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LUANDA, ANGOLA

AFRICAN PARKS TO MANAGE ANGOLAN NATIONAL PARK IONA

With the support of The ICCF Group, the Angola Government and conservation non-profit African Parks have signed a management agreement for Iona National



Park, initiating their first partnership to ensure the long-term protection of the country's largest protected area. Iona is an iconic desert landscape, extending from its Atlantic coastline over dunes, plains and mountains. It spans a vast 10,000 square miles that incorporates a new biome and country into African Parks' management portfolio, which now includes 17 parks in 11 countries, amounting to over 13.5 million hectares.

Situated in the Namib desert in the south-west corner of Angola, its stark 100-mile shoreline abutting the Atlantic Ocean, Iona is one of Africa's

most sublime wilderness areas with rich terrestrial and offshore ecosystems. The sand and gravel plains at its center are bordered by mountains reaching heights of a mile in the east and dunes that run the length of its coastline in the west. Fed by two bordering rivers, the Cunene and Curoca, the park contains extensive woodlands and is inhabited by cheetah and leopard, herds of Oryx, springbok and Hartmann's zebra, ostrich, endemic reptiles and is the principal habitat to one of the world's most ancient plants, *Welwitschia mirabilis*.

WE ARE THRILLED TO SEE THIS LANDMARK AGREEMENT FOR THE CO-MANAGEMENT OF IONA NATIONAL PARK, WHICH WE BELIEVE WILL LEAD TO TRANSFORMATIONAL OUTCOMES FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION, AND ALLOW IONA TO BECOME A SHINING MODEL THROUGHOUT THE REGION.

– ICCF EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT SUSAN LYLIS

THIS IS A GIANT AND VISIONARY STEP FOR CONSERVATION IN ANGOLA, AND WE ARE EXCEPTIONALLY PROUD TO BE PARTNERING WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND HELPING THEM TO MANAGE THIS STUNNING NATIONAL ASSET.

THIS IS THE DAWN OF A NEW ERA FOR THE NATION, AND A TREMENDOUS COMMITMENT FROM THE GOVERNMENT. WE ARE BEYOND HOPEFUL IN WHAT OUR PARTNERSHIP MEANS IN SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND WILDLIFE IN AND AROUND IONA NATIONAL PARK.

-- PETER FEARNHEAD
CEO OF AFRICAN PARKS

Iona National Park is regionally important, forming part of a trans-frontier conservation area (TFCA) with the Skeleton Coast National Park in Namibia. Historically, the park was inhabited by rhino and elephant, but both of these species have become locally extinct and other wildlife have been depleted. Unregulated human activities from settlements on the periphery and within the park, including the grazing of livestock, are placing pressure on its ecosystems.

African Parks and the Government of Angola will work closely with the local communities, implement good law enforcement, and restore wildlife to ensure the long-term ecological, social and economic sustainability of Iona. Its spectacular mountainous, desert and coastal topography make this trans-frontier area globally unique, giving the park enormous potential with sufficient investment to emerge as one of the continent's most extraordinary landscape experiences. With adequate conservation and the optimization of tourism and other sustainable revenue-generating activities, Iona will continue to support healthy terrestrial and marine ecosystems to benefit people long into the future.



OCTOBER 24 - WASHINGTON, D.C.

► MULTI-SECTOR APPROACH TO DISRUPT WILDLIFE CYBERCRIME

Wildlife crime ranks among the most serious, dangerous, and damaging international organized crimes along with human trafficking, drug running, and illegal arms sales. The growth of the internet has led to wildlife traffickers moving from physical marketplaces to online platforms, making it easier and faster to connect poachers to consumers on e-commerce and social media platforms. On Capitol Hill on October 24th, ICCF hosted a panel of experts representing government, business, and non-governmental entities to illustrate how a multi-sector approach can help disrupt wildlife trade online.

The expert panel, comprised of IFAW's Regional Director for Asia, Grace Ge Gabriel; eBay's Senior Manager of Federal Government Relations, Matthew Jensen; organized crime expert and Executive Director of the Alliance to Counter Crime Online, Gretchen Peters; and the Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Intelligence Unit, Craig Tabor, identified how their organizations' collective efforts are addressing

wildlife crime on the internet and the challenges that remain.

