



# INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

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LONDON, ENGLAND - JUNE 4

## ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION LAUNCHED IN THE UK

On Tuesday, June 4th, the United Kingdom launched an All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on International Conservation, establishing it as an official body in Parliament in a significant step toward the formal launch of ICCF-UK.

The new APPG's mission is to "provide a forum to address wildlife conservation and biodiversity issues affecting our planet including but not limited to ecosystem collapse, species extinctions, land degradation, invasive species, illegal fishing and other threats to the natural world."

The Inaugural Meeting was attended by Zac Goldsmith MP (Conservative), Stephen Pound MP (Labor), Peter Aldous MP (Conservative), Kerry McCarthy MP (Labor), David Drew MP (Labor), and Richard Benyon MP (Conservative), each of whom was elected an Officer of the new Group. The attendees in turn elected Barry Gardiner MP (Labor) as the Chair of the Group. The official launch of ICCF-UK can be expected by August 2019.



LEFT TO RIGHT: ICCF VICE-PRESIDENT SUSAN LYLIS, REPRESENTATIVE MICHAEL MCCAUL, AND EMBASSY OF NAMIBIA DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION JEROME MUTUMBA

MAY 15 - WASHINGTON, D.C.

## ▶ HFAC RANKING MEMBER MCCAUL LEADS DISCUSSION ON CONSERVATION-SECURITY NEXUS

**Illicit takings of natural resources, whether they be flora, fauna, or mineral resources, threaten not only ecological health, but also economic and physical security.**

Representative Michael McCaul (R-TX), Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, joined ICCF business, NGO, and embassy partners on May 15th to explore the nexus between resource conservation and security in greater detail.

In 2018, Congressman McCaul introduced a bipartisan resolution alongside International Conservation Caucus Co-Chairs Ed Royce (R-CA), Henry Cuellar (D-TX), and Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE) calling on China to maintain a recently-

reversed ban on rhinoceros and tiger parts. He stated at the time, "China's consideration of allowing the sale of rhino horns and tiger bones would undeniably increase the \$20 billion in annual illegal profits already made by wildlife trafficking. Worst of all, these profits are often reaped by transnational criminal organizations and foreign terrorist groups to fund their own malevolent ambitions."

The illegal wildlife trade and illegal timber trade have been linked most notably to organized crime and terrorist groups like the Lord's Resistance Army and Al-Shabaab. Driven by an appetite in China and Southeast Asia for such illicit products as elephant ivory and rhino horn, wildlife trafficking starves the African continent of natural resources, which, when well-managed, can help generate



H.E. FRANCISCO SANTOS CALDERÓN, AMBASSADOR OF COLOMBIA TO THE UNITED STATES

sustainable economic growth.

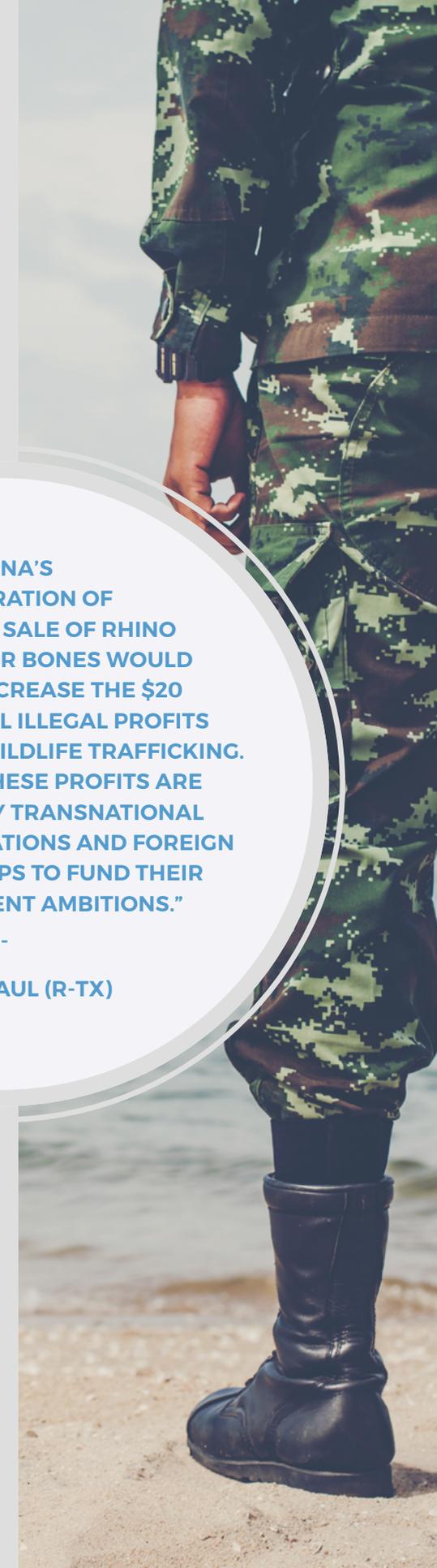
Colombian Ambassador Francisco Santos also raised concern over the growing challenge of illegal gold mining, an issue plaguing a number of South American states, with profound implications for human and environmental health. This practice, in many instances, involves clearing protected forests and uses dangerously toxic mercury, which finds its way into the local water supply.

