



*U.S. Congressional  
International Conservation  
Leadership*

# *Summit*



Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium  
Washington, D.C. | October 28, 2025

WELCOME

A MESSAGE FROM

## JOHN B. GANTT

**W**elcome to the 2025 ICCF U.S. Congressional International Conservation Leadership Gala. Tonight's theme is **"Celebrating and Raising Awareness About the Importance of Public-Private Partnerships in International Conservation,"** 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 Nick Lapham and The BAND Foundation with the ICCF "Good Steward" Award for work in landscape and species conservation in the United States, Africa, and Latin America. We are also pleased to present Peter Seligmann with the ICCF Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his transformational conservation leadership, including founding Conservation International which, together with partners, has protected more than 1.5 billion

acres of forest and oceans, and founding Nia Tero, which ensures that indigenous peoples have a seat at the table in stewarding their natural resources. In addition, we are honored to present the ICCF Teddy Roosevelt® International Conservation Award to the National Assembly of Ecuador, accepted by His Excellency Niels Olsen, in recognition of the nation's creation of a National Protected Areas Service, which ensures permanent financial sustainability for Ecuador's protected areas and reinforces the

prohibition of extractive industries within them.

We are also honored to welcome special guest H.E. Daniel Chapo, newly inaugurated President of Mozambique, whose country has emerged as a leader in forging international conservation partnerships, and H.E. Esperanca Maria Eduardo Francisco da Costa, Vice President of Angola, who as a biologist has led efforts to preserve Angolan biodiversity for decades, including building partnerships to restore Angola's national parks. We also welcome H.E. Justin Nsengiyumva, Prime Minister of Rwanda, whose country pioneered the collaborative protected areas management agreements that have become such an exciting force in U.S.-Africa cooperation.

Tonight we also recognize the leadership of the International Conservation Caucus in advancing innovative public-private financing for international conservation with

the passage and appropriation of funds for the bipartisan U.S. Foundation for International Conservation Act, which will 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,



John B. Gantt  
Chief Executive Officer  
The ICCF Group

# PROGRAM



U.S. NATIONAL ANTHEM

REVEREND MICHAEL OKERE,  
PASTOR AT SAINT MARTIN DE PORRES CATHOLIC CHURCH

*Invocation*

JOHN B. GANTT, CEO, THE ICCF GROUP

*Opening Remarks*

PRESENTATION ON OCEAN SECURITY

*Implications for U.S. National Security*

HIS EXCELLENCY NIELS ANTHONEZ OLSEN PEET,  
PRESIDENT OF THE ECUADORIAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

*Presentation of the ICCF Teddy Roosevelt® International Conservation Award, to  
the National Assembly of the Republic of Ecuador*

HIS EXCELLENCY DANIEL CHAPO,  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

*Remarks*

PROGRAM BREAK

THE HONORABLE AUGUST PFLUGER,  
MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS

*Remarks*

NICK LAPHAM AND THE BAND FOUNDATION

*Presentation of the ICCF "Good Steward" Award*

HER EXCELLENCY ESPERANÇA DA COSTA,  
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA

*Remarks*

HIS EXCELLENCY JUSTIN NSENGIYUMVA,  
PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

*Remarks*

PETER SELIGMANN, FOUNDER, CHAIRMAN EMERITUS AND FORMER CEO  
OF CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL, FOUNDER AND FORMER CEO OF NIA  
TERO, AND CHAIRMAN OF SILVANIA

*Presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award*

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 leaders 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.

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Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA)

Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR)

Sen. Mike Crapo (R-ID)

Sen. John Curtis (R-UT)

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Sen. Tim Sheehy (R-MT)

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Rep. Christopher Smith (R-NJ)

Rep. Jason Smith (R-MO)

Rep. Pete Stauber (R-MN)

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Rep. Bryan Steil (R-WI)

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Rep. Robert J. Wittman (R-VA)

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# 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.

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Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA)

Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME)

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Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY)

Sen. Thom Tillis (R-NC)

Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)

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# 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.

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.

### U.S. FOUNDATION FOR INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION ACT

Creates the U.S. Foundation for International Conservation to fund public-private partnerships to support local communities in managing protected and conserved areas.

### THE WILDLIFE INNOVATION AND LONGEVITY DRIVER (WILD) REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Reauthorizes the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, which enables wildlife and habitat conservation in all 50 states and territories, and the Multinational Species Conservation Funds, which help conserve some

of the world's most iconic species, including rhinos, elephants, tigers, great apes, and turtles.

