

INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

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JUNE 12 - WASHINGTON, DC

ICCF WELCOMES COSTA RICAN PRESIDENT ON CAPITOL HILL

H.E. Carlos Alvarado Quesada, President of the Republic of Costa Rica, joined ICCF on June 12th on Capitol Hill to address members of the U.S. Congressional International Conservation Caucus and ICCF's business and NGO partners. In his address, the President spoke of Costa Rica's demonstrated commitment to protecting its wealth of natural resources, a successful model for balancing conservation and economic development. President Alvarado invited Members of Congress to "work together regardless of our differences and lead the world through accurate political decisions." Working together toward common objectives is key, the President stressed, adding that collaboration and innovation are necessary in order to adequately address global conservation challenges.



COSTA RICAN PRESIDENT CARLOS ALVARADO QUESADA
ADDRESSES MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS

It was through innovative solutions, the President said, that Costa Rica was able to recover its forests and biodiversity in a way that has enabled it to simultaneously develop its economy. Continued innovation, he said, is needed for Costa Rica's

next conservation frontier--its oceans and coastal landscapes--which make up 92 percent of the national territory. His cabinet, he says, is currently working with local fishermen and businesses in order to effectively protect these precious water resources.



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COLOMBIA

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 SEN. LUIS FERNANDO DUQUE
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 SEN. NORA GARCÍA
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 SEN. ROSMERY MARTINEZ ROSALES
 SEN. MARITZA MARTINEZ
 H.R. GERMÁN BLANCO
 H.R. GERMÁN CARLOSAMA
 H.R. MAURICIO GOMEZ AMIN
 H.R. JACK HOUSNI
 H.R. CARLOS ABRAHAM JIMÉNEZ
 H.R. RODRIGO LARA RESTREPO
 H.R. ELOY CHICHI QUINTERO
 H.R. ARMANDO ZABARAÍN

A group of legislators from Colombia, Mexico, and Peru have unanimously adopted and signed the Declaration of Bogotá, an agreement regarding the role of legislators in the promotion and management of sustainable forestry.

These legislators, each a member of his or her country’s respective conservation caucus, adopted the Declaration following a series of technical workshops hosted by The ICCF Group in Bogotá from April 24-26 about forest policies and the value of forests for sustainable development, biodiversity, and climate mitigation. By signing the Declaration of Bogotá, legislators recognized the vital role forests play in sustainable development and have agreed to “work within the legislative field to continue advancing these themes from and within [their] respective countries.” Workshops held over three days in Bogotá gave legislators the opportunity to hold an open dialogue on forest policy with stakeholders in the private sector, civil society, and government ministries.

CAUCUSES IN AFRICA CONSIDER CONSERVATION POLICY REFORMS

Members of the Gabon Parliamentary Conservation Caucus in May reviewed Forest Code reforms with Environment Ministry Officials, caucus members in Kenya will in July consider amendments aimed at preventing poaching and illegal wildlife trafficking and facilitating the prosecution of criminal networks, and Parliamentary Conservation Forum members in Mozambique continue working to identify gaps in enforcement of recent Wildlife Act revisions.

ICCF COLOMBIA, SENATE PRESIDENT HOLD TRAININGS ON CONSERVATION POLICY

Throughout May and June, the President of the Colombian Senate Efraín Cepeda, the Center for High Legislative Studies (CAEL), and ICCF Colombia hosted a series of training workshops to strengthen the understanding in the Colombian Congress of sustainable development and conservation. Conservation experts in government and the private sector covered policy topics including parks and protected areas, potable water, illegal and informal mining, and the Sustainable Development Objectives.



SENATORS SILVIA GARZA (LEFT) AND NINFA SALINAS (CENTER) SIT FOR A SEPTEMBER FORUM ON MEXICO'S FOREST ECOSYSTEMS.

MEXICO PASSES NEW LAW FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST DEVELOPMENT

On April 24th, the Mexican House of Representatives approved the amendments to the General Law of Sustainable Forestry Development. The bill, first introduced on September 20, 2016, passed after a year and a half of consultation and analysis among diverse actors, including legislators, the federal government, civil society organizations, indigenous organizations, academics, forestry engineers, and others.

