

2025

ANNUAL REPORT



ACHIEVING GLOBAL IMPACT FOR ANIMALS – TOGETHER

FOREWORD

A YEAR OF GLOBAL PROGRESS FOR ANIMALS



Josef Pfabigan
President, WFA

When we founded the WFA, we knew animals needed a global coalition. What we could not have foreseen was how much would become possible - and how quickly.

2025 SHOWED WHAT IS POSSIBLE WHEN THE GLOBAL ANIMAL PROTECTION MOVEMENT ACTS TOGETHER.

The inclusion of animal welfare in the Pandemics Treaty alone would not have happened without such strong, skillful and sustained efforts by FOUR PAWS, the WFA Secretariat, and our members. My deep appreciation to every WFA colleague for turning shared ambition into real-world impact.

This year also showed the need for global leadership, from WFA and from each of us as members through the WFA. That means building and sustaining the movement and the Federation, holding long-term transformational ambitions, and modelling egoless, impact-driven collaboration that is essential to achieve the global transformation that animals need and deserve. That is the WFA I am proud to serve as WFA president.



James Yeates
CEO, WFA

When you take on a commitment, you do not always know how well it will succeed. I'll admit (now) how risky it felt joining WFA, a start-up with very lean resources and very large ambitions: to get animals represented in arenas specifically set up for human interests, where animals have long been invisible. And doing it in a way that brings our movement closer together, to be more effective.

So why has it worked? Three reasons. First, our members. From leadership and advocates to communications, IT and finance, members have supported WFA's collective development. Second, the Secretariat team. Small in number but exceptional in ethos, skill, and collaboration. Third, because it has to work. The world must get radically better for animals - and, in turn, for people. It is a necessity we are determined to meet.

The years to 2030 will be hard for international politics, for our movement, and for animals. We will need to gather, focus, and sustain more effort than ever.

WE ARE READY

WHERE WE SPOKE & WON FOR ANIMALS, IN 2025

Pandemic Treaty

13th Intergovernmental
Negotiating Body -
Articles 4 & 5 on
prevention & One
Health finalised

FEB

World Health Assembly

adopts
Pandemic Agreement

MAY

World Organisation for Animal Health

- Terrestrial Animal Health
Code's animal welfare
chapter updated to reflect
five-domain model

High Level Political Forum

Ministerial Declaration
recognises
One Health

JUL

AMCEN

decides to promote a
Wildlife for Climate
Action Agenda

FAO resolution on AMR,
recognises need to reduce
inappropriate antimicrobial
use in agrifood systems

Convention on Biological Diversity

Subsidiary Bodies'
advice on biodiversity-
climate & biodiversity-
health, promotes a One
Health approach

OCT

UN Climate negotiations - COP30

progresses discussion
on synergies between
climate and
biodiversity

UN General Assembly - UNGA80 resolution

retains language on how
animal health & welfare
support achieving the
SDGs

DEC

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CHAMPIONING ANIMAL WELFARE IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

In 2025, WFA helped embed animal welfare in UN thinking on sustainable development.

We participated in the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development in July, advising governments negotiating the HLPF Ministerial Declaration. The adopted Declaration called for recognising the value of One Health, reinforcing the links between human, animal, and ecosystem health.

The Governments of Colombia and Thailand joined WFA in co-hosting an official side **event** on turning One Health into practice—spotlighting animal welfare as a prevention tool for disease, stronger food systems, and resilient ecosystems.

[Read more](#)

WFA also advised governments during the 80th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 80).

Progress came through the resolution on agriculture, food security, and nutrition, where Member States retained language recognising that animal health and welfare can contribute to achieving the SDGs, including through One Health.

In a challenging political context, retaining this reference mattered. It safeguarded space for animal welfare within the UN's highest decision-making body and reaffirmed the relevance of the UN Environment Assembly resolution on the nexus between animal welfare, the environment, and sustainable development.

Further momentum came through the biodiversity resolution, which welcomed the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health and urged countries to implement it. While the resolution did not name animal welfare, the Plan itself encourages countries to promote the welfare of terrestrial and aquatic farm animals.

[Read more](#)

SPOTLIGHT: EXPERT GUIDANCE ON SDGS

At the HLPF, we backed governments with guidance linking animal welfare to Sustainable Development Goals 3 (SDG3) on good health and well-being, and SDG14 on life below water, both under review in 2026.





CHAMPIONING ANIMAL WELFARE IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

In 2025, WFA advanced animal welfare in ocean governance.

In 2025, WFA engaged with governments worldwide to advance animal welfare within sustainable ocean action under SDG 14 (Life Below Water). At the third UN Ocean Conference (UNOC3), governments adopted the Nice Ocean Action Plan, which included commitments to marine protection, sustainable fisheries, and reducing plastic pollution.

Outcomes relevant to marine animals included renewed support for the 30×30 marine protection target, action on ghost gear, growing momentum to ratify the High Seas Treaty, and increased attention to underwater noise pollution. But the absence of commitments on harmful fishing practices, deep-sea mining, and aquatic animal welfare shows how much work remains to integrate animal protection into ocean policy.

