ICCF HOSTS COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT FOR BIPARTISAN DIALOGUE AT THE U.S. CAPITOL

MISSION
TO ADVANCE CONSERVATION GOVERNANCE BY BUILDING POLITICAL WILL, PROVIDING ON-THE-GROUND SOLUTIONS

VISION
A WORLD WHERE PEOPLE AND NATURE SUSTAIN AND NURTURE ONE ANOTHER

THE MOST ADVANCED SOLUTION IN CONSERVATION

WE BUILD POLITICAL WILL
The ICCF Group advances governments’ leadership in conservation internationally by building political will within legislatures and supporting governments in the management of protected areas.

CATALYZING CHANGE WITH KNOWLEDGE & EXPERTISE
The ICCF Group supports political will by catalyzing strategic partnerships and knowledge sharing between policymakers and our extensive network.

TO PRESERVE THE WORLD’S MOST CRITICAL LANDSCAPES
The ICCF Group’s international track record in legislative outcomes, public-private partnerships, & land management demonstrates that our unique model is emerging as a cost-effective, sustainable solution to conservation governance challenges.
THE ICCF GROUP IN LATIN AMERICA
SOLUTIONS IN CONGRESS AND IN THE FIELD

The ICCF Group is working in governments and on the ground in Latin America to advance leadership and build capacity to manage natural resources, including in parks and protected areas. The ICCF Group has facilitated the establishment of congressional conservation caucuses in Colombia, Peru, and Mexico and is collaborating with each of these coalitions of policymakers to provide them with comprehensive information and innovative solutions on issues of natural resource management. Equipped with objective information, these Members of Congress can make informed decisions and lead the way in forming sound, nonpartisan, conservation policies that benefit their respective nations.

On the ground, experts from The ICCF Group’s International Conservation Corps work hand in hand with governmental and non-governmental partners in developing nations to achieve conservation priorities and develop institutional capacity to effectively manage parks and protected areas. In Colombia, International Conservation Corps team members are working with the National Natural Parks of Colombia to strengthen its management capacity, especially improving the ability to sustainably support increased tourism to bring much-needed jobs to rural communities; developing a new institutional planning system; incorporating interpretation services at heavily visited parks; strengthening commercial services management; and developing a strategy for a new national training program. Having demonstrated successful work with the National Parks Service in Colombia (PNN), The ICCF Group has signed an MoU to work with SERNANP - the National Parks Service in Peru - and identified key areas for collaboration in which the ICCF program can support Peru through expert technical assistance.
WORKING WITH THE LEGISLATURE

HOW THE ICCF GROUP IS TRANSFORMING CONSERVATION GOVERNANCE THROUGH THE CAUCUS MODEL

TO REACH ACROSS THE AISLE

As an emerging organization on the political stage, The ICCF Group is breaking ground, empowering hundreds of parliamentarians to reach across the aisle and sponsor legislation that, while covering a wide range of issues, shares a common purpose: To strengthen a country’s legislative framework in a manner that isn’t exclusively good for the planet, but for economies and local communities as well.

Our work to share globally a legislative model with proven results in the United States has led parliamentarians abroad to embrace a new approach to governance, one characterized by nonpartisanship and a focus on topics on which political parties can find common ground.
Established in 2012 as the founding organization of The ICCF Group in Latin America, ICCF Colombia has, first domestically and now regionally, addressed illegal mining, oceans, and other issues while working to strengthen the management capacity of its national park system.

