

2013 Annual Report



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ICFC: Who we are and why we're here

The International Conservation Fund of Canada (ICFC) is the only Canadian charity to focus solely on nature conservation in the tropics and other priority areas worldwide¹. Threats to wild nature are greatest in the tropics and in low-income nations — countries that have the least financial resources for conservation. Our work is focused there.

Nature conservation in the tropics is a superb investment, addressing many of the world's greatest challenges: biodiversity loss, climate change, and loss of the "ecosystem services" that support human life and underlie all economies.

How we're different

Our programs are varied, but all exemplify our distinct *modus operandi*:

- We work to identify opportunities that represent conservation priorities, with good value for money, and very capable local partners.
- For carrying out much of our work, we employ the cream of the crop of in-country conservation organizations, who best understand both the sociopolitical and biological environment.
- For the most part, we leave research to others and engage in direct conservation action to protect ecosystems, species and wilderness, basing our work on existing science.
- We have an exceptionally long-term focus. This includes being open to providing long-term finance for conservation.
- With our partners, we seek to involve local communities in conservation efforts, and have done so successfully with our projects in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Indonesia, and Mali. Involving local people makes conservation efforts more effective and builds local support for conservation.

¹ Other Canadian charities undertake limited conservation-related work internationally (see the About Us page on our website, www.ICFCanada.org).

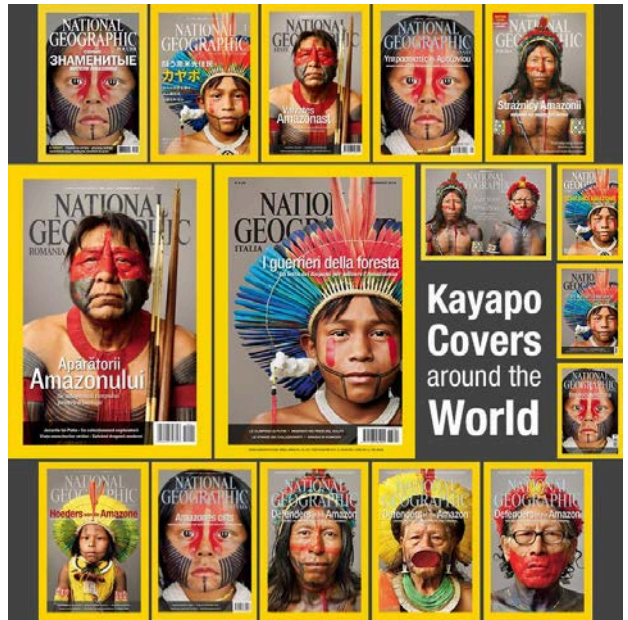
Message from ICFC's Managing Directors

What's the best way to preserve tropical nature, the storehouse of most of the world's biological diversity?

There *is no one best way*. As our work shows, there are varied ways to achieve success.

In 2013 ICFC with other conservation organizations enlarged two reserves in Ecuador and Bolivia that are key to protecting endangered bird species and associated plants and animals.

We continued to work with the Kayapó indigenous people of Brazil to ensure that their vast territories in the Amazon remain an island of green within a region of deforestation. This phenomenally important conservation effort received worldwide attention through a cover story in the January 2014 issue National Geographic, which came out in December.



ICFC has contributed to other landscape scale conservation efforts in Costa Rica and Mali with vital involvement of local communities in each. In Mali, community action to protect elephants and their habitat and improve natural resource management has brought regional security as Mali recovers from the recent occupation by militant groups.

We are supporting a crack team promoting approaches to resource and road development in Peru that will vastly reduce impacts to ecosystems.

Finally, good things can happen on a small scale and modest budget, as with our Selva de Pino Paraná project in the Atlantic Forest region (a particularly endangered ecosystem) in Argentina.

Warm thanks to you, our supporters, for joining us in conserving the world's precious natural heritage.

Tom Welch & Anne Lambert
Managing Directors



(Above) National Geographic covers from around the world featuring the striking images of photographer Martin Schoeller.

(Left) ICFC project locations.

Protecting Kayapó lands, Brazil

This crucial program is strengthening the capacity of the Kayapó indigenous people to protect the last large, intact block of natural forest surviving in the southeastern Amazon.

