



ICCF



## THE 2023 ICCF U.S. CONGRESSIONAL INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP GALA



Honoring Jeff Bezos, Lauren Sánchez, and the Bezos Earth Fund, and Other Remarkable  
Individuals and Organizations, for Extraordinary Global Leadership in Conservation

OCTOBER 24, 2023 - WALDORF ASTORIA, WASHINGTON, D.C.



WELCOME

A MESSAGE FROM

JOHN B. GANTT

**W**elcome to the 2023 ICCF U.S. Congressional International Conservation Leadership Gala. Tonight's theme is "Celebrating and raising awareness about the importance of public/private conservation partnerships," and we are honored by the presence of so many inspirational leaders from across sectors who are achieving great success through innovative partnerships.

We are pleased to have the opportunity to recognize Jeff Bezos, Lauren Sanchez, and the Bezos Earth Fund with the ICCF Good Steward Award for their outstanding conservation commitment and to honor Chairwoman Kay Granger with the ICCF Teddy Roosevelt® International Conservation Award for her leadership in consistently securing and growing U.S. Government support for international conservation. We are also honored to welcome special guest H.E. Santiago Pena, newly inaugurated President of Paraguay, whose administration is eager to welcome opportunities for public-private partnership for sustainable economic development and the conservation of Paraguay's natural resources.



Tonight we also recognize the leadership of the International Conservation Caucus in advancing innovative ways to finance international conservation with the introduction of the bipartisan U.S. Foundation for International Conservation Act, which would establish a new financing mechanism for conservation in which private donations are leveraged by government funding to secure effective long-term management of ecosystems through a U.S.-led public-private grantmaking partnership. We applaud the many members of the caucus who have led on this initiative, as well as our many private-sector partners who have lent their support.

Thank you for joining us this evening as we recognize and celebrate outstanding conservation leadership and partnerships.

Best wishes,

Handwritten signature of John B. Gantt in blue ink.

John B. Gantt  
Chief Executive Officer  
The ICCF Group

# PROGRAM



U.S. MARINE CORPS COLOR GUARD

*Presentation of Colors*

U.S. NATIONAL ANTHEM

SENIOR PASTOR COREY B. BROOKS OF NEW BEGINNINGS CHURCH OF CHICAGO, FOUNDER AND CEO OF PROJECT H.O.O.D. COMMUNITIES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

*Invocation*

JOHN B. GANTT, CEO, THE ICCF GROUP

*Opening Remarks*

THE HONORABLE KEVIN MCCARTHY, SPEAKER EMERITUS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Remarks*

THE HONORABLE CHRIS COONS, U.S. SENATOR

JEFF BEZOS, EXECUTIVE CHAIR, BEZOS EARTH FUND

*Presentation of the ICCF Good Steward Award*

THE HONORABLE LINDSEY GRAHAM, U.S. SENATOR

THE HONORABLE KAY GRANGER, CHAIRWOMAN OF THE U.S. HOUSE  
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

*Presentation of the ICCF Teddy Roosevelt® International Conservation Award*

PROGRAM BREAK

MONICA MEDINA, PRESIDENT & CEO, WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

CARLOS MANUEL RODRIGUEZ, CEO AND CHAIRPERSON, THE GLOBAL  
ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

*On the Importance of Legislators in Generating Sustainable Conservation Impact*

THE HONORABLE BETTY MCCOLLUM, U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

RAMSON KARMUSHU, FIELD AND RESEARCH COORDINATOR, INDIGENOUS  
MOVEMENT FOR PEACE ADVANCEMENT AND CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION  
IN NORTHERN KENYA (IMPACT)

THE HONORABLE HENRY CUELLAR, U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

HIS EXCELLENCY SANTIAGO PEÑA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
PARAGUAY

JOHN B. GANTT, CEO, THE ICCF GROUP

*Closing Remarks*

# U.S. CONGRESSIONAL INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION CAUCUS

**T**he U.S. Congressional International Conservation Caucus, the oldest and most developed conservation caucus in the world, 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. The International Conservation Caucus Foundation (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, and timely educational resources from an unmatched network of business and nonprofit leaders. Since 2006, ICCF has helped grow the bipartisan U.S. Congressional International Conservation Caucus to include one-third of the U.S. Congress.

