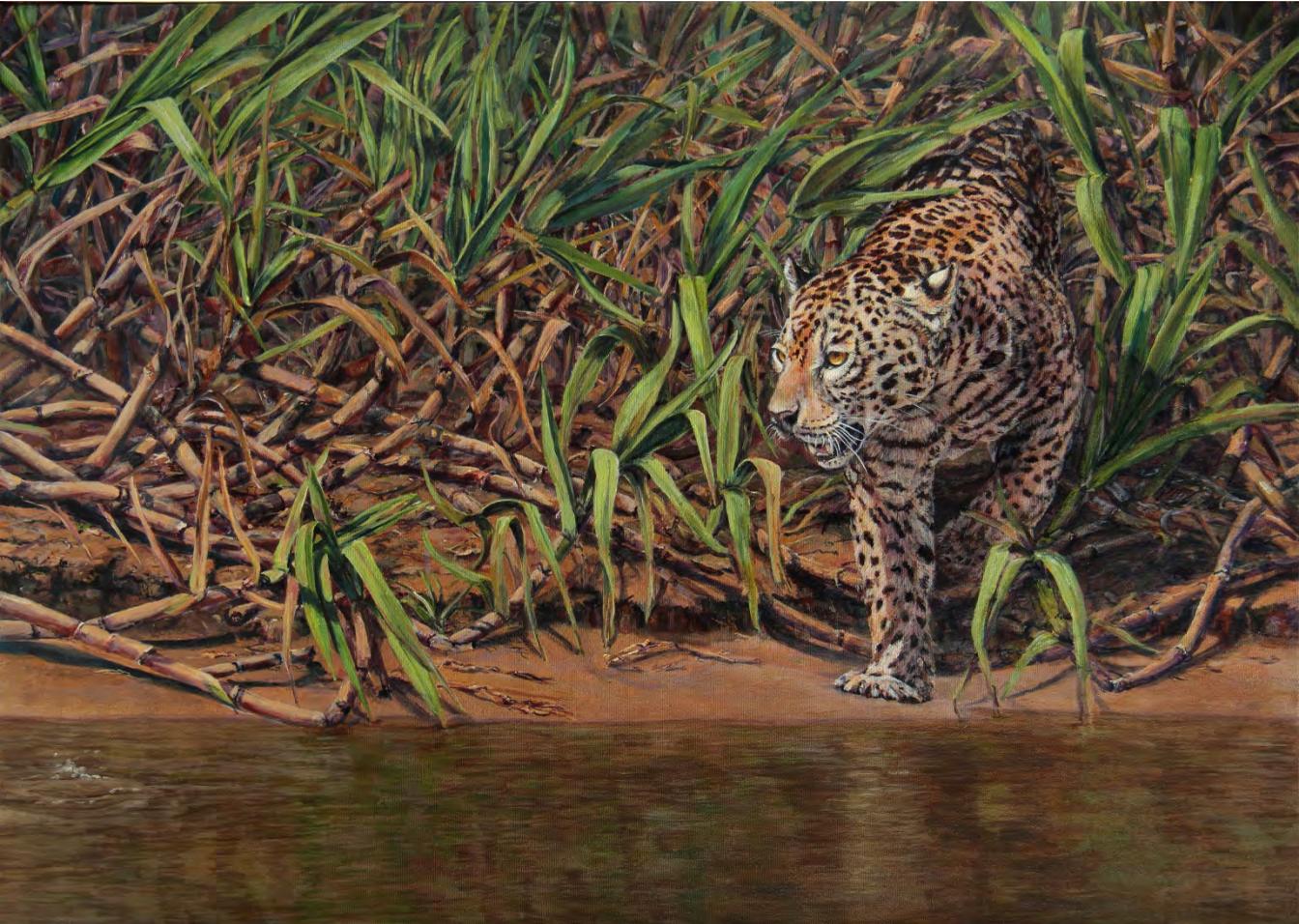


# 2019 Annual Report



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Cover art: "Hunting" by [Candy McManiman](#)

*Read the story behind the cover by Candy's late husband, biologist Paul Prevett*

Photo: Tody motmot by Paul B. Jones



ICFC Board and Staff (*left to right*): Scott Hecker, Director of Bird Conservation | Rob Stoner, Chairman of International Conservation Fund | Carlos R. Garcia, Director of Latin American Programs | Molly Bartlett, Executive Director | Sarah Jackson, Board | Tom Welch, CFO and Co-founder | Laurie Havinga, Administrator | Jason Stewart, Board | Anne Lambert, Founding Director | Claude Gascon, Board | Barbara Zimmerman, Kayapó Program Director | John McWilliams, Board Chair | Roy B.H. Smith, member. Absent were: Jackie Leppard, Administrative Assistant, Board member Hari Balasubramanian, and members Erica Nol and Michael de Pencier.

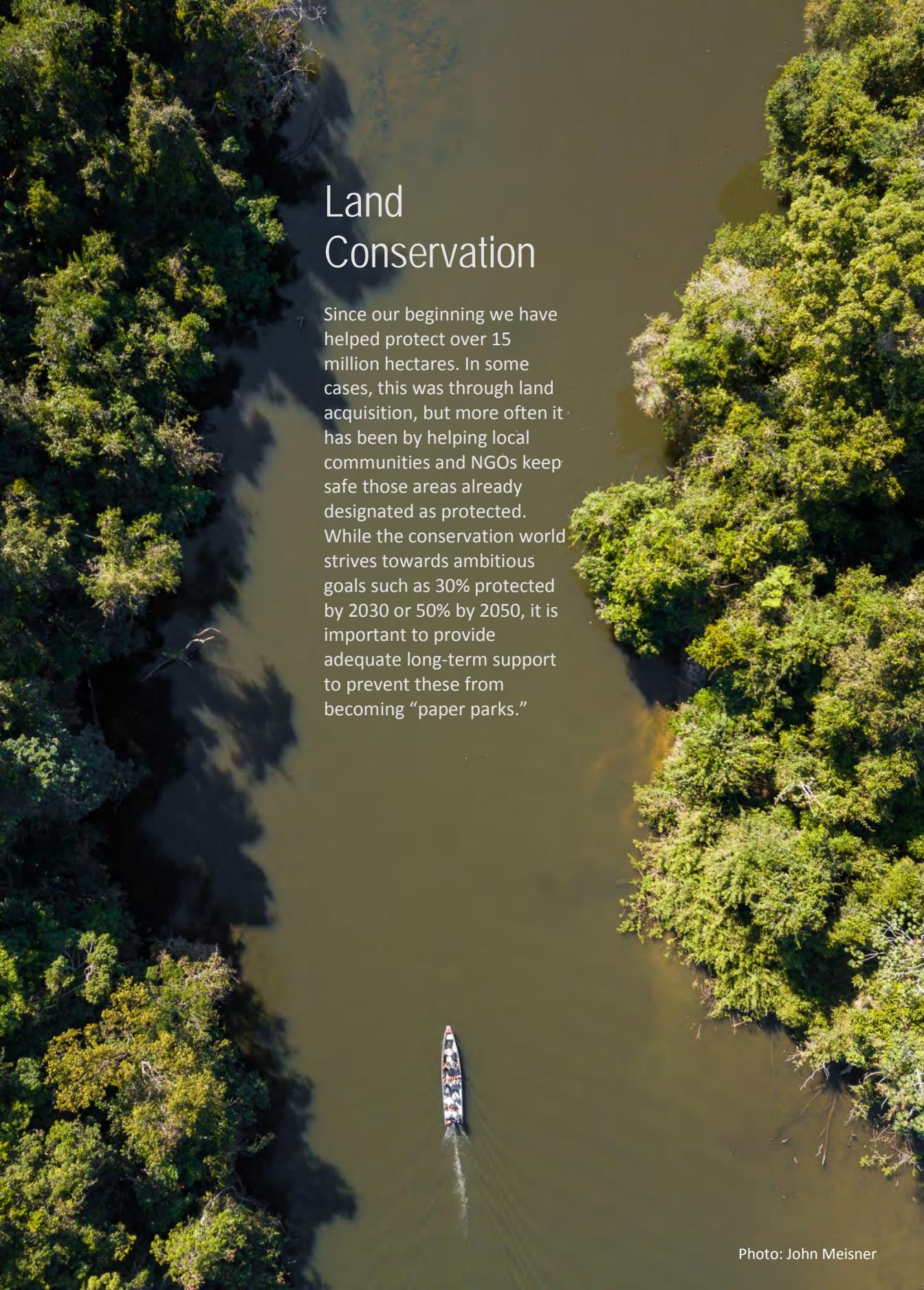
## From the Executive Director

This annual report covers our progress in 2019, however it is impossible not to acknowledge how we are living now, in early 2020, with Covid-19. Fortunately, our staff are all well and (as usual) working productively at home. We are beginning to hear of the effects on our project field partners. A particular challenge is the collapse in ecotourism revenue needed to pay the rangers who guard against deforestation and poaching. In other cases, activities are paused to prevent the spread of the virus to especially vulnerable groups such as the Kayapo or the remote mountain villages in the roadless regions of Nepal. Our Malawian partner has started an ambitious fundraising campaign to bring clean water, soap and information on the pandemic to the 600,000 rural Malawians they can reach. We hope these measures are successful and our project communities remain safe.

