

IFAW'S EXPERT DELEGATION TO CITES COP17



Name: Azzedine Downes
Title: IFAW President and CEO
Topic: All proposals and Middle East and North Africa issues
Location: Yarmouth Port, MA, USA
Languages: English, French and Arabic

BIOGRAPHY

As President and CEO, Azzedine Downes is responsible for the strategic vision that guides IFAW's conservation and animal welfare efforts worldwide. Azzedine has been a leader on global conservation issues since he joined IFAW in 1997.

Under Azzedine's leadership, IFAW opened its first office in the Middle East and expanded its work on global animal conservation and welfare issues. He was responsible for designing and launching IFAW's Detecting Illegal Species

Through Prevention Training (DISRUPT) programme, which provides ongoing training and support for law enforcement and customs officials faced with growing illegal trade issues.

Azzedine's work has helped create some of the most innovative partnerships in conservation. His efforts have resulted in a wide range of representatives from conservation, intelligence communities, technology firms, and geo-spatial mapping agencies coming together for the first time to combat the illegal killing of wildlife across Africa.

Azzedine has served as Head of the Delegation to the CITES Conference of the Parties, leading campaigns to reduce and restrict negative impacts of wildlife trade. In 2015, Azzedine was named to Fast Company's "The 100 Most Creative People in Business". He is a member of the Global Tiger Forum Advisory Council based in New Delhi, India and a member of President Obama's US Trade and Environment Policy Advisory Committee.

Fluent in English, French and Arabic, Azzedine is an accomplished public speaker and regularly presents IFAW's work to the media in those three languages.



Name: Kelvin Alie
Title: Acting Vice President for Animal Welfare and Conservation; Director Wildlife Trade Programme
Topic: All proposals and Caribbean issues
Location: Washington D.C., USA
Languages: English

BIOGRAPHY

Kelvin Alie joined IFAW in 2001 and currently serves as the Director of the Wildlife Trade Programme. A conservation professional for more than 15 years, Kelvin is leading the global expansion of IFAW's Wildlife Trade Programme with a focus on reducing the pressure of wildlife crime on endangered species and ecosystems and pursuing efforts to better integrate animal welfare concerns into wildlife trade policy.

Under his leadership, IFAW has expanded its influence and role in combatting illegal wildlife trade across source, transit and consumer countries. This is being accomplished through

partnerships with INTERPOL, non-governmental organisations, and national and regional wildlife enforcement agencies in Africa and Asia, through:

Expansion of a wildlife law enforcement capacity-building initiative which provides training, equipment and support to frontline enforcement personnel in Africa and Asia to stop the poaching and trafficking of high-value wildlife;

Targeted public awareness and education campaigns in transit and consumer countries, to reduce the demand and consumption of endangered species; and

Provision of support to countries in developing plans to counter wildlife trafficking.

Kelvin is the recipient of the award for excellence in wildlife enforcement by the New York Wildlife Conservation Film Festival and has worked alongside INTERPOL officials to conduct investigations and operations targeting ivory and rhino horn traffickers in Africa.

A native of Dominica, Kelvin holds graduate degrees in Biodiversity Conservation and Economics and has held previous positions with the Dominica Forestry, Wildlife and Parks Department.



Name: Satyen Sinha
Title: Director
Topic: All proposals
Location: Manchester, UK
Languages: English

BIOGRAPHY

Satyen Sinha is a Director at Bumblebee Connect, an international consultancy with a focus on political and corporate environment policy. Satyen served as an adviser to the United Kingdom Conservative Party on environmental

issues prior to the 2010 United Kingdom General Election as part of the Shadow DEFRA team, following which he served as the Head of Government Affairs at IFAW UK and later as Lead on European Advocacy and Campaigns on conservation issues across the IFAW European Region.

Satyen has led IFAW delegations to a number of international conventions, including AMCEN, UNFCCC, and WHC, where he promoted efforts to tackle wildlife crime and elephant conservation. He also established and led IFAW in a successful campaign calling on the EU to introduce an Action Plan against wildlife trafficking. Satyen now serves as an adviser to IFAW on CITES issues.



