



NATURE'S
Chambers



FEATURES

AFRICA KEYSTONE PARTNERSHIP TO SAFEGUARD 162 ESSENTIAL PROTECTED AREAS
INDONESIA PIONEERS CORAL BOND | COLOMBIA'S SUSTAINABLE & DEFORESTATION-FREE PALM OIL

2025 / ISSUE 3 | PUBLISHED BY THE ICCF GROUP

The Nonpartisan Magazine for Public Policy in International Conservation

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LEFT: Washington DC skyline. Photo credit: by [Daniel Thornberg](#) @ Adobe Stock.

ON THE COVER: African elephant walking in sunset. Photo credit: by [sw_stock](#) @ Adobe Stock.

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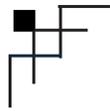


THROUGH THE LENS

Singer Bridget Cady sings National Anthem at 2025 ICCF U.S. Congressional International Conservation Gala

Celebrated as the most important event for U.S. leadership in international conservation, the 2025 ICCF U.S. Congressional International Conservation Leadership Gala was held on Tuesday, October 28, at the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium in Washington, D.C.

PHOTO CAPTION: JAMES Q BRANTLEY, VAGABOND PRODUCTIONS LLC



FROM OUR CEO

Protecting 162 of Africa's most irreplaceable protected areas.



Dear friends,

The ICCF Group firmly believes that sustainable solutions to conserving our shared natural resources must be underpinned by regional policy coordination supported by cross-sectoral cooperation. ICCF is therefore pleased to announce its collaboration with the newly launched Africa Keystone Partnership, a bold new effort that brings together African governments, communities, NGOs, and funders to protect 162 of Africa's most irreplaceable protected areas. I invite you to learn more about this innovative partnership through the feature story in this third edition of our biannual magazine.

Our editorials from partners who this season engaged in the ICCF Group's global programs take us on a journey across continents to experience some of the great moments of 2025.

This collection reflects an ICCF-UK program at full speed, with our spotlight of a rising star in conservation governance, Roz Savage, MP, whose journey from solo ocean rower to Member of Parliament is a rare blend of physical endurance, environmental

advocacy, and civic

leadership. Also from the United Kingdom is an article from our partner in London, the Wildlife Justice Commission, highlighting how to turn the tide on marine species trafficking in the context of the world's largest summit on ocean protection, the United Nations Ocean Conference, which took place in Nice, France this summer and convened over 60 Heads of State and government alongside 15,000 participants.

We also travel to Indonesia, to learn of yet another success from the oceans-centric caucus the ICCF Group supports in Jakarta: the world's first outcome bond for coral reef ecosystems, covering 1.9 million hectares across three target MPAs, financing site-based activities such as strengthening zoning compliance, promoting sustainable fisheries, developing sustainable marine biotechnology industry, improving surveillance and intelligence, and reducing threats to coral habitats. I wish to thank the Hon. Siti Hediati Soeharto, Chairwoman of Commission IV DPR RI & Co-Chair of the DPR-RI Conservation Caucus, and Hon. Prof. Dr. Rokhmin Dahuri, Member of

Commission IV DPR RI & Member of the DPR-RI Conservation Caucus, for this incredibly impactful initiative, which we hope will be an inspiration for legislators in the region and beyond.

I close on enthusiastically welcoming our newest partner, the Colossal Foundation, for the cutting-edge technologies they bring to international conservation, and invite you to read their introductory editorial: "Reversing Extinction: A New Era in Conservation Biology." I also wish to thank Fedepalma for sharing their commitment to moving Colombia toward a sustainable and regenerative palm oil industry; the Safari Club International Foundation for its message on the crucial role that regulated hunting plays in conservation; and the HALO Trust for exploring the potential of humanitarian mine-action as a galvanizing force for conservation action.

Best regards,

John B. Gantt
Chief Executive Officer
The ICCF Group



WHERE WE WORK

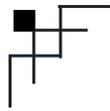


Nonpartisan legislative groups supported by the ICCF Group.

The ICCF Group has offices in the United States (ICCF U.S.), Africa, Europe, Asia, and Latin America. 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.

IN PICTURE, TOP TO BOTTOM FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

Hon. Sheldon Whitehouse (U.S.); Hon. Marcela Guerra (Mexico); H.E. Germán Blanco (Colombia); H.E. Nelsinho Trad (Brazil); Hon. Arturo Alegría (Peru); Hon. Barry Gardiner MP (U.K.); Hon. Saramchimeg Batsukh (Mongolia); Hon. Imanga Wamunyima (Zambia); Hon. Budisatrio Djiwandono (Indonesia); Hon. Werani Chilenga (Malawi).



ICCF ON CAPITOL HILL

U.S. Policy Tracker

ICCF supports the leadership of the Senate and House International Conservation Caucus (ICC) and Oceans Caucus (OC). Here is what the caucuses have been tracking this quarter.

On International Conservation

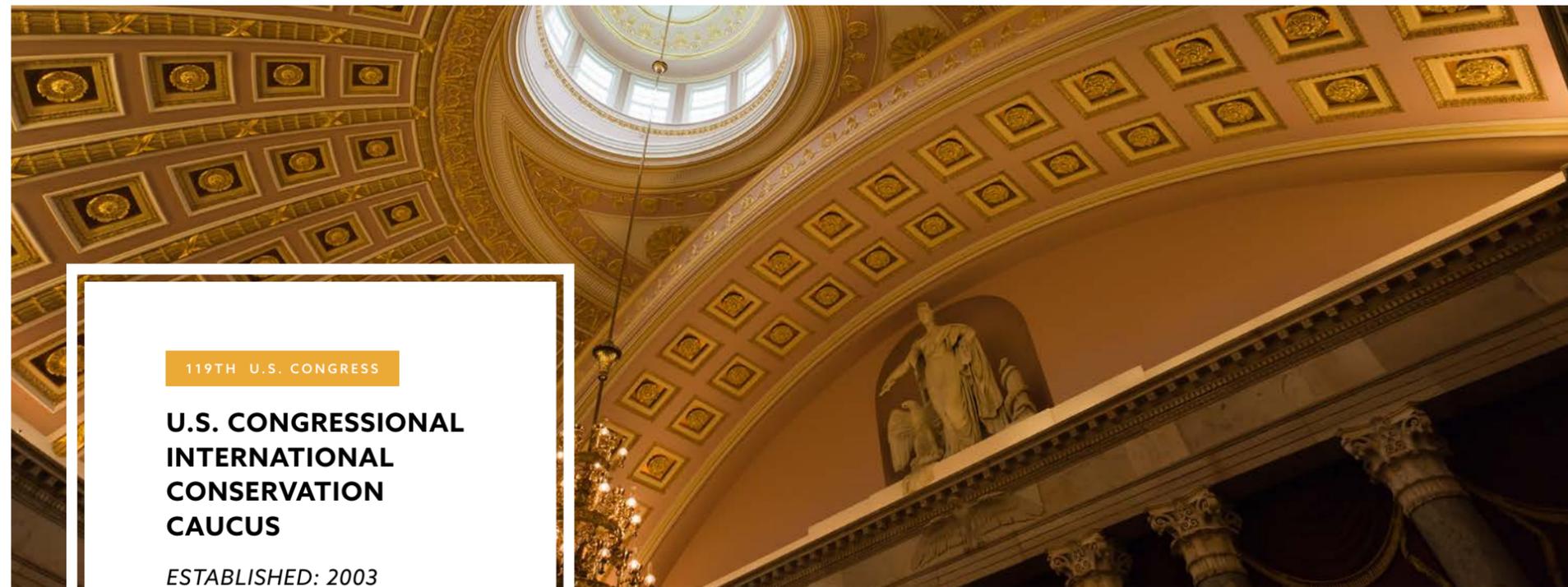
Bicameral

The Finding Opportunities for Resource Exploration Act was introduced by ICC Co-Chair Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE) along with Sens. Todd Young (R-IN), John Cornyn (R-TX), John Hickenlooper (D-CO), and Reps. Rob Wittman (R-VA) and Kathy Castor (D-FL). The bill would strengthen U.S. mineral security, counter China, advance the U.S. role in mapping global critical mineral resources, and ensure a more sustainable supply chain. [Read more.](#)

House of Representatives

The House Foreign Affairs Africa Subcommittee held a hearing on March 25th titled "Metals, Minerals and Mining: How the CCP Fuels Conflict and Exploitation in Africa." The hearing highlighted how minerals are driving conflict and corruption in Africa and the role of China. [Watch here.](#)

Reps. Andrew Garbarino (R-NY) and Mike Quigley (D-IL) introduced the Wildlife Confiscations Network Act of 2025, legislation to support federal law enforcement in combating wildlife trafficking and ensure the proper placement and care of



119TH U.S. CONGRESS

U.S. CONGRESSIONAL INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION CAUCUS

ESTABLISHED: 2003

The 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.

Since 2006, ICCF has helped grow the bipartisan U.S. Congressional International Conservation Caucus to include one-third of the U.S. Congress.

CO-CHAIRS, SENATE

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

CO-CHAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

- Rep. Henry Cuellar (D-TX)
- Rep. Dave Joyce (R-OH)
- Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN)
- Rep. Guv Reschenthaler (R-PA)

confiscated live animals. [Read more.](#)

The Natural Resources Water, Wildlife and Fisheries Subcommittee held a legislative hearing on June 24th on a number of bills including the Wildlife Confiscations Network Act of 2025. [Read more.](#)

The House Foreign Affairs East Asia and Pacific Subcommittee held a hearing on July 8th titled Breaking China's Chokehold on Critical Mineral Supply Chain. [Read more.](#)

Senate

Sens. Bill Cassidy (R-LA) and Lindsey Graham (R-SC) introduced the latest version of the Foreign Pollution Fee Act to level the playing field for American manufacturers and workers by holding non-market economies like China accountable

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.....

for their unfair trade practices. [Read more.](#)

ICC Senate Co-Chairs John Boozman (R-AR) and Martin Heinrich (D-NM) introduced a World Migratory Bird Day Resolution that officially recognizes May 10th, 2025 as World Migratory Bird Day. This year's theme is "Shared Spaces, Creating Bird-friendly Cities and Communities". [Read more.](#)

Senate ICC Co-Chairs Sens. John Boozman (R-AR), Chris Coons (D-DE), and Martin Heinrich (D-NM), along with Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) introduced The Foundation for International Food Security Act to combat the ever-growing global food security crisis. The bill would be a new model to tackle this growing global challenge by leveraging private-sector dollars to



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.

Informing policy

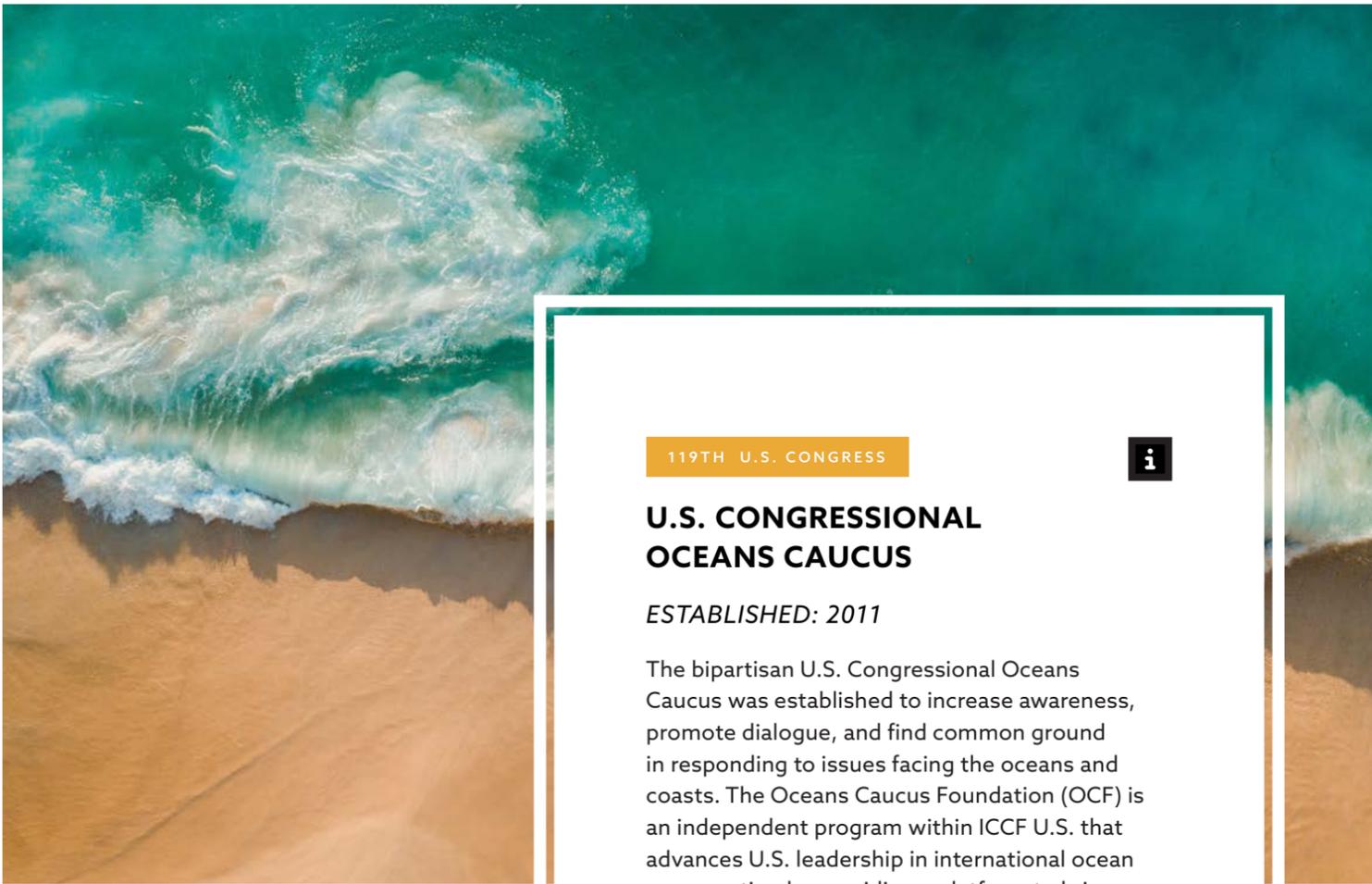
ICCF educates and acts as secretariat to the leadership of the bipartisan U.S. Congressional International Conservation Caucus and Oceans Caucus.

