



# INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

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WASHINGTON, D.C. - SEPTEMBER 26

## ELEPHANTS REMEMBER

WRITTEN BY CAUCUS CO-CHAIRS FORTENBERRY AND MCCOLLUM

Source: Reprinted from The Washington Times, September 26, 2019

In 1997, Princess Diana walked through an Angolan minefield to highlight the human devastation of the country's 27-year civil war. This week, her son, Prince Harry, will make that same walk to help save one of the Earth's last truly





ABOVE: U.S. Congressman Jeff Fortenberry (NE-1) is a [Member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations](#), Co-Chair of the U.S. Congressional International Conservation Caucus, and sponsor of the Defending Economic Livelihoods and Threatened Animals (DELTA) Act.

wild places. Thanks to recent United States Congressional leadership, the region of Angola, Namibia, and Botswana—home to the largest inland watershed in Africa—will be the beneficiary of this renewed focus.

Stretching from the highlands of Angola into Botswana’s Okavango Delta, an expansive flow of water gives life to vast numbers of bird, plant, and mammal species. The greater Okavango River Basin is **the largest freshwater wetland in Southern Africa and the main source of livelihood for over a million people** in the countries of Angola, Namibia, and Botswana. The area also sustains the world’s largest elephant population.

## OVER 80,000 ANGOLANS HAVE BEEN KILLED OR INJURED.

The water that feeds this ecosystem is at times below the surface running through peat bogs then to rivulets then wide rivers, and finally into the meandering Okavango Delta. Elephants historically migrated across the three countries, but today these majestic animals remember that the bulk of their path in Angola is a killing field

strewn with thousands of landmines.

As a result, elephants have concentrated in Botswana. Neither they nor persons come close to the land that served them for millennia along the Cuito and Cubango Rivers of Angola.

## HERE IS THE OPPORTUNITY.

**With ambitious demining**, this rich area could again be home to thousands of elephants, local people, and international travelers, fostering economic well-being throughout Southern Africa.

The over-concentration of elephants in Botswana is what inspired us in Congress to sponsor the Defending Economic Livelihoods and Threatened Animals (DELTA) Act. Passed with broad bipartisan



ABOVE: ICCF Executive Vice President Susan Lylis (left) and Prince Harry (right) discussing U.S. conservation leadership in Angola.

support late last year, the DELTA Act gives a mandate to the State Department and other federal agencies to work with the Angola government and regional leaders to promote conservation and sustainable tourism along the watershed.

BELOW: U.S. Congresswoman Betty McCollum (MN-4) is the [Chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior and Environment](#), Co-Chair of the U.S. Congressional International Conservation Caucus, and a co-sponsor of the DELTA Act.



# THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED AN HISTORIC COMMITMENT OF \$60 MILLION.

Since the DELTA Act's passage, the Angolan government announced an historic commitment of \$60 million to the HALO (Hazardous-Area Life-support Organization) Trust, a British-American organization that removes the debris of war. HALO will begin clearing 153 minefields along the migration corridor, laying the groundwork for national parks

BELOW: Lylis on the ground in Angola with The HALO Trust demining team.



to expand protection of the pristine habitat. This demining work will facilitate larger regional efforts focused on biodiversity conservation, sustainable agriculture, and eco-tourism, enabling communities and animals to prosper.

The HALO demining initiative and other initiatives that will grow out of the DELTA Act represents what can be achieved when we take a holistic view across development sectors and approach regional assistance in a comprehensive way. A second step is already in the works as the U.S. Forest Service finalizes plans to return to Angola to help evaluate and improve the forests essential for wildlife vitality.

Mirroring the complexity of nature beyond human-defined borders, the DELTA Act represents a new multinational, multi-sectoral strategy to protect species such as the African elephant while creating dynamic new benefits for the surrounding countries and people. **Through innovation, creativity, and sustainable resource management, we can save**

**and enhance one of the most beautiful and delicate ecosystems in the world.**

If we get it right in Southern Africa, this sustainable development model can be applied to many of the world's other important ecosystems, lifting the prospects for two billion people remaining in severe poverty.

## THEY TOO WILL REMEMBER.

WASHINGTON, D.C. - OCTOBER 7



## INTO THE OKAVANGO: THE HALO TRUST CLEARS LANDMINES FOR CONSERVATION



BY CHRIS WHATLEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE HALO TRUST (USA)

**O**ne of the Earth's last true wildernesses, the Okavango Delta is an idyllic expanse home to thousands of bird, mammal, and plant species. Its vast watershed runs from the highlands of Angola, and across Namibia's Captivi Strip before flowing into land-locked Botswana to create a natural oasis. The basin is the main source of water and economic livelihood for more than a million people and houses thousands of species including the world's largest elephant population.

