



2024 ANNUAL REVIEW

ACHIEVING GLOBAL IMPACT
FOR ANIMALS – TOGETHER

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It is a great honour to serve as President of the World Federation for Animals (WFA) and represent FOUR PAWS, a founding member, on its Board.

These first years since the foundation of WFA have been a successful pilot of what we can achieve together through the dedication and expertise of our members and secretariat. The Federation's growth is proof of both the need for global collaboration and the trust the movement is placing in WFA. At FOUR PAWS, we are committed to supporting this collective effort and strengthening our shared impact.

Only by working together can we deliver the change animals so urgently need. As we confront the climate and biodiversity crises, treating animals with compassion and respect is key to restoring balance between people, animals and the planet—and to building a more sustainable future for all.



Josef Pfabigan
President, WFA

When we look back, 2024 will be seen as a hinge moment for our Federation and our movement. Since our founding, we have stood out for our spirit of collaboration, ambition and commitment. Over the past three years, we've built steady and meaningful influence on the global stage. It hasn't always been easy—but it has been extraordinary.

In 2024, that founding spirit shone out. Our members renewed their commitment to take our collective work into a bold new phase. The moments captured in this report are inspiring—and, more importantly, they have ignited the acceleration animals need us to drive. It's momentum we'll carry forward as we face geopolitical challenges and seize global opportunities.

Thank you to our members' leaders and teams, to past Presidents Britta and Chris, and to our small but mighty secretariat around the world. Onward we go.



James Yeates
CEO, WFA



A PROMISE

TO ANIMALS & OUR FUTURE

In 2024, WFA launched a unifying call for change: [A Promise to Animals & Our Future](#). Endorsed by members from around the world at WFA's first-ever General Assembly, the Promise reflects our shared determination to place animal welfare at the heart of the sustainable development agenda.

The Promise laid out a hopeful and practical way forward—recognising that transforming how we treat animals is not only right but essential to achieving global goals on food, health, livelihoods, climate, and biodiversity.

[Read more](#)



CHAMPIONING ANIMAL WELFARE IN THE **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

At the 2024 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), WFA worked with fellow NGOs—from the animal welfare field and beyond—to ensure animals were part of the global conversation.

Through our role in the **NGO Major Group** (the official mechanism for NGO participation in the HLPF), we contributed to calls for **whole-of-food-systems approaches** that recognise animal welfare as a lever for food security, sustainable agriculture, and climate resilience.

While formal negotiations were subdued, WFA helped sustain energy for transformative action—**influencing the NGO position paper**, shaping messages to governments, and reinforcing the importance of improving the welfare of animals in efforts to achieve SDGs 2 (Zero Hunger) and 13 (Climate Action).

[Read more](#)



As the world hit the halfway mark to 2030—with just 17% of SDG targets on track—WFA used the moment to advocate for **integrated policy approaches** that respond to multiple crises at once: climate change, biodiversity loss, food insecurity, and antimicrobial resistance.

In a commentary published by the **SDG Knowledge Hub**, we showed how animal welfare-focused policies—like phasing out intensive farming, protecting wildlife, and promoting sustainable diets—can help countries **accelerate SDG progress** while avoiding harmful trade-offs.

[Read more](#)



WFA's 2025 Sustainable Development priorities

- Deepen UN engagement with a growing network of supportive countries, influencing key General Assembly resolutions.
- Build regional momentum through targeted webinars and in-person advocacy to grow our “coalition of the willing.”
- Amplify animal welfare in SDG 3 and 14 discussions at the HLPF.
- Drive change at the UN Ocean Conference, championing aquatic animal welfare and wildlife protection.

At the UN Summit of the Future, global leaders adopted the Pact for the Future. The Pact makes key commitments on food security, sustainable consumption, biodiversity, and the right to a healthy environment. While WFA advocated for a more ambitious Pact, we were pleased that countries recommitted to protecting wildlife.

[Read more](#)



During the Summit, we co-hosted an event with the UN Office for the Least Developed Countries, calling for a development approach that respects all forms of life.

ENSURING ANIMAL WELFARE IN THE PANDEMIC AGREEMENT

As 2024 came to a close, the world stood on the brink of one of the most important **global health milestones** in recent history—the adoption of the WHO Pandemic Agreement, expected at the 2025 World Health Assembly.