Likewise, a number of participants, including Ambassador Santos and Indonesian Ambassador Mahendra Siregar, raised the issue of IUU fishing, which threatens livelihoods for law-abiding fishermen and imperils the sustainability of global fish stocks. In recent years, linkages between illegal fishing and human trafficking have also been revealed.

The conservation-security nexus is two-fold. First, as Congressman McCaul pointed out, illicit natural resources fetch a steep price, funding criminals and terrorists alike. Second, illegal takings can be dangerous for human health, destroy valuable ecosystems, and deprive impoverished populations of their livelihoods, thereby fueling further instability.

**"CHINA'S CONSIDERATION OF ALLOWING THE SALE OF RHINO HORNS AND TIGER BONES WOULD UNDENIABLY INCREASE THE \$20 BILLION IN ANNUAL ILLEGAL PROFITS ALREADY MADE BY WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING. WORST OF ALL, THESE PROFITS ARE OFTEN REAPED BY TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS AND FOREIGN TERRORIST GROUPS TO FUND THEIR OWN MALEVOLENT AMBITIONS."**

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REP. MCCAUL (R-TX)





LEFT TO RIGHT: ICCF VICE-PRESIDENT SUSAN LYLIS, AFRICAN WILDLIFE FOUNDATION LAW ENFORCEMENT MANAGER DIDI WAMUKOYA, NPR DEPUTY INTERNATIONAL EDITOR DIDRIK SCHANCHE, AWF DIRECTOR OF POLICY ENGAGEMENT FIESTA WARINWA, AND FORMER U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE EXPERT MICHELLE GADD

APRIL 11 - WASHINGTON, D.C.

## ▶ AWF HOSTS “WOMEN IN CONSERVATION 2019” PANEL DISCUSSION AT NPR

**O**n Thursday, April 11th, the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) hosted a “Women in Conservation 2019” panel at the National Public Radio (NPR) Headquarters to highlight wildlife advocates working across the globe on behalf of conservation.

Susan Lylis, Vice President of the International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF), addressed the role of women in government and parliament from her perspective as Director of African programs. Fiesta Warinya, Director of Policy at AWF, spoke about the importance of engaging women and involving them in policy-making. Didi Wamukoya, Manager of Wildlife Law Enforcement at AWF, provided perspective on women in law enforcement and anti-wildlife trafficking, and Michelle Gadd, former U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service expert on elephants and rhinos and consultant for a private family foundation, gave important background on women in higher education on conservation issues.

Heather Sturt Haaga, the AWF Board Chair, underscored the importance of involving women in conservation by

citing their role as mothers in raising the 3 million children that are born annually on the continent of Africa. Susan Lylis later built on this idea through quoting a Member of Parliament from Kenya who said that women’s traditional roles as caretakers give them a more intimate relationship with natural resources and a natural ability in long-term planning and consideration. Fiesta Warinya described how her natural caregiving ability has helped her throughout her career, recounting her struggle against the constraints of cultural beliefs regarding women’s roles in pastoral communities.

Didi Wamukoya shared her journey filled with adversity to becoming one of the only female wildlife crime prosecutors in the Kenya Wildlife Service, but also proudly named the increasing number of women leaders today following in her footsteps and breaking new ground. Michelle Gadd pointed out that women in conservation education are increasingly advancing based on merit, and Susan Lylis noted the number of female parliamentarians she works with who are advocating for other women from empowered seats in government.

## ▶ U.S. SENATORS SULLIVAN, WHITEHOUSE, AND MENENDEZ INTRODUCE SAVE OUR SEAS ACT 2.0

**O**n July 26th, Senate Oceans Caucus Co-Chairs Senators Dan Sullivan (R-AK) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) along with Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ) introduced the Save Our Seas Act 2.0 to address the marine debris crisis that is threatening marine ecosystems and coastlines globally.

Plastic and single use consumption rates are high in the developed and developing world. Mismanaged, land-based plastic waste makes up a majority of marine debris. SOS Act 2.0 aims to reduce the creation of plastic waste, find use for recycled plastic, and spur waste management and recycling innovation and technology on a global scale.

“Ocean plastic is a complex global issue, but it’s a challenge we can solve if the United States puts energy into leading on this and investing in creative solutions,” said Senator Whitehouse, who cofounded the bipartisan Senate Oceans Caucus to find common ground in responding to issues facing the oceans and coasts. “The Senate has established a great bipartisan tradition of protecting the oceans. I’m glad to once again partner with Senator Sullivan and our colleagues on legislation to help eliminate the plastic waste washing up on beaches and in fishing nets from Rhode Island to Alaska, and winding its way into the human food chain.”

