

FREELAND



**ANNUAL REPORT
2023 - 2024**

Table of Contents

Message from our Founder	3
A Big Thanks to our Global Community	5
Freeland Board, Advisors, & Leaders	6
Freeland in the Spotlight	7
Our Work	
• Protect	10
• Educate	20
• Reward	33
Educating through Media	37
Financial Information	41
Upcoming in 2024	42
How to support us	43
Where to find us	44



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Production Editor: Kartika Rana

Cover photo: Thai school children planting tree during Freeland Surviving Together outreach event, 2023

Message from our Founder

Awareness is growing that trafficking impacts every one of us. If not right now, eventually it will touch each of us and our families if it is unaddressed in any corner of our planet. Trafficking wildlife destroys natural ecosystems, and spreads viruses across borders, resulting in pandemics. Human traffickers prey on children and economically desperate adults everywhere.

Trafficking makes criminal groups powerful, and all of us vulnerable.

So what is Freeland doing about it? And what makes Freeland unique in the ecosystem of “do-gooder” organizations?

This is a question I often get from people wanting to know if and how they may join and support Freeland.

It’s a good question that each of us at Freeland ask ourselves too. We want to know that our daily inputs are valuable. At the same time, we recognize that no one organization can tackle all the challenges related to trafficking on their own.

I answer the question like this:

1. **We are frontline:** we work shoulder-to-shoulder with law enforcement to prevent traffickers from harming people and nature, while helping people and nature recover where damage has been inflicted. That is our focus, and that is our strength.
2. **We collaborate:** with other organizations to address challenges that are not our strength.



Steve Galster during a CTOC training in Indonesia

Message from our Founder

As you will see in this report, our frontline work focuses on mitigating poaching and trafficking of wild animals, trees and plants through our **PROTECT** and **Surviving Together** programs that channel direct aid to rangers and communities. Our **DETECT** and **CTOC** programs help law enforcers find and dismantle criminal rings involved in human and wildlife trafficking. Our **Trafficking Free Enterprises** program goes inside corporations to help their staff become eyes and ears in airports, seaports, and financial channels.

Freeland engages organizations to care for victims. That is where our need for partnership begins. If we help break a human trafficking ring, we pre-organize assistance from experts who have facilities and counselors for victims. If we help officers seize live animals from traffickers, we turn experts who care for confiscated wildlife. Examples of these collaborations are found throughout this report.

Finally, you'll see we co-created a global alliance called "**EarthTeam**". The 80+ members recognize that today's pressing challenges that are going to make our break future generations – climate change, extinction, pandemics — are connected, and therefore those of us working on these issues need to be connected too. EarthTeam consists of experts in wildlife protection, regenerative agriculture, climate change, habitat protection, and human health. Together we are rolling out the "Planetary Health" approach that is holistic and prevention oriented. Working together, we will save time, money and lives. Our motto: "It takes a Team to Protect the Planet."

That is how we at Freeland think too. By providing technical, financial, or moral assistance to our work, please know that you are supporting direct, frontline efforts that are part of a wider team approach to making our world safer for our families and fellow animals. Thank you.

STEVE GALSTER



A Big Thanks to our Global Community

Special mention
and thanks to



B.GRIMM
SINCE 1878

Kian
Gwan
House

Sawhney
Family
Foundation

Donors

- B. Grimm Group
- Conservation International
- DOFI - Dept. of Forestry Inspection, Lao PDR
- US Dept of State, Bureau of Intl Narcotics & Law Enforcement
- Michael C. and Linelle Mitchell
- PACT
- Richard Christian and Deb Walker
- Sawhney Family Foundation (SFF)
- USAID Wildlife Asia
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Global Alliances

- AIPA (ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly)
- EarthTeam, formerly EndPandemics (A Global Alliance to Protect and Regenerate Nature)

Business Partners

- Amazon
- AsiaWorks
- Canva
- Cellebrite
- Ferguson Lynch
- Google
- Microsoft
- NUIX
- White and Case LLP

Freeland thanks many organizations that make it possible for us to deliver on a global scale. We are grateful for their ongoing support.

Program/ Project Partners

- ASEANAPOL
- Big Cat Rescue
- Born Free Foundation
- Conservation International
- David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation
- Friedman French Foundation
- FFI Myanmar
- Golden Triangle Asian Elephant Foundation (GTAEF)
- Global Conservation (GC)
- IUCN
- IFAW - International Fund for Animal Welfare
- International Wildlife Trust (IWT)
- Mekong Club
- Peoples Resource Conservation Foundation (PRCF)
- TGLF - Thin Green Line Foundation
- Wagmore Foundation
- WildCats
- WildCats Conservation Alliance
- WWF - World Wide Fund for Nature
- Wildlife Alliance
- Wildlife Asia (Australia)

Freeland Board, Advisors, & Leaders



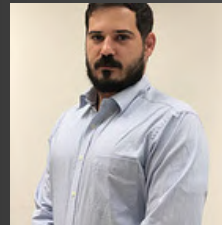
Amar Sawhney, Advisor



Petcharat Sangchai,
Executive Director for
Southeast Asia



Dr. Jiqiang Zhang, Board
Member



Ricardo Forrester, Deputy
Managing Director



Jolene Schatzinger, Board
Member



Richard Christian, Board
Member



Juliana Machado Ferreira,
Executive Director for South
America



Steven R. Galster, Founder
and Chairman



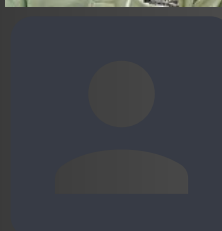
Michael C. Mitchell, Board
Member



Thomas Eddy, Board
Member



Onkuri Majumdar, Managing
Director



Tim Flannery, Board
Member

Freeland in the Spotlight

Freeland has made global headlines with its frontline, impactful work.



As a leading organization in anti wildlife and human trafficking Freeland created a stir when we were featured in the docuseries behind the illegal trade and fate of Rhino and the perpetrators of the crime.

Freeland featured in the three part miniseries about the plight of Rhinos leading to their extinction and illegal trade. It was broadcasted in the UK and Ireland in January on Sky Documentaries and Now TV and their platform. The series has already received positive reviews and we hope that it raises awareness of the plight of the rhino and the role organised crime has played in the rhino horn industry.



Learn more here - <https://www.freeland.org/frontline-champions.html>

Steve Galster on BBC News Day - <https://www.facebook.com/reel/391015200259070>



Freeland in the Spotlight

Women of Freeland



Onkuri Majumdar (MD Freeland and NatGeo Explorer), sharing the stage with HRH the Prince William, and some very influential women in the field of wildlife conservation at the United for Wildlife Global Summit in Singapore. Together, HRH the Prince William and National Geographic explorers shared their vision to end wildlife crime, projecting an impactful collaboration to battle against wildlife traffickers and transnational organised crime.




INTERPOL
Partnerships in
Conservation Award
Dr Juliana Machado Ferreira



Dr. Juliana Machado Ferreira, Director (Freeland Brazil) won the prestigious conservation award from **INTERPOL** for her excellent contribution in the field of stopping illegal trafficking of wildlife.



COUNTERING WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING ACROSS THE GLOBE

EVENTS IN 2023



PARTICIPANTS

3393



INSTITUTIONS

>90



DAYS

>110



COUNTRIES

17



PARTICIPANTS' FEEDBACK



- The CTOC course enhanced my understanding on different intelligence approaches and refreshed my knowledge on how to successfully attain operational plans with the use of online applications introduced during the training.
- All topics [of the CTOC course] are really relevant. Link charts/analysis, confidential informants and operational planning marked in my mind.
- The CTOC course is full packed with lectures, actual activities and interaction which are very important to a training. I believe the tabletop exercise helped a lot to develop our knowledge.



Our WORK

Freeland's comprehensive approach involves **Protecting** People, Plants and Animals from Trafficking; **Educating** the Public How to Help Stop Trafficking; and **Rewarding** Protectors

PROTECTING

OUR FRONT-LINE EFFORTS BUILD CAPACITY OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, AND PROTECT VULNERABLE PEOPLE, ENDANGERED WILDLIFE AND ECOSYSTEMS



TRIPOD 1

Freeland designed a task force to unplug the powerful syndicates that threaten wildlife and people in Southeast Asia

In response to relentless hunting of sharks, sea turtles, pangolins, elephants, tigers, orangutans and many other endangered species in Southeast Asia, Freeland and its partners (NGOs Tanggol Kalikasan, WWF-Philippines, and IFAW) established a new regional task force to find and stop the traffickers who are financing the ecocide.

Ocean waters between Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia, particularly the Sulus-Celebes seas, have witnessed unprecedented poaching and trafficking of these species, which is often linked to other forms of crime, like kidnapping, drug trade, and terrorism. So, with financial support from the US State Department, and partnership with our police allies in Southeast Asia, ASEANAPOL, Freeland designed a task force in 2022 and 2023 to unplug the powerful syndicates that threaten wildlife and people.

Going around the region, Freeland and our partners first convened about 10 enforcement agencies in each of the three countries to discuss the challenge. Then we provided special training on how to identify the underground criminal networks, and dismantle them.

Freeland's course, "**CTOC**" (**Counter-transnational Organized Crime**), is designed to help officers discover the kingpins who run these networks for financial gains and target what parts of the "supply chain" are vulnerable to dismantle. This is the most efficient way to provide relief to species under threat, rather than arresting low level smugglers, who are easily replaced. The poaching continues because the money keeps flowing. Freeland treats wildlife trafficking syndicates as criminal businesses that can only be stopped by eliminating their profits.

Through these efforts we trained 92 officers from 63 agencies across the 3 countries.

By the end of each training, the agencies had formed national interagency teams. Further we requested each national team to join hands together in a neutral location (Thailand), to exchange information on trafficking, and to form a regional task force (also known as a "SIG", or Special Investigation Group").

Once the task force was created, we conducted a survey to receive feedback on the program. **91% gave us a 9/10 approval, out of which most (71%) gave us a 10/10!**



Karren Cecil Panopio-Lofranco [left] (from the Litigation and Prosecution Division of the Legal Affairs Service of the Philippines' Department of the Environment and Natural Resources) shows her team's plan to dismantle the mock syndicate that CTOC uses in its "threaded approach" to capacity building. [Right] A group of LE officers preparing for building their link charts.

