



**HUMANE SOCIETY  
INTERNATIONAL**  
AUSTRALIA

# ANNUAL REPORT

2022-23



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## Acknowledgement of country

Humane Society International acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land and waters of Australia and gives recognition and respect to them as the oldest living culture in the world. We recognise and respect the languages, cultural beliefs and customs that define their continuing relationships and responsibilities to land and waters. We pay our respects and honour Elders past, present and emerging.

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HSI CEO, Erica Martin, at the Last Stop Donkey Program

## Message from Chair of the Board and CEO

This past year has been a difficult one for many Australians, with the rising cost of living affecting all of us as we work to pay our bills and put food on the table.

All too often in times like these, charitable donations are decreased or even ceased altogether as people struggle to make ends meet.

Which is why we wanted to take this moment to thank our donors, who have stayed with us in these increasingly hard times, and many of whom have actually increased their support.

We cannot thank you all enough. It is humbling to know that you consider your support for Humane Society International Australia to be an essential part of your budget, even in times of economic hardship. Thank you.

With that support we have managed to achieve much for animals this year!

We have been deeply involved in the review of our federal environment law, the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, and are working to ensure that the government's commitment to strong National Standards will provide

the safeguards needed to protect and restore nature. We expect to see an exposure draft of the new law by the end of the year and it can't come soon enough.

We have managed to increase protections for several species of sharks and have nominated the Maugean skate, which is found only in Macquarie Harbour in Tasmania, to be upgraded to Critically Endangered. We have asked the federal government to fast-track the extra protection and pull out all stops to save the skate from extinction.

After more than a decade of persistent lobbying we have at last convinced Queensland to ban the shooting of flying-foxes by fruit farmers. A three-year phase-out has been introduced with an end date of 1 July 2026.

We also continued our vital support for our international partners for anti-poaching patrols, rescue and release of wildlife caught in illegal trade, and lifetime sanctuary for animals unable to be returned to the wild. This work helps some of the most endangered species in the world including painted dogs, pangolins and tigers.

We released our Predator Smart Farming Report which looks at alternative, non-lethal strategies farmers can adopt to protect livestock from dingoes and are working with governments to increase awareness and promotion of these alternatives.

*Trophy Hunting by the Numbers* is another significant report released this year which highlights Australia's role in the import of hunting trophies from animals such as bears, giraffes and zebras. The report is being used to advocate for a ban on the import of trophies from imperilled species hunted overseas.

**Our work is often difficult and progress can take years, and so we are eternally grateful to have you, our incredible supporters, encouraging us to keep going. Not a single victory that you read about in these pages would have been possible without you. Thank you for standing with us for animals.**

Julianne Petersen  
Chair of the Board

Erica Martin  
Chief Executive Officer

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## OUR STRATEGY

In FY21, HSI Australia developed a strategic plan for the next three years. We recognised that animals are the very heart of all we do and that maximising our impact for animals would always be the bedrock of our work. We committed to continuing our annual review of our campaign and program strategies and identified areas above and beyond that to increase our impact and effectiveness. Our planning framework was based on the Balanced Scorecard principles, and we have adopted four organisational perspectives. This report documents some of the advances we have made in these four areas in FY23.

**1 Impact**  
To grow our influence and maximise our impact for conservation and animal welfare.

**2 Internal Process**  
To ensure compliance and improve our process efficiency and effectiveness.

**3 Learning and Growth**  
To cultivate understanding and knowledge sharing with supporters and staff.

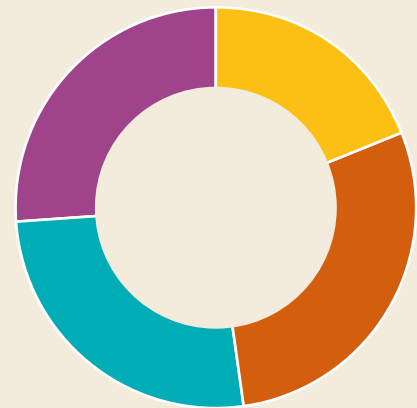
**4 Financial**  
To build financial momentum and reserves to have impact today and into the future.



## FY23 IMPACT SNAPSHOTS

We rely on our supporters to raise their voices and ensure that policy makers know the public wants to see action on animal welfare and conservation issues. We are constantly staying on top of the latest developments in our campaigns, so that we can call on our audience to take action in a timely, effective way.

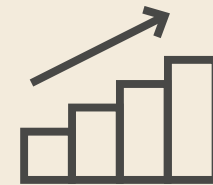
**23,175 INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS** spoke out for animals and the environment by **TAKING ACTION 42,595 TIMES**



### Actions taken (by campaign)

- 19% Marine
- 29% Animal Welfare
- 26% Australian Wildlife and Habitats
- 26% International Issues

FY23 has seen a substantial increase of our **FOLLOWERS** on **FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM**



FY21 = 18,421  
FY22 = 18,791

**FY23 = 19,674**



FY21 = 7,320  
FY22 = 7,607

**FY23 = 8,517**



**5,302 NEW DIGITAL SUPPORTERS** joined us to petition for positive change



## EXTINCTION FIGHTERS

In May 2022, we launched our Extinction Fighters initiative—a group of highly engaged and motivated supporters that are taking their advocacy for nature to the next level by writing, calling and meeting policy makers, in the name of preventing the unfolding extinction crisis.



By the end of **FY22** we had recruited **117** Extinction Fighters, and by **FY23** we had grown three times that amount, to **465 MEMBERS**



We are urgently working to save the Maugean Skate from extinction

IMAGE: JANE RUCKERT

Our FY23 surplus was the result of more than **\$2 MILLION** in **GENEROUS UNEXPECTED BEQUESTS** from donors.

➔ This will allow us to invest in even **greater impact for ANIMALS** in **campaigns and program expenditure** in future years.



## GEOGRAPHICAL SPENDING

**\$2,077,368**  
spent to protect animals  
in **AUSTRALIA**

**\$373,773**  
spent to protect animals  
**INTERNATIONALLY**

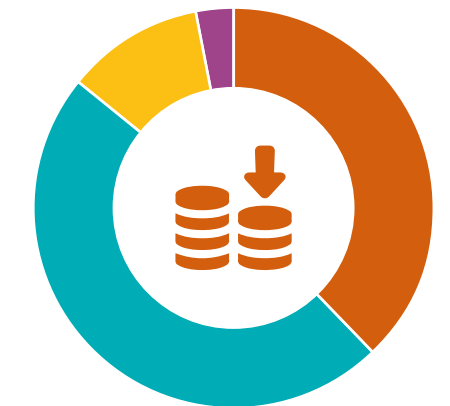


## INVESTING IN POSITIVE CHANGE FOR ANIMALS

### REVENUE

\$2,151,568	38%	Donations
\$2,705,273	48%	Bequests
\$628,091	11%	Grants
\$165,781	3%	Interest and other Income

Total revenue: \$5,650,713



### EXPENDITURE

\$2,077,368	59%	Australian Campaigns and Projects
\$373,773	11%	International Projects
\$723,352	20%	Fundraising
\$360,099	10%	Management and Administration

Total expenditure: \$3,534,592



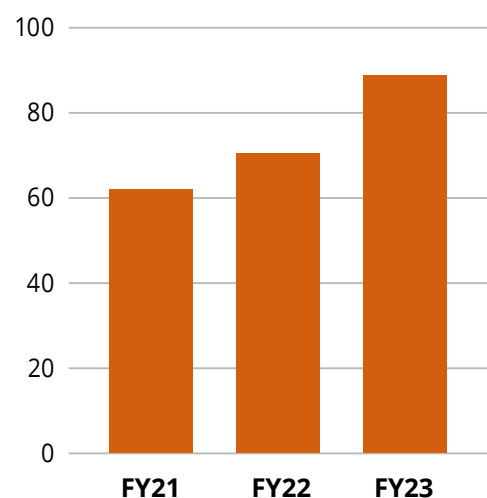
## OUR OUTREACH

HSI Australia has built our reputation as thought leaders in our campaign areas, leading to our spokespeople being widely requested by journalists for interviews.

**This has resulted in a significant amount of media coverage this past financial year, which included 764 TOTAL ONLINE MEDIA ARTICLES, including syndications.**

We've had significant coverage in publications such as the *Sydney Morning Herald*, the *Canberra Times*, the *Herald Sun*, the *Guardian* and ABC online as well as good exposure in regional media.

Unique online media articles



We've increased our unique media articles in the past year, which is a measure of the individual pieces of coverage we have been mentioned in, excluding syndications (i.e. duplicates across news networks).

This shows the growth in our relationships with individual journalists, and the variety of different stories we've responded to.

### Our top media moments during FY23

**Calling on the government** to end trophy hunting imports for internationally protected species

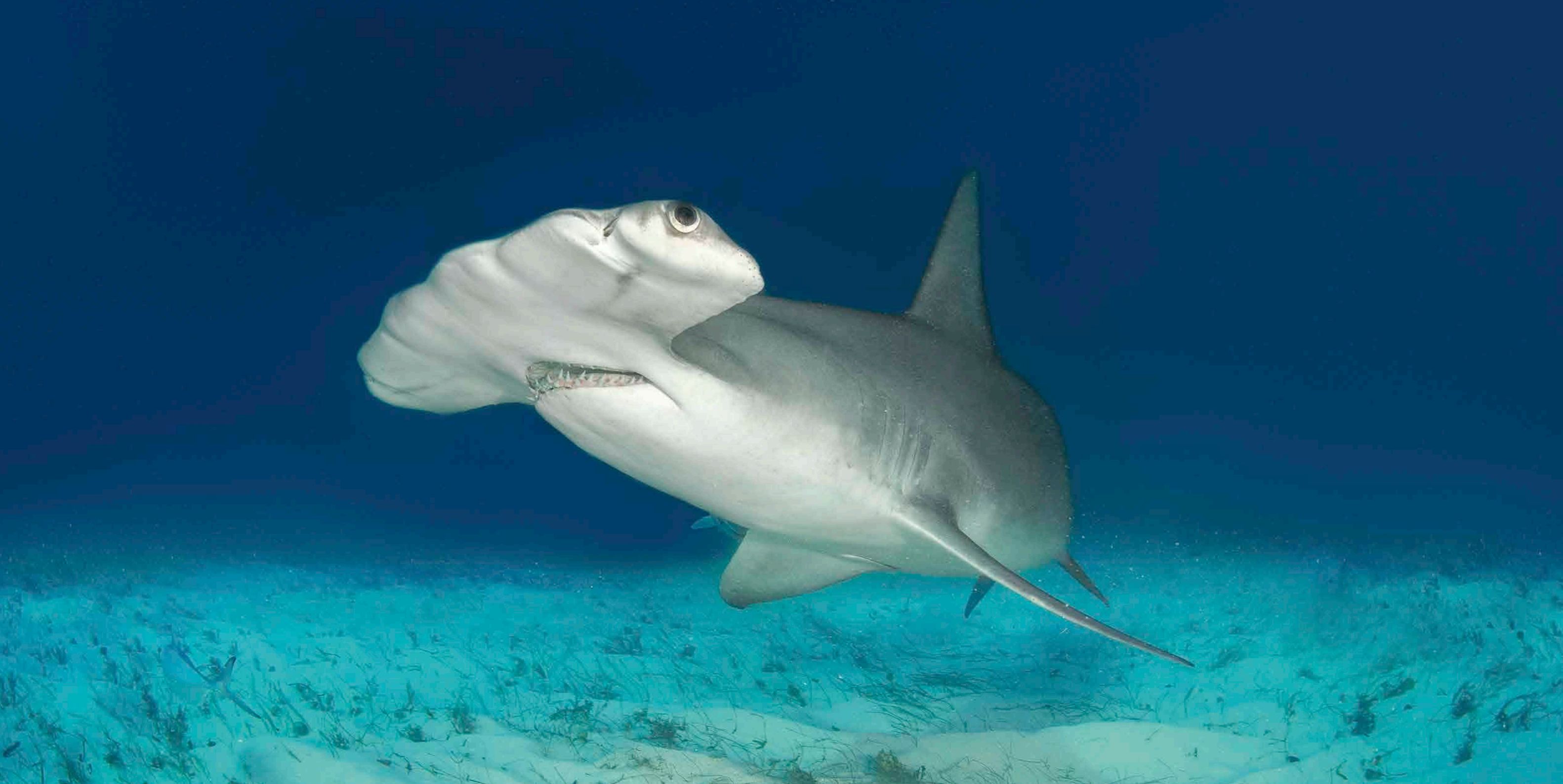
**Seeking protection** for Australia's pygmy blue-tongue skink from global trade

