



# INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

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WASHINGTON, DC

## PRESIDENT SIGNS TROPICAL FOREST CONSERVATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT (TFCA) INTO LAW

Tropical forests and coral reefs are home to a major share of the world’s natural resources and play a key role in supporting the health of our planet. To reauthorize a program that has saved 67 million acres of tropical forest and to expand it to help conserve coral reefs, Congress voted to pass S.1023, the Tropical Forest Conservation Reauthorization Act (TFCA), authored by International Conservation Caucus co-chair Senator Rob Portman (R-OH). The President signed the bill into law on Tuesday, January 14, 2019.

Senator Portman, along with fellow International Conservation Caucus (ICC) co-chairs Senators Richard Burr (R-NC), Tom Udall (D-NM), and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) and ICC member Senator Brian Schatz (D-HI), introduced the bill in May of last year. Companion legislation was introduced in the House by Representatives Steve Chabot (R-OH) and Brad Sherman (D-CA). House International Conservation Caucus co-chairs Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE) and Betty McCollum (D-MN) were among original co-sponsors of the House bill.



INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION CAUCUS CO-CHAIR SENATOR ROB PORTMAN (R-OH)

First passed in 1998, the Tropical Forest Conservation Act (TFCA) is best known for the program’s “debt-for-nature” swaps. Through these swaps, countries are able

"By reauthorizing and expanding it to include coral reef ecosystems, this bipartisan legislation will build on these past successes to encourage our partners to continue to protect these irreplaceable natural treasures, including the 'rainforests of the sea.' (...) If signed into law, it will help drive economic prosperity both at home and abroad. It's a triple win for people, species, and nature."

-- Kerry Cesario  
WWF President for Forests

"This bipartisan legislation takes significant strides to build stronger relationships with countries around the world while ensuring our natural resources are protected and preserved for the next generation. (...) Since 1998, this common-sense and proven approach has protected millions of acres of tropical forest from deforestation."

-- Intl. Conservation Caucus Co-Chair Senator Rob Portman (R-OH)

"[It] is simply smart policy: it helps preserve and protect precious eco-systems all while strengthening the United States' economic and security relationships around the world."

-- Intl. Conservation Caucus Co-Chair Senator Tom Udall (D-NM)

## BIPARTISAN DELTA ACT CHAMPIONED BY CAUCUS LEADERS CLEARS SENATE, IS SIGNED INTO LAW

OCT. 3

The President has signed into law 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.

The Okavango River Basin is Africa's most expansive inland water system and home to its largest remaining elephant population. Aiming to promote sustainable economic growth in this region through trans-boundary conservation programs, the Senate voted unanimously on December 19th to pass H.R. 4819, the Defending Economic Livelihoods and Threatened Animals (DELTA) Act, a bipartisan bill introduced by co-chairs of the International Conservation Caucus and passed by the House in July. President Trump signed the bill into law on December 21st.

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.

Senator Rob Portman (R-OH), a co-chair of the International Conservation Caucus in the Senate, introduced a companion bill earlier this year alongside fellow caucus co-chairs Senators Richard Burr (R-NC), Tom Udall (D-NM), and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI). They, along with Senator Chris Coons of Delaware, led efforts to move the DELTA Act through the Senate.



*Continued from 1...*

to redirect funds that would have otherwise gone to the U.S. in the form of debt repayments to instead support local organizations working to conserve tropical forests. Between 1998 and 2013, when the bill was last reauthorized, the program generated over \$300 million for tropical forest conservation in 14 countries.

The 2018 iteration of TFCA not only reauthorizes appropriations for the implementation of this successful program but also expands its scope to include coral reef ecosystems. Coral reefs are home to a quarter of marine life, including commercially important species. A study conducted by The Nature Conservancy also found that healthy reefs attract \$36 billion annually in tourism revenues.



Beyond encouraging the U.S. to develop a strategy with countries in the region for conservation of the Okavango watershed, the DELTA Act authorizes the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to provide technical assistance for water and natural resource management and to build local capacity to combat illegal poaching and wildlife trafficking.

Ultimately, the bill aims to combat threats of poaching and wildlife trafficking and provide opportunities for economic growth by enhancing cooperation and coordination between governments, leveraging the experience and expertise of private-sector and non-governmental stakeholders. The waters of the Okavango River 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.