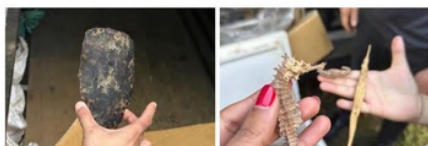
Serious Wildlife trafficking in South Pacific Gets Much Needed Enforcement Attention

May 30, 2023

COUNTER-WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING | PROTECTING WILDLIFE | WILDLIFE ECONOMY

David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation (DSWF) is committed to fighting wildlife crime, and effective law enforcement, informed by investigative work and information sharing, is essential to tackling the illegal trade and trafficking.

Recent investigations and a new report reveal high volumes of wild animals being trafficked through the Sulu-Celebes seas shared by Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines – pointing to the need for cross border enforcement collaboration, which is now underway. Forty officers attached to 28 agencies across these three countries, formed an informal counter-wildlife trafficking enforcement network in early May, part funded by DSWF, focusing on interdictions, caring for and repatriating seized animals, and tracking persons and companies that are financially sponsoring these wildlife crimes.



Government operations and seizures in the three countries reveal that organised wildlife crime syndicates are trafficking large quantities of sea turtles, sharks, pangolins, wild birds, giant clams, and more. Sources of Freeland, a counter-trafficking group supported by David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation, point to Indonesia being a major target of traffickers, with the Philippines and Malaysia also suffering from global commercial demand for their biodiversity.

Devastatingly, a new study by the monitoring organisation, Traffic, reports over 25,000 live animals and over 120,000 tons of wildlife, parts, and plants seized from illegal trade in this area between June 2003 and September 2021. These spanned hundreds of species and included marine as well as terrestrial wildlife.



TRIPOD 1 WILDLIFE CRIME REPORT

A new TRAFFIC study reports over 25,000 live animals and over 120,000 tons of wildlife, parts and plants seized from illegal trade in this area between June 2003 and September 2021. Traffic's examination of online wildlife trade in marine turtles, pangolins and sharks and rays from September to December 2021 found that rays were the taxa most frequently offered for sale online in the area and were documented to be stockpiled or sold through live-streaming sessions.

Reports received by Freeland in 2023 show that shark fins, rays and skates are still traded in unsustainable volumes, with the legal trade masking a large illegal trade. Freeland recommends that the legal trade in sharks, skates and rays be paused, at least until stronger enforcement measures are implemented.

Freeland has been tracking the cross-border nature of the illegal trade in the region, with government counterparts confirming that a **significant amount of the trade in birds, pangolins, shark fins, sea turtles and more is heading toward Vietnam and China**, pointing to the need for regional counter wildlife crime collaboration. The study carried out by TRAFFIC was funded by Freeland through a US Department of State-Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs project combating wildlife trafficking in the region called "TRIPOD", and by project partners IFAW and WWF.

TRIPOD I SOUTHEAST ASIA

SIG PHUKET

30h / 4 days
Cross border cooperation

40 OFFICERS

May 2023



CTOC PHILIPPINES

40h / 5 days
Mock case on trafficked marine wildlife

January 2023

CTOC INDONESIA

40h / 5 days
Mock case on trafficked marine wildlife

Sept 2022

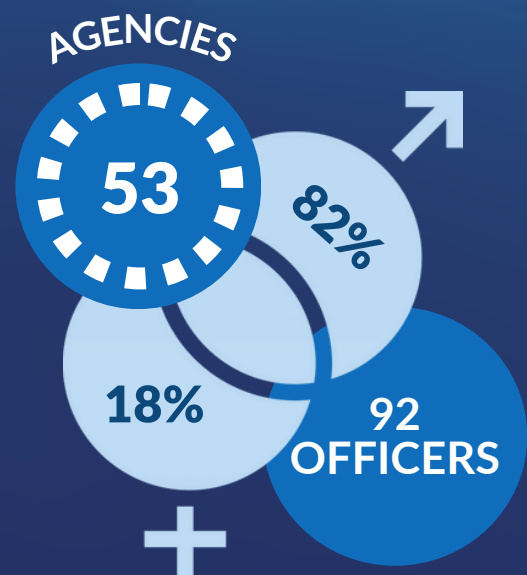
CTOC MALAYSIA

40h / 5 days
Mock case on trafficked marine wildlife

June 2022



Establishing regional task forces worldwide to find and stop the traffickers who are financing the ecocide.



PROJECT ACE

Freeland Helps Form and Train Sri Lanka Counter-Trafficking Task Force

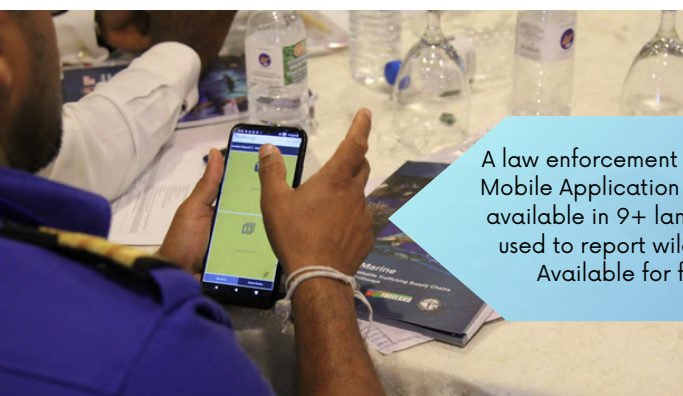
In partnership with 9 Sri Lanka government agencies and the NGO Environmental Foundation Limited, Freeland helped convene and train a new national task force to combat wildlife crime in this South Asian country that is targeted to destroy its own rich biodiversity, and used as a transit for global wildlife trafficking. Freeland's "**CTOC**" (**Counter-Transnational Organized Crime**) training team conducted a special course just outside of Colombo in late July for 27 officers. The officers, representing the following agencies, Wildlife, Forest, Fisheries, Police, Anti-Bribery, Coast Guards, Navy, Financial crimes and Prosecutorial were skilled up to identify, analyze and disrupt organized wildlife crime networks and supply chains.

Following a week of specialized capacity building, Freeland then helped these same agencies form a task force (also known as a "**SIG**", or **Special Investigation Group**") that immediately put their CTOC skills to use and started to share information on criminal trafficking, while discussing plans to stop it. These back-to-back events were sponsored by the US Department of State, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL).

The CTOC course and SIG event in Sri Lanka received **positive feedback** from participants, who highlighted the need for more such training in the region, with special requests for digital forensics, OSINT analysis, and introduction to CTOC online training course and the WildScan species ID mobile application.



Officers during a real case-based mock syndicate exercise preparing link charts (an investigation tool) which are used to fit the puzzles to find criminals and break criminal supply chains. Participants work together in groups with individuals from different agencies to enhance networking and national cooperation.



A law enforcement officer learning to use WildScan Species ID Mobile Application in Sinhala and Tamil language. WildScan is available in 9+ languages and features over 800 species. It is used to report wildlife crime and identify seized contraband. Available for free download on Android and iOS devices.

CTOC participants undertaking the open source intelligence training (OSINT). This specialised training teaches about reverse image search, dark web, finding user locations, data dumps and more of such digital investigation tools and techniques that can be used to gather intelligence from publicly available sources.



Traffickers target vulnerable ecosystems and communities, especially where law enforcement is weak due to lack of resources and corruption. Freeland's Brazil team has been finding and convening officers across Brazil and their neighboring countries to train and support them to fend off some of the most powerful trafficking syndicates in the world that threaten exotic birds, reptiles, jaguars and whole ecosystems like the Amazon.

Freeland, through its South American Branch, organized the meeting “Wildlife Trafficking in the Southern Triple Border and the connection with Europe”

Freeland convened officers from Brazil, Argentina, and Paraguay, sharing information and cases on cross-border trafficking supply chains, while training them on how to break those criminal chains. The **“CTOC Brazil course” (Counter Transnational Organized Crime Course - Brazil)** and the **“CTOC Instructors course”** was conducted from June 19th-23rd. There were lectures on open source intelligence, money laundering and corruption associated with wildlife trafficking, research on trafficking of South American reptiles to Europe, among others. Before they finished the one week event, officers agreed to form a joint action plan.



Earlier in March 2023, Freeland gathered 18 Brazilian and Argentinian agents to help them train their own colleagues across the 2 countries during the **CTOC Argentina - Train The Trainer** training. Agencies involved included, from Brazil: Federal Police, IBAMA, Agricultural Surveillance, Federal Highway Police - and from Argentina - Federal Police. The event also helped these agencies form better relationships and share information on criminals operating across their jurisdictions.

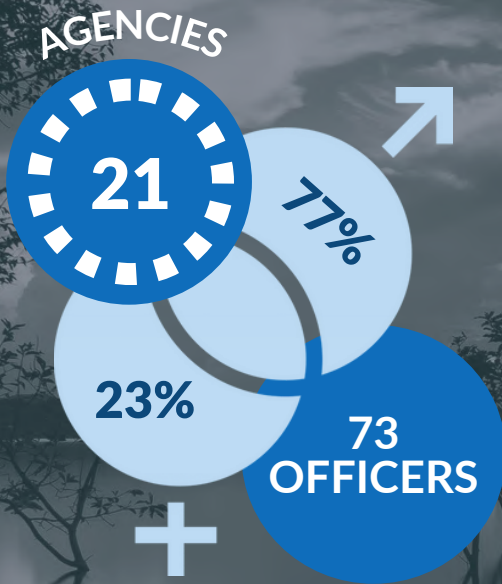


South American Task Force Formed and Takes Aim at Reptile Traffickers



Thirty enforcement officers from 9 countries were convened by Freeland and the host government of Brazil to share information on the burgeoning trafficking of reptiles, which is a multi-million dollar business stretching across almost all continents. Officers formed a cross-country **Special Investigation Group** (SIG), representing source, transit and consumer countries, including: Brasil, Argentina, Paraguay, France, Germany, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, and Suriname. Freeland will now support, track their progress and needs, and report further on this effort.

