



Saint Lucia whiptail lizard Credit: Lance Peterson/SLNT

FAUNA & FLORA INTERNATIONAL

Halycon Land & Sea

2020

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Blue-tailed Bee-eater, Myanmar. Credit: Bjorn Olesen

Executive Summary

This report provides an update on all Halcyon Land & Sea projects supported since 1998, with a focus on activity in 2020. Fauna & Flora International (FFI) continues to be incredibly grateful to Arcadia for their long-term support. 2020 posed some unique challenges to all aspects of FFI's conservation operations. Despite pessimistic predictions at the start of the pandemic, in general Halcyon Land & Sea projects were able to maintain operations and even deliver significant achievements during 2020. An additional 107,800 hectares was brought under

conservation management (bringing the cumulative total to nearly 9.6 million hectares) and we also influenced the conservation of 1.7 million hectares not previously included in the portfolio (bringing the cumulative total to over 64 million hectares).

Halcyon funding supported thirteen projects, including seven ongoing and six new projects which were brought into the portfolio in 2020 (two more have been developed and will receive funding early in 2021):

NEW PROJECTS

- We successfully negotiated a purchase agreement for Boden Creek, a vital area of forest which adjoins the Golden Stream Corridor Preserve, and a haven for biodiversity. Halcyon funds underwrote the deposit on this site, and we secured the majority of the purchase price from the Wyss Foundation who have committed \$4.9 million.
- A project that will secure connectivity in highly biodiverse montane forests in the Annamite mountains on the border of Vietnam and Laos;
- Efforts to protect and enhance connectivity over a tropical forest landscape covering 300,000 hectares, straddling the border of Liberia and Guinea;
- A project that will bring a Key Biodiversity Area in St Vincent & the Grenadines under conservation management;
- An expansion of our work across the Laikipia landscape in Kenya to improve sustainable conservation management, and resolve long term community tensions, around Mukutan Conservancy;
- A feasibility study to inform work on key freshwater and riparian habitats in Romania.

The Covid-19 pandemic has of course impacted our operations in many ways this year. This ranged from the need to repatriate key staff, to curtailment of fieldwork during government lockdowns, changes to schedules, and the need to provide additional basic logistical and hygiene support to staff, partners and communities. Some projects were particularly affected with Covid-19 – for example our Mozambique Country manager has not yet been able to return to the country

to lead some key recruitments and as a result one project was severely delayed. Although FFI's finances have remained resilient through the course of 2020, we have seen significant challenges to the operations of many partners we work with on Halcyon Land & Sea projects – particularly where they had developed income streams associated with tourism. A number of such organisations received vital support through the Partner Crisis Support fund.

RESPONDING TO THE 2016 REVIEW

FFI has continued to address the key recommendations from the 2016 external review commissioned by Arcadia. This has included:

- Active engagement of in-house legal staff to review and support key land purchases and conservation easements (for example in Belize and Kenya),
- The application of due diligence processes for partners, and a renewed focus on conservation financing to enhance the future sustainability of projects.

- A wide range of site-relevant and diversified revenue generating initiatives are being tested across Halcyon sites, including Payment for Ecosystem Services schemes, cattle raising, honey sales, application of agricultural subsidies and tailored ecotourism products (for both high-end international and domestic markets).
- FFI has also prioritised the opportunities to learn from Halcyon projects, through a combination of strengthened monitoring and evaluation processes and active engagement in sharing and disseminating lessons. As a direct result of Halcyon support FFI has secured a significant multi-year investment into FFI's broader monitoring, evaluation and learning processes.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020

- The Maros - Pangkep karst landscape in Indonesia has now been formally established as an Essential Ecosystem Area
- In Myanmar, the Imawbum National Park was finally gazetted in 2020, protecting key species (such as the Myanmar snub-nosed monkey) and over 156,000 hectares of forest.
- In Kenya, two ranches around Nairobi National Park have both formally been established as wildlife conservancies as a direct result of a feasibility study conducted last year.
- After ten years of work in Kon Tum, Vietnam (catalysed by an initial Halcyon small grant) the first Vietnamese REDD+ project has been certified and will start generating carbon credits for local communities next year
- In Mozambique, support to Chuilexi Conservancy enabled them to substantially scale up patrolling efforts and address increasing threats in the area
- The integrity of key karst forests in northern Vietnam was maintained as a result of active community ranger groups, with no illegal felling or hunting recorded
- Two game reserves in South Sudan are demonstrating a decrease in pressures on the forest (such as incursions or poaching) along with an increase of wildlife encounters on ranger patrols
- In South Africa, 15 properties around the wider fynbos landscape of Walker Bay (in which our Flower valley project is located) have come together to apply for Protected Environment status, which would provide a statutory conservation designation for this area.
- In Kazakhstan we have seen a record year of saiga antelope calving
- One of our partners in Romania (ADEPT) is generating a significant proportion of their running costs from agricultural subsidies and cattle raising revenue.
- The Rapid Response Facility provided funding to five natural World Heritage Sites facing direct emergency situations in 2020, including: (i) supporting rangers in the Democratic Republic of Congo to increase security following a fatal attack; (ii) addressing potential risks of Covid-19 cross-infection to mountain gorillas in Uganda; (iii) tackling an upsurge of wildlife poaching in the Atlantic forest of Argentina; (iv) and repairing a tiger fence damaged by a cyclone in India and (v) providing resource to help fight wildfires in the Pantanal, Brazil.

Programme Overview



Wild tulip, Tulipa

Yazsan, Credit: Brett Wilson

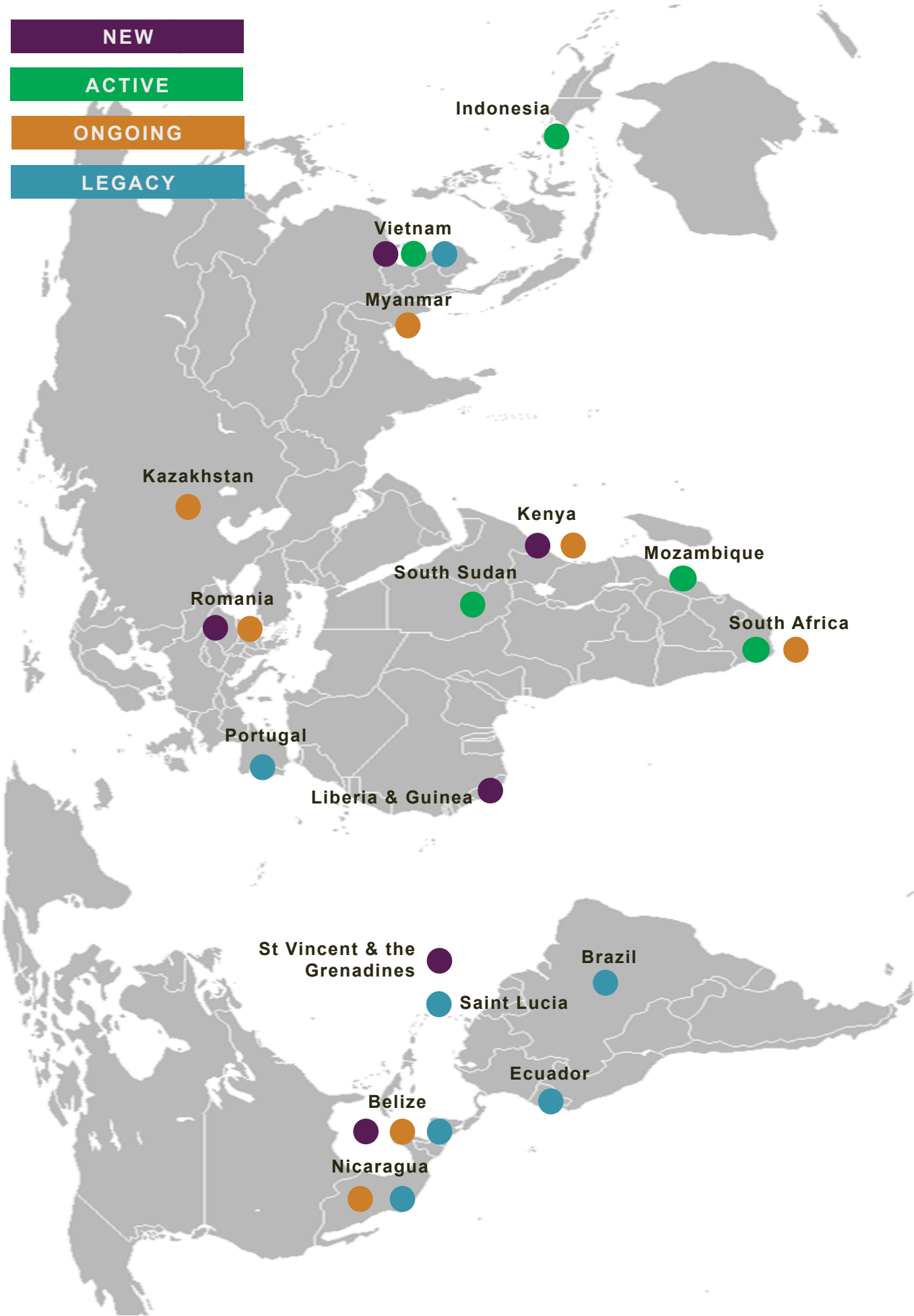
FOCAL GEOGRAPHIES

NEW

ACTIVE

ONGOING

LEGACY



HALCYON LAND & SEA STATISTICS



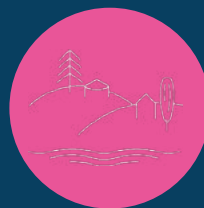
Portfolio includes 61 projects across 28 countries



Supported an additional 41 sites through the Rapid Response Facility



Actively secured around 9.6 million hectares of critical habitat



Directly contributed to the conservation of over 64 million hectares (larger than Somalia)



Arcadia investment into Halcyon Land & Sea has leveraged significant further conservation finance

HALCYON LAND & SEA BACKGROUND

Halcyon Land & Sea is a fund established in 1998 by Dr Lisbet Rausing to find innovative and entrepreneurial ways to secure threatened habitats.

The aims of Halcyon Land & Sea are to:

1. Secure areas of exceptional biodiversity that are unprotected or under-protected, and are at risk of destruction or degradation, using the most locally appropriate approaches;
2. Build the local and national capacity to manage these sites into the long term, engaging the local community in this process wherever appropriate;
3. Develop mechanisms to underpin the long-term financial sustainability of these sites; and
4. Develop an improved enabling environment for site conservation, through strategic interventions at both policy and practice levels.

PROTECTING LAND

Through Halcyon Land & Sea, FFI secures areas of critical biodiversity through a number of diverse approaches, developed to fit the needs of individual sites and projects.

These include:

- purchasing or leasing sites,
- developing local land stewardship or site management agreements, and
- implementing conservation management where this has been absent or weak.

We always work in partnership with local conservation agencies and local communities.

Halcyon Land & Sea is extremely selective in its identification of sites for intervention. It acts strategically by securing key habitats, creating wildlife corridors, and bridging essential gaps in site ownership. To date, Halcyon Land & Sea has actively secured almost 9.6 million hectares of critical habitat, and has directly contributed to the conservation of over 64 million hectares, an area larger than Somalia.

Halcyon Land & Sea sites are not only important in terms of the wildlife they protect – they also protect important stores of carbon that, if released, could contribute to global warming. Initial calculations made

in 2007 indicated that the habitats and soils within the sites at that time had secured around 260 million tonnes of carbon. If key sites had been destroyed or degraded, up to 204 million tonnes of carbon dioxide could have been released – equivalent to 37% of the UK's annual CO² emissions that year.

We also award Strategic Small Grants in areas where traditional funding is unavailable, but the threat to priority conservation lands is immediate.

BUILDING CAPACITY

These projects ensure local, sustainable management by empowering local groups to address conservation needs themselves. Halcyon Land & Sea projects always work towards handing over site management or ownership to an appropriate in-country group, with a commitment to providing support until the project is sustainable.

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

Halcyon Land & Sea projects also work to ensure equitable benefits to local communities through an improvement in the standard of living and through their inclusion in land planning decisions. Where appropriate, the sustainable use of biodiversity and

the development of innovative community-based enterprise schemes are encouraged. In addition to the impact of Covid-19, we also saw a number of challenges to individual projects that were unrelated to the global pandemic.

SEEKING SUSTAINABILITY

Building local capacity and support are important components of project sustainability, as is the promotion of conservation finance. To this end, projects develop innovative approaches to ensure the running costs of Halcyon Land & Sea sites can be underpinned in the long term, realising the inherent values of natural resources where possible, with the aim that biodiversity can, in effect, fund its own conservation.

LEVERAGING FUNDS

As a result of the funds granted to date from Arcadia we have leveraged¹ over \$161 million from other sources.

¹ This includes both direct project co-finance and funding that has been leveraged on the back of initial Halcyon Land & Sea investments.



2020 REVIEW AND HIGHLIGHTS

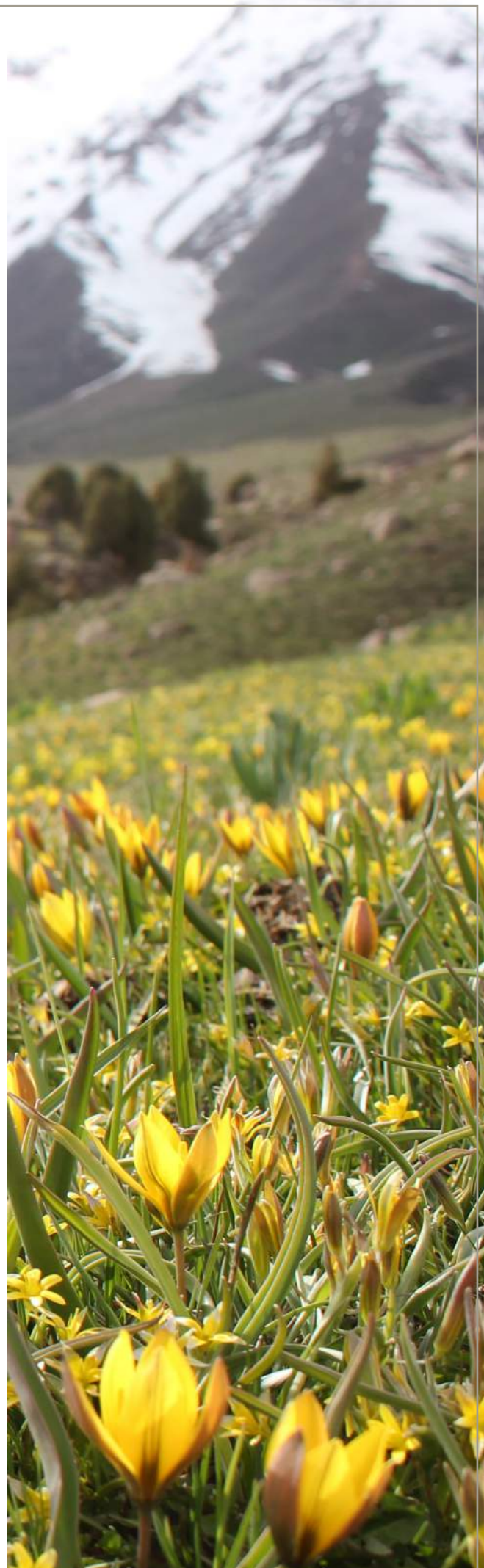
THE GLOBAL PANDEMIC

Covid-19 brought a new set of challenges to the delivery of our projects in 2020. National restrictions and safety concerns impacted the ability of teams to reach field sites and our capacity to connect with local communities or have key governmental meetings. Some staff had to be repatriated and we had to modify our overall working practices to meet governmental restrictions (at different times in different countries) and to keep our staff and partners safe. In addition, we saw new threats to biodiversity emerge as a result of the economic and food crises precipitated by Covid-19 and the consequent travel restrictions in many countries we operate, all of which resulted in an upsurge in reliance on natural resources, including increased land clearance, and increased poaching of protected species.

The sudden disruption of international tourism markets had one of the biggest effects on our work. It contributed to significant economic disruption in a number of countries, as those working in the tourism sector saw their incomes suddenly disappear, with many losing their jobs as a result, driving an increased reliance on natural resources. Loss of tourism was also particularly hard for those projects and partners where sustainable financing of their operations was largely predicated on tourism income.

Despite the challenges presented by the pandemic, almost all projects managed to adapt their operations or schedules, such that work either maintained momentum or was back on track by the time of reporting.

Projects and partners had to adapt their operations to respond to these emerging threats, reschedule activities in line with government restrictions, and, in some cases, had to offer direct support with access to food and hygiene equipment to communities who are engaged in our projects. In some cases, this has significantly delayed delivery (for example in Chimanimani, Mozambique where the repatriation of key staff resulted in delayed project delivery and a pause in recruitment); in others, we have made significant adjustments to planned schedules (such as in Maros, Indonesia where large scale public meetings have been postponed until 2021). However, in some countries (such as Kazakhstan) our ranger teams received special dispensation from government to continue their work during national lockdowns, effectively being conferred essential worker status. Also, the enforced desk time has had some benefits; additionally, in South Sudan, the lockdown provided a much-needed opportunity to process and analyse the data collected to date.



Wild tulips, Tuilpa dasyplemon, Kyrgyzstan. Credit: Brett Wilton

We also ensured that we adapted operations to ensure the safety of our staff and partners, whether it was establishing field-based hand washing stations for rangers (South Sudan) or setting a community mask-making initiative (Chuilexi).

The lack of international travel also changed how the Cambridge-based Halcyon team engaged with field teams, and we have become adept at running remote Theory of Change and monitoring planning sessions using online tools such as Miro and Jamboard. Indeed, the largescale and rapid move to virtual platforms such as Microsoft Teams and Zoom across the organisation, coupled with reduced field schedules, has actually created an opportunity for much greater levels of engagement with field teams and partners than we have ever seen before – something we are keen to ensure can be maintained post-pandemic.

A number of partners receiving current or previous Halcyon grants also received support from the Partner Crisis Support Fund in 2020 to help them weather the immediate impacts of Covid-19 and associated economic crises, as all Halcyon funding had been allocated for the year and it was not possible to make additional reallocations without undermining other project budgets. Partner organisations involved in Halcyon Land & Sea projects and also supported through the Partner Crisis Support Fund included the Northern Rangelands Trust, Ol Pejeta Conservancy, and Zarand Association (which have received Halcyon funding in previous years), and Mukutan Conservancy and Flower Valley Conservation Trust (which also received Halcyon funding in 2020). In addition, Chuilexi received direct emergency support from two donors, which was routed at their request through the Partner Crisis Support Fund.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- **One of the most exciting developments this year has been the work to try and secure Boden Creek under conservation management.** This site, which adjoins the Golden Stream Corridor Preserve, has posed a challenge due to poor management, resulting in increasing incursions and leading to escalated threats on the borders of Golden Stream. Despite poor management over recent years, the site has high biodiversity value, and we were thrilled that strategic use of Halcyon funds to underwrite the deposit on this site has prevented its sale to buyers who would likely have converted it to a commercial plantation.

- **We also developed projects that would help secure conservation management for an additional eight sites in 2020** (two are still in the proposal development phase, and are expected to be finalised in early 2021). The six new sites that have been developed to date include:
 - a project that will secure connectivity in highly biodiversity montane forests in the Annamite mountains on the border of Vietnam and Laos;
 - efforts to protect and enhance connectivity over a tropical forest landscape over 300,000 hectares, straddling the border of Liberia and Guinea;
 - a project that will bring a Key Biodiversity Area in St Vincent & the Grenadines under conservation management;
 - an expansion of our work across the Laikipia landscape in Kenya to improve sustainable conservation management, and resolve long term community tensions, around Mukutan Conservancy;
 - a feasibility study to inform work on key freshwater and riparian habitats in Romania.
- **2020 Halcyon funding also supported ongoing work to establish effective protection for six sites**, and continued to co-finance the Rapid Response Facility (RRF), which provides emergency grants to tackle urgent threats to the integrity of natural World Heritage Sites. Key achievements in these projects in 2020 included:
 - Maros karst landscape, Indonesia: the Maros - Pangkep karst landscape has now been formally established as an Essential Ecosystem Area.
 - Chuilexi Conservancy, Mozambique: patrolling efforts were substantially stepped up (relative to previous years) to address increasing threats in the area (potentially a side effect of the pandemic)
 - Ha Giang, northern Vietnam: protection of the forest was maintained by community ranger groups and no illegal felling or hunting was recorded.
 - South Sudan: evidence from monitoring is showing a decrease in pressures on the forest and increased wildlife encounters on ranger patrols.
 - Flower Valley and Walker Bay, South Africa: Fifteen properties around the wider fynbos landscape have come together to apply for Protected Environment status, which would provide a statutory conservation designation for this area.
 - Support through the RRF provided funding to (i) support rangers in the Democratic Republic of Congo, (ii) address risks of Covid-19 cross-infection to mountain gorillas in Uganda, (iii) tackle an upsurge of wildlife poaching in the Atlantic forest of Argentina, (iv) repair a tiger fence damaged by a cyclone in India and to help fight wildfires in the Pantanal, Brazil.





Team on Denny's Islands, Saint Lucia. Credit: Jenny Daitly/FFI

- **As many of the outcomes and ultimate impacts of Halcyon investments are often seen after the end of direct grant support, we also track ongoing achievements from projects funded in previous years.** Some examples of the updates and achievements provided in 2020 from previously funded projects include:

- Imawbum National Park, in Myanmar, was finally gazetted in 2020, the result of ten years of persistent work by FFI staff and partners to get this reserve established. This will now provide legal protection to key species (such as the Myanmar snub-nosed monkey) and to over 156,000 hectares of forest. Processes to build on the informal (but successful) management processes already in place are underway.
- In Kenya, as a direct result of a feasibility/scoping study last year, Swara Plains and a neighbouring ranch have both now formally been established as wildlife conservancies.
- At Zarand in Romania, the success of our human-wildlife conflict resolution programme

has seen reduced damage recorded, and increased requests for advice from farmers and other NGOs working on similar issues.

- Our work in Transylvania has also seen our partner ADEPT developing significant sustainable finance revenue from agricultural subsidies and cattle sales.
- In Kazakhstan, we have seen a record year of saiga antelope calving, based on the surveys undertaken this autumn.
- In Kon Tum, Vietnam after ten years the first Vietnamese REDD+ project has been validated and will register carbon credits for sale on the voluntary market
- A dedicated staff member will support FFI's work on climate change, building on tools for carbon assessment and project level climate planning developed under the original Halcyon grant.

Fauna & Flora International (FFI) is extremely grateful to Arcadia for the opportunity to undertake such strategic and long-term conservation. FFI is very grateful for Arcadia's support to Halcyon Land & Sea, and for the opportunity that this presents to increase FFI's conservation impact.

RESPONDING TO THE 2016 REVIEW

FFI remains extremely grateful to Arcadia for their generous and timely investment into an external review of Halcyon Land & Sea and our marine programme in 2016. This provided an incredibly valuable opportunity to reflect on the progress, achievements, and approaches used in Halcyon Land & Sea and across FFI more widely; the resulting evaluation has proved extremely valuable to the organisation in many (often unanticipated) ways. This opportunity for self-examination and reflection helped us to refine FFI's approach and focus, and informed the new organisational Strategy, published in

2019. Within Halcyon Land & Sea we have prioritised project consolidation, development of sustainability and improved dissemination of FFI's work with the current grant. We continue to apply the lessons gained from this process to the operation of Halcyon Land & Sea, and have adapted our operations to respond to specific recommendations – in part facilitated by dedicated funding built into the current grant that enables us to respond to priority recommendations (see box below). Here we wanted to provide an update on the key areas of improvement that we have been responding to within the current grant period.

Extracts from Independent Review of Fauna & Flora International's Halcyon Land & Sea and Halcyon Marine Initiatives for the Arcadia Fund (Wells et al 2016)

Sustainable financing

“Some of the clearest opportunities for greater impacts include a general expansion of the existing Halcyon project portfolios ... supported by: (i) redoubling efforts to support sustainable financing – i.e., biodiversity-friendly business ventures that experience shows can take a decade or more to become independent and viable”; “In practice this means redoubling efforts to establish sustainable livelihoods, biodiversity-friendly businesses and private sector income generation mechanisms that support or at least are consistent with conservation..”

Learning from our work

“A conscious effort has been made to document institutional experience within not only project and donor reports, but also an increasing number of detailed and honest case studies that explicitly outline external challenges faced, internal mistakes made and lessons learned..... We understand that FFI is also thinking about how to share these – especially the key lessons – beyond internal staff, in order to advance conservation as broadly as possible”; “...FFI could usefully document, and potentially share, the lessons learned in: (i) land purchase and long-term site management; and (ii) developing partner capacity, particularly in facilitating organisational change during the development of emerging/individual-led partner initiatives into more sustainable and resilient organisations.”

