



INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

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CAUCUS LEADERSHIP

U.S. SENATOR COONS JOINS BIPARTISAN INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION CAUCUS LEADERSHIP

THE INTERNATIONAL
CONSERVATION CAUCUS
HAS ANNOUNCED ITS
BIPARTISAN LEADERSHIP
FOR THE 117TH
CONGRESS.



The International Conservation Caucus Foundation would like to welcome Senator Chris Coons (D-DE) to the leadership



of the ICC and looks forward to working with him towards advancing U.S. leadership in international conservation.

SENATOR COONS JOINS SENATOR RICHARD BURR (R-NC), SENATOR ROB PORTMAN (R-OH), AND SENATOR SHELDON WHITEHOUSE (D-RI) AS CO-CHAIR OF THE SENATE INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION CAUCUS. CO-CHAIRS OF THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION CAUCUS INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVE HENRY CUELLAR (D-TX), REPRESENTATIVE JEFF FORTENBERRY (R-NE), REPRESENTATIVE DAVID JOYCE (R-OH), AND REPRESENTATIVE BETTY MCCOLLUM (D-MN).

“ I AM HONORED TO JOIN SENATORS BURR, PORTMAN, AND WHITEHOUSE AS A CO-CHAIR OF THE SENATE INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION CAUCUS, AND GRATEFUL FOR THEIR AND SENATOR UDALL’S LEADERSHIP IN PROTECTING OUR NATURAL RESOURCES AT HOME AND ABROAD. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THESE COLLEAGUES AND THE INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION CAUCUS FOUNDATION TO CONTINUE ADVANCING U.S. LEADERSHIP ON A RANGE OF CONSERVATION ISSUES, FROM ENDING ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE TO RESTORING AND PROTECTING CRITICAL HABITATS.”

-- SENATOR CHRIS COONS (D-DE)

THE INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION CAUCUS FOUNDATION WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUTGOING CO-CHAIR SENATOR TOM UDALL (D-NM), A FOUNDING CO-CHAIR OF THE HOUSE CAUCUS, FOR HIS LEADERSHIP IN CONGRESS AND HIS LIFELONG COMMITMENT TO THE STEWARDSHIP OF NATURE.

Senator Coons serves on the Senate Appropriations, Foreign Relations, Judiciary, Small Business and Entrepreneurship, and Ethics committees. He serves on the Senate Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy and has long had a connection to conservation, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. In college, he studied at the University of Nairobi and returned to the continent several years later to work with the South African Council of Churches in the anti-apartheid movement. He’s returned on numerous occasions in an official capacity to strengthen ties between the United States and the nations of Africa and to promote conservation and environmental stewardship. A leading advocate for conservation in the Senate, Senator Coons is also a founding co-chair of the bipartisan Senate Climate Solutions Caucus and an active member of the Senate Oceans Caucus. He was a co-author of the 2016 Eliminate, Neutralize, and Disrupt (END) Wildlife Trafficking Act and the 2019 Maritime Security and Fisheries Enforcement (SAFE) Act.





OCEANS CAUCUS LEADERSHIP ON U.S. OCEAN LEGISLATION

THIS CONGRESS, THE OCEANS CAUCUS CO-CHAIRS AND MEMBERS INTRODUCED IMPORTANT PIECES OF LEGISLATION THAT WILL IMPROVE OUR UNDERSTANDING AND MANAGEMENT OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT.

Senators Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) re-introduced the Bolstering Long-Term Understanding and Exploration of the Great Lakes, Oceans, Bays, and Estuaries Act, or BLUE GLOBE

Act, in early February to accelerate technology innovation, plan for a stronger maritime workforce, and develop a better understanding of the Blue Economy.

“SMART INVESTMENTS IN OCEAN RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY WILL HELP SHAPE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE SEAS AND COASTS, AND LAY A FOUNDATION FOR MORE GROWTH AND JOB CREATION IN THE PROMISING BLUE ECONOMY SECTOR.”



-- SENATOR WHITEHOUSE (D-RI)

“BY ADVANCING DATA COLLECTION, WE WILL BE ABLE TO BRING TOGETHER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH, SUPPORTING RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP OF AMERICA’S OCEANS, BAYS, GREAT LAKES, AND ESTUARIES. FOR ALASKA, THIS TYPE OF INVESTMENT WOULD INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADVANCEMENT ACROSS A NUMBER OF INDUSTRIES—FISHING, TOURISM, NATIONAL SECURITY, AND MORE. AN INVESTMENT IN AMERICA’S BLUE ECONOMY IS AN INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE OF ALASKA,” SAID MURKOWSKI.





ABOVE: HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE SUZANNE BONAMICI SPEAKS ON CAPITOL HILL AT AN ICCF EVENT ON OCEANS CONSERVATION

THE BLUE GLOBE ACT WOULD:

- DIRECT EXISTING FEDERAL OCEAN-FOCUSED INTERAGENCY COMMITTEES TO IMPROVE DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION AND ENHANCE DATA MANAGEMENT AND ACCESSIBILITY.
- ACCELERATE OCEAN DATA AND MONITORING INNOVATION BY GIVING NOAA COOPERATIVE INSTITUTES A STRONGER FOCUS ON TECHNOLOGY ADVANCEMENT.
- CREATE A NEW OCEAN INNOVATION PRIZE.
- TASK THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES WITH ASSESSING THE POTENTIAL FOR AN ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECT AGENCY–OCEANS (ARPA-O).
- ADD INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY COMPONENTS TO THE 2020 NDAA’S MARITIME SAFE ACT TO BETTER ADDRESS ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED, AND UNREGULATED (IUU) FISHING. THIS MEASURE FOLLOWS ON SUCCESSFUL WORK OF THE OCEANS CAUCUS TO SUPPORT THE PASSAGE OF FOUR INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AIMED AT COMBATING IUU FISHING AND THE RELATED ENABLING LEGISLATION.
- REAUTHORIZE A NUMBER OF NOAA’S HYDROGRAPHIC ACTIVITIES.
- DIRECT HEADS OF RELEVANT FEDERAL AGENCIES TO MORE ACCURATELY MEASURE THE VALUE OF THE BLUE ECONOMY.
- CALL FOR THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES OF SCIENCE TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE OCEANIC SCIENTIFIC WORKFORCE.

SENATORS ROGER WICKER (R-MS) AND MARIA CANTWELL (D-WA) ALONG WITH SENATORS SHELDON WHITEHOUSE (D-RI), LISA MURKOWSKI (R-AK), AND BRIAN SCHATZ (D-HI) REINTRODUCED THE NATIONAL OCEAN EXPLORATION ACT ON FEBRUARY 24TH.

The legislation authorizes the National Ocean Mapping, Exploration, and Characterization Council, updates national priorities for ocean mapping, exploration, and characterization, and

directs the Council to coordinate and facilitate activities across federal and non-federal entities to advance those priorities.

“ WITH ALASKA’S VAST COASTLINE AND OUR CHANGING CLIMATE, THE RESPONSIBLE EXPLORATION, STEWARDSHIP, AND DEVELOPMENT OF OUR NATION’S OCEANS IS AS IMPORTANT AS EVER,” SAID MURKOWSKI. “THERE’S STILL SO MUCH TO LEARN ABOUT THE OCEANS,” SAID WHITEHOUSE. “RHODE ISLAND’S BLUE ECONOMY STANDS TO BENEFIT FROM MORE AND BETTER OCEAN MAPPING, AND AN IMPROVED UNDERSTANDING OF OUR MOST IMPORTANT NATURAL RESOURCE.”