Name: Vivek Menon
Title: Senior Advisor to President and CEO, IFAW on Strategic Partnerships & Philanthropy. Executive Director & CEO, Wildlife Trust of India, IFAW's partner organisation in India
Topic: All proposals especially on elephant and tiger conservation
Location: New Delhi, India
Languages: English and Hindi

BIOGRAPHY

Vivek Menon is a Senior Advisor, Strategic Partnership and Philanthropy for IFAW, as well as founder, Executive Director and CEO of the Wildlife Trust of India, IFAW's partner organisation. A wildlife conservationist, environmental commentator, author and photographer with a passion for elephants, he has been involved in founding five environmental and conservation organisations in India.

Through WTI/IFAW, Vivek has pioneered the systematic development of wildlife rehabilitation and health monitoring as conservation tools within India. Under Vivek's leadership, more than 15,000 wildlife guards, a third of India's anti-poaching force, have been equipped and trained to safeguard wildlife in over 150 protected areas. Working closely with the Indian government, Vivek's IFAW/WTI team has also been instrumental in establishing wildlife corridors to help connect fragmented populations of endangered species, including Asian elephants and tigers.

Vivek is currently Chair of the IUCN Species Survival Commission Asian Elephant Specialist Group (AsESG) and a member of IUCN's Species Survival Commission. He has frequently been a member of the Indian delegation to CITES meetings as a Technical Advisor and has been at the forefront of the international debate on elephant conservation. He is also an Honorary Wildlife Warden of Delhi.

He is the author or editor of nine wildlife books including the bestselling *Indian Mammals*, *A Field Guide*, scores of technical reports and more than a hundred articles in scientific and popular publications.



Name: Nathan Herschler
Title: Director of Global Programme Operations for IFAW
Topic: Committee II issues
Location: Yarmouth Port, MA, USA
Languages: English

BIOGRAPHY

Nathan Herschler is the Director of Global Programme Operations for IFAW, responsible for programme and operational management. He leads the development of IFAW's programme planning, monitoring, and evaluation function, programme and country office budgeting and financial management process,

and is responsible for aligning operations to business and programme strategies.

Nathan has expertise in strategic, programme, and business planning, international environmental law, facilitation, change management and non-profit law.

Previous to his work in this role, Nathan led IFAW's involvement in US-based litigation and domestic and international policy initiatives for the protection of wildlife.

He is IFAW's representative to the Conservation Measures Partnership, is an Environmental Leadership Programme Senior Fellow, a graduate of the Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leaders Programme, and has served as both Chair and Vice-Chair of the Maryland State Bar Association's Animal Law Section.

Nathan received his law degree from American University, Washington College of Law and his BA from Wheaton College (MA).



Name: Céline Sissler-Bienvenu
Title: Director, IFAW France and Francophone Africa
Topic: All proposals and Francophone Africa issues
Location: Reims, France
Languages: French and English

BIOGRAPHY

Céline Sissler-Bienvenu is involved in IFAW's Elephant and Wildlife Trade Programmes, particularly in Francophone Africa where she was instrumental in developing education programmes to reduce human-animal conflict and encourage peaceful co-existence between elephants and humans.

Céline has used her training as the first European to

graduate from the Garoua Paramilitary School for Wildlife Specialists in North Cameroon to inform the development of support programmes for rangers working in Central Africa where poaching remains a significant problem.

She has also used these skills to assist in developing enforcement training to fight the illegal ivory trade in these areas. In France, Celine focuses on ending the internet trade to reduce the market for ivory.

Céline was an important member of the collaborative effort throughout IFAW's European offices which resulted in a ban on the import of seal products, a critical step in the fight to end the Canadian seal hunt.

In the international arena, Céline has attended CITES CoPs since 2004. Her background working with a variety of wildlife and domestic animals around the world gives Céline important insight as a campaigner for animals for many of those same animals.



Name: Jason Bell
Title: Regional Director, IFAW Southern Africa and Director of IFAW's Elephant Programme
Topic: Elephants, ivory trade, and rhinos
Location: Cape Town, South Africa
Languages: English

BIOGRAPHY

In his dual role as Regional Director IFAW Southern Africa and Director of IFAW's Elephant Programme, Jason is responsible for developing, monitoring and evaluating IFAW's campaigns and programmes within his region and providing leadership

for IFAW's global elephant conservation activities.

