

annual report
july 2019–june 2020



ifaw

Australia



introduction

3 index

4 more complex problems,
more fresh thinking solutions

6 message from the chairman
of the board

8 message from the CEO

9 leadership

landscape conservation

12 partnering for conservation
in the Greater Manas landscape

14 supporting rangers to protect
wildlife during the COVID-19
crisis

20 conservation footprint in Hwange
National Park

wildlife crime

24 strengthening law enforcement
capacity

26 securing survival of barbary
macaques

28 combatting wildlife crime in the
Malawi-Zambia landscape

30 reducing wildlife crime in the
Greater Kilimanjaro Transfrontier
Conservation Area

31 improving security in the Greater
Virunga landscape

32 reducing market supply and
consumer demand in China

34 wildlife cybercrime

marine conservation

38 celebrating the end of whaling
in Iceland

40 reducing the negative impact
of shipping

42 campaign to save North Atlantic
right whales

marine mammal rescue & research

46 large whale medical intervention

48 leading the way in marine mammal
rescue

wildlife rescue

52 caring for sick and injured birds
of prey

53 protecting gorillas from COVID-19

53 rehabilitating animals rescued
from illegal trade

54 making a difference one elephant
at a time

disaster response

58 catastrophic bushfires in Australia

60 rescue, relief, and recovery after
Hurricane Dorian

62 saving animals from flooding
to support communities

63 five rhino calves rescued from
flooding

63 keeping families together
by feeding pets

community engagement

66 from conflict to coexistence
in China

68 rapid response to save human and
animal lives in Kenya

international policy

72 increased protection for shark
and ray species

73 important victory for jaguar
conservation

74 preventing efforts to reopen ivory
and rhino trade

oceania

78 wildlife rescue and disaster response

80 marine animal rescue

82 tree planting initiatives

83 post-fire research for koala
conservation

84 no place for ivory

85 policy and advocacy

financial statements

88 Australia programme priority

88 worldwide programme priority

89 combined financial statements

90 ifaw allocation of programme
and operating expenses

90 total revenue gains and other support

91 ifaw revenue/expenses — Australia

vision & mission

more complex problems, more fresh thinking solutions



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Our human relationships with animals have taken centre stage during a year that has presented some of the most significant cumulative challenges to human society in modern history, from a global pandemic to raging bush - and wildfires across virtually every part of the globe. Viewing society's struggles as separate from the plight of the world's wildlife is a fundamental failure to understand the reality of living on this shared planet.

We face an unprecedented level of political upheaval and a civilisation-wide call to address social justice issues. These issues are in no way independent of the challenges that affect the natural world. As we see time and again, the social injustice of environmental exploitation tends to disproportionately affect disadvantaged, vulnerable and marginalised groups already facing significant socio-economic challenges.

Time to define a path forward

A seemingly perfect storm has forced society to pause, reassess and decide what role humankind will play in the grand scale of our relationship with nature. This inflection point is as critical on an organisational level as it is on an individual level. It has further strengthened the commitment made by IFAW over a half-century ago to ensure that animals and people thrive together.

Regardless of the physical, political, or even social challenges which evolve and

persist without fail, IFAW's work continues to transcend borders and boundaries, proving that individual animals matter and ordinary people have the power to make a difference wherever they are.

Our interwoven world

The pandemic has demonstrated that the health of humanity and the natural environment are deeply interwoven. From combatting illegal poaching in Africa to global efforts to fight wildlife cybercrime, to a commitment to rescue wildlife and ease the burden on people and animals during natural disasters, IFAW's work is at the complex intersection of animal and human wellbeing.

Embracing large-scale solutions on behalf of industry, government, and the local community, IFAW's programmatic work aims to put an end to short-term "band-aid" remedies and promote solutions that deliver over the long-term, for both communities and surrounding wildlife.

The commitment of IFAW's dedicated teams in 15 different countries, across 40 separate project sites, epitomises the organisation's role, together with local people around the world, as "stewards of the natural environment." As stewards, IFAW teams recognise critical lessons taught by current times. The most crucial lesson as we long for our "old normal" is realising that our "old normal" was not a very good place for nature, nor a hopeful future for humanity.

Tangible solutions

IFAW builds consensus and relationships that work. We invite others to share their voice at the collective table. Many are rightly concerned with issues ranging from decimated habitats and rapidly declining animal populations to staggering levels of illegal wildlife trade and the ever-escalating competition for limited resources.

These threats are as real as the tangible solutions that IFAW works to offer both in the field and behind the scenes. The pages of this annual report document IFAW's extensive programmatic work to demonstrate how its impact is as effective as it is far-reaching, as inclusive as it is just.

We welcome you as part of this global journey to embrace a more hopeful future for us all.

Let's get to work.

◀ IFAW x USC detection dog "Bear" brought international acclaim for his help tracking koalas during the devastating 2019-2020 bushfire season.

▲ IFAW's Team Lioness community wildlife ranger leader, points to something while on patrol in the bush at the Olgulului Ololarashi Group Ranch (OGR) in Kajiado, Kenya.



© IFAW/Will Swanson

message from the chairman of the board

Impact-based solutions to complex challenges

As the challenges of 2020 have tested the resolve of so many people and organisations worldwide, I am optimistic and inspired by the achievements and resilience of IFAW's diverse initiatives, pushing forward the powerful principles of animal welfare and conservation. As uncertainty looms and daily routines are disrupted, I am reminded of **the intensely interwoven relationships that exist between humanity and the world's rich wildlife.**

Global challenges ranging from the devastating COVID-19 pandemic to the massive Australia bushfires and beyond, 2020 has reminded us all that vital work must continue regardless of the difficulties faced. IFAW has not only understood this throughout its half-century of history, but has committed itself outright, adapting to a world whose challenges have grown ever-more complex and broader in scale.

During my career, I've focused on driving strategies that leverage the critical intersection between systems, science, and solutions. As Chairman of IFAW's Global Boards of Directors, I have witnessed firsthand the strategic, impact-based solutions that IFAW and its diverse global staff employ, on a daily basis, to ensure animals and people thrive together. These strategies have resulted in success across multiple sectors, and **IFAW's tireless dedication to animal welfare and conservation's fundamental ideals continues to inspire me even through these toughest of times.**

My time with IFAW has taught me many critical lessons in this field of animal welfare and conservation. One such lesson is that community-based solutions are essential to delivering both immediate and lasting impact. There is no one-size-fits-all solution in conservation and innovative approaches are vital to confronting the challenges of our day.

These challenges are not limited to our relationship with the environment or its rich wildlife. We have seen enormous social struggles in the necessary pursuit of racial equity across much of society. This fundamental pursuit of equality that IFAW has embraced ensures transparency and commitment to the critical pillars of JEDI—Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. As community is crucial to the success of IFAW's projects across 40 different countries, a healthy and transparent internal community aware of and committed to these ideals is just as fundamental to ensuring long-term success.

The enormous number of endangered animal populations and the need for immediate action to address issues ranging from habitat loss to climate change and even beyond to unforeseen natural disasters gives further credence to the cornerstone of IFAW's philosophy—that **individual animals matter.** They can mean the difference between the very survival of a species or its ultimate extinction.

Like my predecessors before me, I am privileged to lead a Board that is resoundingly committed to fulfilling its duties and IFAW's mission of ensuring that both animals and people thrive together. **Across virtually every continent and scores of project sites all over the world, IFAW will continue to engage in critical life-saving work,** relying on open and honest collaboration with governments, communities, and other conservation NGOs. Whether driving legislative change at the country level or international change to tackle increasing threats such as the global trade in illegal wildlife, IFAW will be at the forefront with fundamental strategies and on-the-ground actions that will allow us to continue securing wildlife worldwide.

IFAW and I know that we cannot do it alone. The support of our donors and supporters is unwavering and essential to IFAW's ability to achieve our shared mission.

On behalf of the Boards of Directors and the incredible people that make up IFAW, I thank you for your support. **We are united not only as a human community, but also as a global community living amongst our shared planet's rich wildlife.**

With immense gratitude and humility on behalf of the International Fund for Animal Welfare,

Mark T. Beaudouin
Chairman of the Global Board of Directors

◀ IFAW's Team Lioness community wildlife rangers, in their sleeping quarters in the Risa Camp at the Olgulului Ololarashi Group Ranch (OGR) in Kajiado, Kenya.

message from the ceo



Ever-critical work for a more hopeful future

The year 2020 will be seared into our collective memory as one of the most challenging in modern human history. As the COVID-19 pandemic has upended so many aspects of our daily lives, we find ourselves at a crossroads. Do we heed the flashing warning signs and lessons that Mother Nature teaches us, or do we continue humanity’s exploitation of wildlife and the degradation of the planet?

The challenges faced in 2020 has only reinforced my belief in the ever-critical work IFAW has done over the past half-century. It is work we proudly continue during the pandemic. As you have no doubt done for your own families, my priority has been to keep the IFAW family safe, adapting as necessary to ensure our global work can continue during even the darkest of times.

I am captivated by our staff’s resilience and persistence to ensure our programmatic initiatives continue. We can only continue because of our donors’ unwavering support. You understand that this work can’t be set aside for a later date—it must continue regardless of the obstacles. We are in the business of saving lives, and as stewards of nature and this shared planet, we must protect its abundant yet fragile wildlife resources.

IFAW has championed fundamental ideals thanks to diverse projects and collaboration from across the globe. We believe individual animals matter, conservation must always include people, and trust must be earned. In 1969, IFAW took on one problem threatening one species in one part of the world, ultimately saving more than 1 million seal pups with the ban on whitecoat harp seal products.

Since that time, we have taken on more problems threatening more species in over 40 countries worldwide. Rescuing more animals and securing more habitats than at any other point in our history, as an organisation, we once again reaffirm our commitment to build a world where animals and people thrive together.

This year has brought numerous challenges alongside the COVID-19 global pandemic, including a steady drumbeat of climate-related disasters, from massive bushfires in Australia to the fury of Hurricane Dorian in the Caribbean. Despite these trials, we made tremendous progress. For example, we protected keystone species in Africa thanks to the fortitude of IFAW’s Team Lioness, an all-female team of rangers. We conserved landscape in Greater Manas, India. After 17 years of IFAW-led action at the local level, we’ve finally seen an end to whaling in Iceland. These are but a few of the milestones achieved during a year when the odds were against us.

Challenges we face at the social level further illuminate the inherent need to come together as a human community. Without the active inclusion of our diverse global community, we could not continue to tell the IFAW story—a story where we are driven to save lives every day.

The connection between humans and nature is more apparent than ever. The work outlined in this annual report demonstrates our vision for a future that redefines the relationship between humankind and the natural world.

We thank you for being a part of our collective story, for placing trust in us and our work for animals, people and the place we call home.

To continued success and toward a more hopeful future for all,

Azzedine T. Downes
President & CEO
International Fund for Animal Welfare

▲ IFAW CEO Azzedine Downes joins a community event to plant native eucalyptus trees as part of our work to restore vital koala habitat and corridors in Australia.

leadership

global board members

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Barbara Birdsey, Vice Chair
Joyce Doria, Vice Chair
John Albrecht
Robert Barber
Catherine Bearder
Constantin Bjerke
Graeme Cottam
Daniel Lenyo
Catherine Lilly
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Azzedine T. Downes
President & CEO

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Executive Vice President, Strategy, Programmes & Field Operations

Tammy Palmer
Executive Vice President Strategy, Business Management

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Thom Maul
Chief Financial Officer

Kevin McGinnis
Vice President, Human Resources

Jeni Landers
Corporate Counsel

Sonja van Tichelen
Vice President, International Operations

programmes

Matthew Collis
Programme Director, International Policy

Phillip Kuvawoga
Programme Director, Landscape Conservation

Melissa Liszewski
Senior Programme Manager, Community Engagement

Sharon Livermore
Senior Programme Manager, Marine Conservation

Vivek Menon
Senior Advisor for Strategic Partnerships

Cynthia Milburn
Senior Advisor for Policy Development

Kathleen Moore
Deputy Vice President, Rescue Programme Director, Wildlife Rescue

Matthew Morley
Programme Director, Wildlife Crime

Rikkert Reijnen
Senior Advisor for Conservation

Brian Sharp
Programme Director, Marine Mammal Rescue & Research

Shannon Walajtys
Programme Director, Disaster Response & Risk Reduction

regions & countries

Joaquin de la Torre Ponce
Regional Representative, Latin America & Caribbean

Grace Ge Gabriel
Regional Director, Asia

Neil Greenwood
Regional Director, Southern Africa

Jeff He
Country Director, China

James Isiche
Regional Director, East Africa

Rebecca Keeble
Regional Director, Oceania

Danielle Kessler
Acting Country Director, United States of America

Robert Kless
Country Director, Germany

Staci McLennan
Country Director, European Union

Katherine Miller
Deputy Vice President, International Operations

Dr. Elsayed Ahmed Mohamed
Regional Director, Middle East & North Africa

James Sawyer
Regional Director, United Kingdom

Céline Sissler-Bienvenu
Country Director, France

Joep van Mierlo
Regional Director, Europe Country Director, Netherlands

Patricia Zaat
Country Director, Canada



landscape conservation

Despite the extraordinary impact of COVID-19, IFAW was able to continue to support essential landscape conservation in fiscal year 20, forge new partnerships and address challenges in a holistic way. This year we once again achieved noteworthy success in the priority landscapes where we work across Africa and Asia.

We remain committed to working with governments, local communities and other stakeholders to ensure connected conservation networks become a reality that provide wildlife, particularly keystone species like elephants, with the space they need to survive and thrive. This year IFAW-supported rangers recovered 2,498 kilograms of elephant ivory and arrested 1,289 poachers. Plus, IFAW-supported efforts added another 350 square kilometres of habitat to Manas National Park in India.

We continue to link conservation and community livelihoods through substantive community engagement and participation. This year we supported livelihood diversification activities that resulted in an astonishing US\$278,000 in direct income for communities in Malawi, Zambia and Kenya. We supported training for 289 people with skills like tailoring, brickmaking, construction and beekeeping in the places where we work, including China and India.

Our work is driven by our belief that when people thrive, animals will thrive along with them.

▼ Learn more about IFAW's Landscape Conservation Programme
<https://www.ifaw.org/africa/programs/landscape-conservation>



Landscape Conservation

partnering for conservation in the Greater Manas Landscape



In fiscal year 20 we continued to make a difference in the [Greater Manas Landscape](#) through our long-term partnership with the [Wildlife Trust of India \(WTI\)](#). Greater Manas is a ribbon of 1,450 square kilometres of protected landscape that runs along India's border with the Kingdom of Bhutan, in the foothills of the Himalayan Mountains. At its heart is the 500 square kilometre [Manas National Park](#), a World Heritage Site in Assam, that is a contiguous landscape with [Royal Manas National Park in Bhutan](#).

To improve enforcement capabilities, IFAW-WTI built an anti-poaching camp in the extended area of Greater Manas known as "First Addition." The camp is strategically located to ensure patrol staff can provide enhanced protection to First Addition as well as an area that is key habitat for Gee's golden langur, one of India's most endangered primate species.

