



# A WORLD FEDERATION FOR ANIMALS

# INTRODUCTION

This document is an introduction to the World Federation for Animals (WFA), an international animal protection network aiming to achieve global impact for animals by providing a platform for the animal protection movement on the international stage.

The WFA rests on a broad base of support from member animal protection organisations from around the world.

The initiative was made possible by the founding members who decided to join hands to create this watershed moment in the animal protection movement.

## THE FOUNDING MEMBERS OF THE WORLD FEDERATION FOR ANIMALS:

- African Network for Animal Welfare
- American Anti-Vivisection Society - USA
- Animals Australia/International
- Asia for Animals
- Brooks Institute, The - USA
- Compassion in World Farming
- Deutscher Tierschutzbund - Germany
- Djurens Ratt - Sweden
- Dyrenes Beskyttelse - Denmark
- Eurogroup for Animals
- Fondation Birgitte Bardot - France
- FOUR PAWS - International
- GAIA - Belgium
- Mercy for Animals - USA
- RSPCA - UK/International
- World Animal Net
- World Animal Protection



# ACHIEVING GLOBAL IMPACT FOR ANIMALS

Unlike many industries, governments and other NGO federations, animal protection NGOs did not have a unified global representation. Issues that gain prominence at the global policy level have a major impact on policies across regions, countries, and towns, as well as on the work of the private sector and civil society. Advocacy at the global level is critical to advance the interests of animals.

**Many industries, governments and other NGO's have a unified global representation. The WFA fulfils that role for the global animal protection movement.**

In 1927 animal protection organisations opened an office in Geneva to advocate for animals at the League of Nations, the precursor to the United Nations (UN). Almost 100 years later there is the World Federation for Animals (WFA), so again an ambassador for animals at the UN in New York and Nairobi where important decisions impacting the welfare of billions of animals are made.

The animal protection movement consists of an estimated 35,000 organisations worldwide. They represent millions of people who can now make their voice heard at the global level. The WFA provides a comprehensive structure which coordinates advocacy and facilitates information exchange across the globe.

A number of animal protection organisations worked internationally or regionally and there are effective ad hoc coalitions working on specific issues. Often they work in silos and do not have an holistic approach. The World Federation for Animals can represent the movement as a whole and coordinate



advocacy efforts at the global level. Many industries, governments and other NGO's have a unified global representation. The WFA fulfils that role for the global animal protection movement.

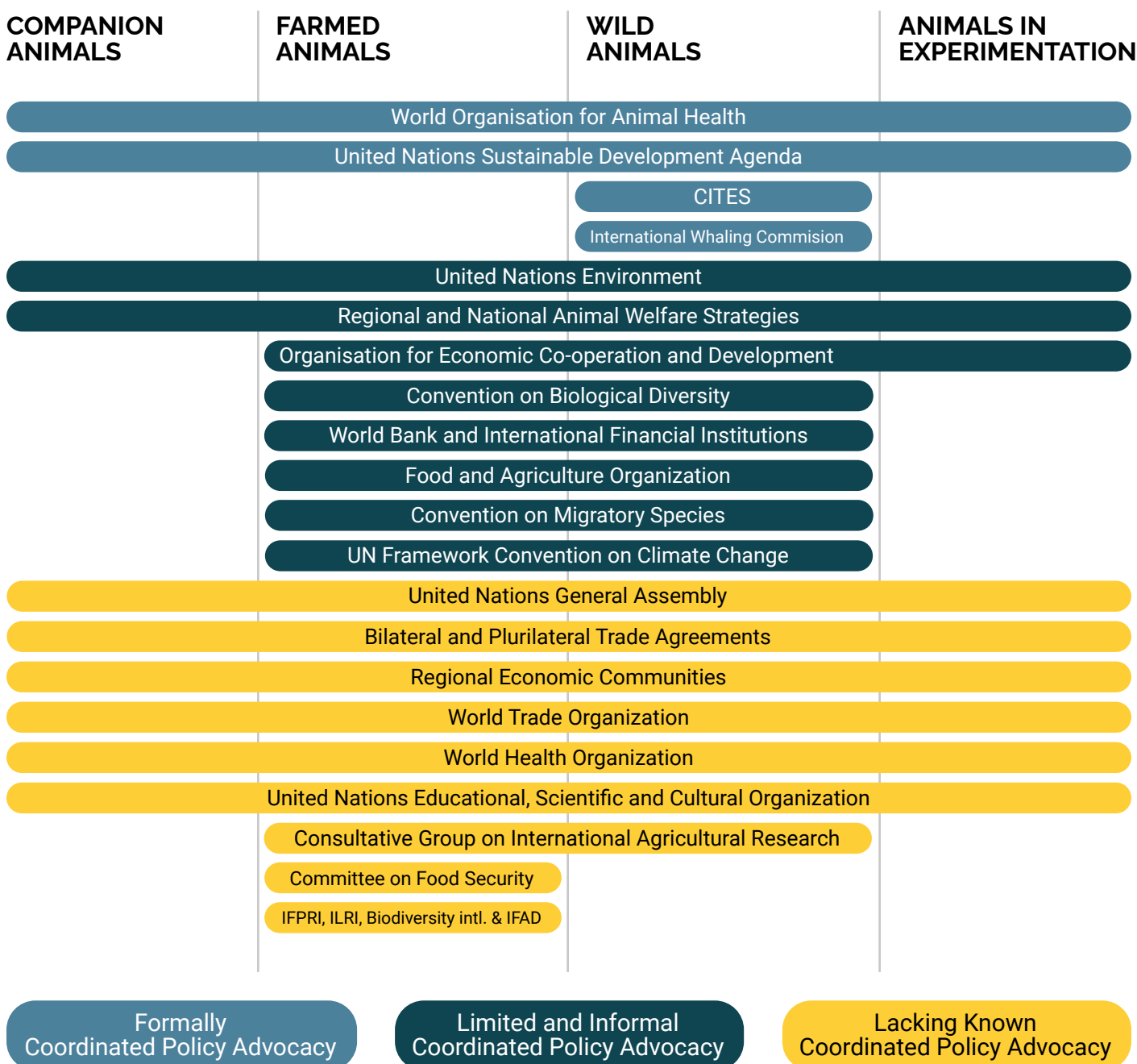
The World Federation for Animals (WFA) fills a major gap and maximises the efforts and resources of the movement as a whole. Creating a coordination structure which increases the animal protection movement's influence on the global stage will establish animal protection as an issue of global relevance and concern, amplifying and paving the way for efforts at local and national level worldwide.