When the pandemic abates the world will have a chance to reflect on some of its lessons. Humans and nature are inextricably connected, and activities like the illegal wildlife trade that brings pangolins to wet markets in China can come back to harm us. In addition, the destruction of natural habitats increases disease transmission from wildlife to humans. We have to take more care.

But there are positive lessons as well: nature's capacity for resilience is being demonstrated to us on an extremely short time scale. Improvements in air and water quality due to the economic slowdown are being experienced in many places. We are also seeing wildlife venturing back into towns and cities and other places normally avoided. Given a chance, the natural world can recover.

We hope you enjoy reading about our accomplishments in 2019, and that you and yours are staying well.

An aerial photograph of a river winding through a lush, green forest. The water is a dark, murky green, and the surrounding trees are vibrant and dense. A small, colorful boat is visible in the lower center of the river, moving away from the viewer. The overall scene is serene and natural.

# Land Conservation

Since our beginning we have helped protect over 15 million hectares. In some cases, this was through land acquisition, but more often it has been by helping local communities and NGOs keep safe those areas already designated as protected. While the conservation world strives towards ambitious goals such as 30% protected by 2030 or 50% by 2050, it is important to provide adequate long-term support to prevent these from becoming “paper parks.”

# Brazil: Protecting Kayapó lands

## Conservation need

The Kayapó indigenous territories are vast enough to protect large-scale ecological processes and a wealth of biodiversity. Yet without the Kayapó, this forest would be gone. The 9,000+ strong Kayapó have fiercely protected their land for generations but face increased pressure.

## What we're doing

We have prevented widespread invasions of Kayapó lands by illegal loggers, gold miners and ranchers by building surveillance and communications capability and enabling the Kayapó to control their almost 2,500-km border. We have developed culturally compatible economic activities that reduce the pressure to accept cash for unsustainable activities.

## 2019 Highlights

In a year of worsening political sidelining of conservation and indigenous rights in Brazil, we continued to focus on the highly effective system of guard posts located at key access points to Kayapó lands. Guard posts on the Xingu and Iriri rivers continued to prevent entry by illegal fishermen or worse, and five additional

posts blocked invasion by loggers and goldminers at far-flung locations along the Kayapó's long border. Guard posts and other surveillance measures are crucial during this period as enforcement action by Brazil's federal agencies has gone from minimal to nil. Sustainable Brazil nut and cumaru enterprises continued to generate equitably distributed income for Kayapó communities. Replicating the thriving catch-and-release sport fishing enterprise at Kendjam/Iriri river with Untamed Angling, the Xingu sport-fishing camp opened in October 2019 and hosted the first five international client groups with great success. The high-end ecotourism company Abercrombie and Kent will soon begin offering tours to the Xingu and Iriri in collaboration with the Kayapó. Along with the guard posts, ecotourism is proving a powerful force for conservation of Kayapó territories.

*Timeframe:* Ongoing since 2007

*Cumulative spending to date:* \$7,488,391

*Size of area:* 110,000 km<sup>2</sup> – bigger than 91 countries

*Field partner:* Associação Floresta Protegida, Instituto Kabu, and Instituto Raoni



*Special thanks to:* Earth Alliance, Global Wildlife Conservation, Environmental Defense Fund, and The Rosebud Charitable Trust

**Kayapó women carrying Brazil nuts.**  
Photo: Simone Giovine



# Costa Rica: Restoring ecosystem viability on the Osa Peninsula

## Conservation need

The Osa Peninsula, renowned as a hotspot of biodiversity and endemism, has the largest mesic rainforest and the largest expanse of mangrove wetlands remaining on the Pacific slope of Central America. Much of the Osa lies within Corcovado National Park and other protected areas, yet it remains under threat from illegal hunting and goldmining. We need to restore apex predator and prey populations and establish habitat connectivity across the Peninsula to achieve ecological viability.

## What we're doing

Osa Conservation (OC) is leading a conservation effort that mobilizes citizen scientists, community members, ecotourism operators, park administrators and multiple NGOs. Actions include installing an acoustic monitoring system in the forest canopy, which along with the Osa Camera Trap Network serves as the rainforest's eyes and ears and enhances the effectiveness of the *guardaparques*. Community participation is key to better understanding and influencing the socio-cultural dimensions of conservation in the region and for collecting needed scientific data.



## 2019 Highlights

Thanks to the expansion of the Osa Camera Trap Network (OCTN), major strides were made in 2019 in deterring illegal human activities and augmenting the ability of government officials and private landowners to respond to illegal incursions. OCTN monitors 8,650 hectares that border protected areas – land that is owned by OC, eco-lodges and private finca owners. OC's rapid-response rangers (COVIRENAS) completed 1,649 km of patrols in 2019, leading to the arrest of 13 illegal gold miners within Corcovado National Park. OC planted over 20,000 mangrove trees and initiated wildlife monitoring in its program to kick-start regeneration in degraded forest patches. Over 2,000 participants received tropical rewilding education through a wide variety of experiential activities and workshops, and OC provided citizen science and conservation technology training to four local biological monitoring groups in forest dependent communities. All of this is bringing a noticeable cultural transformation towards conservation in the Osa Peninsula.



*Timeframe:* Began 2017

*Cumulative spending to date:* \$168,730

*Size of area:* 1,093 km<sup>2</sup>

*Field partner:* Osa Conservation



**Above:** Spider monkey. **Photo:** Andy Whitworth, OC  
**Left:** An ancient Ajo tree in the Golfo Dulce Forest Reserve has survived in the face of illegal logging for 500+ years. **Photo:** Eleanor Flatt

# Ecuador: Canandé Reserve

## Conservation need

The Ecuadorian Chocó is one of the most threatened tropical forests on Earth. It rivals the Amazon in biodiversity and far surpasses it in terms of endemism. The Canandé Reserve protects at least 14 globally threatened bird species, some found only in the Chocó region, at least 141 species of amphibians and reptiles, of which 29 are globally threatened, over 100 species of mammals and the most important populations of at least three Critically Endangered species, including the brown-headed spider monkey and two species of flowering plants endemic to Ecuador. With less than 2% of the original lowland Chocó forest remaining and ongoing deforestation, the Ecuadorian Chocó is highly imperilled. The key threat is conversion to oil palm and deforestation by colonists.

## What we're doing

Expansion of Canandé Reserve is part of an ambitious plan to secure a significant portion of the Ecuadorian Chocó. Key to this is taking advantage of a rare opportunity to acquire 22,986 hectares that will connect Canandé Reserve with two government reserves. This multi-year effort will both establish a buffer zone for public reserves and create a natural corridor between the three protected areas. It will protect an entire range of ecosystems from Chocó lowland rainforests to Andean páramo and high elevation grasslands, providing an altitudinal gradient that will help species adapt to the effects of climate change.



Photo: Wendy Reimer

## 2019 Highlights

In 2019, 640 hectares were added to the reserve, including the first property that connects the western part of Canandé Reserve to the Tesoro Escondido Reserve. This acquisition is highly important, as it builds connectivity between two large protected areas owned by Fundación Jocotoco, securing contiguous habitat for species with large home ranges, such as jaguars and white-lipped peccaries.