## U.S. SENATE | CO-CHAIRS

Sen. John Boozman (R-AR) | Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE) | Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-NM)  
Sen. Thom Tillis (R-NC)

## MEMBERS

Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY)

Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)

Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO)

Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN)

Sen. Mike Braun (R-IN)

Sen. Tom Carper (D-DE)

Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA)

Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR)

Sen. Mike Crapo (R-ID)

Sen. Steve Daines (R-MT)

Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL)

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC)

Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)

Sen. Cynthia Lummis (R-WY)

Sen. Edward Markey (D-MA)

Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ)

Sen. Jerry Moran (R-KS)

Sen. Gary Peters (D-MI)

Sen. James Risch (R-ID)

Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI)

Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)

Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT)

Sen. John Thune (R-SD)

Sen. Tommy Tuberville (R-AL)

Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)

Sen. Roger Wicker (R-MS)

## U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES | CO-CHAIRS

Rep. Henry Cuellar (D-TX) | Rep. David Joyce (R-OH) | Rep. Jake LaTurner (R-KS)

Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN)

## MEMBERS

Rep. Robert Aderholt (R-AL)

Rep. Jim Baird (R-IN)

Rep. Cliff Bentz (R-OR)

Rep. Stephanie Bice (R-OK)

Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL)

Rep. Sanford Bishop (D-GA)

Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR)

Rep. Vern Buchanan (R-FL)

Rep. Larry Bucshon (R-IN)

Rep. Ken Calvert (R-CA)

Rep. André Carson (D-IN)

Rep. Buddy Carter (R-GA)

Rep. John Carter (R-TX)

Rep. Matt Cartwright (D-PA)

Rep. Ed Case (D-HI)

Rep. David Cicilline (D-RI)

Rep. Ben Cline (R-VA)

Rep. James Clyburn (D-SC)

Rep. Steve Cohen (D-TN)

Rep. Jim Costa (D-CA)

Rep. John Curtis (R-UT)

Rep. Mario Díaz-Balart (R-FL)

Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D-TX)

Rep. Jeff Duncan (R-SC)

Rep. Chuck Fleischmann (R-TN)

Rep. Lois Frankel (D-FL)

Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA)

Rep. Andrew Garbarino (R-NY)

Rep. Lance Gooden (R-TX)

Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ)

Rep. Kay Granger (R-TX)

Rep. Garret Graves (R-LA)

Rep. Morgan Griffith (R-VA)

Rep. French Hill (R-AR)

Rep. Chrissy Houlahan (D-PA)

Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA)

Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX)

Rep. Mike Kelly (R-PA)

Rep. Derek Kilmer (D-WA)

Rep. Young Kim (R-CA)

Rep. Darin LaHood (R-IL)

Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-CO)

Rep. John Larson (D-CT)

Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA)

Rep. Julia Letlow (R-LA)

Rep. Alan Lowenthal (D-CA)

Rep. Nancy Mace (R-SC)

Rep. Michael McCaul (R-TX)

Rep. Tom McClintock (R-CA)

Rep. David McKinley (R-WV)

Rep. Jerry McNerney (D-CA)

Rep. John Moolenaar (R-MI)

Rep. Gregory W. Meeks (D-NY)

Rep. M. Miller-Meeks (R-IA)

Rep. Blake Moore (R-UT)

Rep. Greg Murphy (R-NC)

Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-CA)

Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-WA)

Rep. Ralph Norman (R-SC)

Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ)

Rep. Jimmy Panetta (D-CA)

Rep. Donald Payne, Jr. (D-NJ)

Rep. Scott Peters (D-CA)

Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-ME)

Rep. Bill Posey (R-FL)

Rep. Mike Quigley (D-IL)

Rep. Hal Rogers (R-KY)

Rep. Mike Rogers (R-AL)

Rep. D. Ruppertsberger (D-MD)

Rep. John Rutherford (R-FL)

Rep. Gregorio Sablan (D-CNMI)

Rep. Linda Sanchez (D-CA)

Rep. John Sarbanes (D-MD)

Rep. Austin Scott (R-GA)

Rep. Mike Simpson (R-ID)

Rep. Adam Smith (D-WA)

Rep. Christopher Smith (R-NJ)

Rep. Jason Smith (R-MO)

Rep. Pete Stauber (R-MN)

Rep. Bryan Steil (R-WI)

Rep. Mark Takano (D-CA)

Rep. G.T. Thompson (R-PA)

Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV)

Rep. Michael Turner (R-OH)

Rep. David Valadao (R-CA)

Rep. D. Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)

Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-AR)

Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC)

Rep. Robert J. Wittman (R-VA)

Rep. Steve Womack (R-AZ)

# U.S. CONGRESSIONAL OCEANS CAUCUS

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 oceans issues and solutions that protect oceans resources and the livelihoods that depend upon them.