[Read more](#)

CHAMPIONING ANIMAL WELFARE IN GLOBAL HEALTH POLICY

In 2025, WFA and the world celebrated historic step for pandemic prevention.



In 2025, governments **reached** a landmark agreement: the first Pandemic Agreement, an important step for animals in global health governance.

The Agreement **promotes** a One Health approach, recognising that human health is interconnected with animal health and the environment. It further strengthens pandemic prevention by calling to address disease risk at the human–animal–environment interface. This is a clear space to address drivers linked to how interact with animals

and ecosystems, such as wildlife trade and intensive animal farming.

WFA's advocacy was critical to this outcome. Through the Pandemics and Animal Welfare Coalition, led by FOUR PAWS, WFA's Global Health Policy Manager secured support from governments across Africa, Asia, and Latin America, helping build a broad coalition that kept prevention, animal welfare, and One Health on the agenda throughout the negotiations.

[Read more](#)

CHAMPIONING ANIMAL WELFARE IN GLOBAL HEALTH POLICY

In 2025, WFA positioned animal welfare in the global response to antimicrobial resistance.

In July, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) adopted a landmark AMR resolution, recognising the need to reduce inappropriate antimicrobial use in agrifood systems and affirming the importance of One Health. WFA **welcomed** this and supported its call for greater investment in animal health, disease prevention, and alternatives to routine antimicrobial use.

WFA also **helped** shape the evidence base for future AMR policy. Through its leadership of the UN Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform, WFA helped develop recommendations to integrate animal welfare into the mandate of the Independent Panel on Evidence for Action against AMR. These recommendations highlighted that improved housing, management, nutrition, and animal handling can reduce disease risk and reliance on antimicrobials.

WFA **reinforced** this prevention agenda at the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) through the International Coalition for Animal Welfare (ICFAW), for which we provide the Secretariat. At WOAH's General Session, delegates updated the Terrestrial Animal Health Code's animal welfare chapter to reflect the five-domain model, and WFA convened a high-level dialogue on the animal welfare-AMR nexus, highlighting welfare as a practical strategy to reduce antimicrobial dependence in agrifood systems.

In October, WFA **joined** the WHO Civil Society Task Force on AMR, giving animal welfare a direct voice in global AMR governance.

Finally, at UNEA-7, WFA worked with governments to **advance** recognition of the environmental dimensions of AMR, reinforcing One Health approaches that link human, animal, and environmental health.

SPOTLIGHT: EXPERT VOICES ON AMR

In 2025, our Global Health Policy Manager contributed to high-level forums, including a World Health Assembly side event on the pandemic agreement (Photo 1); **the World Bank One Health Conference (Photo 2)**; FAO-China convening on AMR at the food-environment intersection; a Nigeria-led workshop on establishing the IPEA; **the ReACT Conference**; FAO Conference 44th Session side event with then Kenyan Ambassador Fredrick Matwang'a (Photo 3); and a **Canada-led G7 convening on AMR**.



CHAMPIONING ANIMAL WELFARE IN CLIMATE POLICY

In 2025, WFA helped move animal protection closer to the centre of climate action.

In July, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) agreed to advance a Wildlife for Climate Action Agenda, including a future Declaration. The decision explicitly calls for stronger synergies across the Rio Conventions, recognising wildlife protection as a shared priority for climate, biodiversity, and land restoration efforts.

That signal was reinforced at the African Union Biodiversity Summit, where Heads of State adopted the African Leaders' Gaborone Declaration on Biodiversity and committed to endorsing the Wildlife for Climate Action Agenda and Declaration. In it, they called on the international community to support Africa and its wildlife in responding to the climate crisis.

Momentum continued at COP30, where African leaders **outlined** plans to pave the way for a Global Wildlife for Climate Action Declaration. Announced at WFA's official side event, this marked a clear route to elevate animal protection in climate negotiations, with a view to global consideration at COP31.

In 2025, WFA strengthened its engagement in UN climate negotiations to position animal welfare as part of credible climate action. Ahead of a dedicated workshop on climate action in food systems, WFA **submitted recommendations** showing how higher animal welfare and more plant-rich diets can reduce emissions, strengthen resilience, and support biodiversity, an approach **echoed** by governments and stakeholders, including **The Gambia**. At COP30 in Brazil, WFA **engaged** with governments to keep food system transformation on the agenda and to promote stronger links between climate and biodiversity policy.

SPOTLIGHT: BRINGING RIO CONVENTIONS TOGETHER

At COP30, WFA **brought** Rio Convention synergies to life through an exhibit and a series of events, showing how animal protection strengthens climate, biodiversity, and land outcomes together.



CHAMPIONING ANIMAL WELFARE IN BIODIVERSITY POLICY

In 2025, WFA worked to embed animal welfare as a recognised component of global biodiversity strategies.

