



INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

INSIDE

INDONESIA
LAUNCHES
OCEANS
CAUCUS

4



GEF
HIGHLIGHTS
COVID-19
RESPONSE

8



COLOMBIA
HOUSE SPEAKER
TALKS
CONSERVATION

12



LETTER
FROM
THE
PRESIDENT

20



CAUCUS-SPONSORED LEGISLATION

► U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PASSES SAVE OUR SEAS 2.0 ACT

Save Our Seas 2.0, S. 1982, sponsored by Oceans Caucus Co-Chairs Senators Dan Sullivan (R-AK) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) and Representatives Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) and Don Young (R-AK), passed the House on October 1st.



SOS 2.0 PASSED THE SENATE UNANIMOUSLY EARLIER THIS YEAR, DEMONSTRATING THE BIPARTISANSHIP AROUND THIS ISSUE AND THIS BILL.

SOS 2.0 builds on the success of the Save Our Seas Act, introduced by Senators Sullivan and Whitehouse, and signed into law by President Trump in October 2018.

“Save Our Seas 2.0 is the most comprehensive marine debris legislation ever to pass the U.S. Senate,” said Senator Sullivan. “Our legislation aims to tackle this global challenge on three fronts – improving America’s ability to respond to marine debris events and clean up waste, working toward international cooperation and agreements with nations responsible for the majority of trash entering the oceans, and exploring new, innovative ways to manage and even reuse plastic waste.”

“The Save Our Seas 2.0 Act takes a big step in the right direction toward solving our global marine debris crisis,” said Senator Whitehouse. “The Senate has a bipartisan tradition of working together to protect our oceans, and I hope that will

"ALASKA IS HOME TO MORE COASTLINE THAN ANY OTHER STATE IN THE UNION, AND HEALTHY OCEANS ARE ESSENTIAL TO ALASKAS ECONOMY AND WAY OF LIFE."

said Congressman Don Young. “Serving as House Oceans Caucus Co-Chair has given me the opportunity to stand up and fight for Alaska’s waters, and I am very proud of what we were able to accomplish today. Save Our Seas 2.0 builds on our successes combating marine debris through bolstering plastics research and funding needed for infrastructure improvements.

continue as this bill moves to the full Senate with strong votes in three committees.”

We need to fundamentally change our reliance on plastics,” said Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici, who spoke in support of the legislation on the House floor. “A problem this pervasive - a global problem of this magnitude - cannot be solved with a single bill. We cannot limit our action to removing existing plastic from the ocean, and we also cannot recycle our way out of plastic waste that ends up on our shores. We need comprehensive action. Save Our Seas 2.0 is a meaningful bill that builds on our foundation of bipartisan, bicameral efforts to strengthen the NOAA Marine Debris Program. We have significant work ahead of us to prevent marine debris, and I look forward to continuing to work with my House Oceans Caucus Co-Chair, Don Young, and our Senate Oceans Caucus colleagues to protect the health of our ocean.”

Countless Alaskan families earn a living on the water; clean oceans are not just an environmental issue, but an economic one as well. I am sincerely grateful to my friend and Oceans Caucus Co-Chair, Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici for fighting alongside me on behalf of marine life. Our Senator Dan Sullivan has been a strong leader on this issue, and I am confident that he will help shepherd

