



SUMMER 2022 QUARTERLY REPORT

AMAZON CONSERVATION

Mongolia's Conservation Caucus.



Recycling: What's Next.



Policy Coherence & Political Consistency.



Preserving Wildlife, from Pretoria to Nairobi.



▶ BRAZILIAN CONGRESS ESTABLISHES NONPARTISAN PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ON SUSTAINABILITY

Senate President Announces Caucus to Prioritize Issue of Amazon Deforestation; Establishes *Instituto de Conservação Caucus Brasil - ICCF* as Acting Secretariat in Brasília.

ABOVE: Congress in Brasilia, Brazil





Thursday, May 19, 2022, in Brasilia, Brazil:

With the support of the Senate's President, Senator Rodrigo Pacheco (PSD-MG), Brazil's legislature announced the launch of a nonpartisan caucus for conservation, the Brazilian Multiparty Caucus for Conservation and Sustainable Production (Caucus Brasil). This is the 21st group internationally to be catalyzed with support from the ICCF Group and its partners.

PROVEN RESULTS, AND A WAY FORWARD FOR BRAZIL.

At the event Members of Congress noted the successes partners in the region have experienced in advancing their legislative agenda on sustainability, often in divided parliaments and in the midst of contentious day-to-day politics. Turning to their own Congress, they invited their peers, regardless of political affiliation and past differences, to join them in this new space for dialogue aimed at consensus-building. This so that, together, they push forward the policies and consolidate the public-private partnerships that are capable of addressing, for the long term, Brazil's most pressing conservation challenges.

THE AMAZON, FIRSTLY.

With a recent report published by the "Institute for Indigenous People and the Environment" warning of an alarming 54% increase in trees cut down from the previous year, Senator Nelsinho Trad (PSD-MS) stated that on the global stage,



/// Brazil needs to better communicate the issue of Amazon deforestation, and more accurately depict the situation on the ground."



DEPUTY RODRIGO AGOSTINHO (PSB-SP) THAT BRAZIL HAS A PUBLIC POLICY CHALLENGE ON THE ISSUE:

/// Though we can no longer talk about productivity without addressing sustainability (...), human progress brings opportunities that enhance its positive relationship, and we, policymakers, must facilitate the future of industries into an era of bioeconomies."

ABOVE: Caption goes here (Keith Alger)



COLOMBIA’S SENATE PRESIDENT, SENATOR JUAN CARLOS GARCÍA GOMES, NOTED THAT BRAZIL’S ENTRY TO THE NETWORK OF CAUCUSES SUPPORT BY THE ICCF GROUP WAS A WELCOMED INITIATIVE FROM THE BRAZILIAN CONGRESS, IF ONLY FOR THE COUNTRY’S GEOGRAPHICAL IMPORTANCE ON THE CONTINENT. HE NOTED THAT,



Brazil’s intention to care for and protect its resources, the ones the rest of the world often talks about, has already been stated. What the caucus can do now, is act on it.”



SPECIAL EVENT

ICCF HOSTS ANNUAL CONSERVATION COUNCIL DINNER IN WASHINGTON



Co-Chairs of the House and Senate International Conservation Caucus and Oceans Caucus and the Senate Climate

Solutions Caucus joined members of ICCF’s Conservation Council, including private-sector, nongovernmental, and multilateral partners, diplomatic representatives from countries where the ICCF Group is working globally, and other special guests.

The annual event offered the opportunity for caucus leadership to highlight bipartisan collaboration, for partners to speak about their

organizations’ conservation initiatives, and for ambassadors to identify opportunities and challenges for conservation in their countries.

CAUCUS LEADERS REFLECTED ON BIPARTISAN SUCCESSES:



The United States plays a key role in international conservation efforts, and this is the bipartisan

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support that's there .
. . something that not
only is good for all of
us and good for the
world. . . . I was proud
to work alongside
my International
Conservation Caucus Co-
Chair and former Interior

[Chair], Betty McCollum, to help increase the budgets for International
Affairs and Multinational Species Conservation Fund in the Fish and Wildlife
Service."

- CONGRESSMAN DAVID JOYCE (R-OH), CO-CHAIR, INTERNATIONAL
CONSERVATION CAUCUS

AND EXPRESSED OPTIMISM FOR THE YEAR AHEAD:



We're actually in a reasonably good position to potentially get
something serious done on climate in this Congress. . . . There's a lot
of really, really good oceans work coming. And again, the ICCF Group, your
team have been so instrumental in all of this, picking up the oceans issue . .
. and bringing bipartisanship to that, has really made a big difference. And,
we're seeing, I think, the payoff from that happening in real time in Congress
right now."