Following consultations with stakeholders, legislators made substantial changes to the text of the bill. The new law introduces improvements for the forest policy including: recognition of community forest management initiatives, the consolidation of social and environmental safeguards, the integration of the forestry sector

in compliance with the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), an integrated ecosystem approach, the assurance that government purchases forest products with proper licensure, the integrated management of fire, and the assurance of the inclusion of women and young people in forestry activities.

A number of Congressmen were involved in drafting and editing the bill including Senator Silvia Garza, who advocated for community forest management on the Senate floor, Senator Ninfa Salinas, Co-President of the Mexican Parliamentary Group on Conservation (GPCM), Congresswoman Alma Lucía Arsaluz Alonso, who first introduced the bill, and Congresswoman María García Pérez, who promoted dialogue with civil society organizations.

THE GENERAL LAW OF SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT OF 2018:

- Includes a Community Forestry Management Program;
- Establishes social and environmental safeguards, including the right of indigenous people to be consulted on forestry issues in their territory;
- Recognizes the National and State Forestry Councils' powers of supervision and monitoring of forest policy and requires the government to consult them in all matters of forest policy;
- Shifts general forestry authority from the Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) to the National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR) and restores to SEMARNAT the authority to issue and revoke forest exploitation permits.



THE ICCF GROUP, GEF, AND UN ENVIRONMENT EMPOWERING AFRICAN POLICYMAKERS TO COMBAT WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

In the past decade, the African elephant population has declined by an estimated 111,000, according to a 2016 report, primarily due to poaching.

Malawi, identified by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) as a “country of primary concern,” has lost 50 percent of its elephant population since the 1980s.

In recent years, however, political decision-makers in Malawi have been empowered to act thanks to a project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), implemented by UN Environment, and executed by the Conservation Council of Nations (CCN).

The project – Engaging Policymakers and the Judiciary to Address Poaching and the Illegal Wildlife Trade in Africa – has supported the country to strengthen its laws to protect two iconic mammals.

In December 2016, to combat poaching trends, Malawi’s National Assembly passed amendments to its Wildlife and National Parks Act that stiffened criminal penalties for poachers and traffickers of “listed species”, namely rhinos and elephants. Under these amendments, convicted offenders face extended prison sentences of up to 30 years.

Less than a year later, in October 2017, a court sentenced convicted rhino poachers to 18 years in prison, the

most severe penalty ever handed down for poaching in the country’s history. A month later, a separate court convicted two elephant poachers and sentenced them each to 13 years’ imprisonment.

With these decisions, Malawi’s new law has proven to have teeth. The long-term result, if tougher penalties can effectively deter the killing of Africa’s iconic wildlife species, will be seeing a “country of primary concern” transform into one with a thriving wildlife population and, consequently, a thriving wildlife tourism industry that can support human development.





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“ The caucus model has helped Malawi achieve what it would not have otherwise achieved in the next 10 years.”

-- Hon. Alex Major, MP
Co-Chair, Malawi Parliamentary Conservation Caucus

“ The caucus model has helped to build a useful platform of interaction between policymakers. As part of the caucus endeavour, important legislation was passed in a bipartisan consensus, and all main entities are committed to ensuring the law is effectively enforced for the good of conservation of wildlife and the environment.”

-- Hon. Francisco Mucanheia, MP
Co-Chair, Mozambique Parliamentary Forum on Conservation

PARLIAMENTARY CONSERVATION CAUCUSES

Other countries in the region – Mozambique, Namibia, and Zambia – have taken similar steps in the past two years to deter the killing and harvesting of Africa’s most emblematic creatures.

Legislators in each of these countries have set up parliamentary conservation caucuses – informal, multi-party groups of legislators – to push for reforms. United around a mutual interest in environmental conservation, these caucuses have provided the architecture that policymakers need to combat the illegal wildlife trade. In the past five years, such conservation caucuses have been formed in 10 countries across sub-Saharan Africa: Botswana, Gabon, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Six of these parliamentary conservation

caucuses have been formed in the past three years as part of the GEF project, which began in early 2015 and runs until the end of 2018.