# ASSESSING THE BIODIVERSITY AND ECO-TOURISM INVESTMENT POTENTIAL OF ANGOLA'S NATIONAL PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS

NOV. 30 - DEC. 7

Continuing its engagement in Angola, begun in November 2017, The ICCF Group recently assisted the Ministry of Environment of Angola in the organization of a landmark Mini-Mission to assess the biodiversity and eco-tourism investment potential of Angola's national parks and protected areas.

The Mini-Mission, led by Minister of State and Chief of the Civil House of the Presidency Frederico Cardoso and Minister of Environment Paula Coelho, took place from November 30th - December 7th, 2018. Participants included the World Bank, Vulcan, African Parks, Halo Trust, U.S.-Angola Chamber of Commerce, and the Gabarone Declaration for Sustainability in Africa.

The group visited many provincial capitals and protected areas throughout Angola. Highlights included the ranger training school and an eco-resort in Menongue,



MINISTER OF STATE AND CHIEF OF THE CIVIL HOUSE OF THE PRESIDENCY FREDERICO CARDOSO AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT PAULA COELHO

the cultural monument at Cuito Carnivale, views of Mavinga and Cuando Cubango's vast landscapes by helicopter, as well as Luena City and Cameia National Park in Moshiko Province, Iona National Park in Namibe Province, Cangandala National Park in Malanje Province, and Luengue Luiana National Park. The trip culminated in a major investment conference on December 6th in Luanda at the Epic Sana, which focused on the opportunities presented by Angola's national parks, followed by a reception hosted at the residence of U.S. Ambassador Nina Maria Fite.

Following the Mini-Mission and investment conference, the Ministry of Environment signed a letter requesting that The ICCF Group serve as the coordinating entity for the private sector for upcoming biodiversity and protected-



area projects. Mini-Mission participants, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, concluded the landmark visit by creating a collective work plan of interested stakeholders for next steps and follow-up actions.

# ZAMBIAN CAUCUS MEMBERS ASSESS NEW WETLANDS POLICY

DEC. 3



THE HON. NICKSON CHILANGWA  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, ZAMBIA

In order to examine and discuss Zambia's recently launched Wetlands Policy, The ICCF Group and the Zambian Parliamentary Conservation Caucus (ZPCC) organized a collaborative workshop on December 3rd in Lusaka, bringing together members of the ZPCC as well as relevant public- and private-sector stakeholders.

Implementation of the Wetlands Policy, which was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers in June 2018, requires an enabling legal framework and strong stakeholder collaboration.

Representing the Ministry of Lands

and Natural Resources, Hope Mambwe Banda provided details of the Wetlands Policy. Designed to conserve wetland resources and protect wetland ecosystems, the Wetlands Policy aims to do so in a way that will ensure their integrity, productivity, and sustainability. Specifically, the policy promotes research, inventorying, and monitoring of wetland resources to inform effective management decisions, promotes stakeholder participation in effective management of wetlands, and aims to ensure equitable sharing of benefits.

Prior to Cabinet approval in June, Ms. Banda stated, no national policy had existed specifically targeting wetlands, despite the fact that wetlands account for nearly 20 percent of Zambia's total land area.

Eighty percent of Zambia's wetlands are currently protected, according to Griffin Shanungu and Mwape Sichilongo of the International Crane Foundation, including over four million hectares named Wetlands of International Importance. Speaking at the December 3rd workshop, Mr. Shanungu emphasized the importance of Zambia's wetland ecosystems from a development

perspective. These areas, he says, are still subject to risk and loss of biodiversity through invasive plants, fire, and human activity, and they remain particularly vulnerable due to an abundance of fish, fuel, and water.

The Kafue flats are one such area, which Shanungu calls "probably the most important wetland in Zambia." In Kafue, which ZPCC members visited in June, the park lacks a management framework to address the various demands on the flats, including poverty-driven pressures on the land. Effectively managing the park to generate tourism revenues can be a key to supporting local livelihoods and sustaining these important ecosystems long-term.

The ZPCC, as a voice for conservation in parliament, aims to bring priority natural resource management issues to the forefront of the national agenda. By organizing dialogue around the new Wetlands Policy, the ZPCC continues to promote the role of wetlands as an important resource for conservation and development in Zambia.



## PCC-K HOLDS WILDLIFE & CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

DEC. 7



On December 7th, 2018, members of the Parliamentary Conservation Caucus-Kenya (PCC-K), the Environment and Natural Resource Committee, group ranch chairpersons, NGO leaders, and conservation experts convened in Nanyuki, Kenya for a day-long workshop to discuss the amendments to the National Wildlife Conservation and Management Act 2013, the development of the National Wildlife Conservation and Management Five-Year Strategy 2018-2022, and the incorporation of the private sanctuaries and community conservancies model into the legislative agenda.

