ICCF joined Senator Chris Coons in hosting the President of the Republic of France, H.E. Emmanuel Macron, for a luncheon in the Library of Congress with members of the U.S. Congressional International Conservation Caucus, the U.S. Congressional Oceans Caucus, and the U.S. Senate Climate Solutions Caucus, along with other Members of Congress and leaders from the public and private sectors, to discuss opportunities for collaboration to address some of the world’s greatest environmental challenges.

The luncheon featured remarks by President Macron, ICCF President John Gantt, Senator Chris Coons (D-DE), Representative Dave Joyce (R-OH), and Conservation International CEO M. Sanjayan. Rajiv Shah, President of the Rockefeller Foundation, led a moderated discussion that included comments by Senators John Boozman (R-AR), Joe Manchin (D-WV), and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI); Representatives Garret Graves (R-LA) and Betty McCollum (D-MN); African Wildlife Foundation CEO Kaddu Sebunya; and others.
HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATION FROM SOMALILAND HIGHLIGHTS CHEETAH TRADE CHALLENGE

A high-level delegation from the Government of Somaliland, led by H.E. President Muse Bihi Abdi, visited Washington, DC to meet with U.S. government officials and Members of the United States Congress on a range of issues, including the trafficking threat facing the region’s cheetah population. ICCF, in partnership with the Cheetah Conservation Fund, hosted several members of the delegation at a briefing for Congressional staff and private-sector partners.

PARTNER EXCHANGE WITH MOZAMBIQUE DELEGATION

ICCF facilitated a series of meetings for a visiting parliamentary delegation of 9 Members of Parliament from the National Assembly of Mozambique, led by the Chair of the Committee on International Relations.

ABOVE: H.E. Muse Bihi Abdi, President of Somaliland
the role of marine protected areas and technology solutions as critical parts of climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.

OPENING REMARKS AND PANELIST INTRODUCTIONS WERE PROVIDED BY:
- Senator Chris Coons (D-DE)
- Senator Mike Braun (R-IN)
- Senator Susan Collins (R-ME)

PANELISTS INCLUDED:
- Marty Odlin, the Founder and CEO of Running Tide, the world’s leading decarbonization and carbon removal platform;
- Yannick Glemarec, the Executive Director of the Green Climate Fund, the world’s largest climate fund;
- Katherine Stodulka, who leads SYSTEMIQ’s sustainable finance practice.

MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION WERE JOINED BY THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF THE ICCF CONSERVATION COUNCIL:
- African Parks
- Vulcan
- African Wildlife Foundation
- HALO Trust
- UN Environment
- Wildlife Conservation Society
- Conservation International

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CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING: THE ROAD TO A MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

ICCF hosted a Congressional Briefing to discuss the role of electrification in a clean energy future.

WITH REMARKS FROM U.S. SENATOR SHELDON WHITEHOUSE (D-RI), THE EXPERT PANEL FEATURED SPEAKERS FROM:

- Volkswagen Group of America;
- the Clean Energy Buyers Association, a community of nearly 300 energy customers;
- and Lennar Corporation, one of the nation’s largest homebuilders.

The panel gave an in-depth look into each organization’s efforts to reduce global carbon emissions through electrification and what it means for the energy grid and the homebuilding and transportation industries.

REPRESENTING EACH ORGANIZATION WERE:

- Cameron Batten, Senior Vice President and Chief Communications Officer for Volkswagen Group of America;
- Misti Groves, Vice President of Markets and Policy Innovations for the Clean Energy Buyers Association (CEBA);
- and Jeremy Susac, Vice President of Government Affairs at Lennar Corporation.

Each of these panelists spoke on energy-efficient initiatives, consumer demand, and barriers and opportunities for electrification. Concluding the briefing, Senator Whitehouse spoke to policies that are working towards electrification goals, including bipartisan infrastructure legislation passed last year, and emphasized the continued need for bipartisan collaboration to find policy solutions.

CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING: ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE ENFORCEMENT IN EAST AFRICA AND THE HORN OF AFRICA

ICCF hosted a panel discussion on “Illegal Wildlife Trade Enforcement in East Africa and the Horn of Africa” with experts from organizations implementing US-supported combating wildlife trafficking programs on the ground.

PANELISTS INCLUDED:

- Didi Wamukoya, Director of Counter Wildlife Trafficking, African Wildlife Foundation;
- Bryan Landry, International Operations Unit, USFWS Office of Law Enforcement;
- Matt Morley, Director of Wildlife Crimes, IFAW;
- and Will Powell, Director of Canines for Conservation, African Wildlife Foundation.

ABOVE: Didi Wamukoya, Director of Counter Wildlife Trafficking, African Wildlife Foundation

LEFT: U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Co-Chair of the U.S. Congressional Oceans Caucus
DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON:

- Detection: law enforcement capacity and technological advances to detect illegal wildlife products at the port of entry, point of sale, and in cyberspace; and
- Enforcement: effectiveness of law enforcement efforts to arrest and prosecute wildlife crime offenders and the role U.S. Government partners play in building local enforcement capacity.

HALO TRUST DEMINING BRIEFING

ICCF hosted a briefing with representatives of the HALO Trust to discuss challenges posed by landmines leftover from conflict, which can kill or maim wildlife and disrupt migration corridors, as well as efforts underway to remove these mines in some key ecosystems.

CONGRESSIONAL STAFF BRIEFING: UNLOCKING CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL IN KAZA

Public-Private Partnerships are powerful tools for conserving biodiversity, supporting sustainable economic development and poverty alleviation, and for protecting communities’ clean air and water resources.

AS PART OF ITS “PEOPLE AND PLACES” BRIEFING SERIES, ICCF AIMS TO HIGHLIGHT SUCCESSFUL PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP MODELS THAT ARE BENEFITING BIODIVERSITY-RICH PLACES AND THE WELL-BEING OF THE PEOPLE THAT RELY ON THEIR NATURAL RESOURCES.

For the first installment of this series, held July 21st on Capitol Hill, a panel of experts representing the HALO Trust, African Parks, and Conservation International helped spotlight the Kavango-Zambezi (KAZA) Transfrontier Conservation Area and the keys to “Unlocking Conservation and Development Potential in KAZA.” The area, the largest of its kind - roughly the size of California - incorporates land from Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe, including national parks and protected areas, agricultural and grazing lands, as well as other land uses.

ABOVE: Chris Whatley, Executive Director, The Halo Trust
CAUCUS CO-CHAIRS INTRODUCE BIPARTISAN USFIC ACT OF 2022

Senate and House ICC co-chairs, Senators Rob Portman (R-OH), Richard Burr (R-NC), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Chris Coons (D-DE) and Representatives Dave Joyce (R-OH), Betty McCollum (D-MI), Henry Cuellar (D-TX), Chris Stewart (R-UT), were joined by ICC member Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and new incoming co-chairs Senator John Boozman (R-AR), Thom Tillis (R-NC), and Martin Heinrich (D-NM) in introducing the United States Foundation for International Conservation Act of 2022.

The bipartisan measure would establish and appropriate funds for a charitable nonprofit, independent of the United States government, to carry out activities to promote the long-term management of protected and conserved areas in developing countries; work to identify and support implementation-ready projects that would benefit indigenous peoples and local communities; and encourage, accept, and administer private funds as leveraged by public contributions.

THIS NEW PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP CAN MOBILIZE SIGNIFICANT NEW FUNDING FROM BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SOURCES TO HELP SOLIDIFY THE TYPE OF LONG-TERM FUNDING AND RESOURCES REQUIRED FOR THE EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS WHILE LEVERAGING THE STRENGTHS OF BOTH SECTORS FOR YEARS TO COME.
"WHEN CONSERVATION EFFORTS...

...PRIORITIZE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, ARE SUPPORTED BY LOCAL STEWARDS, AND LEVERAGE PRIVATE FUNDING, THEY HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE LONG-TERM BENEFITS FOR OUR PLANET, OUR HEALTH, AND OUR SECURITY. WE ARE AT A CRITICAL MOMENT FOR FINANCING CONSERVATION AND PREVENTING THE LOSS OF CRUCIAL NATURAL HABITATS, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH MY COLLEAGUES TO ADVANCE THIS BIPARTISAN LEGISLATION."

