

*Dear supporters and friends,*

*2016 has been seen our "GCP" (gross conservation product) climb higher! Here we present a sample of what's going on. Our website gives the broader picture.*

### News from the field

A big thank you to **Emily Goldsmith** and **Yani Thimios** who volunteered their time and travel expenses to make a first-ever site visit on behalf of ICFC to one of our projects in northern Argentina. The pair, who make their home in Australia, visited the **Rincon Santa Maria reserve**, and reported seeing lots of birds, caiman, capybara, howler monkey, and armadillo tracks. Escorted by project personnel Nestor, Olga and Alejandro, they were shown areas where invasive pines have been removed and where native trees had been planted and were thriving. This low-budget project (~\$16,000/year) benefits more than 250 bird species (12 globally threatened), including migratory species that breed in Canada such as common nighthawk, upland sandpiper, greater and lesser yellowlegs, and osprey.

Do you know what an anoa is—or a babirusa? In **Sulawesi, Indonesia**, ICFC partners with the Alliance for Tompotika Conservation (AITo) to conserve the endangered maleo bird, sea turtles, fruit bats and forest ecosystems. Building on AITo's success in creating a local culture of conservation and putting in place needed protections, we are extending our focus to two other endangered species: the anoa (a small water buffalo, below left) and babirusa (a pig-like animal, below right). This work will lay a foundation for government enforcement of anti-poaching laws. By the way, have a look on our website at Alto's wonderful new videos!



**Kep Bay, Cambodia** is a shallow bay near Vietnam with sea grasses and a rich marine life including the iconic seahorse. Illegal electric fishers and draggers, mostly from Vietnam, were destroying this beautiful sea bed at the expense of the small local fishers. Paul Ferber, who was running a local recreational dive shop, decided to do something about it. He started **Marine Conservation Cambodia (MCC)** and began to take action including creating a small marine protected area and recruiting volunteers worldwide.

*This speedboat, financed by ICFC, has greatly aided marine protection efforts in Cambodia's Kep province.*



It wasn't until ICFC started funding MCC's work that the provincial Governor sat up and took notice: If Canadians are willing to spend money to protect the Kep Bay habitat and fishery it must be important! The Governor directed the department of fisheries and the marine police to cooperate with MCC in patrolling the bay and arresting illegal fishers. The work is dangerous. Illegal fishers can be sentenced to two years in prison and they're not a friendly lot. A high-speed patrol boat that can outrun the larger draggers was recently bought second hand. Want to help? Here's how:

#### Funding needs for the Cambodia marine project:

- \$55 to \$140 each for anti-trawling devices that deter illegal dragging and provide artificial habitat for many sea creatures to lay their eggs on.
- \$5000 for needed repairs/maintenance for MCC's "big boat" (20 m x 5 m wooden boat)

**Can you help?** Any contribution helps.

## Donor appreciation: thank you, Alfred!

In our September newsletter we told you about a move to enlarge the Cerro Chucantí Nature Reserve in Panama's Darién region. With funds from ICFC matched by our US-based colleague Rainforest Trust, three properties totaling 105 hectares are being acquired and will be managed by our Panamanian partner Adopt a Panama Rainforest (ADOPTA). We extend a big thank you to Alfred Raab for generously financing the downpayment on a key fourth property (64 ha). Alfred, who lives half of the year in Canada and the other half in Panama where he leads birding tours, loves the rainforest and has known Guido Berguido (biologist and Executive Director of ADOPTA) for years. Alfred explains: *"A few months ago, I became aware of the rapid destruction of virgin rainforest in the Cerro Chucanti area. As property in the area became available for purchase, I decided to make my contribution to help to protect a piece of rainforest forever. As a birder, I know the importance of keeping the rainforest protected for the birds, mammals and other wildlife."*

Cerro Chucanti is notable for its endemic species, including the Chucantí salamander, a newly described frog, two newly discovered flowering plants in the Araceae family, and a new flowering plant in the Heliconiaceae family. The area has become a focus of both research and ecotourism.

## New work: saving the spoon-billed sandpiper

The spoon-billed sandpiper has made its way from its Russian breeding grounds to its wintering sites along the Asia Pacific and Indian Ocean for millennia. But the species is imperiled as tidal flats along its migration route are converted for industrial use and the birds are hunted for food. It is now the world's most endangered shorebird species, with just 228 pairs known as of 2014. ICFC (and others) are betting this situation can be turned around.



*ICFC is taking efforts aimed at averting extinction of the much beloved spoon-billed sandpiper.*

ICFC is partnering with groups in Bangladesh and Myanmar to take actions that have already proven effective: guarding wintering sites to protect birds from hunting, establishing no-hunting bylaws among village conservation groups, and developing livelihoods in farming and fishing as an alternative to hunting. All this for just US\$30,000 a year.

We will keep you posted. Meanwhile, go to our website videos to see the superb and moving (unnarrated) Cornell Lab five-minute film on this wonderful bird.

## Nomba Ganamé receives Disney Conservation Hero Award

We knew that Nomba Ganamé, field manager of the Mali Elephant Project, was exceptional. Now the world knows. Nomba has been honored with a Conservation Hero Award from the Disney Conservation Fund. The award recognizes local citizens for their commitment to reversing the decline of wildlife and engaging communities in conservation.



Nomba brought diverse groups of people together to achieve the common goal of elephant conservation



through wise resource management that protects and restores habitats and benefits local people. When the area was besieged with Tuareg rebels, Islamic militants and UN troops, the work continued at great personal risk.

Nomba's deep relationships with local communities are helping to build social cohesion despite ongoing insecurity, while reducing poaching and protecting the elephants.

Upon receiving the award, Nomba said, *"I am enormously honoured to receive this award, as it recognizes the efforts of the local people. To know that their achievements have been recognized by the world will be a source of great encouragement during these times of intense danger for the elephants."*

ICFC notes the passing in October of Adam Zimmerman, a supporter of our organization and father of ICFC's Barbara Zimmerman. Adam was proud of his daughter's life work with the Kayapo in the Brazilian Amazon. He will be missed by us and all who knew him.

Visit our website: [www.ICFCCanada.org](http://www.ICFCCanada.org)  
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Thank you for your ongoing support!