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Forefront Q2 - Checkout out our half-yearly impact!

1 message

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FREELAND FIRING ON ALL CYLINDERS!

2025 started with a bang! Halfway through the year when we look back at what we have achieved as Freelanders over the last two quarters (despite the funding freezes and global chaos), we cannot be more proud of the impact we have made. Quarter 1 was reflective, but Quarter 2 was all action. Today we present our latest snapshot of our activities over the **last six months of 2025**.

Operating in 4 continents, 35 countries, Freeland CONTINUES to Protects People and Wildlife from Trafficking, and Helps Builds Resilient Communities and Ecosystems.

Freeland's comprehensive approach involves - **PROTECTING** People, Plants and Animals from Trafficking; **EDUCATING** the Public on How to Help Stop Trafficking; and **REWARDING** Protectors of our Planet and People from trafficking.

OUR IMPACT NUMBERS FROM 2020 ONWARDS

3280

OFFICERS TRAINED
(to stop human and
wildlife trafficking)

10436

STUDENTS
TRAINED

280

AIRPORT & SEAPORT
Employees Trained

443

AGENCIES
SUPPORTED

1647

WILD ANIMALS
REHABILITATED

1793

COMMUNITY PATROLS
CONDUCTED

7500

TREES PLANTED
UNDER REFORESTATION

212

EVENTS
ORGANIZED

111

MILLIONS (\$) WORTH
ASSETS SEIZED FROM TRAFFICKERS

37

COUNTRIES
COVERED
[Help Freeland stop trafficking - DONATE HERE](#)
PROTECTING

WE BUILD CAPACITY OF FRONTLINE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS TO REDUCE AND PREVENT CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION OF VULNERABLE PEOPLE, WILDLIFE AND ECOSYSTEMS

SOUTH AMERICA

3 Events for Aviation Sector;

100 Officers Trained

Freeland conducted a **DETECT** training on May 14–15 at Brasília International Airport, training 100 civil aviation personnel. The training focused on concealment techniques used in wildlife trafficking and enhancing X-ray screening to improve detection. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with 77% of participants stating it exceeded their expectations.

PARTICIPANTS' FEEDBACK reminding us why we do what we do:

"It was a wealth of information that I will use in my day-to-day work. I learned a lot of new things".

"In addition to mastering the subject, the integration, care and affection with the students was excellent".



"It was knowledge that I never imagined how good it would be. Very good teacher".

"It was a very good course for my knowledge, the course time could have been a little longer. But it was still great!"

"I should share this rich information with my colleagues".

May 27–28, 2025 – Freeland took part in the IMPACTAS Workshop in Santos, organized by the Federal Police to strengthen multi-agency collaboration against wildlife trafficking. Freeland emphasized the need for international cooperation and stronger control at customs and border points.

June 25–26, 2025 – At the IMPACTAS Workshop in Rio's Galeão International Airport, Freeland shared cases from São Paulo-Guarulhos International Airport, highlighting best practices, challenges, and the use of X-ray images to detect wildlife trafficking.

Southeast ASIA

15 Capacity Building Events;

262 Government Officers Trained;

46 Airport and Seaport Employees Trained



Viet Nam x Malaysia



FEEDBACK FROM CTOC PARTICIPANTS:

- *The instructors were knowledgeable and brought valuable real-world experience to the modules.*
- *I'm glad to be able to join this training. I've learned a lot. Looking forward to another gathering.*
- *The course was very useful and interactive. Will apply for my agency.*
- *Hope to get the opportunity to join the Freeland course next time.*

Freeland conducted six cross-border law enforcement trainings under TRIPOD II, supported by the U.S. Department of State (INL) and ASEANAPOL.

From June 9–18, Freeland held a **CTOC-WT** training in Hai Phong, Vietnam, for 27 Malaysian and Vietnamese officers.

Two **Trafficking Free Enterprises** trainings were held in June—one for Kuala Lumpur Airport staff and another for Hai Phong Port employees—followed by Port Roundtables to address cross-agency collaboration and wildlife crime reporting.

- *Need more materials on financial trail and studies on net worth analysis to identify who benefited the most from wildlife trafficking.*



A SIG meeting was held in Malaysia from June 17–19, where officials from Thailand, Laos, Malaysia, and Vietnam discussed active cases. By the end of the meeting, participants requested more such events, recognizing their value in enhancing cross-border cooperation and disrupting criminal supply chains.