SOUTH AMERICA



SIG REPTILES

10h / 2 days
Transnational cooperation

30 participants

Sept 2023



CTOC BRAZIL

40h / 5 days
TRAIN THE TRAINER

10 participants

June 2023



CTOC ARGENTINA

40h / 5 days
Mock case on trafficked wildlife

18 participants

March 2023



CTOC + SIG

56h / 7 days
Mock syndicate case on trafficked marine and terrestrial wildlife

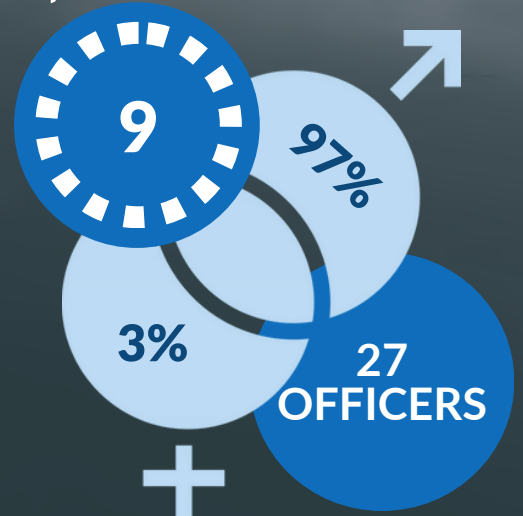
28 OFFICERS

July 2023



ACE SRILANKA

AGENCIES



NEW COUNTER-HUMAN TRAFFICKING TRAINING PROGRAM

Freeland was recently selected by ASEAN-Act (ASEAN-Australia Counter Trafficking), to help the Thai Government produce a new counter-human trafficking curriculum. The training program will serve as one major component of the new "Center of Excellence" on countering human trafficking, which is funded by the Thai and Australian governments. The vision shared by the Thai and Australian governments is to use the new Center to further mitigate trafficking in Thailand, and to share lessons learned with all ASEAN member states.

Freeland, in partnership with the organizations IJM (International Justice Mission) and Mekong Club, is drafting basic and advanced courses that will position all agencies, from enforcement to social welfare, to reduce trafficking while protecting victims. These will be complete by May 2024.

"The training program will empower officers to employ a victim-centered approach to dismantling human trafficking syndicates," said Steven Galster, Chair of Freeland. "Victim well-being comes first, so the **basic and advanced courses, including CTOC-TIP**, ensure that any approach, from arrest, rescue, to asset seizure, results in solid victim protection."

Freeland is a sub-contractor to DT-Global, which operates the ASEAN-Act office in Bangkok.



Human Trafficking looks like this, and we can stop it

Watch campaign - <https://fb.watch/prEO8su2J5/>

"There are more slaves in the world today than ever before. Did you realize that many victims of trafficking started their horrendous journey as a willing, but illegal migrant? Out of desperation, many victims originally promised to pay someone to smuggle them across borders and get them a job. The job turns out to be indentured labor. They end up endlessly paying their bosses, and not going to the police for help because technically, they violated immigration law. They're stuck. Freeland finds and helps these victims through investigations, enforcement, and liaising with caregivers."

Be a Frontline Champion - <https://www.freeland.org/frontline-champions.html>

SURVIVING TOGETHER

The Surviving Together (ST) program takes a holistic approach to preserving biodiversity that works to protect vulnerable ecosystems at every level. It's been purpose-built to assist communities by working closely with protected area managers, rangers, and the surrounding communities to address the root causes of environmental degradation and bolster conservation efforts where they are needed most. The ST team assists communities to understand and appreciate the natural beauty around them, while encouraging them to respect and protect the Environment.

Under the program there are six core activities, three of which are aimed at “protecting” the wildlife and communities:

- **Wildlife Monitoring** – Utilizing science-based techniques to monitor key wildlife and threats, ensuring informed and focused protection for these species.
- **Protected Area Monitoring Systems (SMART)** – Institutionalizing systems and tools to monitor patrols and their effectiveness, critical for adaptive management.
- **Ranger Training** – Improving park protection skills through PROTECT while simultaneously building local training capacity.



In 2023, Freeland supported a series of VHF radio repeaters in Khao Laem national park. Over the last few years analogue VHF radio have largely fallen out of fashion as most rangers have mobile phones.

However, out of many an event in 2023, where two rangers were attacked and injured by a Gaur, demonstrated VHF radios still have a role in remote communications.



Many people may not realize it, but rangers, guardians of nature, face more threats on a daily basis than urban-based police officers. This is due to armed poaching gangs, zoonotic diseases, and sudden acts of nature, like floods. In Thailand, for example, over 15 to 20 rangers die on duty every year. Freeland provides support to rangers by providing equipment, emergency funds for their families, and training, which covers anti-poaching and personal safety. In 2023, Freeland trained 431 rangers in 5 national parks in Thailand, including: Khao Laem National Park, Dong Yai, Wildlife Sanctuary, Sadej Naikrom, Ta Phraya National Park, and Pang Sida National Park. These parks are home to tigers, elephants and other very rare species.

In September 2023, Freeland in conjunction with the Thai Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP) conducted another 12-day intensive **PROTECT Border Enforcement Ranger Basic Training Course**. The course improved the skills of 31 protected area personnel from Thailand and Cambodia. Course instructors were from Freeland, Thai Border Patrol Police, Royal Thai Army, Cambodian Ministry of Environment and Thai Department of National Parks. All participants passed the course, with an average score at 83.27%. A further 6 officials received informal mentoring by instructors on how to deliver future courses.

Freeland's **PROTECT course** is specifically designed for frontline biodiversity protection personnel working along international borders. It introduces participants to the complexities of international organized crime and creates an understanding of the correct course of action to take in the face of dangerous situations, such as engaging armed poachers or loggers, or finding land mines, both of which are common threats along the Thai/Cambodian border.



Rangers being taught how to cope in a situation of finding themselves in a minefield

Opening ceremony of the 12 Day PROTECT training course



Improving park protection skills through PROTECT while simultaneously building local training capacity.



EDUCATING

OUR CREATIVE EFFORTS BUILD AWARENESS, ADVOCACY AND EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ON THE GRIM REALITIES OF THE CORRUPT AND DANGEROUS WORLD OF ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING

In a world that is increasingly full of information flying at us from all directions, it is getting harder to raise awareness and change human behavior. It is, however, practical to foster good behavior by targeting youth. Therefore Freeland has designed campaigns catering to younger generations. For example, in January, Freeland's Deputy Director Ricardo Forrester presented the **End Pandemics campaign** to King's College International School students in Bangkok in partnership with Alicyn Henning and the "don't drop the ball" campaign. Students were encouraged to create a student society and to volunteer in organizations working to end pandemics.



But that is not it! In 2023, Freeland created some significant policy impacts and advocated positive changes across the globe. In January Freeland contributed to the Brazil Presidential Transition Cabinet's Environmental Technical Group of Brazil. Dr Juliana Machado Ferreira, Executive Director of Freeland's office in Brazil presented them with priority actions to strengthen the fight against wildlife trafficking to the Environmental Technical Group of the Presidential Transition Office of Brazil.



Dr. Juliana also delivered the course **Identification of Mistreatment and Legal Procedures** organized by the Center for Animal Studies in partnership with the National Association of Animal Lawyers. The course reveals behaviors and indicators of physical and psychological abuse of non-human animals, in addition to providing guidance on legal procedures relevant to the topic.



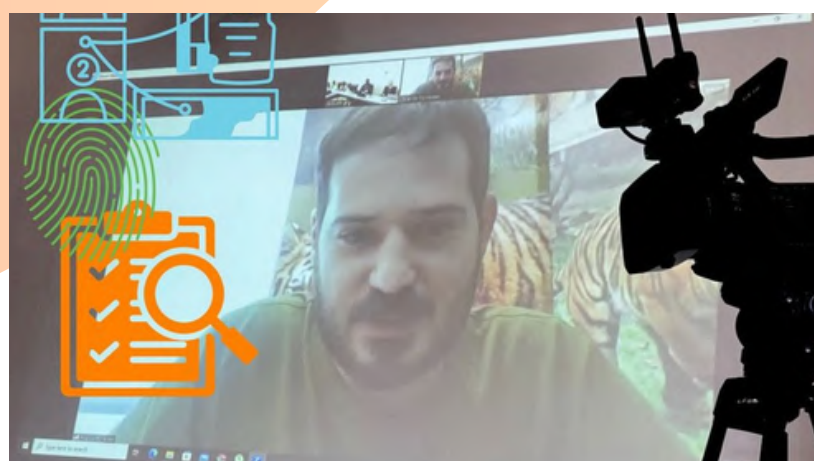
In February, Dr Juliana was invited by the Biodiversity Division of the Center for Environment, Energy and Infrastructure (EEI) of USAID Bureau for Development, Democracy and Innovation (DDI) spoke to the SANO Technical Team (South America Network for One Health) during the International Conservation Chiefs Academy in the **Strengthening One Health in South America: Action Workshop**. The objective of the workshop was an exchange of experiences with the conservation chiefs that are dealing with the same issues as Brazil.

Later in the year, Freeland Brazil was invited to present at the **very first training of the Federal Highway Police** on countering environmental crime where Dr. Juliana addressed the participants on the issue of wildlife crime and the work done by Freeland in Brazil.

Mastering the world of cutting-edge tools for wildlife crime investigations, Freeland OSINT Instructor Ricardo Forrester delivered numerous virtual sessions on **OSINT for the law enforcement agencies and public/private sector** with key takeaways such as understanding OSINT's role in wildlife crime investigations, customizing OSINT tools for environmental crime exploration, leveraging modern technology to combat illegal activities affecting our planet. One such session was taken during the Earth Journalism Network Media Workshop during the late 2023.

Another was an **"On-the Job" OSINT Training** course delivered in June, where participants from the Brazilian Federal Police learned how to use free internet search tools to track criminals on the web.

