

Dear supporters and friends,

Thanks to our generous donors, we look back at 2015 with a sense of pride and accomplishment. Last year brought success and progress; from halting the escalation of elephant poaching, to benefits from our project that does near real-time deforestation to building our new Shorebird Conservation Initiative.

### Project Updates

In the highly threatened Atlantic Forest region, our **Pino Parana** (Argentina) project expanded outreach programs within secondary schools and into post-secondary schools. Having secured external funding for two PhD students in 2016, there will now be full-time efforts dedicated to the outreach and tree planting program for the next several years. This means more local efforts to protect the habitat of the critically endangered Vinaceous Parrot and 20 other Red Listed Atlantic Forest bird species.

Now with a fully functioning nursery for native tree species, **Rincon Santa Maria** (Argentina) volunteers and staff planted 300 native trees: 200 within the reserve and 100 outside the reserve through outreach programs in local schools. Three hundred hectares of grassland have been cleared of invasive pine trees and are actively undergoing habitat restoration with native flora.

ICFC's partner Amazon Conservation Association launched the **MAAP (Monitoring of the Andean Amazon)** project, generating near real-time satellite imagery to track deforestation. MAAP information is being used for important management action by a number of key agencies and ministries with the Peruvian Government. These include investigations and legal action to prevent and halt illegal mining, logging and development. In 2016-2017, with the support of donors, we plan to expand outreach to government to strengthen protection of tropical forests in the Andean Amazon.

The **Mali Elephant Project**, established in 2010, managed to halt an escalation of elephant poaching in 2015. The project mobilized significant support from the Elephant Crisis Fund and UN peacekeepers, and worked with local military commanders to organize patrols. Our brigades, formed of hundreds of young men from local communities, continued to be effective, creating 525 km of firebreaks and protecting elephant (and human!) habitat in other ways.

In 2014 and 2015, ICFC researched and developed its **Shorebird Conservation Initiative** aimed at reducing threats to Canada's shorebirds wintering in Latin America and the Caribbean. In January 2016, Scott Hecker joined ICFC as the Director of this new Initiative. Working with Patricia Gonzales in Argentina, Scott manages ICFC projects in Argentina, Chile, the Bahamas, and an upcoming one in Suriname. Even these few initial projects protect habitat for up to three-quarters of the migratory shorebird and waterbirds species listed as protected under Schedule 1 of the Migratory Birds Convention Act. Equally important, several species of Canada's endangered birds winter in countries with ICFC shorebird projects.

ICFC is happy to share positive news from **Barba Azul Nature Reserve**, Bolivia where our support helps enable management and improvement of the Reserve, protecting Blue-throated Macaws and the unique Beni Savanna wetland.



Barba Azul reserve, Boliva. Photo credit: Asociacion Armonia

Last year, with the generous support of our donors, ICFC and American Bird Conservancy helped our local partner Asociacion Armonia purchase a John Deere tractor. While not a glamorous conservation tool, it has proved absolutely critical.

In just 6 months,

- the tractor was used to create 30 km of firebreaks were created, preventing the spread of wildfires and allowing sensitive vegetation to regenerate;
- 4 km of fencing was installed to cover the entire southern border of the reserve, keeping out cattle;
- 10 new nest boxes for the Blue-throated Macaw were installed in the most inaccessible and undisturbed corners of the Reserve.



### Welcome Scott!

In January 2016, we welcomed the newest member of the ICFC team, Scott Hecker, Shorebird Initiative Director. In Scott's words: "I'm very excited about this opportunity to bring what I have learned protecting coastal birds on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts down to the wintering quarters of our migratory shorebirds. I look forward to assisting our many partners in Latin America and the Caribbean who are working hard to address the threats to our shorebirds on a scale that will really matter to these threatened bird species."

## Feature:

# Securing a future for imperilled wildlife in Sulawesi, Indonesia

In January/February 2016, ICFC's Anton Struchkov spent time in Sulawesi with our project partner, the Alliance for Tompotika Conservation (AITo).

In the latter part of 2015, our project area in Sulawesi saw an unprecedented drought exacerbated by fires, some of which broke out in the swath of secondary woodland connecting the Endangered maleo's non-breeding hill rainforest habitat with its coastal nesting ground. Our partner AITo's staff fought courageously to prevent the loss of this vital ecological corridor. Equipped only with machetes, backpack sprayers, and plastic jugs, and using bandanas as smoke masks, they were able to put out the fires in the portions known to be a key maleo pathway. They also created a number of watering holes which maleos and other wildlife came to utilize heavily in the face of the ongoing drought.



Fire in the maleo corridor, Sept. 2015. Photo credit: Marcy Summers/Alto.



Sulawesi flying fox and Maleo nesting ground, Jan. 2016. Photo credit: A. Struchkov/ICFC.

The last two months have brought much-needed rains to parched Tompotika, and also a clear evidence that the efforts to save the maleo corridor from fire were not in vain: the numbers of maleos coming to lay eggs at the Taima nesting ground have hit all-time records, with up to 60 birds observed simultaneously (in mid-January 2016). This further highlights the importance of this communal egg-laying site as the largest maleo nesting ground anywhere, and the only one that boasts a long-term increase in maleo numbers.

\* \* \*

It has been two years since our Sulawesi project partner AITo reached a landmark conservation lease agreement that put an end to bat hunting on Tangkuladi, a 7-ha island off the coast of Taima village. As a result, the island has now regained its former significance as a key stronghold for two species of fruit bats — the Sulawesi flying fox (*Acerodon celebensis*) and the black flying fox (*Pteropus alecto*). From dawn to dusk, Tangkuladi's woods are once again alive with the chatter of thousands of flying foxes that come together to roost here. Fruit bats are crucial for maintaining the health of tropical forests by pollinating trees, spreading seed, and providing high-quality fertilizer.

## Funding need: Sierra Santa Cruz, Guatemala

### The Plan:

Acquire 225 hectares to form the core of a new reserve, with potential to protect a much larger area by building support for a new national park.

### Why it matters:

This will protect a critical and threatened area of intact tropical forest, and is an important step in completing the Regional System of Protected Areas of Guatemala's Caribbean. Sierra Santa Cruz harbours threatened mammal, bird and amphibian species and supplies over 50 local communities with water.

### Funds needed:

US\$130,000 (ICFC portion will depend on donations)

**Contributions of any amount are helpful!**



Sierra Santa Cruz. Photo credit: FUNDAECO



Buenaventura reserve, Ecuador. Photo credit: ICFC

## April 22, 2016 is Earth Day!

Did you know that 100% of your donation goes directly to our projects?\*

Help protect the earth and make a donation today!

Visit our website: [www.ICFCCanada.org](http://www.ICFCCanada.org)

Contact us at: (844) 781-2129

ICFC, PO Box 40, Chester, NS B0J 1J0

**Thank you!**

\*All administration costs are covered by a small group of donors.