



WORLD
ANIMAL
JUSTICE

WAJ Annual Report 2024



www.linkedin.com/company/world-animal-justice



www.worldanimaljustice.org

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Message from WAJ Founder Dr Sabine BRELS

“2024 has been an inspiring and powerful start for World Animal Justice (WAJ)! This year, we have successfully united dedicated animal advocates and partners under a shared vision. As a fully volunteer-driven organization, WAJ stands as a testament to our unwavering dedication to legally protect animal rights and to globally end all animal crimes.

Thanks to the relentless dedication of our team, we have already reached significant milestones and laid strong foundations for WAJ advocacy. These achievements reaffirm our belief in the power of collective action to drive meaningful change for animals worldwide.

Looking ahead, we are determined to drive impactful animal law advocacy, provide legal solutions to address major animal issues, advance expert-driven proposals to strengthen animal protection, and to foster effective enforcement of animal laws across the world. Our efforts focus on developing innovative strategies and promoting a transformative legal paradigm to champion animal rights and globally combat animal crimes. Together, we are shaping a future in which animals will be recognized as victims and all protected from injustice.

★ A Heartfelt Thanks

A sincere thanks to all of you who contribute to making World Animal Justice achievements possible: our essential Board and Steering committee members, incredible Volunteers, esteemed Experts, valued Partners, and first encouraging donors. Your invaluable support and strong commitment are the driving force behind our shared success!”



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sabine Brels." with a period at the end.

DR. SABINE BRELS
WAJ FOUNDER & DIRECTOR

About World Animal Justice

World Animal Justice (WAJ) is a non-profit organization working to **legally protect animal rights and globally ban animal crimes**. Launched at the Cambridge Animal Rights Law Conference in 2023, WAJ addresses critical gaps that leave billions of animals unprotected by law, and victims of criminal abuses and mass legal exploitation.

At the core of WAJ's work is the pursuit of legal recognition for crimes against animals, **advocating for new international frameworks** in pushing for the innovative concepts of 'crimes against animality' and 'zoocide', analogous to 'crimes against humanity' and 'ecocide'.

Through its coalition of **40 global legal experts** and **10 partnering NGOs**, WAJ is actively driving both national, regional and international reforms to legally enshrine the fundamental rights of animals and advance bans of animal crimes. WAJ's ultimate goal is to establish a new framework globally prohibiting crimes against animals, ensuring the legal protection of their fundamental rights.

Our mission is bold and urgent: provide legal expertise in order to end systemic animal crimes, through strategic actions and advocacy. WAJ collaborates with key global stakeholders - including the **UN Alliance on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**, and takes part in major initiatives such as **End.It** for a global ban on factory farming and the **Animal Pledge** as to legally protect animal dignity worldwide.

In 2024, WAJ has produced key resources on global animal law advocacy:

- [WAJ Database of Asia-Pacific Animal Laws](#)
- [WAJ Report Addressing 'Crimes against Animality'](#)
- [7-Step Strategy to Ban Animal Cruel Practices](#)
- [10 Police Recommendations for Animal Protection](#)
- [WAJ Experts Webinars on International Criminal Law](#)
- [Blog Series Raising Issues of Criminal Animal Justice](#)

WAJ envisions a world where justice is extended to all sentient non-human animals: domestic and wild, terrestrial and aquatic, vertebrates and invertebrates. Our double mission aims to legally protect animal rights and globally ban animal crimes.

Legally Protect Fundamental Animal Rights

- **Right to Life** – Protection from unnecessary killing.
- **Right to Freedom** – Opposition to confinement and exploitation.
- **Right to Integrity** – Protection from physical and psychological harm.
- **Right to Well-being** – Ensuring ethical treatment for all animals.

Globally Prohibit Crimes against Animals

We advocate systemic change to **end institutionalized cruelty**, from factory farming to wildlife trafficking, animal experiments and other forms of normalized exploitation that come in contradiction with the previous fundamental rights.

Through **legal advocacy, policy reform, and global partnerships**, WAJ is leading the way for a future where animal justice is not yet an exception but a global priority.

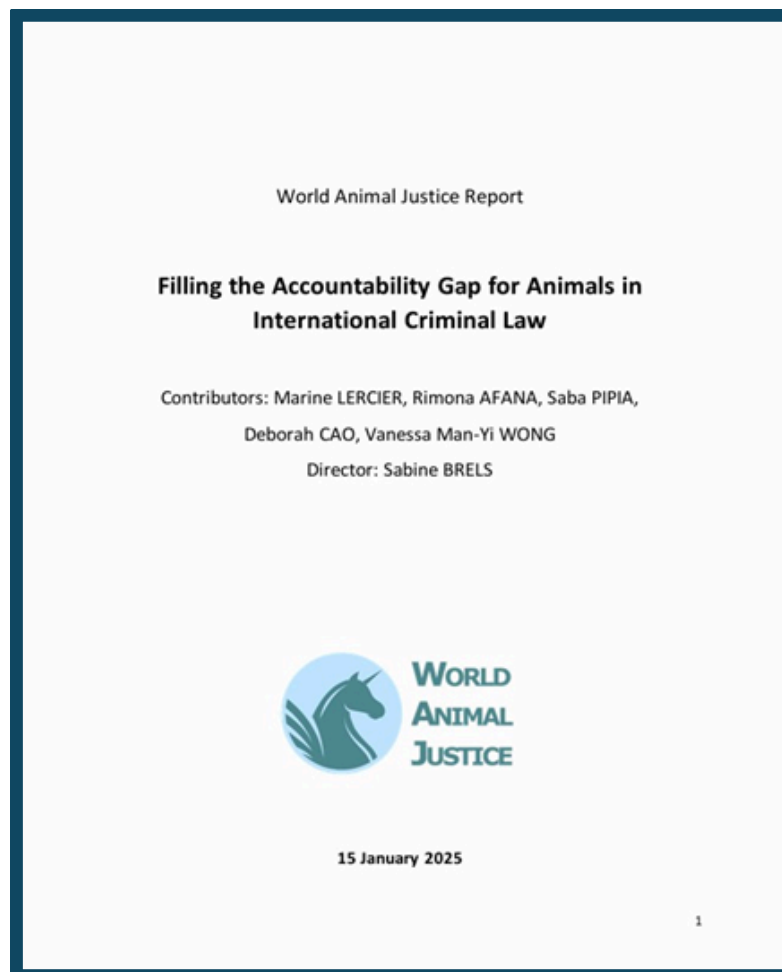


WAJ Expert Report Addressing 'Crimes against Animality' in International Law

In a groundbreaking move to advance the global legal and criminal protection of animals, WAJ has released a landmark advocacy report: *'Filling the Accountability Gap for Animals in International Criminal Law'*.

This pivotal report introduces the innovative concept of 'crimes against animality' and outlines key proposals made by leading WAJ experts in international criminal law to address the widespread and systemic abuse of animals through international legal reforms.

Directed by WAJ Founder **Sabine Breels**, this report was made possible thanks to the expertise and contributions of a distinguished group of specialists in international criminal law & animal law: **Marine Lercier**, **Rimona Afana**, **Saba Pipia**, **Deborah Cao**, and **Vanessa Man-Yi Wong**.