“The prevalence of marine debris in our oceans is a chronic issue, one that threatens not only fisheries in my state of Alaska, but the health of the oceans and communities across the country, and across

the globe,” said Senator Sullivan. “The good news is that this is one environmental issue that is solvable, actionable, and measurable. SOS 2.0 will work to enhance our response here at home and across the globe. It will also work to prevent waste from getting into our oceans in the first place. Once again working with my friend Senator Whitehouse, SOS 2.0 has the support of the private sector, environmental groups, and both the legislative and executive branches. With all of us pulling on the same oar, we have the opportunity to solve this global challenge together.”

Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Co-Chair of the Senate Oceans Caucus who, with Senator Sullivan, represents the state with the largest and most remote coastline in the U.S., has also been a proponent of addressing marine debris. “America has over 95,000 miles of shoreline, and Alaska makes up around 49,000 miles of it. With unprecedented amounts of debris washing up on our shores—impacting wildlife, our environment and the many Alaskans who depend on our ocean resources—there is understandably widespread concern,” said Senator Murkowski. “Building on my previous legislative efforts to keep our oceans clean and our coastal communities safe, I’m proud to join this legislation which will ensure a more robust U.S. response to the marine debris that is polluting our oceans and shorelines.”

The Save Our Seas 2.0 Act is co-sponsored by Senators Susan Collins (R-ME), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Tom Carper (D-DE), Rob Portman (R-OH), Cory Booker (D-NJ), and Chris Murphy (D-CT).

MAY 15 - WASHINGTON, D.C.



LEFT TO RIGHT: HHMI TANGLED BANK STUDIOS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEAN B. CARROLL, ELEPHANT ECOLOGY PROJECT MANAGER DOMINIQUE GONÇALVES, AND GORONGOSA NATIONAL PARK PRESIDENT GREG CARR.

## ▶ NEW FILM: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTRAL TO CONSERVATION APPROACH IN MOZAMBIQUE’S GORONGOSA NATIONAL PARK

**G**orongosa National Park in Mozambique is one of Africa’s most celebrated wildlife restoration stories. Bringing wildlife back is only part of the challenge, however, as the Park finds a way to coexist with the 200,000 people living in surrounding communities.

In a new film, Dominique Gonçalves, a young Mozambican elephant ecologist, shares the inspiring story of how Gorongosa is becoming a new model for wildlife conservation and community development in Africa.

By bringing large-scale, long-term health care, agriculture support, and girls’ education to surrounding communities, Gorongosa is redefining its identity and purpose. Africa’s wildlife can coexist and survive alongside its human

neighbors. This film, *Our Gorongosa: A Park for the People*, presents a reimagined idea of a national park in Africa, putting local people, especially women and girls, front and center in the fight to save their natural heritage.

Born out of a 20-year partnership between the Government of Mozambique and the Carr Foundation in 2008, the Gorongosa Project has helped the Park’s large mammal population grow 10-fold to over 100,000 animals. The Gorongosa Project, with this mandate and ongoing support from the international development community, including the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Governments of Ireland and Norway, the United Nations Development Programme, and the Global Environment Facility, remains focused on balancing the needs of wildlife and people, an approach on full display in the new film.

MAY 8 - WASHINGTON, D.C.



LEFT TO RIGHT: VULCAN INC. VICE PRESIDENT OF IMPACT ART MIN; SILVIATERRA PRESIDENT ZACK PARISA, MICROSOFT DIRECTOR OF SUSTAINABILITY POLICY MICHELLE PATRON, AND GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY SR. BIODIVERSITY SPECIALIST JAIME CAVELIER

## ▶ AI EXPANDING CAPABILITIES TO EFFECTIVELY ADDRESS CONSERVATION CHALLENGES

**O**n May 8th, ICCF hosted a panel of experts on Capitol Hill to discuss how innovation, specifically in applying artificial intelligence (AI), can be used in furtherance of conservation efforts on the ground.

“AI has the ability to reason over vast amounts of information collected using technology and leverage it to manage ecosystems,” says Microsoft’s Michelle Patron. Using AI to analyze tens of thousands of data points, for example, conservationists can recognize species in a matter of milliseconds, a process that, in the past, would have demanded weeks of manpower.

Microsoft, through its AI for Earth program, is awarding grants to projects that use artificial intelligence for sustainable agriculture and biodiversity and water conservation, among others.

SilviaTerra, a prominent AI for Earth grant recipient, developed an AI process which uses remotely-sensed imagery to improve forest inventory efficiency. Amplifying its existing technology using Microsoft Azure, SilviaTerra has successfully used public and private data to create a forest inventory for every acre in the United States.

Vulcan, whose EarthRanger technology also employs Microsoft Azure through AI for Earth, is partnering with the public and private sectors to apply machine learning technology for monitoring maritime activity, coral reef health, and wildlife populations.

“We can’t manage what we can’t measure,” says Parisa. “Our ability to analyze data is what makes AI valuable.” Ultimately, this is where AI benefits conservation the most, creating efficient ways to impart vital information to decision makers about natural resource management, whether in government, business, or the NGO sector.

MAY 22 - WASHINGTON, D.C.

