

FALL 2023

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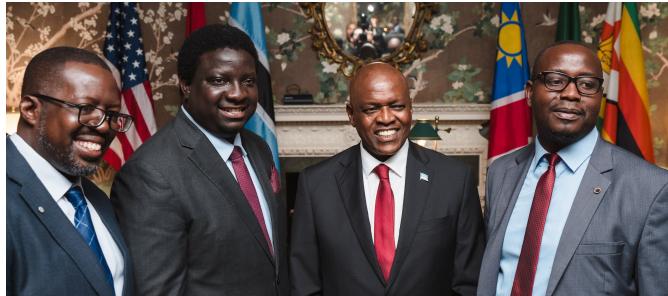
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Heads of State Reception and Parliamentary Working Group Meeting During UN General Assembly

On September 21, 2023, the International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF) convened two events on the

ABOVE, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Dr. Nyambe Nyambe, Hon. Imanga Wamunyima, H.E. Mokgweetsi Masisi (President of Botswana) and Hon. Twaambo Mutinta.



sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York City: a Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation

Area (KAZA TFCA) Leadership Reception and a Parliamentary Meeting on KAZA Collaboration Strategy.

The ICCF Group has been engaged in the KAZA TFCA since 2012, supporting the parliamentary conservation caucuses established in Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, with strong parliamentary engagement ongoing in Angola since 2017.



Through this engagement, policymakers are empowered to build political will, advance conservation governance, and promote inter-parliamentary collaboration and cooperation.

The ICCF Group and partner Oak Foundation developed Project Safe Passage, an initiative to boost conservation work within the Zambezi and Greater Kruger landscapes, focusing on

ABOVE: His Excellency Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi, President of the Republic of Botswana.



countering the illegal wildlife trade, social impact, and research. Project Safe Passage facilitates support and builds partnerships with NGOs and government authorities that approach problems in innovative and systematic ways to increase the security of wildlife and the resiliency of communities within key areas of transfrontier conservation like KAZA. The project works across a platform of numerous grassroots organizations through a bottom-up approach, considering the gaps, needs, and challenges of local governments, communities, and wildlife.

Key participants in the parliamentary working group meeting included:

- Honorable Lourdes Fernandes, Vice President of the 3rd Commission in the National Assembly of Angola

ABOVE: Ms. Monique Barbut, French public servant who served as the CEO of the Global Environment Facility and as Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

- Honorable Wynter Mmolotsi, Co-Chair of the Botswana Conservation Parliamentary Caucus
- Honorable Kennedy !Haoseb, Member of the 6th National Council of Namibia
- Honorable Twaambo Mutinta, Co-Chair of the Zambian Parliamentary Caucus on the Environment and Climate Change
- Honorable Imanga Wamunyima, Member of the Executive Committee of the Zambian Parliamentary Caucus on the Environment and Climate Change
- Dr. Nyambe Nyambe, Executive Director of the KAZA TFCA Secretariat

The meeting focused on oversight and accountability with regard to the KAZA Treaty signing and ratification, as well as international cooperation and collaboration. It concluded with parliamentary conservation caucus members agreeing to a Collaboration Strategy to Facilitate the KAZA TFCA Treaty, which included three overarching topics:

- Educational Sessions and Institutional Frameworks
- National Steering Committee Oversight and Accountability
- Communication and Information Sharing (Local, National, and International).

The KAZA Leadership Reception was led by the President of the Republic of Botswana and Heads of Delegations from KAZA countries and included leadership from the parliamentary conservation caucuses in the KAZA countries. ICCF was joined by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Environment of Angola, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Finance, Minister of Lands and Water Affairs, and Minister of Environment and Tourism of Botswana, and the Ambassador of Botswana to the United States and the Permanent Representative of Botswana to the United Nations.

One of the key objectives of the KAZA Leadership Reception was for governments to recognize the achievement in the development of the KAZA TFCA, alongside its unique opportunities and challenges. This requires balancing the needs of the region's 2.7 million people, mostly subsistence farmers, with those of the region's wildlife, whose

survival and success hinges on the integrity and connectivity of their habitats. The remarks made at the KAZA Leadership Reception called for action by KAZA governments, leveraging parliamentary conservation caucuses, to inspire deeper cross-border collaboration, whilst respecting the sovereignty of the constituent states.

OP-ED, FROM OUR PARTNER

FOOD SECURITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN TIMES OF GLOBAL INSTABILITY



Norge Mining

Access to food is a basic human right; ending hunger and achieving food security for all is one of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). After initial success, the number of people facing severe food insecurity has been increasing again since 2018 up to the current 345 million. The number of people going to bed hungry every day is even higher, reaching more than 828 million.