The internet provides wildlife traffickers access to a vast international marketplace – one without borders that is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, where wildlife cybercriminals can exploit the anonymity afforded to them online. E-commerce sites like eBay and other tech firms like Google and Microsoft have teamed up with IFAW, WWF, and TRAFFIC as part of the Coalition to End Wildlife Trafficking Online, an initiative aimed at reducing wildlife trafficking online by 80 percent by 2020. E-commerce sites like eBay are also working with U.S. law enforcement officials to help bring would-be criminals to justice.

To effectively address the mounting threats of wildlife cybercrime, all the involved parties - from the government, private-sector, and NGO community - must share a vision and work toward common goals and objectives. A multi-sector approach can enhance cooperation, communication, and collaboration across all key sectors, empowering governments, businesses, inter-governmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations to detect and disrupt wildlife cybercriminals.

OCTOBER 15 - WASHINGTON, D.C.

► DOWNSTREAM IMPACTS OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER: STREAMLINING FISHERIES DISASTER RELIEF TO FISHERMEN



OCF hosted a panel discussion on Downstream Impacts of the Mississippi River. Coastal zones and deltas, like the Mississippi Delta, are at high risk from flooding, runoff, freshwater influx, and erosion. There are many industries along the Gulf Coast that greatly depend on, and are impacted by, the Mississippi River. These include agriculture, fisheries, tourism, and many more.

The panelists – Stuart Levenbach, Chief of Staff for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); Brian Lezina, Division Chief for Planning and Research at Louisiana's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority; Rudy Sparks, VP of Williams Inc., Member of the Louisiana

Landowners Association; and moderator David Muth, Director, Gulf Restoration Program – laid out some of the issues that states like Louisiana are facing due to flooding, such as algal blooms and freshwater influx, which can kill off oyster beds and other marine species that can't move to higher salinities.

Panelists highlighted some of the work NOAA is doing to help streamline fisheries disaster relief to fishermen, regulatory burdens on private landowners in terms of management and restoration efforts that are hindering mitigation efforts, and the need to update the infrastructure and sustainability plans for Louisiana's coast.



NATURE'S CHAMBERS

Q4 2019 PUBLIC POLICY
SPONSORED BY
CONSERVATION CAUCUSES,
WORLDWIDE.

UNITED STATES CONGRESS APPROVES SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION FUNDING, DIRECTS ALLOCATIONS TO CRITICAL CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS VOTED, WITH LARGE BIPARTISAN SUPPORT, TO SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE OVERALL U.S. FUNDING FOR INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION. AS PART OF A SPENDING PACKAGE FOR FY2020, H.R. 1865, THE FURTHER CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2020, COMPRISES EIGHT OF TWELVE REGULAR APPROPRIATIONS BILLS AND INCLUDES FUNDING FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS AND FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES, AMONG OTHERS.

To strengthen U.S. leadership on international conservation in 2020, this legislation notably continues U.S. support to the largest multilateral funder of conservation projects, providing \$139.5 million to the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The bill further provides a \$50 million increase in assistance for biodiversity conservation, sustainable landscapes, and combating wildlife trafficking by appropriating \$550 million to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) for such purposes. An additional \$15 million is allocated to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for the Multinational Species Conservation Fund, representing a \$3.5 million increase in support for elephant-, rhinoceros-, tiger-, great ape-, and marine turtle-conservation programs.

House and Senate lawmakers also agreed to terms guiding departmental funding allocations in order to tackle critical conservation challenges, including deforestation, wildlife trafficking, illegal fishing, and marine plastic pollution. Explanatory statements issued to accompany the eight-bill spending agreement offer recommendations and directives to implementing agency officials as to how resources should be apportioned to address these challenges.



By allocating additional resources to international conservation, the United States increases its investment in not only in our planet, but also its inhabitants. U.S. support to responsibly manage natural resources in the developing world is a cost-effective investment in fighting poverty: helping to feed people, foster good governance, and promote peace.

