FREELAND®
A world free of wildlife trafficking and human slavery

Q3 Newsletter 2023

Hello *Freelanders*,

We are back with this latest newsletter showcasing Freeland efforts around the world to create protective shields against trafficking and corruption that will safeguard our children and communities, wildlife and ecosystems. Check out what we did in July, August and September:



OUR APPROACH

PROTECT | EDUCATE | REWARD

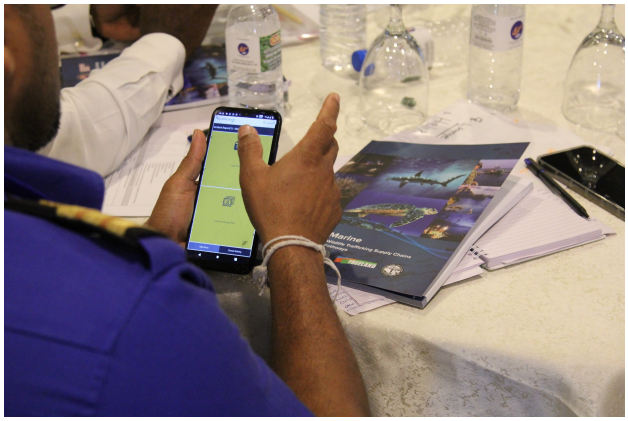
PROTECT



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 for its own rich biodiversity, and used as a transit for global wildlife trafficking. Freeland's "CTOC" (Counter-Transnational Organized Crime) training team conducted their special course just outside of Colombo in late July for 29 officers. The officers, representing the following agencies, were skilled up to identify, analyze and disrupt organized wildlife crime networks and supply chains: Wildlife, Forest, Fisheries, Police, Anti-Bribery, Coast Guards, Navy, Financial crimes and Prosecutorial agencies.

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).





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.

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.

The CTOC course and SIG event in Sri Lanka received positive feedback from participants, who highlighted the need for more such trainings 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.



Thai, Cambodian Rangers Join Forces to Improve Counter-Poaching Along Border

In September, 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.



Closing ceremony of the 12 Day PROTECT training course



Rangers being trained to detect open mines in jungles.

Freeland's PROTECT course is specifically 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.

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.

Stopping Human Trafficking

Freeland has been asked to develop the new training curriculum for Thai law enforcement agencies on how to identify and counter-human trafficking in a victim-centric way. We will announce more details on

Human Trafficking, hosted by the Thai Government.

EDUCATE

Our creative efforts that build awareness and educate the public on the grim realities of the corrupt and dangerous world of illegal human and wildlife trafficking

Students Reforest Barren Border



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.

The Wild Midwest

Who knew that America's heartland, including Wisconsin and other states in the midwest, was playing such 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. Where do these animals all come from? And what happens when owners get bored or move. 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.