In December 2019, two rhinoceros calves rescued from floods in [Kaziranga National Park](#) were translocated to [Manas National Park](#) and released into suitable habitat. This brings the population of greater one-horned rhinos in Manas to 39 individuals, 19 having been hand raised at our jointly run [Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation in Kaziranga](#) as part of an initiative to return threatened species to Manas.

The illegal logging of trees for fuelwood is a major concern for protected area management. During fiscal year 19, IFAW-WTI installed 26 improved cook stoves at commercial establishments in local markets around Manas and [First Addition](#). These fuel-efficient stoves require significantly less wood for heating and the markets showed a 32% decline in the usage of fuelwood as a result. Since

the project began, we have also installed about 2,000 stoves in homes in the [Greater Manas Landscape](#) reducing overall use of fuel wood by ~25%. Better fuel efficiency also means that households can dedicate time and resources to other important economic and social activities in the community. Such initiatives are key to reducing environmental impact and helping the region become more sustainable.

IFAW-WTI has set up four weaving centres that provide 200 women with livelihoods and preserve traditional weaving techniques. When the COVID-19 lockdown prevented weavers from going to work, we were able to mobilise more than 150 women to continue working from home making face masks. We procured and distributed 300 kilograms of high-quality cotton yarn to weavers at two centres and the weavers produced more than 500 masks for use in the community. Weavers were able to earn a monthly income of RS 8,000 (US\$108), which is a meaningful amount, especially during the nation-wide lockdown. At [Manas National Park, India](#), IFAW also supported frontline staff by providing 142 items of protective gear.

The partnership between IFAW and WTI has been a true conservation success story ever since it was formalised in 2001. Together we've worked on projects that meet a variety of IFAW's programme objectives. One of the most significant achievements was the expansion of the [Greater Manas Landscape](#) through the [#BringingBackManas](#) initiative. This contributed to UNESCO removing Manas from its List of World Heritage Sites in Danger in 2011. The fruitful partnership between IFAW and WTI will continue to ensure that both animals and people thrive.



500 face masks

produced by 150 women

2 rhinoceros calves

translocated from Kaziranga to Manas for release

2,000 fuel-efficient stoves

installed

▼ Learn more:

Greater Manas Landscape
<https://www.ifaw.org/africa/projects/greater-manas-landscape-conservation-india>

Kaziranga National Park
<https://www.ifaw.org/africa/projects/centre-for-wildlife-rehabilitation-and-conservation-india>

▲ Field technicians test tracking equipment on recently collared greater one-horned rhinoceros released into Manas National Park.

◀ A rescued greater one-horned rhino at Manas National Park.

supporting rangers to protect wildlife during the COVID-19 crisis



© IFAW/Will Swanson



© IFAW/Lesanne Dunlop

Lockdowns due to COVID-19 had an immediate and devastating impact on tourism around the world. The safari tourism industry that supports many thousands of employees and their families had no choice but to cease operations and lay off staff. Within days, bustling tourism hubs turned into ghost towns and we received reports of increased snaring and poaching activities, a potent indicator of the impact of the pandemic on livelihoods.

Just by their mere presence, tourists visiting protected areas form an effective surveillance system that helps reduce poaching and illegal activities. Desperate times and empty parks provided an opportunity for criminals and a devastating threat for wildlife.

Rangers are considered an “essential service” in all the landscapes where IFAW works, so they did not leave their bases to return home to their families during the lockdown period. Many remained at work for months to protect wildlife and habitat. In some countries, the downturn in tourist

revenue meant conservation authorities were short-paying or not paying rangers at all. In others, the shortage of income meant funds were not available to buy fuel for patrol vehicles. We heard of rangers denied essential protective supplies, such as face masks and hand sanitiser, simply due to lack of money.

IFAW’s [Landscape Programme](#) went to work in partnership with government authorities and wildlife departments to ensure that rangers and law enforcement officers received all they needed to remain motivated and effective during the crisis. The international lockdown caused by COVID-19 created one of the greatest challenges ever to rangers tasked with protecting wildlife. During the lockdown they made enormous personal sacrifices. [We thank them and we salute them.](#)



▼ Learn more

IFAW’s Landscape Conservation Programme
<https://www.ifaw.org/africa/programs/landscape-conservation>

A video message from IFAW-supported rangers on World Ranger Day 2020
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-ZSVF6qSnU>

- ▲ Francis Ncube and other forestry rangers at the Panda Masuie Release Project near Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, remained on duty for nearly four months during the COVID-19 lockdown.
- ◀ Community rangers supported by IFAW remained on duty for four months during the COVID-19 lockdown.



Kenya and Tanzania

One of the priorities for IFAW is wildlife security in community lands in the larger Amboseli-Tsavo-Kilimanjaro (ATK) landscape straddling the Kenya-Tanzania border. In March 2020, COVID-19 lockdowns prohibited all non-essential movement and services in Kenya. As protectors of wildlife and habitat, and also as first responders in incidences of human wildlife conflict, the [Olgulului Community](#)

[Wildlife Rangers](#) (OCWR) were declared an essential service by the leadership of the Olgulului Olgulurashi Group Ranch (OOG).

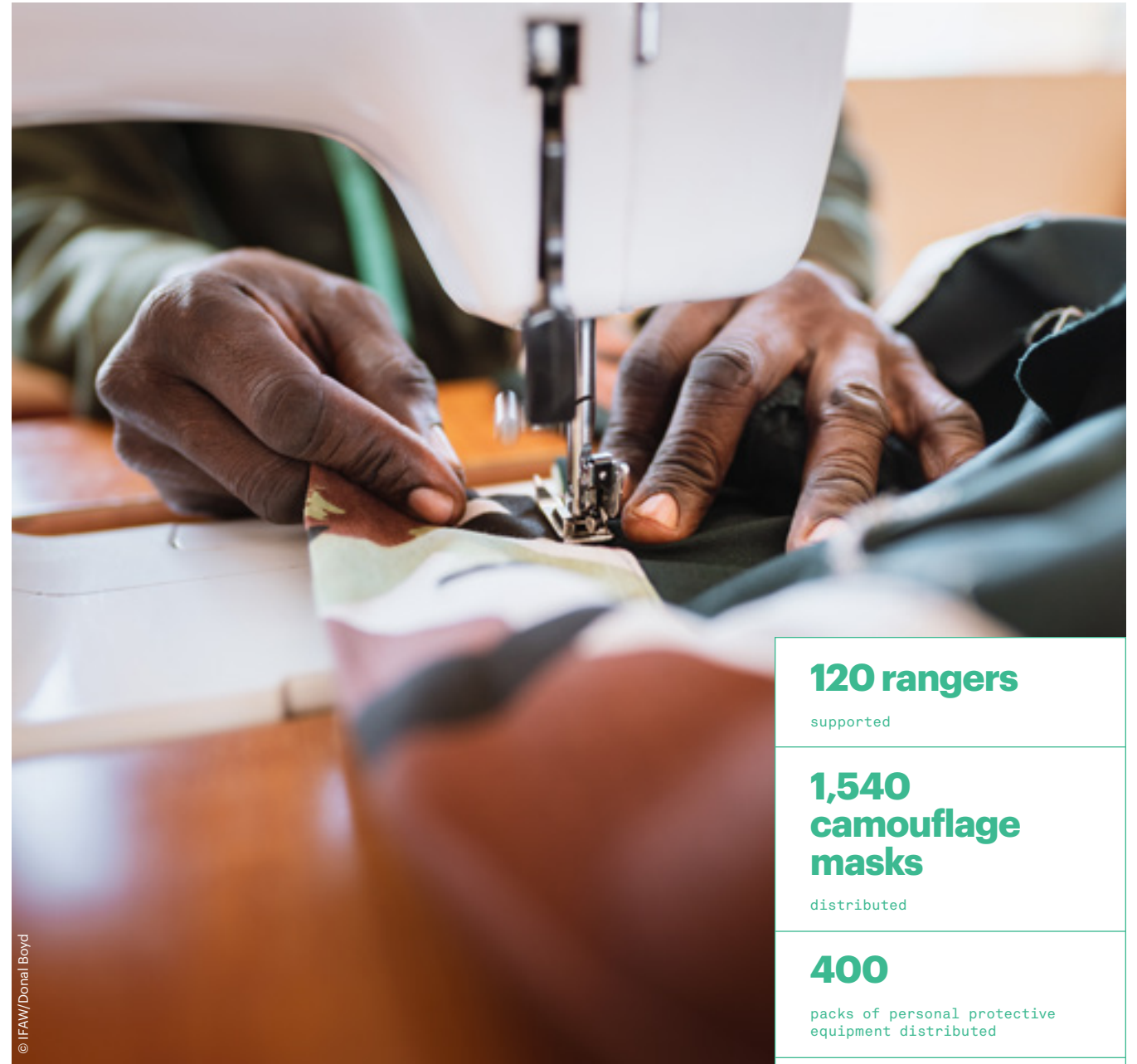
To [ensure the safety of wildlife during this time](#), and to avoid the risk of COVID-19 transmission, the OCWR had to stay within the six ranger outposts for over four months without travelling home. Through the generosity of the European Commission and the TUI Care Foundation, IFAW remained steadfast in [supporting the OCWR by providing salaries, rations, equipment and personal protective equipment](#).

▼ Learn more

Article: Community rangers in Africa continue to protect wildlife despite COVID-19
<https://www.ifaw.org/africa/journal/rangers-combat-covid-19-amboseli-national-park-kenya>

Video: Team Lioness Ranger Unit Protects Wildlife During COVID-19
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Plu-BL2H-s>

- ▲ Ruth Sikeita Losiaik, an IFAW Team Lioness community ranger in Amboseli, Kenya, returns home to her family after an extended four month period on duty during the COVID-19 lockdown.



© IFAW/Donal Boyd

Malawi and Zambia

In Malawi and Zambia, the Combatting Wildlife Crime (CWC) [Malawi-Zambia Transboundary Landscape Project](#) supports 120 rangers. The tailoring team based at [Kasungu National Park](#) made 1,540 camouflage masks that were distributed to all Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) rangers in Malawi. In addition, we distributed 400

COVID-19 personal protective equipment packs and supplied bicycles so they could safely continue their work. [Despite the lockdown, rangers continued to patrol the 7,000 square kilometre transboundary landscape with no reported increase in poaching](#). The elephant population in Kasungu National Park has more than doubled from 55 in 2015 to 115 in 2019. This has made it essential to refurbish the western boundary fence to keep people and animals safe, which is the project's next milestone.

120 rangers

supported

1,540 camouflage masks

distributed

400

packs of personal protective equipment distributed


55 to 115

the increase in the elephant population between 2015 and 2019

▼ Learn more

<https://www.ifaw.org/africa/projects?program=landscape-conservation>

- ▲ During the COVID-19 lockdown of early 2020, the tailoring workshop of IFAW's CWC Malawi-Zambia Transboundary Project, produced camouflage facemasks that were distributed to every wildlife ranger in Malawi.

504 additional patrol hours over 12-weeks

US\$85,000
for operational support

3,230
additional square kilometres covered by patrols every month

Zimbabwe

Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, a main centre for safari tourism, was particularly hard hit by COVID-19 closures. With many people left destitute and without income, the threat of an increase in poaching in the surrounding protected areas was very real. At the [WIL-ZEN](#) elephant release site in the Panda Masuie Forest, a short distance from Victoria Falls, an additional ranger base was established. Over a 12-week period, an additional 504 patrol hours were made from the base especially along the eastern boundary where there are human settlements. The entire staff was issued personal protective equipment and food to support the families of approximately 20 people who work as drivers, cooks and maintenance workers.

At [Hwange National Park](#), Zimbabwe's largest national park, IFAW supports Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management

Authority (ZimParks) rangers working in the Makona sector, which is a known poaching hotspot. At any time, this 4,500 square kilometre area of the national park is patrolled by just 25 rangers, which is just one ranger per 180 square kilometres, far below the accepted standard of 1 ranger per 20 square kilometres. The impact of COVID-19 on surrounding communities was dire, greatly raising the risk of an increase in poaching.

IFAW is supporting ZimParks to provide operational support, including food provisions for patrols and fuel for rangers safeguarding the Makona sector. Over time support was expanded, enabling ZimParks to extend vehicle and foot patrols in the Sinamatella, Main Camp and Robins sections and surrounding communal areas. During the lockdown, IFAW support enabled ZimParks' vehicle patrols to cover an additional 3,230 square kilometres every month, greatly reducing the potential for poaching activity.

▼ Learn more

Q&A about the Panda Masuie Release Project
<https://www.ifaw.org/africa/journal/jos-danckwerts-elephants-panda-masuie>

Video: A peek into a ranger's camp under the COVID-19 pandemic in Hwange National Park
<https://www.ifaw.org/africa/journal/rangers-camp-covid-19-hwange-national-park>

▲ Forestry ranger Francis Ncube and head keeper Paradzai Mutize remained at work for nearly four months during the COVID-19 lockdown to care for and protect the elephants at the Panda Masuie Release Project near Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

◀ Paradzai Mutize, head keeper at the Panda Masuie Release Project near Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe starts his day cleaning the elephant boma. Rangers and elephant keepers at the facility remained at work for nearly four months during the COVID-19 lockdown.



Landscape Conservation

conservation footprint in Hwange National Park



In late 2019, IFAW and the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZimParks) shook hands on an [agreement](#) to enhance wildlife conservation in the country renowned for its incredible commitment to conservation of biodiversity and its large elephant populations.

Our work with ZimParks addresses conservation challenges in the [Hwange-Matetsi ecosystem](#), which covers the iconic Hwange National Park, Zambezi National Park, Victoria Falls National Park and adjoining community areas. [These areas are home to some 53,000 elephants and 600 lions and together form part of the world's largest conservation area](#), the 519,912 square kilometre Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA-TFCA).

The partnership spans a variety of conservation objectives, including developing on-the-ground law enforcement capacity to protect wildlife populations from poaching and working with communities to prevent human-wildlife conflict.

In [Hwange National Park](#), our work focuses on [Makona](#), a known hotspot for poaching due to the porous 150-kilometre boundary it shares with the neighbouring Tsholotsho communal area. Keeping wildlife safe requires intense protection by a well-motivated and well-equipped cadre of rangers. [IFAW's goal is to reduce elephant poaching in the landscape by 50% by 2023.](#)

One of our first actions was to help ZimParks upgrade part of the Main Camp-Makona access road, a 40 kilometre stretch which was difficult to access due to deep Kalahari sands. [Rehabilitating road infrastructure is a game changer in helping rangers respond swiftly to poaching activities.](#) It also improves the tourism experience and this road will make it possible for visitors to explore new sections of the park that were difficult to reach before.

IFAW also provided ZimParks with a new tractor and trailer and two new 4x4 off-road vehicles to support anti-poaching efforts in [Hwange](#). An additional two vehicles were refurbished to increase the law enforcement fleet. Rangers made some significant breakthroughs in their anti-poaching work, seizing 64 kilograms of ivory and arresting at least two poachers (one, a well-known local footballer, was jailed for nine years for illegal possession of eight pieces of unmarked raw ivory).