## ▶ INDUSTRY COMMUNICATION & COOPERATION INDISPENSABLE IN FACILITATION OF SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

**S**ustainable fisheries are vital in improving food security and nutrition, fostering economic growth and fortifying the world's natural resources.

On Wednesday, May 22nd, OCF hosted representatives from the Association of Genuine Alaska Pollock Producers (GAPP), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries, and At-Sea Processors Association and Marine Stewardship Council for a briefing to showcase successful partnerships that are benefiting both business and the marine environment.

Wild Alaska Pollock, in particular, is a booming industry leading the charge in sustainability throughout the fishing industry. It is essential for the consuming public to understand Wild Alaska Pollock and its sustainability success. By evolving management and fishery observer coverage, while emphasizing an ecosystem-based approach to management, Alaska Pollock Fishery sets the example of best practices that other U.S. fisheries have adopted.

"There's not a lot of enemies, more and more there's a lot of partnerships," remarked Laurel Bryant, of NOAA fisheries. "As a result of our partnerships that have evolved under

the U.S. fisheries science-based management system, our nation is recognized as a global leader in sustainable seafood."

Industry efforts to help the consuming public understand Wild Alaska Pollock and its sustainability success are immense. "People doing things right in the marketplace need to be rewarded and the hope is that this will raise all boats," said Brian Perkins of the Marine Stewardship Council, after noting the Marine Stewardship Council's major communications efforts around National Seafood Month.

Similarly, Bryant, Perkins and Craig Morris, GAPP CEO, all commented about narrative development efforts meant to meet consumers where they are and help them get excited about both the story that makes this protein ideal, and the current industry innovations making this product available to more consumers in more ways, every day.

The well-managed partnerships between the organizations represented have helped to provide the industry with the strong story it has today. They have ensured that this natural resource is preserved and have protected those who rely on the industry for their livelihoods.

"MORE  
AND MORE,  
THERE'S A LOT  
OF PARTNERSHIP."

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LAUREL  
BRYANT

BELOW: AT-SEA PROCESSORS ASSOCIATION DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS JIM GILMORE HIGHLIGHTING PARTNERSHIPS FOR FISHERIES



JUNE 6 - WASHINGTON, D.C.

## ▶ CHANGING MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROVING DETRIMENTAL TO HEALTH, PROSPERITY, AND ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF U.S. COASTAL COMMUNITIES

**O**n June 6th the Oceans Caucus Foundation (OCF) partnered with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation as part of Capitol Hill Oceans Week (CHOW), hosting a Congressional staff lunch briefing to discuss the challenges facing U.S. coastal communities and possible solutions to help ensure the health of our oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes.

The evidence that coastal communities are dealing with changing ocean conditions is mounting. In recent years in California, increased populations of sea urchins due to warmer waters have resulted in more than 90% loss of the kelp canopy in California's seas. In the northeast, fishing communities are also feeling the effects of changing ocean conditions. The warming ocean temperatures in the Atlantic are causing long-standing fish populations to move north for cooler water. Coral reefs in the U.S. are also economic boosters, generating about \$7 billion annually for local economies, but since the 1960s healthy coral cover in the U.S. has dropped from 60% to around 6%. All of these impacts stem from a rapidly changing marine environment and are proving detrimental to our coastal communities.

Throughout the panel, moderator Kris Sarri and Dr. Rebecca Selden emphasized the need for coastal restoration policies to be higher on the agendas of lawmakers. Francesca Koe likewise stressed the importance and value of "people power" and local volunteers to help counter coastal stressors while awaiting science and policy solutions. Todd Brennan similarly emphasized the need for sound watershed management policies to curb nutrient pollution and invasive species introduction and to improve wastewater treatment infrastructure in the Great Lakes. All of the panelists highlighted the important role that our coastal communities play, the economic prosperity brought about by the seafood & fishing industries and tourism, and the need for leadership in ensuring a sustainable marine legacy for future generations.

RIGHT: NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY FOUNDATION PRESIDENT & CEO KRIS SARRI SPEAKS DURING THE OCF BRIEFING ON THE OCCASION OF CAPITOL HILL OCEANS WEEK (CHOW)





GABONESE PARLIAMENTARIANS ADDRESSING THE NEW FOREST CODE WITH MEMBERS OF THE CAUCUS AT THE ICCF POLICY WORKSHOP IN LIBREVILLE, GABON

APRIL 9 - LIBREVILLE, GABON

## ▶ FOREST CODE TO BE INTRODUCED TO GABONESE PARLIAMENT: CONSERVATION CAUCUS EXAMINES BENEFITS

**O**n February 20, 2019, the Gabon Executive approved a new Forest Code which ensures the sustainable development and management of forest and other natural resources.

In preparation of the introduction of the Code to Parliament, on April 9, 2019, the Gabon Parliamentary Conservation Caucus (GPCC) organized a policy workshop to examine the code and provide attendees a better understanding of it and the overall benefits of its adoption.