-- SEN. CHRIS COONS

While the act was not included in the omnibus package passed at the end of 2022, the ICC co-chairs are committed to its reintroduction and prioritization for the 118th Congress.

PHOTOS: U.S. SENATOR CHRIS COONS (ABOVE); MELANI AND ROB WALTON (RIGHT); AT THE 2021 ICCF AWARDS DINNER.

A LONG LIST OF CEOS & PHILANTHROPISTS

INCLUDING ROB WALTON, CO-PRESIDENT OF THE ROB AND MELANI WALTON FOUNDATION; FRANK MARS, CHAIRMAN OF MARS INC.; WENDY PAULSON, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOBOLINK FOUNDATION; AND ANDREW STEER, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE BEZOS EARTH FUND, HAVE ALREADY COMMITTED TO PARTNERING WITH THE USFIC, AS HAVE THE LEADERS OF MANY OF THE MOST RESPECTED INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION NGOS.
CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING ON THE BLUE ECONOMY

The Oceans Caucus Foundation hosted a virtual panel featuring key oceans subject-matter experts discussing the blue economy and its implications for the future of American jobs, coasts, and industries.

THE PANEL HEARD REMARKS FROM SENATE AND HOUSE OCEANS CAUCUS CO-CHAIRS:

- Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)
- Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR)

BLUE ECONOMY PANEL DISCUSSION

ICCF and its Oceans Caucus Foundation hosted a virtual panel discussion on Defining and Exploring the Blue Economy. The panel featured prominent subject-matter experts from the University of Rhode Island, Oregon State University, and AKWA-DC to discuss this issue, with particular focus on the specifics of the blue economy for America's East and West Coasts.

TOPICS ALSO INCLUDED:

- the intersection of Smart Ocean technologies and coastal resiliency,
- the need for increased investment in technology and innovation
- around the blue economy, and policy opportunities for ocean innovation work.

PANEL DISCUSSION: OCEAN CLUSTERS AND THE BLUE ECONOMY

The Oceans Caucus Foundation hosted a panel of experts discussing the history of ocean clusters in the United States and the concerted, cross-regional effort to find greater understanding of and support for blue technology, the blue economy, and ocean clusters.

THESE EFFORTS HAVE LARGELY BEEN LED BY OCEAN CLUSTER LEADERS FROM FOUR SPECIFIC GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS, THREE OF WHICH WERE REPRESENTED ON THE PANEL:

- The Pacific Northwest
- Southern California
- New England
- The Gulf of Mexico

There was universal agreement on the value of the ‘triple helix’ approach, an approach that marries business, academia, and government efforts to foster sustainable economic growth opportunities. From there, the conversation turned to the role of government and what help can be found at the federal level.

Panelists noted that the Ocean Regional Opportunity and Innovation Act is a start. From there, government support for the blue economy is invaluable; every little bit helps to get communities innovating. From funding to increasing maritime literacy in decision-makers, panelists agreed...
that there are many ways for the federal government to play a role.

A resounding theme of the panel was the sentiment that this work requires an all-hands-on-deck approach - it is imperative that all sectors, all corners of communities work together. Further, the blue workforce is critical to the blue economy, and workforce development is a key priority. That starts with early awareness of ocean opportunities in youth and creating more accessible pathways into industries.

Mr. Sebunya shared insights regarding:

- emerging challenges for African communities on the front lines of conservation and combating illegal wildlife trafficking in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- the inaugural IUCN Africa Protected Areas Congress (APAC) in Rwanda;
- the vision behind APAC and expected outcomes, including plans to finance the protection of Africa's natural infrastructure;
- and Africa's evolving role in addressing the climate crisis and the importance of the continent's protected and conserved areas for climate mitigation and adaptation.

WEBINAR: U.S. PLASTICS PACT: INDUSTRY’S ROLE IN THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

ICCF hosted a virtual panel featuring industry experts discussing the US Plastics Pact, extended producer responsibility (EPR), and efforts to achieve standardization in the industry. With moderation by Emily Tipaldo, Executive Director of the US Plastics Pact, the panel had a robust conversation on what the industry is doing to create a more circular plastics life-cycle and economy that

CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING ON EPA NATIONAL RECYCLING STRATEGY

ICCF hosted a panel discussion on the National Recycling Strategy, which aims to reach a national recycling goal of 50% by 2030 from the current rate of approximately 33%.

THE PANEL INCLUDED:

- Allison Trulock, NewGen Strategies and Solutions;
- Ashley Krug, Missouri Department of Environmental Services;
- Elizabeth Row, Eco Partners, Inc;
- and David Allaway, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

CONGRESSIONAL STAFF BRIEFING ON CONSERVATION IN AFRICA

ICCF hosted a U.S. Congressional Staff Briefing with Kaddu Sebunya, CEO of the African Wildlife Foundation, to discuss the state of conservation in Africa.

LEFT: Kaddu Sebunya, CEO of the African Wildlife Foundation

The Global Environment Facility highlights the sheer scale of plastic production and poor disposal practices as resulting in growing negative effects on human health and the environment, including on climate change, marine pollution, biodiversity, and chemical contamination. It defines the Circular Economy as a solution to plastic pollution challenges, offering an alternative to the current linear, make-use-dispose economy model.
CHOW STAFF BRIEFING: CLIMATE READY FISHERIES AND FOOD SYSTEMS

The Oceans Caucus Foundation hosted a briefing on June 9th during Capitol Hill Oceans Week (CHOW) on Climate Ready Fisheries and Food Systems moderated by Carolyn Weis, Executive Director of the Oceans Caucus Foundation, the Oceans Program of ICCF.

SPEAKERS INCLUDED:
- Paul Doremus, Deputy Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries;
- Greg Brown, Executive Director for the Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability;
- and Michelle Tigchelaar, Research Scientist with the Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions.

CARBON PRICING

The World Bank defines two main types of carbon pricing: emissions trading systems (ETS) to cap the total level of greenhouse gas emissions and allows those industries with low emissions to sell their extra allowances to larger emitters, and carbon taxes, which directly sets a price on carbon by defining a tax rate on greenhouse gas emissions or - more commonly - on the carbon content of fossil fuels.

PANEL BRIEFING ON CARBON DIOXIDE REMOVAL

ICCF and OCF hosted a panel discussion on Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR) for key Hill staff. The goal was to get a team of experts together to explain the basics of CDR and its potential in the marine environment.

Technological advances in this space are rapidly expanding, and the discussion served to familiarize Hill staff with the details around the topic so they have something to start with once they start getting legislative asks around the topic.

PANELISTS INCLUDED:
- Anna-Marie Laura, Director Climate Policy, Ocean Conservancy;
- Rachael DeWitt, Manager Government Relations, Ocean Conservancy;
- Dr. Sarah Cooley, Director, Climate Science, Ocean Conservancy;
- Dr. Jaime Collins, Marine Biogeochemical Scientist, Environmental Defense Fund;
- and Dr. Jessica Cross, Research Oceanographer, NOAA’s Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory.

PANELISTS INCLUDED:
- Rachel Goldstein of Mars
- Jennifer Amundsen with Keurig Dr. Pepper

THE WORLD BANK DEFINES TWO MAIN TYPES OF CARBON PRICING: EMISSIONS TRADING SYSTEMS (ETS) TO CAP THE TOTAL LEVEL OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND ALLOWS THOSE INDUSTRIES WITH LOW EMISSIONS TO SELL THEIR EXTRA ALLOWANCES TO LARGER EMMITTERS, AND CARBON TAXES, WHICH DIRECTLY SETS A PRICE ON CARBON BY DEFINING A TAX RATE ON GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS OR - MORE COMMONLY - ON THE CARBON CONTENT OF FOSSIL FUELS.
CONGRESSIONAL STAFF BRIEFING WITH U.N. ENVIRONMENT DIRECTOR ON PLASTICS & NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

ICCF hosted a Lunch Briefing with Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme.

MS. ANDERSEN DISCUSSED UN ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVES RELATED TO:

- ocean conservation and marine protected areas,
- plastics and circular economy,
- nature-based solutions,
- and food security and sustainable food systems.

