



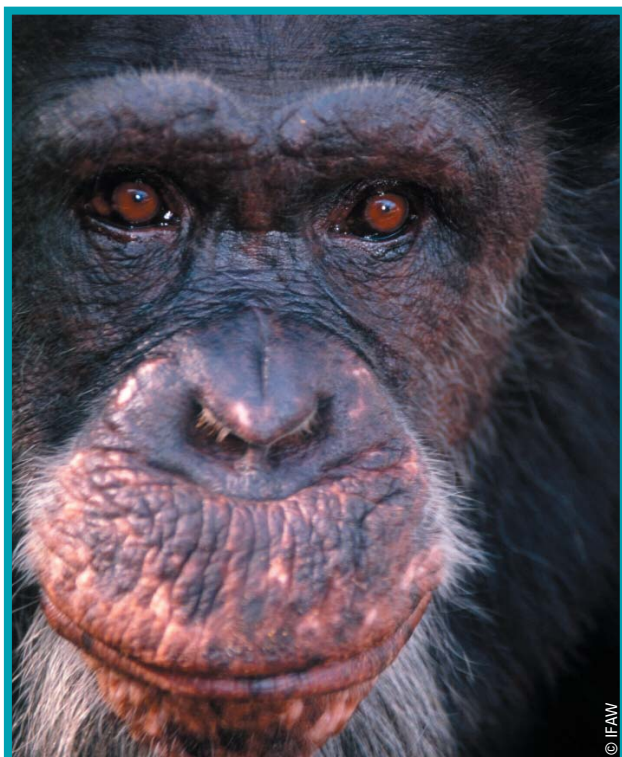
Manifesto for Animal Welfare

For more information, please go to www.ifaw.org or contact:

IFAW
87-90 Albert Embankment
London
SE1 7UD
United Kingdom
Phone: 020 7587 6700
Fax: 020 7587 6720
E-mail: info-uk@ifaw.org

Contents

Foreword	2
Introduction to IFAW	3
Summary of recommendations	4
The marine environment	5
Seals and sealing	5
Whales and whaling	6
Porpoises and bycatch	8
Ocean noise	9
Marine protection in the UK	10
Wildlife trade and endangered species	12
Elephants and the ivory trade	13
Bushmeat and illegal meat imports	15
Wildlife trade as tourist souvenirs	16
Commercial trade in exotic animals	17
Primates as pets in the UK	18
Animal welfare legislation in the UK	20
Hunting with dogs	20
The Animal Welfare Bill	22



Foreword

We face, in the 21st Century, many serious environmental threats, from climate change to habitat destruction, pollution, loss of biodiversity and the extinction of species. Only with concerted international and national efforts at government level can we rise to meet these challenges. This is why politics matters to the future of our own species, our habitat and the survival of the other animals with which we share this planet.

In this, IFAW's 'Manifesto for Animal Welfare', we set out our vision of the responsibilities and challenges that face the next UK Government on the marine environment, trade in wildlife and animal welfare legislation. We hope that candidates from all political parties will carefully consider and support our recommendations.

As important as our project and research work is, IFAW of all organisations recognises the value of campaigning and advocacy. IFAW was established in 1969 to campaign to end the hunt for whitecoat seals in Canada. It was our flagship campaign, and over the following decades, IFAW won many hard fought victories, including the 1983 European Union ban on trade in whitecoat and blueback sealskins. These combined victories almost stopped the hunt for seal pups in the 1980s. The Canadian seals still need our support today, but this victory was a powerful reminder of the importance of legislative and governmental intervention to protect animals internationally.

Since our founding campaign, we have grown into one of the world's leading international animal welfare and conservation organisations, staffed by more than 200 experienced campaigners, internationally acclaimed scientists and legal and communications experts.

As Director of the UK office, I am proud to have seen IFAW become a respected force for animal welfare and environmental protection. We now have more than 800,000 supporters in the UK who assist our national and international efforts to protect animals from cruelty and preserve their habitats.

With such strong support in the UK, it is easy to see why we enjoy a reputation as a nation of animal lovers. The Government we elect can make a difference not only to conservation and animal welfare within our own borders, but also around the world. It is vital that our elected representatives understand both the importance of these issues, and the public's strength of feeling about them.

Real progress has been made on animal welfare since the 2001 general election, with strong cross party support for new proposed legislation on animal welfare and the marine environment. We have also achieved the long awaited ban on the cruel sport of hunting with dogs in Scotland, England and Wales. Yet we have far more to achieve to afford lasting protection to animals and to the environment in the UK.

Gandhi said, "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way in which its animals are treated". Let us ensure we rise to meet the challenge.

Phyllis Campbell-McRae .

Phyllis Campbell-McRae
Director, IFAW UK



Introduction to IFAW

The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) was founded in 1969 to oppose the massive and brutal commercial seal hunt off the eastern coast of Canada. Our UK office was established in 1976, and we now have over 800,000 supporters in Britain. We campaign on the marine environment, wildlife trade and endangered species, and animal welfare legislation.

From our 15 offices worldwide, IFAW works on diverse issues, from elephant conservation in South Africa to the rescue of street dogs in Indonesia, from funding poaching prevention in national parks in Kenya, to protecting the endangered Tibetan antelope in India.

Some of our success stories include:

IFAW's Song of the Whale

Work carried out since 1987 on IFAW's research vessel, Song of the Whale (SOTW), has made fundamental contributions to informing the conservation and protection of whales, dolphins and porpoises, as well as furthering understanding of the distribution, acoustics and biology of certain species. The SOTW team has played a significant role internationally in training students and scientists, and in developing and promoting the use of benign methods for studying marine mammals. In the UK, SOTW has conducted research into basking sharks on the west coast of Scotland and into harbour porpoises in the English Channel.



Song of the Whale is IFAW's unique research vessel.

Protecting animals through legislation

IFAW achieved a European Union ban of whitecoat and blueback sealskins in 1983, helped to secure a prohibition of the notorious steel-jaw leghold trap in Europe, helped to end the cruel spring bear hunt in Ontario (Canada) and worked to ban the cruel sport of hunting with dogs in Scotland, England and Wales.

Emergency Relief

Rescue and rehabilitation experts from IFAW's Emergency Relief Team respond to save animals threatened by oil spills, stranding, earthquakes, wildfires and other natural disasters.

In 2005, IFAW launched a relief operation in Southern Asia to help local people in tsunami-devastated coastal fishing communities protect their abandoned livestock and companion animals, by providing food, temporary shelters and vaccinating animals against diseases. In 2000, IFAW rehabilitated and released more than 18,000 oiled African penguins in South Africa after the MV Treasure sank off the coast of Cape Town, discharging more than 1,100 tonnes of heavy bunker fuel oil.



Rhino being fed after being separated from its mother during the Indian floods in 2004.

Supporting sanctuaries

IFAW supports many sanctuaries that rescue and rehabilitate wildlife. We operate the Panyu Bear Sanctuary in China that homes bears rescued from bear bile farms, we helped establish the Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary in Uganda that cares for orphans of the bushmeat trade, and we support the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust Orphanage in Kenya, which rehabilitates orphaned elephants.