The project set out to increase the capacity and willingness of policymakers to assess and address poaching and illegal wildlife trade at the highest levels of government. To this end, the Conservation Council of Nations (CCN), an affiliate of The ICCF Group, has worked with parliamentary leaders in these 10 countries to establish and develop conservation caucuses.

The formation of these caucuses – and CCN’s work with local stakeholders and leading conservation groups to educate Members of Parliament – has, in turn, empowered legislators to act on sound information and enact policy reforms.

Parliamentarians and top-level government officials have embraced the model, enabling legislation to be passed that strengthens penalties for poachers. However, buy-in in the courts and among prosecutorial authorities is integral to the successful implementation of these new laws.

CCN, as part of this project, has brought in legal experts from the United States and Europe to create a dialogue with prosecutors, judges, and law enforcement to address gaps in the enforcement of wildlife crime. The road to universally effective enforcement of these laws is long, but significant progress has been made.

READ MORE AT

[HTTPS://WWW.UNENVIRONMENT.ORG/NEWS-AND-STORIES/STORY/EMPOWERING-AFRICAN-POLICYMAKERS-COMBAT-WILDLIFE-TRAFFICKING](https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/empowering-african-policymakers-combat-wildlife-trafficking)



AFRICAN PARKS CEO SHOWCASES SUCCESSFUL MODEL FOR PUBLIC-PRIVATE CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIPS



Public-private partnerships are essential to combat the wildlife trafficking crisis, protect wildlife and habitats, promote regional security, and provide economic opportunities for local communities. On Wednesday, May 16th, ICCF hosted Peter Fearnhead, CEO of African Parks, on Capitol Hill to discuss with members of the U.S. Congressional International Conservation Caucus his organization’s successful model for public-private partnerships.

the growing wildlife trafficking crisis, Fearnhead said, African Parks employs over 1,000 park rangers, who in 2017 alone have arrested 555 poachers and would-be poachers, 282 of which have resulted in convictions.

In addition to efforts to restore and protect biodiversity, the African Parks model is helping realize the economic benefits that well-managed parks can provide, generating local buy-in for the long-term sustainability of important landscapes and iconic wildlife species. The income generated by these parks, Fearnhead said, directly benefits local communities living in and around a park. Over 2,100 local jobs are the direct result of revitalized protected lands under the African Parks model, including \$56 million in local salaries in 2017.

Governments in Africa, which often lack the resources and know-how to effectively manage their national parks and which have been unable to adequately protect these lands themselves, have given groups like African Parks long-term responsibility for key parks and protected areas. The African Parks model, contracting with governments over the long term to manage national parks and protected areas, is revitalizing important landscapes, restoring iconic species, and improving local welfare through tourism and other sustainable enterprises.

Through private-sector management of natural resources and engagement with communities in and around parks and protected areas, public-private partnerships like this are proving to be extremely effective in protecting biodiversity in Africa. This is a model that is working and that, if empowered financially and politically, can play a vital role in the fight against wildlife trafficking and can save some of Africa’s most important landscapes and most iconic wildlife, for the benefit of both people and nature.

“ Conservation is not a five-year commitment. Conservation is a 100-year commitment.”
– Peter Fearnhead
CEO, African Parks

African Parks is currently responsible for 15 parks and protected areas, spanning more than 23 million acres, across nine African countries, a portfolio they hope to expand to 20 parks by 2020. To protect wildlife species and combat

ZAMBIAN CAUCUS VISITS AFRICAN PARKS-MANAGED LIUWA PLAIN NATIONAL PARK

Members of the Zambian Parliamentary Conservation Caucus (ZPCC) recently paid visit to Liuwa Plain National Park to gain a better understanding of African Parks' successful models for public-private park management. During their visit, ZPCC members saw first-hand how innovative public-private partnerships can further good conservation governance and foster local enterprise development.