### 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.

# 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY CONSERVATION

## AN AGENDA FOR AMERICAN PEACE AND PROSPERITY

**N**atural resource decline threatens the core interests of the United States and our global allies and puts our country and citizens at risk. Dwindling ecosystems drive conflict, crime, and competition, which in turn can lead to mass migration, broader instability, and dysfunctional markets.

Environmental crime is the third largest crime sector globally.

Transnational organized criminals, sometimes backed by state actors, illegally extract and trade in timber, minerals, fish, wildlife, and other commodities, undermining the viability of societies all over the world, many of which the United States depend on for trade and production of goods and services.

The consequences of natural resource conflict, crime, and competition are local, national, and global in scale. Around the world, China's and Russia's presence looms large as they pursue food, energy, and other commodities to increase

their power at the expense of American influence.

Natural resource conflict, crime, and competition will continue to escalate rapidly as the world is experiencing a steep population growth coupled with a massive decline in natural resources. Without strong American leadership, this will have devastating impacts on our nation and nations that we depend on for safety, security, and prosperity.

In contrast, conserved and well-managed landscapes, seascapes, forests, and marine environments are highly cost-effective tools to prevent conflict, reduce crime,

and create the conditions for the American people, the private sector, and our allies around the world to flourish:

- Good natural resource policymaking and diplomacy drives governance and anti-corruption outcomes that ensure that nations retain control over their resources in a manner that doesn't spark conflict and crime.
- Conservation helps deliver infrastructure projects that support countries' ability to prosper in environmentally friendly ways, while still building out critical societal projects.
- Conservation helps deliver trillions of dollars in economic prosperity every year through ecosystem services such as water, food, medicine, and energy that are essential for American markets and drives a large part of the tourism economy.

- U.S. government investment in conservation is American statecraft that helps compete with China and Russia in strategic regions.

In order to make America safer, more secure, and prosperous, the United States should streamline its conservation and natural resource programming, deploying programming toward conservation that expands America's economy, ends natural resource conflict, and stops natural resource crime. In turn, the private sector, including philanthropic foundations and nongovernmental organizations, will be encouraged to stand up or expand programming that complements American geopolitical ambitions at the intersection of conservation, conflict, crime, and American competitiveness in the world through conservation initiatives.



## USFIC ACT

**P**rotected and conserved areas are the cornerstone of global efforts to safeguard nature and natural ecosystems. Management of these areas that protects and restores biodiversity can provide clean air and water, food and medicines, poverty alleviation, and regional security. Inadequate management, driven by financial constraints, is one of the main obstacles to ensuring that protected and conserved areas provide the benefits people need to thrive.

Addressing the gap in financing for protected and conserved areas (estimated at more than \$1.7B/year) represents one of the best opportunities for the U.S. government to protect biodiversity. This can be done by leveraging private-sector resources to support biodiversity conservation for the benefit of people and nature through a public-private partnership that can complement the work being done by federal agencies.

The U.S. Foundation for International Conservation Act, championed by the Co-Chairs of the International Conservation Caucus, was signed into law on December 22, 2024. The law establishes and appropriates funds for a charitable nonprofit, which is not an agency or establishment of the United States, to promote the long-term management of protected and conserved areas in developing countries; to identify and support implementation-ready projects; to benefit indigenous peoples and local communities; and to encourage, accept, and administer private funds as leveraged by public contributions on a 1:2 split, public to private.

IT IS A NEW APPROACH TO SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION THAT IS INNOVATIVE IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

- The Foundation allows for the deployment of resources leveraged by the private sector to reduce the burden on U.S. taxpayers.
- The Foundation will be focused and subject to yearly appropriations thus ensuring accountability.
- The Foundation will be run like a business with the aim of strengthening America's security, economy, and global leadership.
- USFIC makes our tax dollars go further, bringing peace, stability, and prosperity to strategic locations around the world, delivering real results for the American people.

**W** Once in a generation a new idea comes along that takes root in America to support natural resource management for the future. The United States Congress voted to establish the United States Foundation for International Conservation to provide conservation leadership support for national parks and protected areas in Africa, Asia, and Latin America for the benefit of their peoples, their communities, and their biodiversity. ICCF is proud to support the leadership of the International Conservation Caucus, and I applaud them, and our allies in Congress, for this key conservation victory."



