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2022 ANNUAL REVIEW



**ACHIEVING  
GLOBAL  
IMPACT FOR  
ANIMALS -  
TOGETHER**

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Some ideas just stay as ideas. Some become reality. Some grow into something exceptional.

The World Federation for Animals started off as an idea shared by many of our visionary animal welfare global leaders. It follows a selfless and ambitious vision of how genuinely working together can achieve more for animals across the world.

It is an inclusive and expansive vision, including all animals - wild, farm, research, companion and working, in every context and of every species, and in all regions of the world where animals need protection and where those helping them need support and solidarity. It is an altruistic vision where we all focus on what is needed worldwide.

Those who have been a part of WFA's first steps will have experienced how it has grown in the last year. Our new members have bolstered the shared desire and ability to work together to achieve more. Our initial members have altruistically committed to continuing to work together for the years to come to continue to build this vital coalition.

As we enter our third year, I look back with pleasure, gratitude and awe. I want to thank all our members - present and future - for their support, commitment and spirit. It is an honour to work with such leading animal visionaries worldwide. (We hope those other visionary leaders looking from outside will join.)



**Britta Riis**  
President, WFA

## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

For decades, animal protection has not been duly considered by international policies, despite its importance for people, the environment and the animals themselves.

It is amazing, then, that there has been such progress in the last year.

We have already had a series of tangible victories from our first efforts “straight out the box” across multiple policy strands, which we achieved only through active, professional and egoless collaboration by so many of our members.

There is, nonetheless, a lot more still to do to get animals the recognition and protection they need.

We have also built for the future. We have advanced our shared knowledge, pooling our insights, ideas and inquiries, and creating a collective learning journey to build the capacity of us all

We have developed a long-term, ambitious, inclusive strategy to transform international policymaking for animals and concrete plans for 2023-25. And we have built a sustainable, ambitious and organised Federation with extraordinary members, staff and volunteers.

It is with humble thanks to them that I look back on my first year with WFA. My proud and profound gratitude to everyone throughout our membership who has helped build our collective strength, our small team of exceptional WFA staff and volunteers, and the President and Board for their excellent support.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Yeates".

**James Yeates**  
CEO, WFA

# WFA HIGHLIGHTS

## A YEAR IN REVIEW

### WE ADVOCATED

**Sustainable development**   
 –environment–animal welfare nexus UN report

**Global Biodiversity**   
 Framework that considers & protects animals

**Climate change**   
 impact on animal welfare and vice versa

**One Health**   
 approach implemented in global public policies

**Financial institutions**   
 to integrate animal welfare considerations in their decisions

### WE COORDINATED & INFORMED

**90**   
 experts convened at international policy forum 4 / year

**40**   
 weekly digests w/ important reads & calls-to-action

**7**   
 multisectoral events for NGOs, policy makers & academia

**4**   
 working groups on strategic policy streams

**1**   
 global communications network

### WE ARE ONE TEAM

**48**   
 member organisations from around the world

**19**   
 WFA Board members

**9**   
 Secretariat staff and 3 volunteers

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**MAKING GLOBAL  
POLICIES WORK  
FOR ANIMALS**



## GOAL 1: THE UN RECOGNISES THE IMPORTANCE OF ANIMAL WELFARE WITH INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS

### Secured civil society & political support for animal welfare in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

In 2022, WFA worked closely with members to positively influence the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), the central UN platform for the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The HLPF is an important space to mainstream the recognition of animal welfare's essential role for sustainability.

- **UN Member States acknowledged the importance of One Health & animals' well-being**

Following strategic advocacy from WFA and its members, we celebrated a Ministerial Declaration of the HLPF in which UN Member States emphasised: *“the importance of the One Health and other holistic approaches that deliver multiple benefits to the health and well-being of people, animals, plants and ecosystems.”* This is a strong first step on a long journey to gain the level of protection animals need.

