

Dear supporters and friends,

Our November postal newsletter is now a December one (thank you, Canada Post). Here are a few updates shared earlier in online newsletters (September and November).

### Remembering Michael de Pencier

Michael de Pencier, who died October 6th, looked out into the world and understood big challenges and opportunities and acted on them. These included the great cause of conservation and environmental protection, which he cared about deeply. In this realm, Michael was active for decades, all the while chalking up major successes as a magazine publisher and in green investing as a founder of InvestEco Capital.



Michael was a strong supporter of ICFC and we will miss him. He was a big fan of the Kayapo Project and Barbara Zimmerman and he was thrilled when Barb was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada recently.

**“Michael was a friend, advisor, cajoler—a warm and good-humoured one. And, along with Honor, a generous donor. Marvelling at his pithy emails made me a better writer”.**

– ICFC co-founder Anne Lambert

### PROJECT UPDATES

#### Endangered Irrawaddy dolphins and Dugongs recover in Cambodia with our help

The Kep marine protected area now has 2,000 hectares of seagrass regrowth, of which much is *Halophila ovalis* or dugong grass. The team reports an increasing population of endangered Irrawaddy Dolphins, along with the return of Dugongs to the area (pictured right).

Key to the success in protecting this site and others is the Conservation and Anti-Trawling Structure (CANTS) developed by our partner Marine Conservation Cambodia. CANTS sit on the ocean floor in shallow water areas subject to illegal bottom dragging. They consist of inexpensive cement blocks assembled underwater by divers into a hexagonal meter-high structure. Placed around and within marine protected areas, these immovable structures snag nets of trawlers and are a powerful deterrent.



#### Major milestone in Malawi sustainable fisheries management

Shoreline districts of Malawi made key advances in sustainable fisheries management and conservation with the signing of agreements between Malawi’s Director of Fisheries and community-based Sub-Fisheries Associations in May. In attendance were officers from the Fisheries Department, Traditional Authorities, chairpersons from Sub-Fisheries Associations, District Commissioners and selected members of the District Executive Committees.

ICFC has been supporting sustainable fisheries reform in Lake Malawi since 2019 through the Fish for Tomorrow program, an initiative run by our field partner Ripple Africa. The program spans 736 kilometers of the lakeshore (about half the distance from Florida to New York City) and has helped establish and train 474 Beach Village Committees across five districts. This is how communities are taking charge of fisheries management.

Fishing practices in Lake Malawi had been unsustainable, robbing future generations of access to an important protein source while depleting species richness in one of the world’s most biodiverse lakes.



**David Attenborough endorsement:** The renowned naturalist and broadcaster Sir David Attenborough has penned an endorsement of the Indonesian NGO YAPPENDA, recognizing the importance of its mission to conserve the rich and unique biodiversity of the Indonesian portion of the island of New Guinea. ICFC is very proud that we helped YAPPENDA get started in 2022. In 2023, the organization led an expedition to a remote region of the island of New Guinea and rediscovered a “lost” and little-known species, Attenborough’s long-beaked echidna.

### **Paul Wawryko Memorial 5k run raised over \$25,000 for ICFC**



ICFC is honoured to be one of two recipients of proceeds from the Paul Wawryko Memorial 5k run, which was held in Winnipeg Saturday, September 20th. Paul worked as a pathologist at the Health Sciences Centre and St. Boniface General Hospital in Winnipeg and was much admired and loved by friends and colleagues. He was a donor to ICFC, a cause said to be “very dear to Paul’s heart”.

Proceeds from the run will also fund a scholarship for the department of Pathology where he worked and won a prestigious teaching award as the educator of the year.

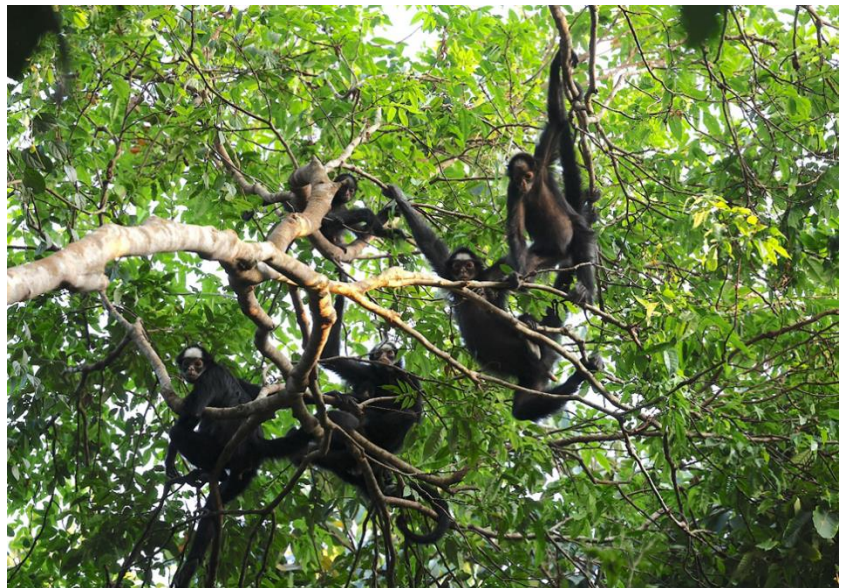
### **Important paper published by our Kayapo team**

The Kayapo Project team recently published an article in the Regional Environmental Change Journal, highlighting the remarkable success of the Kayapo Indigenous communities in protecting over nine million hectares of Amazon rainforest. Through GIS analysis and interviews, the study identifies strong governance and effective planning as essential to the ongoing success of the project.

**Right: Spider monkeys overlook a group of trekkers along the Xingu river in Kayapo territory.**

**"Last evening, our Kayapo friend and most experienced elder led us through the brush and forest to visit his favorite band of spider monkeys. It was a successful 40-minute journey. He called to the monkeys, they responded, and together, we— five humans and five monkeys—shared our respects."**

**- Scott Hecker, ICFC Director of Bird Conservation**



### **Grassroots conservation project is yielding results in Nicaragua**

ICFC’s project at Playa Salinas Grandes, Nicaragua, is more than sea turtle protection—it’s a movement to inspire young conservationists. Through a community-run hatchery and hands-on environmental programs, local children are learning to safeguard coastal habitat and protect four endangered sea turtle species. This year, staff noticed a remarkable shift: kids now dispose of waste properly, a small but powerful sign of growing environmental awareness.

**Your supported is needed and appreciated!  
Thank you from all of us!**

**Your ongoing support makes a difference!**

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