Summary of recommendations

IFAW seeks 14 key commitments from Government:

Legislation

1. Enact, as a priority, an Animal Welfare Bill to establish a duty of care to captive animals
2. Enact a Marine Bill in the next parliament to enhance protection for marine wildlife
3. Ensure UK laws do not provide a market for seal products that could sustain cruel and unnecessary commercial seal hunts

Enforcement and resources

4. Prioritise implementation of powers already available under the Criminal Justice Act 2003, to enforce stricter sentences for those convicted of trading in endangered species
5. Enforce the EU Regulation on Bycatch and monitor both dolphin and porpoise bycatch and the efficacy of acoustic 'pingers' by placing mandatory observers on fishing vessels, regardless of their size, for all fisheries that pose a threat to dolphins and porpoises
6. Enforce the Hunting Act 2004
7. Develop and implement an action plan to reduce illegal wildlife trade over the Internet
8. Allocate significantly more resources to Defra, Customs, police, intelligence services and local authorities to improve wildlife crime prevention and detection in the UK

Diplomacy

9. Support initiatives that promote ecological sustainability, based on the Precautionary Principle, at international fora such as CITES, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and during its G8 and EU Presidencies
10. Counteract pressure from Japan to maintain and increase whaling activities at the International Whaling Commission (IWC)
11. Seek an end to cruel and unnecessary commercial seal hunts in Canada, Norway, Greenland and Russia
12. Oppose proposals to reopen a legal trade in ivory, and support conservation measures and improved enforcement against poaching
13. Strengthen the Environment Policy Department of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department of International Development

Research

14. Research and develop long-term solutions to reduce the accidental bycatch of dolphins and porpoises in fishing nets in UK waters

The Marine Environment

Water covers over 70% of the earth's surface, and the marine habitat supports one of the greatest diversities of life on earth, from microscopic plants and bacteria to the largest animal on the planet, the blue whale. Our knowledge of the total diversity of life in the sea is still poor. Some marine biologists believe that deep-sea diversity could rival tropical rain forests in the total number of species it sustains. New species, even quite large animals such as squid, are being discovered every year. The marine habitat also holds many of our most pressing environmental challenges, including pollution, over-fishing, habitat modification and habitat destruction.

IFAW focuses on the protection of marine mammals in the world's oceans. In the UK, we campaign to reduce bycatch of dolphins and porpoises in fishing nets, against whaling and the cruelty of commercial seal hunts. As well as campaigning and education work from our 15 country offices worldwide, IFAW also works on marine issues from our unique research vessel, Song of the Whale. The boat helps us undertake specialist whale research, conservation, public education and advocacy. With its custom-made observation platform, specialised computer, recording and satellite communications equipment, and the combined technical expertise of its team, Song of the Whale is one of the most effective non-invasive cetacean research vessels in the world.

Seals and sealing

IFAW was founded in 1969 to end the Canadian commercial seal pup hunt. Over the next two decades, IFAW won many hard fought victories for seals, including the 1983 European Union ban on whitecoat and blueback sealskins. These aggregate victories almost stopped the hunt for seal pups in the 1980s. However, in 1995 the Canadian Government announced plans to expand the seal hunt and it has permitted the deliberate culling of nearly one million seals between 2003 and 2005.

Commercial sealing of harp or hooded seals takes place in four areas: Canada, Greenland, Norway, and Russia. Canada's hunt is by far the largest, and hunts take place in two regions off the east coast, the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and the northeast coast of Newfoundland.

We believe that commercial seal hunts across the globe should be ended, not expanded, given the cruelty involved, the unsustainable nature of the hunts, lack of economic viability, and the potential effects of global warming on seal populations.



The Canadian government has permitted the hunting of nearly one million seals between 2003 and 2005.

IFAW is opposed to the commercial hunting of seals. History has shown that commercial trade in wild animals and their parts – such as ivory, rhino horn, bear galls and tiger bone – is often unsustainable. We need to make sure species are not protected only when they become endangered, but before they become endangered.

IFAW is also opposed to the commercial seal hunts on the grounds of cruelty. In 2001, an international team of five independent veterinarians observed the Canadian seal hunt and found that:

- 42% of the 76 seal skulls examined were found to have minimal or no fractures, suggesting a high probability that these seals were conscious when skinned.
- 79% of the sealers did not check to see if an animal was dead before skinning it.
- In 40% of the kills a sealer had to strike the seal a second time, presumably because it was still conscious after the first blow or shot.

The seal carcasses are used for their fur (on clothing, as trim, for coats, hats, boots etc) as seal oil (the blubber is boiled down and processed into Omega-3 oil, and often labelled as marine oil, or deep sea oil). The seal penis is also sought after for use in traditional Asian medicines. The majority of seal meat is not used, but is usually left on the ice to rot.

One of the justifications that the Canadian government uses for the cull is that seals are to blame for the depletion of commercial fish stocks. The theory that “seals eat cod, so if we kill the seals, the cod will come back” is a simplistic take on a fragile and complex ecosystem, replete with hundreds of interdependent species. Seals do eat fish, but they also eat predators of fish. In fact, removing seals might have a negative effect on the recovery of Atlantic cod stocks since seals also eat predators of cod, such as squid. In this situation, a reduction in harp seals could lead to an increase in predator numbers, resulting in even greater predation on cod. Not for the first time, people have found it easier to scapegoat a marine mammal to justify a cruel activity than to look at human over fishing and mismanagement for answers to fish stock depletion.

IFAW believes that the commercial hunting of hooded and harp seals is cruel and wholly unjustifiable. We therefore urge the UK Government to:

- Renew diplomatic efforts with Canada, Norway, Denmark (Greenland) and Russia to seek an end to the seal hunts
- Ensure UK laws do not provide a market for seal products that could sustain cruel and unnecessary commercial seal hunts

Whales and whaling



Whaling continues in Iceland.

Historically, whaling has driven many populations of the great whales to the brink of extinction. Despite an international ban on commercial whaling since 1986 countries such as Japan, Norway and more recently, Iceland, still practice this inherently cruel activity. These three countries kill 1,300 whales each year for primarily commercial purposes.

Norway lodged a formal objection to the 1986 moratorium adopted by the International Whaling Commission (IWC). Both Japan and Iceland exploit a loophole in the international agreement by claiming that their whaling is conducted for ‘scientific purposes’.

Whaling is cruel. Film obtained of Japanese whaling shows animals taking more than 20 minutes to die. Whales are likely to endure considerable stress during the chase before they are harpooned.

The main victim of this whaling is the minke whale, although Japan has also targeted the sperm whale and the Bryde's whale. Since Iceland resumed "scientific" whaling in August 2003 after a break of 14 years, 61 minke whales have been killed in Iceland's coastal waters. Days after the first whale was killed, whale meat went on sale in some Icelandic supermarkets and restaurants.



Minke whale.

Minke whales are listed by the World Conservation Union as "low risk, near threatened". However IFAW believes that the cruelty of whaling cannot be justified by the spurious reasons given for its continuance, which do not stand close scrutiny. The Government of Japan has suggested that its whaling is a form of 'managing' minke whales to assist in the

recovery of other whale species. It also claims that culling whales will result in more fish for human consumption. But such claims lack internationally accepted scientific evidence and now it is widely recognised that human overfishing, not whales, is responsible for the global decline of commercial fisheries stocks.

It is not necessary to kill or harm whales in order to study them. IFAW's purpose built research vessel, Song of the Whale, carries out non-invasive, humane research on marine mammals, including whales. In July 2004, Song of the Whale went to Iceland where the team carried out behavioural studies of blue and fin whales using acoustic detection systems. IFAW offered internships for Icelandic students to spend time on board and participate in the research project. The Song of the Whale team also conducted a series of port visits around Iceland in order to discuss issues of marine conservation with the Icelandic public. IFAW continues to urge the Icelandic government to put an end to this cruel and unnecessary whaling.

