



ICFC conserves nature in the tropics where biodiversity abounds and is most under threat. With our small team and dedicated field partners we are achieving lasting conservation gains and large co-benefits for climate and local communities.



IUCN Red List codes
used in this report

CR – Critically Endangered
EN – Endangered
VU – Vulnerable
NT – Near Threatened

Photo: Malachite Kingfisher
by Scott Hecker

Front cover: Blue-winged Mountain
Tanagers by Alanso Morales Bravo



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Heliconius ethilla narcaea by Dana Gardner

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Message from the Executive Director

I recently joined the team and had the privilege of helping put this report together. In doing so, I learned so much about our projects, our people, and the incredible impact made in 2024.

As you read through each project account, I hope you'll feel proud to be part of this collective effort. Conservation only happens when we work together, and we're so grateful to do it with you.

During the past year, ICFC has undertaken a deep, organization-wide process: updating our strategic plan with ambitious yet realistic goals and reimagining our identity to better reflect who we are and where we're headed. As part of this journey, we adopted a new "doing business as" name: Biome Conservation, which captures our evolving vision of connection and impact.

From all of us at ICFC—our team, local partners, and the species we work to protect—thank you!

— Ana Mandri



Coming soon ... **biome**

*new name, similar logo,
same everything else*



ICFC staff and board at our 2024 Annual General Meeting

Barnabe Geis led ICFC for six months in 2024. We thank him for his contributions.



Featured Field Partners:
Iain and Malcolm Wilson

How did two Canadian brothers figure in the creation of a much-needed conservation organization in Papua, Indonesia?

Well, for starters, they are tricultural—Canadian, Indonesian, and Yali—their first language, growing up among the Yali Indigenous people in Papua.

Their parents were missionaries—ones who respected the traditional cultures of the country.

Iain has lived there his whole life (except for attending the University of Guelph) and Malcolm was a police detective and intelligence officer with the Durham Regional Police Service in Ontario who returned annually to Papua, sometimes serving as guide/fixer/translator on biological expeditions.

Malcolm was introduced to ICFC by Don Church of Re:wild some years ago and we communicated from time to time about our shared concern for conserving nature in Papua. The problem was the lack of a local organization with the capacity to deal with international conservation funders like ICFC. Finally, we said to them “why don’t you start one?” and they said they had recently come to the same conclusion!

Thus, Yayasan Pelayanan Papua Nenda (Foundation for the Love and Service of Papua, YAPPENDA) was founded in January 2022. Malcolm took early retirement, and both have devoted themselves full-time to this important endeavour.

Tanah Papua (Land of Papua) is one of the last great natural wildlife frontiers left on earth. It retains an impressive 92% of its original forest cover and has an estimated 10% of the planet’s biodiversity, with many rare or endemic species.

The forests are under threat from logging (illegal and legal) and mining. Rising deforestation is coupled with two challenges: the lack of economic opportunity for local people, which weakens their ability to resist these intrusions, and, as development proceeds, the need to develop their capacity to use their natural resources in a manner that benefits them while protecting the land.

YAPPENDA’s approach is based on Malcolm and Iain’s shared vision for protecting the flora and fauna of Tanah Papua and restoring damaged areas. With their combined skills and capacity for building cross-cultural relationships, we can’t think of anyone better to lead these efforts. Onward!



Iain and Malcolm, then and now: First, as children with their Yali friends (circa 1977), and now with the YAPPENDA team; Iain and Malcolm are in the back row, second/third from left.

Malcolm and Iain have dedicated their lives to conserving nature and protecting and empowering Indigenous people in Indonesian New Guinea.



“Unlike conventional funding, ICFC’s investments reduce administrative burdens and provide the stability to plan, innovate, and scale, resulting in resilient, long-lasting conservation.”



Andrew Whitworth, Osa Conservation

“True, impactful partnerships require trust and pragmatism, collective problem solving, and long-standing commitments to protecting and restoring our natural systems, which is exactly what makes ICFC so unique.”



Bryan Adkins, Eden and Compassionate Carbon

“ICFC is steadfast in honouring the humanity and expertise of conservationists on the ground.”



Kristina Cockle, Proyecto Selva de Pino Paraná in Argentina

“Smart, efficient, targeted conservationists who are refreshingly free of their own ego-agendas and see through to the heart of effective conservation opportunities and the best way to help facilitate them.”



Marcy Summers, Alliance for Tompotika Conservation

“No other Canadian charity conserves tropical nature at scale. And ICFC excels at transparency: we tell you how much we spend on each project and how it’s applied.”



Anne Lambert, ICFC co-founder

“ICFC really does listen and respect the unique context of places like Papua. So many funders are too rigid and lack the ability to understand nuance of a foreign and unfamiliar place.”



Malcolm Wilson, YAPPENDA

We work where biodiversity is richest

About this map: Global species richness based on stacked Area of Habitat maps for birds and mammals from the IUCN (as in Lumbierres et al., 2022). Useful for identifying conservation priorities, though limited to these two taxa and lacks data for some regions.

- Species richness
- ICFC project site

OUR IMPACT

17 million hectares of land (and additional marine areas) covered by ICFC projects in 37 countries

\$76 million invested since 2007

5.5 billion tonnes CO₂ equivalent stored

400+ Threatened & Near Threatened species protected (that we know of)

306,900 people benefit from project related jobs, improved livelihoods and education

100% of your gift goes straight to the field.

It’s not just about the numbers. The comments above illustrate what else **makes us different.**

Africa

African lioness. Photo: Scott Hecker

KENYA — NEW PROJECT

Restoring coastal forests in Kilifi County

Conservation need

Coastal forests in eastern Africa are severely degraded. Reforestation with fast-growing species for carbon capture and fuel ignores the importance of biodiversity and long-term livelihoods.

Kilifi County is designated as a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) for the remnants of a coastal forest unique to east Africa. Agricultural expansion and residential sprawl erode remaining forests. Without intervention, we risk losing important remnants of east African coastal forests.

What we're doing

Our aim is to restore and reconnect fragmented coastal forests in Kenya, benefitting both local communities and endangered tree species. Our field partner, the Little Environment Action Foundation (LEAF), has worked in this area for several years, leading ecological restoration and community development initiatives through a nursery buyback and replanting program. The project is building tree nurseries and supporting the out-planting of native trees species.



"This a great example of saving unique biodiversity in small places." - Scott Hecker

2024 Highlights

The project launched its first phase by building two tree nurseries. Seeds of species such as baobab, tamarind, and moringa were collected from forests near Panga ya Saidi and Mwapula (near the nurseries). Seed collection and nurseries are the first steps in forest restoration.

Size of area: 4 hectares

Field partner: LEAF (The Little Environmental Action Foundation)

In 2024: \$ 1,152

Top: *Pandanus rabaiensis* trees are Near Threatened.

Left: Limestone caves in coastal Kenya add to the region's biodiversity.

Below: African teak seeds are collected to replace an important, overharvested species. Fruit from this tree is a favourite food of bats!

Photos: Scott Hecker



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

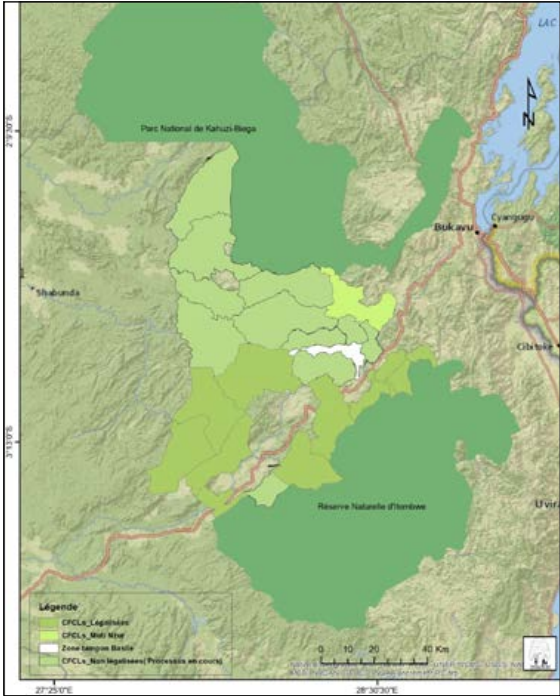
Grauer's gorilla wildlife corridor

The final months of the year saw a rapid escalation of conflict in eastern DRC. M23 rebels advanced swiftly, occupying the city of Goma in North Kivu and continuing south to take control of Bukavu, a major economic hub of South Kivu.