What are the reasons for this staggering growth in food insecurity and how to overcome it, all while protecting biodiversity, health of our environment and livelihoods of people working in and out of the agricultural sector?

Besides the growing global population as such – that is expected to reach 8.5 billion by the end of the decade and up to 9 billion by 2050 – the major reason for the current crisis is the unprecedented growth in food and fertilizer prices since 2020. Global food and fertilizer supply chains have been severely disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This was however further aggravated by geo-political factors, namely the export restrictions on phosphate- and nitrogen-based fertilizers imposed by China from 2021 onwards and the outbreak of the war in Ukraine in February 2022. Ukraine was the “breadbasket” of the world and Russia one of the major suppliers of fertilizers and their composite materials (namely phosphate). The war dramatically disrupted the supplies and thus

increased the food and fertilizer prices not only in Europe, but globally, with the worst repercussions being felt in low- and middle-income countries in Africa and South-East Asia, where it further aggravated the existing food insecurity and hunger.

To achieve food security in times of global unrest and growing global population, stabilization and diversification of global supply chains of critical raw materials and fertilizers from stable and reliable countries is the first necessary step. Second, the needed scaling up of fertilizer and food production must be conducted in an environmentally cautious way, increasing the yields while protecting the soil quality. This can be achieved only by more environmentally

friendly fertilizer products, with the lowest contaminant levels possible and based on organic and recycled materials. The European Union (EU) Fertilizing Product Regulation (FPR) that entered into force in summer 2022 is one such regulation that aims to achieve that by fostering a more circular, environmentally friendly, and material safe fertilizer market in the EU. Most importantly, however, it also for the first time imposes limits on the use of toxic contaminants and pathogens in fertilizers entering the European market, most importantly cadmium levels within phosphate fertilizers, to guarantee a higher level of soil protection and to reduce health and environmental risks. For that, however, the input

phosphate material must be of the lowest cadmium content. While most of the current global supply of phosphate, such as that from Morocco, comes from sedimentary deposits that contain high levels of cadmium contaminants, the purity of the newly discovered, magmatic-based phosphate deposits of Norge Mining in the South-West of Norway fully complies with the stringent requirements of the new EU legislation. Diversification of global phosphate and fertilizer supply by Norge Mining products will thus substantially contribute to both diversification and stabilization of global supply chains while preserving soil quality and protecting environment.

Food security for all is not only one of the key SDGs, but most importantly a basic human right. We must make sure that we achieve that while protecting biodiversity and health of our soils and people on the planet. This endeavor starts with more cautious agricultural practices and stability of global food and fertilizer value chains. Norge Mining aims to be a force of good and help achieve this herculean task of the 21st century.

OCF CONVENES CONGRESSIONAL WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTING PUBLIC, PRIVATE EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

The Ocean Caucus Foundation hosted a half-day Congressional workshop consisting of two expert panel discussions on the circular economy and what various stakeholders can do to move the economy and supply chains from linear to circular.

Consensus has aligned that society is moving towards a circular economy rather than single-use products. Circularity is not only essential for natural resource conservation but can also be good for business. Extraction is expensive and time-consuming. From product redesign to recycling and waste management, investing in circularity can pay dividends for producers.

The first panel, representing private-sector stakeholders, all

echoed this message. The panel, which included Amy Phillips from International Paper, Kevin Lo from HP, Rachel Goldstein from MARS, and Jessica Bowman from the Plant-Based Products Council (PBPC), focused on the historical factors that have influenced consumer behavior and investments, as well as how multinational companies have been promoting voluntary efforts to reduce and reuse resources within their corporations, products, packaging, and supply chains.

Panelists agreed that consumers want more recyclable products, pointing to an increase in the popularity of recyclable or plant-based products. As MARS's Rachel Goldstein expressed,

though, while it is encouraging that the U.S. is seeing an increase in demand for these products, it does not help if people who purchase them do not know what to do with the product after use.

To bridge this gap in recycling education, the panelists discussed, consumers need an increased understanding of terminology, what is put into reusable products, and the various ways to safely dispose of different products after use. For the paper industry, circularity already plays an important role and is integral to production.