-- David H. Barron | Founder, ICCF



Smart investments in international conservation don't just protect our environment, they reduce the threat of security challenges resulting from regional instability by strengthening local economies and lessening the draw of extremist groups, while cracking down on the poaching and illegal wildlife trafficking that fund terrorism."

-- Senator Chris Coons (D-DE)



The U.S. Foundation for International Conservation is a win-win in that the bill leverages private capital while supporting the long-term protection of critical landscapes around the world. Investments in conservation lead to food security and regional stability. I am proud to work with Senator Coons, my colleagues, and stakeholders to position the United States as a leader in international conservation."

-- Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC)



Conservation efforts have a long history of bipartisan support dating back to Teddy Roosevelt, and I'm glad to see this tradition continue. This foundation is more than just a way to leverage the power of private contributions – it is a diplomatic investment in the U.S. foreign policy toolkit that none of our adversaries can replicate."

-- Congressman Michael McCaul (R-TX)





With the formation of this foundation, America will be the leader in international conservation, boosting global stability and combating illicit wildlife trafficking. I have long championed this effort as the Co-Chair of the International Conservation Caucus in Congress and I am proud to see it headed to the President's desk."

-- Congressman Dave Joyce (R-OH)



As an original cosponsor, I'm pleased to see this bipartisan, bicameral legislation become law. Continued U.S. investment in international conservation is essential as we face global challenges like the biodiversity crisis, access to clean water, and climate resilience. The U.S. Foundation for International Conservation Act will help leverage the power of the public and private sectors to help support local communities around the world in effectively managing protected and conserved areas."

-- Congresswoman Betty McCollum (D-MN)



# OCEANS & NATIONAL SECURITY

**F**orward-thinking and well-managed ocean governance has been, and remains, an essential pillar of the United States' prosperity, security, and global influence. Overexploitation, environmental degradation, insufficient governance, and illegal activities create risks of conflict, fuel organized crime, and threaten American economic competitiveness.

**WE MUST ENSURE THAT OCEAN HEALTH REMAINS A GEOPOLITICAL AND NATIONAL SECURITY PRIORITY.**

- **Peace and stability:** Fish is the world's most traded food commodity and a vital source of jobs and nutrition. America's rivals are using distant-water fleets, subsidies, and illicit networks to dominate seafood supply chains, and dwindling stocks and destructive practices are driving competition and conflict, especially in regions critical to U.S. interests such as the IndoPacific, the Arctic, and Latin America.
- **Homeland security:** Transnational criminal organizations are exploiting seafood as a lucrative, low-risk domain, which undermines rule of law, international relations, and maritime security. IUU fishing is also intertwined with drug trafficking, forced labor, arms smuggling, and other transnational crimes. Almost one-third of seafood consumed in the U.S. is linked to IUU fishing, undercutting U.S. fishers and domestic seafood markets, and strengthening criminal networks.
- **Prosperity:** The blue economy supports millions of jobs and generates trillions in

economic value. Every \$1 invested in sustainable ocean management yields \$5 in benefits, underscoring the financial case for action. An unhealthy ocean threatens

the future of America's blue economy, placing \$8.4 trillion in revenues and assets at risk without stronger governance and management.

**ICCF's Oceans Caucus Foundation is partnering with World Wildlife Fund's Oceans Futures Program to study and recommend strategic shifts for U.S. leadership at the intersection of national security and the marine environment to safeguard America's interests. By renewing maritime leadership, strengthening alliances, and mobilizing public-private coalitions, America can secure peace, bolster prosperity, and buttress resilience for generations to come.**



