MISSION
TO STRENGTHEN THE MANAGEMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS BY DEPLOYING EXPERIENCED CONSERVATION PROFESSIONALS TO SHARE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE

VISION
A WORLD WHERE EVERY COUNTRY HAS THE HUMAN AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY TO EFFECTIVELY MANAGE A SYSTEM OF NATIONAL PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS THAT CONSERVE ITS NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION CORPS

PROVIDING ON-THE-GROUND SOLUTIONS
The ICCF Group's International Conservation Corps is made up of experienced veterans from U.S. and Canadian land management agencies who travel to partner nations around the world to provide high-level, low-cost expertise.

A COMPLEMENT TO THE CAUCUS MODEL
International Conservation Corps projects complement The ICCF Group’s work with policymakers on a range of issues such as forestry, wildlife, national parks & protected areas, oceans & rivers, and fisheries.

CLOSING THE GAP IN CONSERVATION EFFORTS
The International Conservation Corps program is demonstrably the most effective form of technical assistance – both in terms of assisting partner nations in fulfilling their objectives, and through that process developing institutional and human capacity.
OUR TEAM
THE INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION CORPS DEPLOYS SEASONED PROFESSIONALS WHO HAVE DECADES OF REAL-LIFE EXPERIENCE IN PROTECTED AREAS AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

International Conservation Corps professionals typically volunteer their services, offering a cost-effective solution to the need for technical assistance. Veteran conservation professionals are hand selected to transfer the knowledge, experience, and best practices needed by partner nations to address host-country priority conservation needs. International Conservation Corps experts are flexible, adaptable, and extraordinarily committed to transferring conservation knowledge and experience; they often remain engaged with projects and people over the long term.

PROGRAM LEADERSHIP

TODD KOENINGS
International Conservation Corps Program Director

DOUG MORRIS
U.S. National Park Service Superintendent, ret.

JOEL HOLTROP
Deputy Chief, U.S. National Forest System, ret.

MICHAEL SOUKUP, PH.D.
U.S. National Park Service Associate Director for Natural Resource Stewardship and Science, ret.

DESTRY JARVIS
Presidential Appointee to the U.S. National Park Service

MARIA BURKS
U.S. National Park Service Superintendent, ret.

MEL TURNER
Planner, Manager, and Administrator with the Government of the Province of British Columbia and BC Parks, ret.

KATHY CHOPIK
Assistant Deputy Minister for British Columbia Provincial Government, ret.
HOW WE DO IT
ADDRESSING THE GAP IN CONSERVATION EFFORTS

The International Conservation Corps program is a highly effective, low-cost means of providing technical assistance, helping partner nations to fulfill their objectives and to develop institutional and human capacity. The program is the least costly way to project the vast U.S. experience in the management of national parks and natural resources in useful ways overseas, and it is more effective than other forms of technical assistance from the U.S., from other countries, and from often highly paid consultants.

U.S. and Canadian conservation agencies have long realized the potential of expanding their mission beyond their own borders to provide assistance and expertise in key regions but have lacked the funding to properly sustain international programs. The International Conservation Corps has the systemic capacity to channel the experience and talent of these respective agencies and retired experts to meet the specific needs of partner nations and provide the necessary funding and in-country political support through The ICCF Group.

GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Although most developing nations have set aside large areas for preservation, and much has been accomplished to scientifically catalogue critical natural resources, most of these nations lack the human and institutional capacity needed to manage these natural resources, leading to the destruction of biodiversity, water, and forests which are vital sources of environmental security, aesthetic value, cultural heritage, food security, and sustainable economic development.

This lack of capacity leads to unsustainable use and destruction of natural resources through inappropriate development, unmanaged tourism, poaching, erosion, pollution, and other problems.

To support the worldwide growth in human population and consumption, it is imperative to help overcome this global management deficit to ensure that economic and other benefits perpetually convey from ecosystems to forestry, fish, and wildlife sectors, the tourism industry, and agribusiness.
TOP PRIORITIES

The ICCF Group has identified Kenya and Colombia as high-priority countries and has established regional bases in each. Benefitting from expertise provided by the International Conservation Corps and from capacity building support provided by ICCF’s Conservation Council of Nations (CCN), Kenya and Colombia have become working examples of our unique approach to advance conservation solutions throughout the developing world.

KENYA

The ICCF Group and the International Conservation Corps have worked with Naibunga Conservancy, a community conservation initiative in northern Kenya comprised of nine pastoralist communities, since 2012. Collectively, the nine group ranches in Naibunga have set aside 43,000 acres of land for conservation. Naibunga is one of more than 30 conservancies supported by the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT).

The work of The ICCF Group and the International Conservation Corps with the Naibunga Conservancy demonstrates the importance of empowering communities to develop internal capacity to take independent action. ICCF has taken steps to further engage local communities by defining the conservancy’s priorities and implementing work plans.

Although the Naibunga Conservancy has a variety of focus issues and programs, The ICCF Group is concentrating its support in three main areas: rangeland security, rangeland improvements, and water source improvements.

COLOMBIA

The priority of the Colombian government is to strengthen its national park system, which protects some of the world’s most important biodiversity and unique ecosystems, fresh water for 30 percent of the population, a variety of indigenous cultures, and extraordinary beauty.

ICCF’s International Conservation Corps has seized this critical moment in Colombia’s history, creating among the country’s leaders the enthusiasm and action needed to form a new conservation caucus and a new oceans caucus in parliament. International Conservation Corps has been equally successful in engaging the Minister of the Environment and Director of the Colombian National Park Service.
ONGOING PROJECTS

ZAMBIA
In Zambia, the International Conservation Corps is developing recommendations to enhance the enforcement capacity to halt ivory poaching.

THAILAND
In Thailand, the International Conservation Corps is assessing the premier national park, leading into a plan to strengthen its management and use it as a regional learning center.

CHINA
In China, the International Conservation Corps is identifying priorities and next steps to assist an important nature reserve.

MONGOLIA
In Mongolia, the International Conservation Corps is encouraging political leaders, ministers, and agency directors to initiate the development of a national, master plan for conservation.

PARAGUAY
In Paraguay, the International Conservation Corps is conducting a needs analysis and determining next steps.

MEXICO
In Mexico, the International Conservation Corps is conducting an assessment with the Mexican government to identify conservation priorities and decide how Mexico might coordinate with the International Conservation Corps and benefit from the full range of expertise available to achieve those priorities.

THE BAHAMAS
In the Bahamas, the International Conservation Corps is developing a policy framework to guide the management of terrestrial and marine national parks.

BELIZE
In Belize, the International Conservation Corps is responding to a request by the manager of Belize’s largest national park for an assessment.

GRENADA
In Grenada, the International Conservation Corps is developing a comprehensive interpretive plan geared toward national park tourism.

ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
In St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the International Conservation Corps is implementing the plan to conduct a biological inventory to guide land management decisions.

VIETNAM
In Vietnam, the International Conservation Corps is developing an action plan to strengthen the management of Cat Ba Island National Park.