

February 20, 2015

Sent by certified mail

Margie Ortiz
FOIA Officer
National Park Service
1100 Ohio Drive, SW
Washington, DC 20242



IN DEFENSE OF ANIMALS

FOIA Officer
Rock Creek Park
3545 Williamsburg Lane, NW
Washington, DC 20008

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear Agency Officials,

The following request is being made on behalf of In Defense of Animals (IDA), and international animal rights and protection organization, and the following residents of Washington D.C.: Anne Barton, Carol Grunewald and Mary Rowse.

Pursuant to the Washington D.C.'s open records act (5 U.S.C. § 552 *et seq.*), we request copies of all records relating to the deer management plan executed in Rock Creek Park. Records, unless otherwise noted below, include any correspondence, email, telefax, notes, memos, records

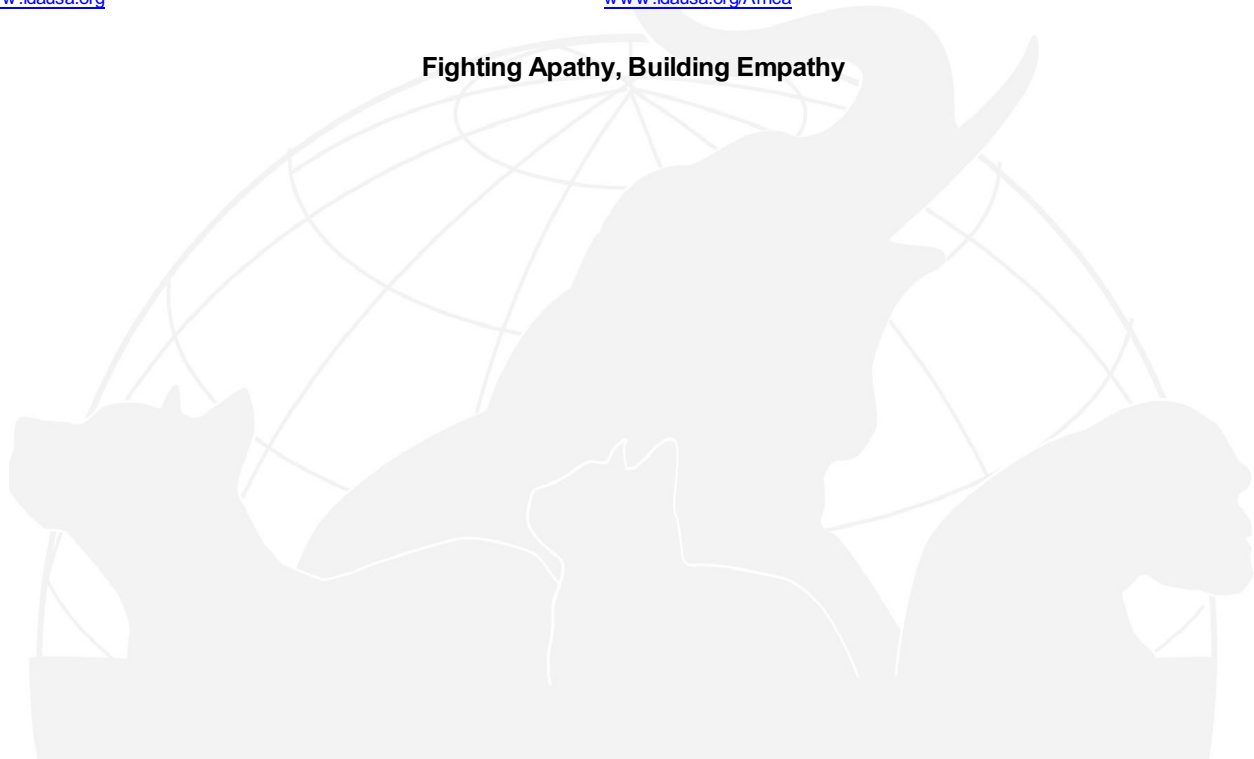
In Defense of Animals
San Rafael, California
info@idausa.org
www.idausa.org

IDA Hope Animal Sanctuary
Grenada, Mississippi
www.idausa.org/Hope

IDA Africa
Sanaga-Yong Chimpanzee Rescue Center
Cameroon, Africa
www.idausa.org/Africa

IDA India
Mumbai, India
www.idausa.org/India

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of phone conversations, spreadsheet, documents, studies, reports, photographs, and/or videotape footage in the possession of the National Park Service and Rock Creek Park regardless of the origins of the record.

