

2020 Annual Report



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Photo: Black-banded owl by Nino Grangetto
Front cover: Michael DiGiorgio



Rather than resort to a Zoom photo, this photo with ICFC staff (minus Barb Zimmerman and Jackie Leppard), Board members and friends is from happier in-person times at our 2017 AGM.



Left to right: Scott Hecker, David Agro, Tom Welch, Rob Stoner, Laurie Havinga, Roy Smith, Molly Bartlett, Carlos R. Garcia, Anne Lambert, John McWilliams, Carmen Lishman, Sarah Jackson

ICFC conserves nature in the tropics where biodiversity abounds and is most under threat. With our small team and dedicated field partners we are achieving lasting conservation gains and large co-benefits for climate and local communities.

And one thing more: ICFC's administrative costs are covered long term by a core group of donors. We are here to stay.

Projects covering 15 million hectares | 34 countries | \$31 million invested since 2007

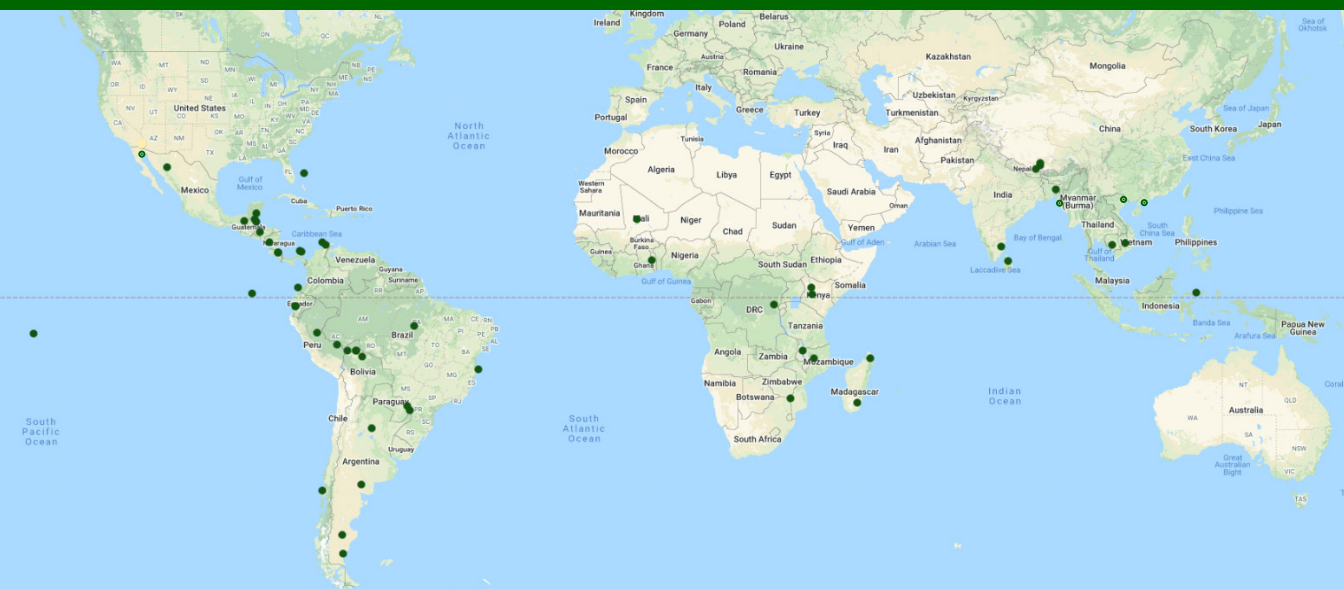




Photo: Gallman Memorial Foundation

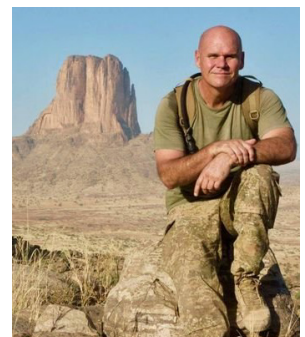
From the Executive Director

This is my second attempt to write something for this report. My previous one had already been finalized and passed muster with a couple of my most honest critics, and our annual report was almost finished, when today we received the shocking news that one of our most respected field partners and two others had been killed in an ambush in Burkina Faso.

As I considered where in these pages we could pay tribute to him, it occurred to me that what I had written was so far from the challenges and dangers that our field partners face that it was off the mark. We added a “featured field partners” section four years ago, and this year we salute the Kayapo people—I hope you’ll read about the brave work they are doing to defend their lands in the Brazilian Amazon—but today that doesn’t seem enough.

Without our field partners doing the actual work on the ground, ICFC would not exist. They are taking risks every day to protect nature in some corner of the planet. In 2020, 331 land and environmental defenders were killed by bad actors (sometimes even governments) who feel threatened when their ability to trash the planet with impunity is challenged. And this was an uptick from those killed in 2019, which was already a 30% increase from the year before. As we come out of our quiet, introverted year of pandemic lockdown, let’s remember, applaud, and stand up for those who have been fighting on our behalf on the dangerous front lines. We dedicate this report, and in fact everything we do at ICFC, to our field partners, as we remember with sadness our colleague Rory Young. – Molly Bartlett

Born in Zambia, Rory Young dedicated his life to wildlife protection and co-founded Chengeta Wildlife, which trained Mali’s Anti-poaching Unit. Chengeta’s enlightened approach, which engages and broadly helps local communities, is highly effective. Mali’s unit was called “l’armée gentille” by local Malians. Rory was leading a wildlife protection patrol in Burkina Faso on 26th April 2021 when an attack by terrorists resulted in his death and that of two Spanish journalists.



This Year's Featured Field Partners

We have talked about the determination of the Kayapo to protect their lands in every annual report since ICFC began in 2007. There are no better allies in conserving the Amazon and its rich biodiversity. This year we salute the Kayapo, with a special shout-out to those who man the guard posts and actively protect Kayapo territories in other ways.

Much like the Sioux of the American plains, the Kayapo were a warrior nation and men were trained from boyhood to be tough, fearless warriors. This stood them in good stead decades ago as they made life so difficult for the Brazilian government that it ceded to the Kayapo a protected indigenous territory unparalleled in size anywhere.

Overt warrior tradition has receded into the past. The Kayapo no longer raid other Kayapo and settler communities, and boys no longer train as warriors with the men in the “men’s house”, a central village meeting place that is still vital in all Kayapo communities. But their courage and their traditions remain.

Guard post duty involves patrolling long sections of rivers and border, dismantling loggers’ bridges,

escorting illegal fishermen out of Kayapo territory and removing goldminers. The work can be dangerous. Last year 17 Kayapo from Bau village travelled almost three days by boat and on foot to an interior forest location where goldminers had cleared a clandestine airstrip. The Kayapo expedition surprised 40 armed goldminers, rounded them up, had their backers in town remove them by small plane and confiscated their equipment.

If you visited a Kayapo village today you would find a people who are proud of their traditional skills— hunting, fishing, collecting wild food, gardening, navigating through forest, making everything from tools to dwellings, and enacting their great communal ceremonies. You would find independent joyful children, warm family relations and communities that function based on consensus. You’d also find a people with an amazing design sense, as reflected in their crafts, their body painting and beaded jewelry (worn by all). They are a people who know enough about outside society to know that while they have come to depend on some manufactured goods that they must buy, their desire is to remain Kayapo on the land that sustains them. And they will fight to preserve it.