FEEDBACK FROM SIG PARTICIPANTS reinforcing why these meetings are super-important:

- *Continue this meeting and provide more funds for each country.*
- *I would like to increase the time for international information exchange and add more units directly responsible for sharing information.*
- *It was good training and exchange of ideas, and good cooperation. In the future, it is proposed to organize more training like this or a format with more discussions.*
- *Many issues require coordination across borders. This is an opportunity for us to seize any chances given by Freeland/ ASEANAPOL.*
- *I suggest some training for prosecutors and police in ASEAN countries relating to high-tech crimes, including dealing with wildlife trafficking cases*

The Surviving Together team organized 9 ranger trainings

PROTECT forest trainings were conducted to enhance the performance of forest officials on the prevention of natural resource abuses in Thai National Parks. These training focus on GSM camera traps, GPS trackers rapid response, monitoring, data collection, and patrolling techniques.



Protected Area Monitoring Systems (**SMART**) patrol meetings - Under SMART, rangers come together to share and analyze data on what they are encountering during anti-poaching patrols. Then, led by their supervisors, they plan on how to improve each patrol to prevent poaching. Working with Thailand's Department of National Parks (DNP), Freeland co-organized many SMART Patrol activities and meetings in Thai National Parks to reduce Human-Elephant Conflicts.

Summary of wildlife surveys (6 locations):

- 8 wildlife surveys
- 6,400 survey days
- 96 rangers received on job training in wildlife data collection

Summary of SMART patrols (6 locations)

- No. of patrols: 429
- No. of Days: 2,289
- No. of Hours: 17,554

Summary of distances patrolled (6 locations):

- Walked: 11,534 km
- Motorcycle: 791 km
- Car: 5,264 km
- Boat (many parks have reservoirs and rivers): 1,025 km

These trainings and activities are supported by David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation, Segre, WildCats and Rikard Foundation.

AFRICA - Freeland helps in breaking African Ivory Trafficking supply chains

(January 2025) Freeland-Africa partnered with Thailand's Ministry of Justice to address rising human trafficking scams targeting Africans via Asia.

The collaboration brought together African and Thai agencies—including the Thai Department of Special Investigations, Lusaka Agreement Task Force, and Kenya Wildlife Service—to strengthen efforts against transnational criminal networks trafficking both people and wildlife.



As a result, in May, Freeland supported a successful operation that led to the arrest of three wildlife traffickers and the seizure of 48 kg of ivory.

EDUCATING

WE FOSTER GOOD BEHAVIOR TOWARD VULNERABLE PEOPLE, WILDLIFE AND ECOSYSTEMS THROUGH STORYTELLING

Southeast ASIA

13 schools and 5 villages supported



SURVIVING TOGETHER: Educating youth and rural communities to be stewards of nature

Freeland engaged **874** students from **13** schools located around Thai and Cambodian protected areas from January to July, sensitizing them about protecting their natural heritage and coexisting peacefully with it. Our outreach team used music, animal costumes and storytelling in interactive sessions with the kids to focus on the global importance of the biodiversity that they live right next to.



One major threat to both people and wildlife is the conflict between the two over diminishing habitat. So Freeland runs a "**Human-wildlife conflict (HWC) mitigation**" program, with the support of our partner 'The Golden Triangle Asian Elephant Foundation'. We work in tangent with communities, and in 2025, we held community outreach events for **203** villagers.

Freeland actively engaged in key events addressing environmental and wildlife crime. In April, Dr. Juliana M. Ferreira joined a global dialogue in Paris on combating environmental crime (hosted in Paris by the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, alongside the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, with support from the European Union through the **ECO-SOLVE** project) and led a cultural conservation workshop in Ilhabela with the **Barreiros Association** - where 30 members explored conservation through personal histories and shared roots, guided by Education Coordinator Leandro Bondar.

South America - 4 educational events



In June, Freeland participated in Environment Week at Guarulhos International Airport, presenting on wildlife trafficking in aviation. Dr. Ferreira also represented Freeland at the **Lancet-PPATS** meeting in South Africa, contributing to global pandemic prevention efforts as part of a 29-member expert commission.

