

Dear supporters and friends,

## Project highlights

This year we asked MAAP (**Monitoring of the Andean Amazon Project**) if they could collect information on Kayapo indigenous territories. MAAP was able to share real-time monitoring information directly with our **Kayapo Project**, aiding a Brazilian federal agency intervention against illegal mining sites within Kayapo lands. This cooperation between two ICFC projects contributed to a big win at a time of intense pressure from goldminers and loggers.

In the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, our partner Strong Roots has succeeded in getting approval for thirteen Forestry Concessions for Local Communities (CFCLs). Awarding 13 land titles at once is unheard of in DRC and now this is being seen as a flagship project for the country. Our partner told us his phone has been ringing non-stop as more communities want to know how to get involved. To date, 226,541 hectares have been titled for CFCLs, adding protection to a vital conservation corridor for **Grauer's gorillas** and other wildlife.

Four women have been added to ranger force working to protect and manage **Kijabe Forest** in Kenya, and we are very pleased to have George Odhiambo assume the position Senior Program Manager for the Kijabe Forest Trust.

A prolonged drought and election instability in Kenya made for a challenging year for **Mukutan Nature Conservancy** (formerly Laikipia Nature Conservancy), with invasions of the reserve by armed cattle herders. These have now all been removed, and plentiful rains have returned. The plan for Mukutan is for the property to be acquired and placed in a Kenyan land trust for permanent protection. ICFC will continue to help with operating costs, as this transition happens.

At the **Los Amigos Conservation Concession** in Peru, our strategy of combining state-of-the-art technology with frequent ground patrols by our *Promotores de Conservación* has resulted in the almost total eradication of illegal logging within the reserve.

With our small project for the **spectacled bear** and habitat restoration at high elevations in Peru, the Andean Bear Interpretation Center was inaugurated this year near Wayqecha Biological Station. The center will play an important role in raising awareness about key species and Andean-Amazonian ecosystems.

In Chile our partner Fundación Conservación Marina continued to expand bird ecotourism throughout the **Mauñín River Wetlands Sanctuary** with five public bird blinds and hundreds of meters of boardwalks. Two new shorebird areas have applied for status as Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network sites.

Our project for protecting **Wounaan Indigenous territories** enables these communities in the Maje Mountain watershed to access satellite data to detect and intercept illegal incursions on their lands and document them in *denuncias*, which are used for legal prosecutions. Significantly, indigenous lawyers have filed six *denuncias*, resulting in three convictions.



## Training the next generation of conservationists

*"Young people who understand the ecology of tropical forests and what makes them function, and who are adept at working under tropical wilderness field conditions, are an essential ingredient for the conservation of tropical biodiversity."*

So says our colleague Adrian Forsyth (conservationist, tropical ecologist, author). We agree and because the needed attributes—skills, experience, and fortitude—are not readily acquired in academic settings, this year ICFC began supporting field-based training in Peru of a carefully selected group of conservation fellows. Training includes a wide range of biodiversity sampling strategies, data management, and field survival skills.

We believe this will pay large dividends for decades to come.



*Adrian Forsyth with some of our conservation trainees.*

## Travel destinations with ICFC project partners

Many of our field partners engage in eco-tourism to help support their conservation work. As we said in September 2019 when we put out a special [Travel Newsletter](#), this offers a rewarding travel experience and opportunities to see the places you help conserve as a supporter of ICFC.

## "Winning" camera trap photos (see next page!)

Trail cameras are playing an increasingly important role in many of our projects both for research and for project monitoring and planning. More and better photos and videos give us a special glimpse into the private lives of the creatures we are protecting. Molly challenged program staff to come up with the best camera trap images to display in this newsletter. The resulting "picks" are on the next page. We also have [an Appendix](#) with links to some of our favorite trail cam videos.



Top to bottom, left to right: Ocelot (Ecuador), map puffer fish (Philippines), spectacled bear (Ecuador), Geoffroy's spider monkey (Costa Rica), puma (Bolivia), jaguar (Brazil), great curassows (Costa Rica)

## COP27 and COP15: ICFC's Perspective

As global summits approach on climate (this month in Egypt) and biodiversity (December in Montreal) you might wonder how they relate to one another and what difference they will make given the tendency of governments to fall short on targets and the challenge of reaching international consensus in the first place.

Both conventions arose out of the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 and each has followed a rather frustrating trajectory since then. The negotiations in both cases are largely being hung up on the issue of equity and the needed transfer of finance from rich countries (who are responsible for most of the carbon in the atmosphere) to lower-income countries.

Rob Stoner (President of ICFC's US sister organization, ICF) is attending COP27 and says: Over the past decade, the Climate COP process has seen a steady shift in emphasis away from coordinated top-down international carbon policy and toward action on the part of private actors – including investors, NGOs and philanthropists. This doesn't mean that international policy and coordination aren't still vitally important to achieve global scale, but it reminds us that it is the voluntary work of determined individuals and coalitions that will ultimately determine the fate of the planet.

In the case of the biodiversity COP, the frustrating chasm between developed and developing countries on the issue of resource mobilization has also led to action being taken on the sidelines. The High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People has now been signed by over 100 countries (notably including the US) who have pledged to protect at least 30% of the planet by 2030. Several ICFC staff are attending COP15 and we'll be watching keenly to see what commitments are made on public and private finance to meet this target and to meet the goals of the new ten-year Global Biodiversity Framework.

## Giving Tuesday Appeal

On November 29, Giving Tuesday, we'll be sending out our appeal for support across a range of our programs. Your support for these projects will be supplemented from ICFC's undesignated funds and will allow us to do more. *Thank you!*

## In Memoriam

ICFC notes with sadness the passing of ICFC supporters George Gore and Mary Holt, both of Chester, Nova Scotia. George and his wife Erin are long-standing volunteers at ICFC and Mary and her husband John Cowans have been enthusiastic supporters of our work.

**Your ongoing support makes a difference!**

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