[Access the Full Report](#)

WAJ Worldview of Animal Laws, with Projects in Asia & Europe

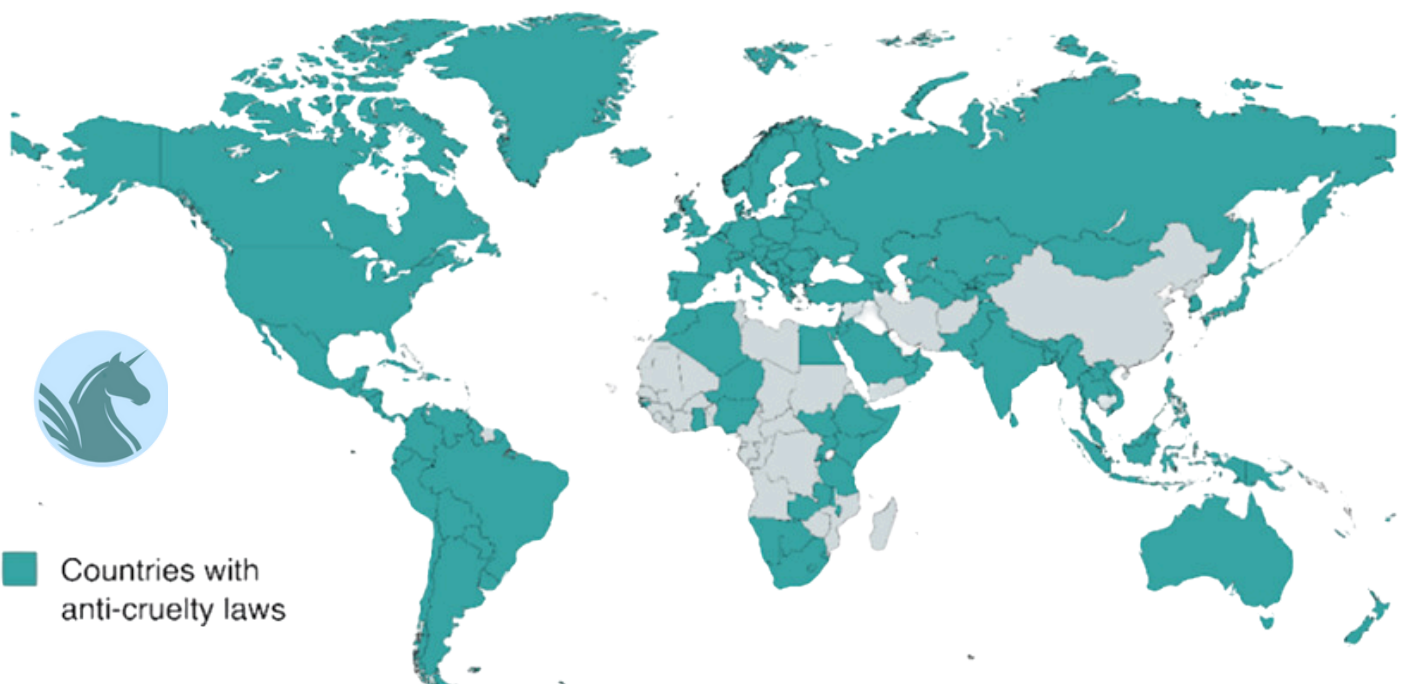


WAJ Worldview of Animal Laws

In 2024, four-fifths of the world's countries have passed animal laws (in green), while one-fifth do not have even basic anti-cruelty laws (in grey).

Many of the green countries have general animal protection laws, specific regulations, and prohibitions against certain activities and practices involving animal abuse. Additionally, around **10 countries worldwide have adopted constitutional provisions** to protect animals.

Some countries in South America and the Indo-Pakistani region have issued **court rulings on animal rights**. However, there is **still a long way to go to ensure legal protection for all sentient animals against the widespread crimes they face daily worldwide**, including those related to food production, experimentation, hunting, and other harmful practices.



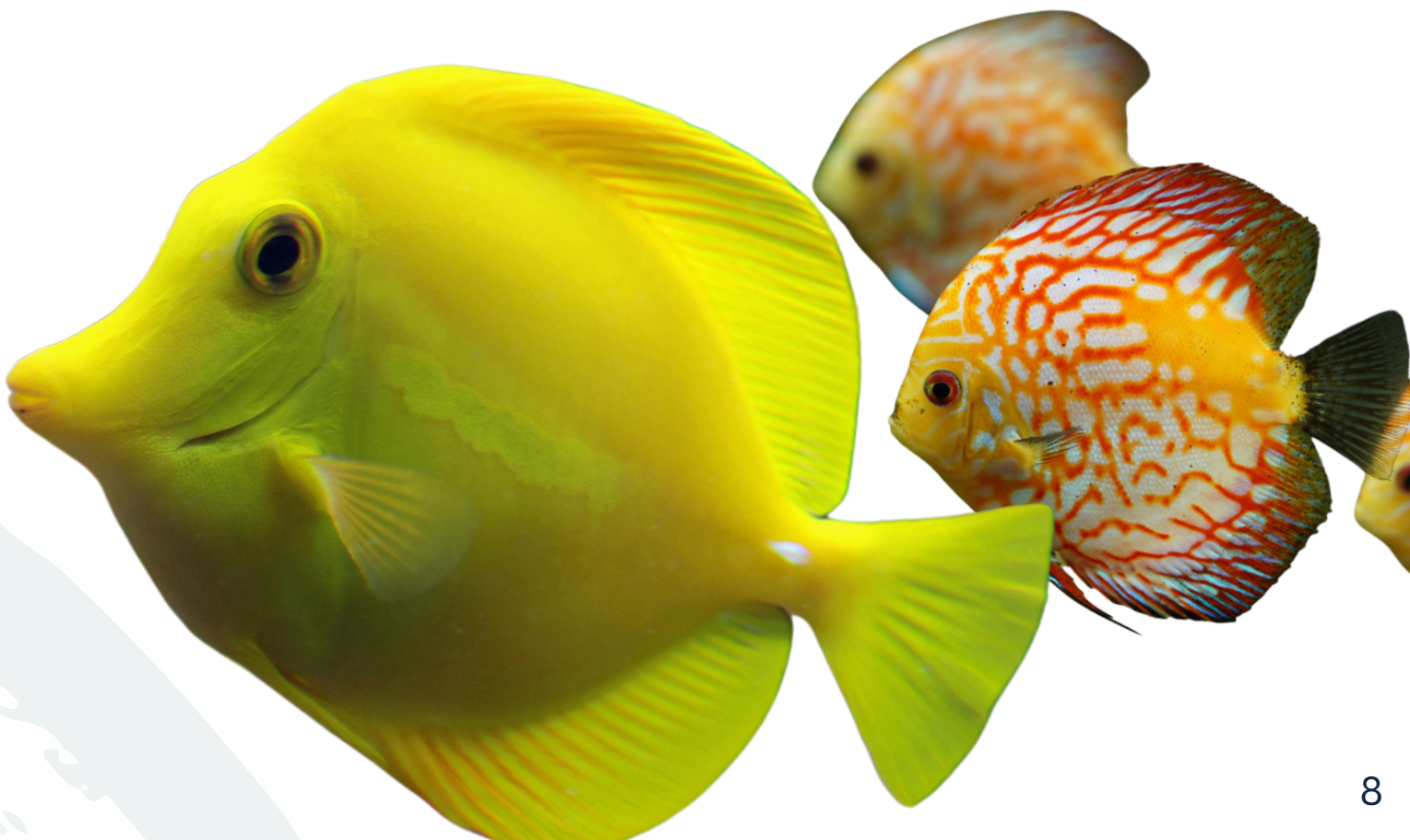
WAJ's comprehensive research conducted in 2024 on the legal protection of animals against criminal acts worldwide revealed striking facts:

- **Less than 5% of animals are protected by anti-cruelty laws, primarily companion animals, with significant enforcement challenges.**
- **This figure drops to less than 1% when considering other sentient aquatic and invertebrate species (e.g. cephalopods, decapods, etc.).**

While many **animal welfare laws** exist nationally and supranationally to regulate farming, transport, slaughter, or experiments, these laws focus more on **reducing the most extreme suffering** endured by sentient animals, rather than ensuring their true well-being.

As a result, **many animals remain legally subjected to severe cruelty**, including live mutilations, confinement in small cages, and systematic mass killing—with at least 80 million terrestrial animals and billions of aquatic animals globally slaughtered everyday solely for food production.

To meet the need for a **comprehensive, up-to-date, and freely accessible database of the world's animal laws in force**—essential for transparency and accountability—WAJ aims to bridge this gap by providing animal advocates with the legal information necessary to strengthen animal protection laws and foster their enforcement worldwide.