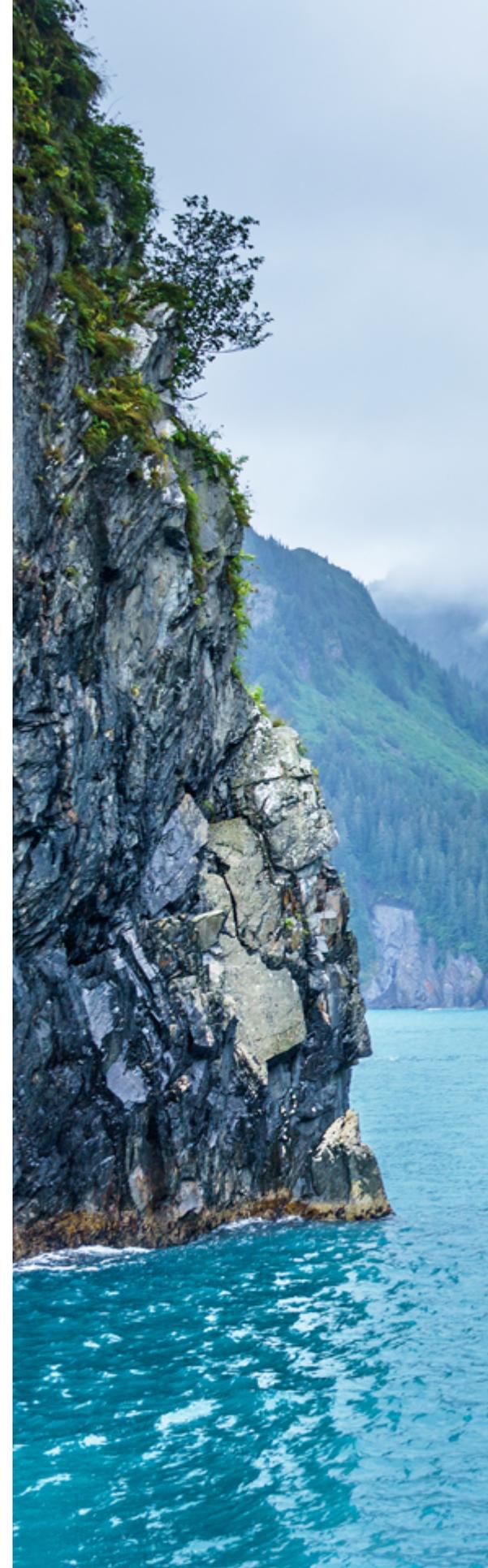
this bill through the Senate so that we can send it to the President to be signed into law. I will continue fighting to ensure that our marine ecosystems stay healthy and productive for future generations to experience.”

SOS 2.0 IS COMPRISED OF THREE MAIN PIECES

1. STRENGTHENING THE UNITED STATES’ DOMESTIC MARINE DEBRIS RESPONSE CAPABILITY WITH A MARINE DEBRIS FOUNDATION, A GENIUS PRIZE FOR INNOVATION, AND NEW RESEARCH TO TACKLE THE ISSUE

2. ENHANCING GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT TO COMBAT MARINE DEBRIS, INCLUDING FORMALIZING U.S. POLICY ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, ENHANCING FEDERAL AGENCY OUTREACH TO OTHER COUNTRIES, AND EXPLORING THE POTENTIAL FOR A NEW INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON THE CHALLENGE.

3. IMPROVING DOMESTIC INFRASTRUCTURE TO PREVENT MARINE DEBRIS THROUGH NEW GRANTS FOR AND STUDIES OF WASTE MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION.





CAUCUS-BUILDING

► **INDONESIAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (DPR) LAUNCHES NEW OCEANS CAUCUS (KAUKUS KELAUTAN)**

On July 16th, 2020, the Indonesian House of Representatives (DPR) launched a new Oceans Caucus (Kaukus Kelautan) to further the development of Indonesia’s sustainable maritime economy.

The Oceans Caucus will facilitate achieving legislative solutions for Indonesia’s good natural resource governance, and allow for efficient

discussions across political parties and factions and across formal parliamentary commissions. Demonstrating leadership in founding this new Oceans Caucus and serving as its Co-Chairs are Hon. Sudin who serves as Chairman of Commission IV, Hon. Bobby Rizaldi who serves on Commission I and the Budget Committee, Hon. Budisatrio Djiwandono who serves as

Image (above): Landscape view from the top of Padar Island in Komodo Islands, Flores, Indonesia

Vice-Chairman of Commission IV, and Hon. Daniel Johan who serves as Vice-Chairman of Commission IV. The founding membership includes twenty-six policymakers from across geographic

constituencies, nine political parties, and three commissions who will work toward furthering Indonesia’s sustainable fisheries management and maritime economic development and security.

H.E. EDHY PRABOWO, MINISTER OF MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES, OUTLINED THE PILLARS OF INDONESIA'S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, AND REMARKED ON HOW THIS INITIATIVE WILL SUPPORT ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

As communication between stakeholders is critical to effective governance discussions, the Minister congratulated the leadership of the Oceans Caucus on this new cooperative initiative, and looks

forward to how it can further strengthen Indonesia’s marine and fisheries sector.





Image (above): Co-Chairs and Members of the new Oceans Caucus (Kaucus Kelautan)

Hon. Dr. Azis Syamsuddin, Deputy Speaker for Politics and Security of the House of Representatives, addressed the membership of the Oceans Caucus and stressed the importance of legislators in achieving innovative breakthroughs to transform Indonesia's maritime governance, and

that this Oceans Caucus may lead toward the goal of Indonesia as a world center and maritime axis, and toward achieving SDGs.

