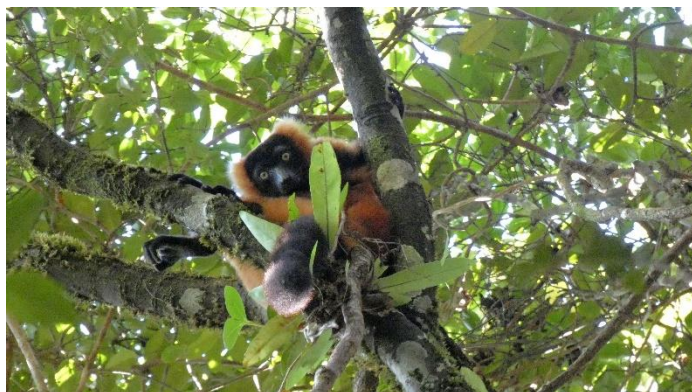


Dear supporters and friends,

A quick update from ICFC!

New projects

Madagascar – ICFC was contacted by two intrepid Canadians about a locally based conservation organization in Madagascar that they had helped get started. Fandroakando NGO was created to provide much needed protection for the 3,000-hectare Rabondro Reserve, and the organization has an official role in the reserve’s management. The reserve lies within the very important Antongil Bay area, which contains 50% of Madagascar’s biodiversity while covering only 2% of its surface area. ICFC notified our colleagues at Global Wildlife Conservation about this project and they arranged a rapid lemur survey at the 3,000-hectare Rabondro reserve, with results confirming its high importance for lemur conservation. Its importance is further enhanced by its proximity to Makira Natural Park and Masoala National Park. The reserve has been impacted by forest clearing for subsistence farming, illegal logging for charcoal and precious woods, some artisanal mining, and poaching. Fandroakando has begun working with local village associations to educate and involve them in the management of the reserve (including forest restoration outside the 1,000-ha primary forest zone). This provides livelihood, cultural and ecological services benefits to those communities. ICFC applauds Kevin Tate and Claudia Morawetz for bringing this opportunity to our attention and for their ongoing volunteer involvement in developing Fandroakando’s organizational capacities.



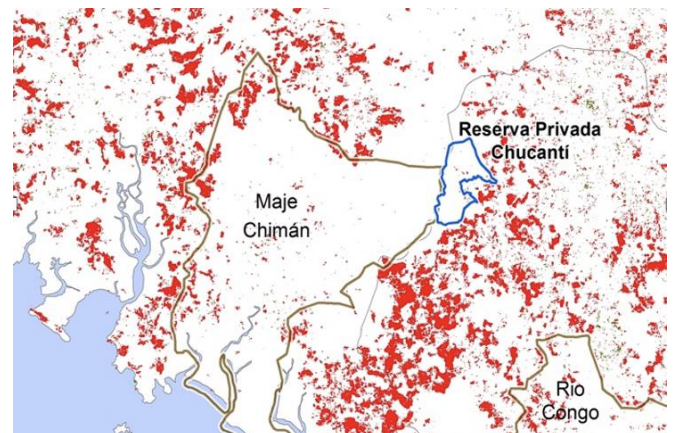
Red-ruffed lemur (photo: Fandroakando NGO)

Colombia – Rising to 5,775 m asl, the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta (SNSM) is the highest coastal mountain in the world. Its altitudinal amplitude, isolation, and tropical location have conferred exceptional biological and hydrological importance. The SNSM is home to 17 endemic amphibians, including 5 species of harlequin toads (*Atelopus*), the world’s most threatened genus of amphibians. due to disease transmission by the Bd fungus and habitat loss. ICFC is partnering with Fundación Atelopus to evaluate the population dynamics and threats to the Critically Endangered starry night toad (rediscovered in 2019 after not being seen since 1991) and the Endangered Santa Marta harlequin toad, and to develop conservation strategies with the Arhuaco del Sogrome Indigenous peoples to protect these species.

Starry night
harlequin toad
(photo: Fundación
Atelopus)



Panama – The Majé Mountain range harbours a unique array of biodiversity from its mountain tops to the Pacific coast. The landscape is the winter home of at least 65 Neotropical migratory bird species, including Prothonotary and Canada warblers. Wounaan Indigenous territories (outlined in brown below; red=deforestation) are critical to conserving remaining forest in this region. ICFC is helping the Wounaan demarcate and protect their boundaries through technological and other means, while they work to gain legal title to their lands and develop ecotourism.