The partnership with ZimParks has thrived despite the challenges of the first year and we're confident that we will see long-term success and positive outcomes for animals and people in the landscape.

519,912 square kilometres

the world's largest conservation area

goal of 50% reduction in elephant poaching by 2023

2 new off-road vehicles

provided to support anti-poaching efforts

▼ Learn more:

Article: The start of a value-driven Conservation Partnership <https://www.ifaw.org/africa/news/mou-ifaw-zimparks>

▲ Wild dogs, also known as painted dogs, hunting in Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe.

◀ A herd of elephants arrive at a waterhole in Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe.



© Save Vietnam's Wildlife

Section 2

wildlife crime

The world's [COVID-19 crisis](#) put added pressure on wildlife. For example, the simple presence of people helps keep poachers away, so when tourists vanished due to lockdowns and travel restrictions, animals in many parks and protected areas were at increased risk. Meanwhile, many frontline rangers saw their wages cut or eliminated due to the lack of tourist revenue.

In the places where IFAW works, we stepped in to help. We made sure rangers were paid, supported, and able to do their work. And that was just one aspect of our work to reduce wildlife crime in fiscal year 2020.

IFAW's [Wildlife Crime Programme](#) takes a multi-faceted approach. We support capacity building for law enforcers and we strongly believe that change at an international and national policy level is key to tackling wildlife crime. IFAW continues to be a pioneer in disrupting online trade in wildlife. IFAW's Wildlife Crime Programme is committed to reducing public demand for illegal wildlife and wildlife products through public awareness.

▼ Learn more

Video: Interview with IFAW Regional Director for Asia, Grace Ge Gabriel https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cZWl6E_ufEY

IFAW's Wildlife Crime Programme
<https://www.ifaw.org/africa/programs/wildlife-crime>



© Alejandro Prieto

Wildlife Crime

strengthening law enforcement capacity



© Cheetah Conservation Fund

The COVID-19 pandemic has thrust issues around the legal and illegal trade of wildlife into the global spotlight like never before. But away from the headlines, statements, and promises, the day-to-day work of wildlife law enforcement personnel, often dangerous and very unglamorous, continues and IFAW has been there with our partners throughout this tumultuous year.

Despite the challenges and restrictions imposed by the pandemic, our projects were able to train a total of 479 law enforcement personnel in eight countries, across four continents. Our operations support led to our partners seizing over 350 kilograms of elephant ivory and hundreds of kilograms of bush meat and other contraband including illegal firearms.

In fiscal year 20 we kick-started two new initiatives: [Operation Jaguar](#) in Bolivia, Suriname and Guyana and the [Legal Intelligence for Cheetah Illicit Trade \(LICIT\)](#) project in the [Horn of Africa](#).

Protecting jaguars

[Operation Jaguar](#) (funded by the Dutch Postcode Lottery and led by IUCN NL) provides [training to personnel from a range of government agencies responsible for tackling wildlife crime](#), along with prosecutors and judges, who are critical elements of the legal system and are often overlooked by conservation organisations. Before COVID-19 travel restrictions caused a pause in some activities, we were able to work with 26 staff from seven different agencies, led by the [Guyana Wildlife Conservation and Management Commission](#). We have adapted some of our training methods and course content to make it available for

remote training and will be looking to utilise these methods more while travel restrictions persist.

Combatting cheetah trafficking

The [LICIT Project](#) (funded by the UK Government's [Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund](#) and led by the [Cheetah Conservation Foundation](#)) addresses the need for stronger legislation and enforcement and greater [cross-border cooperation to combat trafficking of cheetahs](#). IFAW is helping to establish networks of organisations and individuals to prevent cheetah cubs from being taken from their dens and sold into the exotic pet industry, which, tragically, is often done by cattle herders in [Ethiopia](#), [Somalia](#) and [Somaliland](#) in an effort to protect their livestock from predators.

Our expert trainers will be working with law enforcement personnel from across the region to assist them in tackling this devastating trade. It is estimated that nearly 300 cubs a year are trafficked illegally from the region. At this rate, it will not be long before populations are locally extinct.

Disrupting wildlife trafficking networks

IFAW teams in [southern and eastern Africa](#) continue making inroads into networks trafficking in wildlife products. In [Zambia](#), over 114 kilograms of ivory was seized, along with pangolin scales and leopard skins. Among those arrested were a number of citizens from other countries in the region, highlighting the long and multinational nature of the trafficking chains. [Kenya Wildlife Service \(KWS\)](#) staff and IFAW-supported Community Rangers

seized more than 110 kilograms of ivory and bush meat that had been poached from elephants and vulnerable giraffe populations.

479

law enforcement personnel trained in 8 countries

114

kilograms of ivory seized in Zambia

110

kilograms of ivory and bush meat seized in Kenya

▼ Learn more:

Article: [Wildlife crime prevention in Latin America and the Caribbean](#)
<https://www.ifaw.org/africa/projects/wildlife-crime-prevention-latin-america-and-caribbean>

▲ Nine Cheetah cubs were rescued from wildlife traffickers in Somaliland.

◀ Two female jaguar cubs rescued by Mexican authorities in Campeche, a state in Mexico.



Wildlife Crime

securing survival of barbary macaques



We refused to sit back and watch as Barbary macaques, a monkey species native to the Atlas Mountains of Algeria and Morocco, were pushed to the brink of extinction, with just 10,000 individuals estimated worldwide. In partnership with Animal Advocacy and Protection (AAP) and the Water and Forests Department in Morocco, IFAW helped create [Born to Be Wild](#), a project to [to stop the poaching and smuggling of Barbary macaques, to strengthen enforcement capacity and to raise awareness among local communities and tourists](#). [Born to Be Wild](#) is funded by the [Dutch Postcode Lottery](#).

[Born to Be Wild](#) has been operating for three years in [Ifrane National Park, Morocco](#), with 10 local scouts patrolling 12,500 square kilometres night and day. We aimed to see Barbary macaques and humans thrive together, so we employed local scouts to engage with park visitors and conduct [educational activities](#) at more than 30 nearby schools to raise awareness. We also recognised that local farmers suffer when macaques feed on

their crops, so we have helped to establish the [Cherry Tree Association](#), a group of 50 farmers discussing the challenges and working on solutions together.

Thanks to this all of this work, the population of Barbary macaques has grown by 31% over the three years since 2017.

We also worked to address challenges beyond the borders of [Ifrane National Park](#). We investigated and analysed local trade markets and identified trafficking routes from [North Africa](#) to Europe that are used to smuggle illegal wildlife like Barbary macaques, tortoises and the European goldfinch. We trained authorities to identify species commonly traded illegally and supported them in carrying out [confiscations](#). Since [Born to Be Wild](#) began, more than 400 animals have been confiscated and released back into the wild, including 12 Barbary macaques.

30 schools reached with educational activities

50 farmers involved in working on solutions

30% increase in the population of Barbary macaques since 2017

400 animals confiscated and released back into the wild

12 Barbary macaques confiscated and released back into the wild

- ▼ Learn more:
- Article: [Born to Be Wild](#)
<https://www.ifaw.org/international/projects/born-to-be-wild-morocco>
 - Article: [Fostering a generation that protects wildlife in Morocco](#)
<https://www.ifaw.org/international/journal/future-generation-awareness-barbary-macaque>
 - Article: [Learn more about the Cherry Tree Association](#)
<https://www.ifaw.org/international/journal/coexistence-farmers-barbary-macaques>
 - Article: [Four hundred Greek tortoises seized by Moroccan authorities](#)
<https://www.ifaw.org/international/news/greek-tortoises-seized-morocco>
 - ▲ Two [Born to Be Wild](#) scouts patrolling [Ifrane National Park](#) on foot during the day to monitor the park and ensure the Barbary macaques are safe from poachers.
 - ◀ A baby Barbary macaque clings to its mother in [Ifrane National Park](#).



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Wildlife Crime

combatting wildlife crime in the Malawi-Zambia landscape

[Combatting Wildlife Crime](#) in the [Malawi-Zambia Transboundary Landscape](#) is a five-year project managed by IFAW and supported by [USAID](#). The project operates across a 7,000 square kilometre transfrontier landscape that includes national parks, wildlife reserves, forest reserves, game management areas and communal lands.

IFAW [plays an active role in wildlife crime prevention](#), working with partners (and sub-grantees): the [Lilongwe Wildlife Trust](#), [Wildlife Crime Prevention](#), and the [Departments of National Parks and Wildlife](#) in both [Zambia](#) and [Malawi](#).

Despite the challenges of COVID-19, the impact of the project in fiscal year 20 has been significant, including the seizure of a total of 949 kilograms of illegal ivory and the arrest of almost 600 poachers and wildlife traffickers between October 2019 and June 2020.

Building a better future

We supported training for 50 teachers to provide environmental education. Despite the interruption to the school year due to the pandemic, they were able to provide environmental education to at least 10,000 learners.

We also supported infrastructure development, including the installation of three VHF antenna masts to provide radio communication, one in [Zambia](#) and two in [Kasungu National Park](#) in [Malawi](#), funded by the [German Corporation for International Cooperation \(GIZ\)](#). VHF masts are a key communications tool for rangers across the transfrontier, allowing them to remain in touch with their counterparts to prevent wildlife crime.

Another significant construction project was building [a bridge linking two key communities](#) near [Kasungu National Park](#). This [makes it possible for communities to continue to trade and for children to safely get to school during the rainy season when flash floods sometimes occur](#).

Through alternative livelihoods initiatives approximately US\$39,872 was placed directly into the hands of the local community between April and June 2020. While 206 people directly benefited from earning money, each “breadwinner” supports an average of six people, which means that more than 1,000 members of the local community have benefited from these initiatives.

949 kilograms

of ivory seized

600

poachers and wildlife traffickers arrested

10,000 learners

received classes in environmental education

50 teachers

trained

5,000 people

in local communities have benefited economically since the project started

▼ Learn more:

Article: Habitats cross borders—so do poachers
<https://www.ifaw.org/africa/projects/combating-wildlife-crime-in-the-malawi-zambia-transboundary-landscape>

Video: Kasungu Ranger Graduation
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0v-gl9juivI>

▲ IFAW-trained rangers on parade in Kasungu National Park, Malawi.

◀ An aerial view of Kasungu National Park, Malawi, which forms part of IFAW’s Malawi-Zambia Transboundary Landscape Project.



Wildlife Crime

reducing wildlife crime in the Greater Kilimanjaro Transfrontier Conservation Area

IFAW continues to play an important role in supporting [law enforcement](#) in the Greater Kilimanjaro Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA), working with both community scouts and the wildlife management agencies of Kenya and Tanzania to better support their efforts to secure the vast area.

IFAW provides logistical and technical support to the 76 rangers of the Olgulului Community Group Ranch, including the members of IFAW's [Team Lioness](#), one of the region's [first all-female ranger teams](#). This year, our team has supported the roll-out of landscape-wide systems to collate, assess, and present data on poaching and trafficking incidents, human wildlife conflict, and many other data points essential to managing the landscape effectively and using resources efficiently.

Throughout fiscal year 20, IFAW facilitated cross-border security meetings between Kenyan and Tanzanian partners to [improve intelligence sharing and to promote joint operations against gangs trafficking ivory and bush meat](#). IFAW supported an operation by Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) that resulted in the seizure of over 110 kilograms of ivory and the breakup of three networks responsible for trafficking in wildlife products.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has been significant in East Africa. Loss of vital income from tourism has meant that desperately needed funds for law enforcement have run dry. When the pandemic took hold, in-person training and support became challenging so IFAW pivoted to providing logistical support to KWS, including fuel, rations and equipment to keep rangers in the field.

110 kilograms

of ivory seized

3

wildlife trafficking networks broken up

76 rangers

provided with logistical and technical support

▼ Learn more:

Article: Local communities play a vital role in the fight against wildlife crime
<https://www.ifaw.org/africa/projects/community-support-law-enforcement-anti-poaching>

Article: We're transforming what it means to be a woman ranger
<https://www.ifaw.org/africa/projects/team-lioness>

Video: Team Lioness are changing the way women impact conservation
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N4Myd-A70QE>

▲ Senior Sergeant Melubo Koipitat of the 75-strong Olgulului Community Wildlife Rangers (OCWR) wearing a protective facemask provided by IFAW as part of COVID-19 mitigation measures.



Wildlife Crime

improving security in the Greater Virunga landscape

With financial support from the [European Union](#), IFAW (in partnership with [IUCN-Netherlands](#)) in fiscal year 20 moved into the final year of our [project](#) supporting law enforcement and communities in [Queen Elizabeth National Park](#) in Uganda and [Virunga National Park](#) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Our experts trained more than 35 frontline law enforcement officers and intelligence staff from both parks, focusing on tackling cross-border wildlife trafficking. In [mid-2020, we completed and handed over a 12-person ranger outpost](#) in [Queen Elizabeth National Park](#) to the [Uganda Wildlife Authority](#) (UWA). This strategically located facility will allow Uganda's rangers to secure the western boundary of the park and [disrupt the activities of poachers and traffickers](#) who previously had free reign in this important part of the landscape.

In addition to supporting a number of joint patrols between [Congolese and Ugandan Rangers](#), IFAW supports a number of community wildlife monitors who support park operations with information and [act as bridges between communities and park management](#). Working with [UWA](#), the activities of our monitors led to the arrest and prosecution of 36 poachers and the recovery of snaring equipment, bush meat and vehicles used in cross-border smuggling.

We facilitate meetings that let communities share with UWA rangers their concerns and challenges about living alongside wildlife. We also work with local community informants to support the park in tackling wildlife crime, such as poaching and trafficking.

35

frontline officers trained

36

poachers arrested and prosecuted

▼ Learn more:

Article: Strengthening community participation across borders
<https://www.ifaw.org/africa/projects/combating-illegal-wildlife-trade-greater-virunga-landscape>

▲ With funding from the European Union, in fiscal year 20 IFAW and partners trained 35 frontline law enforcement officers in Uganda's Queen Elizabeth National Park (QENP) and Virunga National Park in the DR Congo. Kob antelope are common in Uganda's QENP.



reducing market supply and consumer demand in China

With internet technology rapidly evolving, the illegal wildlife trade has been shifting from offline to online platforms for years. However, as platform providers strengthen their efforts to regulate wildlife cybercrime, sellers are constantly exploring new ways to avoid detection, including transitioning from using code words to images, short videos and live streaming to promote the wildlife products they sell. Traditional code-word searching and monitoring is no longer enough to cope with the evolving trend. A tool that is able to recognise commonly traded wildlife products is urgently needed.

Collaboration with internet companies to promote wildlife conservation

IFAW works in close collaboration with prominent internet companies in China to bring the conversation about wildlife conservation to the mainstream. In January 2020, IFAW, along with other NGOs, worked with Alibaba to launch the wildlife conservation initiative *Ai Ling Plan* (Caring for Beings), which attracted more than 3 million visits to its site. The second largest Chinese search engine, Sogou, launched campaigns with IFAW in January and March 2020 that changed Sogou's homepage to wildlife conservation information, attracting more than 44 million views in seven days.