Location: southeastern Amazon, Brazil

Timeframe: started 2007; expect continued involvement over medium term

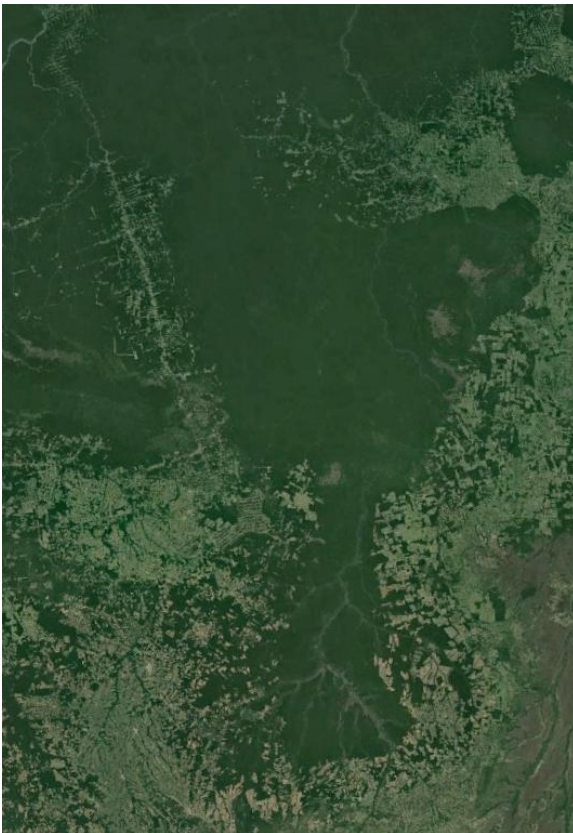
2013 Budget: \$457,140

Size of area: Enormous! 11 million hectares (110,000 km²) – twice the size of Nova Scotia

Field Partners: Associação Floresta Protegida and Instituto Kabu



Kayapo in traditional dance. © Cristina Mittermeier



Google satellite image showing Kayapo lands (dark green) surrounded by deforestation (pale green).

Conservation Potential:

The officially ratified Kayapó territories, occupied by 8000+ Kayapó people, are vast enough to protect large-scale ecological processes. This provides huge benefits for biodiversity, mitigating climate change and preserving the crucial role of Amazonian forests in driving climatic factors that produce rainfall on an inter-continental scale. The surrounding region is one of rapid deforestation—an agricultural frontier with increasing road access and little law enforcement.

The Kayapó have fiercely protected their land for generations, but face increased pressure from illegal gold-mining, logging, commercial fishing, ranching and other agriculture. The conservation solution is to help them in their efforts to preserve their lands and way of life.

Key Actions & Results:

Building on work pioneered by ICFC's Barbara Zimmerman, ICFC partners with two Kayapó non-governmental organizations that are developing the capacity to protect and manage Kayapó lands. In just a few years, Kayapó NGOs have developed the ability to manage complex programs and are increasingly successful in securing funding within Brazil.

ICFC supports surveillance expeditions that allow the Kayapó to maintain presence along more than 2,000 km of border and deter intruders. These efforts are preventing widespread invasions of Kayapó lands by illegal loggers, goldminers and ranchers.

We have helped develop sustainable and culturally compatible economic activities, which reduces the pressure to accept cash for unsustainable activities. Brazil nut sales have been especially successful and continue to grow, while other sustainable enterprises made great strides during 2013, including: cumaru seeds, jamborandi leaves, garden produce and the beautiful bead jewelry made by the women.

This year the Kayapó community of Kendjam gained official government authorization to develop a pilot sport-fishing venture with the company “Untamed Angling”. This is the first time that an indigenous people in the Brazilian Amazon has gained such authorization and marks an important step in fortifying and diversifying sustainable economic development.

A critical part of this project is facilitating communication and cooperation among Kayapó communities, enabling them to act in concert to protect their land and interests. In June 2013, ICFC helped make it possible for all Kayapó leaders to meet at the village of Kokraimoro on the Xingu river to unite and develop a common strategy for dealing with increasing threats to their lands. The expense and difficulty of travel between villages prohibits more frequent meetings.



Brazil nut warehouse ©AFP

There is an increasing focus on responding to large infrastructure projects being developed on the margins of Kayapó lands, especially the Belo Monte dam (Eletrobras) and the Onca Puma nickel mine (Vale SA). Information sessions have brought communities together to better understand the impacts of these projects on Kayapó lands and culture. The eastern Kayapó will soon start receiving environmental compensation from the adjacent nickel mine, and in 2013, the northwestern Kayapó successfully negotiated a multi-year compensation package from Eletrobras. In both cases funds will be invested in conservation and development by the Kayapó.



In July 2013, Kayapo undertook a successful expedition to expel goldminers from their territories, turning them over to government agencies. ©Instituto Kabu

The Mali Elephant Project

A joint project of ICFC and WILD Foundation

We are securing the future of Mali's desert elephant population by working with communities to establish lasting protection of key dry season and migration habitats.

Location: Mali (Sahel region of Africa)

Timeframe: Began 2010; anticipated 5-10 years

2013 Budget: \$293,482

Size of area: 33,534 km² —size of Vancouver Island

Field Partner & project originator: WILD Foundation

Conservation Potential:

In Mali, an internationally important population of “desert elephants” makes the longest migration in Africa. In a vast area suffering from poverty and resource degradation, competition for access to water and forage among transient cattle herders, pastoralists and elephants has made conflicts inevitable. Yet much can be done to reduce conflicts and align human and elephant interests.

