



# Local approaches, global impact

Conservation Impact Report 2023  
Executive Summary

**Fauna  
& Flora**  
Saving Nature Together

# A message from our CEO, Kristian Teleki

The world is changing before our eyes.

We urgently need to halt and reverse the escalating climate crisis and scale of biodiversity loss if we are to safeguard the health and resilience of the planet we all depend on. The challenges ahead may seem daunting, but we believe that by working together we have the capacity to drive change from the ground up.

The clock is ticking, so it's vital that the conservation action we take alongside our partners around the world is having real impact on the ground. Our annual Conservation Impact Report helps us to hold ourselves to account, ensuring that we are laser-focused on positive outcomes for nature, people and climate.

*Kristian Teleki*

“The clock is ticking, so it's vital that the conservation action we take alongside our partners around the world is having real impact on the ground.”

Front cover: Head Warden, Sim Khmao, releasing a Siamese crocodile in Cambodia.

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## Why we are here

Fauna & Flora's shared purpose is to protect the diversity of life on Earth, for the survival of the planet and its people. We work closely with local conservation partners around the world to save nature, together. We also use our collective expertise to inspire positive change globally.

We want to see a world where nature is valued for its impact on our health, well-being, livelihoods and survival. Where we live sustainably and respect the rights of local people. Where species thrive and vulnerable habitats are protected, restored and full of life.

## Measuring success

We are committed to monitoring and measuring our collective impact, and we invest in the systems and processes that ensure we do this robustly. This helps us answer a crucial question: is what we're doing really driving the change we want to see?

Each year, we gather and analyse reports and insights from our projects in over 40 countries around the world and bring this together in a comprehensive summary that documents our impact – the changes that our collaborative efforts have brought about.

**This Executive Summary of our 2023 Conservation Impact Report aims to provide a quick insight into what we have achieved.**

**To read the full report, visit: [www.fauna-flora.org/conservation-impact](http://www.fauna-flora.org/conservation-impact)**

**Opposite:** Tania Bird (Fauna & Flora) and Yodiney dos Santos (Fundação Príncipe) monitoring Príncipe thrush – an endemic and threatened species.

## Local focus, global impact

Fauna & Flora works closely with local conservation partners to save nature in over 40 countries worldwide. Together, we protect and restore habitats – from tropical forests and limestone peaks to grasslands, wetlands and the ocean. We prevent extinctions and help end illegal wildlife trade. We combat climate change.

Our locally led approach enables us to deliver conservation effectively, sustainably and at scale, tackling a range of threats to biodiversity, safeguarding large landscapes, watersheds and seascapes and the species they harbour.

We also use this applied local knowledge and experience to influence decision-making at a national and global level, and drive innovation and best practice across the wider conservation community and beyond.

**Overleaf are some of the numbers behind the crucial and urgent work we undertook in 2023.**

# Highlights of 2023

We influenced the conservation of over

**57**  
million hectares  
of crucial habitat  
(an area almost the size of Kenya)

We worked in **397 sites**  
in **45 countries**



**318**

The number of organisations whose  
**skills, knowledge & resources**  
we helped develop



## Habitats worked in included:



Forests



Grasslands



Mountains



Marine



Freshwater



Limestone  
caves



Deserts and  
drylands



Wildflower  
meadows



Agricultural  
landscapes



We worked with

**110**

priority species



and at least

**200**

secondary species

**36**

The number of laws,  
regulations and strategic  
government plans  
we helped  
develop



We saw conservation benefits for  
**213 sites and**  
**93 priority**  
**species**  
populations



We engaged with communities in  
**99%** of relevant  
field-based projects

Activities to address  
illegal wildlife trade  
helped protect



at least  
**70 species**

**Over 7,000**

The number of people  
whose conservation  
capacity we built



**397**

The number of in-country organisations  
we partnered with, including:

Local NGOs  
Governments  
Universities  
Businesses



Almost  
**one billion tonnes**  
of carbon

is locked up across **94**  
of our **terrestrial** and  
**marine** project sites



# A robust process

Every single one of Fauna & Flora's projects is different. Each has its own goal, requiring bespoke strategies and responses over different timescales. We believe that each project and partner should define their own measures of impact, rather than adopting standard top-down indicators. This allows us to respect and include many different partners and project teams, who each have their own priorities and monitoring agendas.