As evidence of Canandé’s high conservation value, last year one of the rarest amphibians in South America was recorded in the reserve. This was only the fourth record of this species of flying tree frog, the Río Cauca fringe-limbed tree frog (*Ecnomiohyla phantasmagoria*). In addition, three new species of amphibians and reptiles and two new orchid species were discovered in Canandé in 2019.



Cope’s parrot snake. Photo: Michaël Moens

Timeframe: Began 2017

Cumulative spending to date: \$780,308

Size of area: 7,453 hectares



Little devil  
poison frog.  
Photo:  
Martin  
Schaefer





## Nepal: Koshi Tappu Wetland

### Conservation need

Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve is Nepal's largest wetland, covering 175 km<sup>2</sup>. The reserve is at the lower end of the KTK-BELT, a conservation corridor and "vertical university" that spans 8,500 meters in elevation from Nepal's lowlands to the Himalayas. The wetland is home to many endangered species including Asian elephant, wild water buffalo, blue bull, river dolphin, gharial, Bengal florican, and swamp francolin. Threats to this unique wetland come from a growing human population, overgrazing by cattle, and agricultural chemicals.

### What we're doing

In 2018 ICFC supported the purchase of a small (16-hectare) but important property and made a three-year commitment to help KTK-BELT implement protective management of the reserve and the adjoining buffer area. We're restoring degraded areas and increasing educational outreach with nearby communities. We are also working to develop livelihoods in nature tourism and sustainable use of aquatic and vegetation resources, including the harvest of invasive water hyacinth for use as compost and in other products.

### 2019 Highlights

The Bengal florican is Koshi Tappu's most endangered bird species, with fewer than 1,000 remaining in the world. A recent survey found that they are likely breeding in the area, sparking efforts to protect those locations from overgrazing using fencing and other means. The first of several cattle pens, each capable of holding 1,500 cattle, was completed. A Koshi Tappu Youth Fellows Program was established to train youth in conservation skills such as teaching, data collection, graphics software, and making videos.

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*Timeframe:* Began 2018

*Cumulative spending to date:* \$56,010

*Size of area:* 34,800 hectares

*Field partner:* KTK-BELT

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**Fencing protects against cattle grazing.**

**Photos: KTK-BELT**



# Nepal: Securing a place for snow leopards

## Conservation need

The alpine lakes region below Kanchenjunga, the third-highest mountain in the world, is one of Nepal’s last roadless areas and habitat for blue sheep, which are the preferred prey of the snow leopard. This is an indispensable stopping ground for snow leopards traversing from Makalu-Barun National Park to the Kanchenjunga Conservation Area. Hydropower, road development and land grabbing threaten this habitat and also the livelihoods of yak herders in the region’s mountain villages.

## What we're doing

In 2018 ICFC supported the strategic purchase of 40.5 hectares bordering a wetland in Papung to block a planned road and restrict development. In 2019 we focused on educating the local communities about the value of the area’s biodiversity and the potential for it to generate ecotourism income.

## 2019 Highlights

Mikwakhola Rural Municipality (where Papung is located) officially decided to initiate the process of declaring the Papung landscape a Dhokpya Roadless RAMSAR Site of international importance, beginning with a series of village assembly meetings. The local assembly of Papung is interested in promoting roadless high-value, low-footprint tourism, modeled on Bhutan’s successful approach. This will involve locally guided treks with stays in modified yak herding huts. Twenty-two yak herding families were given direct support to modify and improve their traditional homes to maintain this culturally important architecture and other infrastructure like bridges.

---

*Timeframe:* Began 2018

*Cumulative spending to date:* \$77,674

*Size of area:* 41 hectares purchased; 35,000 hectares protected

*Field partner:* KTK-BELT

---



**Yak herder transporting goods. An official village Act was drafted to declare Papung a roadless tourist destination. Photo: KTK-BELT**



# Kenya: Laikipia Nature Conservancy

## Conservation need

Kenya's largest private reserve, Laikipia Nature Conservancy has diverse topography supporting a wide range of flora and fauna. In past years, the Conservancy has, like others in Laikipia, struggled with cattle herders trespassing to take advantage of the lush landscape and sources of water. The eastern border has an electrified fence, but the northern border remains mostly unfenced and the cattle of neighbouring Pokot pastoralists often enter. With the help of the National Drought Management Authority, the Conservancy has negotiated grazing terms with the Pokot. But for this to work the border needs to be fenced. As well, an elephant and wildlife corridor between the Conservancy and its closest neighbouring conservancy needs protecting.

## What we're doing

We are improving security by employing a team of rangers and equipping ranger bases. Fencing the northern border will allow the grazing management plan to be put in place and the safe passage of wildlife to and from the Conservancy.

**Several prides of lions have returned now that security has been restored. Photo: Nigel Croft-Adams**

## 2019 Highlights

Remarkably, no elephants were killed in 2019, thanks to the commitment of the ranger team. Installation of some fencing on the northern border and an additional ranger base overlooking the wildlife corridor passage enable wildlife and cattle to be monitored there. When elephants cross the corridor to the neighbouring conservancy, information on their presence and safe passage is reported by the community in that area. This stands in stark contrast to previous years, when elephant poaching was a high risk in the corridor.

Despite a severe drought in 2019, the Conservancy was able to manage the peaceful use of water and grazing in the reserve by neighbouring cattle grazers whose water and grass had dried up. Weekly meetings held with a peace and grazing committee of over 30 community elders have restored trust and helped maintain peace.

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*Timeframe:* Began 2017

*Cumulative spending to date:* \$297,761

*Size of area:* 36,500 hectares

*Field partner:* Gallmann Memorial Foundation

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## Mozambique: “Sky Islands” community conservation

### Conservation need

Mozambique’s unique “sky island” mountain massifs host exceptionally high biodiversity in the Eastern Afromontane Ecosystem and serve as watersheds for millions of people downstream. Although these unique geologic features account for only 0.3% of the country’s land mass, they support over 20% of all of Mozambique’s bird species and 60% of its butterflies. Sky islands are also home to mountain communities whose mechanisms for survival—slash-and-burn agriculture and timber harvesting—undermine their long-term security and compromise these biodiversity hotspots. Protecting sky islands is one of the best ways to secure their water supplies in the face of climate change. Mount Namuli, the second-highest mountain in Mozambique, is a Level 1 Priority Key Biodiversity Area, an Important

Bird Area, an Important Plant Area, and an Alliance for Zero Extinction site. Despite these distinctions the mountain currently has no official conservation status.

### What we’re doing

Legado and their on-the-ground partners, Lupa and Nitidae, are establishing Mozambique’s first-ever community conservation area on Mount Namuli.

### 2019 Highlights

In Namuli communities, Legado invested in a honey program, tree planting, and seed-saving projects, while addressing big-picture issues such as building the capacity of local leaders and addressing critical land tenure issues.

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*Timeframe:* Began 2018

*Cumulative spending to date:* \$18,608

*Size of area:* 9,000 hectares

*Field partner:* Legado

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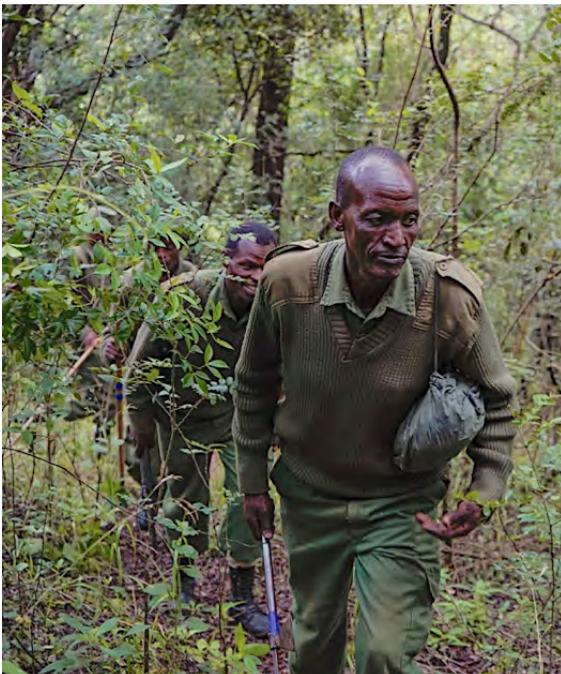
# Kenya: Conserving Kijabe Forest

## Conservation need

Part of the eastern Afromontane biodiversity hotspot, this dry upland forest straddles the eastern wall of the Great Rift Valley. The forest provides hydrological services to an estimated 200,000 people in the catchment area, as well as carbon storage, soil stabilization, and forest products such as fuelwood, seeds, and honey. Deforestation has caused erosion and severe mudslides on the steep slopes in recent years.