Actions & Results:

The project's mobilization of communities involves establishing a management committee composed of elders and clan leaders who create rules of resource use and habitat protection, while patrols of young men called “Brigades de Surveillance” work with government foresters to enforce the rules, and are formally recognized as assistant foresters, Mali's version of rangers.



© Carlton Ward Jr.

With legitimacy rooted in local customs, this process has been effective not only in protecting elephants, but in ecosystem restoration, ending deforestation from the urban charcoal industry, addressing degraded water supply by controlling water access by herders, and improving grassland quality through firebreak creation, among other successes.

“The MEP approach to natural resource security—in this case, the protection by local communities of a unique herd of African elephants—is now a “war-tested” model of community engagement and stabilization that has protected the elephants (and secured other key natural resources) by providing employment for young men and empowerment for community elders.”

2013 Update: In January 2013 French forces liberated northern Mali from militant groups, but the government has not yet returned to the Gourma region. Our success in establishing natural resource management by communities has fostered stability at a local level—the basis for regional security. In the post-conflict period we have worked to support community reconciliation at the grass roots, while continuing activities to secure elephant habitat and counter poaching. Since January 2012, only 8 elephants have been lost and, most importantly, community networks have identified the perpetrators. This compares to Chad, Cameroon, and the Central African Republic, where populations have collapsed by 60-90% or more.

Expanding the Barba Azul Nature Reserve, Bolivia

Increasing protection for the Blue-throated Macaw and other species of the Beni Savanna

Timeframe: 2013 (with long-term oversight for management and monitoring)

2013 Budget: \$35,000¹ (of total \$430,000)

Size of area: 6000-hectare property acquired, in addition to existing 4962-ha reserve.

Field Partner: Asociación Armonía (owns and manages reserve)

The Critically Endangered Blue-throated Macaw is found only in the Beni Savanna of Bolivia, where the Barba Azul nature reserve protects the species from ongoing conversion of its habitat for cattle ranching. There, it depends on palm trees for nesting sites.

Other key species in the reserve are: the Endangered Maned Wolf, Giant Anteater and Pampas Deer, Southern Tamandua, Black Howler Monkey, Capybara, and Jaguar. It is also the most important stop-over site in Bolivia for Buff-breasted Sandpipers (a Near Threatened species).

Conservation Outcomes for 2013: In 2013, a rare opportunity arose to double the size of Barba Azul reserve by acquiring the adjacent Santa Anita ranch, where a third of the population of Blue-throated Macaw is found. ICFC was one of several groups that collaborated on the purchase.



Photos: (Top and bottom) forest islands provide nesting sites for the Blue-throated Macaw (Right); maned wolf (Right).
© Rainforest Trust



¹ Funds were transferred in 2014.

Los Amigos Conservation Concession, Peru

A trust fund secures protection of the Los Amigos Conservation Concession (LACC), covering 146,000 hectares of diverse old-growth forest

Location: Madre de Dios region, Peru

Timeframe: Long-term commitment through a trust fund started in 2011

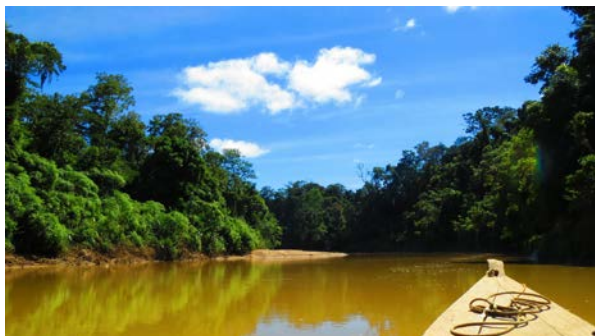
2013 Expenditures: \$56,144. Trust Fund: grew capital in 2013 by \$140,079 to \$1,282,846

Size of area: 1,460 km² – more than half the size of Luxembourg; size of metropolitan Ottawa

Field Partners: Amazon Conservation Association & Asociación para la Conservación de la Cuenca Amazónica

Conservation Opportunity:

In 2001, the government of Peru and the Amazon Conservation Association established a conservation concession at Los Amigos, the first in Peru and one of the first in the world. LACC protects the watershed of the Los Amigos River and more than 146,000 hectares of diverse old-growth Amazonian forest from the threats of illegal logging, road development and gold mining. It indirectly protects an additional million hectares, including a reserve for uncontacted indigenous people and the flank of Manu National Park. Over 4,300 species in various taxonomic groups have been recorded in the Concession.



