



INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

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OCTOBER 11 - WASHINGTON, DC

BIPARTISAN BILL TO ADDRESS MARINE DEBRIS IS SIGNED INTO LAW

President Donald Trump has signed into law the bipartisan Save Our Seas (SOS) Act of 2018 (S. 3508), a bill introduced by co-chairs of the Senate Oceans Caucus and passed with unanimous support in both chambers.

Senator Dan Sullivan (R-AK), Honorary Co-Chair of the Senate Oceans Caucus, sponsored the Save Our Seas (SOS) Act. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Founding Co-Chair of the Senate Oceans Caucus, and Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ), a former Honorary Co-Chair of the Senate Oceans Caucus, were original co-sponsors. In the House, Oceans Caucus Co-Chairs Representative Don Young (R-AK) and Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) introduced companion legislation prior to House consideration of the Senate bill.

"The prevalence of marine debris on our shores is a chronic issue," said Senator Sullivan. "This bill will serve to strengthen the federal response capabilities to marine debris disasters, combat land based marine debris resources, and encourage interagency coordination

in stemming the tide of ocean trash and importantly encourage the Trump administration to pursue international agreements with regard to this challenge."



PRESIDENT TRUMP WITH SENATORS SULLIVAN AND WHITEHOUSE AT OVAL OFFICE SIGNING CEREMONY

Continued on 2 . . .



"THIS BILL TACKLES THE MARINE DEBRIS CRISIS ALONG AMERICAN COASTS. IT WILL ALSO PUSH US TO WORK WITH OTHER COUNTRIES ON LIMITING THE PLASTICS AND OTHER HARMFUL MATERIALS THAT FIND THEIR WAY TO THE OCEAN. THAT INCLUDES WORKING ON AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT TO STOP THE FLOW OF TRASH FROM LAND INTO THE OCEAN, AND, IF TRASH DOES GET TO THE OCEAN, SUPPORTING RESEARCH INTO NEW MATERIALS THAT BREAK DOWN IN A WAY THAT WON'T WREAK HAVOC IN OUR SEAS."

- **SEN. SHELDON WHITEHOUSE**
CO-CHAIR, SENATE OCEANS CAUCUS

Continued from 1 . . .

It has been estimated that up to 12.7 million metric tons of waste entered the ocean in 2012, and that number is expected to increase by an order of magnitude if waste management infrastructure improvements are not implemented by 2025. Prior to passage of the Save Our Seas (SOS) Act, authorizations for programs responsible for removal of debris had expired, making insufficient resources available to understand and address this problem.

The Save Our Seas (SOS) Act, which aims to promote a global response to the marine debris crisis, primarily serves to reauthorize the expired NOAA Marine Debris Program for five years. The bill also encourages the U.S. State Department to engage with leaders of countries in which the problem of marine debris is most severe in order to foster collaborative research into the sources and causes of refuse in order to promulgate an effective prevention strategy.

"This bipartisan bill represents an important step forward in addressing the marine debris crisis," said Senator Whitehouse following a signing ceremony in the Oval Office. "Senators Sullivan, Booker, Inhofe and I were proud to pass it in the Senate, and I'm thrilled to see it signed at the White House today."

The U.S. House of Representatives voted unanimously in July to pass the bipartisan Save Our Seas (SOS) Act.

House Oceans Caucus Co-Chair Congressman Don Young said of the bill prior to its passage, "[T]his bill is a step in the right direction...I hope everyone here recognizes this is one of the biggest problems we have in our oceans today. This issue affects our fisheries, our coastlines – and possibly the decline in our fisheries due to the invasion of these harmful plastic products."

SEPT. 24TH - MT. VERNON, VA

GLOBAL LEGISLATORS SIGN DECLARATION OF MOUNT VERNON, PLEDGE TO PROMOTE CONSERVATION

At the conclusion of the Mount Vernon International Conservation Caucus Summit, held on September 24th at the historic home of George Washington in Virginia, legislative leaders representing ten countries across Africa and Latin America signed the Declaration of Mount Vernon, committing to promote conservation and the sustainable utilization of natural resources.

In signing the Declaration of Mount Vernon, legislators recognize that good management of natural resources is of vital importance for sustainable development, long-term economic growth, and improving quality of life for present and future generations. Committing to continue South-South dialogue and work together, these legislators recognize too that their national parliaments play a fundamental role in creating the national political will to manage and conserve in a sustainable way the world's natural resources.

