

Dear supporters and friends,

In this edition, we are excited to share our new logo and offer holiday gift ideas for your family and friends. Our feature article describes the importance of combatting climate change by protecting tropical forests, demonstrating the need for your ongoing support. Thank you for another great year. Happy Holidays and all the best for a fantastic 2016!

### Revealing....

This year we reflected on our brand and how to increase our impact in conservation. We were lucky enough to have the support and guidance of some brilliant minds in the non-profit and marketing fields and after much consideration and surveying many of our stakeholders, we decided to redesign our logo and create a tagline that better conveys what we do and the importance of our work.

Watch for our redesigned newsletter and website, including our new social media campaign, next year!



### Project updates

The creation of the San Isidro Amphibian Conservation Reserve in northwestern Guatemala, featured in September's newsletter, has now been completed. This 922-hectare acquisition involved 109 landowners, making it a complex process, but ICFC partner FUNDAECO led the initiative to fruition. The purchase of San Isidro was possible thanks to the joint efforts of FUNDAECO and a group of international conservation groups, including ICFC.

***A new reserve in Guatemala will protect eleven threatened amphibians and three threatened bird species.***

The Mali Elephant Project suffered a blow in June this year when 14 elephants were killed by poachers. However, having a regular armed presence deters traffickers and improves overall security. Military patrols are now in place and government foresters who have recently completed their military training are likely to be deployed to the Gourma at any moment.



Photo: Hooded Grebe with young. ©Pablo Hernandez

In the wilds of Patagonia in Argentina a modestly budgeted program has halted the steep decline of the Hooded Grebe. Dedicated project personnel and volunteers tallied more grebes during the 2014-2015 breeding season than in preceding years – a remarkable turnaround for this imperiled bird. Mink have been an important cause of the species' decline but effective control measures in and surrounding breeding areas have reduced mink number and almost eliminated mink predation.

Meanwhile, our project at the Rincón Santa María Nature Reserve in Argentina continues to work towards forest restoration, with the planting of 300 trees from 11 native species and control of the invasive pine over an area of 200 hectares.

### Staff spotlight

ICFC introduces **Sarah Jackson**, our Legal and Program Director. A lawyer, Sarah is involved in developing and managing programs, policy, and legal aspects of our work. She is also completing a PhD part-time, focused on legal frameworks for payments for ecosystem services. She will jump at any chance to get outdoors, whether walking, cycling, paddling or picnicking! Time spent in nature reminds her what we are working towards at ICFC.

# Protecting tropical forests to counter climate change

As world leaders gear up for pivotal climate negotiations next month in Paris, we take this opportunity to highlight ICFC's contribution to an essential part of the solution: protection of tropical forests.

**Tropical deforestation represents 10% of all carbon emissions.<sup>1</sup>**



Photo: Carlos Vásquez-Almazán (FUNDAECO) at the Sierra Caral Amphibian Reserve. Photo courtesy of Carlos Vásquez-Almazán.

## How is ICFC making a difference?

We are the first and only Canadian charity to focus solely on conserving nature in the tropics and other priority areas worldwide. Protecting tropical forests is a core part of our mission and our projects demonstrate a range of effective strategies.

**ICFC helps protect over 11.5 million hectares of tropical forest ecosystems.**

Our partnership with the Kayapo Indigenous peoples enables monitoring and surveillance to protect their 11-million hectare territory in the Amazon from illegal incursions. At Area de Conservación Guanacaste in Costa Rica, we support parataxonomists hired from the local community who carry out biological monitoring and guard this large and important national park. Land acquisitions have secured the permanent protection of forests in nature reserves in Guatemala, Colombia Ecuador and Bolivia.

We anticipate more opportunities to protect forests (and other critical tropical ecosystems) through our Reserve Fund. See our website for more information, ([http://icfcanda.org/reserve\\_fund.shtml](http://icfcanda.org/reserve_fund.shtml)).

<sup>1</sup> Harris, N. L., et al. (2012). Baseline map of carbon emissions from deforestation in tropical regions. *Science*, 336, 1573–1576



Photo: Tree at Jorupe Reserve, Ecuador. ©ICFC

## Tropical forests are carbon sinks – and so much more

Tropical forests are a priority for climate change mitigation, and provide a multitude of other benefits:

- Tropical forests capture and store vast amounts of carbon in their lush vegetation – nature provides the most cost-effective carbon sequestration.
- Forests have the added climate effect of generating cool and moist air. Large-scale deforestation in the tropics could trigger major shifts in rainfall and increased temperatures – both locally and as far away as other continents.
- The Amazon basin drives rainfall patterns extending from the mid-western United States to South America's agricultural breadbasket in the Rio del Plata Basin.
- Forests stabilize soil and reduce erosion, which is critical to both water quality and the protection of infrastructure such as roads – ever more important as tropical storms are exacerbated by climate change.
- Forests regulate water supply – the Amazon Basin alone holds 20% of the world's freshwater.
- The tropics are home to “biodiversity hotspots,” in which 44% of vascular plant species and 35% of vertebrates are found on less than 1.5% of the earth's land area.