The UK Government has for many years been active in opposing whaling. Prime Minister Blair along with President Clinton wrote a letter to the Japanese Prime Minister in 2000 to oppose their whaling. In September 2003, the UK presented a demarche, or diplomatic protest, to the Icelandic Government on behalf of 23 countries to condemn its resumption of whaling.

IFAW strongly urges the UK Government to renew its opposition to the cruelty of whaling, and its flawed 'scientific' justification by:

- Challenging the proposals for 'scientific' whaling by Japan and Iceland at the International Whaling Commission (IWC)
- Strengthening the Environment Policy Department of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- Renewing diplomatic efforts to counteract undue pressure from Japan at the International Whaling Commission (IWC)

Porpoises and bycatch

With numbers declining in many marine areas, the harbour porpoise is threatened throughout its range. Europe's smallest whale is impacted by human activities in the coastal zone, including pollution and habitat disturbance.

The most acute threat is the incidental entanglement and subsequent death of thousands of harbour porpoises in the nets of the EU's fishing fleets – often referred to as "bycatch." It is estimated that up to 10,000 porpoises are accidentally caught in fishing nets in European waters each year. Both porpoises and dolphins find it hard to locate nets with their echolocation, become entangled and cannot reach the water's surface to breathe. The death of porpoises and dolphins accidentally caught in nets is a serious animal welfare issue as well as a conservation concern.

The fisheries that constitute the greatest danger to harbour porpoises are the bottom-set gill nets, although driftnets (drifting gill nets) also pose a serious threat to porpoises in the Baltic Sea.

In the UK, IFAW has developed public awareness campaigns to help promote the plight of the harbour porpoise. We are also funding scientific research into the presence of harbour porpoises in Cornish estuaries. Our team of scientists on IFAW's research vessel, *Song of the Whale*, has conducted porpoise surveys around the UK and in the Baltic Sea to investigate the species distribution and help quantify the scale of the problem.



However, improved legislative measures are required if bycatch is to be tackled in European waters. Harbour porpoises are legally protected under EU environmental law (the Habitats Directive). However, IFAW believes that protection can only be achieved through EU-wide fisheries measures to end bycatch. The integration of environmental protection requirements, including bycatch reduction measures, into the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) offers a unique opportunity for the EU to address this critical animal welfare and conservation problem.

Harbour porpoises are threatened throughout their range.

The EU adopted Council Regulation 812/2004 on Bycatch for the protection of cetaceans in March 2004. The Regulation was an important step forward and IFAW particularly welcomes the ban on driftnets in the Baltic that is scheduled to come into effect in 2007.

The Regulation also introduces a requirement for larger fishing vessels to use 'pingers'. These are devices that are attached to fishing nets and that emit a sound that may enable porpoises to better detect and avoid nets. However, there is no such requirement for vessels under 12m in length, which are often the boats that fish in inshore waters – an important habitat for the harbour porpoise.

The EU Regulation currently offers little protection to the harbour porpoise in UK waters. IFAW urges the UK Government to strengthen measures at a national level by:

- Providing an assessment of the number of UK vessels, including their subsequent fishing effort, currently excluded from the EU Bycatch Regulation (vessels under 12m in length and vessels 12-15m in length)
- Ensuring there is effective monitoring of porpoise bycatch and of pinger usage and efficacy by placing mandatory observers on fishing vessels, regardless of their size, for all fisheries that pose a threat to porpoises, including those in inshore waters.
- Researching and developing alternative long-term bycatch mitigation measures and changes in fishing practice to reduce negative impacts. Use of “pingers” should only be considered as a short-term solution, and pingers should be used in association with an effective monitoring scheme

Ocean Noise

Sound travels much better than light in seawater. As a result, many species of marine mammal have evolved to use sound to navigate and find food as well as communicate. Scientists believe that this reliance on sound makes marine mammals particularly vulnerable to the effects of loud underwater noise.

Sources of noise include shipping, seismic surveys, acoustic harassment devices such as seal scramblers (which are known to exclude porpoises from their preferred habitats), underwater construction, seismic air guns and military sonar. Currently, unlike noise on land, man-made underwater noise is practically unregulated (see recommendations under Marine Protection in the UK, below).

There is growing concern among scientists worldwide about the environmental impacts of a specific source of ocean noise, military active sonar, because of the potential and known effects to marine mammals from exposure to this loud source of man-made underwater noise. Active sonar relies on producing an intense sound that will bounce off any reflective object and be detected by a listening device. The range to the target can be calculated from the travel time of the signal.



Growing evidence suggests that intense ocean noise can damage marine mammals.

The primary motivation for military sonar has always been the detection of ships, submarines and mines. The primary civilian uses of active sonar are navigation (depth sounding) and fish finding. Various types of active sonar have been in both civilian and military use since the first half of the last century.

There is a growing body of evidence that the implications of intense ocean noise, such as active sonar, is significant for marine mammals, and includes damage to bodily tissues and organs such as the ears, stranding, disturbance, displacement from important habitat, and even death.

There have been several well-documented cases of mass strandings of cetaceans that have correlated with military activities. For instance, in March 2000, 17 cetaceans stranded in the Bahamas, seven of which died. Necropsies of five of the dead animals revealed that they had suffered internal damage and haemorrhaging of the ears. The most likely cause of these injuries was exposure to high levels of sound from tactical mid-range frequency sonar systems deployed by the US Navy, which has admitted that these strandings were directly related to exposure to naval sonar.

Britain has now entered the 'low-frequency race' with 'Sonar 2087', a product of Thales Underwater Systems. Like its American cousin, Sonar 2087 consists of an array of speakers fastened to a central post and lowered into the sea. Although the output of the array has not been made public, it appears capable of generating sound levels loud enough to cause harm to marine life. The Government has already fitted HMS Westminster with Sonar 2087 and plans to install seven more of the Royal Navy's Type 23 frigates with the system between 2005 and 2010.

In the US, the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) requires anyone disturbing or harming a marine mammal to undergo a lengthy permitting process. Not only does the MMPA give protection to marine mammals in US waters, but it also governs the activities of all US citizens in other parts of the world. In the UK, there is no such requirement and IFAW is concerned that not enough has been done to understand, and mitigate against, the potentially damaging and even lethal impacts to marine mammals that could be caused by various sources of man-made ocean noise.

Given that there is increasing documented evidence of serious impacts on cetaceans from active sonar and other intense underwater noise, IFAW urges the UK Government to:

- Release copies of all Environmental Impact Assessments undertaken on the effects of Sonar 2087
- Suspend the testing and deployment of Sonar 2087 until a public review of its impacts is conducted
- Develop guidelines, based on the Precautionary Principle, on the use of activities which produce intense underwater noise to minimise harmful impacts and to prohibit the use of intense sound sources, particularly in sensitive habitats or in the vicinity of vulnerable or endangered species

Marine protection in the UK

Over 50% of the UK's biodiversity is found in the marine environment, which is affected by human activities, climate change and development. Yet legislation that affects the UK's seas has developed piecemeal over time and is neither co-ordinated nor comprehensive.

The UK Government has made a commitment to adopt an eco-system based approach to managing our seas – that is, “to integrate marine protection objectives with sustainable social goals and economic growth and address conservation objectives alongside the full range of human activities and demands that we place on the marine environment”. A systematic approach to marine management is necessary to fulfill this undertaking.



UK and EU marine legislation should be strengthened.

