



SPRING 2022 QUARTERLY REPORT

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On December 7, 2021, Mexican Conservation Parliamentary Group Re-Launch was held for the LXV Legislature at the "Casa Lamm" Cultural Center in Mexico City.

The event was attended by 32 legislators from both the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies, accompanied by government authorities and stakeholders from civil society and

ABOVE Mexican Deputy & Caucus Co-Founder Marcela Guerra

the private sector. Dr. José Sarukhán, Coordinator of the National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO) chaired the event and was its guest of honor.



Welcome remarks by John Gantt, President of ICCF, were followed by an overview of the significance and role of the caucus by Deputy Marcela Guerra Castillo, Vice President of the Board of Directors and Founder of the Mexican Conservation Caucus, who cast the re-launch as an opportunity to strengthen the environmental legislative agenda through multi-sectoral collaborations and recalled the tangible results the model has already had for conservation in Mexico, including the approval of a new Forestry Law.

Additional speakers included Senator Verónica Delgadillo, Secretary of the Board of Directors, Senator María Merced González, and the Deputies Irma Juan Carlos, President of the Commission on Indigenous Peoples, Karen Castrejón, President of the Commission on the Environment, Eduardo Murat, and Gabriel Quadri.

All agreed that the agenda of the Mexican Conservation Caucus should include issues such as the strengthening of protected areas and community forest management, the creation of a budget with sustainability criteria, the protection of biodiversity in line with the post-2020 framework to be discussed on the international stage, the implementation of Mexico's nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement, and compliance with the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.



Dr. José Sarukhán highlighted that the model of the Mexican Conservation Caucus is key to establishing collaborations from a multisectoral and multidimensional perspective in favor of the environmental agenda and to promoting informed decisions based on science and evidence.

An official signing of the endorsement letter of the Mexican Conservation Caucus of the LXV Legislature concluded the celebratory and notable event.

ABOVE: Dr. José Sarukhán, honored guest of the Dinner

RIGHT: Agua Azul waterfalls, Chiapas, Mexico





IUU FISHING

COMBATING PIRATE FISHING

OCEAN CAUCUS CO-CHAIRS, REPUBLICAN SENATOR DAN SULLIVAN & DEMOCRATIC SENATOR SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, CELEBRATE NONPARTISAN PASSAGE OF MARITIME SECURITY PROPOSAL IN U.S. CONGRESS

Senators Dan Sullivan (R-AK) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) celebrated the passage of their maritime security proposal as part of the Fiscal Year 2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which cleared Congress on December 16th, 2021 and was signed into law by President Biden on December 27th, 2021.

The senators' amendment requires the Secretary of the Navy to produce a report on maritime security measures related to illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing. The legislation builds on maritime security provisions Whitehouse secured in last year's NDAA.

Whitehouse championed measures in the previous defense bill that required the Department of Defense to update Congress on previously enacted measures to combat illegal fishing, directed the Navy to work with the Coast Guard to assess solutions for

tracking vessels engaged in unlawful activity at sea, and requested that the Office of Naval Intelligence provide an update on foreign governments using distant-water fishing fleets to undermine American interests.

Each year, IUU fishing produces between 11 and 26 million tons of seafood, resulting in global economic losses valued between \$10 billion and \$23 billion. The bipartisan Senate Oceans Caucus works to find common ground in protecting oceans and coasts. Thanks to the caucus's leadership, Congress has taken steps to guard against IUU fishing, including ratifying a series of key IUU treaties with partner nations and passing implementing legislation to bring those treaties into effect.



LEFT: U.S. Senator & Oceans Caucus Co-Chair Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)

ABOVE: U.S. Senator & Oceans Caucus Co-Chair Dan Sullivan (R-AK)



NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS AND THE SIGNING OF THE GLASGOW DECLARATION

A PLEDGE OF SUPPORT BY POLICYMAKERS AROUND THE WORLD FOR NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

On November 7th, ICCF-UK hosted a dinner reception at Mar Hall in Glasgow to commemorate the signing of the Declaration of Glasgow, a pledge of support by policymakers around the world for nature-based solutions. The high-profile event followed numerous briefing events hosted by the ICCF Group to promote awareness and implementation of nature-based solutions amongst legislators in the months

ABOVE: Kenyan Member of Parliament and Caucus Co-Chair Hon. Francis Chachu Ganya with other attendees from the Eastern Caribbean, Malawi, the UK, Brazil, Kenya, Mexico, France, Zimbabwe, Gabon, and Angola

leading up to the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26).

One such event was a roundtable on marine and coastal nature-based solutions earlier the same day. The roundtable, chaired by Hon. Ms. Theo Clarke MP(UK), highlighting case studies of marine and coastal nature-based solutions from around the world,

provided an opportunity for participants to discuss the relative successes of nature-based solutions in their own countries, and was an important precursor to the evening reception and signing of the Glasgow Declaration.

Attendees at the signing reception included policymakers from the Eastern Caribbean, Malawi, the UK, Brazil, Kenya, Mexico, France, Zimbabwe, Gabon, and Angola, along with representation from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD). Key remarks were delivered by ICCF-UK Chief Executive Satyen Sinha, followed by speeches from Hon. Barry Gardiner MP (UK), Minister Nancy Tembo (Malawi), Minister Lee White (Gabon), Dr Didacus Jules (Eastern Caribbean) and Vice Minister Paula Coelho (Angola).

Delegates were then invited to sign the Declaration of Glasgow, pledging to support nature-based solutions to climate change in their respective regions and parliaments. Signatories included delegations from France, the UK, Malawi, the Eastern Caribbean, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Mexico, and Brazil. Delegates from Botswana, Tanzania, and Mozambique signed the Declaration digitally. The Declaration of Glasgow

represents the awareness and political will raised by the ICCF Group amongst the global network of conservation caucuses to promote sound natural resource management and nature-based solutions as a key tool to combat climate change and the loss of biodiversity.

BELOW, LEFT TO RIGHT: French Deputy and Caucus Co-Chair Hubert Julien-Laferrière signing the Glasgow Declaration, alongside APPG (UK) Co-Chairs Mr. Barry Gardner, MP, and Ms. Theo Clarke, MP.



CARBON NEUTRALITY

COLOMBIA ADOPTS CLIMATE ACTION LAW

ACTIVELY CHAMPIONED AND SUPPORTED IN THE COLOMBIAN SENATE BY HS JUAN DIEGO GOMEZ, AND IN THE HOUSE BY HR NICOLAS ECHEVERRY, TWO SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE COLOMBIAN CONSERVATION CAUCUS.