Rio Los Amigos © ICFC

Key Actions and Results:

The major threat to Los Amigos is from people associated with the extractive industry, either for subsistence or profit. The threat is increasing as more access roads are being built nearby. The trust fund supports concession guards (*"Promotores de conservacion"*) who carry out patrols for early detection of illegal activities such as logging, gold mining and hunting. This year no illegal activity was reported on the Los Amigos River but evidence of illegal logging was discovered after a new road was constructed near the northeast corner of the concession. This situation was addressed and camera traps were installed to continue to monitor the situation.

On the Los Amigos River our guards recently encountered uncontacted indigenous people. One interpretation for why these people moved into Los Amigos is that we have been successful in protecting and returning the river to a pristine condition. Guards also conduct surveys of wildlife and monitor birds and weather. And they provide education workshops for high school students in the region.



Illegal gold mining on the Rio Madre de Dios near Los Amigos. © ICFC

Reducing the impact on biodiversity from resource and infrastructure development in the Amazon

Radical and effective approaches to large-scale development can avoid massive harm to tropical ecosystems.

Location: Peru (mainly), Ecuador and Bolivia

Timeframe: November 2013 through 2015

2013 Budget: \$30,000

Field Partners: Amazon Conservation Association

Conservation Opportunity:

Large-scale damage to natural ecosystems can be avoided through enlightened practices and policies relating to oil, gas and hydroelectric development, new roads, and siting of oil palm plantations. (Road development often has a greater impact than the resource extraction it supports.)

This project takes advantage of the availability of three individuals who are uniquely qualified to pursue these goals in a region of megabiodiversity and large-scale threats to nature.

Actions:

Through discussions with governments and the private sector, we are pursuing the following:

- a national commitment in Peru to mandatory "offshore-inland" (roadless oil and gas exploration and development) in the Amazon headwaters region; plus monitoring existing commitments and promoting further specific commitments.
- Adoption of a national policy for Peru of encouraging hydroelectric development at high elevation sites in the western Andes while prohibiting hydroelectric development at lowland sites, where the ecological impact is huge.
- Adoption of enforceable laws, regulations and policies to prohibit forest conversion for oil palm plantations and incentivize the use of degraded lands for oil palm expansion.
- Improved infrastructure investment plans that avoid construction of environmentally destructive roads that unnecessarily open new wilderness areas.



Rio Madre de Dios, Peru © ICFC

Expanding Buenaventura Reserve, Ecuador

Augmenting protection for the El Oro Parakeet

Timeframe: 2013 (with long-term oversight for management and monitoring)

2013 Budget: \$50,000¹ (of total \$200,000)

Size of area: 277-hectare property acquired, bringing total reserve size to 2377 ha

Field Partner: Fundación Jocotoco (owns and manages reserve)



Buenaventura Reserve is located on the west slope of the Andes in Southern Ecuador and represents the only protected area of cloud forest in the region. Fundación Jocotoco created the reserve in 2000 to protect the recently discovered El Oro Parakeet, one of the world's rarest parrots.

Conservation Outcomes for 2013:

In 2013 Fundación Jocotoco notified us of an excellent opportunity to expand the reserve by acquiring an adjacent, ecologically-managed farm property. ICFC and several other groups quickly mobilized funds to realize the purchase. The new property includes 400 acres of pristine subtropical rainforest—at the perfect elevation for the parakeet—and approximately 300 acres of pasturelands that will be restored through natural regeneration and some tree planting.

¹ Funds were transferred in 2014.

Tacana Brazil Nut Program in Bolivia

Supporting the development of a Brazil nut industry among the Tacana indigenous people.

Timeframe: July 2013-Mar. 2014 (bridge funding)

2013 Budget: \$75,248

Field Partner: Asociación para la Conservación e Investigación de Ecosistemas Andino-Amazonicos

Brazil nut commerce strengthens the Tacana's claim to ancestral lands and provides badly needed income, enabling sustainable management of their lands in the highly threatened Amazonian headwaters. ICFC became an interim partner when the Bolivian government cut off all USAID funding.

Actions in 2013:

The focus in 2013 was on helping Tacana to: (1) improve Brazil nut management and business plans and develop strategies for selling product to national and international buyers; (2) update maps of Brazil nut tree locations (these maps increase harvest efficiency); (3) plan for storage areas and dryers; and (4) self-monitor hunting by Tacana communities. Our funds also enable the purchase of materials to construct and upgrade Brazil nut collection centers in early 2014.



Tacana man measures the diameter of a Brazil nut tree © Amazon Conservation Association

Preventing Extinction of the Hooded Grebe in Argentina

Direct action to reduce human-related mortality is reversing the population decline of the Critically Endangered Hooded Grebe.

Location: Santa Cruz Province (Patagonia), Argentina

Timeframe: 2012–2015 and likely beyond

2013 budget: \$23,637

Field Partner: Asociación Ambiente Sur

Conservation potential:

The Hooded Grebe is found only in Argentina's southern Patagonian Steppe region. The Critically Endangered species has suffered a precipitous decline in recent decades, which led a local group of conservationists to investigate and develop an action plan. Predation by introduced American mink and native kelp gulls were identified as the key factors limiting the grebe's breeding success.