Photo: Simone Giovine

A full-page photograph of a dense tropical forest. A bright, multi-colored rainbow arches across the upper half of the image, set against a backdrop of dark, misty mountains and a sky filled with heavy, grey clouds. The foreground and middle ground are filled with lush green trees and foliage, with some areas appearing slightly hazy due to the mist.

Land Conservation

Much of our land conservation work focuses on large landscape-scale areas, and we have helped protect over 15 million hectares. But size is not everything. The areas we protect are threatened and have high conservation value. And securing small areas of a few square kilometers can be very important in protecting species (notably amphibians) with small geographic ranges.



Photo: Cristina Mittermeier

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 –the world’s largest tropical forest under some form of protection—would be gone. The 9,000+ strong Kayapó have fiercely protected their land for generations but face increased pressure.

What we're doing

This project has 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 helped the Kayapó to develop culturally compatible economic activities that reduce the pressure to accept cash for unsustainable activities.

2020 Highlights

Two new badly needed guard posts were established, for a total of ten in operation during the year. A stop was put to predatory fishing on three rivers. Two bridges built by illegal loggers were destroyed and a goldmining site shut down. Expedition teams cleared a strip of dryland border in the north so that ranchers know exactly where Kayapo territory begins. The Kayapó won a judicial ruling that their lawsuit against the federal government for withholding compensation for the impact of the BR 163 highway is valid and may proceed. Sustainable Brazil nut and cumaru enterprises and ecotourism were badly impacted by the pandemic, so the equitably distributed income from the guard posts was especially important for Kayapó communities during the year.

Timeframe: Ongoing since 2007

Cumulative spending to date: \$9,151,647

Size of area: 110,000 km² – bigger than 91 countries

Field partners: Associação Floresta Protegida, Instituto Kabu, and Instituto Raoni

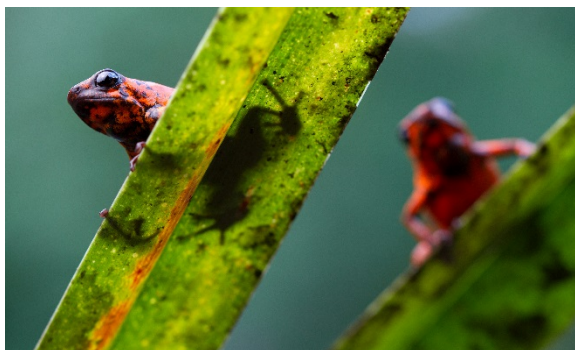


Photo: James Muchmore

Ecuador: Chocó reserve expansion

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. In a recent two-year study, researchers from Kew Botanical Gardens found that of 475 trees found in a 10-hectare plot, 320 were different species – meaning that almost every individual tree is a different species! Canandé Reserve protects at least 14 globally threatened bird species, 29 globally threatened amphibians, over 100 species of mammals and the most important populations of at least three Critically Endangered mammal species. The region faces ongoing conversion to oil palm and other deforestation.



What we're doing

Expansion of Canandé Reserve is part of an ambitious plan to secure a significant portion of the remaining Ecuadorian Chocó forest. Key to this is taking advantage of a rare opportunity to acquire over 20,000 hectares that will connect Canandé Reserve with the El Pambilar Wildlife Reserve and Cotacachi-Cayapas National Park. This multi-year effort will protect an entire range of ecosystems from Chocó lowland rainforests to Andean páramo and high elevation grasslands.

2020 Highlights

In 2020, progress was made in negotiating the large land acquisition referred to above. Meanwhile, 691 hectares were added to the reserve. The completed acquisitions are highly important in building connectivity between protected areas and securing contiguous habitat for species with large home ranges, such as jaguars, harpy eagles and white-lipped peccaries.

Timeframe: Began 2017

Cumulative spending to date: \$791,907

Size of area: 7,637.4 hectares

Little devil poison frog (*Oophaga sylvatica*) at Canande reserve. Photo: Tropical Herping

Costa Rica: Preventing ecosystem collapse 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. Apex predator and prey populations and habitat connectivity need to be restored across the Peninsula to achieve ecological viability.

What we're doing

Osa Conservation (OC) aims to build ecosystem resilience across the Osa Peninsula and beyond by mobilizing citizen scientists, community members, ecotourism operators, park administrators and NGOs.



Above: *Lachesis melanocephala*, Osa Peninsula. Photo: Andrew Whitworth

Right: Young adult pumas detected high up on the ridge line of Piedras Blancas National Park. Photo: Osa Conservation



2020 Highlights

OC launched its Ridge to Reef Program, expanding its camera trap network across the newly designated AmistOsa Biological Corridor. The plan is to monitor biodiversity and work with local communities to conserve and restore the biological corridor connecting the highland forests of the Talamanca Mountains to the lowland forests on the Osa Peninsula. Phase 1 involved deploying 234 camera traps, 41 acoustic devices and 41 temperature loggers (iButtons) along a 190 km transect (ranging in elevation from sea level to 2,900 m). The Osa Restoration & Rewilding Community Network planted over 18,000 trees, bringing its total to 350,000 trees planted in the past seven years. More than 50 people (Ministry of Environment staff, park rangers and volunteer community rangers) participated in workshops on the use of technologies to control illegal hunting. Although schools were closed with the pandemic, students and community members took part in outdoor small group activities and over 20,000 students were reached through virtual education events. OC's rapid-response rangers (COVIRENAS) covered 2,020 km in patrols and received drone pilot training. In sum, a solid year of progress despite the pandemic.

Timeframe: Began in 2017

Cumulative disbursements to date: \$354,567

Size of area: 1,093 km²

Field partners: Osa Conservation

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Kenya: Conservation of elephants and other wildlife in Laikipia

Conservation need

Kenya's largest private reserve, Mukutan Conservancy (aka Laikipia 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. For this to work, the border needs to be fenced.

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 enable the safe passage of wildlife to and from the Conservancy.

2020 Highlights

With increased security the elephant numbers are going up, there are now three identified lion prides, wild dogs are passing through, there are numerous leopard sightings and even a male cheetah has been spotted. However, because of Covid 19, there was a sharp increase in snaring along the Eastern boundary. This was brought under control by the ranger team with the help of Kenya Wildlife Service. The project initiated the first phase of the SMART radio tracking system to track vehicle and ranger movements in real time anywhere on the conservancy within cellular network.

Unfortunately, there was a major delay to the construction of the northern fence and this resulted in the first dead elephant in three years, highlighting the need to complete this fencing. The planned corridor to the neighbouring conservancy has been surveyed and delineated but needs this fencing in place in order to be effective. This wildlife corridor is a key part of the strategy to ensure connectivity to the greater Laikipia ecosystem and will need to be prioritized over the next two years.

Timeframe: Began 2017

Cumulative spending to date: \$481,730

Size of area: 36,500 hectares

Field partner: Gallmann Memorial Foundation





Photo: Legado

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 towering 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 means of survival—slash-and-burn agriculture and timber harvesting—undermine their long-term economic security and compromise these biodiversity hotspots. Protecting sky islands is one of the best ways to secure the Mozambique’s water supplies in the face of climate change. Mount Namuli, the second-highest mountain in Mozambique (2,419 m), 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.