The second panel of the day centered on the U.N. Global Plastics Treaty, as panelists, including Fatou Ndoye from the UNEP Regional Office for North America, Rachel Goldstein from MARS, Larke Williams from the U.S. Department of State, and Anthony Tusino from WWF, discussed the latest developments in the international treaty negotiations and offered perspectives from the multilateral, government, NGO, and private sectors.

At the UN Environmental Assembly in March 2022, all 175 countries endorsed a resolution to establish an international, legally binding treaty on plastic production, design, and disposal by 2024. This decision presents an opportunity to develop comprehensive global measures to address the plastic problem. It is intended to stop plastic from flowing into the ocean and set rules for plastic management.



CLIMATE CHANGE

KENYA CAUCUS LAUNCH AND STRATEGIC PLAN FOR CLIMATE ACTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Kenya is recognized for developing progressive policies and legislation that have been replicated by other African countries. However, the

ABOVE, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Hon. Soipan Tuya (Cabinet Secretary), Jill Barasa, H.E. Rigathi Gachagua (Deputy President of Kenya), Hon. Charity Kathambi, and Sen. Murungi Kathuri (Deputy Speaker of the Senate).

policy and regulatory landscape remains marred by issues such as contradictory policies and inadequate policy implementation – including a lack of strategies for implementation, limited policy monitoring, policy gridlocks, and entrenched sectoral approaches to implementation. These situations exist at a huge cost to the country in terms of lost opportunities, environmental degradation, disrupted livelihoods, and reduced contributions to national wealth. Inadequate policy implementation poses a danger to the country's development, with dire consequences for the nation's natural capital, its people, and the economy. The Strategic Plan (2022-2027) is a groundbreaking document meant to help Members of the Parliamentary Conservation and Climate Change Caucus - Kenya (P4CK) address existing policy and regulatory challenges, and it is the first such plan since the caucus initially launched in 2012 as the Parliamentary Conservation Caucus - Kenya (PCC-K).

On July 13th, 2023, the ICCF Group hosted a meeting in Nairobi, Kenya for members of the newly launched P4CK to present their Strategic Plan (2022-2027). The meeting was attended by high-level dignitaries such as His Excellency Rigathi Gachagua, EGH, Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya; Hon. Soipan Tuya, CBS, Cabinet Secretary, Environment and Climate Change; and Hon. Sen. Kathuri Murungi, Member of Parliament, Deputy Speaker of the

Senate. In attendance were also 35 Members of Parliament and Senators and key conservation stakeholders. Other key speakers for this briefing included Hon. Charity Kathambi, Co-Chair of the P4CK; Jill Barasa, Africa Program Director, ICCF Group; Mr. Frederick Ouma, Project Officer, Natural Resources and Climate Governance, Transparency International Kenya; Mr. Charles Mwaura, Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA); Ms. Lucy Waruingi, Chairperson,

Conservation Alliance of Kenya;
Hon. Charles Kamuren, MP, Vice
Chairperson, Departmental
Committee on Environment,

Forestry, and Mining; and Dr. John
K. Chumo, Chief Executive Officer
(CEO), MaMa Doing Good, Office
of the First Lady.

BLUE ECONOMY

TAPAFE FIELD MISSION TO UNGUJA ISLANDS, ZANZIBAR



Seaweed farming stands as Tanzania's third-largest export industry, providing employment for over 25,000 farmers, with 80% being women. Within the Zanzibar Archipelago, seaweed has emerged as the third-largest source of income, contributing to nearly 90% of marine exports. Primarily, the seaweed harvested is dried and utilized in products such as carrageenan or agar for thickening agents in toothpaste, ice cream, cosmetics, and more.



HOWEVER, THE APPEAL OF SEAWED FARMING HAS WANED OVER THE YEARS, NO LONGER HOLDING THE SAME APPEAL FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES AS IT ONCE DID.

On September 13th, 2023, the ICCF Group, in partnership with

The Nature Conservancy (TNC), facilitated a field mission for

ABOVE, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Hon. Fredy Atupele Mwakibete, Hon. Amina Daud Hassan and Hon. Asha Abdallah Juma.

RIGHT: Hon. Esther Matiko.

members of the Tanzania Friends of Environment (TAPAFE) to the Muungoni area in the Unguja Islands. This mission followed a workshop held by ICCF and TNC in November 2022, which focused on strengthening the Blue Economy of the Western

Indian Ocean by integrating ecosystem services and effective biodiversity conservation. The workshop delved into the concept of the Blue Economy and underscored the significance of a comprehensive Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) framework.

The primary objective of the field visit was to enable legislators to identify opportunities that could shape and bolster seaweed farming through legislative actions, as seaweed farming has become a pivotal component within the MSP framework.