CONGRESSIONAL STAFF PANEL BRIEFING WITH MSC

ICCF/OCF and the Marine Stewardship Council

(MSC) held a panel briefing for Congressional staff to discuss the nutritional and environmental benefits of seafood, as well as the role of sustainable fisheries in the face of climate change and other environmental changes.

PANELISTS:

- Shared why seafood should be a critical part of every American’s diet;
- outlined the role sustainable fishing plays in a healthy ocean and in national food security;
- communicated relevant information for policy makers to support opportunities to make healthy, sustainable seafood more easily accessible and affordable to Americans.

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS™

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS (NBS) are defined by IUCN as “actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits.”

LEFT: Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme
ICCF hosted a small breakfast briefing with H.E. Filipe Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique, on biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in Africa.

**CONGRESSMAN CHRIS STEWART (R-UT)**

Congressman Chris Stewart joined the leadership of the International Conservation Caucus (ICC) in April as co-chair.

**IN JUNE, ICCF CONVENED A BREAKFAST ROUNDTABLE WITH CONGRESSMAN STEWART, MEMBERS OF ICCF’S CONSERVATION COUNCIL, AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM SEVERAL EMBASSIES IN WASHINGTON, TO DISCUSS CONGRESSIONAL PRIORITIES FOR:**

- International Conservation
- Development and Security

**TOP:** His Excellency Filipe Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique

**ABOVE:** Congressman Chris Stewart, Co-Chair of the U.S. Congressional International Conservation Caucus
With a diverse set of stakeholders represented, topics ranged widely from plastic pollution and renewable energy to wildlife conservation, with representatives of African embassies driving discussion around landscape conservation in the KAZA region.

**CONGRESSMAN GARRET GRAVES (R-LA)**

ICCF invited partners and friends to join us for a Breakfast Briefing with Congressman Garret Graves.

**THE CONGRESSMAN DISCUSSED HIS OUTLOOK ON:**

- climate policy, most notably his views on U.S. energy strategy
- leadership on addressing illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

Congressman Graves represents Louisiana’s Sixth Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives.

Graves is the Ranking Member of the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis and the House Transportation and Infrastructure Aviation Subcommittee. He also serves on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee and the House Natural Resources Energy and Mineral Resources and Water, Oceans and Wildlife Subcommittees.

**CONGRESSMAN GRAVES HIGHLIGHTED THE NEED FOR A U.S. ENERGY STRATEGY THAT INCLUDES A WIDE RANGE OF SOURCES, INCLUDING:**

- oil and gas,
- zero-carbon technologies such as wind, solar, small modular nuclear reactors, hydrogen and carbon capture,
- as well as being realistic about renewable energy goals and their infrastructure needs.

He also touched on addressing emerging threats to our oceans, as well as coastal communities.

**CONGRESSWOMAN JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN**


Rep. González-Colón (R-PR-At Large) has prioritized initiatives to safeguard the health of our oceans and marine ecosystems. Her efforts include supporting funding and legislation to protect and conserve coastal habitats, combat marine debris, and study ocean acidification. She spoke on her key oceans priorities and then engaged in an audience Q&A.

**CONGRESSMAN DEREK KILMER**

ICCF and OCF hosted Congressman Kilmer, who serves on the Interior and Environment Appropriations Subcommittee and has long prioritized efforts to safeguard the health of our oceans and marine ecosystems.
ecosystems.

He is a member of both the House Oceans Caucus as well as the House Climate Solutions Caucus, and this Congress he introduced the Ocean Acidification Innovation Act of 2021. Rep. Kilmer spoke on his key oceans priorities and then took questions from the audience.

SPECIAL EVENTS

CONGRESSIONAL RECEPTION WITH AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE

ICCF hosted a U.S. Congressional Reception on Conservation in Africa: Gateways for Human Development and Sustainability. The reception, which was held on the sidelines of the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit in Washington, D.C., featured leaders of African governments and the co-chairs of the U.S. Congressional International Conservation Caucus for a discussion of the conservation and development challenges that African leaders are confronting at a national and regional level. Participating heads of state included the Presidents of Gabon, Botswana, and Zambia.

CONSERVATION COUNCIL DINNER

Co-Chairs of the House and Senate International Conservation Caucus and Oceans Caucus and the Senate Climate Solutions Caucus joined members of ICCF’s Conservation Council, including private-sector, nongovernmental, and multilateral partners, diplomatic representatives from countries where the ICCF Group is working globally, and other special guests.

The annual event offered the opportunity for caucus leadership to highlight bipartisan collaboration, for partners to speak about their organizations’ conservation initiatives, and for ambassadors to identify opportunities and challenges for conservation in their countries.

RIGHT: His Excellency Mokgweetsi Masisi, President of the Republic of Botswana
HOUSE CHIEFS OF STAFF LUNCHEON

ICCF hosted a lunch briefing in honor of the House Chiefs of Staff Association to highlight the important work of the bipartisan International Conservation and Oceans Caucuses in the Senate and House as well as the work of our stakeholders both domestically and abroad. More than twenty House Staff participated.

HP JOINS ICCF CONSERVATION COUNCIL

We are delighted to share with the ICCF community that HP has re-joined the ICCF US Conservation Council with a goal of raising awareness and increasing partnership ideas for their sustainable impact agenda. HP has an ambitious vision to be the most just and sustainable technology company and announced some of the most aggressive and comprehensive sustainable impact goals in the industry around 3 pillars: combating climate change, advancing human rights, and accelerating digital equity.

One area of common interest is supporting HP’s efforts to address the climate crisis through environmental stewardship. HP is working towards net zero by reducing their carbon footprint and greenhouse gas emissions through improving energy efficiency, promoting circularity in its products and reducing packaging, and implementing deforestation policies. In fact, the company has a global partnership with ICCF partner WWF to support their forest conservation efforts.

The ICCF Group welcomes HP and looks forward to working with and supporting the company’s climate change and environmental stewardship efforts.

The ICCF CONSERVATION COUNCIL

Our council members offer unique perspectives and share a common desire to implement conservation projects safeguarding wildlife and biodiversity, protecting and restoring habitats, and generating economic opportunities and social benefits for surrounding communities who are necessarily the long-term stewards of local natural resources.

“IT’S THE EXPERIENCE THAT COMES FROM THOSE NGOS AND VOLUNTEERS THAT ARE ASSISTING IN THIS WIDER EFFORT TO COME UP WITH LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS THAT WILL PROTECT SPECIES FAR INTO THE FUTURE.”

-- CHAIRMAN ED ROYCE
INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION CAUCUS FOUNDING CO-CHAIR
LAUNCH OF THE ZAMBIA PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE (ZPCECC)

Previously known as the Zambia Parliamentary Conservation Caucus (ZPCC), the Zambia Parliamentary Caucus on the Environment and Climate Change (ZPCECC) relaunched itself under the new name, emphasizing the urgent need to combat climate change.
change, and additionally launching its newly developed Five Year Strategic Plan, which will look at building institutional capacity and effectiveness amongst Zambian parliamentarians and improving public participation in the legislative processes.

KEYNOTE REMARKS DURING THE LAUNCH WERE PROVIDED BY:

- Susan H. Lylis, ICCF Executive Vice President;
- Hon. Collins Nzovu, Minister of Green Economy and Environment;
- Hon. Rodney Sikumba, Minister of Tourism and Arts;
- Hon. Moses Moyo, Second Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia;
- Hon. Twaambo Mutinta, ZPCECC Co-Chairperson;
- and representatives from WWF Zambia and Voices for Just Climate Action (VCA).

Hon. Anthony Kasandwe, ZPCECC Co-Chairperson, presented the Caucus’ Five Year Strategic Plan to the audience with follow-up presentations by the Ministry of Tourism and Arts on ‘Working with the ZPCECC to Achieve Zambia’s Wildlife Management and Conservation Objectives’ and by the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment on ‘Working with the ZPCECC to Achieve Zambia’s Environment and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Goals.’