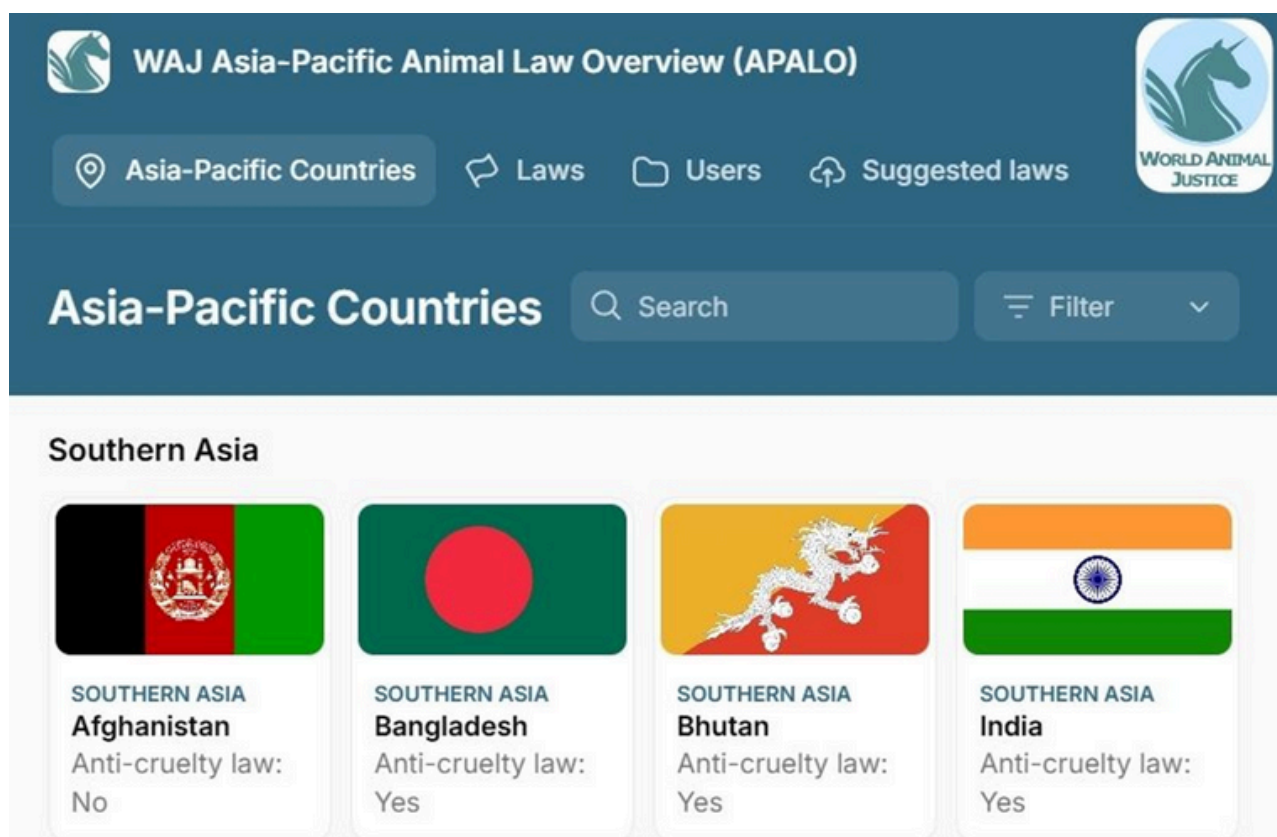


In Asia: Launch of WAJ Database of Asia-Pacific Animal Laws

It is with immense pride and excitement that 2024 saw the launch of a groundbreaking initiative: the **WAJ Database App for Asia-Pacific!** This innovative tool, a product of the **Asia-Pacific Animal Law Overview (APALO)** project, compiles anti-cruelty laws for every country in Asia, along with Australia and New Zealand.

This database empowers **policymakers, legal professionals, animal advocates, and the general public** with critical knowledge to advance animal protection and enforce laws against cruelty.

WAJ launched the project of a world animal law database by first focusing on Asia—a region where the rapid expansion of industrial animal production and limited access to legal texts make it a high priority. This initial phase will allow us to gather feedback and refine the tool, enabling users to contribute direct updates collaboratively. **Our goal is to further develop the database and expand its coverage to other regions and ultimately all countries worldwide.**



[Access WAJ App of Asia-Pacific Animal Laws Here](#)

The fight against animal cruelty is universal, but enforcing anti-cruelty laws remains a significant challenge, particularly in Asia. Legal frameworks vary widely, and access to clear, reliable information is often limited.

Critical questions like: Which animals are protected? What acts are prohibited? What penalties apply? frequently go unanswered, leaving advocates at a disadvantage.

The APALO project bridges this gap by centralizing and organizing information on anti-cruelty laws across the Asia-Pacific region. This effort reflects our commitment to making the legal protection of animals more transparent, actionable, and enforceable.

Read more here on Asia for Animals blog [here](#).

ASIA-PACIFIC ANIMAL LAW OVERVIEW (APALO)

APALO DIRECTORY

WORLD ANIMAL JUSTICE EXPERTS

APALO VOLUNTEERS

TOGETHER WE MADE IT POSSIBLE ! THANK YOU ALL !

The graphic features a light blue background with a unicorn logo on the left and a world map on the right. It displays portraits of individuals in a grid format, each with their name and role. The text is in bold, black, sans-serif font.

APALO DIRECTORY			
 SABINE BRELS WAJ DIRECTOR	 LU SHEGAY CENTRAL ASIA EXPERT	 NGOC ANH NGUYEN AFA POLICY OFFICER	 DULKI SEETHAWAKA WAJ COORDINATOR

WORLD ANIMAL JUSTICE EXPERTS						
 SHADIAR SEIDAKHMETOVA KAZAKHSTAN ETC	 JESSICA TESELEPY AUSTRALIA	 ALTAMUSH SAAED PAKISTAN	 APOORVA INDIA	 SABA PIIPA GEORGIA	 VANESSA MAN-YI WONG HONG-KONG -CHINA	 HIROYOSHI AOKI JAPAN

APALO VOLUNTEERS						
 HANBIT SUNG KOREA	 SADYANTARAWALJI MALAYSIA SINGAPORE	 TEGUH ASPARILL INDONESIA	 VAISHNAVI VASANTH INDIA	 JULIE PALAIS NEPAL	 HERDIANA PUTRI AYUNINGTYAS INDONESIA	 MONIQUE VAN DER HARST INDONESIA

