboard a cruise ship. Fortunately, Pilot was not badly injured, and Bonorong's Critical Care team was able to give him the specialized care he needed. After a few days, the team released Pilot off a boat along the coast of Tasmania where he was originally found.

- ◀ Due to attacks in the Kharkiv region, horses from a stable in the town of Dergachi had to be evacuated urgently.
- ◀ Derrick the vervet monkey in care at Zambia Primate Project.
- ◀ Pilot the providence petrel in care at Bonorong after being found injured on a cruise ship.



Oil-spilled pelicans

Seabirds were some of the unfortunate victims of an oil spill in Western Australia. IFAW deployed Animal Rescue Officer Robert Leach to help our partner WA Wildlife as they worked to treat 33 pelicans who were unable to fly due to the weight of the oil. After more than 60 washes (each taking more than 1.5 hours) the birds were ready to be released.

Watch a video from Robert's deployment and release of these enormous birds.



Tortoises from Greece

Following massive wildfires, IFAW deployed to Greece to assist in the rehabilitation and release efforts on behalf of rescued tortoises who had lost their homes. Together with ANIMA and the local group Save Your Hood, our team treated the tortoises for smoke inhalation and burnt shells.

148

tortoises were successfully released close to their original homes

- ◀ IFAW Animal Rescue Officer Robert Leach with the rescue team cleaning a pelican impacted by the oil spill in Western Australia.
- ◀ Some of the rescued pelicans after being cleaned and treated by the rescue team.
- ◀ Some of the pelicans being released back to the wild after being rescued and rehabilitated after an oil spill.
- ◀ Tortoises rescued from the summer wildfires in Greece in transport boxes about to be released back to the wild.
- ◀ A marginated tortoise with a damaged shell, rescued from the summer wildfires in Greece and in care with ANIMA, receives treatment.
- ◀ Mr. Acropolis the tortoise is released back to the wild.





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

Marine Mammal Rescue



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

143

marine mammals rescued (140 dolphins and porpoises, three seals)

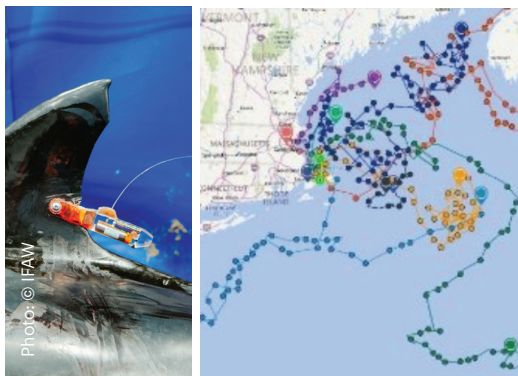


Photo: © IFAW

20

dolphins released with satellite tags



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

25

years celebrated of rescue on Cape Cod



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

1st

patient admitted to the Dolphin Rescue Center



Photo: Michael Zomer / © IFAW

20

participants took part in hands-on marine rescue training from IFAW experts deployed to Kenya. 35 community members joined classroom activities to learn about whale disentanglement and dolphin stranding response.



Photo: Rodrigo Pinho da Silva-Filho / © AUKA

400

stranded dolphins in Brazil's Amazon River were assisted by IFAW experts. The team trained local teams on techniques to assist in future strandings.



Wildlife Crime



682,417

listings blocked by Coalition to End Wildlife Trafficking Online partners between July and December 2023

15

live pangolins seized and returned to the wild in Zimbabwe

410

kgs of ivory (903 pounds) seized in Uganda, Tanzania, and Kenya through IFAW-supported activities. Removing ivory from trade eliminates the supply and possible financial benefits, deterring criminals.

582

law enforcement, prosecution, and judicial officers from over 10 countries were trained to improve their skills, knowledge, and confidence in detecting wildlife crime and enforcing relevant laws.

304 million

parcels were delivered to young people in China with messaging to encourage living an eco-friendly lifestyle following 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.



1.8

tons of ivory destroyed in partnership with the French Office for Biodiversity

▲ A Temminck's ground pangolin seized and released back to the wild by IFAW in Zimbabwe.



Donor Spotlight: Melissa Lora

Melissa Lora built a successful career, culminating with serving as a global C-suite leader in financial and operating roles at Yum Brands, Inc. In these roles, Melissa demonstrated her thoughtful, strategic, results-oriented approach to growth in a complex, regulated, culturally diverse consumer-oriented industry. Melissa and her husband Michael reside in Orange County, California with their two golden retrievers. Their philanthropic support and leadership on behalf of IFAW have a ripple effect for animals and habitats around the world.

I've always loved animals, and as I grew up, I found myself in a position to explore how I could meaningfully help animals globally. I gave a small donation to IFAW, and began to learn about the animal rescue work the organization has done for over 50 years. I started to think that this was a group I could respect and be a part of. It also felt like a relationship was being built instead of feeling like a transaction.

What really appealed to me was discovering that IFAW doesn't only focus on animal rescue but also on conservation. IFAW also ensures that people are integrated within the work, and they ask the question, "how can people and animals all be better off together?"

When my husband Michael and I began to think about larger gifts to organizations we started to ask ourselves, "do we understand the organization? Do we have confidence in their leadership? Do we see them executing what they say they are going to execute? Would we be proud to be part of this organization?" With IFAW, I can feel the passion. I see the positive impact being made in animal rescue through the brilliant model of finding, funding, and partnering with the best groups in all areas of the world.

We decided to support the Rescue Endowment to leave a legacy and make an impact in perpetuity.

The world is so interconnected, and the dependency that our planet has on us and how we treat animals is critical. I am so appreciative of IFAW's approach to 'every animal matters.' There's a saying that if you save someone's life you are responsible for them, and I know that IFAW is there, for the long term, making sure that animals will receive care as long as it is needed.