OSINT Trainings



SURVIVING TOGETHER

The Surviving Together (ST) program which takes a holistic approach to preserving biodiversity and assisting communities have also been instrumental in educating them. Out of the six core activities, 3 of which have been highlighted under the PROTECT section, the other 3 are discussed here:

- **Human Wildlife Conflict Mitigation** – Improving local support for conservation by minimizing the impact of conflict between local communities and wildlife.
- **Alternative Livelihoods** – Empowering and training former poachers and other local community members to switch to environmentally-friendly and sustainable livelihoods
- **Community Education and Outreach** – Improving awareness and inspiring local conservation Champions.

Freeland works in national parks in Thailand to build awareness among students and villagers about tigers living in close proximity to their community. In 2023, Freeland conducted 23 outreach activities in Schools for Grades 1 to 9 in National Parks in Thailand, where 1702 students were positively impacted. In addition to that, 18 outreach activities in Communities of National Parks in Thailand were organized, which positively impacted 963 people. Freeland defines “positively impacted” by skill development, increase in knowledge and awareness of local wildlife and co-existence of human and wildlife in reserve areas.

Some highlights include:

Joint outreach workshop conducted in December 2023 with Wildlife Alliance which discussed appropriate educational outreach activities and approaches to be adapted in South Asia. Workshop supported by DSWF in Thailand.



Freeland conducting a community meeting in a Thai National Park



Freeland conducted school outreach activities in conjunction with Wildlife Alliance from Cambodia to deliver dual Thai/Cambodian outreach. A total of 113 students participated with equal gender ratio, in schools from Ban Khok Prasart and Ban Khok Jeck in Ta Phraya



Freeland working with Khao Laem National Park in Western Thailand to build awareness among students and villagers about tigers living in close proximity to their community.

In July, Freeland in conjunction with Thai eastern provincial schools and the Ta Phraya National Park took up shovels and seeds to plant trees in a denuded community forest next to the Thai/Cambodian border. Preserving this area is particularly important as it provides a corridor for dispersing wildlife in the region.



SURVIVING TOGETHER

A holistic approach to preserving biodiversity that aims to protect vulnerable ecosystems at every level, while assisting communities to understand and appreciate the natural beauty around them, and encouraging them to respect and protect the Environment.

SCHOOLS REACHED

23

50%

50%

1702
STUDENTS
PARTICIPATED



1436
WILDLIFE
REHABILITATED



676
COMMUNITY
PATROLS

25
COMMUNITY
MEETINGS

MITIGATING
HUMAN
WILDLIFE
CONFLICT

COMMUNITIES REACHED

18

48%

52%

963
PEOPLE
PARTICIPATED



EARTHTEAM - Sharing Solutions

EarthTeam is a global, frontline alliance of individuals and organizations united in protecting our planet from pandemics, species loss, climate change, and habitat destruction.

Rather than working in silos, we join forces.

We recognize that today's threats to our planet point to the same solutions, which form the basis of our holistic Planetary Health approach.



What we do

EarthTeam combines community, learning, and action to protect and regenerate our planet.

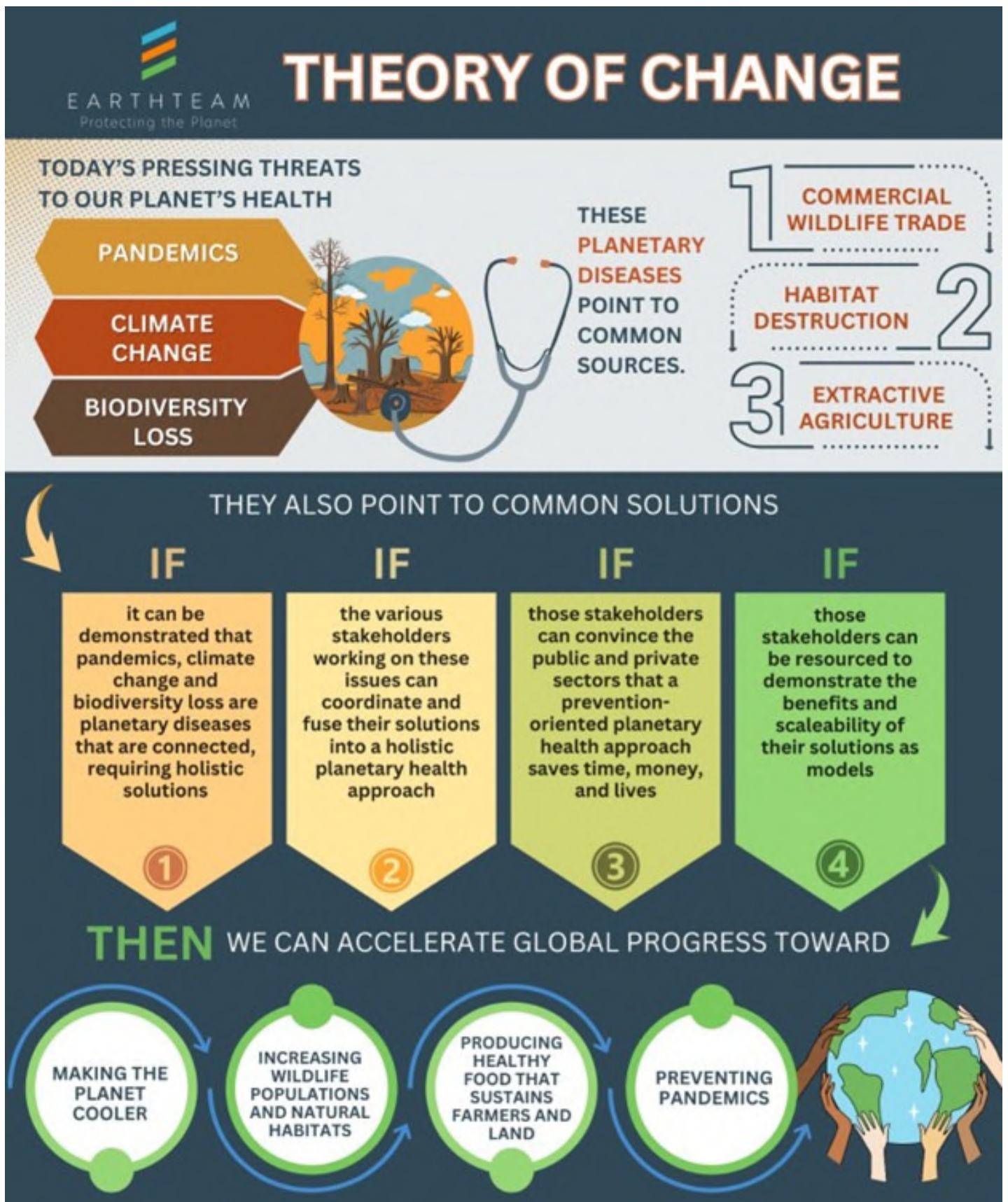
We offer a platform for individuals, groups, and organizations from all geographies, cultures and generations to talk together about threats facing our planet's health, and how to support each other's solutions, while creating new ones together. EarthTeam facilitates open communication and effective coordination. We spotlight leaders in their fields of practice, giving them a global platform for sharing, and helping them mobilize resources and scale impacts.

EarthTeam features

Community: we foster communication and collaboration, including monthly virtual town hall meetings, working groups, and a website that supports communities of practice.

Learning: our distance learning platform features tools and training courses for those wanting to improve their own capacity, and that of others, in wildlife protection, habitat protection, and regenerative agriculture.

Action: our global community calendar and project map enhance stakeholder coordination toward common goals.



In 2023, EarthTeam (previously EndPandemics) hosted a series of townhall webinars discussing One Health approach, and how it addresses the health threats at the human-animal-environment interface. Human health and the health of animals, plants and the environment are all linked and interdependent. Fighting the trafficking of wild fauna and flora is not just a battle to preserve our planet's precious resources, it is a fight for the health and well being of all of us.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023 TOWNHALLS INCLUDE:

Planes, Trains and Automobiles: Wildlife on the Move is Everybody's Problem -

December townhall with Onkuri Majumdar was about how the movement of wildlife is affected by our own transportation methods, and how to mitigate this problem.

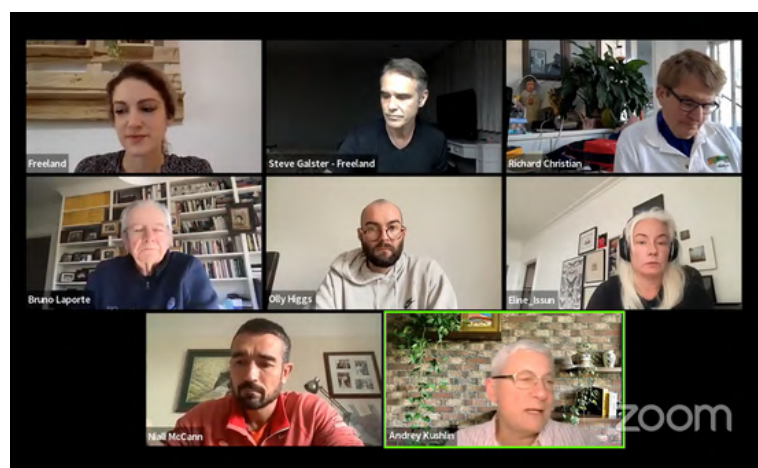
<https://fb.watch/prEetqdO-J/>



Protecting the Planet: Bridging the Gap between Research and Impact -

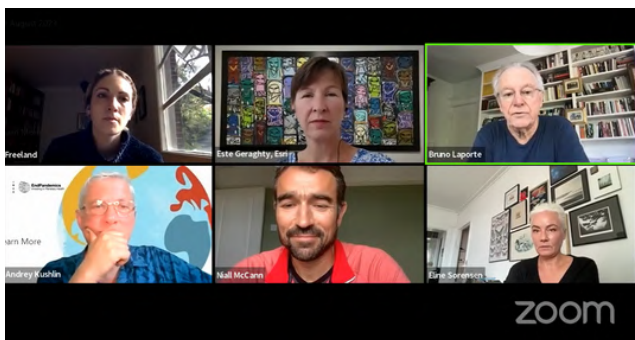
November townhall featured Niall McCann, Executive Director at National Park Rescue, discussing how a committed team can transform solid research into actionable, community-led solutions that can deliver lasting impact on the ground.

