THE YEAR’S MOST IMPORTANT GATHERING OF CONSERVATIONISTS FROM THE BUSINESS, NGO, AND GOVERNMENT COMMUNITIES TO PROMOTE US LEADERSHIP IN THE SOUND MANAGEMENT OF THE WORLD’S NATURAL RESOURCES
IT IS MY GREAT PLEASURE to welcome you to ICCF’s 2018 U.S. Congressional International Conservation Gala. Tonight we are pleased to honor several individuals and organizations that have made outstanding conservation contributions and are changing the way the world thinks about conservation.

African Parks and Vulcan Inc., which we are honoring with the "Good Steward" Award and the Conservation Leadership in Business Award, are implementing models that maximize public-sector resources by bringing in innovative private-sector ideas, leading to greater sustainability and improved livelihoods.

African Parks is pioneering an effective, sustainable, and scalable model for rehabilitation and long-term management of national parks in partnership with governments and local communities. Vulcan Inc. is revolutionizing conservation efforts by applying innovative technology solutions.

We’re also pleased to recognize two individuals who have changed the political landscape in the U.S. over the past two decades, introducing a bipartisan caucus model as a means of promoting U.S. leadership in international conservation. We will present Senator Sheldon Whitehouse with the prestigious Teddy Roosevelt® International Conservation Award and will recognize Chairman Ed Royce (2013 recipient of the Teddy Roosevelt® International Conservation Award) as he retires from Congress.

Tonight we also welcome Heads of State, parliamentarians, and ambassadors from around the globe. ICCF is proud to support conservation caucuses in 13 countries, based on the U.S. Congressional caucus model, where we are working to help policymakers address their respective countries’ specific conservation and development challenges.

I thank you all for joining us as we showcase and celebrate innovative conservation models and outstanding conservation leadership.

Best wishes,

John Basil Gantt, President
PROGRAM

VIP RECEPTION SPONSORED BY MAGICAL KENYA
AND GENERAL RECEPTION

PRESENTATION OF COLORS
U.S. Marine Corps Color Guard

U.S. NATIONAL ANTHEM

INVOCATION
The Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, Chaplain
U.S. House of Representatives

OPENING REMARKS
John Basil Gantt, President, ICCF

MASTERS OF CEREMONIES
The Honorable Connie Mack, IV
The Honorable John Tanner

DR. NAOKO ISHII
CEO and Chairperson, Global Environment Facility

PROGRAM BREAK

HIS EXCELLENCY MOKGWEETSI MASISI
President, Republic of Botswana

PRESENTATION OF ICCF CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP IN BUSINESS AWARD
VULCAN INC.
Bill Hilf, Chief Executive Officer

HIS EXCELLENCY EDGAR LUNGU
President, Republic of Zambia

PRESENTATION OF ICCF “GOOD STEWARD” AWARD
AFRICAN PARKS
Peter Fearnhead, Chief Executive Officer

PRESENTATION OF ICCF TEDDY ROOSEVELT® INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION AWARD
The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE ED ROYCE
THE INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION CAUCUS

THE U.S. CONGRESSIONAL INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION CAUCUS is inspired by the belief that the U.S. has the opportunity, the obligation, and the interests to advance the conservation of natural resources for this and future generations.

ICCF acts as an informal secretariat to the leadership of the U.S. Congressional International Conservation Caucus, directly supporting caucus members with nonpartisan, well-researched natural resources for this and future generations.

Since 2004, ICCF has helped grow the bipartisan U.S. Congressional International Conservation Caucus to include one-third of the U.S. Congress.

UNITED STATES SENATE

Co-Chairs

Members

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Co-Chairs

Members

Fr. Patrick Conroy (Chaplain)
THE OCEANS CAUCUS
UNITED STATES CONGRESS

The Bipartisan U.S. Congressional Oceans Caucus was established to increase awareness, promote dialogue, and find common ground in responding to issues facing the oceans and coasts.

The Oceans Caucus Foundation (OCF) is an independent program within ICCF U.S. that advances U.S. leadership in international ocean conservation by providing a platform to bring marine issues to the attention of government leaders and working with partners to provide educational programming.

OCF supports the leadership of the U.S. Congressional Oceans Caucus, educating members about the importance of ocean issues and solutions that protect oceans resources and the livelihoods that depend upon them.
MORE THAN A DECADE AGO, ICCF’s founders recognized governance as a significant limiting factor in sustainable conservation.

ICCF was founded to meet the need by building political will for international conservation.

