



November 2017 Newsletter

Dear supporters and friends,

Here's our year-end update along with our hearty thanks for making this possible.

New projects

ICFC has added **Kenya** to its roster of countries with two new projects!

The **Kijabe forest** on the eastern wall of the Rift Valley is just over an hour outside of Nairobi and is under pressure from the encroaching human population. Our new partner, the Kijabe Forest Trust, has been reducing impacts on this forest for the past several years by training and employing rangers to augment the work of the Kenya Forest Service, and teaching local communities how to earn money from non-timber forest products.

In August ICFC put out an urgent appeal to help the Gallmann Foundation rebuild infrastructure at the **Laikipia Nature Conservancy** (LNC) that was lost during unrest earlier this year. Thank you to all who contributed! We matched that support, enabling the Conservancy to rebuild and refit four ranger stations and replace a tractor that was burned. LNC is the largest private conservancy in Kenya and was established by the well-known author (*I Dreamed of Africa*) and conservationist Kuki Gallmann. It is an important haven for elephants, lions and other wildlife, and the longer-term goal is to connect it with other nearby reserves to enable their safe passage.



In Costa Rica, thanks to new a new donor, Bill MacLachlan, ICFC has partnered with Corcovado Foundation to undertake conservation work in the **Osa Peninsula**. "The Osa" is considered by some to be the most important and iconic rainforest location in Costa Rica¹. Despite having two national parks, biological corridors, and various private conservation areas, the Osa continues to suffer incremental habitat loss and recreational hunting mortality. To address this, Corcovado Foundation conducts environmental education, promotes sustainable development and runs a successful sea turtle conservation program.

¹ Called "the most biologically intense place on Earth" by National Geographic, Osa Peninsula crams 2.5% of the planet's biodiversity into just 0.001% of its surface area.

New: ICFC Leadership Circle

Annual donors of \$5000 or more are a small segment of our donor family but play an outsized role as leaders in conservation. We're now starting a group to recognize and encourage support at this level. Of course, not everyone can contribute at this level and we do prize *all* of our supporters and volunteers.

Leadership Circle benefits:

- special recognition in ICFC's Annual Reports
- knowing that you're making a significant difference
- briefings by program staff that relate to your interests
- complimentary ICFC "designer" T-shirt or mug

Please consider joining our Leadership Circle if you're able, and for more information, contact Molly Bartlett at 617-888-2744. Together we can make this a *wild* success!

The "Nature Needs Half" movement

"Be a part of the movement to save our planet's diverse and beautiful wildlife and wild places, and give nature the space it needs to survive and thrive."

With these words, ICFC was invited to sign on to the Nature Needs Half movement, and we did.

The science behind it is that if we reserve half of the world's land mass and oceans for wild nature, about 85% of all species will be protected from extinction, thereby averting the prospect of losing half the world's species by century-end. Nature Needs Half was first proposed by WILD Foundation in 2009. Harvard biologist E.O. Wilson independently arrived at the same thesis, which he calls "Half-Earth".

This may seem over-ambitious, but we think it's do-able, as [explained on our website](#). Key to the Nature Needs Half vision is the idea that if nature is allowed to thrive, humans are better able to thrive. It is a vision we share.

ICFC T-shirt!

Not being shrinking violets, ICFC staff and volunteers wanted to turn themselves in to walking billboards to broadcast ICFC's work. So...with a wonderful wood-block art piece by Margo Zdravkovic and expert design assistance by Willa Wong, ICFC has its first T-shirt and mug! You can order these online at [RedBubble.com](#). Buy some nice Christmas gifts and help spread the word!



Project highlights

Some good post-hurricane season news, for a change...
Hurricane Nate brought ashore a deadly storm on Nicaragua’s Pacific coast in early October, bringing heavy rainfall, mud slides, and floods. Our small project in the Gulf of Fonseca was not spared. The sea turtle hatchery with 10,000 eggs was completely demolished right before the turtles were due to hatch. Sea water washed over the site and deposited a thick layer of sand on top of the turtle nests, leaving us to wonder whether any of the turtles would survive. But a week later we received happy news from our field partner and photographs (as below) showing thousands of hatchlings being released and making their way towards the sea.



Spoon-billed Sandpiper Protection Expanded to China –
Since September 2016, ICFC has worked with Sayam Chowdhury and two small NGOs in Bangladesh and Myanmar to protect the critically endangered spoon-billed sandpiper from illegal hunting on its winter grounds. Recent work using satellite transmitters has identified an important site in southern China in need of similar protection as thousands of mist nets are being used to capture shorebirds. The project is expanding to include this site as of this month.

Other news

ICFC managed the finances for the **Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group** biennial meeting held in Paracas, Peru in November. The meeting brought together nearly 200 shorebird biologists and conservationists from throughout the Americas. Scott Hecker and Patricia Gonzalez represented ICFC and each gave presentations in plenary sessions. This was the inaugural year for two new awards. The Allan Baker Award for Lifetime Achievement in Shorebird Conservation went to Dr. R.I. Guy Morrison of Ottawa (below, left), whose career with the Canadian Wildlife Service involved epic shorebirds surveys in the Americas. The Lewis W. Oring Award for Lifetime Achievement in Shorebird Research went to Professor David “Dov” Lank and his wife Connie Smith of Burnaby, BC (below, right).



The spoon-billed sandpiper is the world’s most endangered shorebird species. ICFC and others are giving it hope. Photo courtesy British Trust for Ornithology.

Support and recognition for ICFC

ICFC thanks the **Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation** for support for the Kayapo project. This support is helping the Kayapo increase surveillance of their territories.

We are proud that our Mali Elephant Project was one of the 2017 winners of the U.N’s prestigious **Equator Prize**, which recognizes “outstanding community efforts to reduce poverty through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity”.



Presenting the Equator Prize to project field coordinator Nomba Ganame and Aoua Cherif Doumbia is UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner (shaking hands) and Cristián Samper, head of the Wildlife Conservation Society.



Barred fruiteater, Peru. photo: Scott Hecker

Onward!

As the year comes to a close, we are looking back with gratitude at all our supporters and local partners who are helping us do this important work. At the same time, we are planning to hit the ground running in 2018!



Please consider making an end of year gift to ICFC [online](#) or by mail. *Thank you!*