



Conservation Report
2020

Fauna & Flora
International
is dedicated
to protecting
our planet's
threatened
wildlife and
habitats.

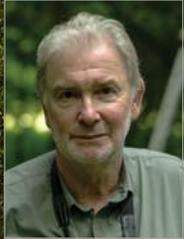


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From the Chief Executive



This 2020 Conservation Report covers one of the most extraordinary – and turbulent – years in our organisation’s history. The fact that we have achieved so much, despite the unprecedented disruption to our regional and cross-cutting programmes caused by the global pandemic, is a tribute to the durability and resilience of Fauna & Flora International (FFI) and its people.

Throughout the countries where we operate, there are numerous examples of tangible conservation success and compelling evidence that our influence is growing. There was a real danger that Covid-19 could have undermined and undone decades of hard work on the part of FFI and our partners. Instead, we have maintained our forward momentum, diversified our supporter base and strengthened our financial position.

Crucially, we also channelled over £1 million in emergency support to our key in-country partners via the newly launched FFI Partner Crisis Support Fund, helping them to weather the storm and ensuring the protection of threatened species and habitats, including some of Africa’s most threatened and iconic megafauna.

Despite monitoring constraints imposed by Covid-19, a patrol team in Cambodia discovered a wild Siamese crocodile nest and, separately, recorded ten baby crocodiles in one of the last known strongholds of this critically endangered reptile, a sure sign that our conservation efforts are having a real impact on a species once believed to be extinct in the wild.

Elsewhere in Asia, the only known habitat of the critically endangered Myanmar snub-nosed monkey – which an FFI-led team discovered in 2010 – was designated as a national park, a milestone for conservation in Myanmar and fitting reward for four years of careful consultation with local communities.

FFI’s rediscovery of the critically endangered ship sturgeon in Georgia’s Rioni River offered renewed hope for a fish that was feared extinct and proved that the Rioni is an absolutely crucial sanctuary for this and other European sturgeons.

The combined efforts of FFI and our local partner Fundação Maio Biodiversidade culminated in two landmark achievements for one of the world’s neglected havens of marine biodiversity. The island of Maio in the remote archipelago of Cape Verde was officially designated as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, and the long-awaited Protected Areas Management Plan for Maio – the first for the country – was approved.

Thanks to the efforts of FFI’s long-term partner Akdeniz Koruma Derneği, 350 square kilometres of Turkey’s coastline were granted official protection in 2020, a significant expansion of the marine protected area network along the country’s Mediterranean coast, which harbours seagrass meadows and threatened species including sea turtles, the Mediterranean monk seal, sandbar shark and dusky grouper.

A groundbreaking FFI report highlighted the potentially disastrous impacts of deep-sea mining, and called for a global moratorium – backed by scientists and prominent figures including our long-standing vice-president Sir David Attenborough – until the environmental risks have been comprehensively investigated and understood.

In September, FFI launched the *Our One Home* campaign, reaching an audience of over 930 million via broadcast, print and online media. In an open letter addressed to UN Secretary-General António Guterres – signed by almost 150 conservation groups from more than 50 countries worldwide – we called on world leaders to invest an initial US\$500 bn in nature to support those working at the conservation coalface.

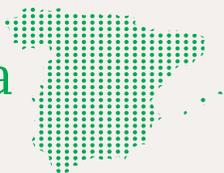
As we approach the halfway point of FFI’s latest five-year strategy, we are in a strong position to respond to the evolving global situation and to capitalise on the wider recognition in government circles, boardrooms and society as a whole that we urgently need to transform our relationship with nature in order to address the biodiversity and climate crises.

Mark Rose



Highlights of 2020

We influenced¹ the conservation of **49,531,117 ha** of crucial habitat (an area nearly the size of Spain)



We worked with **97 priority species** and at least 200 additional species demonstrably benefited from our work



255

Organisations whose skills, knowledge and resources we helped develop



24

The number of laws, regulations and strategic government plans we helped develop



41 projects

helped to address the illegal trade in wildlife



We protected habitat at **307 sites** in **48 countries**



We saw conservation benefits² for

162 sites **82 priority species populations**



389

The number of organisations we partnered with, including: Local NGOs, governments, universities & businesses



Almost **5,000**

The number of people who received conservation training

Habitats worked in include



LIMESTONE CAVES



DESERTS & DRYLANDS



WILDFLOWER MEADOWS



FORESTS



FRESHWATER



MARINE



MOUNTAINS



GRASSLANDS



AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPES

We engaged with



Business



Communities



Policymakers

* Relevant field-based projects

1. We work to influence conservation at different levels; this includes directly supporting on-the-ground conservation, influencing conservation delivery across wider target landscapes and supporting key partners to deliver conservation across their own priority areas.
2. Conservation benefits means we are seeing improved enforcement or protection, reduced threats or evidence of recovery in specific sites or species populations.

Vision

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

Mission

To conserve threatened species and ecosystems worldwide

Our Ambitions

In order to achieve our vision and mission, FFI focuses on a core set of seven ambitions as set out in our latest five-year strategy, which started in 2019. Conservation is a complex discipline and we recognise that to achieve our conservation goals we need to make progress in each of these intertwined and mutually supportive areas of work:

Conserving threatened habitats and species:

1 AMBITION ONE: THRIVING SPECIES

2 AMBITION TWO: RESILIENT ECOSYSTEMS

Empowering organisations and individuals to lead innovative conservation action:

3 AMBITION THREE: LOCALLY LED CONSERVATION

Shaping decisions within society to benefit biodiversity:

4 AMBITION FOUR: INFLUENCING OTHERS

Investing in FFI's effectiveness:

5 AMBITION FIVE: INCREASING VISIBILITY

6 AMBITION SIX: INVESTING IN OUR PEOPLE

7 AMBITION SEVEN: SECURING THE RESOURCES WE NEED

This report seeks to demonstrate how effective FFI has been in its conservation activities and how this is contributing to these ambitions, based on information collected from our portfolio of 127 projects³ that were active in 2020. The primary focus of this report is Ambitions 1 to 4: those specifically centred around conservation success on the ground. Highlights of FFI's progress against Ambitions 5, 6 and 7, which focus on our efforts to ensure conservation delivery, are also provided.

Further information on how we go about understanding the success of our conservation work is provided on pages 11-12.



Captive snow leopard cub. Credit: Chris Looper/FFI

3. A project is defined as a body of work that seeks to achieve a specific goal or outcome; this should be a meaningful and measurable conservation result. A conservation result might be related to specific biodiversity targets, such as a key sites or priority species, or it might involve creating a specific set of enabling conditions for delivering better conservation. It will typically require multiple conservation approaches.

How we work

Our projects range from working on the ground in key geographical locations, to thematic initiatives where expertise can be applied across our organisation, as well as efforts to influence the wider contexts in which conservation is carried out. Across all our 127 projects we adhere to a set of core principles:



Female citizen inspectors by Rioni River, Georgia. Credit: FFI



WE WORK IN PARTNERSHIP

We work with partners that range from local community organisations and NGOs to small-scale enterprises, larger businesses and government agencies. We support our partner organisations in building locally owned and sustainable conservation programmes. We believe this approach is more likely to result in appropriate solutions, elicit local support and ensure long-term effectiveness.

In 2020, FFI jointly ran projects with, or provided significant assistance to, 389 primary partners⁴. We also collaborated⁵ with a further 271 organisations in the course of our work.

● NATIONAL NGOS AND CBOS	(150)
● GOVERNMENT AGENCIES	(118)
● ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS	(34)
● BUSINESSES	(31)
● INTERNATIONAL NGOS	(29)
● OTHER	(27)



4. Our 'primary partners' are those we jointly run projects with or provide significant assistance to.

5. These are organisations we worked alongside to achieve a mutual goal, but did not run projects jointly with, or provide significant assistance to.



ENHANCING HUMAN WELL-BEING

Our conservation solutions seek to enhance human well-being. We respect and promote human rights and cultural values, as well as supporting governance systems that benefit both people and biodiversity. We see conservation as a social process, with people at its heart, and we actively engage with local communities (including Indigenous Peoples), empowering those who live closest to threatened species and habitats. By working with communities to develop sustainable livelihoods and appropriate governance mechanisms alongside practical solutions to conservation problems, we help to ensure local support for – and ownership of – conservation activities, thereby increasing the probability of long-term success.

In 2020, 99% of relevant field projects included engagement with communities to strengthen natural-resource governance and support sustainable livelihoods strategies in order to achieve positive outcomes for both biodiversity and human well-being.



Distribution of eco-stoves in Ha Giang, Vietnam. Credit: Chu Xuan Canh/FFI



Scientific research on Rioni River, Georgia. Credit: Fleur Scheele/FFI



ROBUST SCIENCE

Our conservation practices are rooted in robust science. We aim to ensure that project decisions are underpinned by the best possible information, including up-to-date research – whether generated by ourselves or others – and to monitor our impact rigorously, sharing what FFI and our partners have learned, in order to improve practice and help steer future research agendas.

In 2020, over 370 surveys, monitoring programmes or other studies were carried out across 95 different projects.

Assessing the impact of our work

At the heart of FFI's strategy is the desire to achieve greater, demonstrable and lasting impact in relation to the conservation of species and ecosystems and the people and organisations we support and influence.

GREATER IMPACT

means achieving more, both by ourselves and through others. We strive for bigger and better results because conservation impact worldwide is not yet sufficient to stem the loss of species and ecosystems caused by human activities.

DEMONSTRABLE IMPACT

means being able to show that we are having a positive impact, that results are being achieved, and that progress towards conservation goals is being made.

LASTING IMPACT

means delivering results that will persist over the longer term. This requires us to have considered likely future shocks and trends that might affect our work (such as those brought on by climate change) and to have identified ways to limit their effects or ensure adaptability to change. It also requires local ownership and partners that can operate independently of FFI into the future. It requires sustained and sustainable financing through enterprise and other means.

This report provides a snapshot of FFI's portfolio of work during 2020, specifically demonstrating how our work is progressing towards the fulfilment of each of our ambitions. The information within this report comprises data collected from 126 of our 127 projects⁶ that were active in 2020 and shows key activities and impacts as well as providing insights into specific aspects of our work.

No two projects are alike; each one presents us with a particular set of circumstances, focuses on a specific habitat or species, and poses a unique set of challenges. Success is, therefore, defined at an individual project level to account for these differences. In order to understand what stage of its journey to success each of our projects has reached, we use 'impact chains' to track progress towards long-term biodiversity goals.



An impact chain describes the path of change through which we would expect to see a project progress on the way to achieving its long-term conservation objectives. There is good evidence that achievement of changes in the early steps in the chain predicts future conservation impact. At portfolio level our approach is to use evidence of project outcomes to give an annual snapshot⁷ of where our current projects are on their journey towards their ultimate conservation goals.