ABOVE: Colombian Senator & Caucus Co-Founder Juan Diego Gomez



Both members attended the International Conservation Leadership Awards Dinner hosted by ICCF in September 2021, and HR Echeverry also attended and voiced his commitment to ecological restoration of areas of special ecological importance during the December 1st briefing.



THE LAW CREATES A ROADMAP TO ACHIEVE CARBON NEUTRALITY BY 2050 AND REACH ZERO DEFORESTATION BY 2030.



We have this regulatory framework that will allow us to strengthen the relationship between man and nature. I want to thank all the people who worked to make this a reality. We must continue fighting for the greatest heritage we have, our natural resources,"

-- Carlos Eduardo Correa, Minister of the Environment, of the new legislation.

The law establishes specific methodologies to fight climate change by 2030 that align closely to activities hosted by ICCF Colombia on the sustainable blue economy, including:

- protecting at least 30% of the seas and continental areas;
- ecological restoration of one million hectares;

ABOVE: Colombian House Representative Nicolas Echeverry

RIGHT: ICCF Vice President of Strategic Partnerships Jaime Cavelier welcomes Peruvian Members of Congress to the Conservation Caucus supported by the ICCF Group.

- incorporation of climate change into the environmental management of 135 hydrographic basins;
- updating and implementing both the National Program for the Sustainable Use, Management and Conservation of Mangrove Ecosystems and management plans for coastal areas with adaptation actions based on ecosystems on mangroves and seagrasses, coral reefs, and other coastal ecosystems;
- implementation of at least 6 climate change adaptation and risk management initiatives for the sustainable use of mangroves (blue carbon ecosystems).

CAUCUS-BUILDING

WELCOMING NEW LEADERSHIP OF THE PERUVIAN CONSERVATION CAUCUS

IN NOVEMBER 2021, THE RELAUNCH OF THE PERUVIAN CONSERVATION CAUCUS WAS HELD IN THE IMPERIAL HALL OF THE COUNTRY CLUB OF LIMA.

This event welcomed the new leadership of the caucus and introduced the caucus to the new congressmen who make up the 2021-2026 term, organizations, private entities, and others. It also extended an invitation to new congressmen to be part of the caucus, which creates neutral multi-party spaces for engagement on the environment and related issues of interest.





CONGRESSMEN DISCUSSED THE MANY BENEFITS OF THE SUPPORT AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR DECISION MAKERS OFFERED BY THE ICCF GROUP, AS WELL AS THE CAUCUS AND OTHERS LIKE IT WORLDWIDE.

Much attention was given to the topic of the Amazon and its great importance. Daniel Córdova, an economist by profession and former Minister of Production, emphasized the importance of promoting the protection of trees and control

over their felling, as well as the need to implement regulatory measures on deforestation while also promoting and regulating reforestation.

An important issue raised by Congresswoman Francis Paredes was the link between transportation and the Amazon. Likewise, former Congresswoman Foronda proposed that the initiative on land use be resumed and strengthened. The institute of farmers, deforestation, fishing, and green enterprises were mentioned by Congresswoman Tania Ramirez. The dialogue concluded with a consensus that there are several congressmen interested in the preservation of the Amazon, the promotion of the Leticia

Pact, the Amazonian parliament, initiatives to control and regulate illegal, ancestral, artisanal fishing, and food security.

Finally, the congressmen voluntarily signed the protocol letter to be part of the Peruvian Conservation Caucus; congressmen who could not attend but who expressed their confirmation and voluntary acceptance to be part of the caucus will be added. To date, the Caucus Member List amounts to 25 congressmen from multiple parties.

LEFT: Ursula Letona, Former Peruvian Member of Congress

BELOW: The "Rainbow Mountain" in Vinicunca, Cusco Region, Peru



The event was attended by 14 Congressmen of the Republic, including the Third Vice President of the Congress of Peru, Patricia Chirinos, the Vice President of the Production Commission, Víctor Flores, and the Vice President of the Energy and Mines Commission, Diane Gonzales. Likewise, former Minister of Production Daniel Córdova participated. Similarly, we were honored by the participation of several former congressmen from the previous legislature who were part of the Parliamentary Conservation Caucus since 2017: Miguel Ángel Torres Morales, María Elena Foronda Farro, Úrsula Letona Pereyra, and Armando Villanueva. These congressmen had great political relevance and representation in their legislation and remain active in the political and private sector.

Representatives from World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the Peruvian Society for Environmental Law, Fisheries Transparency Initiative, and the Peruvian Trust Fund for National Parks and Protected Areas (Profonanpe) also attended. Notable guests included Kurt Holle, Director of WWF Peru, Isabel Calle, Director of the Peruvian Society for Environmental Law (SPDA), Nicolás Rovegno of Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI), and Antón Willems, Executive Director of Profonanpe, among others. More than 30 people participated.

DEFORESTATION

“ECHOES OF GLASGOW”