Hon. Sudin, Chairman of Commission IV in the House of Representatives, emphasized that,

"IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE INDONESIA'S NEEDS FOR AFFORDABLE QUALITY FOOD SUPPLIES, THE FISHERIES, AQUACULTURE, AND AGRICULTURE SECTORS MUST CONTINUE TO BE DEVELOPED,"

and that in order to achieve this, there must be consistent regulatory guidance and coordination between government, parliament, the private sector, and other stakeholders to attract additional financing and investment. A priority will also be to strengthen the supervision of maritime resources to prevent IUU fishing, with the strengthening of Indonesia's Ministry of Maritime Affairs and

other government, military, law enforcement, and regulatory agencies. Hon. Chairman Sudin looks forward to cooperating with ICCF and its partners towards producing solutions that will overcome challenges in the maritime and fisheries sector through the strategic agenda of the Oceans Caucus.

Hon. Bobby Rizaldi, serving on Commission I and the Budget Committee, served as moderator of the forum and welcomed the development of the Oceans Caucus, and how it can amplify the oversight functions, legislative duties, and budgeting functions of the House of Representatives by facilitating synergies between commissions, and ultimately serve to strengthen Indonesia's maritime security, and facilitate international exchanges and productive dialogues with counterpart caucuses in other countries.

Hon. Budisatrio Djiwandono, Vice Chairman of Commission IV, remarked that the Oceans Caucus can serve as a platform to discuss issues

including but not limited to Indonesia's maritime economy, fisheries management, maritime security, aquaculture, infrastructure, offshore and coastal extractive industries, waste management, and Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ). Hon. Budisatrio Djiwandono believes that by collaborating across commissions in pursuit of better policies that will be beneficial to all Indonesians, it will be possible to take advantage of lessons learned by international counterparts that can be adapted to the Indonesian context, and ultimately that the Oceans Caucus will facilitate not only sound legislation but the good implementation of policies.

THE DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE OCEANS CAUCUS RESOLVED TO UNDERTAKE A VARIETY OF EXCHANGES AND DIALOGUES TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN INDONESIA'S MARITIME GOVERNANCE, AND LOOK FORWARD TO SERVING INDONESIAN COMMUNITIES AND FOSTERING SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

Image (below): ASAI TEAM TO ADD



► GEF HIGHLIGHTS COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE IN U.S. CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING

On August 5th, in partnership with the Global Environment Facility (GEF), ICCF hosted a U.S. Congressional Briefing to discuss GEF's COVID-19 Pandemic Task Force, origins and drivers of COVID-19 and other emerging zoonoses, and ways in which GEF programs are responding to the pandemic. Following presentations, the panelists and members of the GEF Task Force fielded questions from Congressional participants, including Representative Betty McCollum (D-MN), Co-Chair of the International Conservation Caucus, and Representatives John Rutherford (R-FL) and Buddy Carter (R-GA).

ABOUT THE GEF

Created in 1991 to provide grants to developing countries for projects and programs that address biodiversity loss, climate change mitigation and adaptation, degradation of international waters, land and forests, among others, the GEF is a partnership of 183 countries working together with institutions, civil society organizations, and the private sector to help tackle our planet's most pressing environmental challenges. It is an independently operating financial organization and a designated financial mechanism for a number of multilateral environmental agreements, including the Convention on Biological Diversity and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification. Since