Our impact reporting process is based on four principles that we apply consistently across our diverse portfolio of work.



## Impact-focused

Our primary measure of success is positive change for nature.



## Bottom-up

We don't impose top-down metrics or monitoring techniques on partners and projects, but instead make use of methods that they have developed themselves to ensure their relevance to the projects they work on.



## Appropriately robust

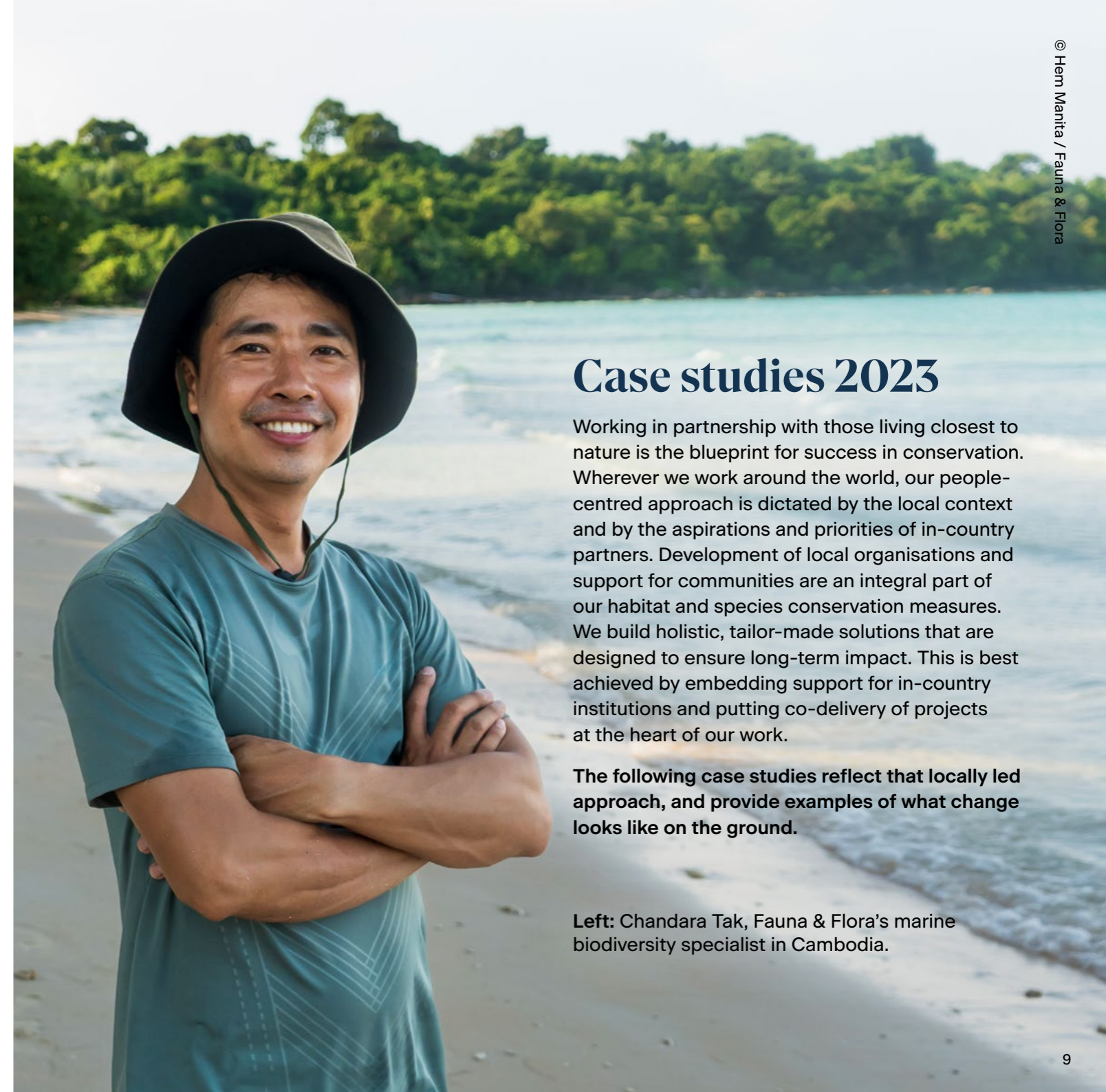
Our monitoring and analysis needs to be accurate enough to paint a true picture, but we understand the challenges that teams and partners face on the ground, so we aim to strike the right balance between accuracy and feasibility.