EARTHTEAM

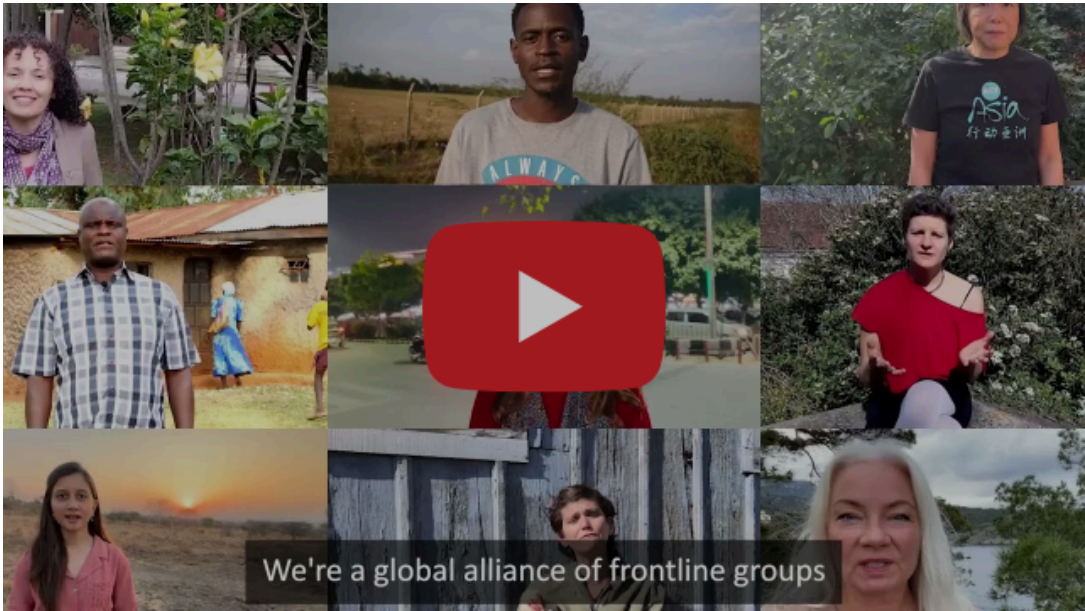
100+ members

Freeland co-chairs EarthTeam, a global alliance to protect Planet Earth from pandemics, species loss, and climate change by advocating and implementing the One Health approach. One Health = protecting the health of people, animals and ecosystems at the same time. There are now more than 100 members.

EarthTeam features:

- **Community:** includes monthly virtual town hall meetings, working groups, a coordination unit, 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, or that of others, in wildlife protection, habitat protection, and regenerative agriculture.
- **Action:** Our global community calendar and project map enhance coordination of members and non-members toward common goals.

[Join EarthTeam](#)



BUY TICKETS

REWARDING

WE REWARD THOSE WHO MAKE EFFORTS TO PROTECT PLANET AND PEOPLE BY SPOTLIGHTING AND PROMOTING THEM AS CHAMPIONS



ARREST OF AFRICAN IVORY

TRAFFICKERS: In May, Freeland supported Kenya Wildlife Service and Lusaka Agreement Task Force in an operation that led to the arrest of 3 traffickers and the seizure of 48 kg of ivory.

"This is just the start," said Freeland Founder Steve Galster, praising KWS's swift action and pledging continued support to stop the illegal ivory trade.

[🔗 Full press release](#)

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Major Wildlife Crime Bust in Argentina:

Following OSINT evidence and complaints filed by Freeland, an Argentinian task force led by the Ministry of Justice raided Jorge Noya's illegal hunting operation, seizing wildlife trophies, land, and arresting Noya.

The raid, part of a 2-year collaboration between Freeland and Argentine authorities, targeted 13 locations and led to the arrest of four key suspects, with three still at large.

This marks Argentina's first-ever arrests for illegal hunting, illegal arms provision to foreign clients, and trophy export with false certificates. Freeland continues to support authorities in building the case and preventing similar operations from emerging.

Freeland is proud to announce it received a \$4,000 grant on June 2, 2025, from the Oshkosh Foundation's Community Arts Program, in partnership with the Wisconsin Arts Board.

The grant supports the **Freeland Film Festival** in enriching the cultural life of Green Lake and nearby communities through inclusive film screenings and panels. We're deeply grateful for this recognition and support.

Help Freeland stop trafficking - DONATE HERE

We thank our many donors and sponsors who have supported Freeland in building a world that is safe from trafficking.

Special thanks to Kian Gwan House, B. Grimm Company, Sawhney Foundation, and White and Case Law Firm for their support of Freeland.



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