Attendees included Members of Parliament from the neighboring countries of Angola, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe, and stakeholders within the government, private, civil society/non-governmental, and bilateral/multilateral sectors engaged across Zambia and the KAZA region.
IN the SPOTLIGHT

HISTORIC RESOLUTION ON ILLICIT TRAFFICKING IN WILDLIFE

The Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime (EWC), of which the ICCF Group is a founding member, welcomed the adoption of a groundbreaking resolution by the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) on “Strengthening the international legal framework for international cooperation to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in wildlife.”

The resolution, submitted by Angola, Kenya, and Peru, invites Member States to “provide the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with their views on possible responses, including the potential of an additional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, to address any gaps that may exist in the current international legal framework to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in wildlife.”
U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATIONS IN AFRICA

ICCF helped coordinate the converging visits of groups of U.S. public officials, conservationists, and philanthropists, who together toured national parks in Mozambique and Rwanda to learn about best practices in protected area management on the continent.

During the trip, the visiting delegations were given a firsthand look at African Parks’ innovative and well-established model of park management, which brings local communities and government stakeholders together with conservation experts.

THE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP MODEL, PIONEERED BY AFRICAN PARKS, IS AN EXAMPLE OF HOW TO SUCCESSFULLY DEVELOP LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS TO PARK MANAGEMENT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

An official delegation led by U.S. Senator Chris Coons included Senators Rob Portman and Gary Peters, as well as Representatives David Price, Dave Joyce, and Chrissy Houlahan. They were joined by an independent group including executives from ICCF, HRH the Duke of Sussex, African Parks CEO Peter Fearnhead, Rob Walton, and additional leaders from the conservation and community development sector. Both delegations visited Bazaruto Archipelago National Park in Mozambique (the first marine reserve to fall under African Parks’ management) and Akagera National Park in Rwanda (Central Africa’s largest protected wetland).

THE AFRICAN PARKS AND ICCF LEADERSHIP TEAM ALSO INDEPENDENTLY AND SEPARATELY TRAVELED TO KAFUE NATIONAL PARK IN ZAMBIA.

The purpose of this mission was to explore the critical role that conservation and sound natural resource management play in poverty alleviation, sustainable economic development, and regional security for developing countries.

The mission also helped to explore the potential for a new public-private partnership to support international conservation and advance U.S. leadership.

Through this mission, the delegation gained a first-hand look at innovative ways in which U.S. private and public investment is providing invaluable support to Africa’s biodiversity conservation and management efforts while strengthening the ability of indigenous and local people and organizations to manage and conserve species, habitats, and ecological processes.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

SOUTH AFRICAN LEGISLATORS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (SALE) FORUM

The ICCF Group in partnership with Wilderness Foundation Africa facilitated a field visit for seven Members of Parliament (MPs) from the Republic of South Africa, who are part of the Portfolio Committee on Environment, Forestry, and Fisheries, to Kenya. The goal of this exchange was to share...
challenges and best practices in reaching targets for a circular economy within the countries and for Kenyan representatives to share and highlight national achievements in combating plastic waste.

The visit culminated in the MPs deciding to join the ICCF Group network of parliamentary conservation caucuses by forming the South African Legislators for the Environment (SALE) forum. As the founding Members of SALE, the seven MPs in attendance signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the ICCF Group and Wilderness Foundation Africa formally agreeing to a partnership to work together on activities of mutual interest that will enhance the capacity of SALE to carry out their legislative mandate.

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING ON PLASTIC BAN WITH NEWLY-ESTABLISHED SALE FORUM

Media influencer James Wakibia joined the Members of the South African Legislators for the Environment (SALE) forum to deliver an inspiring and engaging presentation. It covered the importance of cohesive global environmental governance, referencing the Global Treaty on Plastic Pollution, and leveraging tools such as Extended Producer Responsibility to reduce the amount of plastic entering the environment and encouraging a more circular system.

U.S. CONGRESSIONAL FIELD MISSION TO KENYA

ICCF hosted a U.S. Congressional/UK Parliamentary field mission to the Republic of Kenya. Members of the delegation learned about the critical role that conservation and sound natural resource management play in poverty alleviation, sustainable economic development, and regional security for Kenya and other developing countries of the world.

While in Kenya, the delegation met with government officials and leading local and U.S.-based conservation organizations. The mission also overlapped with an ICCF Group-hosted interparliamentary visit to Kenya by nine Members of Parliament from South Africa, allowing policymakers from the U.S., the UK, Kenya, and South Africa to interact and participate in shared activities.

Participants gained a firsthand look at innovative ways that investment in the region is providing invaluable support to the region’s biodiversity conservation and management efforts while strengthening the ability of local people and organizations to manage and conserve species, habitats, and ecological processes, both marine and terrestrial.

The delegation also learned about important issues relating to Kenya and East Africa, including collaboration with nongovernmental organizations, research centers, communities, and other stakeholders, to facilitate the protection of land- and seascapes.

PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED:

- Rep. Buddy Carter (R-GA)
- Rep. Ed Case (D-HI)
- Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA)
- Rep. Garret Graves (R-LA)
- Rep. Julia Letlow (R-LA)
- Rep. Guy Reschenthaler (R-PA)
- Hon. Chris Grayling (British Conservative Party MP)
THE ICCF GROUP SUPPORTS STATES’ CALL FOR STRONGER INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK AGAINST WILDLIFE CRIME AT UNTOC COP11

On Friday, October 21, 2022, the ICCF Group was amongst the organizations supporting States’ call for the strengthening of the international legal framework against wildlife crime, at the 11th Session of The Conference of The Parties to the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) in Vienna, Austria.

Susan Lylis, Executive Vice President of the ICCF Group, joined a panel of wildlife crime experts at the side event “UNTOC & Wildlife: How Can an Additional Protocol Help Us Tackle Illicit Wildlife Trafficking?” co-hosted by Gabon, Peru, and the Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime, of which the ICCF Group is a founding steering group member.

DISCUSSING THE SERIOUS AND DESTRUCTIVE NATURE OF WILDLIFE CRIMES, LYLIS SAID:

We know these crimes involve the theft of vital natural resources from local communities and indigenous peoples, they discourage legitimate investors, and undermine the governments of source countries – and they do this by depriving them of revenue, fuelling corruption, destroying livelihoods, injuring and killing rangers, and creating national and regional instability. The ICCF Group is a firm supporter of a new global agreement against illicit wildlife trafficking and commends the leadership of Angola, Costa Rica, Gabon and Malawi, as well as the efforts of Kenya and Peru in this initiative.

Friday’s side event highlighted the need to strengthen the international legal framework on illicit wildlife trafficking, including through a potential additional Protocol to the UNTOC.

THE EVENT FEATURED DISTINGUISHED REPRESENTATIVES FROM THREE MEMBER STATES:

- Claudia Guevara, Deputy Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations (Vienna),
- Prof. Lee White CBE, Minister of Water, Forests, the Sea, and Environment of Gabon,
- Abias Moma Huongo, Angola’s Secretary of State for the Environment.

ALONGSIDE THE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE ICCF GROUP, THE PANEL OF WILDLIFE CRIME EXPERTS COMPRISED:

- John Scanlon AO, former Secretary-General of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and Chair of the Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime,
Olivia Swaak-Goldman, Executive Director of the Wildlife Justice Commission, and Daniel Kachelriess, Executive Director of Sea Shepherd Legal.

Rikka Puttonen, Programme Manager at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) also participated in the discussion.

One of the highlights of the event was the special ‘Call to Action’ by Dr. Jane Goodall, founder of the Jane Goodall Institute and UN Messenger of Peace. Appearing on video, Dr. Goodall expressed her gratitude for the leadership of Angola, Costa Rica, Gabon, Kenya, Malawi, and Peru in seeking to scale up international cooperation to prevent and combat these serious crimes.

The side event attracted more than 100 participants (in person and online), including numerous Member States delegates.

LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT IN KIGALI, RWANDA

A notable highlight of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2022 was the submission of the ‘Call to Action on Living Lands’ initiative for approval.

The initiative lays the groundwork for a proposed Commonwealth Living Lands Charter, which will catalyze the global political momentum to address climate action and resilience, biodiversity loss, and land degradation, in a coordinated and cohesive approach amongst Commonwealth countries. In addition, it builds on the success of the Glasgow Leaders’ Declaration on Forests and Land Use made during COP26, a pledge to halt and reverse global forest loss by 2030, and recognizes the urgent need to tackle deforestation, one of the key drivers of the climate crisis.