[Learn more](#)

- **Civil society asked UN Member States to support animal welfare**

*“Governments must reverse the global expansion of industrialised animal farming and agriculture”*, recommended the [NGO Major Group](#), of which WFA is a Global Organising Partner. In their [HLPF 2022 position paper](#), NGOs from around the world also advocated that *“replacement (non-animal) products and industries should be explored and supported”* as an avenue to advance the implementation of SDGs. Seeing a cross-sectoral group with interest across the board raising the need for the international community to consider animals and their welfare in the sustainable development context is an influential win for us and the animals.

[Learn more](#)

- **Raised awareness of the nexus between animal welfare & sustainable development**

WFA hosted a side-event at the HLPF entitled “Building back better: animal welfare, sustainable development, and environment nexus”. Organised with the Animal Issues Thematic Cluster (AITC) and the International Coalition for Working Equids, the event brought together government, academia, intergovernmental processes, and civil society representatives to explore the interconnections between how we treat animals and sustainability.

*"The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes that the welfare of people depends entirely on the welfare of the ecosystem in which we live, and that increasingly the welfare of these ecosystems depends on our collective ability to protect them. Animals form a critical part of the ecosystem."* HE. Mr. Dampety Bediako Asare, High Commissioner of the Republic of Ghana, who played an important role in the passing of a resolution on the nexus between animal welfare, sustainable development, and environment at the UN Environment Assembly in 2022.

[Learn more](#)

WATCH A RECORDING OF OUR EVENT AT THE HIGH-LEVEL  
POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



CHECK OUT THE WORLD ANIMAL DAY WISHES  
FROM ACROSS THE FEDERATION



LET'S DREAM FOR ANIMALS

### Increased visibility of World Animal Day among policymakers & UN

On 4 October 2022, WFA gathered inspiring voices from the global south and north to discuss “What can we do for animals”. Experts and policymakers from Colombia, France, Nigeria, the European Union (EU), and the World Trade Organisation participated in an online event in which they elaborated on their experience in leading the introduction of successful policies that make the world a better place for animals. *“It gave us a chance to dive into their experiences and decode how we can ensure policy making can help us drive systemic transformation and long-lasting improvements for animals’ well-being worldwide.”*  
James Yeates, WFA CEO

Participants spoke on successful policy reforms to protect animals at the municipal, national, regional, and international levels, allowing attendants to learn from good practices and ways to overcome structural challenges. This included work to outlaw the killing and export of donkeys from Nigeria and to improve the welfare of animals during transport in and outside the EU, as well as agreements to discourage bull- and cockfighting in Bogotá, ban wild animals in circus shows in France, and prohibit harmful fisheries subsidies internationally. It also brought policy makers together, on a WFA platform, to inform and inspire one another to make progress in their respective policy arenas.

[Learn more](#)



## GOAL 2: INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL REGIMES INTEGRATE ANIMAL WELFARE

### Historic UN resolution recognised animal welfare's role in sustainability

In March 2022, the Animal Welfare – Environment – Sustainable Development Nexus resolution was adopted at the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA). This is the first-ever resolution to be tabled and approved with explicit reference to animal welfare.

The resolution calls on the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) to produce a report with the Food and Agriculture Organization, World Health Organization, World Organisation for Animal Health, One-Health High-Level Expert Panel, and other stakeholders on the Nexus between animal welfare, the environment, and sustainable development.

This resolution matters. Dedicated action to protect animals and their welfare in the UN policy process has been insufficient to date, with devastating consequences for biodiversity loss, climate change, pollution, and global public and environmental health. With this resolution, the Assembly began to provide the much-needed leadership to catalyse intergovernmental action for the environment.

The campaign to raise awareness and garner support for the resolution was led by WFA, Africa Network for Animal Welfare, and African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources, in coordination with our members and many other organisations worldwide.

[Learn more](#)

- **Actively engaging with UNEP to ensure a positive nexus report**

The Nexus resolution is generating greater interest in animal protection in other UN fora, including the UN General Assembly. And yet, in 2022, the Programme did not produce an implementation roadmap, terms of reference for the report, or realistic budget.

WFA engaged with UNEP to help ensure a robust, positive and progressive report that establishes animal welfare as an essential element of the global effort to secure a sustainable future for all – people, planet and animals. Meetings with officials were positively received, and UNEP has now allocated funds and plans to recruit personnel to produce a scoping study in early 2023.

