



INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

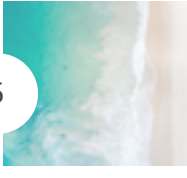
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ENERGY

ICCF HOSTS BILL GATES AND SENATE CLIMATE SOLUTIONS CAUCUS TO DISCUSS ENERGY INNOVATION



PARTICIPANTS DISCUSSED THE PATH TO NET-ZERO EMISSIONS AND HOW THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS CAN WORK TOGETHER TO ACCELERATE CLEAN ENERGY INNOVATION.

On Thursday, May 14, 2021, the ICCF Group coordinated a private meeting for members of the bipartisan Senate Climate

Solutions Caucus with Bill Gates, founder of Breakthrough Energy and author of the recently-released book

How to Avoid a Climate Disaster, and David H. Barron, Chairman of the ICCF Group.



“IT’S WONDERFUL SEEING SO MANY SENATORS ENGAGED IN THIS OPEN, BIPARTISAN EXCHANGE,” SAID DAVID BARRON. “INVESTING IN OUR INFRASTRUCTURE AND MAKING ENERGY CLEANER AND CHEAPER BEGINS WITH IMPORTANT CONVERSATIONS LIKE THESE. I HOPE THIS WILL RESULT IN SIMILAR INVESTMENTS IN AFRICA, ASIA, AND LATIN AMERICA TO STOP DEFORESTATION AND TO INCREASE FOREST RESTORATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF PEOPLE, AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY, AND BIODIVERSITY.”

The Senate Climate Solutions Caucus promotes bipartisan discussion about climate policy and advocates for Congress to play a central role in addressing the challenge. The group includes 14 members, divided evenly between Republicans and Democrats. Members of the caucus include: Senators Chris Coons (D-DE), Mike

Braun (R-IN), Michael Bennet (D-CO), Susan Collins (R-ME), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Mitt Romney (R-UT), Angus King (I-ME), Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Marco Rubio (R-FL), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Jacky Rosen (D-NV), and Rob Portman (R-OH).



ABOVE: COLOMBIAN HOUSE SPEAKER AND CAUCUS FOUNDER H.R. GERMAN BLANCO SPEAKS AT THE ICCF GROUP SUMMIT IN WASHINGTON, D.C., ON JULY 13, 2021.

NATURAL RESOURCES

SUMMIT ON ILLEGAL RESOURCE EXTRACTION

COMPETITION OVER NATURAL RESOURCES AND POLLUTION OF OUR OCEANS, FORESTS, AND AIR THREATEN AMERICA’S NATIONAL SECURITY AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS AND DAMAGE THE HEALTH OF THE PLANET.



The ICCF Group convened a summit in Washington, DC with the purpose of exploring the issue of illegal resource extraction and highlighting bipartisan efforts to address it. The engagement was held in person at The Willard Hotel in Washington, DC on Tuesday, July 13, 2021.

The program focused on 3 specific areas: illegal fishing, natural resource/critical mineral supply chain security, and deforestation. The summit highlighted regional perspectives and industry insights and provided an opportunity to discuss how the United States and international partners can work together to address these important issues.

The program featured a bipartisan and bicameral group of 8 Members of Congress. Rep. Henry Cuellar (D-TX), Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-AR), Sen.

Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), and Sen. James Risch (R-ID) participated live in the event. Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE), Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA), Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-AK), and Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-CO) sent pre-recorded remarks.

The program featured several international leaders within the ICCF Group's global network. Hon. Carlos Dos Santos, Ambassador of Mozambique to the U.S., provided remarks on the problem of illegal fishing. The program also included remarks from Hon. Bobby Rizaldi, co-chair of the Indonesian oceans caucus. It also featured a number of international leaders from the Government of Colombia, including Senator Mauricio Gomez, Speaker of the House German Blanco, and Juan Pablo Lopez Cortes, Deputy Governor of the Antioquia Department.

MARINE

OCEANS CAUCUS FOUNDATION SPOTLIGHT WITH RON GONEN, FOUNDER AND CEO OF CLOSED LOOP PARTNERS

ON JUNE 4TH, CAROLYN WEIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE OCEANS CAUCUS FOUNDATION (OCF), INTERVIEWED RON GONEN, FOUNDER AND CEO OF CLOSED LOOP PARTNERS, TO TALK ABOUT HIS NEW BOOK, *THE WASTE-FREE WORLD: HOW THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY WILL TAKE LESS, MAKE MORE, AND SAVE THE PLANET.*



The book makes a strong environmental and business case for circular business practices and explores how we became such a consumption-based society. Closed Loop Partners is a New York-

based investment firm comprised of venture capital, growth equity, private equity, project finance, and an innovation center focused on building the circular economy.