## Shared learning

We use the information generated to share lessons learned internally, across our network of partners, and more widely.

We collect information every year about both the scale of our shared work and the depth of our impact. Using these criteria, we aggregate project-specific impacts in order to demonstrate collective change achieved at the organisational level.



# Case studies 2023

Working in partnership with those living closest to nature is the blueprint for success in conservation. Wherever we work around the world, our people-centred approach is dictated by the local context and by the aspirations and priorities of in-country partners. Development of local organisations and support for communities are an integral part of our habitat and species conservation measures. We build holistic, tailor-made solutions that are designed to ensure long-term impact. This is best achieved by embedding support for in-country institutions and putting co-delivery of projects at the heart of our work.

The following case studies reflect that locally led approach, and provide examples of what change looks like on the ground.

Left: Chandara Tak, Fauna & Flora's marine biodiversity specialist in Cambodia.

## Saving the saiga in Kazakhstan

Decades of hard work on the part of Fauna & Flora and our national and international conservation partners have reaped rich rewards for the saiga, one of the world's most charismatic and – until recently – most endangered antelopes.

The IUCN Red List status of this icon of the Central Asian steppes has been changed from Critically Endangered to Near Threatened. The dramatic downlisting reflects a remarkable rebound in saiga numbers, particularly in its Kazakhstan stronghold, where populations have bounced back from a perilously low 48,000 individuals in 2005 to a new high of over 1.9 million.

The race to save the saiga has been a genuinely collaborative effort on the part of range state governments, research organisations, and national and international NGOs. This includes the Altyn Dala Conservation Initiative, which comprises the Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan (ACBK), the Government of Kazakhstan, Fauna & Flora, Frankfurt Zoological Society and RSPB.

Fundamental to Fauna & Flora's work is addressing what drives the international wildlife trade in saigas which together with anti-poaching and law enforcement measures, formal protection of key habitat, population monitoring, local community engagement and the formation of community-led ranger teams have all contributed to the antelope's recovery.

**Right:** Saiga calf.

© Nikolai Denisov / Shutterstock

“ **This is a significant milestone for the saiga antelope conservation community and illustrates how conservation can be effective if all parties collaborate with a strong mission and appropriate resourcing.**

**Vera Veronova,**  
Executive Director of ACBK, Fauna & Flora's long-standing partner in Kazakhstan



## Conservation & community rights in Liberia

Liberia hosts some of the most important surviving tracts of West Africa's Upper Guinea Forest, which harbour key populations of pygmy hippo, forest elephant and chimpanzee, support local livelihoods, and also store vast amounts of carbon, thereby helping to reduce global emissions and combat climate change. Though rich in biodiversity, the country has high levels of poverty and inequality.

In 2023, Fauna & Flora played a key role in arranging the Liberian Conservation Area Land Dialogue. This three-day meeting was attended by heads of several government agencies including the Forest Development Authority and the Liberia Lands Authority, as well as international and local NGOs. It achieved consensus on a rights-based approach to the establishment of protected and conserved areas in Liberia. The groundbreaking Gbehzohn Declaration will ensure compliance with the Land Rights Act of 2018, which means that communities who hold customary rights to land will be the central decision-makers regarding whether, and how, that land is managed for conservation.

Fauna & Flora is already starting to put the principles of the Gbehzohn Declaration into action, working closely with rights-holders, civil society, NGOs and the government in key forest areas in the north-west and south-east of the country. In a first for Liberia, we are working with local partners to roll out customary land formalisation processes, starting in Wonegizi proposed protected area, where we have many years' experience in community engagement and sustainable livelihood initiatives.

“ **Recognition of the rights and roles of communities in forest management has helped secure their livelihoods and provided incentives for them to invest in protecting forests and the environment.**

**Mary Molokwu-Odozi,**  
Fauna & Flora Country Director, Liberia

**Above:** Janeh Karte, one of the women participating in our recent gender equality initiatives in Liberia.

© Fauna & Flora



## Redonda resurrection

The government of Antigua and Barbuda has officially declared the remote island of Redonda and its surrounding waters as a protected area. The new designation follows years of collaborative conservation action, including a major restoration programme that has transformed Redonda from a dusty moonscape into a lush haven of biodiversity.

