

Dear supporters and friends,

A quick glance at this end-of-year newsletter might leave you wondering: where are all of the cool nature photos I've come to expect and love? Don't worry—we'll sneak a few in somewhere. But this year we have other important things to highlight, including the release of two documentaries that feature our projects and that we hope you will watch. We also have added some new faces to the ICFC team - a board member, a staff member and a much-needed social media guru – and some other exciting developments. As a peek ahead to 2021 we can reveal that ICFC will be involved in three important land purchases in the coming months. We've included some photos that hint at where these are.



**More recognition for ICFC:** ICFC is a finalist in the Canadian Museum of Nature's Nature Inspiration Awards. To tell the truth, we nominated ourselves (this is allowed) because we hope it will help spread the word about our work. At a virtual gala to be held on November 25<sup>th</sup> we will

find out if we have won our category.

ICFC has also received a five-star rating (out of five stars) on [Charity Intelligence Canada](#), along with an "A" grade for our reporting.

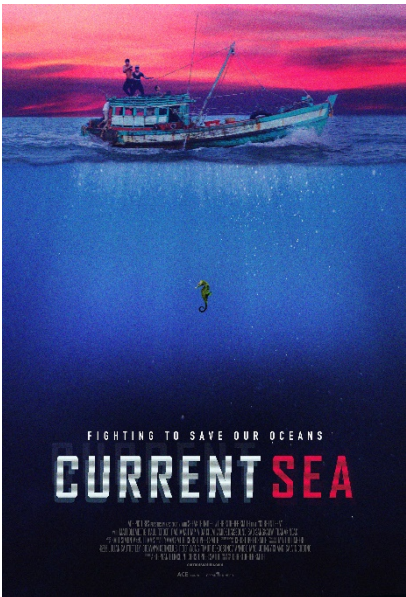
**ICFC's vibrant social media**

**presence:** Also, by way of spreading the word, we introduce you to John Meisner, our new part-time social media guru. John has visited the Kayapo and has quickly come up to speed on our other work and regularly tweets, grams and posts on Facebook our project updates. If you are on these media, please follow us on Instagram ([@icfcanada](#) and [@kayapoproject](#)), facebook ([@ICFC.for.Nature](#) and [@kayapoproject](#)) and Twitter ([@ICFC for Nature](#)). It's the best way to hear our freshest news.

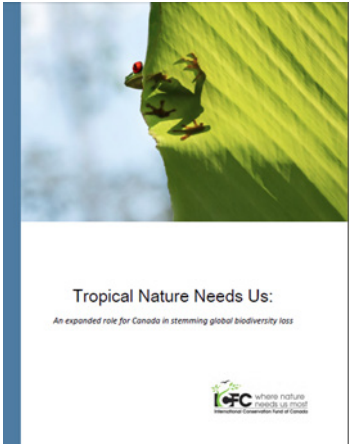


**Films about our work:**

Two of ICFC's projects have recently been featured in full-length film documentaries. We hope you find time to view them! *Current Sea* tells the dramatic story of Marine Conservation Cambodia's battle against illegal destructive bottom trawling, while *Blood Run* looks at the high-end fly-fishing ecotourism in remote Kayapo lands, where Kayapo guides lead anglers to pristine fishing waters.



**ICFC releases major report:** In September, ICFC released a report that reveals Canada's meagre support for conservation in developing countries – just a tenth or a hundredth that of other developed countries. Titled "[Tropical Nature Needs Us: An expanded role for Canada in stemming global biodiversity loss](#)", the report was sent to federal government Ministers,



opposition parties and the news media. It attracted some media attention, with a Hill Times op-ed by Molly, an article in the Halifax Chronicle Herald and a CTV news story. As Canada gears up to make its new pledge under the Convention on Biological Diversity, our report has stirred interest within government and beyond.

**Covid-19 impacts:** The core work of protecting reserves and other on-the-ground conservation work has continued with all projects, but educational components of many projects have been paused or modified. Staff of our field partners, including a few of our project personnel, have been hit by the coronavirus, notably in Peru, but thankfully, all have recovered. The collapse of ecotourism has hurt some of our field partners, but they are adjusting as best they can. The pandemic has had varied effects on threat levels. Widespread travel bans within South Africa initially reduced poaching of rhinos and other wildlife and even after restrictions were eased the pandemic continued to impede wildlife trafficking. On the other hand, impacts of the pandemic on livelihoods has resulted in increased bushmeat hunting or logging in some locations. ICFC has worked with local partners to adjust project activities and budgets and keep people safe.