[Learn more](#)

## Lobbied for a new Global Biodiversity Framework that integrates animal considerations

Following over three years of negotiations for a new Global Biodiversity Framework, the world finally committed to a collective path to halt and reverse biodiversity loss. In December 2022, Ministers from around the world gathered at the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) to seal the deal for Nature.

WFA, representing over 50 animal protection organisations, with the Born Free Foundation, took part in most of the preparatory meetings and negotiation rounds, proposed concrete solutions, and worked with dozens of delegations, in person and remotely, to put forward critical inputs for an ambitious and transformative framework.

For this new Framework, WFA **advocated** to (1) Halt and prevent human-induced species extinctions, restore threatened species and sustainably conserve all; (2) Eliminate animal exploitation and embed animal health and wellbeing to address biodiversity loss and reduce zoonotic disease risk; and, (3) Shift the sustainable use narrative towards ecocentrism and better integrate the multiple values of biodiversity.

The resulting agreement is not perfect, but it made some progress for animals, thanks to our and others' efforts.

[Learn more](#)

### AT CBD'S COP15, GOVERNMENTS COMMITTED TO



halting human-induced extinction of known threatened species and reducing the extinction rate and risk of all species tenfold by 2050



considering the One Health approach for the Framework's implementation, to sustainably balance people, animals, and ecosystems health



sustainably using biodiversity under agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry, through practices such as agroecology

## Called for a transition to more climate- and animal-friendly policies to secure biodiversity and the future of our food systems

WFA established a new working group to engage the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to strengthen the narrative around the climate-animal welfare nexus, including a better understanding of how climate change impacts animals.

At the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP) to UNFCCC, WFA members and partners advocated collectively for governments to:

1. Recognise the role that changing the policies that govern society's use of animals can play in climate change mitigation
2. Integrate climate change impacts on animals in adaptation and preparedness guidance and strategies at both global and national levels.

[Learn more](#)

### • Getting agriculture and food on this COP's agenda

Negotiators continued to downplay the need to transform animal agriculture to limit global warming to 1.5C. At COP27, however, Parties celebrated for the first time an agriculture thematic day with events and exhibits showcasing research and expertise about food systems and climate. Delegations could better understand the impacts of animal agriculture, land use and related emissions, just transition, and protein diversification. WFA and many of its members and partners were present and had the opportunity to organise and speak at various events.

In their decision to continue working on the “*implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security*”, extending the Koronivia Joint Work for Agriculture for four more years, Member States have also recognised that farmed animals are impacted by climate change and that sustainable production will be needed to achieve climate objectives.

[Learn more](#)

## PROTECTING ANIMALS, PROTECTING THE PLANET

Together with our member Eurogroup for Animals, we helped educate UNFCCC delegates on the links between animal welfare and sustainable development. [See here.](#)



## GOAL 3: INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REGIMES INTEGRATE ANIMAL WELFARE

### Worked together to raise global animal welfare standards

WFA is a member of and provides secretariat services to the International Coalition for Animal Welfare (ICFAW), a coalition of animal welfare organisations that cooperates with the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) in the development and implementation of international animal welfare standards.

- **Helped advance animal welfare standards in the Americas**

WFA, Chair of ICFAW's America Regional working group, and ICFAW members worked on a comprehensive recommendation to review WOAH's America Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS). This strategy, adopted in 2012, is now being revamped. Recommendations included for the new RAWS to acknowledge the relevance of animal welfare policies for sustainable development and One Health activities.

With the working group, WFA also organised a capacity-building event to aid the implementation of WOAH's pig welfare standards (chapter 4.13 of WOAH Code). The event covered the full array of WOAH's recommendations for the welfare of pigs in production systems, including preventing abnormal behaviour, avoiding or refining painful procedures such as castration and tail docking, space requirements, weaning of piglets and biosecurity and animal health. Simultaneously held in person and online, 247 people from 37 countries attended the event.

