



# INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

ISSUE #2 - QUARTER 2, 2017

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MAY 18 IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

## ICCF HOSTS PRESIDENT OF COLOMBIA AT UNITED STATES CAPITOL

On May 18, ICCF hosted a luncheon with the President of the Republic of Colombia, Juan Manuel Santos, and a bipartisan group of Members of the United States Congress, including leaders of the U.S. Congressional International Conservation Caucus (ICC).

President Santos discussed recent conservation successes in his country, such as creation of a Ministry of Environment; challenges, such as environmental damage due to armed conflict; and areas of focus, such as restoration and protection of coral reefs and forests.



PRESIDENT SANTOS WITH CHAIRMAN ED ROYCE AND REPRESENTATIVE KAY GRANGER

ICCF Colombia supported the development of the Colombian Conservation Caucus (CCC) and continues to work closely with the caucus on areas such as water and mining. We share a belief that conservation should reinforce development,

and we are working with Colombia's policymakers to address issues that are essential to conservation as well as to Colombia's economy and security.



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## NAMIBIAN CAUCUS SETS LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Members of the Namibian Conservation Parliamentary Caucus (NACOPAC) met with key Ministry of Environment officials to prioritize near-term conservation governance actions. MPs committed to collaborating with Ministry officials on enhancing laws and policies and engaging stakeholders in the corporate and NGO sectors to address challenges in wildlife and marine resources management.

NACOPAC set an agenda for improving the value of wildlife resources for communities by mitigating human-wildlife conflict, combating wildlife trafficking, and supporting the community-based conservancy model. The MPs also committed to tackling the growing phenomenon of illegal, unregulated, and often unreported fishing in its marine territory.



## IN CAPITALS

### CONSERVATION CAUCUS LAUNCHED IN PERU

#### FOUNDING MEMBERS

- MARÍA ELENA FORONDA FARRO
- ARMANDO VILLANUEVA MERCADO
- MARISOL ESPINOZA CRUZ
- CÉSAR VILLANUEVA ARÉVALO
- ELÍAS RODRÍGUEZ ZAVALETA
- GUIDO LOMBARDI ELÍAS
- MARCO ARANA ZEGARRA
- WILMER AGUILAR MONTENEGRO
- SEGUNDO TAPIA BERNAL
- YONHY LESCANO ANCIETA
- WILBERT ROZAS BELTRÁN

Under the leadership of the President of the Committee on Andean, Amazon, and Afroperuvian Peoples, Environment and Ecology and the Vice President of Natural Resources, the Peruvian Conservation Caucus (CCP) was officially inaugurated in the Peruvian Congress.

Representatives underlined the importance of the creation of multi-partisan dialogue at the highest levels of government to generate, in a conscientious and informed manner, legislation on sustainable development and conservation of natural capital.

The CCP will coordinate activities promoting cross-sectoral forums to encourage parliamentary work on issues such as responsible mining, water resources, reforestation, biodiversity, and protected areas, among others.



MEMBERS OF THE COLOMBIAN OCEANS CAUCUS AND NATIONAL PARKS DIRECTOR MEET TAYRONA COMMUNITY LEADERS

## MEMBERS OF COLOMBIAN CONGRESS FORM COLOMBIA OCEANS CAUCUS

ADDRESSING FIRST-HAND THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF COLOMBIA'S NATURAL NATIONAL PARKS

Members of the Colombian Conservation Caucus (CCC), ICCF Colombia, the Center for Higher Legislative Learning (CAEL), and the Senate Board officially launched the Colombian Oceans Caucus (COC) to promote a cross-sectional agenda on sustainable conservation and development of marine resources, working on the promotion, support, and creation of well-informed policies and legislation.

ICCF Colombia serves as secretariat for the COC and is creating platforms for cross-sectoral dialogue and collaborative agreement.

In June, the COC carried out its first Congressional Field Mission to Tayrona National Park. Primary objectives were to discuss the preservation of the region's natural wealth, better understand its contribution to the country's socio-economic development, and address the challenges it faces.

Members recognized the need for institutional development for the administrative and management agencies in charge of the region.



“ As a congressional representative of the Colombian Caribbean and confident of the development and the exceptional opportunities we have in our seas, I feel responsible for promoting these platforms, which will effectively serve to generate policies from all sectors.”

— The Hon. Dr. Daira Galvis  
Co-President & Founder, Colombian Oceans Caucus

## NAMIBIAN PRESIDENT SIGNS CAUCUS-BACKED BILL INTO LAW TO INCREASE PENALTIES FOR WILDLIFE CRIME

President Hage Geingob signed into law the Nature Conservation Amendment Act, which significantly increases penalties for wildlife crime. The Act, unanimously passed by the Namibian parliament, raises fines for rhino and elephant poachers from the current maximum of N\$200,000 to N\$25 million, and increases the fines for illegal possession of protected species from the current N\$20,000 to N\$10 million and imprisonment of five to ten years.