A Private Member's Bill, the Marine Wildlife Conservation Bill, was introduced to the House of Commons in 2001. The Bill would have protected nationally important marine sites, species and features. Although the Bill passed through all of its stages in the House of Commons it was 'talked out' in the House of Lords by a small number of Peers and therefore fell.

The Government has announced a five-year strategy that will include a Marine Bill "to deliver our vision of clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas." This should complement the European Marine Strategy that is being developed by the European Commission. This European instrument should be comprehensive and legally binding in order to effectively protect European seas and to ensure proper coordination and implementation by all EU Member States.

IFAW supports calls for the UK Government to introduce a Marine Bill as soon as possible in order to:

- Provide a statutory basis for designating nationally important marine wildlife sites, which must apply to the 200 nautical mile limit and not just to the UK's inshore waters (out to 12 nautical miles) to bring the UK in line with European wildlife legislation
- Set out a statutory species recovery programme to provide a stronger framework to protect and conserve populations of species and their habitats than is currently in place with the Biodiversity Action Plan in the UK
- Ensure that the Bill and the EU Marine Strategy includes measures on 'ocean noise' to minimise harmful impacts and to prohibit the use of intense sound sources, particularly in sensitive habitats or in the vicinity of vulnerable or endangered species

Wildlife trade and endangered species

The world today is going through the biggest mass extinction event since the disappearance of the dinosaurs about 65 million years ago.

Unlike previous extinctions, which were caused by natural events such as meteor strikes or continental drift, the main causes of today's extinction crisis are man-made. Some of the ways in which we are driving species to extinction include overexploitation, the destruction or alteration of habitats, the introduction of invasive exotic species and pollution.

Another important factor is over-exploitation for the illegal trade in wildlife. Species are caught and traded for food, medicine, the live pet trade and for the curio and souvenir market. It is hard to estimate the true size of the wildlife trade, but it is thought to be worth billions of dollars annually, and the illegal side of this trade is believed to be on a similar scale to the illegal drugs or weapons trade.

Sadly, trade in wildlife tends to become illegal once that species has already been severely depleted. IFAW believes conservation must not be limited to the protection of endangered or threatened populations and species, but should prevent species and populations from becoming threatened or endangered in the first place.

Genuine sustainability must include ecological sustainability, which means that animal populations and their environment can support a certain type of use indefinitely, without risk to their survival and without erosion of biodiversity. Killing of wildlife can be economically sustainable for wildlife users, even when the species is driven to extinction, if the returns are invested elsewhere. Because they are primarily motivated by profit, commercial exploiters of wildlife are not always genuinely interested in ecological sustainability. In IFAW's view, the goal of ecological sustainability must be at the heart of any concept of sustainable use.

Elephants and the ivory trade

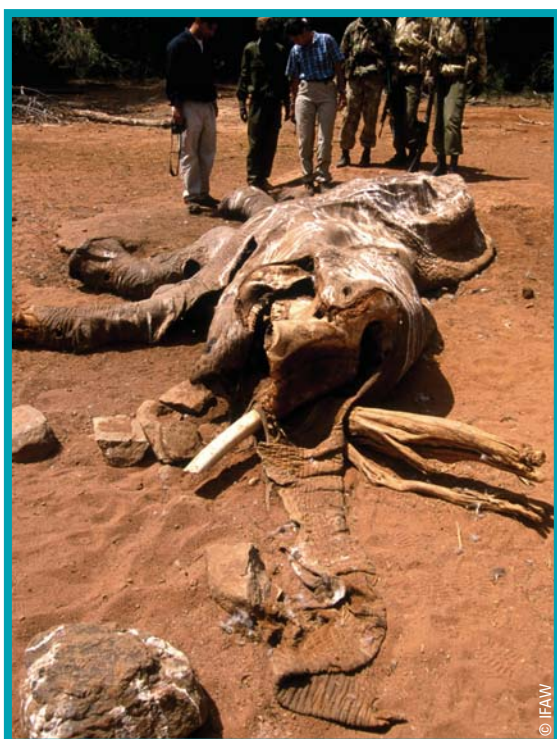
Before the 1989 global moratorium on the ivory trade, the African continent saw an astonishing decline in its elephant population due to poaching for ivory. Numbers today are still a fraction of the 1.3 million that existed in 1980, and other factors such as habitat loss and conflict with humans continue to threaten the survival of the 400,000-660,000 elephants estimated to remain in Africa today. In Asia, the situation is even worse, with estimates as low as 35,000 elephants remaining in the wild.

Poaching fell dramatically after the international ivory trade was banned in 1989 by the UN Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Parties to CITES, including the UK Government, make decisions about international ivory trade and whether it can take place without endangering elephant populations even further. Elephants in Africa and Asia may seem a long way from the UK. However, the actions of the Government, consumers, traders and others can have a huge impact on the survival of these animals.

At a CITES meeting in Chile in 2002, proposals to allow Botswana, Namibia and South Africa to sell ivory stockpiles (if certain conditions are met) were approved. The proposals would have been defeated had the 15 EU countries voted against trade rather than abstaining. At CITES, each Party has one vote, but the EU Member States vote as a bloc and must come to agreement on each issue or otherwise abstain. With 25 EU member states today, the EU bloc vote is absolutely critical in deciding whether or not to allow the reopening of trade in ivory.

The proposed sales cannot go ahead until CITES Parties are satisfied that certain conditions have been met, including the provision of sufficient baseline data of elephant populations in the range states and regulatory systems in importing countries like Japan.

IFAW firmly believes that any re-opening of the ivory trade would be catastrophic for elephants across Africa and Asia. It is extremely hard to tell the difference between legal and illegal pieces of ivory once they are cut up for sale. Legal ivory trade therefore creates markets in which illegal ivory can easily be laundered. This in turn encourages poachers to kill more elephants.



IFAW believes that reopening the ivory trade will lead to increased poaching.

Rumours about the re-opening of the ivory trade have already fuelled increases in poaching and some of the biggest ivory seizures since the 1989 ban. For example, 6.5 tonnes of ivory (representing more than 300 dead elephants) was seized in a single shipment in Singapore in 2002. In July 2004 the authorities in Spain seized almost three tonnes of ivory from a trader, showing that illegal markets also exist in Europe.

IFAW remains opposed to the resumption of legal ivory trade and is extremely concerned about continued claims by some southern African countries that it represents a logical economic use of wildlife products to pay for the costs of conservation. To date, it is evident that the enforcement and anti-poaching costs alone across all elephant range states by far outweigh the revenue generated from ivory sales. In fact, much of the income from a "one-off" southern African ivory sale in 1999 - supposed to be spent on projects benefiting poor communities living near elephants - today remains either unspent or unaccounted for.



In Africa in the 1970s and 1980s, elephant numbers fell from 1.3 million to around 600,000.

IFAW campaigns around the world for an end to the legal and illegal ivory trade, by educating consumers and lobbying politicians. We work with local enforcement agencies on the ground in Africa and Asia, providing vital assistance, equipment and training for the fight against organised poaching. We have also helped rebuild entire parks, bought land to expand elephant range, and have relocated elephants in danger. In China, where elephants left hungry by habitat destruction were raiding crops, IFAW has successfully provided assistance to develop solutions, including loans to support alternative livelihoods for local people and has encouraged farmers to grow high value crops that elephants do not like to eat.