In the impact chains presented throughout this report, the sites, species or projects represented are counted only once and assigned the highest level of outcome or impact reported by the end of 2020.

Underpinning this approach, each FFI project aims to have a well-developed design logic that articulates how activities are intended to drive change within its own particular set of circumstances. Work is ongoing at an organisational level to ensure these models of change are as robust as they can be. These models are used to support each project's work to monitor its progress towards its ultimate impact.

For further information on how FFI works to understand the impact of our work, please refer to the document *Understanding Conservation Success*, available on our website.

6. See project definition on page 7 (footnote 3).

7. We have parallel systems to enable year-to-year comparison of project-level data.



AMBITION 1: THRIVING SPECIES

Securing threatened species populations

FFI has well over a century of experience in safeguarding threatened species, with a demonstrable track record of success in halting and/or reversing their decline. Many species are protected through our wider habitat protection work; but those closest to extinction frequently require direct intervention to ensure they survive. For a number of priority species, we are working to create the conditions in which they can thrive, thereby reducing the risk of extinction.

In 2020, 51 of our projects had a specific focus on priority species, working to conserve 97 priority species of plants and animals (see Annex 1 for a full list). A further 200 secondary species were also monitored as specific known beneficiaries of our conservation work⁸. We also recognise that many hundreds of additional plant and animal species may have benefited from our activities in wider habitats.

Among our targeted conservation actions:

- Over 1.2 million tree seedlings were grown or planted, over 34,000 of which were from threatened species.
- Almost 19,000 turtle hatchlings were protected and released.
- Action plans were produced for 27 species.
- We worked to conserve species within six categories:
 - Mammals, Birds, Invertebrates, Fish, Reptiles, Plants.



Gorilla's gorilla in Democratic Republic of Congo. Credit: Angelique Todd/FFI

How successful we have been

These impact chains show the progress towards recovery of FFI's 97 priority species (top) in 104 target populations, and the progress of a further 200 secondary species (bottom) across 257 target populations. Six priority species populations and 81 secondary species populations are not included on the chain as there was insufficient information available about impact for these populations this year.



A snapshot of our work

These quotes, taken from project reports, provide an insight into some of the stories behind these numbers – for more, turn to Annex 2.

New hope for Siamese crocodiles in Cambodia

In early 2020 ten baby Siamese crocodiles were spotted in the wild at a site in Cambodia where FFI has worked to protect this species since 2000. The sighting is the largest number of wild hatchlings recorded by conservationists and in May 2020 a nest was found at the same site with a clutch of 22 eggs. FFI's work to protect the crocodile includes community-led protection of five sites, designated as crocodile sanctuaries, as well as boosting populations through a breeding programme, which in 2020 produced 47 new hatchlings that will be released in a few years.

These signs give us real hope that our conservation efforts are having an impact on this species which just two decades ago was believed to be extinct in the wild in Cambodia.



Credit: Bianca Roberts/FFI

Camera traps suggest improving fortunes for tigers in Indonesia

During 2020, camera trap surveys in the core area of Kerinci Seblat National Park captured a total of 112 tiger sightings, a significant increase from previous surveys. A total of 15 individual tigers were identified in the images: four males, 10 females and one of unknown sex. This is also a larger number of individuals than captured in previous surveys. Overall, from the six surveys that have been carried out since 2014, 46 individual tigers have been identified, and the density of tigers has increased from 0.85 tigers per 100 km² to 0.91 tigers per 100 km² in the Kerinci Seblat National Park core area.



Credit: Teuku Boyhad/FFI

Protecting the Eastern Pacific hawksbill turtle in Nicaragua

Despite challenging circumstances, the 2020 hawksbill nesting season was a success; 233 (more than 97%) of nests at our key sites were protected and almost 19,000 hatchlings were released. Since the start of FFI's work to protect this species 11 years ago, 2,436 hawksbill nests have been protected and 218,852 hawksbill hatchlings, that may have otherwise been poached as eggs, have been released to the sea. Over this period, 367 different



Credit: Alani Ramirez/FFI

female turtles have been identified and tagged on these nesting beaches. We believe this work is making a major contribution to the recovery of this critically endangered species.

AMBITION 1: THRIVING SPECIES

A focus on: Neglected species

Wildlife populations continue to plummet year on year. Updated figures released in 2020 showed species have declined by 68%, on average, over the last 50 years⁹. While some species and species groups are subject to much conservation attention and are consistently prioritised for funding or action, other species – perhaps less charismatic or simply unknown – fall under the radar and are slipping unnoticed towards extinction. FFI is a long-standing champion of less familiar species and those that might otherwise have been overlooked by others.

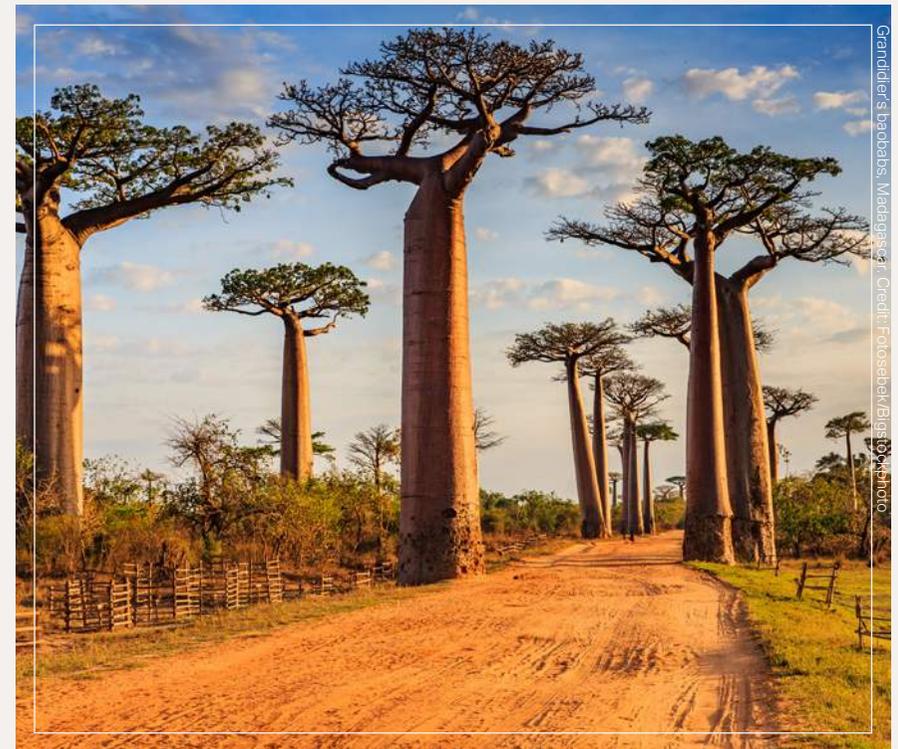
With at least 51 projects working on species conservation in 2020, we were able not only to provide much-needed conservation attention to 66 of these less-loved species, but also to document some significant milestones on their paths to recovery.

Raising the profile of plants

Plants are crucial to life on Earth. They provide the air that we breathe, help regulate our climate, supply (amongst other things) our food and medicine, provide critical habitat to countless other species and play a fundamental role in many aspects of culture around the globe. Too often, plants are overlooked in conservation efforts; 'plant blindness' has become a term used to describe the tendency of people not to notice the plants all around them, or to view them as a mere backdrop to their daily lives. In addition, while we may conserve habitats or vegetation, we often fail to recognise that individual plant species are disappearing. An estimated 40% of all plant species in the world are threatened with extinction¹⁰, including over 12,000 tree species.

Over the last 20 years, FFI has also specifically supported the conservation of more than 140 threatened tree species across 24 countries, under the banner of the Global Trees Campaign – a coalition working to ensure the recovery of the world's most threatened trees, which FFI founded and helps to co-ordinate. As well as working to conserve some remarkable hotspots of botanical diversity, FFI focused on plant species in 12 projects. Some 42 of our 97 priority species were plants, including over 30 threatened trees in 2020.

The following stories show how our work is helping endangered tree species to recover:



Granddier's baobabs, Madagascar. Credit: Fotosebakidigit.com/Photo

SAVING TREE SPECIES IN CENTRAL ASIA

The fruit-and-nut forests of Central Asia contain the living ancestors of domestic apples, pears, walnuts, almonds and other important food trees. However, due to factors including overgrazing and cutting or collection of firewood, these important habitats have declined by 90% over the last 50 years. As a result, almost 70 tree species in the region are known to be threatened. These include the Tajik and Bukharan pear trees, both critically endangered, and Niedzwetzky's apple, a globally endangered species.

Since the early 2000s FFI has worked to conserve these species in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. As well as protecting fragments of remaining fruit-and-nut forest we have implemented specific measures for highly endangered tree species. These include direct protection of known wild specimens and reinforcement of populations as part of wider forest restoration. These projects are now starting to reap the rewards of more than a decade of conservation effort, with real evidence of success.



Monitoring of Niedzwetzky's apple trees planted in 2009 at Padusht-Ara Reserve, Credit: FFI

In Tajikistan, a series of forest plots were experimentally fenced off in 2014, to reduce the threat to young trees posed by grazing, which was limiting natural regeneration. In 2020 the plots were showing remarkable signs of recovery; the presence of over 1,900 Tajik pear saplings and nearly 1,500 Bukharan pear saplings demonstrated the effectiveness of fencing as a tool for promoting natural regeneration of key species. The success of these demonstration plots has encouraged local landowners to use fenced areas to protect planted and naturally regenerating pear trees. With support, to date 48 households have fenced their own plots, protecting a combined total of nearly 1,400 pear trees. The use of fencing to limit grazing and allow natural regeneration can now be expanded to create additional vital refuges for the species in other areas where mature individuals still survive.

Meanwhile in Kyrgyzstan, surveys of reinforcement planting of Niedzwetzky's apple trees showed that at least 439 trees have reached maturity (and are able to bear fruit) 11 years after they were planted. The known population of this species in key fruit-and-nut forests of Kyrgyzstan was previously assessed as just 153 mature wild trees. Not only do these additional trees, planted in 2009, almost quadruple the known mature population, but the fact that they are bearing fruit and therefore capable of producing seedlings provides the opportunity for wider regeneration in these areas.

AMBITION 1: THRIVING SPECIES

A focus on: Neglected species (cont.)

Conserving reptiles in the Caribbean

Notoriously tricky to work with, and sometimes feared, reptiles (particularly snakes and lizards) are not always prioritised for conservation action. The Caribbean has seen more reptile extinctions than any other region in the world, with over 60% of known global reptile losses estimated to have occurred here.

Reptiles play an important ecological role on Caribbean islands, and the many islands of the region create the basis for a huge diversity of species and high levels of endemism.