MARITIME SAFE ACT INCLUDED IN NDAA FOR FY 2020

The Maritime SAFE Act establishes an interagency working group to provide federal agencies with a coordinated framework to effectively combat IUU fishing and authorizes a range of agency activities, including building capacity for law enforcement and port security, improving transparency and traceability in the seafood supply chain, promoting the use of technology to combat IUU fishing, and encouraging better information sharing among agencies and other organizations.

Key elements of the Maritime SAFE Act were included in the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2020, which is a significant step in the inclusion of IUU fishing in the security conversations as well as improved coordination and prioritization.

ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED, AND UNREGULATED (IUU) FISHING IS A NATIONAL SECURITY THREAT DUE TO ITS MANY IMPACTS ON INDIVIDUALS, COMMUNITIES, ECONOMIES, INSTITUTIONS, AND GOVERNMENTS. ILLEGAL FISHING IS OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH OTHER ILLICIT ACTIVITIES SUCH AS HUMAN AND DRUG TRAFFICKING, LABOR ABUSE, AND WEAPONS AND MONEY SMUGGLING THAT THREATEN NATIONAL AND REGIONAL SECURITY. EARLIER THIS YEAR, OCEANS CAUCUS MEMBERS SENATORS CHRIS COONS (D-DE) AND ROGER WICKER (R-MS) INTRODUCED THE MARITIME SECURITY AND FISHERIES ENFORCEMENT (SAFE) ACT, WHICH CREATES A WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT APPROACH IN ADDRESSING IUU FISHING.

OCTOBER 22 - WASHINGTON, D.C.

► COMBATING ILLEGAL CHEETAH TRADE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE HORN OF AFRICA

An estimated 300 cheetah cubs are trafficked out of the Horn of Africa every year, bound for the Arabian Peninsula, where they are kept as pets and romanticized as status symbols for the rich. To highlight this growing issue, cheetah conservation and wildlife trafficking experts Dr. Laurie Marker, Executive Director of the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF), and Crawford Allan, Senior Director of TRAFFIC, led a high-level discussion at an ICCF-hosted Congressional Dinner on October 22nd with representatives from Congressional offices, U.S. Government agencies, and ICCF non-governmental and private-sector partner organizations.

According to Dr. Marker, more often than not, trafficked cheetah cubs do not survive the journey across the Gulf. She and her team of experts estimate that nearly three in four cubs die during the trip, and many that survive suffer broken bones and other maltreatment.