**Help us take action by making a donation today at [ICFCCanada.org](http://ICFCCanada.org).**

<sup>2</sup> Kim, D.-H., J. O. Sexton, and J. R. Townshend (2015). Accelerated deforestation in the humid tropics from the 1990s to the 2000s. *Geophysical Research Letters*, 42, 3495-3501.

**The rate of forest loss across the humid tropics increased by 62% in the first decade of the 21st century compared to the 1990s.<sup>2</sup>**

Taking action to protect tropical forests is more important than ever. The major hotspots for forest loss (by total area) are Brazil, Indonesia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, but deforestation is also increasing widely across parts of Latin America. Large-scale agriculture and cattle grazing are the chief drivers of deforestation. Forests are also cleared illegally in many places for unpermitted uses such as logging and mining, especially where road development leaves adjacent forests open to incursions. But there is much we are doing, and more we can do still, to secure forests and their many benefits.

**ICFC believes local people are our best allies in protecting forests.**

The local communities and Indigenous peoples who depend on forests are at the heart of ICFC's conservation work. This includes the direct involvement of locals in management of protected areas, as well as development of sustainable livelihoods such as the harvest of non-timber forest products and ecotourism.



Photo: Guards patrolling the Los Amigos Conservation Concession, Peru. ©ICFC

## Spotlight on ACA and ACCA

Sister Organizations and ICFC Partners

Amazon Conservation Association (ACA) and its Peruvian sister organization, Asociación para la Conservación de la Cuenca Amazónica (ACCA) are key ICFC partners in protecting tropical forests. Our groundbreaking project in the Andean Amazon improves law enforcement and infrastructure planning on a large scale by providing near-real-time satellite data on deforestation. The Los Amigos Conservation Concession, managed by ACCA with support from ICFC, protects an impressive 146,000 hectares of pristine old-growth Amazonian forest. Bridge funding helped the Tacana Indigenous people establish a successful Brazil nut operation, sustaining protection of in their 343,000-hectare ancestral lands in Bolivia.

## Give the Gift of Nature this Holiday Season



**\$60 - Give one Critically Endangered Hooded Grebe family a safe place to nest.** Your gift will support guarding of nesting areas to reduce predation and other threats throughout the breeding season.



**\$100 - Sponsor the Red Knot on its marathon 15,000-km migration.** Your gift will protect a key stopover site for 15,000 shorebirds on their migration from Patagonia to Canada.



**\$200 - Give 5 children one year of environmental education.** Your gift will support the marine education program at Area de Conservación Guanacaste, Costa Rica.



**\$550 - Give one hectare of tropical forest.** Your gift will support land acquisition to create nature reserves.

Give the Gift of Nature by buying your virtual gift certificate online. It's fast and easy, meaningful and affordable and 100% tax deductible.  
Surprise your family and friends with a truly unique gift.



### Other Ways to Support ICFC

#### Fundraise

Raise awareness and funds for ICFC by organizing an event in your community.

#### In Memoriam

Celebrate and remember a loved one or friend by making a special gift in their memory.

#### In Honour

Celebrate a special occasion like a birthday or wedding.

**Donate by mail or online at**

**[www.ICFCanada.org](http://www.ICFCanada.org)**

**Thank You!**

## Launching our 2016 Campaign!

The next year will be a transformative time at ICFC. A new logo, updated website and newsletter, social media presence and of course the continuation of existing projects and addition of new projects. We need to do something now to make an impact for future generations.

We have an ambitious year ahead which warrants an ambitious fundraising goal. Our goal for 2016 = \$1,000,000!!

**Let's grow together and go where nature needs us most! And with your support, we can do just that!**



**where nature needs us most**

### 2016 Trip to Guatemala!

We are excited to announce an exclusive donor trip to Caribbean Guatemala. Visit one of our successful project sites, Sierra Caral, a new project site, Sierra Santa Cruz, and end in the Bahía de Amatique.

Contact Michelle for more details:  
[colero@icfcanada.org](mailto:colero@icfcanada.org)

## First \$20,000 for our Reserve Fund!

In the last edition of the newsletter, we launched our new **Reserve Fund for Land Securement** to have resources at-the-ready when outstanding opportunities arise to secure land for conservation.

Thanks to the generous support of one of our donors, we received a \$20,000 gift to kick start the Reserve Fund!

Make a matching contribution today!