Building political will

We bring together leaders at the highest levels of government, business, and the NGO community, setting the conservation and environmental agenda by coordinating people with scientific expertise, organizations that support and manage programs on the ground, and policymakers who shape legislation.

Championing public-private collaboration

Through ICCF, public- and private-sector organizations collaborate and seek consensus on conservation issues and share their expertise with policymakers, providing sound, market-oriented conservation solutions with the highest standards in accountability, effectiveness, and transparency.



119TH U.S. CONGRESS



U.S. CONGRESSIONAL OCEANS CAUCUS

ESTABLISHED: 2011

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.

CO-CHAIRS, SENATE

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

HONORARY CO-CHAIRS, SENATE

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

CO-CHAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

- Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR)
- Rep. Buddy Carter (R-GA)

improve food systems. [Read more.](#)

On Oceans Conservation

Bicameral

Senate Oceans Caucus Co-Chairs Sens. Dan Sullivan (R-AK) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) reintroduced the Save Our Seas (S.O.S.) 2.0 Amendments Act of 2025 along with Reps. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR), Amata Coleman Radewagen (R-AS), and Hames Moylan (Guam-At Large). The Senate bill has passed out of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. The legislation builds upon

the success of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act and provides greater flexibility to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to work with other stakeholders in marine debris prevention and removal efforts. [Read more.](#)

Senate Oceans Caucus Co-Chairs Sens. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), and Reps. James Moylan (R-GU) and Chellie Pingree (D-ME) reintroduced the Coastal Communities Ocean Acidification Act. The legislation will strengthen coordination and collaboration between federal, state, local, and tribal entities on ocean acidification research and monitoring. [Read more.](#)

House Oceans Co-Chair Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) along with Reps. Shomari Figures (D-AL), Brian Mast (R-FL), Rick Larsen (D-WA), Mike Haridapolos (R-FL), and Nick LaLota (R-NY) along with Sens. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) and Bill Cassidy (R-LA) introduced the Enhancing Science, Treatment, and Upkeep of America's Resilient and Important Estuarine Systems (ESTUARIES Act) to reauthorize the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Estuary Program (NEP) through 2031. [Read more.](#)

Senate Oceans Caucus Co-Chairs Sens. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), along with Reps. Rob Wittman (R-VA) and Dave Min (D-CA), introduced the Digital Coast Reauthorization Act, which will reauthorize NOAA's Digital Coast Program. The Digital Coast Program helps coastal cities

have access to critical datasets, interactive tools, and training to better understand and mitigate the consequences of the changing climate and extreme weather events. [Read more.](#)

Sens. Roger Wicker (R-MS) and Doris Matsui (D-HI) introduced the Promoting American Competition in Aquaculture Research Act (S.2580), which will provide greater flexibility in funding for aquaculture research and development, promoting innovation and domestic seafood production. Reps. Jill Tokuda (D-HI) and Rob Wittman (R-VA) recently introduced the Promoting American Competition in Aquaculture Research Act in the House (H.R.5164).

Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-AK) and Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ) led a letter urging action to end the importation of seafood that is fished, farmed, or processed using forced labor, and to establish robust procedures to ensure that U.S. federal agencies do not procure such products. [Read more.](#)

House of Representatives

House Oceans Caucus Co-Chair Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) and Reps. Mike Ezell (R-MS), Randy Weber (R-TX), Debbie Dingell (D-MI), Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen (R-AS), and Danny David (D-IL) introduced legislation (H.R.2294) to reauthorize the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) for the next five fiscal years to ensure continued support for critical ocean monitoring efforts that benefit

coastal communities, fisheries, and maritime industries. [Read more.](#)

The House Science, Space, and Technology Environment Subcommittee held a Hearing on March 26th titled "To the Depths, and Beyond: Examining Blue Economy Technologies." The hearing discussed technologies and techniques that are critical to our advancement in ocean science and the blue economy. [Read more.](#)

Reps. Salud Carbajal (D-CA) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) reintroduced the Ocean Acidification Research Partnership Act (H.R.2991). The bill would provide grants to coastal states to help address the effects of climate change on U.S. coastlines, coastal communities, and marine ecosystems. [Read more.](#)

The House Natural Resources Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee held an oversight hearing titled "Exploring the Potential of Deep-Sea Mining to Expand American Mineral Production." The hearing discussed the opportunities of deep-sea mineral exploration and exploitation. [Read more.](#)

Reps. Dan Crenshaw (R-TX), Seth Magaziner (D-RI), and Nick Begich (R-AK) introduced the Fighting Foreign Illegal Seafood Harvest (FISH) Act. This legislation addresses illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing by foreign vessels, safeguarding U.S. fisheries, coastal communities, and national security. Oceans Caucus Co-Chairs Sens. Dan Sullivan (R-AK) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) introduced the Senate version

of the FISH Act earlier this year. [Read more.](#)

The House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries held a hearing on June 4th titled "Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness." [Read more.](#)

The House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries held a hearing on May 20th on a number of bills, including a bill to reauthorize the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009. [Read more.](#)

The House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing on April 29th titled "Exploring the Potential of Deep-Sea Mining to Expand American Mineral Production." [Read more.](#)

The House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries held a legislative hearing on a number of bills including the Digital Coast Reauthorization Act of 2025. [Read more.](#)

Senate

The Ocean Regional Opportunity and Innovation Act (S. 1392) was introduced by Oceans Caucus Co-Chair Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA), along with seven bipartisan cosponsors including Oceans Caucus Co-Chairs Sens. Dan Sullivan (R-AK) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI). The bill would require the Secretary of Commerce to establish a federal strategy for investing in the nation's ocean-based economy with "Ocean Innovation Clusters." These clusters serve as a hub for private, public, and academic stakeholders to collaborate on opportunities to promote and enhance the maritime industry and blue economy. [Read more.](#)

Sens. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), along with five original cosponsors including Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-AK), reintroduced the Coastal Communities Ocean Acidification Act (S.1391). The bill would ensure coordination and collaboration between NOAA and federal, state, local, and tribal entities on ocean acidification research and monitoring. [Read more.](#)

The Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025 (S.524), which was introduced by Senate Commerce Committee Chairman Ted Cruz (R-TX), Ranking Member Maria Cantwell (D-WA), and Sens. Dan Sullivan (R-AK) and Senate Oceans Caucus Co-Chair Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), passed the Senate by unanimous consent. The bill authorizes funding to strengthen the Coast Guard's ability to protect our borders, facilitate maritime commerce, unleash American energy, bolster deterrence efforts, and improve support for Coast Guard personnel and their families. [Read more.](#)

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LEFT: Giant tortoise in the Seychelles. Photo credit: by [Laura](#) @ Adobe Stock.

The Strategies to Eliminate Waste and Accelerate Recycling Development (STEWARDS) Act was introduced by EPW Committee Chair Shelly Moore Capito (R-WV), Ranking Member Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), and ICC Co-Chair Sen. John Boozman (R-AR) and unanimously passed the EPW Committee. The legislation would establish the Recycling Infrastructure and Accessibility Program at the EPA to expand recycling access in underserved communities by authorizing strategic infrastructure investments and public-private partnerships. [Read more.](#)

Senate Oceans Caucus Co-Chairs Dan Sullivan (R-AK) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) reintroduced the Fighting Foreign Illegal Seafood Harvests (FISH) Act of 2025 that passed out of the Senate Commerce, Science & Transportation Committee. The legislation creates a blacklist of vessels that have engaged in illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and bans all listed vessels from entering U.S. waters. It also mandates the U.S. Coast Guard to increase its at-sea inspection of foreign vessels suspected of IUU fishing, and to coordinate with regional fishery management organizations to determine if a vessel's flag-state is taking corrective action. It also instructs the executive branch to maintain a database of new technologies with potential to aid in the fight against IUU fishing. [Read more.](#)

Senate ICC Co-Chair Martin Heinrich (D-NM) and Sens. Bill Cassidy (R-LA), Tim Kaine (D-VA),

and John Curtis (R-UT) introduced the Protecting Global Fisheries Act to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Predatory IUU fishing, particularly by China, disrupts international trade and undermines maritime security, marine ecosystems, and food and economic security. [Read more.](#)

Sens. Roger Wicker (R-MS) and Maria Cantwell (D-WA) introduced the Reauthorization of Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act. The bill would reauthorize the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) for the next five years, maintaining its current funding level at \$56 million annually. Additionally, the bill would bring continued support for ocean monitoring efforts that improve coastal communities, fisheries, and maritime industries. The House version was introduced earlier this year by Reps. Mike Ezell (R-MS), Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR), Randy Weber (R-TX), Debbie Dingell (D-MI), Amata Radewagen (R-AS), and Danny Davis (D-IL). [Read more.](#)

The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation's Subcommittee on Coast Guard, Maritime, and Fisheries, chaired by Senate Oceans Caucus Co-Chair Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-AK), held a hearing on June 12th on Finding Nemo's Future: Conflicts over Ocean Resources. The hearing examined U.S. efforts to counter illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and explore opportunities to strengthen enforcement, coordination, and technological innovation. [Read more.](#)

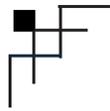
Senate Oceans Caucus Co-Chairs Sens. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) reintroduced the Opposing the Cultivation and Trade of Octopus Produced through Unethical Strategies (OCTOPUS) Act. The legislation would preemptively ban commercial farming in the U.S. and prohibit imports of commercially farmed octopus from foreign countries. [Read more.](#)

The Senate Commerce Committee advanced the nomination of Dr. Neils Jacobs for NOAA Administrator; the nomination has since been confirmed by the Senate. [Read more.](#)

A bipartisan group of Senators, including Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), reintroduced a resolution urging the U.S. Senate to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). [Read more.](#)

The Senate unanimously passed Oceans Caucus Co-Chair Sen. Dan Sullivan's (R-AK) Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments (HABHRCA) Act of 2025. [Read more.](#)

Sen. Roger Wicker (R-MS) and Brian Schatz (D-HI) introduced the Marine Aquaculture Research for America (MARA) Act of 2025. The MARA Act would authorize the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office of Aquaculture and establish commercial-scale demonstration projects enabling the U.S. to responsibly grow more sustainable seafood domestically. [Read more.](#)



U.S. CAUCUS CO-CHAIR UPDATE

Fireside Chat with Representative Buddy Carter, Co-Chair of the U.S. Congressional Oceans Caucus



The ICCF Group had the chance to sit down with Rep. Buddy Carter (R-GA), who recently joined Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) in co-chairing the Oceans Caucus in the U.S. Congress.

Why did you accept to serve as the Republican Co-Chair of the House Oceans Caucus?

I have the honor and privilege of representing Georgia's First Congressional District. That includes 100 miles of pristine coastline. It is where I grew up, and it is where I intend to spend the rest of my life. One of my fondest memories is going fishing with my dad, and I want to make sure that my kids and my grandkids can have that same opportunity. By co-chairing the House Oceans Caucus, I have the opportunity to work on policy that protects one of the most valuable resources on the planet.



What are some of the top marine and coastal issues that impact your district?

The top issue that comes to mind is natural disasters. Being on the coast means hurricanes are a real threat we deal with every year. That leads to so many other issues: flooding, infrastructure damage, you name it. Ensuring that my community has the resources to prepare for and respond to natural disasters is a key issue for me. I also care deeply about Georgia's fishermen. Whether it is commercial fishing or recreational fishing, it is a major part of my district's economy. Working to ensure that fisheries are properly managed and data on fish counts such as red snapper is accurate is essential for Georgians.

What are some issues that you think you and Representative Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR), House Oceans Co-Chair, can work on together?

I am so excited to work with Rep. Bonamici on this caucus. I don't care if you're a Republican, Democrat, or Independent, you want our oceans to thrive. I am excited to work with her on advancing legislation to support marine carbon dioxide removal, improve coastal resilience, improve data monitoring, and much more. There are countless opportunities to find common ground on ocean issues, and I am ready to get to work.

.....

LEFT: Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. Photo credit: by [doganmesut](#) @ Adobe Stock.



Safeguarding Africa's biodiversity for people and nature

The Africa Keystone Protected Area Partnership is a bold new effort bringing together African governments, communities, NGOs, and funders to protect 162 of Africa's most irreplaceable protected areas by 2035.