We have been supporting collective land tenure, forest governance, and the management of traditional forestlands by local communities and forest peoples in South Kivu since 2020. Our efforts have been focused on establishing a wildlife corridor linking the Itombwe Natural Reserve with Kahuzi-Biega National Park. This is an area important for the survival of the Critically Endangered Grauer's gorilla and other threatened species.

For the security of its staff, our field partner, Strong Roots, had to close their main office, however, the communities engaged with establishing conservation forest concessions are in remote areas that have remained beyond immediate conflict zones.

ICFC remains committed to the long-term success of communities, who collectively secured over **600,000 hectares of community-managed forest** to improve local livelihoods and strengthen the protection of threatened wildlife.



This year was a sobering reminder of the challenges facing biodiversity conservation in regions affected by armed conflict.

Size of area:	112,300 hectares (ICFC portion)
Field partner:	Strong Roots
Since 2020:	\$ 1,149,356



Above: Forestry Concessions for Local Communities are shown in paler green between two large protected areas (in darker green).

Left: Grauer's gorilla and other primates face threats from the mining of precious minerals at artisanal and industrial scale, poaching and pollution of soil and ground water.



Photo: Mount Elgon, Mara Elephant Project

KENYA

Beehive fences a success at Mount Elgon

The only elephants known to go deep into caves in search of salt are found at Mount Elgon, Kenya. We are working there to mitigate human-elephant conflict (HEC), habitat loss and poaching.

Three elephants on Mount Elgon are now fitted with satellite tracking collars—a significant step involving collaboration between several NGOs and the Kenya Wildlife Service. Data from the satellite collars will be used to track crop raiding by elephants and hone intervention against HEC.

This year, scouts worked increasingly with the Kenya Wildlife Service who have noted the supportive nature of patrolling with scout teams. Scouts undertook 90 patrols covering over 1,892 kilometers.

Beehive fence installations have shown promising results in deterring elephants from entering farmland. Five farms were equipped with beehive fences in 2023. In six instances, elephants turned back after approaching the protected zones. Only one incident involved a raid on an unprotected section of a farm.

One of the satellite-collared elephants belongs to a herd with access to the beehive fenced farms. To date, the collared elephant and its herd have avoided the beehive fences—an encouraging sign. Honey harvest from the beehive fences remains underwhelming. We will continue to troubleshoot this in 2025.

Size of area:	73,700 hectares
Field partner:	Mount Elgon Foundation
Since 2022:	\$ 217,664

KENYA

Kijabe Forest: a year of disaster and resilience

Kijabe Forest, part of the eastern Afromontane biodiversity hotspot, was historically connected to the Kikuyu Escarpment Forest Reserve. We are working to restore this connectivity and mitigate the ongoing degradation of the Kijabe Forest.

Our community rangers had an active year, conducting daily patrols, monitoring biodiversity and illegal activities, and responding to national emergencies.

Severe weather in April and May 2024 brought floods that devastated parts of the forest, nearby homes, and infrastructure. The extreme weather resulted in 61 fatalities—a devastation that required a rapid response. Kijabe Forest rangers sprang into action, providing emergency aid and installing a zipline to help affected communities cross the flooded Tongi River.

Then in late 2024 a forest fire damaged 8 hectares of forest. KFT responded swiftly, operationalizing five fire stations equipped with trained teams, beaters, water wagons, and pumps. In the fire-affected areas, 20,000 seedlings were later planted. Kijabe Forest Trust provided emergency relief while working to brace the landscape for future disasters.

Forest restoration efforts continued year-round, with KFT producing 118,769 indigenous seedlings and employing 1,404 community members to plant 98,330 seedlings.

Wildlife monitoring continues to show encouraging signs. Rangers and camera traps recorded more sightings of dik-diks, colobus monkeys, leopards, francolins, bushbucks, and—remarkably—elephants, reflecting improved biodiversity and habitat quality. Rangers removed 326 snares in 2024, down from the 1,177 snares dismantled in 2023. The Kijabe forest rangers are having a positive impact for Kijabe Forest's biodiversity.

Size of area:	5,000 hectares
Field partner:	Kijabe Forest Trust
Since 2017:	\$ 632,826



KENYA

Heavy rains provide relief at Mukutan Conservancy

Spanning 365 km² on the western edge of Kenya’s Laikipia Plateau, Mukutan Conservancy is a designated Key Biodiversity Area and a stronghold for some of Africa’s most threatened species.

Over 400 bird species call Mukutan home, including critically endangered Rüppell’s and hooded vultures and endangered raptors such as the Bateleur and martial eagle. Mukutan also supports healthy populations of elephants, lions, leopards, giraffes, and other IUCN Red-listed mammals.

2024 Highlights

Prolonged droughts in the years preceding 2024 finally broke. The parched landscape received heavy rains at the start of 2024 and the conservancy pivoted its focus to meet the changing needs of the recovering ecosystem and surrounding communities.

Human–wildlife conflict remains a challenge, particularly during the harvest season in July and August. It was responsible for the death of a male elephant estimated at 25-30 years in age. Mukutan is piloting real-time alert technology to notify rangers of troublesome elephants and enable a rapid response to reduce risks.

A key milestone in 2024 was the completion of a **wildlife corridor** connecting Mukutan and its northerly neighbour, Mugie Conservancy. The

corridor is expected to become fully functional next year, creating safe migratory routes for wildlife and enhancing landscape-level conservation in Laikipia.

Mukutan Conservancy continues to work closely with the Kenya Wildlife Service and Kenya Forest Service. This year, the conservancy’s ranger teams received refresher training and technical support.

The Mshipi Council, a community dialogue platform started in 2018, has continued to gain traction as a cornerstone of peacebuilding and shared stewardship. The Mshipi is a space for inclusive conversations on resource use, coexistence, and planning. In 2024, Mukutan invested in expanding Mshipi’s reach and governance capacity.

Size of area:	36,500 hectares
Field partner:	Gallmann Memorial Foundation
Since 2017:	\$ 2,670,019

Top left: Pokot herders with their cattle in Mukutan reserve. Herders register to receive authorization to herd their cattle (for a fee) in a carefully managed herding program at Mukutan Conservancy. Fees paid cover payments to community herders and costs for cattle care including spraying for ticks.

Top right: Leopards are among the large wildlife at Mukutan.

Photos: Mukutan Conservancy



KENYA

Maasai-led vulture sanctuary

The Great Rift Valley runs through Kenya from north to south and features escarpments, volcanoes, lakes, and distinctive wildlife. Our project has helped establish the Maasai-led **Kwenia Vulture Sanctuary** for Rüppell’s Vulture (CR) and other raptors. In 2024, the Kwenia Vultures Sanctuary Trust deed was signed by 22 landowning Maasai families. The vulture guardian team of Maasai men and women conducted biweekly counts and documented 216 breeding Rüppell’s vultures and one pair of Egyptian vultures (one of the last known in southern Kenya). The new camera trap program is documenting many rare species of mammals at the sanctuary including wild dogs, lesser kudu, gerenuk, Maasai giraffe, striped hyena, plains zebra, and leopard.

Size of area:	3,671 hectares
Field partner:	The Kenya Bird of Prey Trust
Since 2021:	\$ 168,243



KENYA

Bat conservation at Mount Suswa

Harrison’s long-eared giant mastiff bats inhabit a few lava tube caves on the slopes of an old volcano at Mount Suswa. There, we partner with the Mount Suswa Conservancy and the community-based Angaza Vijiji group.