THE NATIONAL OCEAN EXPLORATION ACT WOULD:

- AUTHORIZE AND IMPROVE THE NATIONAL OCEAN MAPPING, EXPLORATION, AND CHARACTERIZATION COUNCIL.
- REAUTHORIZE THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION’S EXISTING OCEAN EXPLORATION, OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING, AND HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES PROGRAMS FROM FISCAL YEARS 2021 TO 2030.



- ESTABLISH A SYSTEM TO ENHANCE THE PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY OF OCEAN-RELATED NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT DOCUMENTS AND THE GEO-REFERENCED DATA INCLUDED IN THEM.

Oceans Caucus Co-Chairs
Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici
(D-OR) and Congressman Don Young
(R-AK) reintroduced the Coastal
and Ocean Acidification and Threats
(COAST) Research Act on March 1st,

which will help coastal communities
adapt to the climate crisis by expanding
scientific research, monitoring, and
adaptation of ocean and coastal
acidification.

“THE HEALTH OF OUR OCEAN REFLECTS THE HEALTH OF OUR PLANET, AND FOR TOO LONG THE OCEAN HAS BEEN TAKING THE HEAT FOR US,” SAID CONGRESSWOMAN SUZANNE BONAMICI. “BY ABSORBING CARBON DIOXIDE, OUR OCEAN AND ESTUARIES BECOME MORE ACIDIC, DESTABILIZING FISHERIES AND THREATENING COASTAL COMMUNITIES AND ECOSYSTEMS. SCIENTISTS PREDICT THESE EVENTS WILL BECOME MORE SEVERE AND MORE COMMON ON THE PACIFIC COAST, BUT MY COAST RESEARCH ACT WILL EXPAND THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND MONITORING TO HELP COMMUNITIES ADAPT AND MITIGATE THE WORST EFFECTS.”

THE COAST RESEARCH ACT WILL:

- STRENGTHEN INVESTMENTS IN OCEAN ACIDIFICATION AND COASTAL ACIDIFICATION RESEARCH AND MONITOR IN THE CONTEXT OF OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL STRESSORS.
- RECOGNIZE THE EFFECTS OF OCEAN ACIDIFICATION ON ESTUARIES AND INTEGRATE RESEARCH, MONITORING, AND ADAPTATION STRATEGIES FOR COASTAL ACIDIFICATION.
- INCREASE OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE SOCIOECONOMIC EFFECTS OF OCEAN ACIDIFICATION AND COASTAL ACIDIFICATION.
- ESTABLISH AN ADVISORY BOARD TO INCREASE COORDINATION AMONG STAKEHOLDERS.
- DESIGNATE NOAA AS THE LEAD FEDERAL AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE FEDERAL RESPONSE TO OCEAN ACIDIFICATION AND COASTAL ACIDIFICATION.
- CREATE DATA PROCESSING, STORAGE, AND ARCHIVE SYSTEMS TO PROVIDE FOR THE LONG-TERM STEWARDSHIP AND STANDARDIZATION OF OCEAN ACIDIFICATION DATA.

CARBON STORAGE

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR CARBON STORAGE: THE ICCF GROUP HOSTS FIRST U.S. CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING TO SENATE CLIMATE SOLUTIONS CAUCUS LEADERSHIP

THE FIRST OF THE NEW ICCF “ENERGIES & FORESTS” PROGRAM, TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO THE LEADERSHIP OF THE SENATE CLIMATE SOLUTIONS CAUCUS

THE INITIATIVE WILL BRING TOGETHER EXPERTS IN THIS FIELD TO EDUCATE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND THEIR STAFF ON BALANCED, BIPARTISAN POLICY SOLUTIONS THAT ARE PRO-DEVELOPMENT, PRO-BUSINESS, AND PRO-ENVIRONMENT.

Kicking off the discussion with pre-recorded keynote remarks were founders and Co-Chairs of the Senate Climate Solutions Caucus, Senators Chris Coons (D-DE) and Mike Braun (R-IN). Each highlighted the growing bipartisan interest on Capitol Hill for pursuing nature-based solutions

for carbon storage. Following their remarks, Congressman Bruce Westerman (R-IN), Ranking Member of the House Committee on Natural Resources, spoke about his efforts in the U.S. House of Representatives to advance the use of trees to store carbon from the atmosphere.

PARTICIPATING IN A PANEL DISCUSSION THAT FOLLOWED WERE AVIVA GLASER OF THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION, ALEX RUDEE OF THE WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE, AND CHARLES HERNICK OF CITIZENS FOR RESPONSIBLE ENERGY SOLUTIONS.

ICCF’s Carolyn Weis Fitzpatrick moderated the discussion. The panelists covered a range of related topics including the use of grasslands and forests as natural carbon sinks and challenges and opportunities facing federal policymakers in increasing the use of natural carbon capture

technologies. The speakers agreed that intentional increases in using natural carbon solutions must be done in an ecologically appropriate manner.



HOW IMPORTANT IS OCEAN TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION TO THE U.S.?

OP-ED BY JOHAN BERGENAS AND CAROLYN WEIS

THE ECONOMIC CASE FOR INVESTING IN THE OCEAN

OCEAN SCIENCE HOLDS THE SOLUTIONS TO MANY GLOBAL ISSUES - FROM UNDISCOVERED MEDICINAL THERAPIES TO HEALTHIER FISH STOCKS, COASTAL RESILIENCE, IMPROVED FORECASTING, AND CLIMATE REGULATION - THAT IMPACT THE FOOD, ECONOMIC, AND NATIONAL SECURITY OF SO MANY NATIONS, INCLUDING THE U.S.



Investing in ocean technology should be a no-brainer. In the U.S., the ocean economy was growing faster than the overall national economy prior to the pandemic. Globally, the ocean economy measures between \$3 trillion

and \$6 trillion and is on the rise. The ocean also supports basic human needs like food, water, energy, and commerce, which are extraordinarily unlikely to go out of vogue, making ocean investments very sustainable.

INVESTING IN THE PROTECTION AND GROWTH OF MANGROVES, SEAWEED, AND OTHER OCEAN-RELATED NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS PROMISES TO TRANSFORM THE OCEAN INTO A GLOBAL SOLUTIONS ENGINE.

Shovel-ready coastal resilience projects are a highly effective way to absorb excess carbon from the atmosphere, which can help lessen the U.S.' carbon footprint while providing storm protection for the 40 percent of Americans who live near the coastline. Betting on ocean exploration is

another opportunity. We have barely scratched the surface of ocean exploration – more than 80 percent of the ocean is unmapped and unobserved, and the potential for amazing discoveries



that will improve our food, medicine, and energy systems represent

opportunities too great to miss out on.

BIPARTISAN U.S. CONGRESSIONAL MOMENTUM

Unlike many issues in Congress, maintaining the health and security of the ocean is a bipartisan proposition, and Congressional leaders have, in recent years, passed legislation on ocean data and innovation, ocean transparency, ocean pollution, and the dire health of the ocean as a U.S.

national security challenge. Examples of such laws include Blue GLOBE Act, Digital Coast Act (passed), Save Our Seas 2.0 (passed), Maritime SAFE Act (passed), IOOS Reauthorization (passed), and the National Ocean Exploration Act (re-introduced in the 117th Congress).