ABOUT


CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA
TEAM 2018-2022
ACRONYM: CCC

CO-CHAIR BY
SEN. JUAN DIEGO GÓMEZ (PC) | SEN. DAIRA DE JESÚS GALVÍN MÉNDEZ (PC)
SEN. MAURICIO GÓMEZ (PL) | SEN. SANTIAGO VALENCIA (PCD)
SEN. EFRAÍN CEPEDA SARABIA (PC) | SEN. MARÍTZA MARTÍNEZ ARISTIZÁBAL (PL)
REP. CARLOS ALBERTO CUENCA CHAUQ (PCR) | REP. EDWARD RODRIGUEZ (PCD)
REP. ELOY QUINTERO (PCR) | REP. EDWIN BALLESTEROS (PCD)
REP. GLOVIS QUINTERO (PC): REP. EDWIN BALLESTEROS (PCD)

MEMBERS, SENATE
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Sen. Andrés García Jatté (PL)
Sen. Javier Dure (PL)
Sen. Nora García Burgos (PC)
Sen. Luis Echegaray Molano (PCR)
Sen. Sandra Ortiz (PV)
Sen. Fabio Acería (PL)
Sen. Carlos Jiménez (PC)
Sen. Fabián Castiblanco (PCR)
Sen. Carbajo Guirao (RM)
Sen. Paola Holguín (PCR)
Sen. José Héctor (PCR)
Sen. Antonio Sangales Páez (PV)

MEMBERS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Rep. Alfredo Delaque (Pu)
Rep. Christian Moneva (PL)
Rep. Carlos Fernández (PCR)
Rep. Franklin Losano (PCR)
Rep. Karen Gue (PCR)
Rep. Marylin Gómez (PCR)
Rep. Margarita Restrepo (PCD)
Rep. Óscar Darío Pérez (PC)
Rep. Silvia Dazaquilla (PC)
Rep. César Fajardo (RM)
Rep. César Ortiz Zorro (PV)
Rep. Juan Espinal (PC)
Rep. Johan Jairo Benítez (PC)
Rep. Rodrigo Rojas Lara (PCR)
Rep. Camilo Arango (PCR)
Rep. Terán de Jesús Enrique (Pu)
Rep. Nicolás Scheweny (PC)
Rep. Juan Carlos Lerato (PL)
Rep. Katherine Miranda (PV)
Rep. Hector Ortiz (PCD)
Rep. Elizabeth Jay Ponce Azul (Pl)
Rep. Harold Augusto Valencia (Pu)
Rep. Modesto Aguilera (CR)
COLOMBIA CAUCUS PRIORITIES

NATIONAL PARKS
Improving management of its National Parks is a priority for Colombia. The Colombian Conservation Caucus is working to assess and address the challenges facing the National Parks System in order to promote ecotourism activities in important areas around the country. Part of this effort includes securing sustainable financing for Colombia’s National Parks.

ILLEGAL MINING
Conservation Caucus legislative initiatives have focused on the promotion of responsible mining practices, including formalization, fighting against illegal mining, and suppressing the use of mercury. Caucus leadership led efforts in Congress which led to Colombia’s formal accession to the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

WATER
Recognizing water as an axis of sustainable development, the Conservation Caucus is looking at water-related topics like water quality, groundwater management, sustainable use, access to potable water, sanitation, wastewater pollution, and drought.
ABOUT
Established in 2017 as the second of its kind, following inter-parliamentary exchanges with Co-Chairs and Members of the U.S. Oceans Caucus, the Colombian Oceans Caucus establishes a multi-sectoral agenda on priority issues for the conservation and sustainable development of marine resources.

COLOMBIAN OCEANS CAUCUS

CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA
TERM 2018-2022
ACRONYM: COC

CO-CHAIED BY
SEN. Daira Galvis Méndez (CR) | SEN. Juan Diego Gómez (PC)
SEN. Efraín Cepeda Sarabia (PC) | SEN. Santiago Valencia (PCD)
SEN. Mauricio Gómez (PL) | SEN. Fabian Castillo (PCR)
SEN. Iván Name Vásquez (PV) | SEN. Edwin Ballesteros (PCD)

MEMBERS, SENATE
Sen. Daira Galvis Méndez (CR)
Sen. Juan Diego Gómez (PC)
Sen. Efraín Cepeda Sarabia (PC)
Sen. Santiago Valencia (PCD)
Sen. Mauricio Gómez (PL)
Sen. Fabian Castillo (PCR)
Sen. Iván Name Vásquez (PV)
Members