In 2024, surveys of local community members revealed that most people no longer fear bats as bad omens and are now aware of their conservation needs and their value within the ecosystem. The main breeding cave that is critically important to breeding Harrison’s great mastiff bats (CR) is now protected from disturbance and is off-limits and protected by bat guardians. We now know that this bat flies great distances each night to forage. Threats to bats from windfarms are being investigated.

Size of area:	5,000 hectares
Field partner:	Angaza Vijiji
Since 2021:	\$ 135,087

Above: Scott Hecker (at left) and the Mount Suswa project team visit a bat cave.

Photo: Stratton Hatfield

Left: The Critically Endangered Rüppells vulture is considered to be the highest-flying bird, with confirmed evidence of a flight at an altitude of 11,300 m.

Photo: Kenya Bird of Prey Trust

MALI

Mali's elephants persevere

This project places communities at the center of efforts to protect Mali’s desert-adapted elephants.

In 2024, dozens of village assemblies were held with farmers, pastoralists, women’s and youth groups to raise awareness and develop solutions regarding human pressures such as settlement, livestock grazing, and artisanal gold mining.

A regional committee was formed to guide the selection and implementation of community initiatives, which consisted of natural resource management, income-generating activities, and stabilization projects, collectively benefiting more than 5,500 people. Of 148 proposals, 80 community implemented projects were funded.

Workshops have played a vital role, with topics including collective elephant management, land restoration, and resource mobilization—all framed within the national legal context to reinforce the role of communities in conservation.

Despite the project’s enduring success, ongoing insecurity in the Gourma region of Mali continues to pose serious challenges. The safety of people and elephants remains closely tied to regional stability, underscoring the importance of strong partnerships and community-based resource management moving forward.

Size of area: 33,534 km² (size of Belgium)
Field partner: Project director Susan Canney and Field Manager Nomba Ganamé
Since 2010: \$ 4,267,135



A highlight of 2024 was the recognition of the project’s long-serving, highly capable Field Manager, Nomba Ganamé, at the Tusk Conservation Awards in London.
Photo: Chris Jackson



In 2024, Ripple Africa founders Geoff and Liz Furber were appointed Members of the Order of the British Empire (MBE)
Photos: Ripple Africa

MALAWI

Communities prove well capable of managing fisheries

In 2024, fish conservation in Lake Malawi took a major step forward when Fisheries Management Agreements were signed between the Department of Fisheries and local communities in Nkhata Bay and Nkhotakota. Organized by Ripple Africa, the signing ceremony brought together chiefs, council officials, sub-fisheries associations, and fishers. “What the fisheries department has done today is to empower the community structures to play a vital role in managing fish resources,” said Ripple Africa Country Director Force Ngwira.

Since its humble beginnings protecting just 40 kilometers of shoreline in 2011, Ripple Africa’s Fish for Tomorrow program has grown to safeguard 736 kilometers of lakeshore across five districts. Community-led protection zones and active enforcement have helped replenish fish stocks and restore traditional fishing practices. Each patrol and every agreement signed contributes to the long-term health of Lake Malawi and the people who call it home.

Size of area: 22,000 hectares
Field partner: Ripple Africa
Since 2019: \$ 2,186,246



MADAGASCAR

More villagers conserve lemur forest

Farankaraina Forest is located between Makira Natural Park and Masoala National Park in Antongil Bay, an area estimated to contain half of Madagascar’s biodiversity on 2% of its land area. The region is home to the highest diversity of Madagascar’s emblematic lemur species. However, forests there are under pressure from increasing population, poverty, and slash-and-burn agriculture.

In 2024, Fandroakando’s joint patrols with Local Village Associations (VOI) improved coverage of Farankaraina Forest. Patrols are now tracked using the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART). SMART analysis feeds into monthly planning to improve the effectiveness of patrols. During the year, four enforcement missions led to the apprehension of 24 people.

In the 2023-2024 reforestation campaign, 1,200 seedlings were planted, and 17 ha of degraded forest were delimited for natural regeneration. An awareness campaign informed nine villages about the impact of human-caused forest degradation and droughts caused by climate change. Villagers were encouraged to join the VOIs, and some did.

Fandroakando is gaining ground, as evidenced by the signing of new collaboration agreements with existing VOIs and increasing VOI membership. ICFC is proud to support this young organization’s work in a challenging but important place for global conservation.

Size of area: 3,000 hectares
Field partner: Fandroakando NGO
Since 2021: \$ 452,641



Above: Black rhino and calf.
Photo: Scott Hecker

Right: Collecting seeds for forest restoration.
Photo: Fandroakando



SOUTH AFRICA

Fewer rhinos poached

South Africa has about 80% of the world’s remaining rhinos (black rhinoceros and white rhinoceros), of which about a quarter are held in private reserves. Rising black market prices for rhino horns have increased the poaching, and the involvement of criminal syndicates poses a significant threat. ICFC’s partner, Stop Rhino Poaching (SRP), is improving security methods, applying advanced technology, and providing specialized training for high-risk rhino reserves.

In 2024, 420 rhinos were killed by poachers for their horns that we know of—79 fewer than in 2023. SRP enforcement-related efforts contributed to 49 arrests, with 19 arrests linked to multiple rhino poaching incidents. One suspect was convicted and sentenced to 110 years in prison for rhino poaching in four provinces in South Africa (and was linked to other criminal cases including armed robbery, rape, kidnapping, and escaping from lawful custody). This shows the dangerous criminals that park rangers and security personnel face.

In 2024, SRP provided training for responding to poaching incidents at night and K9 training to teach dogs, their handlers, and anti-poaching teams to respond as ‘well-oiled machines’ when facing poaching threats. One of the dogs now fully deployed is Kai, who received months of training thanks to support from the Elliott Family Foundation who are fully supporting this project.

Size of area: 400,000 hectares
Field partner: Stop Rhino Poaching
Since 2019: \$ 687,428

Southeast Asia

INDONESIA

Reducing deforestation in Papua

The Papua region of the island of New Guinea is one of the most biologically diverse regions on Earth. Its lowland rainforests and highland mountain ecosystems support an extraordinary number of species, many of which are found nowhere else.

Papua's forests face increasing pressure from expanding resource extraction. A tiny fraction of the region has been officially designated for Customary Forest Concessions, while far greater areas have been designated for timber, palm oil, and industrial plantations.

Guided by local knowledge and leadership, YAPPENDA, our local field partner, blends traditional practices with science to protect and restore forests among lowland and highland areas.

Education and reforestation are core pillars of ICFC's work in both regions. In the lowlands near Jayapura, proximity to a local university allows for collaboration with young scientists and conservation students. A highlight in 2024 was a YAPPENDA researcher receiving a scholarship to continue his studies at Oxford University. His research builds on the important 2023 rediscovery of Attenborough's long-beaked echidna.



In the highlands near Wamena, YAPPENDA works closely with village schools, fostering ecological awareness. The highlands continue to attract scientists and naturalists drawn by the chance to explore one of the planet's last great biodiversity frontiers.

To address forest degradation, YAPPENDA operates tree nurseries scattered across the region. The tree nursery in the highlands village of Holuwon grows a mix of species from locally collected seeds. The seedlings are used to restore degraded forest patches or are planted near villages to stabilize soil and provide a sustainable source of firewood.

In 2024, restoration efforts expanded to include vetiver grass, a deep-rooted species planted in erosion-prone areas to prevent landslides. Over time, vetiver is also expected to support a new handicraft economy, offering alternative income streams to communities with limited economic options. In the lowlands, reforestation efforts are concentrated at the margin that separates expanding cities and retreating forests, and along heavily degraded coastal areas.

Size of area: 2,700 hectares

Field partner: YAPPENDA

Since 2022: \$ 950,689

Left: Field work in the Cyclops Mountains

Top right: Planting mangroves at Kayo Batu provides coastal protection and fisheries and other benefits.

Opposite page: Terraced gardens can be seen, lower right, in this photo of the Papua highlands.

