



INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

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SEPTEMBER 20 IN NEW YORK CITY

GLOBAL LEADERS COMMIT TO PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS FOR CONSERVATION

As world leaders gathered in New York for the U.N. General Assembly, The ICCF Group hosted a reception on September 20 at the River Club of New York. The event brought together leaders at the highest levels of government, business, and the nonprofit sector to celebrate successful public-private partnerships for conservation and encourage continued market-driven efforts to conserve the world's natural resources.

Special guests at the reception included His Excellency Ali Bongo Ondimba, President of Gabon; His Honour Mokgweetsi Masisi, Vice President of Botswana;



THE PRESIDENT OF GABON, THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF BOTSWANA & OTHER WORLD LEADERS IN NEW YORK

the Administrators of USAID and UNDP; Heads of Delegations to the United Nations; and a number of private-sector and nonprofit leaders.

Speakers emphasized the necessity of prioritizing the important work that is being done around the

world in the areas of conservation and sustainable development, else much of the progress that has been made will be lost. While many developing countries are investing considerable resources toward implementing sustainable development models, they will not succeed without the involvement of the private sector.



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IN CAPITALS

ICCF & CHAIRMAN ED ROYCE HOST SCREENING OF COUSTEAU FILM ON CAPITOL HILL

SPECIAL GUESTS

JÉRÔME SALLE

Producer, Director, and Writer of *L'Odysée*

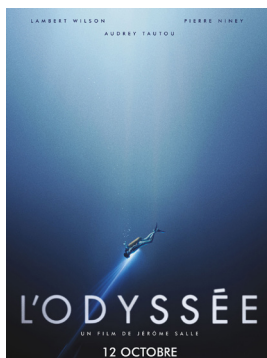
JAN COUSTEAU

Boards of Directors of the Washington Humane Society and Alliance Française; Wife of Philippe Cousteau, Sr.

PHILIPPE COUSTEAU, JR.

Award-winning Television Host, Producer, Author, Speaker, Philanthropist and Social Entrepreneur; Grandson of Jacques Cousteau

Watch the trailer for the film on our YouTube page.



[url: youtube.com/iccfoundation](https://www.youtube.com/iccfoundation)

On July 13, Representative Ed Royce (R-CA), Chairman of the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee and Founding Co-Chair of the U.S. Congressional International Conservation Caucus, in cooperation with the Oceans Caucus Foundation, hosted a private screening of *The Odyssey (L'Odysée)* – the story of the life and adventures of Jacques-Yves Cousteau. Chairman Royce and Co-Chairs of the House Oceans Caucus, Representatives Don Young (R-AK) and Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR), made opening remarks prior to the screening of the film.

L'Odysée, which premiered last summer at film festivals in Angoulême and Saint-Sébastien, tells the story of renowned French ocean explorer Jacques-Yves Cousteau and his family, recounting thirty years of adventure that inspired people around the world and cultivated public interest in our oceans.

SENATE UNANIMOUSLY PASSES BIPARTISAN SAVE OUR SEAS ACT

Members of the United States Senate voted unanimously to pass legislation designed to address the growing crisis of marine debris. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Founding Co-Chair of the Senate Oceans Caucus; Senator Dan Sullivan (R-AK), Honorary Co-Chair of the Senate Oceans Caucus; and Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ), a former Honorary Co-Chair of the Senate Oceans Caucus, introduced the bipartisan bill in March.

The Save our Seas (SOS) Act, which aims to promote a global response to the marine debris crisis, primarily reauthorizes the NOAA Marine Debris Program for five years. The bill also encourages the U.S. State Department to engage with foreign leaders of countries in which the problem of marine debris is most severe in order to foster collaborative research into the sources and causes of refuse in order to promulgate an effective prevention strategy.

“Plastic garbage and other junk crowding our oceans and shores is more than an eyesore. It's a threat to vital ocean and coastal ecosystems and our economy.”

-- Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)
Founding Co-Chair, U.S. Senate Oceans Caucus



ANNOUNCING THE LAUNCH OF THE OCF'S NATIONAL SECURITY BRIEFING SERIES

BECAUSE OCEAN SECURITY MEANS NATIONAL SECURITY

Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing has historically been on the agenda of the conservation community due to the threat it poses to the environment and fish populations around the world. However, despite the threat IUU fishing poses to maritime security, the security community has not been as involved in these conversations.