**Urging the QLD government** to remove shark nets and traditional drumlines

**Reporting on** increased turtle deaths due to NSW shark nets



This diagram highlights the key themes in our online media coverage



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# Campaigns and Programs

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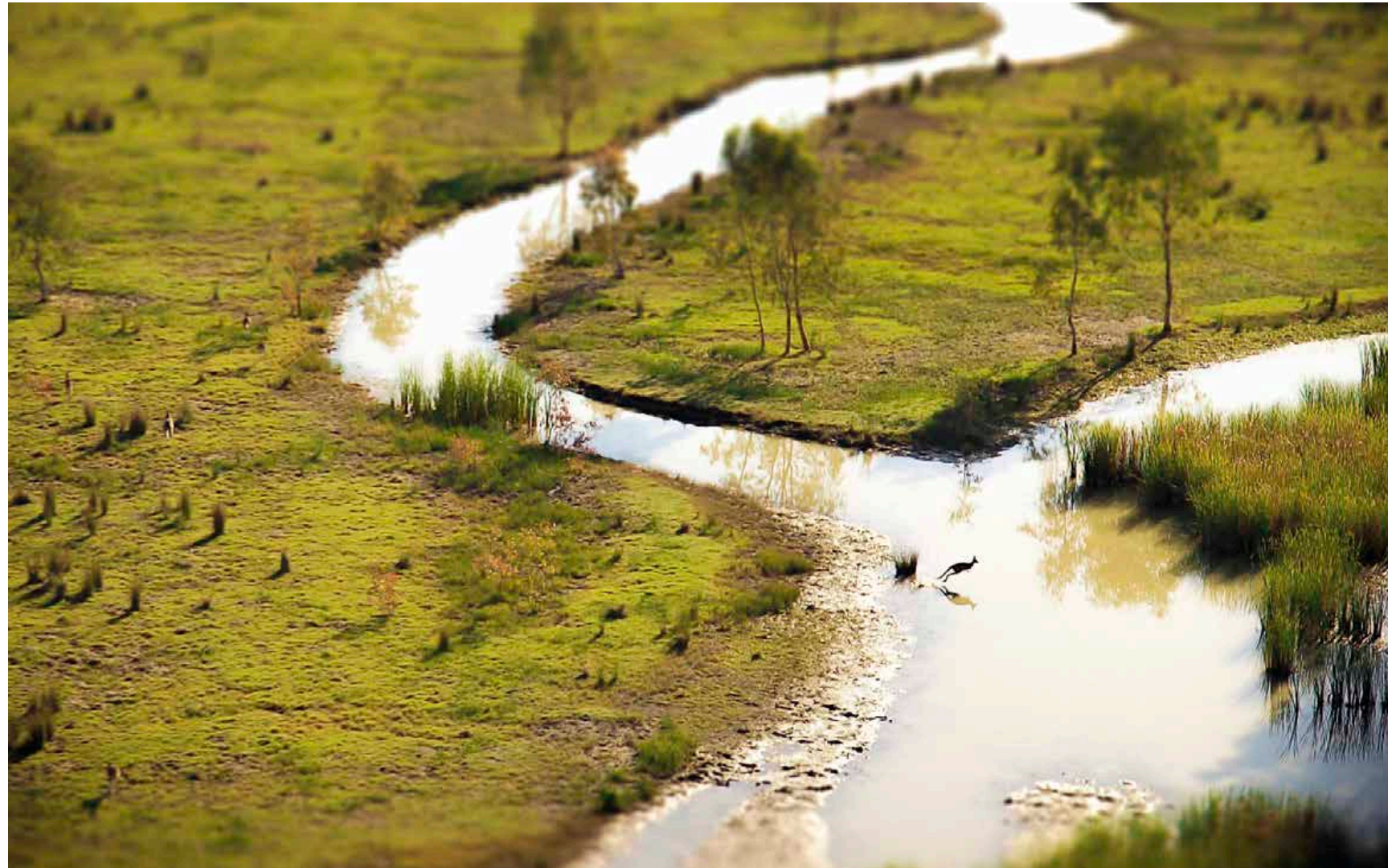


IMAGE: TOM RAYNER

Macquarie Marshes: a Threatened Ecological Community in urgent need of additional protection

## AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE

HSI is a leader in protecting Australian wildlife and the places they call home. We are tireless advocates for the protection of iconic species as well as lesser known and sometimes maligned species.

### Habitat protection Threatened Ecological Community Nominations

HSI Australia’s long and successful history of Threatened Ecological Community (habitat) nominations has faced a few political hiccups over the decades, the most notable being the Disallowance Motion in Parliament that saw Critically Endangered protection overturned for both the Macquarie Marshes and Lower Murray River in 2013—the first and only time this has occurred for Matters of National Environmental Significance.

HSI Australia secured those initial listings after several years of scientific assessment which found both ecosystems and the wildlife which depend on them were in severe trouble, easily meeting the criteria for Critically Endangered. This strong case presented by HSI and reinforced

by a thorough assessment from the Threatened Species Scientific Committee (TSSC) made it clear that protection under Australia’s national environment law was the only appropriate option.

Despite extensive consultation by the Department of Environment during the assessment process, the listings were regrettably politicised by groups such as the National Irrigators Council. They used an unfortunately timed change of government to apply pressure to ‘Disallow’ the listings in the Senate, thus undoing a full decade of work from researchers, HSI, the TSSC and the Department of Environment.

Now, more than 10 years of possible recovery and protection actions have been lost and things have become even worse with the Macquarie Marshes suffering a severe fire event.

This year, we joined forces with world expert researchers from the University of New South Wales, led by Professor Richard Kingsford, to jointly update and bolster HSI’s original submissions for renomination.

**At the time of writing we are pleased to report that our re-nominations for Macquarie Marshes and Lower Murray River and associated wetlands, floodplains and groundwater systems from the junction of the Darling River to the sea have been added to the Minister’s priority list for assessment. We hope that this time around they will be afforded their proper and needed conservation status.**



## Environment law reform

We have been deeply engaged as a key stakeholder in the Government's reform of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Our expert feedback has been provided across multiple consultations on various aspects of the law reform including the draft National Environment Standards. We are determined to make sure the final standards will be strong enough to reverse our biodiversity decline.

We have also provided detailed advice on the Nature Repair Market, Conservation Planning, Wildlife Trade, the formation of an Environment Protection Agency and a wide range of other issues as the new law is developed.

Part of our advocacy has included policy briefings for other Members of Parliament to ensure there is broad and cross-party support for strong nature laws.

Along with other members of the Places You Love alliance, we are continuing to raise awareness of the extinction crisis and encourage our supporters to keep up the pressure for meaningful law reform. We launched the 'If you love it...Help save it' campaign across social media channels.



*The Places You Love campaign to increase pressure for meaningful law reform*

We also submitted our recommendations for the New South Wales review of the Biodiversity Conservation Act; the draft Southern Right Whale Recovery Plan; the proposed expansion of Macquarie Island Marine Park; and the Queensland review of koala protection measures.

## Dingoes

Nominations for Key Threatening Process (KTP) listings under our national environment laws seek to recognise actions that negatively impact Australia's biodiversity and mitigate them through a Threat Abatement Plan.

One of the drivers behind HSI Australia's dingo advocacy is evidence that killing dingoes is hurting the environment and a number of threatened species due to the loss of top predator ecosystem regulation. This evidence is not being heeded by state governments with business as usual for various poisoning, trapping and bounty programs continuing like we are stuck in the last century.

We have made several attempts at having *The cascading effects caused by the loss or removal of dingoes from Australian landscapes* assessed for KTP status over

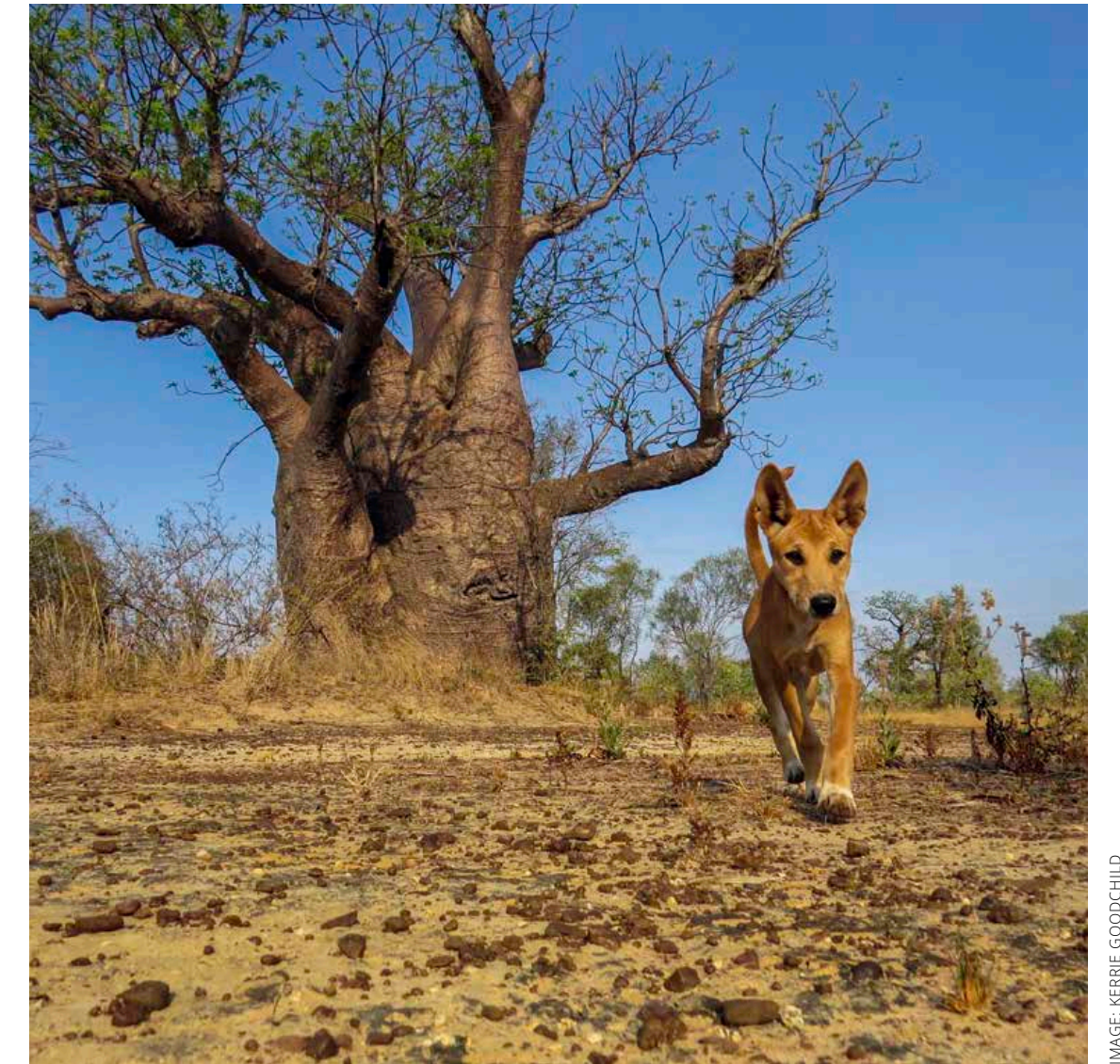
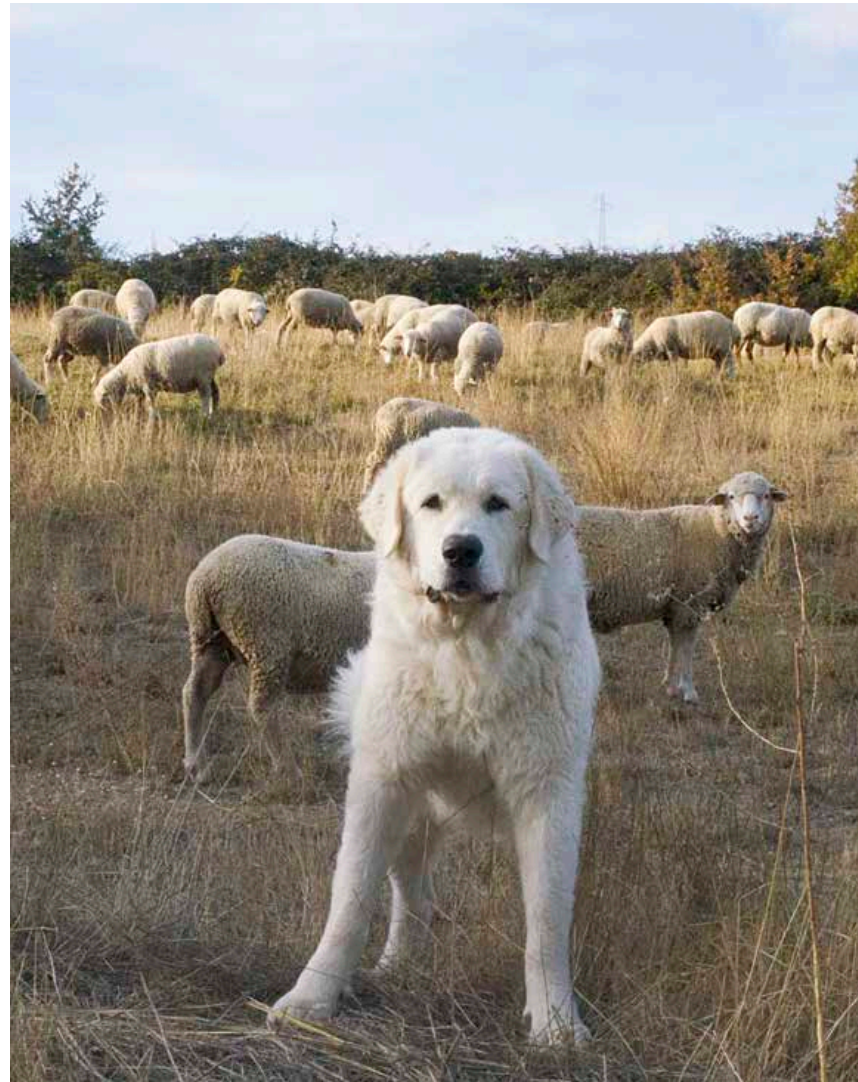