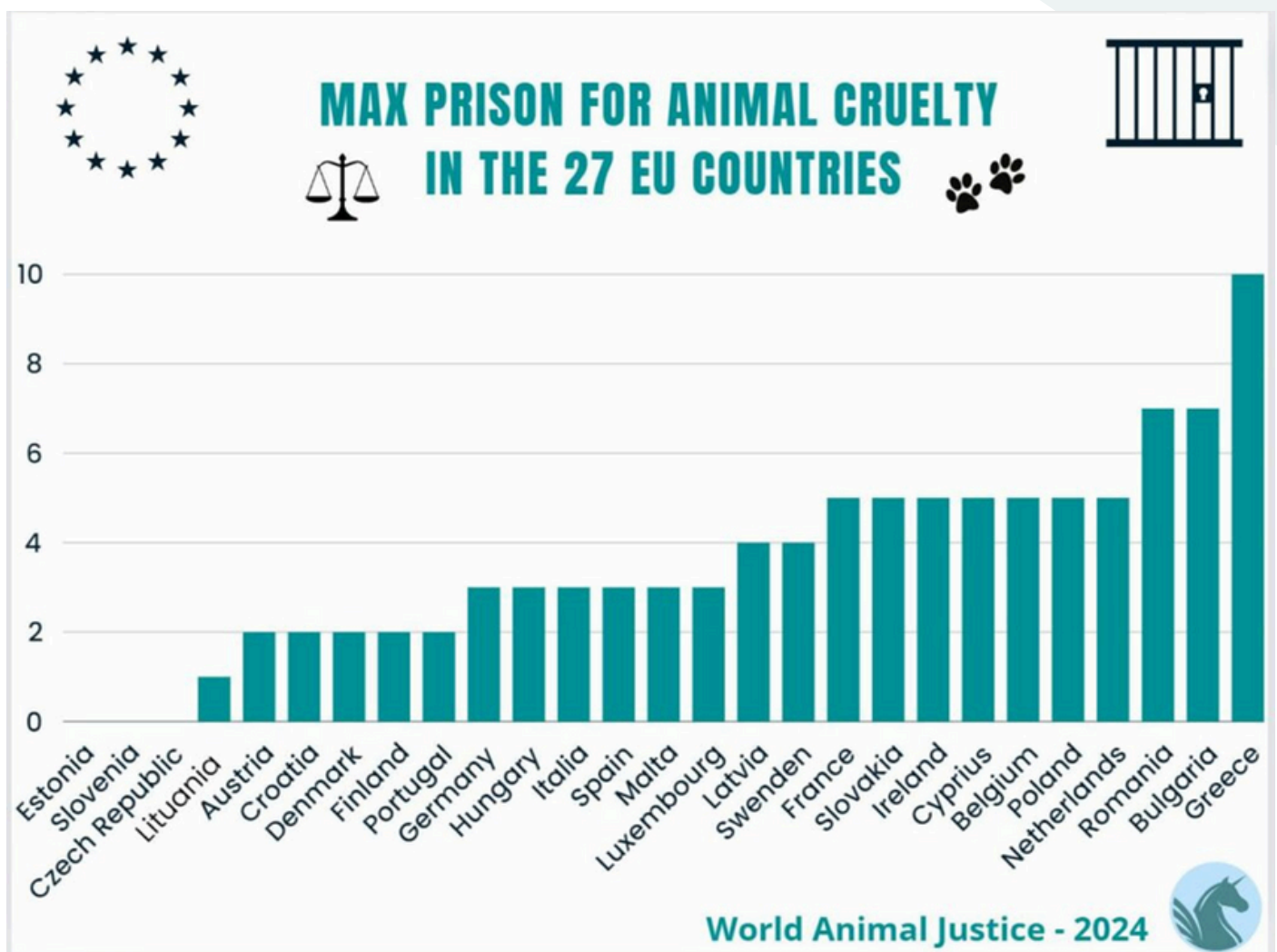
In Europe: Comparative Analysis of Anti-Cruelty Laws

In 2024, WAJ led a comparative analysis of anti-cruelty laws and their enforcement in the EU countries. As of today, every EU country has anti-cruelty laws. 'Cruelty' is generally defined as inflicting 'unnecessary' suffering, though these laws are often limited to companion and/or vertebrate animals.

Aggravated cruelty is typically recognized in cases involving the death of an animal, multiple victims, or repeat offenses.

In practice, a general **lack of enforcement** is observed, with many cases remaining unpunished and penalties decided by judges usually much lower than the maximum provided.

However, the tendency observed is a **constant increase** of the penalties provided in anti-cruelty laws. In 2023 and 2024, 4 EU countries uplifted the prison sanctions 1-3 years higher: Croatia, Slovakia, Portugal, Netherlands.



In Europe: Constitutions for Animal Protection

In 2023, WAJ team led a comparative analysis of the European constitutions stating key principles to protect animals.

At the highest level of law, constitutions play a **crucial role** in ensuring the rights and duties of citizens within a country. They establish the **fundamental legal framework** and principles that guide the state's governance and protect the rights of individuals, including the protection of animals in some cases. Constitutions provide a basis for enforcing laws and shaping policies that reflect the values and responsibilities of the nation, including those concerning animal welfare.



- **Slovenia:** Since 1991, Constitution (Art. 72) states that “the protection of animals from cruelty” shall be regulated by law”.
- **Switzerland:** Since 1992, the Swiss Constitution (art.120) provides for the “dignity of living beings” in gene technology.
- **Germany:** Since 2002, the German Constitution (art.20 A) explicitly includes the “protection of animals”.
- **Luxembourg:** Since 2007, the Constitution (art.11 bis) provides for the “protection and welfare of animals”.
- **Austria:** In 2013 the Federal Constitutional Law on “Sustainability and Animal Welfare”.
- **Italy:** Since 2022, the Italian Constitution (art.9 al.3) provides the need to “safeguard animals”.
- **Belgium:** Since May 2024, the Constitution (art.7 bis) includes “the protection and welfare of animals as sentient beings”.

Interestingly, we can observe that this progression concerns neighboring countries in the same region of Central Europe.



WAJ Expert Webinar Series on International Criminal Law & Animals

WAJ EXPERTS WEBINAR SERIES LAUNCH

WORLD ANIMAL JUSTICE : DEFEND ANIMAL RIGHTS & END ANIMAL CRIMES

7 MAY 2024
www.worldanimaljustice.org

WATCH THE REPLAY

WORLD ANIMAL JUSTICE
Speaker
DR SABINE BRELS
WAJ Founder & Director



[Watch Replay](#)

WAJ EXPERT WEBINAR

FROM ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES TO ANIMAL CRIMES

WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING - A GLOBAL WILDLIFE CRIME

13 DECEMBER 2024
https://worldanimaljustice.org

WATCH THE REPLAY

WORLD ANIMAL JUSTICE
Speaker
DR MEGANNE NATALI
WAJ Expert



[Watch Replay](#)

WAJ EXPERT WEBINAR

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW & ANIMALS

THE GENOCIDE - ECOCIDE CONTINUUM: WILDLIFE TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL ANIMAL FARMING

15 NOVEMBER 2024
https://worldanimaljustice.org

WATCH REPLAY

WORLD ANIMAL JUSTICE
Speaker
DR RIMONA AFANA
WAJ Expert



[Watch Replay](#)

WAJ EXPERT WEBINAR

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW & ANIMALS

HOW DOES INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW PROTECT ANIMALS IN WAR AND PEACETIME ?

15 AUGUST 2024
https://worldanimaljustice.org

WATCH THE REPLAY

WORLD ANIMAL JUSTICE
Speaker
DR SABA PIPIA
WAJ Expert



[Watch Replay](#)

WAJ EXPERT WEBINAR

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW & ANIMALS

WAR CRIMES AGAINST ANIMALS

EXPLORING THE LEGAL PROTECTION OF ANIMALS IN ARMED CONFLICTS UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW

27 JULY 2024
www.worldanimaljustice.org

WATCH THE REPLAY

WORLD ANIMAL JUSTICE
Speaker
MARINE LERCIER
WAJ Expert



[Watch Replay](#)

WAJ EXPERT WEBINAR

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW & ANIMALS

CRIMES AGAINST ANIMALS - VICTIMS OF SERIOUS ATROCITIES

8 JULY 2024
www.worldanimaljustice.org

WATCH THE REPLAY

WORLD ANIMAL JUSTICE
Speakers
ANKITA SHANKER & VANESSA MAN-YI WONG
WAJ Experts



[Watch Replay](#)

WAJ EXPERT WEBINAR

INTERNATIONAL LAW & ANIMALS

CRIMES AGAINST ANIMALITY & INTERNATIONAL LAW

18 JUNE 2024
www.worldanimaljustice.org

WATCH THE REPLAY

WORLD ANIMAL JUSTICE
Speaker
PR DEBORAH CAO
WAJ Honorary Expert



[Watch Replay](#)

WAJ High-Level Expert Panels for World Animal Day 2024

WORLD ANIMAL DAY
OCTOBER 4

ONLINE EVENT - WORLD ANIMAL DAY
4 OCT 2024 - 10 AM-12 PM CEST (UTC+2)

LEGAL VICTORIES & CHALLENGES TO PROTECT FARM ANIMALS AROUND THE WORLD

HOST
SABINE BRELS
FOUNDING DIRECTOR OF WORLD ANIMAL JUSTICE
AMBASSADOR OF WORLD ANIMAL DAY

GIULIA MALERBI
HEAD OF GLOBAL POLICY AT AQUATIC LIFE INSTITUTE

ROSLYN WELLS
FORMER DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS FOR THE ANIMAL JUSTICE PARTY IN AUSTRALIA

NANCY MAKUVISE
ANIMAL LAW ADVOCATE IN ZIMBABWE

APOORVA
FOUNDING DIRECTOR OF THE ANIMAL LAW & POLICY NETWORK

FARM ANIMALS

WATCH REPLAY

Animal Law & Policy Network

[Watch Replay](#)