AS RON DESCRIBES IN THE CONVERSATION:

“CLOSED LOOP PARTNERS IS FOCUSED ON BUILDING OUT THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY. WHAT WE MEAN BY THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY IS WAYS TO MANUFACTURE PRODUCTS WITHOUT A RELIANCE ON EXTRACTING NATURAL RESOURCES OR DISPOSING OF PRODUCTS IN LANDFILLS.”



Ron lays out in meticulous detail what has shaped the American manufacturing culture since World War II, and how the generally accepted practice has been to extract natural resources and then design products to use those natural resources a single time before disposing

of them in a landfill or even into nature, like in our forests, rivers, and ultimately oceans. He explained that, while there have been some ingenious methods “developed to remove plastics from our oceans, rivers, and lakes, it is critical that we implement systems

to ensure that plastics never get into our waterways in the first place. As soon as a piece of plastic enters our waterways, the damage to our ecosystem and health begins.”

These harmful practices serve certain industries’ interests, but at the expense of the consumer, the taxpayer, and the planet. Ron went on to describe the value of a circular economy:

“IF WE COULD BUILD OUT A CIRCULAR ECONOMY, THEN WE MANUFACTURE USING ADVANCED MATERIALS SCIENCE, PRODUCT DESIGN, SUPPLY CHAINS, AND RECYCLING SYSTEMS TO MANUFACTURE WITHOUT A DEPENDENCE ON NATURAL RESOURCES OR LANDFILLS. AND THAT’S GOING TO SAVE ALL OF US MONEY AND HELP US LIVE IN A MUCH MORE SUSTAINABLE WORLD.”

It is this concept of the circular economy that serves as the foundation for the ideas espoused in Ron’s new book, which encompasses Ron’s ideas

and experiences throughout his many years of work in the public sector, environmental, and business spaces.

THE WASTE-FREE WORLD SERVES AS A SORT OF “ROADMAP FOR PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND WHERE WE’RE COMING FROM AND WHY WE WERE LIVING IN A SYSTEM THAT, WHILE ADVERTISED AS FREE MARKET AND THE PINNACLE OF CAPITALISM, IN FACT WAS THE EXACT OPPOSITE.”

Diving into the history of consumerism in this country, and noting the shift that took place after the second World War, Ron explains how the military industrial complex transitioned from extracting natural resources for the war effort to extracting natural resources to produce products for American consumers. That system led to a marketing shift, where the status of a product transitioned from high

value in its longevity and durability to high value in the collection and accumulation of ‘stuff.’ This could include accumulating possessions like a house, a car, a pool; it also refers to the culture of replacing old models of consumer goods with new ones, rather than prioritizing repairs. Electronic waste



was a particularly timely topic, as our society has become obsessed with and dependent on electronics. What happens when you throw away your old phone or headphones? Think about the effort and costs that technology companies expended to source the rare earth minerals that are located in the batteries and screens of our tech devices. We don't have the infrastructure in place to collect these old electronics and return them to companies who can then re-use these minerals instead of digging miles into the earth to extract more.

Ron and Carolyn moved from the question of 'how did we get here' to today's economy and infrastructure, and how the circular economy could best serve the American people and our communities. Specifically, the conversation led to the question of plastics, and our current recycling capabilities. Many remember the China Sword Policy that rocked the global recycled goods market and led to many doomsday reports about the U.S. recycling system. Ron had a different message, noting that as the Chinese recycling market has dried up, the domestic plastic recyclers in the U.S.

and in Europe have a unique and timely opportunity to reinvent their industry for sustainable domestic growth. The other rhetoric he dispelled is that there is no market for recycled plastic so there is no point in investing in improving recycling infrastructure. Big brand names like Coca-Cola, Unilever, and many others have made bold commitments about recycled content in packaging, but the current recycling rates would only fill an estimated 16% of that demand. There is in fact huge demand for recycled content, and in order to meet that demand, recycling, access to recycling collection programs, and technologies need to improve.