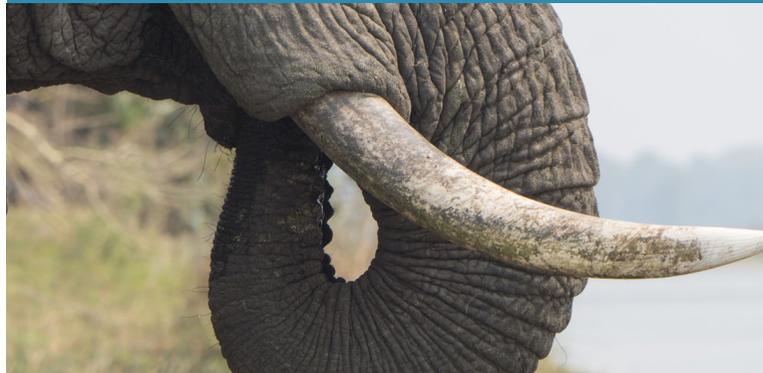
The Namibian Conservation Parliamentary Caucus (NACOPAC) supported the development of political will and expert input for

the law through a series of workshops and briefings focused on illegal wildlife trafficking and managing human-wildlife conflict. NACOPAC is an all-party caucus of Namibian parliamentarians committed to strengthening conservation for sustainable development.



IT HAS BEEN ESTIMATED THAT UP TO 12.7 MILLION METRIC TONS OF WASTE ENTERED THE OCEAN IN 2012.

IN 2016, 135 ELEPHANT TUSKS AND PIECES AND 36 RHINO HORNS WERE SEIZED BY NAMIBIAN AUTHORITIES.



## U.S. HOUSE OCEANS CAUCUS CO-CHAIRS INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO ADDRESS MARINE DEBRIS

Co-Chair of the House Oceans Caucus, Representative Don Young of Alaska, introduced H.R. 2748 – To reauthorize and amend the Marine Debris Act to promote international action to reduce marine debris, and for other purposes.

Representative Suzanne Bonamici (House Oceans Caucus Co-Chair) and other members of the House Oceans Caucus are among original cosponsors.

This is a companion bill to the one introduced earlier this year by Senators Sullivan, Whitehouse, Peters, and Murkowski, Co-Chairs of the Senate Oceans Caucus.

# INTERPRETATION OF COLOMBIA'S NATURAL PARKS TO HIGHLIGHT THEIR IMPORTANCE



With the objective of continuing to plan visitor interpretation and interaction with Colombia's natural parks, ICCF's International Conservation Corps conducted its third field mission in Tayrona National Park, from May 2-16, in conjunction with Parques Nacionales Nacionales (from the local and the national levels) and the National Park Service of the United States.

The project includes the planning of two important park elements: land utilization and visitor interpretation. Land architects visited the site, bringing technical support with initial recommendations to improve visitor experiences and yield improved use of the current infrastructure of the park, including identifying the most appropriate places for the flow of visitors and location of services such as bathrooms, water fountains, and others.

The project also included a week-long interpretive planning workshop, including two days with forty representatives from local communities involved in the park such as indigenous groups, ecotourism experts in the community, and public relations representatives for the park. The workshop sought to define concepts such as interpretation, education, information,

and orientation; develop the interpretive mark; define and prioritize interpretive services; and establish steps to continue the construction of interpretive planning of Tayrona Park.

The International Conservation Corps team is comprised of several retired experts from the U.S. National Park Service: Sam Vaughn, who served as Executive Director of Interpretation Planning; Carolyn Richard, who served as Executive Director of Interpretation for Carlsbad Caverns, National Mall and Memorial, and Grand Teton National Parks; and Ellis Richard, who served as Executive Director of Interpretation for Grand Canyon National Park and Superintendent of Guadalupe Mountains National Park. This is a team with great knowledge and experience in interpretation planning, visitor center management relating to interpretation and design of activities, development of printed materials, and environmental education, in addition to others.

## IN THE FIELD



## ONGOING PROJECTS AROUND THE GLOBE

- Strengthening the management capacity of Colombia's national park system
- Supporting the Paulson Institute in China to establish a national park service
- Improving the management and operations of Thailand's premier national park
- Working in Kenya to support the Naibunga Conservancy
- Strengthened capacity of the government of the Bahamas to manage its forests

## HIS EXCELLENCY CARLOS DOS SANTOS AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

AMBASSADOR DOS SANTOS DISCUSSES HIS COUNTRY'S COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE FORMATION OF A PARLIAMENTARY CONSERVATION CAUCUS IN MOZAMBIQUE.



Watch the full ICCF Embassy Spotlight with Ambassador dos Santos on our YouTube page.



***Q: How does Mozambique's ecotourism impact natural wealth and rural communities? What have been the benefits of this industry, and what challenges remain?***

A: Mozambique looks at tourism as an income earner, a way of promoting the country through tourists who visit the country. But also, the country looks at tourism as something that should benefit the communities of the country, and we want to make sure that, as we develop, that we do not overuse the natural resources of the country.

So, ecotourism is essential in the development tourism industry in Mozambique, and we have plans, programs, strategies to develop ecotourism, to have community participation in tourism development, in cultural tourism. The ecotourists today look for more than just the beauty of the country; they want to know more about the communities: how they live, their past, present, the cultural practices, folklore, dances, music, all of those things.