Moderated by the Honorable Angélique Ngoma, Chair of the GPCC, the workshop also served as an orientation for new Members of Parliament with the caucus board relaying the activities carried out since its creation. Afterwards, Mr. Jacques Mouloungou, an Engineer at the Ministry of Water and Forests and a conservation specialist, presented on the Forest Code and underlined general and specific points such as how the Code will affect Gabon's international commitments and the sustainable management of national resources. He specifically highlighted how known issues of human-wildlife conflicts and biopiracy will be addressed.

APRIL 29 - MAPUTO, MOZAMBIQUE

## ▶ MOZAMBIQUE PARLIAMENTARY FORUM ON CONSERVATION DISCUSSES ILLEGAL LOGGING, WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING, AND MARINE SPECIES LOSS

**O**n April 29, 2019, the Mozambique Parliamentary Forum on Conservation (MPFC), with support from The ICCF Group, organized a parliamentary policy workshop to discuss various conservation challenges faced in the country such as illegal logging, wildlife trafficking, and marine species loss.

The members of parliament in attendance put forward recommendations for public institutions to incorporate international legislation and standards of forestry management into the Mozambican national vision plan. In addition to the improvement of legislation, the parliamentarians pointed out the need to educate local communities about the importance of sustainable use of natural resources and the need to introduce alternative sources of fuel. It was also pointed out that law enforcement must adopt a science-based environmental approach in their efforts that allows for the sustainable management of natural resources in Mozambique.

BELOW: PARLIAMENTARIAN MUCANHEIA (CENTER) ALONGSIDE FELLOW MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AND STAFF



MOZAMBIQUE PARLIAMENTARY FORUM ON CONSERVATION GROUP PICTURE AT THE ICCF POLICY WORKSHOP IN MAPUTO



PARLIAMENTARIAN AND CAUCUS CO-CHAIR FRANCISCO MUCANHEIA



MAY 7 - MAPUTO, MOZAMBIQUE

## ▶ PORT OF MAPUTO AUTHORITIES DISCUSS ILLEGAL TIMBER AND WILDLIFE PRODUCTS TRAFFICKING

In their efforts to refine domestic policies and legislation to combat wildlife trafficking, legislators in Mozambique recognize the importance of studying workable solutions and engaging with institutions and stakeholders who are actively working toward the same objective.

On May 7, 2019, members of the Mozambique Parliamentary Forum on Conservation (MPFC) visited the Port of Maputo to learn more about the management system and handling of wildlife crime cases within the port jurisdiction.

The delegation of Members of Parliament met with the Chief Executive Officer of the Maputo Port Development Company, Mr. Osório Lucas, who briefed them on the current status of illegal timber exporting and wildlife products

trafficking through the port and discussed challenges faced that could be addressed through legislation. Mr. Lucas detailed that in 2018, there were 78 seizures of illicit products that resulted in court cases, while, as of May 7, 2019, there have been no seizures so far. He stressed that for further efficiency, there is a need for legislation focused on innovative port-to-hinterland and port-to-port connectivity solutions, on a national and regional scale, to allow for increased access and collaboration.

Following Mr. Lucas' presentation, the Vice-Chair of MPFC, Hon. Fernando Remane Namucua highlighted and echoed the need for closer collaboration among authorities and expressed appreciation for the ongoing efforts that play a role in the decline of poaching within Mozambique and the region.

BELOW: PORT OF MAPUTO AUTHORITIES AND MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT ON THEIR WAY TO THE PORT SITE VISIT



MAY 8 - BOGOTA, COLOMBIA

## ▶ LATIN AMERICAN CONSERVATION CAUCUSES LEAD INTERNATIONAL ROUNDTABLE

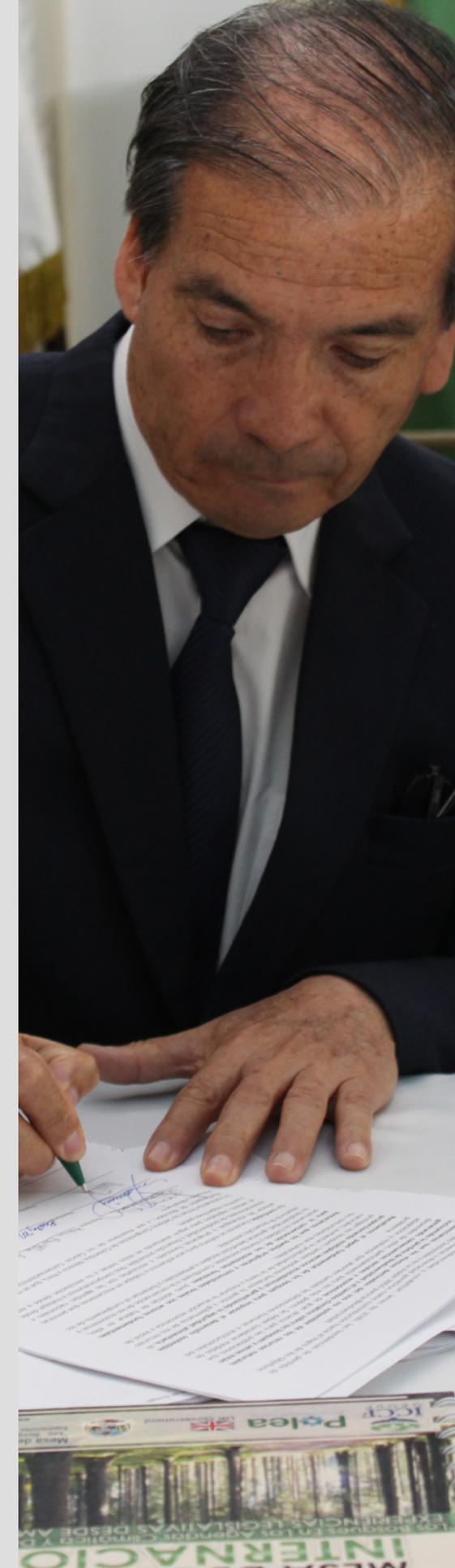
Congressional members of the Conservation Caucuses of Colombia, Mexico, and Peru sign the Declaration of Bogota to promote legislative action on forestry and sustainable development.