IMAGE: KERRIE GOODCHILD

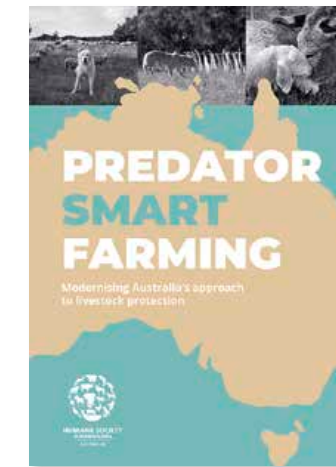


Guardian animals such as donkeys and Maremma dogs are helping farmers protect their animals without killing dingoes

the years. Our 2017 nomination was recommended by the Threatened Species Scientific Committee (TSSC) but squashed by the Department of Environment in their advice to the Minister, under the justification that they didn't have the budget to complete the work. With so much at stake HSI finds this an unacceptable excuse.

With proof of the damage lethal dingo control is doing growing rapidly, we have added the latest research and nominated the potential KTP again for the 2023 round.

In February this year we also released our *Predator Smart Farming* report which details ways farmers can co-exist with dingoes rather than try to eradicate them.



We are using the report to urge state and territory governments to incentivise non-lethal methods of wildlife management for farmers. Copies of the report have been distributed to government representatives, livestock producers, dingo NGOs, academics and representatives from sustainable agriculture. The report was also featured in an article in *The Conversation* that has more than 1,000 views.

Dingo management is difficult and the changes required are significant, but the cost of current culling to Australia's biodiversity is so large that it simply must be addressed.

### Flying-foxes

HSI continues its advocacy work for the spectacled flying-fox, an Endangered species that plays a vital role in the health of forests in Queensland's Wet Tropics.

HSI is a key member of the Spectacled Flying-fox Recovery Team, and we are currently working alongside scientists, Traditional Owners and NGOs to update the National Recovery Plan. This updated plan will help to guide the research, conservation and recovery of this keystone species.

This year also saw a major victory in our long campaign seeking to end the shooting of little red, black and grey-headed flying-foxes in Queensland. The three-year phase-out was announced by the Queensland Government in May 2023 on animal welfare grounds. Fruit growers can receive financial assistance for exclusion netting to protect their crops from damage by flying-foxes.



IMAGE: KL'S AUSTRALIAN IMAGES VIA FLICKR



## WILDLIFE LAND TRUST

Our Wildlife Land Trust network is growing steadily as more landholders commit to supporting wildlife and their habitats on their properties. Each sanctuary represents a safe home for mammals, birds, reptiles, fish and insects.

Australia is home to unique wildlife and extraordinary biodiversity and yet only a small fraction of our landmass has some form of security as a protected area. So it is little wonder that we lead the world when it comes to mammal extinctions.

The role of private land has become an integral part of the solution when it comes to protecting our wildlife. Since 2007 we have been building a network of private landholders who devote their properties to conservation—the Wildlife Land Trust (WLT).



IMAGE: JUDI GRAY

With over 60% of Australia privately-owned, landholders play a vital role in conserving the incredible and unique biodiversity of this country. The WLT supports conservation-minded landholders, helping them to continue their critical on-ground work in preserving natural spaces.

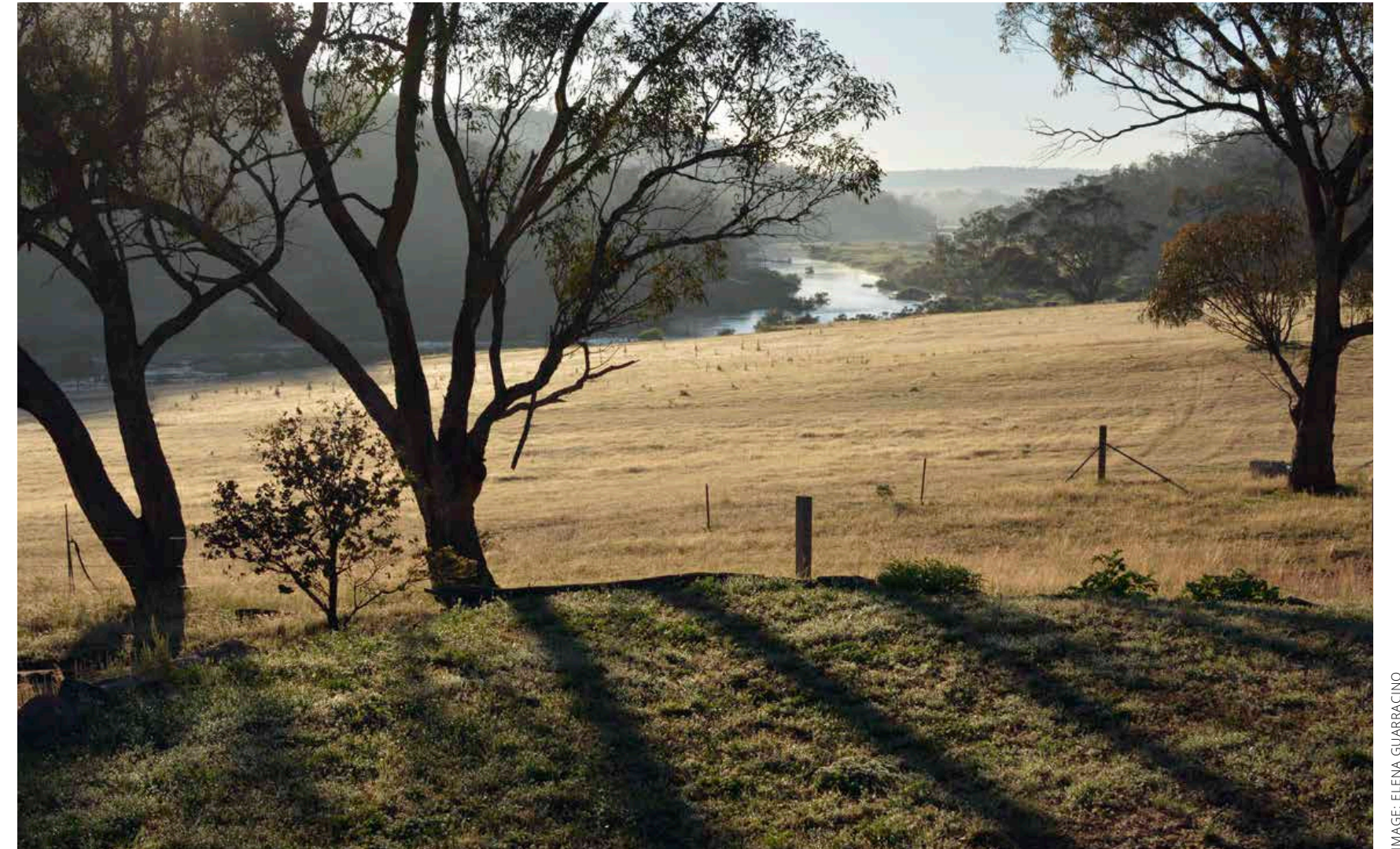
The Wildlife Land Trust encompasses sanctuaries from one to several thousand hectares, with our members all working to protect, restore and support native species on their land. Our network of private sanctuaries provides a refuge for wildlife across rainforests, grasslands, woodlands and alpine regions.

Visit [www.wildlifelandtrust.org.au](http://www.wildlifelandtrust.org.au) to learn more.

**This year we welcomed 68 new members to the Wildlife Land Trust, spanning 5,601 hectares. Our network now spans 874 wildlife-friendly sanctuaries across over 85,000 hectares.**



State	Sanctuaries	Area (ha)
QLD	257	39,492
NSW	385	30,441
VIC	82	2,561
WA	51	5,331
TAS	46	3,312
SA	48	3,395
NT	5	631
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>874</b>	<b>85,163</b>



Wildcroft, a Wildlife Land Trust sanctuary owned by Elena Guarracino and Richard Valler

IMAGE: ELENA GUARRACINO



IMAGE: EVAN QUARTERMAIN/HSI

Rainbow bee-eaters and striped possums are some of the species that may benefit from the regeneration of Wallaby Wetlands

### Wallaby Wetlands

This year saw the completion of the registration process through CO2 Australia to access funding through Queensland's Land Restoration Fund to commence revegetation of our 75 hectare property, Wallaby Wetlands, which was a former cane farm in Queensland. This will enable plantings to commence later this year and early next year.

The project will restore habitat for an incredible diversity of animals including striped possums, feathertail gliders, northern quolls, platypus, spectacled flying-foxes, rainbow bee-eaters, double-eyed fig parrots, amethystine scrub pythons, stony creek frogs and hundreds of invertebrate species that call the surrounding area home.

We also delivered a portable fire-fighting unit to the property to help manage fire risk.

### NSW National Parks Scorecard

This year with financial assistance from several generous donors we supported a groundbreaking new project with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

to deliver the Performance Scorecard supporting the ecological health monitoring of national parks.

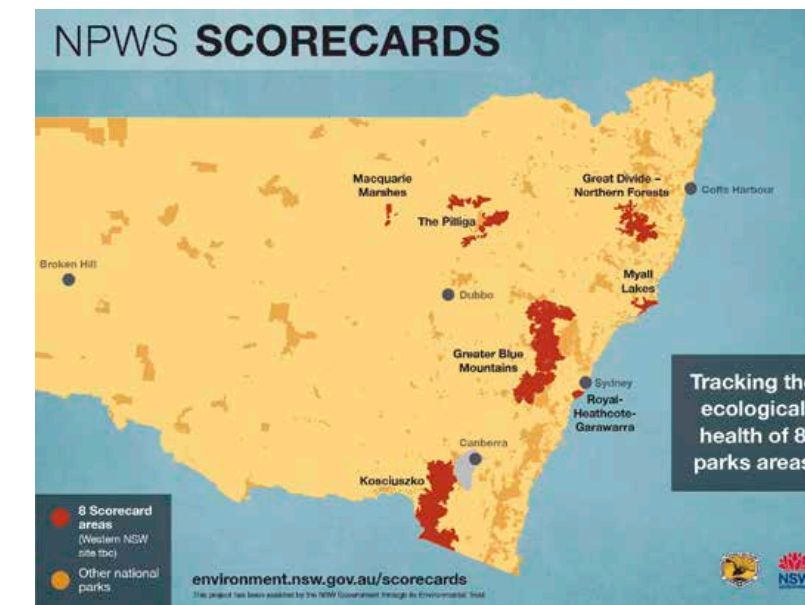
The monitoring includes:

- park-wide surveillance monitoring for trends in mammal, bird, frog and reptile populations, and vegetation surveys and soil samples to provide additional data on the health of park habitats;
- regular, targeted surveys to monitor threatened species such as koalas, powerful owls and Wollemi pines;

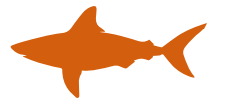
- measurement and reporting of fire metrics; and
- monitoring of threats, including feral animals and weeds

The project will provide critical data on the health of national parks as well as guide and inform interventions to improve biodiversity outcomes.