ICCF BRAZIL CO-SPONSORS PUBLIC HEARING IN SENATE

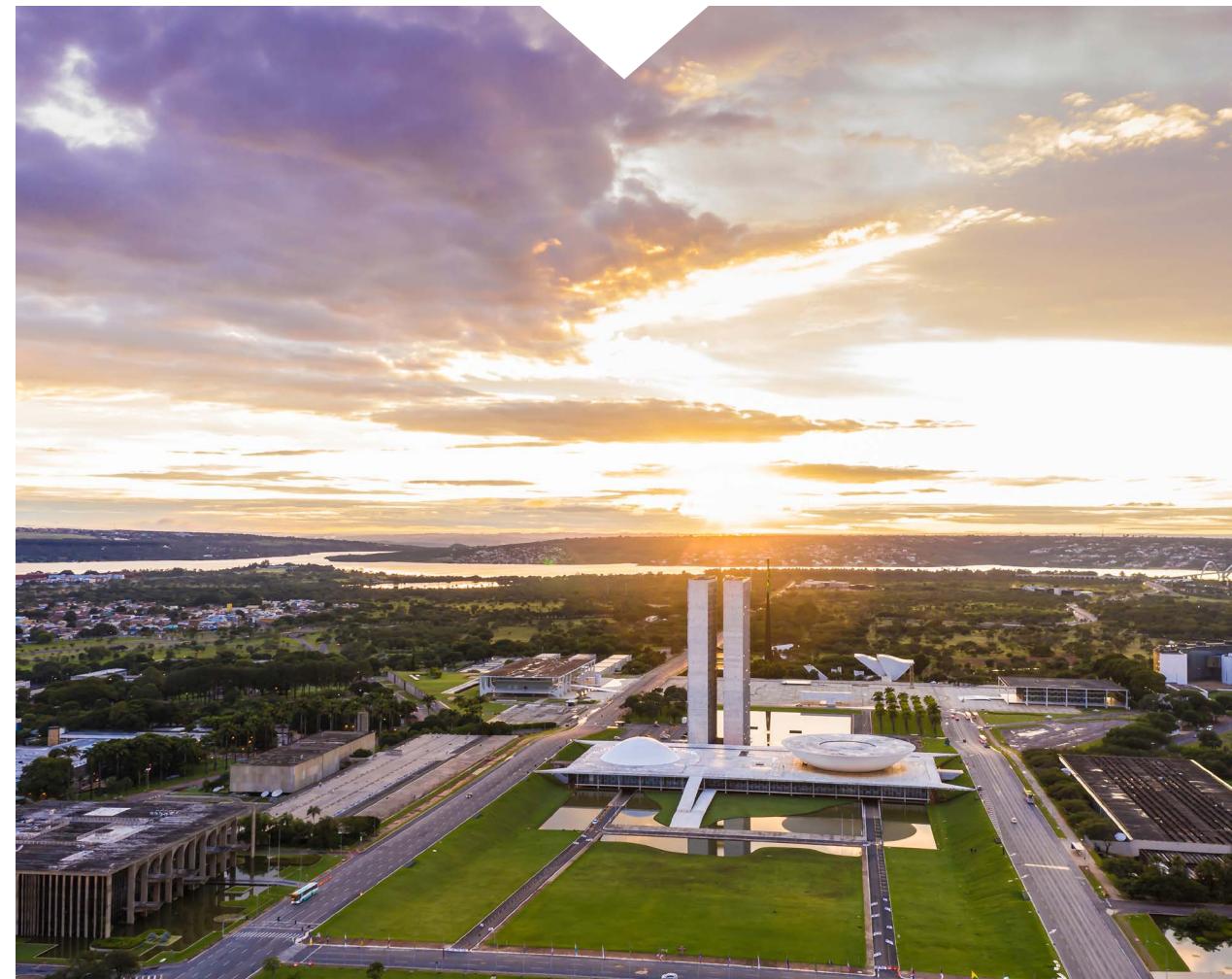
On November 29th ICCF Brazil co-sponsored a public hearing titled “Echoes of Glasgow,” which was held in the Brazilian Senate with video links connecting parliamentarians in Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Suriname, and Venezuela.

The event was sponsored in the parliament by Senator Nelson Trad and Deputado

Rodrigo Agostinho. As a keynote speaker who attended Glasgow as part of an ICCF-supported parliamentary delegation, Deputado Agostinho noted how Brazil’s international reputation on deforestation has worsened. On the

other hand, the Brazilian government did not obstruct international agreements on implementing Article 6 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

BELOW: The National Congress in Distrito Federal, Brasilia, Brazil



During the subsequent week, one-on-one meetings were held with 10 members of the lower house and 2 from the upper house during which they

pledged to be founding members of a multiparty caucus to advance solutions on globally important conservation issues.

MANGROVES & COASTAL MANAGEMENT

FIELD MISSION: GAZI BAY, KENYA

EAST AFRICA REGIONAL INTER-PARLIAMENTARY FIELD MISSION



From December 6-7, 2021, the ICCF Group facilitated an East Africa Regional Inter-Parliamentary Field Mission for members of the Parliamentary Conservation Caucus-Kenya (PCC-K), the Mozambican Parliamentary Forum on Conservation (MPFC), and the Tanzanian Parliamentary Friends of the Environment Caucus (TAPAFE). The field mission was held in Gazi Bay in Kwale County at the Coast of Kenya.

The members present included Hon. Rozaah Akinyi Buyu and Hon. Omar Mwinyi from Kenya; Hon. Maria do Céu Omar do Amaral, Hon. Gloria Salvador, and Hon. Noel Bracio Nandena from Mozambique; and Hon. Dunstan Luka Kitandula, Hon. Asya Mwadini Mohammed, and Hon. Cecilia Paresso from Tanzania. The purpose of the field mission was to raise legislative awareness on the importance of mangroves to coastal management, and the feasibility of blue carbon markets.

LEFT: Dr. David Mirera, Senior Research Scientist & Assistant Director at KMFRI welcoming Members of Parliament from Kenya, Tanzania and Mozambique & staff from KFS and ICCF Africa to Gazi Bay in Kwale.

ABOVE: Staff from Kenya Forest Services (KFS).

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT WERE ABLE TO ENGAGE WITH KENYA MARINE AND FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE (KMFRI), KENYA FOREST SERVICES (KFS), AND LOCAL MEMBERS OF THE GAZI AND VANGA COMMUNITIES, WHO DEPEND ON MANGROVE CARBON HARVESTING FOR THEIR LIVELIHOODS.

Participants were led by KMFRI's Dr. Joseph Langat and Lilian Mwhiki through a mangrove plantation that has been rehabilitated by KMFRI, beginning in 2004. They later met with the community members who have since benefitted from the restored forest. Dr. David Mirera, Assistant Director of Mariculture at KMFRI, stated that Kwale County is among the coastal counties of Kenya that have lost a huge number of forests due to deforestation for timber and charcoal burning.

In 2013, KMFRI, which is a national research institution under the Government of Kenya's mandate to undertake research in marine issues, launched the Mikoko Pamoja, a

community-led mangrove conservation and restoration project based in Gazi, and the world's first blue carbon project. Through this project, 10 hectares of mangrove forests and seagrasses have been restored, which has also led to a conducive breeding ground for marine life. The project has significantly changed the lives of the local communities. They currently earn approximately 22,000 USD annually through the sale of carbon credits. Additionally, the residents generate income from other economic activities that include beekeeping and ecotourism ventures such as the Gazi Boardwalk, which allows tourists to navigate inside the mangrove forests to catch a glimpse of various tree species and marine life.

The legislators present noted that mainstreaming of mangroves and associated ecosystems into their national development and climate change plans was key since deforestation of mangroves was a common problem amongst the three countries - Kenya, Mozambique, and Tanzania.



Having been exposed to the concept and principles of mangrove restoration during this field mission, Hon. Rozaah Buyu stated that it was important for the Kenyan government to allocate more resources towards intervention and restoration processes, in addition to strengthening existing policies that seek to combat climate change. Hon.

Dunstan Kitandula commended Kenya for spearheading blue carbon solutions in its climate actions, while Hon. Maria do Céu Omar do Amaral stated that in Mozambique there was an existing knowledge gap on mangroves and their significance to combating climate change, and one of the main action points moving forward

ABOVE: Mr. Ruwa Kalama, Manager at Ruwa Forest Station, alongside Ms. Priscillah Githui, Public Relations Officer, KMFRI and Ms. Violet Asiko, Program Officer, ICCF Africa.



from the trip was to address this gap.