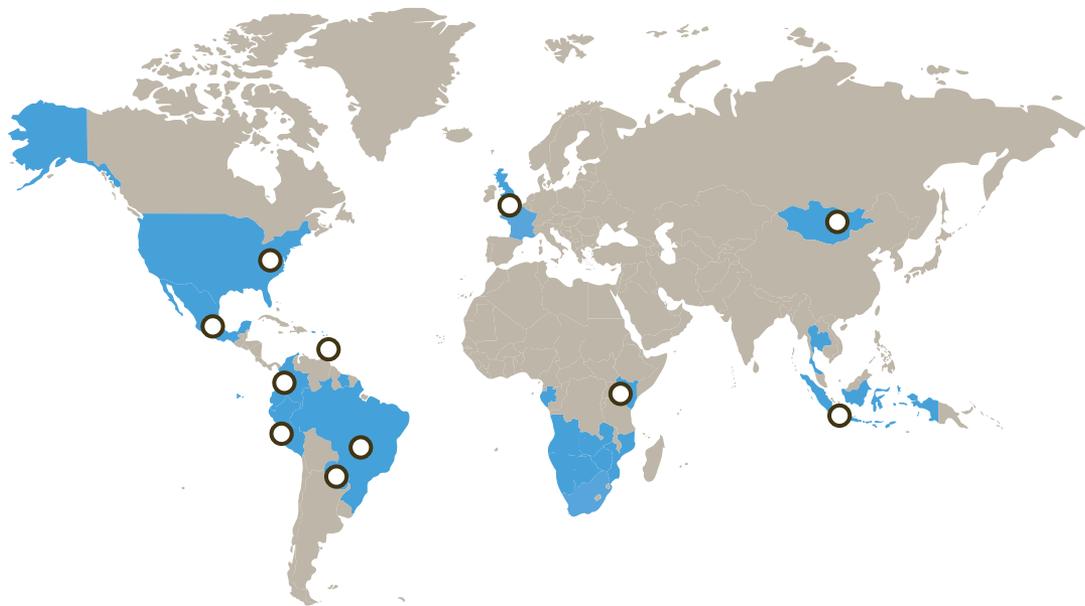


## THE ICCF GROUP

- 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 MIOMBO FOREST INITIATIVE

**T**he ICCF Group is partnering with a number of leading organizations to support African-led initiatives to protect and restore the Miombo woodlands, an ecosystem spanning approximately 1 million square miles in Southern and Central Africa that sustains the livelihoods of more than 300 million inhabitants.

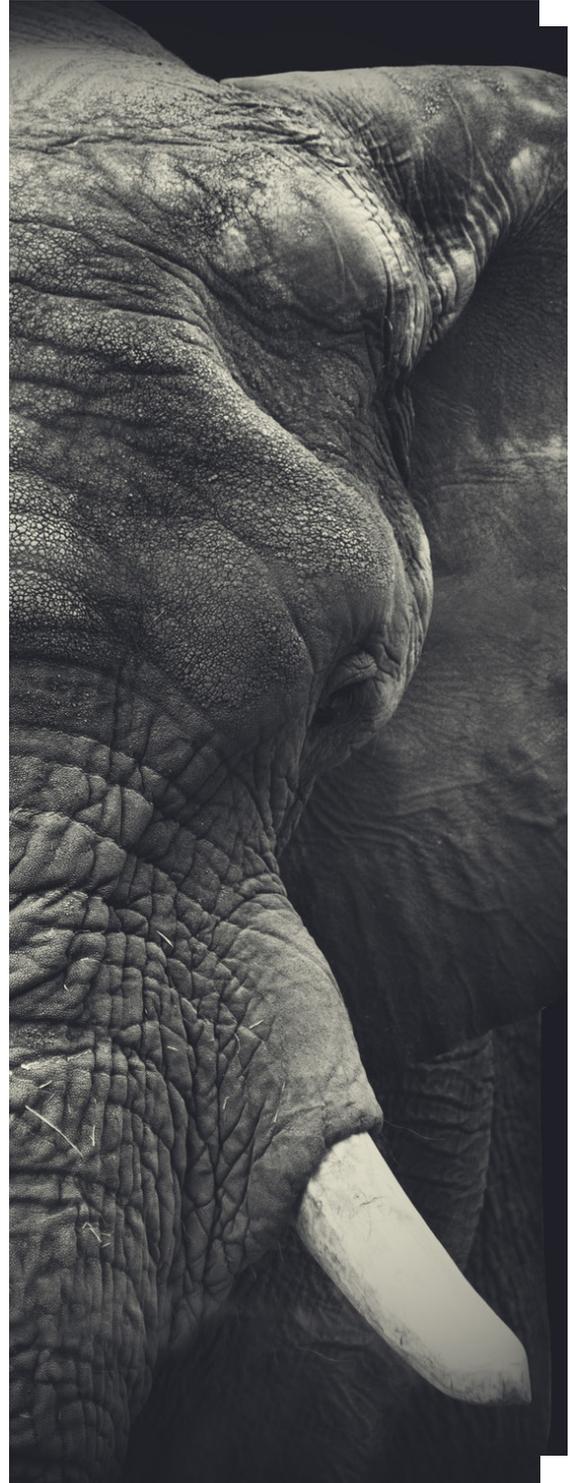
The Government of Mozambique has spearheaded the Miombo Initiative, bringing together eleven Southern and Central African states to develop a common approach for the "Sustainable and Integrated Management of the Miombo Woodlands and the Protection of the Greater Zambezi Basin." This initiative was endorsed by eleven signatory countries as the "Maputo Declaration on the Miombo Forest" in Maputo, Mozambique in August 2022. As one of the world's largest nature conservation initiatives, the Miombo Alliance mobilizes finance to restore, sustainably govern, and invest in the natural resources of the Miombo ecosystem, focusing on three pillars: biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services,