Why Now

Africa is experiencing rapid population and economic growth. To ensure this growth is successful, it is critical to invest in natural ecosystems, the backbone of economies across Africa:

- \$250 billion per year is generated by Africa's wildlife economy across tourism and ecosystem services.
- Africa's agricultural outputs depend heavily on its forests, with roughly half of rainfall in sub-Saharan Africa originating from forests.
- Intact ecosystems are not in trade-off with economic growth: they are a prerequisite for growth. With this new partnership, African leaders are investing in a successful foundation for the rapid economic and population growth to come.

Learn more

africakeystones.org



QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHT FROM THE ICCF GROUP

African Heads of State Launch Keystone Partnership to Safeguard 162 Essential Protected Areas

Presidents of Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, and South Africa launched the Africa Keystone Protected Area Partnership at an ICCF Group reception on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly, in partnership with the African Wildlife Foundation and with support from the Rob Walton Foundation.



Africa Keystone Protected Area Partnership

The reception provided an opportunity for donors, Heads of State, and the African Union to express their commitments to initiate the Africa Keystone Protected Area Partnership, which facilitates increased investment in Africa's protected areas and provides an additional mechanism to deliver on the objectives of the African Union Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, protecting

countries' most critical protected areas for the promotion of biodiversity and support to communities and sustainable development.

Commitments to the Keystone Protected Area Partnership were made by:

- H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa
- H.E. Duma Gideon Boko, President of the Republic of Botswana
- H.E. Daniel Chapo, President of the Republic of Mozambique

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ABOVE: U.S. Senator Chris Coons (right) and ICCF Group board member Dr. M. Sanjayan (left) greet guests at the ICCF Group reception, hosted in New York on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly.

- H.E. Ndemupelila Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, President of the Republic of Namibia
- H.E. Moses Vilakati, Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment, African Union

Ambassadors from the African Union, Angola, Congo, Gabon, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, and Zambia, among others.

Representatives of the donor community also expressed their commitment, including:

- Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, CEO, Global Environment Facility
- Cristián Samper, Managing Director, Bezos Earth Fund
- Rob Walton, Founder, Rob Walton Foundation

Also attending the event were participants from more than 20 countries, including leaders such as Daniela Raik, Chief Conservation Officer and interim CEO, Conservation International; Jennifer Morris, CEO, The Nature Conservancy; Adam Falk, President and CEO, and John Calvelli, Executive Vice President of Public Affairs, Wildlife Conservation Society; Carter Roberts, President and CEO, World Wildlife Fund; Duko Hopman, Executive Director, Rob Walton Foundation; and Tracy Farrell, IUCN North America and CEO, IUCN-US.

Heads of State were introduced by Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE) and Rep. August Pfluger (R-TX), Co-Chair and member of the U.S. Congressional International Conservation Caucus, respectively.

Also voicing their support of the partnership were Heads of Delegation, Ministers, and

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IN PICTURE: Rep. August Pfluger (1); H.E. Moses Vilakati, Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment, African Union (2); Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, CEO, Global Environment Facility (left), and Cristián Samper, Managing Director, Bezos Earth Fund (right) (3); Adam Falk, President and CEO, WCS (left), and H.E. Daniel Chapo, President of the Republic of Mozambique (right) (4).

Additional ICCF partners and collaborators attending included agencies from the UK and French governments, alongside African

Parks, Bloomberg Ocean Fund, Campaign for Nature, Enduring Earth, Fauna & Flora, Frankfurt Zoological Society, IFAW,

Rainforest Trust, Re:wild, The Royal Foundation, Trafigura, TRAFFIC, and ZOMALAB.

What are Collaborative Management Partnerships (CMPs)?

One of the tools to achieve this goal is Collaborative Management Partnerships in which African governments invite NGO and community partners to bolster local capacity, provide technical expertise, and strengthen on-the-ground management. The partnership is flexible and supports different models based on local context. The Keystone Partnership includes collaborations with the Rob Walton Foundation, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), African Parks (AP), Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS), the

African Union, the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), and the ICCF Group, among others. Collaborations with the partnership will continue to grow as the initiative expands.

This partnership is a mechanism to deliver on commitments for previously established regional and global initiatives, such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), African Union Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (ABSAP), and the Miombo Woodlands Initiative to

further protect the rich biodiversity within these areas and the surrounding communities that rely on the ecosystem services they provide.

The Africa Keystone Protected Area Partnership boldly seeks to expand upon the vision and success the included countries have demonstrated in conservation of their protected areas, and looks forward to advancing its shared objectives in the protection of Africa’s ecosystems and communities.



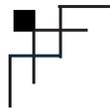
THROUGH THE LENS

Spring World Migratory Bird Day Reception on Capitol Hill

On Thursday, May 8th, 2025, ICCF and the National Audubon Society co-hosted the Spring World Migratory Bird Day Reception on Capitol Hill. This event was well received by Capitol Hill staff and NGO partners alike following the passage of S. Res 211 introduced by ICC Co-Chairs Senator Heinrich and Senator Boozman to officially designate May 10th as #WorldMigratoryBirdDay and encourage the support of migratory bird conservation.

RODNEY STOTTS, MASTER FALCONER





PARTNER EDITORIAL

Regulated Hunting Is Crucial to Conservation

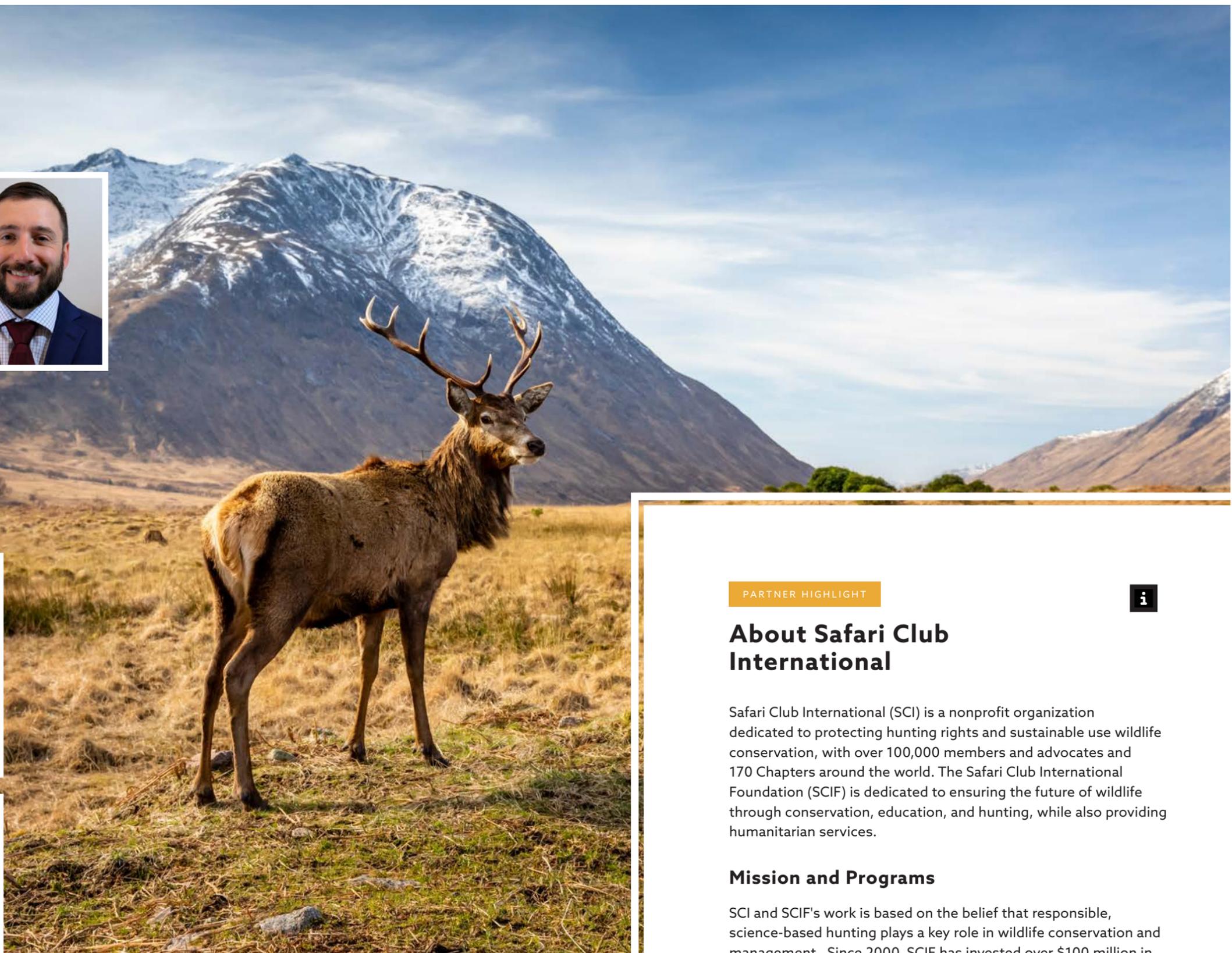
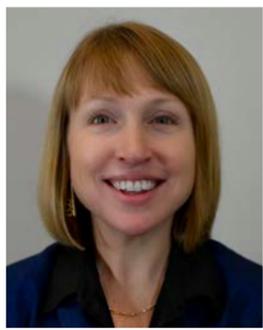
By Regina Lennox, Sr. Litigation Counsel, and Jeremy Clare, International Affairs Liaison and Litigation Counsel, Safari Club International

Effective wildlife management and conservation in the United States and many other countries relies on regulated hunting.

From Alaska to Zimbabwe, hunting helps protect habitat, funds wildlife management and anti-poaching programs, and incentivizes communities and private landowners to invest in wildlife. Safari Club International's (SCI) mission is to defend hunting rights and promote sustainable-

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Regina Lennox is Senior Litigation Counsel for SCI. **Jeremy Clare** is International Affairs Liaison and Litigation Counsel for SCI. As part of SCI's Washington, D.C.-based team, Regina and Jeremy advocate for hunting on Capitol Hill, in U.S. State capitals, in courtrooms, and in halls of parliaments around the world. Together with more than 165 chapters and a global network of partners, SCI's goal is to ensure sustainable use wildlife conservation continues to serve wildlife, habitat, and hunters.



ABOVE: Stag in the wild
Photo credit:
by [Colin](#) @ Adobe Stock.

PARTNER HIGHLIGHT



About Safari Club International

Safari Club International (SCI) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting hunting rights and sustainable use wildlife conservation, with over 100,000 members and advocates and 170 Chapters around the world. The Safari Club International Foundation (SCIF) is dedicated to ensuring the future of wildlife through conservation, education, and hunting, while also providing humanitarian services.

Mission and Programs

SCI and SCIF's work is based on the belief that responsible, science-based hunting plays a key role in wildlife conservation and management. Since 2000, SCIF has invested over \$100 million in various programs worldwide.

Learn more:

safariclub.org

use wildlife conservation. SCI works with policymakers and regulators in the United States and globally to protect the future of hunting for generations to come.

What are the benefits of hunting?

Regulated hunting is a primary means of conserving habitat, which is crucially important because loss of habitat is the single greatest threat to most species. In southern Africa, hunting lands conserve from 1.5 to 5 times as much habitat as national parks in the seven countries that rely on hunting as a primary conservation tool. Unsurprisingly, these seven countries—Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe—protect more than 90% of the world’s rhinos, lions, and giraffe; more than 80% of the world’s elephant and leopard; and many more at-risk species, like wild dog, that are not hunted but benefit from this habitat.

In the United States, more than 700 million acres of public lands are open to hunting—much of this purchased with hunter-funded dollars. Nearly 50 million acres of private land are accessible to the hunting public through government-funded programs.

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The “onX” app reports over 152 million private properties available for hunting across the United States. And a large proportion of

“Funding is crucial to the conservation of these lands.”

the more than 900 million acres of ranches and farms in the United States is hunted.

Funding is crucial to the conservation of these lands, and hunters generate significant funding for conservation. Through the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has apportioned more than \$29 billion in matching funds for state conservation programs. Those funds are generated by an excise tax on ammunition, firearms, archery, and fishing equipment. Put simply, hunters and sportshooters are the primary source of wildlife conservation funding in U.S. states. This funding benefits all outdoorsmen and women. In addition to the excise tax, hunters contributed over \$27 billion to the U.S. economy in 2016. Hunters also paid \$5.3 billion in federal taxes and \$3.4 billion in state and

local taxes and supported 525,000 jobs in the outdoor, retail, and hospitality sectors.

Similarly, in southern Africa, hunting generates from 25% to 80% of the budgets of national wildlife authorities. These funds are largely invested in the anti-poaching activities that have led to such successful

conservation outcomes. In terms of economic contribution, in South Africa alone domestic and international hunters contribute \$2.5 billion annually and support approximately 95,000 jobs.

Finally, hunting creates incentives for private landowners and rural communities to invest in wildlife instead of alternative land uses like agriculture or livestock. This is extremely important, especially in southern Africa, where human population growth is exploding and increasing demand for scarce resources. In Namibia, over 185,000 km² are conserved in community conservancies. Three-quarters of these conservancies depend on regulated hunting for their funding. In 2023, hunting generated more than \$2.8 million in revenues, as well as game meat distributions. The economic impact is similar in Zimbabwe, where over 50,000 km² of communal lands are set aside

for wildlife. Ninety percent of this conserved land is funded by hunting, which generates about \$1.5 million per year.

In central Asia, implementation of regulated markhor and argali hunting offers significant benefits to local communities and generates revenues that are reinvested into conservation and community development. Communities involved in these programs gain a vested interest in protecting habitat and conserving wildlife. This includes previously endangered snow leopard, which are not hunted but have rebounded largely due to incentives from community-based hunting programs. These programs foster a conservation ethic that aligns economic incentives with ecological stewardship. In regions where alternative livelihoods are limited, such programs can be a vital source of economic stability and empowerment.