2020 Highlights

In the surrounding Namuli communities, Legado augmented a sustainable honey program, supported community natural resource governance and worked to title community lands for 50% of the nearby communities that will contribute to a Community Conservation Area in the future.

Timeframe: Began 2018

Cumulative spending to date: \$57,037

Size of area: 9,000 hectares

Field partner: Legado

Peru: From deforestation alerts to action in the Andean Amazon

Conservation need

The Andean Amazon is one of the world's last few high-biodiversity wilderness areas—a place of astounding species richness and diverse Indigenous peoples. 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's partner Amazon Conservation continues to be a global leader in deforestation monitoring in megadiverse tropical forests with its initiative called Monitoring of the Andean Amazon Project (MAAP). MAAP produces and publishes timely, high-impact technical reports in an easily accessible format and promotes related policy action on the ground. MAAP reports have led to a more effective and rapid response to deforestation by Peru's government. The project's monitoring focus has now expanded beyond Peru to include Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia and western Brazil.

2020 Highlights

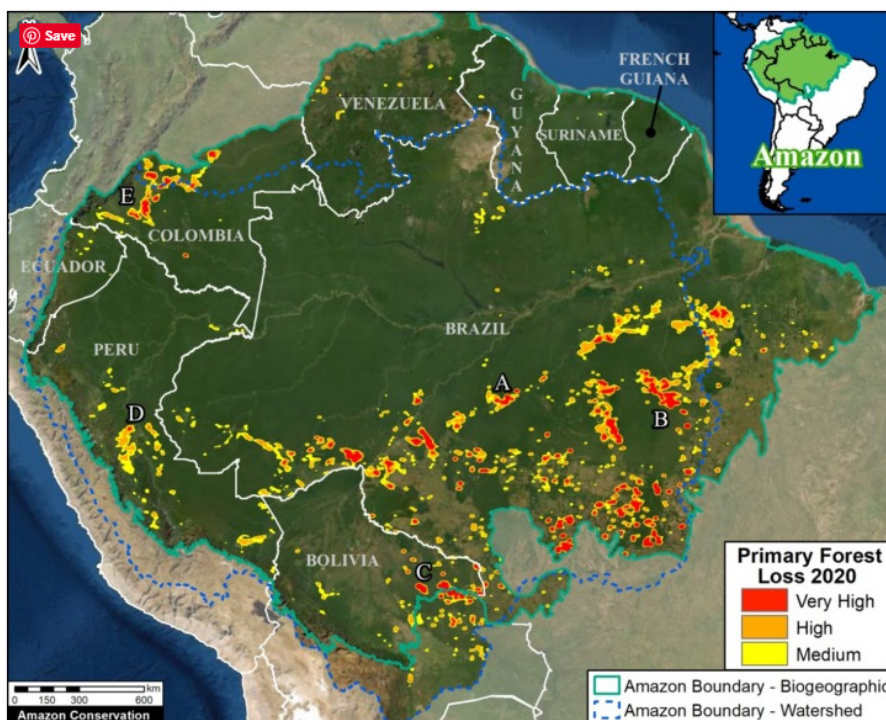
MAAP published eight alerts that detailed illegal activities including logging within and around the Los Amigos Conservation Concession, threats to protected areas in the Colombian Amazon, and gold mining in Indigenous territories in the Brazilian Amazon. MAAP published nine *Amazon Fire Tracker 2020* reports in a major effort to monitor and analyze the ongoing fire season. Building on findings from 2019, MAAP showed that it is now possible to predict where fires will occur in the Amazon region based on recent deforestation events. At the national policy level, the project continued to advance the National System of Forest Monitoring and Control—the first comprehensive Amazonian system designed to link technology with policy and legal action in Peru. This yielded better inter-agency coordination in confronting illegal activities and a 78% reduction in illegal gold mining and deforestation in the southern Peruvian Amazon.

Timeframe: Began 2013

Cumulative spending to date: \$946,646

Field partner: Amazon Conservation with Conservación Amazónica - ACCA

Forest loss hotspots in the Amazon in 2020. The extent of fires exceeded that of 2019, though receiving less public notice. Kayapo lands are the green area beside the letter "B". Source: MAAP #136





We are developing the capacity to detect "invisible" sites of illegal selective logging.
Photo: Conservación Amazónica-ACCA

Peru: Los Amigos

Conservation need

The 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.

2020 Highlights

Illegal logging of the valuable tree species known locally as *tornillo* (*Cedrelinga cateniformis*) was first detected in late 2019. Since then, our focus has been on enhancing surveillance, but a months-long quarantine last year meant we had to limit surveillance activities. To complement ground patrols, regular drone and high-resolution satellite monitoring was carried out in 2020 to detect illegal activities within LACC. This optimized the use of our *Promotores* during what was a challenging year, as monitoring alerts informed the deployment of patrols to verify the occurrence of illegal activities on the ground. The drone and satellite images obtained to date have been added as evidence in support of criminal complaints and investigations by the Specialized Prosecutor's Office in Environmental Matters in the Madre de Dios region. Special patrols and interventions by the local police will continue for LACC's problem areas, as we continue to safeguard this very special place.

Timeframe: Ongoing since 2011

Cumulative disbursements to date: \$654,450

Trust fund value: \$1,643,630

Size of area: 146,000 hectares (1,460 km²)

Field partners: Amazon Conservation and Conservación Amazónica - ACCA

Costa Rica: Area de Conservación Guanacaste

Conservation need

Area de Conservación Guanacaste (ACG) is considered a world model for restoration and management of a large protected area. Nature is under assault in the surrounding areas due to burning, ranching, logging, hunting, fishing, development and conversion to agriculture, and thus a human presence is needed at ACG to deter incursions.

What we're doing

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.

ICFC also supports a field-based after-school program in a fishing village (Cuajiniquil) bordering ACG, and this has helped the entire community understand the value of the marine protected area for marine ecosystems and fisheries.

2020 Highlights

The salary support for parataxonomists was never more appreciated than during the pandemic. After the park closed to visitors in March, GDFCF was able to ensure that our parataxonomists could continue to work in the forest, research stations and at the Santa Rosa laboratory. Despite the lockdown and restrictions on movement, the parataxonomists were able to capture and breed more caterpillars in 2020 than in 2019. Happily, in February a visit to ACG by Colombian and Ecuadorian scientists and government officials interested in parataxonomy was able to proceed.

With the marine education program, Covid restrictions prevented project coordinator María Marta Chavarría from taking children out on marine field trips. Instead, María used technology (mobile devices and WhatsApp) to stay in touch with the children and adolescents of Cuajiniquil and to share underwater adventures stories, photos and other natural history information with them.