The Declaration of Mount Vernon is the culmination of the day-long Mount Vernon International Conservation

Caucus Summit, at which legislative leaders - members of parliamentary conservation caucuses in Botswana, Colombia, Gabon, Kenya, Malawi, Mexico, Mozambique, Namibia, Peru, and Zambia - gathered to examine the role of conservation governance in addressing threats and responding to opportunities related to parks and protected areas; marine debris and ocean health; and illegal extraction of resources, including wildlife crime and wildlife trafficking, poaching, illegal fishing, and illegal timber and mineral extraction.

At the Mount Vernon Summit, legislators exchanged experiences and had the opportunity to hear from leading experts on topics of conservation and sustainable development.

Legislators remained in Washington, DC through September 27th to attend the 2018 ICCF U.S. Congressional International Conservation Gala on September 25th and meet with Members of the United States Congress and members of ICCF's Conservation Council, comprised of business, NGO, and international development partners.





U.S. HOUSE PASSES CAUCUS CO-CHAIRS' DELTA ACT

The House of Representatives has voted to pass H.R. 4819, the Defending Economic Livelihoods and Threatened Animals (DELTA) Act, a bill aimed at promoting sustainable economic growth through trans-boundary conservation programs in the Okavango River Basin.

Representative Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE), a Co-Chair of the International Conservation Caucus, introduced the bill with bipartisan support in January. Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA), Representative Henry Cuellar (D-TX), and Representative Betty McCollum (D-MN), also Co-Chairs of the House International Conservation Caucus, were among original co-sponsors of the bill.

The Okavango River Basin is Africa's most expansive inland water system, extending from its source in the highlands of Angola, through Namibia, and into the Okavango Delta in northern Botswana. These waters support more than one million Angolans, Botswanans, and Namibians, as well as Africa's largest remaining population of elephants and a wealth of biodiversity. The region is ripe with potential for

development through ecotourism, which can be a sustainable source of revenue for local communities. Like other regions in Africa, increased levels of poaching and wildlife trafficking threaten elephant populations in the region and prospects for inclusive, sustainable growth.

The aim of the DELTA Act is to combat these threats and provide opportunities for growth by enhancing cooperation and coordination between governments, leveraging the experience and expertise of private-sector and non-governmental stakeholders. Specifically, the DELTA Act directs responsible agencies to engage governments and stakeholders in the region in order to develop a strategy and prioritize resources to promote sustainable natural resource and water management, combat wildlife trafficking, and spur inclusive economic growth.

The DELTA Act now moves to the Senate, where the Co-Chairs of the Senate International Conservation Caucus have recently introduced companion legislation. Caucus Co-Chair Senator Rob Portman (R-OH) is the lead sponsor of the bill. Senators Tom Udall (D-NM), Richard Burr (R-NC), and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), also Co-Chairs of the International Conservation Caucus, are original co-sponsors, along with Senator Chris Coons (D-DE).

"IN ORDER FOR CONSERVATION EFFORTS TO BE SUCCESSFUL, WE MUST TAKE A TRANSBOUNDARY APPROACH. I WAS PROUD TO BE THE AUTHOR OF THE CONGO BASIN FOREST PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 2004. WITH THAT ACT, WE SAW THAT INCREASED COORDINATION ACROSS NATIONAL BORDERS CAN BE SUCCESSFUL IN PROTECTING CRITICAL LANDSCAPES AND COMBATING POACHING THREATS. THE DELTA ACT LOOKS TO BUILD ON THESE PROVEN SUCCESSSES."

- CHAIRMAN ED ROYCE
CO-CHAIR, INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION CAUCUS

COLOMBIAN CONGRESS APPROVES LAW FOR PÁRAMOS ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

JULY 27TH - BOGOTÁ

The Congress of the Republic of Colombia has approved legislation regulating activities in and around the páramos in order to manage in an effective way the restoration and sustainable use of these integral ecosystems. In an effort to make the National Parks of Colombia (PNN) more financially sustainable, this legislation also includes a provision that would allow for funds to be transferred from the electricity sector to PNN.

Located at altitudes between 3100 and 5000 meters above sea level, the páramos are primarily found in three countries, and about half of the territory they comprise is in Colombia. The páramos are essential for the provision of water resources in cities like Bogotá and are a valuable ecosystem for the conservation of the country's biodiversity.