## What we're doing

We're working on four fronts: curbing illegal logging and charcoal-making by expanding patrols using local community members trained as rangers; restoring degraded forest areas by planting native seedlings; training community members in sustainable income generating activities, and negotiating payments for ecosystem services agreements with institutional beneficiaries of Kijabe Forest, including a hospital and private school. The 2013 landslides that blocked off the town and access to the hospital were a major catalyst for the start of Kijabe Forest Trust (KFT).



Kijabe rangers. Photo: Kijabe Forest Trust



Guereza colobus  
Photo: Nick Athanas

## 2019 Highlights

Our focus was on building ranger capacity and developing the corps into a well-respected, professional and accountable unit. The team was trained in daily reporting, GPS, and improved record keeping, particularly of wildlife sightings. An environmental lawyer was brought in to teach the rangers the legal frameworks under which they operate, giving them confidence in dealing with infractions. In the workshop she noted that the skill with which the rangers de-escalate situations has led to greater acceptance of their work in the community.

A greenhouse was established and 20,000 indigenous seedlings were planted. This helps to stabilize soils, and even with unprecedented rains hitting East Africa in 2019, Kijabe avoided the serious landslides it experienced in the past and that hit many parts of Kenya. KFT continued to grow the non-timber forest product enterprises, including pine resin, juniper berries for gin, and ecotourism. KFT received its first pledge of payments for ecosystem (water) services from a neighbouring private school.

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*Timeframe:* Began 2017

*Cumulative spending to date:* \$174,197

*Size of area:* 5,000 hectares

*Field partner:* Kijabe Forest Trust

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## Costa Rica: Sea turtles and community education in the Osa Peninsula

### Conservation need

The Osa Peninsula is a conservation priority in Costa Rica due to its remarkable natural heritage and biodiversity, but the region continues to suffer from human-related threats.

### What we're doing

Fundación Corcovado promotes environmental education and awareness in the region through its Environmental Education and Community Extension Program. It also runs a sea turtle conservation program.

### 2019 Highlights

The Environmental Education Program, in collaboration with the Municipality of Osa, held 37 workshops and a recycling competition among seven educational centers in six communities. This initiative resulted in the collection of more than 1,500 kg of recycled material. As well, Fundación Corcovado's Single-Use Plastic reduction program, along with the commitment made by 22 companies from Bahía Drake, has led to the collection of an additional 2,398 kg of recycled material.

In 2019, more than 60 international volunteers assisted with environmental education, beach cleanups, marine turtle surveys, beach patrols, and the construction and maintenance of sea turtle nurseries at Rincón de San Josecito Beach. In total, 118 nests of olive ridley turtles were safeguarded – the largest number of nests protected in one season since the inception of the sea turtle program – and 7,722 turtle hatchlings were released into the ocean.

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*Timeframe:* Began 2017

*Cumulative spending to date:* \$457,039

*Field partner:* Fundación Corcovado

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Thanks to Bill MacLachlan for funding this project.

**Parataxonomists at work.**  
**Photo: GDFCF**



Children in the Osa Peninsula visit a sea turtle nursery.  
Photo: Fundación Corcovado

## Costa Rica: Parataxonomists at Area de Conservación Guanacaste

### What we're doing

Area de Conservación Guanacaste (ACG) is considered a world model for restoration and management of a large protected area. ICFC maintains a trust fund that endows positions for parataxonomists who are hired from the local community to protect the park and conduct scientific research. The ACG parataxonomist program is the backbone of scientific research and conservation management within ACG.

---

*Timeframe:* Ongoing since 2011

*Cumulative funding:* \$348,858 (excluding Trust Fund capitalization)

*Trust Fund value year-end 2019:* \$2,513,945



*Size of area:* 163,000 hectares

*Field partner:* Guanacaste Dry Forest Conservation Fund

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## Peru: From deforestation alerts to action in the Andean Amazon

### Conservation need

The Peruvian Amazon, covering more than 60% of the country's territory, is one the largest high-biodiversity places on Earth. Over the last three decades, the region has faced increasing deforestation from conversion for agriculture, cattle ranching, illegal logging, and mining.

### What we're doing

ICFC partner Amazon Conservation (AC) has led deforestation monitoring in megadiverse tropical forests with its initiative called MAAP (Monitoring of the Andean Amazon Project). MAAP presents timely, high-impact technical reports in an easily accessible and understandable format to government officials, civil society, and the public. This increased information sharing is resulting in a more effective and timely response to deforestation. MAAP has expanded beyond Peru to include Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia and western Brazil.

**In June 2019, an illegal gold mining operation in La Pampa was exposed by MAAP, resulting in front-page coverage in the newspaper *El Comercio*. This was halted as part of the Peruvian government's Operation Mercury. Photo: MAAP**

### 2019 Highlights

MAAP worked with national and local partners to identify major deforestation events in or near key protected areas in the Ecuadorian and Colombian Amazon. MAAP's public report #106 detailed incursions into four protected areas in Colombia. MAAP investigated the Brazilian Amazon fires, revealing that many fires were linked to recent deforestation, some in early 2019 (MAAP #109). On the policy front in Peru, AC made important advances, helping to create the country's *National Control and Surveillance System of Forest and Wildlife* to link early warning deforestation alerts with appropriate policy action. At the regional level, coordination was strengthened between the Satellite Monitoring Unit of the Specialized Prosecutors in Environmental Matters (FEMA) in Madre de Dios and the national FEMA office in Lima. Another positive development is that the Peruvian government now accepts drone and satellite imagery as legally admissible evidence in the prosecution of environmental crimes.

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*Timeframe:* Began 2013

*Cumulative spending to date:* \$765,625

*Field partner:* Amazon Conservation

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Río Los Amigos. Photo: Andy Whitworth

## Peru: Los Amigos Conservation Concession

### Conservation need

Los Amigos Conservation Concession (LACC) lies at the mouth of the Los Amigos River in southeastern Peru, protecting its watershed and more than 146,000 hectares of diverse Amazonian forest. It borders Manú National Park to the east and Tambopata National Reserve to the south, as well as a vast remote reserve for indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation, safeguarding this vulnerable group from invaders. The construction of the Interoceanic Highway in 2011 opened up the region to increased illegal logging and goldmining and clearing for agriculture. LACC's strategic location as part of an 8-million-hectare block of protected wilderness helps preserve functional ecological connectivity across a large area.

### What we're doing

In 2011, ICFC established a trust fund to endow positions for LACC concession guards (*Promotores de Conservación*), who carry out patrols to keep out illegal goldminers and loggers, conduct biological monitoring, and provide support for researchers and field courses.

### 2019 Highlights

Early in 2019, MAAP #105 (see page 14 re MAAP) detected illegal logging camps and small logging roads within the Concession using high resolution satellite imagery. This was an impressive achievement because it did not involve clear-cutting but selective removal of high-value trees. To buttress efforts by our *Promotores*, four security specialists trained in the jungle environment were brought in. Illegal activities were found during 19 of their 144 patrols, and formal complaints were made to government authorities. Our focus now is on ramping up surveillance and protection capacity to counter this illegal activity.

---

*Timeframe:* Ongoing since 2011

*Cumulative disbursements to date:* \$563,596

*Trust fund value:* \$1,675,498

*Size of area:* 146,000 hectares (1,460 km<sup>2</sup>)

*Field partners:* Amazon Conservation and Asociación para la Conservación de la Cuenca Amazónica

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## Threatened Species

We know of 268 species within ICFC project areas that are officially designated as Threatened by the IUCN, and another 106 that are classified as Near Threatened. While these numbers are meaningful, the actual numbers are undoubtedly much greater. Tropical ecosystems remain understudied, many known species await evaluation, and there are many undiscovered species (our field partners find new species almost routinely).



Snow leopards, Photo: Shivang Mehta

# NEW - South Africa Rhino Conservation

## Conservation need

South Africa is internationally recognized for its rich biological diversity, including around 80% of the world's 28,000 remaining rhinos - 93% of white rhinos (*Ceratotherium simum*) and 39% of black rhinos (*Diceros bicornis*). Over the last decade, poaching has led to rapid declines in the populations of these two rhino species.

