

Dear supporters and friends,

## ICFC joins Protecting our Planet Challenge

At the end of September, nine prestigious US philanthropies announced a concerted effort to speed up biodiversity funding by jointly pledging \$5 billion over the next decade to support the creation, expansion, management and monitoring of protected and conserved areas of land, inland water and sea, working with Indigenous Peoples, local communities, civil society and governments. **This is the largest ever private funding commitment for biodiversity conservation.**

Inspired by this big push, ICFC decided to join this challenge with a our own pledge of US\$100 million over the next ten years, becoming the first Canadian organization to do so. (see [article in the Globe and Mail](#))

Why did we do it? The main reason is our awareness that the next ten years will be critical in saving the bulk of Earth's remaining natural ecosystems and species. And there are many good opportunities for action that currently go unfunded. Another reason for joining was to challenge other Canadians (individuals, NGOs and government) to join us in doing more for global biodiversity. As we say, *onward!*



## Indigenous People as partners in conservation

There's much talk these days about Indigenous people in relation to conservation, and for good reason. Traditional Indigenous Territories encompass up to 22 percent of the world's land surface and are estimated to hold 80 percent (!) of the planet's biodiversity. They include at least 36% of the world's "intact forest landscapes".

Which brings us to ICFC's work. There are no better partners in conservation than the Kayapo, whom we help defend their ratified territories (9 million ha) in the highly threatened southeastern Amazon. ICFC also works with the Wounaan in Panama, the Maasai in Kenya, the Dhokpya, Limbu and other Indigenous yak herders in Nepal, and the Q'eqchi in Guatemala. Importantly, the ICFC-supported Los Amigos Conservation Concession in Peru indirectly protects a reserve for indigenous people in voluntary isolation and is sometimes used by these "uncontacted" tribes.

Our Indigenous partners have a deep relationship with their land and are willing and effective conservationists. But they do need financial and other support—more than they are now receiving. Beyond the important climate and biodiversity benefits, there is also the moral imperative of protecting land rights and safeguarding the diverse cultures and way of life of Indigenous peoples.



*ICFC is working with the Q'eqchi in Guatemala (above), Indigenous yak herders in Nepal (top right) and the Maasai in Kenya (below).*







New projects

In **Kenya**, ICFC began small projects in two locations where we’re working with Maasai communities. One aims to conserve the **Harrison's long-eared giant mastiff bat** at its breeding caves on Mount Suswa and to restore surrounding forests that the bats require for foraging on moths. The second project will establish a community wildlife sanctuary of 12,600 hectares along a 15-kilometer stretch of cliff habitat favored by breeding vultures and falcons, notably the Critically Endangered **Rüppell's vulture**.

ICFC is happy to again be working with FUNDAECO in **Guatemala** to optimize the monitoring, management and protection of Laguna Grande reserve (where we earlier supported land acquisition).

**In the Ecuadorian Chocó**, ICFC financed a small but important land purchase to consolidate the reserve of FCAT (Fundación para la Conservación le los Andes Tropicales), which lies within the Mache-Chindul Ecological Reserve and supports many Neotropical migratory bird species and threatened species.

COP26 and biodiversity

The Glasgow climate summit reflected an understanding of the urgent need to protect the world's dwindling supply of natural capital. A pledge to halt and reverse global deforestation and land degradation by 2030 has been signed by 141 countries. ICFC welcomes Canada’s commitment to spend at least 20% of its climate aid to developing countries on nature-based solutions that protect biodiversity.

Climate finance to developing countries remains inadequate despite its importance for helping them invest in green technology and other emissions-cutting efforts and measures to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Many of the world’s smallest and poorest countries are disproportionately affected by the effects of global warming.

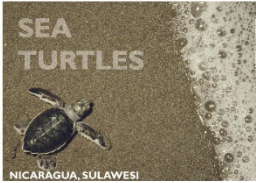
*In Panama we are helping the Wounaan establish and protect their boundaries using satellite analysis, drone surveys, community-based monitors and signage.*

Ward chairman of Papung, Nepal, Dambu Dhokpya, and his daughter.



Giving Tuesday Appeal

On November 30, Giving Tuesday, we’ll be sending out our appeal for support across a range of our programs. Your support for these projects helps us continue to fund these projects and more. *Thank you!*  
And, of course, [donations are welcome](#) any time!



Your ongoing support makes a difference!

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