- SENATOR SHELDON WHITEHOUSE (D-RI), CO-CHAIR, SENATE OCEANS
CAUCUS; CO-CHAIR, INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION CAUCUS

CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP

CONGRESSMAN CHRIS STEWART (R-UT) JOINS LEADERSHIP OF BIPARTISAN U.S. CONGRESSIONAL CONSERVATION CAUCUS



CCF is pleased to announce Congressman
Chris Stewart (R-UT) as the newest Co-Chair of the bipartisan U.S.
Congressional International Conservation Caucus.

CONGRESSMAN STEWART HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF CONGRESS SINCE 2013.

He is a best-selling and award-winning author, world-record-setting
Air Force pilot, and the former owner
and CEO of a small business.

Congressman Stewart graduated
from Utah State University, where
he earned his degree in economics.

Upon graduation, he joined the
United States Air Force where he was
the Distinguished Graduate (top of his
class) in both Officer Training School
and Undergraduate
Pilot Training. He
served for fourteen
years as a pilot in the





Air Force, flying both rescue helicopters and the B-1B bomber. He holds three world speed records, including the world's record for the fastest non-stop flight around the world.

CONGRESSMAN STEWART HAS WRITTEN 17 BOOKS, SEVERAL OF WHICH HAVE BECOME NATIONAL BEST-SELLERS AND HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED IN SIX DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.

Before being elected to Congress, Congressman Stewart served as president and CEO of the Shipley Group, a nationally recognized firm for consulting expertise in energy and the environment.

Congressman Stewart now serves as a member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the Appropriations Committee. He has been an active member of the International Conservation Caucus since 2014. He joins fellow Co-Chairs Rep. Henry Cuellar (D-TX), Rep. Dave Joyce (R-OH), and Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN) in leading the House caucus.



I'm pleased to join **Congresswoman McCollum and Congressman Cuellar in welcoming Congressman Chris Stewart as our new Co-Chair of the International Conservation Caucus.** Congressman Stewart shares our bipartisan conviction that the United States has the opportunity, the obligation, and the ability to advance the conservation of natural resources and species for both current and future generations," said Rep. David Joyce (OH-14). "I look forward to collaborating with him and all of our colleagues on the Caucus to ensure **America continues its leadership role on this important issue."**



Congressman Stewart has been a stalwart for good natural resource management throughout his career," said ICCF founder **David Barron.** "He's brought an important perspective to the **International Conservation Caucus as a member of the Intelligence and Appropriations committees, and we're thrilled that he'll be taking on a leadership role in this bipartisan collaboration.**





NATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENT

ON EARTH DAY 2022, LEGISLATORS IN THE STATE GREAT KHURAL OF MONGOLIA ESTABLISH NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL

THE NCC RECOGNIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF EFFECTIVE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS, ESPECIALLY THE URGENT NEEDS CONCERNING ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT IN MONGOLIA.

The announcement was accompanied by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish the ICCF Group as Acting Secretariat in support of the caucus.





A COMMITMENT TO THE CAUCUS MODEL: A PLEDGE FOR NONPARTISANSHIP TO CONSERVE MONGOLIA'S NATURAL HERITAGE

Ulaanbaatar, April 22, 2022 - Legislators from the State Great Khural (Parliament) of Mongolia pledged to "commit to a nonpolitical structure to gain knowledge, raise awareness, and enact policy solutions on the most important issues to conserve Mongolia's natural heritage. These policy areas could include

grasslands, biodiversity, protected areas, water resources, healthy forests, mineral estates, countering environmental crime, adaptation from climate change, and the importance of effective management of natural resources towards achieving Mongolia's Sustainable Development Goals."

A SECRETARIAT TO SUPPORT THE CAUCUS AND MAKE ITS WORK KNOWN TO THE MONGOLIAN PEOPLE

With the shared desire to promote good governance of natural resources and the rule of law in Mongolia, and on the basis of mutual agreement, the legislators support the Memorandum of Understanding



with the ICCF Group. This established ICCF in Mongolia, which will serve as the Secretariat to the Nature Conservation Caucus (NCC).