However, threats to reptiles in the Caribbean are manifold. In particular, invasive species play a significant role in the decline of many reptile species. Non-native mammals, including rats and mice (accidentally introduced) and mongooses (introduced to control rats) as well as feral cats and goats, have had a particularly detrimental impact on reptile species. Disease, habitat loss and the pet trade also contribute to declines in Caribbean reptiles. The entire global population of some species is limited to a single island; for example, both the Sombrero ground lizard and the Sombrero pygmy lizard are found only on the 38-hectare Sombrero Island (part of Anguilla). Such single island endemics are both incredibly rare and extremely vulnerable to further shocks, not least the impacts of climate change, which in turn exacerbate and increase the frequency of extreme weather events such as hurricanes. In the Eastern Caribbean alone, some 29 terrestrial reptile species, endemic to this area, are currently listed as endangered or critically endangered.

Since 1994 FFI has worked on over 25 terrestrial reptile species across 15 Caribbean countries and territories. Often our work involves removing invasive mammal species; to date, we have been involved in successful invasive species eradication and restoration programmes on 28 islands, thus removing a key threat to the persistence of endemic reptile species. This has been coupled with work to improve the management of protected areas, encourage sustainable use of natural resources and combat illegal wildlife trade, all while building essential local, national and regional conservation capacity in these countries and territories.



Lesser Antillean iguana (Iguana tenebrata), Prickly Pear Cays. Credit: Jenny Dalrymple



Lesser Antillean iguana after translocation. © Prickly Pear Cays, Anguilla. Credit: Jenny Dainoff/FFI

CREATING A SAFE HAVEN FOR LESSER ANTILLEAN IGUANAS IN ANGUILLA

The Lesser Antillean iguana is considered to be critically endangered as a result of habitat loss, and invasive mammals, and competition from the green iguana, a non-native species from Central America that outcompetes its Lesser Antillean cousin. On mainland Anguilla, in particular, the green iguana has taken over much of the native iguana's range.

For a number of years FFI has worked with the Anguilla National Trust to eradicate alien mammal species on two offshore islands (Prickly Pear Cays), in order to provide a secure home for native biodiversity. Twenty-three individuals – almost the entire Anguillan population of Lesser Antillean iguanas – have been translocated to one of these islands. The success of this intervention was demonstrated in 2020 when juvenile Lesser Antillean iguanas were observed for the first time, proving that the translocated iguanas have started breeding successfully. There are plans to augment this secure population further to ensure it is genetically diverse and self-sustaining. Given threats to this species from the international pet trade, the relocation of the Anguillan population to an offshore island also affords it additional protection from illegal capture for trade.

AMBITION 1: THRIVING SPECIES

A focus on: Wildlife trade in the pandemic

The emergence of Covid-19 during 2020 had a marked impact on trade in wildlife. The apparent link between the emergence of SARS-CoV-2 and wild animals sold at a market in Wuhan threw wildlife trade into the global spotlight. Lockdowns and travel restrictions disrupted international trafficking and the focus of authorities was diverted towards responses to the pandemic.

Concerns were raised that high-value illegal wildlife products were being stockpiled in anticipation of a lifting of travel restrictions and that more illegal wildlife trade was happening online. Moreover, in many areas, harvesting of wild meat increased as the pandemic and economic impacts undermined food supply chains and livelihoods.

Throughout 2020, FFI continued to work hard to strengthen and grow our responses to tackling illegal trade in wildlife. In 2020, 41 FFI projects undertook activities to address illegal wildlife trade, and adapted to respond to trends in trade triggered by the pandemic, and to address any new or emerging threats to which it gave rise.

INFLUENCING THE CONVERSATION

Our decades of experience and technical expertise has enabled FFI to contribute to the debate on how to reduce the risks of future pandemics resulting from unregulated and poorly regulated trade in wild species. We are advocating for evidence-based, targeted reform and action that takes into account local voices, long-term sustainability and the potential for displacement of trade. As part of this response, during 2020 we:

- Collaborated with 19 other NGOs, convened by United for Wildlife, to deliver recommendations to global leaders at the G20 Summit in response to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Added our voice to discussions and campaigns seeking to build a constituency for change and to influence wildlife trade policy and action in the UK, EU and East Asia.
- Shared a clear position statement and recommendations on responses to Covid-19, Wildlife Trade and Biodiversity with our networks.

Habitat loss, wildlife trade and Covid-19: what's the link?

Most new infectious diseases emerge when pathogens transfer from animals into humans. The majority – including SARS, MERS7 and Ebola – originate in wild animals. Critically, such transfer is occurring more often due to increased contact between wild animals and people, linked to changes such as agricultural expansion, urbanisation and the expanding trade in wild animals.

It is thought that bats were the primary reservoir for SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes Covid-19) but that it was probably transmitted via an intermediary host (the exact species is currently undetermined) to a human in a marketplace in Wuhan.



ON-THE-GROUND ENGAGEMENT

Within FFI project sites the pandemic resulted in a general trend of increased hunting for local trade and subsistence due to loss of income, disrupted food supply chains, and an increase in the cost of food. For example, we saw increased hunting of iguanas in FFI sites in Honduras and the eastern Caribbean, and of trapping for wild meat in Myanmar and Vietnam. This upturn in hunting reflected the pandemic's effects on local livelihoods, due to the loss of income associated with tourism, disrupted food imports, and reductions in cross-border trade.

However, our projects also recorded a reduction in active transboundary trafficking, at least temporarily, as a result of factors including increased border security and disrupted and unpredictable freight and travel.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic our work to actively protect wildlife from poaching for trade continued. In some places, strict virus control measures meant we had to adapt our work significantly. For example, in Chuilexi Conservancy, Mozambique ranger teams formed 'bubbles' at different posts across the landscape and protocols were developed to minimise transmission in the event that arrests were made. As a result, our record of zero poaching of African elephants in this landscape since mid-2018 was maintained, despite significant pressure.

FFI projects continued to monitor poaching activity, price trends, and displacement of demand to other products; in addition, we saw new threats emerge in response to the pandemic; for example, some wildlife products are reportedly being touted as a means to strengthen immunity to Covid-19 – and we are using this information to inform and adapt our responses.



Chuilexi - Namasaketa river crossing, Mozambique. Credit: Gemfields

LOOKING FORWARD

The future trends in wildlife trade continue to be unpredictable and volatile, but we recognise the pandemic will leave a legacy of increased reliance on wild species for subsistence and to replace lost income sources across many of the areas where we work, and we anticipate a resumption of transnational trafficking as restrictions are eased and as trafficking networks adapt. The pandemic resulted in increased awareness and widespread public condemnation of illegal wildlife trade. Working collaboratively with other organisations and the UK government, we aim to build on the increased attention given to wildlife trade during 2020, and to push for ambitious solutions that are targeted, evidence-based, equitable and fair (do not deepen poverty) and which do not remove local incentives to protect species.

AMBITION 2: RESILIENT ECOSYSTEMS

Conserving threatened habitats

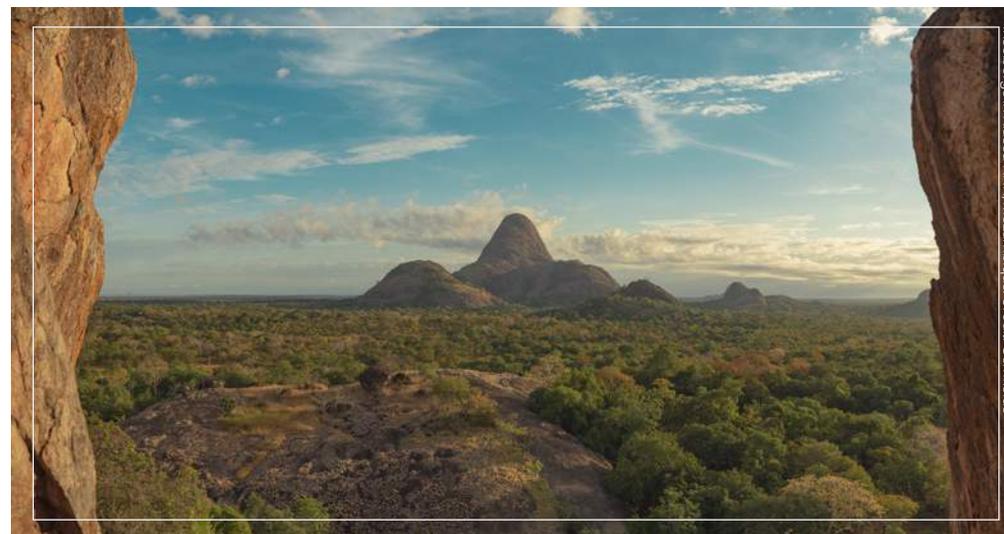
Conservation of natural habitats, both terrestrial and marine (see pages 22-23), has always been a major pillar of FFI’s work, helping to deliver a broad range of benefits including securing spaces for species, maintaining ecosystem health and mitigating the effects of climate change.

We work to secure key areas of natural habitat under effective conservation management. This may involve helping to bring new sites under protection (including developing new community and private protected areas), and ensuring that existing protected areas are more effectively and sustainably managed. While working to enhance biodiversity conservation at the individual site level, we also base our approach on the knowledge that these sites contribute to, and are affected by, management decisions across the wider landscapes in which they sit.

In 2020, 69 of our projects had a specific focus on conserving threatened habitat:

- We influenced¹¹ conservation across almost 50 million hectares of important habitat, including over 10.7 million hectares where we worked directly on the ground.
- This included over 550,000 hectares that we helped to bring under conservation management for the first time (by supporting the creation of new reserves or community management areas).
- 30 of FFI’s site-based projects worked to explore or implement sustainable finance as part of their activities in 2020.

In 2020 we worked across 307 separate sites including protected areas (PAs) and non-protected sites:



Inselbergs in Niassa NNR, Mozambique. Credit: Gemfields

- Of the 307 sites where we worked, we directly supported site-management and/or habitat conservation activities in 242.
- Across our portfolio of projects, we supported active management and/or protection of threatened habitats by:
 - Supporting on-the-ground enforcement or protection in at least 121 sites.
 - Supporting over 800 rangers, including many community rangers, across our projects.
 - Helping to produce 53 site-management plans.
 - Helping to restore habitat at 28 sites.
 - Helping to carry out invasive species control at 14 sites.

As well as supporting direct management, the work we deliver under Ambition 3: Locally led conservation and Ambition 4: Influencing others actively reinforces this.

11. We work to influence conservation at different levels; this includes directly supporting on-the-ground conservation, influencing conservation delivery across wider target landscapes and supporting key partners to deliver conservation across their own priority areas. In addition, if we give a grant for an emergency intervention at a World Heritage site through the Rapid Response Facility, we do not consider this a direct conservation engagement, but recognise that emergency assistance has influenced the conservation of this site.