The field mission was attended by Hon. Esther N. Matiko, Co-Chair of TAPAFE, Hon. Fredy Atupele Mwakibete, Secretary of TAPAFE, and other TAPAFE members,

including Hon. Abdalghafar Idrissa Juma, Hon. Amina Daudi Hassan, Hon. Asha Abdallah Juma, Hon. Asya Mwadini Mohammed, and Hon. Hawa Mchafu Chakoma.

TO COMMENCE THE MISSION, DR. ABOUD JUMBE, PERMANENT SECRETARY OF BLUE ECONOMY & FISHERIES IN ZANZIBAR, HOSTED THE MEMBERS AND DELIVERED AN INFORMATIVE PRESENTATION ON ZANZIBAR'S EXPERIENCES AND THE UNTAPPED POTENTIAL OF THE BLUE ECONOMY.

This encompassed various sectors like tourism, fisheries and aquaculture, maritime activities, trade and infrastructure, and ocean governance. Dr. Aboud emphasized the Ministry's commitment to implementing interventions aimed at empowering and investing

in fisheries and aquaculture. He noted the global seaweed market's enormous potential, as well as challenges faced by seaweed farmers. He concluded by mentioning the Ministry of Blue Economy & Fisheries' plans to establish a processing plant in Zanzibar by next year.

The Members proceeded to the Muungoni area, where local farmers provided insights into seaweed farming processes and the challenges they encounter on a daily basis.

Later, the Members visited a group of local women specializing in producing seaweed-based products, such as oils and soap. Hon. Esther Matiko encouraged

these women to seek capacity-building initiatives to enhance their product marketing and competitiveness in broader markets.

In conclusion, the Members expressed their commitment to establishing a clear legal foundation for MSP and increasing their focus on allocating funds or incentives for research and development efforts aimed at refining seaweed farming techniques and enhancing productivity in future budgets.

POLICY COHERENCE

POLICY COHERENCE PROJECT LAUNCH



In September, ICCF held several workshops to initiate its project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) on Policy Coherence. This project is the first of its kind for the GEF and spans the countries of Mongolia, Colombia, and Zambia. The focus on Policy Coherence is essential because it is a fundamental

way to increase the efficiency of investments to secure tangible and long-lasting results for the benefit of the environment and people's livelihoods. The workshops in Mongolia brought together leaders of the Parliamentary National

ABOVE: Dr. Tom Eager, Entomologist.

Conservation Caucus with ICCF and other important stakeholders including The Asia Foundation and The Nature Conservancy. The outcome of the workshops was an action plan to address Policy Coherence among the most important land uses in Mongolia.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

HEALTHY FOREST PROJECT IN MONGOLIA

CCF held a meeting with Members of the National Conservation Caucus and Rio Tinto in Mongolia to review the progress and findings of the joint project to protect Mongolia's forests, which includes the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Rio Tinto, and ICCF. Speakers included the Chairman of the Parliament's National Conservation Caucus, Rio Tinto's Mongolia Country Director, the Director of the National Forest Agency of Mongolia, and ICCF experts.

