



IFAW News

Our Shared World



A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR ANIMAL WELFARE

MAY 2008

MESSAGE FROM IFAW'S PRESIDENT

Putting It All Together for Animals

I'm happy to tell you that, thanks largely to our donors and supporters worldwide, IFAW has achieved some real gains for animals in recent months.

From helping elephant range states in Africa build a strong elephant conservation coalition to rescuing oil-soaked penguins in Argentina, IFAW enlists the best scientists, wildlife rehabilitators, educators and local community members to find ways to alleviate animal suffering.

IFAW researchers aboard the *Song of the Whale* are well-known for contributions to marine mammal science: their current research on beaked whales is featured in this issue and it's a must read. Other great articles highlight IFAW's efforts to bring veterinary care to one million people in Khayelitsha, South Africa; our partnership with the Kenya Wildlife Service in Tsavo National Park; and updates on some recent successes in emergency relief and public education.

A heartfelt thanks for your partnership in our efforts to build a better world for animals and people.

Gratefully,

Fred O'Regan, President

Whale watching brings millions to the Pacific

The Pacific Islands region is home to a high diversity of marine mammal species and contains critical habitats for many species, which are an intrinsic part of the region's rich natural and cultural heritage.

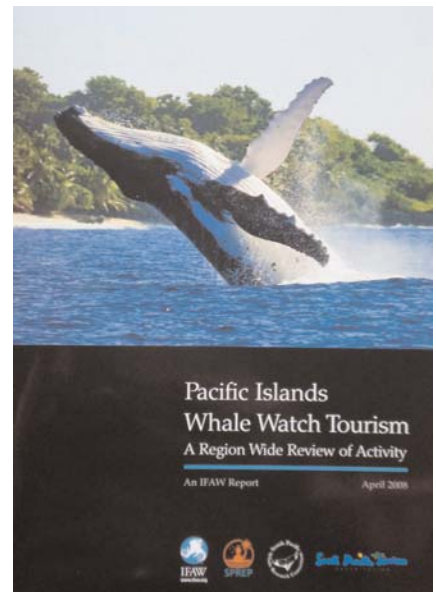
Historically, the region was a focus for whaling and many species were hunted to the brink of extinction, with many still threatened today. However, over the last 10-15 years a whale and dolphin watching industry has been developed and now, with the development of conservation measures, the industry is growing. More and more tourists are coming to the region every year to watch these amazing creatures and spending significant tourist dollars to do so.

A new IFAW report shows that whale and dolphin watching is one of the fastest growing industries in the Pacific, injecting millions of dollars into local economies.

The report, launched in April at a whale watching meeting convened by IFAW in Auckland, states that whale watching is worth a massive AUD 22 million a year to the region, with the number of people going

whale watching increasing a spectacular 45 per cent each year.

Opening the workshop, former New Zealand minister and International Whaling Commission delegate, Jim McClay, said each humpback whale which visited Tonga was worth about AUD 1.1 million to the local economy during a 15-year period and urged Japan to stop hunting the mammals, saying "whales are worth more alive than dead." ●



Responsible whale watching has the potential to provide important economic opportunities to Pacific Islanders according to an IFAW report.

© IFAW

Funding Wildlife for the Future

IFAW Asia Pacific's unique grant program awards funds to organisations which match IFAW's animal welfare goals. Just some of the many projects recently funded in Australia and the Asia Pacific region follow.

IFAW provided a grant to **Tolga Bat Rescue & Research** to help with the huge costs associated with the treatment and release of spectacled flying foxes following an unusually large tick paralysis season in the Atherton Tablelands in northern Australia. The species is listed by the Australian Government as Vulnerable to extinction.

During the 2007/08 season the Tolga Bat Hospital treated over 500 orphans and 400 adult spectacled flying foxes. The IFAW grant provided much needed funding for medical supplies and release operations.

An IFAW grant enabled **Friends of the Koala** in Lismore NSW, to purchase new koala rescue cages and materials needed to repair enclosures following damage caused by the recent floods in northern NSW. Friends of the Koala is a non-profit community group run by volunteers dedicated to conserving koalas in the Northern Rivers of New South Wales.



© IFAW

A grant was awarded to **Southern Cross Wildlife Care** for the establishment of a regional Wildlife Care and Referral Centre in NSW. The centre, which was adapted from an

old shearing shed, helps to rescue, treat and rehabilitate sick, injured and orphaned native wildlife. The funding helped the centre to build rehabilitation and release enclosures for native wildlife, such as wombats, to acclimatise to local conditions before permanent release into the wild.

WAIF (Wildlife Assistance & Information Foundation), a part-time vet clinic in NSW, dedicated to the treatment of wildlife disease and injuries, was provided a Surgical Grant for the purchase of specialised medical equipment. The funding enabled WAIF to purchase urgently needed surgical kits for specialist wildlife needs at the Wildlife Clinic.