MOMENTUM AROUND OCEAN PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT DOESN'T STOP AT THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH.

At the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue – and throughout the federal government – you will find heightened interest in our oceans. The previous Administration's Office of Science and Technology Policy, in partnership with other ocean agencies, such as

the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, invested in public/private-sector ocean partnerships. A strategy and implementation plan to map, explore, and characterize the exclusive economic zone of the United States was also created.

IN OTHER WORDS, THE 117TH CONGRESS AND THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION HAVE A LOT TO BUILD UPON, AND THE OCEAN TECHNOLOGY SECTOR IS RIPE FOR INVESTMENTS THAT INCLUDE OFFSHORE RENEWABLE POWER GENERATION, SUSTAINABLE FISHING, OCEAN EXPLORATION, AQUACULTURE, AND EFFICIENT MARITIME TRANSPORTATION.

A major problem as we begin this critical decade is that we do not have a vibrant, broad-based, and well-financed private ocean technology

sector ready to reap rewards that the ocean economy promises. Despite the clear potential of ocean technology, venture capital and private equity have

so far deemed it too risky to invest in the sector at scale. Customer profiles and segmentations need to be refined, business models solidified, proof of concepts executed, go-to-market strategies tightened up, and success stories achieved.

Similarly, philanthropic ocean investments are also lagging behind. The ocean received less than one percent of all charitable funding since 2009 and remains among the least funded of all the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals. However, as of late, some major actors have stepped into the arena. Jeff Bezos recently invested \$100 million in WWF to

boost innovations in seaweed farming and other ocean technologies, and Elon Musk announced earlier this year a \$100 million XPRIZE for carbon dioxide removal, which obviously encompasses the ocean, a massive carbon sink.

But philanthropy alone cannot carry all the water; the U.S. government must step up as well, and it can do so by bolstering the bipartisan policy developments already underway that align with the U.N. Decade objectives. Among the top priorities are financial resources for technology solutions to help implement many of the current and upcoming ocean bills.

THE HYPE AROUND “DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE”... WHAT IS IT?

The United Nations has established the next ten years as the Decade of Ocean Science, heralding an era of increased focus on ocean science and technology to help reverse the decline in ocean health that is threatening sustainable development around the globe. The U.N.'s focus areas and recent U.S. bipartisan Congressional legislation are well aligned. As such,

the U.N. Decade is a great opportunity to achieve U.S. national ocean priorities, build back better following the economic crises caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and demonstrate U.S. ocean global leadership. However, because current levels of private and



philanthropic investments will not suffice to build a broader, better, and more vibrant U.S. ocean technology base, the U.S. government needs to

financially back those innovators that believe that ocean technology opportunities are bottomless, which is ocean talk for “the sky’s the limit.”

U.N. DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE: THE SCIENCE WE NEED FOR THE OCEAN WE WANT

In 2017, the U.N. declared 2021 - 2030 the U.N. Decade of Ocean Science in order to create a new foundation across the science-policy interface to strengthen the

management of our oceans. It aims to harness, stimulate, and coordinate ocean research at a global level in order to transform the current state of ocean management.

THE U.N. DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE AIMS TO ACHIEVE THE FOLLOWING OUTCOMES:

- A CLEAN OCEAN WHERE SOURCES OF POLLUTION ARE IDENTIFIED AND REMOVED
- A HEALTHY AND RESILIENT OCEAN WHERE MARINE ECOSYSTEMS ARE MAPPED AND PROTECTED
- A PREDICTED OCEAN WHERE SOCIETY HAS THE CAPACITY TO UNDERSTAND CURRENT AND FUTURE OCEAN CONDITIONS
- A SAFE OCEAN WHERE PEOPLE ARE PROTECTED FROM OCEAN HAZARDS
- A SUSTAINABLY HARVESTED AND PRODUCTIVE OCEAN ENSURING THE PROVISION OF FOOD SUPPLY
- A TRANSPARENT OCEAN WITH OPEN ACCESS TO DATA, INFORMATION, AND TECHNOLOGIES
- AN INSPIRING AND ENGAGING OCEAN WHERE SOCIETY UNDERSTANDS AND VALUES THE OCEAN.

THE SUCCESS OF THE OCEAN DECADE HEAVILY RELIES ON THE PARTICIPATION AND COLLABORATION OF MULTIPLE STAKEHOLDERS SUCH AS SCIENTISTS, POLICY-MAKERS, CIVIL SOCIETY, FUNDERS, AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

THE IMPORTANCE OF U.S. LEADERSHIP GLOBALLY

The U.S. must address the link between ocean health and ocean security most prominently manifested by the increasing competition between great powers over ocean riches. The depletion of strategic natural resources such as seafood and rare earth minerals – on which billions of people depend for food and economic production, respectively – will undoubtedly become a major source of conflict. The U.S.’ greatest peer competitor, China, has been preparing for this geopolitical shift for decades, developing legal, economic, military, and political strategies to access, lay claim to, protect, and dominate the global supply of strategic ocean resources.

Beijing is currently deploying these strategies successfully, from the South China Sea to the Arctic and the Pacific, as well as Latin America, Africa, Europe, and the high seas. The result is a stronger and more resilient China that can more easily project global power and influence – including supremacy over global transportation and food systems. In short, the next generation of natural resource

competition – likely to revolve around oceans – will increasingly define geopolitical dynamics and directly impact the safety and security of the American people, our friends and allies, and the United States’ global status.

Ever since the rise of the United States as a global hegemon, our ability to leverage American technology and innovation has contributed significantly to our economy, national security, and environmental stewardship. As the next frontier, the U.S. should prioritize the ocean, and we should move quickly to boost our ocean technology investments in order to maximize the impact of recent U.S. policies. A billion-dollar commitment to applied U.S. ocean technology and innovation in the first two years of the U.N. Decade is reasonable and overdue. This will demonstrate American ocean leadership and usher in a market-driven technology sector that will fuel the next generation of the American economy, further national security, and combat the most challenging environmental issues of our time.

NUCLEAR ENERGY

HOW NUCLEAR ENERGY INNOVATION CAN HELP REDUCE GLOBAL CARBON EMISSIONS

THE ICCF GROUP CONVENED A VIRTUAL U.S. CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING ON NUCLEAR ENERGY INNOVATION FOCUSED ON NUCLEAR ENERGY’S ROLE IN REDUCING GLOBAL CARBON EMISSIONS.

Part of ICCF's "Energies and Forests" initiative, this was the latest in a series aimed at educating a Capitol

Hill audience on important bipartisan policy solutions that protect the environment.



The briefing featured remarks from leaders of ICCF-supported caucuses. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) is Co-Chair of both the International Conservation Caucus and the

Oceans Caucus in the U.S. Senate. Representative Don Young (R-AK) is Co-Chair of the Oceans Caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives.