Together with the Pandemics and Animal Welfare Coalition, led by FOUR PAWS, we built on years of years of advocacy to ensure that animal welfare is recognised as essential to pandemic prevention.

In 2024, WFA actively engaged in negotiations, urging governments to address primary prevention—tackling the root causes of pandemics such as wildlife trade, deforestation, and intensive animal farming.

[Read more](#)



The final draft agreement includes legally binding articles on One Health and prevention. It promotes human, animal, and environmental health; calls for national plans to prevent pandemics at the source; and addresses the drivers of disease spillover. It also establishes a framework to guide future implementation.

WFA will support countries in putting these commitments into practice—ensuring that animal health and welfare are central to effective, equitable pandemic prevention worldwide.

TACKLING AMR THROUGH ANIMAL WELFARE

In 2024, WFA played a leading role in global efforts to address **antimicrobial resistance** (AMR).

Ahead of the UN General Assembly's High-Level Meeting on AMR, WFA served as lead penholder for civil society within the **AMR Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform**. Together with a wide range of partners, we developed the Platform's key [recommendations for UN Member States](#), calling for reduced antimicrobial use (AMU) in agrifood systems through improved animal welfare.

The report marked a milestone: stakeholders from across sectors—governments, civil society, and industry—formally recognised **animal welfare as essential to reducing AMU and preventing disease**.

Many of these priorities were reflected in the Political Declaration adopted by the **UN General Assembly**, including commitments to reduce AMU in agri-food systems by 2030, invest in animal health, **phase out** medically important **antimicrobials for growth promotion**, and promote prudent use when used preventively. The Declaration also supports better infection prevention and promotes good animal husbandry practices.

While the final text stops short of explicitly naming high-welfare animal farming as a solution, the progress achieved gives animal protection organisations a stronger mandate to engage.

[Read more](#)



PROMOTING ANIMAL WELFARE IN GLOBAL HEALTH POLICY

Strengthening animal health standards

WFA provides the Secretariat for the International Coalition for Animal Welfare (ICFAW), coalition working with the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)—the global authority on animal health and welfare.

In 2024, we participated in WOAH's 91st General Session, where key updates were adopted:

- An expanded Chapter 6.10 on antimicrobial use, now covering companion animals and environmental safeguards
- A revised Chapter 7.5 on animal welfare during slaughter, aiming to improve practices across regions

Together with ICFAW, we advocated for continued refinement of WOAH standards and called for improved implementation support, especially for regions with fewer resources.

Our focus remains on promoting science-based, enforceable, and regionally relevant standards for all animals.

[Read more](#)

WFA's 2025 health priorities

- Developing animal welfare-based AMR guidelines to inform the Global Action Plan on AMR and the work of the Independent Panel for Evidence on Action (IPEA).
- Continue coordinating the Animal Welfare-AMR Action Group and participating in the AMR Multi-stakeholder Partnership Platform's steering committee.
- Supporting PAW-led advocacy to embed prevention and One Health in the Pandemic Agreement, and further implementation of the Agreement after adoption.
- Supporting ICFAW's input at regional meetings, public reviews, and the 92nd General Session.



Representing ICFAW at the 91st General Session of WOAH in Paris (France): FOUR PAWS, The Donkey Sanctuary, RSPCA, WFA, and World Horse Welfare.



ANIMALS IN THE CONVENTION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

At the UN Biodiversity Conference (CBD COP16) in Cali, Colombia, we brought forward a unified set of **recommendations** to strengthen animal welfare in biodiversity policy—reinforcing the message that protecting animals is critical for protecting nature. Developed with our members and partners ahead of the meeting, these proposals shaped key negotiation outcomes.

At COP16, Parties adopted the **Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health**, which, for the first time, recognises animal welfare as a way to reduce zoonotic risk and AMR. This landmark agreement reflected our consistent advocacy linking animal protection to disease prevention.

We also saw progress in other areas:

- **Invasive alien species:** The decision embeds animal welfare and humane measures as considerations in the management of invasive alien species.
- **Biodiversity and climate change:** Parties agreed that protecting wild animals can strengthen carbon sequestration and ecosystem resilience—aligning with our position that animal welfare is part of the solution.