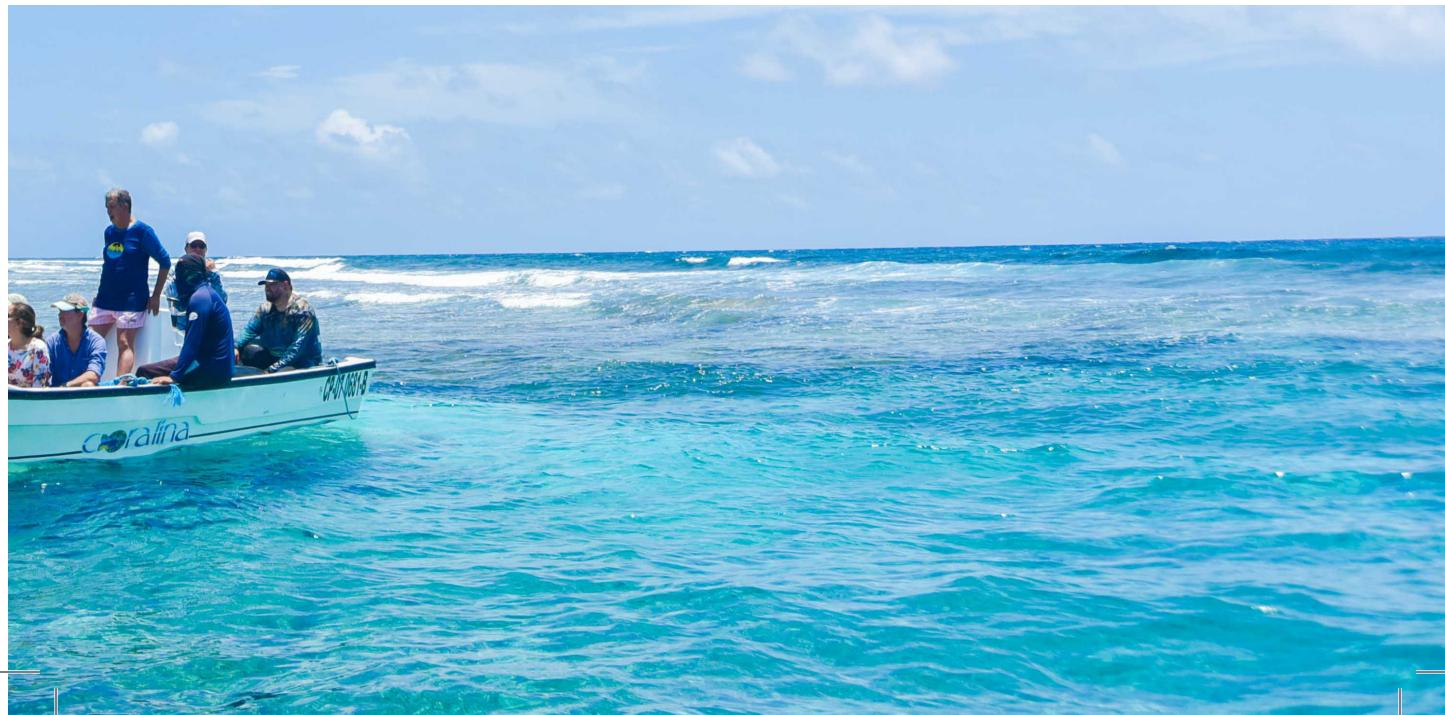


The project has completed the first year of its 3-year term, and aims to improve the capacity of Mongolia to manage its forest resources while managing forest insect populations to prevent large-scale loss of forest in the near term.

MARINE GOVERNANCE

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES IN MOVING TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE OCEAN ECONOMY

On August 11, 2023, in San Andres, Providencia and Santa Catalina, Colombia, the leadership of the Conservation and Ocean Caucuses of Colombia and Mexico participated in the regional summit and field mission, "Opportunities and Challenges to Transition to a Sustainable Ocean Economy" with the support of the ICCF Group, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).





THIS MISSION WAS ORGANIZED AS PART OF THE PROJECT "FACILITATING DIALOGUE AND STRENGTHENING REGIONAL COOPERATION TOGETHER WITH LEGISLATORS TO IMPROVE MARINE GOVERNANCE."

The objective of the regional summit was to promote multi-sectoral dialogue and provide technical and field learning for legislators from Colombia and Mexico in the framework of the

sustainable ocean economy in order to strengthen legislative, regulatory, and public policy in this area. Specifically, the mission made it possible to present advances in both countries



ABOVE, TOP ROW, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Mr. Neil Duarte de Souza State Representative of Para (Brazil), Mr. Otoni de Paula (Parliament of Brazil), Ms. Socorro Neri (Parliament of Brazil), Mr. Nelsinho Trad (Senator of Brazil), Mr. Valmir Prascidelli (Government Affairs Secretariat), Mr. Sidney Leite (Parliament of Brazil), Mr. Junior Ferrari (Parliament of Brazil), Ms. Silvia Waiãpa (Parliament of Brazil)

BOTTOM ROW: Mr. Radjendrakoemar Debie (Parliament of Suriname), Ms. Miquella Huur (Parliament of Suriname), Ms. Frances Paredes Castro (Parliament of Peru), Mr. Arturo Alegria (Parliament of Peru), Ms. Karol Paredes Fonseca (Parliament of Peru), Mr. Carlos Ardila (Parliament of Colombia), Mr. Carlos Arrien (Parliament of Bolivia).

and exchange experiences on blue carbon projects, scientific research, and conservation and restoration of coastal-marine ecosystems.

Through over 10 technical sessions, several field trips within the archipelago, and high-level discussions with multi-sectoral stakeholders and decision-

makers, the two-day agenda addressed how sustainable ocean economies provide an opportunity to advance the protection of our ocean, seas, and coasts, strengthen their productivity, and promote the prosperity of communities, particularly coastal and island communities.