WFA **participated** in the 27th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-27) under the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in October. The meeting prepared recommendations for COP17 and advanced discussions on two priorities central to WFA's work: biodiversity and climate change, and biodiversity and health.

SBSTTA-27 advanced recognition of the role of wild animals in ecosystem function and resilience, and reinforced One Health approaches linking biodiversity loss, animal welfare, and health risks. These elements helped safeguard space for animal welfare within the scientific and technical advice feeding into COP17.

Alongside this policy engagement, WFA co-hosted an official side event with the IUCN, Smithsonian Institution, and the Born Free Foundation, focused on the support needed to operationalise the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health. The discussion highlighted practical measures to move from guidance to action, including addressing wildlife exploitation and poor animal welfare as underlying drivers of health risk.

[Read more](#)



SHIFTING STAKEHOLDER MINDSETS

In 2025, WFA equipped members with insights, tools, and networks to amplify animal advocacy globally.



POLICY SIGNALS

concise briefings distilling complex reports into actionable insights for WFA members.

WFA DEBRIEF

series unpacking major global policy moments, e.g. **UN Ocean Conference**, **UNFCCC COP30**, and what it means for animals.

9 COMMUNICATIONS TOOLKITS

provided plug-and-play social media content for coordinated messaging across international policy debates.

A GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

connected 121 professionals who aligned messaging around key moments like **World Animal Day** and **World AMR Awareness Week**.

THE WFA ROUND-UP

internal newsletter to keep members synchronised on shared advocacy goals and collaboration opportunities.

SHIFTING STAKEHOLDER MINDSETS

In 2025, WFA positioned animal welfare as essential to solving global challenges.



STRATEGIC OPINION PIECES

in **Common Dreams**, **Earth.org**, **Impakter**, and **IISD**. Press releases announcing milestones, including WFA joining WHO's civil society taskforce on AMR and the Wildlife for Climate Declaration at COP30, generated coverage in outlets like **Tanzania Times**, **Climate Lens KE**, and the **Daily Nation**.

WEEKLY DIGEST

reached 41% more readers, while our monthly newsletter "**Together for Animals**", translated policy developments for over 2,000 subscribers.

ANIMAL ADVOCACY PULSE

our **LinkedIn newsletter**, reached 1,000 subscribers within 24 hours of launch and grew to more than 3,000 subscribers after just two editions.

SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE SURGED

We published more than double the previous year, driving greater engagement: comments jumped 146%, and link clicks soared 412%. Video views exploded, up 929%.

BUILDING AN EFFECTIVE FEDERATION

Our Secretariat

In 2025, our fully remote **Secretariat** grew to 15 staff and three volunteers working across the Americas, Europe, Africa, and Asia, supporting members through coordinated policy advocacy, research, communications, and operations. Click on our names to learn about us!



Austin Wallace
International Affairs
Officer



Ayyuce Okten
Finance & Admin.
Consultant



Cha Almeida
Grant, Donor & Member
Development Officer



Disha Ramanan
Outreach Officer



Ed Goodall
Climate Policy Specialist



Francesca Galleli
Food Systems
Policy Officer



James Yeates
CEO



Janice Cox
Volunteer



Jessica Bridgers
Deputy CEO



Jewel Omollo
Environmental
Policy Officer



Marta Praticó
Volunteer



Dr. Masika Sophie
Global Health
Policy Manager



Melissa Jamieson
Chief Development
Officer



Nasiru Yusuf
Finance & Operations
Officer



Noelia Iglesias
Communications Officer



Silvia Mantilla
Global Policy
& Comms Manager



Stephen Ronan
Volunteer



Victoria Evans
PR Officer

BUILDING AN EFFECTIVE FEDERATION

Our Board

Throughout 2025, **the WFA Board convened** regularly and provided strategic guidance to the Secretariat, ensuring WFA effectively serves its members and advances animal welfare in international policy.



Josef Pfabigan
Board President
& CEO FOUR PAWS



Reineke Hameleers
Board Vice President &
CEO Eurogroup for Animals



Wim de Kok
Board Secretary &
President NCAP



Roly Owers
Board Treasurer & CEO
World Horse Welfare



Britta Riis
CEO Dyrenes Beskyttelse



Linda Edwards
Chief Executive SPANA



Glenys Oogjes
CEO Animals Australia



Josiah Ojwang
Executive Director
ANAW



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 Emerita AAVS



Benny Andersson
CEO of Project 1882



Tricia Croasdell
Global CEO
World Animal Protection



Jürgen Plinz
Treasurer Deutscher
Tierschutzbund



David Bowles
Head of Public Affairs
and Campaigns of RSPCA

BUILDING AN EFFECTIVE FEDERATION

Our members

The WFA unites **73 animal protection NGOs** spanning a diverse range of regions, species, perspectives, and areas of expertise. This breadth of membership ensures our international policy work is as effective and relevant as possible, with every member contributing their unique knowledge, networks, and ambition to a shared mission: a world where animals are recognised and protected in international policy.