However, landmine contamination near the headwaters of the Okavango Delta in Angola has hampered efforts to protect this pristine expanse. Wilderness management, biodiversity research, and the development of a conservation economy are all impacted by the presence of landmines. And elephants, as well as humans, are susceptible to injury from these indiscriminate killers that lurk beneath the surface. An estimated 80,000 Angolans currently live with an injury caused by a landmine. Hundreds of thousands of explosives were laid during the country's 40+ years of conflict, making Angola one of the world's most mine-contaminated countries.

That is why The HALO Trust (HALO) is embarking

on a mission with several conservation partners to clear the landmines from the Angolan headwaters of the Okavango Delta. This creative initiative will clear a safe path for conservation and foster an ecosystem to preserve countless crucial species.

In June, the Angolan government announced a historic commitment of \$60 million for HALO to begin clearing landmines to create a system of national parks to protect the region from poachers while connecting it to the conservation economy. Prince Harry, the son of Princess Diana, is also a vocal supporter of this project. In fact, he made a point of joining HALO, our conservation partners, and elected officials in Dirico, where the Cuito River meets the Cubango, during his historic September visit to Angola to launch this groundbreaking initiative. He witnessed first-hand the natural beauty of the headwaters, but also how landmines limit the reach of those looking to protect this ecosystem.

HALO's partner, the International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF), has played a vital role in bringing together stakeholders to promote conservation leadership in the Okavango Delta region, and together, we applaud the passage of the Defending Economic Livelihoods and Threatened Animals (DELTA) Act. This landmark legislation provides the framework to promote a transnational conservation initiative between Angola,





THE IMPORTANCE  
OF THESE  
DEMINEING  
PROGRAMS  
CANNOT BE  
OVERSTATED.

IN ADDITION  
TO SERVING  
U.S. NATIONAL  
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POLITICAL AND  
ECONOMIC  
INTERESTS  
ABROAD, THEY  
PLAY A VITAL  
AND LIFE SAVING  
ROLE FOR  
COMMUNITIES  
WHO HAVE  
EXPERIENCED  
CONFLICT.

-- Representative Bill Johnson (R-OH), Co-Chair of  
the UXO/Demining Caucus

Namibia, and Botswana. Since its adoption, the DELTA Act has played a crucial role in catalyzing international partnerships and motivating donors to protect this endangered Eden.

This initiative represents significant progress in building an ecosystem where local people flourish along with the wider flora, fauna and wildlife species. But more support is needed to ensure that this precious ecosystem is protected for generations to come.

# NATURE'S CHAMBERS

Q3 2019 PUBLIC POLICY  
SPONSORED BY  
CONSERVATION CAUCUSES  
WORLDWIDE

## COLOMBIA



### PLASTIC LAW, ISLE OF SAN ANDRES

Status: Signed into Law  
Date: July, 2019

In July, President Duque signed Law 1973, which bans most plastic bags and other single use plastics from the island group of San Andres, where they had a negative effect on marine life. The law is to be implemented over two years and includes incentives to switch to biodegradable materials such as paper. It was authored by Rep Jack Housni, a member of the Colombian Conservation Caucus. ICCF earlier organized a luncheon in the Congress during which Rep. Housni presented his draft bill to the other Members.

### KIGALI AMENDMENT

Status: Signed into Law  
Date: June 12, 2019



The Colombian Congress has ratified and President Duque has signed the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, with 96 votes in favor and zero against. This effort was organized by members of the Colombian Conservation Caucus, led by Co-President German Blanco and working closely with the Foreign Ministry and Environment Ministry. This law is the fifth modification to the Montreal Protocol for the defense of the ozone layer. The ozone layer is recovering, and is projected (if current trends continue) to regain its level of 1980 by 2050.

## USA



### SAVE OUR SEAS 2.0

Status: Introduced  
Date: June 26, 2019

U.S. Senators Dan Sullivan (R-AK), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), and Bob Menendez (D-NJ) led colleagues from both sides of the aisle in launching a new effort to combat the global marine debris crisis. At a news conference in the Capitol, the senators unveiled the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act to address plastics and trash entering the ocean that harm fisheries and marine life, litter shorelines, and threaten the livelihood of coastal communities.