The leadership of the Conservation Caucuses of Colombia, Mexico, and Peru held an international roundtable dialogue on "Forests in the Climate Agenda: Legislative Experiences from Latin America" supported by the International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF), Mexican Environmental Policy and Legislation (POLEA), the British Government, and the Center for Higher Legislative Studies (CAEL). Participants analyzed legislative experiences in a discussion aimed at strengthening the integration of collective rights and sustainable forest management within biodiversity frameworks.

As a result of the meeting, The Declaration of Bogota was signed, which acknowledges the importance of forests as a fundamental element in protecting biodiversity and the crucial role of forestry management in achieving the goals of sustainable development within the framework of the 2030 Agenda. It recognizes the impact of unsustainable natural resource usage on biodiversity, climate change, and associated socio-economic consequences and promotes sustainable community development to secure the multiple ecosystem services and food security that are linked to forest management.

In the days following the dialogue, members of the Mexican and Peruvian delegations visited Renace Forest nature reserve, an initiative by private companies Enel-Codensa and Enel-Emgesa to contribute to the restoration and protection of 690 hectares of Andean highland forest. The reserve provided a concrete model of the ideals and goals discussed at the Dialogue for the members, continuing to drive political will.

RIGHT: PERUVIAN CONGRESSMAN AND CAUCUS CO-CHAIR WILBERT ROZAS BELTRÁN SIGNS THE DECLARATION OF BOGOTA





ABOVE: ICCF FORUM ON FOREST PRODUCTION & RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH REFORESTAMOS MEXICO & POLEA

APRIL 9 - MEXICO CITY, MEXICO

## ▶ MEXICAN CONSERVATION PARLIAMENTARY GROUP CONDUCTS FORUM ON FOREST PRODUCTION AND RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION

**O**n Tuesday, April 9, 2019, the Mexican Conservation Parliamentary Group, International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF), Reforestamos Mexico, and Environmental Policy and Legislation (POLEA) held a Forum on "Forest Production and Responsible Consumption".

The event demonstrated that the analyses and dialogue from such platforms of engagement are fundamental for communities to exchange experiences and needs with decision makers, promoting the strengthening of legislation and policies for the benefit of the environment and sustainable development.



CO-CHAIRS ALONGSIDE MEMBERS OF THE MEXICAN CONSERVATION PARLIAMENTARY GROUP PRESENTING AT THE ICCF FORUM ON FOREST PRODUCTION AND RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION

The objective of the Forum was to identify opportunities to improve the legislative framework to strengthen and empower communities with successful forest management models that generate environmental, social and economic benefits.

The forum was divided into five panels and was attended by over 120 participants, including representatives from academia, civil society, the private sector, municipal officials, international organizations and legislative advisors, as well as members of forest communities from states of the Mexican Republic such as Durango, Oaxaca and Michoacán.

APRIL 5 - LIMA, PERU

## ▶ PERUVIAN CONSERVATION CAUCUS AND SERNANP ANALYZE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL PROTECTED AREAS

**O**n April 5, 2019, the Multiparty Dialogue Table on Effective Management of Natural Protected Areas was held, bringing together members of the Peruvian Conservation Caucus with the National Service of Natural Protected Areas by the State (SERNANP) to learn about and analyze the challenges, priorities, opportunities, current regulation, and competencies for effective management, as well as to present the mechanisms and initiatives of conservation of Peru's Natural Protected Areas (ANP).

management of the ANP, opportunities for development based on the use of flora and wild fauna and the landscape resource in the ANP, and the Heritage Initiative of Peru. Members of ICCF's International Conservation Corps discussed the progress of the technical assistance they are providing to SERNANP.

Discussion transpired around the effectiveness of the

After remarks from the speakers and comments from the panel, it was concluded that a greater budgetary allocation for the authorities and institutions linked to the protection of the environment should be promoted in order to ensure better efficiency in their functions, strengthen the oversight capacity of environmental authorities, and strengthen the promotion and use of the natural landscape resource as a source of tourism.