Adding artificial intelligence to the fight against online wildlife crime

In April 2020, IFAW and Baidu launched an artificial intelligence (AI)-powered tool to identify images of endangered wildlife

products illegally traded online. This will provide a key tool in keeping one step ahead of those involved in the illegal trade as they constantly change the words and expressions they use in online listings in an effort to avoid detection.

The AI Guardian for Endangered Species was jointly developed by IFAW and Baidu's open-source deep learning platform PaddlePaddle. The tool currently has 75% accuracy for recognising images of elephant ivory, tiger canine teeth, skin, claws and pangolin scales and claws. So far, the AI Guardian helped recognise more than 4,000 illegal wildlife product pictures from more than 250,000 messages from different Chinese online platforms. The tool will significantly improve the efficiency and coverage of IFAW's regular online research and help support enforcement agencies and platform regulators in their efforts.

Changing social behaviour for wildlife

To reduce demand for wildlife parts and products, IFAW conducts social behaviour change communications campaigns to change individual consumer behaviour as well as create an environment for wider social change. Leveraging technology from the private sector, IFAW's campaign promoting the ivory trade ban and the legal ramifications of wildlife consumption, was able to reach target audiences with precision. With support from media partners, including JCDecaux Advertising (Shanghai), Dynamic Winning Partners Media Group, Beijing MTR, Beijing AirMedia United Advertising and others, IFAW's public service announcements reached more than 20 urban centres in China.

We are also engaging private sector partners to incorporate wildlife-friendly concepts into their own marketing strategies to mainstream and amplify IFAW campaign messages. IFAW and InNail, one of the leading high-end nail care and beauty lifestyle brands in China, jointly launched a series of wildlife conservation-themed products motivating consumers with "Hands-on Rejection of Wildlife Products" messaging.

In March 2020, IFAW and Meituan, China's largest food delivery platform, launched a joint campaign calling on people to refrain from eating wild meat. 17,000 merchants on Meituan responded to the call and promised to remove wild meat from menus. Within days of launching the campaign, Meituan delisted 7,514 "wildlife meat" relevant merchants. In fiscal year 20 IFAW leveraged over US\$24 million of in-kind donations from China's media and private sectors.

4,000

illegal wildlife product pictures identified by artificial intelligence

44 million

views of wildlife conservation messages over seven days on Sogou's search engine

◀ To raise public awareness on wildlife protection after the COVID-19 outbreak, we launched the 'Say NO to wildlife meat' PSA and a series of Wildlife Protection Law Promotion PSAs at Beijing Metro and both Capital International Airport and Daxing International Airport. The media spaces were donated by IFAW's long term media partners.

wildlife cybercrime



Stopping wildlife crime relies not only on protecting wildlife in its natural habitat, but also on disrupting the marketplace for wildlife products. Today, the biggest marketplace is online. It’s a borderless market that’s always open and connects buyers and sellers around the world with the click of a mouse. **The global pandemic has pushed even more commerce online, making it more important than ever for IFAW to continue its vital work** with private-sector partners, international

policy forums and consumers to end [wildlife cybercrime](#) and protect some of our most threatened species.

Working with vital partners to make a difference together

The [Coalition to End Wildlife Trafficking Online](#) continues to bring together the world’s biggest online technology, e-commerce and social media companies

from across the world in partnership with the [World Wildlife Fund \(WWF\)](#), the [Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network \(TRAFFIC\)](#) and IFAW for an industry-wide approach to reduce wildlife trafficking online. The [coalition](#) focuses on company policy harmonisation, industry collaboration, user education, mobilising citizen spotters, in-depth company training and machine learning enhancement.

In March 2020, for the [second anniversary of the coalition](#), IFAW, WWF, and TRAFFIC published [Offline and In the Wild](#), a report highlighting coalition successes, **including more than three million prohibited species listings having been either blocked or removed, almost 470 staff trained, and more than 4,500 listings flagged to companies by cyber spotters.**

In addition, IFAW successfully recruited two new partners for the coalition – France’s [Leboncoin](#) and Germany’s [Deine Tierwelt](#).

In fiscal year 20, IFAW proudly launched its cyber spotter programme with 29 volunteers trained in Germany, France and China. The volunteers monitored online commerce platforms and reported listings suspected of offering live animals or animal parts. They identified more than 3,000 wildlife listings for removal across 10 platforms.

IFAW also continues working with partners on a two-year project aimed at disrupting criminals trafficking wildlife in or via the EU. Funded by the [Internal Security Fund of the Directorate General for Migration and Home Affairs of the European Commission](#), the work is implemented by a coalition including IFAW, WWF, [INTERPOL](#), and the [Belgian Customs](#), with in-kind support from TRAFFIC. The [Disrupting and dismantling wildlife cybercriminals and their networks in the European Union](#) project helps train customs, police, and other enforcement officers across the EU to detect and deter wildlife trafficking. It also engages with delivery and online tech companies.

Making progress through international policy forums

IFAW’s effective lobbying helped ensure that parties adopted important amendments at the [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora \(CITES\) CoP18](#), held in [Geneva, Switzerland](#) in August 2019. The amendments specifically tackle wildlife crime linked to the internet with **calls for parties to evaluate or develop domestic measures to ensure that they sufficiently address wildlife crime and that adequate resources are available to investigate these crimes.**

The amendments will help establish national monitoring programmes and engagement with online platforms to raise awareness. At the conference, new CITES

Secretary General, Yvonne Higuero, championed the issue of wildlife cybercrime, mentioning it in many of her speeches and in her closing remarks. Wildlife cybercrime was also high on the agenda at the [Americas Regional Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade](#), the [first high-level conference on illegal wildlife trade in the Americas](#), which saw countries from [North](#), [Central](#) and [South America](#) and the [Caribbean](#) come together in [Lima, Peru](#) for two days in October 2019 to identify ways to combat wildlife crime. **Twenty-one signatories pledged to “address wildlife crime linked to the internet with effective penalties and sanctions.”**

ifaw as a pioneering world leader on wildlife cybercrime

IFAW continues to grow its reputation as a leading body tackling wildlife cybercrime globally. **In fiscal year 20, we provided valuable expertise to companies, governments, enforcers, inter-governmental agencies, funders and consumers.** Examples include providing IFAW’s breadth of experience and expertise at:

- ▶ [CITES CoP18](#)
- ▶ [Americas Regional Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade in Peru](#) (October 2019)
- ▶ [INTERPOL’s Wildlife Crime Working Group in Singapore](#) (November 2019)
- ▶ [The General Police Equipment Conference \(GPEC\) wildlife crime workshop in Frankfurt, Germany](#) (February 2019)
- ▶ [The Coalition to End Wildlife Trafficking online event in New York](#) (March 2020)
- ▶ [Online presentation about combatting wildlife cybercrime for key functions at ByteDance \(the parent company of Tiktok/Douyin\)](#) (May 2020)

3 million

listings of prohibited species blocked or removed in two years

470

staff trained in two years

29 volunteers

trained for the cyber spotter programme

3,000

wildlife listings identified for removal from 10 platforms

▼ Learn more:

Article: IFAW’s wildlife cybercrime prevention
<https://www.ifaw.org/uk/projects/wildlife-cybercrime-prevention-global>

Coalition to End Wildlife Trafficking Online
<https://www.endwildlifetraffickingonline.org/>

Article: Tech companies take down three million online listings for trafficked wildlife
<https://www.ifaw.org/uk/news/tech-companies-take-down-three-million-online-listings-trafficked-wildlife>

Report: Offline and in the wild
<https://www.ifaw.org/uk/resources/offline-and-in-the-wild>

Article: New EU initiative to counter surging wildlife cybercrime
<https://www.ifaw.org/uk/news/new-eu-initiative-to-counter-surg-ing-wildlife-cybercrime>

Article: First high-level conference on illegal wildlife trade in the Americas
<https://www.ifaw.org/uk/news/illegal-wildlife-trade-conference-peru>

▲ A Sunda pangolin walks along the forest floor in Vietnam.



marine conservation

Life in the ocean is under threat. IFAW works to strengthen protections for whales, other marine species and ocean habitats worldwide. We focus on the threats of entanglement in fishing gear, collisions with ships, underwater noise pollution, commercial whaling and climate change. Whether promoting alternative industrial practices or lobbying for stronger laws, we focus on solutions that enable animals and people to thrive together.

Dr. Sidney Holt, 1926–2019

We were all saddened by the passing of our long-time mentor, advisor, and colleague Dr. Sidney Holt in December 2019. Sidney's singular contributions to marine conservation and leviathan legacy of leadership in the global campaign to end commercial whaling will ripple across the ocean planet for generations to come. Razor sharp and prolific to the end, Sidney lived to celebrate the end of Antarctic whaling and see the International Whaling Commission migrate from a whalers' club toward world-class whale conservation in the 21st century, a course he had charted 60 years before. Farewell, dear friend. Well done.



celebrating the end of whaling in Iceland

Seventeen years of campaigning to end commercial whaling in Iceland is finally paying off. In spring 2020 we received word from Iceland that neither minke nor fin whaling would take place that calendar year. This marks the second year in a row without any whaling in Iceland.

The end of Icelandic whaling is good news for whales, good news for Iceland and good news for marine conservation worldwide. IFAW salutes and commends our long-time partners and friends in Iceland who have been working to end the cruel and wasteful killing of fin whales and minke whales in Icelandic waters and to end consumption of whale meat by international tourists.

In a public statement, the last remaining company conducting minke whaling confirmed that it would cease operations. The main reason given was economic inefficiency and the extended whale sanctuary in Faxaflói Bay, off Reykjavik. IFAW instigated and played a key role in the creation of this whale sanctuary and its later expansion.

A second, lone company that carries out fin whaling is yet to make an official announcement about the future of its enterprise and whether the commercial fin whale hunt might resume in 2021.

Public sentiment in Iceland favours an end to all whaling and patience with the last remaining whalers is wearing thin. IFAW started Iceland's largest petition campaign to date calling for an end to whaling, with well over 174,000 signatures delivered to the Icelandic government.

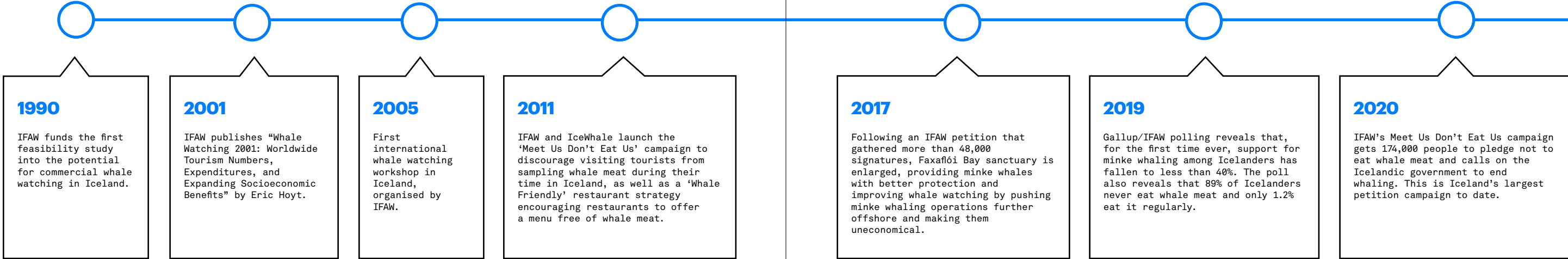
Fin whales—the second largest animal on Earth—had previously been harpooned in Iceland specifically for export to Japan. Minke whales were killed for the domestic whale meat market, but mainly used to feed curious tourists in the country. More than 1,500 fin and minke whales have been killed in Iceland since 2003, the year the country resumed commercial whaling after a 13-year hiatus. IFAW has worked with Icelanders since this time to promote responsible whale watching as an alternative to the cruelty of whaling.

positive partnerships are one of IFAW's most powerful tools for encouraging change



▲ With more than 2.3M tourists visiting Iceland each year, recent data shows at least 17% go whale watching. IFAW's Meet Us Don't Eat Us campaign promotes whale watching as responsible and economic alternative to whaling.

◀ A humpback whale breaches the waters off Eyjafjörður Fjord in North Iceland.





© Richard McLanaghan

Marine Conservation

reducing the negative impacts of shipping



© New England Aquarium/Taken under permit authorized by NOAA

As part of ongoing efforts to reduce the negative impacts of shipping on marine life and the marine environment, IFAW has continued to raise awareness of the detrimental effects of continuous underwater noise from shipping. Ship propellers are the major cause of this noise, and the increase in the size, speed and number of ships globally has led to huge increases to the constant din in oceans throughout the globe.

Technical options and reducing ship speeds are straightforward solutions that reduce underwater noise from shipping. IFAW continues to work within the [International Maritime Organisation \(IMO\)](#), the United Nations body governing marine traffic, to place the issue onto the work agenda of the Marine Environment Protection Committee. IFAW submitted a supportive paper, signed by a wide coalition of NGOs, and is working with various governments to secure their support as well.

Slowing down ships not only reduces this constant background noise, it also results in fewer ship strikes and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. During fiscal year 20, this link was documented in a research paper by IFAW's Russell Leaper, "The Role of Slower Vessel Speeds in Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Underwater Noise and Collision Risk to Whales," which was published in *Frontiers for Marine Science*. **The research shows that an achievable 10-15% reduction in global ship speeds would likely reduce the**

number of whales killed by ship strikes or affected by shipping noise by 50%. In light of these findings, IFAW is calling for a 10% reduction in shipping speeds. We are working to find holistic solutions and are collaborating with industry, having made contact with nine international shipping companies and associations.

Collisions between vessels and whales ("ship strikes") remain an underestimated threat to whales. Experts suspect that for every whale we see that has been (fatally) injured by a strike, twenty whales with the same fate go undetected.

Protecting endangered sperm whales from ship strikes in Greece

Working with our local partners in [Greece](#) to address the significant and serious conservation and welfare problem that ship strike poses to an endangered population of sperm whales in the [Hellenic Trench](#), west of Greece, has resulted in significant engagement with the [Greek government](#), the [Hellenic Chamber of Shipping](#), and the [Union of Greek Shipowners](#) over the last year. Consultation is now taking place at the Ministerial level to consider ship strike risk reduction options to help protect these endangered whales.

To achieve change, we are also joining forces with other NGOs to help drive political decisions and highlight the

impacts human activities are having on marine animals. One heartbreaking example came to the world's attention in the spring of 2020 when a fin whale missing its entire tail fluke was spotted in the Mediterranean Sea. It quickly became evident that the whale must have fallen victim to both a ship strike and entanglement in fishing gear, eventually causing it to lose its tail flukes. IFAW is working on smart and collaborative solutions to address these serious conservation and welfare issues. **These deaths are avoidable.**

we are working to find holistic solutions and are collaborating with industry

- ▲ North Atlantic right whale swims though ship traffic.
- ◀ Sperm whale breaches with its body almost completely above the water's surface.



© Brian Skerry

campaign to save North Atlantic right whales

IFAW continues to work to ensure the survival of the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale (NARW). With fewer than 360 North Atlantic right whales remaining, our work focuses on reducing the threats they face in their critical habitat off the east coast of [North America](#).