Historically, the UK was heavily involved in the ivory trade with London becoming the centre of the world's ivory market by the 1920s. There is still a large amount of ivory in the UK, mostly in private homes and in antiques shops. In March 2004, IFAW published an investigation into the ivory trade to, from and within the UK. We found large quantities of ivory on sale at antiques markets and over the Internet – much of it being sold illegally without the required proof of age to show that it is 'antique' (defined as pre-1947). Weaknesses in current systems mean that illegal ivory from recently poached elephants could end up being sold in the UK. IFAW is asking the UK Government to tighten controls and to educate consumers and traders accordingly.

IFAW believes that the UK has a responsibility not only to deal with illegal ivory markets within our country, but also to ensure that decisions our Government makes do not lead to increased poaching of elephants in Africa and Asia. We urge the UK Government to:

- Oppose the approval of the stockpile sales from Botswana, Namibia and South Africa under CITES given the current, and inadequate, conditions of sale
- Oppose all new proposals to reopen a legal trade in ivory given the real potential that this would lead to increased poaching and smuggling
- Support improved measures to conserve elephant populations and their habitats and better enforcement against poaching on the ground at future CITES meetings
- Prioritise the introduction in the UK of new regulations implementing the Criminal Justice Act 2003, which would give stricter sentences to those convicted of trading in endangered species including prison sentences of up to five years on indictment
- Make a basic guide available to antiques traders and others in the UK on ivory and the law
- To close the loophole in UK law whereby any antiques trader can 'self-appraise' ivory and certify its age
- Allocate higher priority and more resources to wildlife crime prevention and detection in the UK
- Develop and implement an action plan to reduce illegal wildlife trade over the Internet

Bushmeat and illegal meat imports

One of the greatest threats to wildlife in many parts of the world today is the over-hunting of wild animals for their meat. Animals such as antelopes, pigs and rodents are most commonly hunted, but some endangered species such as great apes and forest elephants are also targeted for the bushmeat trade.

This commercial trade is threatening the survival of many populations and species of animals. In the forests of Central and West Africa, the large-scale commercial bushmeat trade has become as great a threat to wildlife as the loss of habitat. For the world's remaining populations of endangered species such as gorillas, chimpanzees and forest elephants, it is yet another step towards extinction. A century ago there were more than one million chimpanzees - now there are estimated to be as few as 105,000.

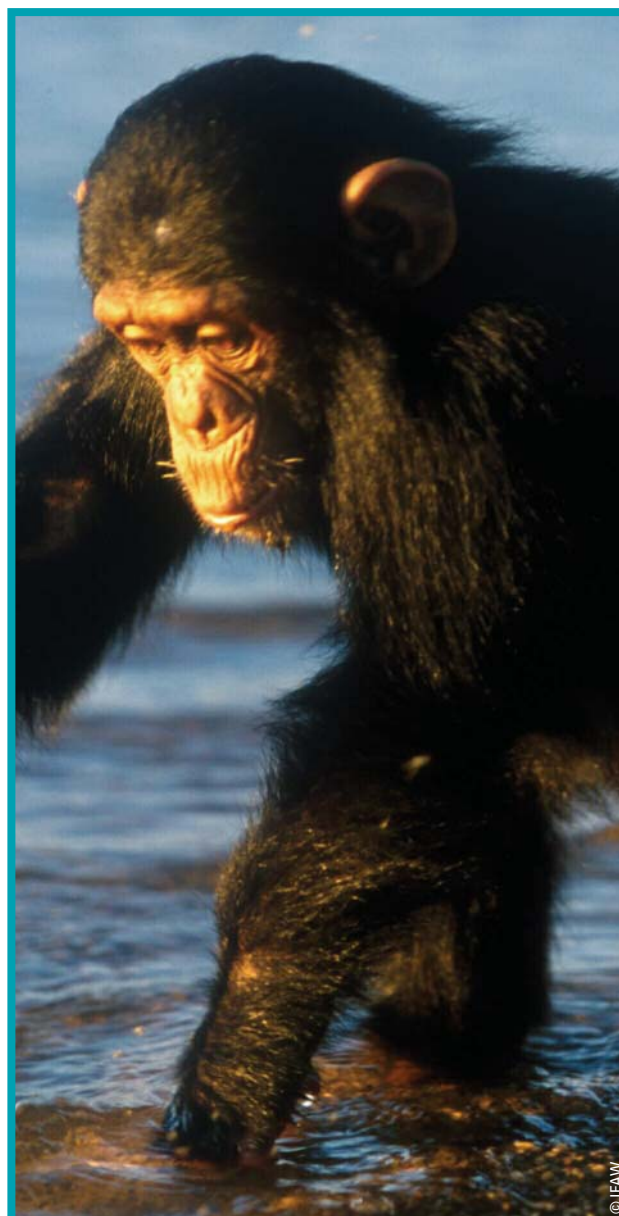
Bushmeat, the name given in Africa to the meat of wild animals, is being transported in massive quantities for sale in urban areas and some bushmeat is even sold in European countries, including the UK. It is impossible to assess how much of the bushmeat that enters the UK is from endangered species, as the meat is not tested. However, for species facing extinction, any poaching for the international trade threatens their survival.

Another devastating consequence of the trade is the rise in the numbers of bushmeat orphans. Infant apes captured by hunters are often sold into the lucrative pet trade. In some areas hunting is wiping out both common and endangered species, resulting in 'Empty Forest Syndrome' - silent forests devoid of almost all animals.

Some people depend on this wild meat as a vital source of protein. However, ecologically unsustainable legal and large scale illegal hunting for commercial trade, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, has become a highly profitable activity.

This isn't just a tragedy for animals. For millions of the world's poorest people, this crisis threatens the food supply on which they depend to survive. The Department for International Development (DfID) published its "Poverty & Wildlife Study" in December 2002, which found that 150 million of the world's poor, one eighth of the world's poorest, perceive wildlife to be an important livelihood asset. In addition, handling of meat from wild animals, particularly non-human primates, also carries a real risk of contracting highly infectious diseases, which have the potential to transfer to humans and livestock.

IFAW aims to make sure that species threatened with extinction are neither hunted nor traded for their meat; that no other species become endangered; and to address animal welfare concerns, in particular caring for orphaned young animals.



Endangered species such as chimpanzees are threatened by the bushmeat trade.

IFAW not only campaigns in the UK on this issue; we are also working in Africa, the European Union, China and the USA to tackle the bushmeat crisis. IFAW helped to establish the Pan-African Sanctuaries Alliance (PASA), which aims to ensure that sanctuaries caring for orphans of the bushmeat trade operate to high standards of animal welfare. The sanctuaries also raise public awareness and educate local children about the plight of Africa's primates and the need to protect wildlife. IFAW is providing support and materials to help this crucial education work. We have also produced a free education pack to help teach 11-14 year old students in the UK about this important conservation issue.

The bushmeat crisis is a complex issue, which cuts across issues of development, habitat, conservation and animal welfare. The real challenge for endangered species is not legislative, but a matter of enforcing the law within range states and internationally to stop poaching and illegal trade.

The UK Government has already played a leading role in establishing bushmeat as an issue of concern for international development and conservation, but much more needs to be done. IFAW is campaigning for the UK Government to:

- Support initiatives to tackle the bushmeat crisis through enforcement and training to tackle trade both internationally and within bushmeat-producing countries, and through the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)
- Ensure that Government and EU international development, poverty reduction and environmental protection programmes promote responsible management of natural resources and that Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) are carried out to address any potential impact on wildlife
- Promote the integration of environmental issues and the protection of biodiversity in the current discussion on EU development policy and programmes
- Stop the illegal bushmeat trade into and within the UK through improved detection training and enforcement

Wildlife trade as tourist souvenirs

Each year, customs agents seize thousands of illegal tourist souvenirs made from endangered species, which are protected by CITES. CITES has been signed by more than 160 countries, and regulates trade in about 5,000 species of animals and 25,000 species of plants. The main objective of this conservation convention is to eliminate any risk of detrimental impacts from trade on wildlife populations. CITES provisions are applied uniformly in the European Community through two EC Regulations.

