



# Global Impact Report

## 2024



# Global Impact Report 2024



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## FOREWORD FROM WILD AT LIFE'S CHIEF CONSERVATION OFFICER AND FOUNDER

Dear Reader,

2024 was another year of committed action across some of the world's most complex and fragile regions. From wildfires in Turkey to anti-poaching operations in Africa and conservation work in Sri Lanka's coastal ecosystems, our team has continued to step in where help is most urgently needed.

Every animal we rescue is part of a bigger picture. Whether it's a rhino calf left behind by poachers, a baby buffalo found alone, or a sea turtle injured by human impact, these are not isolated stories—they are signs of a deeper problem: the rapid loss of biodiversity.



The protection of wildlife is about more than saving individual animals. Biodiversity is essential to the health of our planet. It supports ecosystems, stabilizes the climate, and affects our food, water, and long-term survival. When species disappear, entire systems begin to break down.

This year, we've seen that targeted, local action can make a real difference. Wildlife is returning to previously exploited areas. Illicit trade routes are being disrupted. Animals once in danger now roam in safety. And communities are becoming part of the solution.

The achievements outlined in this report—over 1,200 animals rescued, 100,000 mangroves planted, operations in six countries—show what's possible when we work together. But our work is far from over.

Thank you for your continued support. Together, we're building a future where animals and ecosystems are given the chance to recover and thrive.

**Aslihan Gedik**

*Founder & Chief Conservation Officer  
Wild at Life e.V.*

### OUR IMPACT IN 2024 AT A GLANCE

In 2024, Wild at Life e.V. stood where others turned away — from war zones to wildlife markets, from flooded villages to burning forests.

Here's what we achieved together:

- **Over 1,200 animals rescued** – from captivity, abuse, war zones, and poaching traps
- **6 countries** reached through active missions and emergency responses
- **100,000+ mangroves planted** – protecting coasts, stabilizing climate, and restoring biodiversity
- **Hundreds of stray animals fed** and treated during brutal winter conditions
- **Multiple life-saving interventions** in wildfires, floods, and landslides
- **Ongoing education and advocacy** – fighting for lasting change, justice, and animal rights

Each mission reflects our commitment to practical, effective conservation — grounded in science, compassion, and field experience.

Whether responding to urgent crises or building long-term solutions, our team works with local partners, experts, and communities to protect wildlife and ecosystems under threat.

Together, we're creating impact where it matters most — on the ground, where life hangs in the balance.

### COMBATING ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

#### SAVING RHINOS FROM POACHING BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE

##### The Challenge

Rhino poaching remains a critical threat to wildlife, particularly in South Africa and Namibia. In 2023 alone, **586 rhinos were killed across Africa**, averaging one poached every 15 hours. The primary driver of this crisis is the illegal trade in rhino horn, which is sought after for its **perceived medicinal properties and its value as a status symbol**, especially in parts of Asia.



Despite efforts in some regions, **poaching numbers continue to rise elsewhere**, placing increasing pressure on both **white and black rhino populations**. Without coordinated and sustained intervention, these iconic species risk being driven toward extinction.

##### Our Approach and Actions

Over the course of two field missions, we NGO implemented a **multi-pronged conservation strategy**:

- **Real-Time Monitoring:** We equipped rhinos with **AI-powered, non-invasive tracking collars**. These devices provide real-time movement data, enabling rapid threat detection and allowing us to dynamically adjust patrol routes to respond to emerging risks.
- **Medical Interventions:** We **collected plasma samples** from rhinos as part of our broader health monitoring initiative. These samples are crucial for developing emergency medical treatments for rhinos affected by trauma, poaching, or other stressors.
- **Horn Trimming:** As a preventive measure, we **safely trimmed the horns** of select rhinos. This painless procedure significantly reduces their appeal to poachers without harming the animals, functioning as an effective deterrent.



- **Community Engagement:** Understanding that long-term change requires local support, we expanded our **community education and outreach programs**. These initiatives aim to **raise awareness, reduce demand** for rhino horn, and offer **alternative income opportunities** to those at risk of being drawn into illegal activities.

### Outcomes

Thanks to this holistic approach, we have **significantly enhanced the protection** of rhinos in the areas where we operate. The tracking technology has **increased our responsiveness**, allowing patrol teams to act swiftly when suspicious patterns are detected. Horn trimming has proven to be an effective deterrent, with a measurable reduction in poaching attempts. Plasma sampling has further equipped our veterinary teams with critical tools for treating injured or vulnerable animals.



Moreover, our educational outreach has begun to shift public perceptions within key communities, laying the groundwork for long-term attitudinal change and **strengthening the foundation for sustainable conservation**.

## MISSION CAITA – FIGHTING WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING IN ANGOLA

### The Challenge

Angola's **Maiombe Rainforest** is a key battleground in the fight against the **illegal wildlife trade**, a crisis fuelled by organized crime and armed violence while devastating primate populations.

Poachers often kill entire chimpanzee families to abduct infants for the **exotic pet trade**, with a staggering toll: **for every baby**



**chimpanzee taken, up to 10 adults are killed.** Surviving primates are often left with severe injuries—like machete wounds, bullet impacts, or untreated infections—and experience deep psychological trauma.

This trade, valued at over **USD 20 billion per year**, poses an immense threat not just to individual animals but to the survival of entire species and ecosystems.

### Our Approach and Actions

At **Mission Caita**, named in honor of a young chimpanzee who died from a septic shock after being rescued, Wild at Life is tackling wildlife crime through direct intervention, rehabilitation, and community-led conservation:

- **Rescue and Rehabilitation:** We have successfully rescued and are rehabilitating chimpanzees **Maiombe, Jacka, Matiaba, Zizi, Walter, Januario, and Zeze**, along with **Kuxie**, a Mustached Guenon. These primates now live in social groups, **reconnecting with nature through daily forest outings**—a key step in their rewilding process.
- **Veterinary Interventions:** We have conducted complex surgeries, such as treating **Zeze**, who suffered from an infected machete wound and a bullet lodged in his testicles. His final eye surgery was a success, and he is now recovering well.
- **Community Engagement:** Our mission employs **local caregivers, nurses, and rangers**, integrating **community-led conservation** by working directly with people living near the forest. We provide education on the importance of wildlife and empower communities to become protectors of the biodiversity around them.
- **Law Enforcement and Justice:** The poachers responsible for Caita's suffering were apprehended and brought to justice, demonstrating not only our commitment to care but also our contribution to holding poachers accountable.