Damage to our ocean ecosystems affects more than just nature and the animals living within it. Ron describes a hypothetical scenario where a food manufacturer dumps chemicals into a waterway in Florida, causing an algae bloom. Now, other industries are impacted. The real estate industry is impacted in efforts to sell waterfront property; the boating industry is impacted; the fishing industry is impacted. A societal question thus emerges - who is paying for this? As Ron points out, no one is quite sure: "As

a society, when it comes to pollution, we haven't come to terms with that." Right now, most pollution, whether a chemical spill or trash heading to a landfill, is cleaned up and paid for by taxpayers.

A central takeaway from this conversation was how holistic a circular economy can be, and how many different industries, taxpayers, and communities are affected by how the U.S. manages - or mismanages - its waste. As we've heard consistently throughout the 117th Congress, solutions will require commitment from partnerships across the board; all stakeholders must band together, including the U.S. Congress. Fortunately, the House and Senate Oceans Caucuses have been champions on issues around marine debris, in this Congress and in past sessions.

Today, and now, marks a crucial and timely opportunity for the advancement and evolution of the way consumers and policymakers think about product design, lifecycle, and waste management infrastructure. Congress can play a role, whether it's by using tax credits and incentives

to invite investment from the private sector into the circular economy and into recycling, or encouraging extended producer responsibility by removing the onus for recycling from the public and placing it on the manufacturer, or by continuing to support states in grant programs for waste management facility upgrades and improved public access to recycling and composting programs. These are just some of many ideas explored in the interview, while the roadmap for even greater innovation and advancement lies in the pages of *The Waste-Free World*.

"The good news is that there is hope, there is inspiration, there is leadership and there is a movement that includes multiple stakeholders. Brilliant innovations in materials science, product design, supply-chain transparency, advanced manufacturing technologies, and sustainable, high-quality products and services are creating a circular economy that will create equitable and lasting value."





U.S. CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING SERIES

THE ICCF GROUP CONTINUED ITS REGULAR CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING SERIES, WHICH FEATURES MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WHO ARE LEADING EFFORTS TO ADVANCE BIPARTISAN OCEANS, ENERGIES, AND OTHER CONSERVATION ISSUES. ICCF BRIEFINGS REACH A CAPITOL HILL AUDIENCE OF OVER 150 PEOPLE ON AVERAGE, SPANNING BOTH POLITICAL PARTIES AND COALITION PARTNERS, PREPARING THEM WITH THE INFORMATION THEY NEED AS THEY ENGAGE ON THESE ISSUES.

- On May 14, 2021, the ICCF Group hosted a briefing on "Forestry Carbon Markets and Natural Climate Solutions" through its Energies and Forests program. The engagement featured keynote remarks from Rep. GT Thompson (R-PA), ranking member of the House Committee on Agriculture. It featured an expert panel discussion afterwards, with insights from Jeremy Manion of Arbor Day Foundation, Chandler Van Voorhis of ACRE Investments, and Christine Cadigan of American Forest Foundation.
- On June 25, 2021, the ICCF Group hosted a briefing through its Energies and Forests program exploring bipartisan efforts to advance investments in microgrids as part of future infrastructure plans. The conversation explored the current state of microgrid technology and its importance for clean energy goals, highlighted real-world applications, and identified future needs for the industry to advance. The program featured remarks from Rep. Jimmy Panetta (D-CA), lead sponsor of microgrid tax credit legislation. The second part of the program featured an expert panel of representatives from the business and research community: Aram Zamgochian of ESS Tech, Katie Jereza of the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), and Patrick Lee of PXiSE.
- On July 9th, 2021, ICCF hosted a virtual briefing focused on highlighting the successes and challenges of Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs) in Southern Africa, highlighting the transfrontier model's importance in promoting

regional collaboration on sustainable development and tourism. Ambassadors Onkokame Kitso Mokaila and Carlos dos Santos, the Ambassadors to the United States from Botswana and Mozambique respectively, presented on their countries' successes and challenges, while Dr. Bartolomeu Soto of Peace Parks and Dr. Nyambe Nyambe of the KAZA Secretariat presented on opportunities for further investment and support for sustainable tourism across the Southern Africa region.

