



**HUMANE SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL**

Protecting all animals



2018-19 Performance report

Vision: A world where people treat animals and the environment with respect and compassion.

Mission: Building an ecologically sustainable and humane world for all animals.

How we work: We base our positions on sound science, the precautionary principle and compassion for all animals. We work to educate and advocate for strong laws that recognise the needs of animals and long term ecological sustainability. We seek to change human behaviour to move from exploitation to compassion for animals. We directly intervene in cases where we can prevent suffering of individual animals and protect threatened populations and species.

We believe that you need to understand the causes of animal cruelty and extinction to effect change. We believe in identifying the motivations behind human actions that cause animal suffering and extinction and that we can find alternative cruelty-free and sustainable solutions. We believe that working collaboratively with other groups makes all our efforts more effective. We believe in using existing law and the courts to push for positive change for animals and the environment.

Niche: HSI is the only international group working on saving endangered species; improving legislation that impacts animals and the environment; reducing cruelty in farming and industry; improving the welfare of domestic animals; and increasing habitat devoted to conservation.

Objectives:

- To promote the protection of all living things from cruelty and neglect.
- To promote the enhancement and conservation of all wild plants and animals.
- To promote the protection and conservation of, or research into, native species and ecological communities listed in Federal, State and Territory legislation.
- To promote the welfare and conservation of all animals and wildlife in domestic and international trade.
- To use all means to further humane and environmental education.
- To participate in, and cooperate with, all other international organisations and with societies and organisations in Australia and other nations, in all efforts to prevent or ameliorate the suffering of animals and the preservation and conservation of the environment.
- To assist and persuade, if necessary through legal means, to compel government bodies and agencies to further the protection of animals and the environment through appropriate regulations and enforcement.
- To pursue all lawful means in furthering the purposes of this incorporated body.

Campaign and Program Outcomes

1 - *Australia uses and enforces current laws in the best interests of people, animals and the environment*

Our campaign identifying the most threatened habitats in Australia and nominating them to be assessed for listing under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) had notable successes this year with the new Environment Minister, Sussan Ley, listing three woodlands as Threatened Ecological Communities after several postponements by her predecessors.

1. *Tasmanian Forests and Woodlands dominated by black gum or Brookers gum*
These forests are only found in Tasmania, and while they meet multiple criteria for a threatened listing the Critically Endangered category was met due to around 90% already being cleared and remaining patches being threatened by weeds, fire, and changed water flows. Prior to colonisation they are thought to have covered 226,000 hectares, now the best estimate is that around 23,000 hectares of the woodlands remain.

Additional protection for these forests from ongoing clearing aids the survival prospects of more than 60 species considered threatened in their own right, including

the swift parrot, Tasmanian devil, King Island brown thornbill, forty-spotted pardalote, spotted-tail quoll, and an array of orchids.



2. *Poplar Box Grassy Woodland on Alluvial Plains*

Poplar box grassy woodlands occur on the inland floodplains of New South Wales and Queensland, covering some 1,270,000 hectares. While this figure may sound enormous, it's nothing compared to their pre-colonisation extent of more than 5,000,000 hectares. This severe decline of around 75% is one of the reasons they are considered Endangered, as is the fact that most of what remains is severely degraded. The lengthy time required to recover vegetation structures with an adequate representation of large old trees limits the potential for recovery, making looking after the best bits that remain all the more important.

The listing provides umbrella protection for the habitat of at least 21 threatened species, with the koala, bridled naitail wallaby, swift parrot, bilby, and regent honeyeater among the iconic wildlife represented. If these species are to have any chance of thriving in the future we must protect their habitat before it's too late, and Minister Ley's listing will go a long way to helping this happen.

3. *Tuart Woodlands and Forests of the Swan Coastal Plain*

Western Australia's Tuart woodlands (the name reflecting one of the various Noongar names for *Eucalyptus gomphocephala*) occur within the Perth basin, and having been heavily cleared in the past for agriculture and timber, they are now primarily threatened by urban expansion and the associated impacts of clearing, changes to the water table, and invasive species.

The recent listing recognises their Critically Endangered status, with less than 20% of the woodlands' pre-colonisation extent of 125,000 hectares remaining and a 'very severe' reduction in integrity due to fragmentation that continues to compromise the community's survival. It will be pivotal to ensuring the expected urban expansion in Perth avoids the largest trees on the Swan Coastal Plain and the most threatened habitat for species such as the western ringtail possum and Baudin's and Carnaby's cockatoos.