## Outcomes

The rescued primates at Mission Caita are **thriving**, forming social bonds, healing from their trauma, and preparing for a return to the wild. Our community-based approach has strengthened local support for conservation, creating **a sustainable protection model for the entire Maiombe ecosystem**.



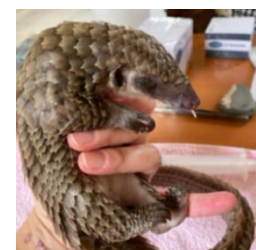
Though the loss of Caita was heartbreaking, her story fuels our resolve. Her legacy lives on in the mission named after her and in every life we save from exploitation and suffering. With ongoing support, we are turning tragedy into transformation, and ensuring that primates like Zeze, Zizi, and Kuxie have a chance at a **free and dignified life in the wild**.

## SAVING THE ENDANGERED PANGOLIN FROM EXTINCTION

### The Challenge

Pangolins, often described as resembling a cross between an armadillo and an armadillo, are **one of the most unique and vulnerable species on our planet**. Despite their ecological importance, they hold the grim title of being the most trafficked mammals in the world. Hunted primarily for their scales—which are falsely believed to have medicinal value—they are **rapidly vanishing from the wild**.

The scale of the crisis is immense. Pangolins are found across 23 countries, spanning over 2.3 million square miles, making enforcement incredibly complex. Nigeria has become a major hub in the illegal pangolin supply chain, with scales being funneled out to Asia—most notably to China, Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, and Singapore.



### Our Approach and Actions

At Wild at Life, we are confronting the pangolin crisis on multiple fronts. We are actively:



- **Supporting field enforcement** by equipping officers in high-risk regions with modern tracking and monitoring tools.
  - **Collaborating across borders** to identify trafficking routes and disrupt networks before pangolins are lost to the trade.
- Raising awareness** of the devastating effects of the illegal wildlife trade, particularly the false narratives around traditional medicine.

Our current projects in Nigeria and Zimbabwe which we focused on in 2024, emphasize **prevention and response**. We are working to stop poachers before they act and support law enforcement by providing them with the tools needed to intervene effectively.

### Outcomes

While the battle to save pangolins is far from over, our growing ability to track and analyze trafficking patterns offers a glimmer of hope. With smarter tools and stronger cross-border cooperation, the tide can turn. Every trafficking network exposed, every snare dismantled, and every awareness campaign launched brings us closer to **securing a future for these remarkable animals**.



ASLIHAN GEDIK APPOINTED AS TECHNICAL ADVISOR TO GLOBAL WILDLIFE CRIME INITIATIVE

### The Challenge

Illegal wildlife trade remains one of the most severe threats to global biodiversity. Despite international conventions and national laws, countless species continue to be trafficked every year—fueling organized crime, destabilizing ecosystems, and putting both human and animal lives at risk. **Addressing wildlife crime at the highest political and legal levels** is therefore critical to reversing this devastating trend.



### Our Action

We are proud to share that our Founder and Chief Conservation Officer, **Aslihan Gedik**, has been appointed as a **Technical Advisor** to “**End Wildlife Crime**”, a leading global initiative working to end the illegal trade in wildlife. This prestigious appointment is a testament to Asli’s decades-long dedication, deep expertise, and unwavering advocacy for animal protection.

Asli’s new role positions her at the heart of global conservation policy, allowing her to:

- Collaborate with **international legal and enforcement experts**.
- Help shape policies that push for **stronger laws and harsher penalties** against wildlife traffickers.
- Contribute to **capacity-building efforts** for enforcement agencies worldwide.
- Support efforts to integrate **biodiversity protection into public health and security agendas**.

Through this role, Asli will contribute to expanding and refining strategies that address wildlife crime at its root, both legally and socially.

### Outcomes

This development significantly strengthens Wild at Life’s influence and reach. With Asli now part of a global advisory body, we gain **access to a wider international network** of policymakers, legal experts, and conservation partners; **amplified advocacy power** to bring attention to urgent wildlife crises; as well as **improved tools and strategies** to tackle wildlife crime in countries where we operate.

Asli's appointment represents more than a personal achievement—it marks a new chapter for our organization's impact on a global scale giving us the opportunity to help **shape international norms** around wildlife protection and collaborate directly with entities committed to ending illegal trade. We are excited about the opportunities this appointment will open up for the countless animals and ecosystems we fight to protect every day.

### RHINO ORPHANS AND NEW BEGINNINGS: A TALE OF LOSS AND HOPE

#### The Challenge

Rhinos continue to be **among the most targeted animals in the illegal wildlife trade**. Poached for their horns—prized on the black market for their supposed medicinal properties—these gentle giants face relentless danger. But the tragedy doesn't end with the adult rhino. Each victim leaves behind a calf—alone, terrified, and unprepared for survival.

Orphaned rhino calves, who typically stay with their mothers for up to three years, are left vulnerable and emotionally traumatized. **Many do not survive**. The emotional scars are deep, and without intervention, their fate is sealed by starvation, predation, or exposure.



#### Our Approach and Actions

In Zambia, we rescued Dos, a young rhino calf who lost her mother to poachers. Found wandering alone, Dos was at immediate risk—exhausted, confused, and completely defenseless. Had we not found her in time, she would not have survived.

While nothing can replace the bond with her mother, we are providing Dos with the **care, nourishment, and safety** she needs to grow. From the moment

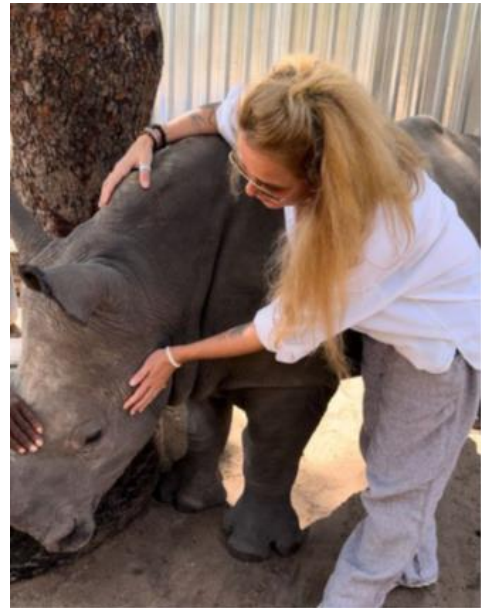
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of her rescue, we have worked closely with regional reserves to secure a long-term plan for her well-being, one rooted in protection and hope for a brighter future.