BELOW: MEMBERS OF THE ICCF INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION CORPS SHARE WITH MEMBERS OF THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT PAST CHALLENGES AND SUCCESSES EXPERIENCED BY THE U.S. IN DEVELOPING MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR ITS NATIONAL PARKS





APRIL 3 - BOGOTA, COLOMBIA

## ► BIRD TOURISM IN COLOMBIA: AUDUBON AND COLOMBIAN CAUCUSES DISCUSS CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

**O**n April 3, a working table was held between the Conservation Caucus and the Ocean Caucus of Colombia, Audubon Director of International Programs, and representatives of Audubon in Colombia to discuss the challenges and opportunities of bird tourism in the country.

Audubon is a non-profit organization that works for the conservation of birds and protection of their ecosystems, and develops more than 40 bird conservation programs through the promotion of responsible tourism and education of communities. Additionally, Audubon works with its climate action plan to generate awareness of changes in ecosystems and generate adaptation and resistance plans in communities.

In Colombia, Audubon collaborates with National Natural Parks of Colombia to generate bird watching tourism strategies, train communities and promote the generation of local economies in favor of conservation, disincentivizing degradation due to economic activities harmful to the environment.

Attendees talked with Audubon representatives about the sighting routes that were developed in Colombia, potential scenarios that could be promoted, and expectations and legislative challenges of working in areas of potential tourist development in the country.

Having agreed to joint work and steps to follow both in the field and in the normative scenario – including strengthening of the Caribbean sighting route, the review of current legislation on specific topics of nature tourism and bird watching, regional government promotion of tourism, incentives for the conservation of private lands, and legislation to support financial mechanisms for conservation – the table closed, affirming that the health of an ecosystem is indicated by the life and variety of its birds.



ABOVE: INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION CORPS TEAM MEMBER DOUG MORRIS MEETING WITH PERU'S NATIONAL SERVICE OF NATURAL PROTECTED AREAS (SERNANP)



APRIL 1 - LIMA, PERU

## ► INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION CORPS AND RESPONSIBLE TOURISM IN PERU'S PROTECTED AREAS

**F**rom April 1-6, 2019, ICCF's International Conservation Corps worked with Peru's National Service of Natural Protected Areas (SERNANP) on a week-long technical support mission to jointly assess the challenges and opportunities surrounding the development of tourism in Peru's National Protected Areas (NPA).

The International Conservation Corps and the SERNANP team, together with the local NPA communities, are working to strengthen the sustainable development of tourism in NPA.

The International Conservation Corps team was divided into three teams: infrastructure, interpretation, and marketing. These teams executed sessions with SERNANP staff



ELLIS RICHARD, FORMER U.S. NATIONAL PARK EXPERT



TERRY MOORE, FORMER U.S. NATIONAL PARK EXPERT



RUSSELL MOORE, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

from the functional operational units of Tourism Management, Participatory Management, Communications, and the Office of Planning and Budget.

During meetings, teams reviewed how SERNANP conducted planning of infrastructure and interpretation, the process of public investment projects, the process of environmental evaluation of the projects, and the process for developing products from the protected areas. With this information, the three groups held discussions to establish the desired future in each area. The purpose was to follow the plan established in December 2018, while establishing new activities to follow and products to obtain.

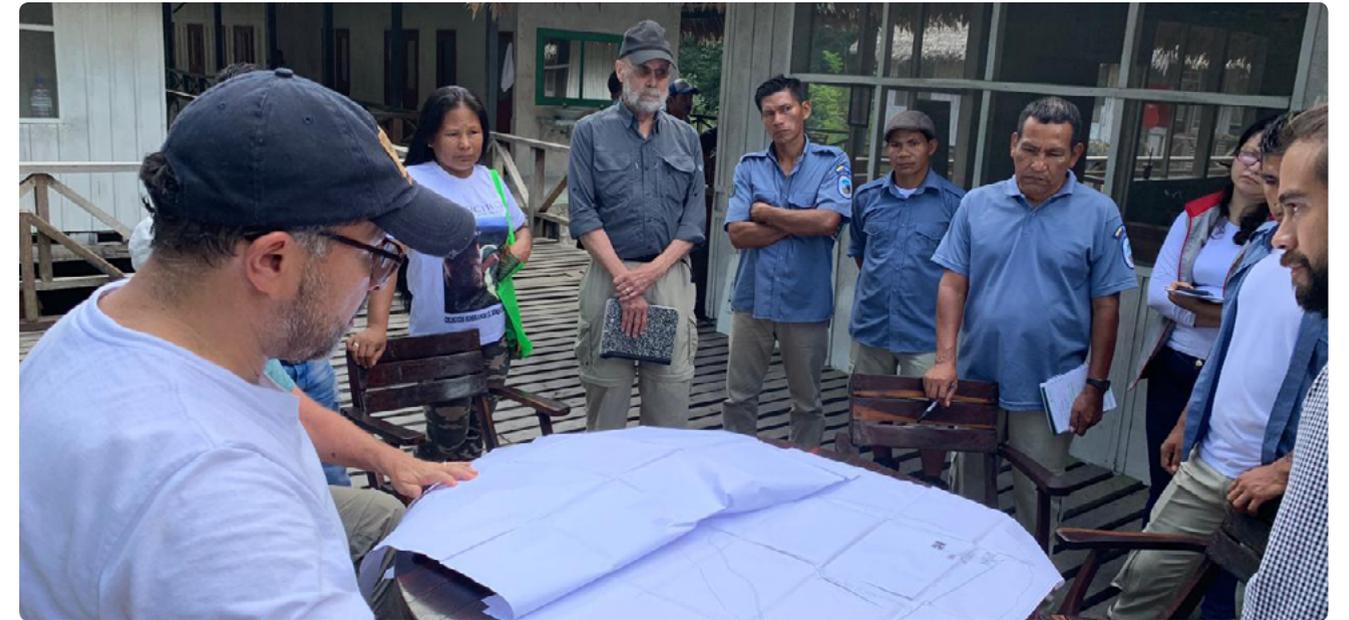
In response to this input, the Palomino Islands and Lachay Islands National Reserve were visited to observe, in practice, how the infrastructure, visitor flow, and needs of the protected areas reveal themselves. The observers were able to take into account the interpretive framework needed to improve visitor experience, recognition of areas, and fresh ideas for potential market strategies.