THE ICCF GROUP WILL SUPPORT THE CAUCUS IN:

Policy briefings and field visits, dissemination of information, provision of expert assistance, development of capacity and technical expertise, and reviews of national policies and legislative frameworks. The partnership will also enable the caucus to enhance international collaboration aimed at achieving Sustainable Development Goals through policy coherence and political consistency. The ICCF Group delivers similar assistance to more than 20 conservation caucuses in countries around the world.

ICCF also provides technical assistance to many countries - the members of the technical assistance program each have decades of experience in forest and national park management. In Mongolia these experts will provide assistance through specific projects, advise on strategic directions, and help develop plans to achieve conservation outcomes. Four experts from ICCF's technical assistance program initiated cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, The Asia Foundation, WCS, TNC, UB Hiking Club, Selenge province officials, and other NGOs.

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CONFERENCE ON POLICY COHERENCE AND POLITICAL CONSISTENCY

The ICCF Group and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) hosted a policymaker conference in San Jose, Costa Rica from February 17-21, 2022 to discuss the role of policy coherence and political consistency in delivering global biodiversity benefits by addressing the drivers of environmental degradation. The conference convened key representatives from parliamentary caucuses that ICCF supports worldwide to provide input to GEF leaders to complement and guide planning for the 8th GEF Replenishment (GEF-8).

FIRST-HAND EXAMPLES: CONSERVATION INITIATIVES IN COSTA RICA

In addition to these discussions and strategy sessions, participants traveled into the field in Costa Rica to see first-hand examples of how policy coherence and political consistency are contributing to Costa Rica's

globally-recognized reforestation, renewable energy, and biodiversity conservation initiatives and its commitment to protect 30% of its land and marine area by 2030.

Members of Parliament in attendance included:

from Botswana, Hon. Wynter Mmolotsi and Hon. Kgoberego Nkawana; from Colombia, H.R. David Pulido and H.R. Angela Sanchez;

from Ecuador, Asm. Fredy Rojas and Asm. James Zambrano; from France, Sen. Ronan Dantec and Dep. Hubert Julien-Lafferriere; from Kenya, Hon.



Francis Chachu Ganya; from Malawi, Hon. Werani Chilenga; from Mexico, Hon. Dep. Marcela Guerra; from Mongolia, Ms. Undram Chinbat and Ms. Saranchimeg Batsukh; from Peru, Hon. Patricia Chirinos and

Hon. Arturo Alegria Garcia; from South Africa, Hon. Simphiwe Mbatha; from the United Kingdom, Mr. Barry Gardiner; and from Zambia, Hon. Nickson Chilangwa and Hon. Anthony Kasandwe.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS INCLUDED

Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, CEO and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility and former Costa Rican Environment and Energy

Minister and Cynthia Barzuna Gutierrez, Vice Minister of Water and Seas of Costa Rica.

Conference participants discussed a range of topics, including how a greater focus on policy coherence and political consistency – a greater attention to the systematic promotion of policy actions crossing economic sectors and executive branch agencies to create synergies and reconcile counter-productive incentives – could produce ambitious environmental benefits. They further explored how the conservation caucus model could support the GEF in fulfilling its mission during the GEF-8 implementation period and considered whether the expansion of the caucus model to neighboring countries might add to the delivery of regional and global environmental benefits at scale.



WHEN A POLITICAL DECISION IS TAKEN TO PROTECT AND MANAGE NATURE SUSTAINABLY, THAT DECISION SHOULD BE KEPT IN THE LONG TERM, AND THIS IS ONE OF THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES THAT WE ACTUALLY CONFRONT.”

-- CARLOS MANUEL RODRIGUEZ, CEO AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY (GEF)

RECYCLING

THE U.S. NATIONAL RECYCLING STRATEGY: WHAT'S NEXT

The Oceans Caucus Foundation hosted a briefing on May 26th on the implementation of the EPA's National Recycling Strategy moderated by David Biderman, Executive Director and CEO of Solid Waste Association of North America.

The National Recycling Strategy aims to reach a national recycling goal of 50% by 2030 from the current rate of approximately 33%. The strategy is organized based on five strategic objectives: A) Improve Markets for Recycling Commodities, B) Increase Collection and Improve Materials Management Infrastructure, C) Reduce Contamination in the Recycled Materials Stream, D) Enhance Policies to Support Recycling,

E) Standardize Measurement and Increase Data Collection.

The panel represented both public and private stakeholders, and all echoed similar and important messaging. The panel included Allison Trulock, NewGen Strategies and Solutions; Ashley Krug, Missouri Department of Environmental Services; Elizabeth Row, Eco Partners, Inc; and David Allaway, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

CONTAMINATION IS A HUGE ISSUE IN THE U.S. RECYCLING SYSTEM.