What are SCI and the SCI Foundation doing?

SCI and the SCI Foundation work in the United States and with governments around the globe to maximize the value of hunting. Here in the U.S., SCI educates policymakers regarding the wide-ranging benefits of hunting and ensures that hunting freedoms are protected. By promoting hunting, all these benefits are preserved and enhanced. For example, SCI advocated strongly in favor of the recent opening of a black bear hunt in Florida to better manage an abundant population and reduce human-bear conflicts. SCI regularly advocates for modernization of the Endangered Species Act to better incorporate regulated hunting as a conservation

tool. Internationally, SCI collaborates with African countries to publicize their beneficial conservation programs and to advocate against misplaced public policies, such as bans on the import of hunting trophy mementoes. These policies can adversely affect rural economies that rely on hunting as a source of income.

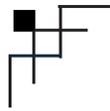
The SCI Foundation directly invests in conservation and research programs in the U.S. and around the world. Since 2000, the SCI Foundation has invested almost \$100 million in on-the-ground conservation projects on every continent except Antarctica. This includes projects such as leopard surveys in southern Africa, CWD research in Texas, grizzly bear conflict mitigation in the American West, roe deer reintroduction in Portugal, and even impact studies of ticks on Maine’s moose population.

Hunting matters—not just to hunters, but to wildlife itself.

It is one of the most effective, time-tested tools for conservation by funding habitat protection, species management, and community empowerment. And conservation through regulated hunting should be a bipartisan effort—by working together to protect the land and wildlife for future generations, everyone wins. That is why SCI proudly stands “First for Hunters,” and the SCI Foundation declares itself “First for Wildlife.” These missions are inseparable: when hunters lead, wildlife thrives. By choosing to hunt, we are a part of the global effort that sustains nature for generations to come.



RIGHT: Stag. Photo credit: by [Colin](#) @ Adobe Stock.



UK CAUCUS
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

From Oars to Office: Interview Questions for Roz Savage

Roz Savage MP's journey from solo ocean rower to Member of Parliament is a rare blend of physical endurance, environmental advocacy, and civic leadership. We spoke with her about the path from oceans to Westminster.

You've rowed solo across the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans. What first drew you to such extreme challenges?

I never set out to become "the MP who rowed across three oceans." For years I was working in a corporate job, feeling unfulfilled and restless. I wanted a life of purpose, something that would test me and make a difference at the same time.

Following an environmental



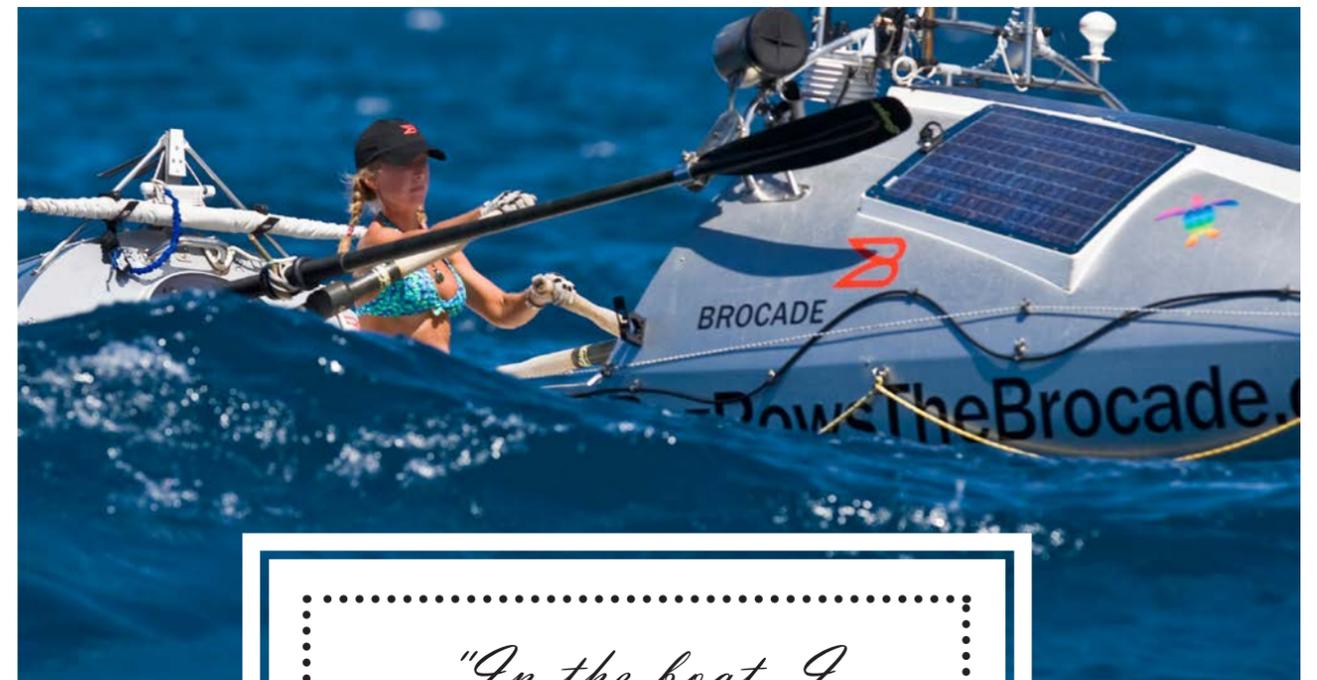
awakening about 20 years ago, while I was traveling in Peru and found out about the retreating glaciers in the Andes, I desperately wanted to raise awareness of our ecological crisis, and it seemed to me that rowing across oceans on my own was unusual enough that it would bring people's attention to my environmental message.

So rowing across oceans became my campaign platform. Alone on a small boat in the middle of

thousands of miles of water, you're forced to discover what you're really capable of - and you can't help but feel the power yet fragility of the natural world around you.

What motivated your shift from activism and adventure to formal politics?

The values that drove me at sea - persistence, self-reliance, and



"In the boat, I learned that small, consistent actions add up - stroke after stroke, mile after mile."

environmental awareness - didn't disappear when I came ashore. In fact, the ocean rowing showed me that I was capable of more than I'd dared to dream - or expect of myself.

ourselves as an intrinsic part of it.

I realized that if I wanted to see systemic change, I had to work where those decisions are made. Moving into politics felt like the

Following on from my last voyage, I was asking myself why it's so hard for humanity collectively to get ourselves on track for a future in which both people and planet can thrive together. This question resulted in me doing a doctorate, examining our political, economic, social and psychological drivers, and concluding that we need to shift our entire mindset - from seeing ourselves as separate from nature to seeing





U.K. HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT



ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION

ESTABLISHED: 2019

ICCF-UK is the secretariat to the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on International Conservation within the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Together, the APPG represents a cross-party group of some of the most passionate environmental advocates in Parliament.

The APPG is committed to focusing on a wide variety of issues affecting nature and biodiversity, from biodiversity funding mechanisms to illegal wildlife trade and illegal deforestation. They also look forward to promoting British environmental leadership on the international stage.

CO-CHAIRS

- Barry Gardiner MP
- Uma Kumaran MP
- Pippa Heylings MP
- The Rt Hon. Lord Randall of Uxbridge

natural next step, a way to take the messages I'd been sharing from the middle of the ocean and translate them into laws and policies.

Your rowing expeditions were deeply tied to environmental causes. How do you translate that activism into legislative priorities?

In the boat I learned that small, consistent actions add up - stroke after stroke, mile after mile. In Parliament, it's the same with policy. I focus on practical measures that can make a real difference, from protecting our oceans to supporting a just transition to a low-carbon economy.

communities, and encouraging people to adopt and adapt the solutions that are actually working, giving a sense of agency and purpose.

It's slow work building change from the ground up. My time at sea gave me a sense of urgency but also patience. Change can take time, but it's worth rowing for.

"We need to shift our entire mindset – from seeing ourselves as separate from nature to seeing ourselves as an intrinsic part of it."

Earlier this year I brought the Climate and Nature Bill to Parliament as a private members bill. Our Labour government didn't allow it to pass into law, but it galvanised a movement. In my constituency, I've launched an initiative called Stronger South Cotswolds, which is about celebrating the grassroots organisations that are making a positive difference in our

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ARTICLE PHOTOS: Courtesy of Roz Savage, MP. All rights reserved.

What did life at sea teach you that still guides you in public life, and how did your experience as a solo adventurer prepare you for the collaborative (and sometimes combative) nature of parliamentary politics?

The ocean taught me that, no matter how great the challenges, I can succeed if I bend my will towards the destination. Storms taught me resilience. Solitude sharpened my clarity of purpose. But Westminster is not a solo row. It's about listening, persuading, and building coalitions. I've had to adapt from being fiercely independent to working as part of a team. It's a different kind of endurance, but endurance all the same.

What does success look like for you now – not in terms of accolades, but in terms of legacy?

When I think about success today, it's not about medals or records. It's about leaving a legacy that matters. This is what first set me off on a different path in my life – realising that I don't have an infinite amount

of time on this planet, and wanting to try and leave the world a slightly better place than I found it. I hope to be able to look back over my life and know that I did my best.

I want future generations to inherit a world of possibilities, not one diminished by our failure to act. If my ocean voyages proved what one person can do against the odds, my political career is about what we can achieve together.



Sustainable and Deforestation-Free Palm Oil

By Andrés Felipe García Azuero, Director of Sustainability and Market Access, Fedepalma

Colombia is moving toward a sustainable and regenerative palm oil industry, with deforestation-free areas, formal employment, and certifications that

reaffirm its commitment to inclusive rural development in harmony with its natural environment.

ARTICLE PHOTOS: Courtesy of Fedepalma. All rights reserved.

PARTNER HIGHLIGHT



About Fedepalma

fedepalma.org

Fedepalma is the organization that represents palm oil growers and palm oil millers in Colombia. It provides opportunities for industry-wide engagement; updated economic and commercial information; environmental and social management; promotion of value-added projects; and support for technical assistance to its members, among other services.

Its mission is to promote the competitiveness and sustainability of the Colombian palm oil agroindustry, contributing to the well-being of communities and the country's overall progress.

Learn more:

fedepalma.org

Palm oil has become a clear example of how agribusiness can grow and contribute to economic development without compromising the country's environmental wealth.

With nearly 610,000 hectares under cultivation, more than 8,000 producers—most of them smallholders—and 233,000 jobs generated, the palm oil agribusiness has established itself as a key driver of rural development. Today, Colombia is the world's fourth-largest palm oil producer and the leading producer in the Americas, with a steadily strengthening reputation for sustainability: 99% of cultivated areas are deforestation-free, 32% are sustainability-certified, and real-time satellite monitoring is conducted over 18.5 million hectares, equivalent to 16% of the national territory.

In Line with European Regulation

In June 2023, the European Union (EU) adopted the Deforestation Regulation (EUDR 1115/2023), which sets strict requirements for the importation of products such as palm oil, coffee, cocoa, and rubber. Starting in 2026, companies will be required to demonstrate that their supply chains are not linked to deforestation or forest degradation, through due diligence processes that include crop georeferencing, satellite evidence, and verification of compliance with national legislation.

Although this new regulatory

framework represents a challenge for agricultural sectors worldwide, Colombian palm oil production enters at an advantage: for several years, it has been developing systems and tools that align with these requirements.

Key highlights include:

- Georeferencing and traceability: As of June 2025, 83% of palm oil plots in the country had already been georeferenced in the National Palm Growers Registry (RNP) and the Palm Cadaster. This process provides precise data on the size, location, and conditions of each plantation, strengthening traceability for international buyers.
- Real-time satellite monitoring: In partnership with the Dutch company Satelligence, Fedepalma implemented a pioneering system in Colombian agriculture to monitor 18.5 million hectares in real time. Quarterly reports confirm that 99 out of every 100 hectares cultivated with palm are deforestation-free.
- Certification and legality: 390 producers already hold internationally recognized sustainability certifications, and 63% of national production comes from companies that adhere to the Zero Deforestation Agreement, supported by the Government and partners such as WWF, Germany, Norway, and the United Kingdom.

Thanks to these actions, Colombian palm oil is positioning

itself as a reliable supplier in European markets, while also strengthening its presence in the Americas.

A Pioneering Sector in Social and Environmental Sustainability

The expansion of palm cultivation in Colombia is concentrated mainly in previously intervened areas, such as cattle pastures, avoiding primary forest zones in strategic regions such as the Amazon and the Chocó biogeographic area. This controlled expansion model has allowed the agroindustry to grow without exerting pressure on ecosystems of high environmental value.

Furthermore, Colombian palm oil production is a pioneer in implementing its own sustainability standards, such as the Sustainable Palm Oil of Colombia Seal – APSColombia, which aims to differentiate the country in international markets. The sector is also advancing a gender equity policy that promotes closing gaps and fostering the active participation of women in different stages of the value chain.

On the labor front, more than 86% of jobs in the sector are formal, with an average salary 1.4 times higher than the legal minimum wage in Colombia. These jobs not only benefit workers directly but also drive development in historically marginalized regions, where palm cultivation has contributed to improved infrastructure, access to

education, and overall quality of life. Currently, 17.5% of direct jobs are held by women, a figure that continues to grow.