With the support of USAID, the voluntary expert technical assistance contributed effective, concrete, and applicable solutions to improve the management of the natural wealth in the protected areas of Peru.

BELOW: INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION CORPS MEETING ON INFRASTRUCTURE AND INTERPRETATION FOR PERU'S NATIONAL PARKS



## ▶ INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION CORPS SUPPORTS CULTURAL CENTER IN COLOMBIAN NATIONAL PARK



ABOVE: U.S. NATIONAL PARK EXPERT SAM VAUGHN WITH STAFF FROM COLOMBIA'S NATIONAL PARKS DURING THE ICCF FOURTH FIELD MISSION TO THE AMACAYACU NATIONAL NATURAL PARK

**The ICCF Group's International Conservation Corps and National Natural Parks of Colombia (PNN) carried out the fourth field mission to the Amacayacu National Natural Park to advance technical assistance in the planning, design and production of exhibitions, and interpretive media for the Center for Cultural Exchange and Amazonian Formation (CICFA).**

For a week, the International Conservation Corps team, the staff of the central office and territorial management of PNN Amazonas, along with staff and indigenous

communities of PNN Amacayacu, worked together to establish the conceptual framework for the CICFA, which seeks to be a multifunctional space for the development of information activities, orientation, knowledge exchange and interpretation of PNN Amacayacu heritage.

Next steps will be to advance identification and joint development between PNN and the International Conservation Corps of the potential projects associated with ecotourism as a conservation strategy that will allow the CICFA to open, through the involvement of the private sector and cooperation agencies to continue the process initiated in 2015 with the support of USAID.

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



**T**his quarter's announcement of an All-Party Parliamentary Group on International Conservation having been launched in the United Kingdom marks a new milestone for The ICCF Group.

The joining of our global network of parliamentarians by one of America's greatest partner nations represents an expansion of boundaries and potential for our organization, and on behalf of our international team I wish to thank the Members of Parliament who have supported our efforts this Spring from London, having given us their trust and support by reaching across the aisle to form bipartisan leadership for this new caucus for international conservation.

We could not be more excited about the future of this new group, and look forward to seeing its leaders join and add to the many programs carried out by The ICCF Group, whether in the United States, Africa, Latin America, or Asia. This quarterly report is testament to our continued growth, and an expression of the many issues undertaken by caucuses and governments who are working closely with our International Conservation Corps in developing their countries' national park infrastructure and capacity. Indeed, from Washington D.C. to Bogotá, Colombia to Maputo, Mozambique, caucus co-chairs are working to overcome

challenges and seize opportunities that are key to advancing international conservation, including the conservation-security nexus faced by the United States in its relations with partner countries, community development in Mozambique's incredible yet endangered Gorongosa National Park, and artificial intelligence (AI) as the latest discovery among business leaders looking for solutions, as pioneered by our Conservation Council partners, Microsoft and Vulcan, Inc.

Last but not least, it is my great pleasure to share the recent announcement of the "Save Our Seas Act 2.0," introduced days prior to the printing of this publication in the U.S. Senate by our Oceans Caucus Co-Chairs, Senators Dan Sullivan (R-AK) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), along with Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ). We look forward to working with Oceans Caucus leaders this Summer in the ongoing fight against marine debris.

Thank you to our partners for your continued support.

Best regards,

John B. Gantt

## BECOME AN ICCF PARTNER

For information about our partnership opportunities, please contact Susan Lylis - [susanlylis@iccfoundation.us](mailto:susanlylis@iccfoundation.us) - +1 (202) 471-4222