Specifically, we are requesting copies of the following records:

I. The following records are requested for the period **from 2012 to present**

1. Any record documenting the total annual deer population count or estimate, method(s) used, who conducted each count or estimate and when it was conducted.
2. Any record documenting the demographic distribution of the population, method(s) used, who conducted the method and when it was conducted.
3. Any record documenting the geographic distribution of the population within the park, method(s) used, who conducted the method and when it was conducted.

II. Any record documenting the results of Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) Surveys in Rock Creek Park **from 1997 to present.**

III. The following records are requested for the period **from April 1 2014 to present:**

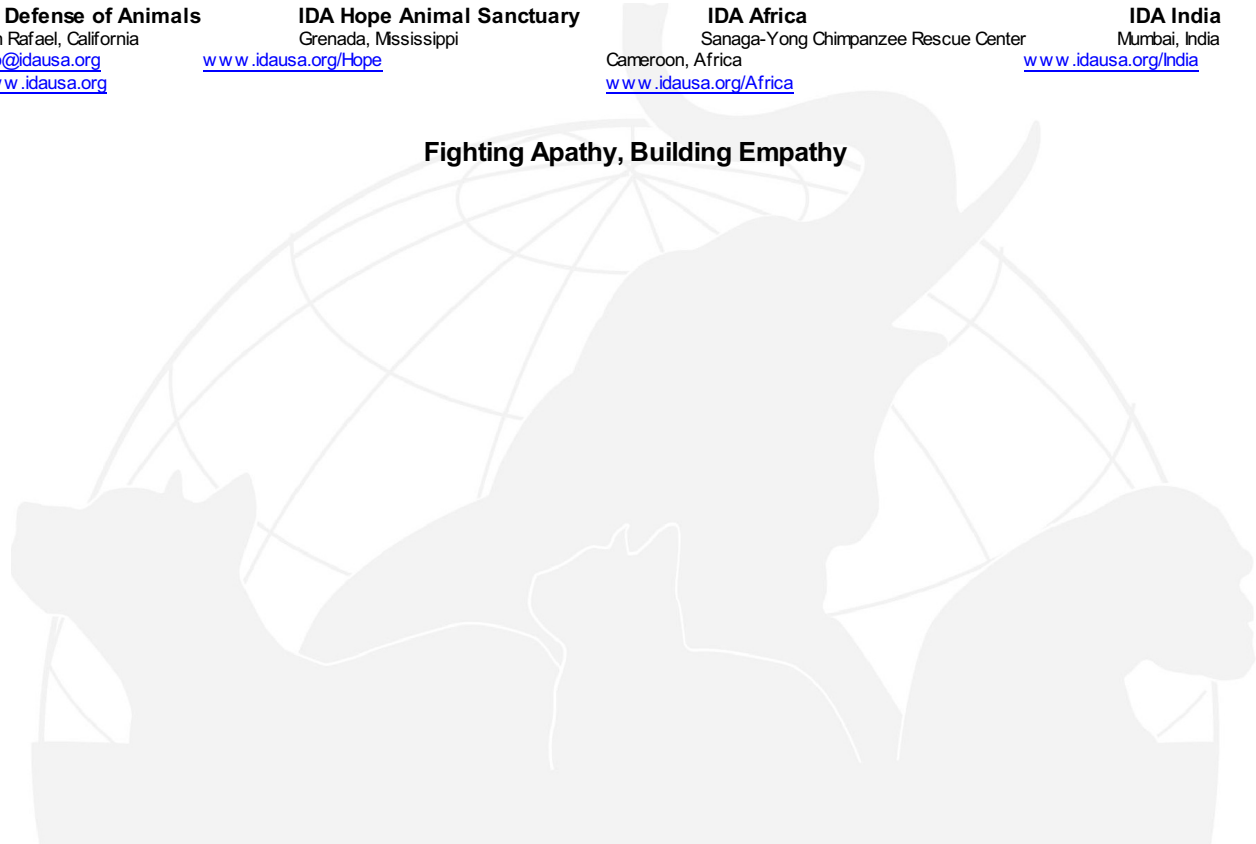
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1. Any record documenting the dates and times of sharpshooting operations during this period and the total number of deer killed each night, who documented and who checked the counts and the methods used to document and check the counts.
2. Any record documenting the date and times of sharpshooting operations and the total number of deer killed each night of the culling operation in December 2014; who documented and who checked the counts and the methods used to document and check the counts.
3. Any record reflecting the estimated age and sex of each deer killed;
4. Any record reflecting the weight and physical condition (i.e., body condition index score, parasite load, other index of body condition) of each deer killed;
5. Any record reflecting the reproductive status of any does killed (i.e., pregnant or not pregnant);
6. Any record reflecting the total number of fetuses per pregnant doe killed, estimated age, sex and size of any fetuses found in pregnant does and methods used to kill these fetuses;
7. Any record documenting the wounding of any deer during the culling operation including the type of wound suffered by any deer, whether or not the wounded deer were found, the disposition of any wounded deer, and efforts reflecting efforts to locate wounded deer;