The United States is a developed country that is successful in enforcing laws within its exclusive economic zones (EEZs), including fishing regulations. However, many coastal nations do not have enforcement capacity within their own marine territories and are seeing their resources being exploited from

domestic and international sources. IUU fishing has become a top threat to coastal nations' national security, as IUU vessels are increasingly becoming associated with drug and human trafficking, terrorism networks, and geopolitical warfare.

To ensure that these issues are highlighted within the Congressional community, the Oceans Caucus Foundation is launching a National Security Briefing Series that will feature experts from the defense and maritime management communities to educate Congressional staff and the public and private sectors on the security threats posed by rampant ocean crime.



FIRST OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY BRIEFING SERIES:
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY TO COMBAT OCEAN CRIME



SEN. NINFAS SALINAS, CO-PRESIDENT OF THE MEXICAN CAUCUS, SPEAKS ON THE ROLE OF FOREST ECOSYSTEMS.

MEXICAN CAUCUS ENGAGES EXPERTS, STAKEHOLDERS ON THE CONTRIBUTION OF FOREST ECOSYSTEMS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

On September 5, the Mexican Conservation Parliamentary Group, ICCF Mexico, the Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources of the Senate of the Republic of Mexico (CMARN), the Organization for Political and Environmental Legislation (POLEA), and Reforestamos Mexico hosted a forum on the “Contribution of Forests Toward Achieving Sustainable Development Goals.”

The goal of this forum was to create a space for dialogue, analysis, and reflection and to promote the collaboration of legislators, governmental authorities, academics, the private sector, international bodies, and civil society organizations in order to discuss best practices for incorporating forests into the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Four panels of experts presented at the forum, discussing the importance of forests in social, economic, and environmental terms and identifying opportunities for their conservation and sustainable use, especially for communities, in order to achieve the SDGs.

More than one hundred stakeholders from various sectors central to the promotion of sustainable management of the forested ecosystems in Mexico participated in the event.

LEGISLATORS SIGN DECLARATION TO STRENGTHEN MEXICO'S COMMITMENT TO CITES COMPLIANCE IN NAFTA NEGOTIATIONS



Members of the Mexican Congress assembled in Mexico City on October 4, 2017 for a panel discussion facilitated by ICCF Mexico to discuss ways in which trilateral cooperation toward the enforcement of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) could be strengthened within the framework of modernization talks for the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Under the leadership of Senator Marcela Guerra, Co-Chair of the Mexican Conservation Parliamentary Group, participating Members of Congress signed a legislative declaration committing to Mexico's compliance with CITES and calling for NAFTA parties to consider provisions promoting sustainable, traceable trade and adherence to parties' commitments under CITES.

Eight senators and three deputies signed the declaration: Senators Ernesto Cordero Arroyo (President of the Board of Directors), Jesús Casillas Romero, Silvia Garza Galván, Raúl Aaron Pozos Lanz, Luisa María Calderón Hinojosa, Victor Hermosillo y Celada, Ricardo Barroso Agramont, and Jorge Aréchiga Ávila and Deputies Ignacio Pichardo Lechuga, Alma Lucía Arzaluz Alonso, and María de los Ángeles Rodríguez Aguirre. Others participating in discussions were specialists from various sectors, including SEMARNAT, CONABIO, SAGARPA, PROFEPA, INECC, SRE, the United States Embassy in Mexico, the United States Department of State, the British Embassy in Mexico, UNDP, Reforestamos México, Neek Capital, and the Wildlife Conservation Society.

MALAWI CAUCUS DEVELOPS FOREST MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

In August, members of the Malawi Parliamentary Conservation Caucus (MPCC) embarked on an ICCF Group-facilitated educational mission to Tanzania in order to learn and share best practices in the management of forests and national parks and seek conservation solutions to some of the pressing challenges being faced.

The delegation visited Mount Rungwe Natural Forest Reserve in order to better understand management of forest reserves. The MPCC members also visited Sao Hill Forest Plantation and Mikumi National Park and engaged with Tanzanian Government officials and members of the Tanzanian conservation caucus.