Photos: YAPPENDA



INDONESIA – SULAWESI

New ranger team and progress on other fronts

Highlights of 2024 include securing a 10-year renewal of AITo's conservation agreement with Taima village for collaboration at its flagship Libuun maleo nesting site. The site had a world record count of 199 maleos in 2022, which AITo thinks probably represents the nesting ground's maximum carrying capacity. This population of the Critically Endangered maleo remains strong and healthy and AITo also protects smaller nesting sites for the species. AITo continued its work in protecting an important island sanctuary for roosting bats and it has a sea turtle conservation program.

The sixth expedition of AITo's "Heart of Tompotika" forest effort focused on an area that is under permit for nickel mining—a serious threat. AITo's Mining Outreach Manager is building relationships with government and is representing conservation interests in relation to mining.

ICFC always concerns itself with long-term financial security of our field partners and shared projects. In 2024, AITo launched a new \$1 million (USD) Forests Forever endowment campaign. We applaud this and wish them well!

Size of area: 250,000 hectares
Field partner: Alliance for Tompotika Conservation (AITo)
Since 2010: \$ 2,448,048



Above: In 2024, a new maleo statue was dedicated in Tower village. Communities now celebrate this species and their efforts to conserve it.

Left: First patrols of the new Community Ranger team, Montora, began in 2024.

Photos: AITo



CAMBODIA

Marine protected area advances toward doubling in size

An extension to the existing Kep Marine Fisheries Management area has been approved at the provincial level and is now going through the review process at the national level. This will add 15,000 hectares and enlarge the conservation area from 300 m to 1.5 km around MCC's Koh Seh island.

Other highlights:

- MCC reporting of illegal fishing led to arrests; four illegal electric trawler vessels were impounded, and court cases are ongoing.
- 138 conservation and anti-trawling devices were deployed in Kep and Kampot provinces. The devices, developed by MCC, have proven so successful at deterring illegal fishing that MCC has received funding from the Asian Development Bank to deploy them across Cambodia.
- Marine mammal surveys tallied Irrawaddy dolphins, dugongs, and Indo-Pacific humpback dolphins.
- MCC visited 42 fishing communities and hosted four Cambodian university visits to introduce students and lecturers to Cambodian marine ecosystems and MCC's conservation work.

Size of area: 16,900 hectares
Field partner: Marine Conservation Cambodia (MCC)
Since 2016: \$ 1,424,116



New proposals to protect marine mammals were presented to Cambodia's Prime Minister (pictured above) during the Kampot Sea Festival and have been widely shared in government.



Above: Dugong mother and juvenile.

Left: MCC founder Paul Ferber explains the proposal for expanding the Kep marine protected area.

Photos: MCC



Forest guardians continue to champion the red panda

2024 began with a camera trap survey in red panda habitat that revealed four key mammal species: barking deer, wild boar, leopard cat, and yellow-throated marten. Field surveys showed encouraging evidence of red pandas. The exercise also served to train eight field biologists in camera trap deployment and data collection.

Forest Guardians continue to monitor 21 forest blocks across 14 community forests. This year brought four new Forest Guardians supporting two new areas.

To combat wildlife crime, joint anti-poaching patrols were organized in 14 community forests with Forest Guardians, Community Forest officials, and Department of Forestry staff. Six illegal wildlife traps were removed. A community-based anti-poaching network and two wildlife crime control bureaus were organized.

The project expanded local outreach through awareness campaigns, reaching over 25,000 people with posters, signs, radio programs, school bulletins, and workshops. The outreach helped build widespread support for red panda protection.

Habitat restoration continued with the planting of over 10,000 saplings of red panda friendly species and the construction of six waterholes in different community forests, along with a new greenhouse.

In Jajarkot, a forest fire management network was formed across three forests. Twenty-one members received training in fire prevention and response.



Local municipalities increased support for red panda conservation. For example, Barekot Municipality in Jajarkot and Jumla in Tatopani Municipality adopted an increased focus on conservation through public outreach, student scholarships, and training for greenhouse operation.

Size of area: 261,600 hectares
Field partner: Red Panda Network, Nepal
Since 2017: \$ 356,929

Top: Forest guards measure a tree diameter.

Left: Camera trap instruction for Forest Guardians of Jajarkot district

Below: A red panda book published by RPN is distributed in schools.

Photos: Red Panda Network



Spotlight on camouflage:

Can you ID these animals?



ANSWERS

- 1 *Calligo sp.* (Conservación Amazónica ACCA)
- 2 Leaf-tailed gecko (Claudia Morawetz)
- 3 Common pauraque
- 4 Proboscis bats (Paul B Jones)

Shorebirds



Whimbrels. Photo: Scott Hecker

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Spoon-billed sandpipers doubled at ICFC project sites!

This project continued in coastal landscapes across four countries in Asia, with a total count of 103 spoon-billed sandpipers—28% of the world population—up from 54 in 2023.

Also tallied were 85,000 other waterbirds of 68 species, many Red-listed by IUCN. Thus, the “Spoonie” is an “umbrella species” for coastal habitats and other shorebirds in four countries.

The habitats protected for Spoonies supported approximately 360 Nordmann's greenshanks (EN), 3,210 curlew sandpipers (VU), 8,000 great knots (EN), 5,000 red-necked stints (NT), 1,200 Eurasian curlews (NT), 500 Asian dowitchers (NT), 700 red knots (NT), and 250 bar-tailed godwits (NT).

Bird guards in Bangladesh placed increased focus on 39 sites, and incidents of poaching are decreasing overall. There was no hunting pressure at the main Spoonie site of Kaladia.

In China, patrols of illegal mist-nets used to catch birds were increased by guards, and other activities such as environmental education, birdwatching trips, and community training workshops are underway.

In Myanmar, work has resumed on the Gulf of Mottama. There are new Local Conservation Groups with 6 patrols teams who met with several hunters to promote alternative livelihoods.



In Thailand, the capacity for field work increased, and Pak Thale experienced an increase in visitors hoping to see the Spoon-billed sandpiper. One Spoonie has returned to Pak Thale for its 9th year! Early in the year, Katherine Leung placed satellite transmitters on 3 Spoonies, which travelled NE with stops in China and Korea. One Spoonie surprised the world when it arrived at a new (undisclosed) breeding site in northeastern Russia.

Field partners: project leader: Sayam Chowdhury and partner NGOs in Bangladesh, Myanmar, China, Thailand

Since 2016: \$ 647,251

Above: The Critically Endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper. Note its leg band and identifying marker. Photo Huang Baotong

Below: Technical support team conducting monthly patrolling and surveys at Gulf of Mottama, Myanmar





Photo: Field encampment at a remote lake in Argentinian Patagonia where guardians monitor and protect nesting grebes and plovers.



Nest protection device aids Magellanic Plovers

The status of this unique “dove-like” shorebird has gone from Near Threatened to Vulnerable after surveys found that the global population may only number 330 adults. In 2024, Plover guardians surveyed over 300 lakes, finding 80 adults, and 8 nests with eggs. Field staff again employed “predator exclosures” over nests to reduce trampling by sheep and predation by mammals and birds. Of 8 nests monitored with camera traps and staff, 6 were fenced and 3 fledged young. The two unfenced nests were preyed on. Fledglings were banded with orange flags, yielding information about their dispersal, including for the one pictured above right, found two months later on the Stroebel Plateau.

Can you spot the predator exclosure protecting a Magellanic plover nest in this photo?



Hope for the Hooded Grebe

After a decade of dedicated conservation efforts in Patagonia’s highland plateaus, the hooded grebe, once spiralling toward extinction, is finally showing signs of recovery. Invasive mink, trout, and predatory kelp gulls have been successfully controlled. Artificial nesting platforms now offer shelter from fierce winds and are increasingly favoured by the grebes. A breakthrough in incubating abandoned eggs and hand-rearing chicks has boosted survival. 2024 saw a record five fledglings raised in incubators, complementing those born in the wild.

Field partner and photo credits: Aves Argentinas
Cumulative cost (since 2012 for Hooded Grebe and Magellanic Plover since 2021): \$ 968,837

Maullín - Safeguarding coastal wetlands at scale

Since 2015, ICFC has supported this successful program that is now hitting its stride. Originally started to protect Hudsonian godwits and other shorebirds, the site now protects an entire watershed.