[Learn more](#)

- **Contributed to global debates on animal welfare**

WFA attended WOAH's 89th General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates, annual meeting of the organisation's highest decision-making body. In 2022, this body approved the adoption of revised guidelines for dog population management ([Read more](#)) and a recommendation for waiving the animal-based safety control test. This follows continuous advocacy and engagement by ICFAW members with WOAH.

[Learn more](#)

## WFA FACILITATED GREATER COLLABORATION AMONG ICFAW MEMBERS



assisted NGOs to build common positions on WOA's animal welfare standards



co-organised spaces for information sharing & learning to aid standards' implementation



connected NGOs to WOA's staff & representatives

WFA also spoke at WOA's 4th Global Animal Welfare Forum, an invitation-only event to foster communication among stakeholders on selected topics. This year's theme was "Animal Welfare Economics", which fostered discussions on the challenges of carrying out economic analysis of animal welfare policies and the increasing economic incentives for implementing animal welfare standards. In presentations, WFA highlighted the ethical responsibility to ensure, to the greatest extent, the welfare of the animals that are used, a principle WOA acknowledges in its Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Health Code (article 7.1.2). WFA also showcased the economic incentives emerging from corporations and financial institutions for implementing animal welfare standards.

Lastly, WFA represented ICFAW in a consultation organised by the Quadripartite for One Health on antimicrobial resistance. This was an opportunity for us to help gather views on how medicines regulations, enforcement measures, and smart solutions can be utilised to phase out over-the-counter and internet sales of unapproved antibiotics.

### • **Facilitated collaboration**

In the role of secretariat, WFA provided support to enable greater collaboration among ICFAW members. For instance, by compiling comments for the review of WOA's animal welfare standards to be submitted to WOA as a common position from the NGO sector. Other activities carried out throughout 2022 include co-organisation of spaces for information sharing and learning.

## Influenced the negotiations of an International Pandemics Treaty

Member States of the World Health Organization (WHO) are drafting a legally binding treaty to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response. They have committed to negotiating an instrument that saves lives and protects livelihoods by addressing gaps and challenges in action on pandemics by 2024.

Throughout 2022, WFA has been an active contributor to the PAW coalition, led by our member organisation, FOUR PAWS, and which coordinates advocacy for the Pandemics Treaty, including beyond animal protection organisations. The focus has been on advocating for the new Pandemic treaty to (1) adopt the One Health approach as per the One Health High-Level Expert Panel's definition and (2) focus on tackling the root causes of zoonotic disease to make the Treaty cost-effective. Encouragingly, the Conceptual Zero Draft of the treaty emphasises prevention, references spill over, and highlights One Health.

[Learn more](#)

### WFA SPOKE WITH OUR MEMBERS AT WHO'S PUBLIC HEARINGS

of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body on the international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response:

*"It is of utmost importance that an international pandemic instrument addresses the primary causes of zoonotic disease emergence, focusing on pre-spillover prevention. (...) We need One Health strategies that focus on the stages before an outbreak, because only this way can we effectively protect communities, animals and the environment..."*





## GOAL 4: INTERNATIONAL TRADE, SUBSIDY & INVESTMENT RULES IMPROVE ANIMAL WELFARE

### Advocated for more animal-friendly decisions by financial institutions

WFA collaborated with its members in the engagement of the international financial sector. In the long-term, we call on multilateral development banks to agree on animal health and welfare requirements to drive their investment strategies and policy. Informed by this vision, WFA and members invited these institutions to:

- Finance a green and just transition. In support of development banks' commitment to the SDGs, WFA offered the Federation's technical advice and expertise on how recognising linkages with animal welfare could protect the planet while promoting sustainable development effectively. The **vision** was shared with speakers at the Finance in Common.
- Clarify animal welfare requirements for a proposed loan by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to expand intensive pig production in Vietnam vastly. In coordination with Asia for Animals and Compassion in World Farming, letters were sent to key IFC decision-makers regarding the loan. Although the loan was ultimately approved, the IFC responded rapidly to our letter explaining the loan's animal welfare considerations. Continued monitoring and engagement of loans to expand intensive animal agriculture, particularly in low and middle-income countries, is essential to encouraging banks to reconsider these investments.