SENATOR SHELDON WHITEHOUSE (D-RI) PROVIDED REMARKS AT THE START OF THE DISCUSSION. “WE CANNOT OVERLOOK NUCLEAR ENERGY AS AN ELEMENT IN OUR PLAN TO DEFEAT CLIMATE CHANGE,” HE SAID. “NUCLEAR INNOVATION STANDS TO BE A WAY FOR US TO ADDRESS BOTH OF THOSE URGENT PROBLEMS AND AGAIN IT HAS A STRONG BIPARTISAN FOUNDATION.”

LEFT: SENATOR SHELDON WHITEHOUSE (D-RI) AND REPRESENTATIVE DON YOUNG (R-AK)

“PEOPLE TRY SAYING NO TO NUCLEAR, AND I'M SAYING YES. WE HAVE TO HAVE BOTH. (...) WE HAVE TO HAVE FOSSIL FUELS, WE HAVE TO HAVE RENEWABLE, BUT WE HAVE TO HAVE NUCLEAR POWER, BECAUSE IT'S THE CHEAPEST AND CLEANEST OF ALL.”

-- CONGRESSMAN DON YOUNG (R-AK) (RIGHT)

REP. JOHN CURTIS (R-UT) ALSO SHARED HIS PERSPECTIVE: "IT SEEMS LIKE EVERY EXECUTIVE, WHETHER THEY REPRESENT OIL OR ENERGY, WILL SAY 'HEY WE'RE GOING TO BE CARBON NEUTRAL BY 2050,' I'M EVEN HEARING BY 2030, AND THEN THEY ALWAYS FOLLOW THAT UP WITH TWO THINGS AND THAT IS 'I CAN ONLY DO THAT WITH NUCLEAR,' AND 'I CAN'T FULLY GET THERE WITHOUT INNOVATION THAT DOES NOT CURRENTLY EXIST. 'WE JUST NEED TO EMBRACE THE FACT THAT IF THESE GOALS ARE REALISTIC, WE WANT TO BE CARBON NEUTRAL BY 2050, AND I ACTUALLY THINK A BETTER GOAL IS REDUCING WORLDWIDE CARBON, THAT'S MORE IMPORTANT TO ME. WE CAN'T GET THERE WITHOUT NUCLEAR."

A robust panel discussion followed the members' remarks, with participant expertise spanning government and industry. Joining the discussion were: Jeremy Harrell, Managing Director – Policy, ClearPath; Jennifer Gordon, PhD, Managing Editor and Senior Fellow, Atlantic Council Global Energy Center; Wells Griffith, former Managing Director and Senior Advisor to the CEO for Energy, U.S. Development Finance Corporation; and Aaron Weston, nuclear energy expert, Idaho National Laboratory (INL). ICCF's Christine Harbin moderated the conversation and posed questions received from Congressional offices.

The panelists discussed the number of milestones that the nuclear energy industry has recently achieved, the geopolitical importance of U.S. leadership in nuclear power, and demand for clean nuclear energy through advanced technologies in the coming years. They also talked about the bipartisan support of the nuclear sector, while acknowledging the challenges nuclear faces in terms of financing. The group agreed that the U.S. should maintain its leadership in this important sector of the energy industry, while encouraging an all-of-the-above approach to achieving emissions reductions and increasing energy security.



SEAWORLD PARKS
& ENTERTAINMENT

RESCUING WILDLIFE FROM COAST TO COAST

THE YOUNG SEA LION PLAINTIVELY BLEATS. THE RIDGES OF ITS SPINE AND RIBS CLEARLY VISIBLE, THE ANIMAL BARELY HAD THE STRENGTH TO LIFT ITS HEAD.



Wedged between boulders on a rocky beach he was very easy to scoop into the net and walk over to the rescue truck. It's an all too familiar sight to Jody Westberg, the leader of SeaWorld San Diego's Rescue Team. "When a wild animal does not have the strength to flee as you approach, you know that animal is in bad shape," Jody said. "As marine mammal rescue professionals, we have the permits, equipment and knowledge to know when to intervene and rescue the animal, bring it back to our hospital, assess its condition, and provide the necessary veterinary care." SeaWorld San Diego's Rescue Center is one of the largest in California and responds to calls from the US-Mexico border, north to Orange County,

CA. "We have about 100 miles of coastline in our response area and it can get very busy," Jody says. In 2016, during what was determined by NOAA Fisheries Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program to be an Unusual Mortality Event (UME), the park rescued more than 1,000 pinnipeds – seals and sea lions - from local beaches. Dehydrated and emaciated, most of the animals needed four- to six-weeks of care and treatment before they were healthy enough to be returned to the wild. "Returning the animals is the goal of our program, and it is definitely the most rewarding part of our rescue efforts," Jody said.

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COUNTRY A SIMILAR SCENE IS PLAYING OUT ON THE COAST OF FLORIDA WHERE THE TEAM IS RETURNING A MANATEE, THE OFFICIAL STATE MARINE MAMMAL.

"Gina and Norm were the victims of boat strikes and required extensive treatment and rehabilitation before they were ready to be returned," said Brant Gabriel of the SeaWorld

Orlando Rescue Team. Manatees are slow-moving mammals found in shallow rivers, estuaries, bays and canals. While injuries from boat strikes are a common reason for a manatee

LEFT: SEAWORLD COLLABORATES WITH ANIMAL RESCUE PROFESSIONALS IN THE CARE AND TREATMENT OF A MANATEE NEEDING ASSISTANCE.

rescue, cold stress, toxic red tides and fishing gear entanglements are other contributors to wild manatee health and wellness. “These are really large animals. They can be more than 1,000 pounds, so rescuing and transporting them is literally a very big job. But we are proud to help save this iconic species” said Brant. Depending on the nature and extent of a manatee’s injuries, many need to stay at the park’s Rescue Center for several months as they are nursed back to health. Orphaned manatees may spend a few years at the park before they are ready to be returned. While manatee rehabilitation can be a long and costly process, every single animal is critical to the population of this endangered species. SeaWorld Orlando’s Rescue Team rescued 48 manatees in 2020, many while the park was closed to guests due to COVID-19.

In the middle of the country SeaWorld’s San Antonio Rescue Team participated in an entirely different sort of marine mammal rehabilitation event when they were selected as the forever home for Tyonek, a rescued beluga whale from the endangered Cook Inlet distinct population

segment. Stranded in Alaska’s Cook Inlet as a newborn calf in 2017, Tyonek was rescued by the Alaska Sea Life Center. A team of marine mammal experts from aquariums around the country quickly assembled in Alaska

to participate in the calf’s round-the-clock care. After months of critical treatment, he progressed from being severely underweight to a developing

beluga calf who started achieving encouraging milestones. In January 2018, NOAA Fisheries determined Tyonek was non-releasable, and

ABOVE: A MEMBER OF SEAWORLD’S RESCUE TEAM WATCHES OVER AN EMACIATED SEA LION. OBSERVATION IS THE FIRST STEP IN A RESCUE OPERATION.



the following month they selected SeaWorld San Antonio as the calf's new home, because it was the

"location best suited for Tyonek to thrive."

"PARTICIPATING IN THE CARE AND REHABILITATION OF TYONEK HAS TRULY BEEN THE HIGHLIGHT OF MY CAREER," SAID SEAWORLD SAN ANTONIO ANIMAL CARE SPECIALIST KATIE KOLODZIEJ.

