



IFAW *in* ACTION

International Fund for Animal Welfare

Protecting the World's Whales

IFAW works for the protection of whales by opposing commercial whaling, supporting responsible whale watching, promoting whale sanctuaries, and conducting scientific research. Public education is an integral part of all our endeavours.



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For centuries, whales have captured the imagination of people around the globe. But despite a growing appreciation of their awe-inspiring beauty and amazing intelligence, these animals — from the gigantic blue whale to the diminutive vaquita — are still under serious threat. Without immediate action to save them, some whale species may disappear forever.

Fighting Against Commercial Whale Slaughter

IFAW opposes commercial whaling because it is inherently inhumane and because it has led to overexploitation and, in some cases, near-extinction of whale populations.

An International Whaling Commission (IWC) moratorium on commercial whaling came into effect in 1986. Sadly, more than 24,000 whales have been killed since then, so we continue to campaign for an end to all whaling, including Japan's so-called "scientific whaling."

We work with the IWC, governments, and like-minded organisations and individuals. We've conducted research on whale populations and distribution, funded studies on interactions between whales and fisheries, mobilised grassroots anti-whaling campaigns, and encouraged the establishment of whale sanctuaries.

Promoting Responsible Whale Watching

The IFAW report, "*Worldwide Tourism Numbers, Expenditures and Expanding Socio-Economic Benefits*" by Erich Hoyt, shows whale watching is a US\$1 billion industry, operating in 492 communities in 87 nations and territories.

Since 1995, IFAW has been an effective force in the growth of whale watching. We conducted a series of workshops on all aspects of whale watching that has driven discussions within the IWC. We work with communities in more than 26 countries, partnering with governments, regional organisations, local whale-watch operators, scientists and the public to promote responsible whale watching as a sustainable alternative to whaling.

In the Caribbean and south Pacific, we've conducted whale-watch operator training and public awareness campaigns, sponsored feasibility studies, and drafted policy guidelines. We are currently expanding our efforts in Mexico, Brazil, Uruguay and other Latin American nations.

Our ongoing commitment to the IFAW Marine Awareness Centre in Vava'u, Tonga, and the regional Caribbean whale-watch association, CARIBWHALE, are models of our approach.

Establishing whale sanctuaries

Sanctuaries are essential for helping to protect whales, their migratory routes, feeding areas and breeding grounds.

We were a leading advocate for the Southern Ocean Sanctuary (SOS), adopted by the IWC in 1994, which provides long-term protection for 80% of the world's remaining whales. We are committed to the renewal of the SOS, and the declaration of proposed IWC sanctuaries in the south Pacific and south Atlantic.

The establishment of the first-ever sanctuaries for Southern right whales in Brazilian and Uruguayan waters was advanced by IFAW-funded research. And, to protect marine biodiversity in the Caribbean, we supported the regional agreement on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA/W).

Conducting scientific whale research

IFAW uses science to counter the whalers' arguments, identify serious threats—and to design and implement effective solutions.

Our scientists are world-renowned for developing state-of-the-art acoustic and video observation techniques aboard our vessel, *Song of the Whale*. They have conducted innovative studies on right whales, Baltic harbour porpoises, beluga whales in Russia's Solovetsky Islands, sperm whales in the Azores and the Caribbean, and minke whales in Scotland. IFAW's acoustic survey techniques—coupled with policy and legislative work—are part of a programme to save the vaquita, Mexico's critically endangered porpoise.

IFAW continues to provide scientific and policy leadership in efforts to safeguard the 350 remaining North Atlantic right whales

from ship strikes off the northeast coast of the USA and supports *Sakhalin Environment Watch*, a local advocacy organisation campaigning to protect the 100 remaining Western Pacific gray whales from oil exploitation in Russia's Sakhalin Islands.

IFAW's research helped determine the status of humpbacks and other whale species in Oceania and played a key role in establishing the US government's Mandatory Ship Reporting System—designed to prevent collisions between ships and North Atlantic right whales.

DNA studies conducted by scientists at the University of Auckland and funded by IFAW documented the availability of meat from protected whale species in Japanese and South Korean markets. IFAW continues to support ongoing market monitoring to determine whether illegal whale products are still on sale.

KEY FACTS

- Commercial whaling is inherently inhumane and has led to the depletion of most whale populations. Despite a moratorium on whaling, about 1,400 whales are killed annually.
- Whales are also threatened by pollution, fishing-gear entanglement, ship collisions, and habitat loss.
- Sanctuaries are essential in protecting whale feeding/breeding grounds and migratory routes.
- North Atlantic right whales and Western Pacific gray whales are among the world's most endangered.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Write to the Japanese, Norwegian and Icelandic Embassies in your country to encourage them to develop their whale watching industries rather than whaling. Visit IFAW's *Stop Whaling Now* Web site at www.ifaw.org for more actions you can take.

To learn more about IFAW's efforts to save animals around the world, visit our Web site at www.ifaw.org.



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Japan and Norway slaughter more than one thousand whales each year, despite the international moratorium on commercial whaling.



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IFAW promotes responsible whale watching as a sustainable economic alternative to whale hunting.

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PROTECTING ANIMALS AND THEIR ENVIRONMENTS WORLDWIDE