◀ Melissa and Michael Lora with their dogs.

The Animal Rescue Endowment Fund

Our rescue endowment ensures that IFAW has the means to rescue animals in danger now and for generations to come. Gifts to the rescue endowment provide funding in perpetuity to cover the cost of animal rescue and to seed innovation and growth.

The rescue endowment allows us to look out 20 years, 50 years, and beyond to set the stage for the organization's future, so there's no hesitation on whether we can respond to rescue animals in those moments when the need arises.



If you'd like to learn more about how you can support IFAW by leaving a gift in your will, please visit:
www.ifaw.org/legacy

or contact:
Ruth Whyte
Senior Philanthropy Specialist, Development
Tel: +61 2 9288 4914
rwhyte@ifaw.org

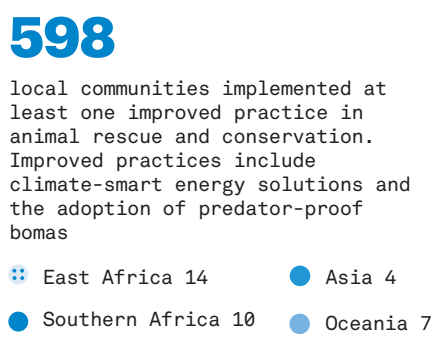
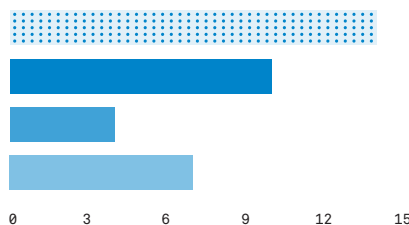


Photo: Lucine Rice & Dale Martin / © IFAW-GER

Landscape Conservation

Animals, like people, need space to call their own. We know that an intrinsic piece of animal rescue depends on landscape conservation and ensuring that the animals we're helping have a safe place to return.

Investments in research, tree planting, and other restoration actions contributed to the maintenance and revitalization of 35 habitat linkages (an increase of 17 from the prior year) that act as a safe passage for animals. One notable achievement was the return of koalas to the land around the Moorabool River in Victoria, Australia, after nearly 100 years following the planting of more than 8,100 trees.



▲ One of the tree plantings as part of the GER-IFAW Koala Climate Corridors Bunya to Borders project with Lockyer Uplands Catchment Inc in Queensland's south-east.

Animal Rescue Stories



Raindrop, the short-beaked echidna

After being discovered underneath a deck, Raindrop was rescued by our partner Bonorong Wildlife Hospital. She was safely contained after removing some boards from the deck, but the team noticed she looked lethargic and underweight and took her to the hospital for some extra care. She was treated for superficial wounds and stayed for a month as she grew into a healthy weight for her age. Once she was approved by the veterinary team, she was released back to the wild close to where she was originally found.



218 raptors at the Beijing Raptor Rescue Center

Extreme weather events, including flooding and intense summer heat, resulted in a mass rush of patients admitted to IFAW's BRRC. Our team of rehabilitators hand-fed many of the orphaned birds by dressing as a tree and using a hand puppet resembling a mother bird to prevent the babies from associating humans with food. The team also updated its enclosures with sunshade nets and spray devices to keep the birds cool and comfortable.



Lazza the Delicate Skink

Lazza was brought into the Bonorong Wildlife Hospital by a concerned citizen, who noticed him looking lethargic and missing a tail. After careful inspection by the team, it was determined that he just needed to warm up a bit and the missing tail was actually on purpose, most likely shed in a life-saving maneuver. After the tiniest patient ever admitted was given a clean bill of health he returned back to the wild.

- ◀ Raindrop the short-beaked echidna in care with Bonorong after being stuck under someone's deck for days.
- ◀ IFAW BRRC rehabilitator Betty Dai releases a common kestrel back to the wild.
- ◀ A member of the Bonorong vet team holds Lazza the delicate skink, Bonorong's smallest patient ever.



Kania and Chandra, the baby rhinos

These two orphans were brought to our partner Wildlife Trust of India when they were between two and four weeks of age after dangerous floodwaters swept them away from their homes. They are currently undergoing rehabilitation at the IFAW-WTI Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation where they are learning how to forage on their own as they grow stronger. We expect it will be another year before they are ready to move to a soft release enclosure and ultimately, return to the true wilderness.



Five parakeet hatchlings

Five tiny parakeet hatchlings were found fallen from their nest and admitted to our partners at Wildlife Trust of India. Because they were so small they had to be hand-fed a diet of mixed pulses and cereals. Not long after, the birds were weaned from hand feeding and were transferred to a larger enclosure for flight practice after their feathers had grown in.



Tommy, the kangaroo

Tommy was orphaned after his mother was unfortunately hit by a car. He was taken in by our partner Two Thumbs Wildlife Trust Sanctuary. After being in rehabilitation with his experienced carer, Tommy was released back to the wild and last seen living with a mob of wild kangaroos at Two Thumbs Sanctuary.

- ◀ Kania and Chandra the rhinos in care at Wildlife Trust of India's Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation.
- ◀ Parakeet chicks in care at WTI's CWRC.
- ◀ Tommy, an eastern grey kangaroo, at a soft release site at Two Thumbs Wildlife Trust Sanctuary after being in rehabilitated.



Photo: Michael Booth / © IFAW

International Fund
for Animal Welfare

Animal Rescue
Impact Report 2025

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

Cover photo: © IFAW
Leatherback turtle hatchlings
whose nesting site was
damaged by Hurricane Otis
make their way to the ocean
in Acapulco, Mexico.