The results will be published in publicly available National Park Scorecards, providing a rich, data-based picture of the health of NSW national parks.



Scorecards will allow everyone to track the health of their favourite national park, with annual updates on whether biodiversity is improving and whether feral animals and weeds are decreasing.



## MARINE WILDLIFE

HSI has been campaigning for our marine life since our inception. We have won protections for whales, sharks and sea lions and continue to champion at-risk marine species and advocate for their protection.

### Shark Champions

Our collaboration with the Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS), Shark Champions, funded by the Shark Conservation Fund continued this year and saw significant positive impact for shark protection.

### Shark and ray nominations

Over the years, HSI has made several nominations for the uplisting of the Maugean skate to Critically Endangered and we did so once again with AMCS in March this year. This species—an ancient lineage of ray found only in Macquarie Harbour, Tasmania—is teetering on the brink of extinction and will require urgent and significant action if it is to be saved from extinction. HSI also participated in a workshop to put together a recovery plan to try to save the species which

will be finalised soon. A key action must be to restore the health of Macquarie Harbour which has been degraded by salmon farming.

The Maugean skate has joined our nominations for green-eye spurdog shark and eastern angel shark on the Environment Minister's priority list for assessment for threatened species protection, with decisions expected by October 2024.

### Unsustainable fisheries

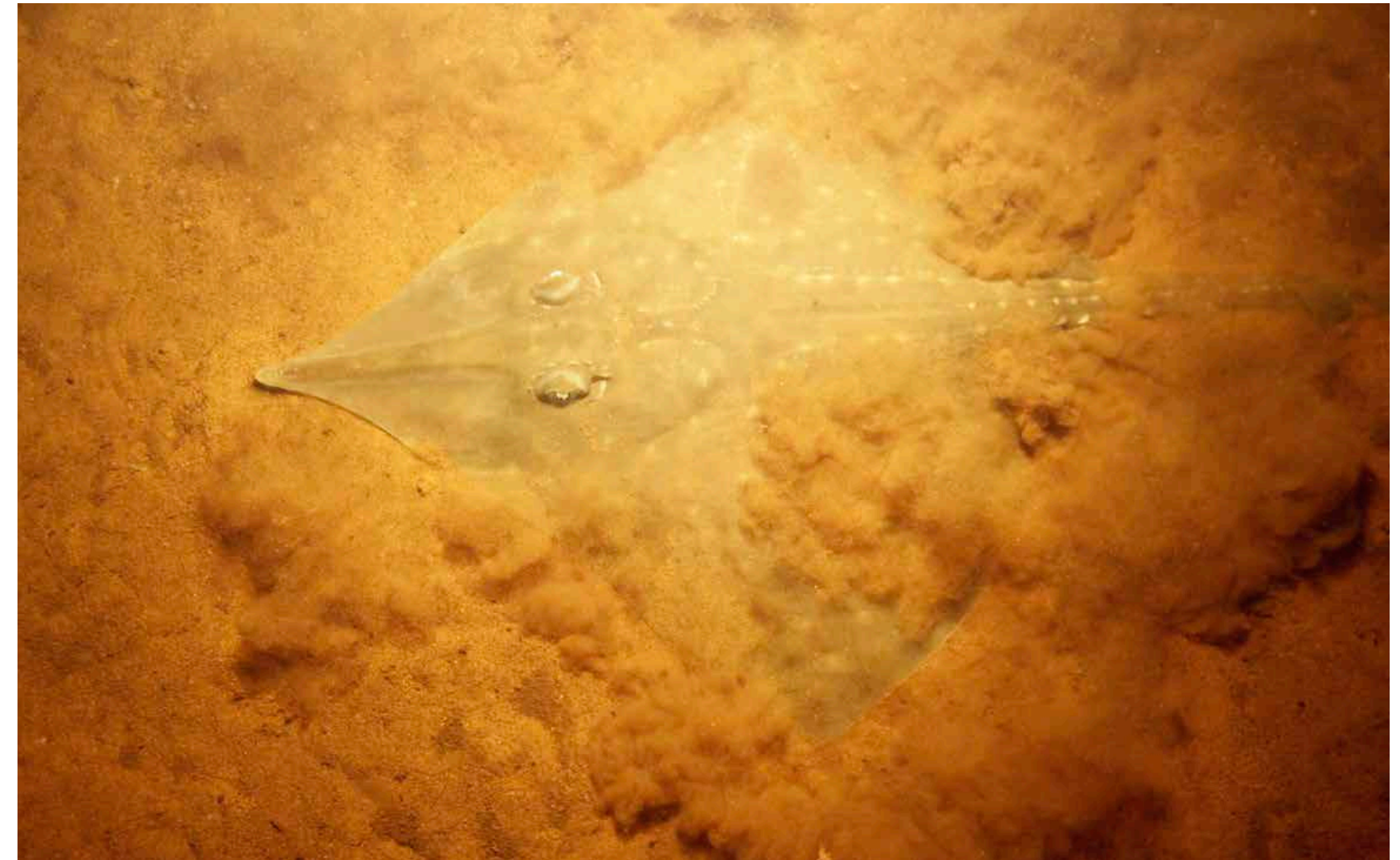
We submitted a nomination for gillnets and gillnet fisheries to be classified under federal law as a Key Threatening Process for sharks and rays as well as turtles, dugongs and cetaceans. In June 2023, the Federal Minister for the Environment and Water, Tanya Plibersek, and the Queensland State Government committed to removing destructive gillnets from the Great Barrier

Reef. HSI is proud to have supported the long campaign by our colleagues at AMCS and WWF in securing this major victory.

The announcement included a prohibition on the commercial catch of all hammerhead species in the state's waters, which HSI has long fought for.



*Dugongs are now protected from gillnets in the Great Barrier Reef*



*HSI is playing an important role in working to save the Maugean skate from extinction*

IMAGE: NEVILLE BARRETT

## Shark culling

We continued our campaign to remove shark nets in Queensland and New South Wales and our efforts have seen growing political and community support for the mothballing of this outdated measure.

HSI travelled across Queensland in August 2022, meeting with the State Agriculture Minister, Shadow Minister and other MPs, as well as every coastal council to advocate for the removal of shark nets.

Screenings of the film *Envoy: Shark Cull* were also held to raise awareness that shark nets provide a false sense of security and are ineffective at protecting swimmers from sharks.

As a result of our advocacy, the "Target List" of shark species the Queensland Government shoots was reduced from 19 species down to 7. Now bignose whalers, blue sharks, great hammerheads, longnose whalers, longfin and shortfin mako sharks, oceanic whitetips, pigeye whalers, sandbar sharks, lemon sharks, silky sharks and silvertip sharks must be released alive when caught on drumlines or in shark nets.

This will result in 112 less sharks being shot per year (based on a 20-year average).

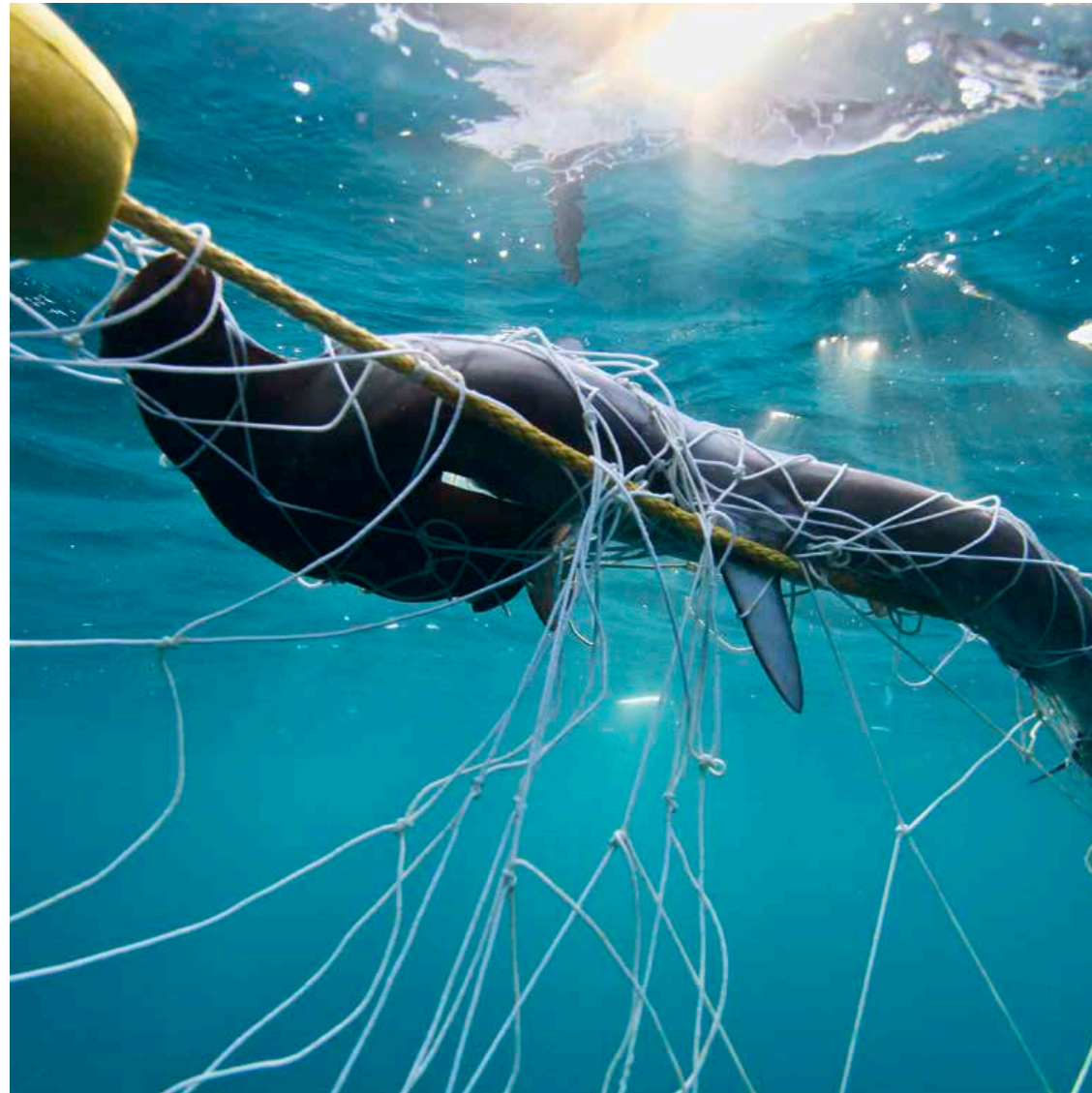
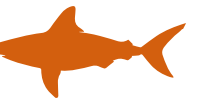


IMAGE: N. MCLACHLAN/HSI



Following our pressure, the New South Wales Government has indicated that they will reassess their shark control program and we are providing educational materials to all politicians as we continue to work towards retiring the nets for good.

We produced new video materials to explain to politicians and the public that shark nets are not effective and non-lethal shark control provides better swimmer protection as well as taking less of a toll on harmless and often endangered marine animals.

Polling indicates that the majority of Australians now want the shark nets removed in Queensland and New South Wales.

## Protecting whales

HSI continues to be at the forefront of the battle to end continued commercial whaling by Japan, Iceland and Norway. We celebrated an announcement from the Icelandic Government that Iceland's whaling would end in June 2023 due to animal welfare concerns but wait to see if that announcement will hold firm. HSI thanked the Australian government for a sizeable financial donation to the International Whaling Commission so that it can continue its essential work.

## Saving albatross

We continued to raise concerns at fisheries meetings about albatross deaths as a result of long line fishing and push for a greater take-up of measures to reduce seabird bycatch.