Misleading labels, inconsistent collection and poor communication have led to mass confusion on how



to recycle,”

Allaway pointed out. One of the many key challenges that contamination presents is that it literally shuts recycling facilities down due to non-recyclable materials clogging or breaking machinery and even starting fires, with the main culprits being plastic bags and batteries. Panelists pointed out that this is a huge problem and costs facilities

valuable time and, more importantly, money. Contamination was a main culprit behind the infamous National Sword Policy, launched in 2017 by the Government of China to monitor and more stringently review recyclable waste imports. 40% of recycled materials that were sent to China as exports contained materials not recycled properly.

ASHLEY AND ELIZABETH BOTH MENTIONED HOW PUBLIC EDUCATION IS A BIG PART OF THE SOLUTION.

The public is often confused about what their local recycling program accepts and doesn't accept. There is also not equal access to robust recycling programs where “the same access in cities is not the same in rural areas.” The reality that different communities have different rules and access complicates the issue, but

industry does as well. There need to be rules about what materials can have a recycling symbol since some plastics and materials are recyclable in one area but not another.

The panel also pointed out that recycling not only reverts waste from landfills, but is good for the environment and economy.



When you're reusing materials, you're also conserving energy and water,”

said Allison. She also made the point that for every 10,000 tons of waste removed, 6 jobs are created, while

for every 10,000 tons of recycling removed, 36 jobs are created.

Investing in the U.S. recycling infrastructure is essential to reach the U.S. recycling goal but also to keep up with the current and future waste streams in the U.S. Success will require continued buy-in from all stakeholder groups and an emphasis on Reduce and Reuse, followed by Recycle.

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA PARLIAMENTARY FIELD VISIT TO NAIROBI, KENYA

The need for a circular economy is born from a promising opportunity for economic development, value creation, and skills development. The circular economy promotes the conservation of finite resources while preserving the environment. It also presents opportunities for job creation and the building of new enterprises. For African countries, circular solutions can be leveraged to meet various climate action obligations and sustainable development goals.

From April 22nd to 29th, 2022, the ICCF Group in partnership with Wilderness Foundation Africa facilitated a field visit for seven Members of Parliament (MPs) from the Republic of South Africa, who are part of the Portfolio Committee on Environment, Forestry, and Fisheries,

to Kenya. The goal of this exchange was to share challenges and best practices in reaching targets for a circular economy within the countries and for Kenyan representatives to share and highlight



national achievements in combating plastic waste.

The delegation was headed by Chairperson Azwihangwisi Faith Muthambi and included Hon. Bantubonke Harrington Holomisa, Hon. Narend Singh, Hon. Mogamad Nazier Paulsen, Hon. David William Bryant, Hon. Cheryl Phillips, and Hon. Nqabisa Gantsho.

On April 25th the MPs visited Anjarwalla & Khanna | ALN (Africa

Legal Network - Kenya) where they were briefed on a comprehensive report on a proposed bill on single-use plastics (SUPs) for the East African Community (EAC) - which comprises the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the United Republic of Tanzania, and the Republics of Kenya, Burundi, Rwanda, South Sudan, and Uganda - and how a similar approach to combating SUPs could be replicated in South Africa.

THE REPORT HIGHLIGHTED LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS THAT HAVE BEEN ADOPTED WITHIN THE EAC, THE PROCESS AND PROGRESSION OF LAWS ACROSS EACH COUNTRY, THE SUCCESSES, CHALLENGES, AND LESSONS LEARNED, AND AN OVERVIEW OF OTHER REGIONAL AND GLOBAL REGULATIONS AND TREATIES.

The delegation was also briefed by the Flipflop project's Mr. Dipesh Pabari; Flipflop has been building a movement to combat SUPs through their innovative and community-based approach, inspiring local solutions for a global issue. Flipflop operates on a mission to end

SUPs and to lead a plastic-reuse revolution through education, sailing expeditions, positive storytelling, and campaigns, having been recognized for making the first sailing dhow using recycled materials.

In the evening, the MPs met with

representatives from the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA), Sustainable Inclusive Business-Kenya (SIB-K), and the Kenya Association of Manufacturers. Discussions were centered on the challenges and

successes in bringing together the business community, government, and the informal sector to move towards a circular economy for plastic.