Honorable Francis Chachu Ganya, Co-Chair of the PCC-K, opened the workshop with discussion surrounding the recently passed amendments to

the National Wildlife Conservation and Management Act 2013. Stakeholder engagement played an important role in the development of these amendments, which increased efficiency, production, and implementation, and reduced ambiguity and leeway, while introducing benchmarks to penalties and sentencing.

Afterwards, Robert Njue from the Ministry of Tourism, State Department for Wildlife spoke about the development of the National Wildlife Conservation and Management Five-Year Strategy 2018-2022. Discussion surrounding the National Wildlife Strategy presented it as a major key to the future of Kenya, not just for wildlife, but for food security, healthcare, and energy, to name a few sectors. Mr. Njue specified that the goal of the strategy is to increase the value of wildlife in Kenya, with the planned motto for the public launch in January 2019 being "Kenyans for Wildlife, Wildlife for Kenyans." With community involvement being recognized as critical by the strategy, Mr. Peter Hetz, Executive Director of the Laikipia Wildlife Forum, spoke about how conservancies cut across all sections of the strategy,

making them important components of the wildlife sector. Implementation of the strategy will involve grassroots effort, as all of its pillars incorporate conservancies and private sanctuaries.

This being the first-ever National Wildlife Strategy in Kenya, it gives the country a framework for conservation. Hon. Ganya expressed that capacity building of conservancies must continue and the strategy further serves as a structured way of engagement with county officials. Ms. Gladys Warigia of the Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association (KWCA) spoke of how her organization provides a coordinated way for the conservancies to engage with government. KWCA exists not only to create social cohesion for the conservancies, but additionally to continue to make sure conservancies are considered in the law. Ms. Warigia expressed that conservancies have existed long before the law and continue to inform and influence law through experience.

## MPFC DELIBERATES ON MOZAMBIQUE'S NATIONAL STRATEGY ON WILDLIFE AND FOREST CRIME

DEC. 10



On December 10th, the Mozambique Parliamentary Forum on Conservation (MPFC) convened in Maputo to discuss the National Strategy on Wildlife and Forest Crime.

Ensuing discussions served to increase understanding between policymakers and on-the-ground law enforcement and the National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC) about issues that handicap efforts to combat wildlife and forest crimes, as well as the current status of the Forest Law. H.E. Deputy Attorney General Albino Macamo emphasized that a lack of specialized prosecutors and judges briefed on the importance and severity of environmental crimes, combined with weak institutional coordination, often prevents the effective prosecution of apprehended suspects. Deputy Attorney General Macamo noted the importance

of improving the legal framework at a high level as well, and said he was encouraged that the Conservation Law increased penalties for wildlife crimes to up to 16 years in prison with heavy fines.

Hon. Antonio Jose Amelia, 1st Vice-President of the National Assembly of Mozambique, concurred regarding the critical importance of sensitizing policymakers about biodiversity and conservation issues to improve the collective ability of the National Assembly to draft effective legislation that will allow for good oversight and management of Mozambique's tremendous natural resources. H.E. Celmira da Silva, Vice-Minister of Land, Environment, and Rural Development, also addressed members

of the MPFC and detailed the Ministry's strategy to minimize harmful impacts to pristine conservation areas, and to slow the rapid deforestation rate with policy changes and new agricultural technology.

Members of the MPFC concluded the forum by emphasizing the need to advance the Forest Law to Parliament for improvement and approval, and collaborate with the private sector to advance conservation governance dialogues.

## MEXICO ESTABLISHES A CONSERVATION PARLIAMENTARY GROUP IN ITS 64TH LEGISLATURE

OCT. 16



On October 16th, ICCF held a launch dinner for Mexico's Conservation Parliamentary Group (GPCM) of the 64th Legislature. The event was the official initiation of the GPCM's efforts moving forward, and a way for legislators to forge connections and identify priority environmental and sustainable development topics to be tackled in the near future.