Many tourists buying endangered species souvenirs have no idea that they have done anything wrong, especially as such items are often openly sold in holiday resorts and in airports, shops and markets. However, tourists coming home with illegal products risk having their items confiscated, heavy fines and in serious cases even jail terms. Tourists who buy animal souvenirs may also



A seized handbag with the face of a cheetah as 'decoration'.



**WHAT ARE YOU
REALLY BRINGING
BACK WITH YOU?**

IFAW
INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR ANIMAL WELFARE

**Help protect endangered species.
Think twice before you buy souvenirs.**

www.ifaw.org

IFAW's 'Think Twice' campaign on tourist souvenirs.

become trapped in a bureaucratic minefield, as it can be very difficult to tell permitted products from similar-looking illegal ones. Even many legal products require special import and export permits.

Common souvenirs that are likely to be illegal include elephant ivory, reptile skins, tortoiseshell, seahorses and corals. IFAW runs a public awareness campaign, "Think Twice", that gives tourists information in airports and at travel shows about endangered species and souvenirs to avoid.

The European Community in total, and the United Kingdom in particular, is one of the largest consumers of wildlife and wildlife products in the world. As such, we have a particular responsibility to ensure that our consumption does not damage endangered and threatened wildlife around the globe. We urge the UK Government to:

- Strengthen the public awareness campaign on tourist trade in CITES-listed species, particularly at international airports and ports
- Increase training and resources for the better detection and prevention of wildlife crime in the UK

Commercial trade in exotic animals

There is a growing trade in live exotic animals into and within the UK, and an increasing number of exotic species kept as pets. The Animal Reception Centre at Heathrow Airport reported a 49% increase in the trade in reptiles in recent years, with a staggering 100,000 reptiles traded in 2002.

IFAW is opposed to the capture of wild animals for the "exotic pet" trade. The capture, transport, and sale of wild animals cause unacceptable pain and suffering for individual wild animals, many of which will die shortly after capture. Furthermore, the removal of animals from the wild for commercial purposes often results in populations becoming threatened or endangered.

IFAW also has concerns about the welfare of exotic animals kept as pets, which applies equally to wild-caught and captive bred animals. Many exotic animals suffer in captivity. They are wild and not domesticated animals, and so if

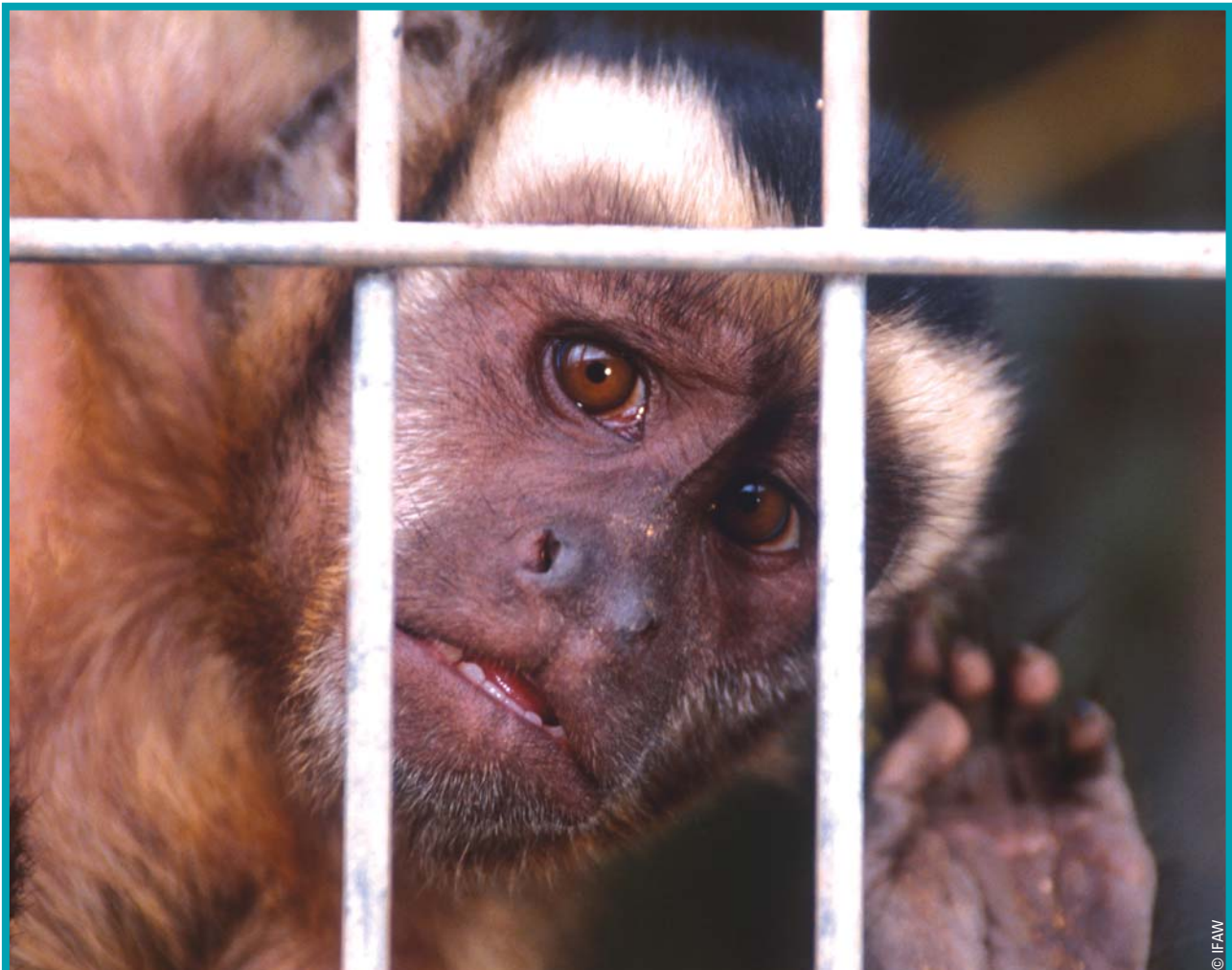
kept in captivity require higher and more specialised standards of husbandry and care than animals like cats and dogs, which are often beyond the knowledge, expertise and resources of the average member of the public (and sometimes even the veterinary profession). The RSPCA has reported that most parrots that actually survive to their final destination die within one year from disease, stress or injury – they have not adapted to captive situations. The same report also found that up to 15% of reptiles surveyed were found suffering from malnutrition.

IFAW believes that, if the trade in exotic animals as pets is allowed to continue, it is imperative that a licensing system be introduced for all keepers of exotic animals to ensure that their specialised welfare requirements are met.

IFAW recommends that, if the trade in exotic animals is to continue, the UK Government should introduce a licensing system for exotic animals kept as pets, backed up by Codes of Practice for each taxa – produced after consultation between veterinarians, breeders and animal welfare groups – to ensure that the most recent and complete welfare guidance is provided and adhered to.

