

# American Co-Founder of WWF-Russia and Long-Serving Environmentalist Dies in Accident

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**Laura Williams (Leonid Sverdlov / TASS)**

Laura Williams, the U.S. born co-founder of WWF-Russia and a pioneer conservationist, died in a horse-riding accident on Sunday.

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) is an international non-governmental organization that focuses on wilderness preservation. Williams, a Colorado-native who moved to Moscow in 1993, helped establish the NGO's Russian branch in the 1990s and launched a WWF office in Kamchatka in 2006.

**Link:**

[http://old.themoscowtimes.com/arts\\_n\\_ideas/article/embracing-the-unexpected/368446.html](http://old.themoscowtimes.com/arts_n_ideas/article/embracing-the-unexpected/368446.html)

“It is impossible to describe how much she meant, and how much she has done for the Fund. The story of WWF Russia began with Laura,” the organization [wrote](#) in an online statement on Sunday.

According to WWF, prior to the accident, Williams had set up a project called “Human and Horse” which aimed “to promote the idea of equality between animals and humans.”

Williams' husband, the Russian nature photographer and conservationist Igor Shpilenok, [wrote](#) in a Facebook post Sunday that she had died in an unfortunate accident in the saddle.

Original url:

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2018/10/29/american-co-founder-wwf-russia-long-serving-environmentalist-dies-accident-a63329>