How successful we have been

This impact chain shows the number of FFI sites at each stage of progress towards habitat or biodiversity recovery based on a total of 242 sites where we work directly to safeguard habitat. Fifteen sites are not included as there was insufficient information available about impact in these locations this year.



A snapshot of our work

These quotes, taken from project reports, provide an insight into some of the stories behind these numbers – for more, turn to Annex 2.

Effective restoration in Saint Lucia's offshore islands

Vegetation plots and fixed-point photographs demonstrate there has been a marked improvement in vegetation diversity and biomass on Dennery Island since goats and sheep were removed at the end of 2012. There has notably been a rapid increase in tree seedlings, which are growing well despite recent droughts. This is encouraging progress, because once forested, Dennery Island could potentially become suitable for re-establishing a second population of Saint Lucia racers (the world's rarest snake); even sooner it could be repopulated with the globally threatened lignum vitae tree and other rare species. Other signs of the effectiveness of this work include the fact that seabirds and land birds on Dennery Island have increased by 40% since the last census in 2012 and on average the offshore islands restored and managed by the project support ten times the densities of native lizards compared to the Saint Lucia mainland (where rats, mongooses and other threats are unchecked).



Credit: Jeremy Dainton/FFI/ARCP

Maintaining protection and management of Sapo National Park, Liberia

Despite the Covid-19 crisis and resulting restrictions, including a brief suspension of law enforcement patrols, conservation status of Sapo National Park was maintained in 2020. The park remained free of permanent illegal mining camps, which was the main threat to its ecological integrity. Patrols also achieved the removal of 38 snares, the confiscation of two guns, the arrest of 11 poachers and the rescue of five live animals. With illegal activities reduced, various species' populations can recover from previous illicit activities. A case in point involves the pygmy hippopotamus, with the preliminary result of the recce survey in Sapo showing their presence across the park.



Credit: Peter Dornhölzer/FFI

AMBITION 2: RESILIENT ECOSYSTEMS

Protecting marine and coastal ecosystems

For the last ten years FFI has actively worked to increase its focus on the threats facing the marine environment and the species within it.

We work to improve the conservation of the marine environment by safeguarding habitats and species (thus also protecting associated human livelihoods) through effective local management; tackling the wider threats to marine ecosystems through improved policy and practice; and strengthening the ability of local and national organisations (including community-based organisations) to protect their marine environments.

In 2020, 24¹² of our projects focused on marine and coastal conservation.

As part of this:

- We worked directly at 63 marine sites, of which 47 were protected areas (state, community, private or other) while 16 did not yet have a conservation designation.
- We helped to directly conserve over 2.1 million hectares of important marine and coastal habitat, and influenced conservation of over 4.8 million additional hectares.

Over the last ten years we have:

- Established or better protected 65 marine protected areas in 18 countries.
- Created 80 new no-take zones.

In our current 63 focal sites:

- We are able to evidence a reduction in destructive fishing and poaching threats at six sites.
- There is evidence of biodiversity recovery in 13 of these sites.
- We have seen signs of recovery in 17 key species groups including reef fish, sea turtles, sharks, seals and seahorses.
- Habitat recovery has been recorded across coral reef, rocky reef, mangrove and seagrass habitats.



Underwater clean-up, Gökova Bay, Turkey. Credit: Aydiniz Koruma Derneği

How successful we have been

Of the 63 sites where we work, we directly promoted habitat conservation activities in 54. This impact chain shows the number of FFI’s marine and coastal sites at each stage of progress towards habitat or biodiversity recovery. Four sites are not included as there was insufficient information available about impact in these locations this year.



A snapshot of our work

These quotes, taken from project reports, provide an insight into some of the stories behind these numbers – for more, turn to Annex 2.

Expanding marine protection in Turkey

During 2020 an additional 35,000 hectares of Turkey’s coastline were brought under environmental protection by the Turkish government, more than doubling the area of marine habitat under formal legal protection in this part of Turkey. Since 2012, FFI’s long-term partner Akdeniz Koruma Derneği has led conservation efforts in Gökova Bay, the site of Turkey’s first and – until 2020 – only actively managed marine protected area. Thanks to its collaborative, community-led approach, fish biomass within Gökova Bay’s six no-fishing zones has grown, thereby improving small-scale fisher income and increasing availability of prey for Mediterranean monk seals and other predatory marine species. The success of Gökova Bay supported efforts to advocate for the newly designated protected areas and the conservation model used here will be adapted as a template for the new areas, which will help to protect habitats and species including seagrass meadows, turtles, the monk seal, sandbar shark and dusky grouper.

Improving management of marine areas in Aceh

FFI has worked in Pulau Sinabang, Siumat dan Simanaha (PiSiSi) Marine Protected Area (MPA) on Simeulue Island since 2011, operating to secure the traditional fishing grounds of communities who reside within the protected waters. During 2020 the project saw an increased level of engagement and participation in marine management from local fishers and the Panglima Laot, (Sea Commander) a local institution with a mandate to enforce the customary law of the sea in Aceh. Voluntary patrolling was undertaken by participants from an additional five villages during 2020 and data submitted between January to August showed they have covered ±70.3% of the MPA, around 31,000 hectares, on a regular basis, which represents a 110% increase in patrol area compared to 2019. FFI’s long-term support to expanding patrols appears to be paying dividends, with detected compressor fishing incidents (the most common infringement) declining by more than half between 2015 and 2019, and wider violations of traditional fishing rules observed at consistently low levels in 2020. In further encouraging news, recent underwater surveys indicate that the biomass of reef fish in the community-protected areas within PiSiSi MPA is up to three times higher than in surrounding areas without established local management activities. Detection of illegal fishing activities within PiSiSi MPA resulted in both arrests and prosecutions during 2020.



Credit: Rakhat Dirahtara/FFI

AMBITION 2: RESILIENT ECOSYSTEMS

A focus on: Connecting the dots

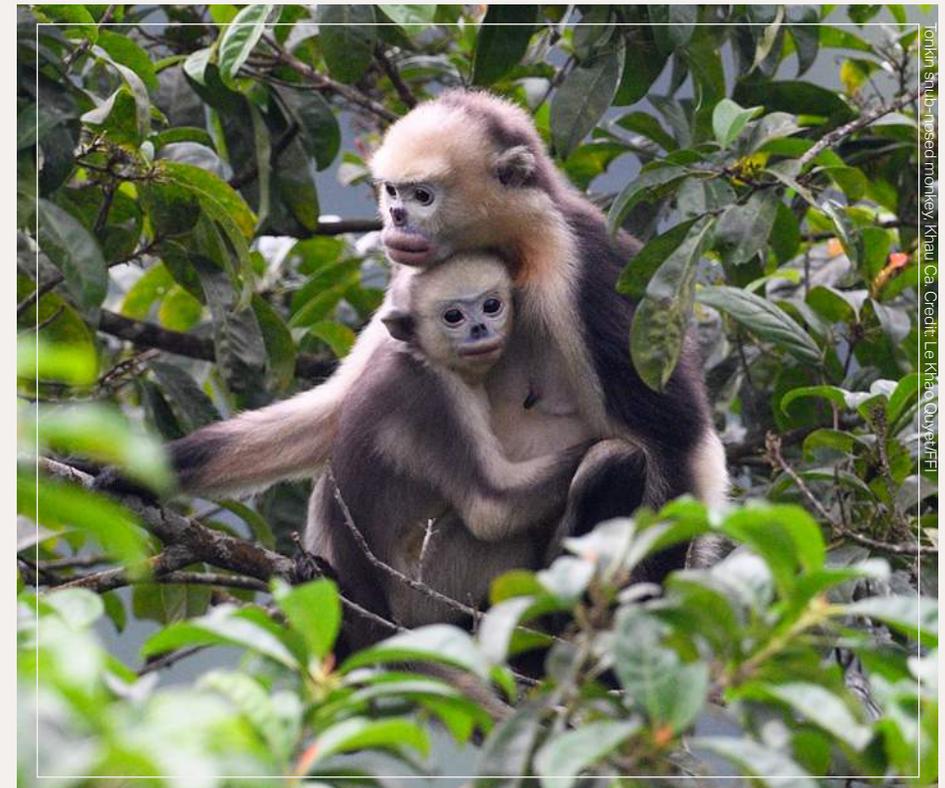
In 2020 FFI worked in 307 project sites around the world. Our sites take a myriad of forms; some encompass an entire ecosystem or the entire range of a species; others may be a single state-protected area, private reserve or site managed by communities for conservation. No matter the size or the status of a site, a priority for FFI is thinking in a joined-up way and working to ensure that key sites where we work are also effectively linked into the wider landscape and do not become islands or isolated fragments of ecosystems that are increasingly vulnerable or unable to support wildlife and people.

Joined-up thinking

Conserving connected landscapes and seascapes is a key focus of FFI's work. Thinking at this scale is critical if we are to respond to, combat and adapt to the impacts of climate change, to ensure effective conservation of key species and preserve the flow of natural ecological processes such as nutrient cycling, water purification and pollination. FFI works in varied ways to ensure that priority ecosystems persist and recover. Below are just some of the stories of our work in 2020 that helped to improve the condition, status and resilience of ecosystems, and ensured wider landscape connectivity.

MAINTAINING CONNECTIVITY FOR THREATENED PRIMATES IN VIETNAM

One of the world's rarest primates, the endemic and critically endangered Tonkin snub-nosed monkey is confined to two isolated forest fragments in the remote mountains of Ha Giang province in Vietnam. Some 80% of the global population (around 150 individuals) are limited to a site of just 1,600 hectares. This site is afforded a certain level of natural protection, located in an area of steep limestone karst, where access is limited and the landscape is unsuitable for conversion to farming. The site gained legal protection in 2007 and, as a result of FFI's active management here, monkey numbers have slowly grown. However, if this critical population is to thrive in the long term it needs to access sufficient suitable habitat to support a larger number of monkeys.



Tonkin snub-nosed monkey, Khai Oa. Credit: Le Khao Quy/FFI

Over the last three years FFI has focused on ensuring connectivity across key areas of suitable monkey habitat. We need to ensure that this last remaining stronghold of the species retains a viable corridor of habitat linking it to the much larger Du Gia-Dong Van National Park through reinforcement of a small, but crucial, connecting area of forest. FFI is working with local communities, authorities, and rangers to maintain this key forest link, and reinforcement planting of native and threatened trees is helping to improve and augment forest cover. Studies of the botany of this corridor have also informed strategic planting with food trees that would be used by commuting monkeys.