The CHOGM took place from June 20-25, 2022 in Kigali, Rwanda. It was a consequential meeting on many different fronts. After over two years of COVID-19, the Heads of Government discussed everything from trade integration to security assistance and environmental concerns.

To complement the CHOGM agenda, the ICCF Group hosted an Environmental Legislative Summit in conjunction with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) from June 22-26 at Akagera National Park in Rwanda.

The Summit brought together UK parliamentarians and legislators from 5 African countries to discuss coordination on international conservation efforts.
THE ICCF GROUP IN ASIA

EXPANDING THE CAUCUS MODEL TO THE ASEAN REGION

THE ICCF GROUP IS EXPANDING ITS MODEL OF SUPPORTING PARLIAMENTARY CONSERVATION AND OCEANS CAUCUSES THROUGHOUT THE ASEAN REGION TO FURTHER THE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES OF LEGISLATIVE LEADERS THROUGHOUT ASIA, WITH A FOCUS ON INDONESIA AND THAILAND AS THE LARGEST ECONOMIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND STEWARDS OF TREMENDOUS BIODIVERSITY AND MARINE AND TERRESTRIAL NATURAL RESOURCES.

CAUCUS UPDATE

MONGOLIA NATURE CONSERVATION CAUCUS LAUNCH

Legislators from the State Great Khural (Parliament) of Mongolia pledged to “commit to a nonpolitical structure to gain knowledge, raise awareness, and enact policy solutions on the most important issues to conserve Mongolia’s natural heritage.

THESE POLICY AREAS COULD INCLUDE GRASSLANDS, BIODIVERSITY, PROTECTED AREAS, WATER RESOURCES, HEALTHY FORESTS, MINERAL ESTATES, COUNTERING
The announcement was accompanied by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish the ICCF Group as Acting Secretariat in support of the caucus.

**INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES**

**WASTEWATER AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP IN THAILAND, WITH THE AMATA FOUNDATION, THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL PARKS, AND THE KHAO YAI NATIONAL PARK**

ICCF worked with the Amata Foundation, Department of National Parks, and Khao Yai National Park to find ways to better manage elephant-human conflicts and wastewater.

**INDONESIA CAUCUS EXCHANGE WITH U.S. AMBASSADOR**

Ambassador Kim hosted Kaukus Kelautan DPR-RI MPs to discuss the shared maritime security opportunities and concerns for Indonesia. Topics included capacity building for enforcement of IUU fishing in Indonesian sovereign waters and the U.S.-led Fishing Action Alliance.

**THE U.S. WANTS TO SUPPORT INDONESIA’S LEADERSHIP IN MARITIME SECURITY AND WANTS TO BOLSTER CAPABILITY AS THE LARGEST MARITIME BOUNDARY IN THE REGION.**

**ABOVE:** Hon. Bobby Rizaldi, Hon. Budisatrio Djiwandono, and Hon. Christina Aryani.
The meeting also discussed Indonesia’s leadership on the global stage as the Presidency of the G20 and Kaukus Kelautan DPR-RI’s role in stewarding the Parliament Speakers’ Summit (P20) to obtain strong support of conservation and blue economy language in P20 declarations.

The bilateral dialogue also discussed best practices for natural resource governance and supporting improved conservation policy for the archipelago. Ambassador Kim and Kaukus Kelautan DPR-RI promised to continue fostering the two countries’ relationship for improved maritime security and sustainable economic growth.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

PREPARATORY PANEL TO THE 8TH G20 PARLIAMENTARY SPEAKERS SUMMIT (P20) IN INDONESIA

The Indonesian House of Representatives (DPR RI) hosted the 8th G20 Parliamentary Speakers Summit (P20) in October. The Summit saw the engagement of parliaments from the G20 countries, with various stakeholder groups sharing recommendations on the G20 agenda and priorities.

Leading up to the summit, in collaboration with Westminster Foundation for Democracy and the parliament’s committee for inter-parliamentary cooperation (BKSAP), ICCF Indonesia co-hosted a panel aimed at generating conversations between cross-committee parliamentarians to advance key strategic areas on the topics of green and blue economies.

CONFRONTING FISHERIES CRIME IN ASEAN: AIPA & ICCF INDONESIA BRIEFING TO ADDRESS GROWING CHALLENGE

ICCF Indonesia and the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) hosted a virtual briefing on the Growing Challenge of Confronting Fisheries Crime in ASEAN. The briefing gathered representatives of AIPA Member Parliaments, AIPA Observer Parliaments, and members of the Indonesian Oceans Caucus (Kaukus Kelautan DPR-RI), facilitating dialogue among policymakers and between parliaments on the topic and showcasing their unique role in confronting fisheries crime. The panel discussed how countries advance their collective interests and the need to combat not only IUU fishing and its impact on sustainability, but also related offenses of fisheries crime, the impacts on rule of law on land, and state-protected illicit fishing, which is a threat to sovereignty and the global order.

ASEAN

ASEAN, OFFICIALLY THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS, IS A POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC UNION OF 10 MEMBER STATES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, WHICH PROMOTES INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION AND FACILITATES ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, SECURITY, MILITARY, EDUCATIONAL, AND SOCIOCULTURAL INTEGRATION BETWEEN ITS MEMBERS AND COUNTRIES IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC. THE UNION HAS A TOTAL AREA OF 1,746,154 SQUARE MILES, AND AN ESTIMATED POPULATION OF 668 MILLION.
The Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia (MET), Rio Tinto Mongolia, and ICCF signed a comprehensive three-year partnership agreement which aims to tackle and reverse the erosion of Mongolia’s forests caused by the rapid spread of forest defoliators – insects and other pests which feed on plant matter and can cause widespread and significant tree mortality.

The Healthy Forest Project is the first major component to be implemented within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation to Combat Climate Change and Desertification signed between the MET and Rio Tinto Mongolia on June 24 this year. This public-private partnership project will draw on international expertise to pilot and introduce new higher efficacy treatment techniques as well as build long-term national capacity to promote sustainable forest management. The project aims to build on, and complement, existing efforts to restore Mongolia’s forest areas as part of the national One Billion Trees initiative.
COP15 PREPARATORY PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING ON THE VALUE OF TERRESTRIAL AND MARINE PROTECTED AREAS IN INDONESIA

The proposal to protect and conserve at least 30% of the planet’s land and ocean by 2030 has become one of the central elements of the global biodiversity strategy that was to be finalized at the 15th Conference of Parties (COP15). This parliamentary briefing to the Indonesia Oceans Caucus highlighted the socio-economic benefits of this proposal and underscored the leading role that Indonesia can play in the region and on the global stage by further advancing terrestrial and marine conservation.

IN THE FIELD

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT FIELD MISSION WITH WCS INDONESIA AND ANOVA FOOD, LLC

ICCF Indonesia, Secretariat to the Oceans Caucus (Kaukus Kelautan) in the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia (DPR-RI), successfully hosted the Morotai Field Mission focused on fisheries management.

Local representatives from the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (KKP/DKP) accompanied the delegation.

Kaukus Kelautan visited the SKPT Morotai, an integrated Marine and Fisheries Center from upstream to downstream in Daeo Majiko Village, and observed the supply of raw material, fish quality from fishers to SKPT, and market chain from the SKPT.

BLUE ECONOMY AND MSC CERTIFICATION WERE AMONGST ISSUES DISCUSSED, AS ONE OF THE PROCESSING FACILITIES WITH HACCP, BRC AND MSC CERTIFICATION.

SKPT Morotai has contributed to the implementation of data collection programs toward traceable and responsible fisheries management in Morotai.

The Caucus also met with POKMASWAS and discussed the unmet needs of the local fishermen who also serve as the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Park Rangers. The Caucus members were excited to hear stories from the community on the abundance of fish, and reduced illegal fishing in Morotai Marine Protected Area.

IT IS KNOWN THAT ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED (IUU) FISHING REMAINS A PERPETUAL PROBLEM IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, AND INDONESIA IS NO EXCEPTION.