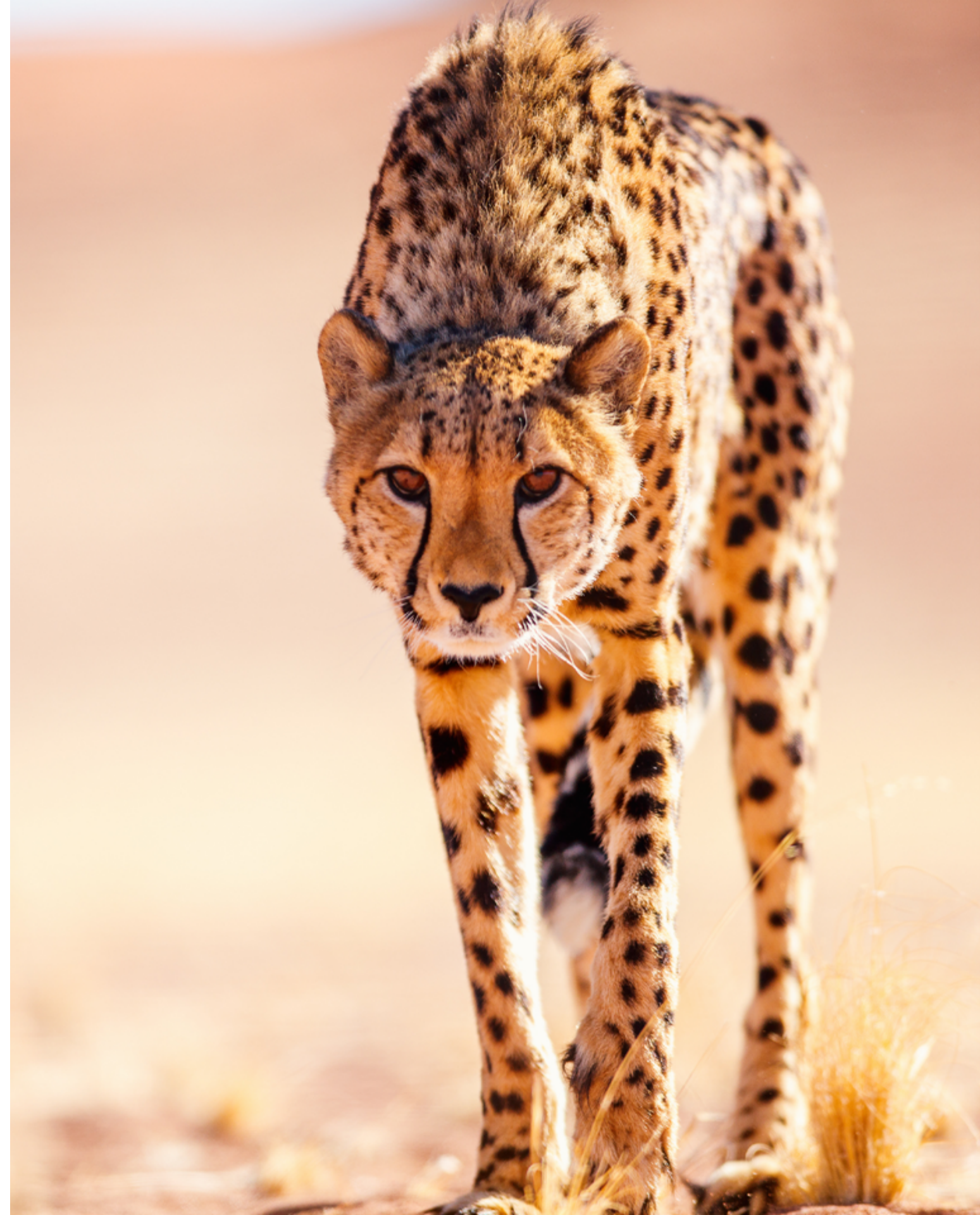
Buying and selling of these cubs often takes place online, on social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. The majority of seller advertisements are seen in Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries. TRAFFIC's Allan discussed how his organization, along with WWF, IFAW, and others, is working with private-sector groups through the Coalition to End Wildlife Trafficking Online to help identify and remove these advertisements.

In Somaliland, the Cheetah Conservation Fund has rescued and is now caring for more than 40 cheetah cubs confiscated from traffickers, and is working to create a permanent refuge for animals that cannot be returned to the wild. Governments in the Horn of Africa are committed to putting an end to cheetah trafficking, but capacity for fully enforcing anti-trafficking laws and prosecuting traffickers is weak.

Ultimately, protecting cheetahs and other wildlife from trafficking is also about protecting people. Wildlife crime threatens the resources, livelihoods, resilience, and security of local communities. As with illegal trade in other wildlife species, trade in live cheetahs occurs in tandem with other organized criminal activities, including trafficking in persons, guns, and narcotics that contributes to conflict and insecurity in the affected countries and communities.



Dr. Laurie Marker, Executive Director of the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF)



OCTOBER 31 - WASHINGTON, D.C.

► HOW COMMUNITY CONSERVANCIES IN KENYA DIRECTLY BENEFIT PEOPLE AND WILDLIFE

Home to nearly a quarter of Kenya's wildlife, the Maasai Mara in southern Kenya is known throughout the world to be one of the premiere destinations for wildlife viewing. However, about 65 percent of this wildlife resides outside of Kenya's government-protected areas. Around the Masaai Mara National Reserve, private landowners have come together to help conserve the wildlife with which they share the land. By doing so, they collectively reap the economic benefits. To highlight this successful model for community conservation, Daniel ole Sophia, CEO of the Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancy Association (MMWCA), joined ICCF in Washington on October 31st to speak with Congressional staff and ICCF business and NGO partners.