***Q: How is and how can the Government of Mozambique work to oversee an economic growth that works in balance with conservation?***

A: [T]he way we want to develop the economy is to make sure that we support agriculture because that is where the majority of our people - seventy percent of the people of Mozambique - are at. We want to make sure that they continue to practice agriculture in a sustainable way, in a productive way. We make sure that they have assistance extension services, that they allow them to produce for their own sustenance, but also sell whatever is in excess.

***Q: What do you think is the immediate value and long-term potential in ICCF fostering an exchange between Members of Parliament in Mozambique and Members of the United States Congress?***

A: [W]e have had delegations from the Assembly of the Republic, which is our Parliament, bipartisan membership of the delegation to discuss best ways of dealing with conservation and mainstreaming conservation issues in the debates of Parliament but also in the Government of the entire country. That has led to the establishment of the caucus in Mozambique, and we are very proud of that. And, we believe that it enables Parliament to look at conservation issues seriously and regularly and also build capacities with the Members of Parliament and also inform them of the need to talk and look at those issues when they talk to their respective constituencies.



## RECENT BRIEFINGS & WORKSHOPS

### COMBATING WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING: MAKING A GLOBAL IMPACT

JUNE 21, 2017

Congressional Staff Briefing with Dr. Scott Robertson, Wildlife Conservation Society

### ENHANCING THE AFRICAN VOICE FOR WILDLIFE IN MODERN AFRICA

MAY 17, 2017

Congressional Staff Briefing with Kaddu Sebunya, President of the African Wildlife Foundation

### GLOBAL CONSERVATION CHALLENGES: MULTILATERAL PERSPECTIVES

APRIL 20, 2017

Congressional Staff Briefing with Eric Solheim, Executive Director, U.N. Environment

### PRIVATE-SECTOR LEADERSHIP IN OCEAN CONSERVATION

JUNE 14, 2017

Congressional Member Dinner recognizing private-sector ocean conservation leaders

### CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP DINNER: VIRUNGA

MAY 1, 2017

Briefing with Emmanuel de Merode, Director of Virunga National Park

### COLLECTIVE ACTION FOR OCEAN GOVERNANCE

APRIL 5, 2017

Congressional Staff Briefing with João Aguiar Machado, Director-General for Maritime Affairs & Fisheries, European Commission

### PRIVATE-SECTOR LEADERSHIP IN OCEAN CONSERVATION

JUNE 7, 2017

Reception at the U.N. Ocean Conference to recognize leaders in ocean conservation

### HALTING THE DECLINE OF AFRICA'S VULTURES

MAY 24, 2017

Congressional Staff Briefing with Patricia Zurita, CEO of BirdLife International

### ICCF KENYA CEO BRIEFING SERIES

MAY 17, 2017

Panel discussion for Members of Parliament with wildlife management and tourism industry leaders



JOEL MANBY, CEO OF SEAWORLD PARKS & ENTERTAINMENT, SPEAKS AT OCF RECEPTION IN NEW YORK ON JUNE 7<sup>TH</sup>



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

This has been a very productive quarter that has highlighted, in particular, The ICCF Group's successful work in Latin America. We were honored to host the President of Colombia in Washington to discuss conservation initiatives, challenges, and successes in his

Over the past year, The ICCF Group has helped to build nonpartisan conservation caucuses in Mexico and Peru, the latter of which we worked with members of the Peruvian Congress to launch in April. We are proud of our work in Colombia and are excited about the road that lies ahead working with newly formed caucuses in the region. We remain grateful to all of our partners who make the continued success and growth of our work possible around the globe.

country. Over the past several years, we've built a close working relationship with the government of Colombia. ICCF Colombia supports the Colombian Conservation Caucus (CCC) and brings together government, business, and NGO stakeholders to advance the work of the caucus. The CCC was among the first parliamentary conservation caucuses that The ICCF Group has helped to establish, and we are happy to announce that, in April, ICCF Colombia worked with members of the Colombian Congress to launch the Colombia Oceans Caucus (COC).

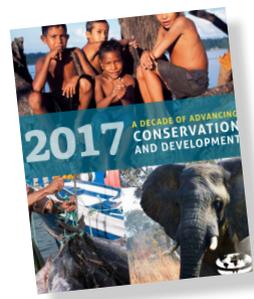
Best Wishes,

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

On the ground, The ICCF Group, through our International Conservation Corps, is supporting the National Parks of Colombia (PNN). Over the past few months, International Conservation Corps team members have conducted a series of missions to Tayrona National Park, one of Colombia's most popular for tourism, working with the PNN and local communities to enable park personnel to better convey the park's rich natural heritage to its visitors. Members of the newly established Colombia Oceans Caucus visited the park in June to see first-hand the economic value of the park and to get a sense of the challenges facing the park's coastal ecosystems.

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### BECOME AN ICCF GLOBAL PARTNER

For information about our partnership opportunities, please contact:

Susan Lylis  
Vice President, ICCF  
susanlylis@iccfoundation.us  
The ICCF Group  
25786 Georgetown Station  
Washington, DC 20027  
+1 (202) 471-4222