WORLD ANIMAL DAY
OCTOBER 4

ONLINE EVENT - WORLD ANIMAL DAY- 4 OCT 2024 - 2-4 PM CEST

POLICE FORCES PROTECTING ANIMALS

PART 1 IN ENGLISH: 2 PM CEST **PART 2 IN FRENCH: 3 PM CEST**

MARK RANDELL
SENIOR DETECTIVE
CAMPAIGN MANAGER AT NATUREWATCH
UK

SIOBHAN CHASE
SERGENT, FAIRFAX POLICE SERVICES
ANIMAL DIVISION
USA

CELINE GARDEL
POLICE CAPTAIN
FOUNDER '4PATTOUNES'
FRANCE

JULIEN NEIRYNCK
DESIGNER SPECIALIST IN SECURITY SOLUTIONS
SWITZERLAND

JULIEN LACAVE
POLICE INSPECTOR
FOUNDER OF BELGIAN ENVIRONMENTAL INSTITUTE
BELGIUM

IN COLLABORATION WITH:
Les 4 pattounes

WATCH REPLAY

POLICE PROTECTION

[Watch Replay](#)

Producing WAJ Advocacy Guidelines: Strategies to ban animal cruelty and better enforce animal laws

The 7 Step Strategy to Ban Animal Cruelty



World Animal Justice (WAJ)

WAJ - 7 STEP STRATEGY TO BAN ANIMAL CRUELTY

1- Know the truth and use it in advocacy

Lead proper investigations to gather documented evidence and utilise available scientific research of animal cruelty and suffering to build solid campaigns for policy change.

2- Prepare the legal proposal and strategy

Articulate the problem with the legal solution and steps required to address the issue. Be aware of your opponents' arguments and be ready to counter them.

3- Raise awareness and mobilise public support

Use public opinion polling to measure community support for action and incorporate it into communications in mainstream and social media.

4- Identify and seek to influence key decision-makers

Develop political support for the desired change by engaging with key decision-makers, policy makers and legislators. Prepare talking points and background information on the issue for discussions with politicians.

Petitions and email campaigns are effective actions that can highlight an issue and apply pressure to political actors.

5- Seize political and media opportunities

Monitor media, political and societal developments to identify opportunities to progress WAJ's agenda. Consider using events to gain media attention, such as speaking at conferences and international forums, and protests where appropriate.

6- Collaborate with allies and watch opponents

Identify and engage with like-minded organisations and key individuals to strengthen the push for change. Know your opponents - watch what they say and do. Raise the proper arguments in order to convince a majority of decision-makers.

7- Maintain pressure until the outcome is secured

Keep fighting until victory is achieved. Anticipate opponents' actions and develop a strategy for a potential backlash.

The 10 Police Recommendations for Animal Protection

10 Police Recommendations for Animal Protection

1. Recognize that animal offenses are an imperative of public safety

Animal offenses encompass a range of harmful and criminal behaviors, including neglect, physical violence, sexual abuse, and animal trafficking. Research consistently shows a strong correlation between animal cruelty and human crimes, including child abuse, elder abuse, and intimate partner violence, highlighting an interconnected pattern of offenses. Seriously addressing animal abuse is a public safety imperative to efficiently protect all vulnerable beings.

2. Prioritize animal welfare to strengthen trust and secure communities

Actively addressing animal cruelty and mistreatment enables police to not only safeguard animals, but also contribute directly to building safer communities. Ensuring animal safety reinforces public trust in law enforcement, demonstrating a commitment to protecting all vulnerable victims and creating environments with greater security for humans and animals alike.

3. Increase the availability of trained personnel in law enforcement

Recognizing the link between animal abuse and human violence, law enforcement must ensure more officers are trained to address animal-related offenses effectively. Expanding expertise in this area improves overall public safety and ensures a more comprehensive response to various forms of crimes and abuses.

4. Better train police and all criminal justice actors

Comprehensive training on animal welfare laws, cruelty prevention, and investigative techniques should be provided to law enforcement, prosecutors, investigators, and judges. Equipping all criminal justice actors with the knowledge and skills needed to handle animal-related offenses ensures a consistent and effective response to these cases.

5. Enhance government support and resources to combat animal abuse

Governments must allocate sufficient resources, including funding and infrastructure, to protect animals effectively. This includes ensuring the availability of suitable shelters for rescued animals, staffed by trained professionals, to provide care during investigations and beyond.

6. Establish specialized units for animal-related offenses

Creating dedicated units within law enforcement agencies enables better monitoring and response to animal-related crimes. These specialized teams, equipped with the necessary authority and resources, allow for quicker interventions, stronger enforcement, and more efficient case resolution.

7. Ensure adequate support and a better future for the animal victims

Authorities must ensure access to appropriate shelters for rescued animals, staffed with trained professionals to rehabilitate victims and support their well-being during legal processes. Judges should prioritize the long-term welfare of confiscated animals, preventing prolonged shelter stays and ensuring they are placed in safe, permanent environments.

8. Strengthen legislative frameworks through policies and legislators

Elected officials should push for stronger animal protection laws, ensuring a robust legislative framework to address cruelty, trafficking, and neglect. Policymakers must recognize the clear link between violence against animals and humans, prioritizing laws that safeguard all vulnerable lives.

9. Improve law enforcement collaboration with judges and prosecutors

Close coordination between police, prosecutors, and judges is essential to combat animal-related crimes effectively. Judicial authorities should impose penalties that reflect the severity of these offenses, include measures to prevent repeat crimes, and ensure animal victims receive proper care and rehabilitation.

10. Increase efforts against animal trafficking

Law enforcement must be equipped with the tools and training to detect and combat animal trafficking effectively. Governments should strengthen legal frameworks to dismantle trafficking networks, prosecute offenders, and deter future crimes. Customs officers and international cooperation are critical in disrupting the illegal trade of domestic and wild species, to protect countless animal lives.



WAJ Blogs from Experts



Throughout the year, World Animal Justice (WAJ) has published a series of insightful **blogs** addressing issues of special interest for WAJ animal law and advocacy work.

Written by WAJ experts, these blogs reflect our commitment to raising awareness, influencing policy, and driving meaningful **legal change for animals worldwide.**



Corporate Profit Rests on Torture: Animals Pay the Price
[Read More](#)



Why Campaign Against Ecocide and Zoocide?
[Read More](#)

E
Alliance
NGOs ON CRIME PREVENTION
CRIMINAL JUSTICE

WAJ Joins the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice!
[Read More](#)

NEW
Dr Meganne Natali
Official Delegate at UNTOC COP12 !
World Animal Justice, Observer Status

Twelfth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime
Vienna 14 - 18 October 2024

WAJ at UNTOC COP 12: Insights from the first Delegate
[Read More](#)



Comparative Analysis of the Asia-Pacific Animal Law Overview

[Read More](#)



Breaking News in Australia: The Ban on Live Export of Sheep is Adopted!

[Read More](#)



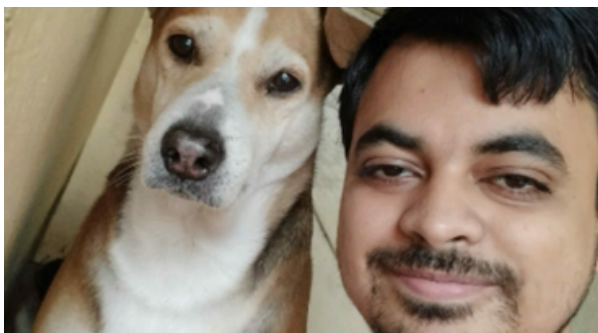
Global Call for the Protection of Street Animals in Türkiye!