In May 2023, we attended the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) Advisory Committee Meeting in

Edinburgh, where we presented our report on the failure of countries to implement ACAP best practice.

The report received positive feedback and it is hoped that it will help motivate fisheries bodies to increase uptake of measure to help prevent unnecessary seabird deaths.





## TRADED WILDLIFE

Sadly, wildlife trade is big business worth billions of dollars, and it is driving some species to extinction. HSI is a powerful advocate for wildlife, seeking to end the cruel and unsustainable trade in wild animals.

### Global wildlife conference

We were actively involved in lobbying governments that are party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in the lead up and during the Conference of the Parties that was held in Panama City in November 2022.

We succeeded in persuading the parties to support new protections for 95 species of requiem sharks, hammerhead sharks and guitarfishes, whose populations have plummeted due to unsustainable fishing for fins and meat. These animals should now only be sold into trade if it is not detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild.

In addition, all 158 species of glass frogs, whose survival is threatened by the exotic pet trade, received increased protections which will help keep them safe in their natural Latin American habitats.

The number of leopard trophies that can be exported from certain African countries was decreased by 610. Parties were also persuaded to reject dangerous proposals that would have opened international trade in southern white rhino horns and African elephant ivory.



Unfortunately, we did not manage to persuade the parties to increase protections for hippos who are killed for their ivory teeth, with the European Union failing to support a proposal that would have ended the legal international trade in hippo parts.



Glass frogs and a range of sharks including the blue shark now have greater protection from trade.

### Wildlife trade in Australia

We provided advice to the Environment Minister on a legislative pathway for a domestic ivory ban in all Australian jurisdictions.

We are also continuing to push for a tightening of wildlife trade restrictions in the reform of the EPBC Act.

### Trophy hunting

We released our report, *Trophy Hunting by the Numbers*, which found that despite our small population size, Australia ranks tenth in the number of global trophy imports for 2014–2018, with 827 trophies from 40 different species.

Trophy hunting is unsustainable, often killing the strongest individuals, changing population structures and reducing population viability. Trophy hunting also negatively impacts conservation through reinforcing the perception of animals as commodities.

The advertising of trophy hunting and the sharing of trophy images on social media works against appreciation of animal sentience and respect for the intrinsic value of individual animals and species.



IMAGE: TON KOENE/LAWY

The most common trophy species imported into Australia was the American black bear with 184 trophies imported. The next most common species were the chacma baboon (113), Hartmann's mountain zebra (78), brown bear (59) and caracal (47). Even giraffes are turning up in the numbers.

We are hoping our report will persuade the Environment Minister to immediately ban the import of trophies of species most at risk and to use the reform of the EPBC Act to prohibit the import of all wildlife trophies of CITES-listed species into Australia.





## ANIMALS IN INDUSTRY

HSI is committed to improving conditions for all farmed animals to ensure they have lives worth living. We also want to see an end to animals being exploited for our ‘entertainment’.

### Expert evidence

HSI sent a submission to the inquiry into Queensland’s Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill. We recommended recognising animals as sentient beings in the purposes of the legislation; establishing a Queensland Animal Welfare Authority; formalising the role of the Animal Welfare Advisory Board; and strengthening the process for making codes of practice to ensure they are based on contemporary science and consistent with the duties enshrined within the Act.

We made similar recommendations in a submission on the consultation for Tasmania’s Draft Animal Welfare Act Amendment Bill 2022.

In our submission to the consultation on the Plan for Victoria’s Animal Care and Protection Act we welcomed the

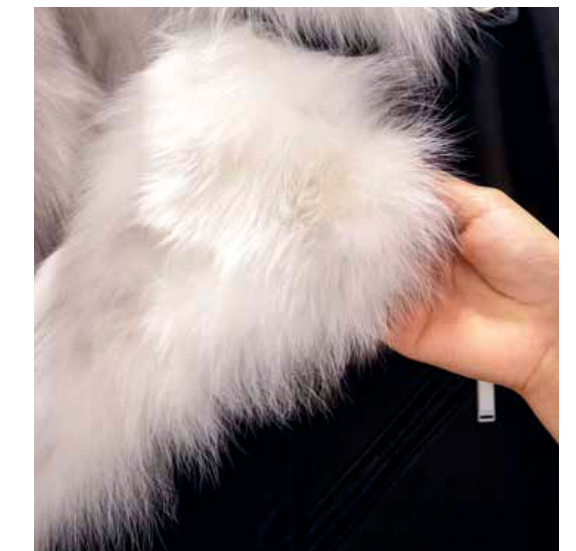
indication that the Bill will explicitly recognise sentience, impose minimum care requirements and create decision-making principles for all public authorities to abide by when making decisions that impact animals. We called for stronger frameworks regarding exceptions for cruel practices, hunting, racing and scientific procedures.

We also called for better transparency mechanisms to reduce the incidence of on-farm trespass, rather than ag-gag style offences and penalties in Victoria’s biosecurity reforms.

The Commonwealth Vet Officer (CVO) released Australia’s position on the review of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Terrestrial Animal Health Code animal slaughter chapter. The position adopted the majority of our comments which were provided to the CVO last year.

### Fur

Following HSI advocacy, this year the City of Sydney adopted a policy prohibiting the sale of fur, exotic skins and feathers on council land.

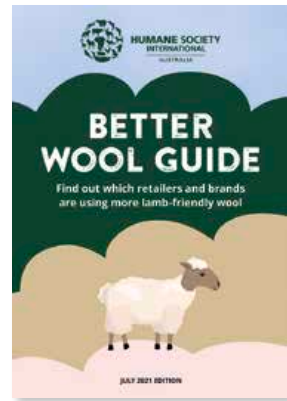




## Mulesing

Mulesing is where skin on the rear end of lambs is sliced off to prevent fly strike, a procedure often performed with no pain relief. More than 10 million lambs endure this painful mutilation each year, despite a genetic option to breed smooth-bodied sheep being available to farmers which prevents fly strike and the need for mulesing. By driving consumer demand for non-mulesed wool we hope to encourage more farmers to make the switch.

We released the 2023 *Better Wool Guide* featuring 221 brands and showcasing new additions to the brands rejecting mulesing including Another Tomorrow, Levi Strauss & Co, Aldi, Big W, VF Corp, Adidas and



H&M Group. More than one third of brands have set a 2025 phase out commitment and will source all Responsible Wool, Standard Wool or recycled wool. We received excellent coverage about the Guide including *Farm Online*, *The Land*, *Sheep Central*, *Ragtrader* and *Stock and Land* to name a few.

Our Head of Campaigns presented at an HSI European Union Parliament Event on the Australia EU Free Trade Agreement in May 2023 to an audience of EU negotiators, drawing their attention to the issue of mulesing and other practices which do not meet public expectations regarding EU animal welfare standards.

## Hunting

HSI supporters were mobilised this year and succeeded in convincing the NSW Government to prevent relaxation of hunting laws which would have allowed teenagers to hunt unsupervised and children to use bows and arrows.

We made a submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Victoria's Recreational Native Bird Hunting Arrangements arguing that there is a clear need to prioritise native bird conservation

given population declines and ongoing threats such as climate change. We also argued that wounding rates associated with native bird hunting causes prolonged and unacceptable suffering.

## Battery cages

With more than five million egg-laying hens still confined in barren battery cages across Australia at any one time, our supporters have worked hard to bring about an end to the practice. In August 2022, the *Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Poultry* were finally released after a protracted review which started back in 2015. They call for an end to battery cages by 2036. We continue to advocate for state governments to enact a ban on battery cages much sooner.

## Live export

The Albanese Government has committed to end the live export of sheep from Australia. We met with the Prime Minister's office to advocate for the phase out to be enshrined in legislation during this term of government and continue to work with the rest of the animal welfare movement to maintain pressure for this outcome.



Clockwise from left: Sheep, chickens and water birds all need better protection from cruel and unnecessary exploitation

IMAGES (CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT): JO-ANNE MCARTHUR/WE ANIMALS MEDIA; FARM TRANSPARENCY PROJECT; KIM WORMALD/LIRRALIRRA.COM



## ANIMALS IN CRISIS

As our climate changes, we are seeing a dramatic increase in the number and scale of disasters and HSI rapidly responds to help animal victims. We are also making progress in our campaigns to end the consumption of dog meat.

### Disaster response

We have continued our critical work in supporting wildlife rescuers and rehabilitators through natural disasters in Australia. To date, we have invested nearly \$1.8 million in providing emergency supplies, helping to build capacity for wildlife shelters and building disaster preparedness across Australia.

More than 9,000 animals have been supported through our disaster response program, with many projects set to support wildlife for years to come.

In FY23, HSI provided a total of 29 grants, assisting 28 wildlife carers in Australia. Our grants provided a total of \$196,075 to help people rescue, rehabilitate and release wildlife after disaster events.

### FY23 WILDLIFE CARER DISASTER SUPPORT

29 grants issued  
**\$196,075**

**28** Number of **wildlife carers** assisted

WILDLIFE HELPED IN FY23	
Wombats	50
Macropods	490
Birds	75
Possums	40
Koalas	32
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>687</b>



HSI's disaster response grants have supported a wide range of native species in care after fires, floods and other natural disasters.

Our grants facilitated a large-scale relocation and soft-release of macropods affected by drought in Queensland, a new soft-release location for wombats in Victoria, critical equipment for rescuing koalas in South Australia and several grants which assisted wildlife carers in the extensive Victorian floods in 2022.

### Prescribed burning problems

This year we also released our report, *Analysing the Wildlife Toll of Prescribed Burning Practices in Southwest Western Australia*. The report makes 12 findings, the final and most critical of which is that current prescribed burning practices are having a significant negative effect on native animals

and habitats and there is an alarming degree of uncertainty around the true extent of these impacts.

The report makes six recommendations to the WA Government. Primarily the report calls on the government to conduct an in-depth study into the impacts of current prescribed burn methods as well as to work more closely with Traditional Owners to develop a better system based on time-proven traditional knowledge.

### Disaster preparedness

The HSI Australia disaster response team has continued their training to ensure they are equipped and ready to respond to potential disaster situations in the upcoming summer, focusing on fire safety and first aid, emergency response systems, and field situations. The team will undertake additional wildlife rescue training with Sydney Wildlife in the coming months to reinforce and improve their niche knowledge and be as effective as possible when the need next arises.

HSI Australia has continued to provide input and help shape wildlife disaster response in NSW as a National Parks and Wildlife Service 'Wildlife Emergency Response Taskforce' and is grateful for training and fireground PPE provision from NPWS.



IMAGES (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT): MAGGIE VAN SANTEN, CAROLA ANSTIS, TANIA LEAHY



### Building disaster response networks

Following the devastating earthquakes in Türkiye in February this year, disaster response team members Evan Quartermain and Georgie Dolphin were called upon to work alongside our HSI Global colleagues rescuing displaced and injured pets in one of the worst hit cities, Antakya.

Racing to rescue cats, dogs, birds and more before damaged buildings were demolished for rebuilds was extremely difficult work, but importantly saw them gain significant disaster response experience in some of the worst conditions seasoned rescue workers had faced and make an incredible difference for many pets and their families—a sadly often overlooked aspect of disaster response.

The team made a number of connections at disaster preparedness and animal rehabilitation conferences this year, notably supporting the Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference held in Perth, where HSI staff reported on our support for the wildlife rescue and rehabilitation sector and advocated for key areas of change in both expert panels and presentations.

HSI Australia remains a strong advocate for animals in disaster response and is committed to improving conditions for and priority afforded to both companion animals and wildlife, as well as the people who care for them.



IMAGES: E. QUARTERMAIN (TOP LEFT AND BELOW), G. DOLPHIN (TOP RIGHT), HSI AUSTRALIA

HSI Australia team members assist with animal rescue efforts after earthquakes in Türkiye

### Dog meat

In South Korea an estimated one million dogs are still intensively bred on thousands of farms for human consumption. HSI Global's *Models for Change* program has worked with farmers to permanently close down 18 farms, rescue more than 2,700 dogs and help farmers transition to alternative livelihoods such as water delivery or chilli plant cultivation. They have also been working behind the scenes with Korean lawmakers for a legislative ban. Now a groundbreaking bill has been introduced, the Special Act to End the Dog Meat Industry, which, if passed, would outlaw the breeding and slaughter of dogs for human consumption. The full ban would come into effect five years after the law is passed, so this historic legislation could mark the beginning of the end for the dog meat industry in South Korea—an incredible accomplishment given the sheer scale of the trade across the country.