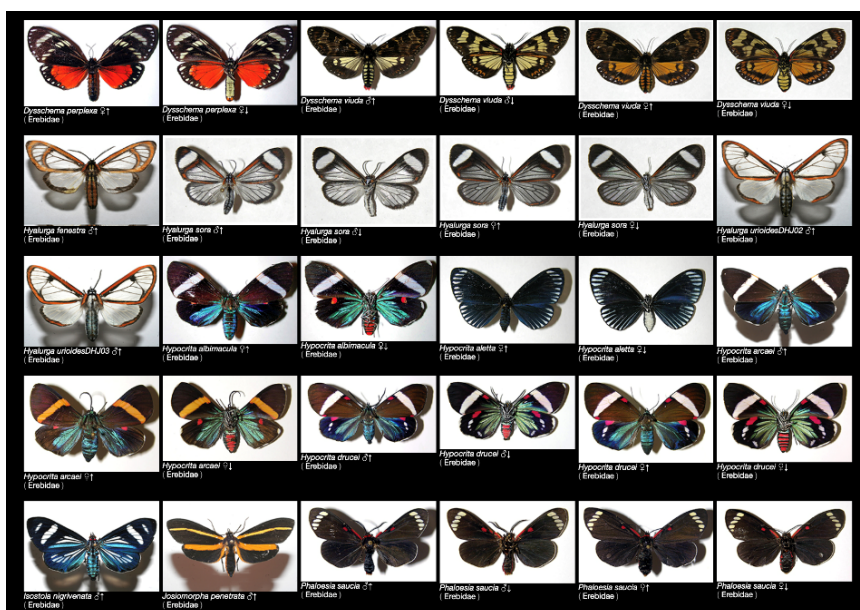
Timeframe: Ongoing since 2011

Cumulative spending: \$562,244 (excluding Trust Fund capitalization)

Trust Fund value year-end 2020: \$2,545,815

Size of area: 163,000 hectares

Field partner: Guanacaste Dry Forest Conservation Fund (GDFCF)



A sample of the specimens of moths (family Erebiidae) from the AGC biodiversity inventory. More than 300,000 adult Lepidoptera and their parasitoids have been DNA barcoded by the Biodiversity Institute of Ontario at the University of Guelph

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).

2020 Highlights

Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, the ranger teams continued to patrol daily and maintained a positive presence throughout the landscape. Increased sightings of key indicator species such as leopard, hyena and other smaller predators, as well as forest canopy species such as mantled guereza and black-and-white colobus monkey, shows the effectiveness of these patrols.

Camera-trapping resumed in July and recorded the first known photograph of an African wild cat in Kijabe. Other highlights included regular photos of large-spotted genets, which seem to have rebounded after significant pressure in the 1990s and 2000s.

Habitat restoration continued with the KFT team planting 51,000 seedlings. The presence of rangers in addition to the planting teams helps ensure that previous plantings are still being maintained.

Timeframe: Began 2017

Cumulative spending to date: \$254,011

Size of area: 5,000 hectares

Field partner: Kijabe Forest Trust

Harvey's red duiker, aka East African red duiker (*Cephalophus harveyi*), are now seen more frequently by ranger teams. These medium sized duikers are a favourite prey of leopards. Kijabe camera trap image



A close-up photograph of a Grauer's gorilla. The gorilla has dark, shaggy fur and a black face. It is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile, showing its teeth. It is holding a small piece of green leaf in its mouth. The gorilla is positioned next to a tree trunk covered in moss. The background is a blurred green forest.

Threatened Species

It is somewhat arbitrary what we call a threatened species project as all our terrestrial and marine/freshwater projects involve threatened species. But the following projects have one or more species as a key concern. Sometimes direct interventions are needed and sometimes it is a matter of protecting critical habitat.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Conserving community forests for Grauer's gorilla

Conservation need

Grauer's gorillas are found only in the Albertine Rift escarpment in Eastern DRC and have suffered a staggering 70% decline in numbers due to poaching and habitat fragmentation from logging and mining. The extreme poverty in the region and the communities' reliance on slash-and-burn agriculture are also drivers of great ape habitat degradation and fragmentation. This biodiverse area hosts many other threatened species including African forest elephants.

What we're doing

Recent surveys of the species showed an 18% increase in the high-altitude region near Kahuzi-Beiga National Park where ICFC's partner Strong Roots has been working. Their approach is to empower local communities and Indigenous peoples to manage and protect their traditional lands through the establishment of officially designated Forestry Concessions for Local Communities (CFCLs). These efforts will eventually establish a 3,000-km² biological corridor connecting Kahuzi-Beiga to the Réserve Naturelle d'Itombwe.

2020 Highlights

Despite the pandemic, in 2020 the groundwork for community forest concessions was laid: socio-economic baseline studies were carried out; a biological survey was launched; workshops were held to select a governance group and decide on community forest usage; and participatory land use mapping was carried out. Government officers along with community-elected members, community leaders and traditional rulers were trained in forest governance and management, and ways of sustaining established community forests for conservation.

Timeframe: Began 2020

Cost: \$307,245

Size of area: 112,300 hectares

Field partner: Strong Roots



Above: Dominique Bikaba, Founder and Executive Director of Strong Roots, in the field. Photo: Matt Brunette, Canadian Ape Alliance

Left: Grauer's gorilla—also known as eastern lowland gorilla—is the largest of the four gorilla subspecies. Photo: Mike Davison

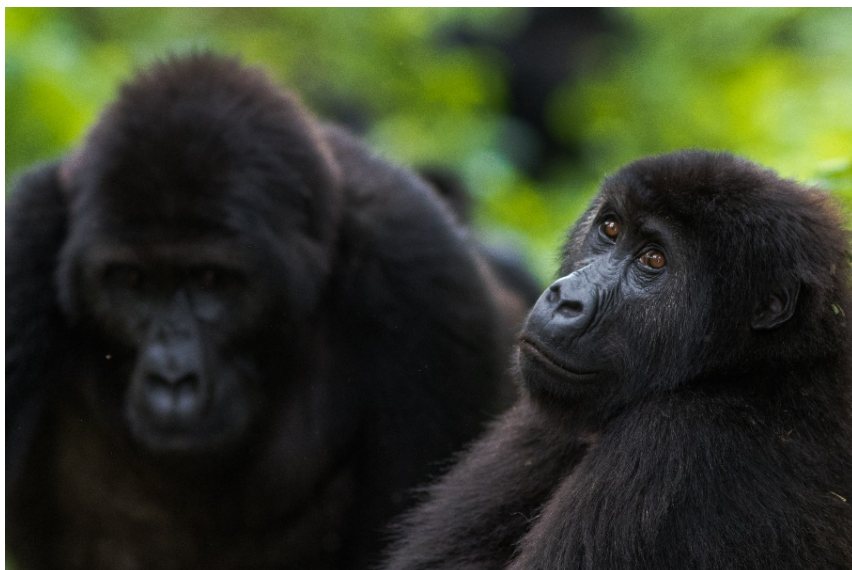




Photo: SRP

South Africa: Rhino conservation

Conservation need

South Africa has around 80% of the world's remaining rhinos, including 93% of white rhinos and 39% of black rhinos. Increasing black market prices for rhino horn has resulted in increased poaching, often involving criminal syndicates in recent years. This is a significant threat to the remaining rhinos and a challenge for those protecting South Africa's parks and reserves.

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 began working with select high-risk rhino reserves in South Africa to assist them in applying the best practices and technologies for rhino protection. They deploy advanced technology, including high-definition radar, to maximize the effectiveness of anti-poaching activities for both rhinos and elephants. Deployments are clandestine and are guided by intelligence operations to aid the successful apprehension of poaching syndicates.