In South Africa, in a powerful contrast to Dos's story, one of the rhinos we previously rescued and equipped with an AI-powered collar has **given birth!**

The calf, affectionately named Rapula—"bringer of rain"—is thriving under the fierce protection of his mother, who never lets him out of her sight. This birth is not just a joyful event; it's a symbol of what is possible when conservation works.



In all our **Rhino Missions**, we use a combination of advanced tools and hands-on care to give them the best chance at survival:

- **AI-collars** for real-time monitoring and early warning alerts
- **Horn trimming** to deter poachers without harming the animals
- **Blood sampling and health monitoring** for long-term population tracking

### Outcomes

Without these interventions, rhinos like Rapula's mother would still be easy targets. Instead, they are **protected, reproducing, and living freely in their natural habitat.**

Dos's journey is just beginning, and Rapula's is a reminder of why we fight so hard to protect every rhino. Behind every horn is a story—of pain, of survival, and sometimes, of new life.



### PROTECTING ENDANGERED SPECIES

#### MARINE CONSERVATION: PROTECTING SEA TURTLES AND COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS

##### The Challenge

Sea turtles are **among the most ancient and awe-inspiring animals on the planet**, yet today they face a growing list of threats. From habitat destruction and rising ocean temperatures to plastic pollution and illegal poaching, human activity has pushed many sea turtle species to the brink of extinction.



Of the seven sea turtle species, two are classified as critically endangered, one as endangered, and three as vulnerable. These creatures, which have survived for millions of years, are now struggling to adapt to a world that is changing too fast and too violently.

The **dangers are varied and severe**. Coastal development is wiping out nesting sites. Climate change is altering hatchling sex ratios and migration patterns. Sea turtles often mistake plastic waste for food, leading to deadly consequences. Fishing nets and hooks cause accidental injuries and drowning. Illegal trade in turtle eggs, meat, and shells continues, driven by black markets. Light pollution disrupts their nesting behaviors, and predation by other animals threatens hatchlings before they even reach the sea. In many areas, boat collisions leave turtles injured and unable to survive on their own.

##### Our Approach and Actions

To tackle this urgent crisis, Wild at Life has launched a **dedicated sea turtle rescue and rehabilitation program**, working in close partnership with local organizations. Our mission is to provide **immediate medical care** to injured turtles and support their long-term recovery. Each turtle that enters our care is carefully assessed, treated, and monitored in a safe and controlled environment.



When a turtle is healthy enough to survive in the wild, we **release it back into its natural habitat**. For those too severely injured—such as those who have lost fins or sustained permanent damage—we offer **lifelong sanctuary** in specially designed facilities where they can live peacefully and safely. We also protect nesting females and create secure spaces for them to lay their eggs.

In addition to rescue operations, we focus on **education and community involvement**, encouraging locals and volunteers to help patrol beaches, monitor nests, and participate in hatchling releases. Through outreach, we promote sustainable behaviors and raise awareness about the importance of marine conservation.

### Outcomes

Thanks to these efforts, we were able to **rescue** dozens of sea turtles, **rehabilitate** them, and **release them back into the wild** if possible. Those we could not release stayed in our sanctuary where they can live their lives in peace, free from human threats.

We have also stimulated community engagement. More people are now actively participating in beach patrols and conservation programs. Our local awareness campaigns have helped reduce plastic pollution in critical nesting areas, and our educational efforts are beginning to shift attitudes around turtle protection and environmental responsibility.



## FREEDOM FOR THE GREY PARROTS: FIGHTING WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING WITH GLOBAL UNITY

### The Challenge

Illegal wildlife trafficking is **one of the most profitable organized crimes in the world**—and one of the most devastating to biodiversity. In Central Africa, countless species are targeted by national and international trafficking networks. Among them, the **red-tailed African grey parrot** (*Psittacus*

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*erithacus*) stands out as one of the most trafficked bird species globally, driven by the demand for exotic pets.

This intelligent, long-lived, and highly social species has suffered a **staggering decline** in the wild—by as much as 90–99% in countries like Ghana—largely due to illegal capture and trade. Though the species is now protected under Appendix I of the CITES convention, which bans international commercial trade, enforcement and repatriation efforts remain weak and inconsistent. And **trafficked animals rarely make it back home**. The logistical, bureaucratic, and financial challenges involved in returning them are immense.



### Our Approach and Actions

Wild at Life, together with Turkish Cargo and a coalition of committed partners, orchestrated the **repatriation of 34 trafficked African grey parrots** from Spain to the Republic of the Congo. This complex operation required five months of relentless coordination across three countries—Türkiye, Spain, and Congo—and involved **cooperation between governments, NGOs, and wildlife authorities**.



Our Chief Conservation Officer, Asli Han Gedik, led the mission from end to end. From coordinating permits and logistics to navigating unexpected transport complications, Asli and the team worked tirelessly to ensure the birds would **return safely to their native habitat**. When a scheduled aircraft connection failed due to technical issues, Turkish Airlines swiftly replaced the aircraft—an extraordinary measure in the airline industry that underscored the **shared commitment to the mission**.

From Madrid Airport, the parrots were transported to Istanbul, where they were cared for in Turkish Cargo's state-of-the-art animal handling facility. Veterinarians conducted health checks and ensured the birds were fit to travel to their final destination. The next leg of the journey took them to

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Pointe-Noire, Republic of the Congo, where they were welcomed by the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI), the Congolese government, and a wave of local and international media attention.

### Outcomes

Upon arrival in Congo, the parrots began the final stage of their journey—rehabilitation at the Tchimpounga Sanctuary, operated by our partners at JGI. Here, they underwent a carefully managed acclimatization before their **eventual reintroduction into the wild.**



This mission marked more than just the return of 34 parrots—it represented a beacon of international cooperation, ethical conservation, and hope. With support from the Spanish and Congolese governments, the CITES authorities, SEPRONA (the environmental unit of the Spanish Civil Guard), FIEB, and Turkish Cargo, we demonstrated that **wildlife trafficking can be challenged and reversed** when stakeholders unite.