### Advanced animal welfare guidelines in agricultural development

WFA is collaborating with the World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization, WOAHA, and Wageningen University to develop animal welfare guidelines for agricultural development projects. These are meant to support livestock experts and teams designing, implementing and supervising field projects to integrate animal welfare effectively.

In 2022, progress was made in developing guidelines for the welfare of pigs, broiler chickens and working equids. Experts from the respective fields have been invited to contribute to these guides, which provide (a) further clarification on WOAHA animal welfare standards and (b) guidance on practices that can lead to better welfare outcomes.

[Learn more](#)

## Set the scene on trade law

Trade law can become a building rather than a stumbling block for animal protection efforts. In fact, trade agreements can encourage the spread of protective policies across borders.

Our analysis in 2022 has evidenced the strategic need to focus on the World Trade Organization (WTO). The agreements administered by this organisation greatly influence the shape of national domestic policies. Ensuring such influence leads to the continuous improvement of animal welfare policies worldwide is essential for us.

In 2022-23, WFA's focus is to build capacity for effective animal advocacy within the multilateral trade regime. This requires an in-depth understanding of the substantive and procedural elements embedded in the WTO legal framework. In 2022, we began this effort by reviewing the interpretation adopted in two WTO's landmark cases of significant relevance for animal protection in order to build robust legal reasoning on the compatibility of trade restrictions based on animal welfare concerns.

[Learn more](#)

WFA also started to build important relationships with officials at WTO bodies, including the former chair of the negotiation on fisheries subsidies (see [World Animal Day event](#)). Our relationship-building efforts will continue through 2023.