The first stages of the programme – led by Fauna & Flora and our local partners, the Environmental Awareness Group and the Department of Environment – focused on the removal of invasive species from the island, allowing native species to recover.

Cleared of rats and feral goats, Redonda has flourished. Thousands of native trees have taken root, anchoring the soil. Vegetation biomass is two thousand times higher. Seabirds are nesting in far greater numbers. Native reptile populations have risen rapidly: numbers of the critically endangered Redonda ground dragon – found nowhere else in the world – have increased thirteenfold since 2017.

The Redonda Ecosystem Reserve will be one of the largest protected areas in the Caribbean. It covers almost 30,000 hectares of land and sea, including the entire island, the surrounding seagrass meadows and an 18,000-hectare coral reef. The new reserve is believed to support at least 30 globally threatened and near-threatened species, along with globally important seabird colonies. The protected area designation also paves the way for Redonda to become a sustainable tourism destination in the near future.

“ **With the creation of the Redonda Ecosystem Reserve, we have made a great stride towards fulfilling our government’s commitment to conserve at least 30% of terrestrial, inland water and coastal and marine areas under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted in December 2022.**

**Helena Jeffery Brown,**  
Technical Coordinator, Department of Environment, Antigua and Barbuda.

**Below:** Magnificent frigatebird fledgling in nest, Redonda.

© Edward Marshall / Fauna & Flora



## Women & conservation technology

Technology has huge potential to contribute to conservation impact, but women practitioners are underrepresented. In East Africa, for example, access to the knowledge and experience required to deploy tech tools is very limited. WILDLABS and Fauna & Flora launched the Women in Conservation Technology Programme in 2022 to create a regional support network for East African women hoping to work in this field.

The first cohort of female early-career conservationists from Kenya has already begun working on seed-funded projects to apply the skills learned last year. In 2023, we delivered a workshop for a second cohort, this time from Tanzania, introducing East African female participants to a diversity of hardware, software and data management tools used for wildlife monitoring, protection and resource management, and training them to effectively use these tools in their own work.

Step by step, country by country, we are realising our vision of a self-supporting network of women working in conservation tech across East Africa.

“ **The programme has served as a pivotal platform for my professional development. Since completing it, I have secured an internship where I have been applying the skills acquired during the training to address real-life conservation challenges in the field. The resources provided during the programme, coupled with the network I built, have been instrumental in enabling me to undertake these projects. The ongoing mentorship and coaching have not only bolstered my confidence but also honed my spatial analysis skills.**

**Sarah Maagi,**  
2023 programme participant, Tanzania

**Above:** Programming open-source rhino tracker at the Women In Conservation Technology workshop in Tanzania.

© Stephanie O'Donnell / WILDLABS

## Beyond biodiversity

Nature plays a key role in combating climate change and adapting to its impacts. It provides vital resources for people across the world, including some of the poorest. Beyond positive outcomes for conservation, Fauna & Flora's work has a wider beneficial impact on the planet and on people.

Our work drives change for nature and for the climate. It also contributes to human well-being and local livelihoods; to land rights, community empowerment, gender equity and human rights; to health and food security. By investing in nature, we are investing in all our futures.

## Nature & climate

Our efforts to protect and restore nature inherently contribute to the mitigation of climate change. In order to quantify that impact, we have conducted a high-level, rapid carbon assessment across our key terrestrial and marine sites. The results are summarised opposite.



The world's remaining forests are crucial allies in our efforts to combat the climate crisis.

© Nick Garbutt / Nature Picture Library

Through our work, almost  
**one billion tonnes of carbon**  
is locked up in vegetation and soil/sediments across  
**94 terrestrial and marine sites**