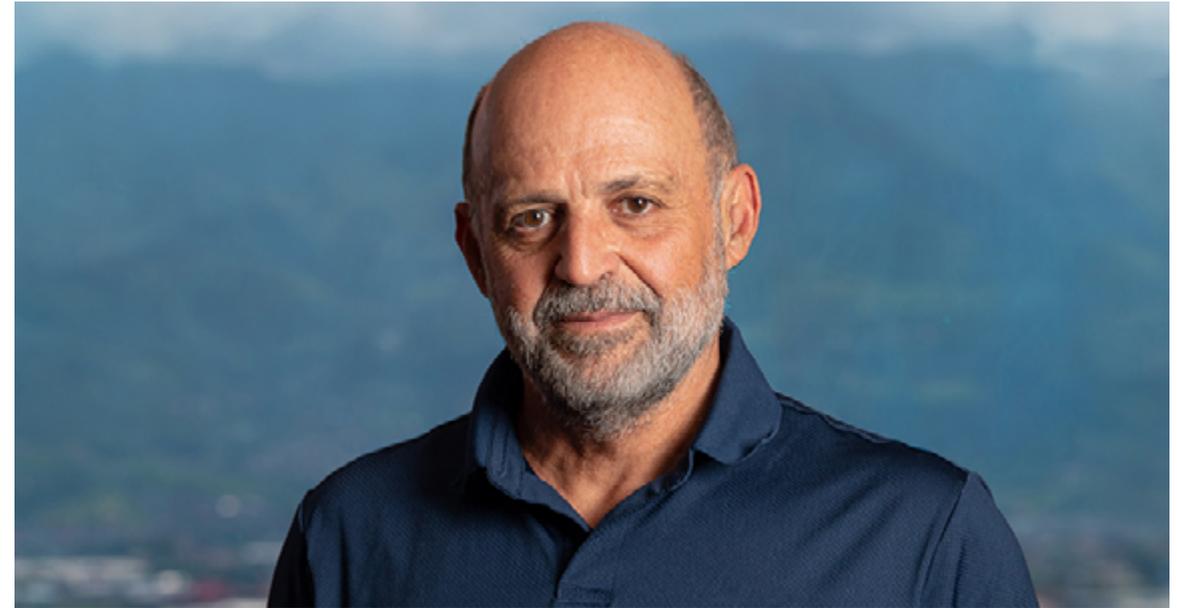
its establishment, the GEF has funded over 4,500 projects in 170 countries, and many thousands more through the GEF Small Grants Program, providing \$20.5 billion in grants that leveraged \$112 billion in co-financing.

Speaking were expert panelists including Dr. Kent Redford, Principal at Archipelago Consulting; Dr. Peter Daszak, President of EcoHealth Alliance; Dr. Sarah Olson, Associate Director of Epidemiology at the Wildlife Conservation Society; and Mark Zimsky, Senior Biodiversity Specialist at the Global Environment Facility.

THE GEF ACTION PLAN

Dr. Kent Redford introduced the GEF Task Force and outlined the GEF's action plan in response to the pandemic. This consists of filling immediate gaps in the GEF's efforts to deal with wildlife trade

and consumption challenges and considering if and how a crowd-sourcing mechanism could be created for innovative solutions to address the root causes of virus outbreaks due to the unregulated



Images: Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, CEO and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility (above); House Representative and International Conservation Caucus Co-Chair Betty McCollum (D-MN) (below)

consumption of wild animals. It also includes examining how the crisis is affecting strategic platforms of engagement on themes like food security, cities, mining and mercury, and circular economy projects and examining existing and on-going research into the root causes of the present pandemic. The Task Force, as a platform to quickly

develop and implement these actions, consists of representatives from science, policy, private and public sectors, including ICCF, EcoHealth Alliance, Global Wildlife Conservation, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Bank, World Wildlife Fund, UN Environment, and UNDP.

"IT IS CLEAR THAT OUR HUMAN BEHAVIOR AND OUR INTERACTIONS WITH ENVIRONMENT AND THE WILDLIFE PLAY A LEADING ROLE IN THE EMERGENCE AND THEN THE PREVALENCE OF THESE PANDEMICS, INCLUDING THE DISRUPTIONS OF THE FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS," SAID CONGRESSWOMAN MCCOLLUM.



THE NEED FOR A PREVENTATIVE STRATEGY

Speaking on the origins and drivers of COVID-19 and other emerging zoonoses, Dr. Peter Daszak emphasized the need for a strong prevention strategy, which includes working through the GEF to build sustainable development and reduce deforestation and land use change in countries within emerging disease hotspots.

“The exponential rise in underlying environmental factors is driving an exponential rise in pandemics,” Dr. Daszak said, “So, we cannot continue business as usual, and ‘business as usual’ right now is to wait for pandemics to emerge and rapidly develop drugs and vaccines.”

EcoHealth Alliance estimates that over 1.7 million unknown viruses exist in mammals and birds around the world that could potentially infect humans. To target the origins of these viruses and the drivers that cause them, Daszak proposes a global preventative strategy -supporting international collaboration, working with international law enforcement targeting wildlife crime, and working through the GEF and international convention organizations. He estimates that the return-on-investment for large projects that reduce pandemic risk by just 5% will be 45:1, not to mention the potential to save millions of lives by stopping diseases before they spread.

ADDRESSING DRIVERS OF ZOOONOTIC DISEASE

LAND USE CHANGE AND DEFORESTATION



“Human activities,” said Dr. Sarah Olson of the Wildlife Conservation Society, “have broken down natural zoonotic disease barriers and exposed the world to greater infectious disease risk.” Repairing these barriers, she said, will translate into numerous human health benefits. To illustrate,

Dr. Olson referenced data collected across 35 developing countries which indicated that healthy forests reduce downstream sanitation risks and help lower urban water treatment costs. On the other hand, fragmented forests due to changes in land use increase the rate of contact between humans and wildlife, thereby exposing humans more frequently to zoonotic diseases.