The biggest threats these whales face is entanglement in outmoded fishing gear or collisions with boats and ships. Our work to eliminate these threats is more urgent than ever as only 25% of the remaining whales are reproductive-aged females. **The death of even one animal is potentially catastrophic to species recovery.** Tragically, two new born calves were killed in 2020, making a total of 46 dead (or presumed dead) North Atlantic right whales since 2017. Staggeringly, that's nearly 13% of the known population dead in just three years. **In every case where the cause of death could be definitively determined, it was human activity (entanglements and vessel strikes) that killed each whale.**

Our team has focused first and foremost on extensive outreach with industry, government and local stakeholders to develop and implement solutions to protect these whales. **One crucial element to NARW survival is the development and use of ropeless fishing gear,** which would eliminate the number of fixed vertical buoy ropes currently in the water, thus ensuring safe passage for whales through migration corridors and into critical habitats. We are conducting at-sea trials of ropeless gear with the fishing industry, scientists, and technology companies to accelerate its use in the water as the sustainable long-term solution.

Alongside this effort we are working with shipping companies to educate them on the importance of slow transit and speed restriction compliance to reduce the risk of vessel strikes. The Whale Alert mobile app allows commercial and recreational mariners and the general public to locate whale "safety zones" and enables real-time reporting of whale sightings to

ensure improved protection and to minimise the possibility of vessel strikes.

IFAW is leading a campaign that drives public awareness of the critical conservation situation for this species and advocates for essential regulatory change to drive strong mitigation measures.

IFAW's key legislative efforts helped secure US\$3 million in funding in the fiscal year 20 year-end Federal Appropriations package for North Atlantic right whale conservation. This included US\$1 million towards a pilot programme for innovations in new fishing gear technology to reduce the risk of entanglement. In addition, our efforts resulted in the successful re-introduction of the SAVE Right Whales Act in the US House of Representatives and Senate that establishes a new collaborative research grant programme allocating US\$50 million over the next decade for conservation action focusing on the NARW. It passed favourably with bipartisan support and the bill awaits a final vote in late autumn, 2020.

Additionally, IFAW commissioned "[Ropeless is Real](#)," critical research released in May 2020 that discusses the efficacy of ropeless gear technology and the role it plays in reducing NARW entanglements. The report was released within the context of a broader effort that included over 5,500 IFAW supporters from all 50 states in the [U.S.](#), calling upon the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#) (NOAA) to increase measures to protect NARWs from further entanglement and vessel strikes.

only 25% of the remaining whales are reproductive-aged females

US\$3 million

in funding in the fiscal year 20 year-end Federal Appropriations package for North Atlantic right whale conservation

US\$1 million

towards a pilot programme for innovations in new fishing gear technology

◀ With only an estimated 360 individuals remaining, the North Atlantic right whale (NARW) has joined a growing list of animals on the brink of extinction and is now officially classified as "Critically Endangered."

▼ Learn more:

Whale Alert information
<http://www.whalealert.org/>

Report: Ropeless is Real
<https://sustainableseas.blog/2020/05/18/ropeless-is-real-the-report/>



marine mammal rescue & research

For the last 22 years, IFAW's Marine Mammal Rescue & Research Programme has embraced the highest tenets of animal welfare and research science for marine mammal strandings. Our team is one of the most respected marine mammal stranding response programmes in the world. With over 5,500 responses to date, we know that every hotline call is not only an opportunity to provide aid to an animal in distress, but also a chance to advance our knowledge about marine life and how to help these animals thrive.

In fiscal year 20, the team responded to 257 reports of stranded marine mammals. This includes responses to 34 live small cetaceans (including dolphins, porpoises and small whales), 21 of which were treated and released back to wild.

In addition to our hands-on rescue and research work, IFAW's Marine Mammal Rescue & Research team trains other response teams, increasing the welfare, treatment and veterinary care of stranded marine mammals around the world. We also engage and train passionate members of local communities to support rescue efforts as volunteer responders. It's a testament to what can be achieved for animals when we work together with the people living closest to them.



large whale medical intervention

In 2017, IFAW was awarded a Prescott Grant to take the lead in investigating the remote delivery of drugs to injured and entangled whales. The darting system used for the project was designed by biologists and veterinarians at the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\)](#), [Woods](#)

[Hole Oceanographic Institution](#) and the [Center for Coastal Studies](#), along with the [New Zealand-based system manufacturer](#).

While the system was initially developed to provide temporary sedation to aid disentanglement efforts in complex scenarios

where traditional disentanglement techniques are ineffective, it has equal utility in other needed medical interventions, such as antibiotic administration.

In January of 2020, our Marine Mammal Rescue & Research team put years of preparations, equipment testing, and deployment practice to work. As part of a team convened by NOAA, Marine Mammal Rescue & Research staff deployed to [Florida](#) where the system was used to successfully administer antibiotics to an

injured newborn North Atlantic right whale calf that had been the victim of a vessel strike. [This was a groundbreaking event as it was the first operation to remotely administer medication to a right whale calf.](#)

The team continues to practice and maintain the systems for operational readiness at a moment's notice.

the first operation to remotely administer medication to a NARW whale calf

▲ GDNR vessel and crew obtaining assessment images of injured calf on January 10, 2020.



leading the way in marine mammal rescue

The North Atlantic right whale, [one of most endangered animals in the world](#), has faced devastating population losses in the last four years. **Every individual whale matters more than ever, so we need to do everything we can to save each one.**

IFAW maintains a custom-built large whale remote drug delivery system, making us the only team in the world with the capabilities to provide medical intervention to free-swimming large whales. This system was needed for the response to a severely injured right whale calf off the coast of Florida, USA in January 2020. The right whale calf, born just days earlier, had already been the victim of a severe vessel strike. The multi-agency response team was able to relocate the calf, assess its condition, and remotely administer antibiotics. **This marked the first time the remote drug deployment system was used to treat a North Atlantic right whale calf.**

Coming off of our busiest calendar year ever, IFAW's Marine Mammal Rescue & Research team and its resources were pushed to the limits as we ensured that every live animal received the best care possible. **In fiscal year 20, the team responded to 257 stranded marine mammals, including out-of-region animals and animals that stranded more than once.** This included responses to 34 live small aquatic mammals (small cetaceans, which includes small whales, dolphins and porpoises), 21 of which could be released. Three released dolphins were fitted with temporary satellite tags to allow for post-release monitoring which improves future responses.

In an effort to inform and focus large whale conservation efforts, IFAW maintains one of the most skilled [large whale necropsy teams](#) in the U.S.. In fiscal year 20 the team responded to eleven dead large whales in an attempt to determine the cause of death. Two of

these responses were to North Atlantic right whales and in both cases human actions ([entanglement](#) and vessel strike) [were determined to be the cause of death.](#)

The Marine Mammal Rescue & Research team was the recipient of a competitive Prescott grant to improve understanding of the highly infectious Brucella bacteria, which can result in reproductive disease, heart disease, severe lesions and in some cases, death.

With the outbreak of COVID-19, the team's constant response preparedness benefitted a whole new group: local first responders. The team was able to donate their existing supply of N95 masks and other personal protective equipment to local hospitals to help them bridge the gap until more supplies arrived.

Adapting to the pandemic didn't stop there. Response protocols were thoroughly revised to increase safety and reduce exposure to COVID-19 for stranding responders while rescuing animals in the field. These protocols were shared with IFAW projects and partners, both regionally and internationally, so that teams were able to continue to respond, rescue and provide the best care possible for every individual animal. **Teams were able to continue to respond to reports of stranded or injured marine mammals and provide the best care possible for each individual animal.**

477 responses in 2019 made for our busiest calendar year on record

▼ Learn more:

Article: IFAW-led research confirms North Atlantic right whale mortalities driven overwhelmingly by man-made causes
<https://www.ifaw.org/journal/ifaw-research-north-atlantic-right-whale-mortalities>

Article: IFAW investigates death of endangered North Atlantic right whale calf
<https://www.ifaw.org/press-releases/team-investigates-north-atlantic-right-whale-death>

Video: Entanglements are killing marine animals, but we can stop it
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tAwSpaaSZFM>

Article: IFAW-led research confirms North Atlantic right whale mortalities driven overwhelmingly by man-made causes
<https://www.ifaw.org/journal/ifaw-research-north-atlantic-right-whale-mortalities>

◀ Equipped with PPE, the team worked tirelessly to ensure the humane care and often life-saving rescue transport of stranded cetaceans from shallow to deeper waters off Cape Cod, Massachusetts.



wildlife rescue

Following the outbreak of COVID-19, IFAW's Wildlife Rescue programme implemented adaptive measures to protect staff and continue our rescue, rehabilitation and release work. As global lockdowns rolled out across the world and borders closed, IFAW worked with local partners to ensure animals at their facilities received care and staff had access to essential safety equipment in order to continue operations.

Beginning in March 2020, all three of IFAW's Animal Rescue programmes received an influx of support requests from projects and organisations around the world. As a part of our COVID-19 response strategy, the teams prioritised grant requests for biosecurity, sanitation and operational support. Grant funds were used to purchase personal protective equipment, sanitation stations and to support biosecurity measures, animal care and veterinary staffing costs.

IFAW's in-house expertise and quick mobilisation ensured rapid protection for our staff and frontline rescue teams. In total, we were able to protect and care for people and animals in 15 countries at 27 partner project sites.

▼ Learn more

Video: Global wildlife crime and COVID-19
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wHLSIhnshvk>



Wildlife Rescue

caring for sick and injured birds of prey

IFAW's Beijing Raptor Rescue Center (BRRC) is Beijing's only designated rehabilitation facility for receiving and caring for sick and injured birds of prey such as hawks, eagles, falcons and owls. BRRC has [admitted a total of 5,343 raptors](#) between when it was established in 2001 and June 2020. 133 raptors were brought into care in fiscal year 20, representing 22 different species. [This year we released a total of 131 raptors back into the wild](#), a combination of raptors brought into care in fiscal year 20 and raptors still in our care from previous years.

BRRC continues to conduct research and development with [Beijing Normal University](#), [Capital Normal University](#), [Institute of Zoology at the Chinese Academy of Sciences](#) and [China Agricultural University](#), among others. Topics include active monitoring of raptor diseases, blood parasites in raptors and gender identification using DNA.

Monitoring released birds via satellite tracking provides valuable and insightful data about their survival and movement patterns in the wild. One upland buzzard, tracked via satellite tag for over two years, travelled to [Mongolia](#) and its GPS data reveals the buzzard has remained in the area since.

Adhering to the latest scientific methods in the rescue, rehabilitation and release of birds of prey, and demonstrating the highest animal welfare standards in the care of wildlife, [BRRC not only saves individual raptors, but also educates people about threats to wildlife and promotes policies and actions that advance the conservation and welfare of animals.](#)

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, BRRC was able to [provide excellent care](#) to raptors in rehabilitation and continue to operate with safety protocols to protect [rescue and rehabilitation staff](#).



133

raptors brought into care

22

different species cared for

▼ Learn more:

Article: Beijing Raptor Rescue Center
<https://www.ifaw.org/projects/beijing-raptor-rescue-center-china>

Video: Five rescued raptors fly back into the wild
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-OB39MDFt6o>

Article: Running a wildlife hospital during COVID-19
<https://www.ifaw.org/journal/running-a-wildlife-hospital-during-covid-19>

Article: Caring for raptors in China during COVID-19
<https://www.ifaw.org/journal/caring-for-raptors-china-covid-19>

▲ Rehabilitators at IFAW's Beijing Raptor Rescue Center examine the wing of a rescued upland buzzard.

Wildlife Rescue

protecting gorillas from COVID-19



In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the [Gorilla Rehabilitation and Conservation Education Center \(GRACE\)](#) works on the frontline to [protect endangered gorilla populations in the region](#). When it was discovered that great ape species could contract COVID-19, [IFAW worked with GRACE](#) to supply face masks, cleaning and sanitising products, boots, towels and gloves for their teams. IFAW also provided support for a hand washing station and daily temperature checks for both staff and gorillas.

▼ Learn more:

Article: Overview of IFAW efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic
<https://www.ifaw.org/campaigns/impact-during-a-pandemic>

◀ Lulingu, the endangered Grauer's gorilla, had been rescued by GRACE in the DRC with support from IFAW. She's doing well and is ready for integration into her new family.

Wildlife Rescue

rehabilitating animals rescued from illegal trade

The illegal trade in live exotic animals is a global problem that threatens animal welfare and conservation efforts. [At IFAW, we believe it is essential to ensure that animals seized in trade by authorities are well cared for.](#) Government authorities, such as law enforcement agencies, wildlife management authorities and veterinary bodies, need to have sustainable care options and humane

processes for any confiscated animals. In fiscal year 20, we continued to provide governments with technical guidance and recommendations to increase frontline officers' capacity to secure protected areas and country borders, investigate suspicious persons or items and care for seized animals. Clear options and decision processes help governments and authorities understand that in

conservation, [every individual animal matters, whether they are in the wild or seized during an operation to prevent illegal wildlife trafficking.](#)



Wildlife Rescue

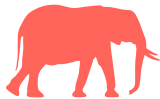
making a difference one elephant at a time

Six orphaned elephants rescued in Zimbabwe

We experienced a year of unprecedented rescues in Zimbabwe, as part of our ongoing partnership with Wild Is Life's Zimbabwe Elephant Nursery (ZEN), led by founder Roxy Danckwerts. We rescued six orphaned elephant calves, doubling the number of calves and bringing the total to 13 elephants currently in rehabilitation at ZEN. The ZEN team provided 24/7 care for all the new rescues, expanded the stable

area by adding four individual stables and crafted unique milk formulas and feeding plans according to each calf's dietary needs.

One of those elephants is Amira. In October 2019, Amira was spotted alone and had collapsed from exhaustion in Mana Pools National Park, Zimbabwe. Without her mother or herd, this seven-month-old orphan would likely have died without intervention. With the help of ZimParks rangers and a local safari



13 elephants

currently in rehabilitation

6

orphaned elephant calves rescued in Zimbabwe in fiscal year 20

operator, the team was able to airlift Amira to ZEN where she continues to receive around-the-clock care from her keepers and is learning the skills she will need to survive in the wild.

At the Panda Masuie release facility, the team witnessed multiple interactions between the rescue herd and wild elephant herds. This is a critical step in the rewilding of these elephants as they learn invaluable survival and socialisation lessons from wild elephants.

When the COVID-19 pandemic rolled out across the world, even our work at Panda Masuie was affected. Essential staff members remained onsite to care for the elephants and protect the area from poachers. While our teams did experience a rise in poaching incidents near our new ranger base, both wild and rescue elephants were kept safe and joint patrols were put in place to ensure security.

Elephant calf reunited with herd in India

The IFAW-Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) Mobile Veterinary Service (MVS) teams rescued and treated six wild elephant calves in fiscal year 20. One of the rescues, a two-month-old calf, was reunited with his herd. The young calf, a male, was rescued by local community members after he fell into a tea garden drain. Our MVS team was able to provide emergency care and locate his herd in the nearby forest. The team released him close to the herd and remained onsite until they confirmed he had reunited with them.