## U.S. SENATE | CO-CHAIRS

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AL) | Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)

## HONORARY CO-CHAIRS

Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) | Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-AK)

## MEMBERS

Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO)

Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)

Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ)

Sen. John Boozman (R-AR)

Sen. Mike Braun (R-IN)

Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA)

Sen. Benjamin Cardin (D-MD)

Sen. Tom Carper (D-DE)

Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA)

Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME)

Sen. Christopher Coons (D-DE)

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC)

Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-HI)

Sen. James Inhofe (R-OK)

Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA)

Sen. John Kennedy (R-LA)

Sen. Angus King (I-ME)

Sen. Ed Markey (D-MA)

Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR)

Sen. Chris Murphy (D-CT)

Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA)

Sen. Gary Peters (D-MI)

Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI)

Sen. James Risch (R-ID)

Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI)

Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY)

Sen. Thom Tillis (R-NC)

Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)

Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA)

Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)

Sen. Roger Wicker (R-MS)

Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR)

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Rep. Cliff Bentz (R-OR)

Rep. Donald Beyer (D-VA)

Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR)

Rep. Vern Buchanan (R-FL)

Rep. Larry Buschon (R-IN)

Rep. Ken Calvert (R-CA)

Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-CA)

Rep. Buddy Carter (R-GA)

Rep. John Carter (R-TX)

Rep. Ed Case (D-HI)

Rep. Sean Casten (D-IL)

Rep. Kathy Castor (D-FL)

Rep. Steve Cohen (D-TN)

Rep. Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA)

Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI)

Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D-CA)

Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA)

Rep. Lizzie Fletcher (D-TX)

Rep. Lois Frankel (D-FL)

Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA)

Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ)

Rep. Kay Granger (R-TX)

Rep. Garret Graves (R-LA)

Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ)

Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA)

Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH)

Rep. Bill Keating (D-MA)

Rep. Derek Kilmer (D-WA)

Rep. Andy Kim (D-NJ)

Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-CO)

Rep. Rick Larsen (D-WA)

Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA)

Rep. Mike Levin (D-CA)

Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA)

Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)

Rep. Barry Loudermilk (R-GA)

Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA)

Rep. Nicole Malliotakis (R-NY)

Rep. Brian Mast (R-FL)

Rep. Doris Matsui (D-CA)

Rep. Michael McCaul (R-TX)

Rep. James P. McGovern (D-MA)

Rep. Seth Moulton (D-MA)

Rep. Frank Pallone Jr. (D-NJ)

Rep. Jimmy Panetta (D-CA)

Rep. Chris Pappas (D-NH)

Rep. Donald Payne (D-NJ)

Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)

Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-ME)

Rep. Katie Porter (D-CA)

Rep. Aumua Amata Coleman  
Radewagen (R-AS)

Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD)

Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE)

Rep. Mike Rogers (R-AL)

Rep. C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger (D-MD)

Rep. John Rutherford (R-FL)

Rep. Gregorio Sablan (D-CNMI)

Rep. John P. Sarbanes (D-MD)

Rep. Austin Scott (R-GA)

Rep. Robert C. Scott (D-VA)

Rep. Christopher Smith (R-NJ)

Rep. Abigail Spanberger (D-VA)

Rep. Marilyn Strickland (D-WA)

Rep. Mike Thompson (D-CA)

Rep. Jeff Van Drew (R-NJ)

Rep. Juan Vargas (D-CA)

Rep. Nydia Velazquez (D-NY)

Rep. Michael Waltz (R-FL)

Rep. D. Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)

Rep. Dan Webster (R-FL)

Rep. Rob Wittman (R-VA)



## 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.

### **A few examples of the legislative successes of our global caucuses include:**

- Colombia: Approval of Minamata Convention on Mercury
- Mexico: General Law of Sustainable Forestry Development of 2018
- Peru: Law to Regulate Single-Use Plastics Nationwide
- Gabon: Passage of Mining Code and Amendments to the Penal Code Related to Wildlife Offenses
- Kenya: Amendments to Wildlife Conservation and Management Act 2013
- Malawi: Amendments to the Wildlife and National Parks Act and the Forestry Act
- Mozambique: Amendments to Conservation Law of 2014
- Namibia: Nature Conservation Amendment Act of 2017
- Zambia: Zambia Wildlife Act 2015 and Forests Act 2015



Legislative group we support



Regional headquarters

**T**he ICCF Group has offices in the United States (ICCF U.S.), Africa (ICCF Kenya), Europe (ICCF-UK), Asia (ICCF Indonesia), and Latin America (ICCF Colombia). Each ICCF office is established as a separate legal entity, registered in the host country, with its own Board of Directors. These entities have charitable status in their respective countries, and their role is to further the mission of the ICCF Group. These separate legal entities are bound by a collaboration agreement that ensures a common purpose for all.

