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Forefront Q4 - Season's Greetings and Freeland's Updates

Freeland is wrapping up 2024 with gratitude towards our partners and supporters. Today we present our latest snapshot of our activities over the fourth quarter of 2024.

Operating in 4 continents, 35 countries, Freeland 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

2918 OFFICERS TRAINED (to stop human and wildlife trafficking)

9562 STUDENTS TRAINED

234 AIRPORT & SEAPORT Employees Trained

356 AGENCIES SUPPORTED

1646 WILD ANIMALS REHABILITATED

1364 COMMUNITY PATROLS CONDUCTED

7500 TREES PLANTED UNDER REFORESTATION

177 EVENTS ORGANIZED

111 MILLIONS ($) WORTH ASSETS SEIZED FROM TRAFFICKERS

35 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 Capacity Building Events; 86

Officers Supported

Freeland organized Trafficking Free Enterprises Airport Training at the Guarulhos International Airport to train 34 aviation sector employees from Aerolineas Argentinas, Air France, Lufthansa, Emirates, GRU Airport, LATAM, WFS/Orbital, ProAir, TriStar Education, Federal Police.

Freeland facilitated two Special Investigation Group ("SIG") Meetings in Salvador, Brazil for law enforcement agencies to support inter-institutional coordination.

These trainings are funded by the US State Department Bureau of International and Narcotics Law Enforcement Affairs (INL).

PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK FROM THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATION GROUP ON BIRDS IN BRAZIL:

89% said the event exceeded expectations, and all would recommend Freeland meetings. Some comments:

“Impeccable, I have no suggestions the level of everything done 10/10”.

“Thank you again for this fantastic event. It was very enlightening. Everything was fantastic.”

“With the experience of several courses that I have taken throughout my career, without a doubt the best organization.”

Southeast ASIA

4 Capacity Building Events;

108 Government Officers Trained

Quarter 4 culminated with 1 cross-border law enforcement training conducted under TRIPOD II, sponsored by the US Department of State, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), in partnership with ASEANAPOL, Southeast Asia's Police Chief network. TRIPOD stands for *Targeting Regional Interdictions for Policing Opportunities and Development.*

Freeland organized its Counter Transnational Organized Crime - Wildlife Trafficking (CTOC-WT) training from 25-29 November at Hat Yai, Thailand, with 35 trainees from 15 Malaysian and Thai law enforcement agencies. .

FEEDBACK FROM CTOC PARTICIPANTS:

"It helped me learn about things I thought were far from me, such as investigation methods and organizations involved in illegal wildlife trafficking."

"This is the best training I ever attended. This course has done a great job. Hopefully, I can participate in another course organized by Freeland and ASEANAPOL."

The Surviving Together team organized three ranger trainings

A meeting between the Thai and Cambodian forest officials at Ta Phraya National Park, Thailand to exchange information on patrol and surveillance, along with Wildlife Alliance.

- PROTECT forest training to enhance the
- performance of forest officials on the prevention of natural resource abuses at Khao Laem National Park, Thailand.
- 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 a SMART Patrol meeting held on 3rd October 2024, at the Dong Yai Wildlife Sanctuary to discuss Human Elephant Conflict mitigation interventions. These meetings are funded by Rikard Foundation.

AFRICA - Building, Linking Task Forces to One Health

Freeland has designed an innovative Task Force that can monitor and stop any kind of trafficking --human, wildlife, and other forms. By demand, we will be applying this design to several African Task Forces in 2025. One new element is the link to zoonotic experts, who typically are not part of counter-trafficking efforts.

Too often, officers working at trafficking hotspots come across people or animals that are potential risk for virus spread, but do not know who to call for quick expert and victim-centered help. Look out for more updates on this 21st century Task Force model in future news.

EDUCATING

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

Southeast ASIA

6 schools and 4 villages supported

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

Freeland engaged 454 students from 6 schools located around Thai and Cambodian protected areas from October to December, 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'.

In Thailand, we support Tha Chang group to push wild elephants in Dong Yai district. 79 Rom Klao Buriram school students helped to grow Bamboo Bio barrier to build a fence to protect wild elephants using bamboo thorns, which is a mitigation measure to reduce human elephant conflict in the region.

South America - 1 Film

Freeland Brasil does technical collaboration on virtual reality films about wildlife trafficking.

The film CAPTIVEIRO is a educational project of raising awareness about wild animal trafficking aimed at middle and primary school audiences, developed by the Arbo Institute. The action involves taking film and virtual reality headphones to schools.

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.

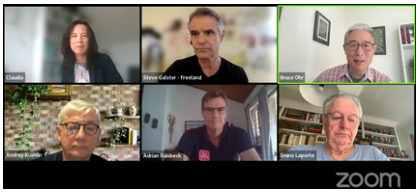
Action: Our global community calendar and project map enhance coordination of members and non-members toward common goals.

Every month we host virtual townhall gatherings with our partners across the globe.Let's take a look at last quarter's talks.

Oct: Dr Antony talked about advantages of real time data and satellite tech used for Nature Protection.

Dr Antony works for the Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence (AI2) designing conservation solutions and managing partnerships for EarthRanger, Asia/ Oceania.

Follow the discussion here



Nov: Founders of mbora Adrian and Claudia, are committed to reshaping rural Africa by empowering farmers and transforming villages through a network of off-grid mbora Hubs hosting mboraMAX, a digital platform.

Watch mbora's innovative microfinance model turning farmers into thriving outgrowers

Dec: Dr. Erik Fleischman, is both a leading anti-aging doctor and an emerging infectious diseases expert. We discussed and explored how the Planetary Health and Anti-Aging sectors can link up.

Quick tips for not aging, while at it, keeping our planet young!

REWARDING

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

The Surviving Together team of Freeland joined the Mushie Mushie Team from NIST International School, Bangkok, Thailand. This group of creative and committed students have been working with the us for several years to support the Surviving Together project under the concept "Poachers to Protectors"

around Khaoyai National Park, focusing on understanding why villagers turn to poaching, which has driven the Mushie Mushie Team.

We raise funds to establish legal agricultural careers for poachers who want to change themselves. With a small investment from student funding through mushroom farming, these poachers will be encouraged to open their own mushroom farms.

Freeland, as an associate member of the International Ranger Federation, participated in the 10th IRF World Ranger Congress in Oct 2024, in Paris.

76 Countries attended, with 450 participants from all over the world.

Freeland, together with three Thai rangers, were sponsored to attend by our partners, as founding members of the Thai Ranger Association.

FREELAND FILM FESTIVAL

CELEBRATING OUR PLANET

GREEN LAKE, WI Sept 12-14, 2025

We wish you Happy Holidays!

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

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