Specialist medical equipment needed for wildlife such as this tiny Pygmy Possum.

© IFAW

IFAW funding for **Help for Wildlife**, a statewide wildlife group in Victoria, provided essential personal protection equipment for wildlife carer teams. All wildlife carers are now required to have this equipment following new requirements mandated by the Department of Sustainability and Environment before being allowed to enter fire affected areas to rescue wildlife.

This funding will help injured wildlife, such as koalas and possums, to be treated as soon as possible from injuries and smoke inhalation and will enable vet care to be administered at the earliest possible time.

This will undoubtedly alleviate considerable suffering and also give the affected wildlife a better chance of recovering.

continued on page 4



www.ifaw.org

IFAW Asia Pacific
8 Belmore Street
SURREY HILLS NSW 2010
www.ifaw.org

EXECUTIVE STAFF

- Frederick M. O'Regan
President and Chief Executive Officer
- Tereza A. Byrne
Vice President of Development and External Affairs
- A.J. Cady
Director of Animals in Crisis and Distress
- Michael Cote
Chief Information Officer
- Azzedine T. Downes
Executive Vice President
- Kevin McGinnis
Director of Human Resources
- Melanie Powers
Chief Financial Officer
- Kevin Shields
Director of Wildlife and Habitat Protection

OFFICES

- Asia
Grace Gabriel, Director
- Asia Pacific
Erica Martin, Director
- Canada
Olivier Bonnet, Director
- Eastern Africa
James Isiche, Director
- European Union
Lesley O'Donnell, Director
- France
Florence Paquet-Chausson, Representative
- Germany
Dr. Ralf Sonntag, Director
- India
Vivek Menon, Representative
- Japan
Naoko Funahashi, Representative
- Latin America
Beatriz Bugada, Director
- Netherlands
Marcel Bertsch, Director
- Russia
Dr. Maria Vorontsova, Director
- Southern Africa
Jason Bell-Leask, Director
- United Arab Emirates
Azzedine T. Downes, Director
- United Kingdom
Robbie Marsland, Director
- United States
Jeffrey Flocken, Director

International Updates

IFAW works globally to protect animals and habitat, and to benefit people and animals around this world we share. Following are highlights from some of our international campaigns:

Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation



In February, the IFAW/Wildlife Trust of India Center for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation relocated two orphaned Asian elephants and a young one-horned rhino to Manas National Park where they joined six previously rehabilitated elephants and three rhinos.

© IFAW/J. Cumes



After a December 2007 oil spill in Patagonia, **Argentina**, 163 Magellanic penguins and other seabirds – including grebes, cormorants and steamer ducks – are again swimming free in the South Atlantic after IFAW rehabilitated and released them.

© IFAW/J. Miller

Educating for Animal Welfare

Students between the ages of 12 and 15 throughout **Latin America** are now learning about the ecological, environmental, and social importance of animals thanks to a Web-based educational program called *Redes de ayuda* (Help Networks) that was launched in March 2008 by IFAW and the Latin American Institute for Educational Communication (ILCE). The project enables students in more than 10,000 schools in Spanish-speaking coun-

tries to learn about the threats animals face and to develop an international understanding of animal welfare. Students will devise posters and pamphlets to promote IFAW's efforts to stop the illegal wildlife trade. Samples will be available on IFAW's Latin American website at www.ifaw.org.

Protecting Wildlife: Online and On-the-ground

The International Tiger Coalition (ITC), of which IFAW is a member, recently launched a Chinese-language website: www.ilaohu.org ("ilaohu," means "love tigers"). The volunteer-run site, which calls for public action to protect endangered wild tigers, is supported by influential artists and writers from **China**, and has already garnered significant media attention.



There are fewer than 4,000 tigers left in the wild.

© Pranesh Phule

In February 2008, IFAW facilitated the signing of the Bamako Elephant Declaration at an international meeting in **Chad** that, for the first time, formally unified nearly 20 African nations on critical initiatives to end the ivory trade and conserve the world's remaining elephants.

After campaigning for more than three years, IFAW and other animal welfare groups won a ban on the capture of wild elephants for commercial use in **South Africa**.

IFAW and its partner, Wildlife Trust of India, acquired an important wildlife corridor that links two reserves in southern **India** in December 2007. The Indian government will take over management of the land as a protected reserve for Asian elephant habitat. There are 88 identified elephant corridors in India, narrow strips of land that allow elephants to move from one area to another.