- On July 20th, 2021, the Oceans Caucus Foundation partnered with the National Caucus of Environmental Legislators (NCEL) to host a virtual panel discussion on coastal infrastructure and resiliency, with particular emphasis on the federal-state nexus. This briefing opened with remarks from five Members of Congress: Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici (OR-01), Congressman Ed Case (HI-01), Congressman Garret Graves (LA-06), Congresswoman Chellie Pingree (ME-01), and Congressman Derek Kilmer (WA-06). A key takeaway from the Members' remarks was a resounding and united commitment to working across the aisle and with leaders in state legislatures to preserve and enhance working waterfronts and to support the blue economy. The panel, moderated by Taylor Goelz of Aspen Institute, included Representative Lydia Blume (ME-03), Representative Jerome Zeringue (LA-52), and Kaylee Galloway, who stood in for Representative Debra Lekanoff (WA-40). These panelists brought expertise and experience from all three American coastlines. This briefing demonstrated the robust political and social will to reframe the conception of infrastructure at the state and federal level, in a bipartisan way, to include meaningful investment in coastal restoration and resilience.
- On July 29, 2021, the ICCF Group hosted a briefing on electrification in transportation. This briefing featured keynote remarks from the Climate Minister of Norway, Hon. Sveinung Rotevatn, on Norway's efforts to advance electrification technology. The engagement also featured an expert panel discussion of representatives from the business and research communities, including Argonne National Laboratory and Volkswagen Group of America.



ZPCC WORKSHOP LOOKING AT ZERO WASTE STRATEGIES



ON APRIL 2, 2021, THE ZAMBIA PARLIAMENTARY CONSERVATION CAUCUS (ZPCC) HOSTED A WORKSHOP FOCUSED ON ADDRESSING REGIONAL AND GLOBAL WASTE MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES, SPONSORED BY THE CENTRE FOR ZERO WASTE AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA (CZWDA).

The CZWDA is a non-profit organization that has been actively engaging the general public, the private sector, organizations, policymakers, and local government in sustainable “Zero Waste” strategies and climate solutions that urgently address environmental and

waste management challenges faced by Africans.

Zero waste is the conservation of all resources through responsible production, consumption, reuse, and recovery of products, packaging, and materials without burning and with

no discharges to land, water, or air that threaten the environment. These strategies are crucial in not only conserving resources and minimizing pollution, but additionally in creating green jobs and improving community health. Mr. Billy M. Lombe, Founder and CEO of CZWDA, presented on various solutions to the plastic waste crisis, emphasizing the importance of moving away from a linear economy, which perpetuates plastics production, to the circular economy, which focuses on eliminating waste and the continual use of resources.

Mr. Lombe addressed the parliamentarians directly, stating that comprehensive policy solutions are necessary in addressing the ongoing plastics pollution crisis. Nationally, regionally, and globally, bans on unnecessary single-use plastics are already beginning to make a mark on plastic waste generation. Ultimately, Mr. Lombe was clear in his message that public policies are necessary globally, with measures such as a cap on plastic production and a tax on plastic production being the most effective, in order to maximize plastic waste reduction.



LEFT AND BELOW: Zambia's Caucus Co-Chairs and Members at the ICCF Group workshop, on April 2, 2021 - Hosted in partnership with the Centre for Zero Waste and Development in Africa (CZWSA)

AMBASSADORS' ROUNDTABLE

ON JUNE 29TH, 2021, THE ICCF GROUP HELD A MEETING WITH AFRICAN LEADERS TO DISCUSS HOW AFRICAN VOICES CAN BE ELEVATED IN HIGH-LEVEL DISCUSSIONS TO CHANGE HOW DONOR NATIONS PROVIDE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE.

The event was facilitated by ICCF Group Chairman Mr. David Barron and included CEO of the African Wildlife Foundation Mr. Kaddu Sebunya; His Excellency Onkokame Kitso Mokaila, Ambassador of the Republic

of Botswana to the United States; His Excellency Lazarous Kapambwe, Ambassador of the Republic of Zambia to the United States; and Deputy Chiefs of Mission representing Botswana, Kenya, Mozambique, and Rwanda.

THE SESSION FOCUSED ON THE NEED FOR AFRICAN LEADERS TO FIND UNITY IN THEIR COMMONALITY AND USE THEIR UNIFIED VOICE AS A POWERFUL FORCE ON THE WORLD STAGE.