Contribution to Food Security and the Energy Transition

Of Colombia's total palm oil production, 78% is destined for the domestic market and 22% for exports. Within the country, 48% of palm oil is used for human consumption, 45% for biodiesel, and 6.5% for the animal feed industry. This makes palm oil a strategic product not only for food security but also for a just energy transition, as it is the primary

raw material for biodiesel blended with fossil diesel, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

A Commitment that Transcends Borders

The sector's commitment has been recognized internationally. Multilateral organizations, partner governments, and NGOs have highlighted Colombia as proof that palm oil can be produced without deforestation, while respecting biodiversity and supporting rural communities.

Fedepalma, together with strategic allies, has worked for years to

consolidate a sustainable, legal, and deforestation-free palm oil sector. This commitment is not rhetorical—it is backed by official data and independent studies.

With these advancements, Colombian palm oil not only meets new international requirements but also positions itself as a global example of responsible production, driving rural development and environmental conservation. The sector remains committed to ensuring that every cultivated hectare, every liter of oil, and every job created represents progress without sacrificing the country's forests or natural wealth.

CONGRESS, REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA

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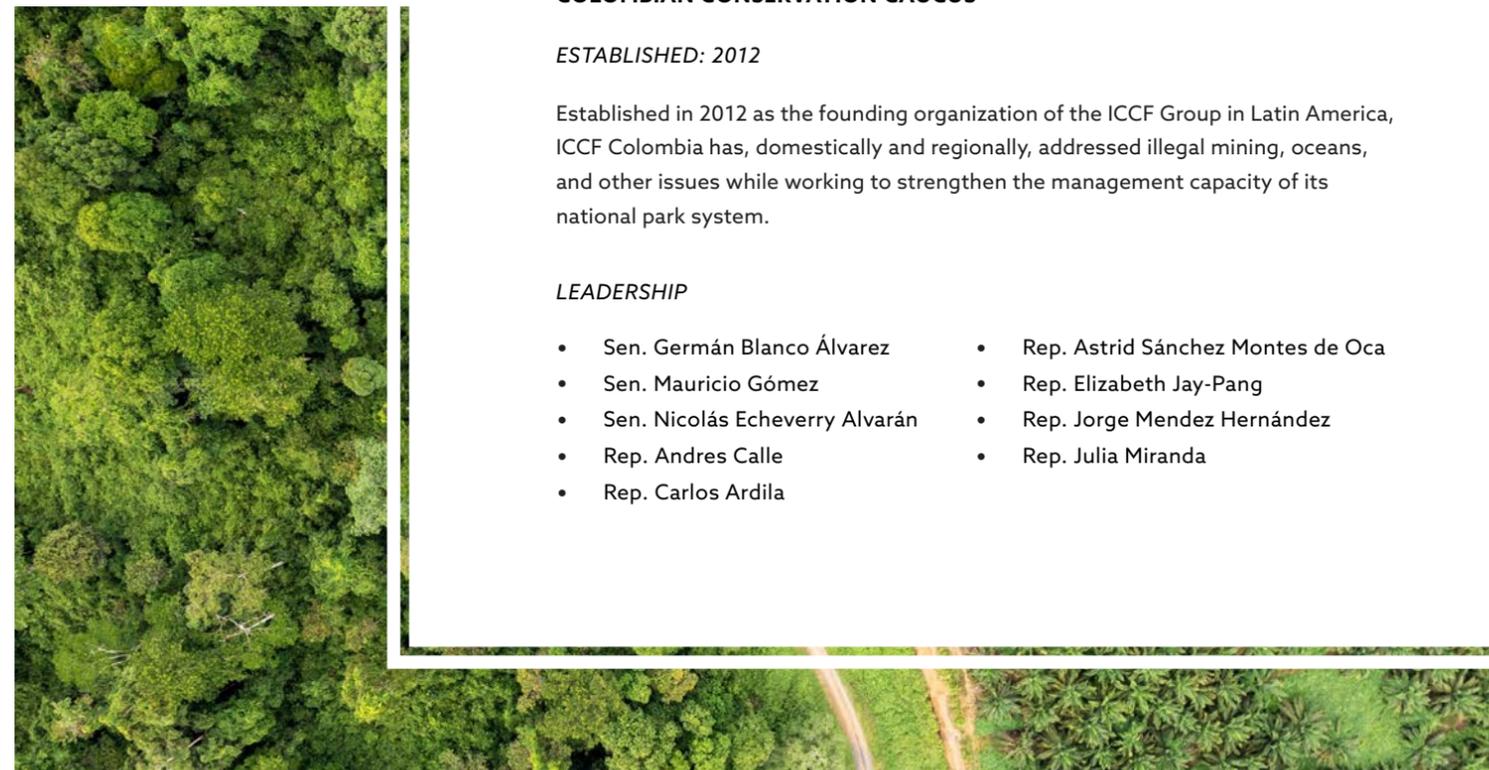
COLOMBIAN CONSERVATION CAUCUS

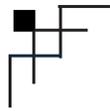
ESTABLISHED: 2012

Established in 2012 as the founding organization of the ICCF Group in Latin America, ICCF Colombia has, domestically and regionally, addressed illegal mining, oceans, and other issues while working to strengthen the management capacity of its national park system.

LEADERSHIP

- Sen. Germán Blanco Álvarez
- Sen. Mauricio Gómez
- Sen. Nicolás Echeverry Alvarán
- Rep. Andres Calle
- Rep. Carlos Ardila
- Rep. Astrid Sánchez Montes de Oca
- Rep. Elizabeth Jay-Pang
- Rep. Jorge Mendez Hernández
- Rep. Julia Miranda





PARTNER EDITORIAL

Bridging The Conservation Implementation Gap – The HALO Trust in Angola

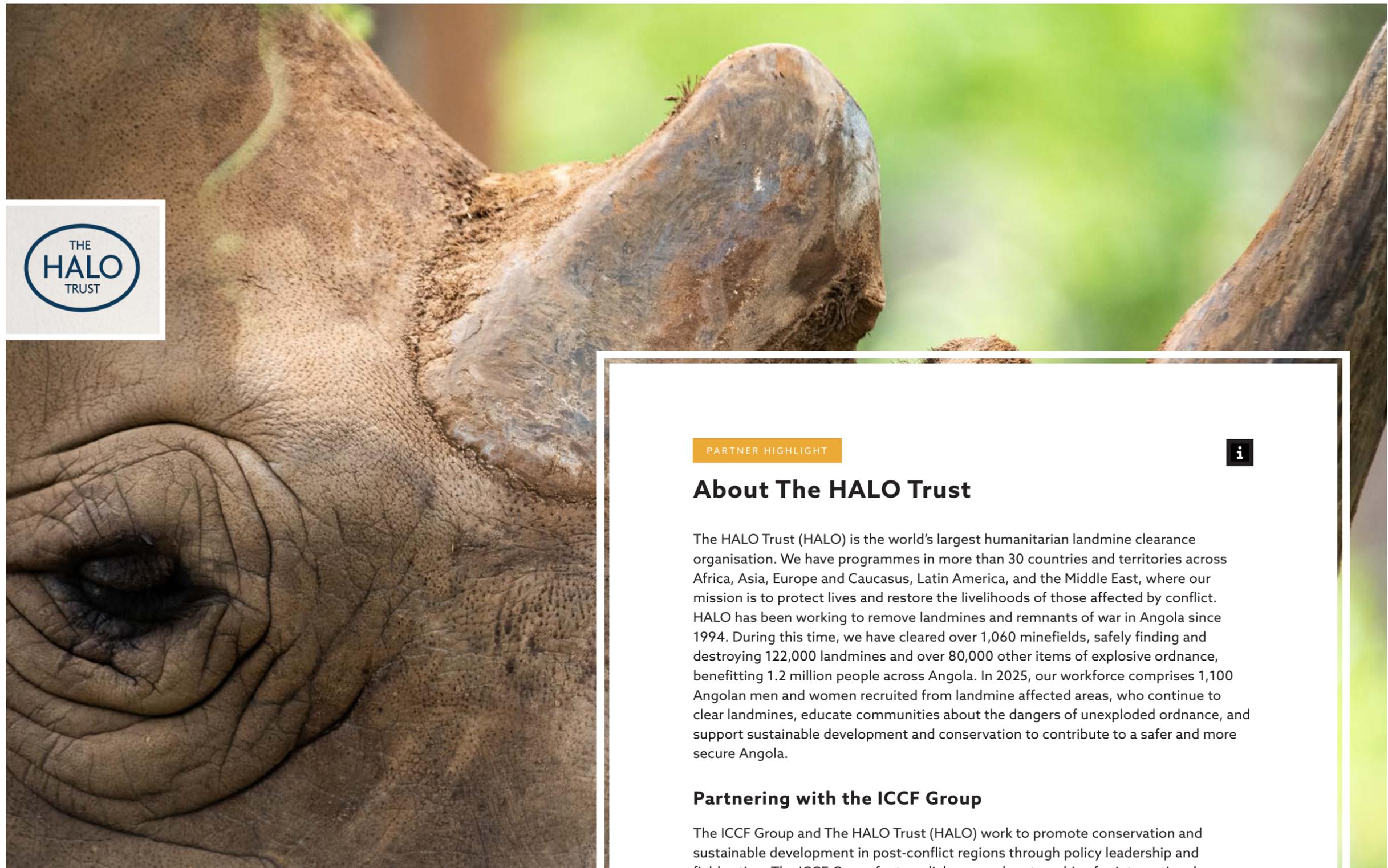
By Dr. Peter Coals, Head of Environment, HALO Angola

A legacy of war in Angola’s protected areas

Decades of civil war in Angola left it one of the most heavily landmine contaminated countries in the world. The horrific legacy of minefields across much of the country continues to endanger human and animal lives, restricting access to key landscapes for conservation efforts, and impedes sustainable development. More than 88,000 Angolans have been injured or killed by landmines, while vast areas remain unsafe for sustainable development and conservation initiatives. Nevertheless, Angola’s landscapes are incredible in their ecological significance and

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Dr. Peter Coals is the Head of Environment for HALO Angola. With a professional background spanning both conservation science and law enforcement, his work has focused on illegal wildlife trade, conservation ethics, and human-wildlife conflict. He is an Honorary Researcher at The University of the Witwatersrand where his research investigates the cultural and commercial drivers behind the use of lion body parts, particularly in traditional medicine and international trade. His writing explores the intersection of conservation science and policy, aiming to inform more ethical and effective wildlife law enforcement and conservation management.



ABOVE: Closeup of White Rhino. Photo credit: by [Jack Tamrong](#) @ Adobe Stock.

PARTNER HIGHLIGHT



About The HALO Trust

The HALO Trust (HALO) is the world’s largest humanitarian landmine clearance organisation. We have programmes in more than 30 countries and territories across Africa, Asia, Europe and Caucasus, Latin America, and the Middle East, where our mission is to protect lives and restore the livelihoods of those affected by conflict. HALO has been working to remove landmines and remnants of war in Angola since 1994. During this time, we have cleared over 1,060 minefields, safely finding and destroying 122,000 landmines and over 80,000 other items of explosive ordnance, benefitting 1.2 million people across Angola. In 2025, our workforce comprises 1,100 Angolan men and women recruited from landmine affected areas, who continue to clear landmines, educate communities about the dangers of unexploded ordnance, and support sustainable development and conservation to contribute to a safer and more secure Angola.

Partnering with the ICCF Group

The ICCF Group and The HALO Trust (HALO) work to promote conservation and sustainable development in post-conflict regions through policy leadership and field action. The ICCF Group fosters dialogue and partnerships for international conservation, while The HALO Trust brings critical operational expertise in humanitarian mine-clearance. Our collaboration highlights how securing landscapes from post-conflict hazards can pave the way for ecological restoration, community resilience, and transboundary conservation efforts.

Learn more:

halotrust.org



"In Angola, we are exploring the potential of humanitarian mine-action as a galvanizing force for conservation action."

include the headwaters of the internationally important Okavango Delta in Botswana - a UNESCO World

Heritage Site and stronghold for regional biodiversity. Within The HALO Trust's areas of operations lie the Mavinga and Luengue-Luiana National Parks, which form the Angolan section of the

Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA) - one of the largest contiguous protected areas in Africa. The Luengue-Luiana National Park, in southeast Angola, has been recognised as a Keystone Protected Area

(Identifying Keystone Protected Areas in Africa - Rob Walton Foundation) due to its large area of relatively intact

habitat, with high biodiversity, and transboundary connectivity to other protected areas. However, Angolan protected areas have some of the highest funding deficits for large mammal

conservation in Africa: up to 1,020 US\$/km2/yr (Correa et al. 2024) for the conservation of elephants and 944-1,996 US\$/km2/yr for the conservation of lions (Lindsey et al. 2018). Realising the conservation value and wider economic benefits, such as sustainable eco-tourism development, of Angola's conservation landscapes requires coordinated land management planning, adequate long-term funding mechanisms, and establishment of practical management measures.

Unlocking implementation potential

The knowing-doing gap is a well-known phenomenon

across multiple fields, including business, management, organizational psychology, and applied sciences. In conservation science it is often rendered as the Research-Implementation Gap (Knight et al. 2008). The gap describes a disconnect between knowledge and practical action. As conservationists, we often know what needs to be done but frequently fall short in planning, resourcing, and garnering institutional and political will to effect necessary change. The gap may come about for a variety of complex reasons, ranging from overly theoretical research focuses, silo effects and poor communication between knowledge-generators and practitioners, to the sheer range of different specialisms

that are required to bring about holistic conservation action. The practicalities of implementation can be immense and often call for coordinated cooperation between multiple organisations and specialists. In Angola, we are exploring the potential of humanitarian mine-action as a galvanizing force for conservation action.