Improving risk management

“Two areas under the heading of risk assessment deserve further consideration: (i) a capacity at headquarters to coordinate and provide quality control for the diverse legal services used by FFI and partners worldwide seems advisable, especially in the area of land acquisition, and (ii) while FFI's work with its in-country partners is generally exemplary, it does seem essential to respond on a timely basis to potential partner governance risks such as conflicts of interest”

BUILDING PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

The recommendations in the external review commissioned by Arcadia in 2016 highlighted the need to increase and redouble our efforts to establish sustainable financing pathways for our projects. We have taken this advice to heart, and through specific budget lines agreed within the current Halcyon and marine grant, we have put in place dedicated technical resources to support projects to develop sustainable financing plans. Our stated aim is to have sustainable financing options identified, explored and/or plans put in place for all relevant Halcyon sites by 2023. However, the impacts of 2020 have already required a rapid diversification of opportunities beyond international tourism for many sites.

Throughout 2020, conservation finance and enterprise experts supported the development of sustainable financing for seven Halcyon sites (four current or new projects and three previously funded projects; given that the timescale for developing sustainable financing often continues beyond initial Halcyon grant funding). A landscape sustainable financing tool was developed and piloted at Ha Giang (the Halcyon site in north Vietnam). This tool helps teams to systematically think through identification and prioritisation of different revenue options and to develop an action plan for strategic fundraising; it is now being tested at further sites. An options analysis for sustainable management of land holdings in Zarand (Romania) identified potential revenue mixes, basic business and financial models and a pathway to attracting

sustainable finance into this landscape. In the Liberia/Guinea project, an enterprise strategy was developed for the Wonegizi landscape, and potential models for increasing local incomes and conservation investment through a cocoa initiative was explored. A new high-end tourism product was developed for OI Pejeta, with options for domestic tourism incorporated, while a series of impact investment vehicles were explored with regard to potential investment into Mukutan Conservancy. Support was also provided to the development of a new business plan for Chuilexi, with a focus on targeted high-end tourism (based on mobile camping), honey production and carbon finance.

Work to quantify the potential revenues from various sustainable financing activities in Halcyon projects has shown that, in most cases, no single revenue stream is going to generate sufficient income to deliver financial sustainability, thus multiple parallel approaches are needed. In addition, a diversified portfolio of revenue streams will increase resilience - as evidenced by the impact of Covid-19 on tourism revenues for conservation globally (explained in this [recent blog](#)). A new guidance note on conservation tourism was developed, following an internal working group meeting on the future of tourism. The conservation finance and enterprise specialists have reported a significant increase in interest and prioritisation of sustainable financing activities across Halcyon and wider FFI projects since the creation of these additional roles.

LEARNING FROM OUR WORK

The external review completed in 2016 highlighted that there were further opportunities for FFI to learn from our work across the Halcyon Land & Sea portfolio and to actively share this knowledge. We also recognised this as an opportunity to review and strengthen the monitoring plans underpinning Halcyon projects, to ensure appropriate and robust evidence collection. With funding under the current grant, a dedicated Halcyon technical and dissemination specialist now works across the Halcyon Land & Sea portfolio to support project-level design, monitoring and evidence collection, and to promote cross-sharing of experience and lessons, internally and externally. This year, this

role has leveraged significant broader opportunities to strengthen monitoring and evaluation and learning (MEL) across FFI, securing a significant investment from MA Cargill Philanthropies (MACP). This will allow a team of MEL specialists to provide support and training across FFI's projects, aiming for a step change in terms of: (i) better targeted monitoring; (ii) evidence collection that is more robust (yet appropriate to local conditions); and (iii) a move to a project culture where timely evaluation and adaptive management is fully championed and embedded.



All current Halcyon projects received support to review and refine their project-level indicators, and three projects received full workshops to develop or review their monitoring plans. Training on M&E was also provided, open to project staff across the organisation. In addition, the first Halcyon-specific community of practice was held in 2020 via Zoom and enabled all the project managers to come together to share experiences and identify potential cross-project learning on financial sustainability planning. A paper is currently underway that will review lessons learnt from land purchases across the Halcyon portfolio.

The technical and dissemination specialist also engaged externally as an active member of the [Alliance for Conservation Evidence and Sustainability](#) (which includes WWF, WCS and TNC among others and is co-funded by MACP and WWF). This collaboration resulted in a number of co-authored reports and briefings in 2020 on the [use of evidence in decision making](#), [cognitive biases in decision making](#) and [the use of story-telling for researchers](#), and an open-access paper on [establishment, persistence & diffusion of community-based conservation](#). They also met with the Endangered Landscapes Programme team to compare and share knowledge around our approaches to monitoring and tracking impact. Members of the Endangered Landscapes Programme team subsequently engaged in some of the FFI working groups on social monitoring approaches and remote facilitation techniques, and we will maintain this engagement going forward.

IMPROVING RISK MANAGEMENT

The current grant also supports risk management and legal roles in the organisation, as recommended by the external review. In-house legal skills are now available to support land purchases and the development of conservation easements, and have provided support to some thirteen Halcyon projects to date. In addition, FFI has recently reviewed its approach to cross-portfolio risk identification and has also put in place a specific partner due diligence process as a direct response to the recommendations of the external review.



Elephant tusk. Credit: Gurveena Ghature/FFI

REPORT STRUCTURE

This report provides an update on all Halcyon Land & Sea projects supported since 1998, with a focus on activity in 2020 (which is noted separately within each project report).

Within the report we have grouped projects by their stage of implementation:

- new projects - projects that Halcyon Land & Sea has supported for the first time this year;
- active projects - projects that have received ongoing or consolidation finance from Halcyon Land & Sea this year;
- ongoing projects - projects that FFI is still active in delivering, but that didn't receive Halcyon Land & Sea funding this year;
- legacy projects – projects where we track ongoing progress, although are no longer actively engaged, except in cases where support is specifically requested; and
- historical projects – projects where FFI is no longer actively engaged and it is no longer appropriate to expect ongoing updates.

Within each category, project reports are organised by the date of the most recent Halcyon funding. Projects are categorised by type

**MAIN GRANT FOR LAND
ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT**

STRATEGIC SMALL GRANT

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

and by habitat type, with a standard icon for easy reference. A general location map is also included for each site.

For each project, progress in 2020 is included under a separate heading, to ensure this is readily identifiable.

A full list of the projects supported during the lifetime of Halcyon Land & Sea is included in Table 1 overleaf.

PROJECT ICONS KEY



FOREST



GRASSLAND



MIXED



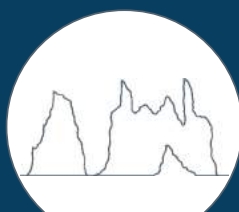
DESERT



HEATH



MOUNTAIN



CAVE/KARST



MARINE



COASTAL

New Projects

In 2020, Halcyon Land & Sea supported six new projects in Belize, Kenya, Liberia/Guinea, Vietnam, St Vincent & the Grenadines, and Romania. Two further projects were developed (in Cambodia and Georgia), but had not yet received funding at the time of reporting.

SECURING BODEN CREEK AS PART OF THE MAYA GOLDEN LANDSCAPE, BELIZE

In southern Belize, the Maya Golden Landscape is one of the most important remaining areas of forest, internationally recognized for its high biodiversity value, and is a major component of one of Central America's five great forests that stretch from Mexico to Panama. Within this landscape, Boden Creek adjoins Golden Stream, an area purchased through Halcyon Land & Sea in 1998. The forests of Boden Creek support a range of wildlife, including jaguar, puma, ocelot and endangered black howler monkeys, Central American spider monkeys and Baird's tapir. In addition, 51 of Belize's 78 species of bat occur there and nearly 250 bird species have been recorded, of which 18 are considered to be of conservation concern. The site plays a vital role in maintaining forest cover and significantly contributes to maintaining a continuous forest corridor between the mountainous highlands and the coastal lowlands.

Boden Creek has suffered from significant disturbance by ranching, agriculture and logging since the 1960s, as well as hurricane damage in 2001. The area was then managed as a private reserve for conservation and ecotourism and showed significant signs of recovery. However, in 2012 it was abandoned and active management ceased. Subsequently it has been subject to increased incursions and land conversion, increased felling of commercially important timber trees and poaching of wildlife. Without intervention the biodiversity value of the site will continue to erode, and

the owner has finally decided to put Boden Creek on the market – with the risk that it would then be sold for wholesale conversion to fruit plantations or other agriculture.

Funding from Halcyon Land & Sea has enabled FFI (working closely with Ya'axché Conservation Trust, as the owner and manager of Golden Stream) to negotiate purchase of the site, to be managed in perpetuity for conservation. The ownership of the site will initially sit with FFI, allowing time to develop Private Protected Area status.

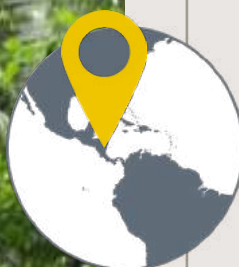
PROGRESS IN 2020

Funding from Halcyon has underwritten an initial deposit towards the purchase of the site, and funding from the Wyss Foundation and other funders has been secured to cover the remaining purchase costs when the process is completed in 2021. We have received government support to initiate the process of designation of Boden Creek as a Privately Protected Area. In partnership with Ya'axché, a management plan for Boden Creek is under development, to address ongoing threats of poaching and logging, ensure local community support to reduce pressures on the site, and protect its biodiversity and wider forest connectivity.



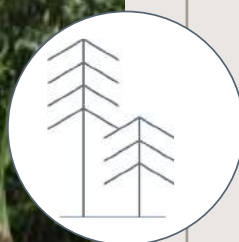
Area to be Secured

5,178 ha



Potential Area of Conservation Impact

300,000 ha (same as Golden Stream)

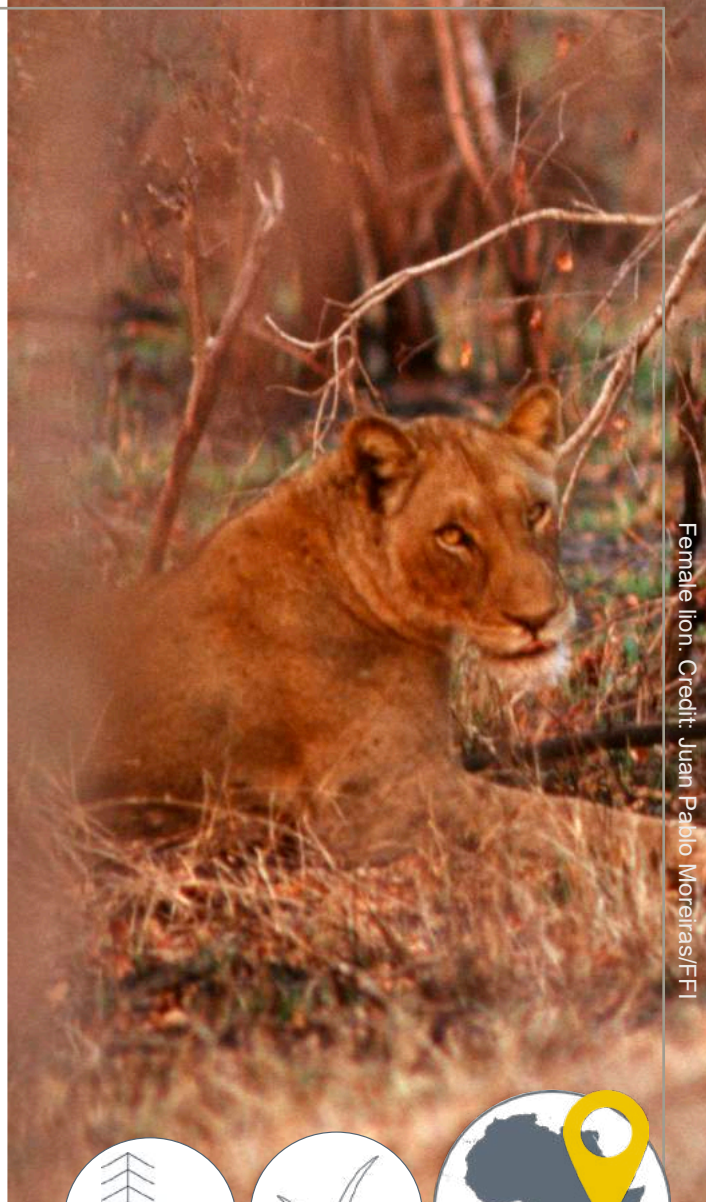


ESTABLISHING AND SUPPORTING MANAGEMENT FOR MUKUTAN CONSERVANCY

Mukutan Conservancy covers over 36,000 hectares of natural forest and savanna on the Western Laikipia plateau, overlooking the Great Rift Valley. Mukutan plays a key role in maintaining connectivity across the wider landscape, and is recognised for its floristic diversity (including over 200 indigenous plant species, such as Kenya's last remaining stands of native cedar forests and a recently described species of aloe). It also supports abundant fauna, with around 4,800 recorded bird species and healthy populations of elephant and lion. However, the conservancy has faced a range of challenges over the last ten years, including poaching and land incursions, and has seen a subsequent loss of flagship species such as black rhinos. The owners have approached FFI to provide technical support in developing new directions for the conservancy to ensure its long-term integrity, including developing new collaborations with local communities, and a diversified and sustainable income base for Mukutan. Wider partnerships with surrounding communities will be key to the conservancy's legitimacy and security, and thus to the protection of its habitats and wildlife. In addition, the project aims to work across the broader landscape (in which Mukutan has a strategic location) to promote connectivity and sustainability across a range of conservancies through enabling the effective development of the newly formed Laikipia Conservancy Association.

PROGRESS IN 2020

A Situational Analysis has been completed to determine the social dynamics between the conservancy and the surrounding communities, and to identify mechanisms for better engagement; further social assessments will feed into a Community Development Programme. Work has also proceeded to identify a range of potential business development opportunities for Mukutan (including sale of avocados and botanical products), and a series of impact investors were approached with these conservation business models in mind. Financial plans for a potential community cattle business have been developed, and these will be explored further in the context of a wider land management plan.



Female lion. Credit: Juan Pablo Moreira/FFI



Area to be Secured

36,000 ha

Expected Area of Conservation Impact

36,000 ha

MAIN GRANT FOR LAND
ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT

PREVENTING FRAGMENTATION ACROSS THE WOLOGIZI-WONEGEZI-ZIAMA FOREST LANDSCAPE, LIBERIA & GUINEA

The transboundary Wologizi-Wonegizi-Ziama forest landscape is an area of over 315,000 hectares spanning the border of Guinea and Liberia. It holds some of the largest intact remnant forests within the upper Guinean forest ecosystem, a global biodiversity hotspot home to a significant number of Africa's mammal species. The forest blocks within the landscape have national and international biological importance, as home to species such as the critically endangered western chimpanzee, pygmy hippopotamus, forest elephant and three species of pangolins. The forests are at the heart of a wider continuous landscape stretching from Sierra Leone to Guinea and provide vital forest connectivity. However, these forests are at risk of fragmentation; without formal protection and improved management current connectivity in these systems will be lost.

Ziama (in Guinea) is an established protected area, designated as a Man and Biosphere Reserve, and Wonegizi and Wologizi (in Liberia) are proposed protected areas. However, the forests between them are not currently under active protection or management, and vital forest corridors between these reserves are being eroded. The landscape is under significant threat from subsistence farming, commercial agriculture, and mining. In addition, individual species (such as elephants) are affected by poaching and retaliation as a result of human-wildlife conflict. Major road development into the region is further exacerbating these threats as it opens up the forests, resulting in reduced forest cover and increased fragmentation, particularly in the unprotected zones

between Wonegizi and Wologizi.

FFI will support the Liberian Government to achieve formal gazettement of Wonegizi and Wologizi and ensure long-term conservation management is in place, but will also work on the ground to tackle immediate threats to forest connectivity between the three sites. The project will offer training and support to protected area staff to improve enforcement and monitoring, whilst working with communities to address some of the local drivers of land conversion and poaching through awareness raising and livelihoods initiatives. In addition, the project aims to improve cross-border collaboration for the management of this landscape.

PROGRESS 2020

This year, regular enforcement patrols were established for the first time in Wonegizi. These successfully cleared poaching camps and removed traps and snares, and two poachers were arrested. In addition, a first meeting was held for rangers from Guinea and Liberia to plan joint cross-border activities for the landscape. Farmer field schools were held with local communities to promote new, conservation-friendly farming techniques and to increase awareness that farming should only take place outside of forest areas. More sustainable farming methods improve soil fertility, reduce erosion, and maximise yields, thus reducing the need to convert new areas of forest.



Area to be Secured

315,872 ha



Potential Area of Conservation Impact

315,872 ha

PROTECTION OF KON PLONG'S FORESTS WITHIN THE ANNAMITE MOUNTAINS, VIETNAM

The Annamite Mountains on the border between Vietnam and Laos are a recognised global biodiversity hotspot with very high rates of endemism which support a range of unique species, such as the saola, Annamite striped rabbit, large antlered muntjac, grey-shanked douc langur and Owston's civet. The Annamite forests are still largely connected, and several protected areas already exist, but large swathes remain unprotected and fragmentation and degradation are worsening, threatening the integrity of this vast ecosystem. These forests lie at one of the highest altitudes in Vietnam, supporting a range of montane habitat types (predominantly broad-leaved evergreen forest mixed with conifers). Kon Plong forms the critical, central forest block – and is essential to maintain connectivity within the Southern Annamites, which extend into Laos and to Cambodia's dry forests.

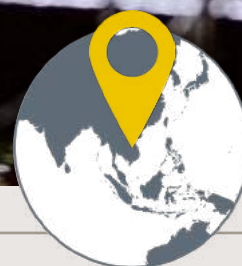
Until relatively recently, the entire Kon Plong District was forested. It was regarded as Vietnam's most biologically important forest area, and one of the largest that exist outside the protected area system. However, threats are numerous and growing, and Kon Plong's forests are under pressure from commercial and subsistence agriculture, extensive infrastructure development, subsistence/commercial hunting, and, at some sites, complete forest clearance (following ad hoc rezoning or forest allocation to local authorities). This is leading to rapid forest fragmentation and loss of biodiversity. The project aims to develop a sustainable landscape with functioning large-scale corridors, and to bring significant forest areas under conservation management (as a nature reserve) with adequate and sustained management capacity in place.

PROGRESS 2020

Despite some inevitable initial disruption due to Covid-19, work was undertaken to engage with communities around the proposed protected area, agree a model for local community conservation teams and sign a conservation agreement between surrounding villages and forest protection units. Local government has been sympathetic to our proposal for a new protected area. No significant deforestation events have happened since the start of the Halcyon grant, although illegal timber extraction continues in some areas. However, wildlife traps are regularly found inside the forest, and a planned significant snare removal programme (with a dedicated snare removal team) was delayed by the second Covid-19 lockdown in late summer.



Grey-shanked douc, Vietnam. Credit: Nguyen Van



Area to be Secured

30,000 ha

Expected Area of Conservation Impact

65,077 ha

MAIN GRANT FOR LAND ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT

BRINGING CHATHAM BAY UNDER PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT, UNION BAY, ST VINCENT & THE GRENADINES

Chatham Bay Key Biodiversity Area, on Union Island (part of St. Vincent & the Grenadines) in the Eastern Caribbean, contains an exceptionally intact and species-rich Caribbean dry forest adjoining offshore coral reefs and seagrass beds – the area is described as “wholly irreplaceable on a global scale” (CEPF, 2019). This landscape and adjoining seascape support an unusually high concentration of endemic and globally threatened flora and fauna, including the only known population of the Union Island gecko (critically endangered) and Grenadines worm snake (endangered); at least 15 native reptile species occur – more species than have been recorded in any other forest in the Lesser Antilles. Botanical diversity is also high, with over 135 plant species recorded to date, including a range of Lesser Antillean endemics. Rapid marine surveys recorded seven globally threatened species in the bay including elkhorn coral (critically endangered) and three globally threatened turtle species nest in the area, including hawksbill turtles (also critically endangered).

The Chatham Bay landscape-seascape currently lacks legal protection. Although a series of ‘Forest Reserves’ were proposed in the early twentieth century, they were never fully gazetted, and these and key estates around Chatham Bay are at risk of sale for tourism developments. The site is also under significant threat from wildlife trade (for the international pet trade and bushmeat), poorly managed livestock grazing, wildfires, poorly managed waste and eutrophication. The national Forestry Department and a local NGO have requested FFI’s assistance to secure the protection of the site. The project aims to develop protected area legislation and community co-management agreements to permanently safeguard Chatham Bay’s ecosystems, whilst ensuring that alternative, sustainable development pathways can be developed to reduce economic reliance on the expansion of destructive tourism. In addition, the project will build capacity for key local and national partners and other key stakeholders.



Area to be Secured

350 ha

Expected area of Conservation Impact

1,400 ha

MAIN GRANT FOR LAND ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT

Chatham Bay, St Vincent & the Grenadines. Credit: Stanton Gomez/ UIEA

SECURING RIPARIAN AND RIVERINE HABITATS WITHIN THE CARPATHIAN ARC, ROMANIA

The Mures and the Olt are two of Romania's most significant river systems, each longer than 600km. They flow through a wide range of alpine and lowland habitat types and support important freshwater and riparian systems, including priority plant and animal species of European importance. These rivers and associated riparian habitats provide vital corridors through the wider landscape. However, changing land use is placing increasing pressure on freshwater habitats in this region, and riparian habitats are affected by agricultural conversion and inappropriate river management, including infrastructure development associated with hydroelectric schemes. A feasibility study will assess the opportunities to purchase strategic areas where riparian connectivity is at risk, and the potential for restoration of wetland and riparian sites to enhance the functionality of the river ecosystem. Work will include baseline assessments to better assess the status of, and threats to, riparian habitats at key sites in the Romanian Carpathians, combining remote-sensing data and field surveys for ground-truthing. This assessment will inform the design of a project to conserve these riverine corridors and their priority species, with the aim that a proposal will be made to the EU LIFE programme to support larger scale work.



Area to be Secured

50 ha

Expected Area of Conservation Impact

38,203 ha

STRATEGIC SMALL GRANT



Riparian landscape - a vital corridor. Credit: FFI

Active Projects

These are projects that received ongoing or consolidation finance from Halcyon Land & Sea in 2020.

PROTECTING THE MAROS KARST SYSTEM, INDONESIA

BACKGROUND

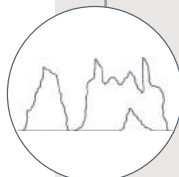
The Maros – Pangkep Karst Landscape in South Sulawesi has been identified as one of Indonesia's most important areas for biodiversity conservation. It is thought to be one of the world's most biodiverse karst areas and has been proposed as a tentative UNESCO World Heritage Site. This extensive karst complex supports at least 30 endemic invertebrates, many of which are considered highly endangered as a result of their limited distribution. Above ground, forests associated with this karstic landscape (with cone-like hills) support a range of globally threatened mammals and birds, such as the endangered moor macaque and hornbills, which are at risk from wider-scale habitat destruction.

This site is not formally protected, and faces the threat of destruction as a result of limestone quarrying for the cement industry. Two major cement companies already operate in the area, and additional companies have requested licenses to operate. The project is working to establish legal protection to prevent the destruction of this globally important karst area in the long term through the designation of a new conservation area. The site would be designated as an Essential Ecosystem Area (a new designation under Indonesian law) and would also be proposed for further international recognition as a UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserve. To support effective long-term management and reduce wider threats to karst biodiversity, the project will also promote responsible cave tourism and agricultural practices.

PROGRESS IN 2020

The Maros - Pangkep karst landscape is now formally established as an Essential Ecosystem Area by the Provincial Government of South Sulawesi. This is a designation outside statutory protected areas, which allows for protection of key biodiversity areas within a larger landscape under a multi-stakeholder arrangement to ensure both conservation and economic benefits. This Essential Ecosystem Area wraps around the existing Bantimurung Bulusaraung National Park. FFI has been working to operationalise the newly conserved area, with a focus on developing management plans with key stakeholders, supporting the consultation of proposed zoning arrangements and developing management effectiveness measures. FFI is also working with local partners to develop nomination documents for UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserve status.

Extensive biodiversity surveys were conducted to help inform the Biosphere Reserve nomination, involving a range of local partners and community members. Surveys revealed the importance of some of the isolated karst areas (outside the main karst system) which support endangered species



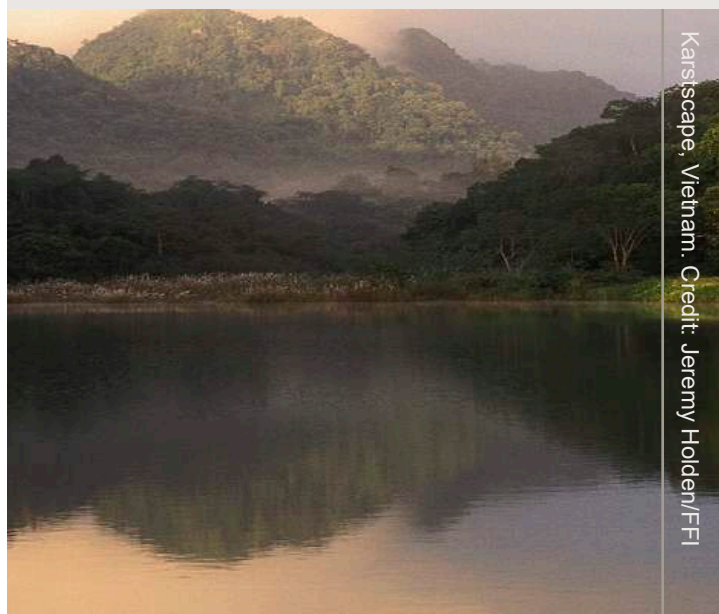
Area Secured

24,413 ha

Area of Conservation Impact

139,438 ha

MAIN GRANT FOR LAND ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT



Karst landscape, Vietnam. Credit: Jeremy Holden/FFI

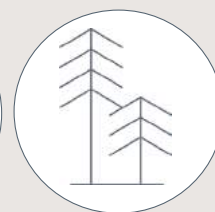
such as moor macaque (endangered), the diminutive Makassar tarsier (vulnerable) and Sulawesi hornbill (vulnerable). Engagement continued with local farmers across the wider karst area, with a focus on reducing the use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides (including via the use of bat guano collected from the cave systems) and promoting organic farming methods. A number of hurdles to reducing chemical inputs to local farms were identified, a demonstration plot for organic farming methods has been developed, and options for new crops (such as coffee) are being explored. Support was also offered to sites where cave ecotourism is being developed to minimise potential impacts to cave biodiversity. Despite delays due to Covid-19, and the cancellation of planned workshops, the project has managed to maintain momentum this year, with an increased focus on those field-based activities that could proceed.