Mr. Sebunya opened the conversation by showcasing the ways in which conservation must focus on bringing better benefits to the people. First, he stated that:

"THE YOUNG AFRICAN PEOPLE MUST BE INCLUDED IN CONSERVATION PLANNING AS THEY KNOW WHICH ISSUES ARE MOST PRESSING FOR THEIR GENERATION AND CAN HELP CREATE STRONGER AND MORE RESILIENT POLICIES."

Mr. Sebunya also emphasized that there is a need to make conservation bring economic benefits to humanity so that the local community wants to conserve wildlife. Ambassador Moklaia echoed these points by stating that the best way to conserve nature is to increase the equitable distribution of benefits through greater community inclusion.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Sebunya



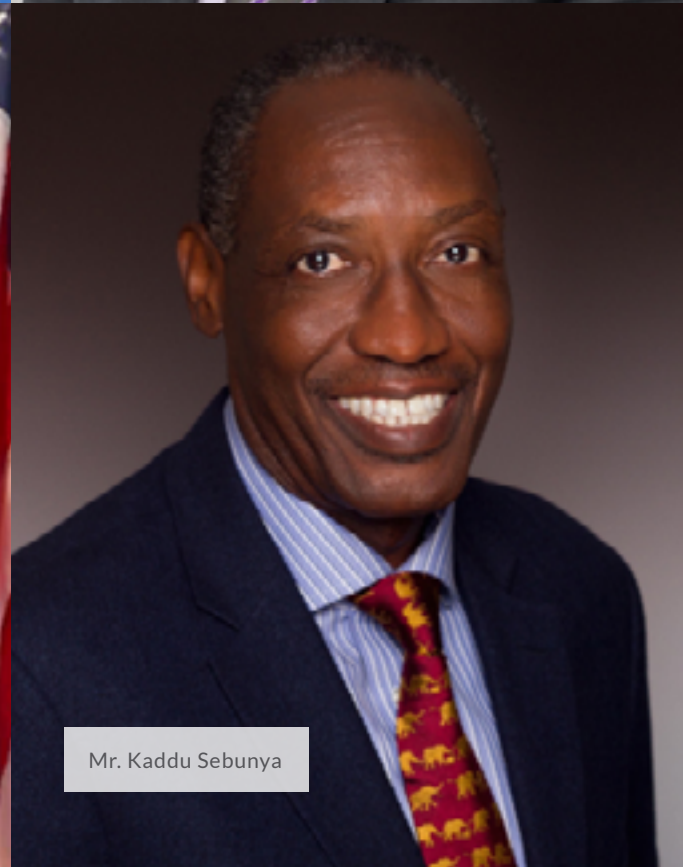
Mr. David Barron



H.E. Onkokame Kitso Mokaila



H.E. Lazarous Kapambwe



Mr. Kaddu Sebunya

noted that sustainable economic development and conservation can be strengthened by cooperation with the U.S., but it is ultimately up to Africans to support a U.S. agenda. Both Ambassador Mokaliala and Ambassador Kapambwe concurred that it is important for African nations to come together and deliver an overarching message on what can be agreed upon, which can then be recommended for the U.S. government to take into account. Global interconnectedness was highlighted by Ms. Yoliswa Mvebe and Amb. David Gacheru, the Deputy Chiefs of Mission for South Africa and Kenya, respectively, with Ms. Mvebe expressing the need for international

financial and technical support to ensure that sustainable development and conservation can be achieved.

Mr. Sebunya stressed the importance of African embassies in Washington, DC in pushing the goals stated above and exchanging ideas to deliver a unified message. The consensus was clear that it is urgent for African leaders to define a clear message highlighting the common denominators and prepare to present that to the U.S. government - particularly looking at how to redefine the conservation-development paradigm for both the local and international communities.

Ministries and agencies within the Government of Angola; leadership of the National Assembly of Angola; and executives from the private sector, foundations, NGOs, and multilateral organizations.

The goal of the forum was to increase the momentum among potential investors to partner with the Government of Angola to revitalize the Angolan Okavango watershed, ensuring that wildlife and biodiversity thrive and that eco-tourism and development are inclusive, benefiting the livelihoods of local communities substantially. In December 2018, the ICCF Group assisted the then-Ministry of Environment in the organization of a landmark Mini-Mission to assess the biodiversity and eco-tourism investment potential of Angola's national parks and protected areas. Building on this, the stakeholder forum on investment convened major international investors, implementers, and policymakers committed to exploring opportunities for conservation and environmental projects in Cuando Cubango.