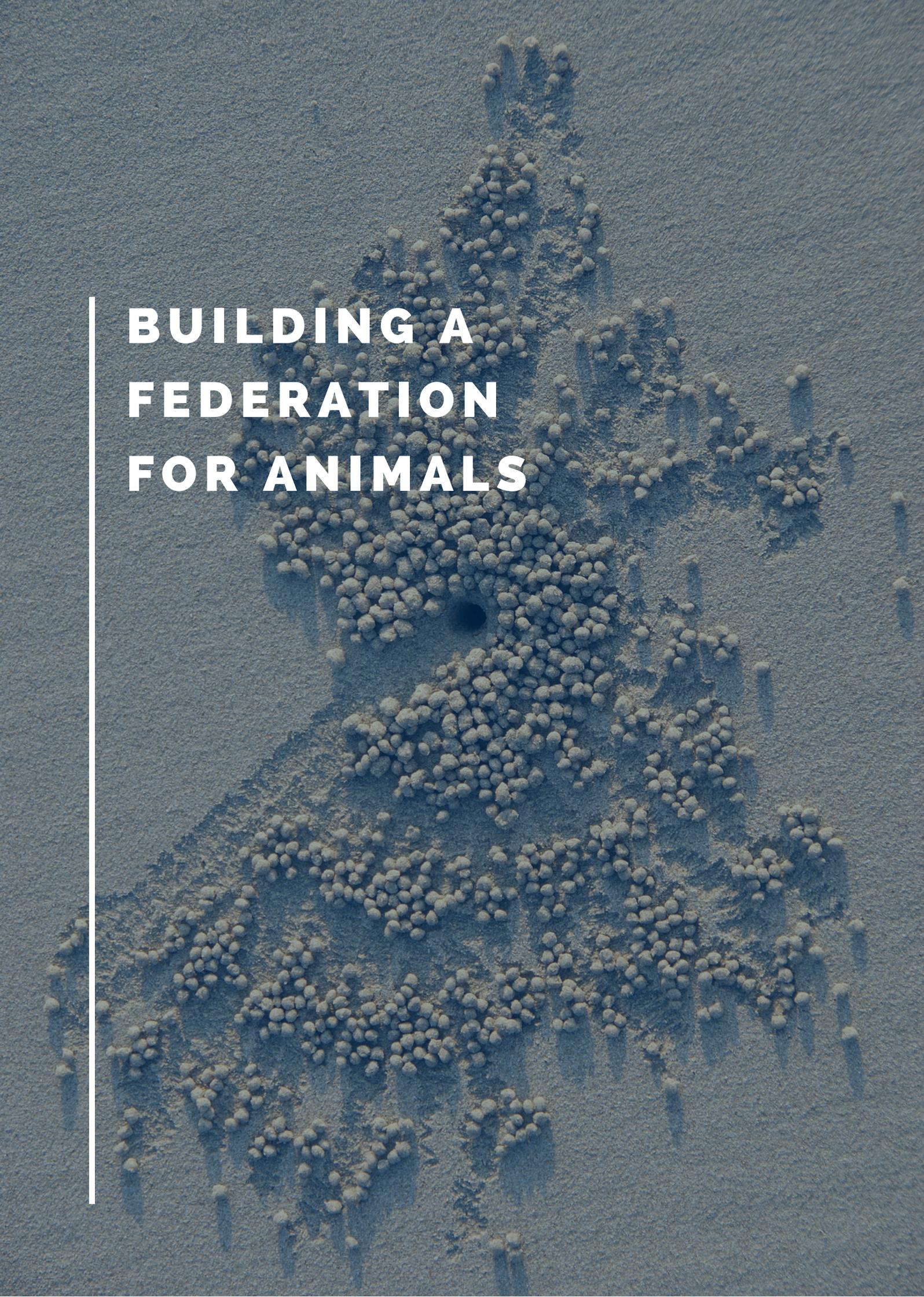
## WE SPOKE AT OUR MEMBERS EVENTS

on the sustainable development and animal welfare nexus  
at a side-event hosted by the Aquatic Life Institute during the UN Ocean Conference

Turning the tide in  
international policy  
making *for animals*



Dr. Carolina Maciel  
International Trade Law & Policy – Senior Advisor  
World Federation for Animals  
carolina.maciel@wfa.org

A handprint is formed on a sandy surface using small, light-colored stones. The stones are arranged to create the fingers and palm of a hand, with a small hole in the center of the palm. The background is a textured, light-colored sand.

**BUILDING A  
FEDERATION  
FOR ANIMALS**



## GOAL 5: GLOBALLY EFFECTIVE ANIMAL NGO SECTOR FOR INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

### Collaborated and empowered our growing membership

WFA generates, curates, and shares strategic information with members:

- The **International Policy Forum**, a global network of key representatives in the field of animal protection, met every quarter in 2022. We developed joint policy and advocacy strategies on international issues and provided a space for keeping each other up-to-date on regional progress or challenges.
- WFA established a global network of communications professionals working across WFA member organisations. Our **Communications Network** serves as a space for communications leads to cultivate horizontal relationships, keep peers abreast, and organise collective action. We provide toolkits to facilitate their engagement around policy negotiations and align messaging as per agreed positions.
- The WFA's **101 international policy-making webinars** was launched. This is a series to help our members gain a better understanding of the UN system, processes, and implications at the national level. In 2022, WFA had an introductory webinar on the UN & Animals and the Convention on Biological Diversity. With the help of World Animal Protection, our members also received training from the Bank Information Center on advocacy toward International Financial Institutions.
- Since April 2022, **Weekly Digests** have been regularly sent to WFA members. An email roundup of links to recent interesting reads, events, and calls to action for the Federation, the Digest is an information gathering and curation service that WFA has extended to the public. [-Subscribe](#)
- **Together for Animals**, WFA's newsletter has been sent out every month since March 2022. Our monthly look at the animal welfare world from a policy lens reaches over 2K people who subscribe voluntarily and include news and reflection pieces written by the WFA secretariat and members. [-Subscribe](#)



