



ANNUAL REVIEW

2022



On behalf of the Trustees of Free the Wild we are pleased to report that, since formation, we have undertaken a number of successful rescues and rehabilitations of mistreated wildlife under private and institutional care.

To date our greatest success is probably the rescue and relocation of Kaavan from the Islamabad Zoo to an Elephant care facility in Cambodia. Kaavan was recognised at 'the loneliest elephant in the world' and our rescue and translocation achieved not only world headlines but also a full documentary on Netflix (Cher and the loneliest elephant in the world). Kaavan has settled in to the Cambodia Wildlife Sanctuary very well and now has a life of care, jungle and proper diet.

Our work in Islamabad was hugely successful and we managed to have the zoo closed and, in total, relocate over 600 animals including birds, reptiles and mammals. We have been working in Bali with Femke Den Haas on local projects including funding animal rehabilitation and tracking programs and the training of 'sniffer' dogs to assist in policing the illegal trafficking of animals from Bali and Sumatra. We have provided GPS tracking equipment to monitor animals that have been relocated.

Our work continues in Thailand to free Bua Noi, the persecuted Gorilla in the Pata Zoo in Bangkok. We have gained support from the Aspinall Foundation whereby they will accommodate Bua Noi in a proper Gorilla Sanctuary once we have gained release. In addition to Bua Noi we are working to free the Orangutans and Bonobo, along with the hundreds of other birds, reptiles and small mammals housed at the zoo. We are working at governmental level to find the fastest and most effective approach to secure their release.

We are in process of completing an independent veterinarian report on Lucy, the elephant in the Edmonton zoo in Canada. Lucy has spent most of her life in an unnatural and hostile climate and, historically, was used to create entertainment at the zoo by making artworks by blowing paint from her trunk onto canvasses. The paint is believed to have damaged her nasal cavity which, in turn, may play a part in her recorded breathing difficulties. We have an offer to rehome her to an elephant care facility in North America subject to her proving fit to travel. The veterinarian report is being completed by a panel of vets and we expect to see the results early January 2023.

The Russian war with Ukraine has created a number of extreme care issues for animals in private collections and zoos in Ukraine. We have recently undertaken several rescues and relocations as follows:

Mir and Simba Male Lions – rescued from Odessa and relocated to South African big cat rescue facility.

Masha Eurasian Brown Bear – rescued and relocated to Romanian bear project.

7 Lions and 1 Tiger – rescued and relocated to South Africa.

We continue to lobby the Los Angeles zoo to release and rehome the African Elephant, Billy. He has been captive and enclosed in sub-regulation facilities for a number of years and our Patron, Trustee and co-founder Cher is leading a campaign there to try and achieve his freedom.

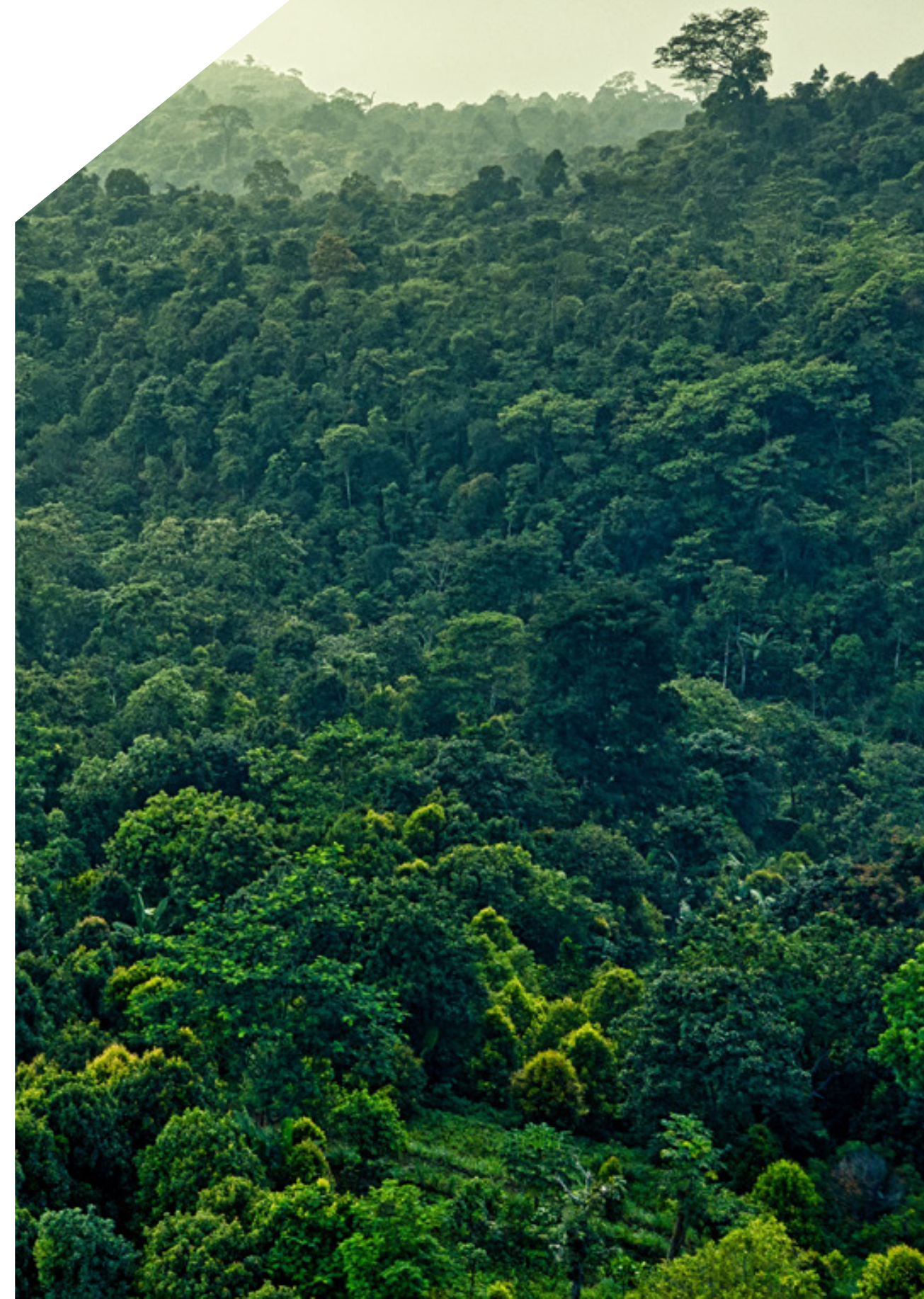
Since inception we have rescued and relocated over 700 animals worldwide. We are grateful for the undying support of the public, our volunteers and Trustees without whom none of these animals would ever have known freedom, peace and dignity.

