



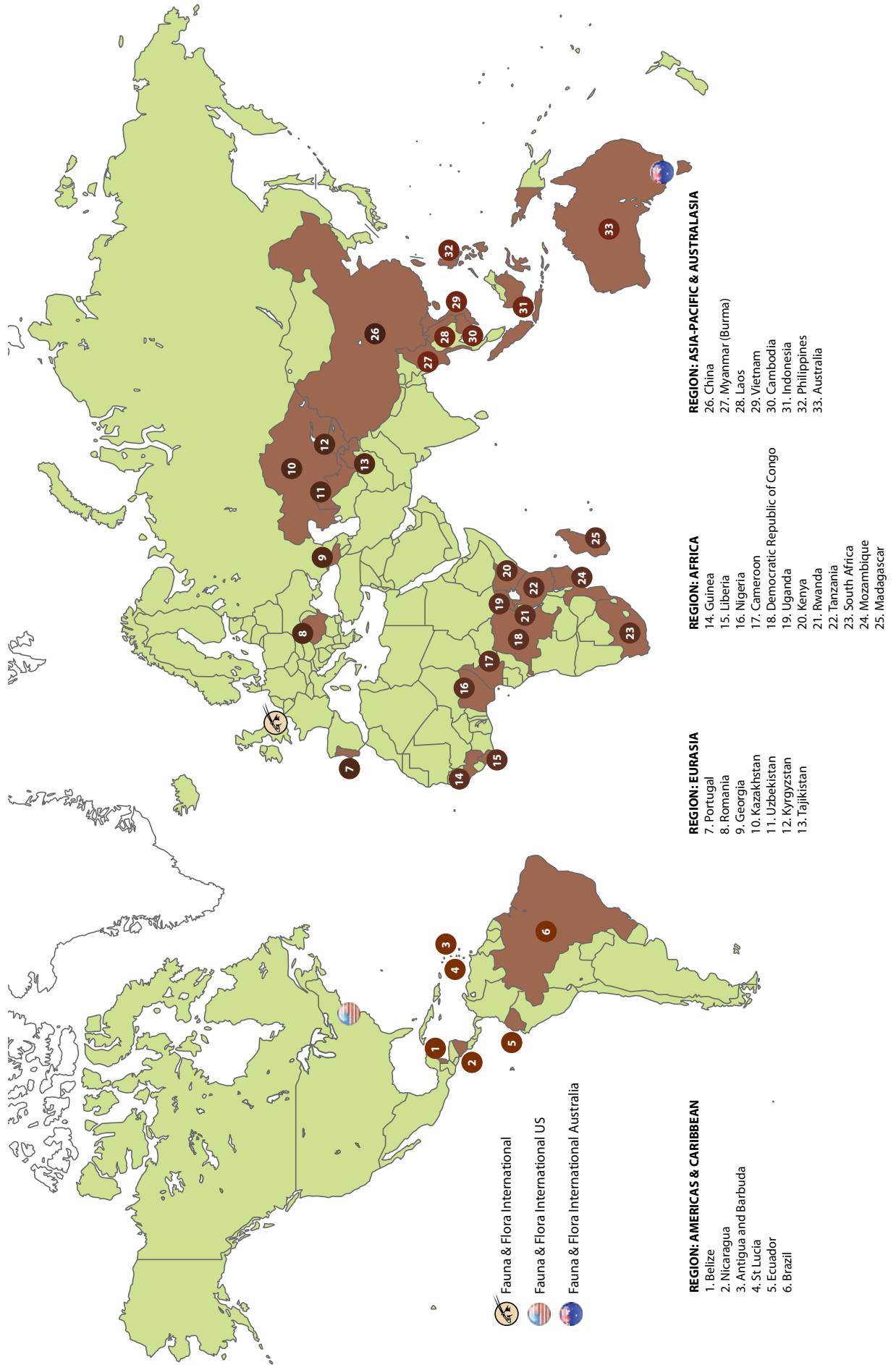
2010

# Summary of programme of activities

- Fauna & Flora International -



# Where we work



## CONTENTS

2 Where we work

### 4 Africa

4 Cameroon

4 Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

5 Democratic Republic of Congo/Rwanda/Uganda

5 Guinea

5 Guinea/Liberia/Côte D'Ivoire/Sierra Leone

6 Kenya

6 Kenya/Uganda/Tanzania

6 Liberia

7 Madagascar

7 Mozambique

7 Nigeria

8 South Africa

8 Southern Africa

8 Tanzania

8 Uganda

### 9 Americas & Caribbean

9 Brazil

9 Belize

10 Ecuador

11 Insular Caribbean

11 Nicaragua

12 Southern Cone

### 13 Asia-Pacific

13 Cambodia

14 China

15 Indonesia

17 Laos

17 Myanmar

18 Philippines

18 Vietnam

19 Australia

### 20 Eurasia

20 Georgia

20 Kyrgystan

21 Portugal

21 Romania

21 Tajikistan

22 Uzbekistan/Kazakhstan

### 23 Land & Species

23 Halcyon Land & Sea

23 Halcyon climate assessment

23 Cambridge Conservation Initiative

23 Flagship Species Fund

24 Grant review process

24 Rapid Response Facility

24 Climate change and conservation

24 Marine conservation initiative

24 Global Trees Campaign

### 25 Conservation Capacity

25 Conservation Leadership Programme

25 Oryx - The International Journal of Conservation

25 Partner Support Programme

25 Cambridge Conservation Initiative, MPhil in Conservation Leadership

### 26 Business & Biodiversity

26 Anglo American

26 Anglo and FFI livelihood project

26 Eni E&P

27 Ecuador - Villano

27 Development and implementation of Rio Tinto biodiversity strategy

27 British American Tobacco Biodiversity Partnership

27 BHP Billiton

27 Lafarge

27 Addressing conflict between conservation and biofuels in Indonesia

27 Nimba transboundary conservation

28 The Ustyurt Plateau project

28 Leading biodiversity innovation at the sector level

### 29 Conservation, Livelihoods & Governance

29 Conservation Initiative on Human Rights (CIHR)

29 Anglo American partnership

29 Climate foresight tool

### 30 Environmental Markets

30 FFI-Macquarie Carbon Forests Taskforce

30 Protecting Indonesia's Ulu Masen forest through carbon finance

30 Protecting carbon-rich peat forests in West Kalimantan

31 Natural Value Initiative



Sabinyo volcano where Uganda, Rwanda and Democratic Republic of Congo borders meet © Juan Pablo Moreiras/FFI

# Africa

Africa's wild places face a myriad of increasing threats, such as expanding human populations, commercial agriculture, land conversion and the extraction of minerals and hydrocarbons.

FFI's Africa programme covers a wide range of conservation landscapes and critical habitats in sub-Saharan countries. We are focusing on using innovative models to secure intact areas of land for conservation in the long term. These include forests and wetlands and wilderness areas sufficiently large to maintain viability of large mammal populations, the integrity of ecosystems and the resources they supply to local people. The success of many of our projects is based on the catalytic value of flagship species, from gorillas and rhinos to bats and frogs.

Working in several post-conflict countries in Africa, FFI is continuing to help rebuild and reinforce conservation capacity and governance needed by national authorities. We are working with the private sector and local organizations from national to village level. Our projects aim to generate the incentives to local communities for sustainable use of sensitive habitats and species, and mechanisms to support the management of communal areas of land, coast and sea.

## Cameroon

### Support to gorilla conservation at the Dja Biosphere Reserve

FFI has been working to protect western lowland gorillas in and around the Dja Reserve, a Man and Biosphere Reserve and a World Heritage Site, since 2003. We are currently working with local partners in Cameroon to create an early warning system against poaching using FrontlineSMS and mobile phone technology. An important component of this work is the involvement of local communities through the established Village Ape Forum. The Forum facilitates the gathering and relaying of intelligence on the movements and activities of poachers to the Reserve's central command units for rapid and targeted deployments of the protection and monitoring forces.

### Support to gorilla conservation at the Bechati-Lebialem forest

The Bechati-Lebialem forest, which lies on Cameroon's southern border with Nigeria, is home to a sub-population of the critically endangered Cross River gorilla. FFI's initial support to the Environment and Rural Development Foundation from 2003 led to the discovery of this previously unrecorded sub-population at this site in 2004. FFI has since continued to provide strategic technical and financial support to the project to put in place a community-based model for great ape conservation in the region. FFI and our partners are currently working towards the establishment of the Bechati-Lebialem Community Wildlife Sanctuary which will be the first of its kind in Cameroon.

## Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

### Community conservation strategy for the Democratic Republic of Congo

Wildlife in the DRC has suffered from the ongoing human conflict over natural resources. The Congolese Protected Areas Authority (ICCN) has realised that conservation will only work if communities around national parks are supportive and involved. FFI played a crucial role in helping the ICCN draft the country's first community conservation strategy which provides guidelines for involving local people in the management of the protected areas and their natural resources. We are now supporting the implementation of the strategy in Garamba, Kahuzi-Biega and Maiko National Parks.

## Support to Garamba National Park

Garamba National Park in northeast DRC is a World Heritage Site and its extensive grasslands support priority populations of elephants and the Congolese giraffe. FFI is working with the ICCN, the African Parks Foundation and local communities to address the threats to the park and its key species and habitats, primarily through implementing community awareness and conservation initiatives to garner local support for the park's conservation.

## Gorilla conservation in Kahuzi-Biega and Maiko National Parks

Grauer's gorilla can only be found in the mountain and transitional forests of eastern DRC, making the Kahuzi-Biega and Maiko National Parks vital refuges. The gorilla is endangered due to habitat loss, illegal hunting and the near breakdown of protected area management compounded by fierce civil war over the past 13 years. A catastrophic population crash is suspected across its range but the current status remains largely unknown. FFI is helping park authorities monitor the gorillas, while improving their skills and resources, and facilitating community projects which not only address the threats to gorillas, but also improve the livelihoods of local people.