Preventing deforestation, Dr. Olson said, is affordable, whether by providing direct payments to counter deforestation or simply removing existing subsidies for tree clearing. By doing so and keeping more forests intact, it could not only help prevent zoonotic disease emergence but would also yield significant carbon sequestration benefits. Identifying the benefits to far outweigh

the costs, Dr. Olson related figures needed to implement policy changes with the cost of the current pandemic: research estimates policy

changes would cost between \$1.5 billion and \$9.6 billion annually, whereas the economic harm of the ongoing pandemic could reach the tens of trillions.

COMMERCIAL WILDLIFE TRADE AND CONSUMPTION

Wildlife markets in urban and peri-urban areas, Dr. Olson said, are “true cauldrons of contagion.” Not only do they increase contact between humans and wildlife, but wildlife are also commingled among species with which they would not naturally interact, enabling more genetic mixing and creating more dangerous pathogens. In transit to and in markets, wildlife are often stored in cramped spaces and may sustain injuries, both contributing to weakened immune systems in the animals and therefore increasing the likelihood of disease spread. These factors, present in urban markets, stand in stark contrast to local consumption of wildlife for subsistence purposes. It is for this reason that many have advocated for closure of high-risk wildlife markets around the world and



for, as Dr. Daszak noted, working strategically with groups like the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Interpol focused on improving law enforcement capacity to combat illegal wildlife trade.

ADAPTING GEF SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought to light the need for expanded conservation efforts aimed at combating harmful wildlife trade and preventing the destruction of wildlife habitats. Much needed existing projects have also had to adapt given the costly impact of the current crisis. Speaking about the GEF’s ongoing work in the Amazon region, the Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program (ASL), Mark Zimsky detailed the project’s response to COVID-19. As Zimsky noted, the Amazon region is significant both from a biodiversity standpoint and as a massive carbon sink. Between two phases, the GEF is investing over \$200 million and is projected to leverage over \$1.1 billion in co-financing for the program, which aims to strengthen biodiversity conservation, reduce deforestation, improve living

conditions of local communities, and maintain the integrity of the local, regional, and global ecosystem services that the region provides.

In response to COVID-19, the program is taking immediate and planned measures to ensure the implementation of sustainability policies and inclusion of environmental considerations in development financing. Recognizing the factors driving zoonoses globally, the ASL program is also working proactively to prevent future crises with planned analysis of zoonotic risks due to habitat fragmentation and biodiversity loss in the Amazon region.



CO-CHAIR SPOTLIGHT

► INTERVIEW WITH THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE HR GERMÁN BLANCO ALVAREZ

Germán Blanco is a lawyer and a specialist in public administration, political culture, human rights, and international humanitarian law. He also obtained a Master's degree in Government. During his professional career he has served as a university teacher, Social Security Manager of Antioquia, and Director of Edatel Antioquia, and he is a Professional Member of the Reserve of the National Army of the Republic of Colombia.

His political career has stood out for promoting social affairs, the pro-life struggle, the solidarity economy, the environment, and sports activities. Since 2010 he has been a Representative to the House, where before being Speaker, he held the First Vice Presidency and was part of the Economic Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives.

Likewise, he stands out in his legislative work for being the Founding Co-President of the Conservation and Oceans Caucuses of the Colombian Congress, and he is the delegate of the Colombian Parliament in ParlAmericas. Currently, Germán presides over the Board of Directors of the House of Representatives, elected unanimously by his colleagues on July 20, for the period 2020-2021.

We spoke with Speaker Blanco about his perspective on development and conservation. This is what he told us.



WHAT INSPIRES AND EXCITES YOU TO LEAD IN CONSERVATION AND OCEAN ISSUES IN COLOMBIA?

HRGB: Environmental issues have always been on my political agenda. The municipalities of Antioquia that have been the cradle of my career are especially protective of environmental causes, in a territory full of wealth and ecosystem services that are worthy of sustainable use, but even more of conservation and preservation for future generations. The Conservation Caucus has been a great opportunity to learn in detail and exchange international experiences on how other parliaments advance in different issues, among which agriculture, water resources, management of seas and coasts, and the responsible use of natural resources, national parks and protected areas stand out. This is undoubtedly the main motivation to continue leading the Caucuses in Colombia and in the region.