The leadership of the Colombian Conservation Caucus was key to the approval of this law in both the Senate and the House of Representatives.



ICCF WELCOMES HIGH-LEVEL THAI DELEGATION TO D.C.

A high-level delegation from Thailand was in Washington, DC from July 11-14 in order to gain a better understanding of the ICCF caucus model and discuss conservation issues and international engagement and cooperation with various stakeholders. Leading the delegation were Thailand's Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, General Surasak Karnjanarat; Deputy Spokesman for the Prime Minister, Lieutenant General Weerachon Sukhontapatipak, and Secretary General of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), Mr. Isra Sunthornvut.

Members of the delegation have expressed interest in forming

a parliamentary conservation caucus in Thailand and had the opportunity while in Washington to meet with current and former Co-Chairs of the U.S. Congressional International Conservation Caucus and Oceans Caucus to get a better sense of how caucuses are formed and operate.

During their visit, members of the delegation also met with representatives from the U.S. government, multilateral institutions, and the private sector to discuss important conservation challenges faced in Thailand, including wildlife trafficking, marine debris, illegal fishing and logging, and coral restoration.



THE 2018 ICCF U.S. CONGRESSIONAL INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION GALA

SEPT. 25TH - WASHINGTON, D.C.

ICCF Gala Hosts President of Botswana, Recognizes Extraordinary Conservation Efforts of Leaders in Business, Government, and the NGO Community



Each year, the ICCF U.S. Congressional International Conservation Gala offers an opportunity to recognize the outstanding work being done by government, non-governmental, and business leaders in furtherance of good conservation. It reminds us all that diverse entities share the same commitment: to conserve the planet.

Guests at this year's gala, held on September 25th in Washington, DC, included the President of Botswana; Members of the United States Congress; international policymakers from Botswana, Colombia, Gabon, Kenya, Malawi, Mexico, Mozambique, Namibia, Peru, and Zambia; diplomats; global business leaders; and leaders from

the international NGO community. His Excellency Mokgweetsi Masisi, the President of the Republic of Botswana, delivered the keynote address.

[Pictured clockwise from top: H.E. Mokgweetsi Masisi, Peter Fearnhead, Rep. Betty McCollum, Rep. Jeff Fortenberry, Dr. Naoko Ishii, Sen. Dan Sullivan, Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, Connie Mack IV, Dave Stewart, Sen. Rob Portman]

At the 2018 Gala, ICCF presented three awards to individuals and organizations whose conviction to conserve nature is manifest through their exemplary work.

In a showing of true bipartisanship, Senator Dan Sullivan (R-AK), Honorary Co-Chair of the Senate Oceans Caucus, on behalf of ICCF, presented Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) with the 2018 ICCF Teddy Roosevelt® International Conservation Award, recognizing outstanding conservation leadership in government. A proven leader on ocean conservation in the U.S. Senate, Senator Whitehouse co-founded and has galvanized the growth of the U.S. Senate Oceans Caucus. He has spearheaded legislation such as the Save Our Seas (SOS) Act and the Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing Enforcement Act of 2015. He led efforts in the Senate to ratify four fishing treaties, including the Port State Measures Agreement. In his role as Co-Chair of the Senate Oceans Caucus, Senator Whitehouse continues to recruit, educate, and inspire a new generation of U.S. Senators committed to oceans conservation.

Recognizing outstanding conservation leadership by an individual or organization, the 2018 ICCF "Good Steward" Award was presented to African Parks. African Parks, one of the foremost conservation organizations working on the ground in partnership with governments, is

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

"WHAT UNITES US HERE IS OUR CONVICTION THAT PROTECTING NATURE IS A GOOD INVESTMENT. IT IS ONE OF THE MOST COST-EFFECTIVE INVESTMENTS WE CAN MAKE TO FIGHT POVERTY IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD."

- DR. NAOKO ISHII
CEO, GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

hectares. Representative Betty McCollum (D-MN), a Co-Chair of the International Conservation Caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives, presented the award to Peter Fearnhead, CEO of African Parks, accepting on behalf of the organization.