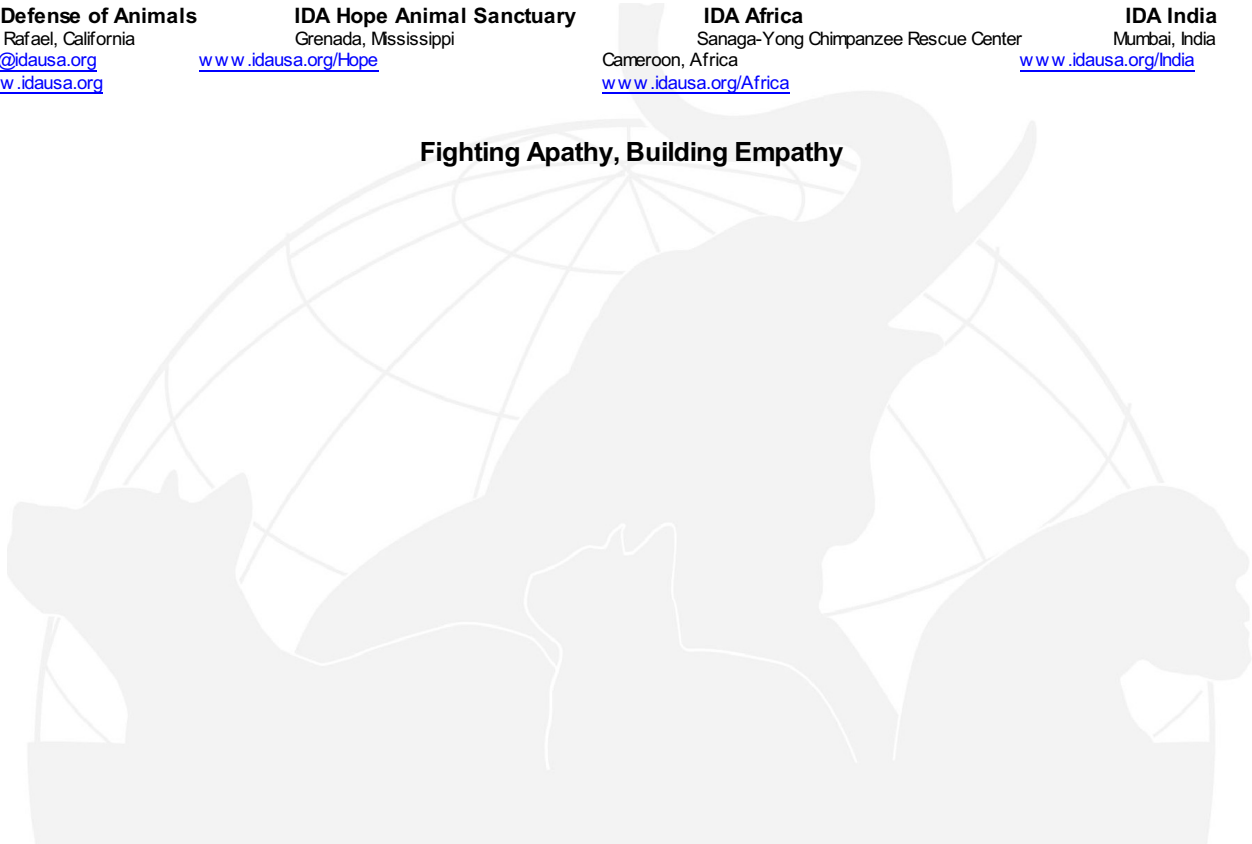
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8. Any record reflecting complaints received from residents regarding the culling operation including any complaints about hearing gunfire, expressing concern for public safety, observation of injured deer, observation of deer in yards, or of striking any deer with an automobile;
9. Any record documenting the number of sharpshooters who were assigned to shoot deer on each night of the operation. This specific request includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. The names and affiliation (i.e., what agency they were employed by) of each sharpshooter.
10. Any record documenting the location of the stationary sharpshooting stations used during the culling operation. Recognizing that the National Park Service is only required to turn over records that are responsive to the request (i.e., it is not required to manufacture records to respond to a particular request), the requested location information may be in the form of GPS coordinates, a specific location along a named road or trail in the park, in the form of a map depicting the sharpshooting locations, or in any other form used by the National Park Service;
11. Any record reflecting the costs of the sharpshooters including their salaries and any overtime payments incurred for their work;
12. Any record reflecting the costs for security provided for the culling operation including