<https://fb.watch/prELMuRPip/>



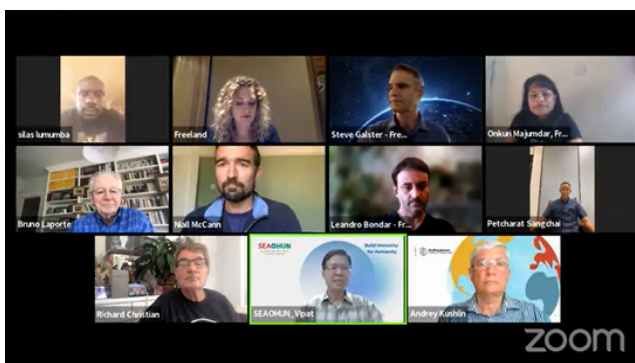
Rewriting the playbook on countering wildlife crime -

October townhall series with Freeland Founder Steve Galster was a private one joined by various law enforcement agencies sharing ideas on how to put the brakes on wildlife crime.



Planetary Health in the Pandemic Era: Geospatial Solutions for a Holistic Approach -

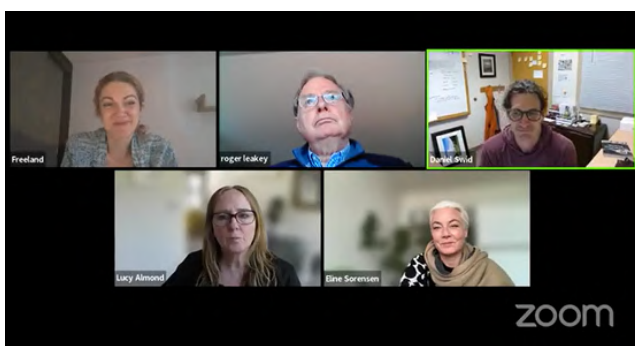
August townhall featuring Dr. Este Geraghty, Chief Medical Officer at Esri, explores how geospatial data can inform and empower community-level solutions for pandemic prevention and other related causes, as well as promote peer collaboration and learning on the ground.



One Health Education for All: Catalyzing Citizens of the Future -

June townhall with Vipat Kuruchittham, Executive Director, Southeast Asia One Health University Network (SEAOHUN) Secretariat sharing his experience as he leads a One Health network of 92 universities in 8 Southeast Asian countries, working to develop a resilient and competent One Health workforce by leveraging education, research, and training.

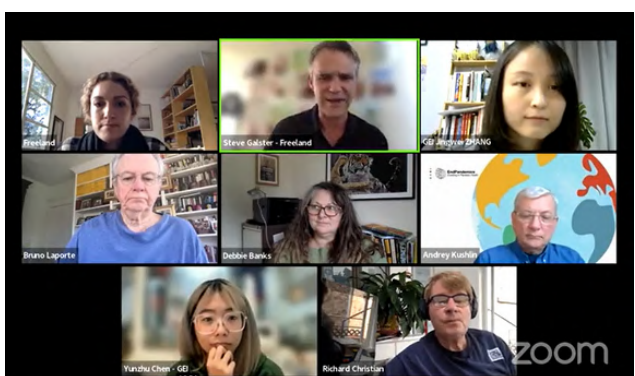
<https://fb.watch/prO1lx--lc/>



Communicating Nature's Solutions: How to Catalyze Actions & Investments -

May townhall meeting featuring guest speaker Lucy Almond of Nature4Climate!

<https://fb.watch/prOBChxTP7/>



Stopping Wildlife Trafficking and Restoring Nature in East Asia: A New Chinese-led Effort -

April townhall featuring guest speakers Jingwei Zhang and Yunzhu Chen from the Global Environmental Institute. Recognizing China's emerging international presence, the Global Environmental Institute (GEI) was founded in 2004 with the aim of securing sustainable development within the country's borders and abroad. Based in Beijing, they work alongside key policymakers, businesses, scientists, civil society leaders and local communities to foster dialogue and innovative solutions to protect the environment and enhance economic opportunity within China as well as in Southeast Asia and Africa.

<https://fb.watch/prONkTCrRg/>

EARTHTEAM

Resources

MANUALS PRINTED

431

+ DIGITAL MANUALS



TRAINING PACKAGE FOR DEFENDERS OF PROTECTED AREAS OF ALL LEVELS



English, Chinese, Bahasa Indonesia, Khmer, Lao, Vietnamese and Thai

MANUALS PRINTED

148

+ DIGITAL MANUAL



MANUAL ON COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME FOCUSING ON WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING



Bahasa Indonesia, Bahasa Malaysia and English

MANUALS PRINTED

127

+ DIGITAL MANUAL



OSINT MANUAL FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS TO GATHER AND ANALYSE OSINT FROM THE INTERNET, WHILE MAINTAINING PRIVACY AND SECURITY.



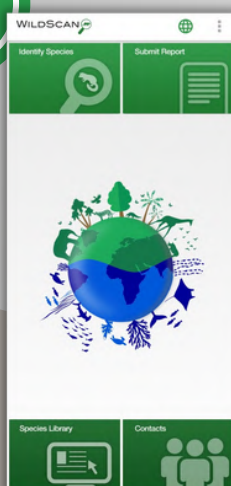
English and Bahasa Indonesia

Find more resources at earthteamsolutions.org

DOWNLOADS

+2200

MOBILE APP



+ 800 GLOBAL SPECIES ADDED AND MORE



AVAILABLE IN +26 COUNTRIES



9+ Global Languages

WILDSCAN
WILDSCAN SMARTPHONE APPLICATION



LIBRARY OF GLOBAL AND REGIONAL CITES AND IUCN LISTED SPECIES



SPECIES IDENTIFICATION TOOL



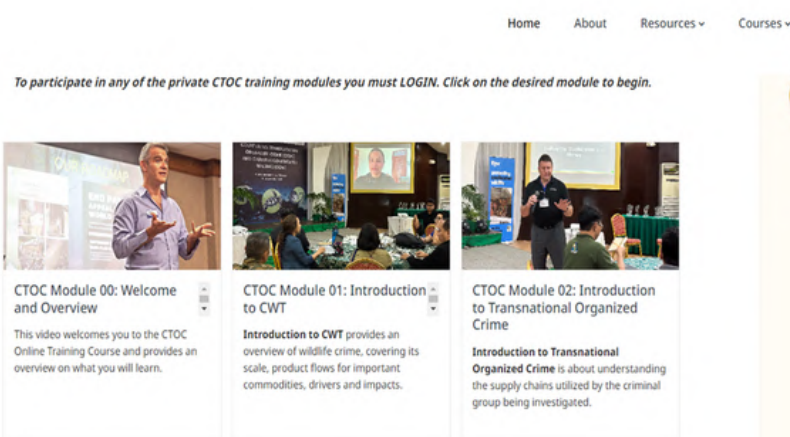
WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING REPORTING TOOL

Online Solutions Hub

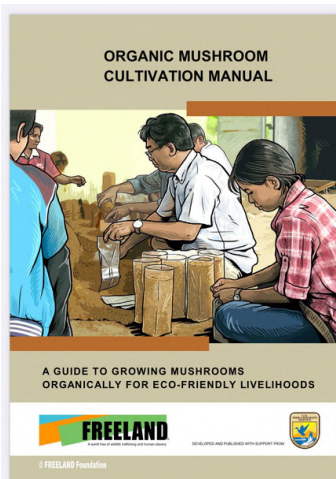
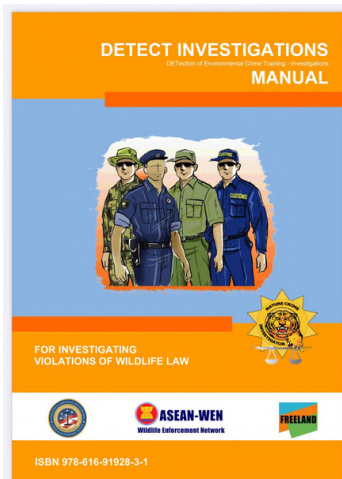
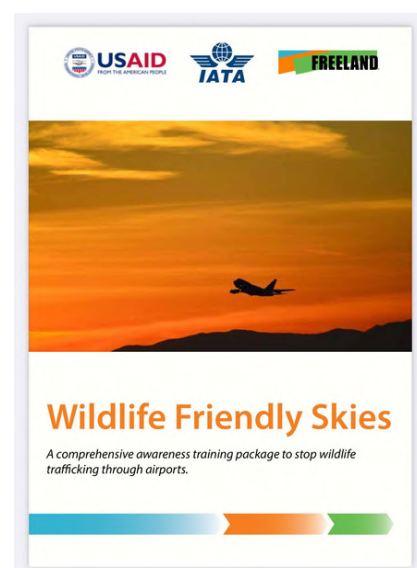
Like you, Freeland got cooped up during COVID era, but we didn't stop working. When we could not get onto a plane and go train task forces, we translated our tools into our new online training program. Online learning does not replace in-person support. But it can be very valuable to excite people up for a course, or help them refresh what they learnt. And it is certainly invaluable to the majority of officers and NGO workers who never get the chance to join a course in person. Thanks to this new global alliance "EarthTeam", facilitated by Freeland, everyone can now learn wherever they are, provided they have a phone or laptop.

Highlights of some resources include:

CTOC online course with over 17 modules in many languages



Trafficking Free Enterprises (TFE) Toolkits - A guide including tips on how to identify wildlife species and products, how to profile and detect traffickers, with examples of smuggling methods, and how to respond to wildlife trafficking in the Aviation sector.



And many more tools available on the platform earthteamsolutions.org in many languages.