## CELEBRATING WORLD ELEPHANT DAY IN ZAMBIA

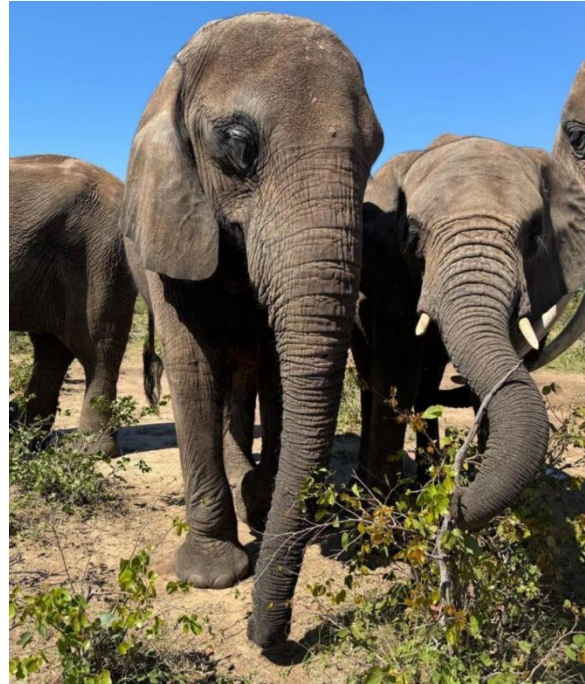
### The Challenge

Each year, World Elephant Day on 12 August honours the lives and struggles of one of the planet's most iconic and endangered species. Elephants face **mounting threats**, and their populations continue to decline due to a devastating mix of habitat destruction, poaching, human-wildlife conflict, and the illegal wildlife trade. Expanding human development has consumed vital migratory routes and foraging lands.

**Poachers continue to kill elephants for their ivory**, despite global bans. In some regions, elephants are caught in conflict with local communities, often with fatal consequences. All of this is exacerbated by the growing impacts of climate change, which further shrink resources and destabilize the delicate ecosystems on which elephants depend.

## Our Approach and Actions

At our sanctuary in Zambia, we provide a haven for **nine rescued elephants** who have endured some of these very hardships, including drought and poaching. They now live in safety, with **access to everything** they need to heal and thrive. The herd is led by Madinda, a wise matriarch who guides the others as they roam freely, sometimes even crossing into Zimbabwe before returning to the sanctuary. They are provided with **nutritious food, medical care, and individual attention** to ensure their physical and emotional wellbeing.



We have recently expanded our sanctuary's outreach through the creation of a new gateway connecting it with the nearby communities. This initiative fosters education and mutual understanding by involving local residents in conservation efforts. We work closely with them to explain the vital role elephants play in the ecosystem and how their survival ultimately benefits everyone.

Beyond our on-the-ground efforts, we continue to raise awareness about how everyday human choices affect elephant survival. Elephants are not only symbols of strength and grace—they also play a **crucial ecological role**. Research has shown that a single elephant can increase the carbon capture of a rainforest by thousands of tons over its lifetime. This makes them unexpected yet **powerful allies in the fight against climate change**.

## Outcomes

Thanks to our continued care and support, the elephant herd is thriving. They exhibit healthy behaviour, form strong social bonds, and live with a sense of security that was once denied to them. Community collaboration has grown stronger through our outreach initiatives, creating more local stewards for conservation. Our sanctuary in Zambia now stands as a model of ethical wildlife protection—where **animal welfare, biodiversity preservation, and community-led conservation** work hand in hand.



## CELEBRATING WORLD RHINO DAY – INNOVATION AND COMMUNITY IN ACTION

### The Challenge

Rhino populations are at a critical juncture. Once numbering around 500,000 at the beginning of the 20th century, only **approximately 27,000 rhinos remain today**. This staggering decline is driven by **poaching for rhino horn**, fuelled by demand in the illegal wildlife trade and traditional medicine, and exacerbated by **habitat loss due to agricultural expansion and urbanization**.

Unfortunately, enforcement of wildlife protection laws remains inadequate. Without stronger legal frameworks and conservation measures, **rhinos risk vanishing entirely** from the African continent.



### Our Approach and Actions

Wild at Life has responded with a comprehensive strategy grounded in **technology, science, and community empowerment**:

- **Technology-Driven Protection:** We successfully equipped **10 rhinos with state-of-the-art, AI-powered tracking devices**, supported by satellite poles. These collars provide **real-time data on rhino movements**, enabling targeted surveillance and faster response to potential threats.
- **Community Engagement:** We actively work with **local communities**, fostering conservation ownership by **training, educating, and empowering residents** to become guardians of rhino habitats. Local knowledge plays a vital role in detecting poaching activity and protecting migration corridors.
- **Medical and Preventative Interventions:** As part of our missions, we:
  - **Collected plasma samples** to create vital reserves for rhinos injured in poaching attacks.



- **Trimmed rhino horns** to reduce their attractiveness to poachers—a painless and highly effective deterrent.
- **Advocacy and Awareness:** We continue to push for **stronger wildlife protection laws**, more stringent penalties for poachers, and increased international cooperation to halt illegal trade.

### Outcomes

These efforts have **dramatically improved monitoring capabilities** in key regions, reducing poaching risk and enhancing rhino safety. AI tracking allows for **efficient deployment of ranger patrols**, while horn trimming has proven to be a **powerful poaching deterrent**. Our partnership with communities has fostered a deeper sense of shared responsibility and strengthened frontline conservation efforts.



### ZAMBIA: A SAFE HAVEN FOR ELEPHANTS AND SOX THE HIPPO

#### The Challenge

Elephants are in crisis. For decades, their populations have plummeted due to a combination of **poaching, habitat loss, human-wildlife conflict**, and the **illegal wildlife trade**. Vast stretches of their natural territory have been claimed by human development, cutting off migration routes and reducing access to vital food and water sources.

Despite global bans, the illegal ivory trade continues to flourish in certain regions, with poachers killing these majestic animals for profit. Meanwhile, as human settlements grow, elephants often come into conflict with communities, leading to retaliatory killings of many animals. These complex threats, largely driven by human activity, leave elephants vulnerable and increasingly endangered.