In 2024, our field partner published books on the Maullín River Wetlands and the Curaco de Vélez Bay Nature Sanctuary. The books were distributed at the 11th annual Fair of Birds, Handicrafts, and Tourism and mark a significant milestone.

Also accomplished was training of 20 environmental guardians for monitoring 30 km of the Maullín River from the swamp forests to the coastal wetlands.

13 students completed the 2024 “Management for Wetlands Conservation” course, which provided practical tools and knowledge. Tourism entrepreneurs from Maullín, Chamiza, and Curaco de Vélez are now working together to complete bird-watching routes and develop sustainable tourism practices. Camera traps are deployed at sites to monitor and measure the effect of recreational tourism and unleashed pets on shorebirds.

In 2024, ICFC staff visited the project and saw firsthand the high level of community engagement in new eco-centered jobs in birdwatching, nature exploration, kayaking, and tours of the Maullín River and its offshore islands.



Above: Hudsonian godwits breed in northern Canada and occur in large numbers in the Maullín wetlands in the non-breeding season.
Photo: Claudio Delgado

Below: Humedal Laguna Quenuir.
Photo: Scott Hecker

Size of area: 8,152 hectares
Field partner: Fundación Conservación Marina
Since 2015: \$ 796,514

“It is remarkable how this project has spread along the full length of this natural river to the sea and even to its offshore islands where sea lions and marine otters bask, and penguins and thousands of seabirds can still nest in peace.” -- Scott Hecker



MEXICO

Protecting red knots at the Golfo de Santa Clara

The Pacific population (*roselaari*) of the red knot (NT) requires a full tank of fuel to migrate back to its Arctic breeding grounds from the Pacific coast of Mexico. To that end it takes advantage of abundant eggs laid by grunions (a sardine-like fish) on the beaches of Santa Clara.

Since 2021, ICFC has helped Pronatura Noroeste's staff and volunteers prepare for the knot's arrival just before Holy Week. By the time millions of grunions are ready to spawn and red knots arrive, project personnel and national guards have roped off miles of beach from cars, pets, and people.

In 2024 they installed **17 km of temporary fencing and protected 25 square kilometers of grunion and shorebird habitat**. They recorded 15,437 shorebirds, including 2,000+ red knots. There were 22 re-sightings of banded red knots. Although an estimated 8,000 beachgoers and vehicles were kept out of sensitive areas, 71 dead shorebirds were found. About 2,000 people were asked their opinion about the fence, and 85% approved and said they would not mind if the area was larger. At least 10 media stories were published about this conservation work.

Fencing off the area to cars and pedestrians to protect grunions and birds.
Photo: Adriana Hernández

Size of area: 10 km of beachfront
Field partners: Pronatura Noroeste
Since 2021: \$ 121,459





Latin
America

ARGENTINA

Rincón de Santa María Reserve restoration continues apace

A grassroots group of volunteers, friends, biologists, and reserve rangers is caring for Rincón de Santa María Natural Reserve in the Province of Corrientes. The reserve protects 3,568 hectares of natural flooded grasslands and savannas and forest remnants undergoing restoration. It is an important protected area for the Southern Cone Mesopotamian savanna ecoregion due to its rich biodiversity. To date, 330 species of birds, 39 species of amphibians, 61 species of reptiles, 25 species of large and medium-sized mammals, and 800 species of plants have been recorded in the reserve.

In 2024, control of exotic pines was carried out on 267 hectares of invaded grasslands. The project team conducted 10 field campaigns and planted 1,000 native seedlings raised in the project's nursery. They held seven Environmental Education and Awareness days at the main square of the town of Ituzaingó and in a school called *Escuela de la Familia Agrícola* that is adjacent to the reserve. Biological surveys of the reserve's flora were carried out to produce a catalog of native plants of the region. So far, 207 species have been documented with photographs, detailed descriptions, and distribution info.

Size of area: 3,568 hectares

Field partner: Nestor Fariña leads a team of naturalists and volunteers

Since 2015: \$ 116,868



ARGENTINA

Selva de Pino Paraná: engaging farmers and youth in conservation

The Atlantic Forest of South America is one of the five most important global biodiversity hotspots. Unfortunately, agriculture, cattle-ranching, and urbanization have replaced over 90% of the original Atlantic Forest. Declining populations and local extirpations of bird species are a further concern.

In San Pedro Department (Province of Misiones), 20 species of globally threatened birds inhabit and interact in a mosaic landscape of farms with the last remnants of Paraná pine forest, a Critically Endangered tree. This project engages farmers and local youth to restore bird habitat and protect tree species needed by specialist cavity-nesting birds.

In 2024, 43 visits were made to 22 rural primary schools, reaching 928 students with a variety of interactive activities with topics like "Recognizing native species, their habitats, and ecosystem relationships" and "Identification and conservation of native woodpeckers in the Misiones jungle". Social media also disseminated material about native species and forest conservation.

Project staff distributed 450 native tree seedlings to 65 rural families and one school.

Size of area: 100,000 hectares

Field partner: Proyecto Selva de Pino Paraná

Since 2013: \$ 152,337

Below, left: Planting crew of volunteers and staff.
Photo: Nestor Fariña

Below, right: Public awareness has helped conserve trees and threatened birds.
Photo: Proyecto Selva de Pino Paraná





Above: Yellow armadillo.
Photo: Lennart Verheuve

Left: Flooded savanna
Photo: Tjalle Boorsma

BOLIVIA

Barba Azul reserve has record count of blue-throated macaws

2024 was a transformative and record-breaking year at this remote sanctuary in the Beni Savanna. The reserve continued to attract tourists who enjoyed its renovated lodgings and the new 570-meter boardwalk.

With funding from others, a 1,200-hectare area named “Reserva Daniel Robison” was acquired to protect additional habitat for the blue-throated macaw (CR). A record number of 209 macaws are now roosting in the reserve.

The portion of the reserve using cattle grazing to improve habitat for shorebirds attracted 3,000 buff-breasted sandpipers—also a record number. The cattle program is important in that it demonstrates to Beni ranchers a working model of ecologically sustainable cattle ranching. It is indeed changing minds and practices. It also generates revenue for the reserve.

Fire management with an experimental back-burn technique paid off, and not a single fire entered the reserve in 2024!

Thanks go to ICFC’s Poon Fund for Tropical Nature Reserves for support for the Rio Omi boardwalk.

Size of area: 11,000 hectares
Field partner: Asociación Armonía
Since 2010: \$ 628,715



Above: Blue-throated macaw pair eating motacu fruit. **Photo:** Suzanne Vargas

Below: March deer. **Photo:** Asociación Armonía



ECUADOR

Next Generation Club: Year Two

The Fundación para la Conservación de los Andes Tropicales (FCAT) is a grassroots organization created to address deforestation and the decline of globally threatened and endemic species in the Ecuadorian Chocó. In 2022, with support from ICFC, FCAT launched The Next Generation Club, which provides local youth with intensive conservation training. In 2023, the club graduated its first cohort of students, generating significant interest among youth in neighbouring areas and spurring expansion of the program to meet the demand.

In 2024, the second cohort completed 22 workshops in specialized areas of biology, including entomology, botany, and ornithology. They also received training in technology and art and took part in guided hikes across the 734-hectare FCAT reserve. Partnerships with the Universidad San Francisco (Quito) and the World Resources Institute have enriched the program. Club members received training in advanced techniques such as *in vitro* plant cultivation, ecological monitoring, and remote sensing technologies.

Importantly, many club participants have become vital community liaisons in a new project that will incorporate 200 hectares of sustainably grown and wildlife-friendly cacao as part of a mixed conservation strategy around the FCAT. “The Next Generation” undoubtedly improve the prospects for nature in the Ecuadorian Chocó region. **Thanks to Doug and Sheila Rogers for making this possible!**

Size of area: 1,200 km²
Field partner: Fundación para la Conservación de los Andes Tropicales (FCAT)
Since 2022: \$ 54,737



PERU

ICFC Field Training Fellowship

In 2024, this program reduced its class size and extended the training period for the eight participants. By doing so, we aimed to enhance the quality of learning and mentorship provided at the Manu and Wayqecha biological stations.