On December 7th, the delegation of Members of Parliament visited the Kwale County headquarters of Kenya Forest Services (KFS) and were received by Mr. Ruwa Masha who presented on the history of KFS and their government mandate over terrestrial forests and mangroves. Mr. Masha highlighted past legislative successes such as the development and passage of the Forest Act No. 34 of 2016 and the National Mangrove Management Plan (2017-2027), which have enabled the elevation of mangroves' importance in fighting climate change. However, existing policy gaps remain, including 1) the need to be specific on returns (benefits) for communities - beyond simply their involvement; 2) the need for investment and budgetary allocations into scientific research to further analyze the behaviour of mangroves over time; and 3) the need for awareness raising regarding the importance of mangroves and their connection to other crucial services - such as fisheries. These serve as opportunities for legislators in Kenya to strengthen existing national laws within the country, but additionally as opportunities for the visiting parliamentarians to note potential gaps that exist across the region that could use their attention.



COLOMBIA: PARLIAMENTARY FIELD MISSION: NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PROTECTED AREAS IN THE PACIFIC REGION



The ICCF Group hosted a field mission for members of the Colombian Conservation and Oceans Caucuses to the Pacific region from October 21-24 under the GEF-funded project, “Facilitating Dialogue and Strengthening Trans-boundary Cooperation with Legislators to Improve Marine Governance.”

In partnership with executive ministries and civil society groups, the mission elevated legislative awareness on the challenges and achievements of environmental projects and initiatives in the field, and provided an opportunity

LEFT: Mozambique Member of Parliament Hon. Noel Bracio Nandena & Member of Commission on Agriculture, Economy and Environment, a commission specializing in nature conservation matters

ABOVE: Colombian Natural National Parks staff in Congressional Field Mission in Utria National Park





for targeted dialogue on priority marine conservation issues between policymakers and on-the-ground stakeholders.

The three-day agenda included specific engagements designed to address both regional and national protected areas from the perspective of the Congress of the Republic for the conservation of biodiversity and its sustainable management in the Colombian Pacific. Participants met with communities such as the Los Riscales General

Key outcomes included the exchange of lessons for replication and scaling of positive models in the creation of Integrated Management Regional Districts in regions such as the Amazon and Orinoquia and for the EcoGourmet project and the Minga in other regions of the country, as well as exchanges that created opportunities for

Community Council and learned about the ecosystem services provided by nearby Utría National Natural Park, of the Regional Management District Integrated Gulf of Tribugá Cabo Corrientes. Legislators engaged with the EcoGourmet project, a positive case study of a sustainable and equitable business model supporting local livelihoods, and the Minga project, a mechanism to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of regional protected areas in the Colombian Pacific.

community groups in the region to influence the processes of national and regional environmental entities, NGOs, and international cooperation.

Participants included Congressional Members of the Oceans and Conservation Caucus HS Maritza Martínez, HR David Pulido, HR Jorge Mendez, HR Astrid Sanchez, and HR Carlos Ardila; Jair Ebratt, Secretary of the Fifth Committee of the House of Representatives; Erick Castro, Director of Marine, Coastal and Aquatic Resources Affairs of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development; Orlando Molano, Director of National Natural Parks of Colombia; Arnold Rincon, Director of the Regional Autonomous Corporation for the Sustainable Development of Chocó (CODECHOCO); Luis Caisamo, Vice President of the Los Riscales General Community Council; and Fabio Arjona, Vice President and Director for Colombia of International Conservation, among others. The mission was co-organized by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, National Natural Parks of Colombia (PNN), CODECHOCO, Mayor's Office of Nuquí, Los Riscales General Community Council, and Conservation International.

PARKS MANAGEMENT

RE-ACTIVATING INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION CORPS PLAN WITH NATIONAL PARKS IN COLOMBIA



IN DECEMBER 2021, A TEAM FROM ICCF’S INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION CORPS TRAVELED TO COLOMBIA FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC PREVENTED CONTINUATION OF ALL TRAVEL IN 2020.

During the recently completed trip, an International Conservation Corps team met with the new Director of National Parks in Colombia (PNN), Orlando Molano, and key members of his leadership team.

They also visited Chingaza National Park and observed excellent efforts to construct new trails, park signs, a nursery, employee housing, and environmental education programs. Director Molano emphasized his goal to expand visitor use opportunities in the parks as well as to rehabilitate existing and create some new infrastructure to enhance visitor use in the parks.

He further declared his determination to better connect parks with people through increased engagement with local communities and environmental education. A proposal was sent to the PNN Director after this visit to re-activate the International Conservation Corps plan with PNN, focused on Director Molano's priorities.



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

THE ICCF GROUP HOSTS OECS DIRECTOR DR. DIDACUS JULES DURING COP26

ENTERS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE ORGANISATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES (OECS)

The ICCF Group hosted Dr. Didacus Jules, Director General of the OECS, to participate in several ICCF Group side events at the COP26 in Glasgow in November under the GEF-funded project, “Advancing Conservation in the Eastern Caribbean.”

These included a Roundtable on Marine and Coastal Nature-based Solutions supported by the project “Facilitating Dialogue and Strengthening Trans-boundary Cooperation with Legislators to Improve Marine Governance,” a

briefing on 30x30 initiatives supported by the Pew Charitable Trust, and a meeting with the staff of U.S. Senator James Risch, Member of the U.S. Congressional International Conservation Caucus.

Key outcomes included the international signing of the Glasgow Declaration, a symbolic commitment by the global network of conservation caucuses and policy leaders to promote nature-based solutions in their respective countries, and numerous opportunities for connection and collaboration with members from the global network of conservation caucuses supported by the ICCF Group.



On November 7th at Mar Hall in Glasgow, Dr. Didacus Jules, Director General of the OECS, and Ms. Susan H. Lylis, Executive Vice President of the ICCF Group, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two organizations to collaborate towards

building political will for environmental conservation in the Eastern Caribbean. The signing marks an important milestone for the ICCF Group Caribbean program and a more regional approach to parliamentary engagement.

PLASTIC WASTE

MARINE 30X30: BIODIVERSITY LOSS AND THE SCOURGE OF PLASTIC WASTE

IN NOVEMBER 2021, DURING A SIDE EVENT TO THE COP26 IN GLASGOW, ICCF-UK HOSTED A ROUNDTABLE ON MARINE 30X30.

Participants discussed the loss of biodiversity in their respective nations, and the key challenges faced in reducing its rate.

The scourge of plastic waste in the ocean and the degree to which it contributes to habitat and biodiversity loss was a priority issue for many at the table, and affirmed the importance of the 30x30 model as a critical initiative for biodiversity conservation.

Differing efforts to fully incorporate the

30x30 model and the role of marine protected areas were discussed by each member.

There was a detailed discussion on the need to expand 30x30 in key regions, and the need for global cooperation and commitment by policymakers.