The *Models for Change* program was also launched in Vietnam in 2022. The owner of a dog slaughterhouse and dog meat restaurant, which killed thousands of dogs for human consumption over the past five years, became the first in the country



to take part in the program. He worked with HSI Vietnam to exit the trade and last November the 18 remaining dogs were saved.

As members of the Dog Meat Free Indonesia coalition, we succeeded in removing the notorious Tomohon 'extreme' market from tourist websites. HSI and the DMFI coalition have been exposing North Sulawesi's cruel trade for the past six years, including the first ever in-depth expose in



2017, and we will continue to reveal these cruelties until the market bans the trade in dog meat.

Working with local partners in China, a national tip line was established for members of the public to report illegal sales, slaughter, transportation and other illegal activities associated with the trade in dog meat. This has resulted in law enforcement actions shutting down five illegal operations in the past year.

IMAGES: JEAN CHUNG



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## International Projects

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## OUR PARTNERS

We are proud to work with a range of highly qualified international partners around the world, all committed to improving the lives of animals. We help to provide anti-poaching patrols, vital research and the rehabilitation and release of injured animals back to the wild.

Partner	Country	Since
Born Free Gorilla Conservation	DR Congo	2008
Conservation South Luangwa (CSL)	Zambia	2012
Zambia Primate Project (ZPP)	Zambia	2010
Painted Dog Conservation (PDC)	Zimbabwe	2003
Bali Sea Turtle Society (BSTS)	Indonesia	2011
Friends of the National Parks Foundation (FNPF)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bali Wildlife Rescue Centre (BWRC)</li> <li>Tanjung Puting Conservation Project</li> </ul>	Indonesia	2011 2000
The Orangutan Project (TOP)	Indonesia	2008
Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand (WFFT)	Thailand	2016
Education for Nature Vietnam (ENV)	Vietnam	2006
Wildlife SOS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elephant sanctuary</li> <li>ForestWatch program</li> </ul>	India	2010 2005
Turtle Conservation Fund (TCF)	Global	2009

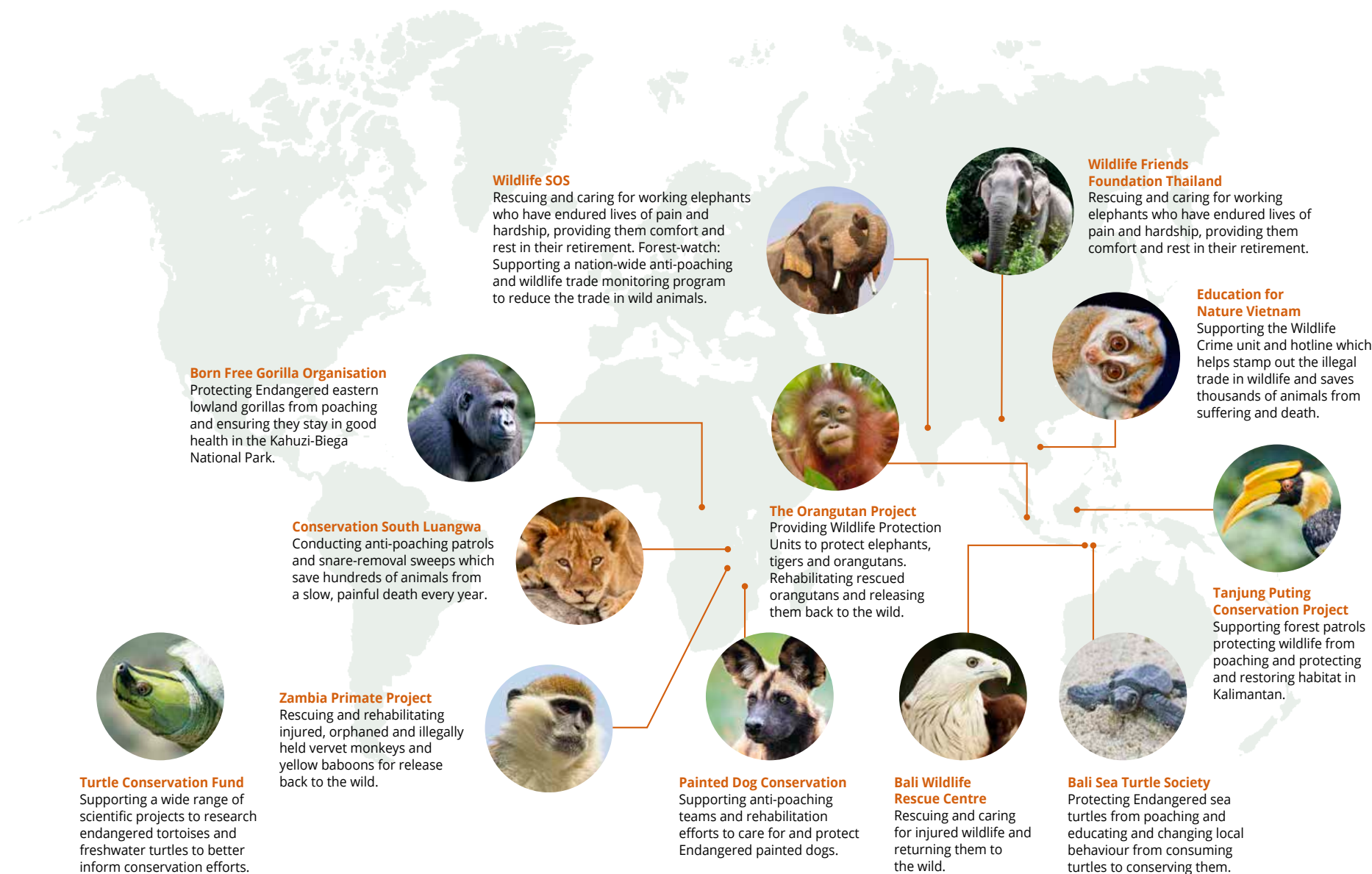




IMAGE: MARCUS WESTBERG

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC)

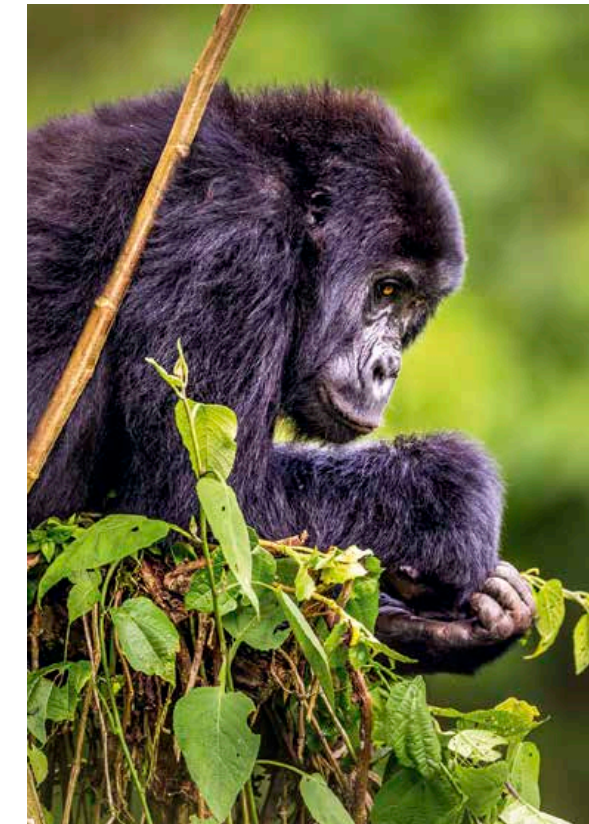
### Born Free Gorilla Conservation

Kahuzi-Biega National Park (KBNP) is a UNESCO World Heritage-listed site in the DRC and the last refuge of the Endangered eastern lowland gorillas (*Gorilla berengei graueri*).

Working together with the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN) with management provided by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), HSI and Born Free are supporting the gorilla rangers of Kahuzi-Biega protecting 13 to 16 gorilla families. The rangers monitor the area for snares, poachers and habitat destruction by illegal mining camps.

In FY23 the teams completed 15 monitoring expeditions, including nine close monitoring trips and six health visits to the Bonane and Uhuru gorilla families.

The silverback Bonane is the son of Chimanuka who disappeared last year. His family is the main group visited by tourists. There were two births in the Bonane family in this reporting period.



IMAGES: MARCUS WESTBERG

There was also an interaction between the Bonane and Uhuru groups resulting in Bonane losing two females to the Uhuru group. In June 2023 a solitary female joined the Bonane group and has been well received.

Kahuzi-Biega continues to face threats from poachers and armed groups conducting illegal activities in the park which cause significant disturbances for the gorilla families.

## ZAMBIA

### Conservation South Luangwa (CSL)

CSL works with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife to protect 1,400,000 hectares of wilderness in eastern Zambia that make up the South Luangwa National Park and a network of surrounding Game Management Areas (GMAs).

The Luangwa Valley is home to more than 60 species of mammals and 450 species of birds. Thornicroft Giraffe, Cookson’s Wildebeest, lions, leopards, wild dogs and elephants are all protected by the dedicated rangers who patrol the region to prevent poaching and remove deadly snares.

In the past 12 months, 305 anti-snaring patrols have been deployed into known snaring hotspots, as well as 157 Community Clean Sweeps. A total of 408 snares were successfully removed from the bush, with Community Clean Sweeps representing 39% of these.

The Community Clean Sweep program was launched as part of CSL’s COVID-19 response work but has become a vital component of the team’s anti-poaching

and law enforcement efforts. The program engages communities in conservation and ensures a consistent presence of eyes and ears to deter would-be poachers and boost anti-snaring activity.

This year CSL also successfully de-snared and provided medical assistance to 13 animals: 3 elephants, 3 giraffes, 2 lions, 1 African painted dog, 1 hyena, 1 buffalo, 1 zebra and 1 puku.

Result	FY23
Anti-snaring patrols	305
Community Snare Sweeps	157
Snares removed	408
Medical assistance provided	13



IMAGE: EDWARD SELF/CONSERVATION SOUTH LUANGWA



## ZAMBIA

### Zambia Primate Project (ZPP)

The Zambia Primate Project (ZPP) operates out of the Kafue National Park in Zambia and is one of the world's most successful primate rescue and release projects. This year the ZPP was incorporated by Game Rangers International which will ensure the long-term sustainability of the project.

Over the past year 26 primates were rescued by ZPP from miserable lives as illegally kept pets with support from the Zambian Department of National Parks and Wildlife.

Upon rescue all animals were taken to the University of Zambia Veterinary Clinic for health review and treatment. Sadly 54% of the primates had injuries that required intervention or were extremely malnourished, but all survived treatment to the rehabilitation phase.

From July to September the release troop of 22 vervets underwent Predator Avoidance Training for leopards, birds of prey, snakes and crocodiles. This training is crucial to help increase their chances of survival post-release.

The troop was released in October and as of June 2023, all are still together and thriving in the wild.



IMAGE: ZPP

*Primates are often kept in terrible conditions as pets until they are rescued*

## ZIMBABWE

### Painted Dog Conservation (PDC)

We continued to support the efforts of the Painted Dog Conservation Project in Zimbabwe—a country which is home to about 700 Endangered painted dogs.

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 painted dogs can be treated before being returned to the wild. A total of 14 packs were monitored again this year throughout Hwange National Park and its periphery.

Our support helped to ensure that the Gwayi farming area, Dete area and Sinamatela camp were all covered by anti-poaching patrols during the critical peak poaching season from June to October.

The PDC team also hosted a Community Anti-poaching awareness meeting at local leader Chief Nelukoba's homestead. In attendance were senior representatives from Zimbabwe National Parks and Wildlife Authority, Zimbabwe Republic

Police, Forestry Commission, Hwange Rural District Council, Mabale Village Heads, and the Gwayi farmers association. These educational meetings are helping to ensure that everyone is working together to crack down on illegal poachers and developing a zero tolerance approach to poaching.

Sadly, in September a painted dog was killed by snare on a private property in Dete Valley. The team was able to persuade the

owner to allow them on the property and they were able to remove 348 freshly laid snares close to where several other dogs were sighted.

The team is always working to build relationships with property owners, helping them to remove snares on private lands and encouraging reporting of poaching activity to facilitate arrests.