The Congressmen and Congresswomen learned and identified firsthand how conservation and restoration activities in marine-coastal ecosystems have promoted a value chain that involves and benefits different actors in the territory.

The experiences of mangrove and coral ecosystem restoration, the conservation and sustainability strategies of the territorial entities in charge, and the testimonies of the leaders who implement activities related to the ocean economy in the archipelago of San Andrés, Providencia and Santa Catalina enriched the parliamentary

discussion on these issues and identified opportunities to strengthen the legislative frameworks of both countries.

As a result of the mission, the "Legislative Declaration of the Archipelago of San Andrés, Providencia and Santa Catalina: Sustainable ocean economy

as a catalyst for social and environmental development" was signed by leadership of the Conservation and Ocean Caucuses of Mexico and Colombia, highlighting that this approach is an opportunity to address the urgent threats facing

the ocean and comply with the goals of protecting biodiversity, combating climate change, and sustainable development committed to under various national and international conventions and agreements.

ECO-TOURISM

PARLIAMENTARIANS GATHER TO DISCUSS THE NEED TO REINFORCE THEIR ROLE IN LEADING EFFORTS AT REGIONAL COOPERATION

 In August 7th and 8th in Belém do Para, Brazil, ICCF teams from Brazil, Colombia, and Peru supported a meeting of the Amazon Parliament (PARLAMAZ), which was held a day before the Amazon Region Heads of State Summit. ICCF also sponsored a reception for parliamentarians to meet with leaders of NGOs, philanthropists, and the private sector and a field trip on the river for parliamentarians to witness eco-tourism businesses and hear their suggestions for legislation supporting these Amazon bioeconomy ventures.

Participating parliamentarians were affiliated with ICCF caucuses or with their country's PARLAMAZ delegation. They

came representing the national legislatures of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Peru, and Suriname. The objective of this PARLAMAZ

meeting and reception was to communicate a signed declaration of their priorities for the Amazon region to the Heads of State participating in the Summit. A key result of the meeting was that PARLAMAZ and its parent

organization, the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), received recognition and led to agreement among the Heads of State about the need to reinforce their role in leading efforts at regional cooperation.

Through summits such as this, the ICCF Group continues to facilitate multi-sectoral dialogue and promote informed decision-making, thus advancing the conservation of natural capital in Colombia, Mexico, and at the regional level.

BELOW: View of Paso Punta Union, Peru



PROTECTED AREAS

ROUNDTABLE ON EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL PROTECTED AREAS

On August 15th, in Lima, Peru, Members of Congress belonging to the Peruvian Conservation Caucus participated in a Roundtable on Effective Management of Natural Protected Areas in the Congress of the Republic of Peru, with the participation of three multi-party congressmen: Arturo Alegria, Karol Paredes, and Victor Flores.