Minister Fortunato opened the

forum, giving an overview of Angola's conservation areas and thanking the different stakeholders present for their commitment to having a positive impact on the Angolan economy and conservation. He then introduced U.S. Congressman Jeff Fortenberry, who gave remarks and expressed gratitude for the passage of the DELTA Act and for the bilateral dialogue between the United States and Angola, which he is looking forward to continuing to strengthen.

The remainder of the forum was moderated by the Secretary of Environment, Paula Cristina Francisco Coelho, who expressed that the goal was to assess the degree of satisfaction with the current programs planned for the southeast and for the Government to be able to collect inputs on the situation from stakeholders engaged in the region. The forum provided an opportunity for the participants to present their visions for projects to be implemented in order to create transformational change in Angola's Luengue-Luiana and Mavinga National Parks.



INVESTMENT

STAKEHOLDER INVESTMENT FORUM ON INVESTMENT IN CONSERVATION AREAS IN THE SOUTHEAST OF ANGOLA

ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30, 2021, THE GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ICCF GROUP, HOSTED A VIRTUAL STAKEHOLDER FORUM ON INVESTMENT IN CONSERVATION AREAS IN THE SOUTHEASTERN PROVINCE OF CUANDO CUBANGO, WHERE LUENGUE-LUIANA AND MAVINGA NATIONAL PARKS ARE LOCATED.

Led by H.E. Jomo Francisco Isabel de Carvalho Fortunato, Minister of

Culture, Tourism & Environment, participants also included other



MARINE

BRIEFING ON MPA MANAGEMENT & BIODIVERSITY WITH THE KAUKUS KELAUTAN IN INDONESIA

ON JUNE 16TH, THE INDONESIA OCEANS CAUCUS (KAUKUS KELAUTAN DPR-RI) HELD A STAKEHOLDER BRIEFING ON THE TOPIC OF STRENGTHENING MARINE PROTECTED AREA (MPA) GOVERNANCE & CONSERVATION OF CORAL REEFS AND MARINE BIODIVERSITY.

Rili Djohani, Executive Director of the Coral Triangle Center (CTC), opened the discussion by highlighting the importance of effective MPA governance for Indonesia as one of the countries located in the Coral Triangle Region, epicenter of marine biodiversity. In an effort to accelerate Indonesia's aim of having 30 million hectares of marine habitat in legally protected and effectively managed MPAs by 2030, CTC collaborated with

the Indonesian Maritime Ministry in establishing the 2030 Marine Protected Area Vision roadmap as practical guidance, and also supported a capacity building roadmap that identified core MPA competencies and how these competencies should be institutionalized.

Professor David



Smith, Chief Marine Scientist at Mars Inc., presented the art of restoration as an effective community-based scalable restoration solution. He emphasized

direct intervention needed to kick-start recovery processes and provide hope and opportunity to communities and critical industries.

“THERE ARE MANY CORAL REEFS PARTICULARLY WITHIN THE INDONESIAN ARCHIPELAGO WHICH ARE SO DEGRADED THEY’VE LOST THEIR ABILITY TO NATURALLY RECOVER - THIS IS WHERE CORAL RESTORATION REALLY NEEDS TO HAPPEN.” A REMARKABLE RESULT WAS SEEN: 4 YEARS POST-RESTORATION, THE REEF HEIGHT HAD INCREASED BY ABOUT HALF A METER, WHICH ALSO HAS CONSEQUENCES FOR PROTECTING LOW-LYING ISLANDS FROM STORM DAMAGE AND SEA LEVEL RISE.

Ilman Muhammad, Indonesia Oceans Program Director for Yayasan Konservasi Alam Nusantara (YKAN), discussed practical efforts to enhance the livelihood of communities in conservation areas and boost local communities’ eagerness to protect their marine national parks. Highlighting the existing challenges in rehabilitating and conserving mangrove ecosystems in Indonesia, YKAN presented a solution based on accurate scientific data as key to designing conservation and

restoration strategies for mangroves. Identifying opportunities to enhance the availability of financial resources for MPAs is assuredly needed, particularly MPAs that fall under the jurisdiction of provincial governments, which includes 80 percent of MPAs in Indonesia. For instance, Government Regulation No. 75 of 2015 concerning Non-Tax State Revenue allows MPAs managed at the national level to collect entrance fees as an effort to finance area management.