For and on behalf of the Trustees of Free The Wild



Mark Cowne  
Co-founder and Trustee

# REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES





# WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO



## OUR MISSION

FTW endeavours to stop the suffering of wild animals in captivity and ultimately find a way to release them into sanctuaries or better equipped zoos. Also assisting with the betterment of existing zoos and empowering its staff to care for and protect the animals in their care. We aim to provide education and support in terms of professional carers, handlers and vets and to introduce augmented and virtual reality into establishments as a replacement of some species, thereby ultimately eliminating animal trafficking.



**CHER**  
Co-Founder & Trustee



**MARK COWNE**  
Co-Founder & Trustee



**GINA N-COWNE**  
Co-Founder & Trustee



**SAGAN COWNE**  
Trustee



**ANIKA SLEEM**  
Director & Trustee



**YOU**  
Our Supporters





# OUR PROJECTS IN 2022

Despite the continuous challenges posed by COVID in the early stages of the year, Free The Wild went on to have an incredibly successful 2022. Together with the help of our partners and the support of our public donors, we were able to make real and long-lasting change to innocent animals' lives across the globe. For a detailed breakdown of each case, please visit the Project page on our website.  
[www.freethewild.org](http://www.freethewild.org)



# FTW GOALS FOR 2023

notably Billy the lone Asian male at LA Zoo, support for Global Sanctuary for Elephants in Brazil, who continue to take in rescues from across the Americas, Mundi in Puerto Rico and Wendy in Ukraine amongst many, many others. Free The Wild will also continue to seek out the most appropriate locations for long-term sanctuaries around the world, and work with government bodies to develop future infrastructure for the proper care and protection of their remaining wild spaces and the life that occupies it.

We begin the year with an exciting project in Pakistan and the immediate continuation of Lucy's Independent Health Assessment. We have high hopes for our negotiations with the Thai Government and Mr Kanit of Pata Zoo, to finally come to an amicable solution for the release of not only Bua Noi and the other primates, but the hundreds of other animals held in poor conditions at the zoo. There is still much to be done, globally, for elephants in captivity, most



## BROWN BEARS IN PAKISTAN

We are working closely with Islamabad Wildlife Management Board and local council to find a long-term home for confiscated performing bears and those housed in poor conditions in zoos around the country. A large part of this project is also focused on large-scale development of local wildlife reserves and the potential for additional rehabilitation centres and sanctuaries.



## LUCY THE ELEPHANT

With the results of Lucy's Independent Assessment, Free The Wild will work with Edmonton Valley Zoo to provide Lucy with the best home possible, whether she remains at the zoo or is decided fit for travel to a nearby sanctuary.



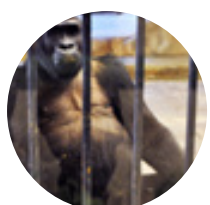
## BILLY AT LA ZOO

Following a successful preliminary hearing in December 2022, our Founder, Cher, along with a number of animal advocacy groups from around the world will continue to apply pressure on the Council and LA Zoo to make change for Billy.



## THE ONGOING CONFLICT IN UKRAINE

As the war between Russia and Ukraine continues, so does the risk to countless animals stuck in captivity at zoos, sanctuaries and private collections across the country. We're aiming to continue our work on the ground to get as many of these animals out of the conflict zone as possible, and relocating them to appropriate sanctuaries across the world.



## PATA ZOO & THE RELEASE OF BUA NOI

We already have a number of partnered organisations in place to take the animals housed in Pata Zoo, but our struggles remain with the zoo's owner, Mr Kanit. He is unwilling to allow the animals to be released, but with help of local legal counsel, Free The Wild aims to initiate legal proceedings against the zoo if nMr Kanit cannot agree to beneficial terms for the animals.





There are countless other wild animals across the world that continue to suffer in captivity. Most have been caged for profit, others as part of private collections and others still as “a traditional way of life.” The truth of it is, in this day and age, there is no place for cruelty towards any living thing. We have used animals to our benefit for thousands upon thousands of years and, in so doing, come to learn huge amounts of information about them, their influence over our natural environment and what the effects of our growing population have on theirs.

Going into 2023, we ask you, our supporters and the world alike, to join us in decidedly putting an end to the suffering of wild animals. With your help and the growing pressure on governments globally, we can change the lives of not just a few, but millions of innocent creatures across the planet.

Become a donor today and join Free The Wild as we embark on the mission of a lifetime.

Thank you all.