SECURING THE PROTECTION OF CHIMANIMANI NATIONAL PARK, MOZAMBIQUE

BACKGROUND

The Chimanimani National Reserve in Mozambique, bordering Zimbabwe, is part of a wider trans-frontier conservation area. The area includes a montane massif rising to nearly 2,500 metres with rugged scenery and diverse habitats, and has long been known by biologists as an area of exceptional biodiversity with high levels of plant endemism; over 1,000 plant species have been recorded, including heathers, aloes, euphorbias, ferns and orchids. It supports Mozambique's highest recorded bird diversity along with a range of mammals, including leopard, klipspringer, duikers, and elephants.

Chimanimani faces threats from ongoing land use change (agriculture and mining) and erosion of the buffer zone for small-scale subsistence agriculture, which is supporting a growing local population due to people return to the area after Mozambique's civil war. The completion of a new road has recently opened up this area for development, and expansion of agricultural and forest plantations have contributed to deforestation rates within the reserve's boundaries. Poaching, uncontrolled wildfires and damage and pollution from widespread gold-panning also have negative impacts. There is an urgent need for active conservation efforts to avoid the permanent loss and degradation of this site and its rare and globally important biodiversity.



Area Secured

66,000 ha

Area of Conservation Impact

409,100 ha

MAIN GRANT FOR LAND ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT

FFI's engagement in this project is helping to secure substantial leveraged funding from the World Bank; this funding is conditional on the involvement of an international co-management partner to provide technical assistance. FFI is supporting the development of a high-quality, participatory and inclusive management plan for Chimanimani to guide further management efforts, along with introducing effective monitoring of wildlife and the reserve's impact on local people.

PROGRESS IN 2020

This project suffered some of the most significant Covid-19-related delays within the portfolio. The Mozambique Country Manager was not able to travel to the country under current restrictions. This complication has in turn delayed the recruitment of a planned project officer, who would have led much of the Chimanimani support. Despite this, some level of support has continued from the UK, including review and finalisation of the Chimanimani management

plan to ensure provision of much needed equipment (including camera traps and field guides), to help secure further resources and to explore potential future transboundary collaboration into Zimbabwe. The first steps have been taken towards establishing a formal co-management role in Chimanimani with the imminent signing of an MOU between FFI and the National Administration for Conservation Areas; studies completed previously in Mozambique have shown the benefits of an NGO partner to the management capacity of protected areas. FFI also provided support to the development of potential future tourism ventures at Chimanimani through a brochure for potential tourism investors. This year, Chimanimani was re-designated from a National Reserve to a National Park, the strictest category of protection.



SECURING KEY FORESTS IN NORTHERN VIETNAM

BACKGROUND

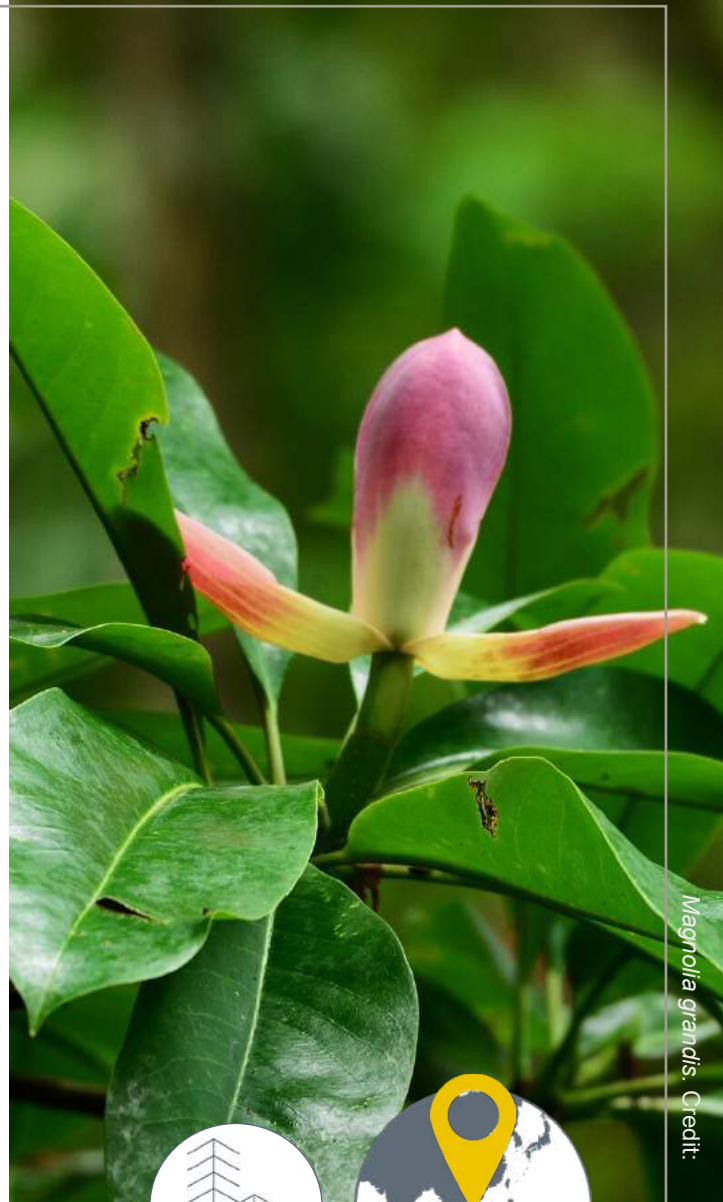
The Khau Ca Species and Habitat Conservation Area and the proposed Tung Vai Watershed Protection Forest cover 5,000 hectares of limestone karst forests in Ha Giang province, northern Vietnam. These areas provide a critical refuge for the region's unique wildlife, as the surrounding lowland areas have been cleared for agriculture. Both these sites provide vital habitat for the critically endangered Tonkin snub-nosed monkey. The forests had limited active management prior to this project, and were affected by logging, hunting and unchecked expansion of cardamom cultivation. The project will put in place effective management for the existing protected area, bring an additional site under formal protection and improve connectivity in the landscape. Sustainable livelihoods will also be developed for local people, including more sustainable approaches to cardamom production.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

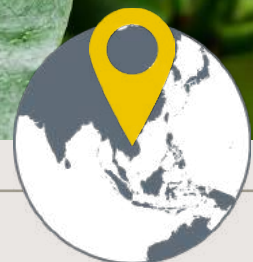
Khau Ca Species and Habitat Conservation Area now has improved patrolling, reducing incidents of illegal logging. Populations of Tonkin snub-nosed monkey at the site have increased to c. 150 individuals, a 24% increase from the 2016 baseline. The development of a functional corridor between these core forests and the neighbouring Du Gia Nature Reserve has been initiated.

Gazettement of Tung Vai forest is underway, with improved site management and on-the-ground protection, including new infrastructure to support ranger patrols. The effectiveness of protection is evidenced by the absence of any records of hunting of key species or clearance of new areas for cardamom cultivation. Baseline biodiversity surveys have documented over 100 bird species, 42 mammal species (including threatened slender and pygmy lorises and a population of 20 to 40 Tonkin snub-nosed monkeys), endemic reptiles and amphibians and many rare plants (including critically endangered trees such as *Magnolia grandis*). The Forest Protection Department has now agreed to contribute around 25% of the costs of community patrols as a step towards future project sustainability.

At both sites, Management Advisory Committees have been established to act as pioneering collaborative management institutions, giving a voice to the local people in how the forest and protected areas are managed.



Magnolia grandis. Credit:



Area Secured

5,000 ha

Area of Conservation Impact

25,000 ha

MAIN GRANT FOR LAND
ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT



Fuel efficient drying stove. Credit: FFI



Growing sustainable Cardamom. Credit: FFI

PROGRESS IN 2020

Although project activities were disrupted due to an early Covid-19 lockdown at the start of the year, work caught up over subsequent months. Protection of the forests of Khau Ca was maintained, as demonstrated by patrol and monitoring data; no hunting or illegal logging was recorded in 2020, although one report was made of illegal disturbance to the forest. Rangers, community conservation teams and protected area managers received planned training and broader capacity-building support. A diverse set of local stakeholders were engaged in planning for the protected corridor that will connect Khau Ca to Du Gia – Dong Van National Park. In parallel, there was an assessment of potential reinforcement planting of the corridor to increase tree cover and provide food plants for key species, such as Tonkin snub-nosed monkeys.

At Tung Vai, formal gazettement is expected to be in place by the end of 2020 (a final decision is awaited from the local People's Committee). FFI worked with forest rangers, community conservation teams and local authorities to support protection of the site. Collaboration between these different actors has increased this year, and FFI has supported improvements to community-based forest patrolling and monitoring systems. A key threat in this area is the expansion of cardamom crop cultivation in the forest sub-canopy. A sustainable cardamom strategy was implemented this year, providing technical support to local people so that they can cultivate cardamom effectively, apply for a certificate of origin (part of a strategy to improve access to premium markets for local cardamom products), and use fuel efficient drying stoves, which have been widely adopted, and, according to users, are already reducing wood consumption by 50%. This year, the area under cardamom cultivation did not expand, and indeed seems to have reduced (based on reporting from the community conservation teams), as a number of previously cultivated areas were abandoned and are now naturally regenerating to forest.

The project is working with government counterparts to develop a sustainable finance plan, which will include the generation of renewable funds for conservation from Payments for Ecosystem Services to provide income for both local people engaged in forest protection and the protected area management board. It will also explore new agricultural products and/or tourism services to support local incomes in ways that reduce pressure on forest resources and incentivise forest (and wildlife) conservation.



PROTECTING CHUILEXI CONSERVANCY AND SECURING THE NEIGHBOURING CONCESSION (R5), MOZAMBIQUE

BACKGROUND

Niassa National Reserve – reclassified in 2020 as Niassa Special Reserve - is a significant biodiversity priority; a wilderness for wildlife that is also under immense threat. Following ten years of support up until 2012, Halcyon Land & Sea funding was deployed towards a new strategy of developing a highly protected 'core zone' for wildlife within the reserve. By targeting a core area with the highest wildlife densities and taking over direct management of the concessions in this area, we are able to put in place much stronger controls than are feasible across the whole reserve. This approach acts as a backstop for, and complements, the wider reserve management policies, as well as providing a refuge for key species during the recent upsurge in poaching.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

Three adjoining concessions within Niassa were secured in 2013 as the newly established Chuilexi Conservancy, covering 586,800 hectares, 14% of Niassa Reserve. Chuilexi Conservancy has been built from scratch since then. The area now covered by Chuilexi Conservancy experienced widespread biodiversity decline prior to 2013, including extensive elephant poaching, snaring, and illegal logging.

³ Includes funds for both Chuilexi Conservancy and for securing the R5 concession.



Area Secured

733,800 ha

Area to be Secured

157,000 ha

Area of Conservation Impact

586,800 ha

Anticipated Total Area of Conservation Impact

733,800 ha

**MAIN GRANT FOR LAND
ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT**

Since then, and in under four years, Chuilexi had reversed this trend, by establishing the infrastructure, effective logistics, good equipment and personnel on the ground that are needed for strong conservation management. In addition, in contrast to some other concessions, staff are present all-year round and its leadership is skilled and experienced. By late 2018, Chuilexi was employing 124 staff, including 62 rangers, had purchased vehicles and an aircraft, and had established an effective infrastructure base, including a well-equipped headquarters, six outposts, water sources, communications, nine airstrips, and 855km of permanent and seasonal roads such as bridges over key rivers.

A survey in late 2016 showed that whilst Chuilexi represents just 14% of the area of Niassa Reserve, it held over 30% of the reserve's key wildlife populations, including elephants. However, the high concentration of wildlife within Chuilexi made the Conservancy more attractive to poachers, especially when animal populations had fallen elsewhere in the reserve. There is year-on-year evidence that ongoing security at the site is significantly reducing elephant poaching compared to neighbouring concessions. Furthermore, indications of other threats to the conservancy, including numbers of snares and illegal activities encountered, have also declined over time as anti-poaching efforts have been improved. Work with local communities (for which Chuilexi is a significant employer) is also paying off. A survey in 2018 showed strong support for Chuilexi among local populations (76% of those consulted supported Chuilexi and conservation initiatives, 70% of households reported increased food security following fencing, and 22% reported an increase in income or product values within the last year). This local support will be key for Chuilexi's long term success.

We have been working on securing the concession for a key neighbouring concession (R5) since 2019, in order to safeguard the northern border into Tanzania, a key route for international poachers to cross into Niassa and Chuilexi. This will bring a further 1,570km² of key wildlife habitat, supporting elephant, lion, wild dog and ground pangolin, under Chuilexi's management.

PROGRESS IN 2020

Mozambique entered a State of Emergency in April 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Although field operations at Chuilexi could continue, preventative regulations were imposed across Niassa Reserve to limit incoming transmission of Covid-19 and to reduce risks to local communities. Despite the travel and operational constraints, site protection was enhanced during 2020 with patrol intensity at Chuilexi increasing significantly compared to last year. As a result of both increasing threats to the Conservancy (believed to be a consequence of economic uncertainty created

by the pandemic) and increased detection of illegal activities by more regular patrols, 13 arrests were made (compared to four in 2019), and 245 snares were removed from the Conservancy (compared to 31 in 2019 – an increase of almost 700%). Wildlife sightings (including elephant) also increased over this period (taking into account higher patrol effort); however one elephant sadly died in a snare.

Covid-19 has delayed finalising the contract for the neighbouring R5 concession. The pandemic also affected operations in other ways, including preventing the use of seasonal labour for road and airstrip maintenance, delayed procurement due to travel restrictions, and creating complicated logistics (for example staff who left the Reserve had to quarantine on their return). Work to strengthen biomonitoring across the Conservancy was also affected due to the inability to recruit a new monitoring officer during this time; a planned aerial wildlife census was also postponed until 2021. However, a range of technologies are in place to support monitoring at Chuilexi (including SMART and EarthRanger) and the use of environmental DNA (eDNA) is currently being explored as a methodology for understanding species diversity and as a cost-effective monitoring tool.

Tourism planning has moved forward significantly in 2020 despite the problems suffered by the international tourism sector. Investment has been secured into a plan for a mobile camping safari experience at Chuilexi. Tourism groundwork (legal compliance, mapping, and detailed planning including alignment with wildlife monitoring) is being undertaken ahead of development of physical infrastructure and recruitment of tourism personnel. In parallel, work to develop a Chuilexi honey enterprise moved forward with the support of a specialist consultancy focusing on apiculture development.

SOUTHERN NATIONAL PARK AND ADJOINING GAME RESERVES, SOUTH SUDAN

BACKGROUND

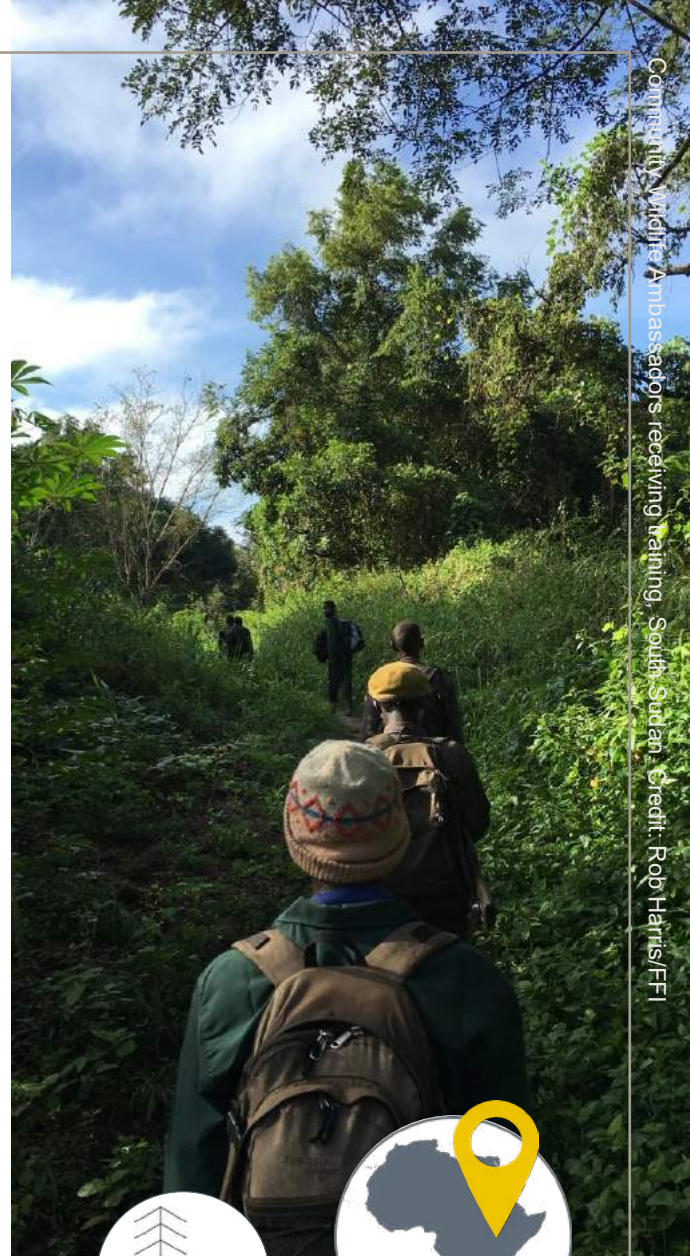
The civil wars of recent decades have decimated the once abundant wildlife populations of South Sudan, and its protected areas have had limited active management for 30-40 years. South Sudan's oldest and largest national park is Southern National Park in former Western Equatoria. This 1.6 million hectare park was historically known for its large numbers of elephant, buffalo, giant eland and roan antelope and northern white rhino. This park and its neighbouring game reserves were subject to severe poaching during the civil wars. However, reports in 2010 indicated that key wildlife populations still persisted but were under continued threat from poaching. In the long-term this project aims to re-establish effective wildlife protection across Western Equatoria, building on models of good practice and effective habitat and wildlife protection within key protected areas, specifically Southern National Park and game reserves in the same region.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

Previous grants from Halcyon Land & Sea (2011-2014) enabled FFI to begin the process of re-establishing conservation management at Southern National Park and to establish capacity for wildlife protection within the new government, including input to relevant legislation. By the end of 2013, basic infrastructure, sustained management and a strong anti-poaching presence were re-established within Southern National Park and a quarter of Western Equatoria's operational Wildlife Service personnel had been trained. Surveys at Bangangai and Bire Kpatuos game reserves - which encompass the only dense rainforest habitat within South Sudan - provided new data on the presence of a range of species, some of which had not previously been reported in South Sudan, including three bat species previously unknown to science.

Since 2014, operations focused on improved management and protection of Bire Kpatuos Game Reserve, the one project site that remained safely accessible. The boundary of this site has been properly demarcated for the first time since its gazettment in the 1920s, and the ranger point has been relocated to a more strategic position.

More recently, an innovative web-based citizen science platform has been set up to analyse the huge number of images from camera traps placed in these areas. The subsequent outbreak of conflict and civil war in parts of South Sudan, and the ongoing deterioration of security across the country limited options for effective engagement on the ground, which resulted in a refocus of the project's operations.



Community Wildlife Ambassadors receiving training, South Sudan. Credit: Rob Harris/FFI



Area Secured

43,000 ha

Potential Area of Conservation Impact

743,000 ha

MAIN GRANT FOR LAND ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT



Standard operating protocols are in place for patrolling and management, and work is underway to strengthen data collection and ranger-led monitoring. On-the-ground reserve management has been strengthened through training and resource provision. A stronger relationship between the park and local populations has also been achieved through the establishment of a team of Community Wildlife Ambassadors who patrol the reserve with the Wildlife Service Rangers. This collaborative model remains unique in South Sudan and creates an unusual example of government-civilian cooperation alongside a general national context of mistrust. Protected area regulations are now well respected by local communities and the presence of rangers deters poachers from further afield from targeting Bire Kpatuos. Without ongoing patrolling, it is likely that these forest habitats and their wildlife would be significantly degraded and denuded. In 2019 operations at the Bangangai Game Reserve included community-led boundary demarcation and re-establishment of regular patrolling by Wildlife Service Rangers and Community Wildlife Ambassadors.

PROGRESS IN 2020

Despite the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, regular patrolling was maintained in both game reserves, and data was collected using SMART technology, with systematic data entry and analysis to inform evaluation of both threats and wildlife populations. This showed a year-on-year reduction in poaching incidents (2018-2020) alongside a year-on-year increase in wildlife sightings at both sites (in both cases adjusted for patrol days). Signs of a wide range of wildlife were recorded, including chimpanzee, forest elephant, bongo, golden cat, leopard and giant pangolin. Surveys were also conducted with local communities to understand their relationship with the game reserves, their general wellbeing and their reliance on bushmeat. This identified key species targeted for consumption and sale, types of hunting and also collected anecdotal information on species commonly seen in the forests. It also found high rates of crop raiding by wildlife and deterioration in the wider measures of wellbeing of these communities. Work is underway to develop collaborative frameworks for Community Conserved Areas in areas adjoining the game reserves.

It is too early to systematically determine the impact of the project on habitat quality or wildlife populations. However, as a result of FFI's support there is now at least one patrol team in each reserve at all times and ranger posts remain operational. In this region of South Sudan government employees have not received salaries for at least six months of the year and the operation of the game reserves is almost totally reliant financially on FFI. Technical support is also essential to improve the rigour and methodologies of both patrolling and monitoring activities. Without intervention it seems likely that these sites would have been negatively affected by high levels of wildlife extraction and logging, given ongoing pressures elsewhere in the region and frequent incursions by poachers from over the border in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

This year saw an expansion of work into Southern National Park once more. One fascinating result was a [record of a wild dog](#) caught on a camera trap placed inside the park – which is far from this species' known or historical range and has created significant interest within the wild dog research community.



RAPID RESPONSE FACILITY

BACKGROUND

The Rapid Response Facility is a partnership between the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and FFI. It was established in late 2005 to provide timely and flexible resources to address threats and emergencies affecting the ecosystem security of selected Natural World Heritage sites and surrounding areas.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

The fund remains unique in its speed of response: decisions are made within eight days, meaning that funds can be made available within a couple of weeks from the receipt of an application. A legacy report looking at the impact of the fund was produced in 2014. Since 2005 the facility has provided 52 grants, which have supported efforts to protect 42 sites⁴.

PROGRESS IN 2020

Funding available to projects increased in 2020, with two more donors offering support via the Rapid Response Facility. Enquiries to the fund increased by almost 50% in 2020 – perhaps reflecting the challenges facing so many World Heritage Sites this year. Five grants were awarded in 2020:

- Yaboti Biosphere Reserve, Argentina - to tackle an increase in illegal wildlife poaching in this important area of Atlantic forest habitat, a biodiversity hotspot which is home to jaguars, tapirs and harpy eagles.
- Virunga National Park, Democratic Republic of Congo - to increase the protection of rangers in vulnerable sites following a deadly militia attack on park staff and civilians.
- Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda - to protect mountain gorilla from threats relating to the Covid-19 pandemic, including increasing permanent ranger presence in key gorilla habitats and adapting patrolling and monitoring protocols to reduce inter-species transmission risks, including use of appropriate PPE and hygiene measures.
- The Sundarbans, India - to repair 50km of 'tiger fencing' damaged by Cyclone Amphan and thus reduce potential human-wildlife conflict.
- Pantanal Conservation Area, Brazil - to support fire-fighting operations in response to extensive wildfires.

⁴ Including Bladen Nature Reserve, which is also protected under the Golden Stream Corridor project.