WASHINGTON, D.C. - JUNE 26

## SULLIVAN, WHITEHOUSE, MENENDEZ LAUNCH NEW EFFORT TO COMBAT MARINE DEBRIS

**U**.S. Senators Dan Sullivan (R-AK), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), and Bob Menendez (D-NJ) led colleagues from both sides of the aisle in launching a new effort to combat the global marine debris crisis. At a news conference in the Capitol, the senators

unveiled the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act to address plastics and trash entering the ocean that harm fisheries and marine life, litter shorelines, and threaten the livelihood of coastal communities.

The Save Our Seas 2.0 Act seeks to help reduce the creation of plastic waste, find uses for the plastic waste that already exists to keep it from entering the oceans, and spur innovation into new technologies and ocean-friendly products. The

legislation also seeks to tackle the problem on a global scale through international engagement and outreach, and exploring new agreements. The legislation builds on the initial progress made by the Save Our Seas Act, which was sponsored by Senators Sullivan and Whitehouse and signed into law by President Trump last fall.

**A detailed summary of the legislation is available at:** <https://www.sullivan.senate.gov/download/save-our-seas-20-act>

**Source:** <https://www.sullivan.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/sullivan-whitehouse-menendez-launch-new-effort-to-combat-marine-debris>

SAVE OUR SEAS  
2.0 ADDRESSES  
PLASTIC DEBRIS  
WASHING UP  
ON AMERICAN  
SHORES.



WASHINGTON, D.C. - JULY 23

## CELEBRATING SHARK WEEK 2019

**A**s with other predators, sharks often come into conflict with humans over territory and food stocks. Declining populations of predators, like sharks, can have a ripple effect on the health of entire ecosystems, in turn limiting the natural resources available for human use.

To take a deeper dive into the issue, on July 23rd, ICCF hosted Animal Planet's Forrest Galante to preview his show, Extinct or Alive: The Lost Shark, which premiered during Shark Week on Discovery Channel.

WASHINGTON, D.C. - JULY 25

## CHAIRWOMAN MCCOLLUM, RANKING MEMBER JOYCE TALK SHARED COMMITMENT TO INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION

Representatives Betty McCollum (D-MN) and David Joyce (R-OH), **Co-Chairs of the International Conservation Caucus** and, respectively, Chair and Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related

Agencies, joined ICCF as part of its Congressional Breakfast Briefing Series on July 25th. Speaking to assembled ICCF government, business, and NGO partners, Chairwoman McCollum and Ranking Member Joyce expressed a shared, bipartisan



## HIGHLIGHTING HUMAN-PREDATOR CONFLICT IN PREVIEW OF DISCOVERY'S SHARK WEEK 2019

Representative Michael McCaul (R-TX), Ranking Member on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, also delivered remarks at the event, speaking specifically to concerns about illegal shark finning practices.

commitment to promoting U.S. leadership in international conservation. Under their leadership, the Appropriations Interior Subcommittee approved legislation earlier in the year that would increase

WASHINGTON, D.C. - SEPTEMBER 12

## OCEANS CAUCUS BRIEFING SERIES TO HIGHLIGHT IMPORTANCE OF RECYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Marine debris has been a top priority for the Oceans Caucuses in the Senate and House for a number of Congresses. Plastics, especially single use plastics, are at the center of the marine debris discussion.

On September 12th, the Oceans Caucus Foundation partnered with the American Chemistry Council (ACC) on a "Recycling 101" lunch briefing to highlight the importance of investing in our waste management and recycling infrastructure to meet the growing consumption rates and industry demand for recycled products.

Senator Rob Portman (R-OH) made opening remarks about the need to invest in our recycling infrastructure and technologies to ensure better collection and sorting to decrease the level of contamination in recycled products. "Recycling is more efficient, and better for the economy," said Senator Portman, who serves as a **Co-Chair of the International Conservation Caucus** in the Senate.

funding for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service International Affairs Program, Forest Service International Programs, and the National Parks Service Office of International Affairs for FY 2020.

THE BOTTOM LINE IS WE NEED TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO SOME OF THESE RECYCLING COMPANIES.

Craig Cookson, Director of Sustainability and Recycling for the Plastics Division at ACC, moderated the panel with representatives from The Association of Plastic Recyclers, The Recycling Partnership, and KW Plastics. Panelists spoke about the various issues affecting the recycling process in the U.S., for example, lacking infrastructure on the municipal level, unstandardized nationwide practices, and the benefits of better recycling systems for the economy. They also discussed the Chinese recycling and trade situation, and how the U.S. can emerge as a leader in the recycling industry.