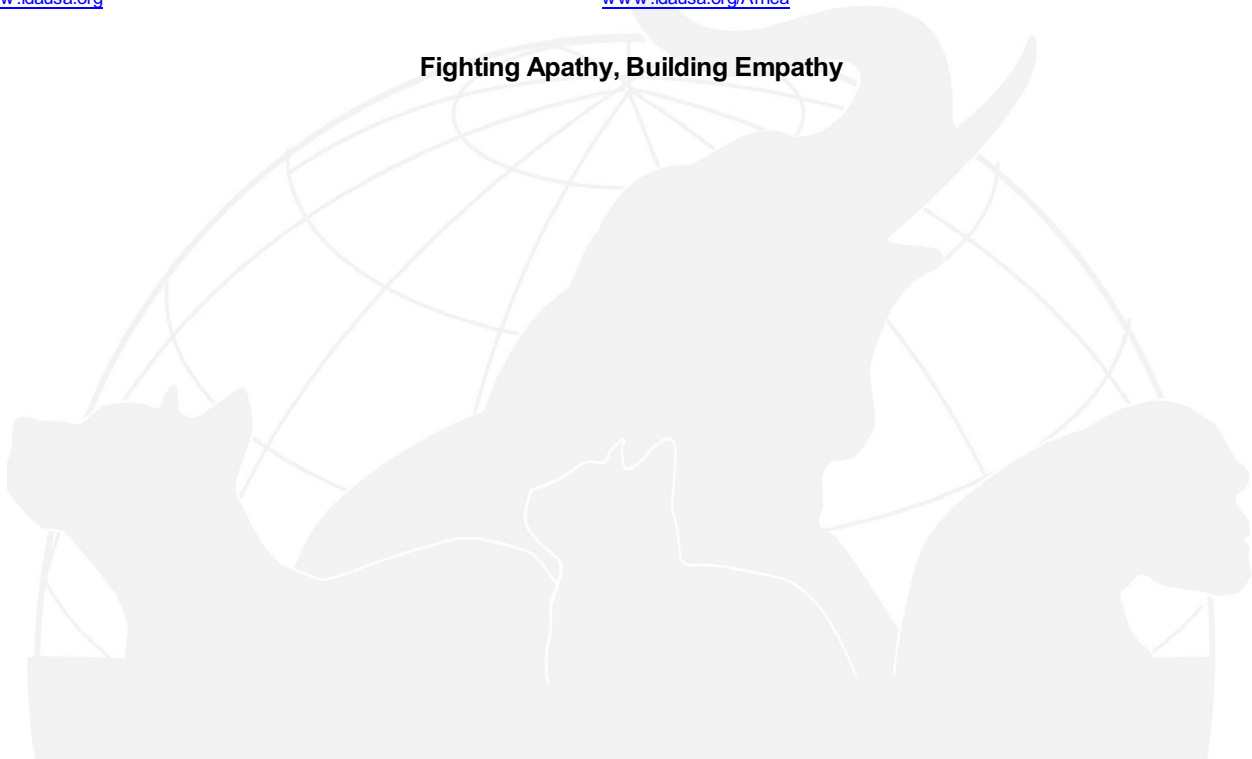
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the costs of park police, other police officers, and other security personnel to monitor the park, any protest activities, and to monitor the sharpshooters;

13. Any record reflecting the number of deer processed, costs of processing the killed deer including the costs of field dressing the animals, transport to the processor, the cost of butchering, and costs incurred for distribution of the meat;
14. Any record reflecting the costs of preparing for and administering the culling operation including any salaries paid to park employees, any overtime/weekend/holiday payments, and any costs paid to secure the services of any other agency, state or federal, or their employees in the culling operation;
15. Any records reflecting the type of weaponry used to kill the deer, costs for the weaponry and ammunition used during the culling operation;
16. Any records reflecting costs of contractual services with USDA Wildlife Service.