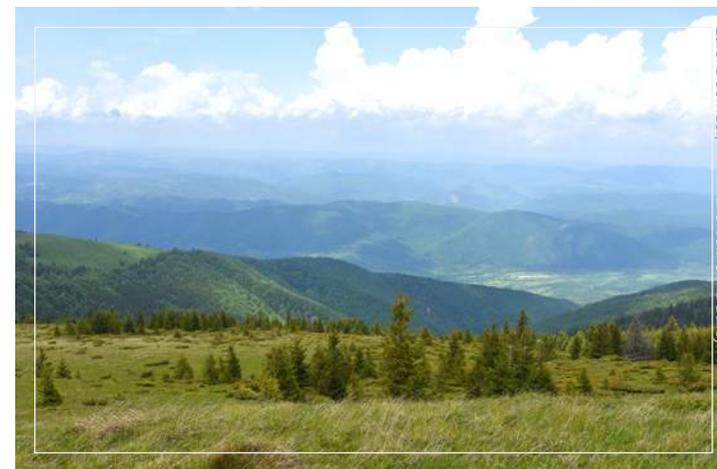
FFI is working towards the development of a combined, single protected area. In the meantime we have witnessed effective forest protection of the key site and significant success in all aspects of our work to reforest the area, from the collection of wild seeds to a survival rate of over 60% for seedlings planted out three years ago, with monitoring ongoing. One group of monkeys has already been recorded using the corridor area of forest and monkeys have started to expand and recolonise adjacent areas, due to the habitat protection provided by this project.

CONNECTING HABITAT IN ROMANIA

FFI and partner Asociatia Zarand have worked in Transylvania, Romania, since 2011 to conserve an area known as the Zarand Landscape Corridor. This important area contains a network of 17 Natura 2000 sites covering almost 435,000 hectares. Our ambition is to ensure ecological connectivity of the corridor, especially for key species including bears and wolves, which need large uninterrupted landscapes. The connectivity of the area is threatened by large-scale infrastructure development, intensified forestry practices, loss of traditional agricultural practices and more intensive small-scale farming. These threats have been exacerbated by socio-economic decline of rural communities who live in the area and associated outmigration, which leaves land unmanaged and vulnerable, especially to colonisation by invasive plants that can prevent key species from using or moving through the landscape.

To meet these challenges the project works to promote land management that supports biodiversity, restores habitats and landscape features, purchases key strategic parcels of land within pinch points in the corridor and supports enhanced cooperation between the existing network of sites. As well as putting in place ecological solutions the project also addresses the human dimensions of these landscapes, particularly how people co-exist with wildlife. Resolving conflicts between wildlife and people is key to co-existence, ensuring the corridor is a space that larger mammals can move through. For this reason, the project has implemented measures to prevent carnivore damage to crops and livestock and to enable people to access the necessary compensation if they suffer losses. To date the project has deployed 240 electric fences across 7,350 km² and 62 livestock-guarding dogs, benefiting 249 households living in the corridor. In addition, a human-wildlife-conflict team has been established to quickly respond to any incidents, and to support farmers and community members who are affected. In 2020 the intervention team responded to 17 incidents, most of these attributed to bears. Feedback from local farmers indicates they feel that the prevention and deterrent measures introduced by the project are working, and some are now using their own funds to buy additional fencing equipment.

There is clear evidence of improved functional connectivity in this landscape, and more integrated conservation planning across the associated network of Natura 2000 sites, which will provide benefits for a wide range of species using these contiguous areas. We have enhanced the conservation status of bears and wolves in this landscape; land purchased and restored at key locations in the corridor is now accessible to large carnivores and surveys show that stakeholders are more tolerant towards wildlife and more supportive of conservation actions.



Zarand corridor, Romania. Credit: Olivia Bailey/FFI

AMBITION 2: RESILIENT ECOSYSTEMS

A focus on: Climate

Climate change is recognised as a significant and increasing threat to our natural world and to biodiversity, as well as to global security, human health and well-being. Nature itself plays a critical role in regulating our climate and enabling adaptation to changing conditions. Healthy ecosystems play a vital role in combating and adapting to climate change and FFI is working to ensure the resilience of nature in the face of this accelerating threat. We also see the need to influence others, including governments and big business, to improve policy and action, to recognise nature as a foundation for climate resilience and to put nature at the heart of global decision-making on climate change.¹³

FFI's work aligned to the wider climate change agenda in many ways during 2020. We worked to directly protect over 10.7 million hectares of habitat including forests, grasslands, wetlands, mangroves and seagrass. These areas, as well as the additional 38.7 million hectares whose conservation we influence, store and sequester significant amounts of carbon. Our projects also worked to ensure that the species, sites and communities we work with are able to adapt to the changes in climate that are already occurring.

During 2020 FFI produced a specific action plan for our work in relation to climate change, which builds on three clear commitments made in our organisational strategy.

We are committed to climate-proofing our projects as best we can, choosing conservation solutions that will ensure our results are sustained in the face of climate change.

Within our annual reporting process some 22 projects also described specific actions undertaken to either build resilience to climate change or develop nature-based solutions to help with adaptation in future climate scenarios. Examples of this work in practice are described overleaf.



Ulu Masen Forest, Aopel, Indonesia. Credit: Juan Pablo Moreiras/FFI



Landscape, Ol Pejeta Conservancy, Kenya. Credit: Matt Rice

ADAPTING TO REDUCE CLIMATE CHANGE VULNERABILITIES IN OL PEJETA CONSERVANCY, KENYA

In the face of changing climate and frequent droughts, 150 farmers neighbouring Ol Pejeta Conservancy have adopted climate-smart fodder farming (planting drought-resistant fodder crops and bulking for livestock use in periods of pasture scarcity) and 130 acres of community land has been put under fodder production since 2017. Not only is this an important source of income for Ol Pejeta’s communities, with farmers reporting profits ranging between US\$760-780 per acre per six-month season, but it also enables livestock to have access to feed in dry seasons, maintaining the pastoral livelihoods of these communities despite the challenges of a changing climate and reducing pressure on the conservancy for pasture access.

CONSERVING MANGROVES FOR MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION IN CAMBODIA

Maintaining resilience in Cambodia’s rich coastal region is vital, in the face of increasingly extreme and unpredictable weather. Prevention of mangrove loss has been shown to be an effective strategy to protect coastlines from extreme weather, and mangroves are also very efficient at sequestering carbon from the atmosphere into their trunks and into the soil.

We continue to work across key areas of mangrove in Koh Rong, maintaining intact tracts of mangroves within the marine protected area. We have also developed four community-managed mangrove nurseries, with more planned, which will allow us to step up mangrove restoration efforts.



Mangrove restoration, Koh Rong, Cambodia. Credit: Jeremy Holden/WWF

AMBITION 2: RESILIENT ECOSYSTEMS

A focus on: Climate (cont.)

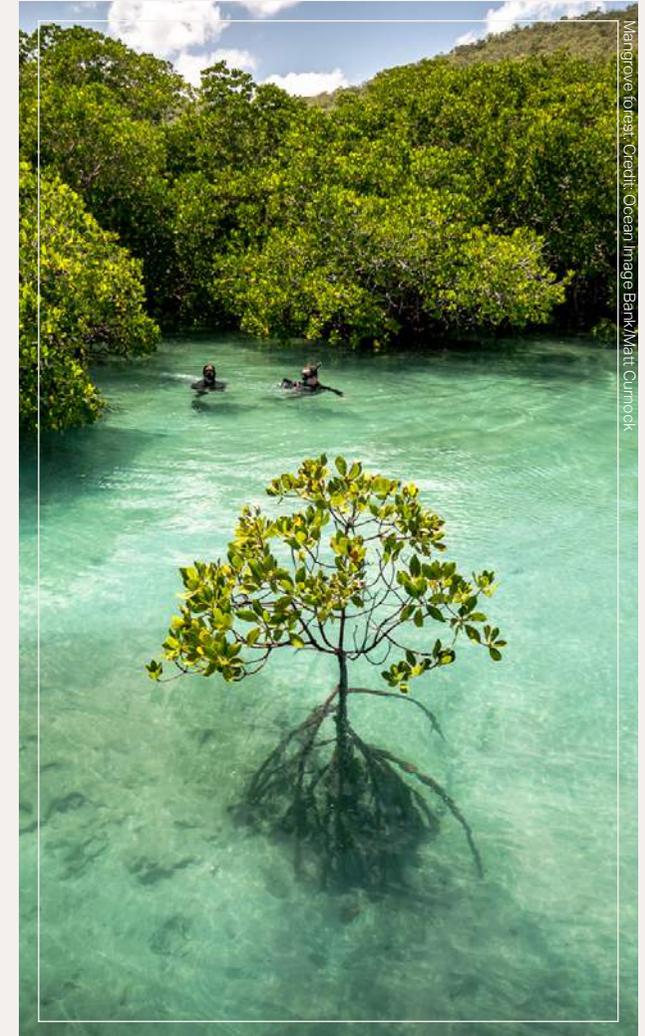
We will work to demonstrate the contribution our conservation work makes to climate adaptation and mitigation through understanding carbon sequestration, flood attenuation and potential for carbon offsets.

During 2020 we started the process of better understanding the carbon storage within the sites where we work, following Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change guidelines. We are working to ensure this feeds into future decisions about the management of these sites and future decisions on where and how we work.

We also worked to demonstrate the climate (and community and biodiversity) benefits achieved through forest protection and sustainable management at sites in Liberia, Indonesia and Vietnam, where we have developed Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+) projects. Together these projects quantify the tons of carbon emissions that have been avoided by successfully protecting the targeted areas of primary tropical forest, while also protecting associated wildlife and ensuring benefits accrue to the local people who act to conserve the sites. In addition to achieving direct conservation and climate impact on the ground, these projects are positioned to access sustainable flows of climate finance to maintain locally led forest protection, through the sale of Verified Emissions Reductions (carbon offsets).

We are also working to nest our site-level work into national and subnational REDD+ frameworks, particularly in Liberia and Indonesia, linking our grassroots projects with the systems that will enable expansion of REDD+ as a tool for conservation and conservation finance at landscape scale.

Recognising both the potential of and demand for blue carbon (the carbon stored in coastal and marine ecosystems such as mangroves and seagrass meadows), during 2020 we commissioned a review of blue carbon opportunities across our marine portfolio and built an in-depth understanding of what it would take to realise these opportunities in practice, which includes ensuring there is appropriate legislation, clarity and equity on ownership of carbon rights and benefits. With this knowledge we have started to explore opportunities for blue carbon in five projects, with a view to developing our work in this area. Of particular note is work that we have undertaken in Turkey, where we have made a concerted effort to understand the carbon storage of the endemic Mediterranean seagrass *Posidonia oceanica*.



Mangrove forest. Credit: Ocean Image Bank/Matt Curmook

We will take responsibility for minimising our organisational climate footprint and encouraging our partners to do the same.