## What we're doing

One quarter of all rhinos are held within private reserves in South Africa. ICFC's partner Stop Rhino Poaching (SRP) has formed a mobile operational unit and in April 2019 and began working with select high-risk rhino reserves in South Africa to assist them in applying the best practices and technologies for rhino protection. This includes the deployment of advanced technology including high definition radar. This system can function as a standalone solution or support broader surveillance efforts to maximize the effectiveness of anti-poaching activities for both rhinos and elephants. Deployments are clandestine and are guided by intelligence operations to enhance the

successful apprehension and prosecution of poaching syndicates.

## 2019 Highlights

Although 2019 was another difficult year for rhino conservation in South Africa, poaching figures were lower than in 2018 (594 vs.769). This attests to progress in the ongoing anti-poaching efforts in South Africa. The SRP operational unit has been very well received by reserve managers. The reserves supported by SRP suffered minimal losses in 2019, except for Kruger National Park where organized crime has developed intricate disruptive tactics targeting rangers and law enforcement efforts. In the last quarter of 2019, SRP played a key role in thwarting closure of a regional law court that processes poaching cases.

---

*Timeframe:* Began 2019

*Cumulative spending to date:* \$253,325

*Size of area:* 400,000 hectares (4,000 km<sup>2</sup>)

*Field partner:* Stop Rhino Poaching (SRP)

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*Thanks* to the Elliott Family Foundation who fund this project.



White rhinos. Photo: Margo Welch

# NEW - French Polynesia & Fiji: Imperilled birds

## Conservation need

Oceanic islands are often home to endemic species that are at high risk from invasive predators, particularly in the South Pacific. There are 35 species of endangered birds just in French Polynesia. This includes the endemic birds on the islands of Mohotani in the Marquesas, Rapa in French Polynesia, and Rotuma in Fiji. Luckily, there is still time to save them from extinction.

## What we're doing

Invasive cane toads and common myna birds are widespread throughout Fiji's islands, where they compete with and prey on native wildlife, and spoil crops. On the island of Rotuma, we are working to eliminate these invasive species before they become established. At the other locations there has been widespread decimation of endemic fauna and their habitats by invasive rats, cats, and goats. Working with our partners, we are removing these predators island by island.

## 2019 Highlights

We began a program on Rotuma Island, Fiji, to capture and remove common myna birds and complete a survey and assessment of cane toads. In the Marquesas we completed field trials to safeguard the Marquesas monarch and Marquesas ground dove from cats and rats and are now ready to eradicate them from the islands. We have removed all feral goats from two of Rapa's islets, protecting the Critically Endangered Rapa shearwater and restoring its habitat.

*Timeframe:* 2019-2020

*Cumulative spending to date:* \$57,253

*Size of area:* 6,800 hectares

*Field partner:* BirdLife International Pacific and Société d'Ornithologie de Polynésie (MANU)



*Thanks to T-Gear Foundation, who funded this project.*

**MANU personnel and Rapa shearwater (inset).**

**Photos: Fred Jacq**



# Mali Elephant Project

A joint project of ICFC and WILD Foundation

## Conservation need

In an insecure and dangerous region, this project is a beacon of hope in providing a measure of order, protecting water and food resources for humans and elephants, holding the line against elephant poaching, promoting social cohesion, and advancing local governance and livelihoods.

## What we're doing

Our approach places responsibility for collective resource management in the community. We bring together communities led by elders and clan leaders to enact rules (that have the force of law) that improve natural resource management, benefitting communities and wildlife. Patrols of young men hired as ecoguards work to enforce rules, guard elephant habitat, create firebreaks, and deter poaching. By delivering these community benefits, eco-guardians gain local prestige.

## 2019 Highlights

The bad news: deteriorating security in the region; the rest is good news, including no



known elephant-poaching incidents. Mali's anti-poaching unit benefited from training sessions provided by this project. Firebreaks created by 577 ecoguards protected 34,000 hectares of pasture through the dry season. Some ecoguards assisted with the development of local rules related to resource protection and management; some were trained in elephant ground counts and the use of GPS; dozens were mobilized in elephant monitoring and addressing human-elephant conflicts, and some conducted surveys of trees and birds that showed improvement attributable to the project.

**Above: Community assemblies generate awareness of sustainable resource management and the protection of elephants. Photos: Mali Elephant Program**

*Timeframe:* Began 2010

*Cumulative spending to date:* \$3,018,217

*Size of area:* 33,534 km<sup>2</sup> (size of Belgium)



# Indonesia: Imperilled wildlife in Sulawesi

## Conservation need

Sulawesi is a renowned global biodiversity hotspot with many species found nowhere else. One of Sulawesi's iconic creatures is the maleo, an endangered megapode bird. Rampant harvesting of its eggs for sale as luxury items has decimated maleos. Sea turtle egg harvesting is also a problem. Several rare mammals including fruit bats, tarsiers, anoa, and babirusa are under hunting pressure for the bushmeat trade.

## What we're doing

We are securing and expanding communal breeding grounds for the maleo and for three species of sea turtles and protecting a key roosting site for thousands of fruit bats. AITo has conducted an educational outreach program for the anoa and babirusa and for their forest habitat in regions of Sulawesi where these rare mammals occur. Our approach combines direct action to deter poaching with community education.

## 2019 Highlights

Near record-high counts of maleos were found at our main Libuun/Taima nesting ground, as well as at a smaller second nesting area. We found and are now protecting a new smaller maleo nesting ground about 6 km from our main site. As requested by the IUCN (and supported by The Biodiversity Consultancy), AITo completed the first Sulawesi-wide maleo nesting ground survey, with several different field partners, visiting 169 current or historic sites. Survey results will be published later in 2020. Sea turtle hatching was up 68 percent to 2,324 hatchlings!

*Timeframe:* Ongoing since 2010

*Cumulative spending to date:* \$1,314,483

*Size of area:* 250,000 hectares (2,500 km<sup>2</sup>)

*Field partner:* Alliance for Tompotika (AITo)



**This mural on a school in Taima depicts maleos and other wildlife of special interest to the people of Sulawesi's Tompotika Peninsula. Photo: ICFC**



## Bolivia: Blue-throated macaw

### Conservation need

The Critically Endangered blue-throated macaw is found only in the Beni Savanna of Bolivia where fewer than 300 remain. Threats include illegal poaching for the exotic bird trade, human-induced fires, and unmanaged cattle grazing.

### What we're doing

Barba Azul reserve's seasonally flooded savanna and palm forested islands provide a safe haven for the macaw as well as pumas, maned wolves, ocelots, giant anteaters, black howler monkeys, and 315 species of birds. Over the past decade ICFC has contributed to land acquisition at Barba Azul and Laney Rickman reserves and provided support for reserve management, which includes maintaining firebreaks and restoring the palm species favored by the macaws. Recent years saw the introduction of experimental grazing practices that favor habitat use by migratory buff-breasted sandpipers. Over the past two years, an ICFC donor greatly augmented our support to help complete Barba Azul reserve's ecotourism infrastructure. The reserve now boasts – on top of its spectacular natural surroundings – a wonderful new dining facility, solar power, a new water tank and filtration system, and refurbished cabins.



**Blue-throated macaw (above) and puma (below).**  
Photos: Asociación Armonía

### 2019 Highlights

Camera trap data show that predators such as puma have increased in number and that populations of marsh deer, red-brocket deer, pampas deer, collared peccary and ocelots have more than doubled in the last three years. For the first time, satellite telemetry trackers were deployed on three blue-throated macaws and these now provide detailed information on their local movements and where they breed.

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*Timeframe:* Began 2010

*Cumulative spending to date:* \$320,286

*Size of area:* 11,000 hectares and 681 hectares

*Field partner:* Asociación Armonía

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# Nepal: Protecting red pandas

## Conservation need

The red panda was classified as Endangered by the IUCN because it numbers fewer than 10,000 adults and the population continues to decline. The species is suffering from habitat loss, inbreeding, and poaching to satisfy the Chinese market for wild meat, medicine and skins. We are focusing on habitat in western Nepal that forms important connectivity for red pandas between existing protected areas.

## What we're doing

Outreach, consultation and education form the foundation for protecting this species in western Nepal. Habitat assessment and a detailed red panda survey were carried out and forest guardians were hired from the local communities and trained.