Area of Conservation Impact

30,934,891 ha

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE



Building a security perimeter, DRC. Credit: FFI



FLOWER VALLEY AND WALKER BAY, SOUTH AFRICA

BACKGROUND

The Cape Floristic region is one of the world's six botanical kingdoms and is the most floristically rich habitat on Earth. Nearly 70% of its 8,600 plant species are endemic. In 1999, FFI was approached to help secure Flower Valley's 550 hectares of near-pristine fynbos flower-rich heathland on the Agulhas Plain of South Africa. This site was otherwise threatened with conversion into a vineyard.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

FFI and its local partner, the Flower Valley Conservation Trust (FVCT), created a project linking biodiversity conservation with community development. For the first time, wild fynbos flowers could be harvested sustainably under a new code of practice that ensured effective habitat regeneration. Sales of fynbos products to local and international supermarket outlets proved successful, and local people were offered year-round employment under ethical conditions.

This success made the project a model for other farms in the Cape Floristic region. Between 2000 and 2002, Halcyon Land & Sea also helped to purchase Witkrans and Witvoetskloof (two areas of lowland fynbos neighbouring Flower Valley), saving them from agricultural conversion.



Area Secured

3,607 ha

Area of Conservation Impact

270,000 ha

MAIN GRANT FOR LAND ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT



These lands were used to test new South African legislation enabling conservation easements, where a legal deed on the property restricts its future use, so it is protected for conservation in perpetuity. This was the first ever transaction in the country to use a conservation easement (see page 58). Witvoetskloof has now been incorporated into the neighbouring Grootbos Nature Reserve and is used as in joint tourism venture between FVCT and Grootbos. A 'Fynbos Trail' was established in 2012 as a three-day walking experience through Witvoetskloof, Grootbos, and the Flower Valley farm, providing overnight stops at each site, creating a regular income stream for FVCT.

PROGRESS IN 2020

Further Halcyon Land & Sea support was provided to this project in 2020; this included funding to develop a new landscape-level initiative to create a Walker Bay Protected Environment and direct support to bolster the operations of FVCT. Development of "Protected Environment" designation covering a number of key privately owned lands within the wider Walker Bay Conservancy would provide statutory legal protection for these sites, whilst opening up new sources of governmental conservation funding for their management. Protected Environment areas will be protected for 99 years under current provincial legislation. At present 15 sites have expressed interest in being part of this Protected Environment programme; this includes the three sites previously purchased through Halcyon Land & Sea (Flower Valley, Witvoetskloof and Witkrans). Following site-specific biodiversity assessments, all were approved for inclusion into a Protected Environment by the relevant authorities, based on their biodiversity value. Zonation plans for each site are now being prepared with the input of the landowners. Three existing private nature reserves in the area have been brought into line with the latest conservation legislation. For strategic properties (including Flower Valley) a title deed restriction will be included to formalise the property's conservation status and reinforce the new designation of these lands; this will mean the conservation status will be attached to the cadastral unit and will not lie in the hands of the landowner.

FVCT has faced a number of funding and governance challenges in recent years, with cashflow challenges, turnover at Board level and limited senior staff availability. The FVCT Board requested support from FFI to put in place a temporary governance and management solution - an interim 'executive' Chair of its Board of Trustees to help navigate the Trust onto a more secure financial and institutional footing for the next phase of its development. Over 6-12 months the interim Chair will provide strong leadership and facilitate a process of strategic and operational renewal, including revising the Trust's business model.



Ongoing Projects

These are projects that FFI is still actively supporting and engaged with but without additional funding from Halcyon Land & Sea in 2020.

SECURING SWARA PLAINS AND WILDLIFE DISPERSAL AREAS FOR NAIROBI NATIONAL PARK, KENYA

BACKGROUND

Nairobi National Park, a haven for wildlife on the edge of one of Africa's largest and fastest-growing cities, was once part of a wider ecosystem. Until the beginning of the last century, these wider plains supported one of the most spectacular concentrations of wildlife in East Africa, with over a quarter of a million animals including wildebeest, zebra, hartebeest, gazelles and impalas. Much of the wider dispersal area has been lost to settlement, agriculture, urbanisation and industrial development, and the wildlife populations of Nairobi National Park are much depleted. However, pockets of natural habitat remain outside the park, including a privately owned ranch - Swara Plains. The owner of this ranch is keen to secure it under long-term conservation management by creating a conservancy. Building on this opportunity, there is a wider vision to bring Swara Plains and several neighbouring ranches under conservation management and to create a corridor to re-establish seasonal movement of wildlife between Nairobi National Park and wider areas, potentially linking through to Amboseli National Park.

Funding from Halcyon Land & Sea supported a feasibility study to support the owner of Swara Plains in developing his ideas for a wildlife conservancy and to assess the potential for a larger scale landscape corridor.

2020 UPDATE

As a result of the feasibility study, Swara Plains (6,070 hectares) and a neighbouring property (ILRI- Kapiti Plains ranch, 12,950 hectares) were both registered as wildlife conservancies with support of the Ministry of Tourism & Wildlife in September 2020; this brings over 19,000 hectares under formal conservation management. There are now plans to investigate re-establishing a landscape-level link between these sites and Nairobi National Park, under a new taskforce (chaired by FFI's Africa Ambassador Helen Gilchohi), and the Government of Kenya is exploring ways to secure the first portion of the proposed corridor.



Area Secured

19,020 ha

Area of Conservation Impact

19,020 ha

MAIN GRANT FOR LAND ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT

PROTECTING KEY FOREST LANDSCAPES IN ZARAND, ROMANIA

BACKGROUND

Romania still has one of the largest areas of undisturbed forest in Europe, and within this, the Transylvania region supports some of Europe's most biodiverse landscapes. The remaining tracts of forest in the Carpathian Mountains support carnivore populations of European significance (40% of European brown bear and 35% of European wolf populations). These forests represent part of a beautiful and culturally-rich landscape, where traditional Romanian life is still maintained. However over recent decades, unsustainable forest management coupled with inappropriate development and agricultural intensification has affected the integrity of these forests and of the landscape itself. This has led to the fragmentation of key forest corridors, which in turn affects the integrity of carnivore populations. The project focuses on a key 150km forest corridor (the Zarand landscape corridor), which connects the Western Carpathians and the Southern Carpathians; it provides the only zone through which large mammals and other forest-dependent fauna can move between these areas. This connection maintains linkage of the Romanian Western Carpathians into a chain of forest landscapes north into Ukraine and south-east into the former Yugoslavia.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

Forest connectivity within this landscape has been maintained through strategic land purchase and managed restoration of habitats at bottlenecks within the corridor. A key forest block (Vorta Forest - 414 hectares) was purchased for conservation, along with a series of small land parcels (together totalling 133 hectares) to create micro-corridors across the narrowest point of the forest corridor. These purchased sites are under active management, with a specific management plan developed for Vorta Forest. In 2019 spatial analysis showed that habitat restoration in the corridor bottleneck is improving ecological connectivity.



Area Secured

547 ha

Area of Conservation Impact

734,935 ha

MAIN GRANT FOR LAND ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT

Working with a local partner, the Zarand Association, in 2014 the project took on management of Zarandul de Est (a Natura 2000 site covering 20,315 hectares) which was developed as a demonstration model for effective habitat and wildlife protection to inform other land managers and agencies in the region. However, changes in legislation in 2019 resulted in the Romanian government taking direct control of all Natura 2000 sites including Zarandul de Est.

The project has brought together 19 different state institutions to work collaboratively across the landscape – a novel model for Romania. The project also includes a strong emphasis on maintaining traditional land use (which underpins this mosaic landscape and its high biodiversity values) by strengthening cultural heritage, diversifying local livelihoods, and reducing human-wildlife conflict (for example through the erection of fences and provision of sheepdogs). The project's ranger team works directly with the local gendarmerie to tackle wildlife crime across the corridor, and these efforts have now extended to an adjoining landscape. The use of electric fences and sheepdogs has proved highly efficient at reducing damage to crops and predation of livestock. Livelihood diversification work, including developing a premium brand for local products (e.g. honey) and an increased base for tourism, has increased income for local people, and has helped them to value their traditional and biodiversity-friendly ways of life.

There is already evidence that some key threats have reduced as a result of project activities. For example, there has been a marked decline in illegal timber movements in the area, and a survey of local farmers showed a clear perception that the team's interventions are reducing predation of livestock and damage to crops by wildlife. A survey in 2017 identified eight bear dens in the corridor, while camera traps confirmed the presence of a breeding wolf pack. Modelling of habitat suitability and landscape permeability across the corridor has confirmed that the corridor remains functional for wildlife movements; at a more granular level ecological connectivity has improved

at the key pinch point in the corridor as a result of active restoration efforts. A business plan has been developed looking at the financial sustainability of the project, and has made a number of recommendations such as the development of willow coppicing for biofuel within restored areas.

2020 UPDATE

The combination of purchasing and restoring land, facilitating coexistence between large carnivores and people, anti-poaching patrols, training and raising awareness of landscape-scale conservation have continued to improve connectivity across the Zarand landscape. Despite some delays and changes to workplans as a result of Covid-19, habitat management and restoration activities in Vorta Forest and the Mures meadows continued this year as far as possible, although no new purchases could be taken forward. Forest conservation subsidies were received in 2020, and these will underpin ongoing forest management costs. The human-wildlife conflict intervention team maintained its operations this year, including relocation of one problem bear and helping farmers apply for compensation when livestock or crops were damaged by carnivores. An assessment of the efficacy of protection methods (over 150 electric fences and 50 livestock guarding dogs have been distributed to date) showed these prevented damage from carnivores in 86% of recorded attacks. The human-wildlife conflict team have become a regional, national and international hub of expertise, and shared learning on human-wildlife conflict with both European and south-east Asian organisations. Zarand Association has also continued to work independently, and its president continues to input into forestry issues at Government-level, including the development of a new Forestry/Forest Strategy in Romania. The project also continued its work to support traditional forms of land management and local communities generated funds in 2020 from honey production, artisanal products and tourism.





SERA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY, KENYA

BACKGROUND

Lying approximately 250km north-east of Mount Kenya, Sera is a vast and remote semi-arid wilderness. With a remarkable system of permanent springs, it supports a diverse range of wildlife, including elephant, wild dog, gerenuk, beisa oryx, buffalo and Grevy's zebra, and is an important dispersal area for migrant species during the rains. However, the location of Sera in the northern Kenya borderlands means that it has been affected by the impacts of civil disturbance in neighbouring Somalia. Incursions of Somali bandits, cattle rustlers and organised gangs of poachers into the area remain a key threat to wildlife, particularly to the remaining elephant population. Since 2004, FFI has worked with the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) and the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy to establish the Sera Community Conservancy and secure 51,000 hectares of the Sera wildlands (33,000 hectares of core area plus a buffer zone of 18,000 hectares).



Area Secured

339,336 ha

Area of Conservation Impact

339,336 ha

MAIN GRANT FOR LAND
ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT

ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

The Sera Wildlife Conservancy was successfully demarcated, a controlled grazing regime was implemented and daily patrols by community rangers were put in place. A formal management structure was established and resourced with key equipment, and a strategic plan was agreed with the support of local communities. In an area that was once prone to banditry and poaching, Sera has become increasingly stable where security has been restored as there is clear evidence of both poaching and cattle rustling being greatly reduced. Evidence over the last few years has shown that trends for most wildlife populations are positive, and that elephant poaching has been reduced in contrast to the trends in non-conservancy areas. Elephants have now taken up residence throughout the year, and Sera Conservancy has been transformed from a former poaching hotspot to a safe haven for this species.

During 2014, Kenya's first ever community-managed rhino sanctuary was established at Sera. This is surrounded by a 45km perimeter fence, with active protection and monitoring of the population of translocated rhinos by the ranger force. The sanctuary now supports a breeding population of black rhino and is also being used to secure populations of other key species including beisa oryx.

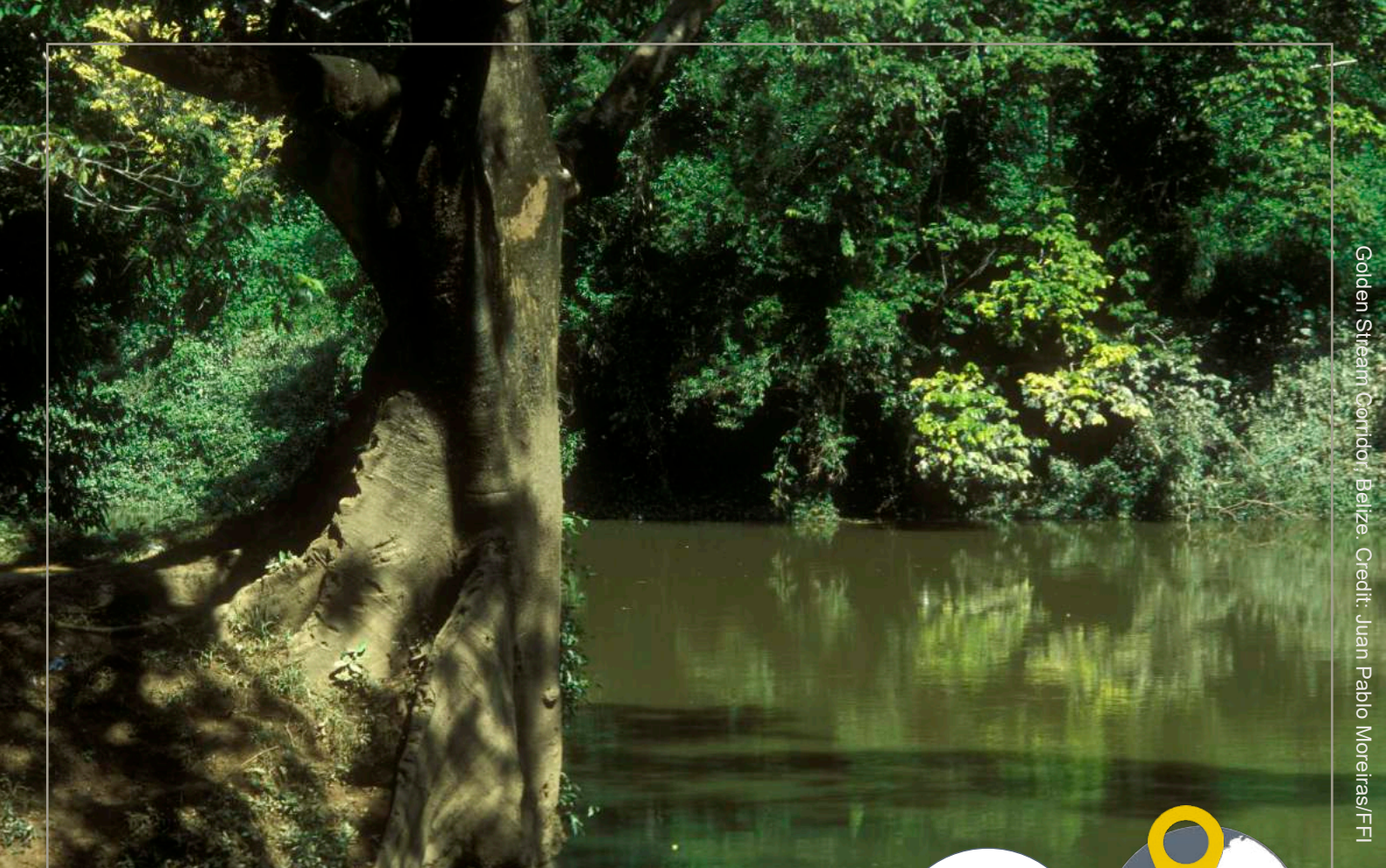
Tourism operations and other enterprises (see page 47) have started to deliver income streams for both conservancy operations and communities.

2020 UPDATE

In 2020, FFI supported the Sera Wildlife Conservancy to address the pressing issue of water management which has important consequences for both wildlife and people. This resulted in the installation of water harvesting infrastructure and basic water footprint monitoring equipment to help build resilience and adaptation in the wake of changing climate. Within Sera the rhino population in the sanctuary now stands at 17 (including a calf born in 2020). A Management and Development Strategy for the sanctuary was completed in 2020, supported by Halcyon Land & Sea funding. A team of 16 rhino monitors continues to conduct daily patrols in the sanctuary, supported by a team of 25 rangers who patrol the wider conservancy to maintain security for wildlife, people and property. No poaching or fence break incidents were recorded this year.



African elephant. Credit: Pippa Howard/FFI



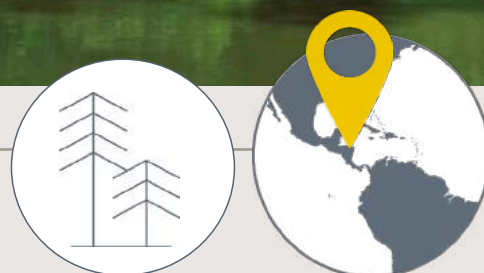
GOLDEN STREAM CORRIDOR PRESERVE, SOUTHERN BELIZE

BACKGROUND

Home to Central America's five wild cats, the jaguar, jaguarundi, puma, ocelot and margay, Golden Stream Corridor Preserve's lowland tropical broadleaf forest was under direct threat of being destroyed by logging and conversion for citrus plantations and shrimp farms.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

Between 1998 and 2004, Halcyon Land & Sea purchased 6,057 hectares at Golden Stream, a strategic intervention which has effectively protected the entire Golden Stream Watershed, from the Mayan mountains to the coast. Coordinated management and strategic planning now contribute to the conservation of a landscape area of over 300,000 hectares. Monitoring of forest cover and biodiversity within Golden Stream has demonstrated that indicators of forest health, and species abundance and diversity, are higher within the protected lands than in surrounding areas. Golden Stream still supports all five of Belize's wild cat species, along with a recovering population of howler monkeys.



Area Secured

6,057 ha

Area of Conservation Impact

300,000 ha

**MAIN GRANT FOR LAND
ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT**

We initiated this project in 1998 in partnership with Ya'axché Conservation Trust, which was then a nascent Mayan NGO. Ya'axché has since grown into an effective grassroots organisation, recognised locally, nationally and even internationally. Its previous director, Lisel Alamilla, served as Minister for Forestry, Fisheries and Sustainable Development between 2012 and 2015. As well as managing Golden Stream, Ya'axché has taken on formal co-management of the neighbouring Bladen Nature Reserve, a national Protected Area covering 40,469 hectares, and Maya Mountain North Forest Reserve (14,569 hectares) and is taking a lead in integrated approaches to managing the wider landscape around these sites. Ya'axché's appointment as manager of Bladen and other sites is a testament to its experience in protected area management and to the institutional capacity that has been built as a direct result of the Halcyon Land & Sea project at Golden Stream.

Ya'axché also operates a sustainable livelihood programme for local communities, which has involved horticulture, beekeeping and cacao production projects. The Ya'axché Protected Areas Management Programme has run courses and training for rangers to continue to professionalise and integrate new techniques for protected areas. A commercial arm of Ya'axché (the Ya'axché Institute for Conservation and Education) was established in 2015 with the aim of creating new income streams for Ya'axché. FFI continues to support Ya'axché in its ongoing organisational development, including supporting it to adapt to managing additional areas, and establishing enhanced income generation and fundraising skills.

2020 UPDATE

Ya'axché has continued to provide strong management for Golden Stream and the other reserves for which it has responsibility, with regular patrols, ongoing training of rangers and work to ensure effective boundary demarcation of Bladen Nature Reserve. Community livelihood programmes based around agroforestry, cacao production and beekeeping were maintained, with a range of demonstration farms established, ongoing training for community members and targeted business plan development. Detailed biodiversity monitoring was maintained within the protected areas, while specific surveys coupled with a series of training courses helped to improve skills for identification and conservation of trees among the rangers. A camera trap grid has now been established to allow remote monitoring across the corridor and neighbouring farmland. Studies in 2020 recorded 25 native bee species within the Mayan Golden Landscape. FFI continues to provide arm's length capacity support to Ya'axché which is increasingly self-sufficient, but has provided advice and support as required (and maintains a seat on the Board) and collaborated on specific areas of common interest – including the planned purchase of Boden Creek (see page 17).



Cacao tree. Credit: Nicky Jenner/FFI

TÂRNAVA MARE GRASSLANDS, ROMANIA

BACKGROUND

The Târnava Mare (Saxon Villages) area of south-east Transylvania covers a landscape of some 125,000 hectares. It is a biodiversity hotspot of European importance and provides livelihoods for thousands of farming families. This historic, mosaic landscape incorporates wildflower-rich lowland pastures and meadows, old-growth woodland and farmed lands, and is dependent on continued traditional management by small-scale farming communities. This landscape supports an exceptional diversity of species, including many that are threatened at a European-level, and includes specific areas of exceptional botanical diversity associated with landscape features called moviles (natural mounds otherwise known as tumps). These moviles are at particular risk due to lack of management following the abandonment of smallholdings, agricultural intensification and destruction for extraction of rock for aggregate. The current land restitution process in Romania, where land is handed back to families or communities who owned it prior to the Communist era, creates risks of land developers purchasing these sites. The project aims to secure these highly biodiverse sites to prevent their inappropriate management or destruction.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

Key areas of grassland biodiversity, including several movile sites, have been purchased and given to a local partner NGO (ADEPT) to own and manage in perpetuity. Purchasing the land has protected it from being ploughed, intensively grazed, burned, or exposed to substrate extraction. The sites are actively managed through appropriate grazing and mowing regimes to maintain their biodiversity value, including rotational grazing by cattle. Initial assessments by a botanist have already demonstrated encouraging signs of grassland recovery as a result of ongoing improvements in management regimes, with measurable improvements in habitat condition and species mix. In 2019 a neighbouring site was ploughed and seeded with maize, thus exemplifying the risk that these valuable areas would otherwise face. In addition, these sites are eligible for EU subsidies and have started to generate income, and by 2019 were generating sufficient funding to cover a significant proportion of ADEPT's running costs.



Red-band fritillary on Nodding sage on the tumps, Romania. Credit: ADEPT



Area Secured

239 ha

Area of Conservation Impact

1,500,000 ha

MAIN GRANT FOR LAND
ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT

Given the risk posed by land abandonment to the biodiversity of the wider landscape, which is dependent on active management, ADEPT works with members of local communities to create jobs and livelihoods that will keep local smallholdings under traditional management. These include enterprises that add value to local produce (such as a range of local produce marketed under the Târnava Mare brand) and the promotion of tourism enterprises and ventures (such as a mountain biking route and associated race) to bring new tourists to this region. In 2017 ADEPT's initiative won a European Cultural Tourism Network award. An abandoned school on one of the sites has been developed as an education and tourist centre and hosted its first group of students in 2019.

2020 UPDATE

A series of land swaps (small individual parcels totalling 26.5 hectares) were undertaken during 2020, to consolidate land ownership in the core biodiversity areas in exchange for lower biodiversity value lands away from our core area, which are more useful to neighbouring owners. In addition, ADEPT continued to pursue a series of at least five

land purchases (totalling 28.5 hectares) although no purchases were able to move forward this year. The use of cattle grazing in meadow habitats continues to have a positive impact on habitat quality and species mix and associated subsidies provide an additional income stream. A news item on the success of this management tool and the impact of the switch from hard grazing by sheep was published (See Oryx , 2020, 54(1), 9–15). Financial sustainability of ADEPT's operations is improving, with combined income from subsidies and calf sales increasing. Future projections suggest over 50% of ADEPTs operational costs will be covered by this income in future. The former school house has been converted into Angofa Wildlife Centre and this has now been leased to Operation Wallacea for five years under an agreement that s would see Operation Wallacea develop the Centre activities while also managing and running the centre for a fee paid to ADEPT for its use. FFI continues to provide mentoring support and advice to ADEPT, and sits on their steering committee. ADEPT have stated that FFI's previous and ongoing capacity training has been instrumental in ensuring they receiving critical ongoing core support from the Sigrid Rausing Trust.



SECURING AREAS OF RENOSTERVELD, SOUTH AFRICA

BACKGROUND

Renosterveld represents a specific type of species-rich fynbos heathland only found in the South African Cape. Botanical surveys have revealed additional rare and new plant species in these biodiversity-rich fragments. This unique but fragmented habitat is at immediate risk of destruction. Less than 4% of the original cover of renosterveld now remains, threatening many of the endemic plant species it supports with extinction. Most of the remaining tracts of renosterveld occur on private land and are at risk of being ploughed up for agriculture or degraded by overgrazing. The project aims to secure key areas of renosterveld in collaboration with WWF-South Africa, which has secured funds for land purchase, with Halcyon Land & Sea funding covering associated legal and short-term management costs.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

In 2014, Haarwegskloof Farm, a 500-hectare property with some of the largest areas of intact renosterveld, was purchased. This was established as a formal nature reserve under WWF ownership, Cape Nature stewardship and management by the Overberg Renosterveld Conservation Trust (a local organisation devoted to conservation and sustainable management of renosterveld habitats) under a 30-year management agreement. Surveys of the site have shown that it supports 550 plant and 125 bird species, including some plant species new to science. Active

management of the site has been initiated, including controlled burning, which is an important aspect of fynbos ecology, releasing a spectacular flowering across a wide range of characteristic renosterveld plant species. A management plan has been developed and adopted for the site, along with a business plan outlining how the site might generate sustainable conservation finance through tourism.

Innovative conservation easements have secured renosterveld, underpinning the planned creation of a “fynbos corridor” to link this area to conservation areas in the wider Agulhas National Park.