2020 Highlights

COVID-19 restrictions on travel resulted in rhino poaching numbers being lower in 2020 than in 2019 (394 vs. 594). This still meant however that a rhino was poached every 22 hours in South Africa in 2020. Over 62% of poaching losses occurred in Kruger National Park (KNP). To address this, the SRP Surveillance (High-Definition Radar) Operational Unit was moved to KNP where it was deployed under the supervision of key staff from South African National Parks. SRP also travelled to eSwatini (formerly Swaziland), to oversee a tracking dogs and handler training course and the deployment of a new SRP rhino tracking dog for Big Game Parks, which manages three game reserves in the country. Overall, SRP's support to selected partner rhino reserves meant that despite loss of tourist revenue from the pandemic, critical security interventions were maintained and in some areas further enhanced.

Timeframe: Began in 2019

Cumulative disbursements to date: \$348,261

Size of area: 400,000 hectares (4,000 km²)

Field partners: Stop Rhino Poaching (SRP)

Thanks to the Elliott Family Foundation which funds this project.

Mali Elephant Project

A joint project of ICFC and WILD Foundation

Conservation need

In an insecure and dangerous region, this project is crucial for the survival of Mali's unique population of some 350 "desert elephants". The project also provides 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. Young people are elected by the community as ecoguards

Chengeta's anti-poaching approach combines investigative and tracking skills and the nurturing of relations with local communities. See ICFC's message (page 4) concerning the tragic death of Chengeta's founder, Rory Young, in April 2021.

Photo: Mali Elephant Project

to patrol, guard elephant habitat, create firebreaks, monitor elephants and deter poaching. The project also supports training of Mali's Anti-poaching Unit by Chengeta Wildlife.

2020 Highlights

The project brought on 595 new ecoguards; 920 youths were mobilized to create 1,337 km of firebreaks; and 209 ecoguards took part in field monitoring and community engagement. Ten new village assemblies were organized, and they proposed various initiatives. Of these, the project selected 34 initiatives that span 59,151 hectares. They include demarcation to protect forests and lakes frequented by elephants and other wildlife, the planting of useful but endangered plants, and habitat restoration.

Poaching was limited to two elephants in 2020, but a new problem of artisanal goldmining has emerged. Mali's new Gourma Biosphere Reserve approved by Cabinet in 2020 will be key in addressing this problem.

Timeframe: Began 2010

Cumulative spending to date: \$3,330,254

Size of area: 33,534 km² (size of Belgium)



Nepal: Koshi Tappu Wetland

Conservation need

Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve is Nepal's first and largest Ramsar wetland, covering 175 km². The wetland is home to the endangered Asian elephant, wild water buffalo, blue bull, river dolphin, gharial, Bengal florican, and swamp francolin among others. Threats to this unique wetland come from a growing human population, over-grazing 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 enable KTK-BELT to work with the buffer zone user committee to safeguard endangered species in the adjoining buffer area. We are regenerating areas overrun with invasive species and increasing educational outreach within nearby communities, while creating local employment. The project is also helping local Sardar community women develop livelihoods in nature tourism and sustainable use of aquatic and vegetation resources.

2020 Highlights

A key undertaking entails the purchase of 160 acres (43 parcels) in the immediate buffer area of the reserve. This land will fortify habitat and biological corridors for endangered wildlife such as the fishing cat, and serve as 'Learning Grounds' to engage nearby local communities to learn about the benefits of protecting endangered species and wetland habitats through sustainable grassland/wetland management and income producing eco-tourism.

The Bengal florican is Koshi Tappu's most endangered bird species, with fewer than 1,000 remaining in the world, and is protected by the Nepal Constitution. A survey done in 2020 found that they are likely breeding on land that was purchased and this gives hope that this species can benefit from planned conservation work in 2021 and beyond.

Timeframe: Began 2018

Cumulative spending to date: \$1,016,933

Size of protected area: 34,800 hectares

Field partner: KTK-BELT

The land acquisition described above was made possible through a very generous donation from Ravindra and Damyanti Goyal (parents of KTK-BELT co-founder Rajeev Goyal), matched by ICFC.



Harvesting water hyacinth. This unwelcome invasive plant has several commercial uses, including as high-quality compost and in making mats and other products.

Photo: KTK-BELT

Nepal: Protecting high altitude wetlands for snow leopards

Conservation need

The alpine lakes region between Kanchenjunga and Makalu, the third and fifth tallest peaks in the world, is one of Nepal's last roadless high altitude regions and provides habitat for blue sheep, which are the preferred prey of the snow leopard. This is an indispensable stopping ground for snow leopards and other wildlife traversing from Makalu-Barun National Park to the Kanchenjunga Conservation Area. Hydropower, road development and land grabbing threaten this pristine habitat and also the rich culture and livelihoods of yak herders in the region's mountain villages.

What we're doing

Since 2018, KTK-BELT and its partners have been harnessing the rich knowledge of local communities in respect to the area's threatened biodiversity and the potential for ecotourism income. The hope is for roadless tourism to be established, modeled on Bhutan's successful approach. This will involve locally guided treks with stays in modified yak herding huts, overseen and managed by village committees.

2020 Highlights

Despite the pandemic, major steps were taken to establish a unique 'high-value, low footprint' trekking route in Nepal. A major achievement of the local government was the passage of a rural municipality Act creating the Topkegola Biocultural Heritage and Ecotourism Special Conservation Zone. In the zone, road building activities, mining, or hydropower development are strictly prohibited. Without the Act, road corridors and hydropower would likely have cut through the snow leopard lakes region and led to the destruction of the high-altitude wetlands, peatlands, and other critical habitats harboring rare and endemic high Himalayan species. The peatlands are sacred to the Limbu and Dhokpya people, so it was important that the process was led by Indigenous community leaders (with the technical and financial support of KTK-BELT). The communities have also been advocating nationally for a RAMSAR declaration, which would designate the Tokpegola landscape a wetland of international importance.

Timeframe: Began 2018

Cumulative spending to date: \$213,175

Size of area: 84,000 hectares

Field partner: KTK-BELT

Blue sheep at 4200 m. Photo: KTK-BELT





Photo: Shivang Mehta

Nepal: Protecting red pandas

Conservation need

The red panda was classified as Endangered by the IUCN because its numbers are 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.

Increasing public awareness can be an effective part of a conservation strategy.
Photo: Red Panda Network

2020 Highlights

In five districts in western Nepal, the Red Panda Network continued to train forest guardians in anti-poaching measures and data collection. Red panda conservation measures, including anti-poaching patrols and fire prevention, are now in place for 16 community forests. Tree planting and improved cook stoves are taking the pressure off red panda habitat.

Timeframe: 2017-2021

Cumulative spending to date: \$148,734

Size of area: 261,600 hectares

Field partner: Red Panda Network (in Nepal)



Indonesia: Imperiled 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

On the Tompotika Peninsula, 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. More broadly, 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.

2020 Highlights

The 2019-2020 nesting season marked very high numbers of maleos at nesting grounds—close to the record-breaking high of the preceding year. A comprehensive Sulawesi-wide maleo nesting ground survey showed that the species is faring poorly outside of Tompotika Peninsula.