ICCF presented its 2018 Conservation Leadership in Business Award to Vulcan Inc., a Paul G. Allen company. Vulcan is working to integrate technology,

data, policy, partnerships, and powerful storytelling to save endangered species and improve ocean health, among many other initiatives. In 2016 Vulcan completed the Great Elephant Census (GEC), the first-ever continent-wide aerial survey of African savanna elephants. Vulcan also provides technological platforms to assist in detecting and identifying vessels fishing illegally; to help park rangers and managers address technical challenges monitoring wildlife; and to help understand, promote the health of, and map coral reefs and the animals that depend on them. Senator Rob Portman (R-OH), a Co-Chair of the International Conservation Caucus in the Senate, presented the award to Dave Stewart, Executive Vice President and General Counsel at Vulcan Inc.



Watch ICCF's tribute to Chairman Ed Royce, Founding Co-Chair of the International Conservation Caucus, available on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/FrtQOZCOzNU>



HIS EXCELLENCY MOKGWEETSI MASISI THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

ICCF HEAD OF STATE SPOTLIGHT SERIES

YouTube

WATCH THE FULL SPOTLIGHT WITH
PRESIDENT MASISI AND OTHER FILMS
ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL:

<https://youtu.be/4nkpeWhAOBc>

Q: Botswana is in the unique position of having an abundance of elephants, unlike other countries in Africa where numbers have rapidly declined. What is the government of Botswana doing to protect the globally threatened animals while also balancing the concerns of people who come into conflict with elephants?

A: The reason we find ourselves in the enviable position of having the largest herd of elephants in the wild in the world was because of our governance. Our governance based on consensus building, so we have succeeded at that. But, you know, with success sometimes, there can be some discomfort and disadvantage. We have been so successful on our elephants that they are actually overpopulated, statistically speaking, and they are beginning to do a lot of damage to the ecosystem. And so, we will revert back to consensus to yield a resolution. In this consensus, elephants

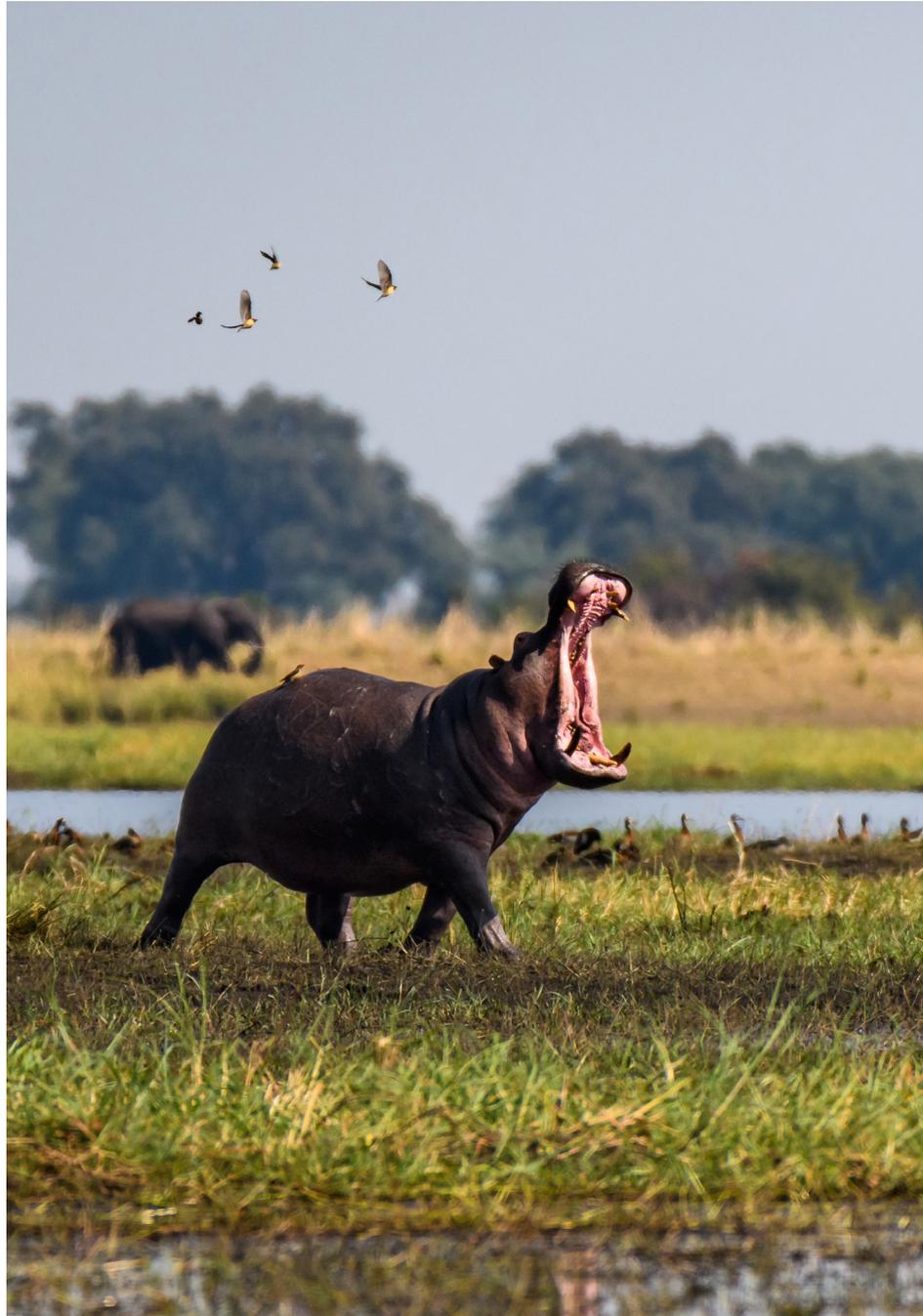
in their majesty are our contribution to what everybody in the world enjoys, so we want to broaden our consensus to include you too. We want to include all the elephant lovers. We want to include all the ecologists and environment lovers of the world, so that they help us resolve this problem.