[Read More](#)



Endangered and Exploited: The Crime of Wildlife Trafficking Today

[Read More](#)



Animals and Rights in India: My experience with the truth

[Read More](#)



Panel 2 - Animal Rights in Action Talk 2 - Improving Animal Law Worldwide Sabine Brels (International Animal Law Consultant)

WAJ Launch

[Read More](#)



Save the Asian Elephants – NGOs Call to Promote Animal-Friendly Tourism

[Read More](#)

WAJ at UNTOC COP12

Dr. Meganne Natali, WAJ official delegate, attended the 12th Conference of the Parties (CoP 12) to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC).

This marked WAJ's inaugural presence as an observer NGO at the UNTOC, focusing on transnational environmental crimes, like wildlife trafficking.



-> Read [Dr Meganne Natali's Blog](#)

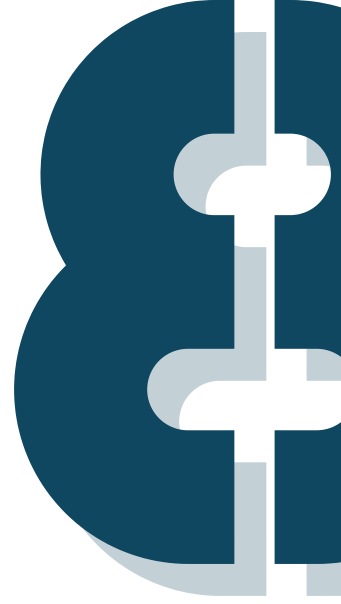
World Animal Justice for Globally Advancing Criminal Animal Justice

WAJ is committed to combating transnational organized crimes involving animals, such as wildlife trafficking, with Dr. Meganne Natali as a key expert in the field. As part of this effort, WAJ is a member of the UN-affiliated *Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice*, where WAJ advocates for animal justice in raising the imperative to combat all forms of animal crimes as a global concern.

At UNTOC COP12, a key outcome was the adoption of a resolution calling for enhanced legal frameworks to combat environmental crimes, including wildlife trafficking. The resolution also proposed convening an expert group to explore a dedicated UNTOC protocol on environmental crimes. This is a hope to start including animal crimes through wildlife crime - especially wildlife trafficking- at the UNTOC.

WAJ presentation at Animal Law Conferences

The growing interest in WAJ's mission was highlighted when its founder was invited to present the organization's work at prestigious conferences in the UK and France in 2024. These high-profile events offered a **valuable platform to showcase WAJ's groundbreaking initiatives** and strengthen its presence within the global animal law and advocacy community.



[WAJ Presented at the UK Animal Law Conference in Birmingham \(UK\), 29 May 2024](#)

[WAJ Presented at the Animal Protection Conference in Bayonne \(France\), 9 oct 2024](#)



WAJ was also featured in various online events and meetings, including the **International Policy Forum** hosted by the World Federation for Animals.

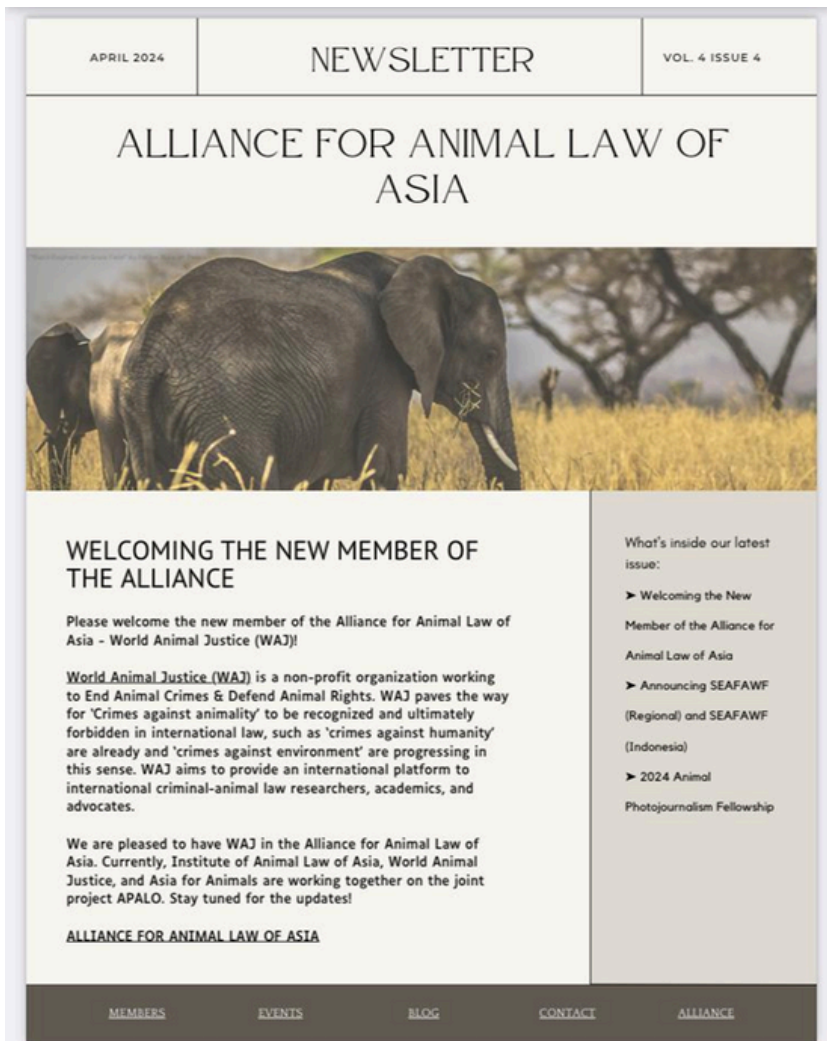
In late 2024, WAJ's innovations received **significant praise**, particularly for the Asia-Pacific Animal Law Database and the WAJ Experts Webinars, which presented key proposals to advance international animal criminal law advocacy.



WAJ Presence in Media

Below are examples highlighting WAJ's presence across various communication platforms, including newsletters from the Institute of Animal Law of Asia, media features by Asia for Animals, as well as coverage in French media and mainstream journals.

Institute of Animal Law of Asia's Newsletters



INTERVIEW WITH ANIMALS DON'T SPEAK HUMAN

We are delighted to present our interview with Fiolita Berandhini, the Founder and Director of Animals Don't Speak Human (ADSH), the first and only animal protection organization from Indonesia that joined the Alliance for Animal Law of Asia. In this interview, Fiolita Berandhini shared her amazing work at ADSH and her vision for effective animal advocacy locally and internationally.

ADSH is committed to reducing animal suffering through providing education about animal law, ethics, and animal welfare. Its mission is to secure animal welfare and basic rights through litigation, legislation, and education.

The Alliance for Animal Law of Asia serves to unite, collaborate, improve awareness of animal law issues in Asia by elevating the status of animals, and recognize them as sentient beings with the proper consideration in the legal system of Asian countries.

[READ THE FULL INTERVIEW](#)

INTERVIEW WITH WORLD ANIMAL JUSTICE

In light of the latest news about the launch of the Asia-Pacific Animal Law Overview (APALO) project, we are honored to share our interview with Dr. Sabine Brels, the Founder & Director of World Animal Justice (WAJ), one of the organizations working on global animal law issues that joined the Alliance for Animal Law of Asia.

WAJ is a non-profit organization working to end animal crimes & defend animal rights. WAJ aims to provide an international platform to international criminal-animal law researchers, academics, and advocates and is engaged in developing new law proposals and tools to share knowledge and comparative analysis.

The Alliance for Animal Law of Asia serves to unite, collaborate, improve awareness of animal law issues in Asia by elevating the status of animals, and recognize them as sentient beings with the proper consideration in the legal system of Asian countries.