Successful nominations take a number of years to result in Threatened Ecological Community listings, and several other decisions are expected in the near future, including:

- Ridged plains mallee woodland
- Robertson Rainforest in the Sydney Basin Bioregion
- Lowland Tropical Rainforest of the Wet Tropics Bioregion; and
- Mallee bird community of the Murray Darling Depression bioregion

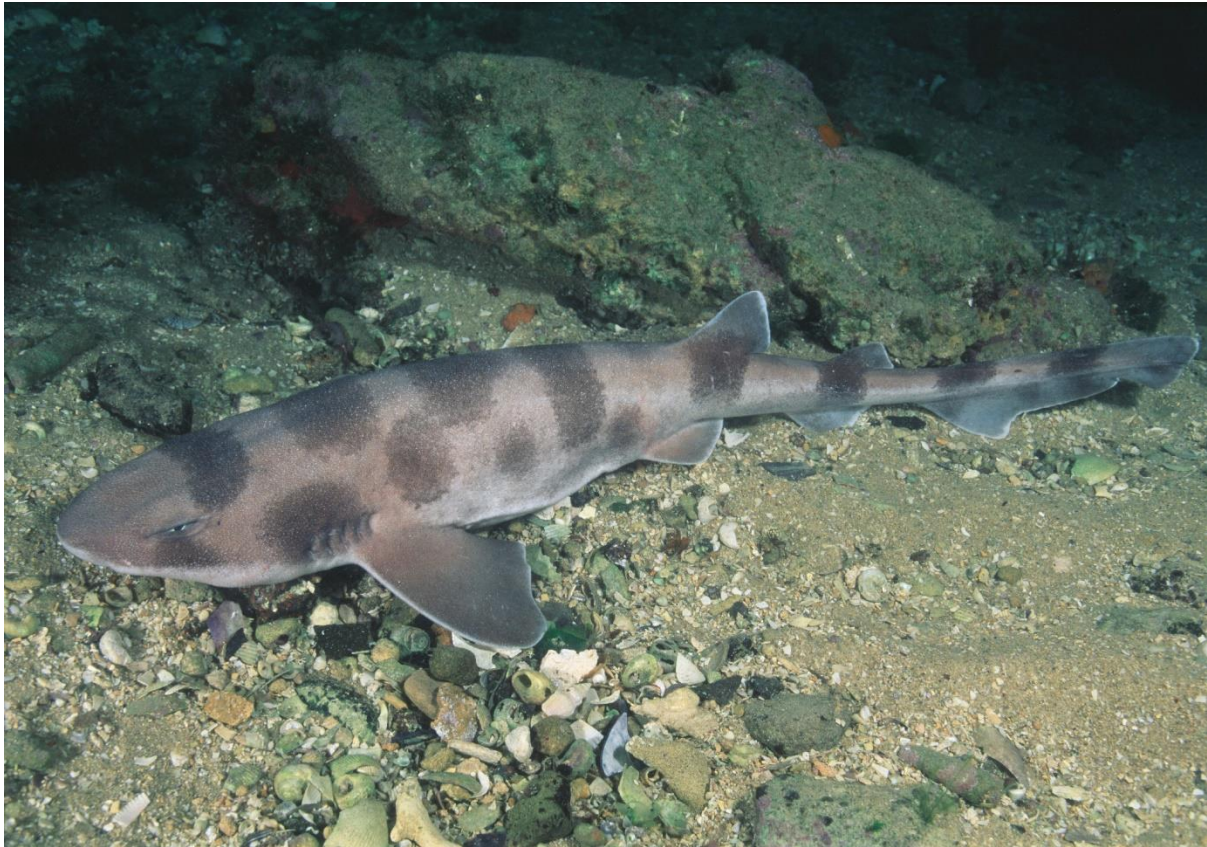
In addition HSI nominated five additional communities to be considered this year:

- Murrumbidgee Sands Woodland in the Sydney Basin Bioregion
- Wetlands and inner floodplains of the Macquarie Marshes
- Kwongan shrubland thickets of Western Australia's Avon Wheatbelt
- Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub of the Sydney Region
- Lower Murray River and associated wetlands, floodplains and groundwater systems from the junction of the Darling River to the sea

HSI is very proud to now be responsible for nominating nearly 40% of the threatened habitats recognised under our national environment law. The conservation attention and opportunity for targeted recovery action unlocked by these listings is vital to their survival. We need to know what and where our most precious places are to avoid impacts on them wherever possible—it is essential to informed planning and turning the extinction crisis around!