Q: How is the government of Botswana working with its neighbors to address the decline of elephants in the region?

A: Instructed by the saying that no man is an island and through diplomatic effort, we have sought to share our values with our neighbors, our immediate neighbors. And, our wildlife and our wild animals don't have much respect for border boundaries as human beings do, so we respect their lack of respect for it. So, we get into collaborative programs and projects. One such is the KAZA. We develop transfrontier parks with our neighbors, and we submit and sign to agreements which would cause us to work together to manage these resources.

Q: The Okavango Delta has garnered a lot of attention on Capitol Hill. What do you see as the importance of protecting the Delta, and what are the challenges faced?

A: The Okavango Delta is in my view - I might be biased, pardon me if I am - the most precious delta in the world. It is the largest by far inland delta in the world. Where in the world do you get the majesty of an inflow of fresh water at 11.3 billion cubic liters per annum, drain out into a tapestry of the desert? And, imagine what life sprouts out from that. If you can envision it if you read the book of Genesis, the Garden of Eden is to be found in Botswana. It is the precious, mighty Okavango. It is so precious to us that we will not allow anybody to mess it up. And so we put in programs, policies, laws, systems to monitor and to preserve it. And so, we deploy our diplomatic initiatives to engage those countries from which the water comes, through which the rivers pass, to support its preservation. It is an unending journey, and we have begun by ensuring that the Okavango Delta is protected. It is listed as a World Heritage Site, and it happens to have an interesting number. It is the one thousandth heritage site. And so, we are in pursuit of that very objective, right from the President to our commonest citizen.



OTHER RECENT YOUTUBE SPOTLIGHTS

Shamini Jayanathan
Director of Wildlife Law & Justice
Space for Giants

Kai Collins
Group Conservation Manager
Wilderness Safaris



THE GORONGOSA PROJECT

INTEGRATING CONSERVATION & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

ICCF PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Gorongosa National Park in Mozambique, one of the most biodiverse protected areas on the planet, is perhaps Africa's greatest wildlife restoration story.

In 2008, a 20-year public-private partnership for the joint management of the park between the Government of Mozambique and the Carr Foundation (Gorongosa Project), a U.S. nonprofit organization, made it possible to more completely rehabilitate the Park, to restore its ecosystem, to support the local communities in their

socioeconomic development, and to create a sustainable tourism destination. In 2016, the Government of Mozambique approved the extension for another 25 years of the joint management agreement.

[Pictured above: H.E. Filipe Nyusi, President of Mozambique, speaking at an ICCF-facilitated reception in New York on September 27th showcasing the Gorongosa Project.]