"Recycling 101" was the first in a series of briefings that will highlight the importance of a strong recycling infrastructure for more opportunities for a circular supply chain and a cleaner marine environment.



WASHINGTON, D.C. - SEPTEMBER 18-19

## ICCF HOSTS MINISTERS OF ENVIRONMENT FROM BOTSWANA AND GABON IN WASHINGTON



HON. KITSO MOKAILA, MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES, CONSERVATION, AND TOURISM OF BOTSWANA

**V**isiting Washington, D.C. on September 18th and 19th, Honorable Kitso Mokaila, the Minister of Environment, Natural Resources, Conservation, and Tourism of Botswana, joined Members of Congress and ICCF’s U.S. Government and NGO partners for a series of discussions regarding conservation in Botswana and the Kavango-Zambezi region.

Botswana’s economy is largely dependent upon its natural resources, including wild flora and fauna. Ecotourism is supporting conservation and local community livelihoods, but increased instances of human-wildlife conflict, Minister Mokaila says, have impacted local attitudes toward wildlife. With a history of successful natural resource management,

Botswana has long been recognized for its good governance in relation to wildlife management. Recent policy changes remain part of a strategy for continued leadership in conservation, that local communities might take ownership of the wildlife with which they share the land and responsibility for ensuring their survival.

Botswana, home to the largest remaining number of elephants in Africa, has been a safe haven for elephants who have fled from poachers and armed conflict. But, as Angola continues to make strides towards sustainable conservation and development, including recent commitments to clear landmines across the southeast, Botswana’s Minister hopes, as do many others, that elephants will naturally relocate along historical migration routes.

## PROF. LEE WHITE, CBE, MINISTER FOR FORESTS, THE SEA, THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE OF GABON



Professor Lee White, long-time conservation biologist who became Gabon’s Director of National Parks in 2009, was recently appointed by Gabonese President Ali Bongo Ondimba as Minister of Forests, the Sea, the Environment and Climate Change. In Washington on September 26th and 27th, ICCF facilitated discussion between the Minister and Congressional offices to highlight Gabonese conservation initiatives and U.S.-supported conservation projects in the country.

Gabon’s 80 percent forest coverage is an important

source of food, shelter, and livelihoods for millions of people but is threatened by deforestation and wildlife poaching and trafficking. It was announced earlier in the week that Gabon would receive \$150 million from the Government of Norway to preserve its rainforest, the first international funding of this kind to be awarded to an African nation.

WASHINGTON, D.C. - SEPTEMBER 23

## COLLABORATING FOR CONSERVATION: HOW SMARTER LOGGING IS SAVING FORESTS IN GABON

A viable, well-managed forest-based economy means more forests, and more forests make for a more sustainable world. For that reason, International Paper teamed up with The Nature Conservancy to implement reduced impact logging practices in Gabon that balance business, conservation, and local economic interests. To highlight this partnership and illustrate how multi-

sectoral collaboration can successfully conserve natural resources, ICCF hosted a discussion on September 23rd on Capitol Hill featuring speakers from both International Paper and The Nature Conservancy.

Speakers included James McDonald, Director of Global



Citizenship at International Paper; Sophie Beckham, Senior Manager for Natural Capital Stewardship at International Paper; and Peter Ellis, Forest Carbon Scientist at The Nature Conservancy.

Collectively, speakers highlighted how the groups are working together, as well as with the Government of Gabon, to implement reduced impact logging

(RIL-C) practices. By narrowing forest roads, leaving hollow trees standing, and reducing damage from felled trees, RIL-C practices are addressing the needs of nature and business. Well-managed forests are more productive and more sustainable and are necessary to meet consumer demand for wood products that would only otherwise be met through illegal and destructive logging.

WASHINGTON, D.C. - SEPTEMBER 18

## OCEANS CAUCUS FOUNDATION AND STIMSON CENTER HOST IAN URBINA, AUTHOR OF "THE OUTLAW OCEAN"



**T**he Oceans Caucus Foundation, in partnership with the Stimson Center, hosted Ian Urbina, author of *The Outlaw Ocean*, to highlight the consequences of the lawless environment on the high seas. As an investigative reporter for *The New York Times*, Ian Urbina has been reporting on crime and violence in international waters to highlight the lack of enforcement of laws and treaties and in some cases a lack of laws altogether.