## Democratic Republic of Congo/Rwanda/Uganda

### International Gorilla Conservation Programme

Fewer than 720 mountain gorillas struggle to survive in Central Africa's forests. The International Gorilla Conservation Programme, a partnership between FFI, the World Wide Fund for Nature and the African Wildlife Foundation, supports protected area authorities in three countries to improve conservation of gorillas and their mountain forest habitat and to improve local livelihoods to help mitigate threats to this critically endangered species.

## Guinea

### Capacity building for biodiversity conservation in southern Guinea

FFI is supporting the Guinean government department responsible for managing the environmental impacts of mining concessions in the Nimba and Simandou mountains: Centre de Gestion de l'Environnement des Monts Nimba et Simandou (CEGENS). We began by helping to improve CEGENS' infrastructure and equipment and are now focusing on developing their technical capacity, to ensure mining causes as little damage as possible to these highly biodiverse regions. This work is currently being strengthened through a strategic partnership between FFI and United Nations Development Programme in Guinea for the management of the Nimba Biodiversity Project.

### Protection of forest elephants at the Zيامa-Wenegesi transfrontier corridor

Guinea's forest elephants have come under increasing pressure from poaching, habitat loss and fragmentation and conflicts with the human population. FFI is working in partnership with the N'Zérékoré Forestry Centre to develop a plan to protect elephants along their migration route between Guinea's Zيامa Biosphere Reserve and the adjacent Wenegesi natural forest reserve in Liberia. We are building the anti-poaching skills of Zيامa reserve staff and raising awareness among local communities and other stakeholders on ways to mitigate human-elephant conflict. This work will also benefit other threatened species in the area, such as western chimpanzees, and enhance regional collaboration on species-focused conservation programmes.

## Guinea/Liberia/Côte D'Ivoire/Sierra Leone

### Nimba transboundary conservation

FFI is facilitating communication between the Guinea, Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire authorities in order for them to better manage natural resource use in the highly biodiverse Nimba mountains. (see Business & Biodiversity Programme section, page 26)

### Western chimpanzee conservation in Liberia and Guinea

The western chimpanzee is the most threatened subspecies of chimpanzee – 75 per cent have disappeared over the past 30 years. FFI is working in Guinea's Nimba Biosphere Reserve and Liberia's Sapo National Park to survey each chimpanzee population. Our support has led to local action plans to combat habitat loss, bush meat hunting and the increasing illegal traffic of infant chimpanzees. We are also helping local communities develop cane rat, pig and fish farming as alternatives to hunting for bush meat, while developing a monitoring system to track the project's impact on wildlife. Lessons learned will be shared with other conservation organizations working on Tiwai Island in Sierra Leone.

## Kenya

### Conservation and sustainable development interventions in Ol Pejeta Conservancy

Thanks to a very generous donation from the Arcus Foundation, FFI was able to protect 90,000 acres at the foot of Mount Kenya. The Ol Pejeta Conservancy contains the largest black rhino population in East Africa and is also home to a chimpanzee sanctuary. The property has been transferred from FFI to a Kenyan non-profit entity under a long-term management agreement which incorporates ecotourism and livestock marketing for financial security. FFI is providing ongoing support towards developing their community development programme, conservation initiatives and guides development through Board participation.

### Kenya/Uganda/Tanzania

#### Support to the East African Wild Life Society

As the oldest conservation organization in East Africa, the East African Wild Life Society (EAWLS) has benefitted from support from FFI. It has been extremely successful in combating rhino and elephant poaching in the past, but was struggling to function by the mid 1990s. FFI has helped to rebuild EAWLS' conservation capacity and is currently supporting them in the development of a regional conservation plan and focusing on their coastal and marine programme. The overall goal is to conserve biodiversity and improve the livelihoods of coastal communities through the sustainable management of coastal and marine resources in Kenya.

#### Conservation of black and white rhinos in East Africa

The successful conservation of rhinos in relatively small secure fenced areas has been pioneered in Kenya. FFI is financially and technically supporting the Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya to conserve their rapidly growing population of over a hundred black and white rhinos. The conservancy also generates surplus and animals for re-stocking other areas. We are particularly involved in an initiative to re-establish the northern white rhino. The last four breeding northern white rhinos were translocated from a Czech zoo in December 2009. FFI is also part of the East African Community Rhino Management Group, involving exchange and sharing of expertise and rhinos between the East African range states.

## Liberia

### Strengthening forest management in post-conflict Liberia

Though the brutal civil war ended in 2003, the ongoing fight over Liberia's rich natural resources is still fuelling social and economic, not to mention environmental, problems. FFI is helping the national government to introduce policies which integrate Community, Conservation and Commercial interests (known as the 3 C's). Work on forest governance issues at the national level continues apace, including facilitating the drafting of new laws such as the Community Right Law and the Wildlife Law. FFI is also supporting the government in developing Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) pilot projects throughout Liberia.



## Protecting Sapo National Park

FFI played a crucial role in the re-establishment of the country's only national park, Sapo National Park, by working closely with the Forestry Development Authority (FDA). We now continue to support the FDA at Sapo in park operations and ongoing training of park staff, together with ecological research and biological monitoring of flagship species. New species of fauna and flora continue to be discovered in Sapo, demonstrating how vital it is to conserve this West African wildlife refuge.

## Community engagement around Sapo National Park

FFI is helping to establish Liberia's first communally managed forests in three pilot areas by working closely with rural communities living outside Sapo National Park. This is complemented by an education programme which conveys the conservation message to communities through workshops, posters and even theatre. We are also implementing an in-depth study of the role of bush meat in local livelihoods to evaluate the potential for introducing viable and locally relevant alternatives. Bush meat makes up a significant share of the local protein intake, thus addressing this threat to wildlife in a locally sensitive way is essential.

## Madagascar

### Support to Madagasikara Voakajy

FFI is supporting local organization Madagasikara Voakajy in its work to conserve rare bats, reptiles, amphibians and other small vertebrates found only in Madagascar. We are also helping them to safeguard critical habitats through community engagement, promote sustainable use of natural resources, develop education and awareness programmes, and improve career opportunities of young Malagasy conservation scientists.

## Mozambique

### Protecting livelihoods and wildlife in Niassa Reserve

At 42,000 km<sup>2</sup> – the size of Denmark - Niassa National Reserve is one of Africa's largest and most undeveloped wild areas. It is home to thousands of elephant, sable antelope, zebra, and other iconic African species, including the second largest population of the endangered African wild dog. FFI supports our partner Sociedade para Gestão e Desenvolvimento da Reserva do Niassa to manage and promote the reserve, in particular to develop human-wildlife conflict strategies and an integrated management plan for the Lugenda river, the source of a major fishery for local communities. Wildlife populations have doubled since FFI became active in Niassa in 2000 - a clear sign that we are having a positive impact on this unique protected area.

## Nigeria

### Supporting conservation of the Afi forest complex

FFI is leading a strong conservation partnership of five organizations to protect the best known sub-population of the critically endangered Cross River gorilla at Afi Wildlife Sanctuary in Cross River State. We have established an effective protection and monitoring system at the Sanctuary, supported by the latest advances in geo-spatial mapping technology. FFI is also encouraging livelihoods that do not harm the gorillas or its habitat by helping local communities to use the forests around Afi and in the Afi-Mbe Mountains wildlife corridor in a sustainable way. Lastly, we are also investigating the exciting potential for revenue from both ecotourism and the carbon markets, which would ensure long-term protection of the forests and the Cross River gorillas.



Malagasy flying fox © Evan Bowen-Jones/FFI

## South Africa

### Conservation of the Cape Floral Kingdom

FFI's partner, the Flower Valley Conservation Trust, works to protect the fynbos, the most botanically rich habitat on Earth, located at the southern-most tip of South Africa. Together, we continue to develop and extend a financially and ecologically sustainable programme of conservation based on the marketing of wild fynbos flowers around the world, including Marks & Spencer in the UK and Pick & Pay supermarket in South Africa. FFI is also supporting the Agulhas Biodiversity Initiative, which aims to conserve the Agulhas Plain landscape through securing privately-owned land under sustainable land management and other innovative activities.

## Southern Africa

### Support to ResourceAfrica

South African-based organization ResourceAfrica is in the vanguard of the new generation of charities in southern Africa that focus on the linkages between conservation and rural development. ResourceAfrica is currently active in raising awareness of environmental issues through community theatre and in the field of community adaptation to climate change. FFI aims to support the group in its work, both in community-based initiatives in South Africa and more widely throughout the continent.

## Tanzania

### Protecting coastal forest on Pemba Island

FFI has been working in partnership with the Department of Commercial Crops, Fruits and Forestry of Zanzibar since the late 1990s to protect the critical remnants of the coastal forest mosaic on Pemba Island and their resident endemic and threatened species, in particular the Pemba flying fox. This fruit bat was listed as Critically Endangered by the IUCN Red List of threatened species and is now listed as Vulnerable due to the successful conservation efforts of the department, the local communities and FFI. The project also seeks to develop sustainable livelihood options for communities on the Island.

### Securing the Kwakuchinja corridor

The Kwakuchinja corridor is vital for wildlife movement between the Tarangire and Lake Manyara National Parks and so underpins the resilience of the wider ecosystem. FFI is promoting conservation of the area by securing threatened sections of the corridor through sustainable land management and livelihoods-driven approaches. We recognise the corridor as a resource for sustainable economic growth for local communities and so are ensuring that people can benefit from its conservation long into the future.