HSI nominated four species for increased Federal protection this year in response to the Federal Government's annual call for national environment law submissions. The nominations were prepared as part of **HSI's** long-standing threatened species and habitat protection program, which seeks to make the protection of Australia's nature as comprehensive and effective as possible.

- **Grey Skate (*Dipturus canutus*)**
Skates are prehistoric, deep-dwelling cousins to rays. The grey skate is found only in temperate, southern Australian waters from southern NSW to southern WA including the waters around Tasmania. It lives on the continental slope and usually found at 330 m to 730 m depth. Subsisting on a diet of crabs and fish, the major threat to the grey skate is deepwater trawl fisheries. While skate flesh is sometimes sold as flake, it is more often discarded as bycatch in the indiscriminate trawl nets that scour the ocean floor.
- **Whitefin Swellshark (*Cephaloscyllium albipinnum*)**
The whitefin swellshark is a recently described species that is also endemic to Australian waters. Swell sharks are aptly named for their ability to greatly expand their belly by swallowing water or air upon capture. Again, the whitefin swellshark is a common bycatch species in the trawl fisheries of southeastern Australia. This intensive demersal trawling has led to significant declines in the abundance of this species with declines of approximately 75% from 1994 to 2006



- Australian Longnose Skate (*Dentiraja confusus*)
The longnose skate is also endemic to the waters around southeastern Australia from Sydney, to Victoria, including the waters around Tasmania. It inhabits waters from a depth of 20 m to about 400 m. Like the Grey Skate, the Longnose Skate has been hit hard by the trawl fishery. Another unique and special animal, an EPBC listing would require species specific conservation plans for the Longnose Skate.
- Narrow Sawfish (*Anoxyprisits cuspidata*)
The narrow sawfish may look like a shark, but is actually a highly modified ray. They are named for the blade-like snout armed with teeth and is utilised in both locating and immobilising prey. It is commonly encountered in the Gulf of Carpentaria with a relatively wide distribution in Northern Australia. Sawfishes are recognised as among the most endangered of all shark and ray species and are most under threat from gill net fisheries. Listing under the EPBC Act could limit the spatial extent of gill netting in Northern Australia and help Narrow Sawfish populations bounce back.

HSI also nominated two Key Threatening processes for consideration:

- The impact of sarcoptic mange (*Sarcoptes scabiei*) on *Lasiiorhinus spp.* (wombats)
- Alteration to the natural flow regimes of watercourses and their floodplains and wetlands

These submissions will be reviewed by the independent Threatened Species Scientific Committee, which will make recommendations to the Federal Environment Minister about what matters should be added to the assessment list this year—a key step to having them enshrined in law.

HSI succeeded in persuading the Western Australian Government not to reclassify the dingo as non-native, but the government enacted regulations which allowed dingoes to be

poisoned and caught in leg-hold traps. We continue to advocate for changes in policy that recognise the important role dingoes play in the ecosystem and to champion non-lethal alternatives for stock protection.

Following a heatwave in Cairns that killed more than 30% of the Australian population of spectacled flying-foxes, then Environment Minister, Melissa Price, took action to uplist the species from Vulnerable to Endangered in February 2019—four years after HSI nominated the species for increased protection. HSI continues to advocate for increased prioritisation of conservation actions detailed in the flying-fox Recovery Plan.

Also in February 2019, the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) heard HSI's case against the culling of sharks in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. In April, the AAT found in favour of HSI and ordered an end to the lethal component of the Shark Control Program in the Reef.

The Tribunal found that killing sharks does not reduce the risk of unprovoked shark interactions—they found the scientific evidence to be “overwhelming in this regard”. The AAT stated in its judgement that, “it is plain from the evidence given in these proceedings that Queensland's lethal Shark Control Program is out of step with national and international developments”.