and energy transition. ICCF has supported the initiative by convening a two-day policymaker conference in Washington, DC, as well as by educating government officials and parliamentarians in the eight Miombo Alliance countries in which the ICCF Group supports caucuses.

ICCF also serves as the secretariat of the Miombo Restoration Alliance, a partnership to scale native species restoration in the Miombo ecosystem, underpinned by a \$500 million investment in restoration by Trafigura, and supported by Conservation International as an adviser on environmental and community outcomes. The Alliance is working with countries across the Miombo region to create a robust

framework for investments in large-scale native species restoration projects designed to produce carbon removals under Article 6.

ICCF is also a proud partner of the Africa Keystone Protected Area Partnership, a bold new effort supported by the Rob Walton Foundation bringing together African governments, communities, NGOs, and funders to protect 162 of Africa's most irreplaceable protected areas by 2035. Responding to calls by African leaders to increase public and private investment in conservation, the Keystone Partnership supports collaborative management agreements for protected areas, helping to ensure that they conserve biodiversity while creating opportunities for local communities.



# THE ICCF LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

CCF's Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes individuals for a lifetime of international conservation commitment and leadership.

AWARDED TO PETER SELIGMANN, FOUNDER, CHAIRMAN EMERITUS AND FORMER CEO OF CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL, FOUNDER AND FORMER CEO OF NIA TERO, AND CHAIRMAN OF SILVANIA

Peter Seligmann founded Conservation International in 1987 on a simple yet revolutionary idea: people need nature to thrive. In the ensuing decades, under his leadership, Conservation International blossomed into an organization that works in nearly 100 countries, partnering with local communities, governments, and corporations to protect the ecosystems that support life on Earth. In collaboration with these partners, Conservation International has protected more than 1.5 billion acres of forest and oceans. He served as CEO of Conservation



International until 2017, then as Board Chairman, and now as Chairman Emeritus.

Seligmann is a true changemaker in the field of conservation. Guided by his infectious optimism, Conservation International developed a reputation for novel ideas and experimentation, including pioneering the “debt-for-nature swap,” a mechanism whereby a country offloads a portion of its sovereign debt in exchange for protecting its biodiversity. He also rallied some of the world’s foremost corporations — including Walmart and Starbucks — to take up the fight of protecting nature. His actions are fueled by the belief that people will only protect nature if it is in their own enlightened self-interest, and that everyone must be part of the solution.

In 2017, Seligmann founded Nia Tero, an organization that supports Indigenous Peoples’ guardianship of their territories, and he currently

serves on Nia Tero’s board of directors. More recently, he became the chairman of Sylvania, a company committed to establishing nature as an investable asset class. We’re honored to recognize a life of unmatched service and advocacy for the planet we all inhabit.



## THE ICCF "GOOD STEWARD" AWARD

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

AWARDED TO NICK LAPHAM AND THE BAND FOUNDATION

The BAND Foundation was created in 1999 by the Lapham family and makes grants in support of nature conservation and epilepsy care. It is committed to backing visionary individuals and organizations, promoting science-based solutions, and catalyzing additional funding for the causes it champions.

BAND's conservation grantmaking centers on three pillars: safeguarding selected large landscapes of global conservation value; stemming the rapid decline of overlooked species; and building a stronger, more durable and nonpartisan conservation constituency through storytelling, education, and awareness. The

foundation believes that local organizations must be at the heart of conservation efforts and partners directly with such organizations wherever possible. It further seeks to

enable and elevate the role of private landowners, indigenous peoples, and communities in stewarding lands under their care.