Attendance included representatives from the global network of conservation caucuses and beyond, including Dr. Didacus Jules, Director General of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS); Hon. Werani Chilenga of the Parliament of Malawi; Ms. Monica Medina, Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Oceans, Environmental and Scientific Affairs at the US Department of State; Ms. Theo Clarke MP, Member of the British House of Commons; Deputado Federal Rodrigo Agostinho of the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies; Hon. Chachu Ganya of the Parliament of Kenya; Hon. Kareke Mbiuki of the Parliament of Kenya; Hon. Rozaah M. Buyu of the Parliament of Kenya; Hon. Omar Myini of the Parliament of Kenya; and ICCF staff from the US, UK, and Eastern Caribbean.



TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE OCEAN ECONOMY



On December 8, 2021, the Mexican Conservation Caucus, with the leadership of Deputy Marcela Guerra, Vice President of the Board of Directors and founder of the caucus, and the support of the ICCF Group, held the Dialogue Table "Towards a legislative agenda for a sustainable ocean economy" with funding from the GEF-funded project "Facilitating Dialogue and Strengthening Trans-boundary Cooperation with Legislators to Improve Marine Governance."

The event was attended by 32 legislators from both the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies, who were accompanied by government authorities and representatives of civil society and the private sector, with the guest of honor Dr. José Sarukhán, Coordinator of the National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO).



The presentations were given by Andrew Rhodes, Special Envoy for Oceans of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Jorge Rickards, Executive Director of WWF Mexico; and Juan Manuel Calderón, Director of Public Policies of the Environmental Defense

LEFT: Mexican Deputy María Elena Limon addressing key remarks during the oceans roundtable

ABOVE: Juan Manuel Calderon, Public Policy Director, EDF Mexico



Fund (EDF).

In her opening remarks, Deputy Marcela Guerra stressed that the protection of the oceans must continue to be a priority as they are the basis of the global systems that make the earth a habitable place for all humans:

Our rain, drinking water, the weather, the climate, the coastlines, a large part of our food, and even the oxygen in the air we breathe are provided and regulated by the sea. In addition, she mentioned that the caucus model is an opportunity to strengthen the environmental legislative agenda through multi-sectoral collaborations and recalled that since 2017 the joint work with ICCF has delivered tangible results for Mexico, including the approval of a new Forestry Law for the

country.

The participants took note of a series of priorities to update and harmonize national legislation in accordance with the international treaties and agreements that Mexico has ratified to promote adequate management of ocean resources. In addition, as a result of the event, the creation of an Oceans Caucus in Mexico was announced, which will have the technical support of the government and civil society.

ABOVE: Mexican legislators and speakers at the December 8, 2021 oceans roundtable

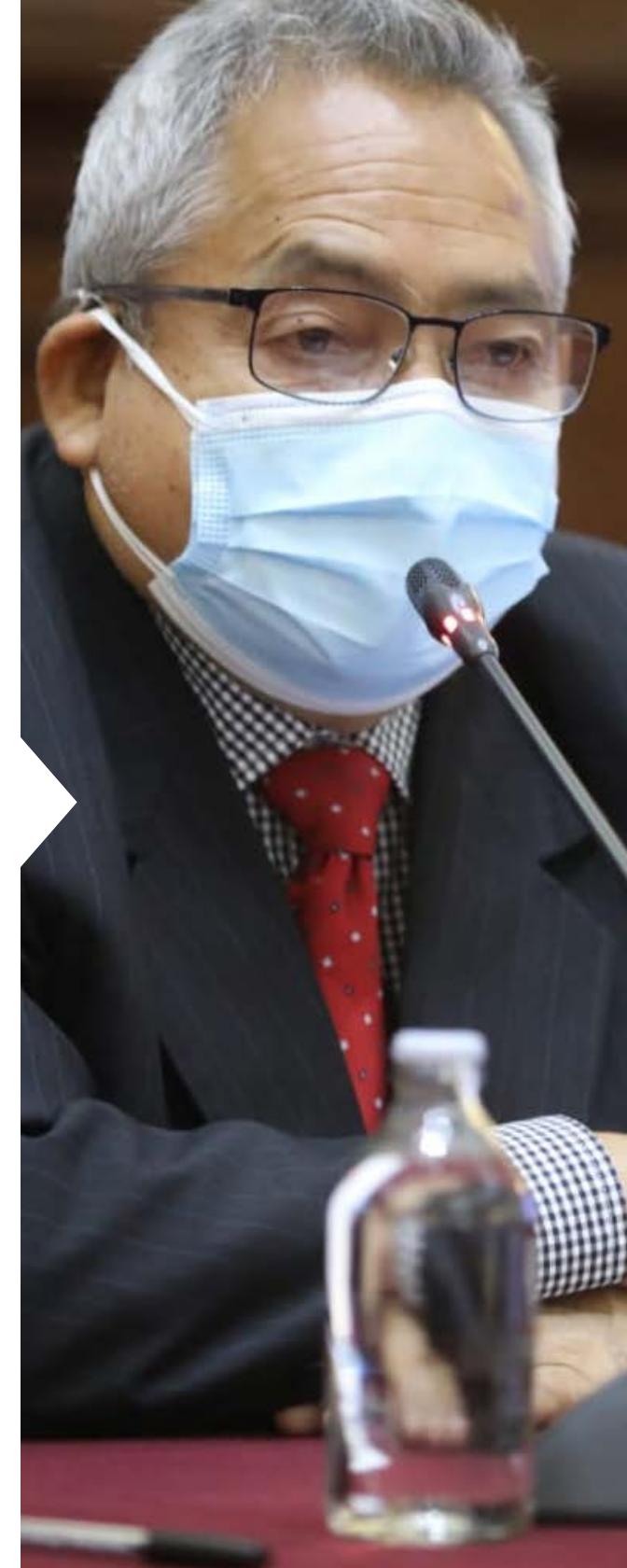
IUU FISHING

ILLEGAL FISHING IN PERU

On November 19, 2021, the Working Table on Illegal Fishing in Peru was held in the Congress of the Republic of Peru, with the purpose of informing the Congressmen of the Republic about the issue of illegal fishing in Peru and convening technical specialists with great experience and track records in environmental crimes and especially focused on maritime issues such as illegal fishing.

The panelists discussed topics related to illegal fishing in Peru (facts and statistics), pending legal reforms to deal with illegal fishing, and the challenges and opportunities related to artisanal fisheries.

RIGHT: Víctor Flores Ruíz, Peruvian Congressman & Vice President of the Production Commission



A positive impact of the event is the initiative created by Congressman Alegría to give continuity to the issue and to be able to create spaces from his own office to promote technical worktables and perhaps address a potential future legislative initiative on illegal fishing.