Conservation Outcomes for 2013:

In March, 2013, Argentina declared a new national park— Parque Nacional Patagonia—encompassing 52,000 hectares and one of the most important breeding colonies of the grebe.

Guardians were assigned to each active breeding colony during the 2012-2013 breeding season to prevent predators from accessing the colonies and to collect data on breeding success. This is the single most important action for improving the breeding success of the grebes.



Hooded Grebe
with young
© Pablo Hernandez



Interactive display on hooded grebes at the nature interpretive centre in Gallegos, Argentina. © Asociación Ambiente Sur

Winter surveys on the coast and mainland of Santa Cruz Province were successfully carried out in 2013 with the dual purpose of: (1) enabling population estimates and (2) training volunteers and fostering public interest in the species.

An Argentinean mink expert (not funded by ICFC) led an investigation of the population dynamics of the introduced American mink, which led to an intricate plan to reduce mink reproduction and to eradicate mink from the watercourses and high plateau grebe breeding colonies. As this plan is implemented in the 2013-2014 breeding season, we are seeing improved success compared to past mink control efforts.

Public outreach and education efforts in Rio Gallegos have been pivotal in developing local awareness of the hooded grebe and its plight. A 3-dimensional dynamic display in the local interpretive centre (see above) depicts the habitat of and the threats to the hooded grebe. Volunteer training and the employment of young local conservationists is increasing conservation skills in this remote and harsh environment.

Selva de Pino Paraná, Argentina

Protecting threatened species of the Atlantic Forest



Children act as a flock of Vinaceous Parrots.

© Proyecto Selva de Pino Paraná

Timeframe: April 2013-September 2014

2013 Budget: \$3408

Field Partner: Proyecto Selva de Pino Paraná

Twenty species of globally threatened or near-threatened birds share habitat with small-holder farmers in the San Pedro province of Argentina. This project engages farmers to restore bird habitat and protect tree species needed by cavity nesters and bamboo specialists.

Actions and Results in 2013:

Surveys on previous years' tree-planting efforts revealed greater success on higher elevation sites less prone to frost, and also which species had better survival. Nature education delivered in two full-day visits to 12 rural schools increased awareness of such topics as how the forest protects water, the importance of leaving Vinaceous Parrot nestings in the forest, and the needs of endangered species. Surveys of students elucidated gaps in their understanding.

Endangered
Vinaceous Amazon
adult and nestling in
tree-cavity nest.

©Juan Klavins



Abrolhos Marine Protected Area, Brazil

Strengthening protection and management at Brazil's first marine protected area network

Location: coastal Brazil

Timeframe: 2007-2013 (completed)

2013 Budget: \$4,630

Size of area: 46,000 km² - ¼ size of Bay of Fundy

Field Partner: Conservation International-Brazil

Conservation Potential:

The Abrolhos region is home to the highest marine biodiversity in the South Atlantic Ocean. It harbors some of Brazil's most important seabird colonies, extensive coral reefs, several species of the world's most threatened sea turtles, and is the only place in the South Atlantic where humpback whales gather to mate and give birth. The rich biodiversity of the Abrolhos Bank is threatened by over-fishing, sedimentation from coastal deforestation, shrimp farming, and anticipated oil and gas exploration.

Key Actions & Results:

This project involved working with local communities and government to optimize the Abrolhos Marine Protected Area (MPA) network — Brazil's first MPA. Abrolhos MPA includes "no-take zones" as well as extractive reserves co-managed by local communities and government. Our work has helped foster socioeconomic alternatives to improve livelihoods, and national campaigns have increased support for marine protection.

In earlier years, mapping and surveying revealed large areas of unmapped reefs and unprotected marine habitats, leading to a proposal by the Brazilian government to expand the MPA to encompass an area of 9.25 million ha. When publicly presented in 2012, the proposal was supported by NGOs and traditional fishing communities but resisted by port companies and large-scale fisheries. In 2013 a reworked proposal was developed using state-of-the-art Marxan-Z software. In addition, discussions with fishermen and others prompted initiatives to expand an extractive reserve and implement the APA Ponta da Baleia as part of Abrolhos MPA. Our Brazilian partner is optimistic that the expansion of the Abrolhos MPA will eventually take place.

Conservation of the maleo bird and sea turtles in Sulawesi, Indonesia

Protecting the endangered maleo and marine turtles that nest in the Tompotika area of Sulawesi, while building a local foundation for conservation.