## Our Approach and Actions

Wild at Life has stepped in to provide a solution rooted in compassion, expertise, and long-term commitment. In the heart of **Zambia**, we operate a **dedicated elephant sanctuary** that is now home to **nine survivors of poaching and drought**, along with a beloved honorary member of the herd: **Sox the hippo**.

At the center of this thriving community is **Madinda**, the wise and protective matriarch who leads her family across rivers, through bushland, and sometimes even into Zimbabwe—before returning safely to the sanctuary each day for food, rest, and medical care.



But we do more than offer shelter. We prioritize **freedom**, allowing our elephants to roam as they would in the wild, while ensuring their every need is met. Each elephant has a **personal caregiver**, receives regular **veterinary attention**, and is provided with **nutritious food and a safe environment**. It's a delicate balance of wild freedom and essential care—one that helps them heal and grow.

## Outcomes

Today, the elephants in our care are **healthy, peaceful, and thriving**. They roam freely, splash through rivers, form strong social bonds, and return each evening to the sanctuary—safe, full, and loved. Watching them live life on

their own terms is not just heartwarming; it's a symbol of what is possible when we choose compassion over exploitation.

## ANIMAL WELFARE AND RESCUE PROJECTS

### HOPE FOR SRI LANKA'S STRAYS: BUILDING COMPASSION IN CRISIS

#### The Challenge

Amid the natural beauty and vibrant culture of Sri Lanka lies a troubling reality—thousands of stray dogs and cats struggling to survive without care, protection, or nourishment. In 2024, **we further built on our commitment to addressing the heartbreaking plight of these animals.**

Across the country—from rural inland villages to the tourist-lined beaches—strays face **malnutrition, dehydration, untreated injuries, and disease.** On the beaches, desperate dogs often drink salt water in search of relief, worsening their already fragile health. Despite their suffering, many of these animals display remarkable trust and resilience, still seeking human kindness.



Sri Lanka's ongoing economic challenges have deepened the crisis. As families grapple with poverty and rising costs, resources for animal welfare have become virtually non-existent. Veterinary supplies, food, and medicine are now luxuries many cannot afford, leaving strays **more vulnerable than ever.**

#### Our Approach and Actions

At the heart of our mission in Sri Lanka is a simple yet vital goal: ensuring that stray animals do not go hungry. For many of the dogs and cats we help, the food we provide is their **only source of sustenance** and a lifeline for survival.



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Because essential supplies are scarce and prohibitively expensive locally, we bring **food and medicine directly from Germany**. This logistical effort ensures that the animals receive what they need to survive, recover, and rebuild their strength.

But emergency feeding is just the beginning. We are committed to creating sustainable, community-based solutions that promote **long-term animal welfare**. Our team collaborates closely with local residents to set up **feeding stations** and provide **clean water sources**. We also work with beach hotels and hostels, supplying them with food and guidance so they can care for the strays in their areas.



Through these partnerships, we're not only addressing immediate needs but also cultivating a culture of compassion. By **empowering communities and involving local businesses**, we are laying the groundwork for more humane, lasting change.

### Outcomes

Our efforts are helping to transform the lives of countless stray animals. Thanks to reliable access to food and medical care, many **dogs and cats are now healing from illnesses, gaining strength, and experiencing human kindness**—perhaps for the first time in their lives.

Moreover, our partnerships with local hosts and residents have begun to shift perceptions. Strays, once seen as a burden, are now increasingly viewed as part of the community—worthy of care and respect.



### GIVING LUCKY AND FRIENDS A SECOND CHANCE

#### The Challenge

We were alerted to a dire situation at a slaughterhouse where a group of mini pigs had been **abandoned and left in inhumane conditions**. Lucky, Scarlett, Susi, Schorsch, Theodor, Peter, and Eddi, were found crammed into a **filthy, confined space** surrounded by **rotting waste**.

The animals were in a **state of severe neglect**—malnourished, weak, and suffering from visible wounds. The scene was a stark reminder of the cruelty that many animals still face in industrial systems and underscored the urgent need for intervention.



#### Our Approach and Actions

Upon rescuing the pigs, we immediately implemented a comprehensive **emergency care and rehabilitation plan**:

- **Medical Treatment:** All animals received urgent veterinary attention, including wound care, nutritional support, and parasite control. Peter, Theodor, and Schorsch underwent **successful neutering procedures**, with additional care provided during recovery, including **heat lamps at night** to help regulate their body temperature.
- **Safe Environment:** The pigs were relocated to a secure, species-appropriate environment where they had access to clean bedding, outdoor space, and proper nutrition. This allowed for both physical healing and emotional recovery.
- **Long-Term Care Commitment:** We ensured that the pigs were integrated into a long-term sanctuary setting, where their **well-being and social needs** could be continuously monitored and met.



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### Outcomes

Today, Lucky and his companions are thriving. Their wounds have healed, they have regained strength and vitality, and they now **live in a safe, loving space** where they can express natural behaviors and receive the care they deserve. The neutering procedures were completed without complications, and all the pigs have adapted well to their new surroundings.



This rescue not only transformed the lives of these animals but also demonstrated the **impact of timely intervention and compassionate care**. Each animal saved is a powerful reminder of why our work matters—and why continued support is so vital.

## HELPING MAJESTIC LION NDULU RECOVER

### The Challenge

Ndulu, a majestic lion in Zambia, endured a **severe and chronic claw injury** that deeply impacted his ability to walk and his overall quality of life. A rare condition had caused **two bones to fuse and break through the pad of his paw**, leaving him in constant pain. Despite multiple medical attempts to resolve the issue, the injury persisted.

Treating large carnivores like Ndulu in a **semi-wild environment** also presented significant logistical difficulties. Furthermore, **frequent shortages of veterinary medicine in Zambia** complicated the availability of necessary treatments, making his care even more challenging.



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## Our Approach and Actions

After careful deliberation and under the expert guidance of our veterinary partner Dr. Bouvy, the decision was made to **amputate the damaged claw**—a delicate procedure aimed at fully alleviating Ndulu's suffering.

Key steps taken included:

- **Pre-surgical planning** and careful sedation to minimize risk due to Ndulu's size and environment.
- **Execution of a complex surgical procedure** in field conditions with limited resources.
- **Post-operative care and monitoring**, supported by additional personnel and equipment, to ensure a full and pain-free recovery.