The Overberg Renosterveld Conservation Trust is now a well-established, dynamic organisation, with the capacity, human resources, planning, relationships and partnerships in place to underpin its future sustainability. It has already proved successful in raising its own funds. It has also established a Renosterveld Research and Visitor Centre, including a guest house, which generates further income.

2020 UPDATE

Further conservation easements were put in place in 2020, bringing the total under conservation servitudes to around 3,735 hectares. Ongoing management at Haarwegskloof has resulted in the maintenance and/or improvement in the condition of the habitats and species, demonstrated by ongoing conservation research.



Area Secured

518 ha



Area of Conservation Impact

4,253 ha

MAIN GRANT FOR LAND
ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT

NORTHERN RANGELANDS TRUST, KENYA

BACKGROUND

Kenya's northern rangelands harbour around a quarter of the country's remaining wildlife. The Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) supports 39 community conservancies and has effectively re-established a wildlife landscape of approximately 4.2 million hectares from Mount Kenya to the Matthews Range and beyond. Within these conservancies, communities have autonomy of management and apply their own norms and rules, retaining ownership of conservation. The conservancies also provide a way for the communities to address wider issues, such as rangeland and livestock management and inter-clan conflict resolution, and to develop new income streams from tourism and other nature-based enterprises. In addition, with support from Halcyon Land & Sea and FFI, NRT itself has developed into a functional and fully independent organisation.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

Over the past ten years, FFI has supported individual community conservancies and the central operations and development of NRT with Halcyon Land & Sea funding. NRT and community conservancies continue to implement an innovative rangeland management programme across two million hectares, combining traditional approaches with new techniques, including land-use planning, rotational grazing, bunched grazing, land rehabilitation and the development of effective community institutions. Four NRT-supported endangered species recovery programmes (targeting black rhino, hirola, elephant and Rothschild's giraffe) are advancing new community-led endangered species conservation initiatives and are increasing tourism income for host conservancies.

Over 750 community rangers, working with Kenya Wildlife Service, county governments, and Kenya Police, have effectively increased security in NRT areas, playing a vital role in protecting wildlife, people and property. Results from NRT's Conservancy Management Monitoring System have shown improved conservation and protection of species and habitats, with individual conservancies reporting increased incidence of wild dog, giraffe, elephant and lions, and the return of species such as eland to areas from which they had previously disappeared. In addition, records of illegal killing of elephants in NRT conservancies have dropped since 2012.

Area Secured

3,859,080 ha

Area of Conservation Impact

3,859,080 ha

MAIN GRANT FOR LAND ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT



Lojibu the Rhino under watch. Credit: Rio



NRT also aims to bring benefits to the people that live within its conservancies, promote inter-clan peace and reduce conflicts with wildlife. NRT Trading works to seed-fund and grow sustainable businesses within the conservancies. It has developed local enterprises focused on livestock, handicrafts, fisheries and tourism, generating an annual income of around US \$1.4 million, improving financial sustainability within conservancies and improving support for conservation. A Conservancy Livelihood Fund allows communities to identify, plan and implement their own development programmes, and has provided more than US \$2.7 million to community projects between 2015 and 2019. In addition, NRT conservancies are one of the most significant sources of employment within the landscape, with over 1,000 permanent staff and c. 2,000 seasonal hires.

NRT's capacity in delivering biodiversity management has continued to strengthen over the period of FFI's support, resulting in improving rangelands, increasing wildlife population trends, and successful species recovery projects. NRT has continued to develop its organisational and technical capacity and is largely independent, forging partnerships with donors, government, international organisations, and NGOs without support. NRT has since raised significant funding independently, including a five-year grant from USAID in 2015. NRT now has a well-diversified income base, including from tourism, livestock, craft production and a Payment for Ecosystem Services scheme, as well as from a range of external funders. County governments have also contributed to conservancy running costs for the past couple of years.

2020 UPDATE

This year saw the conservancies and communities within the NRT facing the combined threats of a locust invasion, floods and Covid-19. Income was reduced

across the diverse income streams supporting NRT operations, due to reduced markets for beef, closure of the major outlets of handicrafts and cessation of tourism operations. A grant from the FFI Partner Crisis Support Fund was key to immediate maintenance of operations, and was later reinforced by a stimulus package for the conservancies from the Kenyan Government – which demonstrates the Government's recognition of the nationally important role of community conservancies. Community-led protection was maintained across all 39 NRT conservancies in 2020, and work is underway to develop four additional conservancies to enhance large-scale connectivity between the Marsabit and Meru landscapes. The conservancies continue to provide an important vehicle to reduce tensions between diverse ethnic groups and thus ensure stability, which is key to effective wildlife protection. Anti-poaching operations, conservation awareness, and endangered species recovery programmes are all having an impact on stabilising key species populations, with recorded increased populations and/or ranges for species such as elephant, reticulated giraffe, Grevy's zebra and beisa oryx. Over the last two years, FFI has been working with NRT to develop a sustainability framework for its member conservancies (in part financed by Halcyon Land & Sea). This aims to graduate some conservancies from dependence on NRT, but requires a standard approach to determine the capacity and stage of maturity of each member conservancy, and to help direct focused investment in capacity building towards self-reliance and a sustainability. A tool to support this process is under development and will be tested at eight conservancies, before being rolled out across the whole NRT network.

HALCYON CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVE

BACKGROUND

One of the greatest emerging threats to global biodiversity is climate change. The sites that we are protecting are likely to be subject to significant changes in the habitats and species they support over the coming decades. At the same time, the importance of natural habitats in locking up carbon is becoming increasingly recognised, with the destruction of such habitats (particularly forests) estimated to release around 20% of total annual global greenhouse gas emissions. Halcyon Land & Sea effectively provides a central mechanism for the 'avoided destruction' of natural habitats and has successfully locked up significant stores of carbon that would have been released if sites had been destroyed.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

Halcyon Land & Sea supported work that (i) developed a methodology to assess carbon stored within Halcyon Land & Sea sites, and to estimate avoided emissions as a result of this protection (this was then applied to assess the carbon stored in other land holdings); (ii) assessed the potential for Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) schemes to secure large tracts of forest habitats, which resulted in two publicly disseminated briefing papers and the development of a series of REDD+ projects; (iii) reviewed the potential for new (non-forest) carbon markets, including markets based around grassland carbon, and so-called 'blue carbon' in marine habitats; and (iv) developed tools to undertake climate risk assessment and climate foresight planning for Halcyon Land & Sea and other FFI sites, which resulted in a project that undertook climate adaptation planning for sites in agricultural landscapes with a publicly disseminated tool and case studies.

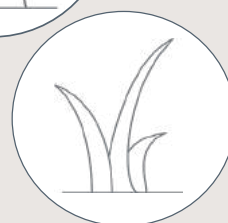
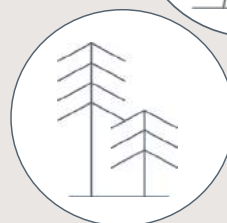
Bespoke 'climate foresight planning' has now been conducted for a range of FFI projects, particularly those identified as being in high-risk regions for climate change, such as Central Asia, Central America and South East Asia. Work to increase climate resilience in one site in Nicaragua showed that the farms we had been supporting suffered less impact from severe storms than other surrounding areas, perhaps as a result of the use of agroforestry, crop diversification, staggered planting, and adopting more appropriate crop varieties.

2020 UPDATES

Following an internal workshop in 2019, FFI developed a new climate action plan to help us deliver commitments on climate change included in our new organisational strategy. A dedicated climate change specialist was recruited in 2020 who will build on the work initiated under the Halcyon carbon assessment conducted in 2008, and use the climate foresight planning tool, also developed with Halcyon funding, to support project-level development of climate mitigation plans.



One of the greatest threats to global biodiversity is Climate Change. Credit: Juan Pablo Moreiras/FFI



STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

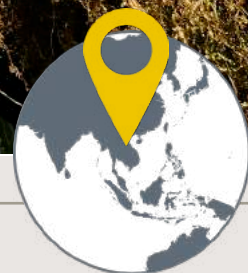
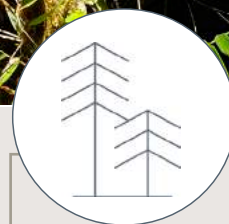


Checking camera traps in Myanmar. Credit: Jeremy Holden/EFI

KACHIN HIGHLANDS, MYANMAR

BACKGROUND

The highly biodiverse forests of north-east Kachin State, which lies on Myanmar's Himalayan border with China, support a wide range of biodiversity, including a newly discovered primate species, the Myanmar snub-nosed monkey, considered to be critically endangered due to its small population size and limited distribution. Surveys revealed a number of immediate threats to the region's forests, including destructive logging by Chinese timber companies, leading to severe habitat degradation. Species within these forests were subject to hunting both for local use and for the wildlife trade to China. One of the greatest threats to these forests was the proposed development of hydro-power projects that would result in the in-migration of a large Chinese workforce, thus increasing demand for firewood and wildlife products, coupled with increased forest conversion as a result of the valley floor agricultural lands being flooded. Without careful planning such large-scale infrastructure projects could decimate the wildlife of these exceptional forests.



Area Secured

156,280 ha

Area of Conservation Impact

400,000 ha

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

FFI's original surveys provided the understanding and rationale to develop a proposed protected area to safeguard the range of the Myanmar snub-nosed monkey, covering important forest areas that also support a host of other threatened species. The proposed Imawbum National Park would secure over 150,000 hectares of forest under conservation management and protect the watershed of the main tributary of the Ayeyarwaddy River, the biggest and longest river in Myanmar. This proposal was approved in principle by the Ministry of Forestry and Environmental Conservation in 2013.

As a result of a high-level forest sector reform workshop in Myanmar organised in response to the data the project had collected on illegal logging, the Government announced a log export ban, starting in 2014, which has helped to prevent further Chinese logging in the Kachin highlands. In parallel, the FFI team developed a Community Protected Area with local villages within the proposed core zone of the new national park, and a series of 36 village conservation groups were established, along with two community patrol groups. By 2017, surveys showed reduced human disturbance to these forests following the cessation of illegal logging. The protection of the forest has been maintained through the action of the village patrol groups, and FFI has continued to invest

in the operation of these groups through the provision of training, raising awareness, supporting village meetings, and the provision of grants to support livelihood activities.

A range of processes to enable gazettelement of Imawbum National Park were completed, including a biodiversity report of the Imawbum area and a full public consultation. A proposal to develop mining projects within the area was rejected by the government in 2019 due to the site's status as a proposed protected area. In 2019 a survey also confirmed the presence of a number of threatened tree species within the proposed national park.

2020 UPDATE

Imawbum National Park (156,280 hectares) was officially designated as a new National Park on 30 March 2020 by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation. Following on from this, initial meetings to develop the park's management plan were organized with the Forest Department and local ethnic groups although these were delayed until autumn 2020. The FFI team also continued to work with village conservation groups, offering support with community forestry initiatives and support in development of a local nursery to support tree planting. Biological monitoring of the park, using camera traps, also continued.





Endangered saiga in Kazakhstan. Credit: David Gill/FWI

EMERGENCY RESPONSE FOR SAIGA ANTELOPE, KAZAKHSTAN

BACKGROUND

The Ustyurt Plateau is a vast and remote wilderness covering some 20 million hectares straddling Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan and is considered to be a globally important site for steppe biodiversity. Over the last 70 years, the plateau ecosystem has been increasingly affected by human activities. A number of species or subspecies have declined or become extinct, including the wild ass and the Central Asian cheetah. One of the species to have suffered the most dramatic declines has been the critically endangered saiga antelope, a key species of the plateau. The trade in saiga horn for traditional Chinese medicine has brought this species to the edge of extinction, with steep population declines reported since the 1980s, and a further decrease in saiga numbers in recent years. From a population that once numbered in the millions, only an estimated 1,700 individuals remain in the Ustyurt region. Similarly, the numbers of other key ungulates, such as the goitered gazelle and urial, have also declined markedly. Such significant decreases in the main grazing species are likely to result in changes to the structure of the steppe and associated species, including a number of globally threatened birds.



Area of Conservation Impact

6,394,800 ha

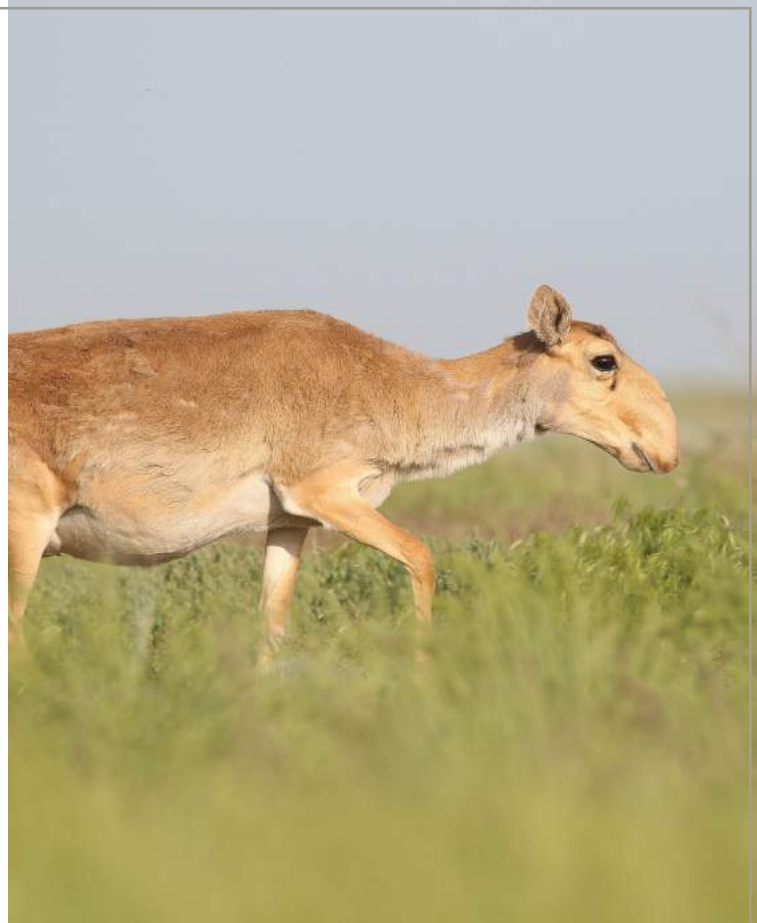
STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

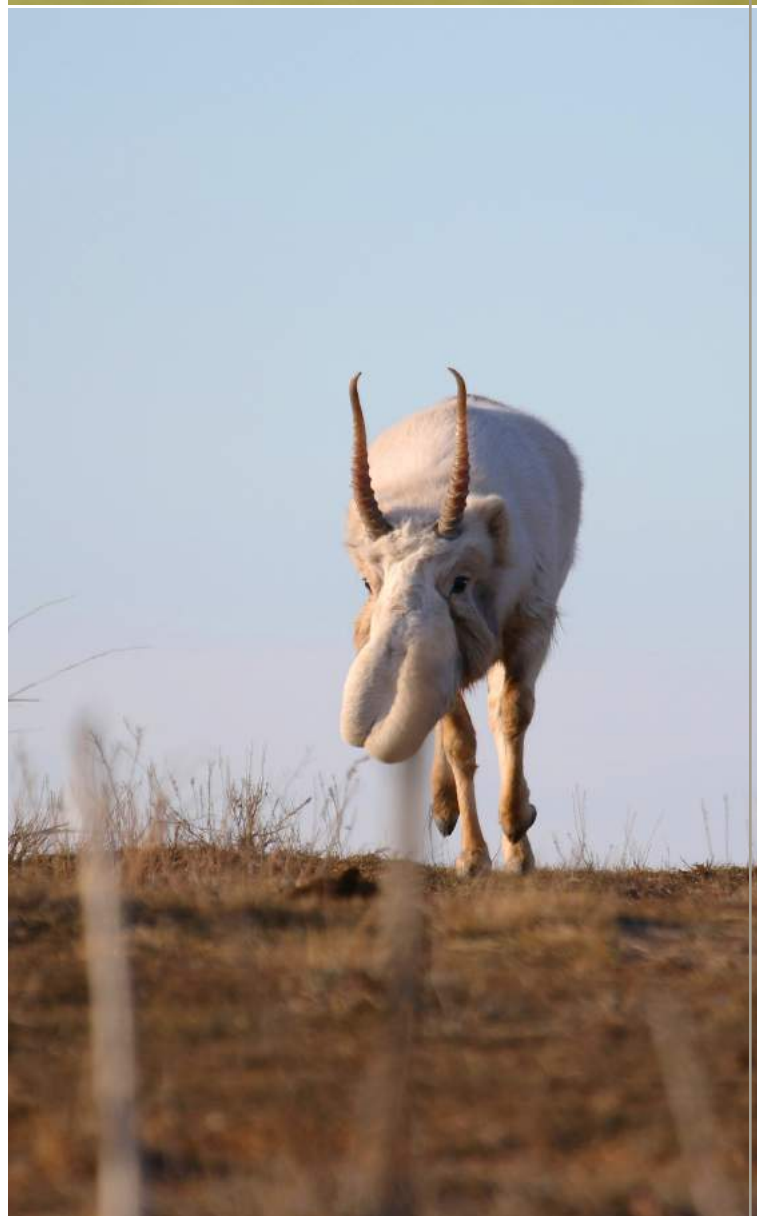
Funding from Halcyon Land & Sea has strengthened law enforcement capacity through the provision of vital equipment and training, including vehicles enabling rangers to access this vast area, alongside Kazakh Government investment into the Ustyurt ranger force. FFI and partners have trained rangers from across the saiga range states, and successfully lobbied for the 150km border fence between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan to be modified to include 125 animal-friendly gaps, thus enabling the continued cross-border migration of saiga and other wildlife. The project also put in place sniffer dogs that patrol key points along the Kazakhstan border in order to reduce illegal wildlife trade in saiga horn. Rangers now conduct regular monitoring of the area (over 99,000km² – larger than the area of Scotland) and anti-poaching operations have resulted in the detention of poachers, whilst aerial surveys have shown year-on year increases in saiga numbers, with the population increasing from 2,700 to 5,900 individuals between 2017 and 2019, an increase of nearly 120%. The initial funding from Halcyon was crucial to improve protection of this site, as it provided FFI and FFI's partner with the resources to build effective local relationships, lobby for the introduction of a ranger team and get the team up and running at a crucial time when the Government were considering withdrawing support to their own rangers.

2020 UPDATE

Monthly ranger patrols and saiga monitoring continued throughout 2020, including during a strict national lockdown when the ranger team was granted special permission to continue patrolling. This meant that patrols provided vital cover during the saiga calving season (when they are particularly vulnerable to poaching). No incidences of poaching were observed in the Ustyurt population between mid-2019 and mid-2020. Calving assessments found the largest number of saiga calves in this population since monitoring began in 2017 (with 530 calves observed in 2020, compared to four in 2019, and 57 in 2018). The planned annual aerial census due in spring was cancelled due to Covid-19 and results from an interim drone survey conducted in September are not yet available. Work continued in parallel to increase the number of trained sniffer dogs used to detect illegally traded wildlife at the country's borders, with 15 dogs now active.



Saiga antelope. Credit: David Gill/FFI



Male saiga antelope. Credit: David Gill/FFI

CHACOCENTE WILDLIFE REFUGE, NICARAGUA

BACKGROUND

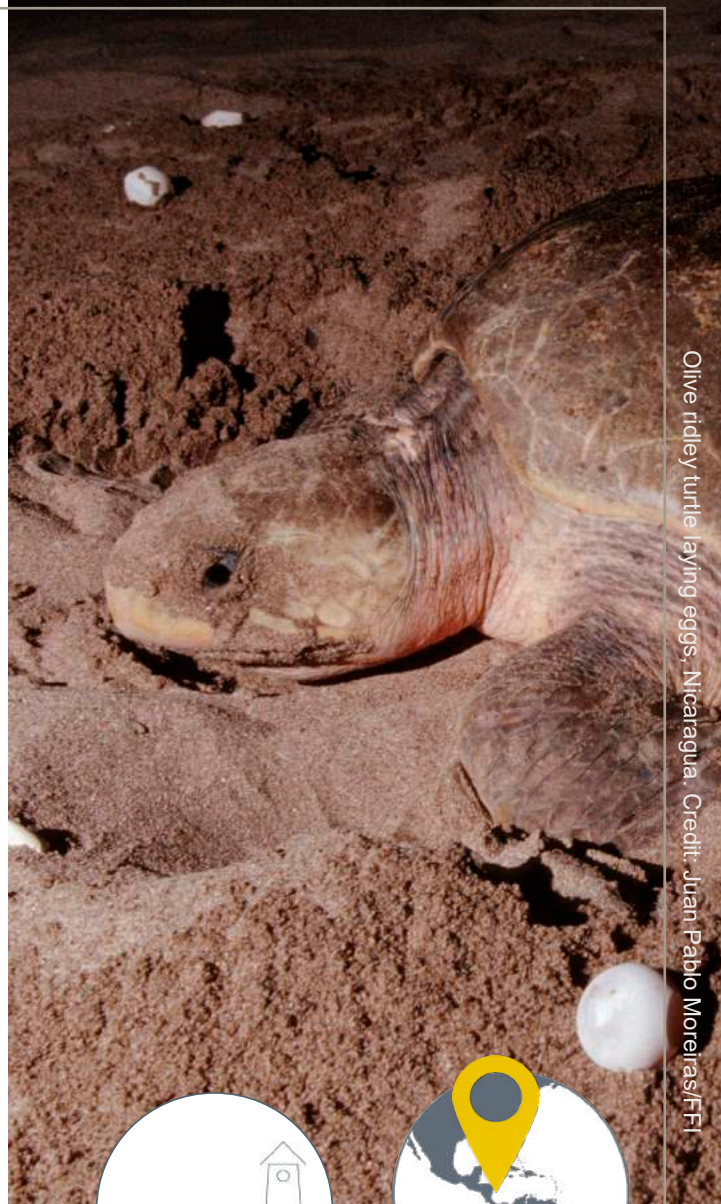
Chacocente, on the south Pacific coast of Nicaragua, is one of the largest and most important remaining examples of dry tropical forest in the country. It is also one of the region's four mass-nesting sites for the endangered olive ridley turtle, and a primary nesting site for the critically endangered Pacific leatherback turtles. Poaching of turtle eggs has been a major threat to both species as surrounding local communities are poor, and previously relied on the income earned from selling eggs.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

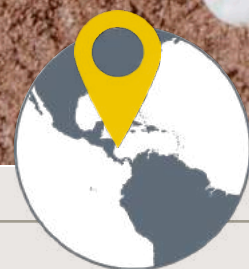
In 2001, Halcyon Land & Sea bought 8 hectares of coastline, including beach and dry tropical forest, which was subsequently integrated as part of the Rio Escalante-Chacocente Wildlife Refuge, and is managed within Nicaragua's Protected Area system by the Nicaraguan Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources. FFI provided additional support to develop a new governance structure for the refuge, which formalises a level of co-management by the community and other stakeholders at this site. This then helped to leverage funds from the Global Environment Facility, to support effective management of the area by both private and public stakeholders.

To help local people to find alternative sources of income and reduce the pressure on natural resources, FFI worked with farmers to increase their crop diversity and yields by introducing basic irrigation, and helped local people to set up and run turtle tourism and other livelihood initiatives, such as '[weaving for nature](#)', which recycles plastic waste into handicrafts.

Management effectiveness at Chacocente improved year-on-year since work started in 2001. An operational management plan was established, along with a trained park ranger team, improved infrastructure, better management and coordination with other agencies, such as naval patrols, as well as the annual protection of the turtle nesting beaches. Over the 16 years of the project, nesting numbers of olive ridley turtles saw a progressive positive trend, despite occasional dips, and around 750,000 nests have been recorded and/or protected. In parallel, a total of 325 leatherback nests have been protected resulting in the release of 4,995 hatchlings to sea.



Olive ridley turtle laying eggs, Nicaragua. Credit: Juan Pablo Moreiras/FFI



Area Secured

8 ha

Area of Conservation Impact

4,800 ha

MAIN GRANT FOR LAND ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT

2020 UPDATES

Ongoing restrictions on the work of NGOs in Nicaragua continued to affect operations, but a reduced schedule of community-led beach monitoring patrols did proceed during the standard turtle nesting season. Rangers from the Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources, supported by military personnel, protected the arribada mass nesting beach at Chacocente. During standard patrols no leatherback nests were found in any of three most important nesting sites in Nicaragua this year which further confirms the continuing decline of the Eastern Pacific leatherback population; however, four nests were subsequently recorded at Chacocente

after the end of the normal nesting season. We do not have data from the Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources on numbers of olive ridley nests protected this year. FFI also continued its work to ensure local support for turtle protection activities, including work to support improvements and market access for local honey production. During 2020, FFI has successfully worked to strengthen our relationship with the Nicaraguan authorities, and we anticipate that our permits for the upcoming turtle nesting season will be available before the end of the year, allowing us to engage more effectively at the site next year.