During 2020 we developed protocols and identified appropriate methodologies to better understand the climate footprint of FFI, and started standardised data collection. The methods used are based on the internationally recognised carbon accounting and reporting standard, the Greenhouse Gas Protocol.



The David Attenborough Building, Cambridge. Credit: FFI

FFI's headquarters in Cambridge is in the David Attenborough Building, home to nine leading international conservation organisations and the University of Cambridge Conservation Research Institute, collectively known as the CCI Conservation Campus. In 2019 the building's dedicated Sustainability Team published an ambitious Sustainability Action Plan, covering all aspects of the building's operations including a specific focus on carbon reduction and energy efficiency.

A working group comprising all the building's occupants, including FFI, is now enabling the delivery of key actions under the sustainability plan, although there have been some pandemic-related delays to this.

AMBITION 3: LOCALLY LED CONSERVATION

Building in-country conservation capacity

FFI works directly with a range of in-country organisations, building on our belief that effective long-term conservation solutions lie in local hands. Across our projects we work with government agencies, corporations, academics, national and local NGOs, community-based organisations and cooperatives, and individuals – and we support these partners and collaborators in developing and accessing the resources, skills and tools they need to be effective in delivering biodiversity benefits. We generally take a long-term approach, adapting the support we give to meet changing needs over time and remaining in touch when our support is no longer needed on the ground.

In 2020, 93 projects undertook some form of capacity building, conservation training or organisational support activity. As part of this:

- 255 organisations (across the full breadth of our partner types) received some form of direct capacity development support, through organisational strengthening (such as assistance with systems or governance), provision of equipment or infrastructure, training and/or mentoring, or technical support.
- Almost 5,000 individuals received conservation training. These included partner staff, students and members of local communities.
- We supported the establishment of four new organisations and, in addition, supported or helped develop at least 139 community-based organisations.
- We helped at least 32 organisations to source their own funds independently of direct support from FFI.

We also channelled funding directly into local conservation organisations:

- We disbursed over £1.3 million in conservation grant funding (through the Rapid Response Facility, the Global Trees Campaign, the Conservation Leadership Programme and the newly established FFI Partner Crisis Support Fund).
- We influenced the distribution of over £8 million in additional conservation funding through direct support given to five external grant providers. As part of this support, we were involved in reviewing at least 1,300 grant applications.



FFI Ecological Field Techniques Field Trip 2019, Bokok, Credit: Chaderwan Uing

How successful we have been

This impact chain shows the progress of the 93 projects that carried out work contributing to improved conservation capacity and leadership among the organisations with which they worked. Six projects are not included on the chain as there was insufficient information available about their impact this year.



A snapshot of our work

These quotes, taken from project reports, provide an insight into some of the stories behind these numbers – for more, turn to Annex 2.

Building capacity for the future of high nature value farmed landscapes in Romania

In Romania, FFI’s partner ADEPT reflected upon its achievement of securing three further years of core funding from the Sigrid Rausing Trust in August 2020: “This (funding) will secure ADEPT’s viability, and is entirely due to FFI support in developing the organisation to the standard expected by the donor and to FFI’s introduction to them. ADEPT wishes to thank FFI for this aspect of their support, in addition of course to the very significant capacity building, development advice and funding provided over the years of our cooperation, now more than a decade. FFI has enabled ADEPT to enter a quite different level as a force for farmland biodiversity conservation in Romania and Europe.”



Credit: ADEPT

Supporting government partners in Indonesia

One of the ways that we are seeing the impact of our work with the Conservation Agency for Natural Resources (BKSDA) in West Kalimantan is that after the training we provided on SMART Conservation Software in 2019, the BKSDA West Kalimantan have now allocated and used their own budget for forest monitoring using SMART-based patrol. The patrol team continue to do regular monthly patrols along with the community who live around the nature reserve and are able to analyse the data that this provides.

Based on SMART data, the patrol activities have successfully reduced the threats to biodiversity (such as illegal logging, fire and poaching) in 2020 and are able to adaptively manage. In addition our assessment of biodiversity and orang-utan baseline data is now being used by BKSDA West Kalimantan to develop a management and action plan.



Credit: Jeremy Holden/FFI

AMBITION 3: LOCALLY LED CONSERVATION

A focus on: Support in times of crisis

FFI’s model for conservation is based on the belief that effective long-term conservation solutions lie in local hands. We deliver our work with a range of in-country partners, from local community organisations and NGOs to small-scale enterprises, academic institutions and government agencies.

The Covid-19 pandemic has had significant impacts on many in-country NGOs and community groups, both in terms of increasing the need for conservation action and impairing their ability to respond. New threats to biodiversity have also emerged as a result of the pandemic and day-to-day operations have been forced to adapt. It has been more difficult – and costly – to maintain operations under lockdown restrictions while adhering to necessary hygiene requirements. In parallel, NGO income streams have been severely affected, either by withdrawal of philanthropic funding (for example linked to stock market crashes) or as a result of the loss of direct income streams (such as from international tourism) as a result of restrictions imposed in response to the pandemic. Beyond the acute impacts felt in 2020, ongoing restrictions and uncertainty continue to challenge even well-established organisations.

FFI worked quickly to establish mechanisms to support our in-country conservation partners. In May 2020 we launched a Partner Crisis Support Fund to provide emergency grants directly to in-country partners affected by the pandemic, either through lost income and/or the need to respond to increased conservation threats. We received significant support from a number of donors to establish this fund, including from Arcadia - a charitable fund of Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin, which enabled us to quickly repurpose funding for this cause.

By the end of 2020 the Partner Crisis Support Fund had:

<p>Made 22 grants</p>	<p>Reinforced conservation work in 15 countries</p>	<p>Supported 33 organisations</p>	<p>Disbursed over £1,024,000</p>
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Feedback received from our partners gave more insight into the challenges they faced in 2020, and how the rapid funding support from FFI helped them to weather the storm.



Partners undertaking AntiMoth GMT training. Credit: HVT

MAINTAINING TURTLE PROTECTION IN CAPE VERDE

Fundação Maio Biodiversidade (FMB) is a Cape Verdean NGO that works specifically to protect the biodiversity of the island of Maio. FMB and FFI have worked in partnership since 2012.

Cape Verde is a hotspot for biodiversity, including being the second largest nesting site in the Atlantic for endangered loggerhead turtles. FMB runs a long-standing project that protects and monitors the turtles nesting on Maio's beaches. As a traditional part of the local diet, nesting turtles were previously heavily targeted for both meat and eggs.

Over a period of nine years FMB successfully reduced the rate of turtle poaching from 43% to less than 3% by 2019. Turtle protection and monitoring is usually conducted by paying international volunteers who provide both income and capacity to the project, while supporting local livelihoods by being hosted through a homestay initiative. The pandemic prevented the international volunteers from engaging with the work in 2020, leaving the project without a workforce for the turtle patrols, without funding to pay FMB staff, and without the guests to support the local homestay programme and associated livelihoods, threatening the successful model of turtle protection that had been established.

In response, FFI's Partner Crisis Support Fund provided emergency funding of almost £30,000 to pay the salaries of the organisation's key staff and to replace international volunteers by recruiting paid turtle guards from the local community (where many have been left unemployed as a result of the cessation of tourism). In addition, the funding paid for these turtle guards to stay in accommodation close to the nesting sites, thus maintaining an income stream for the associated local homestay programme.

In total, employment was provided for over 100 people from Maio during the turtle nesting season and turtle rangers surveyed 100% of the nesting beaches in Maio, every night, deterring poachers and contributing to the ongoing monitoring and research. Some 409 community group members also took part in the patrols. As a result of maintaining these operations, FMB was able to document a record 22,901 turtle nests on Maio's nesting beaches in 2020. Just 1.39% of female turtles were killed (a figure even lower than 2019) and the number of nests poached for eggs was kept down to 0.13% in 2020.

"FFI Crisis Fund was amazingly helpful, thank you very much, very important to us. It helped us pay several administration costs, as well as salaries for turtle guides, turtle leaders, homestays for the leaders to stay as well while they work during the turtle season..."

Sara Ratão, Programme Coordinator, Fundação Maio Biodiversidade.



Fisherman on Maio, Cape Verde. Credit: Jeff Wilson/FFI

AMBITION 3: LOCALLY LED CONSERVATION

A focus on: Support in times of crisis (cont.)**MAINTAINING SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS IN TAJIKISTAN**

FFI's Partner Crisis Support Fund provided emergency funding of just over £5,600 to our partner Zam Zam in Tajikistan. This organisation works with several local communities to promote sustainable management of unique and threatened fruit-and-nut forests. The pandemic had affected local livelihoods based on fruit and nut products, as local people were unable to use shared drying and processing equipment. Zam Zam provided essential hygiene materials to maintain the safety of community members and provided extra fruit-processing equipment, in order to reduce the contact between households. The income from sustainably sourced forest products incentivises the protection of the fruit-and-nut forests, and maintaining the processing of the fruits and nuts reduced the risk of unsustainable forest clearing as a result of the economic impacts of Covid-19.

ENABLING CONSERVATION TO CONTINUE IN KENYA

FFI has worked to support the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) since its inception in 2004. NRT is a network of 39 community conservancies across 42,000 square kilometres of northern and coastal Kenya. Each community conservancy is a local institution, run for and by indigenous people, striving to transform people's lives, build peace and conserve natural resources.

The pandemic meant that revenue from international tourism stopped overnight, resulting in a 53% drop in income across the conservancies, funding which would normally support employment of rangers, scouts and rangeland staff to protect natural resources. The economic impact was felt across hundreds of households.

FFI's Partner Crisis Support Fund provided emergency funding of just over £200,000, which enabled NRT to maintain key core operations and underpinned operations at Sera Conservancy by covering the salaries and operational costs for 46 conservancy rangers and 48 rhino sanctuary staff. The funding also enabled 28 mobile rangers (who support multiple conservancies in the wider landscape) to maintain their operations. Despite the challenges of 2020, ivory poaching was reduced to zero across the NRT landscape and two new rhino calves were born at Sera's rhino sanctuary. NRT reflected that *"...our grassroots spirit has shone a light on the opportunities to be found in this challenge. We have seen resilience and collaboration between the conservancies, and agility in ways of working."*



African elephants at water hole, Nainnyak Wildlife Conservancy, Kenya. Credit: Juan Pablo Moreiras/FFI

AMBITION 3: LOCALLY LED CONSERVATION

Putting communities at the heart of conservation



FFI has a long history of working with communities in biodiversity-rich landscapes to support them to act as effective custodians of their natural resources. We seek to work in partnership with Indigenous People, local communities, and other key stakeholders, to achieve nature conservation and viable livelihoods both now and for the future.