This entire intervention required **exceptional coordination**, especially given the difficulties posed by the remote setting and medication shortages.



## Outcomes

The surgery was a success. Ndulu has since made a **remarkable recovery**, regaining full mobility and returning to his pride in the semi-wild enclosure. He now walks **freely and without pain**.

This case highlights how **timely, skilled intervention—supported by a reliable donor base—can dramatically change the lives of animals in need**. Ndulu's story is a testament to resilience, compassion, and what we can accomplish together.

### GIVING MADELEINE THE BUFFALO A SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE

#### The Challenge

Orphaned wildlife face extreme vulnerability in their early stages of life. Without their mothers, **baby animals like buffalo calves are at high risk of malnutrition, disease, and predation.** These young creatures require round-the-clock care, specialized nutrition, and a safe environment to grow and survive. Madeleine, a **baby buffalo rescued after losing her mother,** arrived in a fragile condition, underscoring the **urgent need for intensive rehabilitation support.**

#### Our Approach and Actions

Wild at Life has taken a hands-on, nurturing approach to ensure Madeleine's survival and development:

- **Specialized Care:** Our team provides Madeleine with daily care and attention, including **regular veterinary checks**, social stimulation, and a **secure, stress-free environment** to aid her physical and emotional recovery.
- **Nutritional Support:** Madeleine is fed a **specialized milk formula tailored to her dietary needs.** This formula is essential to her healthy growth and immune system development.
- **Community Engagement:** We invite supporters to be directly involved through our **"Buy a Bottle of Milk"** campaign. This transparent and tangible model allows donors to see exactly how their contributions help, fostering a sense of shared care and responsibility.



#### Outcomes

Thanks to our supporters' donations and our team's dedication, **Madeleine is thriving.** Her physical progress is evident—**her horns are starting to grow in,** she is gaining weight steadily, and her playful energy signals that she feels safe

and loved. With continued support, Madeleine will grow into a strong, healthy buffalo and serve as a symbol of what compassionate intervention can achieve.

### EMERGENCY WILDFIRE RESPONSE IN TÜRKIYE

#### The Challenge

In 2024, Türkiye was once again facing a **devastating wildfire season**, with **70 wildfires** erupting across the West Coast. These fires threatened communities, wildlife, and ecosystems already vulnerable due to **climate change** and **human negligence**. Despite repeated warnings, many forests remained open during high-risk periods, and inadequate **post-fire management**—such as failure to properly cool down burnt zones—led to frequent re-ignitions.



#### Our Approach and Actions

Wild at Life e.V. deployed **rapid response teams** to manage this crisis and mitigate harm to animals and nature:

- **Emergency Deployment:** Two additional vehicles were sent to the fire zones, equipped with **veterinary teams and critical supplies**, to support the overwhelmed frontline volunteers.
- **Rescue Operations:** Teams worked tirelessly to **evacuate and treat survivors**, including **wildlife, farm animals, and stray dogs**.
- **Preparedness and Education:** We produced **visual guides** to educate the public on **how to care for**





**burned animals**, an essential resource as injured wildlife is often the first and worst affected in these disasters.

- **Advocacy and Prevention:** In awareness campaigns, we publicly advocated for **closure of forests** during fire season, **stronger enforcement** against negligent behavior, **improved post-fire protocols** to prevent reignition, and **proactive fire risk mapping**.

### Outcomes

Our quick actions saved countless animals and provided critical aid where infrastructure was lacking. Our presence on the ground helped quickly transport the animals to save zones, enabled faster animal triage decisions, and provided relief for overwhelmed local sanctuaries.

In addition, we collected real-time data which informed governmental and other partners of urgent needs.



## PROTECTING TÜRKIYE'S STRAYS AND SPEAKING OUT FOR CHANGE

### The Challenge

Türkiye's stray animal population faces growing threats—from bitter winters to legal changes that put their lives in jeopardy. With temperatures in some regions dropping as low as -20°C, unprotected stray dogs and cats, especially young or sick ones, regularly are at **grave risk during the coldest months**. Yet, beyond the physical hardship, there's an even greater systemic issue. In August 2024, Türkiye introduced a new animal law which, rather than protecting strays, has led to devastating consequences: either **death or life-long captivity in overwhelmed public shelters**.



Alongside this, violence against animals remains a challenge in many regions. There is a critical need to both care for vulnerable animals immediately and challenge the systems that harms them in the long term.

### Our Approach and Actions

- ***Providing Coats to Strays: Immediate Protection in the Cold***

- Through our **“Give a Coat to a Stray”** program, Wild at Life delivered essential protection to animals braving the winter on the streets. This year alone, we distributed **580 coats for dogs and 255 for cats** across Türkiye’s coldest regions. These coats are more than just clothing—they are lifesaving. They offer warmth, aid recovery from illness, and **dramatically improve the survival chances of strays** during freezing nights.



- ***Engaging in Dialogue: Speaking Up for Compassionate Change***

- In November, our Türkiye Representative, **Nesli Gedik**, took part in a powerful open session hosted by the **Turkish-Italian Fellowship Foundation** at Casa Italia in Ankara. She shared the stage with legal and human rights professionals, including the head of the **Ankara Bar’s Animal Rights Division**. Supported by the **Italian Embassy**, the discussion tackled violence against animals, the environment, and women—emphasizing how these issues are deeply connected.

- ***Protesting a Dangerous Law: Standing Up for Strays***

- Since early August, Wild at Life has stood in protest alongside Turkish NGOs, opposition party leaders, and compassionate citizens in Ankara. For the rest of the year, we participated in **ongoing demonstrations outside Türkiye’s Constitutional Court (AYM)**, urging the repeal of the new animal law. Though presented as a protective measure, the law has led to **mass confinement and euthanasia of strays**. We are pushing for humane alternatives—like sterilization programs and community-based care—while demanding **dignity and safety for every animal**.

## Global Impact Report 2024



### Outcomes

Thanks to our supporters, **835 animals received life-saving warmth in winter**. With each coat, each conversation, and each protest sign held high, we are showing that compassion must shape policy and practice. The open session in Ankara fostered greater awareness and deeper cross-sector dialogue, with continued collaboration planned.

Meanwhile, our continued **protest against the anti-animal law** is keeping public and legal pressure on the Turkish government, helping build a stronger movement for ethical reform.