In Defense of Animals (IDA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating the public about issues involving animals. Thus, we request a public interest waiver for the cost of processing this request pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii), on the grounds that disclosure of the requested information is “in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester.” Neither IDA nor Anne Barton, Mary Rowse or Carol

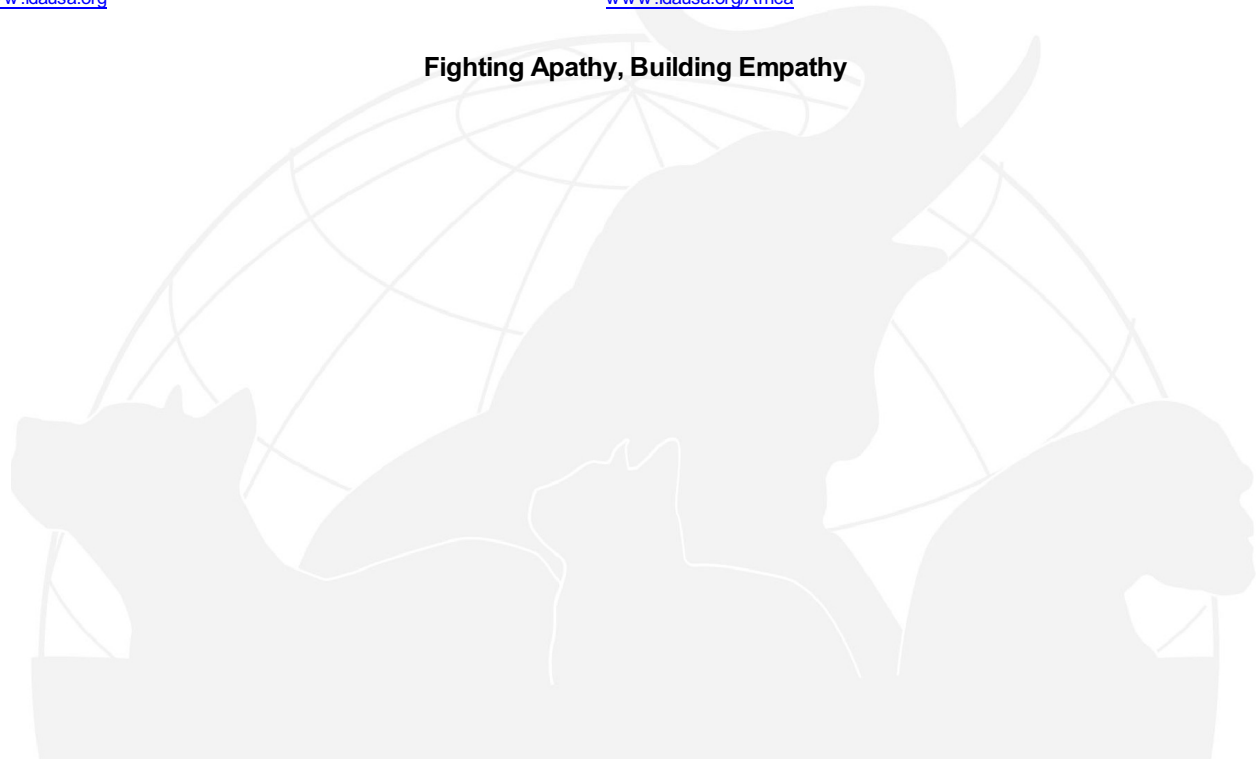
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Grunewald, have any commercial interest in the requested information—we seek the information solely for the purpose of shedding more light on the basis upon which the Park Service decided to go forward with killing deer this year, and whether this approach to protecting the native vegetation in this national park is the most prudent and effective use of agency time and taxpayer money.