**Project news briefs**

**Gourma Biosphere Reserve a big win for elephants and people in Mali:** In May, the government of Mali announced the creation of one of the world's largest protected areas. The Gourma Biosphere Reserve spans 42,635 km<sup>3</sup>—the size of Switzerland. Project personnel played no small part in this achievement. With strict protection zones, buffer zones and regulated use zone, the reserve protects habitat needed by both elephants and people.

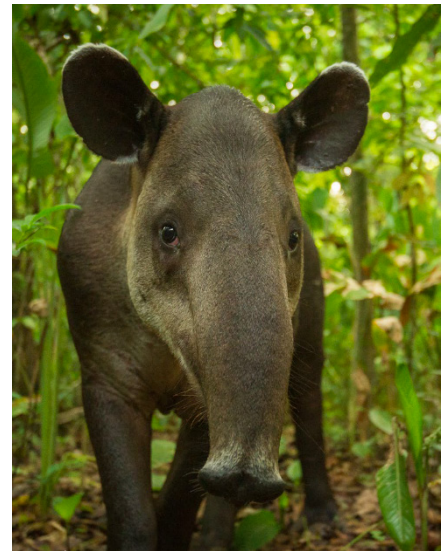






**Kayapo take-down of illegal goldminers:** A team of just 17 Kayapo has vanquished an illegal goldmining operation on their lands in a non-violent confrontation on October 17. More than 40 armed goldminers were taken by surprise and found themselves surrounded by Kayapo. Goldminers were removed by small plane, equipment and materials were confiscated or burned. In an interview, a Kayapo reported that “the area destroyed is very large and the streams badly damaged. It’s awful there. But we blocked off the airstrip and so now the streams and forest will begin to recover.”

ICFC’s partner Osa Conservation, whose work focuses on protecting the globally significant biodiversity of **Costa Rica’s Osa Peninsula** and its national parks, recently developed an [interactive online tool](#) to highlight the launching of their **Ridge to Reef initiative** - a strategy to build connectivity between the Osa Peninsula and the next largest tract of forest in mainland Costa Rica: La Amistad International Park in the Talamanca Mountains. Worth a look!



*Directly above:* The Osa Peninsula.  
Photo: Charlie Hamilton James

*Above right:* Bengal Florican, Nepal.  
Photo: KTK-BELT

*Left:* The endangered Baird’s Tapir in Belize. Photo: Nick Hawkins



**ICFC welcomes Michael Bradstreet to its Board of Directors.** Recently retired as Senior Vice President, Conservation, at the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Michael is a biologist who spent 14 years working across the Canadian Arctic before taking the helm at Long Point Bird Observatory and Bird Studies Canada, and then moving on to NCC. We are delighted to have him on our team.

**David Agro** joins ICFC as Associate Program Director. David’s first-hand experience as president of Ecuador’s Fundación Jocotoco will add to ICFC’s ability to communicate about our work, raise support for it, set conservation priorities and manage our diverse programs.



**Upcoming land acquisitions in 2021:** In the offing are three exciting land purchases, all in very threatened and biodiverse places. In **Belize** we are looking at a large land purchase that will enable wildlife such as tapirs and jaguars to travel freely between the two largest blocks of conserved land in one of Belize’s conservation corridors. In **Nepal**, a small-scale but important acquisition will provide greater protection in a critically important buffer area that is home to Critically Endangered birds such as the Bengal Florican, as well as hundreds of other bird species, and the endangered Wild Water Buffalo. Finally, in **Ecuador**, ICFC continues to raise funds to help buy and safeguard 23,000 hectares of lowland Chocó rainforest – a super high conservation priority.



*How do we choose which land to buy?* ICFC considers: the presence of threatened and endemic species and rare or threatened ecosystems; the prospects for the area to maintain ecological integrity long term; satisfactory management plans, and the capacity of the field partner to provide capable management and protection long term; buy-in from local communities, and risk of all kinds.

Horned Marsupial-frog, Ecuador. Photo: Michaël Moens, Tropical Herping