"THE GORONGOSA STORY IS ONE OF THE MOST INSPIRING OF ALL. HOW THE GOVERNMENT OF MOZAMBIQUE AND THE CARR FOUNDATION MANAGED TO SUCCEED IN LARGE-SCALE RESTORATION OF THE PARK – RESTORING THE NATURE AND ECOSYSTEMS AND REWILDING THE AREA, AND THE DRAMATIC RETURN OF WILDLIFE. MANY HUNDREDS OF JOBS CREATED."

- **ACHIM STEINER**
ADMINISTRATOR, UNDP

"WE CONSIDER GORONGOSA PARK TO BE A "HUMAN DEVELOPMENT ENGINE." WE SUPPORT FOUR THOUSAND FARM FAMILIES IN THE BUFFER ZONE WITH INPUTS AND TRAINING. WE PROVIDE HEALTH CARE TO MORE THAN 100,000 PEOPLE. WE OPERATE AN AFTER SCHOOL GIRLS EDUCATION PROGRAM."

- **GREG CARR**
PRESIDENT, THE GORONGOSA PROJECT
[INTERVIEW WITH DEUTSCHE WELLES]

INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION CORPS UPDATE

WETLANDS MANAGEMENT TRAINING COURSE

MAI PO NATURE RESERVE, HONG KONG

In October, International Conservation Corps team member Roy W. Lowe returned to Mai Po Nature Reserve in Hong Kong SAR to assist with the Wetlands Management Training Course for wetlands managers and administrators from the People's Republic of China (PRC). The training course is sponsored by the Paulson Institute, the PRC National Forestry & Grassland Administration,

and WWF-Hong Kong.

Lowe presented lectures on coastal wetlands management and restoration and wildlife interpretation and education in the U.S. This is his 11th time participating in this training course in Hong Kong.



RECENT WORKSHOPS & BRIEFINGS

U.S. CONGRESSIONAL MEMBER DINNER

With Admiral Karl Shultz,
Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard
JULY 11, 2018



CONGRESSIONAL STAFF BRIEFING

Delivering Forest Sustainability through
Innovative & Collaborative Partnerships
JULY 24, 2018



CONGRESSIONAL STAFF BRIEFING

The Security Impacts of Illegal,
Unregulated, and Unreported Fishing
SEPTEMBER 12, 2018



PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS WORKSHOP

Zambia National Parks and Wildlife
Policy Workshop
JULY 12, 2018

PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS WORKSHOP

Kenya Forestry and Illegal Logging
Policy Workshop
AUGUST 23, 2018

CONGRESSIONAL STAFF BRIEFING

With Eric Solheim, Executive Director of
U.N. Environment
SEPTEMBER 21, 2018

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The ICCF Group had a very busy third quarter. During the week of September 24th, we hosted delegations from ten countries for an important series of events, including the Mount Vernon International Conservation Caucus Summit and the 2018 U.S. Congressional International Conservation Gala. We also hosted a reception in New York during the United Nations General Assembly, with the President of Mozambique as our honored guest, that brought together leaders at the highest levels of government and the private sector to celebrate successful public-private conservation partnerships, with particular focus on the Gorongosa Project.

At the Mount Vernon Summit, dozens of international policymakers who are members of parliamentary conservation caucuses supported by ICCF convened to discuss a range of conservation topics. The summit culminated in the signing of the historic Mount Vernon Declaration, in which delegates pledged their countries' continued commitment to conservation.

During the Gala, we were honored to host the President of Botswana, who made keynote remarks, and to award African Parks, Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, and Vulcan Inc. for their outstanding conservation leadership. We also recognized Chairman Ed Royce, who was one of the original founding



Co-Chairs of the U.S. Congressional International Conservation Caucus and whose efforts have helped bring about a number of significant conservation policy successes. Chairman Royce is retiring after nearly 25 years in Congress. His conservation commitment, his dedicated leadership of the International Conservation Caucus, and his loyal friendship will be greatly missed.

We remain grateful to our many partners, whose support is critical to our continued success in the United States and around the world.

Best Wishes,

John Basil Gantt
President, ICCF U.S.

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BECOME AN ICCF GLOBAL PARTNER

For information about our partnership opportunities, please contact:

Susan Lylis
Vice President, ICCF
susanlylis@iccfoundation.us
The ICCF Group
25786 Georgetown Station
Washington, DC 20027
+1 (202) 471-4222