## 2019 Highlights

In five districts in western Nepal, the Red Panda Network continued to train forest guardians in anti-poaching measures and data collection. The big news was that in the course of this work a red panda was photographed for the first time ever in its western range. (Red pandas are notoriously hard to spot!) There are now eco-clubs in four districts where students learn about biodiversity and red panda conservation. A bimonthly radio program with a red panda and biodiversity conservation message is being broadcast in all the districts.



**Above right:** Forest guardians

**Left:** First ever red panda photographed in western Nepal range

**Below:** Tree planting

**Photos:** Red Panda Network

*Timeframe:* 2017-2021

*Cumulative spending to date:* \$85,721

*Size of area:* 261,600 hectares

*Field partner:* Red Panda Network (in Nepal)



# Argentina: Preventing extinction of the hooded grebe

## Conservation need

The hooded grebe, a species new to science in 1974, nests in small colonies on remote lakes and lagoons of Patagonia’s windswept plateaus. Its entire breeding range is restricted to upland plateaus in the province of Santa Cruz. By 2009 the population was in serious decline due to predation by non-native North American mink and trout and an expanding population of kelp gulls. Declared Critically Endangered in 2011, the global population continues to hover at around 900 individuals.

## What we're doing

Since 2012, we have deployed guardians at every known breeding colony to reduce predation by mink and kelp gulls. Observers count grebes wintering at Atlantic coastal sites, evaluate threats and impacts and instigate new protection measures as needed. The hooded grebe or *macá tobiano* serves as the logo for our partner Asociación Ambiente Sur, and their staff often don the human-sized costume of “macá” as part of their highly successful public awareness programs.

## 2019 Highlights

The recent breeding season was one of widespread failure due to climatic shifts and extreme weather. In particular, a very cold spring meant nesting material was not available. The good news is that the adult population is stable, indicating low mortality rates. In surveys of 350 lagoons, 676 adults were observed on 8 plateaus. In winter surveys (which preceded the breeding season), 917 birds were tallied. The reproductive failure of the past two years mirrored that of 2009-2011 and appears part of the normal ups and downs for this species.

*Timeframe:* Began 2012

*Cumulative spending to date:* \$508,171

*Field partner:* Asociación Ambiente Sur



**Above:** Mink trapping is crucial and has been highly effective. Photo: Ugo Mellone

**Below:** Grebe pairs build a floating nest of aquatic milfoil. Photo: Hernán Povedano



# Shorebird Initiative

With one-way migrations of up to 14,000 km, shorebirds have evolved remarkable survival strategies. But they increasingly encounter habitat loss and disturbance in the places where they stop to rest and refuel and where they overwinter. This is where ICFC is helping.



## Argentina: Protecting Bahía de San Antonio red knots

### Conservation need

The expansive Bahía de San Antonio is one of just a few major stopovers for the red knot in Argentina during its northbound migration from Tierra del Fuego to the Canadian Arctic. Designated as a coastal marine protected area and an international level Western Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve Network site, the thousands of shorebirds depending on this site face increasing levels of human disturbance and development. The region is Argentina's favored destination for beachgoers, many of whom enjoy kite surfing, beach driving, and camping. In addition to the *rufa* red knot, the site supports plovers, dotterels, hundreds of pairs of nesting oystercatchers and seabirds and is a haul-out area for South American sea lions.



### What we're doing

Working closely with the province of Río Negro, we are increasing the capacity of ranger patrols to protect shorebirds from the impact of beach recreation and loose or feral dogs. We also work hand-in-hand with the municipality and province on overall reserve management and protection.

Our rangers (who supplement provincial rangers) are deputized by the Province with the power to enforce regulations, a measure that is key for our ability to manage large gatherings of kite-surfers and other groups that often arrive unaware of the restrictions in place to protect shorebirds. Our shorebird personnel hold workshops to develop a yearly calendar and maps to publicize the times and places where kite surfing and other beach uses are legally permitted.

### 2019 Highlights

During the peak March to May season rangers were able to stop 97.5% of disturbances by people, vehicles and dogs. Notable successes were the complete cessation of kite surfing at critical shorebird areas and increased political and financial support from the provincial government. We are working with the province to create internships that will provide a path to becoming a ranger. There is also increased support from municipal authorities. We can now say that the rangers are fully integrated into public awareness and all aspects of beach management.

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*Timeframe:* Began 2015

*Cumulative spending to date:* \$358,447

*Size of area:* 6,500 hectares

*Field partner:* Fundación Inalafquen

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**Left: Red knots in winter and breeding plumage. Photo: Fabian Pinasco**

**Below: Ranger Sebastián Ortega assists a juvenile Magellanic penguin.**





© Photo: Conservación Marina

## Chile: Maullín coastal wetlands

### Conservation need

The complex of wetlands formed by the Maullín River is one of the largest in continental Chile and a biological corridor of wetlands that connects Andean lakes with the Pacific Ocean. The Maullín coastal wetlands attract thousands of Hudsonian godwits and whimbrels and equally impressive numbers of other migratory shorebirds and nesting waterbirds. The wetlands are also famous for high numbers of Chilean flamingos. The immense estuarine system ranges from freshwater to brackish to marine and attracts an unusual diversity of bird life. The area is impacted by rapidly advancing coastal development, unregulated recreational activities, livestock trampling, a growing aquaculture industry, and hydroelectric power in freshwater tributaries.

### What we're doing

Our partner, Conservación Marina, led the groundwork to expand the original Maullín wetland complex from 918 to 8,152 hectares by working out agreements among local communities, municipalities, and national agencies to establish this new national protected area. This involved developing site-specific management plans with local communities, addressing threats, creating public awareness and fostering the growing birding tourism industry.

### 2019 Highlights

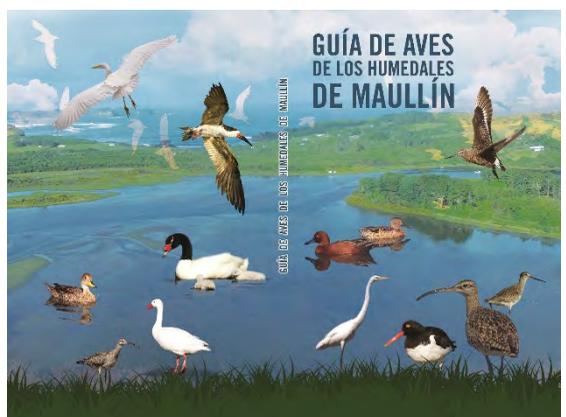
The support of ICFC was instrumental in advancing the nomination of a new Natural Sanctuary for Chile, which was declared on November 21, 2019. Much work continued on the birding trail tourism infrastructure: establishing new bird observation blinds, erecting educational signs, and placing electric fencing to exclude cattle and other livestock from key bird habitats.

*Timeframe:* Began 2015

*Cumulative spending to date:* \$269,844

*Size of area:* 8,152 hectares

*Field partner:* Conservación Marina



Cover of a new book on birds of the Maullín wetlands.

## Bahamas: Protection and restoration of habitat for piping plovers and other species

### Conservation need

The 700 islands of the Bahamas archipelago provide wintering habitat for most of the Atlantic coast breeding population of piping plovers (and for a quarter of the known world population). Notably, many of “our” plovers spend nearly three-quarters of the year in the Bahamas, where the support available to protect them is miniscule compared to what is spent in the US and Canada. Key threats are the destruction of open beach habitat by invasive Australian (*Casuarina*) pine, and human disturbance at unprotected points and inlets. Many of these small islands and remote beaches also provide nesting habitat for Wilson’s plover, roseate tern, least tern and other Caribbean species.

### What we're doing

This is the first effort in the Bahamas to implement on-the-ground measures to eradicate and limit Australian pine expansion at the most important sites for piping plovers. This work is coupled with surveys to find all beach-nesting birds and to delineate these areas with protective signage. Conservian’s northern Bahamas project areas have included Grand Bahama Island, Great Abaco, the Atlantic Abaco Cays, the Berry Islands, the Joulter Cays, North Andros, and the northern Exumas.