### Support to the Mpingo Conservation Project

FFI is helping our partner the Mpingo Conservation Project, which we helped to establish, to develop sustainable forest management amongst communities in south-eastern Tanzania. Their miombo forests contain mpingo, or African blackwood - the world's most valuable timber used in musical instruments such as clarinets and bagpipes. Communities who collectively and sustainably manage their local forests can earn a hundred times more than they did before and certification to the Forest Stewardship Council standards will enable them to charge a premium above illegally harvested timber.


### Support to the Tongwe Trust

The Tongwe Trust is a small community organization devoted to helping the Tongwe people protect and benefit from their ancestral land, which borders Lake Tanganyika, north of Mahale Mountains National Park. FFI is harnessing support for the Trust to establish, protect and manage Village Land Forest Reserves, which will safeguard forests on village land that are critical habitats for chimpanzees and elephants. We are also helping the villages to develop sustainable use of forest resources.

## Uganda

### Cultural values and conservation at Lake Mburo and the Rwenzori Mountains

FFI is working to build local support for protected areas through innovative initiatives at the Lake Mburo and Rwenzori Mountains National Parks within the Albertan Rift. We aim to show that integration of local cultural values into park management can improve relations between park staff and neighbouring communities and result in more effective conservation. Results so far are positive – for instance, a cultural village has been constructed at Lake Mburo National Park to enable Bahima pastoralists to showcase their “beautiful cows” and to explain the cultural value of these animals to tourists and young Bahimas.



# Americas & Caribbean

Red billed tropic birds, Antigua & Barbuda © Dr. J Daltry/ FFI

Latin America and the Caribbean contain a huge proportion of the world's biodiversity, including the world's most extensive rainforest, its longest mountain range and many unique species. But the region is experiencing severe loss of habitat and species.

Multiple threats, such as agricultural expansion, overfishing, alien invasive species and the deforestation of wilderness areas opened up by new roads and industries, will be increasingly compounded by a changing climate. Wildlife will require refuges and connectivity in the landscape in order to adapt. Resilient and intact ecosystems are key to provide the resources that people depend upon.

FFI's Americas & Caribbean Programme works with government, industry and communities to conserve both terrestrial and marine ecosystems with high biodiversity value. Through close partnerships with local people and national organizations we aim to develop strong institutions and good governance to protect priority species and habitats, enabling people to engage in and benefit from the management of their own natural resources.

## Brazil

Amazon basin: Cristalino State Park and adjacent landscape

Despite the global importance of the Brazilian Amazon and the official Brazilian government strategy to protect it, the world's largest forest is threatened by agriculture and cattle ranching. FFI is working to curb the advance of deforestation by helping the State Ministry of Environment to implement the Cristalino State Park management plan, which we helped to produce. We also support the Cristalino Ecological Foundation (CEF) and other partners to protect 6,000 hectares of adjacent private reserves and help local communities improve their land use and livelihoods. FFI is endeavouring to strengthen CEF technically, financially and in terms of corporate governance, so that it can increase its effectiveness and sustainability.

Private protected areas: catalysing conservation through private reserves

Brazil's excellent legislation on creating Private Protected Areas (PPAs) is proving an invaluable tool for conserving the country's forests. FFI's extensive experience with PPAs lends itself well to our current focus, which is strengthening the support provided to protected area owners through federal and state PPA associations. We plan to help address the critical need for economic incentives, such as payment for ecosystem services that can increase the viability and sustainability of conservation. We also intend to facilitate links between specific PPAs and potential sponsors, including corporations in Brazil.

## Belize

Integrated management of the Golden Stream Watershed

FFI and our local partner the Ya'axché Conservation Trust are engaged in an exciting initiative to develop a mosaic of community-owned land and conservation areas across the Golden Stream Watershed, from the forests of the Maya Mountains down to coral reefs and mangroves on the Caribbean coast. Within this, Ya'axché manages one Private Protected Area, the Golden Stream Corridor Preserve, and one state protected area, the Bladen Nature Reserve. Bladen is the biological crown jewel of Belize's protected areas system and plays a vital role in preserving the quality of the water draining onto the Belize Barrier Reef.

## Developing biodiversity-friendly enterprise in southern Belize

FFI and the Ya'axché Conservation Trust are working to establish biodiversity-friendly community businesses in the Toledo district, one of Belize's poorest areas. Shade-grown organic cacao, organic vegetable production, and small-scale tourism initiatives will help to lift local communities out of poverty while ensuring the protection of the highly diverse Golden Stream Watershed. Community members are also trained in biological monitoring and participate directly in the conservation efforts.

### Building the capacity of Ya'axché Conservation Trust

The Ya'axché Conservation Trust, established over 10 years ago, is an organization with substantial technical capacity and a growing impact and reputation in Belize. As founder and partner, FFI will continue helping Ya'axché to become stronger and more sustainable, with high standards of governance, excellent leadership, operational efficiency and a bigger, more reliable revenue base. The latter is a top priority, since the management of the private reserve and Bladen Nature Reserve imply substantial fixed costs for the organization.

## Ecuador

### Establishment and protection of the Awacachi Corridor

The most significant tract of Chocó rainforest in Ecuador, the Awacachi Corridor, was in grave danger of being converted to pasture and palm oil plantations. This would have destroyed vital habitat for the endangered great green macaw and many other threatened species and jeopardised a crucial wildlife corridor. FFI stepped in to help Ecuadorian organization Fundación Sirua to protect 10,000 hectares of forest through over 50 land purchases. Our core work here is to maintain and improve biodiversity through reforestation, biodiversity monitoring and conservation enforcement by locally trained rangers selected from neighbouring communities.

### Sustainability of the Awacachi Corridor

FFI is working with Fundación Sirua to reduce human pressure on the Awacachi Corridor by addressing issues of land tenure and promoting biodiversity-friendly products such as native bamboo and cacao, which can be grown under the natural forest canopy. We are also implementing environmental education programmes and strengthening Fundación Sirua's institutional capacity. In addition, FFI is developing an "avoided deforestation" project through the FFI-Macquarie partnership, in which the income from carbon credits can be used to finance conservation.

### Ecuadorian Amazon: Villano biodiversity project for best practice in the oil sector

FFI is working with the Italian energy company Eni E&P, its Ecuadorian subsidiary Agip Oil Ecuador (AOE) and the Catholic University in Quito to create a model of good practice within the oil sector in the Ecuadorian Amazon. The University and AOE are investigating both primary and secondary impacts of oil production on biodiversity. The findings are being used to draft an action plan for AOE and to inform Eni environmental management systems. We plan to expand our activities in the Ecuadorian Amazon, through a project based on incentives for conservation by indigenous communities.

### Helping communities on the eastern slopes of the Andes

FFI is supporting Ecuadorian organization Samiri Foundation to work with rural communities at Oyacachi in the Cayambe-Coca Ecological Reserve, high in the Andean páramo ecosystem. We are working to restore the degraded páramo by supporting biodiversity-friendly livelihoods, such as the production of wooden sculptures which can be sold to tourists. With climate change threatening to dry out the páramo, protecting the area's habitat can maximize the ecosystem's resilience, maintaining its unique and threatened biodiversity.

### Conserving natural habitat on the western slopes of the Andes

FFI has negotiated the acquisition of a 4,000-hectare property that contains a wide variety of habitats from cloud forest up to high altitude páramo moorland. Protecting this landscape is crucial for the security of water catchment areas of major importance for the capital city of Quito. This stunning and little-explored area is likely to be of extremely high biological value and FFI and partners will be surveying its species and putting in place effective conservation measures before major threats to the habitat materialize.





Lizard from Sombrero, Anguilla © Dr. Jenny Daltry/FFI

### Supporting the establishment of Marine Protected Areas in Ecuador

The Ecuadorian government is striving to establish a system of Marine Protected Areas along the coast. FFI is supporting this process together with the national organization Fundación Futuro Latino Americano and the Ministry of Environment. We are focusing especially on developing innovative participatory governance systems for the emerging protected areas. We are also encouraging sustainable use of economically valuable resources, such as the spiny oyster, which has been a valuable resource since pre-Columbian times but is now seriously depleted. FFI plans to fund a collaboration between Ecuador and similar initiatives in Costa Rica and Nicaragua.

### Insular Caribbean

#### Offshore Islands Conservation Programme in Antigua and Barbuda

This initiative was launched in 1995 as an emergency response to save the critically endangered Antiguan racer snake. FFI and our partners have increased the racer population from 50 individuals to more than 350 over 65 hectares thanks to eradication of alien invasive rats and mongooses, a re-introduction programme, and nationwide education campaigns. Twelve offshore islands have experienced five-fold increases in many other threatened and endemic birds, lizards and plants, which are monitored by trained student interns and local volunteers. We also helped to establish, and continue to support, Antigua's largest Marine Protected Area, which protects 25 per cent of the coast.

#### Eradicating alien invasive species in the Lesser Antilles

Building on our achievements in Antigua and Barbuda, FFI and our local partners are currently preparing to eradicate alien species such as Eurasian rats, goats and mongooses from Redonda (a large, uninhabited island in the Eastern Caribbean) and strategic areas around Anguilla and Saint Lucia. We will also strengthen the protection of these islands and adjoining marine ecosystems. The many rare native species that will benefit include the lesser Antillean iguana, Saint Lucia racer, lignum vitae tree and leatherback turtle. Coastal restoration is also crucial for enabling ecosystems and economies to adapt to climate change.