In 2020, 99% of relevant field projects included engagement with women and men to strengthen natural resource governance and support sustainable livelihood strategies in order to achieve positive outcomes for both biodiversity and human well-being. As part of this:

- We engaged with or supported over 550 communities through our projects, with over 6,000 community members interviewed or consulted.
- At least 40 projects contributed to the development of sustainable livelihoods, benefiting over 7,000 people directly and over 10,000 others indirectly.
- Sustainable livelihood activities created over 300 jobs within target communities, and over 4,000 community members received livelihoods training.
- We helped almost 300 communities become involved in improving local planning or governance.
- We supported and/or helped to establish at least 139 local community-based organisations.
- Fourteen projects specifically reported supporting local communities to develop the rights to tenure over land or resources.
- We increasingly work to integrate gender into our project design and implementation.

How successful we have been

This impact chain shows how the 72 projects that engaged with and empowered local communities are progressing towards biodiversity improvements linked to changes in local support or behaviour. Thirteen projects are not included on the chain as there was insufficient information available about their impact this year.



A snapshot of our work

These quotes, taken from project reports, provide an insight into some of the stories behind these numbers – for more, turn to Annex 2.

Supporting farming families in Ometepe Biosphere Reserve

A key focus of our work on Ometepe is to promote sustainable agriculture and agroforestry amongst Ometepe’s farmers with a focus on those most vulnerable to climate change impacts. We do this by supporting farmers to adopt environmentally friendly agroecological practices on their farms, whilst also increasing self-reliance through farmer-to-farmer and small-scale producer networks. So far 170 farming families on Ometepe are applying agroecological practices and technologies compatible with conservation over 350 hectares of land. We have successfully demonstrated how production on small plots can be greater and more consistent than that of larger areas, through the application of intercropping, diversification and phased planting cycles, alongside techniques to improve soil quality and therefore crop yields. Agroecological produce has improved food security and is also enabling farmers to access preferential markets for their biodiversity-friendly locally produced fruits and vegetables. To further strengthen the connections between our work with farmers and biodiversity conservation we are working to link this sustainable land management approach with community-led habitat and wildlife monitoring and protection.



Credit: Alison Gunn/FFI

Increasing community participation in Scotland’s marine conservation

Through the increased organisational capacity and presence of Coastal Community Network community groups, we are seeing direct invites for participation from communities in forums where they were traditionally finding it difficult to “get a seat at the table”. For example, the Coastal Community Network’s Aquaculture Sub-Group is now a member of Scotland Environment Protection Agency’s Finfish Advisory Panel; the Argyll Coast & Islands Hope Spot is a member of the government-led Marine Protected Area Monitoring and Management Steering Group, and the co-delivered Community-led Monitoring initiative between Scottish Natural Heritage, FFI and the Coastal Community Network.



Credit: Tommy H Hyndman/FFI

AMBITION 3: LOCALLY LED CONSERVATION

Developing community support for conservation

Within our projects we also undertake targeted awareness-raising, education and outreach with communities and wider in-country audiences. The aim of this work is to engender support for conservation initiatives and help to promote changes in behaviours to ensure biodiversity conservation is supported.

In 2020, 71 of our projects supported some form of conservation awareness or outreach activity, reaching almost one million people with conservation messages. As part of this:

- At least 180 communities and almost 13,000 community members were reached through awareness or outreach activities.
- We supported at least 135 community-focused awareness events.
- We reached at least 59 schools and over 5,000 schoolchildren.
- 24 projects produced awareness materials.
- Project work was featured in 85 radio or TV shows, films or videos.
- At least 124 project-level websites or social media pages were in use.



Farmers Forum held by Yaaxche Conservation Trust, Belize. Credit: Maximilian von Gaal/Yaaxche Conservation Trust

How successful we have been

This impact chain shows the 71 projects that delivered conservation awareness and outreach as part of their activities and where these projects are in the process of securing more conservation-friendly behaviours among their key audiences. A further two awareness, education and outreach engagements saw impact in 2020 due to work in previous years. Eighteen projects are not included on the chain as there was insufficient information available about their impact this year.



A snapshot of our work

This quote, taken from a project report, provides an insight into a story behind these numbers.

Improving understanding of conservation issues in Tajikistan

Awareness raising is used as a key tool in supporting behavioural change within communities close to the project. Awareness-raising activities often involve focusing on a specific topic and discussing it with the local community to raise the profile of possible ways of overcoming the problems. For example, recognising that overgrazing is a major threat to the forest, a series of seminars were run focused on “Forest and Pasture Management”. Participants discussed why and how better livestock management can help to improve the recovery of the forest. As a result we are seeing tree planting increasing amongst community members and a willingness to take part in fencing initiatives and collaborate with the Forest Service on forest management and monitoring.



Credit: FFI

AMBITION 3: LOCALLY LED CONSERVATION

Developing conservation leaders

We recognise that conservation is often driven or championed by amazing and committed individuals who catalyse change in their communities, countries or even internationally. FFI actively supports emerging conservation leaders around the world who have the talent and commitment to change the landscape of conservation, but who may be constrained by a lack of experience or limited access to resources.

In 2020 our work to enable these individuals to fulfil their conservation potential included:

- Direct support to early-career conservationists through the Conservation Leadership Programme (CLP), which provided opportunities including: eight internships, 29 online learning grants, 19 small grant awards to carry out conservation work and three targeted training courses delivered to 56 individuals (28 female and 28 male). Due to the pandemic this programme adapted its approach and was able to effectively deliver all planned training activities online. In addition, a webinar series (six episodes) was developed for alumni of the programme and new potential applicants on key subjects of interest.
- Supporting the delivery of the Cambridge MPhil in Conservation Leadership, a groundbreaking course that started in 2010. Uniquely, it is delivered by a collaboration comprising six university departments and nine leading conservation organisations including FFI. To date, 202 students from 83 countries have completed this course. During 2020 the 2019-20 cohort (21 students from 16 countries) completed the course and the 2020-21 cohort (19 students from 16 countries) commenced its studies. The course successfully adapted under restrictions imposed by Covid-19, delivering all its teaching and placements, and continues to innovate to ensure any impacts to the students' experiences and learning as a result of the pandemic are minimised.
- FFI staff continue to teach on a diverse range of academic and non-academic conservation courses.
- Supporting tertiary-level education to improve conservation skills in focal countries including through the Master's programme in Biodiversity Conservation at the Royal University of Phnom Penh, which FFI helped to develop in 2005.



Students preparing herbarium specimen, Chirimanihi, Mozambique, Centre for Environmental Education, FFI

A snapshot of our work

The example below shows just what an effect our support for emerging conservation leaders has – not only on the individuals themselves, but also on the long-term conservation of critical habitat and the species that depend on it:

LEADING CONSERVATION IN KAZAKHSTAN

Vera Voronova is the CEO of the Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan (ACBK). Having started out as a student member of the ACBK board in 2009, she went on to become the CEO just six years later. Vera won a CLP Future Conservationist Award in 2011 to assess the impact of electricity power lines on birds in the Central Kazakhstan steppes and also attended the CLP International Conservation Management & Leadership training in the same year.



Vera
Voronova

Vera's CLP project was so important that its results are still being used to inform conservation efforts today: *"We spent a total of about 60 days in the field, covered 680 kilometres and looked at five different types of power lines. This is still a record for such research in Kazakhstan. We found over 1,000 bird remains comprising around 40 species, and most of them were birds of prey and corvids. About 90% had been victims of electrocution on the power lines. I'm really proud of this research because it was really important to understand how the different power lines were affecting birds in this region. There haven't been any other projects like this since then. It's already nine years later but we still use the data we collected from my CLP project."*

Today, ACBK is not only a leading and well-respected NGO in Kazakhstan, but is FFI's partner for our shared work to protect saiga antelope in the Ustyurt Plateau.

Reflecting on her experience as a CLP alumna Vera shared her thoughts on how this has helped her over the course of her career, *"If I close my eyes now and imagine the CLP training module on Advocacy, I really remember what they said to us. All the knowledge that I learned from the course has just stuck in my brain and I'm always referring back to it even now, nine years later. The courses I'd been to in Kazakhstan were usually about how to conduct research, but not about project management, so the CLP training really filled that gap in knowledge for me."*

On the project that FFI and ACBK collaborate on, it is a testament to ACBK's work under Vera that despite the lockdown the project was granted special permissions to continue patrols to ensure that poaching of saiga was minimised. During 2020 the project's work to monitor for signs of poaching coupled with information gathered from local informants provided good evidence that poaching is decreasing in this population. Since FFI started working with ACBK on this subpopulation of saiga the numbers have increased from 1,270 in 2016 to 5,900 in 2019, and a drone survey in 2020 – although not 100% comparable to earlier surveys – indicates that numbers are at a minimum of 6,300 (and likely higher). Other work with drones discovered a calving site with over 500 calves. Excitingly, in 2020 the project team was also able to record evidence of the re-establishment of migration of the Ustyurt Plateau saiga into neighbouring Uzbekistan, where winters are less severe and food is more available, another encouraging sign for this species.

Despite the challenges that working on conservation in Kazakhstan presents, particularly limited expertise in country and weak policy frameworks for biodiversity management, Vera is optimistic about conservation, *"In the future, I really hope that the majority of people – not just conservationists – will start to understand our connection to nature. I think that the pandemic and the current situation we find ourselves in is naturally pushing people towards this understanding. I'm hopeful that this will change the focus of everything we do in our daily lives, so we can influence global policies to effect lasting change."*

AMBITION 4: INFLUENCING OTHERS

Supporting governments to protect biodiversity

Working with governments is crucial to ensuring the impact and sustainability of our work. Strengthening policy, regulatory and enforcement frameworks can play a pivotal role in ensuring the success of our work to conserve species and ecosystems.

In 2020, 52 projects engaged with policymakers in various ways and we contributed to the development of at least 24 laws, regulations or government-level strategic plans with implications for conservation, and influenced a further 97 policies. Across our projects, 118 of our 389 primary partners were government agencies.

Time and effort is needed to make policy change, particularly at national level, and in many cases it is very difficult to track the subsequent application of policy or legislation, or to attribute biodiversity gains to specific policy outcomes. However, we recognise that our work to develop, draft and influence laws, regulations and government plans is often crucial to long-term success in other areas of work.



Rioni River landscape, Georgia. Credit: FH

How successful we have been

This impact chain shows progress towards policy and legislative change in relevant projects working on developing or influencing 121 laws, regulations, plans or policies in 2020. A further 12 policy engagements saw impact in 2020 due to work in previous years. Nineteen pieces of policy work are not included on the chain as there was insufficient information available about their impact this year.



A snapshot of our work

These quotes, taken from project reports, provide an insight into some of the stories behind these numbers.