### 2019 Highlights

In September the Bahamas suffered the impact of Hurricane Dorian, the largest disaster in the nation’s history. Our partner, Conservian, remained in touch with our many friends and field volunteers throughout the difficult recovery. Our 2019 work preceded the hurricane by several months during which time our project area expanded to include Central Andros, the southern Exumas, and Great Exuma. A research schooner served as the base of operations, providing housing, food, and transportation for field crew and materials. Seven Bahamian university students participated in the fieldwork.

*Timeframe:* Began 2016

*Cumulative spending to date:* \$302,611

*Size of area:* 410 km of shoreline on 29 islands/cays

*Field partner:* Conservian Coastal Bird Conservation



**Above:** Wilson’s plover nest.

**Left:** Our efforts are undertaken with student interns to develop site-by-site local capacity for coastal stewardship.

**Photos:** Margo Zdravkovic, Conservian



# Bangladesh, China, Myanmar, Thailand: Spoon-billed sandpiper

## Conservation need

The spoon-billed sandpiper is the most endangered shorebird in the world, with fewer than 230 pairs estimated in 2016. “Spoonies” breed in Russia and fly 8,000 kilometers to their primary winter grounds in Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand and south China. Protecting the species and other declining shorebirds from illegal hunting is critical, as is working to secure coastal reserves along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.



## What we're doing

At the most important wintering areas in Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand and south China, we are: employing local guards, building temporary camps and removing illegal mist nets to protect the birds from hunting; developing livelihoods in farming and fishing as an alternative to hunting, and establishing no-hunting bylaws among Village Conservation Groups with support from local governments and educating the local communities.

**Top right:** Removing illegal mist nets.  
**Photo:** Zhanjing Bird Watching Society

**Above:** 2019 incubator-hatched Spoonie wintering in Leizhou, China. **Photo:** Li Cheng

**Right:** Watercolor by Axel Thorenfeldt



## 2019 Highlights

2019 started off with the good news that the government of Myanmar declared Nanthar Island and Mayyu estuary protected areas. This 3,600-hectare site hosts 12% of the entire spoon-billed sandpiper population. In September another important site in Thailand was purchased (paid for by other funders) to protect a wintering population of 20,000 waterbirds, including spoonies and Nordmann’s greenshanks. ICFC enabled the hiring of shorebird guards at this new site.

*Timeframe:* Began 2016

*Cumulative spending to date:* \$183,533

*Field partners:* Sayam Chowdhury, SBS TF; Bangladesh Spoon-billed Sandpiper Conservation Project; Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association; Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, Bird Conservation Society of Thailand



# Marine & Freshwater Conservation

An underwater photograph showing a vibrant coral reef. In the foreground, there are several tall, branching coral structures with a yellowish-brown hue. To the right, a large, rounded coral formation with a textured, pitted surface is visible. The background is filled with numerous small, silvery fish swimming in clear, blue water. Sunlight filters through the surface, creating a bright, shimmering effect in the upper right corner.

**Over-fishing and destructive fishing practices threaten global fisheries, while pollution and agricultural runoff threaten freshwater life. But these systems can rebound quickly when effective measures are put in place, as evidenced by our projects in Cambodia and Malawi.**



## NEW - Malawi: Fish for tomorrow

### Conservation need

Lake Malawi is the world’s ninth largest freshwater lake and a biodiversity hotspot with more fish species than any other lake in the world. Fish are a key source of protein for millions of vulnerable Malawians and yet are threatened by unsustainable fishing practices. Fishermen use nets made from mosquito nets, which have a small mesh size that catch fish before they can grow and breed. This decimates fish stocks and species richness, which has serious implications for Malawian food security and the overall health of the lake ecosystem.

### What we're doing

We are expanding Ripple Africa’s successful program to Salima District, where Beach Village Committees (BVCs) are taught to confiscate illegal fishing gear (in particular large fishing nets made from mosquito nets), protect key breeding areas, enforce a closed season and issue fishing permits to locals only. Illegal fishermen are fined, and the BVCs can keep the money to help fund future



conservation activities. Unlike forests, fish stocks recover quickly when proper controls are put in place. When only large fish are caught more fish remain in the lake to breed, increasing fish populations, including those harvested for food, and overall biodiversity is restored.

### 2019 Highlights

Traditional Authorities from Salima were brought to Nkhata Bay, where Ripple Africa has been working for years, to observe first-hand the successes of the BVCs there, including very large fish! Forty-one BVCs have been established in Salima, each consisting of ten volunteers from the community who become the conservation champions in their area of the lake. These volunteers patrol their area to ensure that only proper fishing gear is being used, following locally agreed bylaws. In the nine breeding areas that have been identified, fishing is strictly prohibited. Another positive outcome has been that, whereas in the past there has been mistrust and suspicion between the District Fisheries officials and the fishing communities, those officials now feel community support for their efforts. The communities in turn are managing their own fish stocks to secure future livelihoods.

*Timeframe:* Began 2019

*Cumulative spending to date:* \$34,123

*Size of area:* 22,000 hectares

*Field partner:* Ripple Africa



**Top:** Waterfront in Mangochi District

**Left:** Fishing nets are put together using over 200 mosquito nets, leading to ecological disaster.

**Photos:** Ripple Africa

## Cambodia: Marine conservation

### Conservation need

Kep Bay, known for its wealth of marine biodiversity including coral reefs, seagrass beds and the iconic seahorse, is under threat from illegal electric fishing and large, destructive bottom-trawlers (most from neighbouring Vietnam). These practices are destroying the marine ecosystem and threaten the livelihoods of local fishing communities.

### What we're doing

Our partner, Marine Conservation Cambodia (MCC), succeeded in 2017 in having 11,354 hectares of Kep Bay declared a marine protected area (Marine Fisheries Management Area or MFMA), but illegal incursions by bottom trawlers continue, drawn in part by the fact that the fish stocks have rebounded thanks to MCC's work. MCC deploys anti-trawling devices around the perimeter and in other strategic locations to interfere with illegal trawling by destroying their nets. This measure is resulting in a dramatic recovery of seagrass, reef, and aquatic fauna.

### 2019 Highlights

While the ending of MCC's nightly patrols by the provincial government in 2018 seemed a setback, 2019 further demonstrated the success of "fencing in" the MFMA area with MCC's innovative anti-trawling devices. To date over 164 of the inexpensive concrete devices have been deployed. Illegal fishing has been markedly reduced in much of the MFMA and deployment in the under-protected portion is proceeding apace in 2020. MCC hosts independent researchers who work collaboratively to study illegal fishing and the components of marine ecosystems and how they are impacted and recover. Kep Bay has been found to be important to the Critically Endangered Irrawaddy dolphin and this has boosted support for the MFMA.

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*Timeframe:* Began 2016

*Cumulative spending to date:* \$344,536

*Size of area:* 11,354 hectares

*Field partner:* Marine Conservation Cambodia (MCC)

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**MCC founder Paul Ferber with a 'conservation and anti-trawling structure'. The device deters illegal trawlers and serves as a substrate for marine life – like an artificial reef. MCC has refined the design, which now uses rope to join concrete slabs into devices of varying heights. Photo: ICFC**

## Smaller Projects

... costing a few thousand to under 20,000 dollars annually, can accomplish a lot!



### Argentina: Reserva Rincón de Santa María

This 2,500-hectare reserve in the Mesopotamian Savanna ecoregion is important for native and migratory birds, including species breeding in Canada such as common nighthawk and upland sandpiper. In 2019, 3,000 seedlings were produced in the nursery, and 200 were given to local communities for planting. Control of invasive pines was done on 1,225 hectares of grassland.

*Timeframe:* Began 2015    *Cumulative funding:* \$63,922

*Field partner:* Nestor Fariña leads a team of naturalists and volunteers



### Argentina: Selva de Pino Paraná

Thanks to the Schad Foundation, which funded the project this year. Over 90% of South America's Atlantic Forest has been cleared or degraded. In San Pedro province, Argentina, this project engages farmers and local youth to restore bird habitat and protect tree species needed by specialist cavity-nesting birds. In 2019, 26 visits were made to 24 rural schools and a variety of interactive activities focused on the needs of and benefits from wild nature.

*Timeframe:* Began 2013    *Cumulative funding:* \$51,351

*Field partner:* Proyecto Selva de Pino Paraná



### Costa Rica: ACG Marine conservation education

This field-based after school program in a fishing village bordering Area de Conservación Guanacaste influences the entire community. In 2019, 30 trips out on the sea helped children learn natural history and observe species in the wild, including a humpback whale and calf.