#### Conservation and sustainable use of forests on Saint Lucia

FFI has been providing technical expertise on the development of forest management systems and biodiversity conservation on Saint Lucia since 2008. We are also helping local partners to explore the potential for sustainable commercial timber extraction and non-timber forest products. In 2010 FFI initiated a pilot project with the Saint Lucia Forestry Department and local communities to develop more sustainable harvesting practices for the lansan tree, a globally threatened rainforest tree whose valuable resin is used for incense in religious ceremonies.

### Nicaragua

#### Nicaraguan sea turtles and marine conservation

Poachers are a serious threat to leatherback, hawksbill and olive ridley turtles on Nicaragua's Pacific coast. They illegally harvest the turtle eggs along beaches and kill hawksbill turtles to use their shell for jewellery. FFI has trained over 80

community members in turtle protection and hatchery management and achieved an impressive rise in hatching success on two key beaches. In addition, we have helped communities to find other ways of making a living, such as making handbags from recycled plastic bags, and raised national awareness to reduce demand for turtle eggs. We are maintaining all this work and extending protection to near-shore waters and a third, recently discovered leatherback turtle nesting beach.

### Conserving Nicaraguan dry forest

The majority of Nicaragua's population lives on its Pacific coast, thereby putting growing pressure on nearby natural resources. FFI aims to ensure the long-term conservation of Chacocente Wildlife Refuge, one of the largest tracts of Nicaragua's unique mosaic of dry forest and Pacific coastal habitats. We are helping the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources to implement the Refuge Management Plan and establish a system for increased community participation in management, whilst promoting sustainable alternative livelihoods, such as catering and other services to visitors.

### Establishing Ometepe as a Biosphere Reserve

The volcanic island of Ometepe in Lake Nicaragua contains all the major Nicaraguan habitat types and is important for Pan-American migratory birds. FFI and local partners produced a management plan for the island's Maderas Volcano Natural Reserve, which incorporates ecotourism for sustainable income generation. We are now supporting its implementation through a recently approved community co-management system. FFI has also supported the Government of Nicaragua's initiative to establish the whole of the island as a Biosphere Reserve, which will help to achieve both biodiversity conservation and sustainable local development through tourism and agriculture.

### Building partner capacity

Our objective is to expand and strengthen the array of Nicaraguan government and civil society conservation organizations. FFI will continue its training programmes to build technical capacity and will complement these with improvements in organizational governance. Current priorities are the strengthening of Fundación Entre Volcanes and other key institutions on Ometepe Island and developing a financially sustainable, participatory governance system at Chacocente Wildlife Refuge.

## Southern Cone

### Landscape management in Patagonia

FFI aims to protect a large area of fragile and pristine wilderness, including forests of southern beech and wetland areas, which support the spectrum of Patagonia's distinctive wildlife. This area is critical for one of the largest populations of Andean condor, a spectacular vulture with a three metre wingspan, which is threatened by hunting and poisoning. We are exploring the potential for landscape level conservation in southern Patagonia through engagement with private landowners in areas of exceptional beauty and biological wealth.





Community ranger training, Aceh © Mahdi Ismail/FFI

# Asia-Pacific

The Asia-Pacific region harbours incredible biological diversity and unique landscapes. It is home to some of the planet's most iconic species, such as the orang-utan and Asian elephant.

Today the region's wildlife and wild places face myriad and mounting threats. High human population densities and rapid economic growth combined with low levels of environmental control and widespread rural poverty place enormous pressure on the region's biodiversity, ecosystems and natural resources.

FFI is working over a range of landscapes from the frozen highlands and deserts of the Tibetan Plateau through the temperate forests of Indochina to the tropical rainforests and reefs of Indonesia to help conserve some of the region's most important species and habitats.

## Cambodia

### Cardamom Mountains Wildlife Sanctuary Programme

FFI is supporting the Ministry of Environment and the Royal Government of Cambodia in the conservation of the highly diverse Cardamom Mountains Range. These forested mountains represent some of the region's largest remaining habitats for threatened species including tiger and guar. FFI is helping to manage and protect the 333,000-hectare Phnom Samkos Wildlife Sanctuary by training, equipping and advising a team of 45 government rangers who patrol the forest. We are also undertaking research and monitoring programmes to better understand the area's special biodiversity. Lastly, FFI is working with local communities, some of the poorest in Cambodia, to increase their overall standard of living.

### Cambodian Elephant Conservation Group

This unique programme brings together key decision makers from government departments, community and local organizations and international NGOs to strike a balance between local community needs and elephant habitat requirements. The group focuses on reducing human–elephant conflict, for example by erecting low-tech 'chili rope' barriers to help farmers defend their fields from elephants. The programme works in parallel to reduce threats to the elephants from revenge killings and help conserve their habitat by rationalising the opening of new fields.

### Cambodian Crocodile Conservation Programme

The critically endangered Siamese crocodile is now extinct from 99 per cent of its former range, following decades of hunting and habitat loss. Less than 250 adults remain, mostly in Cambodia. FFI is working with the government and local communities to protect the remaining wild populations and their habitat by developing crocodile sanctuaries protected by local community wardens. We also advocate for stricter controls over crocodile farming and trade and carry out research and monitoring. In 2009, FFI helped to discover 35 purebred Siamese crocodiles in a local wildlife rescue centre – a vital source of potential genetic diversity for the species.

### University Capacity Building Project

Following decades of under-investment in the education sector, biodiversity conservation in Cambodia is severely hampered by a shortage of trained biologists and managers. To address this issue, FFI helped the Royal University of Phnom Penh establish Cambodia's first Master's degree course in biodiversity conservation in 2005, which has trained over 80 Cambodian

nationals to date. We have also helped to found the country's first natural history museum and scientific periodical, The Cambodian Journal of Natural History. We are now helping to create an inter-disciplinary group of academics and conservation practitioners to undertake original conservation-orientated research in Cambodia.

## China

### China Biodiversity Programme – Guangxi and Chongqing

This European Commission-funded initiative aims to increase integration of biodiversity into the planning of economic and social development of the Chongqing Autonomous Municipality and Guangxi Province, the third most biodiverse province in China. The project is a collaborative effort between FFI and the Provincial Environmental Protection Bureaus to establish government biodiversity targets and other practical tools to support the mainstreaming of conservation into planning for the mining and tourism sectors.

### Tibetan community grassland project

FFI believes that the traditional Tibetan way of life, based around herding livestock on the high altitude grasslands, does not have to be lost to protect the region's environment or to bring the communities out of poverty. We are working with local organizations and other groups to encourage grassland communities to form collaborative management committees, which serve as a forum for discussions on issues such as the predation of domestic stock by wildlife.



Traditional carvings, Tibet © Mark Infield/FFI

### Hainan gibbon

The Hainan gibbon is considered the rarest ape in the world, with only two family groups known to survive in the core of Bawangling Nature Reserve on Hainan Island, off China's southern coast. FFI is helping to increase awareness of the importance of this species through various initiatives, including supporting environmental education in local schools. FFI is also helping nature reserve staff improve their conservation skills in order to better protect the gibbon habitat that remains on Hainan.

### Transboundary cao vit gibbon conservation in Guangxi Province

The critically endangered cao vit gibbon (the closest relative of the Hainan gibbon) was initially believed to survive only in one location in northern Vietnam. In 2006, three more groups were discovered next door in adjacent forest in Guangxi Province, China. Since then, FFI has been active on both sides of the international border to improve the cao vit gibbon's chances of survival. In Guangxi we have been raising awareness among local communities and government and supported the establishment of a protected area. In partnership with one of China's leading gibbon experts we have supported detailed research and observations of this previously little-known species (see page 18 for our cao vit gibbon work in Vietnam).

### Gibbons in Yunnan Province

Yunnan Province has the richest biodiversity and the most gibbon species in China. FFI is helping to coordinate gibbon conservation activities throughout the province, particularly for the western black crested gibbon. We are filling gaps in basic information on this species by actively collecting data in Ailaoshan National Nature Reserve while working with the government to develop and implement species conservation plans. In addition, FFI is working with the management authorities of Gaoligongshan Nature Reserve on the Burmese border in a transboundary training initiative to help conserve China's only population of eastern hoolock gibbons.

## Conservation of the big tree rhododendron in China

China is home to over half of all rhododendron species, including the world's largest, the big tree rhododendron. Fewer than 100 trees of this remarkable species are known in the wild with any certainty, all in Gaoligongshan Nature Reserve in south-west China. FFI is working with local partners through the Global Trees Campaign to improve understanding of the ecology of this species, how to protect it and how to promote its regeneration.

## Indonesia

### Aceh forest and environment project

Reconstruction after the devastating tsunami has led to an unprecedented demand for Aceh's natural resources, especially timber. FFI created this programme to help government and civil society partners to safeguard the Ulu Masen and Leuser forests, which cover a combined three million hectares and provide vital ecosystem services. We support a wide range of activities including building the capacity of government forest protection agencies to tackle illegal logging and creating community forest ranger teams out of ex-combatants, ex-illegal loggers and ex-wildlife poachers. We are also involved in an innovative Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) initiative (see Environmental Markets page 30 for more information).

### Aceh coastal and marine conservation project

Aceh's marine ecosystems were heavily damaged by the 2004 tsunami. So too were the communities' fishing fleets. This meant local communities lost their ability to earn income from both fishing and tourism. FFI is helping to rebuild livelihoods by empowering families to re-establish sustainable small tourism-related businesses while protecting coastal ecosystems.

### Conserving tigers in Aceh

Many unsustainable and environmentally insensitive infrastructure projects have been introduced to Aceh during the post-tsunami reconstruction. In Ulu Masen forest there is an urgent need for detailed information on tiger density for the design of a critical wildlife corridor in a location that has been earmarked for road construction. This initiative aims to assess the conservation status of tigers within a priority Ulu Masen corridor through camera trapping.



