

Dear supporters and friends,

Greetings! We are pleased to bring you highlights of our year to date and to announce a new initiative to better respond to land acquisition opportunities, which often require quick action to protect the habitat at risk. It is your generosity that makes our work possible and we ask for your continued support so we can achieve further conservation successes.

### Project updates

Tropical forests have been a particular focus for ICFC. In Brazil, our work with the Kayapo indigenous people is holding the line against illegal goldmining and logging to protect an area of Amazon forest the size of Cuba. At the Los Amigos Conservation Concession in Peru, lack of government enforcement is a challenge, but our patrols and monitoring continue and new camera traps and signage help to deter illegal activity.

***A new system for “near real time” monitoring of deforestation is spurring action.***

In April, ICFC partner Amazon Conservation Association launched its near-real-time deforestation monitoring system for the Andean Amazon, MAAP (Monitoring of the Andean Amazon Project, [www.maaproject.org](http://www.maaproject.org)). This tool provides timely information pinpointing ongoing instances of deforestation and their drivers. The information is available in a user-friendly format and is being widely disseminated among government and regional agencies in Peru.

In our November 2014 newsletter, we announced our new Shorebird Conservation Initiative, aimed at reducing threats to Arctic-breeding shorebirds at their migration stopover and wintering areas in South America. Three programs are up and running and we are happy to report that for one was awarded a grant from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Neotropical Migratory Bird Program).

In Sulawesi, we have expanded work on the Endangered Maleo bird from a single-site to a landscape-scale conservation effort involving two nesting grounds connected by an 18 km stretch of intact forest representing the Maleo’s non-breeding habitat. We can now address all the major threats facing the species – unsustainable harvesting of eggs, human disturbance: shrinkage of the Maleo’s non-breeding rainforest habitat; and loss of connectivity between breeding and non-breeding habitats.



The above high-resolution (33-cm) satellite imagery reveals a cacao operation expanding into dense, closed-canopy forest. This was compared with Landsat images from 1985, 1995, 2005 and 2012, which indicated that this area was primary forest prior to the arrival of the United Cacao in 2014. Source: MAAPProject.org

### Staff spotlight

In January, ICFC welcomed **Dr. Ariadne Angulo** as Director of Conservation. Ariadne is an amphibian biologist and conservationist who grew up in Brazil and Peru and brings scientific expertise, experience in Latin American conservation, organizational skills and good humour to ICFC. Outside of work, when she is not kayaking Ontario’s waters, Ariadne can be found in Peru working on her threatened amphibians of central Peru project or elsewhere in South America making a difference as a conservation volunteer.

## Feature Article:

# Smart Investing: Securing land for long-term conservation

One of the pillars of ICFC's work is securing land to create or enlarge protected natural areas in priority locations for biodiversity and ecosystem services.

## *ICFC recently joined with other conservation groups to create the San Isidro Amphibian Reserve*

The acquisition in Guatemala is an urgent priority, as the land was slated to be cleared for coffee production within a year. Once the legal purchase is completed, the new 922.5-hectare reserve will protect a prime section of the Sierra de los Cuchumatanes mountain range. This region is covered in lush subtropical forest and is an amphibian hotspot. Its inhabitants include the Critically Endangered Finca Chiblac Salamander, a rare and unique animal found only in this locality.



Photo: Finca Chiblac Salamander (*Bradytriton silus*). ©Robin Moore.

## *The creation of private reserves can spur broader action by governments*

Also in Guatemala, the Sierra Caral Amphibian Reserve, which ICFC was involved in creating, led to the subsequent designation by the Guatemalan Congress of a much larger area of the Sierra Caral as a National Protected Area in 2014.

## ICFC is launching a new Reserve Fund

Land purchase opportunities are often time-sensitive, challenging conservation organizations to act quickly to negotiate the best deal, while at the same time raising funds to meet the purchase deadline. It is an exciting and arduous high-stakes game!

It is in this context that we are launching the **ICFC Reserve Fund for Land Securement**, to have resources at-the-ready when outstanding opportunities arise to secure land for conservation.



Photo: River in San Isidro. ©FUNDAECO

## How does the ICFC Reserve Fund work?

The Reserve Fund is a restricted-use fund within ICFC. All donations to the fund will be dedicated exclusively to supporting strategic land securement. This includes the purchase price and associated costs for land acquisitions, the cost of conservation easements and conservation concessions to legally secure land for long-term protection, and bridge funding to enable immediate action on urgent land purchase opportunities.