"While the hours were long, and the necessary care intense, an amazing group of people came together to nurse this animal back to health. I believe this is the first time a beluga whale has been successfully rescued and rehabilitated and it's been such a privilege to be part of this." Today Tyonek is thriving alongside the 10 belugas in SeaWorld's care, including two youngsters about his age.

SeaWorld's animal rescue program has rescued more than 38,000 animals in its 60-plus-year history. The goal of the program is returning healthy, vibrant animals back to sea. Sometimes animals are too ill and don't make it. But the work to recover these animals enhances our understanding of their health, and the environmental challenges they face. Accordingly, each rescue helps biologists and wildlife managers

make better decisions on behalf of the wild populations, enabling their conservation. In rare cases like Tyonek, the animal is deemed non-releasable by a government body and finds a long-term home at SeaWorld or another accredited zoological facility. Whatever the outcome, SeaWorld's team of rescue professionals – including veterinarians, medical technicians, laboratory and water quality specialists, animal care and behavior experts, educators and others contribute not only to the health and wellbeing of the animal, but also to the education of the public. By telling the stories of these animals SeaWorld believes park guests will gain a greater understanding of how their own behaviors, actions and consumer choices affect wild animals and wild places; thus, developing new and future conservationists every day.

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

STRENGTHENING SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN FOLLOWING COVID-19: CHALLENGES, SOLUTIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICYMAKERS

THE ICCF GROUP HOSTED A VIRTUAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE TOURISM AS PART OF ITS EASTERN CARIBBEAN PROGRAM

THE PANELISTS REPRESENTED VARIOUS SECTORS, INCLUDING GOVERNMENTS, TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS, THINK TANKS, THE FINANCIAL SECTOR, AND ACADEMIA, AND USED CASE STUDIES FROM SAINT LUCIA, GRENADA, AND DOMINICA IN COMMUNICATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE REGION AS A WHOLE.



With moderation by Cletus Springer, former Director of the Department of Sustainable Development of the Organization of American States (OAS), the unified message of greater integration between sectors related to tourism, the importance of involving the public and private sectors in resilience frameworks and policy-making, and the need to prioritize tourism that enhances the livelihoods

of local populations was consistent across all the presentations.

Specific recommendations were made in regards to the incorporation of nature-based solutions, disaster reduction frameworks, an examination of related infrastructure development, and leveraging the relative strengths and tourist markets of individual islands.



Maria Fowell, Tourism Specialist at the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), set the tone by outlining the three pillars of sustainable tourism and presenting the policy interventions recommended by the OECS to ensure that tourism improves the quality of life of all citizens, particularly the need for national frameworks and policies for tourism development.



Karolin Troubetzkoy, President, Saint Lucia Hotel and Tourism Association (SLHTA), Executive Director of Anse Chastanet and Jade Mountain Resorts, built upon these frameworks by presenting the Saint Lucia perspective on the current status of tourism following COVID-19 and encouraging decision-makers to consider energy, water, and waste management in tourism policies, as well as to integrate nature-based solutions (NBS) into policy commitments for multiple linked objectives.



Damian Greaves, PhD, Professor, Saint George's University, ensured that health policy and disaster risk reduction frameworks were taken into account, incorporating lessons learned from the impact of COVID-19 and Grenada's response, emphasizing the need to reorganize the tourism industry according to the latest standards and rules

and the realities of environmental change, while also considering the potential for tourism to address social and economic inequities.



Colin Piper, CEO of Discover Dominica Tourism Authority, presented the "Safe in Nature" policy in Dominica as a positive example of how the nation's unique position as the "nature isle" has manifested in a tourism policy that will attract visitors and manage their experience to enhance safety and promote the nation's natural and cultural assets, while creating incentives through a certification program for the private tourism sector.



Sally Yozell, Director of the Environmental Security Program at The Stimson Center, presented the Coastal and Ocean Vulnerability Index (CORVI) assessment, a decision-making support tool with holistic climate risk assessment for coastal cities. The CORVI assessment for Castries, Saint Lucia held important insights for the region into policy recommendations to strengthen sustainable tourism, including the sector's diversification and inland development, training and rescaling the labor force, waste management, and promoting resilience across key infrastructure.



Richard Peterkin, Partner at Grant Thornton Windward Islands, presented the available finance schemes and funding available through national governments, CBI schemes, and trust funds to support these initiatives for sustainable development. He encouraged policymakers to engage with and support the private-sector hospitality industry specifically to help them access additional revenue streams so they can refinance debt and pandemic losses, and make subsequent investments in renewable energy and rehabilitation/restoration of nature areas that are vital to their industries.

THE ICCF GROUP THANKS ITS EXPERT PANELISTS FOR SUCH A COMPREHENSIVE AND ACTIONABLE PRESENTATION OF THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEGISLATORS AND LOOKS FORWARD TO PROMOTING NATIONAL ACTION BASED ON THE INFORMATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.





TRANSBOUNDARY CONSERVATION

PEACE PARKS FOUNDATION:

TRANSFRONTIER CONSERVATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

THE ICCF GROUP INTERVIEWED ITS PARTNER PEACE PARKS WHOSE MODELING CONCEPT IS A GLOBAL ONE, TRACING BACK TO THE 1930S WHEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA CREATED THE AMBITIOUS WATERTON-GLACIER INTERNATIONAL PEACE PARK.

THROUGH THIS PARTNER SPOTLIGHT, WE TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT TFCAS, A COMPELLING CONCEPT WITH CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE TO SHOW THAT TRANSBOUNDARY HABITATS FLOURISH MORE THAN DISCONNECTED HABITATS, AS THESE AREAS ACCOMMODATE GENE POOLS, WILDLIFE MOVEMENT AND MIGRATION, WATER FLOW AND THE PROPAGATION OF PLANT SPECIES.

THE ICCF GROUP: TELL US A BIT ABOUT PEACE PARKS, ITS MISSION, AND ITS VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION.

PEACE PARKS: On 1 February 1997, Peace Parks Foundation was founded by HRH Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, Nelson Mandela and Dr Anton Rupert to facilitate the establishment of peace parks, or transfrontier conservation areas, in southern Africa. Twenty years

on, southern Africa's peace parks incorporate over half of the declared conservation estate in the region. At over a million square kilometres, they rival the combined landmass of France and Spain.

The achievements have been thanks to the political will of the region's

RIGHT: RANGERS HARD AT WORK PROTECTING WILDLIFE IN MOZAMBIQUE'S LIMPOPO NATIONAL PARK, WHICH LIES WITHIN THE GREAT LIMPOPO TRANSFRONTIER CONSERVATION AREA.





leaders, the dedication of government and private sector entities and individuals, and the extraordinary and continued support of donors worldwide.

Under the chairmanship of Johann Rupert, the aim is to facilitate the delivery of fully functional transfrontier conservation areas, managed in harmony with their

ABOVE: TO PROTECT WILDLIFE, RANGERS IN MOZAMBIQUE’S MAPUTO SPECIAL RESERVE ENSURES FENCE LINES ARE SECURE.

surrounding communities, to create sustainable local, national and regional

benefit flows.

THE ICCF GROUP: WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE ARE TODAY'S KEY CHALLENGES FACED BY GOVERNMENTS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN COUNTRIES WHERE YOU OPERATE, AND WHAT SOLUTIONS IS THE CONSERVATION COMMUNITY BRINGING TO THE EQUATION?