## Human-elephant conflict mitigation in Aceh

The conversion of elephant habitat to agriculture in Sumatra has led to increased levels of human-elephant conflict, especially in the form of crop-raiding. To help mitigate this conflict, FFI is establishing Conservation Response Units (CRU) in Aceh Province. CRUs use once captive elephants and their mahouts for direct field-based conservation interventions. This project aims to support the conservation of wild elephants and their habitat while creating job opportunities and conflict mitigation solutions for local communities, achieving positive outcomes for both elephants and people.

## Conserving tigers in Kerinci, Sumatra

There are fewer than 400 wild Sumatran tigers, more than a third of which are found in Kerinci-Seblat National Park, a World Heritage Site. FFI works with the park authorities and local communities to strengthen protection through forest patrols and undercover illegal operations to combat trafficking of tigers and tiger parts. These efforts have led to the successful prosecution of dozens of poachers. Our team also conducts human-wildlife conflict mitigation, responds to wildlife emergencies and works to secure key tiger habitat outside the park. There is growing evidence that tiger populations have stabilised in and around the park.

## Community conservation in action in Kerinci, Sumatra

FFI helped to form the AKAR network of local NGOs in four provinces around Kerinci-Seblat National Park. We provide technical advice and support to their campaigning and other activities through an NGO mentor. Our partners have developed community forest protection patrols, successfully defeated plans for conversion of forest to pulp timber and palm plantations and the construction of roads through the Park. We are now helping our partners to develop plans for community-managed and protected forests in key areas bordering the Park and providing training in forest management and Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD).

## Sumatran Elephant Conservation Programme

FFI has a comprehensive programme to conserve Sumatran elephants and their habitat around Gunung Leuser National Park in northern Sumatra through Conservation Response Units (CRU). CRUs provide a strong link between in-situ and ex-situ elephant conservation by employing captive elephants and their mahouts to patrol and protect important elephant habitat. The programme creates opportunities for local communities to participate and benefit from conservation initiatives and helps to reduce the impact of human-elephant conflict. The CRU teams also raise awareness among local people of the importance of conserving elephants and their habitat and help improve community livelihoods.

## Kalimantan orang-utans

FFI is helping local governments and communities in and around Gunung Palung and Danau Sentarum National Parks to protect orang-utans and their habitat. We are training patrol units which specialise in orang-utans but which also have an all encompassing responsibility for habitat protection. We place a high priority on combating illegal logging and poaching, which directly threaten orang-utans, through preventative action, policy engagement, and awareness raising programmes. We also support efforts to better integrate conservation objectives into land use planning.

## Murung Raya conservation and sustainable development project in Central Kalimantan

FFI has signed a landmark agreement with resource company BHP Billiton to provide a platform for sustainable land use planning in the Murung Raya district of Central Kalimantan. This two-year partnership will contribute to the preservation of threatened orang-utan habitat and populations. In addition, we will assess the viability of reintroducing orang-utans to the area, raise community awareness, support land use planning processes and provide training for local conservation leaders.



Sumatran elephant © Jeremy Holden/FFI



Jakarta Green Monster © Emy Sudarmonowati

### Jakarta Green Monster and the Muara Angke wetland

The Angke-Kapuk and Muara Angke wetlands in Jakarta used to play an important role in flood mitigation as well as biodiversity conservation but have been extremely degraded by development and waste. FFI works with local grass roots group Jakarta Green Monster to reduce pollution in the Muara Angke Wildlife Sanctuary. Together we have established a wetland education centre and encourage community interest in the wetland through school visits and media campaigns. The project also aims to benefit people from local slums through the sale of compost from communal waste management and the provision of services to wetland visitors.

### Protecting carbon-rich peat forests in West Kalimantan

FFI is implementing a Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) pilot project on community peat swamp forests in West Kalimantan (see Environmental Markets section, page 30 for more information).

## Laos

### Gibbon status review

The remote landlocked country of Laos is extremely important for gibbon conservation. At least two of its six species are globally important. FFI has initiated a national status review of gibbons to inform decision makers in the country and to provide direction to strategic thinking for gibbon conservation in the region. The status review will identify priority populations and actions to support gibbon conservation. We will then use this baseline information to focus our support for gibbon conservation in Laos.

## Myanmar

### Biodiversity assessments and conservation status reviews in Myanmar

FFI is building the conservation capacity of our in-country partner, the Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association, to assess the status of hoolock gibbons and red pandas in Myanmar. Together we will identify opportunities for community-based conservation in sites identified as high priority. Interventions will address threats to the species and their habitat such as unsustainable logging and firewood extraction, shifting cultivation, hunting and wildlife trade. FFI is also promoting transboundary collaboration to better protect forest along the border with China's Gaoligongshan Nature Reserve.

## Philippines

### Sustainable livelihoods for forest communities in southern Luzon

A new partnership between FFI and the Filipino organization Team Energy Foundation aims to ensure sustainable livelihoods for forest-dependent communities in two key biodiversity areas in southern Luzon: Mt Irid-Angilo and Mt Banahaw-San Cristobal. Together we will strengthen the ability of local governments and local communities to protect forests and biodiversity whilst increasing income and employment from other sources such as locally governed Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) projects.

## Vietnam

### Transboundary cao vit gibbon conservation in Cao Bang Province

With about 100 individuals left, the cao vit gibbon is one of the most threatened primates in the world and in dire need of conservation support. Alongside ecological research and direct protection of the gibbon's habitat, FFI helps local communities reduce their impact on the gibbon's forest home. For example, we have introduced domestic bio-gas plants and fuel-efficient stoves to reduce the demand for fuel wood from the forest. FFI supported the establishment of a new protected area for the species in 2007. This project is integrated with cao vit gibbon activities in China (see page 14 for our cao vit gibbon work in China).

### Tonkin snub-nosed monkey

The elusive Tonkin snub-nosed monkey faces extinction unless the 200 or so remaining individuals are protected. After discovering a new population in 2002 in Ha Giang Province, FFI succeeded in addressing the short-term threat of hunting by supporting gun controls and establishing community ranger groups. We have also supported long-term research and in 2009 supported the local government to establish a protected area for the species. In 2007 FFI confirmed the presence of another important population close to the Chinese border and is now actively conserving it through similar measures.

### Western black crested gibbon

FFI is supporting local communities to protect the critically endangered western black crested gibbon and its mountain forest habitat located at the south-eastern end of the Himalayan range. We have been working closely with local communities around the gibbon's habitat for more than a decade, helping to develop one of the most innovative models in Vietnam for involving local communities in conservation.

### Threatened primates and trees in northern Vietnam

In partnership with local NGOs, FFI is starting a new initiative to protect endangered primates and trees, such as Francois' langur and the critically endangered conifer *Tiwania*, at 11 locations within the limestone mountains of the north-east. We will focus on investigating the best way to plan conservation interventions in conjunction with local communities who have had little previous exposure to conservation but whose forests harbour important populations of threatened primates and trees.



Vietnam forest © Jeremy Holden/FFI

## Capacity building of grass roots conservation organizations

For the past decade, FFI has been in the vanguard of organizations developing models to involve local communities in conservation in Vietnam. FFI will work to consolidate its experiences at three protected areas in northern Vietnam, each with its own set of opportunities and challenges. Through this project, in partnership with local organization PanNature, we will support grass roots organizations to develop roles in the management of local protected areas and collate the lessons learned to provide policy and practice recommendations to the national government.

### Pu Luong community ecotourism

FFI is working with local people, tour operators, local authorities and nature reserve staff to develop sustainable community-based tourism around Pu Luong Nature Reserve in northern Vietnam. We aim to provide a source of income for the local Thai and Muong people to help reduce unsustainable use of the forests. The widespread collection of firewood damages the fragile karst ecosystem, which supports a huge array of threatened species. Thus, the revenue from tourism will help to conserve the biodiversity and natural resources of the local landscape.

### Phong Nha Ke Bang National Park

Phong Nha Ke Bang National Park, a World Heritage Site, is the richest location for primates in Indo-china, containing ten different primate species. FFI has been active since 1998 and is now supporting the management authorities to protect the park and its biodiversity. We are helping to establish a scientific research team to enhance knowledge of the park and advise on community-based Forest Patrol Groups. In addition, FFI works to improve local people's livelihoods by establishing forest gardens which create habitat corridors, helping to maintain the forest's ecosystem services.

### The Ha Long Bay 'EcoBoat'

FFI's "floating classroom," the EcoBoat, has taught thousands of Vietnamese school children the importance of balancing their nation's economic development with preservation of the natural environment and biological diversity. During their day trips in magically beautiful Ha Long Bay, a World Heritage Site, the young people explore caves and mangrove forests, interview fishermen and women and take part in lively debates. The EcoBoat has been absorbed into the government's Ha Long Bay Management Department but is intended to evolve into an independent civil society organization.

## Australia

### Securing the future for the Burnett Mary Region

FFI is working in partnership with the Burnett Mary Regional Group for Natural Resource Management (BMRG) to enhance the development of conservation in the Burnett Mary Region of south-east Queensland. The region's stunning Great Sandy Biosphere supports an especially diverse array of species and is an important stop-over for humpback whales. FFI are helping to build the capacity of BMRG to establish sustainable finance mechanisms and to plan a landscape-level strategy. We are also working on innovative projects that aim to increase the involvement of the Indigenous community in the area's conservation.





Tusheti region, Georgia © Gareth Goldthorpe/FFI

# Eurasia

Eurasia's landscapes are recognized worldwide for their beauty and wilderness value, yet the importance of their biodiversity is frequently overlooked.