The Tribunal decision found that:

1. The current permit is to be varied to include a condition requiring the permittee (Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority) to carry out the Shark Control Program in a manner that avoids, to the greatest extent possible, the lethal take of shark species;
2. The target list of 19 species is to be removed from the current permit;
3. The current permit is to be varied to ensure that the euthanasia of sharks caught on the drum lines is only to be undertaken on animal welfare grounds, specifically when a shark is unlikely to survive release due to its condition or an injury, or which cannot be safely removed alive due to weather conditions or hooking location;
4. The current permit is to be varied to ensure sharks are attended to as soon as possible when captured on drum lines, preferably within 24 hours;
5. The current permit is to be varied to ensure all tiger, bull and white sharks caught on drum lines are tagged, using best available technology, before being released so that their movements may be monitored and researched;
6. The current permit is to be varied to ensure tagged sharks be relocated off shore, where possible, and not at site of capture;
7. The current permit is to be varied to ensure SMART drum lines are trialled and implemented on a progressive basis as soon as reasonably possible;
8. The current permit is to be varied to include a condition that requires research to be conducted into alternative non-lethal shark control measures; and
9. The current permit is to be varied to include a condition requiring research be conducted into the tiger shark population.

The Queensland Government announced they would appeal the decision and a stay order was put on the removal of drumlines until that appeal was heard by the Federal Court. That date is scheduled for August 2019.

2 - Australia has environmental and animal welfare laws which protect ecological sustainability and eliminate unnecessary suffering.

HSI is continuing to call for new nature laws to better protect our unique and precious wild animals and places, along with our partners in the Places You Love Alliance. In addition we have also continued our calls to improve the existing federal environmental legislation, the EPBC Act.

HSI has met with a wide range of policy makers from all major parties to deliver our two major recommendations for legal reform—*Next Generation Biodiversity Laws—Best Practice elements for a new Commonwealth Environment Act*

https://hsi.org.au/uploads/publication_documents/HSI_EDO_Next_Generation_Report_WEB.pdf

and *More than just fish and ships—The case for an Oceans Act*.

https://hsi.org.au/uploads/publication_documents/Integrated_oceans_management_in_Australia_more_than_just_fish_and_ships.pdf

More than just fish and ships was released this year and was prepared by the Environmental Defenders Office of New South Wales. The report makes the case for the introduction of an Oceans Act at the Commonwealth level in Australia. It also sets out a vision for nationally integrated marine management, with strong national, regional and global leadership through a new Oceans Authority.

HSI attended the United Nations Bonn Climate Change Conference in June 2019 to argue for natural solutions to be a more prominent part of country strategies to address the climate crisis under the Paris Agreement. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) report released in May made it clear that the biodiversity and climate crises are strongly interlinked and that concurrent solutions are most effective and cost competitive in staying below 1.5C global warming. HSI recommended actions to protect carbon rich natural ecosystems; retain primary and intact natural forests, peatlands and wetlands; ecologically restore degraded natural ecosystems; as well as buffering and reconnecting primary forests as the best way to ensure stability and resilience of carbon stores while maintaining and enhancing wildlife habitats.

In April 2019, an ABC investigation revealed horrific images and footage of starving, sick, dead and dying dairy cattle exported from Australia to Sri Lanka. The Exporter Supply Chain Assurance System (ESCAS) which is supposed to protect the welfare of animals sent overseas does not apply to the tens of thousands of breeding and dairy cattle exported each year. HSI has called on (then Agriculture Minister) David Littleproud to urgently investigate live exports of dairy and breeder animals sent to Sri Lanka and to close the ESCAS loophole.

In September 2018, HSI attended the 67th annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) in Florianopolis, Brazil, succeeding in having two important conservation measures adopted by the Commission—one recognising the crucial role whales play in ecosystems, and one on mitigating the threat of anthropogenic (human-caused) noise pollution on cetaceans. The delegates also endorsed the IWC's new bycatch initiative which is of particular importance because of the hundreds of thousands of whales, dolphins and porpoises accidentally caught and drowned in fishing nets. The IWC will now help to find solutions to this global problem. The IWC also rejected Japan's attempt to overturn the global moratorium on whaling.

In December 2018, Japan announced its intention to withdraw from the IWC and resume commercial whaling in July 2019. These actions mean that Japan will be pirate whaling—outside the rule of international law. The only positive is that it means that after our long and hard-fought campaign, Japan will no longer be hunting whales in the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary.