PEACE PARKS:

THE CHALLENGE

Peace Parks Foundation was initially established with the purpose to serve, first and foremost, as a facilitator – bringing governments together to recognise the value of their shared natural assets and jointly managing and developing these. This role has gradually changed to include involvement in the implementation of large development aid projects, but still very much with macro landscape conservation goals at the forefront. There was never a focus on challenges at micro level such as species conservation.

However, in 2008, the first signs of a real threat against the peace parks concept emerged when rhino poaching suddenly spiked in southern Africa. This escalation of wildlife crime throughout sub-Saharan Africa significantly threatened the

transfrontier conservation area concept if not brought under control. By the end of 2013, South Africa had lost 2671 rhino. Additionally, the first signs of elephant poaching, which was already rife in many other southern African countries, started to emerge in the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area, and the Foundation realised that it had to join the battle to fight this scourge.

Aside from their critical roles in maintaining balanced and sustainable ecosystems, these animals serve as a major tourist attraction. If three of the world-famous Big 5 would no longer be found freely roaming Africa’s parks, the impact would be far-reaching. Wildlife crime destroys biodiversity by



threatening the extinction of critically endangered species, it diminishes resources as funds that could have gone towards conservation or community development are now spent on anti-poaching efforts, and it drains the tourism industry as tourists mostly travel to experience the magical African bush and do

OUR SOLUTIONS

With the continued growth of the middle class in primary consumer countries, coupled with increasing levels of poverty in Africa, it is anticipated that wildlife crime will remain one of the biggest threats to keystone species and conservation for the next decade at least. As wildlife crime poses a serious threat to natural resources and the communities they support, anti-poaching efforts in

TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION

The utilisation of real-time tracking and passive detection solutions of both humans and animals, and the appropriate systems to communicate the information to ensure an appropriate and rapid response, will act as a significant deterrent to

not want to enter a militaristic environment caused by extreme security interventions. All of these impact and diminish livelihoods and ultimately destabilise the sustainable development of the transfrontier conservation areas and the protection of large ecosystems.

various parks continue to strengthen. What we have learnt is that five interventions have come to the fore as areas most likely to have long-term impact in counter-poaching and counter-trafficking, at scale and at a tempo required to stem the current tide. Our combating wildlife crime programme's focus is exclusively on interventions based on lessons learned and experienced gained.

poaching activities. The placing of sensors on live animals and the use of mobile, satellite or radio technology to track the movement of rangers and animals are rapidly advancing. The application of radar technology is also showing the first very promising

results to survey a wide area and suppress any poaching activity. The integration of sensors and technology solutions will create a connected

environment and provide greater situational awareness making it more viable to manage large conservation estates.

INTELLIGENCE-BASED WILDLIFE CRIME INVESTIGATIONS

The appointment and support of special wildlife crime investigators within conservation management organisations that work in collaboration with the formal police/detective services have had remarkable success, especially when comparing the cost of such interventions with the traditional anti-poaching approach of boots on the ground. Targeting the organised criminal syndicates, building cases and

gathering evidence against them, thus providing the police with actionable intelligence to effect the arrests, is an approach that, if handled correctly and sensitively by specialist personnel with the skill sets to investigate wildlife crime as a dedicated discipline, has far and wide-reaching positive implications to curb poaching activities and disrupt wider criminal activities.

DEMAND REDUCTION INITIATIVES: AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

To change public perceptions and bring about a change in behaviour whereby the consumption of wildlife products such as rhino horn, reptiles, amphibians, birds, leopard skins and lion bone is considered socially unacceptable, will still take a long time. We do still believe however

that education and awareness initiatives that aim to reduce demand as well as elevate the overall level of understanding of conservation continue to have merit with long-term and sustainable wins in mind.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Alongside all of the above-mentioned

interventions,



community development must continue. Not all poachers are driven by poverty, but the lack of income and access to critical resources most definitely exacerbates the extensive level of poaching encountered in southern Africa. These communities

ANTI-POACHING

Through the close collaboration between Peace Parks teams, local law enforcement and industry partners, conservation areas are being secured. Anti-poaching teams consist of brave men and women who work on the ground to protect wildlife from poaching. Peace Parks supports these efforts through improved mobility and aerial support, and infrastructure and equipment upgrades. In all areas of operation, additional rangers were

have to be empowered to either benefit from the sustainable use and development of commercial resources within the conservation areas, or be assisted to find alternative livelihoods in line with the fulfilment of their basic human rights.

trained and deployed and, working with park authorities, additional leadership support to local park management structures was also put in place to improve the strategic planning of anti-poaching operations.

A significant practical step was the establishment of Forward Operating Bases, which are secure sites close to an area of operation from which strategic planning is executed.

WHY IS THE ISSUE OF SPECIES CONSERVATION IN AFRICA OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE, AND WHAT ROLE CAN THE UNITED STATES PLAY IN SUPPORTING THE MISSION OF PEACE PARKS AND ITS PARTNERS?

Peace Parks Foundation recognises the importance of conserving and developing core areas, corridors

and keystone species, irrespective of political boundaries, to secure biodiversity conservation. Every

RIGHT: THE RANGERS IN MALAWI'S NYIKA NATIONAL PARK DEDICATE THEMSELVES TO SECURING ITS BIODIVERSITY BY PROTECTING THE NATURAL RESOURCES FOUND HERE.

single species found on Earth plays a critically important role in keeping ecosystems healthy and balanced. All life, including humans, depends on maintained, healthy and functional ecosystems for survival. From nature, we draw energy, food, medicine, water, shelter and even the very air we breathe. If we do not restore balance, future generations will not experience life on Earth as we know it today. The COVID-19 pandemic was a cold reminder of that fact.

Not only is it essential to recognise the importance of conserving biodiversity – but it is vital that sufficient resources flow to Africa to enable it to do so. Thus, raising the profile of the region and the urgency of the request is critical.

Africa is projected to be the continent with the highest population – and density – by the turn of the century. Thus, protecting large landscapes from fragmentation, ensuring that the megafauna that abounds here is conserved, and that the communities dependent upon its natural assets are capacitated to utilise these resources sustainably is paramount.





CIRCULAR ECONOMIES

THE BENEFITS OF A CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN SOUTH AFRICA

ON MARCH 10, 2021, THE WILDERNESS FOUNDATION AFRICA IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ICCF GROUP FACILITATED A VIRTUAL SESSION WITH MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA TO EXAMINE THE BENEFITS OF A CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN SOUTH AFRICA.

PROFESSOR MARK SWILLING, DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC LEADERSHIP, UNIVERSITY OF STELLENBOSCH, SERVED AS THE MAIN SPEAKER FOR THIS SESSION, SHARING HIS VAST EXPERTISE ON THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY WITH THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.



CIRCULAR ECONOMY



LINEAR ECONOMY



Professor Swilling opened the discussion by providing a global picture and framing the meaning of “circular” in this context, which is the extraction of resources from the earth and the flow of these resources thereafter.

He presented a report titled “Decoupling Natural Resource Use and Environmental Impacts from Economic Growth.” He stated that what is at the center of the circular economy framework is the idea of decoupling resources and impact, meaning that



resources required to achieve human wellbeing and increased economic activity do not increase at the same rate, and there is a reduction in environmental impact.