Timeframe: Anticipated long-term; Began 2010

2013 Budget: \$77,814

Size of area: 2400 km² —about half size of Prince Edward Island

Field Partner: Alliance for Tompotika Conservation (AlTo)

Conservation potential:

Sulawesi offers one of conservation's most valuable but untapped opportunities, an island treasure of biodiversity with many endemic species found nowhere else. One of these is the maleo (pronounced ma-lay-o), a large, distinctive megapode bird species officially listed as Endangered.

This project secures nesting grounds for the maleo, and for four species of marine turtle (green, hawksbill, olive ridley and leatherback) in the Tompotika region of Sulawesi. Both marine turtles and the maleo have undergone world population declines resulting from rampant harvesting of eggs by locals for the commercial luxury food market. In 2013, a threat to the fruit bat population emerged and our project quickly formulated ways to address this.



Maleos bury their eggs in open sandy areas where they are incubated by solar and/or geothermal heat. Young tunnel to the surface after hatching and emerge ready to fly ©Scott Newell

Conservation Outcomes for 2013:

We have succeeded in saving thousands of maleo eggs and turtle hatchlings, and our project area is the only site in the world where the maleo population is actually on the rise. In 2013, our local partner organization continued guarding of nesting areas and educational activities in towns and schools. Poaching had been almost completely eliminated, but a small but vocal minority in one of the villages began excessive poaching, while instigating other conflicts. Thankfully, due to strong support of the villages in general and AlTo's persistent conflict resolution efforts, the situation is resolved and local protection is back on track.

Also in 2013, we began bat conservation efforts to mitigate hunting and raise awareness of how fruit production depends on bats. We made progress toward purchase of a key tract of land in a critical maleo corridor, and completed workshops with government towards strengthening anti-poaching laws. In 2013, AlTo was even asked to represent Central Sulawesi at an Indonesia-wide government conference to showcase natural resource management initiatives.



(Far Left) Villagers are proud of their natural heritage.

(Left) The Maleo's large eggs weigh in at 250g
©AlTo

Sierra Caral Cloud Forest, Guatemala

Management of an important and unique cloud forest reserve in Guatemala

Location: Izabal Province, Guatemala

Timeframe: acquisition in 2011 (ICFC share \$252,000) and monitoring in perpetuity

2013 budget: \$410

Size of area: 1,901 ha – 5 ½ times New York Central Park

Field Partner: Fundación para el Ecodesarrollo y la Conservación (FUNDAECO)

Conservation potential:

This reserve is in a unique microclimate system in which cloud forest is able to exist at the lowest elevations on Earth. It was identified as a global priority by the Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE), protecting nine endangered and seven endemic amphibian species and providing key ecosystem services such as watershed conservation and carbon storage. The forests of Sierra Caral are fragmented and are threatened by clearing for cattle ranching and a growing palm oil industry. The members of the nearby community of Nuevo San José Bonanza are working with FUNDAECO to pursue economic activities that protect the forests of Sierra Caral.

Key Actions & Results:

Maintenance and management of the reserve continued in 2013 with improvements to the infrastructure of the road leading to the reserve. An agreement signed in 2013 between FUNDAECO and the local community ensures employment opportunities, trail maintenance, patrolling of the reserve to prevent illegal activities and support for tourist visits to the reserve. A women's health clinic, funded in part by FUNDAECO, was also built in this community, in part to meet the demand for family planning services.

Education and public outreach through public events and visits to school children in the nearby towns and cities is raising awareness of the importance of the local amphibian diversity.



(Above) Golden-headed tanager (FUNDAECO);

(Below) Sierra Caral visitors' lodge (Carmen Lishman/ICFC) and Carmen pointing to reserve sign.





© FUNDAECO

Laguna Grande Reserve, Guatemala

In 2013, we made a site visit to evaluate management of this reserve on the Caribbean coast of Guatemala that includes lagoons, mangroves, lowland forests and karstic mountain forests.

Location: Izabal Province, Guatemala

Timeframe: acquisition in 2012 (ICFC share \$228,000) with long-term monitoring

2013 budget: \$410

Size of area: 675 ha – twice the size of New York's Central Park

Field Partner: Fundación para el Ecodesarrollo y la Conservación (FUNDAECO)

Conservation potential:

The lowland and inundated tropical rainforests of the Caribbean Region of Central America are under threat of deforestation by the expansion of palm oil plantations and cattle ranching. The Laguna Grande reserve sits ideally within a larger network of

protected areas within Guatemala to the south and west and Belize to the north.

The property is home to a diversity of ecosystems ranging from 0 to 500 m above sea level. These ecosystems include: mangroves, lagoons, lowland forests, inundated forests and karstic mountain forests. The Sarstún River, bordering the northern edge of the property, is designated a Ramsar Site (wetland of international importance). There have been counts of at least 52 species of mammals, including 30 bat species counted in one area, one of the highest counts in Central America.