HSI provided a submission to the Senate inquiry on the Environment Legislation (Protecting Dugongs and Turtles) Bill in support of the proposed legislation to minimise cruelty and consider population levels. The inquiry has recommended not supporting the Bill due to failure to consult with Traditional Owners. We also provided comments to the consultation on two dolphin mitigation strategies to prevent the deaths of dolphins as fisheries bycatch.

HSI attended the UN Agreement for the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) meeting in Brazil in May 2019, where a conservation crisis was declared requiring urgent action. Albatross and petrels are the most endangered group of birds on the planet with most species suffering steep declines in their numbers.

One of the main contributors to this crisis is that countries are ignoring ACAP best practice advice which aims to prevent albatross drowning on longline hooks fishing for tuna. Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) have been neglecting to enforce simple effective measures such as to set fishing lines at night and use weighted lines to ensure baited hooks sink more quickly out of the reach of birds.

HSI continues to push countries, including Australia, to adopt ACAP best practice which would save the lives of roughly 36,000 seabirds each year.

HSI also attended the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) Ecologically Related Species Working Group in Canberra in May. The meeting agreed the need for a Seabird Strategy and HSI will continue to advise on the development of that plan.

In February 2019, the Australian Senate passed the Industrial Chemicals Bill 2017, including measures to prohibit reliance on new animals test data for chemicals introduced into Australia for use as ingredients in cosmetics. Passage of the bill was made possible thanks to an agreement reached with HSI which saw the Government commit to 11 substantial reinforcing measures to ensure that all cosmetic ingredients are captured by the ban, together with funding to support the development and uptake of modern non-animal test methods. This effort came after years of work from HSI Global and our #BeCrueltyFree Australia campaign partner Humane Research Australia.

Our report on our international conservation programs in cooperation with key partner NGOs was released in September 2018 and contains a range of policy proposals for the Commonwealth Government to help neighbouring countries support, manage and protect their diminishing biodiversity. Through this program, we have been able to trigger the release of some \$33 million, covering nearly 500 projects in 60 countries to help the planet's wildlife since 2000.

The key policy recommendations for the Commonwealth include:

- establish a pilot Asia-Pacific regional biodiversity program;
- provide matching funds for NGO regional in-situ conservation programs;
- establish a full-scale Regional Biodiversity Conservation Program;
- immediately join the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund;
- develop additional financial assistance programs;
- establish a 'Debt for Nature' Review Program;

- establish a REDD+ Results-based Payments Funding Facility;
- develop Australian consumer and supply chain safeguards for global biodiversity;
- ensure biodiversity is protected through international trade negotiations and aid programs;
- establish a Biodiversity Conservation Aid program;
- facilitate information exchange and cooperation on biological conservation;
- list overseas species and protected areas;
- ensure Australian companies are responsible global environmental citizens;
- institute a Ministerial Advisory Committee including scientists and at least three conservation NGOs

3 - Australians understand the importance of ecological sustainability and good animal welfare and are able to make humane choices

Wildlife Land Trust

As at 30 June 2019, the Wildlife Land Trust, HSI's private land conservation program, had 607 sanctuaries covering more than 66,362 hectares of land dedicated to the preservation of habitats and species rare and common alike. More than 200 sanctuary owners are involved in wildlife rescue, care and release, and that more than 100 WLT sanctuaries have attained permanent biodiversity protection.

Some new members joining the Wildlife Land Trust this fiscal year include:

- The Misty Hills Sanctuary, a property situated in Carwoola, approximately 85km south of Goulburn, NSW. The property covers approximately 16 hectares of undulating native grassland and mixed native woodlands, intersected by a non-permanent creek. Two dams also provide water and habitat for wildlife including eastern grey kangaroos (*Macropus giganteus*), short-beaked echidnas (*Tachyglossus aculeatus*) and a vast array of native frog and bird species. Bare-nosed wombats (*Vombatus ursinus*) are locally native and the owners rehabilitate rescued wombats on the property.