Olive ridley hatchlings, Juan Venado nesting beach. Credit: Heydi Salazar/FFI

OL PEJETA CONSERVANCY, KENYA

BACKGROUND

Ol Pejeta Conservancy is a vital part of the Laikipia ecosystem in northern Kenya, protecting critical migration corridors and diverse wildlife, including black rhinos and Grevy's zebra. In 2004, the Arcus Foundation provided vital investment to secure and protect the conservancy's wildlife, provide a sanctuary for great apes, and generate income through wildlife tourism, to be reinvested in conservation and community development. The project is a joint programme between Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, FFI, and the Arcus Foundation.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

Ol Pejeta was purchased and transferred to a Kenyan non-profit entity (Ol Pejeta Conservancy) under a long-term management agreement. Ol Pejeta Conservancy also manages two neighbouring ranches that provide connectivity to the wider Laikipia landscape, covering an additional 32,388 hectares. In 2006, 27 eastern black rhinos were translocated to Ol Pejeta as the basis for a new breeding population, and in 2009, four of the world's last seven known remaining northern white rhinos were translocated from a zoo in the Czech Republic to a specially built enclosure at Ol Pejeta in the hope that natural conditions would encourage them to breed. Although mating was subsequently observed, the death of the last male of the sub-species (named Sudan) early in 2018 put an end to the hope of natural breeding. However, successful in-vitro fertilisation of eggs harvested from the remaining two females has resulted in three viable embryos.

Security at Ol Pejeta, which includes two wildlife protection squads, unmanned aerial vehicles and an anti-poaching dog unit, has resulted in low incidences of poaching. As a result, Ol Pejeta now hosts East Africa's largest population of endangered black rhinos, which makes up 16% of Kenya's population. Ol Pejeta rangers have also increased security for surrounding villages, created a solid network of intelligence sources, and built strong relations with surrounding communities.

In 2019 Ol Pejeta took on management for the neighbouring Mutara Conservation Area (8,000 hectares) to increase the dispersal area for rhinos.

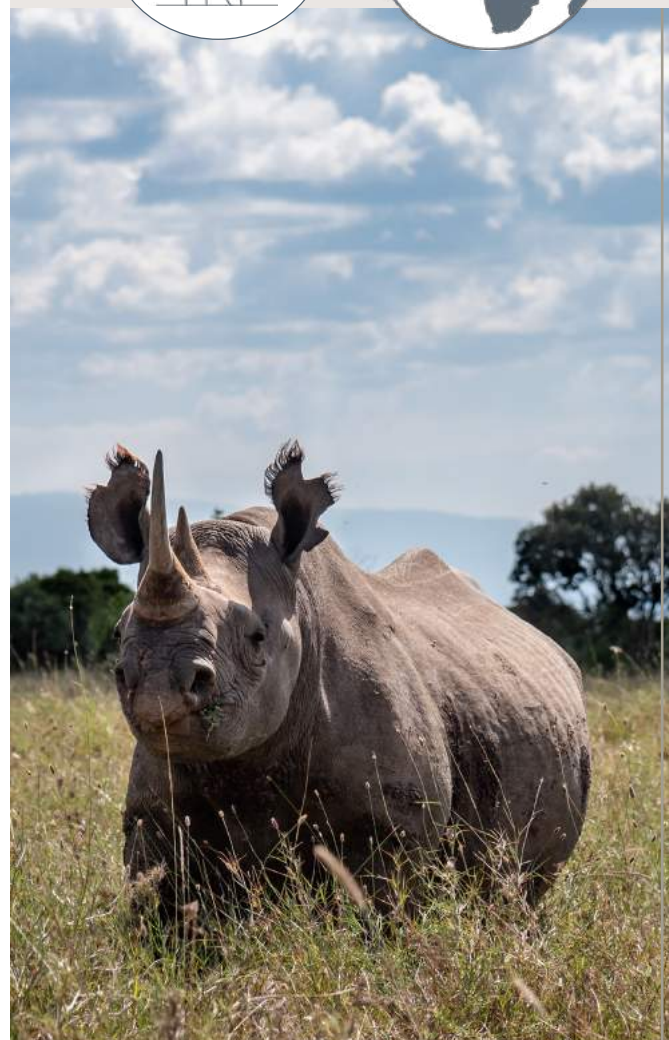
Area Secured

37,000 ha

Area of Conservation Impact

150,000

MAIN GRANT FOR LAND
ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT



Black Rhino with its Calf at Ol Pejeta conservancy. Credit OPC



Legacy Projects

Legacy Projects are those that FFI is no longer actively supporting, but where we remain in close contact with implementing partners, maintaining a watching brief and offering support as requested, while otherwise tracking ongoing progress from a distance.

APPLYING CONSERVATION EASEMENTS IN LAIKIPIA, KENYA

BACKGROUND

Conservation easements provide a means to ensure lands are secured for conservation in perpetuity. Two wildlife-rich concessions in Kenya were identified that would benefit from long-term legal arrangements to secure current conservation use. One is an important private ranch that supports large mammal migration and connectivity in the Laikipia landscape and that will soon be put up for sale. FFI was asked to develop an easement mechanism to put the land under conservation management in perpetuity, prior to sale. Without this, there was a risk that the land could be sold for sub-division. The other conservancy faces a potential risk that in future the land managed for conservation could be divided and sold, due to the current structuring of the land-holding trust, threatening ongoing integrated conservation management. In the absence of existing precedents for land easements in Kenya, this project determined the legal scope for using such mechanisms to protect land, with the aim of implementing easements in the two conservancies in order to test the mechanisms in Kenyan law, and importantly, establish precedent for wider use in Kenya.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

In 2019 a draft easement, reviewed by Kenyan lawyers, was produced and was discussed with land owners as the basis for establishing potential conservation easements under the new Kenyan Wildlife Act, thus providing a mechanism for securing long-term conservation status.

2020 UPDATE

Although no easement has yet been put in place, discussions continue on a number of reserves as to how such conservation easements could form part of the long-term solution to keep land under conservation management in perpetuity.



Jackson's hartebeest (*Alcelaphus buselaphus jacksoni*) Kenya. Credit: Carlos Drews/WWF



STRATEGIC SMALL GRANT

PUNTA VENECIA, NICARAGUA

BACKGROUND

Punta Venecia covers 28 hectares of coastal habitat (beach, riparian dry forest and mangrove habitats) within the Estero Padre Ramos Natural Reserve, on the Pacific coastline of Nicaragua. The beaches at Punta Venecia, and adjoining areas, represent the single most important nesting site for critically endangered hawksbill turtles in the Eastern Pacific, supporting around 50% known nests. However, the area has recently been sought out by property developers and entrepreneurs who have expressed their interest in developing the area for tourism. This project aims to secure Punta Venecia to prevent its development and the consequent destruction of the key hawksbill turtle nesting beach and associated coastal habitats.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

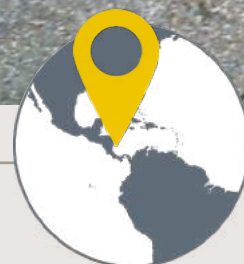
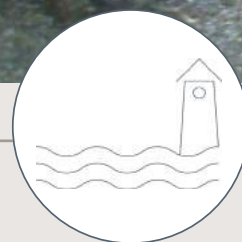
The rights to the land were held by a local businessman who allowed FFI and its partners to run the turtle hatchery and associated field station in his buildings. FFI assessed a range of possible legal mechanisms to secure the land for long-term conservation, including options for a “conservation easement”, and established the precise status of the current property rights, boundaries, tax status, and development regulations that might affect the land. As a result of consultations a bilateral “usufruct” contract between the landowner and FFI was identified as the most appropriate solution, which would give FFI the legal right to the land and how it is used, which will be restricted to conservation and research habitats.

2020 UPDATE

A bilateral usufruct contract, for a period of 59 years, has been drafted between the landowner and FFI. The wording of the usufruct contract, drafted by our Nicaraguan and in-house lawyers, has been reviewed and agreed by both parties and is ready for signature by the end of 2020. The FFI team has also worked with local authorities to understand land tax liabilities, which we now have responsibility for, and has identified sources of funding to cover these. The turtle hatchery and associated beach patrolling continued during the current turtle nesting season, protecting 200 hawksbill nests (>98% of nests laid) and resulting in the successful release of over 14,500 hawksbill hatchlings to the sea to date. Cumulatively this project has now protected over 2,000 hawksbill nests and has successfully released around 185,000 hawksbill hatchlings. The continued recruitment of female hawksbills reaching reproductive maturity within this population is confirmed by records and tagging of new nesting females at the site each year; a sign that the population remains healthy.



New hatchlings return to the sea. Credit: FFI



Area Secured

28 ha

Area of Conservation Impact

9,200 ha

STRATEGIC SMALL GRANT

STRENGTHENING FOREST MANAGEMENT IN SAINT LUCIA

BACKGROUND

Saint Lucia is noted for its extraordinarily high levels of endemism and its unusually large concentration of globally threatened species, several of which are classified as critically endangered. Many of these species are associated with Saint Lucia's forest systems. Forests cover approximately 34,000 hectares, more than one third of Saint Lucia's land area, and store over 5.5 million tonnes of carbon. Around 30% of Saint Lucia's forests are within the network of government forest reserves, however the most threatened lowland forests are not well represented in the current reserve system. Even within forest reserves, existing management systems did not include conservation, and rather focused on commercial use of the forests. Escalating threats, such as illegal incursions, increased incidence of erosion and landslides, and invasive alien species, needed to be addressed, as did a lack of any direct protection for the most at-risk forest species. The Saint Lucia Forestry Department approached FFI in 2014 to request support in developing a new strategy for the management of its forest reserves, to ensure the long-term future of the globally important biodiversity and natural lands under its custodianship.



Area of Conservation Impact

30,000 ha

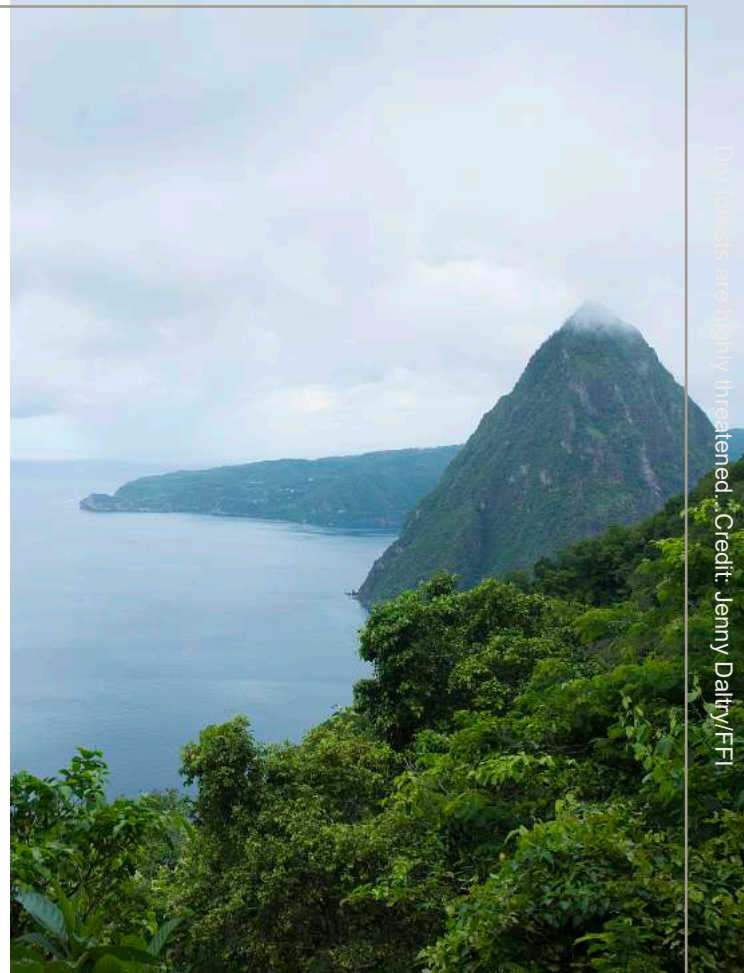
STRATEGIC SMALL GRANT

ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

A Strategic Small Grant from Halcyon Land & Sea underpinned the development of a new strategy and National Forest Management Plan for the Forestry Department. This resulted in more efficient forest management, for example, as a result of the plan, private sector partners were engaged to manage key tourist areas, freeing up the time of the Forestry Department staff to focus on conservation and enabling local communities to benefit from the existence of the forest parks. The plan has helped the Forestry Department to develop and implement a series of new conservation projects, which will leverage at least US \$5 million of conservation funding over the next four to five years. Subsequently, delivery of the new strategy has led to improvements in the management of Saint Lucia's protected area and its biodiversity. Additional areas have been brought under conservation management, especially the dry forests (a highly threatened forest type that was previously barely represented in the Forest Reserve network) for which a new 5,000 hectare reserve is now planned. The plan also boosted performance and staff morale, convinced the wider government and other stakeholders that the Forestry Department and the forests it manages play a significant role in the wellbeing and economic development of the whole country, as well as enabled the department to clearly articulate its priorities when funding opportunities arise. FFI also provided a series of targeted training sessions to the Forestry Department related to the implementation of the plan. Lessons learned from the project were published ([open access](#)) in Parks — the journal of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas. In 2019 the St Lucian Government secured funding from the Global Environment Facility to safeguard dry forests in south-eastern Saint Lucia as a direct outcome of the Management Plan and priorities identified therein. as a direct outcome of the Management Plan and priorities identified therein as a direct outcome of the Management Plan.

2020 UPDATE

The Saint Lucia National Forests Strategic Plan 2015-2025 is now into its fifth year of implementation and due for a midterm review, led by the Forestry Department in collaboration with various national government agencies, national and international NGOs. FFI has also continued to provide technical support to implement several priority activities within the plan, as well as ongoing training in support of its implementation. The plan has also enabled work in 2020 towards securing sustainable forest financing for Saint Lucia under the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) through the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN). This project will focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions from forestry and land use and increase the resilience of communities and the ecosystems they depend upon in Dominica, St. Kitts and Nevis, and St. Lucia.



Dry forests are highly threatened. Credit: Jenny Daltby/FFI

but are being brought under protection and management. Credit: Jenny Daltby/FFI

BELIZE PROTECTED AREA LEGISLATION

BACKGROUND

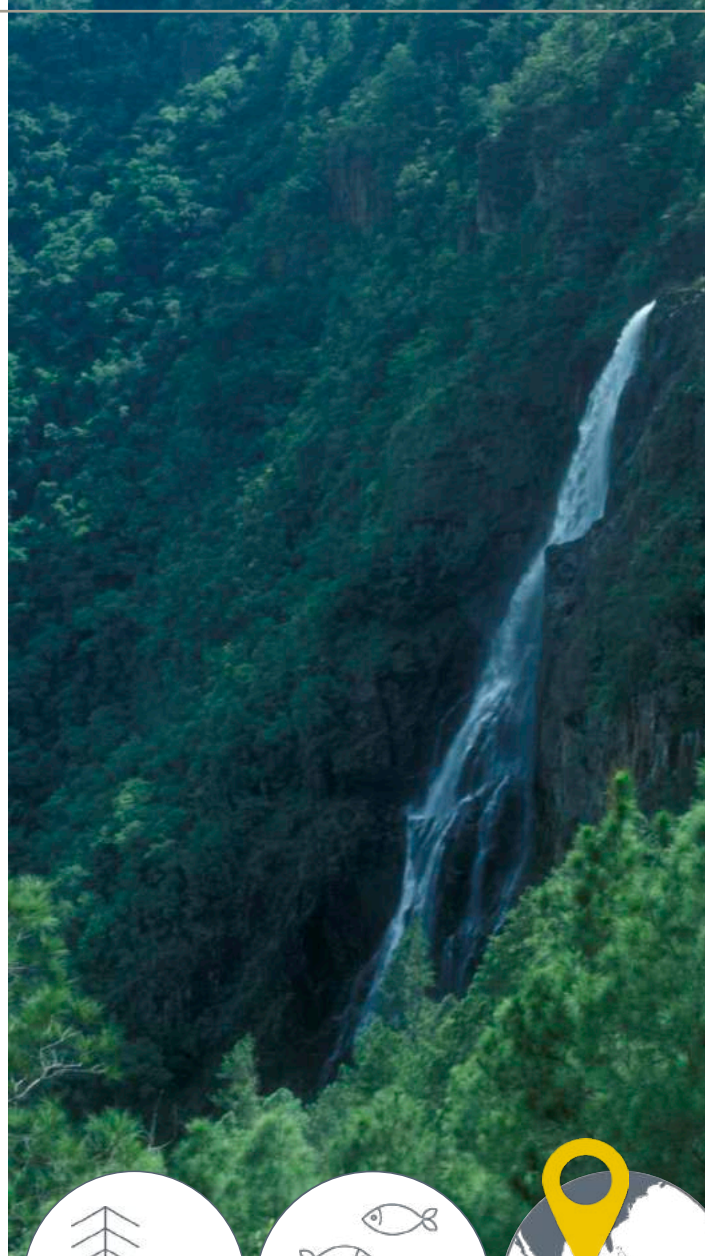
The protected areas of Belize support significant biodiversity, encompassing large areas of tropical forest as well as the Belize barrier reef. There are currently 103 protected areas in Belize, including national parks, nature reserves, wildlife refuges and private protected areas. However current legislative frameworks do not recognise the importance of Belize's private protected areas which cover over 180,000 hectares. Additionally there are no incentives in place to support conservation management. The Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries and Sustainable Development specifically requested FFI's help to drive forward the enactment of new protected area legislation, to identify improved and sustainable financing mechanisms for the National Protected Areas System, and to build support for the reform of protected areas institutions.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

As a result of this work, a new National Protected Areas System Act and the Protected Areas Conservation Trust (Amendment) Act was gazetted in October 2015. This provided a clear institutional framework for Belize's protected areas as an integrated system, with better planning, monitoring, financing, and accountability. It also recognised private protected areas as part of the system, with landowners also benefitting from government support and incentives. However, the sudden dissolution of the Government, snap elections in November 2015, and subsequent restructuring of the Ministry delayed development of the regulations needed to implement the new Act. During 2017, a study was completed to show the links between natural capital and ecosystem services, the economy and wellbeing in Belize was completed, in order to demonstrate the importance of effective protected areas. This was used to lobby the Belizean Government for the need for effective implementation of protected areas legislative reform. The Belize Association for Privately Protected Areas has now been fully revived, and there is ongoing lobbying for the establishment of an effective co-management agreement between the Government and privately managed protected areas.

2020 UPDATE

Negotiations with the Government continued during 2020 about the establishment of a new legal basis for the co-management of state protected areas, especially considering the financial arrangements required, and are due to be restarted after national elections in November.



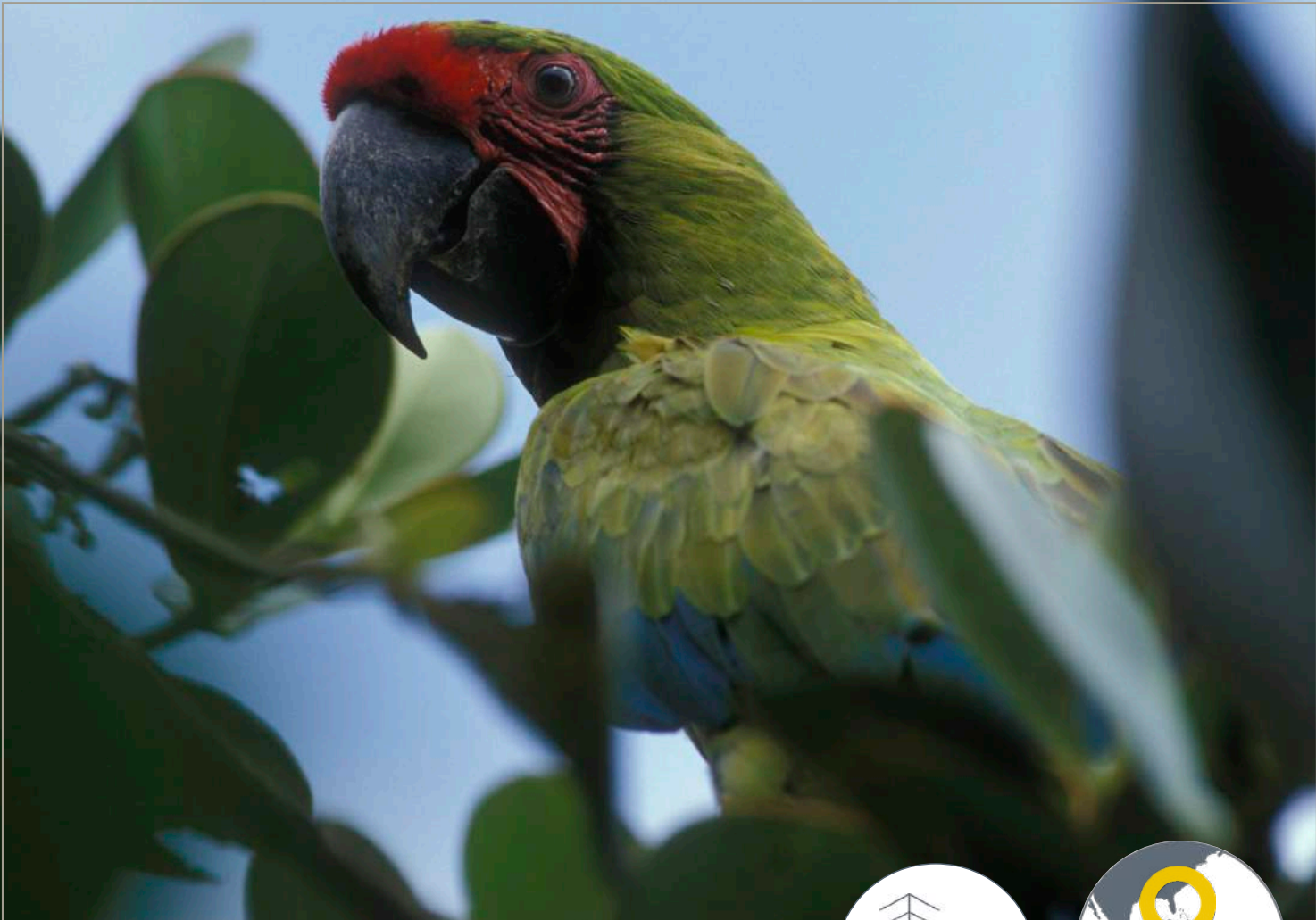
Aerial view of waterfall, Belize. Credit: Juan Pablo Moreiras/FFI



Potential area of
conservation impact

1,150,000 ha

STRATEGIC SMALL GRANT



AWACACHI CORRIDOR, ECUADOR

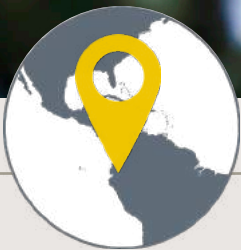
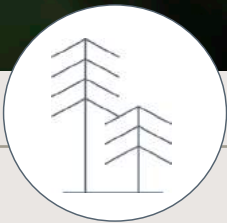
BACKGROUND

The Chocó bioregion is a global conservation priority due to its exceptional species diversity and endemism. The region is economically deprived, and the Chocó forest is under threat from commercial interests and unsustainable development. This threat has increased following the building of new roads and the expansion of the oil palm industry.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

Around 11,500 hectares of highly threatened Chocó forest were purchased to create a biological corridor between two existing reserves, preventing its conversion to oil palm plantations and maintaining connectivity over a landscape of 354,000 hectares. Communities were engaged in sustainable livelihood projects such as native bamboo production, butterfly farming, cacao growing and animal husbandry to provide incomes to local communities and encourage them to cooperate with conservation efforts.

A further 2,230 hectares area of Chocó rainforest (the Endesa concession) was purchased in 2010 to strengthen the narrowest part of the Awacachi Corridor. Without intervention, this area would have been clear felled, and was likely to have been converted to oil palm plantations, a development that could have threatened the integrity of the corridor.



Area Secured

12,489 ha

Area of Conservation Impact

354,000 ha

MAIN GRANT FOR LAND
ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT

2020 UPDATE

FFI continues to support Fundación Sirua, as the legal owner and manager of the corridor, to deal with a range of institutional and operational challenges – which have been further complicated this year by the impact of Covid-19 in Ecuador. FFI continues to work with Sirua to explore potential future models for protection of the Awacachi Corridor, and some of the solutions proposed last year have been explored and subsequently discounted. Dialogue continued with relevant in-country partners, including the Ecuadorian Army about possible options to deter illegal mining.

A helicopter overflight of the Corridor in September 2020 confirmed that the great majority of the corridor retains full forest cover. This is in marked contrast to the trends in forest cover elsewhere in Esmeraldas Province – which indicates that without the purchase and protection, Awacachi's forest would by now have been cleared or severely degraded, with impacts on biodiversity and the loss of connectivity between the Cotacachi Cayapas National Park and the Awá Ethnic

Reserve. However, while the area remains under forest cover, the overflight did not provide any insight into the extent of damage to these ecosystems from selective logging or hunting of wildlife. In addition, it confirmed the extent of illegal, semi-industrial mining along key river valleys in the Corridor, as common elsewhere in South America. The presence of only three rangers to cover the Corridor means that even basic law enforcement remains a challenge, and biodiversity monitoring activities have been put on hold.