Participants included expert specialists in the field like Dr. Juan Carlos Riveros of Oceana, Percy Grandez of SPDA,

and José Carlos Álvarez of WWF. Also participating were Congressman Arturo Alegría, who leads a specialized congressional commission on climate change and who also led the illegal fishing table, and Congressman Víctor Flores, who is Vice President of the Commission of Production, along with former congressmen, representatives of private companies, technical advisors of congressional offices, and interested members of the public.

BELOW: Pervuvian Congressman Arturo Alegría García



CLIMATE CHANGE

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

The briefing raised legislative awareness on the different types of 'Areas of Special Ecological Importance' within Colombia, highlighting case studies and

ABOVE: Colombian Caucus Members and partners at the ICCF briefing in Congress

examples of nature-based solutions for mitigation and adaptation to climate change and community-based management in two separate panels moderated by the ICCF Vice President of Strategic Alliances, Jaime Cavelier.

The first panel focused on contextual information about Areas of Special Ecological Importance with specific designations and further opportunities for expansion within Colombia. The presentations noted legislative, regulatory, and public policy barriers that caucus members could mitigate, especially the need to adequately and effectively implement the financial incentives that exist to support the areas, as well as the formal recognition of the natural reserves of civil society that are not part of the National Environmental System.

The second panel highlighted successful case studies in the management of Areas of Special Ecological Importance,

including the Minga and Vida Manglar projects, due to their success with sustainability and local ownership. These projects were chosen not only as exemplary environmental case studies, but also for their inter-sectoral commitment to issues such as female empowerment, capacity building and production chains, and the creation of value chains that allow the traceability of the products and services of these projects, demonstrating the positive outcomes from these inter-sectoral initiatives for legislators. The panel also communicated a need for enhanced governance and associated financial sustainability of protected areas, and the positioning of ecotourism as a potential

inter-sectoral solution for those needs.

The session closed with a commitment by the President of the Environment Commission of the House of Representatives, Nicolás Albeiro

Echeverry, to further analyze and take policy action to support the implementation of such effective strategies and incentives for the conservation of protected areas and the development of their communities.

ICCF Colombia hosted a parliamentary briefing on nature-based solutions for twenty-two members of the Colombian Conservation and Oceans Caucuses on December 1st, including First Vice President of the Colombian Senate and Founding Co-President of the Caucus, Maritza Martínez; President of the House of Representatives, Jennifer Arias Falla; and the First Vice President and Co-President of the Colombian Conservation Caucus in the House, Carlos Ardila Espinosa. The event was supported by the GEF-funded project, “Facilitating Dialogue and Strengthening Trans-boundary Cooperation with Legislators to Improve Marine Governance,” in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia.

BELOW: Maritza Martinez Aristizabal, First Vice-President of the Colombian Senate, and Carlos Adolfo Ardila, First Vice-President of the Colombian House of Representatives



FROM OUR PARTNERS



SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION (SCIF)

SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION (SCIF) CONCLUDES SUCCESSFUL 19TH ANNUAL AWCF



In November, Safari Club International Foundation (SCIF) concluded its 19th annual African Wildlife Consultative Forum (AWCF), hosted in-person and online with the Botswana Ministry of Environment, Natural Resource Conservation and Tourism. This diverse forum was made up of African government officials and wildlife managers that support sustainable use, such as professional hunting associations, international policy experts, and wildlife biologists from across southern and eastern Africa.

Participants from Africa and around the globe agreed that disincentivizing hunting in Africa with import bans on hunting trophies would endanger:

- Initiatives for private landowners and communal conservancies to protect wildlife habitat instead of converting vast areas to farmland or commercial development;
- Direct revenue, employment opportunities, and other socio-economic benefits for African communities provided by hunting;
- Funding for management efforts such as wildlife research and anti-poaching efforts;
- Incentive structures that increase tolerance for human-wildlife conflicts in rural communities.

The ability to bring together so many stakeholders to discuss not only import bans but also other pressing issues such as the sustainability of wildlife conservation programs, and the benefits hunting provides rural communities, elephant population management, and the management of African big cats is why, to quote Dr. Fulton Mangwanya, Director General of the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority, “AWCF is one of the most progressive wildlife conservation forums that we host in Africa annually.”

READ THE FULL ARTICLE ONLINE:

<https://safariclub.org/safari-club-international-foundation-scif-concludes-successful-19th-annual-awcf/>



NEW MEMBER



NORGE MINING JOINS ICCF CONSERVATION COUNCIL

THE ICCF GROUP IS PLEASED TO WELCOME NORGE MINING AS THE NEWEST MEMBER OF OUR U.S.- AND U.K.-BASED CONSERVATION COUNCIL.

Norge Mining is a privately held Anglo-Norwegian mineral exploration company focused on mineral exploration in Norway, where the Company has discovered a world-class deposit of vanadium, titanium and phosphate. All three of these minerals have been identified by the European Union as “Critical Raw Materials”, materials of strategic importance to the EU that are currently imported.

In total, Norge Mining holds 61 exploration licenses, totaling more than 520 square kilometers in southwest Norway. The Company is part of the emerging European mining industry, which is seeking to lessen the EU’s dependence on external supply chains.

Vanadium, titanium and phosphate are essential components in a wide range of sectors, from transportation (railways, autos, airplanes) to fertilizers for agricultural production. They are also required in the movement to a more

renewable energy mix (solar, windpower, hydrogen, energy storage), and serve as required elements in technology.

As the planet moves to a more renewable-powered future, it is anticipated that there will be a significant increase in reliance on these critical minerals. For example, phosphate is used in lithium iron phosphate batteries for electric vehicles and vanadium is used in static redox flow batteries.

Norge Mining is committed to using modern and sensitive mining methods.

They plan to operate in line with the EU’s Critical Raw Materials agenda, as well as complying with and reporting to a number of internationally recognized reporting frameworks including (among others) the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), the UN Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), and the Task Force for Climate-Related Financial Disclosure (TCFD).

The ICCF Group has had a long history of engagement with Norway, including honoring former Norwegian Prime Minister and former Secretary General of NATO Jens Stoltenberg with the ICCF Teddy Roosevelt International Conservation Award in 2009.

More recently, the ICCF Group has featured then-Minister of Environment and Climate Sveinung Rotevatn in two

US Congressional Briefings, one on the importance of forests as a nature-based solution to help mitigate climate change and the other on the history of Norway’s movement towards using electric energy over oil and gas.

According to Statista (<https://www.statista.com/statistics/1127203/critical-minerals-production-share-by-majority-producing-countries-global/>) critical minerals required for the supply chains of a wide range of sectors are predominately sourced from China, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Russia, South Africa, Australia, and a few other countries (see detail at the link above), which creates a major geopolitical risk in relying on only a few primary countries to mine, manufacture, and process these critical minerals.