IMAGE: PDC

*If caught in time, snares can be removed and wounds treated in the field*



*Critically Endangered hawksbill turtle*

## INDONESIA

### Bali Sea Turtle Society (BSTS)

HSI is the major supporter of the 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; the Endangered green and loggerhead turtles; the Vulnerable Olive Ridley and leatherback turtles; and the flatback 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 works 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. Then they are returned to the beach for release back to the wild.

This year the turtle protection program was only carried out on Kuta beach and not on Tegal Besar beach, Klungkung, because the beach was affected by very severe erosion which meant there was no sand for turtles to lay eggs.

In FY23, the team protected 332 Olive Ridley turtle nests with 31,842 eggs. Of these, 27,223 hatchlings returned to the sea.

The team was able to resume educational visits following the pandemic and delivered an educational forum to 120 students at the Bukit Sunrise School in Jimbaran, Bali. They also conducted two Instagram Live educational sessions on turtle conservation efforts in Indonesia.

### Friends of the National Parks Foundation (FNPF) Indonesia

#### Tanjung Puting Conservation Project

We continued to support the FNPF Forest Patrols in Kalimantan, Borneo where they protect several endangered species including orangutans.

This year the team planted 3,600 trees around the Jerumbun Volunteer Centre. Conservation education workshops continued to be held for village children and they were encouraged to take part in reforestation activities with the team.

Thousands of seedlings were also distributed to carry out reforestation in several different locations.

### Bali Wildlife Rescue Centre

We are the major supporter of the BWRC which provides vital care to a wide range of animals—most of which are confiscated from markets, private homes or businesses where they are kept as pets or for entertainment.

This year the team admitted 15 new animals including pangolins, a long-tailed macaque, a Brahminy kite, a civet cat and an Asian leopard cat, bringing the total number of animals in care to 50.



## Southeast Asia



Two pangolins were successfully released during the year, as well as two changeable hawk-eagles. The work was assisted by many more volunteers this year with the return of tourists following the pandemic.

The team also continued to educate communities and school groups that wild animals should not be pets and encouraged them to report offenders to the authorities so that animals can be legally seized and hopefully returned to the wild.

## INDONESIA

### The Orangutan Project (TOP)

We continued our support for the Wildlife Protection Units of TOP who patrol the ecologically rich Bukit Tigapuluh Landscape on the Indonesian island of Sumatra.

The area provides important habitat for many wildlife species including Critically Endangered Sumatran elephants, Sumatran tigers and a re-introduced population of Sumatran orangutans.

This year there were 84 patrols covering more than 55,000 kilometres. A total of 389 cases of illegal activities were detected including 66 cases of poaching, 128 cases of encroachment and 195 cases of logging. All cases were reported to local authorities for charges and the snares and poaching equipment were destroyed or handed in to authorities as evidence.

The team also responded to 240 human–elephant conflict situations and 300 farmers were trained to help them better live with elephants. The number of individual elephants directly monitored with GPS collars decreased from nine to only two, as two elephants lost their

collars and five stopped working due to satellite system failure. The elephants will be monitored by direct observation until the collars can be replaced.

As of 30 June 2023, six orangutans were being housed at the Open Orangutan

Sanctuary awaiting release into the ecosystem. Jungle school continued for juvenile orangutans who need to learn life skills prior to release. This fiscal year saw 16 orangutans released and all are being monitored and doing well.



Orphaned orangutan, Mary, at the Bornean Orangutan Rescue Alliance Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre

IMAGE: MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTRY AND SUMATRAN RESCUE ALLIANCE

## THAILAND

### Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand (WFFT)

WFFT cares for more than 800 animals of 68 species including Asian elephants, Bengal tigers, Malayan sun bears, Asiatic black bears, otters, gibbons and macaques to name a few.

During this reporting period, the team rehabilitated and released more than 20 primates including macaques and slow lorises, civets and approximately 100 birds and reptiles.

HSI supporters have been particularly involved in the rescue and lifetime care of the Asian elephants at the sanctuary.

This year we continued to support the provision of food and enrichment for 24 rescued elephants and nine rescued tigers as well as ongoing medical care for the rescued elephants through the specialist elephant hospital on site.

The elephants at WFFT are able to roam in extremely large areas and are finally free to exhibit their natural behaviours as they like, including mud baths.



Gan Da, Mae Poh and Mee Chai enjoy a mud bath

IMAGE: HSI/LDECICCA



VIETNAM

Education for Nature Vietnam (ENV)

ENV continued their critical efforts to combat wildlife crime as well as education efforts to reduce consumer demand for wildlife products.

We were proud to continue our support for the Wildlife Crime Unit which operates a hotline for the public to report incidents where animals are being help illegally as pets or for entertainment. The unit works collaboratively with enforcement authorities to ensure that criminals are brought to justice.

In FY22, the Wildlife Crime Unit logged a total of 3,411 cases comprised of 10,594 individual violations. These cases included 2,319 selling and advertising live animals or products, 797 possessions of live animals, and 193 trafficking cases.

The overall success rate on all cases was 61%. A total of 442 cases were reported to law enforcement resulting in seizures of 5,649 live animals or products.

A total of 3,337 live animals were seized or voluntarily transferred in FY23 including 6 tigers; 18 bears; 17 otters; 4 pangolins;

19 gibbons, lorises and langurs; 24 marine turtles; 1,234 tortoises and freshwater turtles; 1,619 birds; and almost 200 other reptiles.

ENV received 2,049 cases reported by the public through the Wildlife Crime Hotline and 1,980 of these resulted in a successful outcome.

The team is also continuing a wide range of awareness raising activities designed to address the demand side of the trade in wild animals. ENV produces very effective videos using local talent to stigmatise purchasing wildlife products for food or 'medicine'.



Slow lorises and pangolins seized from illegal trade; Vietnamese authorities intercept a major ivory operation

IMAGES: ENV (TOP AND BOTTOM LEFT), HAIQUANONLINE.COM (RIGHT)



INDIA

Wildlife SOS

Elephant sanctuary

Our ongoing partnership with Wildlife SOS to rescue working elephants in India and provide them with a peaceful retirement and care for the rest of their lives continued in FY23.

Rosie joined the herd this year after a life of begging on the streets after she was found tethered by spiked chains around her feet and covered in wounds when she was seized. Wildlife SOS is continuing to fight a battle through the courts to maintain custody of Rosie and ensure she never has to return to her past life of abuse.

The team also provided veterinary care for two elephants who sadly were not able to be saved—Moti and Shiv. The team was able to provide treatment that meant that their suffering was reduced at the end of their lives.

There are now 33 elephants at the centre, all receiving excellent medical care for their injuries, a healthy diet and freedom to roam and exhibit natural behaviours. Every one of these elephants knew little but pain and misery throughout their lives as working elephants but now live out their retirement in peace and tranquillity.



Nina enjoying a dust bath

IMAGE: WILDLIFE SOS



Forestwatch

This nationwide anti-poaching and wildlife trade monitoring program continued in its critical work to build intelligence networks and skills to combat the efforts of poachers.

This year the team undertook Operation Big Cat with the Tamil Nadu Wildlife Crime Control Bureau. The operation led to the arrest of eight tiger poachers and the confiscation of tiger and leopard pelts, bones and jaw traps.

The team also assisted with a wildlife seizure in Gujarat with black corals, monitor lizard genitals, jackal furs, sea shells and two live softshell turtles confiscated and the commencement of prosecutions under the Wildlife Protection Act. The team also worked with the Forest Department to raid a shop in Gujarat and seize two rhino horns, one elephant ivory tusk and several other wildlife articles.

One live elephant has also been confiscated after investigators uncovered the illegal trafficking of the animal from Uttar Pradesh to Rajasthan. A microchip of a dead elephant had been implanted in the animal and false paperwork prepared. A prosecution is now in progress.



IMAGE: © WILDLIFE SOS

Tiger skins are the one of the most sought after commodities in the illegal wildlife trade market

GLOBAL

Turtle Conservation Fund (TCF)

The TCF is a strategising and funding partnership coalition of leading turtle conservation organisations and individuals focused on ensuring the long-term survival of tortoises and freshwater turtles. Our support this fiscal year enabled four scientific projects:

- Support for the African Scholarship Program which guides new biologists and conservationists from West Africa into the world of turtle conservation.
- A community participatory approach in conserving eroded hinge-back tortoises (*Kinixys erosa*) in the Bonkro Community Forest of Ghana.
- An assessment of the current status of turtles and the feasibility of long-term research at Cat Tien National Park in southern Vietnam with a focus on the yellow-headed temple turtle (*Heosemys annandalii*).
- A conservation and rewilding initiative for the wattle-necked softshell turtle (*Palea steindachneri*) assessing distribution, genetic diversity and habitat patterns in Na Hau NR and Van Chan District Vietnam.



Clockwise from top left: yellow-headed temple turtle, hinge-back tortoise, wattle-necked softshell turtle

IMAGES (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT): FRANK MÜLLER, GREGOIRE DUBOIS, ARTUR TOMASZEK (ALL IMAGES VIA FLICKR)



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Get to  
Know Us

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## OUR VISION

A world where people treat animals and nature with respect and compassion.

## OUR MISSION

To build an ecologically sustainable and humane world for all animals by being leaders in saving animal species and their habitats; aiding animals in crisis; and reducing cruelty in farming, trade and other industries.

## OUR VALUES

**TRUSTWORTHY:** We can be trusted to advocate for the best possible outcomes for animals. We are accountable and transparent in the use of donor funds.

**OPTIMISTIC:** Building a better world for animals can be challenging. We create a supportive, positive and inspiring culture for our staff and our supporters.

**COLLABORATIVE:** We form collaborative relationships to influence change.

**COURAGEOUS:** We don't shy away from the tough issues, we have the courage to stand up and create change.

**KNOWLEDGEABLE:** We seek first to understand all perspectives and then share knowledge and our expertise.



## OUR BOARD

Our Board freely contributes their skills and expertise to help us achieve our mission. They guide the development of our strategy, ensure our good governance and empower our staff to achieve their goals and make a real difference for animals and the environment.



**Julianne Petersen**  
Chair

Julianne has been Chair since December 2020, when founding Director Michael Kennedy retired. She has almost 40 years of executive management experience running major retail operations in a number of settings and brings a wealth of business expertise to HSI. She has also served on a number of non-profit boards gaining significant governance experience that she brings to her role as Chair.



**Matthew Hilton**  
Deputy Chair

Matthew is a media and communications specialist, passionate about social and environmental change and animal welfare. He has worked in overseas aid and then in New South Wales and Federal politics as an adviser and Chief of Staff. He currently provides strategic media and communications support to clients working on climate related issues and lends his considerable communications expertise to HSI.



**Gregory Tolhurst**  
Secretary

Greg has a long established career in the legal profession having both practised and taught law at senior levels. He is PhD qualified, a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and currently the CEO of the Australian Bar Association and a Professor of Commercial Law at the University of Sydney in the School of Law. He brings this stellar legal and governance background to HSI.



**Wendy Williams**  
Chair, Finance and  
Investment Committee

Wendy has managed complex budgets and financial reporting for more than 25 years. She successfully managed financial controls both at store and national level for some of Australia's largest retailers including Coles Myer, David Jones and Woolworths Holdings. She is now involved in supporting the growth of a small business, assisting the owners in establishing financial accounting systems and business processes.



**Leslie Barcus**  
Director

Leslie is the Executive Director for VegFund and has extensive governance and senior management experience in not-for-profit and private enterprises around the world. With a Masters Degree in International Economic Development, her work includes animal rights and welfare, biodiversity conservation, education, micro-finance, behaviour change and organisational capacity building.



**Kitty Block**  
Director

Kitty is the President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Humane Society of the United States with more than 10 million members and CEO of HSI Global. With her legal background she has investigated cruelties and achieved major policy reforms including European Union and US bans on imports of dog and cat fur and bans on slaughtering horses for human consumption. She continues to expand HSI in both impact and scope.



**Beverley Lange**  
Director

Beverley has held a variety of executive and director positions in the non-profit and education sectors including CEO of the Bobby Goldsmith Foundation. She has key capabilities in coaching, organisational review, tender and funding writing, project management, change management and business and systems design. Beverley has added great value to HSI's strategic plan and continues to help guide the organisation's growth and development.



**Clive Phillips**  
Director

Clive was Australia's first professor of animal welfare at the University of Queensland veterinary school from 2003–2017. Prior to that he lectured in animal production at the Universities of Cambridge and Wales. His main research interest is the welfare of livestock, particularly during ship transport. As one of Australia's leading experts in animal welfare, Clive brings an invaluable perspective to HSI.



## OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

HSI's leadership team works collaboratively together to ensure that we are making progress on achieving the outcomes identified through the strategic planning process and to address any issues and make adjustments as needed throughout the year.



**Erica Martin**  
Chief Executive Officer

Erica was recruited by founders Michael Kennedy and Verna Simpson to join HSI as CEO in 2017. She has more than 20 years' experience as a senior executive in animal welfare and conservation not-for-profits. Before that, she was a Corporate Communications Director in the Australian public service. She is focused on maximising impact for animals across HSI's campaigns and ensuring the organisation uses its resources wisely and effectively. She is passionate about building a culture where supporters are treated with care and respect and staff feel valued and appreciated.



**Nicola Beynon**  
Head of Campaigns

With a MSc in Conservation, Nicola has more than 25 years' experience campaigning in the Australian and international animal protection movements and in total has spent 20 years with HSI. Career highlights with the HSI team have been negotiating Australia's national environment laws in 1999, securing protection for a 'million acres' of threatened wildlife habitat, taking the Japanese whalers to court and winning, working on international agreements for albatross, protecting sharks from unregulated trade in their fins, stopping the shooting of sharks in the Great Barrier Reef and championing wildlife protection at many multi-lateral environment meetings.



**Gill Lawrence**  
Finance and Governance Manager

Gill joined HSI in early 2020 and is responsible for financial management and governance. Gill has worked in the for-purpose sector as an executive finance and governance professional for over 30 years and brings with her significant experience in the housing, disability, youth and family law sectors. She is a Chartered Accountant and a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Directors. Gill loves being outdoors in nature and is delighted to have the opportunity to use her skills to further the mission at HSI.



**Kelsey Olson**  
Fundraising Manager

Kelsey has worked in the for-purpose sector for more than eight years, previously in strategic marketing and creative production roles in some of Australia's leading fundraising agencies. Kelsey is passionate about telling our supporters about the difference they are making to the lives of animals through their donations. She leads the development team in our mission to grow HSI's capacity through fundraising and to deepen our engagement with supporters.



**Evan Quartermain**  
Head of Programs

Evan has been with HSI since 2010. A member of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, Evan is responsible for HSI's terrestrial habitat protection and restoration programs including Threatened Ecological Community nominations and private land conservation through the Wildlife Land Trust. He leads our wildlife rescue and rehabilitation support programs and disaster preparedness and response efforts, and advises on wildlife-conflict campaigns for species such as flying-foxes and dingoes.

At HSI we recognise that our staff are critical to our success in working towards our vision. Our employee value proposition is: We offer a fun, friendly and supportive environment for highly motivated people who want to create positive change for animals and nature.

To learn more about every member of our dedicated team visit [www.hsi.org.au/our-staff](http://www.hsi.org.au/our-staff)

## OUR WORK

We base our positions on sound science 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 respect 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 finding alternative cruelty-free and sustainable solutions.

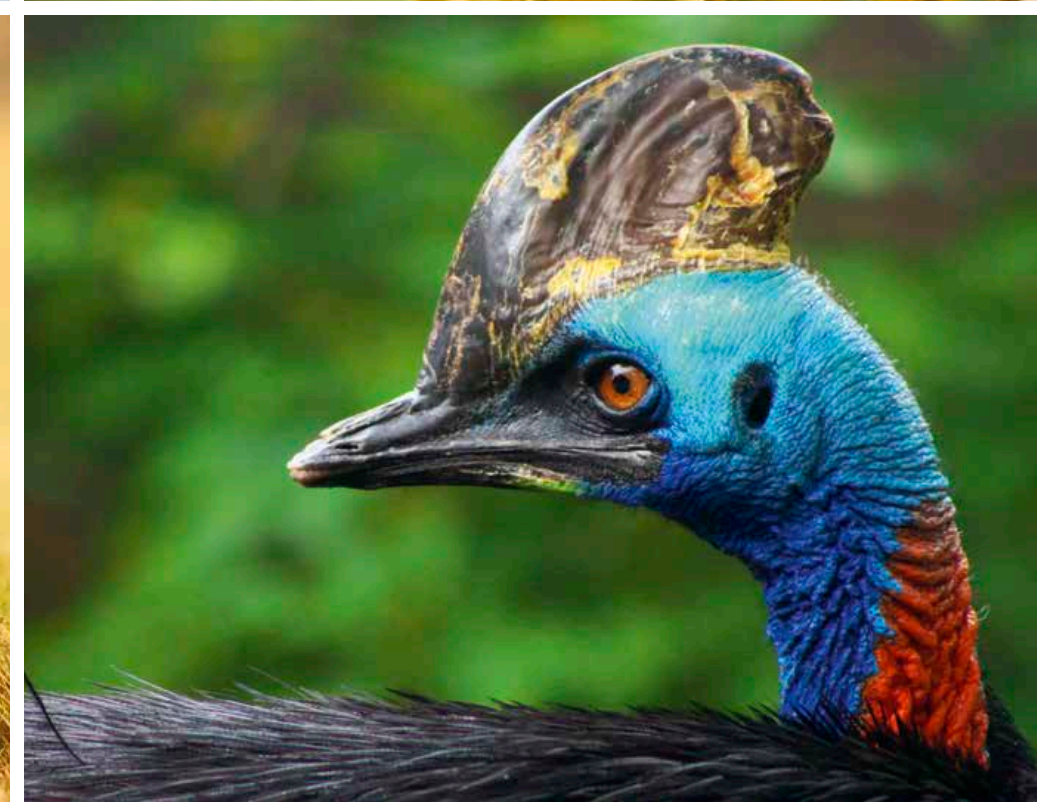
We believe that **working collaboratively** with other groups makes all our efforts more effective.

We believe in **using existing laws and the courts** to push for positive change for animals and the environment.

**Humane Society International (HSI) is the only international group working across the spectrum of saving endangered species and increasing habitat devoted to their conservation; improving legislation that impacts animals and the environment; reducing cruelty in farming and industry; reducing wildlife trade; and improving the welfare of domestic animals.**



IMAGE: RHYS SHARRY VIA FLICKR





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## OUR OBJECTIVES

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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 and, if necessary, to compel through legal means, 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 body.

## OUR GOVERNANCE

We are committed to the accountability and transparency provided through our corporate governance framework.

Our aim is to faithfully fulfil our organisation's charitable purpose while adhering to laws, industry codes of practice and ethics. Our Board oversees the development and implementation of policies and processes that reflect good corporate governance and continuous improvement.

Our Board receives a Workplace Health and Safety report at every board meeting and reviews our Delegations, Risk Framework and Complaints reports annually. Our strategic plan was led by our Board and included input from every member of staff.

We are regulated by the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission as a registered charity under the *Australian*

*Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act). We are registered as a public company limited by guarantee under the *Corporations Act 2001*, which means that the Corporations Act applies but in a manner modified by the ACNC Act. We also hold tax exemptions and concessions under the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*. We are audited every year and publish the report on our website.

We have MOUs with all our international project partners which includes a commitment to adhere to the External Conduct Standards as outlined by the ACNC.

We are authorised to fundraise in all states and territories in Australia. Our supporter relations team has completed the Fundraising Institute of Australia's Code and Vulnerable Persons training.

### Our promise to donors

- We will always keep personal details safe and secure.
- We will keep our donors updated and share the achievements made possible by them.
- We will give our donors a choice on how and when we communicate with them.
- We will always respond to donor feedback and answer questions promptly.
- We won't take our donors' support for granted.
- We will always use our donors' money to have the maximum impact in protecting animals.

IMAGE: RHYS SHARRY VIA FLICKR





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## Financial Information

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## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

HSI Australia closed out FY23 in a very strong financial position delivering an extraordinary surplus of \$2.292 million.

This brings reserves to \$8.211 million. Of the \$8.211 million, \$3.5 million relates to conservation land owned by HSI Australia plus its office building in Avalon. A further \$1.36 million relates to properties, shares and securities bequeathed during the year and \$2.279 million to specific donations and grants towards programs and campaigns that will be completed in future years.

Total revenue from donations, bequests and grants has grown from just over \$3 million last year to \$5.5 million this year. The main reason is the year-on-year increase in bequests from \$587,000 to \$2.705 million. Of the \$2.705 million, more than \$2 million was received in the last half of the year and for the first time \$1.364 million was received in the form of investment properties and shares and securities.

This generosity has prompted the organisation to partner with Perpetual, as investment advisors to draw up an ethical investments policy and advise on an ethical investments portfolio to best use the funds that our donors have entrusted to us.

Our total campaign expenditure for FY23 amounted to just under \$2.5 million. The increase from just under \$2 million last year reflects the \$518,000 support to NSW National Parks and Wildlife service to develop and implement an ecological health monitoring program to track the health of major national parks.

As part of HSI Australia's three-year strategic plan, the fundraising team implemented a new donor database to better serve the organisation and its donors and supporters. Additionally, a cyber security audit was carried out and all recommendations implemented.

During FY24 we will conduct a thorough review of all our campaign strategies to ensure that we are continuing to invest the resources of the organisation to maximise impact for animals and nature.

During the year, the Board decided to 'rotate' the external auditor, noting that such a change reflects appropriate governance given that the prior auditor had undertaken the role for a number of years. The Board received and reviewed proposals from three audit firms to provide independent external audit services to HSI Australia. This process resulted in the Board's recommendation to members to appoint SDJA as the external auditor. The Board thanks Lowy Wilcock, the outgoing auditor for their services.



Clockwise from top: common dolphins, Mount Elliot broad-tailed gecko, galah

IMAGES CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: LARRY CHLEBECK, LUBOMIR KLÁTIL, PENNY VIA PIXABAY



## Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income

For the year ended 30 June 2023

	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>Income</b>		
Revenue	5,484,932	3,054,289
Investment income	138,853	9,126
Other income	26,928	51,839
	<b>5,650,713</b>	<b>3,115,254</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
<b>Campaign costs</b>		
<i>Australian campaigns and projects</i>	2,077,368	1,548,366
<i>International projects</i>	373,733	427,890
Cost of fundraising	723,352	801,062
Management and administration	360,099	325,249
	<b>3,534,592</b>	<b>3,102,567</b>
<b>Surplus for the year</b>	<b>2,116,121</b>	<b>12,687</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>		
Increase in asset revaluation reserve	175,750	-
	<b>175,750</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income</b>	<b>2,291,871</b>	<b>12,687</b>

## Statement of financial position

As at 30 June 2023

	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	5,793,922	5,952,163
Trade and other receivables	30,219	27,214
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>5,824,141</b>	<b>5,979,377</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>		
Financial assets	77,592	-
Property, plant and equipment	2,633,602	1,233,034
Conservation land	2,207,608	2,207,608
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>4,918,802</b>	<b>3,440,642</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>10,742,943</b>	<b>9,420,019</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Trade and other payables	89,986	52,458
Provisions	117,393	99,036
Deferred income	904,515	1,684,904
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>1,111,894</b>	<b>1,836,398</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>		
Provisions	46,243	27,178
Deferred income	1,374,026	1,637,534
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>	<b>1,420,269</b>	<b>1,664,712</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>2,532,163</b>	<b>3,501,110</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>8,210,780</b>	<b>5,918,909</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Reserves	252,100	76,350
Retained surplus	7,958,680	5,842,559
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>8,210,780</b>	<b>5,918,909</b>

## GIVING THANKS

We want to thank every one of our incredible donors for their support during the year. None of this would be possible without you. From those who give individual gifts, to our Animal Defenders who donate monthly—we are so grateful for your trust in us to build a world where animals and nature are respected and protected.

So many of you also took the time to send letters to our politicians calling for better protections for everything from chickens to sharks; koalas to whales. These actions help to drive policy change. You have helped to ensure that policy makers understand that animal welfare and conservation matters to their constituents and you will hold them accountable.

We also want to thank those who confirmed they want to leave a lasting legacy for animals by confirming a gift in their Will. We are very grateful for the trust you place in us to make certain that animals will be protected, not just today but far into the future.

Last, we are very grateful for the generous pro bono support from the team at DMC Direct Mail Corporation ([directmail.com.au](http://directmail.com.au)), who work on our fundraising campaign production. As a corporate supporter for many years they have helped significantly in raising funds to maximise HSI's impact.



*Thank you*