## NICK LAPHAM | PRESIDENT, THE BAND FOUNDATION

Nick Lapham has served as president of The BAND Foundation since 2015. He oversees a wide-ranging grants portfolio covering landscape and species conservation in the United States, Africa, and Latin America as well as a series of projects to elevate media coverage of conservation issues.

Lapham previously held senior positions at World Wildlife Fund, African Parks, Conservation International, and the UN Foundation. He has played an important role in a number of key domestic and international conservation achievements, including the reintroduction of gray wolves to Yellowstone National Park, the cancellation of two long-

term pulp mill contracts in Alaska's Tongass National Forest, the creation of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership, and the founding of the International Conservation Caucus. Lapham was a member of the Africa Policy Advisory Panel convened by Secretary of State Colin Powell and authored the panel's recommendations on how to strengthen US engagement in Africa's conservation sector. He has been a board member of American Bird Conservancy, College of the Atlantic, the Virunga Fund, and Friends of Kenya Wildlife Trust and sits on the advisory boards of the Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association and the Guanacaste Dry Forest Conservation Fund.

# THE ICCF TEDDY ROOSEVELT® INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION AWARD

The ICCF Teddy Roosevelt® International Conservation Award recognizes outstanding leadership in conservation policy.

AWARDED TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR, ACCEPTED BY H.E. NIELS OLSEN PEET, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The ICCF Group is honored to present the 2025 Teddy Roosevelt® International Conservation Award to the National Assembly of the Republic of Ecuador for its global leadership in advancing environmental legislation and sustainable governance. This recognition highlights the recently enacted Organic Law for the Strengthening of Protected Areas,



guided and championed by H.E. Niels Olsen Peet, which establishes a National Protected Areas Service, ensures permanent financial sustainability, and reinforces the prohibition of extractive industries within these sanctuaries.

Ecuador safeguards one of the highest levels of biodiversity per square kilometer on Earth—

spanning the Amazon rainforest, the Andes, and the Galápagos Islands. This landmark legislation protects fragile ecosystems, empowers Indigenous and local communities, and demonstrates that environmental responsibility and economic development can progress together.

**HIS EXCELLENCY NIELS OLSEN PEET | PRESIDENT, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR**

As President of the National Assembly and former Minister of Tourism, H.E. Niels Olsen Peet has been a driving force for sustainable development, community-based tourism, and environmental stewardship, leaving a lasting legacy that positions Ecuador as a global model for conservation governance.



# TRIBUTE TO JANE GOODALL

HONORING A LIFETIME OF CONSERVATION,  
COURAGE, AND COMPASSION



CCF pays tribute to our colleague and friend Dr. Jane Goodall—an icon of conservation stewardship, a trailblazer in primatology, and a tireless advocate for the interconnectedness of all life on Earth.

From her groundbreaking work with wild chimpanzees in Gombe to her global mission through the Jane Goodall Institute, Dr. Goodall has redefined what it means to be a scientist and a naturalist. Her pioneering research not only transformed our understanding of animal behavior but also awakened the world to the need for conservation rooted in empathy and respect.

With unwavering grace and resilience, Dr. Goodall has inspired generations to take action—reminding us that change starts from within, and that hope is born from collective responsibility. Her legacy lives on in the forests she’s helped protect, the communities she’s empowered, and the millions of hearts she’s touched.

Tonight, we celebrate Dr. Jane Goodall not only for what she has accomplished, but for who she was: a symbol of hope, a champion of nature, and a guiding light for a more harmonious world.



Let us develop respect for all living things. Let us try to replace violence and intolerance with understanding and compassion. And love.”

— DR. JANE GOODALL

# OUR THANKS

## ICCF WOULD LIKE TO THANK:

- Reverend Michael Okere, Pastor at Saint Martin de Porres Catholic Church
- U.S. Senate International Conservation Caucus Co-Chairs
- U.S. Senate Oceans Caucus Co-Chairs
- U.S. House International Conservation Caucus Co-Chairs
- U.S. House Oceans Caucus Co-Chairs

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

- African Parks
- Conservation International
- ExxonMobil
- Hon. Jack Kingston and Mrs. Alexandra Kingston
- Rainforest Trust
- Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (College of Agriculture)
- The Global Environment Facility
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Pew Charitable Trusts