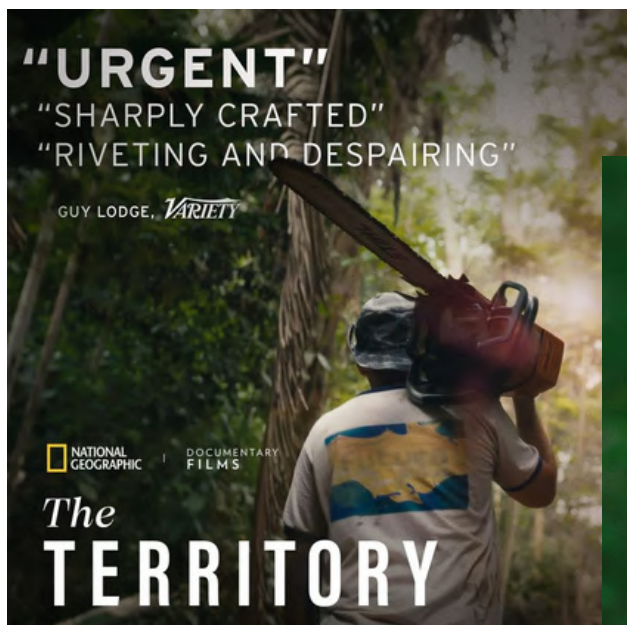
A global storytelling platform featuring films about people, wild animals and ecosystems that are facing daunting challenges. These are stories of hope and inspiration during an annual weekend festival that includes films, panels, live music, local food, and workshops presented to the public, critics, students, aspiring filmmakers, and activists.

FREELAND FILM FESTIVAL

Freeland held a special screening of the Nat Geo documentary film **"Wild Life"** in August at Caestecker Library in Green Lake Wisconsin! From Oscar®-winning filmmakers Chai Vasarhelyi and Jimmy Chin, the docufilm follows conservationist Kris Tompkins on an epic, decades-spanning love story as wild as the landscapes she dedicated her life to protecting. The feature chronicles the highs and lows of their journey to affect the largest private land donation in history.



Green Lake School District's "Take a Break" day included the National Geographic Documentary Films film **"The Territory"** presented by Freeland Film Festival for the 6th graders who had their questions and resources in hand upon arrival! Partially shot by the Uru-eu-wau-wau people and filmed over the course of several years, THE TERRITORY offers an authentic portrait of an Indigenous community's daily life and struggles. With its breathtaking cinematography showcasing the dramatic landscape and richly textured sound design, the film brings audiences deep into the precious ecosystem they are fighting to protect. Freeland also held a free in-person screening in Green Lake, Wisconsin at the Town Square Community Center in January.





Len Morris, director of our film of February - **"Butterfly, Butterfly"**, presented the film at the Green Lake School District Library in Green Lake, Wisconsin, and spoke to the students about forced child labor and how to advocate for children's rights around the world. He also spoke with an attentive audience after a screening at the The Federated Church of Green Lake. Special thanks to the school and the church, as well as to our hard-working team on the ground, Evelyn Galster and Rich Christian, for organizing these special screenings and spreading the word about children's rights with Len!



REWARDING

FREELAND ACKNOWLEDGES OUR "PROTECTORS AND EDUCATORS" WHO WORK IN DANGEROUS ENVIRONMENTS TO SPREAD AWARENESS AND BRING JUSTICE TO LIVING BEINGS WHO CANT FIGHT FOR THEMSELVES.

BEST PERFORMING TRAINEES FROM ACE SRI LANKA TRAINING



BEST PERFORMING TRAINEES FROM TRIPOD 1 SOUTHEAST ASIA TRAINING- PHILIPPINES



EARTHTEAM PARTNER AWARDS FOR 2023



Andrey won the best member award and a round trip to Thailand for his continuous participation.



EarthTeam partner and member "ActAsia" won the significant impact award for 2023 and \$3000 cash award for their excellent work in the field.

FREELAND THAILAND CEO, RETD POL MAJ GEN PETCHARAT SANGCHAI ADDRESSES THE GATHERING AT WORLD RANGER DAY 2023 EVENT IN THAILAND

Freeland participated at the World Ranger Day 2023 event at Kaeng Krachan National Park and World Heritage site in Phetchaburi Province, Thailand. Freeland introduced the Department of National Parks in Thailand to World Ranger Day in 2013 and has been partnering with this agency to support this special day for 10 straight years.

World Ranger Day is celebrated worldwide each year on July 31st to commemorate Rangers killed or injured in the line of duty and to celebrate the work Rangers do to protect the planet's natural treasures and cultural heritage. Each year 15 to 20 rangers from Thailand die in the line of duty and the families of such deceased rangers are invited to attend. Plaques honoring the fallen and additional compensation are provided to the deceased ranger's families and to rangers seriously injured in the line of duty.



FREELAND AS AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL RANGER FEDERATION PARTICIPATED IN THE FIRST ASIAN RANGER FORUM HELD IN ASSAM, INDIA

In December 2023 Freeland, along with five Thai rangers, were represented as the founding members of the Thai Ranger Association formed three years ago. During the meeting, 168 rangers from 21 countries shared their experiences and prepared a declaration aimed at increasing government support for rangers. This is particularly relevant as governments start to implement their 30x30 commitments (i.e. conserving 30% of biodiversity by 2030- Global Biodiversity Framework).

Following the meeting, Freeland scheduled a two days meet-up in Kaziranga National Park in Assam where the Thai rangers met Indian counterparts.



Deforestation means more than disappearing forests. This Freeland campaign, designed by Ogilvy-Mather in Thailand, won the prestigious Busan Mad Stars advertising festival award in 2023.

In June 2023, Brazilian environmental enforcement agents seized an incredible 30 tons of shark fins – **the biggest haul in recent global history** – from two companies that were under their investigation. The fins were being prepared to export to Asia where they are used in exotic foods, including luxury soup. Freeland applauds this incredible success, while lamenting the fate of approximately 10,000 sharks. **One of the lead agents that led the investigation had been trained by Freeland in 2023 in a counter-wildlife trafficking course sponsored by the US State Department Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs.**

Brazil seizes world's biggest illegal shark fin consignment

By Peter Frontini and Ana Mano

June 21, 2023 5:39 PM GMT+5:30 · Updated 6 days ago



Brazilian authorities seized **28.7 tonnes** of illegally fished shark fins



We love to see and partner with companies with a mission to do good! The Bombas mission is to help those experiencing homelessness. They choose organizations like Freeland to help them donate and distribute socks to people in need. They've donated more than 75 million items to more than 3,500 community organizations to date. We have been proud to help distribute their donated socks for the past 4 years, and in 2023 we asked for 1,000 pairs of socks to distribute to three agencies: Green Lake Food Bank, Boys & Girls Clubs of Wisconsin, and the Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services, INC., which takes in women and families of domestic abuse. Here, the amazing Evelyn Galster from Freeland USA donates Bombas socks to the Christine Ann Center in Oshkosh.

Educating through Media

Freeland continues to harness the power of media to reach and raise awareness among large, targeted audiences around the world

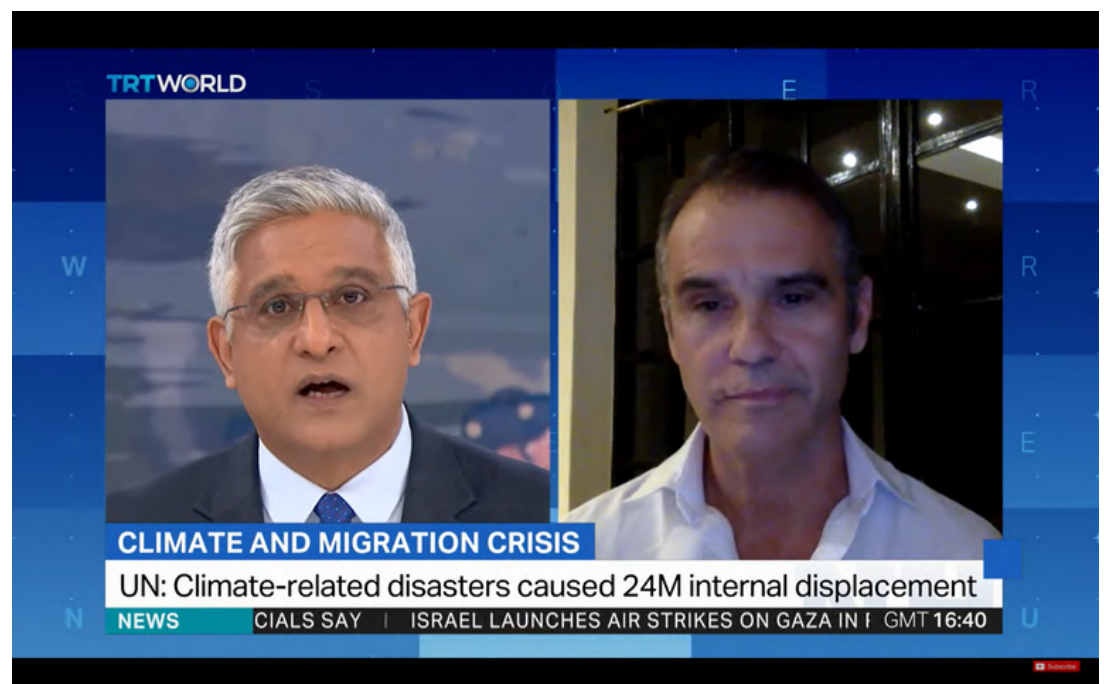


Bangkok Post's "Deeper Dive Thailand" discussing the extent of wildlife trafficking and Freeland's global strategies to fight this evil proactively to avoid future pandemics.

Read the article here - <https://www.bangkokpost.com/.../ban-wildlife-trade-to...>
Listen to Podcast here - <https://open.spotify.com/episode/7l8yYlsXXA3xvu3ehif4W2SMU>
Recap of Steve Galster in talk with Bangkok Post - <https://fb.watch/prDTDEmVd8/>
FB live interview with Steve Galster as a follow up to "Smuggling the Next Pandemic" - <https://web.facebook.com/events/326009703632361>

Freeland weighs in on Human Trafficking:
How Climate Change is making it worse, and how "One Health" can help.