# THE INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION CAUCUS FOUNDATION



IN WASHINGTON, D.C., ICCF ADVANCES  
U.S. LEADERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL  
CONSERVATION THROUGH PUBLIC AND  
PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS AND DEVELOPING THE  
NEXT GENERATION OF CONSERVATION LEADERS IN THE U.S. CONGRESS.

ICCF was founded in 2006 to support the leadership of the bipartisan U.S. Congressional International Conservation Caucus (ICC). ICCF 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's founders recognized governance as the missing piece in modern conservation efforts. The ICCF Group was founded to fill this gap in countries around the world. People care deeply about our planet but often need guidance and support to improve laws and

policies, strengthen enforcement, and find the right technologies to address specific issues. The ICCF Group provides this support and brings together a wide network of partners to find innovative solutions to complex conservation challenges.

# THE ICCF GROUP'S INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION CORPS



OUR WORK ON THE GROUND, AROUND THE WORLD

**T**he 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.**

IMPACT

# U.S. LEGISLATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS



A LOOK AT THE POLICIES SPONSORED  
BY CO-CHAIRS AND MEMBERS OF  
CAUCUSES THAT ICCF SUPPORTS IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

## GROWING CLIMATE SOLUTIONS ACT

Assists farmers, ranchers, and private landowners to access voluntary environmental credit markets through a program to register entities providing technical assistance or process verification.

## TROPICAL FOREST AND CORAL REEF CONSERVATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Implements "debt-for-nature" swaps, whereby countries are able to redirect debt repayments to instead support the conservation of tropical forests.

## DEFENDING ECONOMIC LIVELIHOODS AND THREATENED ANIMALS ACT

Promotes sustainable economic growth through trans-boundary conservation programs in the Okavango River Basin, home to Africa's largest remaining elephant population.

## THE ELIMINATE, NEUTRALIZE, AND DISRUPT WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING ACT

Creates a coordinated U.S. Government response to combat poaching and the illegal trade in wildlife.

## MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUNDS SEMIPOSTAL STAMP ACT

Releases a special stamp, the proceeds from which are transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to support species conservation programs.

## LACEY ACT AMENDMENTS TO BAN ILLEGAL TIMBER IMPORTS

Amends the Lacey Act as part of the 2008 Farm Bill to combat trafficking in wildlife, fish, and plants, by expanding its protections to include a greater number of plants and plant products, specifically including products made from illegally logged wood.

## CONGO BASIN FOREST PARTNERSHIP ACT

Led to \$53 million pledged, 13 new national parks formed, and tens of millions of acres dedicated to protected areas in the Congo Basin.

## BLUE GLOBE ACT

Advances data collection of the Great Lakes, oceans, bays, estuaries, and coasts to accelerate technology innovation, grow the marine workforce, and develop a better understanding of the blue economy.

## NATIONAL OCEAN EXPLORATION ACT

Provides statutory authority for the National Ocean Mapping, Exploration, and Characterization Council and revises several programs at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) that support ocean and coastal mapping, hydrographic surveys, and spatial data collection.

## SOS 2.0

Improves international collaboration on marine debris research and alternative materials, and invests in the U.S. waste management recycling infrastructure; creates a foundation and trust fund to provide additional capacity for NOAA's marine debris program.

## MARITIME SAFE ACT

Addresses as part of the National Defense Authorization Act (FY2020) the threat to national security from illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing and associated illegal activity through a whole-of-government approach.

## SAVE OUR SEAS ACT

Reauthorizes the NOAA Marine Debris Program through 2022, which works to address marine debris through research, prevention, and reduction.



## ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED, & UNREGULATED FISHING ENFORCEMENT ACT

Implements the Agreement on Port State Measures by advancing U.S. efforts to prevent illegally harvested fish from entering U.S. ports and markets and addresses key priorities in the previous Administration's action plan for combating illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and seafood fraud.

## RATIFICATION OF 4 MULTINATIONAL OCEANS TREATIES

Protects American fishermen from being disadvantaged by illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing.

**IN PICTURE:** U.S. Senator Chris Coons (D-DE) addresses the audience at the 2021 ICCF U.S. Congressional International Conservation Leadership Awards Dinner.

# CAUCUS CO-CHAIRS INTRODUCE BIPARTISAN USFIC ACT

Leaders of the U.S. Congressional International Conservation Caucus have introduced the bipartisan U.S. Foundation for International Conservation Act (USFICA). Senator Chris Coons (D-DE) and Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) introduced the bill in the Senate, along with Senators John Boozman (R-AR), Martin Heinrich (D-NM), Thom Tillis (R-NC), and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI). Representatives David Joyce (R-OH), Betty McCollum (D-MN), Chris Stewart (R-UT), and Henry Cuellar (D-TX) introduced the House version.

The bipartisan measure would establish and appropriate funds for a charitable nonprofit, independent of the United States government, to carry out activities to promote the long-term management of protected and conserved areas in developing countries; work to identify and support

implementation-ready projects that would benefit indigenous peoples and local communities; and encourage, accept, and administer private funds as leveraged by public contributions.

This new public-private partnership can mobilize significant new funding



from both public and private sources to help solidify the type of long-term funding and resources required for the effective management of protected and conserved areas while leveraging the strengths of both sectors for years to come.

**A long list of CEOs and philanthropists have already committed to partnering with the USFIC, including:**

- Simon Chaplin, CEO, Arcadia Fund
- Andrew Steer, President & CEO, Bezos Earth Fund
- Wendy J. Paulson, Chairman, Bobolink Foundation
- Laurene Powell Jobs, Founder and President, Emerson Collective
- Harvey V. Fineberg, President, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
- Molly Bartlett, Executive Director, International Conservation Fund of Canada
- Peter Seligmann, CEO, Nia Tero
- James Deutsch, CEO, Rainforest Trust
- Wes Sechrest, CEO and Chair, Re:wild
- Rob Walton, Co-President, Rob & Melani Walton Foundation
- Molly McUsic, President, The Wyss Foundation



# THE ICCF GOOD STEWARD AWARD

CCF's Good Steward Award is presented to recognize outstanding individual leadership in conservation.

AWARDED TO JEFF BEZOS, LAUREN SÁNCHEZ, AND THE BEZOS EARTH FUND



The ICCF Group is pleased to present this year's ICCF Good Steward Award to Jeff Bezos, Lauren Sánchez, and the Bezos Earth Fund for their commitment to nature protection and addressing climate change in this decade. The Bezos Earth Fund, which was established with a record-breaking \$10 billion commitment from Jeff Bezos to be disbursed as grants, is building a diverse team of thought leaders, problem solvers, and doers from scientific, government, private, and nonprofit backgrounds, all working to deliver transformational change. The organization aims to harness the best of human ingenuity, adaptability, and collective action

to create a future in which everyone can thrive.

The Bezos Earth Fund is spurring innovation and progress through seven key programs: Conserving & Restoring Nature; Future of Food; Environmental Justice; Decarbonizing Energy & Industry; Economics, Finance, & Markets; Next Technologies; and Monitoring, Data, & Accountability. It has provided more than \$1.84 billion through nearly 200 grants.

## JEFF BEZOS, EXECUTIVE CHAIR, BEZOS EARTH FUND

Jeff Bezos founded Amazon.com in 1994. Amazon's mission is to be Earth's most customer-centric company. In 2019, under Bezos' leadership, Amazon and Global Optimism co-founded The Climate Pledge, a commitment for companies to achieve net-zero carbon by 2040—with 300+ signatories to date and counting.

In 2020, Bezos founded the Bezos Earth Fund, a \$10 billion commitment to fund scientists, activists, NGOs, and others to drive climate and nature solutions in this decisive decade. Funds will be fully allocated by 2030, the date by which the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals must be achieved.

He also founded the Bezos Day One Fund to provide grants to nonprofits to help homeless families and is creating a network of preschools



in low-income communities. Bezos is also the founder of aerospace company Blue Origin, which is working on the long-term goal of moving all polluting and heavy industry off Earth to preserve the planet.