Since joining IFAW, Jason has worked on a range of animal welfare issues such as seeking an end to the ivory trade, unethical "canned" hunting and commercial whaling and advocating for whale watching and wildlife habitat expansion.

Jason's elephant team also works closely with park rangers, supporting and training anti-poaching teams in elephant range states. As a campaigner, Jason has been a regular attendee at CITES Conventions of the Parties, with a particular focus on elephant protection and the global ivory trade.

Jason has attended seven CITES CoPs since 1997. He holds a degree in zoology and ecology from the University of Pretoria, and is the author of several scientific papers and articles on elephants, elephant policy and the ivory trade.



Name: Grace Ge Gabriel
Title: Director, IFAW Asia
Topic: Tigers, wildlife trade, and Asia issues
Location: Beijing, China
Language: Mandarin Chinese and English

BIOGRAPHY

Grace Ge Gabriel has been the driving force behind IFAW China from its inception, nurturing protection for both domestic animals and wildlife in a country where policies regarding conservation and animal welfare are lacking.

Projects initiated by Grace include establishing the first raptor rescue centre in China, mitigating human-elephant conflicts to protect elephant habitat, initiating campaigns to protect the Tibetan antelope and participating in the

development of China's first Animal Welfare Law.

Grace is a strong voice in the fight to reduce the devastating impact wildlife trade has on tigers, elephants, bears and many other endangered species. She has testified before the European Union Commission on protecting wild tigers and was invited to speak at the INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group meeting regarding controlling global online trade in wildlife and wildlife products. Grace has also testified on the escalation of global wildlife crime before the UK Parliament Environmental Audit Committee.

Under Grace's leadership, IFAW China has facilitated improved enforcement against wildlife crime and developed outreach and education programmes to reduce the demand for elephant ivory, tiger bone and other wildlife products.

Because of her work as a champion of wildlife, Grace was featured in Julie Scardina and Jeffrey Flocken's book, *Wildlife Heroes, 40 Leading Conservationists and the Wildlife they are Committed to Saving*.



Name: Tania McCrea-Steele
Title: Global Wildlife Cybercrime Project Lead, IFAW UK
Topic: Wildlife Cybercrime
Location: London, UK
Language: English

BIOGRAPHY

Tania McCrea-Steele has been with IFAW since 2004 and has been managing the global campaign to stop wildlife cybercrime since 2011. She leads an international team exposing the scale and nature of online wildlife trade in over 20 countries across the globe. Tania has been at the forefront of developing the international strategy and building strong relationships

with Government, enforcers, and online tech companies as well as managing partnerships with other non-governmental organisations to ensure that together we stamp out online illegal wildlife trade.

Tania has been at the helm of many of the investigative reports that have exposed how online wildlife crime poses a serious threat to endangered wildlife. These reports have built up momentum that has seen governments proposing stronger legislation, online tech companies introducing robust policies and enforcers stepping up their efforts to catch wildlife cybercriminals.

Tania has also campaigned to protect elephants and other wildlife from the threat of poaching, as well as campaigning to end whaling and Canada's commercial seal hunt. She previously led the national campaign focused on enforcement of the Hunting Act.

Before joining IFAW, Tania was involved in a number of on the ground conservation and animal welfare projects across the globe.



Name: Rikkert Reijnen
Title: Project Lead, Wildlife Trade, IFAW
Topic: Elephants and ivory trade, Barbary macaques, European Union issues
Location: The Hague, Netherlands
Languages: Dutch and English

BIOGRAPHY

Rikkert's expertise lies within the domain of wildlife trade policy in Europe and the implementation of wildlife crime

prevention projects in Africa.

He has specialised in the field of wildlife conservation and animal welfare since 2000. Rikkert worked on conservation and illicit trade issues concerning primates, both in Europe and Africa. Currently he leads IFAW's wildlife crime prevention programme in the Horn of Africa.