As in previous years, fellows received a suite of skills training designed to cultivate capable and grounded field biologists and conservation practitioners. Training covers field sampling techniques, first aid and survival, data processing, taxonomy, and science communication.

Fellows also had the opportunity to study the environmental impacts of mercury in La Pampa, an area heavily affected by gold mining.

The 2024 cohort are better prepared to become conservation leaders who make meaningful change.

Field partner: Conservación Amazónica – ACCA
Since 2022: \$ 510,256



Dichotomius sp. **Photo:** ACCA

Progress for aquatic biodiversity and communities on the Jurua River

ICFC is partnering with Instituto Juruá to expand their conservation work in the middle region of the ~3,500-km-long Juruá River, a meandering tributary of the Amazon River. Such rivers have hundreds of floodplain oxbow lakes and seasonally flooded (*várzea*) forests.

We are implementing highly effective co-management schemes that empower local communities via official fishing agreements to guard their fluvial beaches and fishing grounds (oxbow lakes) against large-scale commercial fisheries and illegal actors.

Fluvial beaches are important for the reproduction of threatened or overexploited species, such as the giant South American river turtle (*Podocnemis expansa*). Oxbow lakes provide critical habitat for many fish, notably pirarucú, shown below.

In 2024, Instituto Juruá held meetings with 60 local communities, leading to the inclusion of 69 new protected oxbow lakes in Itamarati municipality, in Amazonas state. It consolidated and reinforced



fishing agreements in Carauari municipality to protect another 120 oxbow lakes, benefitting 60 rural communities along the Juruá River. These agreements are essential for maintaining sustainable fishing practices and safeguarding the integrity of the region's aquatic ecosystems.

Work with local Kulina indigenous communities resulted in the implementation of spatial zoning for fisheries, which involved mapping critical fishing areas where commercial fishing will be prohibited. This enhances the governance and social organization of the Kulina, which strengthens their territorial claims and helps them guard their territory against illegal fishers and poachers. The long-term goal is official recognition of Kulina territories, which span 600,000 ha.

Lastly, as part of Instituto Juruá's efforts to build local knowledge and skills, they provided training in fair trade certification, turtle management, and territorial protection to 370 local people.

Size of area: 2,500 km of Juruá River
Field partner: Instituto Juruá
Since 2023: \$ 112,494

Left: The air breathing pirarucú (*Arapaima gigas*) is the world's largest scaled freshwater fish and has high economic importance.

Above: Rio Jurua forms numerous oxbows.

Below: Turtle conservation is an important aspect of this project.

Photos: Instituto Juruá



Kayapo continue to hold the line

In Brazil's highly threatened southeastern Amazon, guard posts continued to play a key role in territorial defence by the Kayapo. Sixteen Kayapo guard posts effectively secured 80-90% of the 2,200-km Kayapo territorial border.

However, about 250 km of the most remote border region of Kayapo territory in the northwest remains undefended and vulnerable with the advance of roads, land-grabbers, and ranching. With additional support, we hope to secure this region in 2025.

Guard posts signal to voracious frontier society that the Kayapo of a region are organized for territorial defense—an effective deterrence.

In 2024, operations continued with

- Trade in Brazil nut and cumaru nut
- International field course
- Sportfishing on the Xingu and Iriri rivers
- Territorial management planning
- REDD+ carbon project planning
- Crucial territorial surveillance work

In 2025, we are expanding our guard post media curriculum. We provide 1,800 Kayapo guardians (mostly youth) with the knowledge and skills to protect their territory, affirm their culture, and resist the negative influences of predatory frontier society.

Size of area: 90,000 km² – bigger than 91 countries
Field partners: Associação Floresta Protegida, Instituto Kabu, and Instituto Raoni
Since 2007: \$ 21,842,770



Photos: Pedro Peloso

Kayapo Project five pillars of success:

- Institutional strengthening and capacity building of Kayapo NGOs
- Strong territorial monitoring and surveillance
- Equitable and sustainable economic enterprises
- Political action and legal support
- Cultural affirmation and valorization through education, storytelling, and communications

Visit Kayapo lands!

The Kayapo Field Course and Internship Program offers a unique opportunity to learn and work with the Kayapo.



COLOMBIA

Rare harlequin toads the focus of conservation in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta

One species group of tiny animals in Colombia’s Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta—a global biodiversity hotspot—has an outsized importance. Harlequin toads (*Atelopus* genus), the most threatened group of amphibians on Earth, are experiencing significant population declines. But this mountain stronghold is home to 5 threatened endemic *Atelopus* species and at least 2 more species of *Atelopus* that are in the process of being described. It is the only place with apparently stable populations of high-altitude harlequin toads on the planet.

In 2024, ICFC’s partner, Fundación Atelopus recorded 132 Santa Marta harlequin toads in San Pedro and 115 starry night toads in the indigenous community of Sogrome. While populations appear stable, threats loom: Bd fungus was recorded for the first time in the starry night toad, and genetic analysis showed severe inbreeding in both populations.

These expeditions launched deeper collaboration with rural and Indigenous communities, including:

- an ecological monitoring group involving youth
- bioblitz rapid surveys and camera traps
- reforestation to link forest patches

The toads’ survival is a symbol of hope—and a call to protect one of the planet’s most irreplaceable ecosystems.

Size of area: 2,520 km²
Field partner: Fundación Atelopus
Since 2021: \$ 157,650



Above: Starry night toad (*Atelopus arsyecue*) and Santa Marta harlequin toad (*A. laetissimus*)

Below: Collaboration with Indigenous communities.

Photos: Fundación Atelopus



GUATEMALA

Laguna Grande: from land purchase to lasting protection

Over a decade ago, ICFC supported the purchase of land to establish the Laguna Grande Reserve—a stunning mosaic of karst landscapes, towering 100-meter cliffs, spring-fed rivers, and mangrove lagoons within the larger Río Sarstún protected area. This ecologically rich reserve lies at the heart of a region where conservation, biodiversity, and community well-being are deeply intertwined.

In 2024 FUNDAECO continued its community-centered conservation work. Land titling was expanded in Rosario, San Martín, and Naranjal. Again, many levels of governmental law enforcement participated in ranger patrols. Outside the reserve, three health clinics for women provided services for 534 patients.

Biological monitoring of mangroves revealed a high density of 1,600 mangroves per hectare and a 40% survival rate of mangroves planted in 2023. A new project to monitor jaguars was launched in late 2024 with help from Panthera.

Two communities in the core Río Sarstún area signed conservation agreements. Eleven scholarships were provided to students in five communities. Ecotourism continues to provide substantial income for the reserve while boosting the local economy.

Size of area: 2,025 hectares
Field partner: Fundación para el Ecodesarrollo y la Conservación (FUNDAECO)
Since 2021 (reserve management): \$ 253,532

Botanical guide at Laguna Grande
Photo: Scott Hecker



As seabirds, Galapagos petrels spend most of their lives at sea, but they nest in burrows in the highlands of the Galapagos Islands.
Photo: Fundación Jocotoco

ECUADOR

Galápagos - needed infrastructure

In the highlands of San Cristóbal—the fifth largest island in the Galápagos—Fundación Jocotoco established the Los Petreles Reserve to protect the nesting habitat of the endemic and Critically Endangered Galápagos petrel (*Pterodroma phaeopygia*). The species faces threats from invasive species (cats, rats, and other feral animals) that raid their nests, from livestock that compact the soil and destroy native habitat, and from exotic plants that displace native humid Miconia forest that once protected petrels’ nests.

Management of the reserve requires basic infrastructure for field staff to access the protected area. In 2024, with support from ICFC, Fundación Jocotoco completed trails providing safe access to carry out conservation actions for Critically Endangered species, including the Galápagos Petrels. Trails also facilitate the control of invasive species and the restoration of native plants and volunteer visitors.