ICCF supports the leadership of the U.S. Congressional International Conservation Caucus (ICC). It brings together major conservation NGOs and corporate partners to support educational programs for the ICC. This partnership has grown to include more than 50 corporations and NGOs.

ICCF quickly realized that this model should be shared. The ICCF Group was created as an umbrella organization to build and support ICCF organizations all over the world. We are building and supporting international parliamentary conservation caucuses and working with a wide network of partners to find innovative solutions to complex conservation challenges.

The ICCF Group:
- Inspires and empowers policymakers to develop good policies and legislation;
- Strengthens judicial capacity to enforce laws;
- Showcases successful conservation models;
- Facilitates effective partnerships between the public and private sectors;
- Provides on-the-ground conservation expertise through its International Conservation Corps.
THE ICCF GROUP’S INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION CORPS is made up of experienced veterans from U.S. and Canadian land management agencies (such as the U.S. National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, among others) who travel to partner nations around the world to provide high-level, low-cost expertise.

International Conservation Corps projects complement The ICCF Group’s work with policymakers and the work of our partners around the globe on a range of conservation issues such as forestry, wildlife, national parks & protected areas, oceans & rivers, and fisheries.
COLOMBIA
ICCF Colombia is working with the Colombian Congress to address water, illegal mining, oceans, and other issues. ICCF’s International Conservation Corps is working to strengthen the management capacity of Colombia’s national park system.

KENYA
ICCF Kenya is working with the Parliamentary Conservation Caucus – Kenya to address illegal wildlife trafficking, forest management, and other conservation challenges. The International Conservation Corps is working to assist community conservancies that protect critical wildlife habitat, including a key migration route for elephants.

THAILAND
ICCF’s International Conservation Corps is supporting the AMATA Foundation and Thailand’s national park system to strengthen the management of Thailand’s premier national park. The ICCF Group is working with leaders in Thailand toward establishing a parliamentary conservation caucus.
NEARLY TWO DECADES AGO, Chairman Ed Royce joined Congressmen John Tanner, Clay Shaw, and Tom Udall in launching the historic Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP). Chairman Royce authored the legislation for the CBFP and led efforts to secure its passage. This remarkable effort resulted in the protection of more than 10,000 square miles of land in Gabon and brings together some 85 partners, including African countries, donor agencies and governments, international organizations, NGOs, scientific institutions and the private sector, working to coordinate efforts to sustain forest resources in the Congo Basin.

Inspired by the success of the CBFP, Chairman Royce proposed the establishment of an International Conservation Caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives, and in 2001 the caucus was born. The success of this caucus inspired the launch of a companion caucus in the U.S. Senate and the creation of the International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF) to support the leadership of these caucuses. Chairman Royce has remained extremely active in the ICC, where he has served as Co-Chair since its launch.

Chairman Royce has played a key leadership role in advancing conservation legislation in the U.S. and in promoting political will for conservation in governments around the world. Under his leadership, the House of Representatives has passed The Eliminate, Neutralize, and Disrupt (END) Wildlife Trafficking Act and the Defending Economic Livelihoods and Threatened Animals (DELTA) Act, among many others.

We commend Chairman Royce for his extraordinary conservation leadership, which has greatly impacted the biodiversity and lives of people around the world. We wish him all the best as he retires from Congress.
VULCAN INC.
Mr. Bill Hilf, Chief Executive Officer, Vulcan

Vulcan Inc., a Paul G. Allen company, is working to integrate technology, data, policy, partnerships, and powerful storytelling to save endangered species and improve ocean health, among many other initiatives. In 2016 Vulcan completed the Great Elephant Census (GEC), the first-ever continent-wide aerial survey of African savanna elephants. Vulcan also provides technological platforms to assist in detecting and identifying vessels fishing illegally; to help park rangers and managers address technical challenges monitoring wildlife; and to help understand, promote the health of, and map coral reefs and the animals that depend on them.

ICCF TEDDY ROOSEVELT® INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION® AWARD

THE HON. SHELDON WHITEHOUSE
United States Senator

Senator Sheldon Whitehouse has demonstrated extraordinary leadership for oceans conservation in the U.S. Senate—co-founding and galvanizing the growth of the U.S. Senate Oceans Caucus, spearheading legislation such as the Save Our Seas (S.O.S.) Act and the Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing Enforcement Act of 2015, and recruiting, educating, and inspiring a new generation of U.S. Senators committed to oceans conservation.