ICFC will allocate funds as needed to carefully selected land securement opportunities, based on criteria including:

- the threatened species, habitats and ecosystem services that would be protected;
- the prospects for the area to maintain ecological integrity long term;
- designation as an Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) site;
- satisfactory short-term and long-term management plans, and the capacity of selected field partners to maintain ongoing management and protection;
- involvement of and benefits to local communities;
- risk of all kinds (including the effects of climate change).

ICFC will be showcasing opportunities for the Reserve Fund over the coming months.

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

## *We depend on local experts*

How do we decide what land most needs protection? Typically, experienced in-country conservation organizations (along with the international conservation community) identify both priority regions and specific opportunities. In the case of the San Isidro acquisition mentioned, our partner organization in Guatemala spent two years identifying and then vetting the best land acquisition opportunity in a particular priority region.

**ICFC is able to apply 100% of your donation to land securement, and sometimes can apply matching funding.**

## Spotlight on FUNDAECO

The Guatemalan non-governmental organization FUNDAECO (Fundación para el Ecodesarrollo y la Conservación) focuses on nature conservation and local community development. Founded in 1990, it has an impressive record of accomplishment throughout Guatemala. Since 2002 FUNDAECO has been a strategic ICFC partner on four projects: Sierra Caral, Laguna Grande and Rio Sarstún, Tapon Creek and San Isidro. Check them out at [www.fundaeco.org.gt](http://www.fundaeco.org.gt).



Photo: Aerial view of a portion of the new Sierra Caral Amphibian Reserve. Photo by Robin Moore/robinmoore.com

## ICFC Wish List: Funds Needed

Specific Needs	Amount Needed
(See details at: <a href="http://ICFCCanada.org/wish.shtml">ICFCCanada.org/wish.shtml</a> )	
Native seedlings (80), Patagonia, Argentina	\$100
Camera Traps, Los Amigos Conservation Concession, Peru	\$125/each
Binoculars, radio and batteries for a field worker, various locations, Shorebird Conservation Initiative	\$300/each
Field personnel, Rincon Santa Maria, Costa Rica	\$450/month
2 Guards to protect Hooded Grebe breeding colony, Patagonia, Argentina	\$1,000/month
Maintenance of anti-poaching vehicles, Mali	\$1,500/month
Infrastructure Specialist, Amazon Conservation Association, Andean Amazon	\$5,000/month

*Your help with these or any of our projects will be much appreciated.*

*Donate by mail or online at [ICFCCanada.org](http://ICFCCanada.org).*

*Thank You!*

## Armonia's New Tractor at Work

In the last edition of the newsletter we included a request for support towards the purchase of a tractor for our Bolivian partner, Asociación Armonía, and the Barba Azul Nature Reserve.

The reserve is threatened by fires every dry season as cattle ranchers around the reserve set their land on fire to ensure new grass sprouts for their cattle. In order to overcome this threat, firebreaks have to be created around the border to safeguard the unique Beni Savanna ecosystem and their forest islands.

Thanks to the generous support of donors to ICFC and American Bird Conservancy, Asociación Armonía was able to purchase a new John Deere tractor!



Thanks to all who donated towards the tractor!

Do we have your email?

To reduce waste and minimize costs, we are moving to an e-version of our newsletter. Contact us at 1-844-781-2129 or [HQ@ICFCCanada.org](mailto:HQ@ICFCCanada.org)



**Volunteers Wanted!**

**Study the Tarsiers with our partner, The Alliance for Tompotika Conservation (AITo)**

*In a place as remote as Tompotika, Indonesia, part of protecting wild nature is figuring out what's there in the first place. The tarsier is a tiny gremlin-like primate we know very little about. Across Sulawesi there are at least 8, and possibly as many as 16 species of tarsiers.*

*Led by renowned tarsier expert Dr. Myron Shekelle, you will participate in a 17-day expedition to study the population. You'll learn to analyze their distinctive calls and watch their astounding leaps through the forest before seeking their wilder cousins.*

*To assist with the survey, you don't need any special scientific skills. You just need a spirit of adventure and flexibility, a fondness for hanging out in the woods and a desire to contribute to scientific knowledge and conservation.*

**Dates:** Jan. 25 – Feb. 10, 2016

**Cost:** \$3,200, not including international airfare. Price includes all in-country travel, food, accommodation and survey equipment.

For more information, please contact Sheila Eckman at [sheila@tompotika.org](mailto:sheila@tompotika.org).

*Space is limited!*

*where nature needs us most*