ICFC thanks the Bradstreet Family Foundation for funding this work, which contributes to the rehabilitation of ecosystems and the conservation of the unique species in the Galápagos Archipelago.

Size of area: 120 hectares
Field partner: Fundación de Conservación Jocotoco
Since 2021: \$ 50,048



Left: Arboreal bridges allow wildlife to safely traverse roads and power lines.

Above: Central American squirrel monkey (*Saimiri oerstedii*). Photos: Osa Conservation

COSTA RICA

Record year for habitat restoration on the Osa Peninsula

An important place in Central America for restoring forest connectivity and climate resilience across an altitudinal gradient is from the southern Pacific tropical lowlands of the Osa Peninsula to the high-elevation wilderness of La Amistad National Peace Park. Osa Conservation (OC) is engaging civil society to pursue this and other conservation objectives.

In 2024, OC planted 240,231 native, rare, and/or threatened trees across 157 ha in their working landscape of the AmistOsa Biological Corridor. Trees were planted and sites maintained on 117 ha of farmland, with a “restoration network” that includes 285 small-and mid-sized farms.

In the Térraba-Sierpe National Wetland, 72 community members were employed to restore 40 hectares of mangrove. All combined, 2024 was the most impactful planting season in OC’s history.

To address barriers to wildlife movement, OC created canopy connectivity with 29 arboreal bridges of various designs. The data from the first phase of the project was presented to the local government with a plan for additional arboreal bridges in the AmistOsa region.

OC’s efforts to boost civil responsibility focused on biodiversity monitoring and mitigating human-wildlife conflicts in the Osa Peninsula and Piedras Blancas National Park. Workshops and events

such as the first International Jaguar Day and an Environmental Festival emphasized the importance of predators and their habitats.

A cornerstone of these efforts is the AmistOsa Biodiversity Survey, which builds local capacity for biodiversity monitoring using citizen science tools like iNaturalist. 29 workshops in 14 communities engaged 496 participants. Observations increased, with 26,674 new entries, involving 797 new species and 458 new observers. Baseline data from 2022 tripled in 2024.

OC’s **Youth Nature Club** continued to provide youth with an immersive nature-based learning experience, fostering the next generation of conservation stewards. Since its formation in 2021, the club has established twelve chapters across six communities and six educational centers in Costa Rica’s south Pacific, reaching over 500 students annually. OC has built partnerships with elementary, middle, and high schools across the twelve chapters they work with, to enhance nature-based education for underprivileged rural youth in Costa Rica. **A big thank you to the Paul W. O’Leary Foundation for making this possible.**

Size of area: 1,093 km²

Field partner: Osa Conservation (OC)

Since 2017, Ridge to Reef: \$ 1,364,339

Since 2021, Osa Youth Nature program: \$ 602,577

COSTA RICA

A new chapter for ACG’s Parataxonomists

ICFC’s trust fund supports the work of parataxonomists in Costa Rica’s Área de Conservación Guanacaste (ACG). These local experts, stationed at 11 field sites, have spent decades documenting the region’s butterflies and moths (Lepidoptera) and their parasites.

Now, their role is evolving. Some are shifting to new research on other species and ecosystem monitoring, while others will be trained in ecotourism, fire control, and conservation management. Upcoming efforts include a digital ACG flora, expanded camera trap use, and an annual census of the Critically Endangered yellow-naped Parrot.

Beyond research, parataxonomists are guardians of ACG’s forests and seas, “equipped not with weapons, but with deep biological knowledge.” Their daily presence remains key to protecting biodiversity from poaching and other threats.

Size of area: 163,000 hectares

Field partner: Guanacaste Dry Forest Conservation Fund

Since 2012: \$ 754,356

Trust fund capital at year-end 2024: \$ 3,274,399



Área de Conservación Guanacaste

ACG is a UNESCO World Heritage Site in northwestern Costa Rica. Its 163,000 hectares span the Continental Divide from the Pacific coastal dry forest to the Atlantic rainforest. It is considered a worldwide model for involving local communities in landscape-scale conservation, for forest restoration, as a successful collaboration between an NGO and a national park, and for fostering a bioliterate local population.

Right: Releasing baby turtles. Photo: Gabriela Paredes

NICARAGUA

Grassroots power: protecting turtles, inspiring youth

ICFC’s grassroots sea turtle project at Playa Salinas Grandes highlights the power of local action. The project increases the reproductive success of four threatened sea turtle species by protecting their eggs and their beach nesting habitat.

The project’s *Sea Turtle Environmental Education and Protection Program* builds local support and raises children’s awareness about the need for sea turtle conservation. The aim is for the children to become ‘agents of change’, promoting local practices that help turtles in their community.

In 2024, the project’s hatchery had a 95.6% success rate, with 15,543 hatchlings safely released to the sea.

Project staff observed a significant positive change in local children’s behavior. Over 70% of the children who participated in the project’s educational activities disposed of their garbage (or leftovers) in the appropriate manner, instead of littering the beach. For project staff, this change in behavior is an indicator that their efforts are paying off and that “every small step counts!”

The project is both aiding sea turtle populations and inspiring the next generation of young conservationists at Playa Salinas Grandes.

Size of area: 8 km of beach

Field partner: Gabriela Paredes, Lucia Balladares, Antonia Duarte and Yaoska Torres

Since 2020: \$ 225,255



Protection milestone at Los Amigos Conservation Concession

As deforestation worsens in Peru’s Madre de Dios region, LACC’s strategic location as part of an 8-million-hectare block of protected wilderness helps to maintain functional ecological connectivity across a large area.

In 2024, Promotores carried out 227 patrols (69 fluvial, 13 terrestrial, and 145 mixed), supported by drone overflights. In addition, 34 high-resolution satellite (SkySat) images were analyzed by Conservación Amazónica (ACCA) GIS specialists and 40% of the concession's critical areas were carefully monitored by remote sensing. During the patrols, no new evidence of illegal activity was found within the concession. However, a new illegal logging front was identified north of LACC in an abandoned forest concession.

During the year, two Promotores appeared as witnesses before the judiciary in connection with an illegal logging complaint filed with the Specialized Prosecutor’s Office for Environmental Matters (FEMA) in May 2021. Their testimony was valuable and led to the conviction of two illegal loggers.

ACCA continues to watch for any evidence of PIACI (Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation) within LACC (to protect both PIACI and ACCA staff), and to gather all available information about them to

better understand their behaviour and reasons for their movement within the concession—including the possibility that illegal activities in the Madre de Dios Territorial Reserve are forcing them to move into LACC.

<i>Size of area:</i>	146,000 hectares (1,460 km²)
<i>Field partner:</i>	Conservación Amazónica – ACCA
<i>Since 2011:</i>	\$ 1,251,902
Trust fund capital at year-end:	\$ 1,928,345

About LACC

Located in the department of Madre de Dios in southwestern Peru, Los Amigos Conservation Concession (LACC) protects more than 146,000 hectares and serves as a buffer zone to the southern portion of the remote Madre de Dios Territorial Reserve, a region used sporadically by a population of Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation and/or Initial Contact - PIACI (for its acronym in Spanish), safeguarding this vulnerable group from invaders.

In 2011, ICFC established a trust fund to endow positions for LACC Promotores de Conservación, who guard the reserve, conduct biological monitoring, and provide support for researchers and visitors.

Jaguar caught on camera trap at LACC



Andean bears recruit allies

The Andean bear (VU) is one of the few large mammals to use the entire highland-to-lowland range in Manu National Park—a biodiversity hotspot—and we suspect they play an important role in seed dispersal. This project aims to foster human-wildlife coexistence and protect cloud forest ecosystems.

In 2024, community-based reforestation work continued along the upper boundary of Manú National Park. The objective is to restore habitat for the long-term survival of Andean bears and other cloud forest species, and to raise local awareness about the plight of cloud forest ecosystems in the face of climate change.