POKMASWAS, as a community-based surveillance composed of local fishermen, has been seen as providing useful and accurate information in their role of monitoring and surveillance, thus playing a pivotal role in combating illegal fishing.

THE FIELD MISSION WAS EXECUTED WITH ICCF PARTNERS:

• WCS
• Anova Food, LLC
THE ICCF GROUP IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES

ROUNDTABLE ON THE CONSERVATION FUNDING GAP

ICCF-UK hosted a roundtable with ambassadors, civil society, and ministers from Africa and Latin America on conservation finance issues in the run-up to CBD COP15 in Montreal.

ABOVE: SIGNING OF THE ICCF GLASGOW DECLARATION ON NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: HON. FRANCIS CHACHU GANYA (KENYA); HON. BARRY GARDINER MP; HON. THEODORA CLARKE MP.

ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS (APPGs) ARE INFORMAL CROSS-PARTY GROUPS THAT HAVE NO OFFICIAL STATUS WITHIN PARLIAMENT. THEY ARE RUN BY AND FOR MEMBERS OF THE COMMONS AND LORDS, THOUGH MANY CHOOSE TO INVOLVE INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANISATIONS FROM OUTSIDE PARLIAMENT IN THEIR ADMINISTRATION AND ACTIVITIES.

THE ICCF GROUP
INTERNATIONAL BIODIVERSITY CORRIDORS IN AFRICA PANEL

ICCF-UK hosted a reaction panel to the signing of a biodiversity corridors agreement between Gabon, Tanzania, France, and Guinea, examining various aspects of the coalition agreement including direction, strategy, and orientation.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE BRIEFING AT THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING (CHOGM)

ICCF-UK convened a briefing by prominent NGOs on efforts to end the illegal wildlife trade followed by a roundtable discussion by summit participants.

BRIEFCING ON SINGLE USE PLASTICS

ICCF-UK convened a briefing on efforts to curtail the use of single use plastics in East Africa

BRIEFCING ON DEFORESTATION

ICCF-UK organized a briefing on efforts to reduce deforestation in Africa followed by a roundtable discussion by summit participants on global implications.

BRIEFCING ON IUU FISHING

ICCF-UK held a briefing on efforts to curtail illegal fishing in Africa followed by a roundtable discussion by summit participants on global implications.

LEFT: LINDA ANNE SCOTT, HIGH COMMISSIONER OF NAMIBIA TO THE UNITED

RIGHT: THE RT HONORABLE CHRIS GRAYLING MP
CBD PRE-COP15 BRIEFING
ICCF-UK held a briefing for the APPG delegation on the issues at play at the upcoming COP15 in Montreal. Attendees included NGOs and parliamentary partners.

DATA INDICATORS BRIEFING
ICCF-UK held a meeting between UK MPs on data indicators in building the Global Biodiversity Framework. Speakers represented satellite companies, AI producers, the WCMC, and prominent NGOs.

IUU ROUNDTABLE DINNER
ICCF-UK organized a roundtable on illegal fishing including participants from the GEF, Icelandic CBD delegation, and British stakeholders.

SITE VISIT TO VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK
ICCF-UK organized a site visit to an African Wildlife Foundation facility in Volcanoes National Park to examine their work on building community-based conservation facilities in biodiversity hotspots.

APPG VISIT TO EDINBURGH ZOO
ICCF-UK hosted a visit to Edinburgh Zoo with Scottish MPs to learn about the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland’s international conservation efforts.

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: ICCF-UK CHIEF EXECUTIVE SATYEN SINHA, RT HON. CHRIS GRAYLING MP, HIGH COMMISSIONER LINDA SCOTT, BARRY GARDINER MP, AND H.E. JOSEFA GONZALEZ BLANCO, AMBASSADOR OF MEXICO TO THE UNITED KINGDOM.
THE ICCF GROUP IN LATIN AMERICA

CAUCUS UPDATES

BRAZILIAN CONGRESS ESTABLISHES NONPARTISAN PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ON SUSTAINABILITY

FOUNDERS OF THE GROUP, WHICH IS STILL GAINING ADHERENTS, ARE 15 MEMBERS OF BRAZIL’S LOWER HOUSE AND ONE MEMBER OF BRAZIL’S SENATE:

- Senator Nelsinho Trad
- Deputado Pedro Lupion
- Deputado Zé Mario Schreiner
- Deputado Fred Costa
- Deputado Zé Silva
- Deputado Rodrigo Agostinho

THE 21ST CAUCUS

WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE SENATE’S PRESIDENT, SENATOR RODRIGO PACHECO (PSD-MG), BRAZIL’S LEGISLATURE ANNOUNCED THE LAUNCH OF A NONPARTISAN CAUCUS FOR CONSERVATION, THE BRAZILIAN MULTIPARTY CAUCUS FOR CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION (CAUCUS BRASIL). THIS IS THE 21ST SUCH GROUP INTERNATIONALLY TO BE CATALYZED WITH SUPPORT FROM THE ICCF GROUP AND ITS PARTNERS.
PROVEN RESULTS, AND A WAY FORWARD FOR BRAZIL

At the event Members of Congress noted the successes partners in the region have experienced in advancing their legislative agenda on sustainability, often in divided parliaments and in the midst of contentious day-to-day politics. Turning to their own Congress, they invited their peers, regardless of political affiliation and past differences, to join them in this new space for dialogue aimed at consensus-building so that, together, they can push forward the policies and consolidate the public-private partnerships that are capable of addressing, for the long term, Brazil’s most pressing conservation challenges.

With a recent report published by the “Institute for Indigenous People and the Environment” warning of an alarming 54% increase in trees cut down from the previous year, Senator Nelsinho Trad (PSD-MS) stated that on the global stage:

“Brazil needs to better communicate the issue of Amazon deforestation, and more accurately depict the situation on the ground.”

Deputy Rodrigo Agostinho (PSB-SP) stated that Brazil has a public policy challenge on the issue:

“Though we can no longer talk about productivity without addressing sustainability (…), human progress brings opportunities that enhance its positive relationship, and we, policymakers, must facilitate the

LEFT: Deputado Rodrigo

RIGHT: Senador Nelsinho Trad
future of industries into an era of bioeconomies.”

Colombia’s Senate President, Senator Juan Carlos Garcia Gomes, noted that Brazil’s entry to the network of caucuses supported by the ICCF Group was a welcomed initiative by the Brazilian Congress, if only for the country’s geographical importance on the continent.

HE NOTED THAT:

Brazil’s intention to care for and protect its resources, the ones the rest of the world often talks about, has already been stated. What the caucus can do now, is act on it.”

LEFT: Colombian Senator Juan Diego Gomez (ret.), founder and co-chair of the conservation caucuses in Colombia’s legislature, giving remarks at the launch event of the first conservation caucus in Brazil.

MEXICAN OCEAN CAUCUS (MOC) LAUNCH

The Congress of the Union of the United Mexican States launched the Mexican Ocean Caucus (MOC) with the support of ICCF. The launching event was attended by 10 legislators, as well as governmental representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and of the state government of Sonora.

ABOVE: Deputy Marcela Guerra, Vicepresident of Mexico’s Congress and founder and co-chair of Mexico’s caucus for conservation, giving remarks at the launch event of Mexico’s new Ocean Caucus.

The MOC functions as a multiparty and plural space focused on building multi sectoral dialogues and processes to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas, and marine resources.
OECS REGIONAL ASSEMBLY AND APPROVAL OF REGIONAL CONSERVATION CAUCUS

The first-ever ICCF-supported regional conservation caucus was approved unanimously during the sixth (6th) sitting of the OECS Regional Assembly on March 18, 2022, with support by the ICCF Group. The theme of the sitting was, “The Shift: Embracing New Platforms and Innovative Models for Leadership in Sustainability,” and was convened to provide an avenue for dialogue on sustainability challenges and solutions for the region. ICCF Founder, David H. Barron, represented the ICCF Group as a speaker during the sitting.