The carbon content equivalent of  
**8 billion barrels**  
of crude oil 



## Nature & people

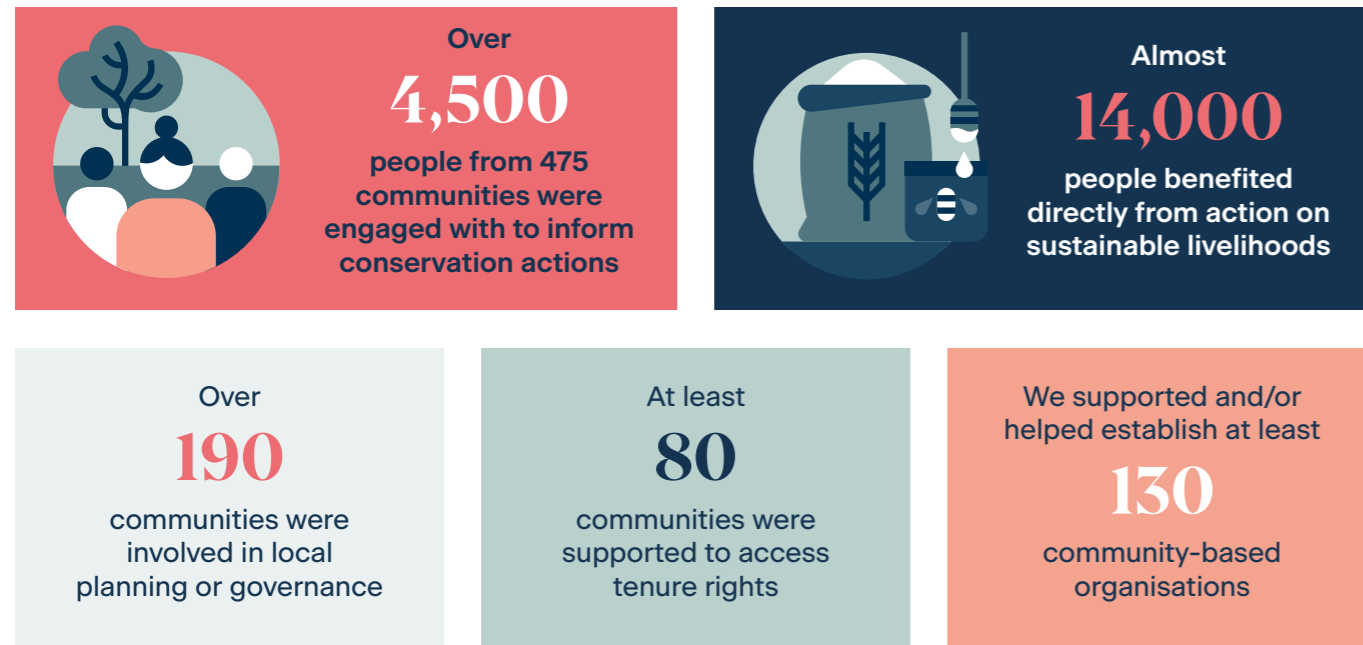
In working to protect nature, we help secure the rights and well-being of the people on the front line of the biodiversity and climate crisis.

Biodiversity conservation and the sustainable management of natural resources are inextricably linked to people's rights to secure their livelihoods and live in dignity.

Fauna & Flora recognises that the effectiveness of our activities hinges on constructive relationships with local communities and other key stakeholders. Jointly with them, we take conservation action that contributes to human well-being, economic prosperity and social equity, and that respects and safeguards human rights as well as driving positive change for biodiversity.

We see community members as active participants – and leaders – in conservation efforts. We support the development of community-based organisations, help communities gain tenure for their land or coastal waters, and use appropriate interventions to ensure that people, wildlife and habitats all thrive as a result of our work.

### Highlights from 2023:



“ The effectiveness of our activities hinges on constructive relationships with local communities and other key stakeholders.

A handful of hatchlings offers new hope for the endangered green turtle.

## Saving nature, together

We are Fauna & Flora.

We were the world's first international  
conservation charity.

Quietly shaping best practice for over a century.

But now nature demands that we roar.

## A vision of the future

Stop. Take a deep breath and a moment to  
reimagine our world.

A healthy ocean and forests full of life.

An end to human-caused extinctions, illegal  
wildlife trade and uncontrolled climate change.

Temperatures stable and extreme weather the  
exception, not the norm.

The biodiversity emergency, fixed.

This is the world we are collaborating  
to create.

Together.

If you share our  
vision, we urge  
you to **join us.**

# Read more...

Our full 2023 Conservation Impact Report provides a wealth of data demonstrating Fauna & Flora's organisational impact over the last year.



To read the complete report,  
scan the QR code or visit  
[www.fauna-flora.org/conservation-impact](http://www.fauna-flora.org/conservation-impact)

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