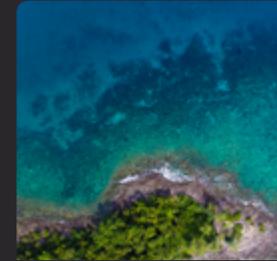
Sally Yozell, Director of the Environmental Security program at the Stimson Center, interviewed Ian to hear about the conditions he witnessed on

fishing boats and the dangerous situations he encountered. He spoke of the slave labor and poor working conditions he witnessed when boarding fishing boats in the South Pacific as well as the corruption and violence on the West Coast of Africa in Somalia.

These problems are not specific to one area and necessitate improved policies and enforcement in not only maritime territories and international waters, but also the fishing industry and seafood markets that are continuing to purchase fish product that is fished illegally and with slave labor.



# INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION CORPS



## BAHAMAS

ICCF's International Conservation Corps team consisting of 7 retired U.S. Forest Service experts is assisting the Government of the Bahamas in developing a national forest management plan and conducting a forest inventory.



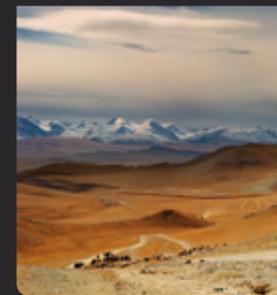
## PERU

ICCF's International Conservation Corps team consisting of retired U.S. National Park Service experts is assisting the National Park Service of Peru in the development of trails and visitor centers in Lachay and Huascarán National Parks.



## PARAGUAY

ICCF's International Conservation Corps team of U.S. and Canadian National Park officials is assisting Paraguay's National Parks System in the San Rafael and Defensores del Chaco National Parks.



## MONGOLIA

ICCF's International Conservation Corps team of 5 retired U.S. Forest Service professionals is assisting the City of Ulaanbaatar, home to 50% of Mongolia's population, in strengthening the management of forest resources surrounding the city.





BOGOTA, D.C., COLOMBIA - SEPTEMBER 10

## ON OCEAN GOVERNANCE

**T**he Oceans Caucus of the Colombian Congress, under the leadership of the President of the Camera (Lower House) Carlos Alberto Cuenca and of Oceans Caucus co-founder German Blanco, conducted a legislative workshop on the topic of opportunities for development for Colombia as a maritime country.

A large number of Senators and Representatives participated in dialogue with experts from the Navy, the Colombian Oceans Commission (CCO), and other Ministries about the importance of the oceans and coastal areas to tourism, fishing, and commerce, and the proper role of legislation in achieving sovereignty and good governance.

PARTICIPANTS  
AGREED TO  
ESTABLISH  
ENHANCED  
COOPERATION  
WITH THE  
NAVY FOR THE  
SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
OF MARINE  
RESOURCES  
AND FOR NEW  
LEGISLATION.

BOGOTA, D.C., COLOMBIA - SEPTEMBER 30



## AMAZON MANIFESTO SIGNED

With the leadership of HR Juan Carlos Lozada, President of the First Commission of the House and member of the Colombian Conservation and Oceans Caucuses, ICCF Colombia, the Center for Research and High Legislative Studies (CAEL), the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development Ricardo Lozano, and the Director of Natural National Parks Dr. Julia Miranda, participants signed a manifesto to promote the conservation of the Amazon and protected areas of Colombia.

ON THE  
OCCASION  
OF THE 30TH  
ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE  
DECLARATION  
OF THE  
CHIRIBIQUETE  
NATIONAL  
NATURAL  
PARK.



ABOVE: Colombian Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development Ricardo Lozano

OAXACA, MEXICO - JULY 5-6

## OAXACA FORUM

**O**n July 5th and 6th, the Mexican Conservation Parliamentary Group represented by Deputies Irma Juan Carlos, Martha Olivia García, and Rosalinda Domínguez, attended the 1st Forum of Certified Forest Companies in Oaxaca.

The forum aimed to create a platform of dialogue that would analyze opportunities for certified companies and define strategies that allow positioning of products certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) in Mexico. The event was supported by The ICCF Group and by other national and local organizations including the National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR), Reforestamos Mexico, Environmental Policy and Legislation (POLEA), and the Mexican Fund



for Nature Conservation (FMCN). The Forum convened over 180 representatives from the public, private, social, and academic spheres, including FSC prospective and certified companies.

On the second day of the mission, participants conducted a field visit to the community of Ixtlán de Juárez in the Northern Sierra region of Oaxaca. Ixtlán exemplifies the successful community forestry model, and has been recognized via FSC certification for its sustainable, socially beneficial, and economically viable forestry management techniques. The mission gave the participating legislators an important opportunity to witness firsthand the sustainability programs being implemented in Oaxaca, and continue to support these success stories that benefit the country's forest policy.