Project mini- updates

The capacity to protect **Kenya**’s largest private reserve, the **Laikipia Nature Conservancy** (aka **Mukutan Conservancy**), was enhanced by hiring and training additional rangers, installing a real-time patrol and vehicle monitoring system, and building on cooperative engagement with neighbouring Pokot communities.

Our project with Ripple Africa has identified 40 key fish breeding areas in **Lake Malawi** where fishing is now prohibited to enable the baby fish to grow. To build on success in establishing community-led sustainable fisheries, 41 more Beach Village Committees were formed.

The pandemic slowed deployment of CANTS (Conservation & Anti-trawling Structures) by **Marine Conservation Cambodia** but with 198 already deployed, Illegal trawlers were kept away from the main recovering areas. MCC now has a fully operating, very capable Cambodian team.

Despite increasing insecurity in Mali, the **Mali Elephant Project** brought on 595 new ecoguards, created 1,337 km of firebreaks, and held village assemblies to develop natural resource management conventions. No elephant poaching has been reported since last March.

Kayapo surveillance program now includes 10 strategically located guard posts (with guard post duties shared among 500+ Kayapo) and regular patrols and overflights to detect illegal fishing, goldmining and logging. The Kayapo continue to hold the line.

Donor appreciation: Thank you, Paul W. O'Leary Foundation!



In our March 2020 Newsletter, we told you about a trip to Costa Rica's Osa Peninsula by Carlos R. Garcia and guests Godwin Lai, Neda Omidvar and Jason Schuy who enjoyed an unforgettable conservation tourism experience. The purpose of the visit, hosted by ICFC's partner Osa Conservation, was to explore and learn more about the diverse terrestrial and marine habitats of the Osa and the ground-breaking work of Osa Conservation. As a result of this expedition, in November 2020, the Paul W. O'Leary Foundation decided to fund, through ICFC, a new Osa Conservation two-year project called the "Youth Nature Program". The aim is to create an immersive nature-based learning model in the tropics that **empowers** youth from the Osa Peninsula to become avid environmental stewards and leaders, thus building a strong social conservation fabric with the next generation. Foundaton co-Chairs Jason Schuy and wife Paulette O'Leary explain their motivation this way:

"Educating children in the Osa about their environment and the impact they have on it will help ensure future generations live in harmony with the natural world. We owe this to our children and the Earth."

On top of this, the Paul W. O'Leary Foundation is also providing support for our partner in Kenya, the Mukutan Conservancy (aka Laikipia Conservancy), to re-establish its Laikipia Wilderness Education Centre. The revamped Wilderness Education Centre will bring inner city (Nairobi) kids out to experience nature (often for the first time) and to provide them with fun and meaningful educational opportunities. We would like to express our gratitude to the Paul W. O'Leary Foundation for their generosity in making these two projects happen!



ICFC wins the 2020 Nature Inspiration Award for small and medium organizations. Last newsletter we announced that we were a finalist for this award from the Canadian Museum of Nature. We won! Winners "pay forward" their \$5,000 prize to another Canadian group, and we chose the [Canadian Whale Institute](#) to assist their whale rescue efforts (their team has disentangled over 30 whales including critically endangered Right Whales).

Weighing in with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) – Anne and Molly have joined the Canadian delegation to the CBD's Subsidiary Body on Implementation to provide input as the CBD Parties prepare a framework for the next crucial decade. Our focus is on the aspect of resource mobilization.



Above: The Youth Nature Program in action in 2021 (photo Osa Conservation)

Below, left: *Lachesis melanocephala*, Osa Peninsula (photo: Andy Whitworth)

Remembering donor Jim O'Brian, 1920-2021

– Anne Lambert

Knowing Jim O'Brian since my childhood, I could not give a better description than this, from his family: "an incredibly handsome man of grace and strength blended with humour and curiosity. All tempered with kindness". Jim left Princeton in 1941, before graduation, to join the RCAF, to follow his father and big brother Peter into war-time air-force duty. After training in England on Hurricanes, he served in north Africa and northern Europe, and flew Spitfires for 417 Squadron in Italy. On returning from the war, he completed his education and forged a career as a Chartered Accountant. Tom and I had a wonderful phone visit with Jim a month before his death on February 24. He kept bringing the conversation back to ICFC and how he loved reading about our projects all over the world. I suggested that my father (who died before we started ICFC and whose career in banking and finance involved much international travel) would be pleased with what we're doing. Jim replied, "He'd be *fascinated!*". Like all who knew them, we feel so fortunate to have known Jim and his late wife, Annie.

Your ongoing support makes a difference! [Donate now](#)

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