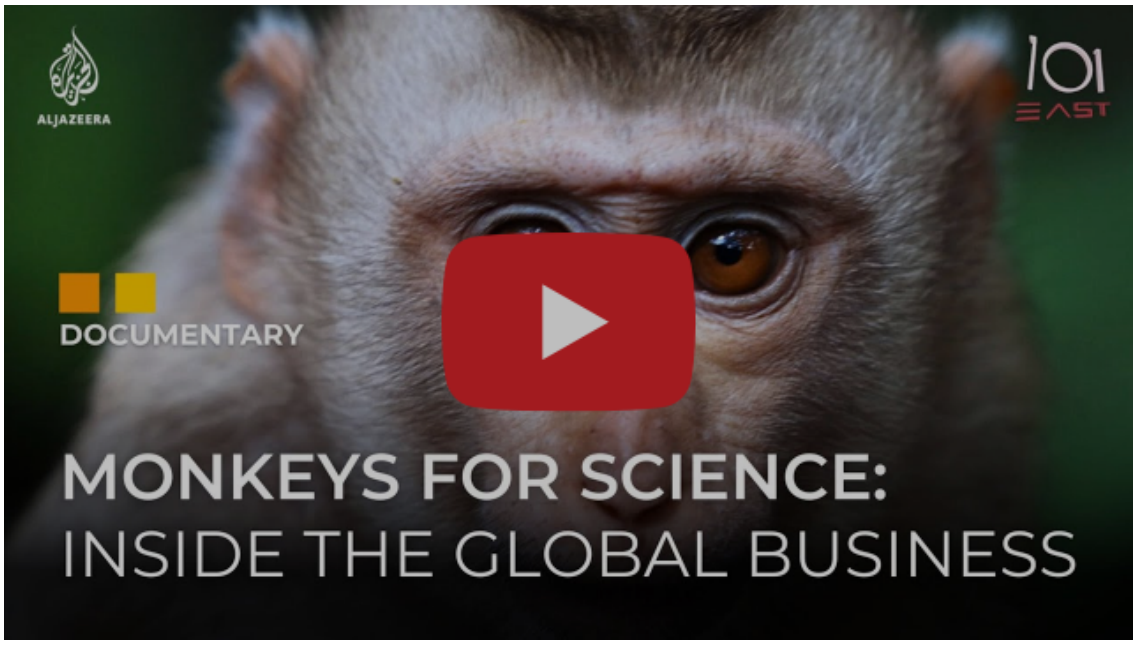
Roadside Zoo Bill

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.

For more information on how to join this campaign: email info@freeland.org

Learn more

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

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 (more details to be announced in our next newsletter).



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.

REWARD

Freeland acknowledges and rewards the hard work and skills of our "protectors and educators" who work in dangerous environments to

Freeland CEO, Retd Pol Maj Gen Petcharat Sangchai addresses the gathering at World Ranger Day 2023 event in Thailand

Freleand participated at the World Ranger Day 2023 event (July 31th) 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.

Join Onkuri as a Frontline Champion

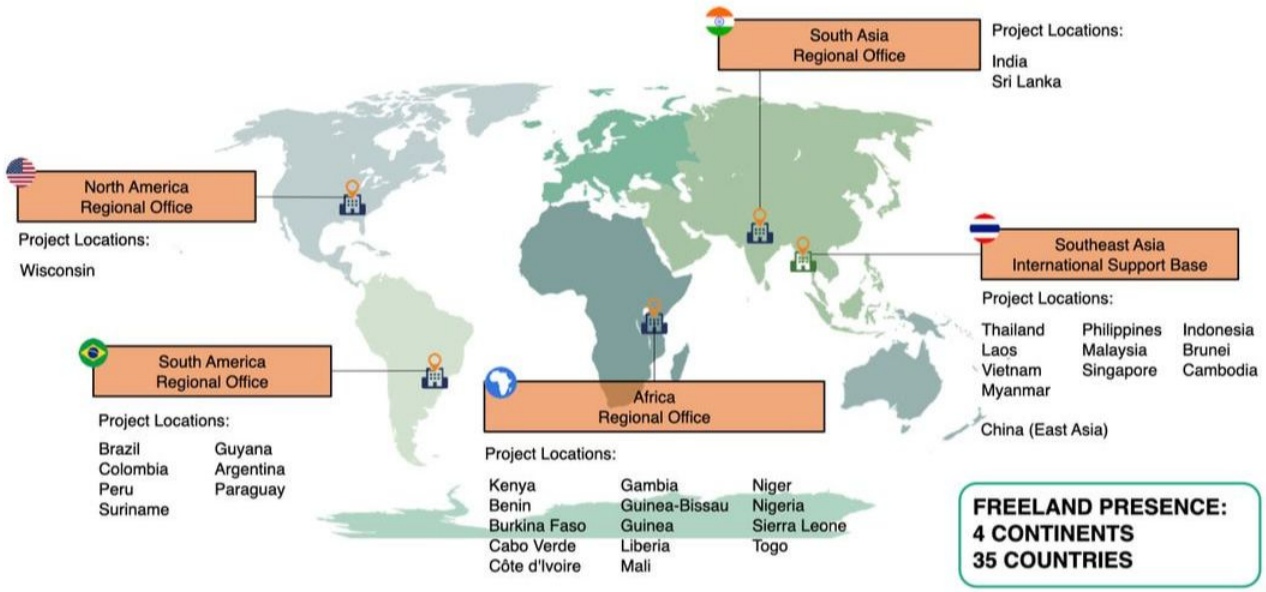
Our third quarter fundraising campaign shares the extensive work done by Onkuri Majumdar (Managing Director, Freeland). She has been a Nat Geo Emerging Explorer and the brain behind the WildScan Mobile application - a novel tool to identify wildlife and report illegally trafficked wildlife to the authorities. Onkuri over the last two decades has conducted ranger and police training in some of the difficult terrains in Asia and Africa. Watch this video showing a glimpse of her work towards protecting wildlife from illegal trade and trafficking.

Watch Campaign and Donate





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