Seventeen legislators from both Chambers attended the dinner, including Senators Jorge Carlos Ramirez Marin, Vice President of the Board of Directors; Eduardo Murat Hinojosa, President of the Environmental and Natural Resources and Climate Change Commission; Susana Harp, President of the Cultural Commission; Emilio Alvarez Icaza and Indira Kempis Martinez. Also in attendance were Deputies Irma Juan Carlos, President of the Commission of Indigenous Communities; Sergio Mayer Breton, President of the Cultural Commission; Silvia Garza Galvan, Subcoordinator of the Environmental and Urban Development of the National Action Party; Xochitl Zagal, Coordinator of the Environmental Committee of

Morena; Isabel Guerra Villareal; Armando Gonzalez Escoto; Maria del Carmen Bautista; Graciela Zavaleta; Abril Alcala Padilla; Carlos Morales Vazquez; Iran Santiago Manuel; and Guadalupe Ramos Sotelo.

ICCF Global Policy Director Bill Millan gave the welcoming address to the attending legislators, outlining the function and successes of conservation caucuses around the world. He gave tribute to Mexico's GPCM of the 63rd legislature, which was comprised of about thirty members who tackled issues such as the management of forest communities as an alternative to promote conservation of Mexican ecosystems and generate social wellbeing; the importance of linking the forest agenda with that of sustainable development; the forging of conservation-oriented thinking in communities and protected areas; the cooperation of North America for the implementation of CITES; and the combatting of illegal wildlife trafficking. Dr. Andres Avila, Executive Director of POLEA, emphasized the importance of legislative work to promote the environmental agenda to a higher level in

Mexico's political agenda and initiate the materialization of concrete legislation and policy.

The conservation priorities of the seventeen attending legislators parallel well with the new Government of Mexico, and they have committed to cooperate on topics such as the importance of pollinators, regulating single-use plastics, the management of protected natural areas, the linkage between biodiversity and culture, and emphasizing the importance of the indigenous communities.

The GPCM of the 64th legislature from this moment is integrated with twenty-one members of both Chambers. In this way, Mexico continues to advance in its conservation leadership with a solid group of congressmen and -women who are committed to the environmental agenda.

## PERU CONSERVATION CAUCUS ANALYZES ILLEGAL FISHING

OCT. 1

On October 1st, the Peruvian Conservation Caucus and ICCF held a roundtable discussion on illegal fishing, focusing on important challenges and opportunities in fighting illegal fishing in Latin America and the role of policymakers.

Peru's marine-coastal ecosystems face a series of challenges and pressures that limit the sustainable use of marine resources and the availability of the services they provide to society. However, with technological advancement and the

implementation of systems that allow for the detection of illicit maritime activity, the country can more effectively regulate illegal fishing in its waters. The Ministry of the Environment has further indicated that one of its strategic objectives is to reduce pressures on marine-coastal ecosystems by strengthening preventive actions, monitoring, control, and surveillance of the activities that impact them, adopting pertinent measures and effective sanctions.



CAUCUS CO-CHAIR AND HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE WILBERT ROZAS BELTRÁN

## COLOMBIAN CAUCUSES ANALYZE THE IMPLICATIONS OF ILLEGAL FISHING

On October 3rd, the Colombian Conservation Caucus (CCC), the Colombian Oceans Caucus (COC), and ICCF Colombia, together with the Center of Investigations and High Legislative Studies (CAEL), hosted a multi-sectoral roundtable discussion analyzing the topic of illegal fishing and its implications for sustainable development in the country.

Members attending the roundtable concluded that illegal fishing is a topic that requires coordinated work from all parties involved. Illegal fishing impacts continental zones like the Amazon, as well as Sustainable Development Goals for food security, decent employment, climate change, sustainable production, and consumption, which affect continental zones.





## CONSERVATION CORPS PROVIDING PLANNING ASSISTANCE FOR OPENING OF COLOMBIA'S GORGONA NATIONAL PARK

ICCF's International Conservation Corps visited Gorgona National Park in Colombia from November 26th to December 5th to provide technical support for the national park's planning workshops, as well as to begin designs for the park's official opening, including interpretative media on its exhibitions and sites.

The International Conservation Corps team, comprised of Sam Vaughn, Maitte Van Arsdel, and Russell Moore, joined together with Colombia's Natural Parks' teams and representatives from the Gorgona National Park to plan park communications strategies and infrastructural designs.

The group identified the most significant areas of the protected area and developed important information about the sites, as well as navigation signage that would be needed to ensure positive visitor experiences. Landscape architects Maitte Van Arsdel and Russell Moore developed a proposal for the implementation of infrastructural spaces for visitors. These include a restaurant and eating area in the central zone of the park, beachfront structures such as a patrol center, an exhibit on the Payan House, a diving center, and the development of a lookout tower for whale-spotting.