To bring it back to the local context, Prof. Swilling highlighted that in a country like South Africa, where there is a need for economic development, one must look at ways to meet material needs and improve human wellbeing but simultaneously utilize resources more efficiently. Prof. Swilling was clear that there is a need for urgent and concerted action to address the rapid population growth and inefficient natural resource use that creates unsustainable pressures on the environment. Therefore, as a result of a rising demand for resources, there is greater incentive to innovate and utilize resources more efficiently, and that is really what the circular economy is.

TO OPEN UP DISCUSSION, HONORABLE GENERAL DR. BANTU HOLOMISA EXPRESSED THAT IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE SILO EFFECT HAPPENING AT THE GOVERNMENT LEVEL, PROF. SWILLING’S PRESENTATION FOCUSING ON THE PROPER AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF RESOURCES SHOULD BE SPREAD WIDELY TO ALLOW FOR FURTHER UNDERSTANDING ACROSS GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.



Honorable Simphiwe Mbatha added to this by stating the circular economy requires a collaboration between government, businesses, and consumers. Without the three parties working together in the country, South Africa will be left behind. Honorables Hannah Winkler and Narend Singh highlighted the role companies and corporations within the extractive industry must play in reviewing their business models and their processes.

General Holomisa stated that South Africa can place itself in a better position by looking at the detailed policies within conventions on sustainable development and biodiversity, which they are signatories to, and implementing best practices that allow for better natural resource management. He echoed past comments on the

importance of collaboration at all levels of government in order for South Africa to emerge out of its current situation and embrace the circular economy as a way to effectively and efficiently use resources.

REGIONAL PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING

DRIVING CONVERSATION AROUND AWARENESS RAISING AND STRENGTHENED ENFORCEMENT IN THE KAZA TFCA

THE ICCF GROUP HOSTED A VIRTUAL REGIONAL PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING FOCUSED ON DRIVING CONVERSATION AROUND ONGOING EFFORTS TO INCREASE AWARENESS AMONG COMMUNITIES ON THE VALUE OF WILDLIFE AND EFFORTS TO BETTER STRENGTHEN INVESTIGATIONS AND PROSECUTIONS IN THE KAVANGO-ZAMBEZI TRANSFRONTIER CONSERVATION AREA (KAZA).

LED BY HON. WYNTER MMOLOTSI, CO-CHAIR OF THE BOTSWANA CONSERVATION PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS (BOCOPAC), AND HON. NICKSON CHILANGWA, SECRETARY OF THE ZAMBIA PARLIAMENTARY CONSERVATION CAUCUS (ZPCC), THE BRIEFING INCLUDED THE PARTICIPATION OF PARLIAMENTARIANS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FROM ANGOLA, BOTSWANA, NAMIBIA, ZAMBIA, AND ZIMBABWE.

Panelists included Dr. Nyambe Nyambe, Executive Director of the KAZA TFCA Secretariat, Mr. Ruud Jansen, Executive Secretary of the Gaborone Declaration for Sustainability in Africa, and Mr. Adam Pires, Manager of TRAFFIC’s Combating Wildlife Crime in Namibia and Kavango Zambezi Area Project.

Dr. Nyambe opened the expert panel with an overview of the role that the KAZA Secretariat plays in the region and additionally how the Secretariat partners with non-governmental organizations and donor organizations to support the TFCA. Mr. Jansen spoke about ongoing efforts focused on community-based natural resource management and its links to anti-poaching, wildlife management, and maintaining and valuing natural capital. Mr. Pires presented on TRAFFIC’s activities across the region to support the criminal justice system’s capacity to address the illegal wildlife trade.

ACROSS THE THREE PRESENTATIONS, CONSENSUS COULD BE MADE FOR THE NEED TO BUILD CAPACITY TO SUPPORT POLICY AND DECISION-MAKING ACROSS THE REGION AND TO PRIORITIZE THE ROLE COMMUNITIES MUST PLAY AS STEWARDS OF NATURAL CAPITAL.

The Members of Parliament were able to question the panelists on their respective organizations' active conservation initiatives and on the role policymakers can play in identifying legislative gaps and to enable communities to benefit from conservation efforts.

In addition to increasing awareness among communities on the importance of wildlife management, Hon. Anthony Kasandwe, Co-Chair of the ZPCC, commented that, "when advocating for the importance of tackling wildlife crime cases, efforts applied by all parties should be done so in an intra-departmental 'top down' approach, including the different spheres of Government." Amplifying the need for collaboration, this message was echoed by various Members of Parliament who were vocal that an improved understanding around the seriousness of poaching and transnational wildlife crime requires an increased commitment region-wide to build in-country capacity at all levels.



IUU FISHING

MARITIME SECURITY AND EFFECTIVE MONITORING, CONTROL, & SURVEILLANCE TO COMBAT IUU AND FOREIGN FISHING INCURSION INTO INDONESIAN WATERS

THE INDONESIA OCEANS CAUCUS (KAUKUS KELAUTAN DPR - RI) HELD A STAKEHOLDER BRIEFING ON THE TOPIC OF MARITIME SECURITY AND EFFECTIVE MONITORING, CONTROL, & SURVEILLANCE TO COMBAT IUU AND FOREIGN FISHING INCURSION INTO INDONESIA WATERS.



H.E. Sakti Wahyu Trenggono, Minister of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, delivered keynote remarks in support of the discussion. The Minister applauded ICCF and the Oceans Caucus for holding a stakeholder briefing on the issue of IUU fishing, as it is an issue that is relevant to Indonesia now, more than ever before. The Minister remarked that the time has come to formulate a strategic step, an out-of-the-box policy, and to leverage Indonesia's strategic geopolitical position, to expand Indonesia's maritime industry and build a defense force to secure Indonesia's vast and rich marine area.

HON. DR. AZIS SYAMSUDDIN, DEPUTY SPEAKER FOR POLITICS AND SECURITY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, SPOKE ABOUT INDONESIA'S GEOGRAPHIC AREA, WHICH FUNCTIONS AS THE GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN SYSTEM AND PLACES INDONESIA IN AN IMPORTANT POSITION AND ROLE AS A CENTER OF GRAVITY FOR THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION. THEREFORE, A SYNERGY BETWEEN STAKEHOLDERS IN THE FORMULATION OF ROBUST MARITIME POLICIES IN INDONESIA IS PARAMOUNT AS A FRAMEWORK IN SAFEGUARDING INDONESIAN WATERS.

Rear Admiral Yusup, representing the Coordinating Ministry for Political, Legal, and Security Affairs, opened the discussion by addressing the issue of overlapping regulations and authorities in Indonesian waters. In response to the problems, the Coordinating Ministry has formulated two draft Government Regulations (GRs): the draft GR on the National Agency for Marine and Coastal Security and Safety and the draft GR on the Management of Security, Safety and Law Enforcement in Indonesian Waters and Jurisdictions, produced to fill the current policy vacuum while the Omnibus Law on Maritime Security—as a higher form of law—is being deliberated.

Vice Admiral Aan Kurnia, Chief of Bakamla, called for all stakeholders to unite in formulating a single multi-task agency as a point of coordination to create effective maritime security governance. Furthermore, Vice Admiral Aan reiterated the importance of asserting Indonesia's presence in areas at high risk for IUU fishing and grey areas, including changing the mindset of fishermen with a maritime-potential fostering approach.