The Eurasian steppe, the Portuguese Montado, the fruit and nut forests, and the Tien Shan and Pamir mountain ranges of Central Asia are just some of the stunning and biodiversity rich ecosystems in the region. They contain unique and rare wildlife such as the saiga antelope and the critically endangered Iberian lynx.

FFI is one of only a few international organizations working in the region and is helping to raise awareness of the need for action amongst other international conservation and development charities. Many of our projects have laid the foundation for other organizations to move in and help tackle the challenges of the region.

We aim to build the capacity of local partners to conserve priority species and habitats. Although our focus is primarily in three core areas: Central Asia, the Caucasus, and Central-Eastern Europe and the Balkans, we also undertake 'emergency' interventions in countries outside of these core regions.

## Georgia

### Georgia carnivore conservation

Georgia is home to the Asian leopard, grey wolf, brown bear, Eurasian lynx, and many other carnivore species. Unfortunately, traditional sheep farming is causing overgrazing and conflict with these predators, which are perceived to be dangerous to livestock. FFI and our Georgian partner NACRES are working to reduce the killing of carnivores by helping shepherds to reintroduce traditional stock protection methods and improve animal husbandry techniques. We are also raising public awareness of the value of biodiversity and building the capacity of state conservation agencies and field officers in a variety of skills, such as law enforcement and biological monitoring.

## Kyrgyzstan

### Fruit and nut forest conservation

The unique fruit and nut forests of Central Asia have declined by 90 per cent over the last 50 years and are still under threat from grazing, hay making, over harvesting, illegal tree cutting and firewood collection. FFI and our partners are helping the local forest service and communities to plan together to manage the forests. Through seminars and events we are raising awareness of the global importance of the forests, the conservation issues and practical solutions to address threats, such as solar cookers and heaters.

### Conserving threatened apple species in Kyrgyzstan

FFI is actively conserving the endangered Niedzwetzky apple, one of the trees identified in The Red List of Trees of Central Asia. We are increasing knowledge and protection of the tree in areas where it occurs and building capacity amongst local forest service, protected area staff and local communities to protect and reinforce the populations through propagation in nurseries for subsequent planting out. We aim to expand the project to include other threatened species and engage school children in nurseries and other conservation activities.

## Protecting the endangered snow leopard

The Central Tien Shan mountain range is a crucial refuge for the charismatic but highly threatened snow leopard. FFI has been working there since 2005, helping the staff at Sarychat-Ertash Reserve to combat poaching, monitor snow leopards, and engage communities, with input from the Snow Leopard Trust. FFI has expanded its focus to include working with the Naryn Reserve, another snow leopard stronghold in the Central Tien Shan, to strengthen its technical capacity. We aim to enable both reserves to deliver more effective management, as well as improved community outreach in support of snow leopard conservation.

## Developing capacity in Kyrgyzstan

FFI has been instrumental in the establishment and development of a network of 138 community-based organizations linked together through three regional associations. These grass roots groups have implemented local community initiatives which have brought sustainable livelihood and environmental benefits to rural mountain communities. FFI aims to strengthen the long-term effectiveness and sustainability of these organizations by providing them with the training and targeted experience exchanges needed to improve their ability to manage, plan and implement community development activities.

## Portugal

### Iberian lynx programme

The Iberian lynx is the world's most threatened cat, due to a catastrophic combination of habitat loss, lack of prey and incidental and intentional killings. Working with Portuguese organization Liga para a Protecção da Natureza we are engaging with state and private landowners to ensure the creation and management of a continuous cross-border corridor of habitat to link fragmented lynx populations across the Iberian Peninsula.

## Romania

### Building capacity for protected area management in Romania

Romania contains vast expanses of natural and semi-natural ecosystems, including one of Europe's largest areas of undisturbed forest. Although Romania has many protected areas, the administrations managing these parks urgently need to build their capacity to protect these living landscapes in the face of increasing industrial demand for land. FFI is developing the country's first protected area capacity building programme which aims to improve capacity, skills and knowledge for protected area conservation management. So far, the course has been attended by over 150 people, who collectively impact over a third of Romania's terrestrial protected areas.

## Tajikistan

### Improving capacity for protected area management in Tajikistan

Tajikistan is a mountainous country with a rich landscape, wildlife and culture. Its biological richness is equivalent to Kazakhstan, a country 20 times its size. However its natural heritage is under severe threat from habitat fragmentation and degradation, soil erosion and unsustainable natural resource use. FFI is working to improve conservation impact in Tajikistan by increasing the capacity of current and future conservation professionals. We aim to establish a national conservation skills training programme and promote applied conservation research.

### Building the capacity of the Zorkul Nature Reserve\*

Zorkul Lake may sound like a place in a science fiction novel, but it is in fact a breathtaking lake in Tajikistan's Pamir Mountains. The 88,000 hectare Zorkul Nature Reserve is home to snow leopards, wolves and Marco Polo sheep, as well as Tajikistan's



largest population of bar-headed goose, which migrate to the lake across the Himalayas from India and Nepal each year. FFI is helping the reserve staff to develop both the motivation and the basic skills needed to enforce protection. We are using the bar-headed goose as a local flagship species for the conservation of the wider Pamir mountain ecosystem.

#### Fruit and nut forest conservation

Childukhtaron Forest has a wonderful mixture of walnut, apple, cherry, mulberry and juniper trees, making it globally important for biodiversity but also vital to local people's survival. FFI is working with the Forestry Department, local communities and national NGOs to raise awareness and improve the forest management by strengthening the capacity of key stakeholders to protect this threatened ecosystem. In particular, we are helping to build the skills of our Tajik partner Zan va Zamin so it can increase its effectiveness and expand into nature conservation. We are providing training, mentoring and support in the development of small scale conservation initiatives in highly diverse forest habitats.

### Uzbekistan / Kazakhstan

#### Conserving the Ustyurt Plateau landscape and the saiga antelope

The Ustyurt Plateau, a temperate desert, covers an area of 200,000 km<sup>2</sup>, which extends across Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. The plateau supports a unique but highly threatened steppe ecosystem, which harbours one of the last populations of the critically endangered saiga antelope. The saiga has experienced one of the fastest declines recorded for mammals in recent decades. FFI is following an integrated and multi-faceted approach consisting of research and education as well as institutional support for governments and the private sector (see Business & Biodiversity section - page 28). We are also developing alternative livelihoods and promoting transboundary cooperation to address the complex pressures that are exerted on the Ustyurt ecosystem.



Saiga mother and young © Igor Shpielenok



# Land & Species

FFI works across a wide diversity of sites and habitats, protecting a vast array of threatened species.

The Land and Species Programme exists to support this work, providing a central resource to regional programmes and also co-ordinating cross-organizational initiatives on habitats and the species that depend on them.

It works to manage internal and external grant initiatives for habitats and threatened species and conduct impact assessments of our conservation activities. Through this stream of work, FFI is also constantly looking to strengthen our organizational understanding of, and responses to, up-coming issues which provide new opportunities to support conservation.

## Halcyon Land & Sea

Where important and biodiverse sites are under immediate threat of destruction, Halcyon Land & Sea will intervene to secure the site, through acquisition, introduction of conservation management or other appropriate means. Established in 1998 with a grant from "Arcadia", Halcyon Land & Sea has already secured some 4.5 million hectares of land and has influenced the conservation of a further 12.8 million hectares. Thus in total we help to conserve an area greater than the American state of Washington. The land is owned and managed by independent local organizations or agencies, with our on-going support.

## Halcyon climate assessment

Habitat destruction accounts for an estimated 20 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions, and habitat protection thus has the opportunity to contribute to emissions reductions. FFI has calculated that our Halcyon Land & Sea projects store around 260 million tonnes of carbon, and their on-going protection may safeguard up to 204 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> from reaching the atmosphere. We continue to explore the role of our projects in protecting carbon, and how this can be enhanced. We also focus increasingly on how our projects can be safeguarded in the light of predicted climate change, through integrated climate adaptation planning.

## Cambridge Conservation Initiative

Cambridge is recognized as a biodiversity conservation hub as the base for various international and national conservation organizations, national conservation agency headquarters and intergovernmental institutions, as well as its world famous university. Following an initial scoping process undertaken by FFI in 2005, a multi-stakeholder initiative was established to encourage collaboration and coordinated, policy-focused discussions across the Cambridge conservation and academic communities.

## Flagship Species Fund

Popular and charismatic flagship species focus public attention on wider conservation issues. This fund allocates grants to projects around the world that utilize flagship species to protect, not only that species but its wider habitat, and thus other co-existing species. Funding from the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and a series of corporate partners is used to support a range of key species-focused projects in developing countries around the world.

### Grant review processes

Funding for conservation is limited and must be spent in the most effective way. In many cases appropriate allocation of funds relies on skilled reviews of proposals from a community of conservation experts. FFI is responsible for helping external organizations to allocate grants ranging from £5,000 to £50,000 to conservation projects around the world. Each month we call upon our staff to use their technical expertise to judge which of the applications have the most potential for biodiversity conservation.

### Rapid Response Facility

Environmental, social and economic damage to Natural World Heritage Sites (NWHS) may be irreparable if not quickly addressed. Created in 2006, the Rapid Response Facility fills a gap in the environmental donor community by taking an average of just eight working days to award small grants for emergency relief in NWHS, and other priority sites. This is a joint initiative between FFI, UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the United Nations Foundation.

### Climate change and conservation

Climate change is currently one of the biggest challenges facing humankind and the natural world. FFI is working with a range of partners to promote emissions reductions by protecting natural habitats from destruction and promoting biodiversity issues within the global climate change agenda. We are helping to develop tools to assess the potential of different habitats to store carbon and for the value of these natural lands to be realised through the carbon market. The programme also helps regional projects identify their individual risks from a changing climate and to develop foresight strategies to help mitigate and manage these impacts.