This matter has generated significant public interest not only in the Washington, D.C. area, but also across the nation, given that Rock Creek Park is in our nation's capital and this is the second time in the history of the Park that the government has permitted the killing of native wildlife there. There have been numerous articles, op-ed pieces, and letters to the editor published about this issue in the Washington Post. In addition, educational information has been provided on the website of In Defense of Animals. Furthermore, a Facebook page has been set up for this purpose that, to date, has been “liked” by more than 1,350 people:

https://www.facebook.com/SaveTheRockCreekParkDeer?ref=br_tf, and a Twitter page set up by IDA, Anne Barton, Mary Rowse and Carol Grunewald, has been contacted by hundreds of people being interested in this issue: <https://twitter.com/rockcreekdeer>

We request that information, if possible, be provided in electronic format or provided on CD.

If you choose to mail the requested information, please contact me for an address.

If you have any questions regarding any aspect of this request, please contact me by telephone (406-544-5727) or email to expedite timely disclosure.

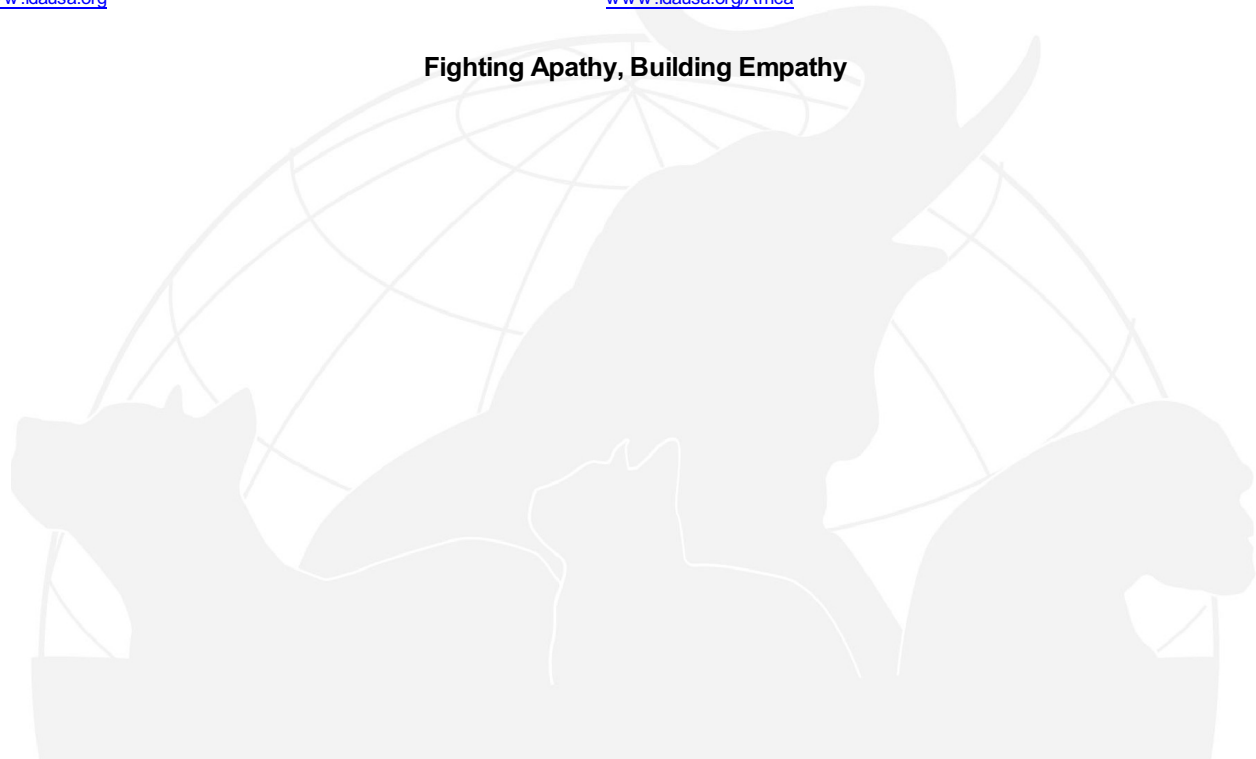
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Please confirm receipt of this request by email to Anja@idausa.org.

Thank you for your assistance. I look forward to receiving your reply.

Sincerely,

Anja Heister, Director, Wild and Free – Habitats Campaign
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www.idausa.org

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