MEXICO CITY, MEXICO - AUGUST 27

## MEXICAN FORUM ON TAXATION AND FORESTRY

**T**he Mexican Conservation Parliamentary Group represented by Senator Susana Harp, President of the Committee on Culture, and Deputies Irma Juan Carlos, President of the Commission of Indigenous Peoples, Roberto Rubio, President of the Environment Commission, Agustín García Rubio, and Martha Olivia García held

a forum: "Towards the Strengthening of Community Forestry Companies from Rural Areas."

The event was held in coordination with The ICCF Group and the organizations Politics and Environmental Legislation (POLEA) and Reforestamos México, with the attendance of the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources.



The event supported sustainable rural development by looking for options to strengthen community forestry companies (EFCs) in the country by adopting a differentiated tax regime; EFCs are currently under the same tax system as private companies, which fails to acknowledge their added value to the environment. The forum was attended by more than 100 participants from various sectors, including representatives from ejidos and forestry communities in Durango, Oaxaca, Michoacán, Veracruz, Puebla, Chihuahua, and the State of Mexico. During opening remarks, Deputy Irma Juan Carlos stressed that fiscal reform is necessary for the benefit of local

communities and suggested that the CFEs in Mexico are the solution for the conservation of forests and the poverty facing indigenous groups. Arturo Castañeda Rebolledo, Head of the Tax Legislation Unit of the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit (SHCP), emphasized the importance of developing a fiscal framework that is accessible, equitable, and fosters the growth of CFEs. The participating legislators and the SHCP committed to follow through on the ideals discussed through the forum and to look for concrete solutions to strengthen existing community fiscal schemes and contribute to the sustainable development of Mexico.

BOGOTA, D.C., COLOMBIA - SEPTEMBER 24-25

## AGRICULTURE ROUNDTABLE WITH PERUVIAN DELEGATION

**CCF Colombia supported a technical exchange between a Peruvian delegation led by Congressman Miguel Angel "Miki" Torres and representatives from the Ministry of Production, Agriculture, Economics and Finance, APPCacao and Helvetas Peru, Colombian Congressmen, representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Finance, and Environment, and leaders from solidarity and private sectors.**

The exchange included two roundtables. The first

dealt with promoting the cooperative model and the solidarity economy as well as the promotion of development funds for the agricultural sector, with emphasis on the supply chain value of cocoa and coffee.

The second, on the 25th of September, focused on sustainable financing. The objective was to promote understanding of the experience and implications of the green financing model and the payment scheme for environmental services in Colombia, reviewing the successful program of Banco2.



# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Upon learning from U.S. Congressional leaders, such as Representative Bill Johnson of the UXO/Demining Caucus, that over 80,000 Angolans had been killed or injured by landmines left behind by war, Co-Chairs of the International Conservation Caucus, sponsors of the recently-passed DELTA Act to promote conservation and sustainable tourism in Angola and neighboring countries, took to heart this understated humanitarian crisis and, in support of Prince Harry's walk across Angola's mine fields, wrote and published in *The Washington Times* our cover story this quarter. 'Elephants Remember.'

This great initiative from our Co-Chairs in the House of Representatives also follows what was, for The ICCF Group, an incredible journey. This September, our Vice President Susan Lylis traveled to Angola alongside Prince Harry and assisted The HALO Trust in establishing its partnership with the Angolan government, effectively supporting the latter's historic commitment of \$60 million to clear 153 minefields along the country's migration corridor.

This success story is but one of many we experienced this quarter, as we continue to build political will in countries around the world. Notable especially on the legislative front is *Save our Seas 2.0*, introduced in the U.S. Congress in a bipartisan fashion by Senators Sullivan, Whitehouse,

and Menendez, to launch a new effort to combat the global marine debris crisis. By the same token, peers in the Colombian Congress worked with President Duque in banning plastic bags and other single use plastics from the Island of San Andres, where they had a negative effect on marine life.

Meanwhile, our partners in for-profit industries, Members of our Conservation Council, continued to support our Congressional Caucuses by raising on Capitol Hill issues of importance for international conservation, including human-wildlife conflicts and smarter logging in Africa, illegal shark finning practices and lawlessness on the high seas, and waste management and recycling infrastructure.

Turning to the last quarter for this year, I wish to extend my appreciation of burgeoning partnerships with inspiring organizations such as The HALO Trust, and extend our thanks to our long-serving partners without whom our work could not continue to advance.

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