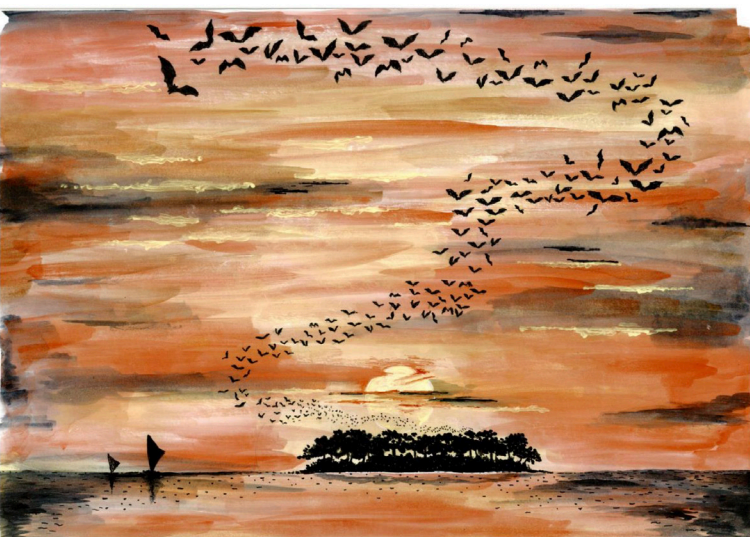
In February, AIto sponsored the fifth Tompotika International Maleo and Sea Turtle Festival, bringing conservation-themed art, drama, games and information to thousands in seven villages across Tompotika. AIto completed purchase of 13 hectares of critical nesting habitat for the maleo, bringing to six the number of natural areas protected in partnership with local communities. Responding to Covid-19 needs, AIto helped provide masks, handwashing stations, and food aid to villagers hard hit by the pandemic, while continuing to employ its full complement of field staff.

Timeframe: Ongoing since 2010

Cumulative spending to date: \$1,552,535

Size of area: 250,000 hectares (2,500 km²)

Field partner: Alliance for Tompotika (AIto)



Above: Theatre is part of a lively biannual festival that brings out the whole village.
Photo: AIto

Left: This artwork by Ritfan Djano adorned the cover of a children's book that AIto produced titled "The Bat, the Virus, and the Forest". It depicts fruit bats leaving their protected roosting island of Tangkuladi to feed at night on the mainland.

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.

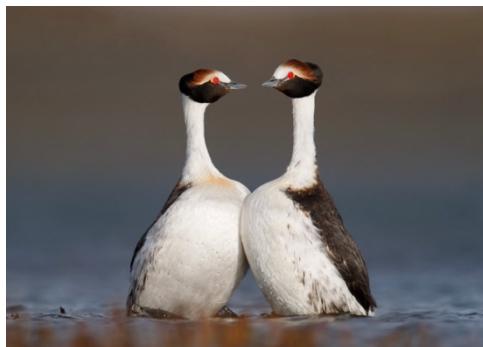
2020 Highlights

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, 778 adults were observed on 8 plateaus. In winter surveys (which preceded the breeding season), 959 birds were tallied. The reproductive failure of the past three 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: \$588,785

Field partner: Asociación Ambiente Sur



Above: Courting pair of hooded grebes. Photo: Daniel Petterssen

Below: Grebe pairs build floating nests of aquatic milfoil. Photo: Ugo Mellone





French Polynesia & Fiji: Imperilled endemic birds

Conservation need

Oceanic islands are often home to endemic species that are at high risk from invasive predators. There are 35 species of endangered birds just in French Polynesia. Action is needed to save several endemic birds on the Islands in the Marquesas archipelago (Mohotani) and surrounding Rapa Iti in French Polynesia, and Rotuma in Fiji.

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, the project is working to eliminate these invasive species before they become established. In French Polynesia invasive rats, feral cats, and goats are decimating the endemic flora and fauna. There, our partners are removing these predators island by island.



2020 Highlights

On Rotuma Island, Fiji, local people were trained in techniques to detect and remove common myna birds and monitoring was initiated to ensure cane toads have not established. In the Marquesas field trials were completed to safeguard the Marquesas monarch (a bird species) and Marquesas ground-dove from cats and rats and we are working with the French Polynesian government to eradicate feral cats and rats from the islands. The project removed all feral goats from two of Rapa's islets, began a reforestation program and completed preparations to pioneer eradicating rats using drones. These interventions will help protect the Critically Endangered Rapa shearwater, Endangered Polynesian Storm Petrel and restore the habitat of many more seabirds.

Timeframe: 2019-2022

Cumulative spending to date: \$65,890

Size of area: 6,800 hectares

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

Above: View of Eiao island from Hatutaa Island.

Left: Setting traps for rats. Photos: Fred JACQ

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. The Shorebird Initiative supports field partners who conduct work that truly protects shorebirds when and where they need us most.



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

Conservation need

The spoon-billed sandpiper is the most endangered migratory 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, who build temporary camps and remove mist nets to protect the birds from illegal hunting. We are also 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. Educating members of local communities is another facet of this cost-effective project.

Top right: Pak Thale Nature Conservation Club
Photo: Bird Conservation Society of Thailand

Above: 2017 incubator-hatched spoonie wintering on Sonadia, Bangladesh for the 3rd consecutive winter. **Photo:** Sayam Chowdhury

Right: Illustration by Ayuwat Jearwattanakanok



2020 Highlights

Despite Covid-19 related restrictions in 2020, the project was able to establish a local nature conservation club, a bird hide (blind) and visitor center in Thailand, and a workshop targeting site managers and birdwatchers in South China. The project carried out site patrols and outreach events to prevent hunting in Bangladesh and Myanmar. ICFC enabled the hiring of shorebird guards at six sites in four countries that supported approximately 60,000 waterbirds including spoonies, Nordmann’s greenshanks and great knots.

Timeframe: Began 2016

Cumulative spending to date: \$267,280

Field partners: Sayam Chowdhury, Spoon-billed Sandpiper Task Force ; Bangladesh Spoon-billed Sandpiper Conservation Project; Nature Conservation Society-Myanmar; Spoon-billed Sandpiper Task Force China, Bird Conservation Society of Thailand



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 immense estuarine system ranges from freshwater to brackish to marine and attracts an unusual diversity of bird life. Thousands of Hudsonian godwits and whimbrels are found there along with equally impressive numbers of other migratory shorebirds and nesting waterbirds. The wetlands are also famous for high numbers of Chilean flamingos. 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, Fundación Conservación Marina, laid the groundwork for the expansion of 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 a growing birding tourism industry.



2020 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. In 2020, much work continued on the birding trail tourism infrastructure: establishing new bird observation blinds, erecting educational signs, placing electric fencing to exclude cattle and other livestock from key bird habitats and conducting a training course for local leaders and decision makers on wetland management and conservation.

Timeframe: Began 2015

Cumulative spending to date: \$335,672

Size of area: 8,152 hectares

Field partner: Fundación Conservación Marina



Above:
Hudsonian
godwit.
Photo: Fabian
Pinasco

Left: Bird blind
at Las Lajas.
Photo: Claudio
Delgado

Argentina: Protecting red knots at Bahía de San Antonio

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. It is designated as a coastal marine protected area and a Western Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve Network site of international importance. The thousands of shorebirds that depend on it face increasing levels of human disturbance and development. The region is Argentina's favored destination for beachgoers, many of whom enjoy kiteboarding, 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. This includes managing large gatherings of kiteboarders 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 kiteboarding and other beach uses are legally permitted.