MEMBERS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Rep. César Ortiz Zorro (PV - Cas.)
Rep. Juan Espinal (PCR - Ant.)
Rep. John Jairo Berrío (PCD - Ant.)
Rep. Rodrigo Roper Vega (PCD - Boy.)
Rep. Osmar Arango (PCD - Atl.)
Rep. Teresa de Jesús Enríquez (PV - Nar.)
Rep. Alfredo A. Cuello (PC - Atl.)
Rep. Karen Conde (PCR - Boy.)
Rep. César Pachón (PM - Boy.)
Rep. Kathleen Miranda (PV - Boy.)
Rep. Hector Ortiz (PCD - Boy.)
Rep. Elizabeth Jay Peng Steele (F - SAI)
Rep. Héctor A. Valencia (F - Ant.)
Rep. Moderno Aguilar (F - Ant.)

THE OCEANS CAUCUS WAS ESTABLISHED BY THE COLOMBIAN CONSERVATION CAUCUS, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE CENTER FOR HIGHER LEGISLATIVE STUDIES.
COLOMBIA OCEANS CAUCUS PRIORITIES

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

Colombia is the only country in South America with extensive marine-coastal territories in both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Fishing in these oceans is, for coastal communities, a primary income- and employment-generating activity. However, illegal fishing has become a challenge that affects the benefits generated by this activity. Illegal fishing also impacts national security with links to smuggling of fuel and illicit trafficking in gold. The Colombian Oceans Caucus is beginning discussion of this topic through a series of multisectoral dialogues that will be developed in the Congress of the Republic and through a field mission to the Utria National Park in the Pacific Region. Through these activities, caucus members hope to gain a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities that fisheries generate and to understand the role they can play as legislators to promote initiatives that will lead to effective solutions.

ECOTOURISM

Colombia continues to be an important destination for international tourism. In 2016, the country received 5,092,052 international visitors, the highest figure in the country’s tourism history, far surpassing country goals. Tourism is currently the second largest income generator in the country, reaching US $ 5.251 million in 2015, 7.45% higher than the previous year. With this growth in tourism, there are numerous opportunities to enhance tourism in Colombia’s national parks as a strategic economic sector of the country. Ecotourism can generate social, environmental, and economic benefits that will allow the country’s protected areas to be developed in a sustainable manner. The Colombian Conservation Caucus and the Colombian Oceans Caucus are endeavoring to assess these opportunities by carrying out field missions and seeing first-hand how they as legislators can play a role in promoting sustainable development through ecotourism, particularly in protected areas in the post-conflict zone.
The Mexican Conservation Parliamentary Group was first established in 2016 but has been rebuilt after the 2018 elections as the previous Congress was not eligible for re-election. The new caucus includes the Chair of the Senate Environment Committee and the Committee on Indigenous Affairs.

IN 2019, THE CAUCUS AGENDA TARGETED FOREST AND PARKS MANAGEMENT AND THE RURAL POLICE MANDATE ON ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES.
MEXICO CAUCUS PRIORITIES

SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY

Community forest management, including both the conservation and the sustainable use of forest ecosystems, is essential for the development of the nation, especially to improve the living conditions of the people who inhabit the forest communities. An important part of the work of the Mexican Conservation Parliamentary Group in this area has focused on the promotion of multisectoral dialogues to identify proposals for improvement of public policies and legislation to ensure the promotion of sustainable forest management, community rights, and compliance with the biodiversity and sustainable development goals that the country has acquired under various international and national frameworks.

PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT

Mexico has 182 federal natural protected areas that represent 90,839,521.55 hectares. These areas conserve the most representative ecosystems of the country and their biodiversity, protect the country’s main hydrological basins, provide raw materials, and harmoniously promote the integration of communities and nature to promote long-term sustainable development. Despite having a strong parks system, the country has recognized the need to improve its management and financing. The Mexican Conservation Parliamentary Group promotes multi-sectoral dialogue to promote the strengthening of national parks through public-private partnerships and promote innovative schemes that integrate communities in conservation activities.