Watch the interview here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y54b3sRL-uo>



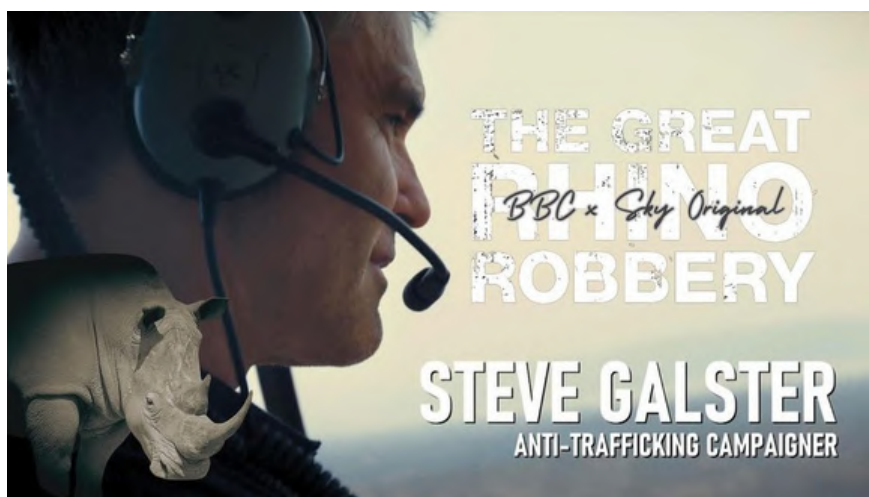
New Op-Ed by Freeland Founder Steve Galster: Eyes of the Wild are on Asia: The Fate of Wildlife Globally Depends on Asia's Response to Wildlife Crime.

Read here - https://www.freeland.org/newsroom/eyes-of-the-wild-are-on-asia?fbclid=IwAR1Hv8jnBhdfbmWVK3YV2Sboja6X_J02_LWLiH3RQ343IktrdbHBbHsmFY0



How rhino poacher hired sex workers to dupe authorities - and the hunt for the 'Pablo Escobar of wildlife trafficking'

Steve Galster, Chairman, Freeland was part of the team that first discovered Vixay Keosavang - dubbed the "Pablo Escobar of wildlife trafficking". A new Sky documentary focuses on the hunt for a kingpin in Laos who sent his team to take rhino horns from South Africa and smuggle them back through Thailand.



Read the article here: <https://news.sky.com/story/how-rhino-poacher-hired-sex-workers-to-dupe-authorities-and-the-hunt-for-the-pablo-escobar-of-wildlife-trafficking-13034732?fbclid=IwARIY7QcKNjPWsvQ8UF3k3pJb9kGuq8YOnqKUpjARdlp6CcOwvQMdCcZBoFo>

THE WILD MIDWEST

America's heartland, including Wisconsin and other states in the midwest, was playing a significant role in the global wildlife business. Wisconsin is one of the 5 states in the country that allows private ownership of exotic animals as pets, like tigers, lions, and more. Wildlife zoos have sprouted up, and exotic pet fairs are booming. Global trafficking of wild animals is moving through the States, including body parts of rhinos from Africa, and live monkeys from Asia's jungles.

On August 11th, experts in wildlife trade, protection, and rescue care, who are from Wisconsin, joined a recently retired federal special agent to reveal more interesting facts about the "wild midwest", and discussed what local communities might want to consider for themselves and the animals. Speakers from Freeland, US FWS, Primates Inc, VOTK Sanctuary, and the Founder of Big Cat Rescue, featured in the TV series "Tiger King", all joined the public event that was covered live on Facebook and by several TV and radio stations.

Watch the discussion here - <https://fb.watch/prGI5OI4SC/>



ROADSIDE ZOO BILL

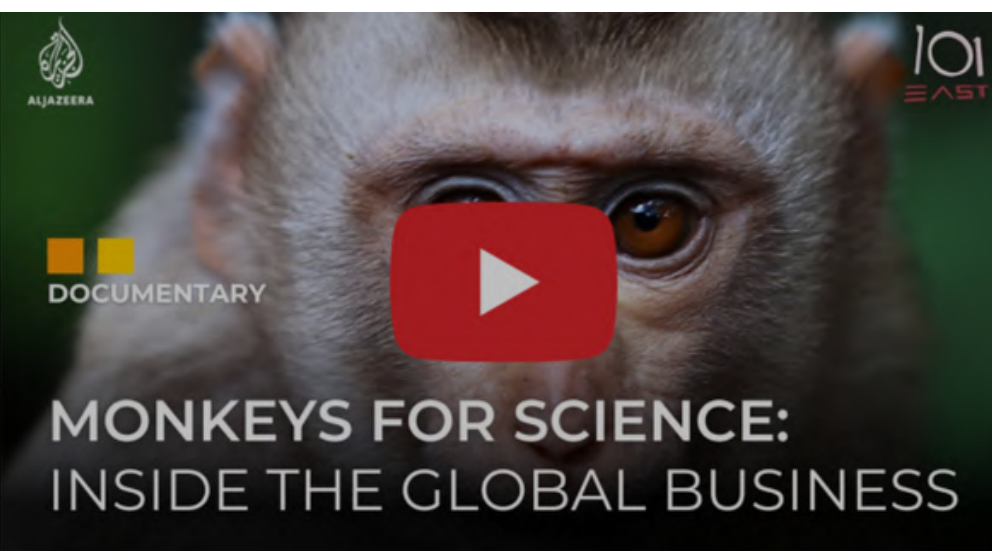
Freeland then joined multiple Wisconsin organizations to appeal to the State legislature to tighten, not loosen regulations on roadside zoos. Freeland's inputs were featured on Wisconsin Public Radio. In an interview with WPR, Steven Galster (Chairman, Freeland) is quoted saying "Some of these species can escape and all of a sudden become a new native species. Some of them might bring a pathogen and unknown virus with them and pass it on to people or to livestock." - pointing towards new unknown pandemics. Less-regulated and unregulated wildlife facilities can become "laundering mechanisms" for smuggled animals, he added.

Read here - <https://www.wpr.org/roadside-zoos-would-be-exempt-dnr-licensing-requirements-under-gop-proposal>

INTERNATIONAL TV NETWORK AL JAZEERA'S DOCUMENTARY "MONKEYS FOR SCIENCE" FEATURES FREELAND AND THE GLOBAL MONKEY TRADE

Freeland's CTOC online instructor and retired federal special agent Ed Newcomer spotlights in the documentary and reveals the inside details of the global monkey trade. Primates are in high demand all over the world- famously in circuses and for keeping as pets, and infamously for testing research in biomedical labs to develop potentially life-saving drugs for humans.

But after COVID-19, China banned its export of lab monkeys which resulted in the emergence of a global black market in Southeast Asia, and catastrophically in Cambodia. Freeland has been working in Cambodia's protected parks over the past decade to protect its natural resources and wildlife, but wildlife has been secretly losing the war to corruption. With new federally funded projects in 2023 comes new hope, where Freeland will facilitate transnational cooperation between Cambodian border nations and government agencies in Project TRIPOD 2 that is scheduled in 2024.