## RESCUE OF A WATERBUCK FROM A POACHER'S TRAP

### The Challenge

Snare traps are one of the most brutal and indiscriminate tools used by poachers. These wire traps are often hidden along wildlife paths and can ensnare any animal—whether targeted or not—causing **prolonged suffering or death**. Each year, countless wild animals fall victim to these silent killers, including endangered species. During one of our regular patrols, we came across one such tragic case: **a baby waterbuck caught in a snare**, alone and gravely injured.



### Our Approach and Actions

When we found the young waterbuck—whom we later named Luna—she was terrified, weak, and visibly in pain. The snare had cut deeply into her neck, leaving her wounded and vulnerable. Our team acted immediately. We carefully removed the snare and administered medical treatment on-site.

to stabilise her. Luna was then transported to our **rehabilitation centre**, where we continued to treat her wounds and protect her from infection.

We made sure that her recovery environment was calm and secure, giving her the space she needed to **rest and begin healing**—not only from her physical injuries, but from the emotional stress she had endured. Her care included a **specialised feeding plan, close monitoring, and gentle socialisation** to help rebuild her trust and strength.

### Outcomes

Luna has shown remarkable resilience. While the scar on her neck will always be visible, it tells a story of **survival** rather than tragedy. Under our care, she is recovering well—growing stronger and more confident day by day. Her journey is a symbol of hope and a powerful reminder of the impact one rescue can have.



Luna's rescue also reinforces the importance of our anti-snaring efforts. We regularly conduct **snare sweeps and patrols** to locate and dismantle these deadly traps before they can harm more animals. Every life saved affirms the necessity of this work.

## REBUILDING HOPE: OUR SHELTER RISES AGAIN

### The Challenge

Early in 2024, the largest of our five shelters in Türkiye was devastated by a powerful landslide—a result of the increasingly severe weather patterns caused by climate change. Located in a cold, remote region, this shelter has been home to our long running **"Give a Stray a Coat"** program. For over a decade, it had been a safe haven for countless abandoned animals, especially dogs left behind in freezing conditions.

The destruction was sudden and overwhelming. A massive rock, dislodged by relentless rainfall, crashed into the shelter, crushing part of the structure and trapping several animals inside. The sheer weight and size of the boulder

meant that even the initial response required heavy-duty machinery, coordination, and persistence—stretching both our resources and our resolve.



### Our Approach and Actions

In the face of this disaster, we quickly mobilized. Emergency teams rushed to the site to rescue animals and assess the damage. Simultaneously, we launched a fundraiser to gather the resources necessary for recovery—and the response from our supporters was nothing short of inspiring.

Thanks to their generosity, we were able to **safely remove the enormous rock** that had rendered part of the shelter unusable. **Most of the animals were rescued**, and are now receiving continued care, warmth, and medical attention. In addition, we laid the groundwork for rebuilding—not just structurally, but also emotionally, restoring a sense of safety and continuity for the animals in our care. Our team remained committed and hopeful despite ongoing rainfall and the daily obstacles it presented us with.

### Outcomes

Though we still mourn the few lives lost, the overwhelming majority of our animals were saved—and their recovery has been remarkable. Even more heartening, later in 2024 we were able to welcome **new puppies and kittens** into the shelter, a symbol of life and resilience in the wake of tragedy.



## Global Impact Report 2024



This experience has once again shown us how crucial community support is in times of crisis. Thanks to our donors' help, our shelter is not only being rebuilt but is rising stronger and more prepared for the challenges ahead. Together, we're not just rebuilding walls—we're rebuilding hope.



## ENDING CANNED HUNTING

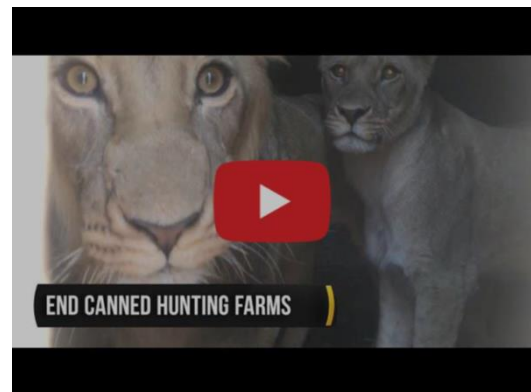
### RESCUING LIONS FROM EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE

#### The Challenge

Lions across the globe are facing devastating threats—from the brutal practice of **canned hunting**, where they are bred in captivity to be killed for sport, to being exploited for **social media fame by fraudulent influencers**, and suffering **abuse in war-torn regions**.

These lions endure severe trauma, neglect, and the constant threat of being commodified and discarded. Further compounding the problem, the proliferation of **illegal snares** and a lack of enforceable protection laws put both lions and countless other wildlife species at risk every day.

This crisis stretches across countries including **Nigeria, Burkina Faso, South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Zambia**, underscoring a **severe failure to protect one of nature's most iconic species**.



## Our Approach and Actions

Wild at Life e.V. leads comprehensive rescue, protection, and advocacy efforts for lions:

- **Rescues from Canned Hunting Farms and War Zones:** We've successfully removed lions from horrific environments, including breeding farms and conflict zones, transporting them to **safe sanctuaries** where they receive expert care.
- **On-the-Ground Protection:** Our field team operates like rangers, conducting **regular snare sweeps** in poaching-prone areas to remove traps and prevent further wildlife injuries or deaths.
- **Building Sanctuaries and Safe Havens:** We develop and maintain **secure enclosures** where rescued lions can live out their lives in peace, free from exploitation and fear.
- **Combating Exploitation in Social Media:** We raise awareness about the **false narratives of lion cub "rescues"** often promoted by influencers. By exposing these harmful practices, we strive to end the cycle that funnels cubs into canned hunting and permanent captivity.
- **Policy Advocacy:** We actively promote stronger **wildlife protection laws** and better **enforcement mechanisms** to prevent abuse and exploitation before it starts.



## Outcomes

Our rescued lions are **now safe, healthy, and thriving** in their new environments. The sanctuaries we've created have not only given them a second chance at life but have also become **symbols of hope** in the fight against wildlife exploitation. Thanks to our international network and the tireless work of our team, we've established operations in multiple countries and **safeguarded dozens of lions** from cruel fates.



By confronting both physical and systemic threats, we are making meaningful strides toward **long-term species conservation** and restoring dignity to animals who have long suffered in silence.