## ICCF PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: SHAMINI JAYANATHAN, SPACE FOR GIANTS

### ICCF YOUTUBE SPOTLIGHT SERIES

**Please introduce yourself and Space for Giants.**

I am Shamini Jayanathan, Director of Wildlife Protection for Space for Giants.

Space for Giants is an international NGO based in Kenya. We operate in about ten countries across the African continent, covering a number of different areas of work, different streams. My focus is the rule of law, but the organization also covers issues such as green corridors, conservation investment, all ultimately with the purpose of securing landscapes for elephants forever.

**Why focus on elephants in Africa?**

Victims of poaching, elephants are representative of a number of wildlife species under threat across Africa. Rhinos, pangolins, and many others are subject to this threat. Poaching has grown to become an element threatening the very survival of animals, and if we aren't careful, the only place we'll be seeing an elephant in 20 years

may very well be the zoo. Hence, much of the work that Space for Giants is focusing on looks at the issue of illegal wildlife trafficking and the poaching crisis that has been sweeping across Africa and threatening those vulnerable populations.

**How do you work with The ICCF Group?**

Space for Giants works very closely with The ICCF Group. We find that the unique approach of setting up caucuses in countries that are struggling with the poaching crisis, as well as all kinds of other conservation issues, is particularly important: Without the legislation in place, many measures we try to put in place to address these threats can't actually take hold. Having parliamentarians engaged, and being able to be informed and empowered on the decisions that they make, on what laws to pass and whether they'll be effective, is incredibly important to our work, to ensure that we can be effective in what we do.



## LEARN MORE

WATCH ON YOUTUBE

<https://youtube.com/iccfoundation>

VISIT THE WEBSITE

<https://spaceforgiants.org/>

## RECENT INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION CORPS MISSIONS

### BAHAMAS

Support to Bahamas National Trust for Co-Management of San Salvador National Park  
Development of National Forest Plan

### CHINA

Gailagong Assessment Report

### COLOMBIA

Planning Assistance for Opening of Colombia's Gorgona National Park

### GRENADA

Development of Land Management Plan for Grenada's Mt. St. Catherine Forest Reserve

### PERU

Support to SERNANP Towards Management of National Parks and Protected Areas in Peru

### SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

Implementation of Protected Areas Strategy  
Assessment: World Heritage Site Universal Access

### THAILAND

Khao Yai National Park Trail Project

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

During the last quarter of 2018, The ICCF Group saw the accomplishment of many of the key objectives set forth by its congressional/parliamentary caucus leaders in the United States and around the globe. On the legislative front, the bipartisan DELTA Act, championed by U.S. caucus leaders, passed by a unanimous vote in the Senate and was signed into law by the President. This represented a major achievement for conservation globally, as the new law allows for the promotion of sustainable economic growth through transboundary programs in one of Africa's key regions: the Okavango River Basin. Thank you to the bipartisan leadership of the International Conservation Caucus as well as our many partners, who worked tirelessly to make the United States a major ally in the economic development and safeguarding of the wildlife and natural habitat of this important region.

The ICCF Group also welcomed initiatives from caucuses in Colombia and Peru, which undertook the challenging task of addressing illegal fishing and its for the sustainable development of their countries. Working sessions held this Fall led both groups to advocate for a multisectoral approach and a pro-development, pro-growth philosophy, and we thank the business leaders of our Conservation Council for having brought scientific expertise to the discussions while providing technological innovation on the ground capable of solving the pressing conservation issues that relate to food security, employment, sustainable production, and consumption affecting

continental zones.

In Africa, The ICCF Group also had a very strong quarter. We continued our engagement in Angola by assisting the Ministry of Environment in the organization of a landmark Mini-Mission, assessing the biodiversity and ecotourism investment potential of the country's national parks and protected areas. We also supported the Zambian Caucus in its collaborative effort to assess the recently launched Wetlands Policy, helped the Kenyan Caucus in their discussions toward amending the National Wildlife Conservation and Management Act of 2013, and assisted the Mozambique Caucus in discussing the National Strategy on Wildlife and Forest Crime.

Meanwhile, our International Conservation Corps had its most active quarter to date, with initiatives taking root in Grenada, Thailand, Saint Kitts and Nevis, China, Peru, and The Bahamas. We could not be more pleased with the reception our experts have received from government officials on the ground, and we look forward to continuing to build on these initial missions in 2019.

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:

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