He has been involved in projects mitigating the poaching and trafficking of Barbary macaques from North Africa to Europe from 2004 until today. Rikkert holds a Masters of Science in social psychology with a focus on marketing and consumer behaviour.



Name: Steve Njumbi
Title: Head of Programme,
East Africa
Topic: Elephants and
E-Commerce
Location: Nairobi, Kenya
Languages: English and Kiswahili

BIOGRAPHY

Steve Njumbi has worked with IFAW since 2000 as the Head of Programme responsible for developing and supervising IFAW's work in Eastern Africa. Steve, with a dedicated team at IFAW East Africa, has led elephant habitat restoration and rehabilitation projects in 10 African countries including

Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia and Congo DRC and is currently overseeing an innovative community project of securing critical corridors and dispersal areas in Amboseli-Kenya.

Since 2010, Steve has worked with IFAW's Wildlife Trade Programme staff to coordinate Detecting Illegal Species Through Prevention Trainings (DISRUPT) of law enforcement officers from 21 African and Arabian Peninsula countries. These trainings aim at providing knowledge and skills to combat illegal wildlife trade as well as foster inter and intra networking of government officials that is essential in tackling global organised wildlife crime.

Steve holds a post graduate degree in Wildlife Management and before joining IFAW worked with Kenya Wildlife Service (1990-2000) as a scientist in its Elephant Programme and as the Regional Biodiversity Coordinator for Southern Conservation Area.



Name: Dr Masha Vorontsova
Title: Regional Director,
Russia and Commonwealth of
Independent States (CIS)
Topic: Tigers, saiga antelope,
polar bears, falcons, marine
mammals, illegal online wildlife
trade, Russia, Central Asia and
the Caucasus region
Location: Moscow, Russia and
Washington, DC
Languages: English and Russian

BIOGRAPHY

Dr Vorontsova is a marine biologist with a PhD from the USSR Academy of Science. Prior to joining IFAW, she worked at the Marine Biological Tropical Center in Viet Nam, Smithsonian Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. and Dalhousie University, Canada. Masha established IFAW's office in the Russian Federation in 1994 and initiated campaigns that led to a complete ban on the harp seal hunt in Russia, the import

of all seal products to Russia and a ban on the winter den hunt of hibernating bears. She helped expand the Orphan Bear Cub Rehabilitation Center, which has rescued, rehabilitated and released more than 200 orphan bear cubs back to the wild. Masha has also led campaigns that resulted in a ban of the Sea of Okhotsk beluga whale hunt and contributed to an increase in penalties for poaching of tigers and several other Red Book of Russia species.

As part of IFAW's efforts to save the critically endangered western grey whale, Masha's team helped ensure that offshore oil and gas pipelines were constructed around, rather than through, crucial feeding grounds near Sakhalin Island. Efforts continue to prevent the construction of a third oil platform. She also works on a broad range of CITES issues including enforcement; she has organised IFAW DISRUPT trainings in Tbilisi, Georgia; Alma-Atu, Kazakhstan; and Erevan, Armenia. Masha has been participating in CITES CoPs since 1997 either as a member of the Russian delegation or IFAW. Masha is a member of the Civil Council to the Minister of Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation.



Name: Jeffrey Flocken
Title: Regional Director, IFAW
North America
Topic: Pangolins, lions, polar bears,
trophy hunting
Location: Washington, D.C., USA
Languages: English

BIOGRAPHY

Jeff Flocken leads a team of wildlife conservationists and animal welfare professionals in the United States and Canada in his role as IFAW's North American Regional Director in Washington, D.C. His work addresses improving wildlife conservation and

animal welfare throughout North America and internationally.

Jeff was a member of the team of experts responsible for convincing eBay to ban ivory sales on all of its affiliated sites. He has testified before the U.S. Congress regarding polar bear legislation and was one of the principle authors of the technical petition to the U.S. Secretary of the Interior to list the African lion under the Endangered Species Act.

Jeff is co-author of *Wildlife Heroes* (published in March 2012). He has consulted on TV shows, movies, books and documentaries involving endangered species. His previous work includes five years of international species conservation for the U.S. federal government and 10 years of domestic and international species conservation for the non-profit sector. Jeff is also the co-founder of the Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leaders initiative.