

## Global Rewilding Alliance COP 28 Partner Events

We are delighted to be partnering with Alliance co-founder Re.Wild, Yale School of the Environment, IFAW, The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, IUCN Species Survival Commission and new alliance partner Whale and Dolphin Conservation on an exhibition, three side events and a social media campaign at COP28.

**Our messaging:** we need to 'bring the elephant into the room' by partnering with nature. By doing so, we link biodiversity with climate highlighting biodiversity conservation as our best available climate solution. Treating nature as an ally will help us prevent catastrophic climate change.

Right now, animals do not appear anywhere. We are changing that.

**Social Media Toolkit:** <http://bit.ly/47C8Ji9>

Help us highlight the importance of biodiversity this year at COP28. Together, let's #RewildCOP!

Access campaign resources [here](#) and join us, beginning on **Monday 27th November.**

Twitter storm throughout the day on **Wednesday 29th November.**

Use the hashtag #RewildCOP to call on wildlife to be included in the conversations about the solution to climate change at COP.

### In-Person Events

Are you going to be present at COP28?

Alongside our GRA partners, we will be spreading our message at three side events and an exhibition, we warmly welcome you to attend. Find information below.

The focus of all of these will be the central role that wild animals can play in addressing the climate crisis, by enabling rewilded ecosystems to draw down vast amounts of carbon.

#### I. Exhibition

**Date:** 4th - 8th December

International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) will be co-convening an official exhibit with EFA and WFA from 4-8 Dec. This will **focus on a collective message that animals are critically important for addressing climate change**, and will showcase practical ways we are trying to support that function. GRA is partnering with IFAW in the side event below on 11th December.

#### II. Side event: *Empowering Ecosystems: Integrating Biodiversity and Climate Solutions*

**Date:** 9th December

**Time:** 15:00 - 16:30

**Venue:** Connect Conference Centre Auditorium, Green Zone, Expo City, Dubai, UAE

**Organisers:** Mohamed bin Zayed Foundation

**Description:**

Presentation and discussion of the importance of targeted biodiversity conservation funding in addressing climate issues, addressing also the role of animals in helping us combat climate change.

The panel discussion aims to:

- Highlight the linkages between biodiversity health and climate, and the significance of halting the biodiversity loss through direct species conservation.
- Emphasize the importance of applying the precautionary principle in nature-based and other climate adaptation solutions, coupled with better scientific understanding of ecosystems and ecological structures.
- Highlight the importance of local actors in conservation to protect biodiverse rich ecosystems crucial to addressing the combined crisis of biodiversity loss and climate change.
- Showcase the significance of mainstreaming targeted funding for species conservation in a cost and time-efficient manner to prevent species extinction, addressing two interlinked crises.

**Speakers:** H.E. Razan Al Mubarak, Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund and IUCN  
Nicolas Heard, MBZ Fund  
Anita Tzec, IUCN  
Chizuru Aoki, MEAs and GEF  
Munir Varani, Mohamed bin Zayed Raptor Conservation Fund  
Mark Halle, Global Rewilding Alliance  
Olivier Langrand, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)

### III. Side event: *Harnessing the power of wildlife to tackle the climate crisis*

**Date:** 10th December  
**Time:** 17:00 - 19:00  
**Venue:** Nature Pavilion, Blue Zone, Expo City, Dubai, UAE  
**Organisers:** International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)  
Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC)  
Global Rewilding Alliance (GRA)

**Description:**

This event will present the latest scientific evidence and programmatic learning on the role played by wild animals, such as whales, elephants and other large herbivores, in addressing the climate crisis.

The event will showcase evidence that animals 'animate the carbon cycle' in ways that dramatically improve carbon sequestration. It will also show how wildlife conservation programmes support animals to perform these functions in ways that mitigate climate change, and also deliver adaptation benefits for communities and economies, thereby helping countries and investors to meet their targets on the Paris Agreement, Convention on Biological Diversity and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Panellists representing African and Commonwealth governments will then describe how they are actively integrating wildlife into their climate action plans, and we will explore how Nationally Determined Contributions could be used to accelerate the use of wildlife conservation as a nature-based climate solution.

IFAW will also launch a report on the inclusion of wildlife in NDCs in Africa and the LDCs.

**Speakers:** Andrew Tilker, Re:Wild  
Azzedine Downes, IFAW  
Monica Medina, WCS  
Patience Gandiwa, ZimParks  
Mxolisi Sibanda, The Commonwealth  
Chris Butler-Stroud, WDC  
Mark Halle, Global Rewilding Alliance

#### **IV. Side event: *Bringing elephants into the room – why UNFCCC needs to put animals on the table***

**Date:** 11th December  
**Time:** 11:30 - 13:00  
**Venue:** Side Event Room 3, Blue Zone, Expo City, Dubai, UAE  
**Organisers:** Global Rewilding Alliance  
Re:wild  
The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund (MBZF)  
Whale and Dolphin Conservation  
Yale School of the Environment (YSE)  
IUCN Species Survival Commission (IUCN SSC)

#### **Description:**

A guided panel discussion with 4 speakers, facilitated by a Mark Halle, Co-founder International Institute for Sustainable Development & Better Nature.

The specific role of wild animals in the carbon cycle is widely overlooked. Across all ecosystems, animals facilitate the capture of billions of tons of CO<sub>2</sub> annually. Rewilding ecosystems and restoring wildlife populations is the missing link between biodiversity and climate. Learn about the “how” and the “how much”.

The thematic focus is principally integrated and holistic approaches, alongside secondary focus on enhancing international cooperation; forests; indigenous peoples; nature; ocean; science and assessment; sinks; systems transformation: land.

**Speakers:** Mark Halle, Global Rewilding Alliance  
Oswald Schmitz, Yale University  
Reem AlMealla, Nuwat for Environmental Research & Education  
Andrew Tilker, Re:Wild  
Heidi Pearson, University of Alaska Southeast  
Sophika Kostyniuk, Aquatic Life Institute  
Oriana Wouters, Caribbean Justice Leaders Academy  
Mxolisi Sibanda, The Commonwealth

#### **V. Side event: *Operationalising Article 5 of the Paris Agreement to ramp up ambition for nature-based solutions***

**Date:** 11th December  
**Time:** 09:00 - 10:00  
**Venue:** Nature Pavilion, Blue Zone, Expo City, Dubai, UAE  
**Organisers:** International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)  
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)  
Birdlife International

**Description:**

This workshop will explore the need for a work programme on Article 5 of the Paris Agreement to increase the amount of action and investment flowing into non-forest landscapes and the oceans.

It will explore the untapped potential of non-forest carbon sinks, and the multiple co-benefits they offer. It will examine the gaps and weaknesses in current efforts to deliver on Article 5 and will offer concrete proposals on how a work programme on Article 5 might be designed and established to facilitate greater ambition on the delivery of nature-based and nature-positive solutions.