- The Wobbly Boot Vineyard, a property located in Campania, approximately 35km north of Hobart, Tasmania. The property is a working vineyard as well as a wildlife-friendly sanctuary, and is also used to host events and educational tours for visitors. The property is also registered with Land for Wildlife and covers approximately 10 hectares, bordered on two sides by White Kangaroo Rivulet. The property features vineyards, eucalypt woodland and a mix of native and introduced pasture. A densely wooded riparian zone also runs along the riverbank, providing habitat for wildlife, including Bennett's wallabies (*Macropus rufogriseus*), Tasmanian pademelons (*Thylogale billardieri*), bare-nosed wombats (*Vombatus ursinus*), short-beaked echidnas (*Tachyglossus aculeatus*) and Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagles (*Aquila audax fleayi*). Platypuses (*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*) are also found in the riparian zone.
- Rosecliffe Boutique Farm Cottages, is a *Sanctuary You Can Stay* property situated in Pinbarren, approximately 55km northwest of the Sunshine Coast, Queensland. The property is a residence as well as an eco-friendly farm stay and nature retreat, providing educational wildlife experiences for guests. The property is registered with Land for Wildlife and a Voluntary Conservation Agreement covers 4.7 hectares of the total 37.6 hectares—which forms a significant wildlife corridor linking the Woodum and Pinbarren National Parks. The property provides habitat for a vast array of wildlife including red-necked wallabies (*Macropus rufogriseus*), red-necked pademelons (*Thylogale thetis*), koalas (*Phascolarctos cinereus*), short-beaked echidnas (*Tachyglossus aculeatus*), northern brown bandicoots (*Isodon macrourus*), squirrel (*Petaurus norfolcensis*) and feathertail (*Acrobates pygmaeus*) gliders and short-eared brushtail possums (*Trichosurus caninus*). Lace monitors (*Varanus varius*), carpet (*Morelia spilota*) and scrub (*Morelia amethystina*) pythons, common tree snakes (*Dendrelaphis punctulata*), red-bellied black snakes (*Pseudechis porphyriacus*) and green tree frogs (*Litoria caerulea*) are also abundant on the property. A wide range of birdlife is also present including wedge-tailed eagles

(*Aquila audax*), king parrots (*Alisterus scapularis*), black cockatoos (*Calyptorhynchus spp.*) and endangered red goshawks (*Erythrotriorchis radiatus*).

The Wildlife Land Trust sponsored the 2018 Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference in July in Sydney, recognising the vital work done by wildlife carers on private land across the country.

The WLT also continued our Memorandum of Understanding with the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT), where eligible WLT members will be approached regarding obtaining permanent protection for their sanctuaries while the WLT will be promoted to BCT applicants.

See latest WLT newsletter: https://www.wildlifelandtrust.org.au/index.php/publications/wlt-newsletters/download?path=WildlifeLands_Issue22_2019.pdf

In January 2019, HSI launched 'Shark Champions' a new partnership with the Australian Marine Conservation Society which is funded through a grant from the Shark Conservation Fund. The collaboration aims to create a powerful collective force of advocates to turn the tide for sharks in Australia. Sharks are vitally important species for Australia's ocean ecosystems, but current policies are letting them down in fisheries, at our beaches and throughout our oceans. More information is available at www.sharkchampions.org.au

In February 2019, as part of the Shark Champions campaign, we held the inaugural National Shark Summit in Sydney. The Summit brought together leading scientists, conservation groups, researchers, business stakeholders and policy makers to address the challenges and opportunities for shark conservation in Australia. The full report of the Summit will be released by the end of 2019.

HSI commenced a series of meetings with retailers in Australia to ask them to commit to no longer sourcing wool from mulesed sheep and are receiving positive indications from a number of brands. We have also partnered with Four Paws to retain an economist to analyse the economic impact of using genetic selection to eliminate mulesing which we will use to encourage farmers to proactively make the transition.

In Sydney in November 2018, HSI and other representatives from the Dog Meat Free Indonesia coalition delivered a petition of more than a million signatures to the Indonesian Consulate General, Mr Heru Hartanto Subolo, calling for an end to the country's brutal dog meat trade. HSI also secured a travel advisory from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade advising about the risk of rabies at dog meat markets.

Following investigations by DMFI exposing the horrendous cruelty of the dog meat trade, in June 2019, Indonesia's Regency of Karanganyar in Java pledged an action plan to close all 21 stalls selling dog meat in the regency and the creation of alternative livelihoods for those people reliant on the trade.