Commander Tristan Skousgaard, representing the Royal Australian Navy, discussed the Australian Maritime Powers Act (MPA), which was an answer to Australia's past

issue of overlapping regulations and institutions in regard to maritime security. The MPA supported not only better operational integration between agencies and reduced costs to the government, but also greater operational certainty and consistency.

GREEN RECOVERY

ADDRESSING OPPORTUNITIES TO STRENGTHEN SUSTAINABLE FINANCING FOR PROTECTED AREAS IN MEXICO

ON FEBRUARY 25TH, 2021 THE MEXICAN CONSERVATION PARLIAMENTARY GROUP HELD A CONGRESSIONAL WORKSHOP TO ADDRESS OPPORTUNITIES TO ENHANCE SUSTAINABLE FINANCING FOR PROTECTED AREAS, PARTICULARLY IN THE CONTEXT OF “THE GREEN RECOVERY.”

The session was led by Dep. Julieta Macias, Secretary of the Board of Directors for the Chamber, and co-hosted by the ICCF Group with the support of the Mexican Environmental Policy and Legislation Organization (POLEA) and the Wildlands Network Mexican Program.

Prominent congressional members with backgrounds in finance participated in the workshop, including Dep. Patricia Terrazas, President of the Committee on Taxation, and Dep. Erasmo González, President of the Committee on the Budget. The event included presentations by technical experts from the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas, and the panelists addressed the need to diversify funds and investments to effectively manage the protected areas and meet a variety of environmental, economic, and social goals.

Concluding the workshop, the legislators committed to present a policy framework to address the opportunities identified during the session.



GREEN ECONOMIES

SIXTEEN COLOMBIAN AND MEXICAN LEGISLATORS MEET IN YUCATAN:

RECOVERING THE GREEN ECONOMIES AFTER COVID

WITH THE LEADERSHIP OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CONSERVATION CAUCUSES OF COLOMBIA AND MEXICO, THE MISSION ON "PROTECTED AREAS AND THE JAGUAR CONSERVATION AS ICONS AND MEANS FOR GREEN RECOVERY IN LATIN AMERICA" WAS CARRIED OUT IN THE YUCATAN PENINSULA IN THE STATE OF QUINTANA ROO, FROM MARCH 25 TO 27, 2021

RIGHT: HON. GERMAN BLANCO, PRESIDENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN COLOMBIA, PARTICIPATING IN THE INSTALLATION OF CAMERA TRAPS TO MONITOR JAGUAR POPULATIONS IN THE RESERVE "EL ZAPOTAL".





The mission discussed and exchanged strategies and best practices to advance the governance and conservation of protected areas and the biodiversity they host, as an axis to promote green recovery in the post-pandemic context in the region and, at the same time, comply with biodiversity, climate change and sustainable development goals committed to under various national and international frameworks.

Field mission participants included, from the Colombia Conservation Caucus, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and Co-President of the Caucus HR German Blanco, Senators Fabian Castillo and José David Name, and House Representatives Juan David Velez, Felix Chica, Felipe Muñoz, Elizabeth Jay Pang, Jorge Mendez, and Juan Carlos Wills. Participants from the Mexican Conservation Parliamentary Group included Senators Emilio Álvarez Icaza, Indira Kempis, Ruth Lopez and Maria Merced Gonzalez, and deputies Martha Olivia Garcia and Laura Guerra.

A THREE-DAY AGENDA WITH MULTI-SECTORAL WORKING GROUPS FOCUSED ON SUSTAINABLE AND PRODUCTIVE FOREST MANAGEMENT BY COMMUNITIES, INCLUDING THE CONSERVATION OF ICONIC SPECIES SUCH AS THE JAGUAR; AS WELL AS THE RECOVERY OF COASTLINES AND STRATEGIC ECOSYSTEMS LIKE MANGROVE FORESTS FOR THE REDUCTION OF CARBON EMISSIONS.

A "LEGISLATIVE DECLARATION OF THE YUCATAN PENINSULA" WAS SIGNED BY ALL THE CONGRESSMEN, ON THE RELEVANCE OF PROTECTED AREAS AND THE CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY AS AXES OF GREEN RECOVERY IN LATIN AMERICA.

THE CONGRESSMEN RECOGNIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF LINKING THE HEALTH OF OUR SOCIETIES TO THE HEALTH OF ECOSYSTEMS, THE RECOVERY OF BIODIVERSITY, AND THE ECONOMY FROM A GREEN PERSPECTIVE WHERE WORK WITH NATIVE PEOPLES AND COMMUNITIES IS ESSENTIAL. THEY COMMITTED THEMSELVES TO:

- PROMOTING AND MAINSTREAMING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS INTO LEGISLATION;
- WORKING TOGETHER WITH THE EXECUTIVE BRANCHES TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN THE NEGOTIATION PROCESS OF THE POST-2020 FRAMEWORK OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY;
- MAKING DETAILED ANALYZES OF THE BUDGETS NECESSARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL SECTOR, PARTICULARLY PROTECTED AREAS AND THE CONSERVATION OF OUR NATURAL CAPITAL;
- CONTINUING TO WORK TO IMPLEMENT THE 2030 AGENDA AND ITS 17 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS BY STRENGTHENING NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORKS AND DEVELOPING ENABLING CONDITIONS FOR THEIR IMPLEMENTATION; AND
- STRENGTHENING SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION THROUGH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RELEVANT REGIONAL AGREEMENTS, IN PARTICULAR THE JAGUAR 2030 PLAN, AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS SHARED CHALLENGES AND MOVE TOWARDS THE GREEN RECOVERY OF THE REGION.

The ICCF Yucatan mission contributed to helping legislatures to make informed decisions about the conservation of Latin America's natural capital and its sustainable green growth.



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear friends and colleagues,

For his vision and tireless work during nearly two decades as co-chair of the International Conservation Caucus in the United States Congress, it is with great appreciation that we wish to thank Senator Tom Udall who, 18 years ago, co-founded what has today grown into the most popular bipartisan caucus on Capitol Hill. From the Congo Basin Forest Partnership Act to the Lacey Act and the Tropical Forest Conservation Act, Senator Udall's nonpartisan leadership saw the passing of milestone legislation that was seminal in establishing ICCF in Washington, and that also catalyzed, on a nationwide scale, the emergence of our nation as a leader in international conservation.

And although the U.S. Senate loses one of its great champions in conservation policy, by the same token we welcome Senator Chris Coons to the the leadership of the Senate International Conservation Caucus. Senator Coons join Senators Richard Burr (R-NC), Rob Portman (R-OH), and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) in co-chairing the

caucus, and we look forward to supporting his commitment to take up the torch and further advance U.S. leadership on a range of conservation issues, from ending illegal wildlife trade to restoring and protecting critical habitats at home and abroad.

This quarter, we also wish to express our appreciation to our co-chairs in Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean, and our partners on the ground, with whom we continue to work on conservation issues including awareness raising, strengthened enforcement, circular economies, sustainable tourism, and sustainable financing for protected areas among others.

We look forward to an ambitious Spring, and thank our friends and partners for their continued support.

Sincerely,



John B. Gantt
President

JOIN OUR CONSERVATION COUNCIL: BECOME A PARTNER

CONTACT OUR EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, SUSAN LYLIS, AT slylis@internationalconservation.org