Our rangers are deputized by the province with the power to enforce regulations. Photo: Patricia González

2020 Highlights

During the peak March to May season no visitors were permitted at the beach due to Covid-19, but two rangers were allowed to monitor shorebirds and control feral dogs. Later, as people returned, additional wardens were added to protect nesting oystercatchers (July to December) and two-banded plovers and flamingos. We are working with the municipality to create internships that will provide a path to becoming a ranger. We can now say that the rangers are fully integrated into public awareness efforts and all aspects of beach management.

Timeframe: Began 2015

Cumulative spending to date: \$408,430

Size of area: 6,500 hectares

Field partner: Fundación Inalafquen (Patricia González)

Photo: Fabian Penasco



Bahamas: Protection and restoration of habitat for piping plovers and other 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.



2020 Pandemic related delays

Due to the pandemic, the May 2020 Bahamas Conservation Schooner Expedition was cancelled. Conservian and partners (Bahamas Agriculture & Marine Science Institute and the University of the Bahamas) had recruited 12 Bahamian students and two Bahamian field supervisors for the *Casuarina* (Australian pine) control student internship funded by the Bahamas Ministry of Public Works, but this also had to be cancelled. The work will resume at the earliest opportunity.

Timeframe: Began 2016

Cumulative spending to date: \$344,845

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

Field partner: Conservian Coastal Bird Conservation

Left: Least tern pair with chick.

Photo: Jim Gray

Below: Andros wetlands. **Photo:**

Margo Zdravkovic





Scenes from Mar Chiquita, Argentina (see page 37): Wilson's phalaropes (above), black skimmer and white-backed stilt (below). Photos: Nino Grangetto





Marine & Freshwater Conservation

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.

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 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 simple "conservation and anti-trawling devices" made of concrete blocks to interfere with illegal trawling by snagging fishing nets. Protection has unleashed a dramatic recovery of seagrass and aquatic fauna.

Top right: MCC executive director Rachana Thap has worked tirelessly to build relationships with government officials. Here she presents a gift to the Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture after he made a personal trip to the island with his family to see the work of MCC for himself.

Photo: MCC



2020 Highlights

With the pandemic, foreign volunteers and researchers were absent most of the year, but Cambodians (mostly university students) were hired and were able to carry on research activities under the remote direction of the foreign researchers, and MCC now has a well-trained Cambodian team. Deployment of anti-trawling structures slowed due to the pandemic, but more than 100 concrete blocks were made and stockpiled and with 198 structures already deployed, Illegal trawlers were for the most part kept away from the main recovering areas.

Timeframe: Began 2016

Cumulative spending to date: \$538,573

Size of area: 11,354 hectares

Field partner: Marine Conservation Cambodia (MCC)



Burning of illegal gear in the vicinity of the illegal trawlers' pier/village. The governor made a speech saying that they have to stop entering the MFMA and stressing the importance of MCC's conservation efforts. Photos: MCC

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. The lake's fish are a key source of protein for millions of vulnerable Malawians and yet are threatened by unsustainable fishing practices.

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 fish breeding areas, enforce a closed season and issue fishing permits to locals only. Illegal fishermen are fined, and the BVCs keep the money to help fund conservation activities. Unlike forests, fish stocks recover quickly when proper controls are put in place, and overall biodiversity is restored.

2020 Highlights

All of the Traditional Authorities in Salima are eager to welcome the project to their areas after observing its successes elsewhere. This has helped the project expand quickly. So far, 103 BVCs have been established and trained in Salima and are working well with coordinators, extension workers and Fisheries enforcement officers. Fishers in Salima have welcomed the BVCs and have promised to report migratory fishers and anyone using illegal gear. They have also agreed to protect baby fish by not fishing in the 40 breeding areas that were identified.

The Fisheries enforcement team patrols the fishing areas to make sure fishers are observing the closed season (November to February) and to confiscate illegal fishing gear.

Timeframe: Began 2019

Cumulative spending to date: \$94,027

Size of area: 22,000 hectares

Field partner: Ripple Africa



Ripple Africa's country director, Force Ngwira, stopped for lunch in Nkhotakota, Malawi. He describes what happened:

"Modester Edwards and her sister (fresh fish sellers) brought very big Chambo fish. The two sisters said the size of Chambo they were selling was last seen 20 years ago. They didn't know that I work for RIPPLE Africa, but they said the big fish you see is the result of the fish conservation project implemented by RIPPLE. This made me very happy."

Nicaragua: Sea turtle conservation

Conservation need

Worldwide, seven extant species of sea turtles are recognized, five of which occur in Nicaragua—the third most important region for sea turtle nesting, after Costa Rica and Mexico. Unfortunately, sea turtle populations continue to be affected by human-related threats there, especially the traditional practice of harvesting turtle eggs to eat.

What we're doing

ICFC supports two grass-roots initiatives that involve sea turtle hatcheries and building community support and awareness of the need for sea turtle conservation. One is in the remote community of El Rosario, on the Reserva Natural Nacional Volcán Cosigüina (Gulf of Fonseca). The other is at Playa Salinas Grandes—a beach adjacent to the community of Salinas Grandes, located 26 km from the city of León.

2020 Highlights

At El Rosario, the turtle hatchery protected around 12,000 sea turtle eggs, with 11,880 hatchlings released (a 99% hatching success rate). Local children and residents also participated in workshops and activities to discourage littering and illegal harvesting of wildlife.



At Playa Salinas Grandes, project leader Gabriela Paredes Castillo and her team accomplished a lot, despite the challenges posed by COVID-19. More than 300 local children participated in small outdoor group activities and seminars focusing on environmental education. With the help of local community members and volunteers, two beach cleanups were accomplished. From 10,620 sea turtle eggs relocated to the hatchery, 7,728 hatchlings were safely released into the ocean. The hatchery has since been moved to a location with more favourable physical characteristics.

El Rosario

Timeframe: Began 2016

Cumulative funding: \$65,028

Field partners: Mario Hipólito López Calderón & Ana Cristina López Lara led community members

Playa Salinas Grandes

Timeframe: Began 2020

Cost: \$18,121

Field partner: Gabriela Paredes Castillo and her team

Above: A child holds a turtle egg that will be buried in the hatchery for safe-keeping.

Left: A released turtle hatchling makes its way to the sea.

Photos: Gabriela Paredes Castillo

Brief Project Updates

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. COVID-19 posed many challenges for project leader Nestor Fariña and his team. Yet a lot was accomplished in 2020, including planting 1,510 seedlings and continuing with the production of native tree seedlings in the nursery. Control of invasive pines was done on 1,400 hectares of grassland, helping to maintain the native flooded grassland ecosystem in good condition.

Timeframe: Began in 2015 *Cumulative funding:* \$75,238

Field partner: Nestor Fariña leads a team of naturalists & volunteers

Argentina: Selva de Pino Paraná



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. COVID-19 prevented the project team from conducting their planned activities in schools and on farms in 2020. The silver lining was that the pandemic provided the impetus for the team to use social media for their outreach program. This allowed them to connect with a larger and more diverse audience and to effectively disseminate their conservation message to the wider community.