CRITICALLY, THE MPS ENQUIRED ABOUT THE TRANSITION TO A CIRCULAR MODE OF PRODUCTION AND HOW ALTERNATIVE MODELS WERE ESTABLISHED THAT BALANCE ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC NEEDS.

On April 26th the delegation visited the Dandora Dump Site, Vintz Plastics, and WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) Centre. The dump site is one of the main sources of plastics and used electronics, which are diverted from landfill by nearby residents, who source their income from separating the waste, thus showing the beginning stages of the circularity of the value chain. Afterwards, the delegation headed to Vintz Plastics, a recycling company,

and Green Pavers, a social enterprise, both focused on developing viable sustainable solutions in the circular economy through recycling and waste management. At WEEE Centre, the delegation was taken through the offered services of safe disposal of electrical and electronic waste (e-waste), secure data destruction, and detailed presentations of programs focused on training and awareness creation on safe and circular e-waste management.

THE WEEE CENTRE IS A SOCIAL ENTERPRISE THAT SEEKS TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND



PUBLIC HEALTH AND PROMOTE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES FOR KENYA’S YOUTH WHILE CONTRIBUTING TO ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY.

In the evening, MPs met with Hon. Francis Chachu Ganya, the Co-Chair of the Parliamentary Conservation Caucus-Kenya, Dr. Erustus Kanga, Secretary of Wildlife in the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife, and Mr. Titus Simiyu, Director in the National Environmental Management Authority, to gain insight into Kenya’s advanced approach to creating an enabling environment for plastics legislation and enforcement, and to discuss the synergies between the two countries.

On April 27th the delegation visited

the Circular Innovation Hub - a hub that fosters innovation in the circular economy space through programs, training, and concept tackling for businesses and young innovators. The MPs got an opportunity to meet a newly graduated cohort of entrepreneurs, who pitched their business ideas and the role their business models would play in promoting a circular economy. The entrepreneurs emphasized the role of legislators in creating an enabling environment for circular solutions across Africa.

The visit culminated in the MPs deciding to join the ICCF Group network of parliamentary conservation caucuses (forums) by forming the South African Legislators for the Environment (SALE) forum. As the founding Members of SALE, the seven MPs in attendance signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the ICCF Group and Wilderness Foundation Africa formally agreeing to a partnership to work together on activities of mutual interest that will enhance the capacity of SALE to carry out their legislative mandate. The MPs selected Hon. Azwihangwisi Faith Muthambi and Hon. Bantubonke Harrington Holomisa to serve as the first co-chairs of SALE, who will play a leading role in ensuring the success of the forum’s strategic direction and in meeting its objectives.

CONFRONTING FISHERIES CRIME IN ASEAN: AIPA & ICCF INDONESIA HOST JOINT BRIEFING TO ADDRESS GROWING CHALLENGE

On February 15th, 2022, the International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF) Indonesia and the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) hosted a virtual briefing on the Growing Challenge of Confronting Fisheries Crime in ASEAN.

The briefing gathered representatives of AIPA Member Parliaments, AIPA Observer Parliaments, and members of the Indonesian Oceans Caucus (Kaukus Kelautan DPR-RI), facilitating dialogue among policymakers and between parliaments on the topic and showcasing their unique role in confronting fisheries crime.

With moderation by Dr. Ian M.

Ralby, the panel discussed how countries advance their collective interests and the need to combat not only IUU fishing and its impact on sustainability, but also related offenses of fisheries crime, the impacts on rule of law on land, and state-protected illicit fishing, which is a threat to sovereignty and the global order.

OPENING REMARKS WERE DELIVERED BY HON. CHEAM YEAP, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF CAMBODIA.



Cheam Yeap's address was followed by a message from Rep. Ed Case, member of the ICCF-supported U.S. Congressional Oceans Caucus.

Dr. Marzuki Darusman, Chair and Co-founder of the Foundation for International Human Rights Reporting Standards (FIHRRS), kicked off the discussion by presenting a few cases of modern slavery and human rights violations in the fisheries industry, and efforts taken by countries in Southeast Asia to tackle these issues. The roots of human rights and labor rights violations in the fisheries industry relate to issues such as overfishing, IUU fishing, and the sourcing of the workforce from middle- and low-income countries in which more relatively low-cost migrant workers are employed. Loopholes in existing labor laws and inadequate capacity of labor rights institutions are amongst the main driving forces to these violations. Concluding the presentation, Dr. Darusman called to advance a much more comprehensive approach to combating crime in the fisheries

industry by linking human rights with the overall environmental protection imperative.