[READ THE FULL INTERVIEW](#)

WEBINARS ON-DEMAND HOSTED BY WORLD ANIMAL JUSTICE

Watch the following webinars on-demand hosted by World Animal Justice (WAJ), one of the members of the Alliance for Animal Law of Asia:

- [Crimes Against Animals - Victims of Atrocities](#)

In this key webinar of the WAJ series on International Criminal Law and Animals, Ankita Shanker & Vanessa Man-Yi Wong address the notions of "Crimes against animals" and animals as "victims", and ways to advance them in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

- [War Crimes Against Animals](#)

In this exclusive webinar, WAJ Expert Marine Lercier provides an overview of animals' protection in wars under International Humanitarian Law and examines the sanctions (or lack thereof) for grave breaches under International Criminal Law.

Asia for Animals (AfA)

“How can animal advocates create a future where justice for animals is the global standard?”



In this episode of the AfA Policy Coalition podcast, you'll discover WAJ's bold vision for a world where animal rights are upheld, their strategies to criminalize acts of extreme cruelty and the overexploitation of animals, as well as the Asia Pacific Animal Law Overview (APALO) – a groundbreaking project mapping animal protection laws across the region. Ready to drive change in animal law?”

[**AfA Podcast with WAJ Founder**](#)

In April 2024, World Animal Justice launched the Asia-Pacific Animal Law Database App, which provides comprehensive information on animal anti-cruelty laws across the Asia-Pacific region, aiming to enhance accessibility to legal resources for advocates and policymakers. The app is designed to support efforts in strengthening animal protection laws and advocacy work, by offering a centralized platform for legal references and updates.

[**AfA Blog on APALO Database launch**](#)

CNDA - Confederation Nationale Defense de l'Animal

On October 4, 2024, during World Animal Day, the NGO World Animal Justice and the French association 'Les 4 Pattounes', led by police captain Céline Gardel, organized a webinar bringing together **police officers from five countries** (France, USA, UK, Belgium, and Switzerland).



The discussion centered on strengthening animal protection and improving the enforcement of anti-cruelty laws.

During the event, police officers formulated a series of key recommendations:

1. **Recognizing animal offenses as a public safety priority.**
2. **Increasing the number of trained personnel within law enforcement.**
3. **Providing comprehensive training on animal welfare laws to all judicial actors.**
4. **Allocating more governmental resources to combat animal cruelty.**
5. **Setting specialized units dedicated to investigating animal-related offenses.**
6. **Ensuring the availability of adequate shelters for rescued animals.**
7. **Strengthening legislative frameworks to enhance legal protections.**
8. **Improving collaboration between law enforcement and judicial authorities.**
9. **Intensifying efforts to combat animal trafficking.**
10. **Promoting public awareness and education to prevent cruelty against animals.**

This initiative highlights the growing recognition of the need for stronger legal enforcement and cross-border cooperation in animal protection.

Police Officers Protecting Animals - WAJ event (in French)

The conference in Bayonne held in Oct 2024 in France highlighted the legal and ethical challenges of animal protection, emphasizing the need for better enforcement of existing laws and enhanced resources. Experts from various fields stressed the importance of increased training to address animal abuse more effectively. The event also showcased best practices and innovative solutions, advocating for more local initiatives to improve animal welfare in both legal and practical aspects.

Animal Protection in France - Conference in Bayonne (in French)

The renowned French journal *Le Parisien* published an interview with World Animal Justice's founder. The article was published on 14 Nov 2024 in the context of the latest proposed ban—ultimately rejected by the **French Senate**—which sought to prohibit the presence of young children at bullfighting events. Despite the decision to maintain their attendance, **public opinion remains largely opposed to bullfighting in France** and for a national ban, while it remains legal in South of France as a cruelty exception.

“ For some children, the trauma has turned into a calling. Sabine Brels, a lawyer specializing in animal law, discovered her determination to protect animals at a very young age. It happened during a bullfight near Montpellier, which her mother - a reserve nurse for the event - took her to.

" The scenes are still there, imprinted in my memory for life. At just four years old, I felt a deep anger and a lot of confusion, wondering how it was possible to do that to an animal - and even worse, to find amusement in it."

Last year, she founded **World Animal Justice**, a global network of experts and NGOs dedicated to establishing "global animal justice", where the fundamental rights of animals are protected, and crimes against animals are prohibited.

WJ is engaged in the legal fight against bullfighting in France (with 30,000 victims yearly) and in the other countries where this blood show, involving the torture and death of bulls for entertainment, is still ongoing.



WAJ joint actions

10



→ [Support End.it call Here](#)

WAJ Joins the End.it Coalition Against Factory Farming

WAJ has joined the End.it Coalition, led by Compassion in World Farming (CIWF), advocating for a global ban on factory farming at the United Nations.

WAJ Advocacy to Stop Industrial Farming Crimes Now

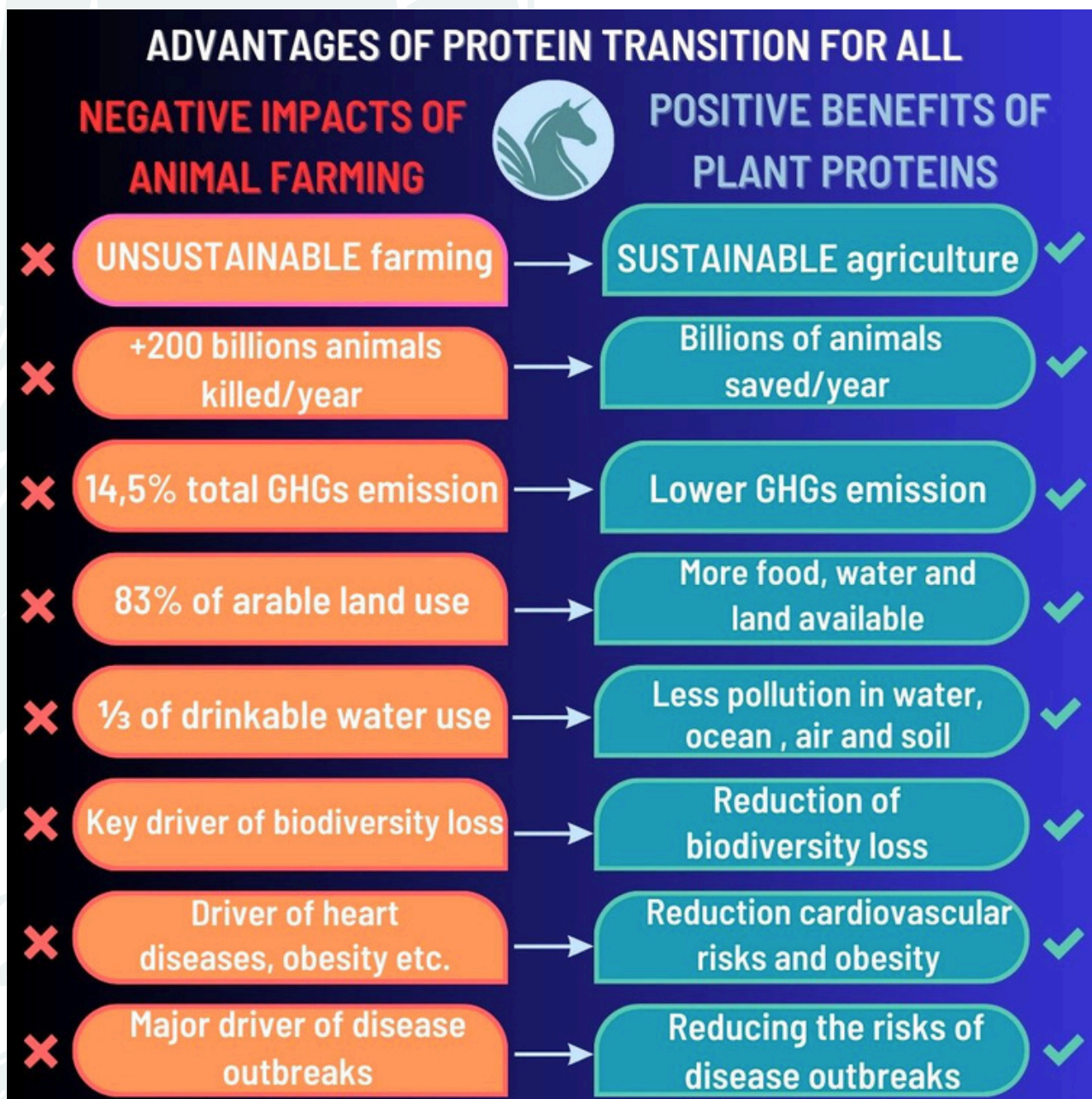
Factory farming is responsible for the **largest-scale animal crimes on Earth**, fueled by an industrialized food system that legally exploits sentient beings. **An urgent legal intervention is essential to end this systemic abuse.** Laws must **mandate the use of ethical alternatives**—such as plant-based proteins and non-animal testing—while ensuring their accessibility and affordability.