[Read more](#)



ANIMALS IN THE UN CLIMATE SPACE

While negotiations at the mid-year climate talks (SB60) in Bonn made little progress, WFA helped keep animals on the agenda. Our side event, **Wildlife & Climate Change: Animals for NDCs**, drew strong interest from government delegates—highlighting how wild animals support carbon sinks and why their protection belongs in climate action.

[Read more](#)



At a **COP29 press conference**, we **launched** the **Animals for Climate Action tool**—a **first-of-its-kind** resource helping countries integrate animal welfare into climate plans. The tool guides them across three areas: protecting wildlife, transforming food systems, and improving food consumption patterns. With science-based examples and policy recommendations, it helps governments **enhance natural carbon sinks** and climate resilience.

INTEGRATING ANIMAL WELFARE INTO ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDAS

At the UN Environment Assembly

In 2022, the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) adopted the historic **Nexus Resolution**, requesting the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) to produce a report on the link between animal welfare, the environment, and sustainable development for UNEA-6. Since then, our Federation has actively advocated for its meaningful implementation.

While a **scoping study was completed** in the lead-up to UNEA-6, the full report remains pending—missing the resolution's target timeline. Opportunities to reinforce the animal-environment-development connection were **missed**.

Despite these setbacks, **UNEA-6 opened new entry points for animal advocacy**. A resolution on **water governance** recognised the value of aquatic ecosystems for human, animal, and environmental health, through a **One Health** lens—creating space to advocate for animal welfare in sustainable water management. A resolution on ocean and seas governance encouraged Member States to ratify the **BBNJ Treaty**, which would enable marine protected areas in the high seas—home to two-thirds of the ocean and most of its unprotected wildlife. Meanwhile, a resolution on **sustainable lifestyles** endorsed regional dialogues that include ecocentric approaches, opening the door to advance animal welfare in discussions on sustainable consumption.

[Read more](#)



WFA's 2025 environmental priorities

- Guidance for countries to implement the Biodiversity and Health Global Plan of Action, with a focus on farm animal welfare
- Consolidate international support for the official recognition of animals' contribution to climate action
- Engage UNFCCC Parties in the Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work on Climate Action on Agriculture and Food Security on holistic approaches to food systems' climate action.



SHIFTING MINDSETS, STRENGTHENING THE MOVEMENT



A core part of WFA's mission is to equip animal protection NGOs to engage effectively in international advocacy. In 2024, we focused on building an understanding of global policy processes, increasing the visibility of animal welfare in international fora, and strengthening shared momentum for collective advocacy.



Navigating global policy: We hosted two expert webinars—on the pandemic treaty and AMR policy processes—to help WFA members deepen their understanding of key UN processes and where animal welfare fits in.



Amplifying voices: We created toolkits for members to amplify messaging at key global moments, ensuring consistent, visible advocacy across regions.



Thought leadership: WFA's insights were published in leading platforms like the [IISD SDG Knowledge Hub](#), [UNEP Perspectives](#), and [SAGE journals](#), promoting animal welfare as essential to food, health, and climate policy.



Building collective capacity: We supported collective advocacy through [our working groups](#) on UNEA, UNFCCC, Biodiversity, and Sustainable Development.



Staying connected: Our [monthly newsletter](#) provided a global policy lens on animal welfare, while our [weekly digest](#) offered quick, curated updates on news, events, and advocacy opportunities—delivered every Monday.



Expanding our reach: We continued building our audience across [X](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Blue Sky](#), keeping animal protection in the spotlight.

BUILDING AN EFFECTIVE FEDERATION TO ACHIEVE ITS OBJECTIVES



Meet the team behind the mission

The WFA Secretariat continued to operate as a fully remote team, with eight staff, one consultant, and three volunteers based across the United States, Europe, and Africa in December 2024.

Working across policy, advocacy, communications, and operations, this small but driven team worked closely with members and partners to keep animal welfare on the global agenda.