Our partnership with Wildlife Trust of India began in 2001, and since then our elephant rescue operations in the state of Assam have ensured that more than 75% of orphaned elephant calves are rescued and brought to our Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation (CWRC) for rehabilitation. If not for this critical work, many of these calves would likely have perished, or ended up in lifetime captivity.

Six elephants are currently in rehabilitation at CWRC, four females and two males. These calves spend their days growing, gaining strength, learning survival skills in a protected forest area and bonding together as a herd. As the calves grow and gain strength during their rehabilitation, they progress closer to the ultimate goal of release back to life in the wild.

First wild-born calf from a rescued elephant at the Elephant Orphanage Project

In Zambia, IFAW and our partner, Game Rangers International (GRI), witnessed a historic first at our Elephant Orphanage Project (EOP) when 13-year-old release herd matriarch, Chamilandu, gave birth to a healthy male calf after mating with a wild bull.

In 2007, Chamilandu was with her mother when they were shot at by poachers in South Luangawa National Park. Sadly, Chamilandu's mother was killed, but Chamilandu was rescued and cared for at the EOP. While there, Chamilandu grew into a boisterous and playful elephant, who became the de facto matriarch of the release herd at Camp Phoenix in Kafue National Park, where she eventually began to venture out on her own and interact with wild herds.

In 2017, Chamilandu was observed with a wild bull elephant and after a 24-month gestation period, she gave birth at EOP's release facility. The rescue, rehabilitation and release of individual animals matters in conservation, and the birth of Chamilandu's calf is evidence that we are making positive strides toward our goal of seeing released animals thriving in the wild.

Additionally, the team at IFAW-GRI rescued four elephant calves in fiscal year 20 and successfully translocated two elephants, Kasewe and Mkaliva, from Lilayi Nursery to the release facility in Kafue National Park where they are one step closer to life back in the wild.

Searching for an orphan elephant's herd

In Burkina Faso, we work with local authorities and community leaders to help Nania, an orphaned elephant calf, on the path back to her natal herd. Nania was rescued three years ago and IFAW has led the rehabilitation efforts. We are working to find her family by having a specialised lab in the U.S. analyse DNA extracted from samples of wild elephant dung, collected by our team in Boromo, to look for a familial link to Nania. With only 6,800 elephants left in Burkina Faso, her return to the wild will contribute to restoring a healthy elephant population in this region.

▼ Learn more:

Article: Baby elephant rescue <https://africageographic.com/stories/baby-elephant-rescue-11-incredible-images/>

Video: Dramatic elephant calf rescue in Zimbabwe <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T55tBb5pru8>

Article: Success story of animals and people working together to better our planet <https://www.ifaw.org/journal/elephant-rescue-zimbabwe>

Article: IFAW-Wildlife Trust of India <https://www.ifaw.org/projects/centre-for-wildlife-rehabilitation-and-conservation-india>

Article: Mobile veterinary service <https://www.wti.org.in/projects/mobile-veterinary-service-units/>

Article: First birth at IFAW-GRI Elephant Orphanage Project <https://www.ifaw.org/ca-en/news/first-elephant-birth>

Article: Rehabilitated elephant Chamilandu makes history with the birth of a calf <https://www.ifaw.org/journal/chamilandu-history-birth-calf>

Video: The arrival of Chamilandu's calf <https://www.facebook.com/GRIGameRangersInternational/videos/the-arrival-of-chamilandus-calf-has-been-met-with-curiosity-and-confusion-by-the/431083161092497/>

Meet Nania <https://www.facebook.com/ifaw/photos/meet-nania-ifaws-newly-rescued-elephant-calf-undergoing-rehabilitation-in-burkin/10156471834995365/>

Article: IFAW's elephant rescue programme in Burkina Faso <https://www.ifaw.org/projects/elephant-rescue-and-rehab-project-burkina-faso>

Article: A day with Nania <https://www.ifaw.org/journal/life-of-nania>

Video: Nania & Salif: An unbreakable bond between elephant and keeper <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=65BqAjwsyv4>

Article: Nania and the treasure hunt for her native elephant herd <https://www.ifaw.org/journal/nania-search-elephant-herd>

◀ Nania goes for one of her daily walks with her keepers and companion sheep, Whisty, in Deux Balés National Park.



disaster response

As disasters around the world increase in intensity and frequency, IFAW's Disaster Response & Risk Reduction team is ready to help by deploying to the hardest-hit communities to rescue animals and support local animal guardians and authorities throughout the crisis. In fiscal year 20, IFAW's Disaster Response & Risk Reduction team rescued 50,639 animals.

The Disaster Response team crafted a "Go/No-Go" deployment guide to ensure our team and trained responders could evaluate and deploy safely to disaster zones during the COVID-19 crisis.

Our greatest impact often comes after the disaster strikes, when we work with local stakeholders to evaluate a community's risk and to address threats through strategic planning and building local capacity to prepare for and respond to the next disaster.

During the first few months after Hurricane Dorian hit the Bahamas, IFAW immediately deployed trained responders and provided more than 5,000 animals with direct care and more than 113,000 kilograms of supplies including food, veterinary supplies and humanitarian aid. Since then, we continue to work closely with our partners and the Bahamian government to implement a successful, long-term, comprehensive emergency management plan for the islands.

▼ Learn more

Article: IFAW deploys disaster response team to Bahamas
<https://www.ifaw.org/news/hurricane-dorian-ifaw-deployment>



© Tyson Mayr

catastrophic bushfires in Australia

Australia's annual drought and bushfires combined for a [devastating 2019-2020 season](#). The climate crisis contributed to record-breaking temperatures and a prolonged drought. This led to bushfires throughout the landscape earlier than normal and then the fires increased in magnitude and intensity throughout the season.

IFAW has been on the ground in Australia for more than 32 years. For decades, we have grown our team and strengthened our relationships with wildlife rehabilitators and government agencies across the country. So, when unprecedented disaster struck, [we were well-placed to respond](#). Early on, we leapt in to provide assistance to rescue and care teams on the ground. [With the invaluable support of generous donors from around the world, we were able to deliver help where it was needed most.](#)

Locating koalas in burned-out forests

[Bear, a koala detection dog](#), was an integral part of our search and rescue efforts to locate koala survivors in the bushfires. Trained by IFAW's partners at the University of the Sunshine Coast's (USC) Detection Dogs for Conservation team, [Bear is one of the few detection dogs in Australia able to locate live koalas through the scent of their fur](#). Bear's success attracted global celebrity and media attention as he tracked over 100 koalas in burned-out forests this season.

Thanks to timely reporting from the field and widespread attention from media, IFAW received an influx of corporate, private and foundational grants. With this support and more, Bear and the [USC Detection Dogs for Conservation team](#) are now [conducting crucial research](#) on the health and resilience of koala populations through the bio-health of their scat after the fires.

Impact of science

In March 2020, IFAW published a first-of-its-kind scientific report identifying a significant loss of 6,382 koalas across New South Wales –15% of the state's population. [Over the past 20 years, 62% of the population is estimated to have perished](#) due to drought, bushfires and man-made causes exacerbated by climate change. For this reason, we embarked on a policy push, calling on our peers, supporters and the New South Wales state and federal government to "uplist" the status of koalas from "vulnerable" to "endangered."

Planting trees

Together with local partners and landowners we have taken part in the [planting of 35,000 native eucalyptus trees](#), with plans to expand our collaborative efforts and [connect a network of essential wildlife corridors](#) up and down Australia's east coast. This investment in restoration and regrowth – much like our commitment to the migration routes of elephants and whales – will support generations of animals to come, and these community projects help to instill a desire for local landowners to be part of building a healthy future.

AUD\$ 1.2 million

grant dollars awarded

120

emergency water stations deployed

100 koalas

tracked by Bear, a koala detection dog

35,000 trees

planted so far

▼ Learn more:

Article: Australia Bushfires: what you need to know and how to help <https://www.ifaw.org/international/journal/australia-bushfires-what-you-need-to-know>

Article: Training veterinarians and equipping volunteers in Australia <https://www.ifaw.org/international/projects/wildlife-rescue-australia>

Article: 30 years of helping animals affected by bushfires <https://www.ifaw.org/ca-en/projects/rescuing-animals-during-bushfires-australia>

Article: IFAW team deployed to Australia bushfires <https://www.ifaw.org/news/australia-bushfire-field-updates>

Article: Bear, IFAW's koala detection dog, deployed to locate animal survivors <https://www.ifaw.org/journal/bear-koala-detection-dog-deployed-australia-bushfires>

Article: IFAW's detection dog project <https://www.ifaw.org/projects/koala-habitat-protection-with-detection-dogs-australia>

Video: IFAW helps with long-term recovery in Australia <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6dUMt8Wj75w>

Video: Planting a future for koalas – one tree at a time <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XAts2BepvY>

Report: Koala conservation status in New South Wales <https://www.ifaw.org/au/resources/koala-conservation-status-new-south-wales>

◀ IFAW x USC koala detection dog, Bear, with handler Riana Gardiner.



rescue, relief, and recovery after Hurricane Dorian

In September 2019, the Bahamas was hit by its worst natural disaster on record. Hurricane Dorian, a Category 5 storm, struck the islands and left a trail of devastation in its wake, destroying many of the places people and animals called home.

Shortly after Dorian made landfall – and at the request of the Bahamian Government – IFAW deployed 50 responders to help with rescue and relief efforts on Abaco and Grand Bahama over the course of two months. While on the ground, IFAW established and led a coalition of organisations to rescue animals, provide shelter and veterinary care and reunite pets with their owners.

When IFAW arrived on Grand Bahama, 71 unowned dogs and 86 unowned cats at the Humane Society of Grand Bahama needed immediate transportation from the island. Along with our partners, IFAW supported flights to take the animals to the United States, where they could undergo health assessments before finding forever homes.

In total, IFAW, alongside GreaterGood.org and Wings of Rescue, organised emergency transport for over 700 animals—including dogs, cats, rabbits, birds and turtles. Many of these animals had been rescued from some of the hardest hit areas and required emergency veterinary care and extensive daily care support.

As a result of IFAW’s work across the islands, from our immediate response through to ongoing recovery efforts, more than 5,000 animals received direct care and more than 113,000 kilograms of supplies including food, veterinary supplies and along with humanitarian aid were delivered to Nassau, Abaco, and Grand Bahama.

Supporting successful long-term recovery

IFAW continues to work closely with the coalition to implement a successful, long-term recovery plan for the islands. On all three islands, we awarded emergency grants to local partners as they rebuild stronger than ever and care for the animals in their communities.

The Abaco Animal Shelter was able to cover mobile pet wellness clinics at Marsh Harbour and Sandy Point, providing treatment and vaccinations for more than 100 animals. The shelter was also able to purchase a truck for volunteers to deliver vital pet supplies to families in the aftermath of the hurricane. IFAW grants were also used to repair the original shelter and increase Abaco Animal Shelter’s capacity to care for animals in need and promote responsible pet population management.

Preparedness that reduces future risk

In spring 2020, IFAW created a Bahamas Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and submitted it for consideration to the Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources, Division of Veterinary Services, and all other coalition members. IFAW is working one-on-one with all coalition members to create contingency plans and prepare their communities.

Implementing a full-circle approach to disaster response, from response and recovery to preparedness and risk reduction, helps communities be more resilient, protecting even more animals from harm.

50

IFAW responders deployed

700

animals transported

5,000

animals received direct care



- ▲ After Hurricane Dorian made landfall in August 2019, IFAW’s team of trained responders arrived on the island of Abaco in The Bahamas to begin rescue operations.
- ◀ Barb Davis, an IFAW-trained responder, walks a puppy rescued on the island of Abaco. After Hurricane Dorian slammed into The Bahamas, IFAW deployed a team of responders to the islands of Grand Bahama and Abaco to assist in animal rescue operations.

- ▼ Learn more:
- Article: IFAW deploys disaster response team to Bahamas
<https://www.ifaw.org/news/hurricane-dorian-ifaw-deployment>
 - Article: IFAW helps transport animal survivors of Hurricane Dorian
<https://www.ifaw.org/news/hurricane-dorian-shelter-animals-transportation>
 - Article: Disaster response update: Hurricane Dorian animal rescue
<https://www.ifaw.org/news/hurricane-dorian-bahamas>
 - Video: IFAW responds to Hurricane Dorian in the Bahamas
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NWXf5CSfm50>



Disaster Response

saving animals from flooding to support communities

We know that healthy animals are often the key to community health and resilience. Since 2015, IFAW's community-led Safelands project in Myanmar has provided farmers with raised platforms for their cattle to find refuge when flooding hits. Farmers rely on cattle for ploughing fields, so the animals provide vital support to the farmers' families and their communities. Cattle caught in floodwaters suffer and become vulnerable to illness and death.

In fiscal year 20, one Safelands platform in Myanmar provided safe refuge for 175 cattle during flooding. Evacuation of these cattle by boat would have cost the community around US\$1,300, which is a significant amount that can instead be saved and invested in other aspects of the community.

Today, Myanmar's government is investing its own resources to replicate the Safelands project across the delta region. In fiscal year 20, an additional eight platforms were built.

The Safelands project is an example of how sustainable projects can thrive when community participation, ownership and leadership are encouraged. By fiscal year 20, all 11 project sites had established community-led committees to oversee the management of the Safelands, and several of the communities had hosted training sessions for their own villages. In the Myan Aung community, which is one of the government-built Safeland sites, IFAW helped three local women set up a community fund to pay for upgrades and repairs. This community and female-led initiative has secured donations from community members and local business that will help sustain their Safeland in the future.

IFAW's Safelands project was featured on the United Nations' Sustainable Development platform, highlighting IFAW's commitment to implementing sustainable conservation and animal welfare projects.

8

additional platforms built in fiscal year 20

11 of 11 project sites

with community-led management

▲ IFAW's DRRR and local team members continue to hold trainings in the Ayeyarwady Region of Myanmar, for participants from local government and select communities who manage safelands. They learn principles in disaster management and how to apply these skills in effectively managing safelands

Disaster Response

five rhino calves rescued from flooding



Since 2001, we have partnered with the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) and the Assam Forest Department to protect animals and the habitats they call home. By implementing an approach that combines animal rescue, landscape conservation and community engagement we have seen the return of some of the region's most iconic species and allowed landscapes to thrive.

In July 2019, along with our partner WTI, we rescued five rhino calves from the annual flooding in Kaziranga National Park, Assam. All five of the calves have now been moved into the rhino enclosure at the jointly run Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation facility where they have successfully adjusted to their new environment and are exploring the natural feed available to them. In time, they will be released back into the wild in

places like Manas National Park, where our integrated approach to welfare and conservation shows landscape conservation, wildlife crime teams and rescue efforts, all contributing to a holistic solution.

▼ Learn more:

Article: Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation
<https://www.ifaw.org/projects/centre-for-wildlife-rehabilitation-and-conservation-india>

Article: Assam floods: How a few good folk are saving Kaziranga's animals
<https://www.cntraveller.in/story/assam-floods-good-folk-saving-kazirangas-animals/>

◀ Animal keepers bottle-feed formula to two rescued Indian rhino calves undergoing rehabilitation at the IFAW-WTI near Kaziranga National Park, Assam, India.