*Timeframe:* Began 2012    *Cumulative funding:* \$115,166

*Field partner:* Guanacaste Dry Forest Conservation Fund



### Nicaragua: Conservation of sea turtles

In 2019, a turtle hatchery operated by the remote community of El Rosario protected over 7,500 sea turtle eggs (mostly olive ridley); 6,962 turtle hatchlings safely hatched (a 90% hatching rate) and returned to the sea. Beach clean-up campaigns launched the turtle nesting season and engaged community members. Local children and residents participated in workshops and activities to discourage littering and illegal harvesting of wildlife.

*Timeframe:* Began in 2016    *Cumulative funding:* \$46,758

*Field partner:* Mario Hipólito López Calderón; Ana Cristina López Lara



Photos: Saffron toucanet by Carlos Ferreyra; other photos courtesy of the field partner for each project.

## Featured field partners

**Rajeev Goyal and Priyanka Bista** forged a highly innovative conservation effort in Nepal after coming to realize the potential of local villagers to become leaders in conservation. Partners in life and work, the pair lead the KTK-BELT initiative that they refer to as a “Vertical University” (see pages 8-9). As a Peace Corps volunteer in rural Nepal, Rajeev, who trained as a lawyer, was dismayed at the haphazard and ecologically destructive development he witnessed. This prompted a career shift and graduate studies focusing on the role of public schools in protecting natural ecosystems in Nepal. In 2008, Rajeev was looking for a volunteer to design a green school in rural Nepal. Priyanka, who was an architect, took that on. She later studied



**“Rajeev, Priyanka and the KTK Belt team in Nepal are providing the type of leadership, action, creativity and unending commitment needed in order to save our home planet.”** – Ryan Gellert,

Patagonia General Manager for Europe, Middle East and Africa

the impacts of roads in rural Nepal for her Master’s. Then while working in Nigeria, she came to realize the agency of young marginalized individuals.

Priyanka and Rajeev don’t seem at all phased by the enormous scale of their KTK vision. KTK-BELT’s six “campuses” and associated reserves range from low elevation to the Himalayas and have enabled rural communities, elders, teachers, students, and youth to participate in safeguarding threatened landscapes and indigenous knowledge.



**Efraín Cepeda Duran** — From the moment you meet him, Efraín Cepeda’s passion for the natural world and its conservation becomes apparent. Formerly an agronomist, his career in conservation began in 2007 as a reforestation assistant at Fundación Jocotoco’s Yanacocha Reserve, a place he describes as “truly spectacular”.

Jocotoco Executive Director Martin Schaefer comments on Efraín’s “tremendous personal growth and leadership,” adding “Perhaps most telling is that he now advises us on how to solve legal issues around some of the reserves he manages.” This is because, as Director of Northern Reserves, Efraín is now directly involved in one of Jocotoco’s most ambitious conservation initiatives yet, the expansion of its Río Canandé Reserve (see page 7). Efraín and his family live in Quito, so his job requires much time away from home – a considerable sacrifice. But he says “This is the largest conservation project in the Ecuadorian Chocó region and I am proud to be part of it. Now I feel that with my work I can leave a positive footprint for

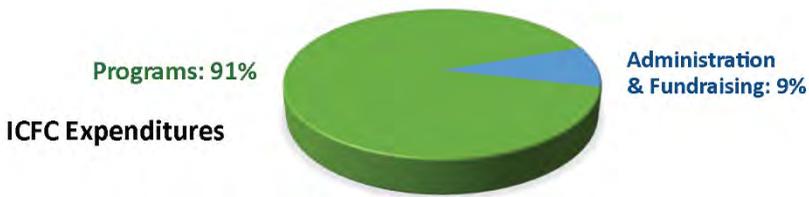
**“It has been inspiring to watch Efraín become one of the most effective leaders of our conservation programs in Ecuador.”**

- David Agro, Chairman, Fundación Jocotoco

conservation and that motivates me to continue.” ICFP donor Wendy Reimer recently visited Ecuador to see first-hand the results of her support and fundraising efforts for the Chocó project. She credits Efraín with securing her continuing support and told us: “Efraín greeted us with a huge smile and palpable enthusiasm, despite the long drive from Quito to Canandé. He shared a wealth of information regarding land acquisition and conservation efforts in this region.” Bravo Efraín, keep up the good work!

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2019**

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current Assets		
Cash	980,620	396,828
Investments (securities)	21,352	1,172
Project advances	592,338	222,100
Prepaid expenses	0	10,927
Accounts receivable	110,920	5,505
Loans receivable	0	0
	1,705,230	636,532
Capital Assets		
Interest in land <sup>i</sup>	93,152	93,152
Office equipment, net	5,523	7,423
	98,675	100,575
Restricted Assets		
Los Amigos Cons. Conc. Trust Fund	1,675,498	1,519,009
Parataxonomist Trust Fund	2,513,945	2,222,841
Land Acquisition Fund	0	65,885
Administration Trust Fund	593,786	540,148
	4,783,229	4,347,883
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>6,587,134</b>	<b>5,084,990</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; FUND BALANCES</b>		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	318,511	58,697
	318,511	58,697
Fund balances		
Unrestricted	1,930,324	512,277
Internally restricted	328,860	166,133
Restricted	4,009,439	4,347,883
	6,268,623	5,026,293
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; FUND BALANCES</b>	<b>6,587,134</b>	<b>5,084,990</b>



## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

	2019	2018
REVENUE		
Donations	6,222,199	4,289,287
Gain/(Loss) on investment and foreign currency	515,213	68,911
NET REVENUE	6,737,412	4,358,198
EXPENSES		
Argentina: Hooded grebe	70,355	68,259
Argentina: Rio Gallegos	25,492	50,487
Argentina: San Antonio, Red Knot	55,475	56,144
Bahamas: Piping plover	93,624	78,621
Bangladesh, Myanmar, China, Taiwan: Spoon-billed sandpiper	72,479	69,431
Belize: Land acquisition for conservation corridor	0	33,061
Bolivia: Blue-throated macaw (Barba Azul reserve)	85,538	64,633
Bolivia: Blue-throated macaw (Laney Rickman reserve)	0	37,057
Brazil: Kayapó	1,592,792	919,699
Cambodia: Marine conservation	106,790	86,619
Chile: Maullin coastal wetlands	87,988	36,050
Costa Rica: ACG marine education	18,216	20,048
Costa Rica: ACG Parataxonomists	89,907	44,555
Costa Rica: Corcovado Foundation	227,223	52,218
Costa Rica: Osa SAFER	116,512	136,245
Ecuador: Rio Canandé/Chocó reserve land purchase	528,288	145,324
French Polynesia: Imperilled birds	57,253	0
Guatemala: Land acquisition for Laguna Grande Reserve	0	75,031
Indonesia: Sulawesi threatened wildlife	249,556	212,311
Kenya: Kijabe Forest	77,552	75,111
Kenya: Laikipia Conservancy	139,286	89,362
Malawi: Lake Malawi	34,123	0
Mali Elephant Project	273,824	315,420
Mozambique: Sky Islands	10,599	8,009
Nepal: KTK BELT (Koshi Tappu; Kanchenjunga)	133,684	180,674
Nepal: Red panda	32,953	14,331
Panama: Land acquisition for Cerro Chucanti	0	154,901
Peru: Andean Amazon, MAAP	189,160	173,867
Peru: Los Amigos Conservation Concession	77,460	80,353
Shorebird Program Coordinator	53,251	53,688
Small projects (Argentina, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Nicaragua, WHSG)	64,549	33,732
South Africa: Rhino conservation	253,325	0
Various Rainforest Trust-led common projects	221,015	98,276
TOTAL Program Expenses	5,038,269	3,463,517
Fundraising <sup>ii</sup>	121,252	10,621
Administration <sup>ii</sup>	335,561	343,892
TOTAL EXPENSES	5,495,082	3,818,030
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,242,330</b>	<b>540,168</b>

<sup>i</sup> Conservation easements in Guatemala and mortgages in Ecuador & Bolivia with conservation covenants.

<sup>ii</sup> 100% of Administration/Fundraising expenses were covered by ICFC's core group of long-term donors.

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*And big thanks to the hundreds of donors who supported us at a lower level.*

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**Artists generously allowing us to feature their  
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