WHAT ARE THE GREATEST CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN ADDRESSING CONSERVATION ISSUES IN COLOMBIA?

HRGB: Among the challenges, I believe that we must work on an environmental culture in Colombia. From Congress we have worked on different issues such as the use of plastics, regulations for sustainable tourism, and the fight against illegal mining; but we must work on a collective awareness that appropriates natural resources as invaluable and values all the wealth of each territory. This would ensure that the same communities and interest groups work for a more inclusive sustainable development in the regions.



► EASTERN CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS ATTEND SUMMIT TO DISCUSS THE PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS MODEL

The virtual Ministerial Summit on Parliamentary Conservation Caucuses hosted by the ICCF Group convened Environment Ministers and their staff from Antigua & Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, and Saint Lucia with the political opposition and regional stakeholders to discuss the form and function of parliamentary caucuses in the Eastern Caribbean context.

Held on September 23rd, 2020 the summit opened with a keynote address by recently elected Global Environment Facility (GEF) CEO, Carlos Manuel Rodriguez. Honourable Rodriguez's endorsement of the conservation caucus model was supported by testimony and presentations by Honourable Barry Gardiner, Co-Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for International Conservation in the United Kingdom (APPG-IC UK) and Honourable Francis Chachu Ganya, Co-Chair of the Parliamentary Conservation Caucus of Kenya (PCC-K).

The ensuing discussion amongst Honourable Minister Alvin Dabreo, Minister for Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries, Forestry, and the Environment, Commonwealth of Grenada, Honourable Minister Cozier Frederick, Minister for Environment, Rural Modernization, and Kalinago Upliftment in the Commonwealth of Dominica, and Honourable Tobias Clement, Leader of the Opposition in the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Grenada highlighted the various environmental priorities and initiatives of each country, and the potential role that a parliamentary caucus could play in supporting these agendas. The diverse range of portfolios for each Minister revealed the intersectional nature of environmental conservation with other critical issues, including health policy, educational enhancement, and indigenous community engagement, with the broader context of COVID-19 remaining a focal point of the discussion. The Summit concluded with broad support for the caucus model implementation in each country, and expression of mutual anticipation for future collaboration.

On the other hand, speaking of opportunities, Colombia is a country rich in biodiversity. We must learn to value, manage and use our natural heritage assertively. As legislators, we have to continue the work of making decisions with more and better information to contribute to a more sustainable development, in responsible tourism as the axis of economic reactivation, environmentally friendly activities, alternative means of transport, renewable energies, best practices in each of the sectors both productive and social, and value our oceans as a strategic asset of the country, the continent and the world.

WHY IS LEGISLATIVE ACTION ON CONSERVATION ISSUES AND ENSURING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE AMAZON IMPORTANT AND IMPACTFUL?

HRGB: The Amazon is one of our greatest riches. As Colombians we have to measure this, and look at the Amazon with priority and diligence. The Amazon provides not only to our country but to our region innumerable ecosystemic services, which make our inhabitants have, among others, clean air and water in their homes. However, deforestation is one of the main threats to our Amazon. The legislature has to set its sights on this scourge, as well as the Congress has been working on different projects led by various parties in the framework of fighting against deforestation, the promotion of reforestation, the promotion of ventures for the supply of non-timber products, among others; but also, to exercise political control over our country's commitments in the fight for the preservation of the Amazon, among which the commitments to reduce land degradation and the planting of native trees stand out.

In addition, through the conservation work network that the Caucuses have established at the regional and global level, looking for alternatives that allow joining efforts to contribute to the management and sustainable use of the ecosystem resources of the Amazon in partnership with the communities.

WHAT ABOUT OTHER REGIONS?

HRGB: The whole country has an environmental wealth that cannot be ignored, the Caribbean region, the Pacific, the Andean region, each with its own particular natural heritage. In my region, Antioquia, for example, the environment has special importance in the economic activities that drive development. The management of forests in the Department, the promotion of sustainable cities and territories, the responsible use of resources and the management of responsible tourism, are undoubtedly part of the agenda.

DO YOU THINK FURTHER LEGISLATIVE ACTION ON CONSERVATION IS LIKELY IN 2021 ON THOSE TOPICS?

Without a doubt, Colombia must work from different areas in the fight for development and conservation. Congress has several legislative initiatives underway on issues of animal protection, use of plastics, deforestation, management and care of the oceans, among others of parliamentary initiative. But also, international agreements such as Green Growth, or the agreements for the protection of the seas and coasts waiting for ratification in the upcoming months.