Dr. Ian M. Ralby, CEO and Founder of I.R. Consilium, presented the different terminologies used to confront fisheries crime and how disentangling the various terms is imperative from a policy, legal, and operational standpoint. Furthermore, Dr. Ralby highlighted that cooperation between agencies at the national level and between states is absolutely vital in safeguarding the common heritage of all mankind, including the abundance of the fisheries and other living marine resources of the oceans, while also protecting life on land.

The panel discussion concluded with a unifying message in favor of stronger multi-stakeholder dialogue and cooperation on these fronts, as issues such as IUU fishing and human rights violations in the fisheries industry are cross-border issues, thus requiring global and regional efforts by governments, business actors, and communities.

ICCF Indonesia applauds the expert panelists for comprehensive and intriguing

presentations which allowed for constructive regional dialogue between members of parliament across Southeast Asia and beyond, and we look forward to fostering future regional engagements and taking meaningful actions with regards to these issues in the future.



“It might not be sufficient to combat crimes in the fishery industry separately from an environmental approach in conserving fish stocks.” –Dr. Marzuki Darusman, Chair and Founder of the Foundation for International Human Rights Reporting Standards (FIHRRS)



“...that nexus between our lives on land and what is happening on the water is critical to understanding how we address these issues, because not only is it sustainability of our oceans, but it’s also relieving economic pressures on land, and dealing with the rule of law on land.”

–DR. IAN M. RALBY, CEO OF I.R. CONSILIUM

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

MOROTAI FIELD MISSION WITH WCS INDONESIA AND ANOVA FOOD, LLC

CCF Indonesia, Secretariat to the Oceans Caucus (Kaukus Kelautan) in the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia (DPR-RI) successfully hosted the Morotai Field Mission focused on fisheries management during 11-13 May, 2022. Hon.



Sudin, Chairman Komisi IV, led the delegation. Hon. Alien Mus, who represents North Maluku, was pivotal in supporting the Field Mission. Hon. Ansy Lema and Hon. Dave Laksono accompanied the delegation as well. The Field Mission was executed with Conservation Council Partners, WCS and Anova Food, LLC. Local representatives from the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (KKP/DKP) accompanied the delegation.

Kaukus Kelautan visited the SKPT Morotai, an integrated Marine and Fisheries Center from upstream to downstream in Daeo Majiko Village, and observed the supply of raw material, fish quality from fishers to SKPT, and market chain from the SKPT. Blue economy and MSC certification were amongst issues that were being discussed, as one of the processing facilities with HACCP, BRC and MSC certification. SKPT Morotai has contributed to the implementation of data collection

programs toward traceable and responsible fisheries management in Morotai.

The Caucus also met with POKMASWAS and discussed the unmet needs of the local fisherman who also serve as the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Park Rangers. The Caucus members were excited to learn stories from the community on the abundance of fish, and reduced illegal fishing in Morotai Marine Protected Area.

It is known that Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing remains a perpetual problem in Southeast Asia- and Indonesia is no exception. POKMASWAS, as a community-based surveillance composed of local fishermen, has been seen as providing useful and accurate information in their role of monitoring and surveillance, thus playing a pivotal role in combating illegal fishing.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATION FROM SOMALILAND HIGHLIGHTS CHEETAH TRADE CHALLENGE IN WASHINGTON

A high-level delegation from the Government of Somaliland, led by H.E. President Muse Bihi Abdi, visited Washington, DC in March to meet with U.S. government officials and Members of the United States Congress on a range of issues, including the trafficking threat facing the region's cheetah population.

On March 16th, ICCF, in partnership with the Cheetah Conservation Fund, hosted several members of the delegation at a luncheon briefing for Congressional staff and private-sector partners. Led by Minister of Environment and

Climate Change Shukri Haji Ismail, the briefing highlighted challenges and opportunities for conservation in Somaliland, including the impact of climate change, wildlife trafficking, and related security interests.

FROM 2010-2019, AS MANY AS 300 CHEETAH CUBS MAY HAVE BEEN TAKEN FROM THE LANDSCAPE IN THE HORN OF AFRICA EVERY YEAR.

Somaliland has become the main transit route for cheetahs trafficked out of East Africa because of its geographic location on the coast, a short trip across the Gulf of Aden, where the cats are trafficked

throughout the Middle East. Because it is not recognized as an independent nation, Somaliland is not a Party to CITES, which impedes official acknowledgement of



the wildlife trade occurring there.