The ICCF Group looks forward to working with Norge Mining, a company that plans to operate to the highest social, governance, and environmental standards, in Norway, a country that is renowned for its commitment to the environment, the importance of climate change mitigation, the role that natural capital provides to ecological and global security, and to peace and national security.

Please join us in welcoming Norge Mining to our global network.





PEACE PARKS

REWILDING ZINAVE- RETURN OF THE LEOPARD

TWO LEOPARDS HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED INTO MOZAMBIQUE'S ZINAVE NATIONAL PARK AS THE FOUNDER ANIMALS OF WHAT WILL HOPEFULLY BECOME A SIGNIFICANT LEOPARD POPULATION FOR THE REGION.

The reintroduction is part of the next phase of a highly successful rehabilitation and rewilding programme – under a broader partnership between the country's National Administration for Conservation Areas (ANAC) and Peace Parks Foundation – that has led to the restoration of natural ecosystems in the park. This follows the reintroduction last year of four hyena – the first large predators to be brought back in a bid to reestablish a carnivore guild in Zinave.

A female leopard was sourced from Karangani Game Reserve in southwestern Mozambique and flown by the Peace Parks plane to Zinave,

followed by a male several weeks later. In addition to donating the leopards, Karangani provided significant operational support to the capture along

with veterinary partner the Mozambique Wildlife Alliance (MWA), joining hands with ANAC, Peace Parks, and the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT). Funding support for the translocation was provided by the Ivan Carter Wildlife Conservation Alliance (ICWCA) and GEOS Foundation.

The extensive rewilding efforts in Zinave, which was decimated by decades of human impacts in Mozambique, have seen 2,300 mammals from 14 species introduced

into the park's well-secured sanctuary. These activities form part of a larger restoration and development programme that has been accelerated under a 20-year co-management agreement between ANAC and Peace Parks, supported by various donors. Through this partnership, significant investment has been made towards vastly improved infrastructure, enhanced conservation management, and boosted counter-poaching capabilities.

THE WOODLANDS OF ZINAVE ARE IDEAL FOR LEOPARDS, PROVIDING THEM WITH AMPLE OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE IN THEIR TRADEMARK AMBUSH HUNTING.

With the return of medium-sized antelope, the sanctuary can support around ten leopards. Once their preferred prey, such as impala, is restored to the entire 400,000 ha park, the system could hold over 200 individuals. Bordering Limpopo National Park and South Africa's Kruger National Park, Karangani is the largest privately-owned tract of land in the Great Limpopo TFCA at 150,000 hectares.

In another highly encouraging sign for

Zinave, lion activity has increasingly been recorded in the park. The first photo of a lion in several decades was captured on a camera trap in the sanctuary in early September 2021, indicating that predators are being naturally drawn to the area's now prosperous ecosystems.

Zinave National Park is a vital component of a wildlife corridor within the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area that sees animals



migrate all the way from Kruger National Park in South Africa through and to Limpopo, Banhine, and Zinave National Parks in Mozambique.

In Mozambique, communities living in or around conservation areas receive a share of 20% of the park's revenue to assist with community development, in addition to the various community development and employment opportunities offered by Zinave.

Leopards are listed as Vulnerable on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List, with

populations in southern Africa thought to have declined by more than 30% over the past 20 years, due to factors such as habitat loss, conflict with humans, and poorly-managed trophy hunting. Leopards roaming outside protected areas are particularly at risk.

The two leopards are being closely monitored by the EWT and park staff as they settle into the park. Tracking data seems to indicate that they are doing well and have already begun to establish new territories, laying the foundations for the establishment of a thriving metapopulation.

ABOVE: The translocation of herbivores to Zinave has stabilised ecosystems and allowed for the reintroduction of apex predators.



ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS AND AQUARIUMS

WE HEAR YOU NOW

RADICAL LISTENING CAN MEAN RADICAL RESULTS FOR CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

When the Saint Louis Zoo in St. Louis, Mo., began to plan a new polar bear exhibit in 2013, they were determined that it reflect the Arctic communities who live up close and personal with the large white marine mammals.

ABOVE: Photo Credit: ©Saint Louis Zoo

“We wanted to bring Indigenous voices to the forefront,”

said Lisa Lidgus, conservation education liaison at the Saint Louis Zoo. And they wanted to learn about the effects of climate change from the experts.

In 2014, Lidgus and her colleagues from the Zoo and the Alaska Nanuuq

Commission visited the Native villages of Little Diomed, Wales, Gambell, Savoonga, and Point Lay for a series of meetings held in school rooms, cafeterias, community centers, and Tribal Council offices. They went without any preconceived ideas or expectations.

“We were a blank slate. We just wanted to sit down, listen, and learn. The villagers have direct experience with the effects of climate change on the polar bears and their own environment.”

Although Lidgus and her colleagues didn't use the term radical listening, that's what they were doing. What is radical listening and how is it different from the ways in which Association of Zoos and Aquariums-accredited facilities have always involved their partners? For one thing, it means coming in with

questions, not answers said Shelly Grow, vice-president of conservation science at AZA. It means getting the community involved earlier in the process and being willing to listen and adapt, rather than going in with a defined plan or responding with your own thoughts.

ASK THE REAL EXPERTS

Too often conservationists have tried to solve environmental challenges without listening to the indigenous communities who are living day-to-day with those challenges. Residents of the Alaskan Arctic, the Indonesian rain forest, the grass prairies in the mid-west, and even

South Baltimore, are living up-close and personal with melting ice caps, denuded forests, denigrated landscapes, and litter-filled rivers.



“It’s really important to understand the priorities, needs, and front-of-mind realities in the community in which you are going to be doing the work,”

said Shareen Knowlton, director of education at the Roger Williams Park Zoo in Providence, R.I.

“Everybody wants to be heard, not merely listened to. And even more, they want their voices to be reflected in the decision,”

said Jackie Ogden, retired vice president of Disney Animals, Science and Environment for Walt Disney Parks and Resorts.

Curtis Bennett, director of equity and community engagement at the National Aquarium in Baltimore, Md., emphasized that a community’s voices must be “centered” in developing and implementing outcomes. For more than ten years, as part of the Masonville Cove Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership, the National Aquarium along with the Maryland Department of Transportation, Living Classrooms Foundation, Maryland Port Administration, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have been working closely with communities in South

Baltimore.

Together they created the Masonville Cove Small Watershed Action Plan (SWAP), in which the community prioritized the neighborhood’s major environmental concerns, along with suggestions about how to address them.