He is the owner of the Washington Post. Bezos graduated summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa in electrical engineering and computer science from Princeton University in 1986 and was named TIME magazine's Person of the Year in 1999.

## LAUREN SÁNCHEZ, VICE CHAIR OF THE BEZOS EARTH FUND

Lauren Sánchez is an Emmy Award-winning journalist and former news anchor. Following a successful news career, Sánchez, a licensed pilot, founded Black Ops Aviation in 2016. The company is the first female-owned and operated aerial film and production company with a focus across television and film.

Sánchez serves as the Vice Chair of the Bezos Earth Fund and is dedicated to fighting climate change and the protection of nature, as well as early childhood education, programming, and housing support. She also works with organizations including This is About Humanity, an organization dedicated to raising awareness and providing support for separated and reunified families at the U.S.-Mexico border, and the Bezos Day One Fund, which encompasses shelter, hunger, and tuition-free preschool education support for underserved communities via the Day 1 Families Fund and Day 1 Academies Fund, among others.



# THE ICCF TEDDY ROOSEVELT® INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION AWARD



**T**he ICCF Teddy Roosevelt® International Conservation Award recognizes outstanding leadership in conservation policy. We are pleased to present this year's award to House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Kay Granger.

## CHAIRWOMAN KAY GRANGER

Over many years, Chairwoman Granger has demonstrated extraordinary leadership in securing U.S. funding for international conservation. She has sponsored legislation designating substantial resources to combat the illegal wildlife trade and co-sponsored bipartisan legislation such as the END Wildlife Trafficking Act and the Multinational Species Conservation Fund Reauthorization Act.

In 1997, Chairwoman Granger became the first Republican woman to represent Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives, and in 2022, she was elected by her colleagues to serve as the Chairwoman of the House Appropriations Committee, a committee on which she has served in various roles for more than two decades. She was previously the first Republican woman to sit on the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee and went on to serve as the Subcommittee Chairwoman.

# TRIBUTE TO ROB PORTMAN

CCF wishes to extend our heartfelt thanks to Hon. Rob Portman for his many years of outstanding conservation leadership. In 2006, ICCF presented him with the first-ever Teddy Roosevelt® International Conservation Award in recognition of his contribution as author of the 1998 Tropical Forest Conservation Act (TFCA), which has resulted in the protection of millions of acres of tropical forests and watersheds.

Elected to Congress in 1993, then-Congressman Portman served in the House of Representatives for 12 years. In 2005, he was appointed United States Trade Representative, and in 2006 he was nominated and confirmed as Director of the Office of Management and Budget. He then returned to Congress, where he represented Ohio in the U.S. Senate from 2011 until his retirement earlier this year.

As co-chair of the International Conservation Caucus, Senator Portman worked tirelessly to protect natural resources and wildlife. In just the past few years, he introduced legislation to: reauthorize the Tropical Forest

and Coral Reef Conservation Act, reauthorize the Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp Act, eliminate shark fin sales, protect migratory birds, and promote nature-based climate solutions. He also led on issues such as reforestation, carbon capture, water, fisheries, energy, national parks, and waste management.

We commend Senator Portman for his extraordinary conservation leadership, which has greatly impacted the planet and the lives of people around the world. We wish him all the best in his retirement from Congress.

IN PICTURE: Senator Rob Portman speaks at the 2015 ICCF U.S. Congressional Gala.





## IN MEMORIAM: GUSTAVO FONSECA

CCF mourns the loss of Global Environment Facility (GEF) Director of Programs Gustavo Fonseca.

During his career as a tropical scientist, which spanned more than three decades, Gustavo worked with, trained, and mentored hundreds of conservationists. He was a champion of protected spaces for biodiversity and was committed to working across sectors and silos for lasting change. Under his leadership, the GEF dramatically scaled up its financial support for countries' efforts to address biodiversity loss, climate change, and pollution together and in partnership with the private sector.

Before joining the GEF in 2007, Gustavo served as Chief Conservation and Science Officer at Conservation International, Founder of the Center for Applied Biodiversity, and tenured Professor of Zoology and Ecology at the Federal University of Minas Gerais in

Brazil. He received a Master's degree in Latin American Studies and a Ph.D. in Forest Management and Conservation from the University of Florida and published more than 170 articles and books, making a significant scientific contribution to the planning, creation, and management of protected areas and biodiversity hotspots.