Officials from **China's** State Forestry Administration, the Ministry of Public Security, delegates from major online auction sites and IFAW participated in a January 2008 Internet Illegal Wildlife Trade Enforcement Workshop organized by China's CITES management authority. Government agencies and Web sites expressed willingness to work with IFAW to strengthen their efforts to combat online wildlife trading, which will help close markets that fuel poaching. ●

You can make a difference

IFAW has a history of achieving results for animals and habitat – and with your support, we can achieve many more victories. You can join IFAW in protecting animals around the globe.

- **Donate** to IFAW
- Introduce IFAW to your local schools through IFAW **Animal Action Week**
- Name IFAW in your **will**
- **Introduce** IFAW to friends interested in animal welfare
- Become an IFAW online advocate: Visit www.ifaw.org
- Join **Champion for Animals**

For more information contact Supporter Relations by email at info-au@ifaw.org or by calling **1800 00 4329**.

continued from page 2



An orphaned gibbon at the Kalaweit Foundation. © IFAW/T.Duratovic

Following the recent relocation of five Sumatran agile gibbons and eight siamangs through a partnership between IFAW, International Animal Rescue and Kalaweit Foundation, a grant has been awarded to the **Kalaweit Bornean Project** for the purchase of a new vehicle. The Kalaweit programme, with sites in Sumatra and Borneo, was launched in 1999 and is dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation, reintroduction and welfare of confiscated gibbons. The vehicle is desperately

needed for animal confiscation and transportation as well as operational activities associated with taking care of the 170 gibbons already at the rehabilitation island. The current vehicle, with over 220,000km on the clock, and in very poor condition, is “making many troubles for the daily activities” according to the projects Founder and President, A.B. Chanee.



The Kalaweit Bornean Project's old vehicle. © IFAW/T.Duratovic

Life Saving Club adopts whale

Williamstown Surf Lifesaving Club is the newest member of the **Humpback Icon project (HIP)**, bringing the number of adopted whales to 54! HIP continues to grow not only in the number of communities and councils taking part but also in the level of commitment and support from current participants. Many members are organising a wide variety of events in June to celebrate the whales return to Australian waters. Events include competitions, festivals, exhibitions and whale watching trips. For more information on HIP and to find out how your council or local community can become involved please visit: www.icon-project.com.au and click on the interactive map.

Tsavo Weathers Political Storm

IFAW is partnering with the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) to improve security in Tsavo National Park, the second largest park in Africa. This precious habitat is home to more than 32 species of large mammals and the highest single elephant and black rhino populations in Kenya. Sadly, it's also a haven for poachers armed with sophisticated military weapons – criminals who kill animals and rangers, too.

In the weeks following Kenya's presidential elections at the end of 2007, protests and violence erupted. Ongoing mediation processes have led to a return of peace.

Thankfully, IFAW's staff in Nairobi is safe, the office is operational, and the Tsavo Conservation Area, where IFAW's efforts are concentrated, is running normally. But Tsavo parks have recorded a 90 percent decline in revenue due to massive tourist

cancellations. Because of this drop, KWS has had to cut monthly operational expenditures – such as fuel for security patrols in Tsavo – by 40 percent. This is where you come in. These animals need your help to keep KWS rangers out on patrols and poachers out of the parks. Fuel

for security and problem-animal control patrols is estimated at US\$15,000 per month. Tsavo's managers have alerted IFAW that, if this situation continues, they'll need extra funds to continue the patrols as well as assistance for constructing fire breaks and other much-needed operations. ●



IFAW's partnership with Kenya Wildlife Service helps protect Tsavo's majestic animals and ecosystems. © IFAW/D. Willetts

MESSAGE FROM IFAW ASIA PACIFIC DIRECTOR

The Japanese whaling fleet has finally returned to port, ending another brutal whale hunt season in the Southern Ocean. The boats returned with more than half their self-allocated quota - a total of 551 minke whales. Although we can celebrate the fact that no endangered fin or humpback whales were killed this year, 551 dead whales is still 551 too many.

This year's kill brings the total number of whales killed by Japan under its so-called scientific research program in the Southern Ocean to a staggering 8,728. One can't help wondering - does Japan have enough samples yet? We will continue to urge the Australian government to stand by its pre-election commitments to challenge Japan through international law and bring an end to scientific whaling once and for all!

A key achievement in April was organising the first ever Pacific Island Region Veterinary Capacity-Roundtable to discuss the issue of the current inadequate and declining veterinary capacity in the Pacific Island Region. IFAW brought together all the major stakeholders to take the first step in developing practical solutions for this urgent problem.

We also held a whale watching workshop in New Zealand, with an impressive 35 industry leaders attending from 13 countries. The aim of the workshop was to redevelop guidelines for whale watching throughout our region.

I am happy to announce that IFAW's Animal Action Week theme for this year is 'Beneath the Waves - Protecting Marine Wildlife'. The week will look at the issues affecting our oceans today and how these impact on animals as well as people. We will once again be distributing our free education pack to

schools throughout our region as well as calling for nominations for the prestigious Animal Action Awards. There is more information on this below.