### Marine conservation initiative

FFI's recent business plan commits us to expand our activities to protect the marine environment, building on existing initiatives in countries such as Belize, Indonesia and Nicaragua. A framework for marine conservation is currently under development. We will build on our skills in terrestrial protected area management and use them to strengthen work focusing on coastal management and community-based marine conservation management.

### Global Trees Campaign

The Global Trees Campaign is the only initiative promoting the conservation of threatened tree species. It is a joint venture between FFI and Botanic Gardens Conservation International. Within this partnership, FFI works to build capacity for threatened tree conservation, actively support a series of showcase tree projects and promote a range of other organizations to build threatened tree conservation into their work. We are currently supporting 15 projects addressing over 23 threatened or declining trees in ten countries (China, Vietnam, Tanzania, Madagascar, Liberia, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Saint Lucia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan).





Birding to Cundinamarca Antipitta © Francisco Cortes

**FFI believes that the most effective and long-term biodiversity conservation solutions lie in local hands.**

The main role of FFI's Conservation Capacity Programme is to work with our conservation teams to support emerging local conservationists and strengthen our partner institutions so they have the capacity to function effectively and sustainably.

FFI works with approximately 300 partners around the world, from local groups to national and international bodies and governments. We are directly supporting several of our partners to develop additional skills, knowledge and resources so they can better achieve their conservation goals.

The team also provides guidance as new partnerships emerge and works to ensure that FFI's own capacity needs continue to be met. By developing activities and tools and improving knowledge sharing across all programmes, FFI and its key partners will be in a better position to achieve FFI's objective to protect threatened species and ecosystems worldwide.

## Conservation Leadership Programme

This programme aims to grow the potential of future biodiversity conservation leaders in developing countries and equip them to respond to the ever-growing threats of species loss, habitat destruction and the unsustainable use of natural resources. It is run jointly by FFI, BirdLife International, the Wildlife Conservation Society and Conservation International, and is funded by BP. The programme awards grants, and provides training, mentoring and sustained support to budding conservationists who are managing projects and finding practical solutions to pressing conservation issues around the world.

## Oryx–The International Journal of Conservation

Oryx–The International Journal of Conservation is a scientific journal for conservationists that also helps build capacity for conservation. FFI founded the journal in 1903, when the organization itself was created, and has produced it ever since. Widely recognised as the leading journal for the promotion of better conservation management and practice, Oryx works closely with authors, especially those from developing countries, to encourage them to bring their research to an international audience. The Editorial Office also offers scientific writing workshops to early- and mid-career conservationists.

## Partner Support Programme

This programme is building a framework to reinforce partner sustainability across FFI through direct activities and the development of networking and support tools. Activities to date include facilitating capacity assessments and strategic planning processes with partners in Ecuador and Vietnam; providing guidance to programmes in Lao PDR and Indonesia to help establish clear and effective new partnerships and promote strengthening of local environmental organisations; and providing training and mentor support to partners in Tajikistan, Cambodia, and Antigua in order to help develop additional skills, knowledge and resources.

## Cambridge Conservation Initiative (CCI), MPhil in Conservation Leadership.

FFI has been working with the University of Cambridge and other CCI partners to design and deliver a new MPhil course in Conservation Leadership. The course aims to train students to address the challenges of biodiversity conservation in an integrated and interdisciplinary manner. The goal is not only to develop conservationists with enhanced research skills and greater awareness of the complex drivers of biodiversity loss, but to develop their ability to act and lead effectively. FFI is also working towards creating scholarships for those in our staff and partner network who would most benefit from this career development opportunity.



Butterflies © Jeremy Holden/FFI

# Business & Biodiversity

FFI has been engaged with the corporate sector for over fifteen years. The corporate sector has long been known to have detrimental effects on biodiversity and ecosystems through its activities.

However, businesses are becoming more aware of the focus that stakeholders, consumers and the investment sector are giving to these issues. In response many companies are developing strategies and implementing good practice methods and tools to reduce their environmental impact. In return, the companies that excel are experiencing benefits such as a greater market share and improved sustainability of resources that they depend upon.

Our wealth of experience has helped to define our role as a valued and independent partner. We provide businesses with which we choose to work with third party advice, support and critical analysis of their biodiversity strategies and implementation plans. FFI also works with sector bodies on key projects that have helped to raise awareness, benchmark and disseminate examples of good practice.

## Anglo American

### Joint peer reviews of Biodiversity Action Plans

FFI is helping Anglo American to review the Biodiversity Action Plans undertaken by the company's various operations worldwide. The five Joint Peer Reviews are being undertaken in South America and are providing Anglo with a useful opportunity to both communicate the biodiversity process and attempt to bring all operations up to a similar level. They also help to identify projects that will help offset some of their negative impacts on biodiversity by implementing conservation projects at selected operational sites.

### Biodiversity management at the Mogalakwena platinum mine, South Africa

FFI identified that successful biodiversity management at Anglo's Mogalakwena platinum mine needs strong support from local communities and authorities. Anglo will assess an innovative community-based theatre consultation process, which will be carried out to better understand local dependencies on the environment. FFI will use the results of this to feed into the design and implementation of sustainable solutions to land degradation, conservation of biodiversity and the use of natural resources. This process of engagement and buy-in will hopefully result in better collaboration in the implementation of sustainable and appropriate offsets.

## Anglo and FFI livelihood projects

(See Conservation Livelihoods & Governance section, page 29).

## Eni E&P

### Integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services into worldwide operational practices

Launched in 2009, this project aims to deal with the full integration of biodiversity and ecosystem service considerations into Eni E&P Division's practices worldwide through the mapping of all operations against areas of high biodiversity and

ecosystem services value. The objectives are to identify sensitive sites, understand operational lifecycle risks, design targeted action planning and maximise the opportunities to contribute positively to biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services retention.

### Biodiversity and ecosystem risk assessments and biodiversity action planning

Building on the experiences and lessons learnt in previous biodiversity assessments and action planning exercises, Eni E&P and FFI have agreed to continue to work together in other high priority regions around the globe. These will include completing site-level biodiversity and ecosystem service assessments, biodiversity action planning activities and designing biodiversity offsets where required.

#### Arctic Sea Biodiversity Project

FFI works with Akvaplan Niva and Eni Norge on a scientific programme to understand the biodiversity within the operational area surrounding their Barents Sea concessions. Full ecosystem research programmes will inform Biodiversity Actions Plans for the production facility in the Arctic.

### Ecuador – Villano

(See Americas section, page 10 for more information on the Ecuador site work.)

### Development and implementation of Rio Tinto biodiversity strategy

We are helping Rio Tinto embed a global biodiversity strategy throughout its operations. FFI is working with Rio Tinto at sites in Madagascar, Guinea, Namibia, and South Africa in support of the company's global commitment to reduce their impact on biodiversity. FFI is also undertaking a comprehensive review of Rio Tinto's biodiversity inventory of all their sites across the globe to ensure risks and opportunities are recognised and acted upon. The Rio Tinto-FFI partnership has an innovative programme measuring the natural capital of the company's global assets.

### British American Tobacco Biodiversity Partnership

This initiative is a partnership between FFI, Earthwatch Institute, the Tropical Biology Association and British American Tobacco (BAT). It has been working to address business and biodiversity issues since 2000. The partnership not only supports projects by the above conservation organizations but it also serves to embed biodiversity within the management systems of BAT itself. This ranges from policy and strategy to developing projects that address BAT's biodiversity impacts on the ground. The partnership helps the company to further understand the links between its business and biodiversity and the appropriate role it can play in conservation and sustainable natural resource management.

### BHP Billiton

FFI is working with the company to integrate biodiversity into their business and to transfer learnings from projects in Central Kalimantan back into both FFI and BHP Billiton (See Asia-Pacific section page 16 for more information).

### Lafarge

FFI is advising Lafarge on its approach to managing biodiversity impacts throughout their quarries worldwide through membership of the Lafarge Biodiversity Advisory Panel.

### Addressing conflicts between conservation and biofuels in Indonesia

The expansion of palm oil plantations is a major threat to the world's forests. FFI believes that the best way we can address this conservation problem is by engaging with the oil palm sector to reduce its impact on biodiversity. We are involved in the Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) and are working with the Indonesian companies PT Cus, PT ANJ, PT KAL, and multinational company Cargill to implement RSPO best practice standards. In particular, we are ensuring that high conservation value forest, much of which harbours orang-utans and other threatened species, is not converted to oil palm plantations.

### Nimba transboundary conservation

FFI is bringing together important stakeholders including the Guinea, Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire authorities in order to reduce the environmental impact of the mining sector in the highly biodiverse Nimba Mountains. We have organised several tri-national workshops which have resulted in a transboundary Nimba Conservation Action Plan. We are now particularly focusing on establishing a multi-stakeholder environmental governance platform that will guide mining activities in area. This includes developing government and civil society organizations' skills in community consultations, biodiversity assessments and environmental impact assessments.