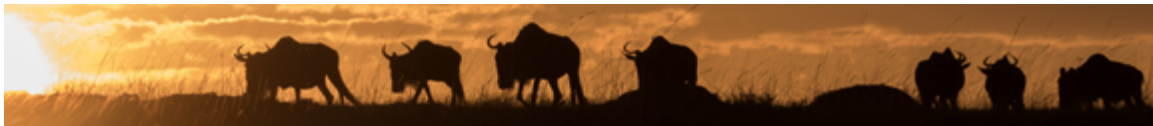
USAID/Kenya-supported community-based conservancies like these in the Maasai Mara are ground-breaking projects of tourism benefiting conservation and community. Conservancy fees provide the Maasai community with a sustainable livelihood and ensure the conservation of the wildlife in this vital corridor of the Maasai Mara

ecosystem, which, as a whole, is home to a quarter of Kenya's wildlife and 40 percent of its remaining mammals.

The conservancy land is comprised of hundreds of parcels owned by individual landowners, pooled together into larger wildlife, tourism, and livestock management entities. By partnering with tour operators to create these conservancies, landowners co-manage the conservancy and receive a monthly lease payment.

There are now 15 conservancies in the greater Maasai Mara, supporting more than 13,500 households and nearly 100,000 people. In 2017, lease fees paid to landowners totaled \$7.5 million, demonstrating that wildlife tourism can provide substantial local economic returns. In addition to these payments, the conservancies employ over 1850 people, mostly residents of the Mara, both as rangers and in tourism camps.

Community conservancies, though still relatively new, have proven successful not only for local economies but also for wildlife. By providing critical habitat for a range of species, local wildlife recovery has occurred in some areas. Some research suggests that lion population density may be higher in conservancy areas than in the Maasai Mara National Reserve itself.



OCTOBER 23 - WASHINGTON, D.C.

► REVITALIZING THE WEST COAST GROUND FISH FISHERY: THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

OCCF hosted the second Sustainable Fisheries Are Good For Business briefing highlighting the West Coast Groundfish fishery, which was transformed from a collapsed "federal disaster" to a well-managed, certified sustainable fishery.

A few of the key players responsible for the rebuilding of the Groundfish fishery were Yelena Nowak, Oregon Trawl Commission; Jana Hennig, Positively Groundfish; Kelly Ames, NOAA Fisheries; and Monica Goldberg, Environmental Defense Fund. They served on the panel, which was moderated by Brian Perkins of the Marine Stewardship Council, as the fishery is now MSC certified.

Panelists highlighted several key aspects to this success story. Kelly acknowledged the importance of the different stakeholders' participation as well as the temporary fishing closures and openings. Monica discussed the role that catch shares played in helping sustainably fish groundfish during the rebuilding period and after. She also mentioned the importance of 100% observer coverage of the fishery to ensure accountability and catch/bycatch levels.

Yelena represented the fishermen and credited them for their dedication to demanding regulations and catch shares that were implemented based on best science and participating in trawl assessments to gather population and bycatch data. The fishermen also invested in gear improvements and replacements, primarily in an effort to drastically reduce the high level of bycatch the fishery was experiencing.

A couple of hurdles the fishery is still trying to overcome are the cost burden to the fishermen due to new standards and regulations and the lack of consumer market for groundfish species. Jana is working on marketing groundfish product to consumers and restaurants. Because the fishery has been closed for so long, groundfish fish product has not been a part of the West Coast diet in recent years. It also had a bad reputation for being unsustainable and harmful to the environment. Jana is working to get the word out that the fishery has reopened and the groundfish fish stocks are in good health and being fished sustainably.

The West Coast Groundfish fishery demonstrates what strong management and stakeholder engagement can do for the rebuilding and continued sustainability of a fishery.



DECEMBER 5 - WASHINGTON, D.C.

► **ADVANCED RECYCLING: SOLUTIONS IN MANAGING THE GLOBAL PLASTIC WASTE PROBLEM**



OCF hosted the second recycling briefing to highlight the realities and needs of our recycling infrastructure.

Plastics are ubiquitous in today's society and come in many different forms. The current recycling infrastructure recycles less than 10% of plastic waste. Advanced recycling, in conjunction with traditional mechanical recycling, can be part of the solution in managing the global plastic waste problem.

The panelists discussed some of the technologies that are available and being developed to purify, decompose, or convert waste plastics into renewed raw materials that can meet the growing demand for recycled products. At the current recovery and recycling rates, large brand names who pledge to utilize recycled material in their packaging are not going to have the supply to reach their goals.