## MITIGATING HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICTS

### SAVING MANGROVES: RESTORING NATURE'S COASTAL GUARDIANS

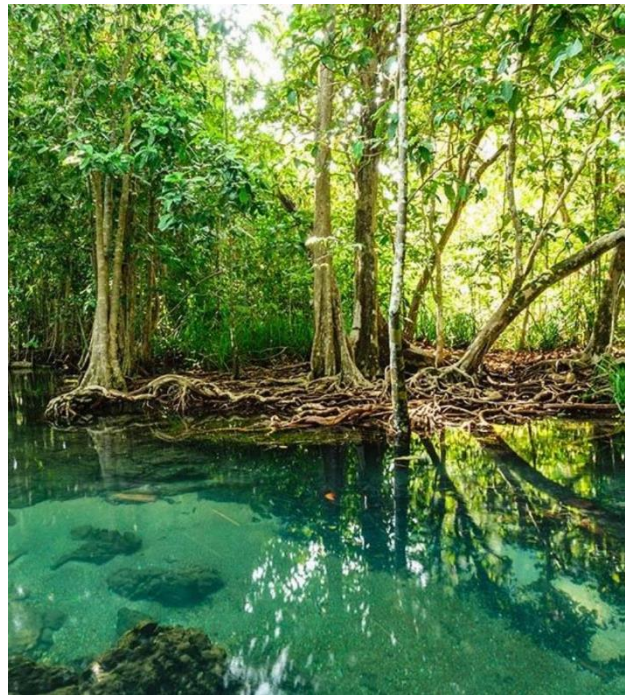
#### The Challenge

Mangroves are among the most critical ecosystems on Earth, yet they are disappearing at an alarming rate. Found only in tropical and subtropical regions, these remarkable trees are **uniquely adapted to survive in salty, tidal environments**.

With 28 native species—including Kirala (*Sonneratia alba*) and Mal Kadol (*Bruguiera gymnorhiza*)—they form vibrant wetlands that support a stunning array of life, from birds and fish to crabs and amphibians.

Mangroves are not just biodiversity hotspots; they are **powerful natural allies in our fight against climate change**. They store up to four times more carbon than terrestrial forests, protect coastlines from erosion, and shield communities from storms and tsunamis.

Yet, despite their immense value, mangroves are being cleared at an alarming pace, often to make way for shrimp farms and other forms of development. This destruction not only disrupts **fragile coastal ecosystems** but also strips local communities of **vital natural defenses and resources**.



### Our Approach and Actions

To combat this environmental crisis, Wild at Life is focused on restoring and protecting mangrove forests **in Sri Lanka**. Our restoration work involves reforesting degraded areas with **more than 40 fast-growing mangrove species**, carefully selected to match local ecological conditions and promote biodiversity. Each planting effort is designed not just to replace trees, but to rebuild thriving ecosystems.

In tandem with reforestation, we are establishing **protected zones to guard existing mangrove habitats** against further encroachment and exploitation. These zones act as safe havens for wildlife and natural buffers for nearby human settlements.

**Education** is another cornerstone of our work. By engaging local communities, schools, and other stakeholders, we foster a deeper understanding of the importance of mangroves. We encourage sustainable livelihoods that align with conservation goals and empower local people to take active roles in preserving their natural environment.

### Outcomes

Our efforts are already making a meaningful impact. Areas that were once barren and vulnerable are now showing **signs of ecological recovery**, with new mangrove saplings taking root and wildlife returning. Coastal communities, once unaware of the protective power of mangroves, are becoming active **stewards of the land**.

Restored mangroves are helping **stabilize shorelines and absorb carbon**—improving both environmental and economic resilience. In the face of climate change, every tree planted is a step toward a more secure and sustainable future.



### CONFLICT AND WAR ZONE MISSIONS

#### BURKINA FASO: PROTECTING ENDANGERED SPECIES IN TIMES OF CONFLICT

##### The Challenge

In the heart of **Burkina Faso**, amid political upheaval and civil unrest, vulnerable animals are left to suffer and die in silence. A few years ago, Wild at Life, in partnership with the **Association for the Protection of Fauna and Flora**, uncovered a horrific scene during an inspection of a zoo. The 112-hectare facility, abandoned and crumbling, was home to numerous endangered species—many on the brink of death from starvation, neglect, and exploitation.



With the park's owner having fled the country during the instability following the 2021 coup, the **animals were left without food, water, or care**. Some had already perished. Others, barely clinging to life, were enduring daily suffering with no hope in sight. Burkina Faso's ongoing conflict and political instability made any rescue mission a daunting—and dangerous—task.

##### Our Approach and Actions

We refused to walk away. At Wild at Life, we specialize in operating in war-torn and high-risk areas where most others cannot—or will not—go. We began a mission to transform tragedy into hope.

Already since 2021, we have been rehabilitating the abandoned site, reviving it as a genuine sanctuary: **The Wild at Life Animal Sanctuary of Ziniaré**, located 30 km east of Ouagadougou. Once a symbol of neglect, it has become a place of healing.



Our rescue efforts have helped a wide range of species—**lions, elephants, hippos, leopards, zebras, gazelles, warthogs, ostriches, antelopes, monkeys,**

**jackals, crocodiles, turtles, and more.** Each animal has a story of survival against incredible odds.

### Outcomes

Today, Ziniaré is no longer a place of despair. It is a sanctuary where once-forgotten animals now receive expert care, proper nutrition, and the freedom to live in peace. It stands as a powerful symbol of **resilience**—both human and animal—in the face of crisis.

Our work in Burkina Faso continues, despite the region's instability. Among the most well-known are lionesses Nala and Mala, whose haunting images from the Horror Zoo have gained international attention. Under our care, these lionesses have not only survived—they've thrived. They now roam safely in their sanctuary, regaining health, strength, and dignity.



### THANK YOU FOR WALKING WILD WITH US

**None of this would have been possible without our donors, partners, volunteers, and advocates.**

You stood by us in jungles and courtrooms, in crisis and recovery. You helped us rescue the voiceless and defend the forgotten.

As we look ahead to 2025, we carry the same unwavering mission—to protect life in all its forms, no matter the cost.

Because the wild is not just out there.

It's in the choices we make. The voices we raise.

**Thank you for being part of the work.**

**Together, we're protecting what matters.**