

THE U.S. #IVORYCRUSH AT TIMES SQUARE

Ivory Crush Partners Biographies



Beth Allgood, U.S. Campaigns Director, International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)

Allgood is based in the Washington, D.C., office of IFAW. With a special emphasis on the U.S. role in international wildlife trade and wildlife security issues, she oversees all U.S. campaigns. She is the co-author of IFAW's Criminal Nature report, an in-depth look at the global security implications of the illegal wildlife trade, as well as the co-author of a soon-to-be-released legal paper analyzing U.S. ivory seizure data, current laws and policy solutions. Allgood came to IFAW from The Nature Conservancy (TNC), where she was Senior Policy Advisor for International Government Relations. Prior to her work at TNC, Allgood was the Congressional Liaison at the World Wildlife Fund. She has also spent time working for the U.S. government, first at the Peace Corps and later in the Latin America/Caribbean Bureau of the U.S. Agency for International Development.



Azzedine Downes, President and CEO, International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)

As President and CEO, Azzedine Downes is responsible for the strategic vision that will guide IFAW's contribution to a standard for conservation and animal welfare worldwide. Downes has been a leader on conservation issues during the past 16 years. In his previous role as IFAW's Executive Vice President, Downes oversaw both the Programmes Team and International Operations. His coordination of these key areas led to an increased global impact on animal issues and led to the expansion of IFAW's work to the more than 40 countries in which IFAW is found today. Under Downes' leadership, IFAW opened its first office in the Middle East and

expanded its work on global animal conservation and welfare issues. He was responsible for designing and launching IFAW's Prevention of Wildlife Trafficking (Wildlife Law Enforcement) programme, which provides ongoing training and support for law enforcement and customs officials faced with growing illegal trade issues. Downes has served as Head of the Delegation to the CITES Conference of the Parties, leading campaigns to reduce and restrict negative impacts of wildlife trade. Fluent in English, French and Arabic, Downes is an accomplished public speaker and regularly presents IFAW's work to the media in those three languages.



Jeff Flocken, Regional Director, North America, International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)

In his role as Regional Director, North America, from IFAW's office in Washington, D.C., Jeff Flocken leads a team of legislative professionals advocating for U.S. policy initiatives on wildlife conservation and animal welfare. His work addresses improving government involvement with wildlife conservation and animal welfare issues within the United States and internationally. Flocken was a member of the team of experts responsible for convincing eBay to ban ivory sales on all of its affiliated sites. He has testified before the U.S. Congress regarding polar bear legislation and was a member of the team of non-governmental organizations who wrote the technical petition to the U.S. Secretary of the Interior to list the African lion under the Endangered Species Act. Flocken has briefed the U.S. Congress on the Great Cats and Rare Canids Act of 2009. In addition to that briefing, which urged support for conservation of rare canids and felids within their range states, he is co-author of the report that documents steep declines in the populations of these species. Flocken is the co-founder and co-chair of Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leaders, which provides training and mentoring to up-and-coming conservationists. He is the co-author of Wildlife Heroes, with Julie Scardina.



Grace Ge Gabriel, Asia Regional Director, International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)

Gabriel established the IFAW office in China in 1997. She spearheaded campaigns to protect the Tibetan antelope, conserve Asian elephant habitat, and reduce illegal trade in wildlife and their

products. Under Gabriel's leadership, IFAW initiated a series of public awareness campaigns in China to raise consumer awareness about the use of endangered species in medicine, as luxury products and as exotic food. The campaigns reached millions of people in China and have resulted in enhanced enforcement, trade bans from websites, and pledges to reject wildlife products from consumer groups. Reduction of online trade of elephant ivory, bear bile, tiger bone, rhino horn, shark fin and many other animals contributed to the protection of these species in the wild. Gabriel contributed writing to the book "Mending the Web of Life: Chinese Medicine and Species Conservation" (Call, E. 2006). She established China's first and only rescue center, dedicated to the rescue and rehabilitation of birds of prey, in Beijing. Born and raised in China, Gabriel has an MA in Communication and worked in media outlets in China and the United States. She provides advice to government agencies on conservation and animal welfare policies in China.



**Ginette Hemley, Senior Vice President, World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
Wildlife Conservation Program**

Ginette Hemley is the Senior Vice President of WWF's Wildlife Conservation program. As a biologist with more than 25 years of international conservation experience, Hemley leads WWF's wildlife conservation team on transformational strategies to empower local communities to become true stewards of nature, tackle the biggest threats to wildlife like illegal trade, and secure public, political and financial support for conservation.



Iris Ho, Wildlife Program Manager, Humane Society International (HSI)

Born and raised in Taipei, Taiwan, Iris Ho is the Wildlife Program Manager at HSI, global affiliate of The Humane Society of the United States, the largest animal protection organization in the United States. She develops and leads initiatives that strengthen international protection for imperiled wild animals and manages campaigns to curb wildlife trafficking through policy advocacy and public education. She travels regularly to Africa and Asia and collaborates closely with HSI's local partners, international organizations and national governments throughout the

regions. She coordinates U.S. state and federal legislative efforts in cracking down on the trades in shark fins, elephant ivory and rhino horns.



Peter Lehner, Executive Director, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)

Peter Lehner is Executive Director of the Natural Resources Defense Council, an environmental nonprofit organization with more than 2 million members and activists. As the former creator and leader of the New York City Law Department's environmental prosecution unit and, subsequently, the Chief of the Environmental Protection Bureau of the New York State Attorney General's Office, he is intimately familiar with the enforcement of environmental laws like New York's ivory ban. As Executive Director, he helped establish NRDC's office in Beijing, China, which works to combat wildlife trafficking amongst a variety of other issues. He oversaw NRDC's extensive involvement in the New York ivory ban, which Governor Cuomo signed in August 2014, and is now helping NRDC crack down on the ivory trade in California – the second largest market in the United States – where an ivory ban bill (AB 96) recently passed the California Assembly by a bipartisan vote.



Jimmiel Mandima, Program Director, African Wildlife Foundation (AWF)

Mandima grew up in Masvingo Province in Zimbabwe, one of Africa's great elephant range countries. He has 17 years of conservation experience working in the Zambezi Valley and served in the field for many years as director of AWF's Zambezi Landscape, which overlaps the borders of Zimbabwe, Zambia and Mozambique. In this role, Mandima facilitated collaboration between local communities, nongovernment organizations, government and the private sector to advance trans-boundary landscape conservation. Today he applies that field experience to represent AWF in policy discussions with the U.S. government and other public sector partners. He holds an MS in Applied Zoology.



Joseph L. Walston, Vice President for Field Conservation, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

Joe Walston directly manages the implementation arm of GCP, overseeing Asia, Africa, Latin America and Caribbean, North America as well as the Marine Program and the Wildlife Health and Health Policy Programs. Previously, he was the Executive Director for the Asia Program after spending nearly 20 years in the field in Africa and Asia, including being Country Director for both the Cambodia and Gabon programs. He has been recognized by Prime Minister Hun Sen with the awarding of its highest civilian honor as well as having a new species of bat named after him *Murina walstoni*.