Key Actions & Results:

Some infrastructure for researchers and visiting tourist groups was improved in 2013, including a boardwalk through mangrove forest. A full-time forest ranger from the nearby community of Livingston was been employed to guide and monitor activities in the reserve. Skill-building workshops for local guides and residents have been provided with the support of FUNDAECO for tourist accommodation and diving certifications.

Area de Conservación Guanacaste, Costa Rica

Supporting parataxonomists and marine education at Area de Conservación Guanacaste.

Timeframe: annual support since 2007; permanent support through a trust fund established in 2011.

2013 budget: \$28,402

Size of area: 1630 km²

Field Partner: Guanacaste Dry Forest Conservation Fund

Conservation Potential:

Area de Conservación Guanacaste (ACG) has earned its reputation as one of the world's most successful habitat restoration and conservation efforts— as much for its approach to involving local communities as for the high biodiversity it protects.

ACG protects dry lowland forest, a highly threatened habitat in the tropics, as well as adjacent rain forest, cloud forest, and a marine sector. This small area is home to two-thirds of the number of species that are found in *all North America*.

Operating across three forest ecosystems and eleven research stations, ACG “Parataxonomists” are pioneers in a new type of conservation career. Hired from the local community, they carry out essential park guard duties but they also receive ongoing skills training to become experts in taxonomy and ecology and contribute to a scientific database that has drawn attention from scientists around the world.



Punta Blanca, with red tides in foreground.

2013 Highlights:

ICFC’s Parataxonomist Trust Fund, started in 2011, grew its capital by 14% to \$922,390 in 2013, passing the half-way point toward our goal of \$1.8 million to fully endow five parataxonomist positions. Contributions to this fund will be gratefully accepted and will provide a lasting—indeed, permanent— conservation benefit.

ICFC also continued support for a volunteer run after-school marine biology program in Cuajiniquil, a fishing village neighbouring ACG’s marine protected area. Youth participate in after-school study, camping trips, snorkeling, whale watching, and a diversity of other activities providing invaluable experiential education in nature. The education center also hosts activities for the broader public, including an Earth Day event and community bird watching days. Such engagement has instilled appreciation for conservation within the community.



(Left) camping field course, 2013. (Right) Snorkeling excursion.
©M. Chavarria, ACG/GDFCF

OUTCOMES: The difference we've made

- ✓ We have prevented widespread invasion of Kayapó lands, keeping intact 106,000 sq km of biodiverse Amazonian forest.

- ✓ We prevented illegal incursions into the Los Amigos Conservation Concession in the Peruvian Amazon.

- ✓ We are reversing the population decline of the Critically Endangered Hooded Grebe in Patagonia, Argentina

- ✓ For Mali's elephants, we averted population decline, habitat loss and entrenched poaching.

- ✓ ICFC and others secured greater protection for the Endangered El Oro Parakeet by acquiring land to augment Buenaventura Reserve in Ecuador.

- ✓ We maintained population recovery locally for the Critically Endangered maleo, among other conservation successes, in Sulawesi

- ✓ ICFC and others secured greater protection for the Blue-throated Macaw and other threatened species by buying land to double the area of Barba Azul Reserve in Bolivia.

- ✓ Sierra Caral and Laguna Grande, two priority sites for conservation in Guatemala, have been permanently protected.

- ✓ ICFC has made a solid contribution to a world renowned and exemplary large protected area in Costa Rica.



"For the Hooded Grebe the difference has been huge— essentially, it meant survival. With the support received we were able to stop the decline of the species by controlling mink and gull predation and fish introduction, giving the grebe the chance to breed successfully for the last two seasons. We expect to see at least a small increase in population numbers when we do our winter counts this year". – Santiago Imberti, Project Leader



"If the project had not taken place, human-elephant conflict would have soared, elephant numbers would have declined as their late dry season water would have dried prematurely, elephant poaching would have escalated and an ivory trade route developed." – Susan Canney, Project Leader



"If it weren't for AlTo's project and ICFC's support, the one and only location where the endangered maleo bird is actually recovering would not exist, tens of thousands of sea turtles would not have been saved from poaching, and two new legally- and actually-protected areas (for bats, turtles, and maleos) would not exist." – Marcy Summers, AlTo Director



"Sierra Caral is in a region with one of the highest deforestation rates of Guatemala, and [risked conversion to] a cattle ranch. Today it is registered as a Private Natural Reserve in the National System of Protected Areas. In 2013 we achieved a conservation agreement with the nearest community of San Jose Bonanza to prevent deforestation and poaching." – Cesar Barrios Blandón, FUNDAECO



"Without ICFC support for land purchase and nine years of support of five parataxonomists, the 3,000-ha extension to the original 5,500-ha Sector Rincon Rain Forest would not exist, and the protection/knowledge/management of [this sector] would be only a pale and crippled shadow of its present day [condition]." – Dan Janzen, President, Guanacaste Dry Forest Conservation Fund and Technical Advisor to Area de Conservación Guanacaste.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES

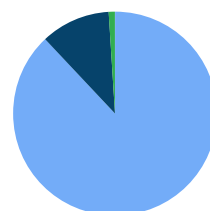
	2013	2012
REVENUE		
Donations	1,602,482	1,514,157
Gain/(Loss) on investment and foreign currency	232,621	(80,658)
NET REVENUE	1,835,103	1,433,499
EXPENSES		
Abrolhos (Brazil)	4,630	21,487
ACG Marine Education (Costa Rica)	11,086	10,205
ACG Parataxonomists (Costa Rica)	17,316	77,326
Hooded Grebe (Argentina)	23,637	46,921
Jorupe Reserve (Ecuador)	—	16,845
Protecting Kayapó lands, Brazilian Amazon	457,140	400,973
Laguna Grande reserve (Guatemala)	410	226,514
Los Amigos Conservation Concession (Peru)	56,144	61,840
Lemur Education (Madagascar)	—	1,535
Mali Elephant Project	293,482	292,474
Selva de Pino Paraná, Argentina	3,408	—
Sierra Caral reserve (Guatemala)	410	251,924
Sierra de Alamos (Mexico)	—	9,992
Tacana Brazil Nut Program (Bolivia)	75,248	—
Tompotika, Sulawesi (Indonesia) project	77,814	79,528
TOTAL Program Expenses	1,020,725	1,497,564
Administration and Fundraising	155,710	100,222
TOTAL EXPENSES¹	1,176,435	1,597,786
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	658,668	(164,287)
Fund Balances, beginning	2,881,107	3,045,394
Fund balances, ending	3,539,775	2,881,107

¹ Total disbursements were \$1,266,785, which includes total expenses of \$1,176,435 plus two long-term mortgages for \$90,350 recorded as capital expenditures.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2013	2012
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash	67,138	76,479
Designated Donations	3,663	21,906
Investments (securities)	889,510	822,635
Project advances	292,335	3,395
Donated Assets	79,000	—
Accounts Receivable	7,280	14,402
	<u>1,338,926</u>	<u>938,817</u>
Capital Assets		
Interest in Land ¹	92,199	1,819
Office Equipment, net	4,121	3,939
	<u>96,320</u>	<u>5,758</u>
Restricted Assets		
Los Amigos Cons. Concession Trust Fund	1,282,846	1,142,767
Parataxonomist Trust Fund	922,390	806,054
	<u>2,205,236</u>	<u>1,948,821</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	3,640,482	2,893,396
LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCES		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable	100,707	12,289
	<u>100,707</u>	<u>12,289</u>
Fund Balances		
Unrestricted	1,330,876	910,380
Internally Restricted	3,663	21,906
Restricted	2,205,236	1,948,821
	<u>3,539,775</u>	<u>2,881,107</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCES	3,640,482	2,893,396

Breakdown of Disbursements for 2013



- Program (88%)
- Administration & Management (11%)
- Fundraising (1%)

¹ Represents 3 hectares and conservation easements over 2576 ha of land in Guatemala, and mortgages in Ecuador & Bolivia with conservation covenants.

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Mali elephants: Dr. Susan Canney, Vance Martin

Area de Conservación Guanacaste, Costa Rica: Dan Janzen

Sulawesi: Marcy Summers

Los Amigos, Peru: Daniela Pogliani

Hooded Grebe, Argentina: Santiago Imberti

Abrolhos, Brazil: Guilherme Dutra

Sierra Caral & Laguna Grande reserves, Guatemala: Marco Cerezo

Amazon development & biodiversity: Bruce Babbitt, Enrique Ortiz, Matt Finer

Tacana Brazil Nut program, Bolivia: Marcos Fernando Terán

Pino Parana (Atlantic Forest), Argentina: Kristina Cockle

What your donation to ICFC can accomplish

Here are some of the ways your support achieves lasting conservation gains:

- land acquisition: as little as \$30/acre for land of high conservation value in Latin America;
- protection and monitoring of reserves: \$12,000/year for one park guard who also does biological monitoring or research;
- community involvement: a few hundred or a few thousand dollars can support public education and community involvement (e.g. with forest restoration, guarding nesting colonies) that has a measurable conservation benefit (such as reversal of population declines for threatened species);
- conservation trust funds — we have two now — that secure permanent protection for exemplary conservation programs.



ABOUT ICFC

Founded in 2007, ICFC is a registered Canadian charity (Charitable Registration # 85247 8189 RR0001).

OUR MISSION:

To advance the long-term preservation of nature and biodiversity in the tropics and other priority areas by:

- (1) furthering the protection of natural ecosystems;
- (2) countering degradation of natural ecosystems; and
- (3) promoting the restoration or recovery of natural ecosystems;

while seeking ways to involve local communities.

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