“THERE IS STILL A LOT THAT NEEDS TO BE IMPROVED AT THE PROVINCIAL LEVEL TO HELP MPAS BE EFFECTIVELY MANAGED IN TERMS OF HUMAN RESOURCES, CAPACITY, FINANCING, WASTE, ETC.,” AS POINTED OUT BY RILI DJOHANI.

The panelists and caucus members concluded the briefing by agreeing that a cross-sectoral and holistic approach

to handling conservation issues is imperative and undoubtedly will result in powerful outcomes.

AS POINTED OUT BY PROFESSOR SMITH, “WE GET BETTER CONSERVATION OUTCOMES WHEN THERE’S A GREATER DEGREE OF PARTICIPATION.”

“THE OCEAN IS ONE OF THE WORLD’S GREATEST ASSETS - IT’S THE FOOD WE EAT, IT’S THE AIR WE BREATHE. UNCLEAN OCEAN WILL LEAD TO AN UNSUSTAINABLE PLANETARY SYSTEM. IT DRIVES CLIMATE, IT DRIVES EVERYTHING WE NEED TO LIVE - AND MOST IMPORTANTLY IT IS INDONESIA’S MOST PRIME ASSET.” - PROFESSOR DAVID SMITH, CHIEF MARINE SCIENTIST AT MARS INC.

PROTECTED AREAS

AN UPDATED MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR CODRINGTON LAGOON NATIONAL PARK

INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION CORPS VOLUNTEER BILL HENWOOD, IN CLOSE PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ANTIGUA & BARBUDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, HAS DRAFTED AN UPDATED MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE CODRINGTON LAGOON NATIONAL PARK TO FACILITATE THE MANAGEMENT OF THE PARK’S RESOURCES AND FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS.

Not only does the lagoon serve as a nursery for marine species like the spiny lobster, but the park’s mangrove forests also provide the largest nesting site in the Caribbean for the magnificent frigate bird. The updated management plan outlines a three-phase approach to the park’s management for the coming decade.

Particular attention has been paid to clarifying the park's boundaries and legal designation, as well as establishing a clear leadership team for sustainable management of the park.

The draft management plan



was presented and discussed with the Department of Environment in March 2021, and the next stakeholder mission to refine both the management plan and implementation plan drafts will be held in October. This activity was

carried out with the support of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) under the “Advancing Conservation in the Eastern Caribbean” project.



LEGISLATIVE

CAUCUS LEADER ESTABLISHES ENVIRONMENTAL PLENARY IN COLOMBIA

4 PROJECTS APPROVED IN THE FIRST ENVIRONMENTAL PLENARY SESSION

The House of Representatives in Colombia held an environmental plenary session under the leadership of the Speaker of the House Germán Blanco. Four bills were approved as part of an annual legislative initiative to celebrate Earth Day, including measures to promote passages of fauna in terrestrial routes as a strategy for the preservation of ecosystems and biodiversity; encourage the generation of green employment; create a system for environmental licenses for

cemeteries; and promote urban and peri-urban trees, with emphasis on native species to conserve biodiversity and improve environmental balance.

This plenary session reaffirmed the commitment of the Congress and the members of the CCC and COC to conservation and sustainable development of natural resources, generating dialogue, debates, and legislation with the support of ICCF as Secretariat of the CCC.

ELECTIONS

CONGRATULATIONS TO MEMBERS OF COLOMBIA'S CONSERVATION AND OCEAN CAUCUSES

THE CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA, WHICH ON JULY 20 BEGAN ITS FINAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION OF THE 2018-2022 PERIOD, HAS BEEN LED IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (CAMARA) FOR THE PAST YEAR BY COLOMBIAN CONSERVATION CAUCUS (CCC) FOUNDING CO-CHAIR HR GERMÁN BLANCO ÁLVAREZ. FOR THE UPCOMING CYCLE OF ORDINARY SESSIONS, MANY SENIOR LEADERS IN BOTH THE SENATE AND THE CAMARA ARE CCC VETERANS.