ICCF BUSINESS LEADERSHIP AWARD

VULCAN INC.
Mr. Bill Hilf, Chief Executive Officer, Vulcan

Vulcan Inc., a Paul G. Allen company, is working to integrate technology, data, policy, partnerships, and powerful storytelling to save endangered species and improve ocean health, among many other initiatives. In 2016 Vulcan completed the Great Elephant Census (GEC), the first-ever continent-wide aerial survey of African savanna elephants. Vulcan also provides technological platforms to assist in detecting and identifying vessels fishing illegally; to help park rangers and managers address technical challenges monitoring wildlife; and to help understand, promote the health of, and map coral reefs and the animals that depend on them.

ICCF’S ‘GOOD STEWARD’ AWARD

ICCF’s “Good Steward” Award is presented to recognize outstanding individual leadership in conservation. This year we are pleased to honor Mr. Peter Fearnhead, CEO of African Parks.

AFRICAN PARKS
Mr. Peter Fearnhead, Chief Executive Officer

African Parks, one of the foremost conservation organizations working on the ground in partnership with governments, is credited with pioneering the concept of public-private partnerships in protected area management. They are achieving great success by implementing an effective, sustainable, and scalable model in which they assume full responsibility for the rehabilitation and long-term management of national parks in partnership with governments and local communities. African Parks currently manages 15 national parks and protected areas in nine African countries, protecting 10.5 million hectares.

SHELDON,

We are incredibly grateful for your commitment and leadership in protecting nature and the essential services it provides us.

Roger and Vicki Sant
OUR THANKS

The ICCF would like to thank:

Our sponsors:

Bo Derek, Luciana & Robert Duvall

Senators Richard Burr, Rob Portman, Tom Udall, and Sheldon Whitehouse, U.S. Senate International Conservation Caucus Co-Chairs

Senators Lisa Murkowski and Sheldon Whitehouse, U.S. Senate Oceans Caucus Co-Chairs

Representatives Henry Cuellar, Jeff Fortenberry, Betty McCollum, and Ed Royce, U.S. House International Conservation Caucus Co-Chairs

Representatives Suzanne Bonamici and Don Young, U.S. House Oceans Caucus Co-Chairs

Co-Chairs of the Conservation Caucuses who traveled to Washington to be with us for this special event

The ICCF Team:

David H. Barron, Frederic Brizzi, Clare Falcone, Alex Green, Roy Howell, Todd Koenings, Susan Lylis, Andiany Matthysens, Bill Millan, Brian Parham, Evie Stewart, Daniel Tanner, Jill Barasa, Olivia Blanchette, Carolyn Weis, Katie Moore, Agnes Keshine, Momade Mucanheia, Wilde Rosny Ngalekassaga, Mulima Wamunyima, Eleonora Aranda, Ana Cubillos, Laura Hernandez, Fiorella Suarez, Carolina Valbuena

The International Conservation Corps:

Doug Morris, Maria Burks, Destry Jarvis, Joel Holtrop, Paul Rics, Doug Konkin, Mel Turner, Ellis Richards, Carolyn Richards, Sam Vaughn, Kathy Chopik, Denny Truesdale, Bill Timko, Barbara Goodman, Terry Moore, Terry Savage, Kevin Fitzgerald, Dale Ditmanson, Brion Fitzgerald, Doug Stephenson, Roy Lowe, Derek Thompson, Joe Alston, Mike Soukup, Mary Foley, Serge Aucoin, Russell Moore, Michael Lacome, John Ole Keshine, David Morris, Pat Barnes

The ICCF Team:

HIS EXCELLENCY MOKGWEETSI MASISI
President, Republic of Botswana

H.E. Mokgweetsi Masisi is the President of Botswana, having previously held the position of Vice President. He has also served as Minister of Education and Minister of Presidential Affairs and Public Administration. He was first elected to Parliament in 2009.

HIS EXCELLENCY EDGAR LUNGU
President, Republic of Zambia

H.E. Edgar Lungu has served as President of Zambia since 2015. He previously served as Minister of Justice, Minister of Home Affairs, and Minister of Defence. Prior to his political career, he practiced law.
ICCF REMEMBERS

Russel Friedman (1953 - 2018)
Founding Partner, Wilderness Safari

“Russel was a man with great integrity, a mentor to many, and an inspiration to all who knew him. We at ICCF will remember his friendship, commitment, passion and wit. Russel’s passing will leave a void and will be deeply felt by ICCF and the entire conservation community.”

-- Susan Lylis, Vice-President of ICCF

Alan Rabinowitz, Ph.D (1953 - 2018)
Founder, Panthera

“For decades Alan was the authority and the inspiration for all of us fighting for the survival of the great cats.”

-- David H. Barron, Founder of ICCF