Beyond its devastating impact on animals, factory farming harms human health, accelerates biodiversity loss, and contributes to environmental destruction. Yet, **billions of dollars still support this harmful industry.** Redirecting subsidies toward **sustainable food systems and plant-based alternatives** would foster animal protection, environmental preservation, food security, and public health.

Banning Factory Farming: A Triple Win for Animals, Humans, and the Planet

- ✓ 200+ billion terrestrial & aquatic animals saved yearly
- ✓ Wildlife and ecosystems protected from mass destruction
- ✓ Reduced deforestation, pollution, and biodiversity loss
- ✓ Healthier diets, lower disease risks, and food security
- ✓ A more ethical, sustainable, and just food system

WAJ Advocacy on the Benefits of Plant-Proteins Shift



WAJ Joint Action to Save the Asian Elephants

WAJ supports the global initiative led by Save the Asian Elephants (STAE) to address the harmful impact of tourism on these animals. Over 100 NGOs have backed this call, advocating for stronger regulations under the UK's Animals (Low-Welfare Activities Abroad) Act. The campaign stresses the urgent need to protect Asian elephants, who face significant exploitation in the tourism industry.



→ [Read Open-Letter Here](#)

WAJ Supports the Call to End Wildlife Crimes

WAJ, alongside 142 NGOs, has signed an open letter from the End Wildlife Crime Initiative, calling for wildlife trade and market regulations to be included in the Pandemic Treaty. The initiative aims to prevent zoonotic disease outbreaks, stop cruel practices inflicted on wild animals, and mitigate the broader consequences of wildlife exploitation on public health and biodiversity.



→ [Read Open-Letter Here](#)

WAJ Endorses the Pledge for Animal Dignity

WAJ officially supports the Declaration for Animal Dignity, which recognizes the **intrinsic worth and agency of animals**, emphasizing their emotional and relational capacities. The Declaration, championed by experts such as Jane Goodall and philosophers, calls for a shift in how society perceives and treats animals.

WAJ also supports the Animal Pledge, which encourages individuals and organizations to:

- **Speak with respect**, avoiding language that diminishes animals.
- **Recognize intrinsic value**, treating animals as sentient beings.
- **Act with empathy**, making ethical decisions that prioritize animal welfare.

By advocating for dignity in animal protection, WAJ emphasizes the need to **combat systemic exploitation**, such as factory farming and live transport, which affect billions of animals and contribute significantly to the climate crisis.

THE PLEDGE FOR ANIMALS
JOIN THE MOVEMENT TO RECOGNIZE THE DIGNITY OF OTHER ANIMALS.



→ [More on the Pledge Here](#)

WAJ Promising Strides

- Over **2,500** hours of pro-bono work, primarily led by WAJ director, with the key involvement of WAJ Board, Steering committee members, Experts, Partners and Volunteers.
- Over **1,500** followers on LinkedIn, while developing other social media.
- Over **500** participants have attended WAJ Experts Webinars in 2024.
- WAJ group of **40** Experts, involving animal lawyers from the 5 continents.
- WAJ network of **10** Partnering NGOs worldwide, including big coalitions.

These initial milestones reflect the increasing momentum of WAJ's mission, driven by high-level expertise, strategic NGO collaborations, and a steadfast commitment to delivering groundbreaking proposals that drive meaningful and lasting change for animals.

World Animal Justice: A Growing Movement



» Meet WAJ Team of Experts & Volunteers [HERE](#)

“ WAJ OFFERS ME THE INTERNATIONAL PLATFORM I WAS LOOKING FOR TO BETTER PROTECT ANIMAL RIGHTS AND ADVOCATE AGAINST ANIMAL CRIMES THROUGH A UNIQUE GROUP OF ANIMAL LAW EXPERTISE ”

DULKI SEETHAWAKA

SRI LANKA

DULKI SEETHAWAKA

WAJ EXPERT



Global Partnerships Driving Change

Convinced that ‘Union is Strength’, a strong global collaboration network is at the heart of our WAJ’s vision to succeed in our mission. In 2024, our strategic alliances with leading global organizations have strengthened our collective efforts, expanding our reach and amplifying our impact in the fight for animal justice worldwide.

Through our key partnerships, we have built an extensive network, connecting with **over 435 NGOs** globally, spanning multiple regions and areas of expertise.

Large Coalitions for Higher Impact

- **Asia for Animals Coalition** – The largest coalition of animal welfare NGOs in Asia, bringing together **360+ network members**, all dedicated to improving the lives of animals across the region.
- **Alliance on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice** – A global alliance of **75+ NGOs**, working collaboratively to address critical issues related to crime prevention and justice.

Together, these partnerships create a powerful global mosaic of organizations united by a shared commitment to meaningful change.

Our Global Partner Network

These collaborations empower WAJ to:

- **Leverage a broad network** for advocacy, policy change, and grassroots action.
- **Exchange knowledge and best practices** across sectors and regions.
- **Influence global policy** through collective efforts and strategic initiatives.

Looking ahead, WAJ remains committed to strengthening these partnerships and forging new alliances to create a more just world for all sentient beings.

WARM THANKS TO ALL WAJ PARTNERS



»» Meet our WAJ Partnering NGOs [HERE](#)

Looking Back & Ahead: Future Perspectives

In 2024, WAJ made significant strides in advancing global legal advocacy for animals, laying a strong foundation for future reforms. We launched the Asia-Pacific Animal Law Database, released an Expert Report with key recommendations to amend the Rome Statute, and strengthened international coalitions as to globally combat crimes against animals. Through specific expertise, high-level advocacy, and strategic collaborations, **WAJ positioned itself as a driving force in the fight for global animal justice.**

As we look ahead to 2025, WAJ is set to expand its impact by pursuing international legal recognition of animal crimes, advocating for legal and policy reforms at the UNTOC and ICC, and mobilizing public and institutional support to defund factory farming, while also pushing to establish the use of non-animal products and methods as a new legal requirement. Through our **participation in key global events and conferences**—such as the Animal & Vegan Advocacy Summit in May 2025—and the development and distribution of exclusive expert resources as to **strengthen animal law enforcement and progress worldwide**, we are turning legal expert advocacy into decisive actions.

The momentum is growing. With the support of WAJ experts partners, and advocates worldwide, we will continue to **challenge the status quo, reshape legal systems**, and ensure animals are no longer the invisible victims of systemic abuse. Together, we are building a world where **justice knows no boundaries**, where crimes against animals are not yet ignored, but prosecuted with the same gravity as for humans.

2025 will be a defining year for WAJ. The legal revolution for animals is within reach, and we are paving the way toward a just world for all sentient beings.



How to Get Involved?

- **Support WAJ work**

WAJ is a fully volunteer-run NGOs facing **increasing functioning costs**. We warmly thank our first donors helping to cover WAJ's first costs in this starting year. Your support is essential to our mission for animals. Every donation can drive meaningful support to continue our mission!

[Support WAJ work to combat animal crimes worldwide HERE](#)

- **Volunteer**

If you are interested in gaining valuable experience with World Animal Justice, consider volunteering in communications, social media, fundraising, research, or general operations. To apply, please send us your CV and cover letter.

Contact Information



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www.worldanimaljustice.org



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“ Together, we can build a world where every sentient being is legally protected. Let’s create a world of justice for all! ”



**WORLD ANIMAL
JUSTICE**