Biodiversity

Although Mexico represents only 1% of the earth’s surface, it houses around 12% of the world’s biodiversity and a large number of endemic species. The Mexican Conservation Parliamentary Group works to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the country’s biodiversity, addressing issues such as the illegal trafficking of species, the conservation of habitats, the application of the CITES convention, the role of communities in the conservation of biodiversity, and the strengthening of legislation and policies on the matter.
SPOTLIGHT: MEXICO
MISSION SHEDS LIGHT ON COMMUNITY FORESTRY

The ICCF Group is collaborating with Mexico’s National Forest Commission (CONAFOR) to promote sustainable development of Mexico’s forests and jungles, with a focus on community management. In 2018, The ICCF Group led a field mission to the state of Durango with key legislators to see firsthand the contributions of community forest companies toward biodiversity and sustainable development.

Not long after, the Mexican House of Representatives approved amendments to the General Law of Sustainable Forestry Development, which include the creation of a Community Forestry Management Program. A number of Congressmen were involved in drafting and editing the bill including GPCM members, who advocated for community forest management on the Senate floor.

THE MISSION ALLOWED ME TO EXPERIENCE THE WORK THAT FOREST COMMUNITIES IN MEXICO DO TO CONSERVE NATURAL RESOURCES AS VALUABLE AND AT THE SAME TIME GENERATING SOCIAL WELL-BEING. IT IS FUNDAMENTAL THAT WE CONTINUE STRENGTHENING THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK ON THE SUBJECT OF FORESTS AND LOOK FOR INCENTIVES FOR THESE COMMUNITIES’ WORK.

DIP. EDNA GONZÁLEZ EVIA OF MEXICO.
ABOUT
Established in 2017, the Peruvian Conservation Caucus is one of the youngest caucuses thus far. The caucus works against illegal gold mining, a severe danger to rural ecology and human welfare, and is currently supporting several laws aimed at improved national parks management.

IN 2019, THE CAUCUS-BACKED BILL TO REGULATE SINGLE-USE PLASTICS NATIONWIDE WAS SIGNED INTO LAW 30884. LEGISLATION WAS ALSO FILED TO COMBAT ILLEGAL MINING IN RURAL PERU

PERUVIAN CONSERVATION CAUCUS

CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF PERU
TERM: 2016-2021
ACRONYM: CCP

CO-CHAIR BY
MARIA ELENA FORONDA FARRO (FA)
MIGUEL ANGEL TORRES MORALES (FP)
ARMANDO VILLANUEVA MERCADO (AP)
GUIDO LOMBARDI ELIAS (PPK)
MARIA CRISTINA MELGAREJO PAUCAR (FP)

MEMBERS
Merced Espinosa Cruz (APP)
César Villanueva Arévalo (APP)
Elias Rodriguez Zavala (APRA)
Jorge Meléndez Celis (PPK)
Marco Arana Zegarra (FA)
Wilmer Aguilar Montenegro (FP)
Sequitos Tapi Tamayo (FP)
Horia Losanco Acosta (AP)
Wilber Rosas Beltran (FA)
Sukhchi Carlos Salvador Huaraz Churums (PPK)
Patiyocs Gonzalez Pasquale (PPK)
Edwin Vergara Pinto (FP)

María Ursula Letona Pereyra (FP)
Gilmer Trujillo Zegarra (FP)
Ricardo Parraquex Flores (FP)
Héctor Sebastian Andrade (FP)
Marvin Palma Mendoza (NA)
Juan Carlos Del Agua Cárdenas (FP)
PERU CAUCUS PRIORITIES

WATER

Peru is one of the 20 countries in the world that is richest in water. However, the resource is not allocated where it is most needed. Sewage and drainage systems have not yet been completed in all parts of the country, and many districts of the capital do not even have potable water services. Members of the Peruvian Conservation Caucus and their parliamentary colleagues are working to promote multi-sectoral dialogue and consider legislative initiatives on this issue.