From these visits, the delegation has made a series of recommendations to the Parliament of Malawi, including that the Government of Malawi and its relevant stakeholders should intensify joint forest management to incorporate the surrounding communities more in forest management and protection, that the Government of Malawi could consider engaging surrounding communities in the management of forests and national parks and providing them with allowances after patrols, and that the Government of Malawi should review penalties for all forest products offenders as well as procedures that are followed in the prosecution of cases related to mismanagement of forests.

ICCF AND PERU'S NATIONAL PARK SERVICE SIGN MOU FOR CAPACITY BUILDING

The head of Peru's National Service of Natural Protected Areas, Pedro Gamboa, and Bill Millan, Director of Policy for The ICCF Group, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding, formalizing a partnership between the two groups in their joint mission to identify and address obstacles for effective capacity building. Specifically, this partnership will seek to address institutional capacity for the implementation of effective policies and management practices in the National Service of Natural Protected Areas of Peru, contributing to the country's conservation and diminishing threats to biodiversity.

The ICCF Group's International Conservation Corps and the

technical team of SERNANP have already begun to identify collaborative park priorities that include interpretation, commercial services, and planning.

Through the work of the International Conservation Corps, The ICCF Group continues to provide solutions on the ground, by facilitating collaborations between park authorities and experienced, retired professionals of the leading land and protected areas management agencies in the United States and Canada. These retired professionals work on a volunteer basis and provide technical assistance to create solutions for a more effective park service.

ADDRESSING SECURITY THREATS TO NAIBUNGA CONSERVANCY

The International Conservation Corps team brought together representatives from five northern community conservancies, the Kenyan government, and Kenya Wildlife Service to gain a common understanding of the threats to peace and security faced by the conservancies.

During the workshop, facilitated by personnel from Kenya Wildlife Conservancies (KWCA) and the Northern Rangelands Trust Peace Coordinator, participants discussed the impact of invading northern tribes on wildlife habitats, as a threat to wildlife security and accelerated land degradation. These invading tribes also interfere adversely with well-established grazing patterns within Naibunga.

During the two days of deliberations, participants resolved to work together peacefully with incoming tribes to make sure this trend is reversed and to mutually enhance security for wildlife in the region.



INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION CORPS TEAM ASSESSING ECOTOURISM POTENTIAL IN SAN JUAN DEL CESAR, COLOMBIA



Members of ICCF's International Conservation Corps visited San Juan del Cesar in La Guajira, Colombia and its newly designated Protected Forest Preserve: the Manantial de Cañaverales. The goal of the visit was to review the town's proposal to upgrade a spring area, the Manantial de Cañaverales, to provide higher quality visitor services while better protecting the resources.

A local group of dedicated women have created a plan to protect the spring, provide recreational opportunities with sustainable services (food, restrooms, etc.), and develop a trail around the springs that promotes a contemplative experience, while working to conserve the area's natural beauty and resources into the future. This group invited International Conservation Corps team members to visit the area to determine whether their plans were viable options for the town and neighboring protected area.

From this visit, the team drew the conclusion that there is significant potential for visitors to enjoy the surrounding natural areas as well as experience authentic local culture in the San

Juan del Cesar area. Keys to success will be enlarging the protected area around the spring and working with a potential combination of local guides and international tour companies to widen the tourism options for exploring San Juan del Cesar while protecting its authentic local culture.

The Manantial de Cañaverales is a large natural spring that brings clear, sparkling blue water to a series of pools meandering through the sunshine and green forest. This spring supplies fresh water to San Juan and other communities as well as area farms and ranches.

IN THE FIELD



ONGOING PROJECTS AROUND THE GLOBE

- Strengthening the management capacity of Colombia's national park system
- Supporting the Paulson Institute in China to establish a national park service
- Improving the management and operations of Thailand's premier national park
- Working in Kenya to support the Naibunga Conservancy
- Strengthened capacity of the government of the Bahamas to manage its forests

ICCF PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

PROFESSOR LEE WHITE, CBE

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF GABON'S NATIONAL PARKS AGENCY

PROFESSOR LEE WHITE INTRODUCES GABON'S NATIONAL PARKS AGENCY, DISCUSSES HIS PRIORITIES FOR THE AGENCY AND GOALS FOR CONSERVATION IN THE INLAND AND COASTAL REGIONS OF GABON, AS WELL AS HOW THE CONSERVATION CAUCUS CAN PLAY A ROLE

url: itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/the-iccf-group/



Hear the full ICCF Partner Spotlight with Professor White on our iTunes channel.