He received the Oliver Austin Award for outstanding research in the natural sciences, the University of Florida's Distinguished Alumnus Award, the Environmental Protection Award of Government of the State of Minas Gerais, the Distinguished Service Recognition award from the Brazil Biodiversity Fund (Funbio), and the Golden Ark Award, the highest conservation award of Netherlands.

**Gustavo was greatly admired, widely respected, and well liked by all who knew him, and he will be greatly missed.**

# OUR THANKS

## ICCF WOULD LIKE TO THANK:

- U.S. Marine Corps Color Guard
- Senior Pastor Corey B. Brooks of New Beginnings Church of Chicago
- U.S. Senate International Conservation Caucus Co-Chairs
- U.S. Senate Oceans Caucus Co-Chairs
- Honorary U.S. Senate Oceans Caucus Co-Chairs
- U.S. House International Conservation Caucus Co-Chairs
- U.S. House Oceans Caucus Co-Chairs
- U.S. Senate Climate Solutions Caucus Co-Chairs

## ICCF THANKS THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS WHO HAVE MADE THIS GALA AND PARLIAMENTARY/CONGRESSIONAL GATHERING POSSIBLE:

- The Global Environment Facility
- National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
- Conservation International
- Frank and Susan Mars
- Mars, Incorporated; The Nature Conservancy; Congo Rainforest Fund; McGuire Woods LLC; Irvin-Loughlin Fund; Blue Origin;
- Ball Aerospace
- Bill Stiers; Frankfurt Zoological Society; African Parks
- The Embassy of Ecuador for the generous donation of 300 roses, and to MANPOWER Party Rentals for turning them into exquisite table arrangements

**A special thank you to the many international delegates who traveled to Washington for this special event.**

**Our many partners, without whom none of our work would be possible.**

**Our dedicated staff.**



global  
environment  
facility  
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

## THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

The ICCF Group thanks the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for supporting the 2023 International Policymaker Conference and the ICCF U.S. Congressional International Conservation Leadership Awards Gala.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is a family of funds dedicated to confronting biodiversity loss, climate change, pollution, and strains on land and ocean health. Its grants, blended financing, and policy support helps developing countries address their biggest environmental priorities and adhere to international environmental conventions. Over the past three decades, the GEF has provided more than \$23 billion and mobilized \$129 billion in co-financing for more than 5,000 national and regional projects.

The U.S. Congress, together with other global donors to the GEF, makes it possible for them to conduct the important work of protecting our planet's fragile natural resources, and we thank you on behalf of our entire network of supporters.



## NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) thanks Jeff Bezos and Lauren Sánchez for their dedication to conservation around the world, providing a shining example of tonight's ICCF theme: the power of public/private partnerships in action.

NFWF is proud to partner with the Bezos Earth Fund to support vital conservation projects across the United States.



## CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

Congratulations Jeff Bezos, recipient of the ICCF Good Steward Award, and thank you Jeff, Lauren Sánchez, and the Bezos Earth Fund for your outstanding efforts to support global conservation and biodiversity protection.

Conservation International is an honored member of the ICCF Group, working to ensure that both nature and communities thrive. And we thank the International Conservation Caucus Co-Chairs and the Oceans Caucus Co-Chairs for their tireless work to solve the biodiversity crisis.

# MARS INCORPORATED



The SHEBA® brand, proudly part of the Mars family of brands, is committed to supporting the restoration of coral reefs.

In 2021, the brand announced its work with Hope Reef in Indonesia and today, through the Sheba Hope Grows™ program, a global community of reef builders and ambassadors are helping to inspire a movement around the world. Learn more at [ShebaHopeGrows.com](https://ShebaHopeGrows.com).

Mars thanks the ICCF and the Caucus Co-Chairs for their leadership in protecting the planet's fragile ecosystems.

# THE NATURE CONSERVANCY



The Nature Conservancy is working in all 50 U.S. states and 79 countries with our partners to tackle the interconnected crises of climate change and biodiversity loss. We are advancing innovative collaborations to accelerate conservation worldwide and pursuing long-term financing while upholding the rights of local and Indigenous people by furthering opportunities for sustainable growth. Thank you to the bipartisan, bicameral leadership of the International Conservation Caucus and congratulations to Jeff Bezos and the Bezos Earth Fund for advancing solutions our planet needs.