One of the top issues was trash pollution, not just in the rivers and the bay but most importantly in the neighborhood. Some of the strategies developed through the co-design process included organizing community clean-ups and providing resources for residents to share trash reduction and prevention methods within their neighborhoods.

Back in St. Louis, those conversations with Alaska Native partners—or community curators as Lidgus calls them—became an integral part of the McDonnell Polar Bear Point exhibit.

The exhibit wouldn’t exist without the Alaska Native people, said Lidgus. For example, the walkway leading to the exhibit reflects a village landscape with boats, drying racks, and even a snow mobile. No totem poles or tall evergreens; these familiar items in many polar bear exhibits don’t exist in villages

in the Alaskan Arctic.

The interior of the exhibit resembles a traditional home in an Inupiaq village with some important differences. One wall is open to the tank where Kali, the resident polar bear from Point Lay, can be seen swimming in his deep pool.

BELOW: Masonville Cove cleanup. Photo Credit: ©National Aquarium



Other walls have TV monitors showing video journals created by school children in the villages. These interviews make climate change personal and relevant. Visitors can relate to an elderly man as he talks about the difference in his environment now as compared to when he was young. “It’s been a while since I’ve seen a live polar bear,” Leonard Apangalooksu from Gambell, Alaska explained. His neighbor Clement Ungott suggests one of the reasons. “The thick ice used to come in from the north, and it doesn’t come anymore for many, many years now,” he said.

The concept of radical listening turns the whole idea of how to protect the environment on its head. It changes the conservation dynamic away from the idea that outside experts know best. Kinari Webb is founder of Health

in Harmony, an international non-profit dedicated to reversing global warming and preserving the rainforests. Using radical listening, Webb and her colleagues held conversations ten years ago with a number of communities living on the edge of the Indonesian rain forest.

“Within an hour and a-half, every group independently brought up the same two things that would help prevent harvesting of the trees,” said Webb. “Healthcare and organic farming training.”

With the local buy-in, rain forest logging in Borneo, Indonesia has declined 90 percent over the past ten years. “We’ve proven radical listening is an effective model,” said Webb.

TAKE EVENTS IN DENVER LAST YEAR.

Stefan Ekernas, Rocky Mountains Great Plains program director at the Denver Zoo in Denver, Colo., worked with partners, including the Pueblo of Pojoaque, to restore bison to the Rio Mora National Wildlife Refuge in Watrous, New Mexico. In March 2020, the Zoo made a decision to focus their

conservation efforts closer to home. That left Ekernas free to bring his experience at Rio Mora to a partnership between the Zoo and Denver Mountain Parks in the disposition of bison herds owned by the city.

Ekernas was aware that in order to

control herd numbers, some of the animals were sold annually at auction to the highest bidders, usually meat producers. Last year, while wandering around the dusty, noisy, crowded roundup, Ekernas wondered if there was another way to accomplish this.

He sought out members of the multi-tribe non-profit, the Tall Bull Memorial Council, asked lots of questions about their goals and what they needed to restore the tall grass prairies. Then he listened to the answers.

“It wasn’t a little bit of listening,” he said. “That’s entirely what it was.”

This past spring for the first time, 14 bison were transferred to the herd owned by the Cheyenne and Southern Arapaho. These Native American tribes, pushed from the Denver area in the late 19th century, are now living in Oklahoma, so the animals are more than a means to restore prairie grasslands. “We’re using the bison as the beginning of a reconciliation process,” Ekernas said.

Radical listening works within the AZA itself, as a recent experience demonstrates. SAFE: Saving Animals From Extinction has been a part of AZA

since 2015, but leadership wondered if there were ways to strengthen public awareness and community engagement around conservation.

“Thanks to the participation of Kayla Cranston, director of conservation



ABOVE: Brooklyn cleanup. Photo Credit: ©National Aquarium





psychology strategy and integration at Antioch University in New England, one of the things we realized was that a best practice for community engagement is the ‘with-not-for’ approach,” said Knowlton. “Rather than presenting our ideas as a fait accompli, we needed to ask our partners in the SAFE programs: ‘What are your realities? What are your

HOW TO HINTS

Radical listening is not easy. For beginners, experts offer some magic phrases, like “help me understand,” “tell

“Move at the speed of trust,” said Curtis Bennett. “It takes a long time to build trust.”

One way of doing this is to show up for—and participate in—the

priorities? And what does success look like to you?” she said. The result was a co-design approach resulting in People Advancing Conservation Together (PACT), an intentional commitment to integrate communities into SAFE in order to achieve stronger conversation outcomes.

me more,” and “what is important about that?” Flexibility is important too, as is trust.

community on a regular basis. Festivals and community meetings are good

opportunities to connect and learn what’s important to people.

What can zoos and aquariums bring to these kinds of partnerships? Expertise. For example, the Denver Zoo has experts in animal transfer said Ekernas. “They knew how to transfer the bison from Denver to the tribal lands in Oklahoma.” Resources. “The biggest resource we bring specifically in our work with the polar bears is an

“Communities have the ideas,” said Ogden. “And very often their solutions are opaque to outsiders.”

So you have to listen. That’s something to remember when searching for responses to environmental challenges around the world.

ABOVE: Photo Credit: ©Saint Louis Zoo

audience,” said Lidgus. “Visitors learning from Indigenous voices is a huge step in promoting understanding and action regarding climate change.” Education. The National Aquarium has had a long-term relationship with Ben Franklin High School at Masonville Cove. Curtis Bennett and his colleagues have worked closely with the students and teachers to support the installation and maintenance of a pollinator garden and a rain garden.



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear friends and colleagues,

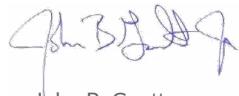
This past Fall, our Latin American team witnessed renewed commitments from Members of Congress to build on previous achievements and grow the conservation caucuses in new legislatures. Thanks to Deputy Marcela Guerra Castillo and Congresswoman Tania Ramirez, we were honored to host the launch of nonpartisan groups in Mexico and Peru respectively. We now look forward to advancing their conservation agenda, and wish co-chairs the best in their outreach to peers from all political parties.

Legislative impact also took place in other parts of the world, most notably with the passage in the U.S. of the maritime security proposal by Senators and Oceans Caucus Co-Chairs Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) and Dan Sullivan (R-AK), and in Colombia,

with the passing of the Climate Action Law, actively championed and supported in the Senate by H.S. Juan Diego Gomez and in the House by H.R. Nicolas Echeverry, two senior members of the Colombian Conservation Caucus.

With field missions in Kenya and Colombia, the signing of a Glasgow Declaration, and continuous advances in marine governance and the sound management of protected areas, we also wish to thank our partners without whom this successful Fall season would not have been possible.

Sincerely,



John B. Gantt
President