Q: When and why was the National Parks Agency created?

A: Gabon's National Parks Agency was established in 2007 when the government passed the law that finalized the creation of the 13 national parks, announced in 2002 by the late President Omar Bongo Ondimba. The agency was set up to manage the network of national parks, to protect the parks, to manage the parks, and to, what we say in French – to valoriser – to develop livelihoods and financial resources off the back of the park through ecotourism and payment for ecosystem services.

Q: What are the main challenges that your agency faces?

A: We've been fighting two wars, basically: the war against ivory trafficking in the north and the war against pirate fishermen out to sea. So, the biggest challenge has been developing the capacity of a young agency, hiring people and training them, at the same time we're fighting these two wars on two different fronts: the forest front and the marine front.

Q: What have you made to be your key priorities in your role as Executive Secretary?

A: My key priorities, as head of the parks service in Gabon, have been increasing support, both from government and from the international donor community; increasing staffing levels from the hundred or so people we had when I started up to now (we have 700 people today); making sure that the staff have got proper training to do their jobs; making sure that we're monitoring sufficiently out in the national parks to know that we're doing our job or to detect the places where we have significant issues, like elephant poaching on the border with Cameroon in the north, like pirate fishing off the coast of Mayumba in the south; and engaging, not only within the

conservation community but bringing in, when necessary, the defense community, the intelligence community, to help us get to the bottom of some of these major threats which you can link back to organized crime, even to Boko Haram terrorists.

Q: Why do you believe the Gabonese Parliamentary Conservation Caucus will be an important vehicle for helping to develop political will around issues of conservation in Gabon?

A: Today, the work that we do at the National Parks Agency depends, to a great extent, on political support and leadership. We have incredible political leadership from the President of Gabon. We have great support from the Prime Minister, and we, now, thanks to the newly founded conservation caucus in the Senate and the Parliament in Gabon, that was supported by the ICCF and is linked to what's going on in the U.S., we're starting to get really great enthusiasm and buy-in from our elected leaders in Gabon. I think that the conservation caucus potentially is going to be something that's really influential in Gabon because it takes us down to the grassroots voters. The Members of Parliament are our link to the people on the ground, and our job is about preserving nature, in part, for the benefit of the people.





ICCF PARTNERS PLAYING AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN HURRICANE RELIEF EFFORTS

SEAWORLD AND OTHERS MAKING SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO AID RECOVERY AFTER DEVASTATING HURRICANES HARVEY, IRMA, AND MARIA

In the wake of devastation caused by recent hurricanes Harvey and Irma, SeaWorld, the largest animal rescue organization in the United States, has provided shelter, food, and veterinary care for a wide range of animals.

The SeaWorld San Antonio rescue team provided animal food, equipment, and other supplies to zoological facilities impacted by the storm and was prepared to care for displaced animals. SeaWorld Orlando welcomed five dolphins from Dolphin Connection in Duck Key, Florida, to SeaWorld's rescue facilities for temporary shelter. It also provided around-the-clock care to seven manatees. One orphan remains in SeaWorld's care, while six others were relocated to Melbourne, Florida. Three birds were also rescued by SeaWorld Orlando's rescue team. Similarly, Busch Gardens Tampa Bay received six sandhill cranes and two gopher tortoises from a local rehabber for

protection from the storm, and a lemur from a Species Survival Plan partner is still at the park while his habitat is being repaired.

Through its Ocean Health Fund with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, SeaWorld made two emergency grants to stranding networks in Texas and Florida. It provided \$19,395 to The Turtle Hospital in Marathon, Florida and \$15,000 to the Texas Sea Life Center in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Other ICCF partners have also made significant contributions toward relief efforts, including donations made by Volkswagen and International Paper. Volkswagen has contributed \$150,000 each to relief efforts in Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico. International Paper has donated \$1 million as well as 200,000 disaster relief and food boxes.