Disaster Response

keeping families together by feeding pets



IFAW's work also included keeping families together during the COVID-19 pandemic. From the West Coast of the United States to Mexico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, IFAW issued grants and worked with local partners to purchase and distribute pet food to families facing economic challenges during the pandemic. In total, 25,000 kilograms of pet food was distributed to families in need. In the U.S. Virgin Islands alone, we helped feed more than 1,200 pets.

25,000

kilograms of pet food distributed

1,200

pets fed

◀ IFAW's Dr. Erika Flores and Dr. Efrén Boylan, head of the Animal Welfare Division of Puerto Morelos Municipality, deliver pet food to shelters following Hurricane Delta in Mexico.



community engagement

From helping nearly 700 animal-owning households living on an active volcano in Indonesia to build resilience before disaster strikes again, to facilitating more than 3,000 local school children to visit and connect with IFAW's landscape conservation sites, community engagement is a core strategy within every programme and region where IFAW works.

Ensuring indigenous and local communities have a voice in animal welfare and conservation initiatives that affect them and are able to realise sustainable livelihood strategies is key to helping ensure animals and people thrive together.

In no other area of our work is the need to develop coexistence between people and animals more urgent and critical to saving lives than in our efforts to help communities mitigate human-wildlife conflict. By reducing the cost of living alongside wildlife (such as losing crops, livestock, pets, property, and in the worst case, human lives), communities are not only safer and better able to realise their own livelihood goals, but also much more likely to support and participate in conservation initiatives and reject retaliatory killing of wildlife.



Community Engagement

from conflict to coexistence in China



280 elephants

living alongside people in Xishuangbanna

175 local people

trained in elephant safety

50,000 people

safe due to early warning system

- ▲ Asian elephant herd in a tea plantation in Meng'a Town, Menghai County, Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan Province, China.
- ◀ Asian elephant in a sugarcane field in Meng'a Town, Menghai County, Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan Province, China.

Yunnan includes habitat for the last remaining 300 wild elephants in China.

As elephant range and human land-use and living areas have increasingly overlapped, human-elephant conflict has become one of the most critical threats to both elephants and local residents. To address this issue IFAW works in Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture of Yunnan in where approximately 280 elephants roam and nearly a quarter of the total area is at risk of being affected by human-elephant conflict.

In recent years elephants increasingly move outside of natural reserves to look for food. Between July 2019 and June 2020 alone, roughly half of the 12 serious human-elephant conflict incidents in Xishuangbanna happened in places where elephants had not been seen for more than 40 years. This is why IFAW is working with communities to ensure peaceful coexistence between people and elephants by supporting a village-level early warning system, safety training for local residents and an initiative to help

offset the cost of living alongside elephants by improving local livelihoods.

This year IFAW's human-elephant safety training benefitted more than 25 local officials and 150 villagers. IFAW also initiated a beekeeping project expected to increase annual household income of participating households by roughly 60%. So far 10 households participated in the project and will share the bees they raised with 10 additional households in the next phase. As part of the project, IFAW also collaborates with local partners to explore options for beehive fencing as a further conflict mitigation measure.

rapid response to save human and animal lives in Kenya



Human-wildlife conflict in the Amboseli Tsavo Kilimanjaro(ATK) landscape is more prevalent than poaching. Data from Amboseli Ecosystem over a 10-year period shows more than 9,000 cases of human-wildlife conflict, of which nearly half involved elephants. Hippos, leopards, hyenas and lions were involved in many of the other incidents. In addition to human injury, property damage and loss of vital crops, human-wildlife conflict was responsible for the deaths of 68 people, more than 1,600 livestock and 245 wild animals during this same period. **The economic losses experienced by these communities due to human-wildlife conflict is estimated at US 3.8 million.**

To address this issue, IFAW contributed to the development of human-wildlife conflict protocols to ensure appropriate handling of all incidents. We also supported the creation of access roads in key risk areas to ensure better visibility for community members travelling through and easier access for wildlife protection teams to prevent and respond to incidents. Additionally, we've supported

employing 76 community wildlife rangers from Olgulului-Ololarashi Group Ranch with human-wildlife conflict training and provided resources to aid local authorities in rapid response, which has reduced retaliatory killings and increased survival rates of injured people.

In March 2020, an exceptionally intense period began with serious human-wildlife conflict incidents reported roughly every two weeks. IFAW provided emergency funding to Kenya Wildlife Service : Amboseli National Park for community awareness sessions on the ground and over radio to prevent conflict as well as helping bring ranger support closer to communities to further reduce response time and avail local people of additional protection and support.

Thanks to these quick efforts, human-elephant conflict came to a halt during this critical period when local communities were already suffering economic and social hardships brought on the by the COVID-19 pandemic.

9,154
incidences of human-wildlife conflict in the Amboseli Ecosystem over 10 years

5,700km²
of land more secure due to human-wildlife conflict protocols and support

- ▲ Elephants graze in a village near lake Jipe in Tsavo West National Park with members of the local community close-by causing human-elephant conflict.
- ◀ IFAW's Team Lioness community wildlife ranger, observes a group of zebras during a daily wildlife patrol at OGR in Kajiado, Kenya.



© Barbara Hollweg

Section 8

international policy

At IFAW, when we talk about secure habitats for the places animals call home, we mean more than just security on the ground. We cannot be sure these habitats and species will be safeguarded over time unless both are adequately protected in law and policies. That's why IFAW engages so actively in advocacy work, both nationally and internationally.

IFAW has long participated in the workings of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) to ensure their decisions are in the best interests of the world's wildlife. The impact of the global pandemic in fiscal year 20 has meant that many of these meetings are taking place virtually or are postponed. However, despite these challenges, IFAW's vital international policy work continues; lending our expertise in supporting partners, governments, and other decision-makers to implement agreed work and continuing to advocate positive change for some of our most vulnerable species.

▼ Learn more

Article: IFAW is fighting to ensure protection for wildlife & habitats in global agreements
<https://www.ifaw.org/uk/projects/policy-conventions-agreements-global>



© IFAW/Steve DeNeef

International Policy

increased protection for shark and ray species

Important new protections under international law were awarded for a number of IFAW priority species at key global policy forums in fiscal year 20.

These included a major conservation win for many endangered species of shark and ray, some at the tipping point of extinction due to the scale of international trade in their fins and meat.

A [record 18 species were awarded](#) key Appendix II protections at the 18th Conference of the Parties (CoP18) of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), held in Geneva, Switzerland in August 2019. The listing includes the endangered shortfin and longfin mako shark (some of the most heavily fished sharks in the world), six species of endangered giant guitarfish and 10 species of wedgefish, nine of which are endangered. In addition, IFAW secured grant funding to help implement CITES shark listings in the [Middle East](#), [North Africa](#), [Latin America](#) and the [Caribbean](#).

A [significant victory](#) was also secured for the critically endangered oceanic whitetip shark at the 13th Conference of the Parties (CoP) of the UN Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) in [Gandhinagar, India](#) in February 2020. Government representatives from the 130 member parties accepted a proposal to list the oceanic whitetip shark on Appendix I of CMS—the forum’s highest level of protection. This means it is now forbidden to catch this shark throughout its range.

Once considered one of the most common tropical sharks in the world, the oceanic whitetip shark is an apex predator and plays a crucial role in marine ecosystems. It is now one of the most endangered shark species due to overfishing, driven by international demand for shark fin soup. The increased protection is vital for the species’ survival.

18

a record-setting number of shark species awarded additional protections

▼ Learn more:

Article: Major conservation win at CITES
<https://www.ifaw.org/uk/news/major-conservation-win-cites-endangered-species-shark-ray-afforded-vital-protection>

Article: Urgently needed protection granted to shark species on the brink of extinction
<https://www.ifaw.org/uk/journal/urgently-needed-protection-granted-shark-species-brink-extinction>

▲ Mako shark



© Jessica Boklan

International Policy

important victory for jaguar conservation

IFAW partnered with governments from across [Latin America](#) to achieve a major [win for jaguars](#) at the 13th Conference of the Parties (CoP) of the UN Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) in [Gandhinagar, India](#) in February 2020. [The threatened species was given the forum’s highest level of protection, which will protect it across its entire range](#), which stretches from the U.S. to Argentina and almost every country in between. This new legal protection will drive regional cooperation to counter threats facing jaguars from habitat loss and fragmentation and the growing illegal trade in jaguar parts.

[Urgent action is vital to save the jaguar, with 40% of its habitat having been lost over the last 100 years](#). While also a target of illegal wildlife trade, further destruction of habitat and critical migratory corridors likely pose the greatest threat to the survival of this iconic animal—the largest native cat in the Americas and third largest big cat in the world. Halting the loss of habitat and destruction of migratory corridors is vital, especially for isolated and endangered populations, if the jaguar is to survive across the Americas.

The Appendix I and II listing will encourage greater regional cooperation, particularly for management of transboundary populations, maintenance or creation of key migratory corridors for isolated populations, and prevention of further jaguar habitat loss and population declines.

While the jaguar is classed as “Near Threatened” globally, 13 range states have declared the jaguar to be “Endangered,” four “Vulnerable” and two have already suffered local extinctions. Co-proposed by six countries in [Latin America](#), this was the highest ever number of co-proponents for a proposal at CMS, excluding those sponsored collectively by all EU member states. This demonstrates the strength of regional support for this flagship species.

IFAW is also helping governments to implement these decisions through Operation Jaguar, a joint project working to end poaching and the illegal trade in jaguar parts, with a focus on ranger training and law enforcement in [Bolivia](#), [Suriname](#), and [Guyana](#).

new legal protection will drive regional cooperation to counter threats facing jaguars

▼ Learn more:

Article: Major boost for jaguar conservation
<https://www.ifaw.org/uk/journal/major-boost-jaguar-conservation-iconic-threatened-species-afforded-protection>

Article: IFAW’s approach to protecting jaguars
<https://www.ifaw.org/uk/projects/operation-jaguar-south-america>

▲ A jaguar in Pantanal, Brazil. Jaguars are the largest native cat in the Americas and the third largest big cats in the world.



© Daryl and Sharna Balfour

International Policy

preventing efforts to reopen ivory and rhino trade



© Gerban van der Weide

Attempts to reopen the international ivory trade by allowing sales of ivory stockpiles were roundly rejected at [CITES CoP18](#), thanks to efforts from IFAW and partners. Similarly, a proposal to reopen trade in white rhino horn also failed.

Instead, governments at CITES chose to increase pressure on countries to close domestic ivory markets, demanding countries with significant ivory markets still open, such as the EU and Japan, to report on what further measures they plan to take. This follows announcements of closures of key ivory markets in China, the U.S., and UK in recent years to tackle the elephant poaching crisis.

An important component in ending the illegal trade is closing down opportunities for criminals to launder illegal products into legal markets, so it was significant that the conference reiterated the need for governments to tackle these legal ivory markets. The [EU](#) promised to bring forward further measures to tackle the huge market across its 27 member states. [Australia](#) also announced its intention to ban the domestic trade in ivory and rhino horn.

With populations of elephants and rhinos decimated by trade in their tusks and horns, it is important to keep the door to international trade firmly closed as we work to reduce consumer demand for these items.

Thanks to IFAW's ground-breaking work to reveal the extent of online trade in ivory and other wildlife products, CITES also urged greater action to address online wildlife markets. IFAW followed up this victory at CITES by using recently acquired [IUCN](#) membership to submit a draft resolution to the forthcoming [IUCN Congress](#) (postponed due to COVID-19) to call for further action in the area of wildlife cybercrime. IFAW's particular expertise on this issue is also helping governments to implement these decisions.

Elephants were also on the agenda at [CMS](#), this time specifically the Asian elephant which was [listed for the first time](#) and host country [India](#) announced its intention to work with other Asian elephant range states to form a regional agreement with collective actions to safeguard the animal, which is classified as "Endangered" by the [International Union for Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\) Red List](#).

Asian elephants suffer from habitat loss and fragmentation as well as illegal killing for their ivory and other products, such as skin, which has fuelled poaching to supply a growing demand for elephant skin jewellery. In addition, Asian elephants are regularly victims of retaliatory attacks due to human-elephant conflict and can be killed by contact with human infrastructure, such as collisions on roads and railways.

the EU promised to bring forward further measures to tackle the huge market across its 27 member states

▼ Learn more:

Article: Significant conservation wins for key species at world's largest wildlife trade conference <https://www.ifaw.org/uk/news/cites-conservation-wins>

Article: Conservation win for endangered Asian elephants as vital protection is awarded <https://www.ifaw.org/uk/journal/conservation-win-endangered-asian-elephants-vital-protection-awarded>

▲ Wild elephants in Kafue National Park.

◀ A black rhino with her calf in South Africa.



oceania

Oceania is home to some of the most diverse wildlife on the planet. It's also home to some of the greatest dangers to wildlife such as natural disasters, land clearing and climate change. Our Oceania team works to protect animals from these threats, especially rescuing, rehabilitating, and releasing wildlife after natural disasters strike.

We work closely with our partners on the ground to share knowledge, boost veterinary capacity, deliver critical resources and restore habitats for the future.

Through these essential resources, we are giving every individual animal a second chance at life – because individual animals matter for conservation.

We know that for our wildlife to thrive into the future, we have to protect the places they call home. We're committed to working with local communities to protect vital populations by planting trees and restoring the habitat for the future. We also aim to influence policy at a local, state, national, and international level to conserve critical habitat and wildlife corridors and give animals the greater protections they need to survive and thrive into the future.



© IFAW/Jimmy Malecki

Oceania

wildlife rescue and disaster response



© IFAW

IFAW continues to improve welfare outcomes and release rates of rescued wildlife by building veterinary capacity with our partners on the ground. This includes adding to the veterinary team at [Friends of the Koala in New South Wales](#) by sponsoring a vet in April 2020, after already sponsoring a vet nurse since May 2019. We've also funded a veterinary team at [Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary in Tasmania](#).

Our support enables these partners to provide critical onsite treatment for native wildlife and therefore better welfare outcomes for each individual animal that comes into care. As a result of IFAW donors supporting this work and recognising the importance of wildlife care, IFAW is able to support these critical roles and resources into the future.

Our veterinary support at [Friends of the Koala](#) was crucial in our [disaster response](#) during the 2019-20 bushfires which involved working on the ground with our local partners to rescue and rehabilitate impacted wildlife.

IFAW provided critical resources and veterinary support to dozens of groups and individual volunteer carers for the rescue and care of countless sick, injured and orphaned native animals from birds, to bats, kangaroos, koalas and wombats.

This included an emergency response trailer, an IFAW 4WD Wildlife rescue vehicle, fuel cards, enclosures, triage buildings, food, water stations, medical supplies as well as online mental health resources for carers.

These essential resources gave impacted wildlife that critical second chance in life.

6,382 koalas

are estimated to have perished in New South Wales during the 2019-20 bushfires, nearly 15% of the population.