► ICCF DISCUSSION WITH SENATOR CHRIS VAN HOLLEN (D-MD)

On July 23rd, Senator Chris Van Hollen joined ICCF for a virtual roundtable discussion on conservation in Africa and what governments, the private sector, and the NGO community can do in light of COVID-19.

The high-level discussion was joined by leaders of ICCF Conservation Council partner organizations and the Ambassadors of several African countries, who emphasized the economic, public health, and environmental challenges facing the continent as a consequence of the pandemic.

Senator Van Hollen serves on the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee of the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies and the Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,



and Related Programs. He is also a member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife. Senator Van Hollen has been a vocal supporter of USAID-supported community conservancies in Kenya, having recently visited communities in the Maasai Mara, and of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service programs in Central Africa.

► BOTSWANA'S CONSERVATION-RELATED LEGAL INSTRUMENTS

On September 9th, 2020, the Botswana Conservation Parliamentary Caucus (BOCOPAC), with support from the ICCF Group, hosted a virtual session with Members of Parliament to examine the existing legal instruments related to conservation and whether they are adequate to tackle ongoing

challenges, and to discuss the specific areas that need capacity building.

The parliamentary session was led by the two caucus co-chairs, Honourable Kgoberego Nkawana and Honourable Sam Brooks, with Professor Patricia Kefilwe Mogomotsi of the Okavango

Research Institute at the University of Botswana joining them as a panelist. Participants included the Ambassador of Botswana to the U.S., Mr.

Onkokame Kitso Mokaila, Members of Parliament, and stakeholders.

► FOREST ECOSYSTEMS AND THE CHALLENGES POSED BY COVID-19

The Conservation Caucuses of Colombia and Mexico, with the support of ICCF and the Political and Environmental Legislation Organization (POLEA), held the First Binational Session on Sustainable Management of Natural Resources, addressing forestry challenges of the two countries in the face of COVID-19.

Speakers highlighted the importance of legislative work to strengthen the sustainable management

of forest ecosystems and take advantage of their potential to mitigate climate change and generate well-being for millions of people. They also discussed the need to implement a green recovery as part of the post-2020 framework for biological diversity, which is expected to adopt goals that allow humanity to coexist in harmony with nature by 2050.

► SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE AMAZON

The Speaker of the House, the Amazon Bancada of the Congress, and the management of the Amazon Administrative and Planning Region (RAP Amazonía), with the support of ICCF Colombia, carried out a multi-sectoral roundtable to promote territorial planning, the improvement of administrative capacities, and economic recovery of the Colombian Amazon region.

Four panels discussed the national, regional, legislative, and international perspectives on the

challenges and progress in the development of the region made up of the departments of Amazonas, Caquetá, Guainía, Guaviare, Putumayo, Vaupés, and Vichada.

The roundtable involved 27 panelists, including Parliamentarians, Ministers and Vice Ministers, representatives of the National Government, civil



society entities, academia, the business sector, international representatives (United States, European Union, United Kingdom, Norway, and

GLOBAL INITIATIVE

► GLOBAL INITIATIVE TO END WILDLIFE CRIME PROPOSES CHANGES FOR CITES, UNTOC

As part of its global effort to curb illegal wildlife trade and prevent the emergence of wildlife-borne disease in humans, the ICCF Group has joined the Steering Group of the Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime (EWC). Chaired by former Secretary-General of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), John Scanlon, EWC has since proposed two major changes to the international legal framework around wildlife trade: an amendment to CITES to include public health criteria and a fourth protocol under the UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) on wildlife crime.

In a briefing paper released on September 7th, EWC proposes specific amendments to CITES to include public health and animal health criteria in the Convention's decision-making processes. According to the EWC paper, to prevent the next wildlife-related pandemic, we must expand efforts to end illegal wildlife trade, and where wildlife trade threatens human and animal health, stop such trade, close wildlife markets, and stem consumption.

"No organization on its own can address the multiple threats that could lead to the emergence of new wildlife-related diseases, or the spread of older diseases, with potential catastrophic consequences

Germany), and a virtual audience of 150 people.

for economies, people and wildlife," said EWC chair, John E. Scanlon, AO. "We must take a collaborative global approach to wildlife trade, one that brings together animal, human and environmental health – a "One Health" approach – and embed it into the international legal framework if we want to give ourselves the best chance of averting future wildlife-related pandemics."