The panel consisted of Chris Faulkner from Agilyx, Jeff Gold with Nexus, and David Lynch with Enerkem, and was moderated by Craig Cookson with the American Chemistry Council. The panelists focused on explaining some of the processes of advanced recycling and the advantages of a system with mechanical and advanced recycling methods, and on debunking

myths about advanced recycling technologies, including discussing the differences between the practice of incineration and advanced recycling.

Panelists also highlighted the immense economic opportunity of expanding recycling infrastructure in terms of both jobs and the market demand for recycled product and discussed the need for continued education for the public and policymakers on the current recycling infrastructure and the actual implications of the different solutions. The panelists emphasized that until we view plastic waste as a resource or feedstock, used plastic will continue to be treated like waste and end up in landfills or the environment.

OCTOBER 31 - WASHINGTON, D.C.

► **REP. GARAMENDI, ICCF PARTNERS DISCUSS U.S. LEADERSHIP AGAINST POACHING**

Representative John Garamendi (D-CA), a member of the International Conservation Caucus and Chair of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness, joined ICCF as part of its Congressional Breakfast Briefing series on October 31st.

Speaking to ICCF government, business, and NGO partners, Congressman Garamendi addressed American defense capabilities to combat poaching and illegal wildlife trafficking. The House Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness has jurisdiction over Department of Defense training

and environment programs, including programs out of the United States Africa Command to conduct anti-poaching trainings.

Outside his Subcommittee work, Congressman Garamendi, a former Deputy Secretary of the Interior under President Bill Clinton, introduced legislation earlier this year, the Wildlife Conservation and Anti-Trafficking Act, a bill that Garamendi says “advances American leadership in tackling the global wildlife trafficking and poaching crisis.”



DECEMBER 10

► LATIN AMERICA: LOOKING AHEAD

CCF hosted a video conference to recognize the achievements of its GEF-funded project on building political will in Latin America for conservation with participation from Congressional Conservation Caucuses of Colombia, Mexico, and Peru and in coordination with UN Environment and POLEA. The participants not only celebrated the project's many successes, but also identified priority agenda items in conservation for the coming year.

Each of the legislators reported great value in the formation and actions of the conservation caucuses, which have helped to energize such legislative actions as the new National Forest Law in Mexico, the Law for Conservation Management of the Andean highlands of Colombia, and the Single Use Plastics Law in Peru. Colombian legislators identified illegal gold mining, sustainable ecotourism, sustainable

water usage, and marine conservation as caucus priorities moving forward. Mexican legislators recognized a need for further tax restructuring and improvements to the Forest Law to further reduce illegal logging and maintain the role of community-owned lands in conservation; the Mexican representatives were also united in calling for more action on marine issues, unveiling a plan for a new national law to regulate fishing in the coming year. The Peruvian delegation acknowledged the difficulties of the current political situation, but supported continued efforts to promote a "circular economy" for recycling and reduced waste and for better management of marine resources in Peru. The virtual convening of these legislators to discuss their priorities for conservation communicated the strength of the caucus model and its unique role in promoting conservation globally.

OCTOBER 15 - BOGOTÁ, D.C.

► COLOMBIA: ON THE IMPORTANCE OF SAN SILVESTRE

The Colombian Conservation Caucus highlighted the importance of Colombia's San Silvestre Lake wetlands in a round-table on October 15th under the leadership of HR **Ciro Fernández** and **Maria Claudia Garcia**,

Vice Minister of Environmental Policy and Standardization.

The ecologically significant site has been threatened by a variety of human activities, and the round-table sought collective solutions to conserve the lake's biodiversity and ecosystem services.



The round-table resulted in three main objectives for the wetlands conservation: to maintain the remnants of natural forest and grassland ecosystems in surrounding areas; to support the recovery of the forests that provide habitats for significant species and regulate water resources in the system; and to provide and recover natural and

semi-natural spaces for the use and sustainable management of biodiversity by the local fishing and subsistence communities, as well as by the private sector, in a way that contributes to social, economic, and environmentally sustainable development in local municipalities.