Primates as pets in the UK

Even today, you can buy primates legally in the UK over the counters of pet shops, on the Internet, or from other primate owners. Most primates are listed under the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 (DWAA), which means that you need a licence to keep one. The DWAA aims to ensure public safety, and has no animal welfare remit. Marmosets,



Capuchins are kept as pets in the UK.

believed to be the most common primate 'pet' in the UK, are not listed under the DWAA and there are current proposals to de-list other primate species. There is a great deal of evidence to support the argument that these animals can pose a threat to public safety. If delisting occurs, protection for these primates and their keepers will be greatly reduced.

Figures on the numbers of primates kept as pets in the UK vary dramatically due to the lack of controls on possession and the often secretive nature of the trade. However, anecdotal evidence suggests that there are anywhere between 1500 - 3000 primates being kept in private collections within the UK, and the RSPCA reports that it rescued 430 primates between 2000 and 2003.

Primates suffer in captivity. They are complex social and emotional animals requiring a high level of husbandry and care that changes depending on their life-stage. Although manageable as infants, maturing primates often become aggressive, as they would do in the wild when establishing territory. Their high level of intelligence brings with it a greater capacity for unexpected or difficult behaviour and also a greater capacity to suffer when relegated to a poor or inappropriate life-style. Many owners are unable to provide appropriate care and environment, or deal with the unwanted and unmanageable change in behaviour.

Some species targeted for the primate pet trade are listed on CITES Appendix I, the most endangered category under CITES, which prohibits commercial trade. The Brazilian NGO RENTAS reports that the golden lion tamarin, an endangered species, is one of the most popular Brazilian species poached for private collectors.

The capture and transport of wild taken primates can also cause incredible suffering and pain. The number of animals slaughtered in the wild in order to obtain the desired individual, along with the stress that this and the following transportation in confined, inappropriate containers, means that the numbers caught in the wild are often far higher than is represented by the number of animals arriving at the final destination.

IFAW works with the Pan African Sanctuaries Alliance (PASA) and funds sanctuaries that care for primates rescued from the pet trade.

Primates are afforded greater international protection because of the acknowledged threat they are under from trade and habitat destruction. However, legislation at a national level is needed to enforce these regulations, both in range states and consumer states.

IFAW recommends that the UK Government:

- Implements the powers available under Article 8.2 of Council Regulation (EC) 338/97 to prohibit the keeping of primates. This would apply to the private ownership of primates
- Ensures that the provision for licensing 'sanctuaries' under the draft Animal Welfare Bill does not enable private collectors to continue keeping primates as pets
- Does not de-list any primates from the Schedule of the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976

Animal welfare legislation in the UK

IFAW is an international organisation, which promotes conservation and animal welfare initiatives from 15 country offices worldwide. IFAW recognises the UK's reputation as a nation of animal lovers and our international standing in this field. This makes it all the more vital to ensure that we are leading the way on animal welfare in our own nation, to enable us to promote better policies around the world.

Hunting with dogs

Since 1989 IFAW has campaigned in the UK for a ban on the cruel 'sports' of hunting deer, foxes, hares and mink with dogs. In 2002 IFAW successfully campaigned alongside other organisations for a hunting ban in Scotland. On the 18th November 2004, Westminster followed suit and banned these cruel and unnecessary 'sports' in England and Wales. The Hunting Act 2004 and the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002 are both important milestones in ending animal cruelty in Britain.

The case for a ban was based on sound scientific research that dispels the myths put forward by the hunting lobby about labelling the fox as a 'pest'. Scientists found that hunting makes no contribution to regulating fox numbers. The Government's own inquiry found that lamping (night shooting) using rifles, when carried out properly, has "fewer adverse welfare implications" than hunting with dogs.

The campaign for a total ban has covered a wide range of activity. IFAW's hunt monitors work out in the field filming hunting activity and capturing video evidence of the true nature of hunting with dogs. They also conducted undercover investigations into the 'behind the scenes' activity of various hunts, revealing that some actively encourage and feed foxes on their land to ensure a plentiful number during the hunting season.

Frequent polling commissioned by IFAW and its campaign partners consistently showed that the majority of the British public thought that hunting with dogs was cruel and believed that it should be illegal.



The hare is now protected from coursing and hunting with dogs.



Fox hunting was outlawed by the Hunting Act 2004.

Since the beginning of the campaign, IFAW has worked with MPs and Peers from all parties to secure legislation to ban hunting with dogs. The vast majority of MPs were in favour of a ban on hunting, as was demonstrated in repeated votes in the House of Commons to try to pass the legislation. IFAW is currently advising police authorities on the details of hunting and how it is carried out, to assist with enforcement.

There is still work to be done to ensure that this valuable piece of legislation is used to safeguard the welfare of British wildlife. There is also one exemption created in the Hunting Act 2004 that IFAW is concerned about. The exemption permits the use of a dog below ground in the course of stalking or flushing out for the protection of game or wild birds for shooting. The Act provides for a 'Code of Practice' to govern the manner in which the dogs are used and a draft code has been published. IFAW is opposed to 'terrierwork' as hunting foxes below ground often involves a long and protracted process that can lead to underground fights between terrier and fox, which can cause horrific injuries to both animals.

IFAW urges the UK Government to:

- Ensure the enforcement of the Hunting Act
- Take account of the flaws and weaknesses in the draft Code of Conduct for "terrierwork" highlighted in the report "CPHA briefing on terrierwork – hunting foxes with dogs below ground" which IFAW produced with our campaign partners. IFAW could never approve a code for this activity, which we believe to be cruel and unnecessary

Animal Welfare Bill



The duty of care in the Animal Welfare Bill will help protect companion animals.

The UK Government published a draft Animal Welfare Bill for consultation in July 2004 to consolidate and update much of the UK's legislation on non-farmed animals, much of which was drafted in the nineteenth century.

The Bill covers a whole host of issues, from pet fairs to tail docking, and from animal fighting to provisions to licence sanctuaries. Probably the most important measure to be included in the draft legislation is the "duty of care" to animals that are kept by people in the UK. This means that appropriate authorities could take action before an animal is actually suffering and when the animal is being kept in such a way that suffering will probably occur at some future point. IFAW welcomes this landmark Bill as an important progression towards modern and comprehensive animal welfare legislation in the UK.

There are some key issues that IFAW believes the Government should address in the Animal Welfare Bill before it is introduced:

Pet fairs are itinerant trading sites for both captive bred domesticated animals and wildlife, and for wildlife captured in the wild. In either case, the wildlife species involved are often alien, exotic, or non-native species. The most common animals sold at such fairs are birds and reptiles, although mammals and fish are also traded.

Current legislation regarding pet fairs is ambiguous. The Pet Animals Act 1951 requires that animals be kept 'in accommodation suitable as respects size, temperature, lighting, ventilation and cleanliness'. In addition, an amendment to the Act in 1983 prohibits the sale of pets in a public place, such as a market. It states 'Any person carrying out the business of selling animals as pets will be guilty of an offence if it takes place from a stall or barrow in a market or public place.' Most local authorities have disallowed these cruel events.

There is evidence to show that animals at pet fairs in the UK frequently suffer from overcrowding, inappropriate housing, neglect, stress and cruelty with little care or attention given to the potential for disease transfer to/from other animals or the public.

IFAW recommends that the UK Government clarifies the current legal status of pet fairs, and clearly prohibits them from taking place in the Animal Welfare Bill.

Tail docking and mutilation: IFAW opposes the cropping of ears, the docking of tails, and de-clawing cats when done solely for cosmetic reasons.