CITES currently regulates international trade in live wildlife and wildlife products to ensure that trade is legal and sustainable. EWC proposes new legally binding provisions, including a new Appendix, or list of species, to regulate wildlife trade that poses a threat to public health or animal health. These provisions will only allow trade after certain findings are made, including that the proposed trade is reviewed by public and animal health authorities and is found to not pose a significant risk to human or animal health. Proposed trade that does not meet these requirements will be prohibited.

On October 14th, EWC, ahead of a side event at the Conference of Parties (COP) of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, announced a proposed "Protocol against the Illegal Trafficking in Specimens of Wild Fauna and Flora."

"The current international legal framework

for addressing wildlife crime is inadequate and it leaves us vulnerable to future wildlife-related pandemics," said Scanlon. "We need transformative changes to ensure our international legal framework for addressing wildlife crime is fit for purpose in a post COVID-19 world and today we are releasing details on how we can scale up our collective efforts to end wildlife crime."

The proposed "Protocol against the Illicit Trafficking in Specimens of Wild Fauna and Flora" would criminalize the intentional illicit trafficking of specimens of wild fauna and flora. If a Protocol is adopted, this would be the fourth Protocol to UNTOC, the others being on human trafficking, migrant smuggling, and illicit manufacture and trafficking in firearms.

MEXICO ROUNDTABLE

► TOWARDS A POLICY ON ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIVITY IN MEXICO

On July 21, Senator Raul Bolaños, Co-Chair of the Mexican Conservation Parliamentary Group joined ICCF and the organization "POLEA" for a virtual roundtable discussion on the perspectives to develop a national policy for ecological connectivity.

The event was also joined by experts on conservation from WWF Mexico, Wildlands Network and VoBo Consultancy Group. Currently only 9-11% of the protected areas worldwide are connected. Promoting ecological connectivity with a strong collaboration between different

The negotiation and adoption of any new Protocol is a matter for States (countries), and whether these proposed reforms move ahead will be determined by the States Parties to UNTOC. States Parties to the proposed Protocol would agree to adopt legislation establishing as a criminal offence the illicit trafficking of any whole or part of a wild animal or plant, whether alive or dead. Among other commitments they also agree to the exchange of information on known organized groups suspected of taking part in illicit trafficking and the means of concealment of contraband, the sharing of forensic samples, verifying the validity of documents, enhancing controls on the means of illicitly transporting specimens, and taking measures to discourage demand.

levels of government is an opportunity to preserve emblematic umbrella species, as the jaguar, secure key environmental services for human societies, create sustainable livelihoods for local communities and prevent zoonotic diseases.

Mexico has to strengthen its environmental legislation to advance towards a policy of ecological connectivity that allows it to create a bridge for the protection of both, human and ecosystems health.



▶ LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dears friends and colleagues,

Save our Seas Act 2.0 is a milestone for oceans conservation. We wish to thank the House leadership that our Oceans Caucus Foundation (OCF) supports, which, in a bipartisan effort, followed suit on the Senate's unanimous passing of legislation earlier this year. The bill, sponsored by Representatives Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) and Don Young (R-AK), successfully passed the House of Representatives on Thursday, October 1st.

Labeled by Oceans Caucus Co-Founder Senator Sheldon Whitehouse "the most comprehensive marine debris legislation ever to pass the U.S. Senate," SOS 2.0 will improve America's marine debris response and its domestic infrastructure while enhancing our global engagement with partner nations.

This initiative from the United States Congress and its Oceans Caucus is a timely one, in light of a growing interest for educational material on oceans governance among policymakers worldwide.

This quarter specifically, Indonesia's House of Representatives launched an Oceans Caucus (Kaukus Kelautan) to further the sustainable development of their

nation's maritime economy. We are honored to act as a secretariat for this newly-launched initiative, so that we may facilitate coordination, resources, technical expertise, and international exchanges under the policy and strategic direction set by the caucus' leadership.

This quarter, we also welcome the new CEO and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, and wish to thank his tireless team for their support in hosting a U.S. Congressional Briefing which highlighted not only the organization's partnership with 183 countries, but also the organization's response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Thanking our growing coalition of partners and supporters, we look forward to working with the GEF and members of our Conservation Council as our organization continues to expand its boundaries and introduce the caucus model for conservation governance in legislatures around the world.

Sincerely,



John B. Gantt
President

BECOME AN ICCF PARTNER

For partnerships, please contact ICCF Executive Vice President Susan Lylis - slylis@iccfoundation.us - +1 (202) 471-4222