ILLEGAL FISHING

The Peruvian coasts have unparalleled marine wealth, capable of offering the world an enormous supply of healthy, safe, and quality products. However, illegal fishing is a very big problem that can affect this concept. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Peru loses 1,200 million soles a year due to this illicit activity. Eradicating illegal fishing is crucial for Peru because it is decreasing resources, produces unfair competition, and has damaging impacts on the economy. Therefore, CCP members and allies contribute substantially to improve inspections and create resource protection plans.

PROTECTED AREAS

As the National Service of Natural Protected Areas by the State (SERNANP) seeks to protect Peru’s biodiversity, it becomes important to locate and recover additional natural areas. For the CCR efforts related to National Parks will continue to promote multi-party dialogue advancing the conservation of these areas, including sustainable forest management as a key factor to contribute to sustainable development, the conservation of biological diversity, and the generation of social well-being.
**LEGISLATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS**

**COLOMBIA**

**APPROVAL OF 2013 MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY**

Led to Colombia’s formal accession of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

**LAW PASSED FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANDEAN HIGHLANDS (PÁRAMOS)**

Regulates activities in and around the Andean highlands for the restoration and sustainable use of these integral ecosystems

**POLICE CODE TO FIGHT USE OF MERCURY IN ILLEGAL GOLD MINING**

Prohibits the use of chemical substances in the irregular removal of minerals

**LEGISLATION FILED TO COMBAT ILLEGAL MINING**

Promotes responsible mining practices, including formalization, fighting against illegal mining, and suppressing the use of mercury

**ACTION ON MARINE DEBRIS (PLASTIC BAGS)**

Through which measures are issued to mitigate the environmental impact caused by the use of plastic bags and other environmental provisions are dictated

**PLASTIC BAGS BAN, ISLE OF SAN ANDRES**

Phases out single-use plastics in the Colombian archipelago by the year 2021

**KIGALI AMENDMENT TO THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL**

Adds the 5th modification to the Montreal Protocol for ozone layer to regain 1980 level by 2050

**MEXICO**

**GENERAL LAW OF SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT OF 2018**

Improves the forestry sector by mainstreaming biodiversity; adopts environmental and social safeguards system; improves mechanisms for civil participation in decision-making processes, and adopts measures to increase the sustainable production of the sector, among others

**PERU**

**LEGISLATION FILED TO COMBAT ILLEGAL MINING**

Formalizes small-scale and artisanal mining

**BILL SIGNED INTO LAW TO REGULATE SINGLE-USE PLASTICS NATIONWIDE**

Regulates the manufacturing, importing, distribution, and consumption of single-use plastics such as bags, straws, and polystyrene, among others, in order to protect both the environment and human health
WORKING WITH THE EXECUTIVE

HOW THE ICCF GROUP IS ADVANCING THE MANAGEMENT OF LAND AND SEA CRITICAL TO MANKIND AND HIS PROSPERITY

INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION CORPS

Through the International Conservation Corps program, The ICCF Group provides expertise to help partner nations develop protected area, wildlife management, and conservation strategies. International Conservation Corps team members are veterans of U.S. and Canadian government agencies such as U.S. National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and each member has decades of practical experience managing national parks, wildlife, forests, and water. These professionals work to complete demanding projects in countries in Latin America, Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean and have contributed over $3 million in volunteer services to date.
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.

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

MEL TURNER
Planer, 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.

MARIA BURKS
U.S. National Park Service Superintendent, 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.
Our council members possess very diverse experience: some offering the latest science, others sharing practical know-how to build community-based conservation projects through public-private partnerships. But, all offer unique perspectives and share a common desire to implement conservation projects safeguarding wildlife and biodiversity, protecting and restoring habitats, and generating economic opportunities and social benefits for surrounding communities who are necessarily the long-term stewards of local natural resources.