OCTOBER 9 - MEXICO CITY

► MEXICO: CONSERVATION PARLIAMENTARY GROUP MEETS WITH SPECIALISTS TO STRENGTHEN PROTECTED AREAS

A legislative workshop was held for the purpose of improving management of national parks and protected areas. Organized by ICCF Mexico and POLEA, the workshop was led by Roberto Rubio, Chair of the Environment Committee of the Camara, and attended by a dozen congressional members, most of whom are also members of the Mexican Conservation Parliamentary Group.

The workshop promoted a lively discussion of issues such as fire damage in national parks, the need for more efficient coordination among the responsible agencies, and current funding. While Mexico has 182 parks and protected areas totaling more than 90 million hectares, the budget for their

management is less than 3 percent of federal funds. At the end of the workshop, Chairman Rubio committed to follow up on the discussed issues, especially regarding environmental enforcement as a key mission for the federal police.

DECEMBER 12 - GABORONE

► AFRICA: REAUTHORIZING THE BOTSWANA CONSERVATION PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS



CCF met with Hon. Phandu Skelemani, Speaker of the National Assembly of Botswana, to discuss the reauthorization of the Botswana Conservation Parliamentary Caucus (BOCOPAC) in the newly elected parliament. Accompanying the Speaker were Members of the Parliamentary Committee on Wildlife, Tourism, Natural Resources & Climate Change Hon. Molebatsi Molebatsi, Hon. Kgoberego Nkawana, and Hon. Sam Brooks; Ms. Barbara Dithapo, the Clerk of the National Assembly; and representatives of the Department of National Parks & Wildlife.

In this meeting, ICCF presented to the Honorable Speaker the tangible benefits that reestablishing

a caucus within Parliament will have. Since 2006, ICCF has amassed a wealth of knowledge and has served in an advisory capacity to various caucuses and will continue to bring lessons learned from other successes to BOCOPAC. Hon. Molebatsi Molebatsi welcomed the support offered by ICCF and expressed the need for capacity building among parliamentarians in order to strengthen not only the Committee, but also other parliamentarians interested in sustainable natural resource management.

Priorities highlighted during the meeting included human-wildlife conflict, climate change, and the need for improved community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) strategies. Hon. Kgoberego Nkawana expressed that ecosystems must be restored in the KAZA region in order to allow the natural movement of animals and enable communities to benefit. Recognizing that these challenges faced in Botswana are faced across the KAZA region, all officials present were eager to receive ICCF's support in engaging with other caucuses in the region in order to explore best practices and solutions that will benefit all.



INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION CORPS



OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

► COLOMBIA

The International Conservation Corps traveled to four of Colombia's National Parks -- Chingaza, Gorgona, Tayrona, and Vipis -- in order to assess their ecotourism potential.

The mission supported an initiative by Colombian President Ivan Duque to develop seven of the nation's National Parks into sustainable global attractions that can support tourism and contribute to local economic development while preserving natural and cultural resources, inspired by Yosemite National Park. The results included an agreement among the parties to advocate for a recreation policy in the four parks.

In November 2019, the International Conservation Corps conducted a field mission to Providencia,

Colombia in order to support interpretive media and trail design to enhance the visitor experience in Old Providence McBean Lagoon National Park. The mission was led by Sam Vaughn, Diana Chalfant, Steve Griwold, and Ernet Milan, with representatives from National Parks of Colombia (PNN), including the Park's Superintendent and Ecotourism Professional. Through four different sessions, the participants discussed conceptual elements for the design of the media and the exhibits to be installed in the attractive Crab Cay and Estero del Manglar, including information, orientation, interpretation, and experience design activities, as well as trail improvement methods to promote sustainable tourism in the Park.