Mutilations are surgical operations for the purpose of modifying the appearance of a pet animal or for other non-curative purposes. Mutilations include the docking of tails, the cropping of ears, de-vocalization, de-clawing and de-fanging.

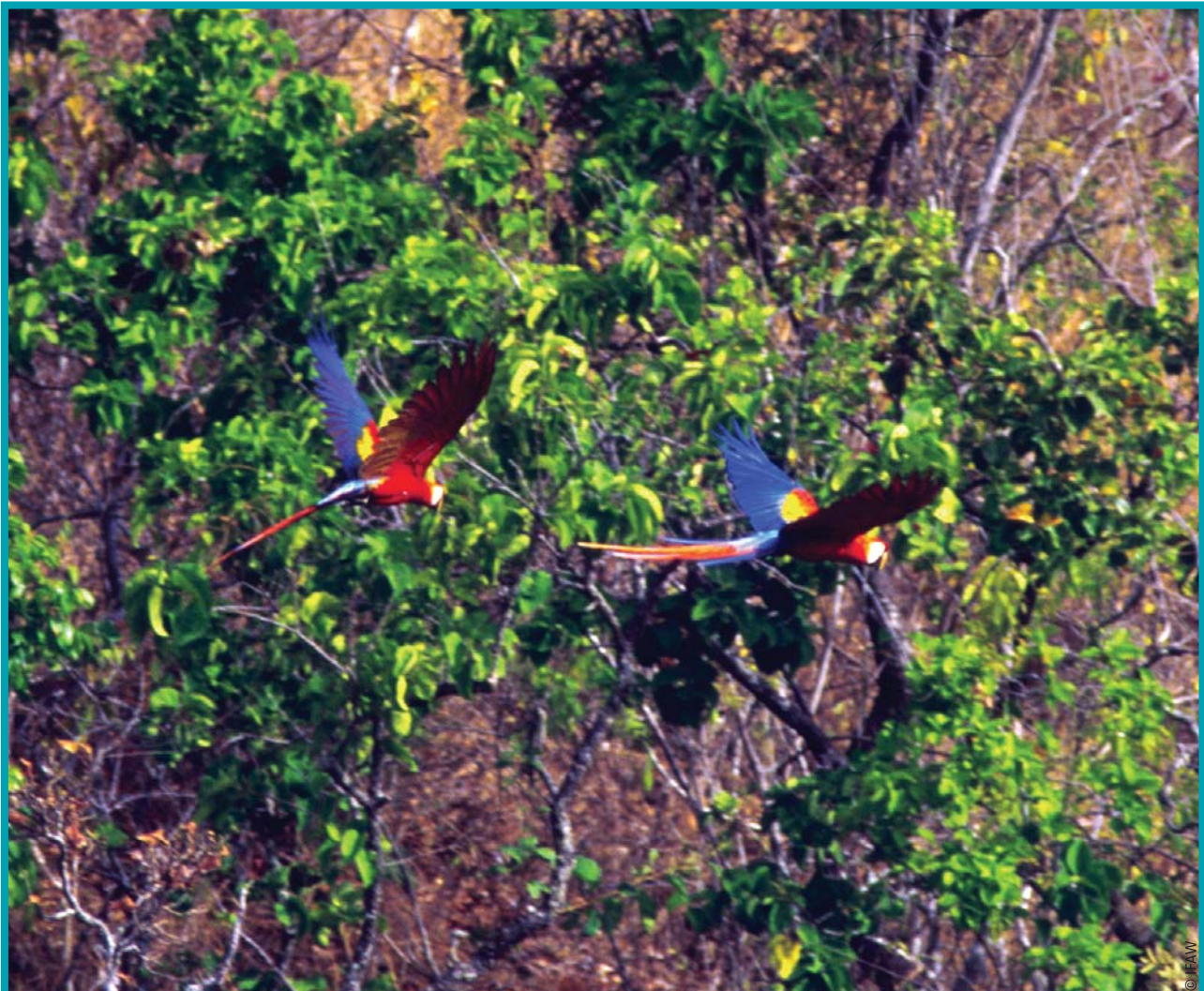
While ear cropping, tail docking, and de-clawing described in certain breed standards may be conventional, IFAW considers them as unacceptable practices.

IFAW urges the UK Government to prohibit tail docking unless deemed medically necessary as advised and performed by a veterinarian, and when clearly in the interest of the animal itself.

Exotic animals as pets: IFAW applauds the “duty of care” included in the draft Animal Welfare Bill. However we are concerned that the duty of care will not go far enough to ensure the welfare of exotic animals (see section on ‘Commercial trade in exotic animals’, above).

IFAW believes that, if the trade in exotic animals is allowed to continue, it is imperative to introduce a licensing system for all keepers of exotic animals to ensure that their specialised welfare requirements are met.

IFAW recommends that, if the trade in exotic animals is to continue, the UK Government should introduce a licensing system for exotic animals kept as pets, backed up by Codes of Practice for each taxa – produced after consultation between veterinarians, breeders and animal welfare groups – to ensure that the most recent and complete welfare guidance is provided and adhered to.



Two scarlet macaw in mid flight at the Hato Pinero wildlife sanctuary in Llanos, Venezuela.

Protecting animals and



Canada

IFAW was founded here in 1969 to campaign against the commercial seal hunt.



US

Protecting whales in the Atlantic ocean. International headquarters of IFAW in Cape Cod, Massachusetts.



Latin America

Building marine awareness in the Caribbean. Won protection for endangered gray whales in Baja California.



UK

Protecting marine mammals, combating the illegal wildlife trade and protecting British wildlife.



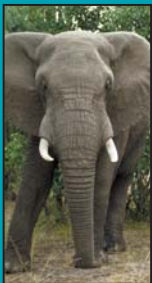
Germany

Campaigning to protect wolves and harbour porpoises.



East Africa

Working to protect wildlife from poaching and other threats.



Netherlands

Protecting marine mammals, combating wildlife trade, and supporting international campaigns and public outreach.



EU

Saving Europe's harbour porpoises and campaigning for an end to the bushmeat trade.



their habitats worldwide



Japan

Working for changes in government policy on whaling and promoting responsible whale watching.



Russia

Protecting orphaned bear cubs and providing shelter for illegally trafficked wildlife.



Southern Africa

Fighting for elephants and great white sharks and helping companion animals in impoverished areas.



China

Campaigning to end the cruel bear bile trade and protecting Tibetan antelope and their habitat.



Asia Pacific

Protecting marine mammals and native wildlife and working with communities to help street dogs.



India

Working to conserve the largest surviving population of Asian elephants and rehabilitating orphaned wildlife.



France

Assisting oiled wildlife in emergencies.

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

The organisation 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.

IFAW is non-partisan and works with politicians from all parties, as well as government departments and enforcement agencies, to improve the welfare of animals in the UK and around the world. For more information about our advocacy work, please contact:

**Corinne Evans
Parliamentary Officer
IFAW
87-90 Albert Embankment
London
SE1 7UD
United Kingdom
Phone: 020 7587 6712
Fax: 020 7587 6718
E-mail: cevans@ifaw.org**

 **Printed on recycled paper.**

Printed on a chlorine free paper using electricity generated from renewable sources.



At least 30% of the fibre used in making this paper comes from well-managed forests independently certified according to the rules of the Forest Stewardship Council.
IT-COC-1977
FSC Trademark © 1996 Forest Stewardship Council A.C.

