



Press Release for immediate use

Millennial Conservation: How Today's Youth Will Shape Tomorrow's Conservation

(Cartagena, Colombia 20 July 2017) - The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) is hosting a workshop at the 2017 International Congress for Conservation Biology (#ICCB2017) to look at the challenges and opportunities facing millennial conservationists and the unique strategies they are utilizing to shape the future of conservation. The workshop will be held on Tuesday, July 25th at the Cartagena Convention Center, Colombia.

Young conservationists around the globe are leading a new conservation movement. With the hashtag #YouthVoices4Nature IFAW is inviting participants and people worldwide, to promote the inclusion of a broader diversity of millennial-aged youth in conservation research, practice, advocacy, and management. Further inclusion of youth of diverse backgrounds offers unique opportunities to bridge cultural barriers, harness non-traditional ways of communication, mobilize new creativity for positive conservation outcomes, and advance conservation's knowledge-base.

"I am ecstatic that there are global NGOs such as IFAW training, mentoring and also celebrating the work of historically under-represented groups at the international levels of conservation. Such contributions that benefit long-term wildlife, landscapes, and grass-roots conservation are still far too rare." – Leo Douglas, Conservation Leadership in the Caribbean Board Member

Millennials are known to be creative and atypical thinkers, relying on their own sense of knowledge and gathered experiences to harness new, inventive ideas when traditional ones are lacking impact. They bring a fresh, unfiltered perspective to conservation challenges and identify a combination of trusted and future-thinking solutions to problems. The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) has supported young conservationists across the globe through a variety of leadership building programs, such as the Conservation Leadership in the Caribbean (CLiC) and the Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leaders (EWCL). It has also partnered with youth driven organizations such as the Global Youth Biodiversity Network and Youth for Wildlife Conservation to foster their goals of building youth capacity to drive forward conservation science and advocacy.

"As a partner of the CLiC and EWCL initiatives, IFAW is proud to support the participation of young people at the ICCB workshop to highlight the importance of engaging youth in conservation. We see the involvement and inclusion of young voices as critical to conservation decision making and as a catalyst to build a broader inclusive network of youth committed to conservation and animal protection." – Kelvin Alie, Executive Vice President, IFAW

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For more information or to arrange interviews please contact Joaquin de la Torre at IFAW on mobile +521 984 876 2809 or email jdclatorre@ifaw.org

About IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare)

Founded in 1969, IFAW saves animals in crisis around the world. With projects in more than 40 countries, IFAW rescues individual animals, works to prevent cruelty to animals and advocates for the protection of wildlife and habitats. For more information, visit www.ifaw.org. Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)