▼ Learn more:

Article: We're on the ground in Australia saving animals from the bushfires
<https://www.ifaw.org/international/campaigns/australia-bushfires>

Article: 5 things you helped us achieve one year after Australia's bushfires
<https://www.ifaw.org/au/journal/five-achievements-one-year-after-bushfires>

▲ IFAW-sponsored vet at Bonorong Wildlife Hospital Dr Alex Kreiss treats a musk lorikeet.

◀ IFAW-sponsored vet nurse for Friends of the Koala, Marley Christian, treats a koala undergoing rehabilitation.

marine animal rescue



© IFAW



© Lisa Skelton

hundreds of whales and dolphins

are stranded on New Zealand's shores every year.

- ▲ Long-finned pilot whales on the south coast of Western Australia.
- ◀ Green sea turtle Ella was released back into the ocean following her six month rehabilitation after she ingested a plastic bag, a balloon and the attached string, which got stuck in her intestines.

New Zealand has one of the highest whale, dolphin and porpoise stranding rates in the world.

IFAW's United States-based Marine Mammal Rescue team is world-renowned in marine mammal rescue and shares that expertise throughout the world. We have exported this team's extensive experience and knowledge to our friends on the ground in New Zealand through skill sharing workshops and practical training in satellite tagging with Project Jonah, Massey University and the Department of Conservation.

We have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Project Jonah which focuses on collaboration and capacity building between the MMRR team and the New Zealand-based group.

We know well the impact plastics have on our marine life which is why we've supported Australian Seabird Rescue. Our support has helped the group rehabilitate marine animals such as turtles which have become sick or injured because of plastic ingestion or entanglements. By giving Australian Seabird Rescue the crucial resources they need, we're increasing the chances of these animals being successfully released into the ocean where they belong.



© IFAW/Stacey Hedman

Oceania

tree planting initiatives

The 2019-20 Australian bushfires scorched the landscape and shattered the New South Wales koala population and their habitats. Given that habitat destruction is already the number one threat to koalas, it is even more crucial that we rebuild and restore their critical habitat.

A core element of our work is restoration of critical habitats. By rebuilding vital wildlife corridors, we're giving our iconic koalas and other native species the safe refuges they so desperately need.

Together with Bangalow Koalas, we have planted more than 12,000 trees on four properties in the Northern Rivers region of NSW. While taking care to identify several COVID-19-related adjustments, 5,000 trees were planted in one three-day event with the help of dozens of dedicated volunteers.

Our work continues as we partner with more groups to expand our restoration efforts in Australia, and in June we signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Great Eastern Ranges (GER), a large-scale conservation initiative to restore and reconnect 3,600 kilometres of land from Far North Queensland to Western Victoria.

Now, more than ever, we must find successful ways to co-exist with and protect our wildlife. Together with our partners, we're on the ground connecting protected spaces to create the room these species need to roam. Our goal is to increase the chances of survival of our wildlife and help animals and people thrive together.

5,000 trees

planted in one three-day event in the New South Wales Northern Rivers region.

▲ Katie Miller, IFAW Deputy Vice President of International Operations, and Josey Sharrad, IFAW Oceania Wildlife Campaigner, plant tree saplings during a tree-planting event.



© Tyson Mayr

Oceania

post-fire research for koala conservation

IFAW and the University of the Sunshine Coast (USC) Detection Dogs for Conservation team have partnered again, this time through a significant three-year investment in studying the health and resilience of koalas to fire.

Koalas are facing significant threats to their habitat because of the bushfires and excessive land clearing which has contributed to the loss of 62% of the New South Wales koala population over the past 20 years.

Together with detection dogs and drone technology, we hope to identify and assess key at-risk koala populations by 2023, develop better conservation strategies for koalas when bushfires hit and inform future priority focus areas for intervention and management strategies.

62% of the New South Wales koala population has been lost over the past three koala generations

▲ Handler Riana Gardiner sitting with USC x IFAW koala detection dog Bear.



© IFAW

Oceania

no place for ivory

Our efforts to secure a ban on domestic ivory in New Zealand are ongoing with the [New Zealand](#) government announcing intentions to implement a ban on domestic trade of elephant ivory in September 2020.

We continue to advocate for the implementation of recommendations made by the [Australian Parliamentary Joint Committee on Law Enforcement](#) in its inquiry into the domestic trade of elephant ivory and rhino horn. Following the government's announcement in August 2019 of its intention to work with state and territory governments to implement the ban, we continue to provide briefings and advice. Together with an alliance of non-government organisations [we continue to advocate for](#)

[this legislative change as part of a wider review and strengthening of Australia's environmental protection laws.](#)

IFAW and leading Australian auction house [Leonard Joel](#) have forged a unique partnership since coming to each other's attention as a result of the [2016 IFAW investigation](#) into the sale of ivory and rhino horn through auction houses in Australia and New Zealand. This led to [Leonard Joel's](#) voluntary ban on the sale of ivory and rhino horn and the auction house hosting an Art for IFAW auction in [Melbourne](#) in 2019.

Some four years later, IFAW welcomed [Leonard Joel's](#) General Manager John Albrecht to the [IFAW Board](#).



▼ Learn more:

Article: An auction house in Australia is upending the ivory trade
<https://www.ifaw.org/au/projects/australia-wildlife-crime-prevention>

Article: John Albrecht Australia Board Member
<https://www.ifaw.org/au/people/board/john-albrecht>

▲ Ivory figurines at an Australian antique shop. IFAW continues to advocate for a ban on the domestic trade of elephant ivory and rhino horn.



© IFAW/Stacey Hedman

Oceania

policy and advocacy

Our work to advocate for policy reform continues at all levels of government, both nationally and globally.

Locally, we continue to advocate for safer roads for [Australia's](#) native wildlife and we support community groups in their opposition against developments proposed in or near koala habitat.

At a state level, [we submitted a nomination to the New South Wales Threatened Species Scientific Committee for the provisional up-listing of the state's koalas from Vulnerable to Endangered](#) on an emergency basis. This nomination was co-signed by Friends of the Koala, Humane Society International (HSI) and Port Macquarie Koala Hospital.

Nationally, IFAW has been advocating for an overhaul of Australia's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation

Act 1999 (EPBC Act) amid a once-in-a-decade review of the legislation. We have [urged the government to introduce a package of reforms to strengthen our environmental protection laws to ensure animals and their habitats thrive into the future.](#)

We continue to support IFAW's international policy efforts, working through international treaties, agreements and fora to ensure better animal welfare and conservation outcomes. This has included the United Nations Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the International Whaling Commission (IWC), and most recently through our Membership of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Nomination to have New South Wales koalas up-listed from Vulnerable to Endangered on an emergency basis

▼ Learn more:

Article: ifaw calls for emergency uplisting of New South Wales koalas to endangered after report reveals true impact of bushfires
<https://www.ifaw.org/au/press-releases/emergency-uplisting-koalas-new-south-wales>

▲ IFAW has led the nomination to have New South Wales koalas up-listed from Vulnerable to Endangered on an emergency basis.



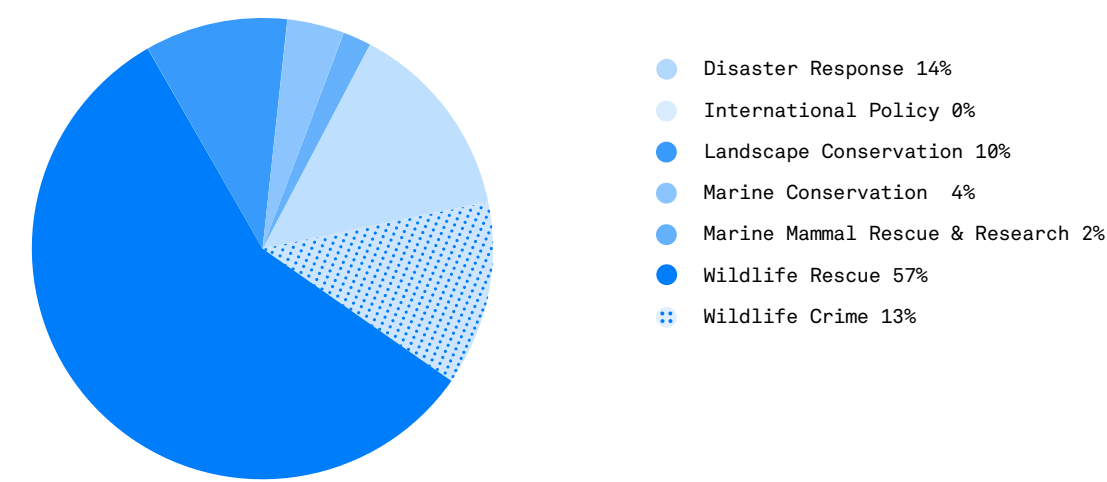
financial statements

IFAW donors and supporters include individuals, corporations, foundations, communities and governments. Our continued work, and the progress we are making together is only possible thanks to this continued support. As we reflect on what we achieved in fiscal year 20, we want to extend another heartfelt thanks to all of those who have supported us and shared our vision of animals and people thriving together.

worldwide and country specific financial overview

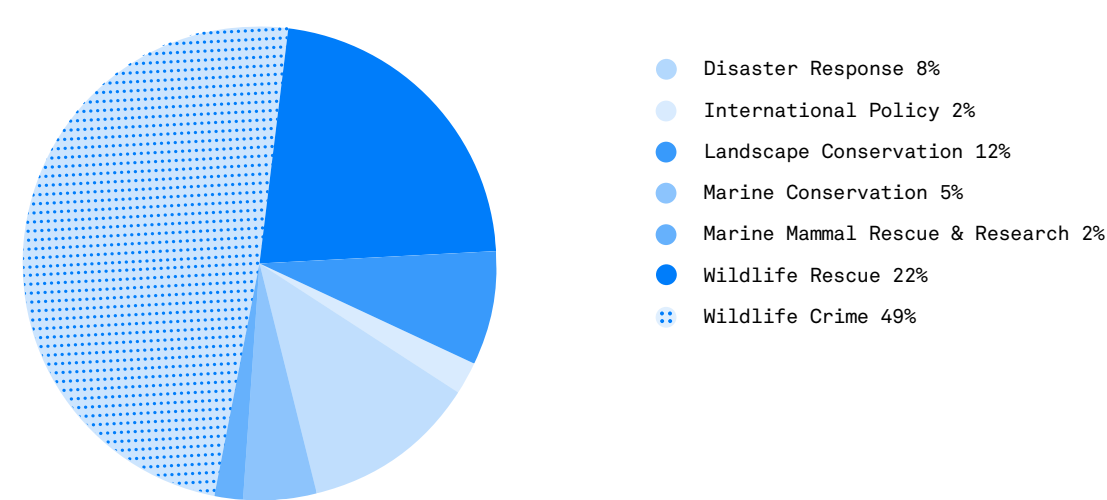
Australia programme priority

1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020



worldwide programme priority

1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020



combined financial statements

Combined financial statements unaudited* for the years ended 30 June 2020 and 2019. Figures below in thousands of US dollars.

statement of financial position

Assets	2020	2019
Cash and cash equivalents	21,039	15,835
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	14,993	11,889
Fixed assets, net	18,463	18,749
Investments	53,960	59,101
Total assets	108,455	105,574
Liabilities	2020	2019
Accounts payable and other current liabilities	11,600	11,365
Notes payable	14,148	10,961
Total liabilities	25,748	22,326
Net assets	82,707	83,248
Total liabilities and net assets	108,455	105,574

* Financial statements for each of the IFAW entities 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	2020	2019
Supporter contributions	57,864	51,838
Bequests	19,387	16,298
Donated goods and services	29,217	30,290
Investment and other operating income	903	3,630
Total revenues, gains and other support	107,371	102,056
Expenses	2020	2019
Total program and operating expenses	106,962	111,626
Excess (deficit) of revenue over expenses	409	(9,570)

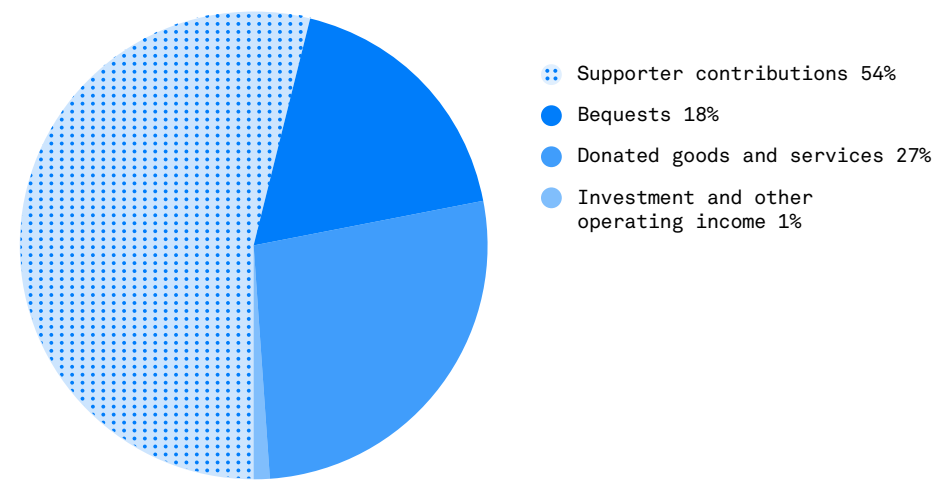
ifaw allocation of programme and operating expenses

Year Ended 30 June 2020

Entity	Location	Programme & Programme support	Fundraising
International Fund for Animal Welfare, Inc.	United States	90.7%	9.3%
International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)	United Kingdom	80.3%	19.7%
International Fund for Animal Welfare Inc./ Fonds international pour la Protection des animaux inc.	Canada	82.9%	17.1%
Stichting IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare)	The Netherlands	83.3%	16.7%
IFAW Internationaler Tierschutz-Fonds gGmbH	Germany	87.8%	12.2%
Fonds International pour la protection des animaux (IFAW France)	France	75.0%	25.0%
International Fund for Animal Welfare (Australia) Pty Limited	Australia	75.4%	24.6%
International Fund for Animal Welfare NPC	South Africa	93.3%	6.7%
International Fund for Animal Welfare Limited	Zambia	100.0%	0.0%
International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) Limited	Malawi	100.0%	0.0%

total revenue gains and other support

1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020



ifaw revenue/expenses — Australia

Figures below in thousands of Australian dollars for the years ended 30 June 2020 and 2019

Revenues	2020	2019
Supporter contributions	9,076	4,126
Bequests	3,166	1,730
Investment and other operating income	(100)	683
Total revenues, gains and other support	12,142	6,539
Expenses	2020	2019
Programme	5,594	4,590
Fundraising	2,135	1,742
Administrative support	935	757
Total programme and operating expenses	8,664	7,089
Excess (deficit) of revenue over expenses	3,478	(550)

* With the generosity of our incredible supporters like you, we were able to increase our spending on our programmatic work over the past financial year. We also strategically made fundraising investments in FY20 to position our strength for the future.



vision:
animals and people
thriving together.



mission:
fresh thinking
and bold action
for animals, people
and the place we
call home.

International Fund
for Animal Welfare

Annual Report FY 2020
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Zimbabwe