Under the African Parks public-private partnership model, wildlife policy and national parks regulations are separated from day-to-day management of the park. Authority for the former remains with the Zambian government, and authority for the latter falls

to African Parks, which is ultimately accountable to the government for the success or failure of the park.

Nearly 15 years into this partnership, Liuwa Plain has been a conservation success. Eland, buffalo, and lion have been reintroduced to the park at viable population levels. Wildebeest and zebra populations have nearly doubled. The first permanent lodge opened in the park in March 2017 - a \$1.6 million investment by African Parks. Tourism revenues and park employment are on the rise, and direct contributions of over \$650,000 have been made to community development funds, plus \$30,000 put into community programs.

INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION CORPS PROJECT UPDATE: *KHAO YAI, THAILAND*

Members of the ICCF International Conservation Corps recently visited Khao Yai National Park in Thailand with the Amata Foundation to evaluate prospects for a potential Thailand / USA 200th Anniversary Friendship Trail (Mo Sing To) and other new park trails, including the proposed Heo Pla Kang waterfall trail just inside the park's border.



ADVANCING DESIGN PLANS FOR TAYRONA NATIONAL PARK'S INTERPRETATION CENTER

From June 7-15, members of The ICCF Group's International Conservation Corps traveled to Colombia's Tayrona National Park to provide technical assistance on the redesign plan for the park's interpretation center in the Chairama Complex to ensure the exhibits are informative and engaging for the park's visitors. They visited relevant sites around the interpretation center and park and discussed how to improve communication with visitors to successfully articulate the ecological importance of this protected area. The proposed plan for the center's redesign will facilitate relationship-building with the public, conservation organizations, and the private sector to help develop public-private partnerships for the center's operations. Such a partnership would hopefully help ensure sustainable funding to allow the interpretation center to serve the park's visitors very soon.



ICCF HEAD OF STATE SPOTLIGHT
HIS EXCELLENCY CARLOS ALVARADO QUESADA
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA

[url:youtu.be/](https://youtu.be/)



CARLOS ALVARADO QUESADA IS THE 48TH PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA. HE PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS MINISTER OF LABOR AND SOCIAL SECURITY AND AS MINISTER OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL INCLUSION.

Watch the full interview with President Alvarado on our YouTube page.

Q: Costa Rica is famous for its protection of the environment and its wonderful parks. Where do you see your country moving in the next decade? What topics are most likely to receive attention for further progress?

A: Thirty percent of our territory inland is a national park, so that's really important for us. But, it's only two percent of our oceans that are actually within a framework of protection. So we see a large opportunity in working in the oceans. We have to say that oceans, in the case of Costa Rica, represent the larger part of our actual territory, and we want to profit from that opportunity. And, by profit I mean by conservation and by innovative schemes in protection and conservation of the oceans, which is a new territory for us but we also want to lead it there.

Q: What do you see as the principal challenges facing parks and protected areas both regionally and globally over the next decade?

A: Well I do believe we have a lot to do in innovative skills. We have a lot to do in terms of going further within parks. One of the key elements that's problematic and we need to work is biodiversity. Costa Rica's territory has, even though it's relatively small, it has 6% of the world's biodiversity, but current challenges demonstrate an accelerated decrease in the world's biodiversity. So there we have one of the global challenges, and we are tackling it. Through innovative skills with national parks, through innovative skills using science, and from science to marketing techniques. And, there we need to innovate, but it's on biodiversity that we have the greatest challenges.

Q: Many countries look to Costa Rica for leadership on national parks. According to what you hear, what are the most important remaining gaps in national efforts?

A: Not necessarily in policies because we do have strong policies on environmental issues and not necessarily in budget. Why? Because we invest already almost one percent of our GDP in these kinds of topics, environmental topics. We have innovated with, for example, a tax on carbon, that's financing our environmental services payments, a scheme which is really innovative. We also use parts of our budget for funding national parks. So the real gap, it's innovation once again. It's how to produce new schemes that make relevant to society, to the different countries, topics such as conservation of the environment. In the past we've also innovated for example, with the schemes of exchange of debt with conservation. So looking forward, innovation in environmental issues is the key.





PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

ENVISIONING A “WORLD WITHOUT WASTE”

ORIGINAL STORY BY JAY MOYE, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, COCA-COLA JOURNEY
[HTTPS://WWW.COCA-COLACOMPANY.COM/STORIES/WORLD-WITHOUT-WASTE](https://www.coca-colacompany.com/stories/world-without-waste)

Coca-Cola recently announced an industry-first goal to collect and recycle the equivalent of every bottle or can it sells globally by 2030. The company and its global network of bottling partners will tackle the ambitious goal, which is part of a holistic plan called “World Without Waste,” through a renewed focus on the entire packaging lifecycle – from how bottles and cans are designed and made, to how they’re recycled and repurposed.

The company’s “World Without Waste” vision is the next step in a broader strategy to grow with conscience by doing business the right way, not just the easy way. To that end, Coca-Cola announced in 2016 that it was the first Fortune 500 company to give back to nature and communities an estimated 115 percent of the water used to make its drinks.

To help improve recycling rates, Coke will apply its global marketing muscle to help educate the public on what, how and where to recycle. The company also will continue to team with local communities, NGOs,

industry peers and consumers to help make recycling easier and more accessible for everyone by improving local recycling systems and driving policy change that supports a truly circular economy.

Coke’s 100 percent collection and recycling goal will primarily focus on bottles, cans, and caps made from glass, PET plastic, or aluminum – which represent approximately 85 percent of its packaging – but also includes packages produced by other companies.

To help tackle existing packaging waste, Coca-Cola will continue to work with existing partners to support a debris-free environment. Since 1995, Coca-Cola has been the lead sponsor of the world’s largest volunteer effort benefiting the marine environment: Ocean Conservancy’s International Coastal Cleanup. Over the course of that partnership, the company has helped mobilize 20 million people to clean up 220 million pounds of trash from more than 375,000 miles of coastline.



We believe every package – regardless of where it comes from – has value and life beyond its initial use. If something can be recycled, it should be recycled. So we want to help people everywhere understand how to do their part.”

– James Quincey
President and CEO, Coca-Cola



RECENT BRIEFINGS & WORKSHOPS

ILLEGAL FISHING AND LINKS TO GLOBAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING NETWORK

APRIL 25, 2018

OCF Congressional staff briefing featuring revealing footage from documentary Ghost Fleet

INTERNATIONAL FORESTRY POLICY ROUNDTABLE

APRIL 25, 2018

Members of the Colombian, Mexican, and Peruvian caucuses meet in Bogota to discuss forestry policy

COLOMBIAN CONSERVATION CAUCUS

H.R. Federico Hoyos (PCD)

PARLIAMENTARY CONSERVATION CAUCUS - KENYA

Hon. Patrick Mariru (Jubilee)

Hon. Catherine Waruguru (Jubilee)

MEXICAN CONSERVATION PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

Dip. Christian Carrillo Fregoso (PAN)

Dip. María García Pérez (PAN)

Dip. Carlos Alberto Palomeque Archila (PAN)

Dip. Patricia Sánchez Carrillo (PAN)

Dip. Dalia María Rocha Ladrón de Guevara (MC)

PCC-K STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP

MAY 5, 2018

Kenyan caucus discusses agenda items for the coming term with public and private stakeholders

TRACEABILITY IN THE SEAFOOD SUPPLY CHAIN

MAY 8, 2018

OCF Congressional member dinner with Bumble Bee Seafood CEO Chris Lischewski

PICTURED ABOVE

MOZAMBIQUE CONSERVATION GOVERNANCE WORKSHOP

MAY 29, 2018

Mozambique Parliamentary Forum for Conservation meets to address natural resource governance

GABON WORKSHOP ON CONSERVATION LEGISLATION

MAY 25, 2018

Conservation caucus members convene with experts on draft Forestry Code and wildlife crime legislation