### The Ustyurt Plateau project

Oil and gas and mining activities threaten the vulnerable biodiversity and ecological integrity of the Ustyurt Plateau in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. FFI is working with the United Nations Development Programme with funding from USAID to contribute to the development of a landscape level policy and management plan for this unique region. We aim to reduce the private sector's impact on the steppe ecosystem and its most famous and threatened species, the saiga antelope. (See Eurasia section page 22 for more on this project)

### Leading biodiversity innovation at the sector level

The Business & Biodiversity team are engaged in numerous sector-level initiatives to both advise and steer biodiversity management whilst leveraging change through critical interventions in the corporate world. These include consultation and advice to International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA), the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM), The De Beers Stakeholder Forum, the Forest Footprint Disclosure project, the High Conservation Value (HCV) Network, the Nexen Specialist Advisory Group, the Global Reporting Initiative Mining & Metals Supplement, The Uranium Strategic Environmental Assessment Steering Committee and the Business & Biodiversity Offsets Programme (Pilot Project, Assurance and Policy working groups).





# Conservation, Livelihoods & Governance

Biodiversity conservation and the sustainable management of natural resources are inextricably linked to people's rights to secure their livelihoods and live in dignity. FFI is committed to ensuring that our conservation activities at the very least do not further disadvantage poor, vulnerable or marginalised natural resource-dependent people, and that, wherever possible, our activities contribute to improving human well-being.

The Conservation, Livelihoods and Governance (CLG) programme supports regional and thematic conservation teams to take a holistic, people-centred approach to biodiversity conservation. We facilitate the capacity development of FFI staff and partners to better understand and address the needs and rights of local communities in their conservation programmes. This is achieved through providing briefing notes, guidelines, tools, training and mentoring to ensure that these issues are taken into account in the contextual analysis, planning and review of our programmes. We also facilitate the sharing of lessons learnt and good practice between FFI projects and in external fora, as well as bringing external lessons and thinking into the organization.

## Conservation Initiative on Human Rights (CIHR)

FFI is actively participating in this international initiative that aims to ensure effective integration of human rights in the policies and practices of a number of international conservation organizations. Together we have developed and agreed a draft framework of principles. Over the next two to three years FFI will continue to engage in the initiative, focusing on sharing learning among CIHR member organizations, other stakeholders and human rights experts to support practical implementation of the framework principles.

## Anglo American partnership

In mid 2008, Anglo American and FFI embarked on a three year strategic partnership to identify and implement opportunities to improve biodiversity conservation. This partnership enables FFI to test approaches to the integration of biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods and environmental governance in three projects: Cristalino State Park in Brazil (see page 9), Mpingo Conservation Project in Tanzania (see page 8) and Tibetan grasslands in China (see page 14). The CLG team is supporting the projects to distil and document the lessons learnt to inform both FFI and Anglo American's future programming.

## Climate foresight tool

It is widely recognised that the world's poorest people are the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The CLG team are working closely with the Land and Species team to integrate livelihoods and governance considerations into FFI's climate foresight tool and to support FFI staff and partners to address climate vulnerability and adaptation issues in their work.



Orang-utan mother and young © Brian Matthews

# Environmental Markets

Realising the economic value of nature is no easy task. However, if we don't, we risk losing what we all rely on: the water, nutrients, timber and everything else that it provides. The carbon market is the most well developed of the environmental markets.

The Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) mechanism aims to reduce global carbon emissions by directing revenue from the carbon markets to protection of forests and other carbon-rich habitats. FFI sees REDD as an unprecedented opportunity for forest conservation – but only if well designed and implemented.

REDD will affect many stakeholders through governments and other local implementers, to local communities as the ultimate beneficiaries. We recognize our role is to engage across all these groups, raising awareness and building capacity as required. Hence we have begun to develop critical pilot projects through key carbon-rich habitats to test ways that this emerging tool can benefit local communities, biodiversity and the climate.

## FFI-Macquarie Carbon Forests Taskforce

FFI has teamed up with Macquarie Group, an Australia-based global provider of banking, financial, advisory, and funds management services, to develop a Taskforce to invest in the conservation of tropical forests which will generate carbon credits for sale. The Taskforce is focusing on protecting forests at risk from deforestation in South East Asia and South America. FFI is drawing on its conservation experience to work with local governments and communities to implement the projects. Macquarie Group is providing capital and financial services for the projects, ensuring compliance with voluntary carbon standards and will sell the carbon credits internationally.

## Protecting Indonesia's Ulu Masen forest through carbon finance

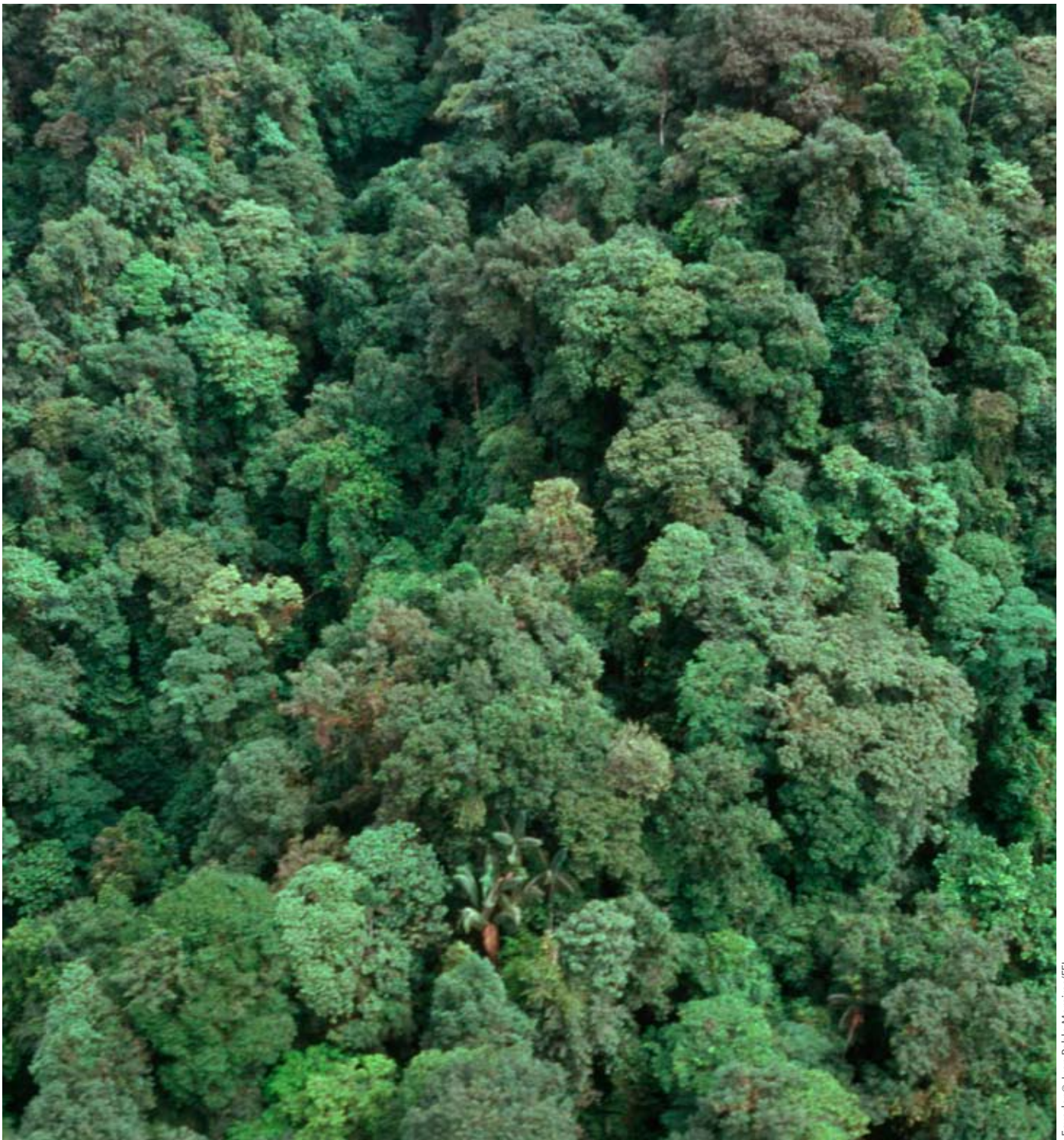
This initiative aims to prevent destruction of the threatened and highly carbon-rich Ulu Masen forest in Aceh Province, Indonesia, by generating tradable carbon credits and directing a proportion of the profits to local communities. In February 2008, the project became the first REDD project to be approved by the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Standards. FFI is using our community and conservation expertise to advise the Governor of Aceh in both the design and implementation of the project on the ground.

## Protecting carbon-rich peat forests in West Kalimantan

FFI is providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Forestry to support their nationwide programme to designate 460,000 hectares of 'village forests' in West Kalimantan province under community tenure by 2013. We are implementing a community forestry REDD pilot project in West Kalimantan which aims to support the designation of up to 100,000 hectares of designated village forests. Our programme focuses on peat swamp forest as well as lowland rainforests, both critical habitat for orang-utans and other endangered species. Peat fires and drainage are the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Indonesia. The pilot activities will develop valuable lessons for community-based peat swamp forest management and provide input to a dialogue with local land use planning agencies and the National Planning Agency for the development of a national REDD policy for peat lands.

## Natural Value Initiative

The Natural Value Initiative aims to help financial institutions better understand how they can address their biodiversity impacts and associated risks through the investments they make. The first phase resulted in the Ecosystem Services Benchmark and associated toolkit, which were very positively received. We are now focusing on both extending the initiative beyond the tobacco, food and beverage sectors and clearly articulating the material risks relating to long-term impacts of over exploitation of natural resources. The programme is run jointly by FFI, the UN Environment Programme Finance Initiative, the UN Principles for Responsible Investment and Brazilian business school Fundação Getúlio Vargas.





## Our vision

A sustainable future for the planet, where biodiversity is effectively conserved by the people who live closest to it, supported by the global community.

## Our mission

To act to conserve threatened species and ecosystems worldwide, choosing solutions that are sustainable, based on sound science and take account of human needs.

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