We transitioned management of our Humane Choice label—the gold standard for farm animal welfare—to the National Association for Sustainable Agriculture Australia (NASAA). This will enable broader marketing of the label and encourage more producers to make the switch to genuine free range.

Liaising with our international colleagues, we provided comments on the draft World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Laying Hens Chapter and provided scientific references to support proposed changes.

In February 2019, HSI exposed that Table Tennis Australia was being sponsored by the Australian Donkey Industry Association (an organisation connected with the ejiao trade which is made from donkey hide gelatin) despite serious misgivings from several members of Table Tennis Australia. HSI advocates that Australia should play no part in promotion, production, or distribution of ejiao—a product which is taking a terrible toll on the world's donkey populations. The sponsorship agreement was not renewed.

4 - Immediate suffering of individual animals is alleviated through direct intervention and long-term care is provided with release back to the wild where possible

A few highlights of the work we supported internationally in 2018-19:

Saving Bali sea turtles

HSI is the major supporter of the Bali Sea Turtle Society (BSTS). There are only seven species of sea turtle in the world and six of them are found in Indonesian waters: the critically endangered Hawksbill turtle. Endangered Green and Loggerhead turtles, vulnerable Olive Ridley and Leatherback turtles and the Flathead turtle (whose conservation status is unknown due to a lack of data).

BSTS runs community-based conservation programs to help protect these turtles from poaching and work to educate and change local behaviour from consuming turtles to conserving them. One of the key activities is nest protection. With eggs relocated to a protected hatchery safe from poachers, tourist traffic and feral dogs until they are ready to hatch when they are returned to the beach for release back to the wild. The 2018 rescue total was 793 nests containing 73,017 eggs. The full year of 2018 saw 54,766 hatchlings released compared to 47,229 in 2017.

Bali wildlife rehabilitation

HSI supports the work of the Friends of the National Park Foundation (FNPF) who run the Bali Wildlife Rescue Centre and work to rehabilitate and release gibbons, macaques, eagles and hornbills to name just a few. Most animals are confiscated from markets, private homes or businesses where they are kept as pets or for entertainment. The team released 20 animals back into the wild this year from 57 taken into care and success stories included gibbons, porcupines, leopard cats and a pangolin.

Orangutan protection

HSI supports the FNPF Forest Patrols in Kalimantan Borneo where they work to protect a wild range of wildlife including orangutans. We also support the extraordinary work of The Orangutan Project with habitat protection patrols, revegetation projects and orangutan rehabilitation and release.

Fighting wildlife crime in Vietnam

HSI supports a range of work through our conservation partner Education for Nature Vietnam (ENV). ENV has focused its activities on reducing consumer demand for wildlife products through investment in a long-term and sustained effort to influence public attitudes and behaviour; strengthening enforcement through direct support and assistance to law enforcement agencies and mobilising public participation to combat wildlife crime; and working with policy-makers to strengthen legislation for wildlife protection. ENV's Wildlife Crime Unit (WCU) runs a hotline where the public can report crimes and also operates enforcement actions with authorities. From July 2018 to June 2019, the WCU logged 1,466 new cases, comprising of 4,161 violations. This included 116 trafficking cases, 808 retail selling and advertising cases and 517 cases involving the illegal possession of wildlife,

usually live animals. This year's success cases included the busting of ivory and rhino horn dealers, retailers selling bear gall bladders, frozen tiger cubs, as well as seizures of live turtles, bears and macaques.

Protecting painted dogs

Fewer than 7,000 painted dogs are left in the entire continent of Africa and are found nowhere else on the planet. HSI supports the Painted Dog Conservation Project in Zimbabwe which is home to roughly 700 animals. The project works with local villages to run conservation programs and education and outreach programs. These efforts include Anti-Poaching teams and a Rehabilitation Facility where injured and orphaned dogs can be treated before being returned to the wild. More than six packs of dogs are monitored across Hwange National Park. This financial year a total of 3,287 snares were collected by the Anti-poaching teams and seven poachers were arrested.

Turtle conservation

We have proudly supported the work of the Turtle Conservation Fund for many years and have contributed to a huge variety of research projects around the world designed to help ensure the long-term survival of freshwater tortoises and turtles.