Bridging the gap - HALO's work on the ground

Through resourcing, logistics, creating safe landscapes and building long-term-relationships, HALO's humanitarian landmine action contributes to conservation. Our long-term presence has been



ARTICLE PHOTOS: Courtesy of The HALO Trust. All rights reserved.



foundational to opening access for conservation organisations in post-war Angola. For example, the first National Geographic expeditions into the headwaters of the Okavango and Zambezi River catchments were made possible through our safety assessments and logistical capacity. We continue to work with scientists to provide safe access into remote and landmine affected regions to carry out research and collaborate on integrating the consideration of landmine presence into the design of research objectives. We take this approach to the recolonisation of elephants and other wildlife into southeast Angola where we support and sponsor the satellite

tracking of large mammals by our partner Elephants Without Borders. The data collected will contribute to the development of spatial models of wildlife movement ecology in landmine affected regions – allowing better landmine clearance prioritisation, targeted management and protection, and providing evidence of the recovery of wildlife in Angola.

Charting a path forward

Conceiving of conservation in terms of landmine affected landscapes gives us a novel perspective on action and

impact. We view landmine clearance as foundational to the establishment of safe, functioning conservation management units. Although in some circumstances landmine presence can prevent unsustainable exploitation of natural resources, the negative impacts on local communities and prevention of management access can prove detrimental to leveraging the full potential of protected areas and their range of attendant benefits, such as sustainable livelihood and eco-tourism opportunities. Garnering political will for the clearance of landmines as a base for conservation and sustainable economies has been a long-term goal of HALO in Angola.

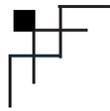
The Government of Angola has funded clearance of minefields in the Mavinga and Luengue-Luiana National Parks. However, significant levels of contamination remain and concerted political will for landmine clearance and holistic conservation management planning is required

to secure the future of these conservation regions. We have a long track-record of delivery of mine-clearance impact for the government and people of Angola, but increasingly we acknowledge the role of mine-action in advocating for landscape-level solutions to conservation and

wildlife recovery. Through sharing our vision of mine clearance-for-conservation, bringing together partners and funders, and leveraging our presence and logistical capacity, we look to close the conservation implementation gap and secure the future of Angola's protected areas.

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INDONESIA CAUCUS
CO-CHAIR EDITORIAL

Pioneering the World's First Coral Bond: Turning Finance into Indonesian Ocean Economic Prosperity and Sustainability

By *Hon. Siti Hediati Soeharto, Chairwoman of Commission IV DPR RI & Co-Chair of the DPR-RI Conservation Caucus, and Hon. Prof. Dr. Rokhmin Dahuri, Member of Commission IV DPR RI & Member of the DPR-RI Conservation Caucus*



Few nations are as dependent on the ocean as Indonesia.

Our archipelago of more than 17,000 islands is home to the world's largest marine biodiversity

on Earth including the richest coral reef ecosystems. From Raja Ampat in Papua, Wakatobi in Sulawesi

ABOVE: Banda Islands Moluccas archipelago, Indonesia. Photo credit: by [fabio lamanna](#) @ Adobe Stock.

Hon. Siti Hediati Soeharto (Titiek Soeharto) is the Chairwoman of Commission IV of the House of Representatives of Indonesia (DPR RI), overseeing agriculture, fisheries, food, and environmental affairs. A senior figure in the Gerindra Party and long-time legislator, she has championed issues of food security, sustainable agriculture, and marine governance. Beyond politics, she is active in cultural and philanthropic organisations and has led several national associations, including the Indonesian Art Foundation.

Hon. Prof. Dr. Rokhmin Dahuri is a Member of Commission IV of the DPR RI and one of Indonesia's leading marine scientists. A former Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (2001–2004), he has shaped national policy on coastal and marine resource management for over three decades. An academic by training, he has authored numerous publications on marine governance and continues to advise government institutions and international bodies on fisheries, oceans, and the blue economy.

“Indonesia had designated 29.88 million hectares of Marine Protected Areas, with an interim target of effectively managing 10% of its marine territory by 2030.”

to Weh Island in Aceh, our reefs are the foundation of our coastal economies, the source of food security for millions, and a natural protection against rising seas and stronger storms. Yet, they are also among the most vulnerable ecosystems on earth, under threat from overfishing, pollution, and habitat destruction.

As parliamentarians, we recognise that safeguarding our coral reef ecosystems is not only an environmental obligation: it is also an economic and social imperative. Protecting reefs means protecting our people. This conviction was reaffirmed during Indonesia’s leadership at the 3rd United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC) in Nice, France where we announced the expansion of our cross-party Oceans Caucus into the broader Conservation Caucus in the DPR RI, reflecting Parliament’s commitment to both marine and terrestrial conservation. In doing so, we embrace an integrated approach, from land-to-sea,

recognising that the health of our oceans is inseparable from how we manage our forests, rivers, coastal landscapes, and economic development and human activities on land.

The Scale of the Challenge

Traditional approaches to conservation, while valuable, are not enough to meet the scale of investment required. Estimates suggest that Indonesia will need billions of dollars annually to fulfil its conservation and climate commitments, including the expansion of marine protected areas and the 30x45 target of safeguarding 30% of national waters by 2045 (roughly 97.5 million hectares). As of the end of 2023, Indonesia had designated 29.88 million hectares of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), with an interim target of effectively managing 10% of its marine territory (32.5 million hectares) by 2030. Bridging this financing

gap demands innovation that mobilises not only public budgets, but also private capital aligned with sustainable ecological and economic outcomes.

The Coral Bond: An Innovative Solution

One such innovation is the Indonesia Coral Bond, developed by the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (KKP) together with international partners including the World Bank, the Global Environment Facility, BNP Paribas, IUCN, and civil society organisations. It is the world’s first outcome bond for coral reef ecosystems. Covering 1.9 million hectares across three target MPAs, the Coral Bond will finance site-based activities such as strengthening zoning compliance, promoting sustainable fisheries, developing sustainable marine biotechnology industry, improving surveillance and intelligence, and reducing threats to coral habitats.

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RIGHT: Hon. Siti Hediati Soeharto, Chairwoman of Commission IV DPR RI & Co-Chair of the DPR-RI Conservation Caucus, joins an international delegation of parliamentarians at the "Parliament of the Sea," which took place on June 8, 2025, in Nice, France, on the occasion of the United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC).



Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) will be measured through a key ecological indicator: an increase in coral reef fish biomass, a globally recognised proxy for reef health. Verified success will trigger "Conservation Success Payments" from partners including the GEF and BNP Paribas to bond investors, linking financial returns directly to ecological outcomes. In this way, the Coral Bond is not charity but investment: demonstrating that conservation can generate measurable returns for people, nature, and markets alike.

Beyond MPAs: OECMs and Inclusive Conservation

Protecting nature is not only about formal MPAs. Across Indonesia, communities safeguard sacred forests, traditional fishing grounds, and coastal areas that science now calls Other Effective Conservation Measures (OECMs). These spaces are vital for biodiversity and livelihoods alike. Recognising them alongside MPAs makes the 30x45 goal not only achievable but also

fair — a model of conservation that honours local realities while upholding Indonesia's global commitments under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Towards Global Leadership

Together, these initiatives form part of Indonesia's broader vision to lead globally on the blue economy, advancing national priorities under the National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN) while also fulfilling international commitments under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG 14 (Life Below Water), which remains one of the most underfunded of all global goals. By linking cutting-edge finance with inclusive conservation policy, Indonesia offers a replicable role model for other Coral Triangle countries and beyond.

The road ahead will require

diligence. Mobilising capital at scale demands trust from investors, communities, and the public. Delivering on promises requires collaboration between Parliament, government agencies, civil society, academia, and the private sector. Most of all, it requires the political will to ensure that every rupiah raised translates into healthier coral reefs, stronger coastal economies, and a more resilient and sustainable Indonesia.

Protecting our reefs is protecting our people. Through the Coral Bond and recognition of OECMs, Indonesia has the opportunity to show that innovation in finance and governance, grounded in transparency and inclusivity, can secure the future of our oceans and our communities. This is not just an investment in nature; it is an investment in Indonesia's resilience today and the prosperity of generations to come.



PARTNER EDITORIAL

Reversing Extinction: A New Era in Conservation Biology

By Matt James, Chief Animal Officer / Executive Director, Colossal Foundation

What if the future could be better than the past? What if we became the heroes instead of the villains in the story of our species? What if our children looked back one day and said, "They really did it. They saved the planet."

These questions might sound idealistic but they point toward something deeply practical. Because for the first

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ARTICLE PHOTOS: Courtesy of The Colossal Foundation. All rights reserved.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA



KAUKUS KONSERVASI DPR RI

ESTABLISHED: 2020

Kaukus Konservasi (established in 2020 as Kaukus Kelautan) facilitates achieving sustainable public-private solutions for Indonesia's good natural resources governance.

CO-CHAIRS

- G. Budisatrio Djiwandono
- Irine Yusiana Roba Putri
- Anggia Ermarini
- Mardani Ali Sera
- Siti Hediati Soeharto



"Using technology to help repair the damage, isn't 'playing God.' It's taking responsibility"

time in human history, we have the technology to reverse planetary harm.

Every year, thousands of species disappear from the planet. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), more than 41,000 species are currently threatened with extinction. Scientists warn that by 2050, as many as half of all biodiversity on Earth could vanish. The scale of this loss is staggering and the consequences reach far beyond the sadness of a world with fewer elephants, fewer coral

reefs, or fewer birds.

Extinction is not a niche environmental issue. It's a human one because biodiversity is the invisible infrastructure that sustains life. A healthy biodiverse planet pollinates our crops, filters our water, and regulates the global climate. When biodiversity erodes, entire systems destabilize. Crops fail, disease spreads, and ecosystems lose their natural capacity to heal and regenerate. The downstream effect of mass extinction is nothing less than a direct threat to human survival.

For too long, our response to this crisis has been reactive and piecemeal.

We've protected pockets of land, banned certain pollutants, and launched awareness campaigns, which are all vital steps, but have not been enough. The rate of extinction far outpaces our ability to conserve, and everyone, including our children, is aware that we are not doing enough, fast enough or with enough urgency. And more so, we're fighting a

twenty-first century problem with twentieth century tools.

Colossal Biosciences develops technologies to reverse extinction and restore biodiversity at scale. The Colossal Foundation serves as its philanthropic counterpart, advancing the use of these innovations to prevent the loss of keystone species and support global conservation. Through funding and partnerships, the Foundation drives real-world rewilding, ecosystem restoration, and biotech-enabled conservation projects.

Our mission at the Foundation is

PARTNER HIGHLIGHT



About Colossal Foundation

The Colossal Foundation is a 501(c)(3) dedicated to supporting the use of cutting-edge technologies for conservation efforts globally to help prevent extinction of keystone species. The organization deploys de-extinction technologies and support to empower partners in the field to reverse the extinction crisis.

As new members, the Colossal Foundation looks forward to engaging with the ICCF to increase awareness, engagement and political will with governments around the idea of biotechnology for conservation.

Learn more:

colossalfoundation.org

to harness Colossal Biosciences' de-extinction toolkit to revive lost species, strengthen endangered ones, and restore ecosystems. This cutting-edge technology—spanning genetic, computational, and reproductive sciences—offers powerful new tools for conservation. We partner with conservation groups, scientists, and governments to protect, recover, and rewild species. Through funding, technology, and research support, the Foundation brings advanced biotech innovations—like DNA preservation, gene editing, and de-extinction science—into real-world conservation efforts.

As we all know, when our ecosystems thrive, economies thrive. For too long, conservation has relied on philanthropic donations, social guilt, and government grants but these naturally limited models have struggled to meet the scale of the crisis. The future of conservation will depend on creating sustainable economic incentives for protecting and restoring biodiversity.

Colossal represents one version of that future.

By harnessing private-sector investment and cutting-edge technology, we're proving that conservation can be both morally imperative and economically viable. When restoring ecosystems



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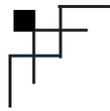
Matt James is the Chief Animal Officer at Colossal Biosciences, the world's first de-extinction company, and serves as Executive Director of the Colossal Foundation, the organization's philanthropic arm. In these roles, he leads initiatives that merge advanced biotechnology with conservation science, with the aim of protecting endangered species, reviving lost biodiversity, and restoring ecosystems on a global scale. With nearly two decades of experience managing AZA-accredited zoos, leading animal propagation programs, and developing field conservation portfolios, Matt leads Colossal's design and implementation of programs that integrate biobanking, genomics, assisted reproduction, and field conservation, ensuring that scientific breakthroughs translate into practical tools for wildlife recovery. He also leads Colossal's animal management, welfare, and rewilding programs in support of Colossal's de-extinction programs, which includes pioneering work on the woolly mammoth, thylacine, and dodo. Through his role at Colossal, Matt is deeply engaged in building collaborations with federal and state wildlife agencies, NGOs, research institutions, and local communities. His approach emphasizes cooperative frameworks that combine cutting-edge science with public engagement and ecological stewardship.

becomes as lucrative as exploiting them, the calculus of environmental decision-making changes dramatically.

This work inevitably raises profound ethical and philosophical questions. Should humans resurrect extinct species? What

unintended consequences might follow from intervening in nature at this scale? These are important questions—and we welcome them. But humanity has already reshaped the planet, driving countless species to extinction through deforestation and pollution. Using technology to help repair that

damage isn't "playing God." It's taking responsibility—something Colossal and the Colossal Foundation are committed to doing.