## CONGO RAINFOREST FUND

The Congo Rainforest Fund is an NGO committed to saving the critically endangered Grauer gorilla from extinction and protecting the Congo Rainforest, which is the most significant carbon-sequestering forest in the world. See our work at [www.congorainforestfund.org](http://www.congorainforestfund.org) and reach out if you are interested in learning more.

Congratulations to the ICCF Group for building political will for international conservation and inviting the Democratic Republic of Congo's ICCN delegation to the ICCF U.S. Congressional International Conservation Leadership Awards Gala to engage in important conversations about protecting the Congo Rainforest and Grauer gorillas.



## MCGUIREWOODS CONSULTING

Congratulations to John Gantt and everyone at ICCF.

McGuireWoods Consulting addresses our clients' business challenges and the needs of their communities.

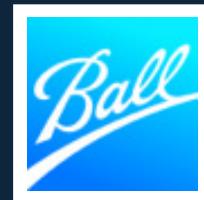
# BLUE ORIGIN



Blue Origin thanks the International Conservation Caucus Co-Chairs Sen. John Boozman, Sen. Chris Coons, Sen. Martin Heinrich, Sen. Thom Tillis, Rep. Henry Cuellar, Rep. David Joyce, Rep. Betty McCollum, and Rep. Jake LaTurner, and the Oceans Caucus Co-Chairs, Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, Sen. Lisa Murkowski, Sen. Tammy Baldwin, Sen. Dan Sullivan, Rep. Suzanne Bonamici, and Rep. Jenniffer Gonzalez-Colon, for your extraordinary leadership for the benefit of Earth.

Blue Origin is building a road to space for the benefit of Earth, humanity's blue origin. Our team is focused on radically reducing the cost of access to space and harnessing its vast resources while mobilizing future generations to realize this mission.

# BALL AEROSPACE



We wish to congratulate Jeff Bezos, Lauren Sanchez and the Bezos Earth Fund for your global leadership and investment to protect our planet's fragile ecosystems.

Ball Aerospace is committed to providing unimpeachable data for environmental intelligence via our work on SkyRanger for wildlife conservation, TEMPO/GEMS for air quality, and Landsat for environmental monitoring.



# WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

We wish to congratulate the International Conservation Caucus Co-Chairs Sen. John Boozman, Sen. Chris Coons, Sen. Martin Heinrich, Sen. Thom Tillis, Rep. Henry Cuellar, Rep. David Joyce, Rep. Betty McCollum, Rep. Jake LaTurner, and the Oceans Caucus Co-Chairs, Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, Sen. Lisa Murkowski, Sen. Tammy Baldwin, Sen. Dan Sullivan, Rep. Suzanne Bonamici, Rep. Jenniffer Gonzalez-Colon for your extraordinary leadership in the U.S. Congress to advance policies that ensure ecological integrity and halt biodiversity loss.

We salute the ICCF Gala Award recipients who tirelessly raise awareness about the importance of public/private partnerships to protect nature's strongholds, Indigenous and Traditional territories.



# AFRICAN PARKS

African Parks is a not-for-profit conservation organization, that manages protected areas in partnership with governments and local communities. We have a relentless focus on accountability and tangible results, and currently manage 22 protected areas in 12 African countries, covering 50 million acres.

If fully realised, we believe the Bezos Earth Fund could be one of the greatest opportunities for conservation and climate impact, for the benefit of the biodiversity and people of Africa. We commend Jeff Bezos for this initiative and thank the International Conservation Caucus Foundation for their continued leadership.

# FRANKFURT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY



The Frankfurt Zoological Society has partnered with national governments and local communities since 1958 to conserve some of the world's most biodiverse and carbon-rich ecosystems. We develop innovative conservation models, including pioneering co-management in protected areas and developing the Legacy Landscapes Fund together with the German government. In response to the biodiversity and climate crises, we are committed to doubling our conservation impact in protected and conserved areas by 2030, and our global team sends its thanks and congratulations to the International Conservation Caucus and Jeff Bezos for their support and leadership.

## BILL STIERS, ICCF BOARD MEMBER

Our thanks to Jeff Bezos and the Bezos Earth Fund for their efforts to protect the natural ecosystems and resources of Earth. We also thank the members of the International Conservation Caucus and Oceans Caucus for their efforts to raise awareness and build political will for conservation in the U.S. and globally.



Thank you to our many partners, without whom none of our work would be possible.



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