However, work in recent years led by the Cheetah Conservation Fund, in partnership with the UK Government, IFAW, and Legal Atlas, has progressed in providing care for confiscated animals, building law enforcement capacity, and helping to fill gaps in Somaliland's legal frameworks and legislation.

PLASTICS

UN ENVIRONMENT DIRECTOR EMPHASIZES GLOBAL LEADERSHIP ON PLASTICS, NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS, AND MORE

Inger Andersen, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment), recently spoke to Congressional staff and private-sector partners in Washington at an ICCF-hosted briefing on Capitol Hill.

Ms. Anderson highlighted a number of UN Environment initiatives, including several related to ocean conservation and marine protected areas, plastics and circular economy, nature-based solutions, and food security and sustainable food systems.

Based in Nairobi, Kenya, UN Environment promotes the implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system, advocates for the global environment through campaigns including World Environment Day, and works

with UN Member States and representatives from businesses and nongovernmental organizations

to address conservation challenges through the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA).

IN EARLY MARCH, THE FIFTH SESSION OF UNEA CONCLUDED WITH MEMBER STATES ENDORSING A HISTORIC RESOLUTION TO END PLASTIC POLLUTION AND REACH A GLOBAL, LEGALLY-BINDING TREATY BY 2024.

In promoting this initiative and others to stakeholders in Washington, Ms. Andersen emphasized the important role that civil society and the private sector can play in addressing these conservation challenges.

BLUE ECONOMY

DEFINING AND EXPLORING THE BLUE ECONOMY

The Oceans Caucus Foundation (OCF) hosted a virtual panel featuring key oceans subject-matter experts discussing the blue economy and its implications for the future of American jobs, coasts, and industries. The panel also heard remarks from Senate and House Oceans Caucus Co-Chairs, Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) and Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR).

With moderation by Dr. Alan Leonardi, President and CEO of the Consortium for Ocean Leadership, the panel had a robust conversation

on the definition of the blue economy. The panel agreed that for now, there



is no one definition - there are many definitions out in the oceans space that share common threads. Dr. Leonardi identified three distinct but intertwined themes: the traditional, overall contributions the oceans provide to our economies; the need to identify the environmental and ecological sustainability of the

oceans when we look at economic development in the oceans space; and the ocean as a growth opportunity for both developed and developing countries. Panelists further agreed that a comprehensive definition should include the intersection of ocean-based technology programs with climate change and resilience.

THE PANEL DISCUSSED AT LENGTH THE CRITICAL NEED TO PRIORITIZE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE BLUE ECONOMY.

From prioritizing equity and justice, to rethinking our domestic education system to include oceans-focused curriculum down to the K-12 level, the panelists made it clear that the future of our blue economy depends on the expansion of, education of, and material support for the workforce.

As one panelist noted, if we don't have a developed and standardized workforce in the blue sector

conversation, we lose. And that 'we' is an all-encompassing 'we' - not just coastal communities, not just even the United States - the entire world that relies on our oceans. As we continue to grapple with climate change and work to preserve the world's oceans, the blue economy will continue to expand globally. To meet the demands of this sector, we must have a well-funded, well-educated, and strong blue economy workforce.

THE PANEL ALSO AGREED THAT AS WE GROW THIS WORKFORCE, EQUITY AND JUSTICE NEED TO BE AT THE FOREFRONT OF OUR MINDS.

As we move forward with technological innovation, the blue sector must prioritize creating deferential space at the table for indigenous stakeholders, for them to continue their stewardship of our oceans and our water-based lands.

Finally, the panel discussed the critical need for funding from the federal level that supports action on the ground at the local and community

level. Community-based investments for the blue economy will ensure that communities' specific needs are met.

Currently there are two bills in the 117th Congress promoting localized approaches to the blue economy and blue sector: the Blue Energy Innovation Act (HR 6680) and the Regional Ocean Innovation and Opportunity Act (S 3866).

OCF thanks our excellent panelists for such a comprehensive and robust conversation on the blue economy, and we look forward to continuing the conversation:

- Christian Cowan, University of Rhode Island
- Mark Farley, Oregon State University
- Ephraim Froelich, AKWA-DC

FOREST MANAGEMENT

EAST AFRICA POLICY BRIEF ON MANGROVES & BLUE CARBON

Mangrove forests make up one of the most productive and biologically diverse ecosystems on the planet. They offer a vast array of high-impact ecosystem services such as absorbing



atmospheric carbon due to the ability of their complex root systems to store carbon deep underground. They offer livelihood support for communities, serving as habitats for over 3,000 fish species, providing wood for fuel, construction, fish traps, and boat building, and supporting tourism development as they increasingly become tourism destinations. Additionally, mangrove forests buffer coastal communities from powerful storms and sea level rise, provide critical habitat for keystone species, and filter pollutants.