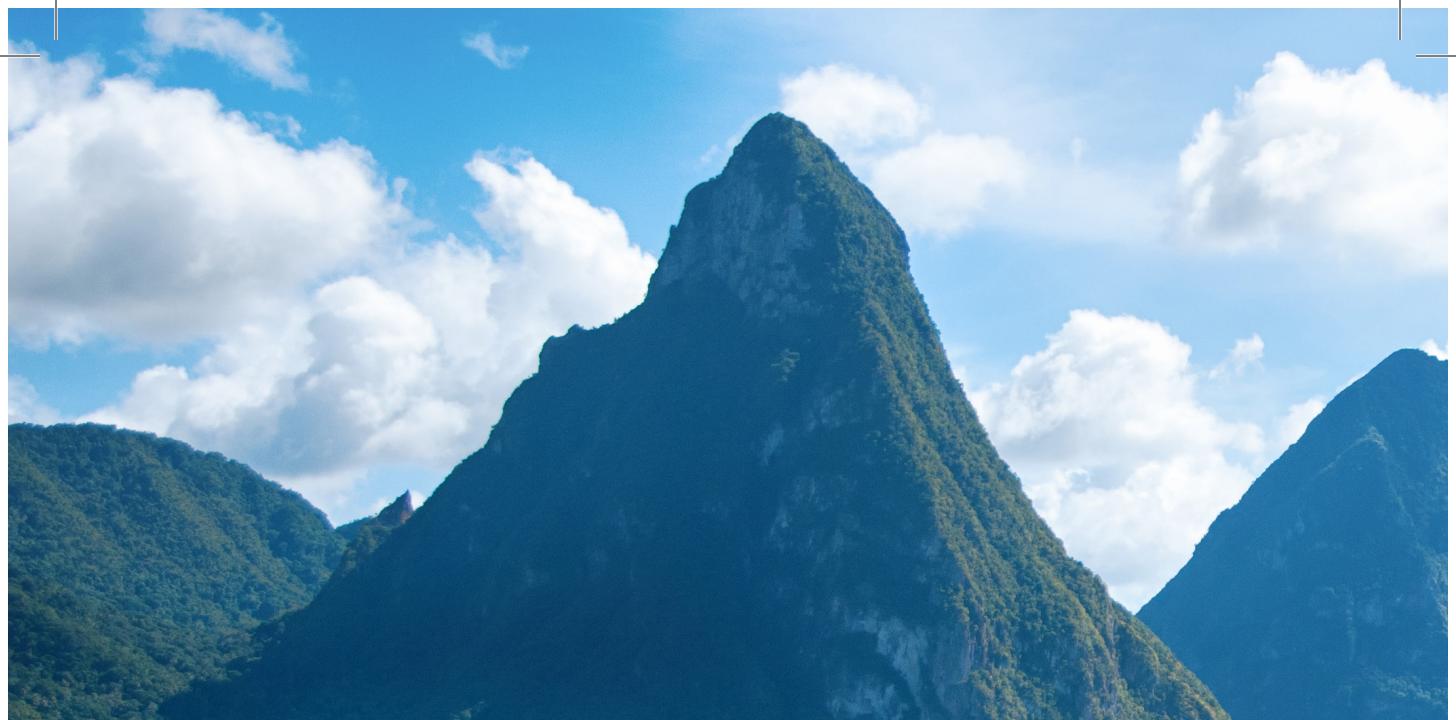
Also present were the head of Servicio Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas por el Estado (SERNANP) José Carlos Nieto, as well as representatives of the Ministry

of the Environment, the United Nations, the Peruvian Trust Fund for National Parks and Protected Areas (Profonanpe), and other non-governmental and private organizations.

NATIONAL PARKS

WORKSHOP WITH NATIONAL NATURAL PARKS OF COLOMBIA

A team of experts from the ICCF Group's International Conservation Corps supported National Natural Parks of Colombia (PNN) in the development of a strategy for environmental education. Various protected areas participated in a workshop to develop the strategy.



CAUCUS-BUILDING

FIRST NATIONAL CONSERVATION CAUCUS IN THE CARIBBEAN ESTABLISHED IN ST. LUCIA

 In June 26, 2023, a significant milestone was reached in the Caribbean as Saint Lucia established its national conservation caucus--the first in the region. This historic event took place at the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Environmental Sustainability Conference at the Bay Gardens Hotel in Saint Lucia. The conference, which was hosted by the OECS in partnership with ICCF and the European Union, included a Sustainable Financing Forum, the Validation of the COM:ES Roadmap to 2030, a Partnership Springboard, and an OECS Regional Conservation Caucus meeting. Participants included policymakers, technical officials, development partners, and invited stakeholders and was a



prelude to the 10th Council of Ministers Meeting on Environmental Sustainability (COM:ES-10) which was held in Anguilla in July 2023.

ABOVE: Protocol document establishing the SLUCC, L-R: ICCF-Caribbean Program Officer, Hippolyte E. Vitalis, Senator Hon. Lisa Jawahir, Hon. Shawn Edward (Minister for Sustainable Development), and Senator Hon. Alvina Reynolds (President of the Senate).

The delegation from Saint Lucia, which established the caucus, included Hon. Shawn Edward, Minister for Education, Innovation, Science, Technology, Vocational Training and Sustainable Development; Senate President Hon. Alvina Reynolds; and Hon. Lisa Cassandra Jawahir, Government Senator. Other

signatories to the Saint Lucia National Conservation Caucus (SLUCC) were Senators Allison Jean, Kaygianna Toussaint-Charlery, Dominic Fedee, Noorani Azeez, and Alfred Prospere-Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Rural Development.

THROUGH COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS, THE BIPARTISAN SLUCC SEEKS TO ADDRESS ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES AND PROMOTE THE CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES IN SAINT LUCIA.

The integration of conservation initiatives into national policies and practices will safeguard the country's unique biodiversity, mitigate climate change impacts, and foster sustainable economic growth for present and future generations. The signatories, driven by their expertise and dedication to environmental sustainability, will work together to develop innovative policies, initiatives, and partnerships.