# GAPS AND OPPORTUNITIES

There are a number of gaps in international policy advocacy, spanning all types of animal issues, which the animal protection movement could effectively fill. The movement can benefit from improved advocacy coordination across many policy streams. Currently, there is formally coordinated advocacy (through established coalitions or alliances) at a few key policy streams, and limited advocacy at

some other policy streams. There are also policy streams identified as potentially useful for animal protection organisations at which no known, or very little, advocacy is taking place.

The diagram below provides a simplified overview of the current picture of animal protection advocacy in international policy.



# A CLOSER LOOK

There are opportunities missed in international fora such as the Food and Agriculture Organization, Committee on Food Security, Convention on Biological Diversity, International Financial Institutions, and UN Environment. An 'Animal Welfare' Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) is sorely missing.



The below examples of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Committee on Food Security provide a more detailed look at how the animal protection movement can leverage these policy streams.

## CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (CBD)

The CBD is developing its strategic plan for the next 10 years of biodiversity conservation and "sustainable use". These plans will influence multilateral and national biodiversity and wildlife policy for the next decade. While the hunting industry has made its presence known, a very small number of animal protection organisations have taken a seat at the table. Involvement from animal protection organisations could prevent the further entrenchment of harmful framings of sustainable use and conservation, and would improve the outlook for wild animals for the foreseeable future.

## COMMITTEE ON FOOD SECURITY (CFS)

CFS is developing Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Food Systems. Recent landmark, science-based, UN reports call for increasing plant-based diets. However, this is notably absent in the draft text of the Guidelines. Lobbying from the International Dairy Federation and other industry groups has meant that these important guidelines could fail to deliver positive recommendations on sustainable and healthy diets, and could have a muting effect on this issue across the UN system. Interventions from the animal protection movement could steer the outcome toward scientifically-supported and animal-friendly recommendations.

# WAYS THE WORLD FEDERATION FOR ANIMALS SUPPORTS THE ANIMAL PROTECTION MOVEMENT:

## **INFLUENCING INTERNATIONAL POLICY, TOGETHER.**

You will have the opportunity to collectively influence international policy where individual organisations may lack access or capacity.

## **PROVIDING THE BEST INFORMATION ON ANIMALS IN INTERNATIONAL POLICY.**

You will receive timely and accurate guidance from WFA's monitoring of policy developments, enabling you to take informed action.

## **STRENGTHENING THE GLOBAL VOICE FOR ANIMALS.**

You will have the opportunity to contribute to joint statements and external communications, ensuring that interventions make use of the collective expertise of members.

## **CONNECTING THE MOVEMENT.**

You will have a platform to connect, share information and coordinate with other members, as well as to engage in regional collaborations.

## **ENSURING A STRATEGIC GLOBAL APPROACH.**

You will maximise the impact of your work through cross-fertilisation and strategic advocacy across policy silos.

## **DRIVING GLOBAL IMPACT FOR ANIMALS.**

By joining forces, the animal protection movement will succeed in putting the interests of animals on the global policy map.



## ORGANISATION

The World Federation for Animals (WFA) is a membership organisation for animal protection groups. The purpose is to be a big tent, uniting the movement by sharing information and developing focus on key policy issues impacting animals.

The WFA does not compete for individual donors but is supported directly by member

organisations and foundations. The contribution of the Founding Members will help the WFA in the initial three years to enable the setup and development of the federation. We are open for all animal protection organisations to become a member so you will benefit from the coordination and information sharing and be a part of the global movement.

## VISION

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

## MISSION

To improve the well-being of all animals and end exploitation and suffering. WFA will have three primary focus areas:

1. Policy research, analysis and information sharing
2. Coordinated advocacy agenda
3. Policy advocacy

## LOCATIONS

The World Federation for Animals will operate in New York and Nairobi, where important policy decisions are made and follow the decision making conferences and conventions, which often take place virtually. An administrative hub will be based in Brussels. The WFA will work through Regional Networks and member societies and focal points in the various regions of the world to account for unique regional policy challenges.

## TIERED MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURE

The membership will include several tiers of Full, Associate and Observer membership depending on the level of contribution. Full membership will entitle to participation in board elections, voting rights at the General Assembly and participation in working groups.

## ISSUES

The WFA promotes broad animal welfare themes such as the proclamation of World Animal Day by the United Nations, the acknowledgement of Animal Welfare as the forgotten 18th Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), the adoption of the concept of One Welfare and support for Conventions and Declarations. WFA also works to mainstream animal welfare across existing policy frameworks, including those dealing with climate change, pandemic risk reduction, biodiversity loss, pollution and the transition to sustainable food systems.



"If you want to go quickly  
go alone  
If you want to go far,  
go together"

-African Proverb

**WILL YOU  
JOIN US?**