# GOAL 6: AN EFFECTIVE FEDERATION TO ACHIEVE ITS OBJECTIVES

## Strengthened WFA's team



**Jessica Bridgers**  
Policy Director



**Silvia Mantilla**  
Communications  
Manager



**Irma Nugrahanti**  
Finance &  
Administration Manager



**David Pedersen**  
Membership  
Development Manager



**Clara Gobbe**  
Policy Manager



**Carolina Maciel**  
International Trade  
& Policy Advisor



**Arjan van Houwelingen**  
Chief, Strategic Policy  
& Public Affairs



**Sophie Masika**  
Liaison Officer



**Janice Cox**  
Policy Advisor



**Stephen Ronan**  
Volunteer



**Rajeshwari Narsimha**  
Volunteer



**James Yeates**  
CEO

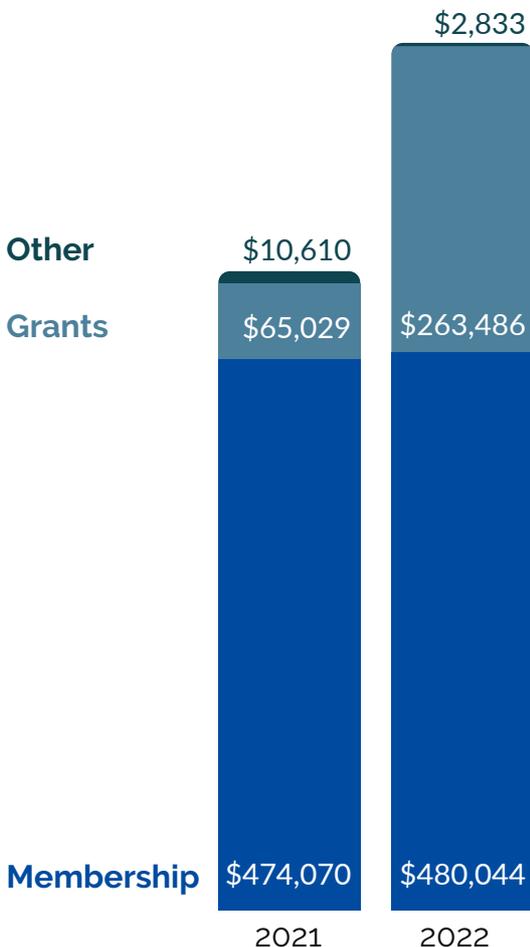
## Increased our membership and resources

Last year's progress was only achieved thanks to our members' active, professional and altruistic collaboration and contributions throughout the year and beyond. WFA relies on its membership for its financial sustainability, its growth and our shared success.

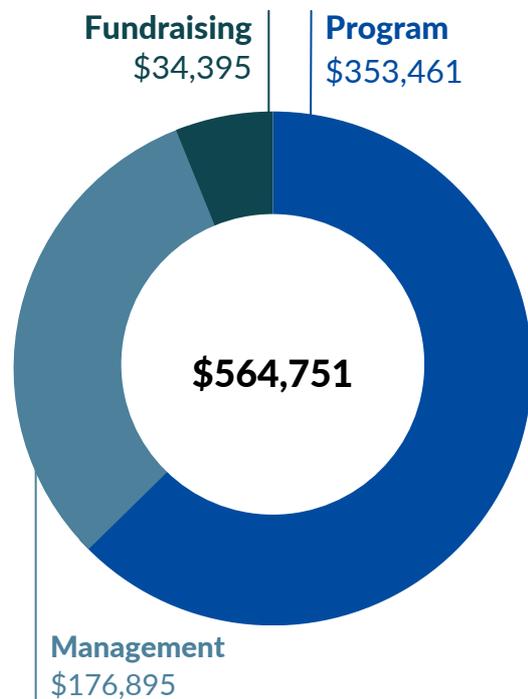
Membership fees enable the work carried out by the Secretariat described in this report and for the future. Nineteen organisations initially committed to supporting the WFA's growth for the first three years. Since our founding, 27 other visionary organisations have joined the Federation from around the world, broadening our team, reach, and impact.

Our profound gratitude to everyone throughout our membership who has helped, supported and been part of such a great year's work.

### OUR FINANCIAL RESOURCES



### OUR 2022 EXPENSES



## OUR MEMBERS

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FOR A WORLD IN WHICH  
ANIMAL SENTIENCE IS RESPECTED  
AND ALL ANIMALS LIVE A GOOD LIFE  
WITH THEIR WELL-BEING PROTECTED.



**CONTACT US**

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**VISIT US**

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[WrldFed4Animals](https://twitter.com/WrldFed4Animals)

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[world-federation-for-animals](https://www.linkedin.com/company/world-federation-for-animals)

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