Riverbed species in forest landscape, Ecuador. Credit: Rob Bensied-Smith/FFI

IBERIAN LYNX PROGRAMME, SOUTHERN PORTUGAL

BACKGROUND

In 2002, fewer than 150 Iberian lynx were believed to survive in the wild, making it the most endangered cat species in the world. This was due mainly to the loss and fragmentation of lynx habitats. The population of lynx prey, the wild rabbit, had decreased, and lynx habitats had been destroyed by infrastructure projects in both Spain and Portugal. The animals were also killed in road accidents and illegally hunted. The lynx is associated with some of the Iberian Peninsula's most threatened habitats – cork oak forest and maquis scrubland. In 2002, when the lynx was considered extinct in Portugal, Halcyon Land & Sea started the process of securing a landscape corridor with the aim of reconnecting current and former lynx habitats between the Monchique region of south-western Portugal and the Spanish border, restoring and safeguarding the vital habitat required for future reintroductions of this species. The project also worked with local partners to advocate for the needs of lynx conservation and for its reintroduction in Portugal.

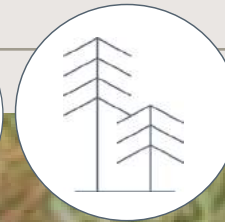
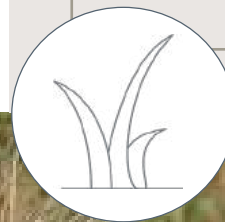
Area Secured

18,154 ha

Area of Conservation Impact

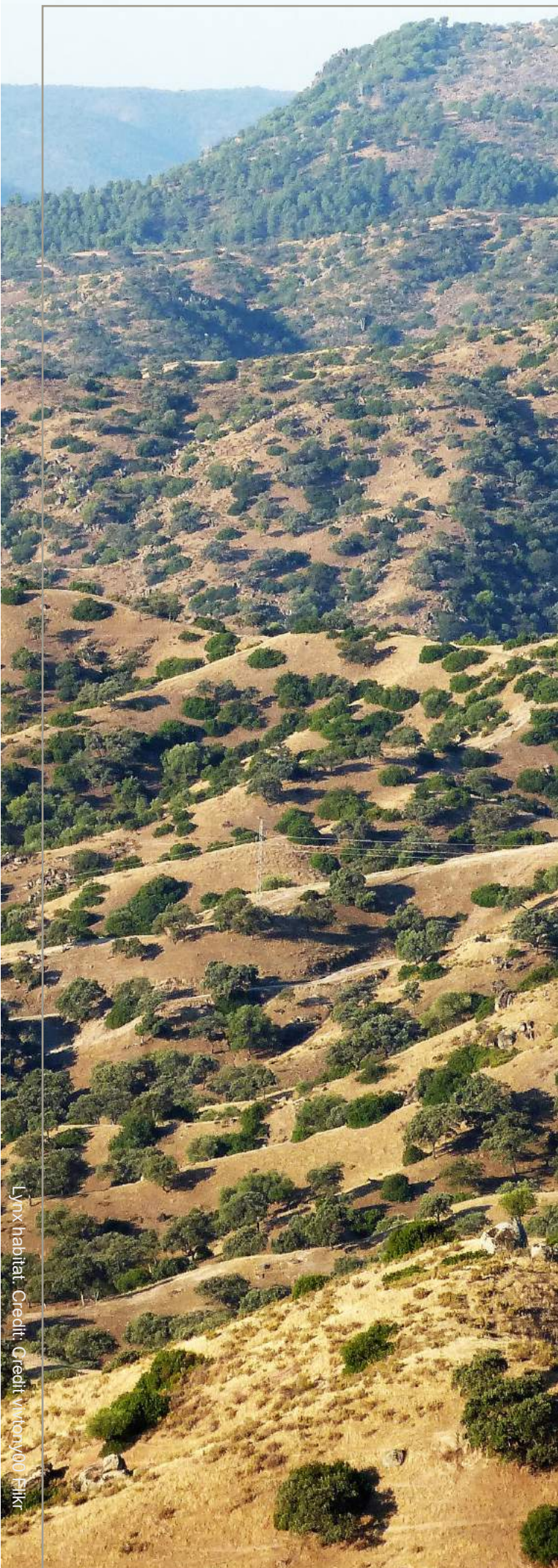
20,050 ha

MAIN GRANT FOR LAND
ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT



The number of Iberian lynx in the wild in Portugal now exceeds 120. Credit: vivtony00 Flickr



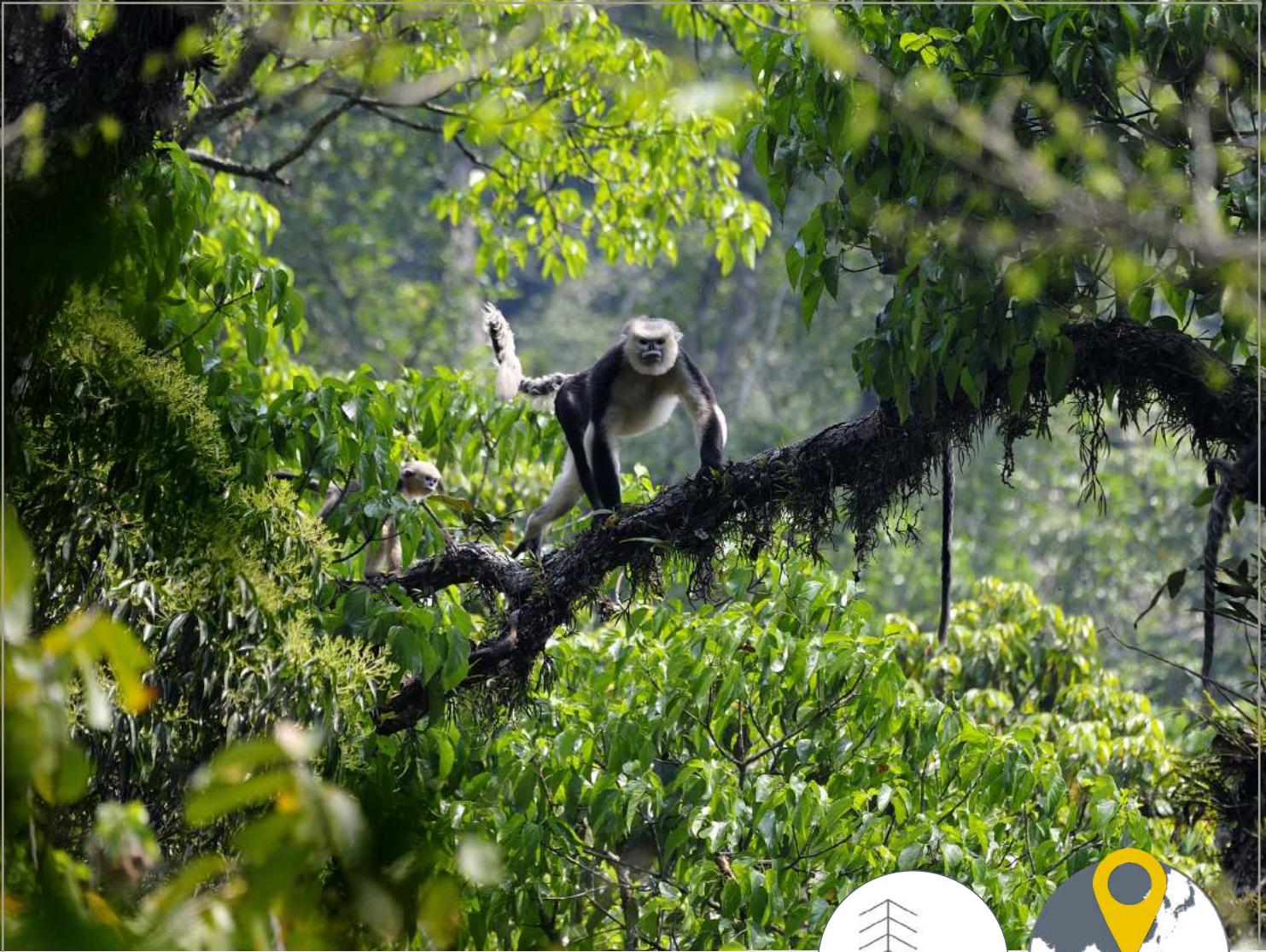


ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

The fund remains unique in its speed of response: Working with the Liga Para a Protecção Da Natureza (LPN), a leading Portuguese conservation NGO, a series of land management agreements were established for strategically positioned areas of lynx habitat, which were then managed for the recovery of rabbit populations. Monitoring has shown that natural vegetation within the corridor areas is generally recovering with differences evident in habitats within and outside the corridors; aerial assessments clearly show the role of the corridors within the surrounding landscape. The programme also enabled LPN to actively campaign for the Government to promote lynx reintroduction. In January 2010, a lynx was formally recorded in one of the target areas, the first verified evidence of the species in Portugal since 2001. The work leveraged two successive EU LIFE+ grants, one of which also supported effective conservation measures for black vultures, resulting in the first chick of this species successfully fledging in the Alentejo region of Portugal for more than 40 years. LPN were also effective in persuading the Portuguese Government to re-engage in lynx conservation and to support plans for the species' reintroduction. By 2015, captive-bred lynx were being released within Portugal (42 have been released to date), re-emphasising the importance of the 'lynx habitat corridor' that this project worked to create.

2020 UPDATE

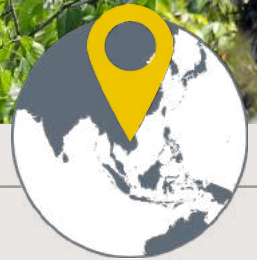
Recent data suggests that the number of Iberian lynx in the wild in Portugal now exceeds 120, distributed across an area of close to 500 km²; it is estimated that as many as 60 cubs may have been born in the wild in 2020. LPN continues to undertake activities to improve habitat suitability for lynx, including translocation of rabbits to create new dispersal nuclei. Current work focuses on enhancing rabbit populations in the extensive Herdade da Contenda estate. Thirteen management agreements are still active, focusing on maintaining corridors through olive groves in the Moura region. Relationships are also being maintained with most of the other land owners with which the project previously had management agreements. FFI supported LPN to write a proposal for a planning grant from the Endangered Landscape Programme (approved in 2019), and is supporting them in the design of a robust landscape-scale project.



USING REDD TO PROTECT FORESTS, VIETNAM

BACKGROUND

The biodiversity of Vietnam is exceptional, mostly associated with the country's 12.9 million hectares of forest. Over half the country's forests were lost between 1943 and 1990 and primary forest continues to be converted to plantations. Kon Tum Province in the Central Highlands of Vietnam is a globally recognised biodiversity hotspot, home to species such as the grey-shanked douc langur, yellow-cheeked gibbon and the endemic chestnut-eared laughing thrush. This area has seen significant forest loss since 2000 and 75% of its forests have been degraded, threatening these important watersheds and the biodiversity they support. The emerging opportunities around REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation) finance represented an opportunity to create incentives to protect Vietnamese forests, rather than to exploit them. In 2010, the Vietnamese Government requested that FFI develop exemplar REDD projects and requested targeted capacity building for government staff on this issue.



Area Secured

1,238 ha

Area of Conservation Impact

65,000 ha

STRATEGIC SMALL GRANT



ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

This project supported the national Government to engage with the wider REDD agenda and improved understanding within the regional authorities and technical agencies about REDD and its complexities. Specifically, we worked with the Department of Forestry to help them design a REDD+ (benefiting climate, biodiversity and people) project in the forests of Kon Tum Province. As a result of this, the Hieu Commune REDD+ project was established to create a direct link between healthy forests and improved wellbeing of ethnic minority forest-edge communities. The project helped communities to secure land rights and manage forests to create climate and biodiversity benefits, with a focus on community-led forest management. As part of this work an innovative, collaborative model has been developed for integrated monitoring of REDD+ and other similar forest finance and conservation schemes that can be adapted for national and international use (co-financed by the EU REDD Facility and the European Forestry Institute); this is due to be published in 2021.

The entire programme of work in Kon Tum Province, including the associated project at Kon Plong, can be traced directly back to the initial support from Halcyon in 2010.

2020 UPDATE

The Kon Tum REDD+ project has now been formally validated under the Plan Vivo Standard for carbon projects, but is pending official approval (expected late 2020) – this has taken ten years of work since the REDD+ pilot project was initiated. This is not only a major step towards financial sustainability for the project, but this REDD+ pilot is also the first such project to reach this milestone in Vietnam, and as such has tremendous support from local and central levels of government. Before the end of 2020 the final step will be for the project to register its credits for sale on the voluntary market and work has already begun to identify buyers and possible brokers. As part of the project forest land allocation and/or tenure clarification has been completed for the three target villages within the project and these have been legally approved ahead of receipt of carbon finance. Initial assessments have demonstrated a measurable decline in forest degradation as a result of the project. Tools to support land use planning and integrated monitoring - which can be used more widely - have also been developed as part of this work.

CRISTALINO STATE PARK, BRAZIL

BACKGROUND

Cristalino State Park is the most biodiverse reserve in the Brazilian Amazon and a key gateway to the southern Amazon. It has the second highest recorded diversity of bird species in the world and is home to the endangered white-whiskered spider monkey. Cristalino acts as a barricade between undisturbed forest in the north and intensive deforestation in the south, preventing the advance of cattle ranching, logging and soya farms into the heart of the Amazon basin. In late 2003, Halcyon Land & Sea made an emergency purchase to protect an initial 1,600 hectares of the southern border of the Cristalino State Park in Brazil. The land was secured with a view to establishing a sustainable forest buffer zone to block the expansion of ranching, prevent natural resource conflict between ranchers and soya growers in the south and indigenous people in the north, and preserve large tracts of Amazonian wilderness.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

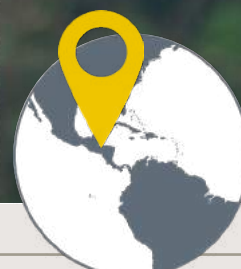
The project eventually purchased some 6,476 hectares of buffer zone forest and created two private nature reserves which are owned and managed by a local organisation, the Cristalino Ecological Foundation (CEF). Subsequent site visits have confirmed the excellent status of forest and wildlife, with the reserves judged to be well-managed and secure. The area is regularly visited by ornithologists and bird researchers demonstrating the good conservation status of this area. Relative to the status at project initiation, the threats to the Cristalino private nature reserves are judged to have been much reduced as a result of (i) regular patrols, (ii) the award-winning ecotourism business demonstrating the economic value of the forest, (iii) environmental education work with local communities, and (iv) increased knowledge of the biodiversity value of the area through research. The site remains under active protection, with year-round patrols and a ranger stationed in the northern section of the reserve where there is no regular tourism presence. No incursions or wildfires have occurred despite the increasing fire risks elsewhere in the Amazon this year and tourism continues to provide income streams to fund conservation management.

2020 UPDATE

Covid-19 affected the revenue base for the project in 2019, as Cristalino Lodge was closed to visitors from March until September. It has now reopened with a focus on hosting domestic tourists.



Red-bellied macaw pair, investigating nest site. Credit: Evan Bowen-Jones



Area Secured

6,476 ha

Potential Area of Conservation Impact

184,000 ha

MAIN GRANT FOR LAND ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT

Halcyon Land & Sea Co-Financers

Along with the core donations received from Arcadia and from a private individual, the following organisations have provided funding or co-finance to Halcyon Land & Sea projects.

African Wildlife Foundation	DANIDA
Agence Française de Développement	Darwin Initiative
AgriSETA (Agricultural Sector Education and Training Authority)	Defra
Alice Noakes Fund	DED/GTZ (German Development Service/German Agency for Technical Cooperation)
Anglo American	DGIS (Directorate General for International Cooperation)
Arcus Foundation	Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund
Arid Lands Programme	Donner Foundation
Australia Capital Equity	Earth Birthday
Australia Zoo	Earthvoice
The Baker Trust	Elephant Crisis Fund
The Barbara Delano Foundation	EU/EU LIFE programme
BBC Wildlife Fund	European Forestry Institute
Belize Protected Areas Conservation Trust	Excellent Development
Betty Liebert Trust	Fair Play Foundation
BHP Billiton	German Ministry for the Environment
The Bob Bryan Foundation	Flemish Fund
Born Free Foundation	Fondation Ensemble
British American Tobacco	Fondation Franz Weber
The Bryan Guinness Foundation	Fondation Iris
Christensen Foundation	Fondation Segré
Compact	The Foreign & Commonwealth Office
Conservation International	Fota Wildlife Park
Cool Earth/ Walkers Ltd.	Friends of World Heritage
Counterpart International	Fundação Boticario
Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund	Garry White Foundation

Global Environment Fund	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Global Conservation Fund	The Nature Conservancy
Global Trees Campaign	Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Grassvalley Trust	Pictet Group Charitable Foundation
Helmsley Charitable Trust	The Newman Foundation
HSBC	The Oak Foundation
Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund	Oklahoma Zoo
Imperial Tobacco	Open Gate
International Elephant Foundation	Oren Taylor
International Fund for Animal Welfare	Organisation of American States
IUCN (The World Conservation Union)	Origins
James Kirby Foundation	Pacsafe Turtle Fund
Jet Tours	Panthera
John Aspinall Foundation	Prince Bernhard Fund for Nature
Kilverstone Wildlife Charitable Trust	Project Kenya Sister Schools
Lee & Gund Foundation	Rainforest Concern
Liz Claiborne Art Ortenburg Foundation	Rainforest Trust
Lotex Foundation	Regina Bauer Frankenberg Foundation
Lucille Foundation	Rhododendron Trust
Luxembourg Government	Rio Tinto
The MacArthur Foundation	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
McKnight Foundation	The Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation
Maitri Trust	Ruth Smart Foundation
MAN Group Charitable Trust	St Louis Zoo
Marcela Trust	San Diego Zoo
Marisla Foundation	Safaricom
Matsarol Foundation	Sea World Busch Gardens
Maurice Laing Foundation	Shell
Millichope Foundation	Sigrid Rausing Trust
Mohamed bin Zayed Conservation Fund	Size of Wales
The Nando Peretti Foundation	Sociedade Environmento do Metapiri

South African National Parks

Stiftung Artenschutz

Table Mountain Fund

3W Foundation

Tusk Trust

USAID

United Nations Foundation

United States Fish and Wildlife Service

United States State Department

Valentine Trust

Victoria Zoo

Vodafone

The Walker Trust

Wildcat Foundation

WildInvest

Wildlife Alliance

The Wildlife Land Trust

William Haddon Charitable Trust

World Bank/Development Marketplace

Yorkshire Wildlife Park Foundation

Zoos South Australia

Zurich Zoo

Halcyon Land & Sea Partners

ACRE

ADEPT

African Wildlife Foundation

Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan (ACBK)

Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association, Myanmar

Borana Conservancy

BLUE Marine Foundation

Burnett Mary Regional Group

Centre Forestier N'Zérékoré, Guinea

Cristalino Ecological Foundation

Department of Environment & Resource Management, Queensland

Department of Forestry, Government of Vietnam

Flower Valley Conservation Trust

Forest Department, Government of Myanmar

Forest Protection Department, Vietnam

Forestry Development Authority, Liberia

Fundación Sirua

GreenViet, Vietnam

Government of Aceh

Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI)

Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature

Ishaqbini Community Conservancy

Justiça Ambiental (JA!)

Lekerruki Community Conservancy

Lewa Wildlife Conservancy	Uganda Wildlife Authority
Liga Para A Protecção Da Natureza	Union Island Environmental Attackers
MARENA	UNESCO
Ministry of Environment, Cambodia	University of Queensland
Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries and Sustainable Development, Belize	WWF-South Africa
Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism, South Sudan	Ya'axché Conservation Trust
Mukutan Conservancy	Zarand Association
National Administration for Conservation Areas (ANAC), Mozambique	Zorkul Zapovednik Management Authority
Nkuringo Conservation Development Foundation	
Northern Rangelands Trust	
OI Pejeta Conservancy	
Overberg Lowlands Conservation Trust	
Parque Natural da Madeira	
Regional Natural Resources Conservation Agency (BBKSDA) – South Sulawesi	
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	
Saint Lucia Forestry Department	
Saint Vincent & the Grenadines Forestry Department	
Sera Wildlife Conservancy	
Society for the Management of Niassa Reserve	
Soils for the Future	
South African National Parks	
State Committee for Nature Protection, Government of Uzbekistan	
Tanzania Land Conservation Trust	
Toledo Institute for Development and Environment	
Tongwe Trust	

Annex 1. Historical Projects

Historical projects are those that are effectively closed, and no further FFI involvement or ongoing legacy reporting is envisaged.

Securing Omkyk and Swaartmodder, Namibia

In 2018, FFI was invited to develop a new conservancy in south-central Namibia to protect rare and unique habitats and species associated with the southern Namib Desert and central plateau. These areas were threatened by overgrazing, land degradation and illegal poaching. A Strategic Small Grant supported a feasibility study for a new 56,000 hectare wildlife conservancy adjoining the Namib-Naukluft National Park, with the potential to then create a corridor to secure a conservation landscape of over 300,000 hectares. Funds were used to undertake the necessary baseline biodiversity surveys, determine a new conservancy structure, develop business and financial sustainability plans, and determine the legal process to secure two farms (Omkyk and Swaartmodder) as core areas of the conservancy. A coalition of other co-financing investors was identified, together willing to invest in land purchase and management. However, the negotiations between the proposed partners in the venture broke down close to completion, following the withdrawal of a core partner from the original agreement for this collectively financed and managed 'conservancy' model. Subsequently another local land owner came forward to purchase at least one of the farms specifically for conservation management, based on the knowledge, data and plans generated during the preparation phase (and these documents were specifically requested by this investor as a basis for buying the land), providing an alternative route to secure this site under conservation management.

Strategic Small Grant

Area to be Secured: **18,000 ha**

Potential Area of Conservation Impact: **56,000 ha**

Namibia Scoping, Namibia

In 2017, Halcyon Land & Sea supported a scoping project to identify potential new interventions in priority Namibian landscapes. We were invited by potential partners to assess the potential of three landscape areas, with a view to enhancing or extending the protection of these areas. As a result of the trip, four project ideas were explored for further development. One of these projects was fully developed for Halcyon investment, securing two key, privately-owned farms - Omkyk and Swaartmodder (see above), but failed to proceed. Other project ideas in Namibia (see left) continue to be explored but have been put on hold due to the illness of a key FFI staff member.

Strategic Small Grant

Protecting the 'Google Forest' of Mount Mabu, Mozambique

The forests of Mount Mabu in northern Mozambique were only recently discovered in 2005 as a result of their identification on Google Earth. Since then this site has been recognised as an important biodiversity hotspot. Some 7,900 hectares of continuous mid-altitude wet forest supports a number of newly described and endemic species, including several new reptile and butterfly species, and a wide range of bird species. However, the forests of Mount Mabu face an increasing threat from commercial logging, as local infrastructure improvements have allowed wider access to these forests. This project worked to establish a community protected area for Mount Mabu, with legally recognised status, drawing on new conservation legislation in Mozambique, which recognised Community Conservation Areas as Protected Areas. FFI worked with two local NGOs to engage the local community in developing and promoting the sustainable use of natural resources, linked to the provision of opportunities for socio-economic development.

The project achieved the development and legal registration of four Community-Based Organisations, training and capacity building of community members, registration of Mount Mabu as a globally recognised Important Bird Area, development of the preliminary management plan for Mount Mabu, and initial development of an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment of the proposed Community Conservation Area. However, in 2016 the relationship with the local project partner ran into difficulties and FFI took the difficult decision to withdraw from this project.

Strategic Small Grant

Area of Conservation Impact: 7,900 ha

Implementing Carbon Finance for Aceh's forests, Indonesia

The forests of Ulu Masen cover some 738,000 hectares and contain some of the highest levels of biodiversity in the world, with 329 bird species and 87 amphibian and reptile species recorded (including 15 endemics and 11 species that may be new to science), along with globally important populations of the Sumatran tiger, Sumatran orangutan and Sumatran elephant, all three of which are critically endangered. The forests of Ulu Masen are under ongoing threat from large-scale logging and conversion into agricultural land and have been cleared at a rate of 1% per year. The project aimed to develop economic benefits from intact forest, rather than from damaging exploitation such as logging and conversion to oil palm. Carbon finance linked to Reduced Emissions from avoided Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) provided a mechanism to change the economic drivers of forests from destruction to favouring protection. In 2007, FFI started working with the Government of Aceh to develop a pilot REDD+ project for the forests of Ulu Masen, and this project developed to ensure that local communities could benefit from local carbon finance projects, thus ensuring their engagement in sustainable forest management. In 2012, the project helped to draft Aceh's first land tenure policy in collaboration with the Legal Aid Institute, which specifically aims to resolve conflicts over land and natural resources. In 2014, the project secured a substantial European Union Climate Change grant. Community tenure and management rights were secured for over 10,000 hectares of forest, and illegal logging was tackled around the Ulu Masen ecosystem (738,000 hectares) and at a wider provincial level (3.5 million hectares). Specifically, FFI supported the development of village forests, a new approach to forest protection that included both community and biodiversity targets. Five village forests ('hutan desa') were developed by the project, covering 11,281

hectares of forest and benefiting 5,000 community members. Management plans have been put in place for all these sites, and they have been mapped and demarcated as a basis for the development of certified carbon credits. Community rangers regularly patrol the forests, and community livelihoods were diversified to reduce demand for forest conversion or logging. FFI also supported three forestry management units to develop management plans that cover an area of 1.23 million hectares, encompassing the Ulu Masen ecosystem and its 12 districts. At a Provincial level, FFI worked with the Government of Aceh to develop a REDD strategy (with funding secured from the Green Climate Fund), which has a target of reducing deforestation of Aceh's forests by 80%, and is developing a plan for Low Emission Development in Aceh.