Jessica Bridgers
Deputy CEO



Melissa Jamieson
Interim Chief
Development Officer



Silvia Mantilla
Global Policy
& Comms Manager



Ayyuce Okten
Finance & Admin.
Consultant



David Pedersen
Membership Officer



Masika Sophie
Global Health
Policy Manager



Arjan van Houwelingen
Former Chief, Strategic
Policy & Public Affairs



Austin Wallace
International Affairs
Officer



James Yeates
CEO



Janice Cox
Volunteer



Marta Praticó
Volunteer



Stephen Ronan
Volunteer



OUR FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY: A MILESTONE FOR THE MOVEMENT

In May 2024, animal protection organisations from five continents came together in Copenhagen for WFA's first-ever General Assembly. It was a landmark moment to strengthen our shared aim: integrating animal welfare into sustainable development.

[Read more](#)



A NEW BOARD, A SHARED MISSION

At the General Assembly, WFA members **elected** a new Board. Together with continuing members from the inaugural Board, they form a globally representative team committed to advancing animal welfare through international collaboration.

In January 2025, Josef Pfabigan, CEO of FOUR PAWS International, was **appointed** as President of WFA. He succeeds Chris Sherwood (RSPCA UK), who was elected for the role at the Assembly.



Josef Pfabigan
President and
CEO, FOUR PAWS



Reineke Hameleers
Vice President and CEO,
Eurogroup for Animals



Wim de Kok
Secretary and President,
National Council for
Animal Protection



Roly Owers
Treasurer and CEO, World
Horse Welfare



Britta Riis
CEO, Dyrenes Beskyttelse



Linda Edwards
Chief Executive, SPANA



Glenys Oogjes
CEO, Animals Australia



Josphat Ngonyo
Africa Network for
Animal Welfare



Philip Lymbery
CEO, Compassion in World
Farming



Carolina Galvani
Executive Director,
Sinergia Animal



Michelle Thew
CEO, Cruelty Free
International



Sirjana Nijjar
Asia for Animals Coalition



Sue Leary
President, American Anti-
Vivisection Society



Benny Andersson
CEO Project 1882



Tricia Croasdell
Global CEO, World Animal
Protection



Jürgen Plinz
Treasurer, Deutscher
Tierschutzbund

OUR WORLDWIDE MEMBERSHIP

Our journey began with just 19 founding members. Today, we're proud to count **71 member organisations** from across the globe. This includes regional networks—Eurogroup for Animals, Asia for Animals Coalition, Africa Network for Animal Welfare, Coalition of African Animal Welfare Organisations, and Proyecto ALA (Latin America).

Our diverse and growing network reflects the global commitment to animal welfare. Every member plays a vital role in our advocacy, contributing ideas, expertise, and momentum. Membership contributions also sustain WFA's operations and small expert staff team—making it possible for us to shape international policy, foster collaboration, and amplify the voice of animals on the world stage.

● WFA member organisations

● LATAM & AfA members

Europe

- Animal Interfaith Alliance
- Brooke
- C'est Assez!
- Catholic Concern for Animals
- Code Animal
- Compassion in World Farming

- Compromiso Verde
- Cruelty Free International
- Deutscher Tierschutzbund
- Djurens Rätt
- Dyrenes Beskyttelse
- Djurskyddet Sverige

- Ethical Seafood Research
- Eurogroup for Animals
- Fondation Brigitte Bardot
- FOUR PAWS
- GAIA
- Hellenic Animal Welfare Federation

- Ippohesis
- No Corrida
- RSPCA
- Save The Asian Elephants
- SPANA
- Svenska Djurskyddsföreningen
- The Donkey Sanctuary

- The UK Centre for Animal Law
- Whale and Dolphin Conservation
- WELFARM
- World Animal Protection
- World Horse Welfare