**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.**

**Bill Stiers, for his ongoing support and commitment.**

**George O'Neill and the O'Neill family for their continued friendship and support.**

**Our dedicated staff.**

**The ICCF Group Board of Directors: David H. Barron (Chairman), Monica Medina (Vice Chair), John B. Gantt (Chief Executive Officer), Zach Manis (President), Susan Lylis (Executive Vice President), Clare Falcone (Secretary), William Bennett, Hon. Mark Green, Hon. Jack Kingston, HIH Ermias Sahle-Selassie, Dr. M. Sanjayan, and Bill Stiers.**

**The ICCF Board of Directors: Hon. John Tanner (Chairman), John B. Gantt (Chief Executive Officer), Hon. Allen Boyd, Hon. Connie Mack, Vance Martin, and Hon. Ed Royce.**

## FROM OUR SUPPORTERS

### AFRICAN PARKS

African Parks congratulates the International Conservation Caucus Foundation for its enduring leadership in championing bipartisan conservation action. We commend the Members of Congress recognized tonight for their commitment to safeguarding the planet's natural heritage and advancing collaborative solutions that protect wildlife and support communities worldwide. As partners working to conserve Africa's most critical landscapes, we share ICCF's belief that conservation succeeds through cooperation, science, and leadership. We are honored to join in celebrating these achievements and to continue building a future where people and nature thrive together.



## CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

To date, Conservation International has protected more than 1.5 billion acres of land and ocean, benefitting millions of people through our work in more than 100 countries. But Conservation International was once just an idea. Tonight, we honor Peter Seligmann's vision, his optimism and his impact, which today is felt throughout the world's forests, seas, and communities. We would like to thank the ICCF for honoring Peter's commitment to service through this Lifetime Achievement Award. And we would like to thank Peter for turning his idea into transformational impact for people and our planet.



## EXXONMOBIL

ExxonMobil welcomes His Excellency  
President Daniel Chapo!



## HONORABLE JACK KINGSTON AND MRS. ALEXANDRA KINGSTON

Congratulations on the ICCF 2025 U.S. Congressional International Conservation Leadership Gala. As a former Member of Congress, International Conservation Caucus Member, and current ICCF Board Member, I have seen the good work accomplished by ICCF. We are honored to join in celebrating ICCF's extraordinary leadership in advancing global conservation. With such distinguished leaders and partners in attendance, this year's Gala will no doubt be an inspiring success.

## RAINFOREST TRUST

Rainforest Trust is proud to support ICCF in honoring the extraordinary conservation achievements of Honorable Niels Anthonez Olsen



Peet, President of the National Assembly of Ecuador; Peter Seligmann, Founder of Conservation International and Nia Tero; and Nick Lapham of The BAND Foundation. We salute ICCF's efforts to create a world where people and nature sustain and nurture one another. Their skill in building political consensus in support of international conservation is critical for Rainforest Trust's work to create and expand protected and conserved areas in the tropics and subtropics. In the spirit of collaboration and consensus-building, we welcome new partnerships with NGOs, governments, and communities of the Global South and with conservation investors seeking to maximize their impact in halting deforestation, biodiversity loss, and climate change.

RUTGERS SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES  
(COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE)



We are proud to join in celebrating Peter Seligmann as the recipient of this year's Lifetime Achievement Award. As an esteemed graduate of the class of 1972, he has exemplified the spirit of excellence, leadership, and service that defines our alumni community. His lifelong contributions have left an enduring impact in the field of conservation, inspiring generations to follow. On this special evening, we honor not only his remarkable achievements but also the values and vision that began, in part, at Rutgers University. Congratulations, Peter—your alma mater is honored to celebrate you.

THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

The ICCF Group thanks the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for supporting the 2025 Inter-Parliamentary Policy Forum.



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 \$26 billion and mobilized \$149 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.

#### THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Protecting nature is essential to securing a thriving future for people and planet—a mission

The Nature Conservancy proudly shares with the ICCF. We are honored to celebrate Peter Seligmann, whose visionary leadership has helped shape global conservation efforts for decades. His legacy exemplifies the power of bold ideas, enduring partnerships, and science-driven action. We are grateful for our collaboration with ICCF and Conservation International, and we applaud Peter's lifetime of impact and service for the natural world.



#### THE PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS

"ICCF's efforts to mobilize parliamentary caucuses around the world around environmental challenges create much-needed dialogue and pragmatic agreement on policies that protect nature. We value our ongoing collaboration and work to inspire bold action for the health of the ocean and people that rely on it," said Tom Dillon, Senior Vice President, Environment and Cross-cutting Initiatives.





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