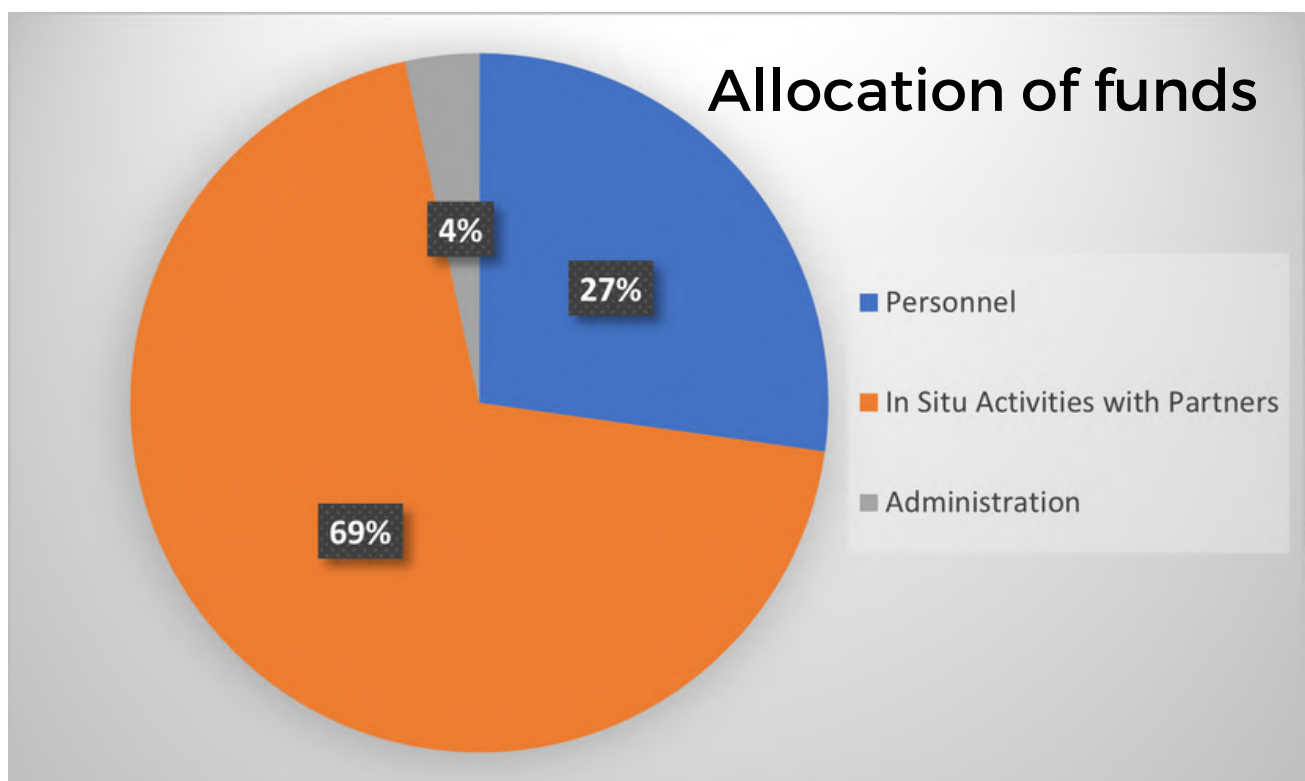
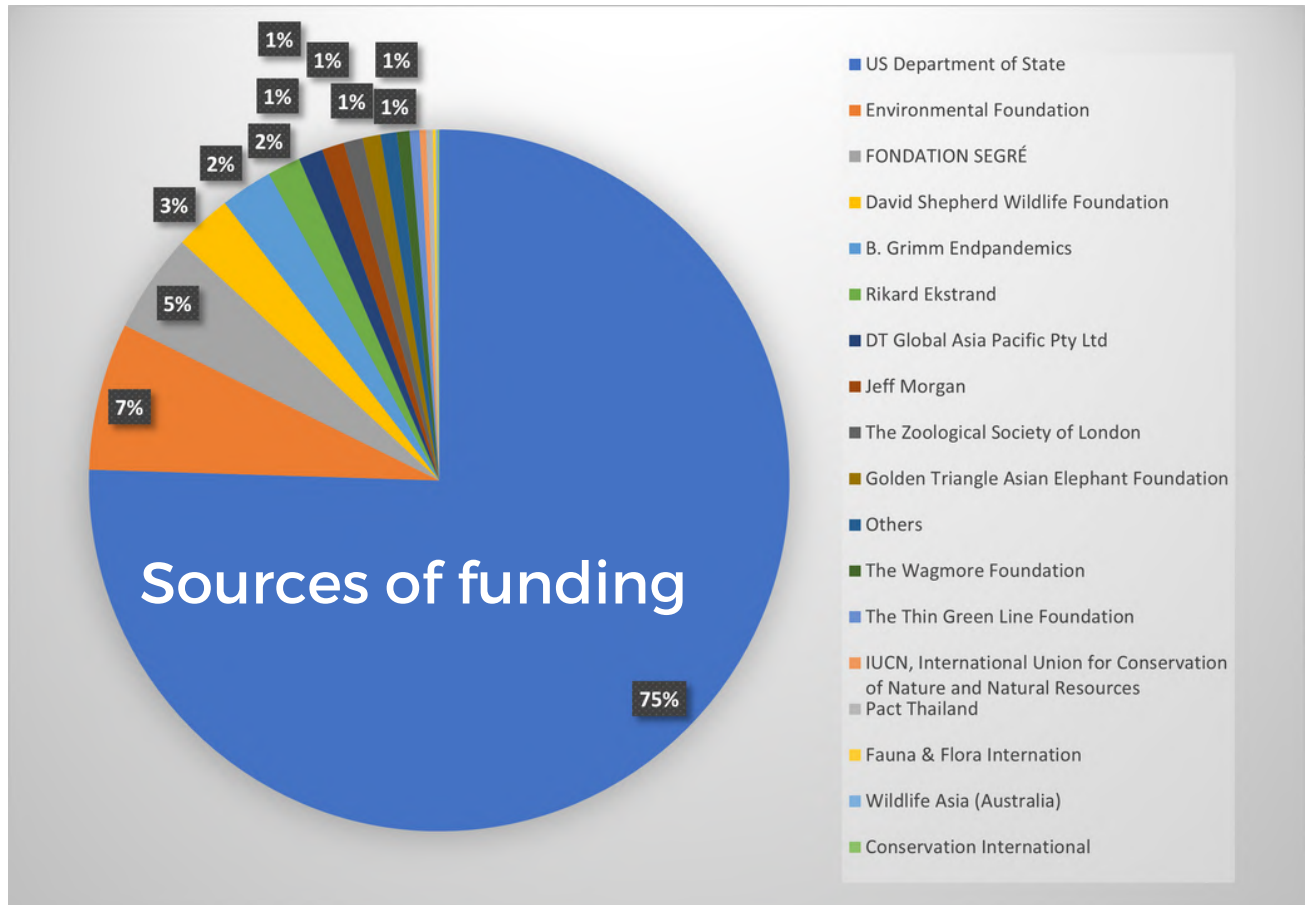


The Wild Midwest event organized by Freeland, featuring in the documentary. Steven Galster (Chairman, Freeland) along with Ed Newcomer during the event called for an end to the pet trade through an appeal to the community and the "inhumane" trials that drive this global primate trafficking in the USA.

Watch the documentary here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fBgycpxLWOA>



Financial Information '23



Upcoming in 2024



TRIPOD 2 in Southeast Asia - Freeland is all set to have a new round of INL funded project TRIPOD 2 that aims to form and strengthen cross-border collaboration in Thailand, Vietnam, Lao PDR, and Malaysia to stop trafficking. TRIPOD 2 will see new trainings for airports and seaport authorities, along with some roundtable discussions and CTOC training. TRIPOD 2 is delivered in partnership with ASEANAPOL and International Wildlife Trust (IWT).



EarthTeam TV - This year, Freeland Film Festival and EarthTeam are collaborating to produce a global portable newsroom which will host frontline stories, images, and panel discussions on various solutions towards achieving One Health. Stay tuned!



EarthTeam Partners Map - Our rebranded alliance (previously EndPandemics) is actively inviting partners and members. The platform, apart from hosting existing tools, online courses and resources, will also host an interactive map that will visualize “what our partners are doing and where”. Aim of this alliance is to maintain a web-based platform-network, that offers multiple services to relieve different stakeholders from many responsibilities (such as fundraising, admin, research, communication, etc.). This map will be a decision-making tool showing the presence of our partners, associates, and conservation efforts thereof to connect funders with projects of interest and support professional exchange.

Email us at admin@earthteamsolutions.org to join!

How to support us

Help Onkuri expand ranger and police trainings, and the use of WildScan

<https://fb.watch/prGcaAExnV/>

"Onkuri Majumdar (Managing Director, Freeland) has been a Nat Geo Emerging Explorer and the brain behind the WildScan Mobile application - a novel tool to identify wildlife and report illegally trafficked wildlife to the authorities. Onkuri over the last two decades has conducted ranger and police training in some of the difficult terrains in Asia and Africa."

Support her and Become a Frontline Champion -
<https://www.freeland.org/frontline-champions.html>

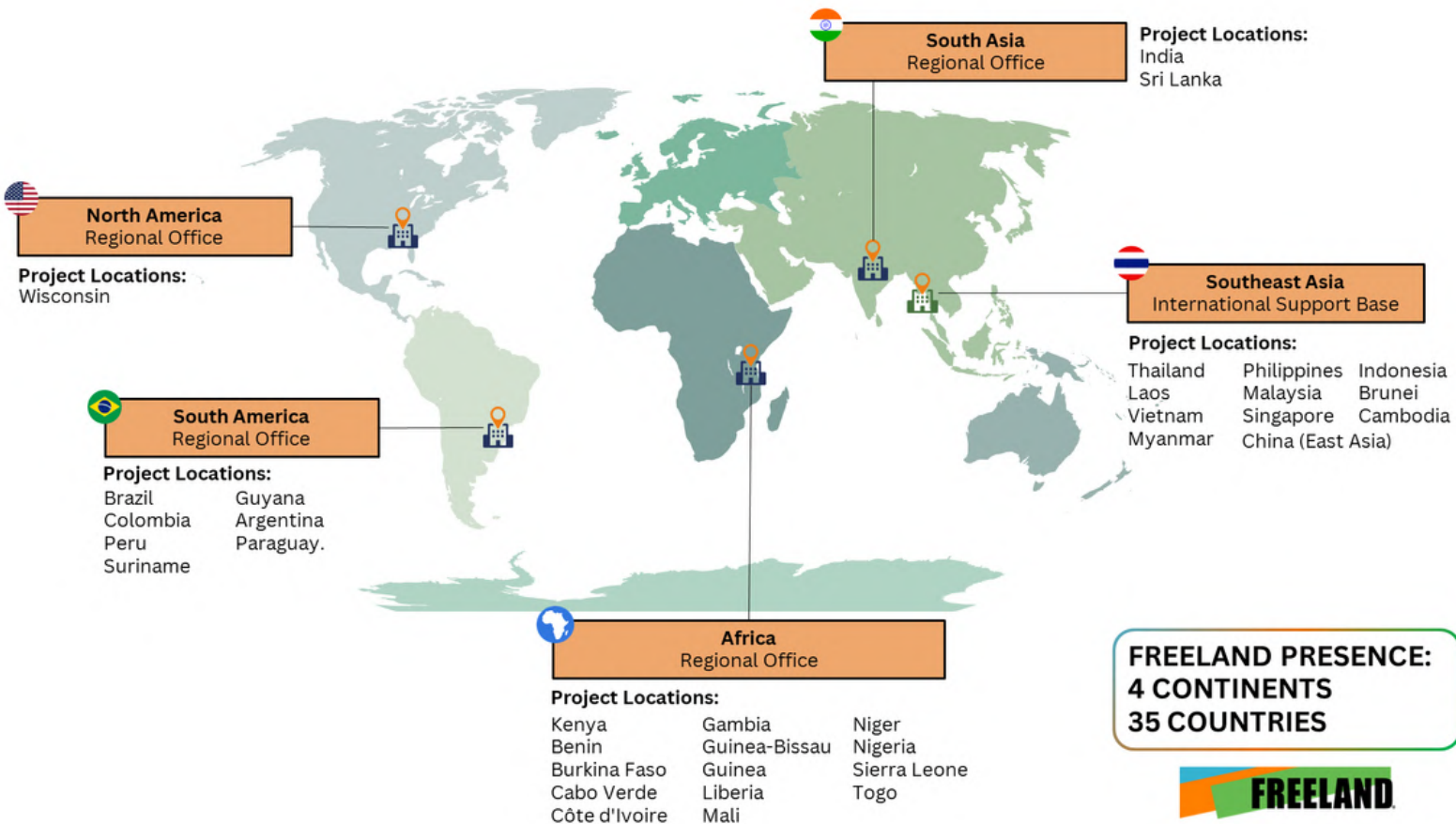
- **Help Us Put an End to Wildlife Trade**
- **Let's Stop Human Trafficking**
- **Join EarthTeam to End Future Pandemics**



We deeply acknowledge your continued support for our programs.



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www.freeland.org
info@freeland.org