THE OECS ASSEMBLY IS A DELIBERATIVE FORUM THAT BRINGS TOGETHER BOTH GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENTS AND LEGISLATURES OF THE ELEVEN OECS MEMBER STATES, TO CONSIDER AND SEEK COMMON SOLUTIONS TO ISSUES THAT AFFECT THE OECS REGION.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS INCLUDED:

- Hon. Sameh Shoukry, the CoP-27 President of Egypt;
- Hon. Zac Goldsmith, Minister of State (Minister for the Pacific and the International Environment) of the United Kingdom;
- and Hon. Simon Kofe, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tuvalu.

BELOW: Saint Lucia
PARLAMAZ MEETING COLOMBIA, BRAZIL, PERU, ECUADOR, BOLIVIA

The Amazonian Parliament (PARLAMAZ) assembly met inside the Colombian Congress hosted by its president, Brazil caucus co-chair.

ABOVE: Senador Nelsino Trad and Deputado Rodrigo Agostinho, founders of the new conservation caucus in Brazil.
Senator Nelsinho Trad, and vice-president Congressman Carlos Ardila of Colombia, who represents the Putumayo region of the Colombian Amazon. Members advanced the formalization of PARLAMAZ, as well as the organization’s goal of involving parliamentarians in the regional decision-making process on legislation having cross-border effects. Brazilian Deputado Rodrigo Agostinho was selected as the Executive Secretary of PARLAMAZ. This meeting was attended by parliamentarians from Colombia, Brazil, Peru, Ecuador, and Bolivia.

SUMMIT OF PARLIAMENTARIANS FROM AMAZON REGION COUNTRIES

Taking into account the importance of legislative work to strengthen regulatory frameworks related to the conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems and biodiversity, and in the framework of the visit of delegations of Parliamentarians from Amazon Basin countries to Colombia, the ICCF Group, in its role as Secretariat of the Conservation and Oceans Caucus in Colombia, Peru, and Brazil and with the leadership of the Amazonian Parliament (PARLAMAZ), carried out the Field Mission: Summit of Parliamentarians from Amazon Region Countries” in the Colombian Amazon, in Putumayo.

The objective was to promote


RIGHT: Member of Corpoamazonia in the field, with the ICCF delegation.
dialogue among parliamentarians to identify the challenges and opportunities to promote conservation and sustainable and inclusive development in the Amazon, through collaborative efforts that are managed at the legislative level. The mission was co-financed by the regional project of the Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program (ASL), under the coordination of the World Bank, and financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The ASL seeks, under the leadership of the Ministries of Environment of each country, to promote conservation and sustainable development in priority areas of the Amazon in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru and Suriname, with the additional support of a regional project that promotes capacity building and coordination between projects and other institutions.

At the Amazon parliamentarian roundtable on pending legislation, Deputado Rodrigo Agostinho of Brazil presented multi-partisan legislation supported by the Brazilian caucus to speed up the bidding process, flexibility in contracts, and attractiveness to the business model of forest concessions. With the new legislation, forest concessions will be able to develop sustainable initiatives beyond timber production, such as the commercialization of forest products such as açaí that are harvested and pre-processed by traditional populations. The potential of this market is still underdeveloped, and with incentives could create significant income and employment for local populations. Conserved forests in these projects may also be eligible for carbon credit markets.

PUBLIC INTEGRITY AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE
PARLIAMENTARY TRAINING IN CONGRESS WITH ED ROYCE, MEMBER OF THE ICCF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

On July 18, the first official meeting of the New Congress of the Republic of Colombia legislature 2022 - 2026 took place within the framework of the mandatory training titled: "Public Integrity - Democratic Governance". This event is a requirement for Congressmen to receive their credential at the installation ceremony of the new Congress on July 20. Ed Royce, a member of the ICCF Board of Directors, served as keynote speaker of the day, sharing with the elected members of Congress the importance of understanding international cooperation, the functioning of markets and the relevance of the legislative role in multi-sectoral work for better decision making at the country, regional, and global levels.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY
IN PERU’S FISHING INDUSTRY

Acts involving monetary currency involving the State published in a transparent
manner provides information to the population in a proactive manner, without having to resort to the process of access to public information. The purpose of a bill, debated by the conservation caucus at an ICCF roundtable in the Peruvian Congress, aims to promote the implementation of the Fisheries Transparency Initiative in Peru.

Congressmen and civil society actors linked to the fishing sector participated in the event, the dialogue allowing the bill to be socialized and discussed. The bill received broad nonpartisan support before the Commission of Production, Micro and Small Enterprises and Cooperatives, and is expected to be passed into law in 2023.

**Biodiversity Congressional Briefing**

ICCF Brazil co-hosted a panel with parliamentarians from ICCF caucuses, during the Brazilian day at the COP in Montreal, Canada.

**ICCF Colombia Briefing on Park Rangers: Legal and Labor Conditions**

ICCF Colombia hosted a briefing led by HR Julia Miranda to discuss building a bill with the objective to improve the legal and labor conditions of the park rangers in Colombia.

**ICCF Colombia Briefing on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for Decision Making**

ICCF Colombia and the Colombian Conservation Caucus (CCC) and the Colombian Oceans Caucus (COC), in collaboration with the Alexander von Humboldt Biological Resources Research Institute, Audubon Colombia, held a briefing with parliamentarians to discuss biodiversity-related commitments and to bring decision-makers closer to technical and scientific inputs that can generate value for the country's discussions.

Research results, as well as initiatives oriented towards the protection of biodiversity and ecosystem services, are indispensable for legislative, regulatory and public policy issues that are critical for climate change adaptation, and are able to inform important debates such as strategies against deforestation and curbing the drivers of biodiversity loss.

Information was shared related to the main open data platforms of the Humboldt Institute, the National Strategy for the Conservation of Birds of Colombia, and other topics.

**1st Regional Briefing on the Protection of the Amazon in Puerto Asis, Putumayo**

The first regional briefing for the protection of the Amazon was held in Puerto Asis, Putumayo. The representative to the Chamber of Deputies for the department of Putumayo, Carlos Ardila, accompanied by Liberal Senator Alejandro Vega and several congressmen who make up the Parliamentary Caucus of the Media Colombia and some co-sponsors of the bill to protect the Colombian Amazon, held a regional meeting in Putumayo - Puerto Asis to socialize, listen, and build with the communities the roadmap to strengthen and accelerate the implementation of the proposals included in the bill.

Representative Ardila, as a member of the Conservation Caucus, has received support from the ICCF, the European Union, the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), within the framework of technical assistance from the Rural Development with a Territorial Approach Program (DRETII), with the aim of ensuring that initiatives for the protection of this "Half Colombia" that makes up the Amazon and Orinoco are built with and from the communities, and...
thus address their real needs with solutions agreed upon with the citizens.

**2ND REGIONAL BRIEFING FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE AMAZON**

The second regional meeting for the protection of the Colombian Amazon was held in the municipality of Florencia, Caquetá, with the leadership of the Representative for the department of Putumayo, Carlos Ardila, author of the bill that seeks more resources to build green infrastructure and conserve and restore ecosystems.

**BELOW:** Deputy Secretary of Multilateral Affairs Martha Delgado and Vicepresident of the Mexican Congress Deputy Marcela Guerra in the Field Mission to Sonora

**ROUNDTABLE: LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK FOR BLUE CARBON IN MEXICO**

ICCF Mexico hosted a roundtable to promote an exchange between Senators and specialists of key sectors on the challenges and opportunities to advance a legislative framework on blue carbon.

**THE ROUNDTABLE WAS ATTENDED BY:**

- Senator Raúl Bolaños
- Senator Ricardo Monreal
- Senator Maria Merced Gonzalez
- Deputy Edna Díaz

**ABOVE:** Andrés Grajeda and Isis Morales, Representatives of the Fishing Cooperative 29 de agosto, sharing experiences with caucus co-chairs and members on a boat ride along the Gulf of California, Mexico.
MEXICAN LEGISLATORS’ FIELD MISSION TO SONORA: ADVANCING LEGISLATIVE WORK FOR A SUSTAINABLE OCEAN ECONOMY

This activity organized by ICCF with key counterparts such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, within their role in the Ocean Panel, aimed to promote the development of a sustainable ocean economy for Mexico by identifying opportunities for strengthening the current legislative framework.