INTERNATIONAL

Third United Nations Ocean Conference: Turning the tide on marine species trafficking

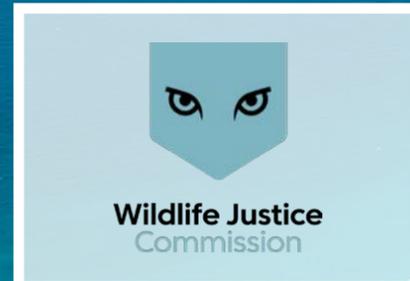
By Olivia Swaak-Goldman, Executive Director, Wildlife Justice Commission

At the Third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3) in Nice, France, over 60 Heads of State and Government and 15,000 participants convened to attend the world's largest summit on ocean protection.

Reflecting on the outcomes of this Conference, positive steps

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Olivia Swaak-Goldman has served as Executive Director of the Wildlife Justice Commission (WJC) since 2016, where she advocates globally to elevate wildlife crime – including marine species trafficking – on the international agenda. She brings nearly 30 years of experience in international justice and diplomacy, having held senior legal roles at the International Criminal Court, the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Iran-U.S. Claims Tribunal, and the UN Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. She has also lectured at Harvard and Leiden Universities and published extensively on international criminal and humanitarian law.



and [commendable pledges](#) on critical issues were made by policymakers, including on marine protected areas, financing for ocean protection, and deep-sea mining. On the final day of UNOC3, more than 170 States adopted the political declaration "[Our Ocean, Our Future: United for Urgent Action](#)," also referred to as the Nice Ocean Action Plan, reaffirming their commitment to the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean, seas, and marine resources in line with SDG14. Yet, amid growing threats to ocean health, I found it disappointing that this declaration falls short in recognizing and addressing the criminal threats to our ocean,

particularly the trafficking of endangered and vulnerable marine species.

Now recognized as the [most trafficked wildlife group globally](#), marine species such as sharks, sea cucumbers, seahorses and abalone are being pushed toward extinction by illegal trade. These crimes, driven by transnational organized networks, [facilitated by corruption](#) and [often linked with other serious crimes](#) such as drug and human trafficking, threaten not only biodiversity but also ocean health and its ability to regulate the planet's changing environmental systems, food security, public health, human rights and the rule

of law. Yet, despite their scale and impact, these crimes remain weakly enforced in domestic legislation and overlooked in global ocean governance.

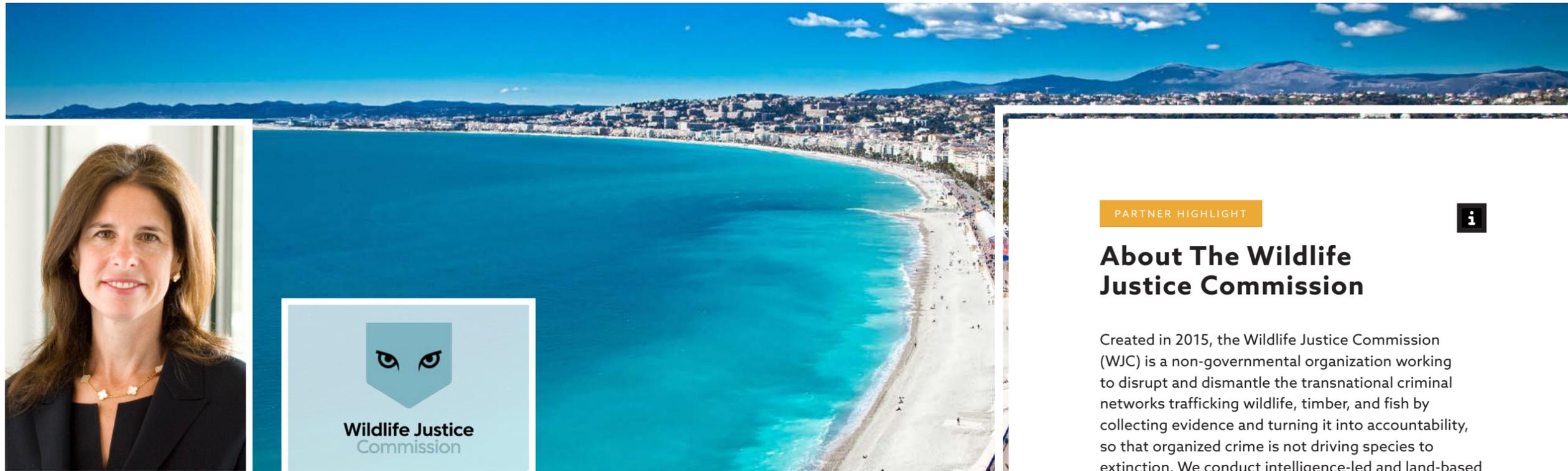
Shedding light on marine species trafficking

As the Executive Director of the [Wildlife Justice Commission](#) (WJC), I was proud to attend UNOC3 to bring attention to this critical issue and foster strong commitments and dialogue among policymakers.

It was especially meaningful to be present in Nice, as I had the privilege of co-hosting a high-level

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ABOVE: Nice, France. Photo credit: by [Aleksandar Todorovic](#) @ Adobe Stock.



PARTNER HIGHLIGHT



About The Wildlife Justice Commission

Created in 2015, the Wildlife Justice Commission (WJC) is a non-governmental organization working to disrupt and dismantle the transnational criminal networks trafficking wildlife, timber, and fish by collecting evidence and turning it into accountability, so that organized crime is not driving species to extinction. We conduct intelligence-led and land-based investigations to gather verifiable, actionable evidence of wildlife crimes. We share our intelligence analysis with law enforcement agencies and policy makers to inform their work against wildlife crime. The WJC provides operational and analytical support, training and mentoring to law enforcement, facilitating more effective enforcement against wildlife trafficking. We also work to influence policy and build the political will needed to effectively address wildlife crime.

How we Partner

The WJC began collaborating with the ICCF several years ago, with a particular focus on addressing wildlife trafficking as a form of transnational organized crime at the international level. Addressing organized crime that profits from wildlife is a critical complement to conservation efforts and is essential to ensuring that vulnerable species are protected from extinction. Since 2024, in partnership with ICCF's UK branch, the WJC has co-organized events aimed at raising awareness of this issue among policymakers. As part of these efforts, ICCF UK has convened briefings for Members of the UK Parliament—where the WJC actively participated—to highlight the links between wildlife trafficking, corruption, and related converging crimes.

Learn more:

wildlifejustice.org

roundtable, on the sidelines of UNOC3, with the International Conservation Caucus Foundation UK (ICCF UK), the [Environmental Justice Foundation \(EJF\)](#) and the [United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime \(UNODC\)](#), titled "Species at Risk and Rising Crimes in the Fisheries Sector: Confronting Threats on Land and Sea". This represented a critical occasion for us to share insights and elevate this issue in the global ocean agenda.

The discussion was chaired by the Hon. Barry Gardiner, Member of Parliament (United Kingdom) and Chair of the UK All-Party Parliamentary Group on International Conservation, and featured powerful interventions from other UK Members of Parliament, legislators from Indonesia, Saint Lucia and Grenada, and other key experts. Supporting a coordinated and comprehensive global response to crimes in the fisheries sector – including Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and the trafficking of vulnerable marine species - the discussion called for stronger law enforcement efforts and synergies between ocean governance and criminal justice approaches.

Weak enforcement, associated corruption, links to other serious crimes such as drug and human trafficking, disparities in domestic legal frameworks including weak penalties and lack of enforcement resources, as well as the heavy toll on coastal communities continue to pose hurdles in effectively addressing these crimes.

To effectively address these

"These crimes, driven by transnational organized networks, facilitated by corruption and often linked with other serious crimes (...) threaten not only biodiversity but also ocean health."

crimes, participants also shared field-based insights reflecting on challenges and best practices at both local and global levels.

This was an opportunity for me to highlight findings and recommendations based on our investigations into marine species trafficking. At the WJC, we focus on the organized crime elements, conducting intelligence-led and

land-based investigations of illegal fisheries supply chains, targeting high-level traffickers who often operate far from where the crime occurs at sea. I have seen first-hand that this approach works and can significantly help disrupt marine species trafficking – ultimately giving endangered species a chance to recover.

Building political momentum

To sustain the conversation and build political will, the WJC, with UNODC, ICCF UK, and EJF, issued a [joint statement](#), "[Confronting Crime to Protect Our Ocean](#)", reflecting on the outcomes of the roundtable discussion, and proposing actionable solutions to ensure that crimes in the fisheries sector,

in particular marine species trafficking, are effectively tackled and prioritized in global ocean policy.

As this statement underscores, effective enforcement requires coordinated action to facilitate international and cross-sectoral cooperation, prevent crime displacement to territories with weaker enforcement or penalties, and strengthen international and

domestic legislation – including stronger penalties for high-level offenders. To effectively implement these efforts on the ground, law enforcement agencies need to receive targeted financial, technical and human support from States, through the provision of capacity-building, training and mentoring services.

Further, transparency measures, including scaling up technology use such as satellite surveillance and blockchain solutions, and encouraging the adoption and implementation of [the Global Charter for Fisheries Transparency](#), are essential to better detect, prevent, and investigate crimes in the fisheries sector. The Charter calls for States to publish sanctions, enhance the disclosure of beneficial ownership of vessels, and harmonize flagging practices – thereby shedding light on the opacity at sea.

At the international level, the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) also offer robust frameworks and provisions to prevent and combat marine species trafficking. To effectively address associated corruption and the links to other serious crimes such as drug and human trafficking, States can leverage tools provided under these conventions, including measures to ensure the disclosure to competent authorities of accurate and timely beneficial ownership information, and parallel corruption and financial investigations to target illicit financial flows linked to these crimes and identify corrupt facilitators.

Opportunities for change

The WJC strongly believes

that combating this form of transnational organized crime is essential to safeguarding marine biodiversity and ecosystems. Strengthening international cooperation and integrating criminal justice approaches into ocean governance are critical to dismantling the networks driving this illicit trade.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to partnering with the ICCF Group and States to further elevate this issue on the global stage and strengthen political will to address crimes in the fisheries sector, including marine species trafficking, and associated offences. By working together to raise awareness, build political momentum, and strengthen international cooperation, we can help ensure this issue remains at the forefront of the global ocean agenda. Only through sustained and collective action can we secure a healthy, resilient ocean for current and future generations.



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ABOVE: Briefing participants at the ICCF-UK event in Nice, France, on the occasion of UNOC3.



ICCF IN THE SPOTLIGHT



ICCF Hosts 2025 U.S. Congressional International Conservation Leadership Gala

Celebrating and Raising Awareness About the Importance of Public-Private Partnerships in International Conservation

Celebrated as the most important event for U.S. leadership in international conservation, the 2025 ICCF U.S. Congressional International Conservation Leadership Gala was held on Tuesday, October 28, at the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium in Washington, D.C.

This year's Gala brought together inspirational leaders from across sectors, including

- H.E. Daniel Chapo, President of the Republic of Mozambique;
- H.E. Esperança da Costa, Vice President of the Republic of Angola;



IN PICTURE: John B. Gantt, CEO of the ICCF Group (1); The Reverend Michael Okere, Pastor at Saint Martin de Porres Catholic Church (2); Actor and Vice-Chair of Conservation International Harrison Ford (3); H.E. Niels Olsen, President of the Ecuadorian National Assembly (4).

H.E. Daniel Chapo, President of the Republic of Mozambique (5); Nick Lapham (left) and ICCF Founder David H. Barron (right) (6); H.E. Ana Paula Chantre Luna de Carvalho, Minister of Environment, Angola, (left) and Duko Hopman, Executive Director, Rob Walton Foundation (right) (7).

- Rt. Hon. Dr. Justin Nsengiyumva, Prime Minister of the Republic of Rwanda;
- Members of Congress including U.S. Senators Chris Coons and Martin Heinrich and Representatives Suzanne Bonamici, August Pfluger, and Dave Joyce;
- Actor and Vice-Chair of Conservation International Harrison Ford;
- business and NGO leaders including Rob Walton of the Rob Walton Foundation and Cristián Samper of the Bezos Earth Fund;
- and diplomats and legislators from around the world.

The event honored Founder, Chairman Emeritus, and Former CEO of Conservation International, Founder and Former CEO of Nia Tero, and Chairman of Sylvania Peter Seligmann with the ICCF Lifetime Achievement Award; recognized Nick Lapham and The BAND Foundation with the ICCF "Good Steward" Award; and presented to the National Assembly of Ecuador the ICCF Teddy Roosevelt® International Conservation Award, accepted by His Excellency Niels Olsen, President of the Ecuadorian National Assembly.

The ICCF Lifetime Achievement Award

Honoring Peter Seligmann, Founder, Chairman

Emeritus, and Former CEO of Conservation International, Founder and Former CEO of Nia Tero, and Chairman of Sylvania

Following a short film produced by Conservation International and introduced on stage by Actor and Vice-Chair of Conservation International Harrison Ford, Rob Walton of the Rob Walton Foundation presented the ICCF Lifetime Achievement Award to Peter Seligmann 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.