One project funded this year is an in-depth study of the reproductive ecology of the pancake tortoise (*Malacochersus tornieri*) which is facing a tremendous decline in populations due to the illegal pet trade and habitat loss. The species is currently listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List and this research will help improve understanding of the current population and help inform future conservation decisions.

Anti-poaching and anti-wildlife trade efforts in India

HSI Australia has been partnering Wildlife SOS India for well over a decade now, and we are pleased to continue supporting their very effective ForestWatch program. The nation-wide anti-poaching and wildlife trade monitoring program works on capacity building and harnessing existing intelligence networks and skills from the poaching community. To ensure long-term sustainable enforcement efforts, ForestWatch works closely and successfully with all Indian Government enforcement agencies.

Indian elephant rescue

HSI has an ongoing partnership with Wildlife SOS India to rescue working elephants in India, and provide them with a peaceful retirement and care for the rest of their lives at the Elephant Conservation and Care Centre. More than 20 elephants are currently living at the Centre enjoying a life finally free from chains, with nutritious meals, vet care and the company of other elephants.

Gorilla protection in DRC

HSI continued our support for the anti-poaching patrols in the Tshivanga highland sector of the Kahuzi-Biega National Park in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The patrols now watch over 163 individuals from 13 families, having welcomed two babies in the Mpungwe family and an older one who migrated into the area and bonded with the Cimanuka family. Each arrival is precious since the Grauer gorillas (or eastern lowland gorillas) are Critically Endangered with only around 5,000 left in the wild.

Wildlife conservation in Thailand

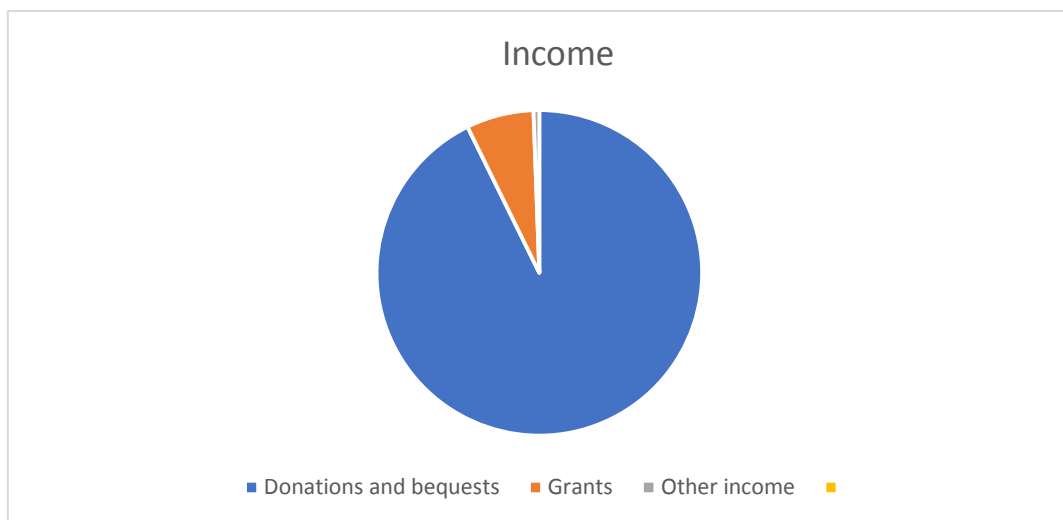
HSI is proud to continue our support Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand, who operate several projects in the country, including a Wildlife Rescue Centre, Elephant Refuge and Education Centre, Wildlife Hospital, Forest Restoration and Conservation and a Gibbon Release and Rehabilitation Program. We have supported the rescue of elephants and are committed to their lifelong care as they live out their retirement in sanctuary.

Financial information

In 2018-19, Humane Society International performed over-budget closing the year with a surplus of \$682,180.92. This surplus was largely the result of a significant bequest which boosted income and allowed the organisation to carry over a small reserve into 2019-20.

Income 2018-19

	Value (\$)
Donations and bequests	\$3,055,360.22
Grants	\$221,000.00
Other income	\$18,856.04
Total income	\$3,295,216.26



Expenditure from the Public Fund	\$2,613,035.34	Value (%)
International Conservation and Animal Welfare Projects		19%
Administration		8%
Australian expenditure including Conservation and Animal Welfare Campaigns and Projects, Research and Education		33%
Staff		40%
Total		100%