SEAWORLD PARKS
& ENTERTAINMENT



WELCOME NEW CONSERVATION CAUCUS MEMBERS

U.S. CONGRESSIONAL INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION CAUCUS

Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-VA)
Rep. Derek Kilmer (D-WA)
Rep. Jimmy Panetta (D-CA)
Rep. Bruce Poliquin (R-ME)
Rep. John Rutherford (R-FL)

PERUVIAN CONSERVATION CAUCUS

Salvador Heresi Chicoma (PPK)

U.S. CONGRESSIONAL OCEANS CAUCUS

Rep. Derek Kilmer (D-WA)
Rep. Jimmy Panetta (D-CA)
Rep. Bruce Poliquin (R-ME)
Rep. John Rutherford (R-FL)

MEXICAN CONSERVATION PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

Dip. Fernando Rubio (PRD)
Dip. Mirza Flores Gomez (MC)

THE ICCF GROUP AROUND THE GLOBE





RECENT BRIEFINGS & WORKSHOPS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY TO PREVENT OCEAN CRIMES

OCTOBER 3, 2017

First of the Oceans Caucus Foundation's National Security Briefing Series

OCEANS GOVERNANCE: FORUM FOR POLICY DEVELOPMENTS AND TERRITORIAL SOLUTIONS

SEPTEMBER 27, 2017

Working Breakfast of the Colombian Oceans Caucus

USE OF PLASTIC & PLASTIC BAGS ON SAN ANDRES ISLAND

SEPTEMBER 26, 2017

Briefing in the Colombian Congress on the impact of plastic on marine ecosystems

PROMOTING & STRENGTHENING GREEN GROWTH

SEPTEMBER 20, 2017

Breakfast briefing in the Colombian Congress with the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)

EXHIBIT AND INTERPRETIVE MEDIA PLANNING AND DESIGN WORKSHOP

SEPTEMBER 15, 2017

International Conservation Corps workshop with staff in Colombia's Tayrona National Park

UGANDA STAKEHOLDERS WORKSHOP ON WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

AUGUST 28, 2017

UPTCC-led Workshop with Government Ministers, Civil Society stakeholders

ROUNDTABLE: RESPONSIBLE MINING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

AUGUST 23, 2017

Roundtable discussion in the Peruvian Congress to address informal gold mining

BUSINESS LEADERSHIP IN ADDRESSING MARINE DEBRIS

JULY 18, 2017

Panel of experts discusses the role of the private sector in addressing marine debris



USAID ADMINISTRATOR, AMBASSADOR MARK GREEN, SPEAKS AT SEPTEMBER RECEPTION IN NEW YORK ON PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS



LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It has been a busy summer for The ICCF Group. In New York during the United Nations General Assembly, we hosted a reception that brought together leaders at the highest levels of government and the private sector to celebrate successful public-private partnerships for

conservation and encourage continued market-driven efforts to conserve the world's natural resources. It is essential that the public and private sectors work together on conservation and sustainable development issues.

Our parliamentary conservation caucuses around the world are seeing outstanding benefits from a model in which private-sector leaders lend their expertise to policymakers as they consider best ways to develop and protect their natural resources. Many of the nations with which we work are making considerable investments toward implementing sustainable development models, but these initiatives cannot succeed without private-sector involvement and support. Many businesses, nonprofits, and multilateral organizations are committed and prepared to invest in conservation globally, but their efforts cannot be fully successful without buy-in and support from governments. This is why the work of The ICCF Group to convene leaders in the public and private sectors is so important.

Over the past several years, our Oceans Caucus Foundation has provided opportunities for the oceans community to educate

members of the U.S. Congress about marine debris—the challenges it poses and innovative methods being implemented to counter it. And, in August, Members of the United States Senate voted unanimously to pass legislation designed to address the growing crisis of marine debris.

Impacts like these are not possible without the support of our many partners. For that, we remain grateful.

Best Wishes,

David H. Barron
Chairman, The ICCF Group



FACEBOOK.COM/THEICCFGROUP



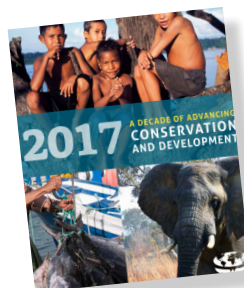
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BECOME AN ICCF GLOBAL PARTNER

For information about our partnership opportunities, please contact:

Susan Lylis
Vice President, ICCF
susanlylis@iccfoundation.us
The ICCF Group
25786 Georgetown Station
Washington, DC 20027
+1 (202) 471-4222