Americas

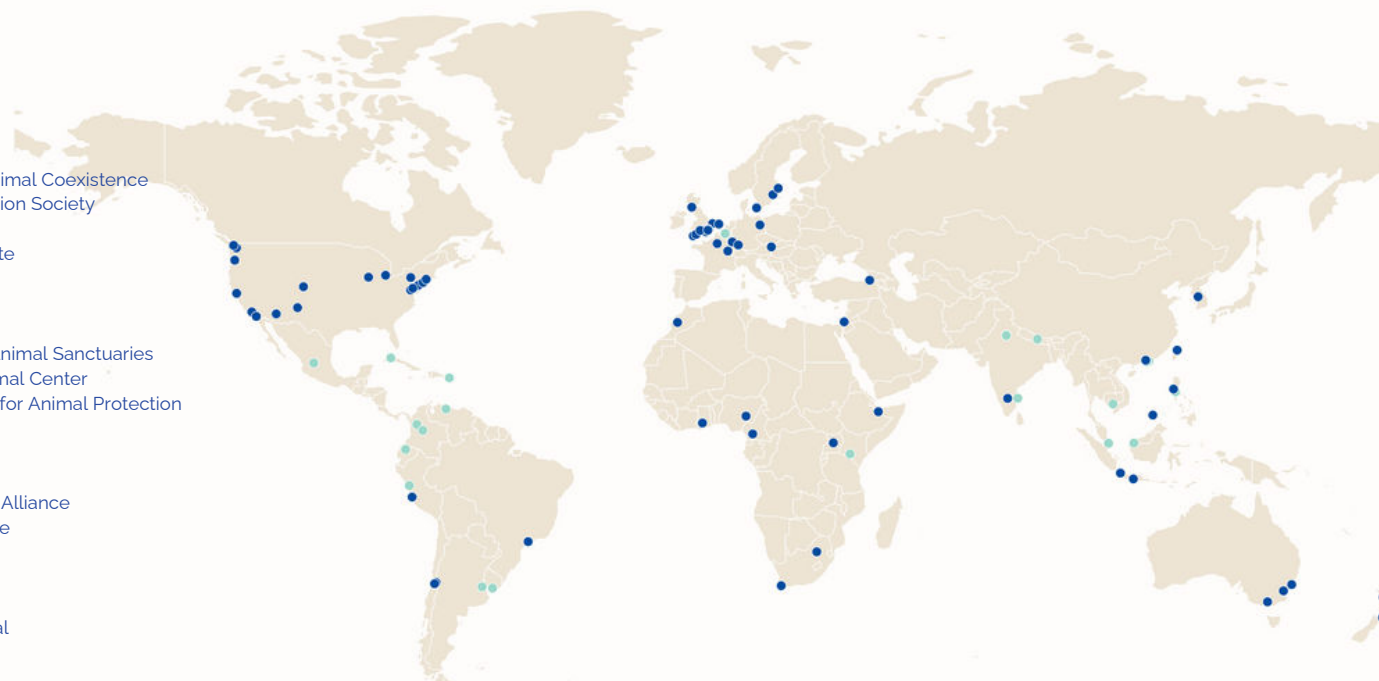
- Alliance for Human Animal Coexistence
- American Anti-vivisection Society
- Animal People
- Animal Welfare Institute
- Arba
- Aquatic Life Institute
- Brighter Green
- Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries
- Helen Woodward Animal Center
- International Coalition for Animal Protection
- Lady Free Thinker
- Mercy for Animals
- NGO Te Protejo
- Pan African Sanctuary Alliance
- Phoenix Zones Initiative
- Proyecto ALA
- Sinergia Animal
- Veg Foundation
- Wellbeing International

Asia and the Pacific

- ACTAsia
- Animals Australia
- Animal Evac New Zealand
- Animal Law & Policy Network
- Animal Policy International
- Australian Alliance for Animals
- Asia for Animals Coalition
- AWARE
- EAST
- SAFE
- RSPCA Australia
- Sintesia Animalia Indonesia
- Vegan society of Aotearoa
- Wildlife Rescue Centre Jogja

Africa & Middle East

- Africa Network for Animal Welfare
- Animal Law Reform South Africa
- Animal Welfare League
- CAAWO
- Freedom 4 Animals
- Haydiko
- Liberia Animal Welfare & Conservation Society
- RAPAD



JOIN US

We believe all animals deserve strong and unified representation at the highest levels of global decision making.

This can only be achieved through a diverse, yet united movement.

If you and your organisation share our belief, then join us to help make it a reality.

- **Access** cutting-edge policy information and international fora
- **Harness** the collective strength of national protection peers and experts worldwide
- **Influence** global decision-making at the UN and other international institutions

**Be part of the global voice
for animals!**



For a world in which
animal sentience is respected
and all animals live a good life
with their well-being protected.



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