Thank you very much for your committed support. There is a huge amount of work to be done and your dedicated support makes it possible.

I look forward to sharing more of our success with you later in the year.



HUNT WATCH UPDATE

Brutality on Ice

Once again, an IFAW team traveled to the ice floes off Canada's East Coast to monitor the largest hunt for marine mammals in the world, which began on March 28. The Total Allowable Catch set by the Canadian government was 275,000 seals, 5,000 more than last year.

IFAW documented unacceptable cruelty on the ice at the same time Canadian officials were visiting Europe to herald this year as the most humane seal hunt ever. The government touted new killing regulations called the "3-step process" (stun/shoot, check, bleed out) to forestall growing international criticism of the hunt. But video evidence clearly shows that the 3-step process is not being followed by sealers.

"Based on what we've seen, it's 'business as usual,'" said Sheryl Fink, IFAW hunt observer and senior researcher. "The rush to club as

many seals as possible in a short period of time, combined with slippery ice conditions means that, once again, animal welfare takes a back seat to profit."

IFAW's documentation of what really happened out on the ice this year generated worldwide media coverage and legislative efforts to ban seal product imports continue to build in Europe.

Visit www.ifaw.org to learn how you can help stop the commercial seal hunt in Canada. ●



IFAW continues to document cruelty during the 2008 hunt despite new government killing regulations. © IFAW

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS Animal Action Awards - Heroes Wanted.

We are looking for special people who have done something outstanding for animals. Perhaps they have devoted their life to saving animals at a sanctuary or they campaign tirelessly for animal welfare.

We want to recognise the work of these exceptional people, so please send us your Animal Hero nominations. Please visit www.ifaw.org for more information or email us at info-au@ifaw.org describing the person you are nominating, including their full name and address, phone number and a description of their work.



The International Fund for Animal Welfare works to improve the welfare of wild and domestic animals throughout the world by reducing commercial exploitation of animals, protecting wildlife habitats, and assisting animals in distress.

IFAW seeks to motivate the public to prevent cruelty to animals and to promote animal welfare and conservation policies that advance the well-being of both animals and people.

PEOPLE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Staff profile - Jorge Basave

Originally from Mexico City, Jorge Basave is the newest member of the IFAW Asia Pacific Campaigns Team.

Jorge became aware of IFAW's work in Latin America and since moving to Sydney in 2006 to study an MA in Environmental Management at Macquarie University pursued a career at the Asia Pacific office.

Jorge joins the IFAW team as Wildlife Campaigns Officer, working on global campaigns to protect elephants from being hunted for their ivory, as well as campaigning to stop the wildlife souvenir trade and illegal trafficking in wildlife on the internet. He also works on legislation to pro-

mote responsible whale watching and protect species from ocean noise here in Australia.

"I have always worked for environmental organisations but IFAW added a very appealing international angle to the work."

Jorge has worked for various NGO's in Mexico and enjoys the personal challenges not-for-profit organisations bring as well as the cultural diversity associated with working in the Asia Pacific region.

"What I love the most about working for IFAW is knowing I am helping individual animals as well as conserving their habitats for the future."

When he is not protecting wildlife habitats Jorge enjoys swimming and reading, but at the end of a busy day he is happiest just hanging out with his friends and watching movies.



Wildlife Campaigns Officer Jorge Basave.

© IFAW

Be Part of IFAW's Whale Wall

Help IFAW create a stunning 'whale wall' for the backdrop to a major nationwide event planned later this year. The wall will be made of your photos, artwork, poems, short stories and paintings celebrating our precious whales and dolphins and welcoming whales back to Australian waters this June.

Be creative and send us your artistic contributions, showing why "We Love Whales!"

Send your entries to Rachel Kathriner, 2008 Whale Wall, IFAW, 8-10 Belmore Street, SURRY HILLS NSW 2010.

Closing date: Monday 2nd June. Items no larger than A3 size.

Please make your cheque payable to IFAW and mail your Reply Form to: IFAW, 8 Belmore Street, Surry Hills, NSW 2010.

Or make a secure donation online at www.ifaw.org.

Support IFAW's efforts around the world

Our work depends on your support. Please make a donation to help IFAW save animals in distress and protect wildlife and vital habitat all around the world. Thank you.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

SUBURB _____

STATE _____ POSTCODE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Cheque enclosed for the amount of AU\$ _____

To pay by credit card, select:

Visa MasterCard American Express

CARD NUMBER _____

AMOUNT AU\$ _____ EXPIRY DATE _____

CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Donations over \$2 are tax deductible. We will send you a receipt at the end of the financial year for the total amount of your donations.