DURING THE THREE-DAY VISIT TO THE GULF OF CALIFORNIA, PRIORITY ISSUES AND NEEDS WERE RAISED BY LOCAL FISHERMEN TO IMPROVE THEIR PRODUCTIVITY, WHILE PRESERVING THE HEALTH AND WEALTH OF THEIR MARINE-COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS.

ABOVE: Deputy Marcela Guerra, Vicepresident of Mexico’s Congress, at the ICCF Ocean Panel in Sonora, Mexico.
In addition, this mission allowed attendees to learn about successful management experiences in the fishing-aquaculture sector and effective instruments for the conservation and protection of marine resources including marine protected areas and fishery refugee zones. The mission broadened the caucus’ understanding of how the ocean contributes to the well-being and wealth of Mexico’s people, nature, and economy. The mission was attended by 10 legislators spearheading the ocean caucus initiative in the Mexican legislature.

BLUE CARBON FIELD MISSION

ICCF Colombia carried out a Blue Carbon Field Mission, in conjunction with the launch of the CARSUCRE Marine Affairs Directorate. The event was centered on a field visit to the Vida Manglar Blue Carbon project, highlighting mangroves of Caimaneras and Guacamayas in Tolú - Sucre. The delegation discussed issues relating to carbon credits, especially blue carbon.

UNESCO DEFINES BLUE CARBON ECOSYSTEMS – MANGROVES, TIDAL AND SALT MARSHES, AND SEAGRASSES – AS HIGHLY PRODUCTIVE COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS THAT ARE PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT FOR THEIR CAPACITY TO STORE CARBON WITHIN THE PLANTS AND IN THE SEDIMENTS BELOW, AND ARE THEREFORE CONSIDERED A KEY COMPONENT OF NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS TO CLIMATE CHANGE.
**SPECIAL EVENTS**

**FOLUR PROJECT, PARAGUAY: FOOD SYSTEMS, LAND USE AND RESTORATION**

The ICCF Group launched the FOLUR Project in Paraguay, with an agenda that included the participation of the Ministry of Environment (MADES), UNEP, ICCF and representatives of the productive sector and local governments.

This launch included the signing of the agreement between MADES and ICCF together with an open discussion to listen to the participants about the development of the project.

**THE ICCF GROUP CO-HOSTS EVENT WITH WILSON CENTER: “ANSWERING THE AMAZON’S CALL: PRIVATE SECTOR MOBILIZATION FOR PROTECTION OF THE AMAZON”**

Brazilian caucus member José Silva Soares participated on a panel that included Amazon expert Raoni Rajão and representatives from Brazilian companies Natura & Co and Cargill.

Also participating were former Colombian President Iván Duque and Wilson Center Director-Ambassador Mark Green, a member of the Board of Directors of the ICCF Group.

**AMAZON SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES PROGRAM CONTRACT AWARDED BY WORLD BANK / GEF**

The World Bank’s ASL program agreed to terms of a contract to support ICCF and Amazon-region caucuses to organize in-person and virtual meetings among Amazon parliamentarians. The objective is to allow parliamentarians to discover and potentially address common gaps and opportunities for legislation and regulation that diminish environmental damage.

**MOU SIGNING WITH THE OCEAN FOUNDATION**

In a dinner in Mexico City, Jaime Cavellier from ICCF and Alejandra Navarrete from The Ocean Foundation signed a MoU to establish a collaboration framework on conservation and sustainable use of the ocean and its resources.

**MEETING IN MEXICO WITH EXPERTS TO COLLECT TECHNICAL DATA ON THE PRIORITIES FOR AN AGENDA ON SUSTAINABLE OCEANS**

At the request of Dep. Marcela Guerra, ICCF Mexico arranged a meeting with experts from civil society to collect technical data that allowed the Mexican Ocean Caucus to establish an agenda on priorities that should be addressed in the legislative framework.

The meeting had the participation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as The Ocean Foundation, WWF, the Environmental Defense Fund, COBI, CEDO, Oceana, and Niparajá.

Following the meeting, the study titled “Priorities for a legislative agenda on sustainable oceans” was developed. This document was presented in bilateral meetings with Deputy Marcela Guerra and other members of the MOC, including Senator Raúl Bolaños, Deputy Edna Díaz, Deputy Karen Castrejon, and others.
The ICCF INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION CORPS PROGRAM

THE ICCF INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION CORPS DEPLOYS SEASONED PROFESSIONALS WHO HAVE DECADES OF REAL-LIFE EXPERIENCE IN PROTECTED AREAS AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT.

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

CROSS-NATIONAL PARK TRAINING IN COLOMBIA

An International Conservation Corps team facilitated the 1st Meeting of Interpretation of Natural and Cultural Heritage, which brought together 44 protected areas of Colombia’s National Parks for a week.

ARACAS PARK MANAGEMENT

Members of the International Conservation Corps team traveled to Paracas, Peru to continue collaboration with the Servicio Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas por el Estado (SERNANP).

MADRE DE DIOS PARK MANAGEMENT

ICCF Peru hosted an International Conservation Corps mission in Puerto Maldonado, organizing initial meetings with SERNANP.

DEVELOPMENT OF A CO-MANAGEMENT POLICY FOR GRAND ANSE MARINE PROTECTED AREA IN GRENADE BETWEEN THE FISHERIES DIVISION AND A COALITION OF STAKEHOLDERS

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, members of the ICCF International Conservation Corps team worked with the former Grand Anse Fisheries MPA officer to develop a draft policy on co-management of MPAs, which was subsequently endorsed by the previous government. With a new government now in place, there appears to be interest in the recommencement of discussion with...
funded by international agencies and from the national budget have been identified and discussions have been held for a more sustainable implementation.

BACKGROUND REPORT ON A MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE GRAND ANSE ESTATE IN ST. LUCIA

International Conservation Corps team members prepared a background report to support a voluntary protection agreement between the landowners of the Grand Anse Estate and the government of St. Lucia as a component of a proposed Iyanola National Park.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN TO ASSIST MANAGEMENT OF THE CODRINGTON LAGOON NATIONAL PARK OF BARBUDA

ICCF staff and International Conservation Corps team members held a number of in-person and virtual consultations with relevant officials in Antigua and Barbuda as part of their work to develop an implementation plan to assist management of Barbuda’s Codrington Lagoon National Park. The preparation and implementation of the activities to be undertaken is now at an advanced stage after much consultation with all relevant stakeholders.

PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE FINANCING OF CABRITS NATIONAL PARK IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF DOMINICA

The International Conservation Corps has developed a business plan for Cabrits National Park in Dominica and sent it to the relevant government officials for consideration and final approval. This effort required comprehensive consultation both virtually and in person to ensure the views and opinions of all stakeholders involved were considered. Synergies between ongoing national initiatives funded by international agencies and from the national budget have been identified and discussions have been held for a more sustainable implementation.

RIGHT: Russell G. Moore, Land Architect, International Conservation Corps member, drawing a sketch for technical assistance to Colombia National Parks
IN the SPOTLIGHT

INTERNATIONAL POLICYMAKER CONFERENCE ON POLICY COHERENCE AND POLITICAL CONSISTENCY

The ICCF Group and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) hosted a policymaker conference in San Jose, Costa Rica to discuss the role of policy coherence and political consistency in delivering global biodiversity benefits by addressing the drivers of environmental degradation. The conference convened key representatives from parliamentary caucuses that ICCF supports worldwide to provide input to GEF leaders to complement and guide planning for the 8th GEF Replenishment (GEF-8).

RIGHT: Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, CEO and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility (GEF)
DEAR FRIENDS,

Our activities showcase to international policymakers the critical link between international conservation and economic growth & stability, poverty alleviation, food and freshwater security, and national/regional security. The 2022 Year in Review provides a recap of educational activities that we hosted on important conservation priorities; international events and briefings that we organized for parliamentary caucuses, members of the judiciary, and others; on-the-ground expertise that we provided to national parks authorities; and the exciting partnerships that we formed in support of priority issues.

As always, I wish to thank our partners, without whom our activities and accomplishments would not have been possible.

John B. Gantt
President