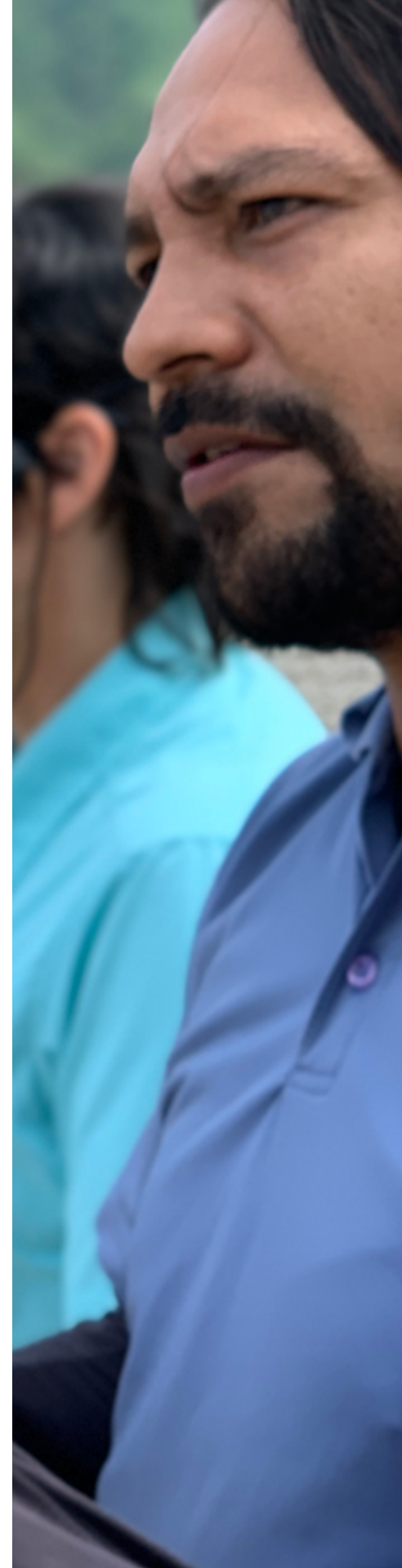
NOVEMBER

► PERU



The International Conservation Corps conducted two missions in Peru, to Tambopata and Paracas National Reserves, to work with Peru's National Service of Natural Protected Areas (SERNANP) on interpretation, infrastructure, and marketing for the protected areas.

The interpretation team included Sam Vaughn, Diane Chalfant, and Ellis Richard, and the site planning and infrastructure team included Russell Moore, Maitte van Arsdell, and Terrence Moore. In Tambopata, the teams were joined by SERNANP tourism specialist Jhon Rueda, as well as sustainable product specialists Doug Morris and Cathy Chopik. The missions were instrumental in bringing stakeholders together, including members of park staff, community businesses, and government representatives, to identify management needs of the protected areas. The results included a list of potential projects to improve the infrastructure, interpretation, and ecotourism potential in each of the two parks.



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am pleased to share that the year closes with another remarkable achievement in Angola, building upon our recent successes in the region. In close collaboration with the national government and our partner, African Parks, The ICCF Group saw through the formation of a historic partnership to manage the iconic park Iona, the largest protected area in the country to date. Peter Fearnhead, CEO of African Parks, said it best: We are looking at the "dawn of a new era for the nation, a giant and visionary step for conservation in Angola."

Hand in hand with this milestone for conservation internationally came our headquarters' efforts to highlight key issues faced by conservationists in some of the most vulnerable regions in Africa.

Our partners, leaders from the nonprofit sphere and the private sector such as IFAW and eBay, introduced to Caucus co-chairs, members, and their respective staff a multi-sector approach to effectively disrupt wildlife trade online. We also worked with our long-time partner, Cheetah Conservation Fund, to educate Members on the illegal cheetah trade in the Middle East and the Horn of Africa, and how the practice continues to contribute to conflict and insecurity worldwide.

The traction these discussions have gained on Capitol Hill, and at the heart of the caucuses

we support, can be of little surprise: They reverberate the large bipartisan support for conservation that Americans witnessed this quarter in U.S. politics, with the passing of H.R. 1865 especially, an important piece of legislation that, as part of a spending package for FY2020, increased international conservation funding to unprecedented levels. Coupled with impressive advances in oceans conservation, from the inclusion of the Maritime Safe Act in the National Defense Authorization Act, FY 2020, to the Oceans Caucus' leadership on central issues such as streamlining fisheries disaster relief and advanced recycling solutions, the Fall of 2019 was amongst the most successful quarters the U.S. has seen in terms of its contribution to international conservation.

As we head in 2020, which we anticipate to be another important year for our shared cause, I wish to express our appreciation to Members of our Conservation Council and our many other supporters.

Best regards,



John B. Gantt

BECOME AN ICCF PARTNER

For partnership opportunities, please contact Therese Tepe - ttepe@iccfoundation.us - +1 (202) 471-4222