The new President of the Senate is Senator Juan Diego Gomez Jimenez, who in 2012 as head of the Committee on Environmental Affairs co-founded the CCC. Since the beginning of his political career, he has worked in support of sustainable development and the environment.

The new First Vice President of the Senate and also a co-founder of the caucus is Maritza Martínez



Aristizabal of the U Party. The Second Vice President of the Senate is Iván Name Vasquez, a member of the CCC since 2017 and a member of the Oceans Caucus since its establishment. Oceans Caucus co-founder Senator Daira Galvis serves on the Senate Environment Committee, along with Senator Sandra Ortiz, who since 2014 has been a Co-Chair of the CCC in the Camara. In the Camara, the First Vice President, Carlos Adolfo Ardila, also participates in the CCC.

These are not the only members of the CCC and COC with leadership positions. Senator Paola Holguín is President of the Senate International Affairs

Committee, and Senator Richard Aguilar is Vice President of the Committee on Economic Affairs. In the Camara, the Committee on Environmental Affairs is chaired by Representative Nicolas Echeverry. Representative Margarita Restrepo is Vice President of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs. Representative Modesto Aguilera serves as Vice President of the Budget Committee.

We congratulate all the Co-Presidents and Members of the Colombian Conservation Caucus and Oceans Caucus for their appointments to leadership positions in the Congress.

Trust. The delegation discussed the issue of deforestation in Colombia and how the U.S. government and other partners may be of assistance to the Colombian park service (PNN). Rainforest Trust confirmed their cooperation with and contribution to PNN for the expansion of six protected areas.

The Minister expressed strong interest in the development of a comprehensive training course for PNN at the directive and technical level. This

learning exchange program will involve PNN personnel visiting U.S. National Parks with International Conservation Corps volunteers to study elements of U.S. national park management. During the first trip scheduled to occur in September 2021, expert volunteers and PNN senior managers will develop the concept for regular training and an action plan for providing continued technical assistance to strengthen the management of protected areas in Colombia.

INTERPARLIAMENTARY COLLABORATION

COLOMBIAN DELEGATION VISITS WASHINGTON, DC AND STRATEGIZES ON INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION CORPS-PNN TRAINING INITIATIVE

IN JULY 2021, A COLOMBIAN DELEGATION INCLUDING THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE GERMAN BLANCO, AND SENATOR MAURICO GOMEZ VISITED WASHINGTON, D.C.

During this trip, the delegation met with ICCF staff, Members of the U.S.

Congress, and various ICCF partners including USAID, WWF, and Rainforest



DRAFTING THE NATIONAL FOREST PLAN FOR THE BAHAMAS

AN INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION CORPS TEAM OF RETIRED U.S. AND CANADIAN FORESTRY OFFICIALS IS ASSISTING THE BAHAMAS FORESTRY UNIT WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL FOREST PLAN TO GUIDE MANAGEMENT OF THE NATION'S 1 MILLION ACRES OF PINE FOREST RESOURCES AND SENSITIVE HABITATS.

Forests of The Bahamas provide essential environmental, social, and economic benefits to local communities and contribute toward meeting international commitments. The purpose of the strategic plan is to promote and improve the conservation and sustainable use of the national forest estate to meet local and national needs of present and future generations. The plan will help the new Forestry Unit make the case for additional resources and how such resources will be utilized. The plan

outlines eight broad goals related to forest stewardship, conservation, production, ecotourism, values and benefits, climate resilience, community involvement, and research. It also includes specific direction for the suitability and monitoring of management activities and uses on the national forest estate. The International Conservation Corps is also working with the Forestry Unit to help draft two tactical plans at the level of individual forest reserves and conservation forests.



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear friends and colleagues,

This quarter, the ICCF Group hosted a number of briefings and events on a range of conservation topics, including an international summit in Washington, D.C, to explore the issue of illegal resource extraction and highlight bipartisan efforts to address it. The summit focused on three specific areas: illegal fishing, critical mineral supply chain security, and deforestation. Thank you to caucus leaders from countries within our global network who traveled to Washington to continue advancing progress on these issues.

We also wish to thank Mr. Ron Gonen, Founder and

CEO of Closed Loop Partners, for speaking with us about his new book, *The Waste-Free World: How the Circular Economy Will Take Less, Make More, and Save the Planet*.

The third quarter is shaping up to be both busy and productive. Thank you for your 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