The ICCF Teddy Roosevelt® International Conservation Award

Accepted by His Excellency Niels Olsen, President of the Ecuadorian National Assembly

Cristián Samper, Managing Director and Leader for Nature Solutions, Bezos Earth Fund, presented The ICCF Teddy Roosevelt® International Conservation Award to the National Assembly of the Republic of Ecuador. The award was accepted by His Excellency Niels Olsen, President of the

Ecuadorian National Assembly, 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.

The ICCF "Good Steward" Award

Recognizing Nick Lapham and The BAND Foundation

ICCF Founder David H. Barron presented The ICCF "Good Steward" Award to Nick Lapham and The BAND Foundation, for work in landscape and species conservation in the United States, Africa, and Latin America.

Ocean Security, American Strength, Global Stability, and Long-Term Prosperity

Well managed ocean governance is an essential pillar of the country's, and world's, prosperity and security.

House Oceans Caucus Co-Chair Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) highlighted the important role that ocean health and management play in the prosperity of the Oregon coast and the country and introduced the report *The Geopolitics of the Ocean*, which was guided by WWF,

ICCF, and an esteemed Advisory Council made up of Admiral (ret.) Karl Schultz (26th Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard), Hon. Timothy Gallaudet (Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy (ret.) and former acting NOAA Administrator), Hon. Sarah Ann Lynch (former U.S. Ambassador and Civilian Deputy to the Commander of the U.S. Southern Command), Hon. James B. Story (former U.S. Ambassador and Director of INL for Western Hemisphere), and Scott Clendenin (Rear Admiral (ret.) and former Assistant Commandant for Response Policy of the U.S. Coast Guard). The report puts forward the case for why investing in a healthy ocean is essential to advancing fundamental American priorities and seeks to build an expansive coalition that helps increase understanding and investment at the intersection between national security and ocean health.

Celebrating U.S. - Africa Cooperation in International Conservation

The ICCF Gala welcomed 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. Esperança 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. The Gala also welcomed Rt. Hon. Dr. 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.

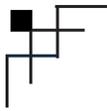
Advancing the Africa Keystone Protected Area Partnership

ICCF facilitated the signing of two MOUs — one between the Rob Walton Foundation and the Republic of Angola, and one between the Rob Walton Foundation and the Republic of Mozambique — to advance the Africa Keystone Protected Area Partnership.

The MOUs were signed on stage by Duko Hopman, Executive Director, Rob Walton Foundation; H.E. Ana Paula Chantre Luna de Carvalho, Minister of Environment, Republic of Angola; and H.E. João Matlombe, Minister of Transport and Logistics, Republic of Mozambique. The signing took place between remarks highlighting the Keystone Partnership delivered by H.E. Daniel Chapo, President of the Republic of Mozambique, and H.E. Esperança Maria Eduardo Francisco da Costa, Vice President of the Republic of Angola.

These MOUs formalize the commitment of the Rob Walton Foundation, the Republic of Angola, and the Republic of Mozambique to work together

to identify opportunities for the collaborative management of keystone protected areas that are critical for socioeconomic resilience of surrounding communities. The MOUs exemplify how public-private partnerships can invigorate conservation even as national budgets come under increasing financial pressure. Collaborations between funders, governments, and NGOs, such as the Keystone Partnership, do not just finance protected areas; they also create jobs, tackle conflicts, and improve regional security by preventing the illicit resource extraction that funds bad actors.



THANK YOU

Our Global Network

The ICCF Group thanks these stakeholders for collaborating with us on briefings, engagements, and other events to raise awareness about conservation solutions to protect our natural resources.

United Kingdom

- African Wildlife Foundation
- Birdlife International
- Blue Marine Foundation
- British & Irish Association of Zoos & Aquariums
- Chester Zoo
- Coalition for Global Prosperity
- Conflict & Environment Observatory
- Conservative Environment Network
- Embassy of Colombia
- Embassy of Mexico
- Embassy of Peru
- Embassy of the United States
- Environmental Justice Foundation
- Flora & Fauna International
- Global Canopy
- Global Fishing Watch
- Green Alliance
- HALO Trust
- High Commission of Canada
- High Commission of Kenya
- High Commission of Namibia
- High Commission of New Zealand
- High Commission of Rwanda
- Kew Gardens
- Labour Climate & Environment Forum
- Marine Conservation Society
- Mars International
- National Oceanography Centre

- Natural History Museum
- NGO Forests Coalition
- Open Seas
- Peers 4 Planet
- Pew Trusts
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
- Samoan Conservation Society
- The Commonwealth Secretariat
- Tony Blair Institute for Global Change
- UK Friends of Ukraine
- UK Overseas Territories Association
- Uplift UK
- Wildlife Justice Commission
- WWF-UK
- Zoological Society of London

Africa

- ADPP (Ajuda e Desenvolvimento Para o Povo)
- African Parks
- African Parks Network
- African Wildlife Foundation
- Angola Ministry of Environment
- Angola Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Caritas Czech Republic
- Caritas Zambia
- Catholic Relief Services
- Conservation Alliance of Kenya
- Conservation International
- Endangered Wildlife Trust
- European Union
- FBS (Fundação Bornito de Sousa)
- Friends of Conservation
- Fundação Kissama
- GIZ
- International Crane Foundation (ICF)

- International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- IUCN - Conservation Areas & Species Diversity Programme
- KAZA
- Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association
- Kenya Wildlife Trust
- Lilongwe Wildlife Trust
- Masai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association
- National Environment Management Authority (NEMA)
- National Geographic Society
- One Acre Fund
- Parque Nacional do Iona (Iona National Park)
- PROSPERO
- SADC
- SADC PF
- The Halo Trust
- The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
- TRAFFIC
- UNEP
- United Nations Development Programme
- University Of Zambia
- UNODC - Container Control Programme & Wildlife and Forest Crime Programme
- USAID
- VALAR Frontier Solutions
- Wild Bird Trust
- Wildlife Crime Prevention
- World Bank Group
- World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
- Zambia Department of Parks and

- Wildlife
- Zambia Environment Management Agency
- Zambia Fisheries Department

Asia

- Amata
- Ber-Ikan
- Coral Triangle Center
- EDF
- Embassy of Mongolia
- GEF
- International Pole and Line Foundation (IPLNF)
- KI (Conservation International in Indonesia)
- Masyarakat dan Perikanan Indonesia (MDPI)
- Resonance // Tuna Consortium
- Rio Tinto
- Starling Resources
- Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP)
- The Asia Foundation
- UNDP
- UNEP
- Walton Family Foundation
- WCS
- WRI
- YKAN (TNC in Indonesia)

Peru

- Autoridad Nacional del Agua (ANA)
- Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI)
- Ministerio de Agricultura
- Ministerio de Comercio Exterior y Turismo
- Ministerio de Cultura
- Ministerio de Economía y Finanzas
- Ministerio de Producción
- Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

- Ministerio del Ambiente
- Ministerio del Interior
- OCEANA
- Policía Nacional del Perú
- ProAmazonia
- PROFONANPE
- Re:wild Perú
- Servicio Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas por el Estado (SERNANP)
- Servicio Nacional Forestal y Fauna Silvestre (SERFOR)
- SPDA
- WWF

Colombia

- Agencia Italiana para la Cooperación para el Desarrollo (AICS)
- Asociación de Corporaciones Autónomas Regionales de Colombia (ASOCARS)
- Audubon Colombia
- Autoridad Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca (AUNAP)
- CAF
- Comisión Colombiana del Océano
- Conservación Internacional
- Corporación para el Desarrollo Sostenible de la Amazonia (Corpoamazonia)
- Corporación para el Desarrollo Sostenible del Archipiélago de San Andrés, Providencia y Santa Catalina, CORALINA
- Corporación para el Desarrollo Sostenible del Chocó (CODECHOCO)
- COSUDE - Agencia Suiza para el Desarrollo y la Cooperación
- Departamento Nacional de Planeación
- Dirección General Marítima (DIMAR)
- FAO Colombia
- Fedepalma
- Fondo Acción
- Fontur

- Fundación Natura
- Fundación para el Desarrollo Sostenible
- Global Green Growth Institute
- Instituto Amazónico de Investigaciones Científicas (SINCHI)
- Instituto de Hidrología, Meteorología y Estudios Ambientales (IDEAM)
- Instituto de Investigación de Recursos Biológicos Alexander von Humboldt
- Instituto de Investigaciones Ambientales del Pacífico (IIAP)
- Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas y Costeras (INVEMAR)
- Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible
- Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores
- Ministerio de Comercio, Industria y Turismo
- Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura
- Parques Nacionales Naturales de Colombia
- Patrimonio Natural
- PNUD
- Procolombia
- Rainforest Alliance Colombia
- Red Pacto Global Colombia
- UNEP Colombia
- Unión Europea
- USAID
- Vicepresidencia de la República
- WCS Colombia
- WWF

Brazil

- Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (OTCA)
- Banco Santander
- Brazilian Ministry of Environment
- Climate Policy Initiative
- Coalizão Brasil Clima Floresta

- Agricultura
- Coca Cola Brasil
- Confederação Nacional de Agricultura (CNA)
- Embassies of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela
- Embassy of Norway in Brazil
- Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuária (EMBRAPA)
- European Union Embassy in Brazil
- Federal University of Rio de Janeiro
- Fundo Brasileiro para a Biodiversidade (FUNBIO)
- Instituto de Pesquisa Amazonica (IPAM)
- Natura & Co.
- Rainforest Trust
- Re:wild Brasil
- SOS Pantanal
- US Embassy in Brazil
- WWF Brasil

Mexico

- AMEBIN - Mexican Alliance for Business and Nature
- Costa Salvaje
- Environmental Defense Fund
- Global Ghost Gear Initiative
- Keystone Species Alliance
- Ocean Conservancy
- Reforestamos México
- Wildlands Network
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity
- Ministry of the Environment
- WWF Mexico
- Mexican Fund for the Conservation of Nature
- WRI Mexico
- National Institute for Ecology and

- Climate Change
- UNEP Mexico
- AMERE - Mexican Alliance for the Restoration of Ecosystems
- GYBN - Global Youth Biodiversity Network

Caribbean

- Advocacy Grenada Inc.
- Antigua and Barbuda Department of Environment
- Antigua and Barbuda Ministry of Health, Wellness and Environment
- Barbuda Council
- Caribbean Cooperative MRV HUB (measurement, reporting, & verification)
- Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project (CLME+)
- Caribbean Regional Climate Centre
- Caribbean Water & Sewage Association Inc (CAWASA)
- Department of Forestry (St. Lucia)
- Dive Grenada
- Dominica Forestry Division
- Dominica Ministry of Environment, Rural Modernization and Kalinago Upliftment
- Embassy of Mexico in Saint Lucia
- GIS Grenada
- Grenada Fisheries Division
- Grenada Ministry of Agriculture
- Grenada Ministry of Climate Resilience, the Environment & Renewable Energy
- Grenada Ministry of Economic Development, Planning, Tourism, ICT, Creative Economy, Culture, Agriculture and Lands, Fisheries and Cooperatives
- Grenada Ministry of Health
- Grenada National Ocean and Coastal Governance Committee
- Grenada Sustainable Development

- Committee/ National Climate Change Committee
- Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
- Kelley Drye & Warren LLP
- Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission
- Soloricon Ltd.
- St. Lucia Department of Physical Planning
- St. Lucia Department of Sustainable Development
- St. Lucia Forestry Department
- St. Lucia Hotel and Tourism Authority (SLHTA)
- St. Lucia Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Rural Development
- St. Lucia Ministry of Sustainable Development, Energy, Science and Technology
- St. Lucia Ministry of Tourism
- St. Lucia National Conservation Fund (SLUNCA)
- St. Lucia National Trust (SLNT)
- The George Family
- The St. Lucia Archaeological and Historical Society
- The Stimson Center
- Water and Sewage Company (WASCO)

Paraguay

- Asociación Agropecuaria de Agua Dulce (APAD)
- Asociación de Productores Agropecuarios para un Chaco Sustentable (APACS)
- Asociación Rural del Paraguay (ARP)
- Cámara de Fitosanitarios y Fertilizantes (CAFYF)
- Cámara Paraguaya de Procesadores de Oleaginosas y Cereales (cappro)
- Comunidad indígena Ache -Naranja

- Comunidad Indígena Ytu - Abai
- Comunidades Indígenas del Chaco
- Cooperativa Chortitzer
- Cooperativa de Producción Agropecuaria Naranja Ltda. (COPRONAR)
- Cooperativa Fernheim
- Cooperativa Neuland
- Cooperativa Pindó
- Dirección de Extensión Agraria (DEAg)
- Facultad de Ciencias Agrarias de la Universidad Nacional de Asunción- Sede Chaco
- Federación de Cooperativas de Producción (FECOPROD)
- Fundación Ideagro
- Fundación Ysapy
- Gobernación de Alto Paraguay
- Gobernación de Alto Paraná
- Gobernación de Boquerón
- Gobernación de Caazapá
- Grupos CREA
- Instituto Paraguayo del Indígena (INDI)
- Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería
- Ministerio del Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible
- Municipalidad de Abai
- Municipalidad de Bahía Negra
- Municipalidad de Caazapá
- Municipalidad de Filadelfia
- Municipalidad de Fuerte Olimpo
- Municipalidad de Loma Plata
- Municipalidad de Mariscal José Félix Estigarribia
- Municipalidad de Naranja
- Municipalidad de San Cristóbal
- Municipalidad de Santa Rita
- Municipalidad de Tavaí
- Sociedad Civil Sommerfeld
- Solidaridad Network
- Syngenta Paraguay
- Tropical Forest Alliance (TFA)
- Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Paraguay

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