Strategic Initiative

Area Secured: 11,281 ha

Area of Conservation Impact: 738,000 ha

Shark Aggregation Sites, Australia

A grant in 2010 supported work to identify key aggregation sites for critically endangered grey nurse sharks off the east coast of Australia. One aggregation site was known to support 60% of the breeding population of grey nurse sharks, but the location of the remaining 40% of females during their gestation period was unknown. This project was developed to generate data to guide the Government in protecting important offshore sites for the grey nurse shark. The project established a citizen science initiative; 'Grey Nurse Shark Watch', through which some 220 volunteer divers collected images of individual sharks, allowing the project to track their use of different areas. Marine surveys were also conducted to find 'missing' shark aggregation sites, involving shark tagging (with a mix of acoustic and satellite tags) and use of acoustic listening stations at suspected aggregation sites. Results showed widespread shark movements along this coastline.

In parallel, the Government made moves to strengthen protection around the existing known aggregation sites, including an important site called Wolf Rock, and the project team has liaised with the Queensland Government to ensure protection for other sites that have been located.

Strategic Small Grant

Pamir Mountains, Tajikistan

Zorkul Lake Reserve represents an area of 87,700 hectares of high montane habitat within the Pamir Mountains on the border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan. It supports both Marco Polo sheep and snow leopards and is an important migration stopover for birds, supporting some 116 bird species. Prior to FFI's engagement, the reserve management was highly under-resourced, and the site lacked any real on-the-ground protection. Uncontrolled poaching and livestock grazing posed significant threats to its wildlife. Halcyon Land & Sea supported improved resourcing and capacity-building efforts and organised the first full biodiversity survey and mapping for the area; camera trapping revealed the presence of a healthy population of snow leopards in Zorkul. The project ensured that reserve staff could access the reserve regularly for the first time since it was established, and established a functioning ranger station which has provided a key deterrent for potential poachers. The survey work and resulting understanding of the reserve's ecology continues to be an important basis for the reserve's plans and communications with others.

Main Grant (Land Acquisition/Management)

Area Secured: **87,700 ha**

Area of Conservation Impact: **457,700 ha**

Soils for the future, Kenya

Whilst mechanisms for REDD (Reduced Emissions from avoided Deforestation and Degradation) are well developed as a means to enable forest conservation projects to access carbon finance, at present there have been fewer examples of carbon funding being used to prevent the loss of carbon from grasslands. Grasslands support very important stocks of soil carbon, which can be released through inappropriate management, such as agricultural conversion, over-grazing or soil erosion. One of the constraints to greater inclusion of grassland projects in carbon finance schemes is the lack of appropriate methodologies for assessing soil carbon that could be applied in validated assessments for carbon finance projects. Halcyon Land & Sea funding supported the completion of a specific methodology for grassland carbon, which was subsequently validated under the Verified Carbon Standard (a global carbon certification scheme). This validated methodology is now available to a broad range of communities living on grasslands and savannahs and helps them to access carbon finance for improved grassland management approaches in East Africa. The methodology has since been applied successfully in northern Kenya, with first carbon credits due to be available late in 2019, as well as at a site in Mozambique.

Strategic Small Grant



Increasing Security for Borana Conservancy, Kenya

Borana Conservancy extends over 12,950 hectares of natural savannah at the north-eastern edge of the Laikipia Plateau on the slopes of Mount Kenya. It supports a range of savannah species such as impala, giraffe, elephant, zebra and buffalo, as well as predators including lion and leopard. Borana Conservancy was identified as being suitable for the introduction and protection of black rhino, as long as effective security could be put in place, with the aim to create a much larger wildlife area by removing the fence separating the adjoining Lewa Wildlife Conservancy once the rhinos became established. Funding from Halcyon Land & Sea provided equipment and training to enhance protection at Borana Conservancy, to enable the rhino introduction. As a result of this increase in security, 21 black rhinos were introduced to Borana Conservancy in 2013. Borana and Lewa have since successfully removed the dividing fence, creating a 37,600 hectare rhino sanctuary with the capacity to hold 110 black rhinos, which is supported by a combined force of 99 rangers backed by armed Kenya Police Reserve officers. The Borana-Lewa ecosystem is now home to 169 Eastern black rhinos (14% of Kenya's rhino population) and no rhinos have been lost to poaching since 2015.

Strategic Small Grant

Area of Conservation Impact: 37,600 ha

Developing a New Approach to Conserving Rangelands, Australia

Rangelands support a significant number of Australia's threatened plant, animal and ecological communities, including a range of iconic Australian marsupials such as wallabies, marsupial moles and dunnarts. However, rangeland biodiversity is threatened by unsustainable agricultural practices, over-grazing, inappropriate fire regimes, invasive weeds, alien mammals and, increasingly, extreme climatic conditions. It is estimated that between 30-55% of rangelands are in some way degraded. This project linked the rehabilitation of degraded Australian rangelands to the generation of carbon credits to deliver tradable domestic offsets, while ensuring benefits for habitats, local communities and farmers. Carbon payments would support the restoration and improved management of land, such as reducing grazing pressure from both domestic stock and feral grazers, improved fire management, and removal of alien species (particularly non-native predators), thus enhancing both biodiversity and carbon values. The

project developed Australia's first rangeland carbon sequestration methodology, which was submitted for approval under the Government's Carbon Farming Initiative and subsequently field tested. The methodology would be applicable to some 40% of Australia's mainland. However, after 2013, significant political changes in Australia (including the repeal of the Carbon Tax) reduced any incentive to apply this tool to generate carbon credits for the foreseeable future.

Strategic Small Grant

Potential area of Conservation Impact: 7,244,634 ha

Greater Niassa Reserve, Mozambique

The Niassa Reserve, a pristine wilderness of 4.2 million hectares (roughly the size of Denmark), is home to one of the largest miombo forest ecosystems in the world. It harbours rich and diverse wildlife, including elephants, sable antelopes, large numbers of Cape buffalo, Lichtenstein's hartebeest, eland and zebra. Niassa is also an important stronghold for endangered African wild dogs. In 2002, FFI was invited to help protect Niassa, and for ten years we assisted the reserve management agency (SDGRN) in improving the operation of the reserve, with financial support from Halcyon Land & Sea.

Biannual aerial surveys showed that over the decade of FFI support (2002-2012), populations of most wildlife species stabilised and grew. The elephant population doubled to around 20,000 individuals (over 70% of Mozambique's total elephant population). Research and monitoring confirmed the importance of the reserve to two of Africa's most charismatic carnivores, lion and African wild dog. A radical restructuring of the reserve to a public-private model resulted in the establishment of tourism concessions, designed to contribute significant revenues towards the annual operational budget of the reserve. The mandate of SGDRN to manage the reserve ended in September 2012, but the fact that Niassa remains protected (despite an upsurge in poaching in subsequent years) is an important legacy of Halcyon Land & Sea support, without which, it is likely that the biodiversity value of this critical wilderness could have been lost.

In early 2018, FFI focused on raising the profile of the plight of elephants in Niassa through a press release that received global attention across the media. On the back of this the Mozambican Special Forces were deployed across Niassa to make up the shortfall in reserve rangers. Their presence since has had a significant impact on poaching levels across the Reserve, with a 73% reduction in poaching against the same period in 2017.

Main Grant (Land Acquisition/Management)

Area Secured: 3,613,200 ha

Area of Conservation Impact: 3,613,200 ha

Support to Blue Marine Foundation

The Blue Marine Foundation (BLUE) was formed by the team behind the film 'The End of the Line' with the aim of becoming a new and innovative force for marine conservation with an agenda to develop large-scale marine protected areas. Halcyon Land & Sea provided two core grants to help establish the foundation, provide fundraising capacity and to underwrite the continued engagement of key staff. FFI also seconded a marine expert to assist in the strategic development of new and existing projects. The initial investment helped to leverage a large grant from a private donor towards the management of the Chagos Marine Reserve. Without this investment it would not have been possible for the government to have finalised the declaration of this 54.5 million hectare area as a no-take zone. During BLUE's initial year, this grant also provided critical funds enabling the organisation to firmly establish itself and underpinning the operation of Fish2Fork, an innovative website that reviewed restaurants based on their approach to using sustainable seafood in order to bring about changes regarding the fish they serve and their sourcing and labelling policies. Fish2Fork now continues to operate effectively in partnership with the Marine Conservation Society's Good Fish Guide. BLUE reported that the seed funding provided by Halcyon was crucial in its nascent stage and helped establish the foundation for everything BLUE has achieved to date.

Strategic Initiative

Area of Conservation Impact: 54,896,250 ha

Yasquel Cloud Forest, Ecuador

Yasquel is an area of 4,000 hectares of Andean cloud forest and páramo (a highly biodiverse type of high-altitude heathland) located in the Andes of Ecuador on the slopes of the Pichinchecha volcano. In 2009, Yasquel was offered for sale and was at risk of being converted into pastureland for cattle ranching. Given the importance of the site for conservation, Halcyon Land & Sea committed a grant to purchase the site.

At the beginning of 2011, after almost two years of negotiations, the vendors suddenly withdrew the property from sale. This was apparently due to disputes within the family who were selling the property regarding the use and division of income from the sale. In addition, the family was not willing to meet certain conditions of sale identified by FFI as being necessary to reduce FFI's future liability, such as proper clarification of boundaries and historical issues over squatters and evictions.

Main Grant (Land Acquisition/Management)

Potential area of Conservation Impact: 4,000 ha

Valuing the Ustyurt Steppe, Uzbekistan

The Ustyurt Plateau is a vast arid steppe spanning Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan that supports a wide array of plants and animals. Despite its size, the Ustyurt Plateau is facing a range of threats including direct grassland destruction for cultivation, overgrazing and aridification resulting from the diversion of water supplies, as well as poorly planned mining and oil developments. However, these fertile grasslands could represent an important store of natural carbon, and one that could be linked to new non-forest carbon markets. The carbon storage potential of this and other grassland habitats were assessed, and feasibility studies were conducted for generating carbon finance from both the Kazakh and Uzbek areas of the plateau.

As a whole the Ustyurt Plateau was found to store some 1,200 million tonnes of carbon, with the proposed Saigachky Nature Reserve (730,000 hectare) storing around 30 million tonnes. However, the studies identified a number of hurdles to accessing carbon finance for such areas, including risks linked to uncertain land ownership patterns post-Communism, poor enforcement regimes and the wider political landscapes in these countries. This work contributed important intelligence to the debate about long-term financing of steppe protection on the Ustyurt Plateau and helped to leverage significant co-finance for the protection of the Ustyurt steppe.

Strategic Small Grant

Kwakuchinja, Tanzania

The 2,500 hectare Kwakuchinja corridor in northern Tanzania links Tarangire National Park and Manyara Ranch. This represents a critical lifeline for migrating wildlife in the region and maintains connectivity over a wider landscape of some 15,800 hectares. Of the nine wildlife routes historically emanating from Tarangire, four had already been blocked by villages and farms. Radio tracking showed that elephant, wildebeest, hartebeest, oryx and zebra still migrated along the Kwakuchinja corridor across this landscape. The area was mapped by satellite imagery and an aerial survey, and land tenure assessments and community engagement were undertaken to help inform the planning of the corridor. However, following elections in 2011, a new local council overturned all previous agreements concerning the wildlife corridor and the project came to a halt. In 2012, a new corridor was proposed to the north-east of the original site, passing through rehabilitated agricultural land, and these plans were taken forward independently by the village council. This indicates that the project left a key legacy in terms of mobilising the community to take this initiative forward, even after the conclusion of support.

Main Grant (Land Acquisition/Management)

Potential area of Conservation Impact: 15,800 ha

Tongwe Forest Protection, Tanzania

The Tongwe people's traditional lands on the eastern side of Lake Tanganyika (adjoining Mahale Mountains National Park) include several areas of intact forest and miombo woodland that support important populations of elephant and chimpanzee (approximately 300 individuals). The Tongwe have traditionally managed their forests sustainably, but these are under increasing pressure from agricultural

conversion and deforestation for fuel and charcoal, particularly by migrants from elsewhere in the country. In addition, a series of mining exploration projects were planned in the region, including on a large strip of land running through the Tongwe tribal area. This project established the Ntakata Village Land Forest Reserve, securing the largest and most intact forest in Tongweland. The project established land tenure, ownership and use rights, participatory forest management plans and community-led by-laws for the reserve. Forest guards were trained and equipped, ranger posts established, and paths and an airstrip were built to allow tourist access to the site. Legal ownership and responsibility for managing the reserve lies with two neighbouring villages, which have formed a Joint Natural Resource Board that addresses issues of forest conservation. The reserve is regularly patrolled and monitored by nine forest guards recruited from the local villages, and monitoring records have shown a significant reduction in threats, particularly snaring within the forest (by 2019 snare numbers were reduced to around 5% of those in 2013). Sightings of flagship wildlife species, including chimpanzees, buffalos and monkeys, have increased.

Strategic Small Grant

Area Secured: 18,300 ha

Area of Conservation Impact: 300,000 ha

Ishaqbini Community Conservancy, Kenya

The Ishaqbini Community Conservancy was established to protect savannah grasslands alongside the Tana River in north-eastern Kenya and supports one of the most important populations of the critically endangered hirola antelope (up to 62% of its global population).

This species had seen severe declines over recent decades as a result of over-hunting, disease, drought, habitat loss, and competition with livestock. The Ishaqbini Community Conservancy was established with customary and ancestral land rights but faced threats from local land rights disputes with incoming agriculturalist communities who were keen to convert land for shifting agriculture. Support from Halcyon Land & Sea in 2008 enabled a review of tenure rights and legal options and led to successful conflict resolution with the neighbouring agriculturist community over future conservation management. By dealing with these inter-clan conflicts, security was improved, and anti-poaching operations were strengthened.

In 2012, a 2,300 hectare hirola sanctuary was established by the Ishaqbini community and this now supports a significant number of these animals. Effective management, underpinned by strong community support, has enabled the hirola population in the sanctuary to grow at an average of 15-20% per year, and had reached 155 by 2020 (up from 48 in 2012); plans are now underway to extend the sanctuary.

Strategic Small Grant

Area of Conservation Impact: 68,174 ha

Sankuru Reserve, Democratic Republic of Congo

The forests of the Congo basin are an important stronghold for a range of threatened species, such as forest elephant, okapi, and numerous primates, including the endangered bonobo. FFI was asked to help develop the management structures and local institutional arrangements for newly established protected areas in the Congo basin in partnership with local communities. In 2008, a grant from Halcyon Land & Sea was used to bring about on-the-ground conservation for a newly established nature reserve at Sankuru. However, in 2009, the Government decided to de-gazette the reserve, and attempts to move FFI's support to adjoining areas were not successful. FFI also worked centrally within DRC to support the country's REDD+ processes in order to support the Government in developing links between internal forest protection and international carbon markets.

Strategic Initiative

Cardamom Mountains, Cambodia

The 570,000 hectare of the Cardamom Mountains in Cambodia represent a huge, undisturbed forest massif. In 2002, an emergency grant from Halcyon Land & Sea established a ranger force to protect wildlife and habitats in the wildlife sanctuaries of Phnom Aural and Phnom Samkos. Support was given to a range of enforcement agencies to counter poaching and illegal logging. This initial small grant proved successful in paving the way for a much larger 'Cardamom Mountains Wildlife Sanctuaries Project', cofounded by the Global Environment Facility and United Nations Foundation (2003 - 2006) to strengthen the management of these areas to conserve wildlife and enable the sustainable development of local communities. A series of 30 Community Protected Areas were established within Phnom Samkos Wildlife Sanctuary, which were patrolled by community rangers. Approximately 441,000 hectares of land were brought under sustainable management and protection through Community Protected Areas. The project also provided support for horticulture, sustainable forest product use and livelihood development at these sites. By addressing issues such as food security and access to water we were tackling some of the key local drivers of forest destruction at these sites. From 2009, Halcyon Land & Sea provided additional funding to develop sustainable finance strategies for the area that leveraged EU funding. Forest wardens continue to protect culturally important endangered species, such as Asian elephants and Siamese crocodiles, and there are consequently strong indications of reduced threats to these species, for example a 66% reduction in the use of fishing nets in crocodile sanctuaries between 2015 and 2018.

Strategic Initiative

Area Secured: 441,000 ha

Area of Conservation Impact: 570,000 ha

Estancia La Querencia, Patagonia

Estancia La Querencia is a vast and remarkably intact example of dry grassland in Patagonia, and the area is a vital nesting habitat of the endangered Andean condor. In 2001, Halcyon Land & Sea funding supported development of a proposed 'Condor Conservancy' to conserve the exceptional biodiversity and ecosystems of La Querencia. Working with NGO partners and landowners, FFI helped to establish a foundation to protect the biodiversity of Estancia la Querencia for the long term. The board of this foundation developed a plan to promote wildlife, habitats and ecotourism in the area, focusing on the protection of condors, austral rails and many other typical steppe species. From 2004 to 2005, FFI supported the board to realise this plan by leading the development of a management plan for the Estancia, combining wildlife conservation, habitat management and exploration of ecotourism potential at the site. FFI's work also contributed to the site being listed as an Important Bird Area. The land remains secured under management for the foreseeable future.

Main Grant (Land Acquisition/Management)

Area Secured: **85,000 ha**

Area of Conservation Impact: **85,000 ha**

Lekurruki Wildlife Conservancy, Kenya

Lekurruki constitutes a critical dispersal area and migration corridor for wildlife across the wider Laikipia landscape, including for elephant, Grevy's zebra and African wild dog as it links Samburu, Buffalo Springs and Shaba National Reserves. Within the Lekurruki Conservancy, land was previously held by 26 private landowners, and parcels were likely to be sold and/or developed for agricultural purposes. Halcyon Land & Sea funding was used to purchase the northern block of the conservancy, incorporating 12 private titles, and this land is now under the management of Lekurruki Conservation Trust, which is fully equipped and staffed to provide anti-poaching coverage and security for the area. The Lekurruki Conservation Trust works with the local community, promoting security and development alongside the conservation programme. A local tourist lodge now produces revenue streams to support both conservancy operations and community development. Lekurruki remains under effective conservation management, under the umbrella of the Northern Rangelands Trust.

Regular monitoring by conservancy scouts has indicated that wildlife populations are stable and/or increasing, although occasional incidences of elephant poaching have been reported.

Main Grant (Land Acquisition/Management)

Area Secured: **1,584 ha**

Area of Conservation Impact: **11,950 ha**

Burnett Mary Region, Australia

The Burnett Mary region covers approximately 5.6 million hectares of land, around 4 million hectares of coastal zone habitats, supports over half of Queensland's native mammals and almost 80% of its native birds, and just under half of the state's native reptiles, frogs and vascular plants. The area was being cleared at around 8,000 hectares per year, resulting in fragmentation and loss of remnant habitats. It was also threatened by alien species, fires and increased salinity. In 2009, Halcyon Land & Sea funding supported the successful nomination of the Great Sandy Biosphere (1.24 million hectares) as a UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserve, and FFI supported the operations of the Burnett Mary Regional Group (BMRG), an organisation tasked by the Queensland Government with promoting effective environmental stewardship across the region. As a result of the partnership with FFI, BMRG increased community engagement in the Sandy Links Biosphere and has worked to develop an appropriate governance structure and developed a more diversified income base, including an innovative environmental brokering company. In addition, the partnership supported work on the cultural heritage of Fraser Island, and active protection of critically endangered lowland rainforests within the Great Sandy Key Biosphere Reserve.

Strategic Small Grant

Area of Conservation Impact: **9,000,000 ha**

Cape Private Nature Reserves, South Africa

In 2006, a grant from Halcyon Land & Sea was used to test the feasibility of establishing a revolving fund for acquisition and conservation of private land in South Africa, as a basis for the strategic development of private nature reserves in South Africa. The resultant report outlined options for securing land under sustainable land management and for establishing a permanent covenant ensuring conservation use. Once secure, these conservation lands could again be sold, thus returning proceeds to the fund. The report has been widely circulated with conservation partners in the Western and Eastern Cape. Opportunities to promote conservation restrictions and easements to secure key areas are currently being applied through the Renosterveld project (see page 46).

Strategic Small Grant

Montado Do Areeiro, Madeira

Madeira's Montado do Areeiro is the only known breeding site of Zino's petrel, Europe's rarest seabird. The birds were threatened by livestock overgrazing, uncontrolled tourism, rats and feral cats. In 2004, only approximately 30 breeding pairs were known to survive. Halcyon Land & Sea funding was used to purchase 310 hectares of land, which was incorporated into the neighbouring Parque Natural da Madeira (leveraging significant co-finance from the EU). The park authority actively managed the site and lands were cleared of grazers, habitats were rehabilitated and both invasive species (rats and cats) and tourism were controlled to protect Zino's petrel. The reduction in grazing pressure had a dramatic impact on endemic flora and numbers of Zino's petrel increased steadily. However, in August 2010 the site was badly affected by widespread fires on the island, with four adults and 38 juveniles lost. Although regeneration of the vegetation has been a slow and painful process, the petrels returned the following year with no significant reduction in the adult population, despite the loss of many of that year's fledglings in the fire. The site is subject to ongoing management as part of the Parque Natural da Madeira. Wardens regularly collect data on Zino's petrel during the breeding season; rats and cats continue to be managed using targeted poison and traps (although there are some challenges to this programme of work), and the area remains clear of livestock. In 2018, 80 breeding pairs were recorded (compared to 30 in 2004) and at least 23 juveniles fledged from the two principal breeding areas. By 2019 some thirty chicks were reported through the annual nesting survey and research was underway to better understand the foraging flights of the species through data loggers. A recent study

([Bolam et al. 2020](#)) suggested that Zino's petrel would have been likely to have become extinct without conservation intervention.

Main Grant (Land Acquisition/Management)

Area Secured: **310 ha**

Area of Conservation Impact: **310 ha**

Nkuringo, Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda

Bwindi Impenetrable National Park in Uganda is home to the critically endangered mountain gorilla. In 2003, Halcyon Land & Sea helped to buy a 12-kilometre long and 350-metre wide strip of land along the boundary of the park to create a more effective buffer zone and to reduce human-wildlife conflict. Following community agreement, over 230 landowners were individually paid for parcels of land. A 200m strip (240 hectares) of the land purchased, just next to the park boundary, was added to the park. The remainder (180 hectares) is managed as a buffer zone and held by the Nkuringo Community Conservation Development Foundation (which is run jointly by the local community and the Uganda Wildlife Authority, and develops community enterprises and tourism linked to the habituated Nkuringo group of mountain gorillas). Work with communities has enabled gorilla-friendly livelihood options to be developed, such as growing fodder for cattle to reduce grazing requirements and establishing deterrents to crop-raiding by gorillas and other wildlife. An eco-lodge has been built, which is owned by the local community and employs a number of local people and uses local produce, and the profits of which are accrued directly by the community. As well as reducing human-wildlife conflict by reducing crop-raiding, the buffer zone has enabled the establishment of novel livelihoods such as tea plantations. Attitudes towards gorillas have improved significantly and the persecution of gorillas and loss of livelihoods through crop-raiding are no longer significant issues. The mountain gorilla population in the Virunga-Bwindi area has now increased to over 1,000 individuals and the mountain gorilla's threat status has been reduced from critically endangered to endangered.

Recent biodiversity data demonstrates that the site remains secure for a range of key species and surveys have shown that local support for conservation remains high.

Main Grant (Land Acquisition/Management)

Area Secured: **420 ha**

Area of Conservation Impact: **620 ha**

Conservation Incentives, South Africa

In 2006, prior to this project, the tax laws in South Africa encouraged the destruction of nature and led to the loss of priority fynbos land. A grant from Halcyon Land & Sea enabled a legal team to review laws influencing land use. As a result, legislation was changed and landowners now have greater incentives to retain land under wild fynbos, rather than ploughing it for viniculture, wheat production or other purposes.

Strategic Small Grant

Biodiversity Conservation Programme, Philippines

The Philippines has more endangered and critically endangered endemic species than anywhere else in the world, and the fragments of natural forest that support these unique species are under imminent threat. In 2003, Halcyon Land & Sea helped to create a plan to conserve some of these key areas.

It proposed developing the institutional capacity of local NGOs to prepare, finance, implement and sustain their long-term conservation programmes.

Strategic Small Grant



If you have any questions or
would like more information,
please contact:

Joey Cary-Elwes
Philanthropy Adviser

E: joanna.cary-elwes@fauna-flora.org



The David Attenborough Building, Tel: +44 (0) 1223 571 000
Pembroke Street, Cambridge, Email: info@fauna-flora.org
CB2 3QZ, United Kingdom www.fauna-flora.org

Registered Charity No. 1011102
www.fauna-flora.org