THE POWER OF THE BLUE ECONOMY

JUNE 7, 2018

OCF Capitol Hill Ocean Week staff briefing featuring private-sector expert panels

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURAL PROTECTED AREAS

JUNE 19, 2018

Mexican caucus discusses conservation in national parks with experts, stakeholders

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SEAFOOD PRODUCTION THROUGH AQUACULTURE

JUNE 26, 2018

OCF Reception to discuss how sustainable seafood production can improve economic and national security

CONSERVATION POLICY TRAINING SERIES

MAY 17 - JUNE 29, 2018

Training series in Colombian Congress educated members on water, mining, and other conservation policy issues

STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE ON KENYA'S WILDLIFE AMENDMENT BILL

JUNE 28, 2018

PCC-K stakeholder dialogue on the Wildlife Conservation and Management Bill Amendment

WELCOME NEW CAUCUS MEMBERS

PERUVIAN CONSERVATION CAUCUS

Congresista Horacio Zeballos Patrón (NP)

U.S. CONGRESSIONAL INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION CAUCUS

Rep. Albio Sires (D-NJ)

U.S. CONGRESSIONAL OCEANS CAUCUS

Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA)

Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA)



ANNOUNCING THE 2018 ICCF U.S. CONGRESSIONAL INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION GALA

JOIN US ON SEPTEMBER 25TH IN WASHINGTON, DC

On September 25th, 500 guests, including celebrities, world business leaders, and policymakers from around the globe, will descend upon Washington, DC for the year's most important gathering of conservationists from the business, NGO, and government communities to promote U.S. leadership in the sound management of the world's natural resources.

Past ICCF Gala Chairs include former Presidents William J. Clinton and George H.W. Bush, Queen Noor of Jordan, Theodore "Ted" Roosevelt IV, and U.S. Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson, among others. Past recipients of ICCF awards include The Prince of Wales, Prince Albert II of Monaco, former U.K. Prime Minister Tony Blair, Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg, actors Harrison Ford and Edward Norton, and the National Geographic Society, among others.

[Pictured right (top to bottom): His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, Actress Bo Derek and Representative Ed Royce; Secretary of State John Kerry and Mexican President Felipe Calderón; and Senator Tom Udall.]

INTERESTED IN ATTENDING THIS YEAR'S GALA? LEARN MORE AT
ICCFGALA.ORG





LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The ICCF Group has had a busy second quarter. We've hosted a number of high-level programs in Washington, Africa, and Latin America, including hosting the President of Costa Rica for a U.S. Congressional dinner on Capitol Hill, and we are working hard to prepare for important events during the third quarter.

25th, ICCF will host its annual U.S. Congressional International Conservation Gala to celebrate and promote leadership in international conservation. We hope you can join us.

The generosity of our many friends and partners enables us to achieve our conservation mission, and we remain grateful for your continued support.

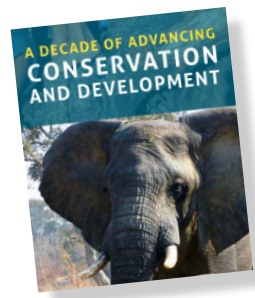
Best Wishes,

John B. Gantt, Jr.
President, ICCF U.S.

Forestry issues have received much attention this quarter from the caucuses that we support around the globe. In Latin America, following a series of workshops hosted by The ICCF Group, legislators from Colombia, Mexico, and Peru unanimously adopted and signed the Declaration of Bogota, an agreement pledging action on sustainable forestry promotion and management. In Mexico, Congress approved amendments to the General Law of Sustainable Forestry Development, a bill introduced and supported by leaders of the Mexican Parliamentary Group on Conservation. In Gabon, members of the Gabon Parliamentary Conservation Caucus began reviewing the country's Forest Code and considering amendments to improve the bill.

Looking ahead, we have two significant events coming up in September in Washington. On September 24th, The ICCF Group will host the Mount Vernon International Conservation Caucus Summit, a gathering of legislators from around the world to discuss conservation policy issues. On September

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