

## *International Fund for Animal Welfare*

The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) has been a proud supporter of *The Monachus Guardian* for the past four years. Over this period, *Monachus* has established itself worldwide as the only dedicated source of information regarding monk seals and threats to their populations and habitat. The response has been tremendous. *Monachus* now enjoys a readership of some 10,000 individuals in more than 50 countries.

In addition to providing financial support for this unique publication, IFAW and the IFAW Charitable Trust have also been pleased to underwrite the design and maintenance of the [monachus.org](http://monachus.org) website, through its affiliate organization, the International Marine Mammal Association, Inc. The website now serves up to 400 visitors per day seeking up to date scientific and regulatory information related to monk seals. IFAW has also contributed to the production of three hardcopy annual volumes of *The Monachus Guardian*.

The progress and development of these unique information sources are due in no small measure to the tireless efforts of *Monachus* founder and editor William (Bill) Johnson, and production editor Matthias Schnellmann. Bill has worked with IMMA executive director, and IFAW science advisor, Dr. David Lavigne, on various monk seal conservation initiatives for the past decade.

As *Monachus* enters its 5<sup>th</sup> year of publication, new sources of financial support are urgently needed to maintain and expand this unique source of information. While IFAW and IMMA will continue to contribute content, research and editorial support to *The Monachus Guardian*, budgetary constraints and expanding international obligations have forced IFAW to suspend its direct financial support for this publication and website.

In coming weeks, Bill and David will be working to identify new sources of financial support for *Monachus*. IFAW encourages you to consider the ways in which you as an individual, and the institutions with which you are working, together with other interested parties, can help ensure this unique and vital journal continues to be produced. Thank you for your interest and support.

Patrick Ramage  
Director of Public Affairs  
International Fund for Animal Welfare ([www.ifaw.org](http://www.ifaw.org))

3 January 2002