Through dialogue and cooperation, they will tackle environmental challenges, protect natural resources, and create a sustainable future for the people of Saint Lucia.

ICCF-UK PARTY CONFERENCE PROGRAM BRINGS TOGETHER CONSERVATION LEADERS TO ADDRESS KEY CHALLENGES

The UK Party Conference season is a major part of the lifeblood of British politics, having begun over 150 years ago in Victorian Britain. Every year thousands of politically engaged citizens, journalists, campaigners, lobbyists, parliamentarians, and Ministers come together to debate policy and politics. It is a unique British institution, where attendees are able to ask direct questions of Ministers and Shadow Ministers at the many side events and also walk up to them in the bar and have a discussion – or perhaps join them in a karaoke sing-along. The mix of formality and informality allows for discussion on a range of topics that may not always make it to the Minister’s red box.

ICCF-UK held its biggest conference season to date this Autumn, with seven events discussing issues ranging from African conservation to the circular economy, reducing plastic pollution, and a Global

RIGHT: Namibian High Commissioner H.E. Linda Anne Scott.



Plastics Treaty. ICCF-UK had discussions with key leaders, including the Rt Hon. James Cleverly (Secretary of State for Foreign, Development and Commonwealth Affairs), Mark Spencer (DEFRA Minister), and Ruth Jones MP (Shadow Minister for Environment), alongside High Commissioners and Ambassadors from Mexico, Namibia, and South Africa and leaders from industry including Mars UK and bodies such as WRAP and the Zoological Society of London. What was clear after the series of events was that although approaches to conservation may differ, there was huge consensus on the importance of conservation, and

participants from all political persuasions had more in common than separated them, including on broad-based policy. This included cross-party and industry commitments towards a strong international treaty on plastics, and the importance of ensuring British supply chains do not cause harm to nature either directly or indirectly. The ICCF-UK Conference season ended with its International Conservation Reception, where over 100 people (including business and NGO leadership, senior politicians, and prospective parliamentary candidates) attended a celebration of all things conservation.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

SUPPORT FOR THE INITIATIVE OF ENTERPRISING WOMEN IN THE PARAGUAYAN CHACO REGION



On September 27th, 2023, the FOLUR Project, together with the Governor's Office of Boquerón and the Municipality of Loma Plata in the

Paraguayan Chaco, delivered materials and equipment to the 12 de Noviembre Committee of the town of Villa Urunde'y, District of Loma Plata, Department of Boquerón in the Paraguayan Chaco.

Boquerón is located in the Western Region of Paraguay, making it the largest department in the country, with an area of 91,669 km² but a population of only 61,000 inhabitants. It is part of the Paraguayan Chaco and includes areas of dry forest, open savannahs, and seasonally flooded wetlands.

The delivery consisted of equipment for the community vegetable garden of the 12 de Noviembre Committee, which is mainly made up of

women and is characterized by being a population settled in a peri-urban area with scarce resources. In response to this situation, a community garden was implemented, applying appropriate technologies to maximize crop yields, generate healthy products, and conserve productive resources, mainly soil. This community initiative also seeks to be a learning space for the community so that they can later apply what they have learned on their farms or family properties.

The ICCF Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration Project (FOLUR) seeks to transform food production and land use systems in rural Paraguay to better integrate its productivity, enhance its ecosystem services, and conserve its resources and natural capital. Co-funded by the Global Environment Facility and civil society, FOLUR is led by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Republic of Paraguay (MADES) with the support of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP).

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear friends and colleagues:

Every year through its General Assembly, the United Nations welcomes to New York the world's leaders, facilitating discussions and generating opportunities for regional conservation collaboration and policy coherence among nations. The ICCF Group regularly convenes conservation-focused events on the sidelines of the UNGA, this year specifically welcoming Botswana's President, H.E. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi, as well as other Heads of Delegation, parliamentary conservation caucus members, and dignitaries to discuss the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA). We thank the speakers and participants who joined us at these events, and we look forward to working with them in their continued engagement toward greater international cooperation and collaboration.

This quarter also saw the launch of the Caribbean's first national conservation caucus in St. Lucia, progress in our Healthy Forest project in Mongolia, advancements in regional cooperation for the protection of the Amazon through the revitalized regional parliament known as PARLAMAZ, and the inception workshops for an innovative new project on policy coherence funded by the Global Environment Facility.

We wish to thank our friends and partners, without whom our work would not be possible, and we look forward to a productive Fall.

Sincerely,



John B. Gantt
Chief Executive Officer