Across the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region - which comprises Comoros, France (in its Western Indian Ocean territories), Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa and Tanzania - mangrove forests cover about 1 million hectares, representing about 5% of global mangrove coverage. The Mikoko

Pamoja Project, executed in Gazi Bay at the Coast of Kenya, and the Vanga Blue Forest Project, executed in the transboundary mangroves of Kenya and Tanzania, are community-based projects focused on the prevention of deforestation and restoring and protecting mangroves through the sale of carbon credits.

THE GENERATED INCOME FROM THESE PROJECTS SUPPORTS LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN WATER AND SANITATION, EDUCATION, AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION, AND ALLOWS THE COMMUNITIES TO TAKE FULL CONTROL OF MANGROVE CONSERVATION.

On December 6th and 7th, 2021, the ICCF Group facilitated a regional 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) to Gazi Bay in Kenya to visit the Mikoko

Pamoja Project. 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 across the WIO region. The visit culminated in the development

of a policy brief that gives an overview of opportunities for policymakers to take on, in order to scale and regulate mangroves and blue carbon in Kenya, Mozambique, and Tanzania.

The opportunities highlighted in the brief include the development and passage of enabling legislation across the region and ensuring there are frameworks in place that set legal definitions on emerging issues, as well as policymakers offering support for both regional and international commitments and initiatives that their countries have signed on to or pledged to support.

CAUCUS-BUILDING

EASTERN CARIBBEAN: FIRST REGIONAL CONSERVATION CAUCUS TO BE SUPPORTED BY THE ICCF GROUP

The first regional conservation caucus was approved unanimously during the sixth (6th) sitting of the OECS Regional Assembly on March 18, 2022, with support by the ICCF Group. The OECS Assembly is a deliberative forum that brings together both government and opposition members of the parliaments and legislatures of the eleven (11) OECS Member States, to consider and seek common solutions to issues that affect the OECS region.

The theme of the sitting was, “The | Shift: Embracing New



Platforms and Innovative Models for Leadership in Sustainability,” and was convened to provide an avenue for dialogue on sustainability challenges and solutions for the region. ICCF Chairman, Dave Barron, represented the ICCF Group as a speaker during the sitting, and other keynote

speakers included Hon. Sameh Shoukry, the CoP-27 President of Egypt; Hon. Zac Goldsmith, Minister of State (Minister for the Pacific and the International Environment) of the United Kingdom and; Hon. Simon Kofe, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tuvalu.

The Regional Conservation Caucus through this Assembly is the first such regional body in the Eastern Caribbean, and represents a significant step towards non-partisan and international cooperation on environmental and climate policy-making, with the official launch planned for May 2022.

INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION CORPS

CONSULTATIONS ON A MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE GRAND ANSE ESTATE IN SAINT LUCIA COMMENCE

International Conservation Corps Volunteers bridged public and private interests this March during a field mission to Saint Lucia to conduct initial consultations in the development of a management plan for the private estate. The plan will bridge private interests in the development viability of the land, while also supporting the sustainable management of its resources to support a volunteer protection agreement process between the landowners and Saint Lucia's Ministry of Sustainable Development.

Technical volunteer Wayne Stetski, a senior leader in conservation with experience in governance at all levels in Canada, has a strong understanding of how to navigate the government landscape to effectively resolve issues, with over 30 years of experience working with and for the environment with senior management experience on conservation of both public and private lands. With support by Melvin

Turner, Lead Consultant on Protected Areas for the project and Project Officer and Caribbean Program Officer Eustace Vitalis, Mr. Stetski was able to broker a meeting between the landowners and Government of Saint Lucia during his mission, in addition to conducting two separate visits to the estate, meetings with community members, and prominent Civil Society Organizations in the country.

The information obtained during the mission will be critical to developing the background report for the Management Plan, and a follow-up mission in Autumn 2022 will advance the development of specific mechanisms for public private partnerships in the plan.



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear friends and colleagues,

Lorem ipsum.

Sincerely,

John B. Gantt
President