Timeframe: Began 2013 *Cumulative funding:* \$56,746

Field partner: Proyecto Selva de Pino Paraná

Ghana: Ecotourism as an incentive for preserving a critical refuge for the Togo slippery frog



Ghana's Togo-Volta Hills harbour remnant highland forests that are home to many species found nowhere else. A particular focus of ICFC's partner Herp Conservation Ghana is the Critically Endangered Togo slippery frog (*Conraua derooi*), which faces habitat loss and hunting. The project entailed the construction of a 200-metre canopy walkway in a scenic waterfall area near the town of Amedzofe (Volta Region) and developing community-driven ecotourism to increase tourism revenue in support of conservation efforts. The canopy walkway was completed, but the start of ecotourism was delayed several months due to COVID-19. Herp Conservation Ghana expects that a government permit to begin operations will be granted in June 2021.

Timeframe: Began 2020 *Cost:* \$30,648

Field partner: Herp Conservation Ghana



Argentina: Protecting shorebirds at Laguna Mar Chiquita

Laguna Mar Chiquita is the 5th largest saline lake in the world and hosts millions of shorebirds and other waterbirds. ICFC is assisting with a major opportunity to conserve 270,000 hectares of wetlands as part of the proposed Ansenzuza National Park by supporting completion of a land tenure survey of the area, which is the essential first step in the park designation process.

Timeframe: 2020 *Cost:* \$29,835

Field partner: Aves Argentinas



Bolivia: Blue-throated Macaw and the Beni Savanna

2020 highlights: Laney Rickman Reserve doubled in size and its 15-year-old nest box program produced 93 successfully fledged blue-throated macaw chicks. At Barba Azul reserve, camera trap data show increases in puma, marsh deer, red-brocket deer, pampas deer, collared peccary and ocelots. 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. The Critically Endangered blue-throated macaw is found only in the Beni Savanna of Bolivia where fewer than 450 remain.

Timeframe: Began in 2010 *Cumulative funding:* \$397,461

Field partner: Asociación Armonía



Costa Rica: Sea turtle conservation and community education in the Osa Peninsula

Due to COVID-19, Fundación Corcovado was unable to carry out its regular environmental education and awareness activities in 2020. Instead, the organization supported the elderly and vulnerable families in rural areas of the Bahía Drake (Osa Peninsula) region by donating 450 baskets containing essential food and personal hygiene items to 50 families during eight months of the year. Although international volunteers could not be there for the sea turtle conservation program, with the help of local community members they managed to relocate 94 nests to the sea turtle hatchery and safely release 3,800 sea turtle hatchlings in Playa Rincón (with a 95.1% hatching success rate).

Timeframe: Began 2017 *Cost:* \$578,307

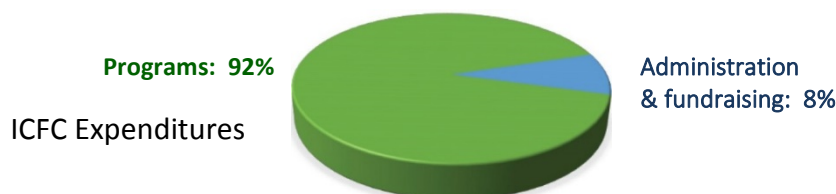
Field partner: Fundación Corcovado *Thanks to* Bill MacLachlan for funding this project.

Photos, page 36, top to bottom: Tree planting at Rincón de Santa María (photo: Nestor Fariña); working with field guides (photo: Kristina Cockle); Caleb O. Boateng, Director of Herp Conservation Ghana, on canopy walkway at a scenic waterfall (photo: Herp Conservation Ghana)

This page, top to bottom: Wilson's phalarope (photo: Daniel Petterssen); nest box at Laney Rickman Reserve (photo: Asociación Armonía); releasing turtle hatchlings (photo: Fundación Corcovado)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2020

	2020	2019
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash	948,997	980,620
Investments (securities)	174	21,352
Project advances	654,384	592,338
Accounts receivable	9,156	110,920
	<u>1,612,711</u>	<u>1,705,230</u>
Capital Assets		
Interest in land ⁱ	93,152	93,152
Office equipment, net	4,685	5,523
	<u>97,837</u>	<u>98,675</u>
Restricted Assets		
Los Amigos Cons. Conc. Trust Fund	1,643,630	1,675,498
Parataxonomist Trust Fund	2,545,815	2,513,945
Administration Trust Fund	657,192	593,786
Poon Trust Fund	519,689	0
	<u>5,366,326</u>	<u>4,783,229</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	7,076,874	6,587,134
LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCES		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	73,055	318,511
	<u>73,055</u>	<u>318,511</u>
Fund balances		
Unrestricted	1,289,942	1,156,534
Internally restricted	347,551	328,860
Restricted	5,366,326	4,783,229
	<u>7,003,819</u>	<u>6,268,623</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCES	7,076,874	6,587,134



ⁱ Conservation easements in Guatemala and mortgages in Ecuador & Bolivia with conservation covenants.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

	2020	2019
REVENUE		
Donations	6,321,999	6,222,199
Gain/(Loss) on investment and foreign currency	264,284	515,213
NET REVENUE	6,586,283	6,737,412
EXPENSES		
Argentina: Hooded grebe	80,614	70,355
Argentina: Mar Chiquita wetlands	29,835	0
Argentina: Rio Gallegos	0	25,492
Argentina: San Antonio, Red knot	49,983	55,475
Bahamas: Piping plover	42,234	93,624
Bangladesh, Myanmar, China, Taiwan: Spoon-billed sandpiper	83,747	72,479
Bolivia: Blue-throated macaw	40,118	85,538
Brazil: Kayapó	1,663,256	1,592,792
Cambodia: Marine conservation	194,037	106,790
Chile: Maullin coastal wetlands	65,828	87,988
Costa Rica: ACG marine education	10,410	18,216
Costa Rica: ACG Parataxonomists	87,810	89,907
Costa Rica: Osa, sea turtles and community education	121,268	227,223
Costa Rica: Osa Peninsula, preventing ecosystem collapse	185,819	116,512
Democratic Republic of Congo: Grauer's gorilla	307,245	0
Ecuador: Rio Canandé/Chocó reserve land purchase	11,599	528,288
French Polynesia: Imperilled birds	8,638	57,253
Ghana: Togo Slippery Frog	30,648	0
Indonesia: Sulawesi threatened wildlife	238,052	249,556
Kenya: Kijabe Forest	79,814	77,552
Kenya: Mukutan Conservancy, aka Laikipia Conservancy	183,969	139,286
Malawi: Lake Malawi fish conservation	59,904	34,123
Mali Elephant Project	312,037	273,824
Mozambique: Sky Islands	38,429	10,599
Nepal: Koshi Tappu land acquisition	795,445	0
Nepal: Koshi Tappu wetland	60,041	56,010
Nepal: Kanchenjunga, snow leopard	60,264	77,674
Nepal: Red panda	63,013	32,953
Peru: Andean Amazon, MAAP	181,021	189,160
Peru: Los Amigos Conservation Concession	90,854	77,460
Shorebird Program Coordinator	51,066	53,251
Small projects (Argentina, Chile, Ghana, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama)	66,737	64,549
South Africa: Rhino conservation	94,936	253,325
Various Rainforest Trust-led common projects	417	221,015
TOTAL Program Expenses	5,389,088	5,038,269
Fundraising ⁱⁱ	140,891	121,252
Administration ⁱⁱ	321,108	335,561
TOTAL EXPENSES	5,851,087	5,495,082
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	735,196	1,242,330

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

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