ACCA project staff engaged with 1,110 participants in communities from the Mapacho and Kosñipata basins, providing environmental education at ACCA's Wayqecha Cloud Forest Research Station and in 10 local schools, including some in remote communities.

ACCA staff trained eight local community leaders from three communities, equipping them with skills in conservation, Andean bear monitoring, climate change adaptation, and sustainable tourism. The project hosted six fellows from Peru and Panamá, who completed 12 months of fieldwork and six research projects on Andean bear ecology, contributing valuable insights into conservation efforts.

<i>Size of area:</i>	9,119 hectares
<i>Field partner:</i>	Conservación Amazónica—ACCA
<i>Since 2021:</i>	\$ 114,665



Our field partner Native Future is helping Wounaan to title more than 160,000 hectares.

<i>Size of area:</i>	22,326 hectares
<i>Field partner:</i>	Native Future
<i>Since 2021:</i>	\$ 209,003

Above: Black-throated trogan. Photo: Scott Hecker
Left: The annual 'Ukukuq Queuñan Raymi' (or Andean Bear) Festival celebrates the Andean bear’s crucial ecological role. Photo: ACCA



Wounaan gain recognition as allies for Panama’s environmental protection authorities

The Wounaan territorial monitoring program has proven pivotal for the protection of 30,000 hectares of tropical forest and biodiversity in the Maje Mountains of Panama. Since 2017, the Wounaan have reported on 260 hectares of deforestation to Panama’s environmental authorities, and 37 people have been investigated for their environmental infractions or crimes.

In February 2024, evidence provided by Wounaan territorial monitors enabled prosecutors to investigate and charge nineteen government officials, lawyers and topographers for land administration and environmental crimes.

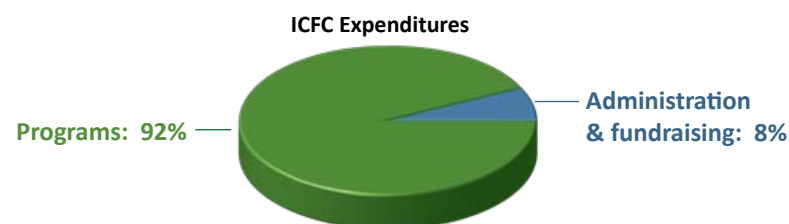
Seventy-three claims by loggers to approximately 3,000 hectares of the Wounaan territory of Aruza were deemed illegitimate. In July, the Aruza were able to resubmit their application for a collective title to all 8,000 hectares of their land.

Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2024

Complete audited financial statements are available on our website.

	2024	2023
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash	281,303	—
Accounts receivable	32,825	364,175
Project advances	531,170	1,664,247
	845,298	2,028,422
Capital Assets		
Unrestricted investments	60	49,126
Capital Assets	97,508	95,592
	97,568	144,718
Restricted Assets		
ACG Parataxonomist Fund	3,274,399	2,622,152
Los Amigos Conservation Concession Fund	1,928,345	1,657,532
Poon Fund for Tropical Nature Reserves	1,265,204	970,266
Sustainability Fund for Jocotoco Reserves	1,304,631	1,038,294
Administration Fund	783,003	715,953
	8,555,582	7,004,197
TOTAL ASSETS	9,498,448	9,177,337
LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCES		
Current liabilities		
Bank indebtedness	—	763,421
Accounts payable	219,557	148,168
Deferred income	17,350	500
	236,907	912,089
Fund balances		
General fund	705,959	1,261,051
Restricted fund	8,555,582	7,004,197
	9,261,541	8,265,248
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCES	9,498,448	9,177,337

Message from ICFC's Chief Financial Officer: *These financial statements reflect our ongoing commitment to transparency and the responsible stewardship of the financial resources entrusted to us to advance our mission of conserving biodiversity "where nature needs us most."* — Keith Abriel, CPA, CA, CFA



Statement of Operations

	2024	2023
REVENUE		
Donations	9,861,103	9,592,014
Gain/(Loss) on investment and foreign currency	1,752,693	(1,346,232)
NET REVENUE	11,613,796	8,245,782
EXPENSES		
Argentina: Hooded grebe & Magellanic plover	110,497	120,183
Bahamas: Salinas Long Island restoration	89,881	320,541
Bolivia: Blue-throated macaw	83,988	133,448
Brazil: Jurua aquatic biodiversity	49,387	63,107
Brazil: Kayapó Project	4,061,506	3,436,362
Cambodia: Marine conservation	207,017	275,873
Chile: Maullin Coastal Wetlands	124,078	116,300
Colombia: Harlequin frogs	53,151	82,246
Costa Rica: ACG parataxonomists & marine education	132,624	117,190
Costa Rica: Osa Ridge to Reef	292,001	273,840
Costa Rica: Osa Youth Nature Program	160,198	317,603
Democratic Republic of Congo: Grauer's gorilla	139,631	241,133
Ecuador: Choco land acquisition & FCAT reserve management	—	323,154
Guatemala: Laguna Grande reserve	56,568	92,117
Indonesia: Papua forest conservation	455,258	231,644
Indonesia: Sulawesi threatened wildlife	224,020	223,114
Kenya: Kijabe Forest	120,618	80,752
Kenya: Maasai vulture sanctuary	35,208	92,518
Kenya: Mount Elgon elephants	148,308	53,903
Kenya: Mukutan Conservancy (formerly Laikipia Conservancy)	695,977	635,143
Madagascar: Farankaraina community forest	86,155	90,385
Malawi: Lake Malawi fish conservation	889,592	633,437
Mali: Desert elephants	94,606	249,170
Mexico: Vaquita porpoise	70,060	137,571
Nepal: Red panda project	82,046	76,365
Nicaragua: Sea turtle project	50,696	56,498
Panama: Majé Mountains Indigenous-led conservation	63,396	68,256
Peru: Andean Amazon -- MAAP	2,059	342,382
Peru: Conservation Graduate Research Fellowship	100,619	167,828
Peru: ICFC Field Training Fellowship	227,965	120,026
Peru: Los Amigos Conservation Concession	225,474	201,239
Small projects (various countries)	287,844	444,415
South Africa: Rhino conservation	137,926	107,178
Southeast Asia: Spoon-billed sandpiper	98,491	94,005
Rainforest Trust project (Guinea, saving wildlife from mining)	108,187	139,243
TOTAL Program Expenses	9,765,032	10,158,169
Fundraising ¹	136,317	109,848
Administration ¹	716,155	569,859
TOTAL EXPENSES	10,617,504	10,837,876
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	996,292	(2,592,094)

¹ 100% of Administration/Fundraising expenses were covered by ICFC's core group of long-term donors.

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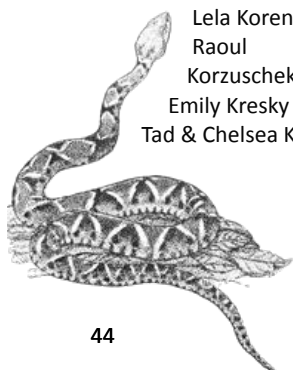
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ICFC's 2030 Goals

Summary from our Strategic Plan 2024–2030



LAND: To significantly support protection of an additional **2 million hectares** (from a 2023 baseline), bringing the total to **20 million hectares**, including six Indigenous-led projects



AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS: To expand aquatic conservation efforts to **4,000 km of river and lakeshore**, and over 40,000 ha of marine areas



SPECIES: To protect at least **600 Threatened Species** (CR, EN, VU per IUCN Red List) and **300 Near Threatened** (NT) species across our project areas



CLIMATE: To substantially increase climate mitigation and adaptation benefits, including storing at least **2 billion tonnes of above-ground carbon** and preventing deforestation on a massive scale



PEOPLE: By 2030 our projects will **directly benefit 70,000 people** with sustainable livelihoods and **employ 2,000 people** in conservation activities.



ICFC salutes its incredible field partners around the world—our conservation heroes. It is only through their skill, dedication, and deep local knowledge that we can turn our 2030 goals into reality.

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Warthog by Scott Hecker
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