Enhanced protection for reptiles in Anguilla

In December 2020 a meeting of the Government of Anguilla’s Executive Council saw an agreement to grant the highest level of protection to all the nation’s endangered reptiles. The Sombrero ground lizard, Little Scrub ground lizard, Anguilla Bank racer and Anguilla Bank skink are now joining the Lesser Antillean iguana on Schedule I of the Biodiversity and Heritage Conservation Act. This is very encouraging not just because of the additional protection it gives these severely threatened species, but because it demonstrates a heightened awareness among national leaders of the value and importance of conserving lesser-known wildlife. This decision was directly informed by the data generated by this project and the combined efforts of the partners involved in this work.



Credit: Richard Brown/FHI

Addressing microplastic pollution through policy change

We have continued to be actively engaged in the development and adoption of a Recommendation on pellets by OSPAR (Oslo/Paris convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic). The Recommendation (which is due to gain final ministerial approval in June 2021) will provide a platform for leadership on this issue for a wider group of pan-European policy-makers. We are part of a group that is drafting guidelines for implementation that will sit alongside the Recommendation, which started work in late 2020, and could be critical in setting expectations for a future pellet loss regulation in Europe. Given the leading role the Scottish government is playing in the OSPAR process, these guidelines are likely to be highly compatible with other work we are undertaking with it on pellet loss.



Credit: Tanya Cox/FHI

AMBITION 4: INFLUENCING OTHERS

Embedding biodiversity in private-sector decision-making

FFI engages with key business sectors, particularly those posing significant threats to critical ecosystems, in order to influence them to reduce their environmental impacts and to promote leadership in biodiversity impact management.

In 2020 :

- 58 projects engaged with the private sector in a variety of ways, from local business initiatives to corporate decision-makers.
- 10 projects worked to improve biodiversity management practices in business operations.
- We continued to work to create change in corporate and lender decision-making relating to biodiversity risk, and to the setting of consistent best practice standards that are taken up across the extractive and infrastructure development sectors in four projects.
- FFI was a member of three boards for different raw material commodities and engaged with the full supply chain from mine to customer on steel, aluminium, and battery storage technologies.
- We were involved in engaging with and providing technical expertise to standards development, lender safeguards and into government regulation around environmental and social governance.
- We directly partnered with three multinational businesses, and 19 national subsidiaries of these, to improve biodiversity management and/or help them understand local biodiversity values.
- 14 projects received financial support from businesses.



Cutting lemongrass, Cambodia Livelihoods Project, Taley Leut, Credit: Tim Benjamin/FFI

How successful we have been

The impact chain below shows the number of interventions on which FFI worked in 2020 in order to influence improved biodiversity management and decision-making.



A snapshot of our work

This quote, taken from a project report, provides an insight into a story behind these numbers.

Minimising the impact of forest mining on biodiversity

This project was initiated by the World Bank’s mining and forest teams who wanted to explore the threat from mining in forests and to understand how to do it better.

FFI and partners produced reports on both large-scale and artisanal mining that summarised the status of mining in forests, the key impacts and listed recommendations for action, including principles for ‘forest-smart mining’. These recommendations were widely socialised in 2020 and through inclusion in other reporting the issue of mining in forests, which is often underestimated, gained significant profile. This is particularly important as rising commodity prices and post-pandemic stimulus plans are both expected to increase the amount of mining in forests. It is hoped the recommendations of this report will influence financiers and extractives companies alike to better consider biodiversity in their forest mining practices.

As well as supporting companies to pilot the report’s recommendations FFI is now involved in a second phase of work for the World Bank, guiding mining companies on aligning climate policy and climate finance with biodiversity and social development goals through nature-based solutions.



Aerial view of forest and gold mining, Kaieteur, Guyana. Credit: Jeremy Holden/FFI

AMBITION 4: INFLUENCING OTHERS

A focus on: Deep-seabed mining

The deep sea, the part of our oceans below 200 m, covers around 65% of our planet's surface. It is the most inaccessible, unknown and unexplored area on Earth, home to a huge diversity of uniquely adapted life forms and a provider of ecosystem services that are vital to life on our planet. However, we also know that the deep sea holds other treasures in the form of metal-rich mineral deposits creating commercial interest in mining from the deep seabed. The risks and rewards of extracting from the deepest parts of our oceans are a hotly debated topic, and, despite gaps in our knowledge of these critical habitats and the potential impacts of deep-seabed mining, the pressure to exploit this environment is increasing. The body responsible for the deep sea – the International Seabed Authority – has already granted some 29 seabed-mining exploration licences, but appropriate regulation for this emerging industry has yet to be agreed.

UNDERSTANDING THE RISKS

In March 2020 FFI published a report, '*The risks and impacts of deep-seabed mining to marine ecosystems*', providing a full analysis of whether and how deep-seabed mining could proceed without causing harm to deep-sea environments and their associated biodiversity, processes and functions. The report synthesised a wide array of evidence, referencing hundreds of papers, to assess the risk and impacts from deep-seabed mining and, for the first time, applied good practice principles developed for terrestrial mining to the marine environment.



Dumbo octopus. Credit: NOAA

The key conclusion of the report was that mining the deep sea could create significant and immitigable impacts on biodiversity. The report also highlighted considerable gaps in our knowledge of ocean complexity and how this relates to earth-system processes including the carbon cycle. Taken together, it was clear that significant risks would be posed by allowing seabed mining ahead of the necessary scientific understanding of its impacts and without adequate regulation. Applying the precautionary principle, FFI adopted a position of calling for a global moratorium on deep-seabed mining until it can be demonstrated that technologies and practices will not harm the species and systems of the deep seas, that biodiversity will not be lost and that governance of these resources is truly beneficial to all. This position was backed by Sir David Attenborough who, upon the launch of the report, called upon governments and businesses worldwide to put a stop to this practice, immediately raising the profile of the issue.

2020: A year for change...

2020 was poised to be a critical year for deep-seabed mining, with the International Seabed Authority developing the rules to oversee commercial-scale mining. As the pandemic took hold and the world adapted, there was a need for organised effort to challenge the push for decisions to be made without adequate consultation. As an active member of the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition, FFI engaged in vital lobbying of governments to ensure that key decisions were postponed until in-person meetings, with appropriate representation, could resume safely. In addition, FFI developed a motion for the IUCN World Conservation Congress, to develop a common position on a deep-sea mining moratorium across the wider, global conservation community, which was due to be debated at the World Conservation Congress in 2020. When this meeting was postponed, FFI worked with others to ensure that the opportunity for effective debate and discussion among IUCN members was not missed, and succeeded in ensuring that this motion will be included in the rescheduled World Conservation Congress meeting in September 2021.

Ensuring proper consideration of deep-seabed mining

The response to the environmental concerns around deep-seabed mining has been global and collaborative. FFI's report, with its simple and pragmatic approach, strong evidence base and assessment against widely used best practice, has become a core tool in discussions and debate around this topic. With conclusions drawn from best practices used and understood by extractive companies, the financial sector, corporates and governments, the report has enabled FFI and others to credibly engage with these sectors around the risks this industry poses.

Deep-seabed mining has now become more visible outside the extractives sector. Governments are beginning to acknowledge the risks involved, and across the NGO sector there has been a scaling-up in the number of people and teams whose role it is to focus on this issue. Companies that source and use metals and minerals are increasingly aware of where those materials might come from and the reputational risks related to the deep sea, while key actors in the finance sector (such as the World Bank) have spoken publicly about the need for precaution regarding investment in the industry. Over recent months, a number of companies (including from the extractives, technology and car manufacturing sectors) have made pledges or commitments around not extracting or using materials sourced from the deep seabed until the industry can prove its impacts will not be detrimental. We believe the report and the consequent discussions have already played an important role in tackling this issue, and will continue to do so in the coming months and years.



Deepwater coral. Credit: NOAA



Searobin. Credit: NOAA



“[The idea] that we should be considering the destruction of these places and the multitude of species they support – before we have even understood them and the role they play in the health of our planet – is beyond reason. The rush to mine this pristine and unexplored environment risks creating terrible impacts that cannot be reversed. We need to be guided by science when faced with decisions of such great environmental consequence.” Sir David Attenborough

AMBITION 4: INFLUENCING OTHERS

A focus on: Influencing wider decision-making agendas

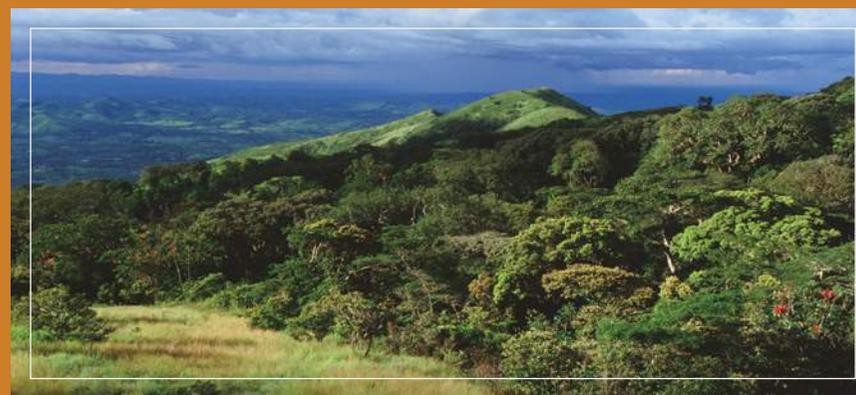
FFI's strategy includes a specific ambition on growing our influence – in terms of working with governments in the countries where we operate, engaging with big businesses and their investors, and pushing for action on global issues, including putting nature at the heart of global decision-making on climate change and addressing specific challenges to biodiversity. Whilst we may work in specific sites and regions, the success of these projects is affected by wider decision-making across governments, business and other sectors of society that drive key threats to biodiversity. We seek to bring influence to these sectors to ensure that our work can be as effective as possible, and that our impacts can be sustained long term. Ultimately, we seek to make biodiversity loss socially, and politically, unacceptable.

FFI works both through direct bilateral conversations with decision-makers and through collaborations with a range of other organisations in which we align our approaches and amplify each other's voices, depending on the need and opportunity. FFI seeks to ensure that the experience, expertise and evidence that we and our partners have developed while working on the ground to protect biodiversity can be fed directly into policies and decision-making within governments and boardrooms.

OUR ONE HOME

2020 showed us the stark reality of the consequences when humankind's relationship with nature breaks down, and highlighted the urgent need to prioritise the protection of species and natural habitats. In response to this, FFI launched a campaign calling for funding for the protection and restoration of the natural world to increase to at least US\$500 billion¹⁴ a year. A letter making this call, signed by FFI and 140 of our partners, was submitted to the Secretary General of the United Nations, to coincide with the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity in September 2020.

The letter makes the case for a drastic reprioritisation of funding away from harmful subsidies and towards protecting nature, and specifically identifies the need to ensure that this funding flows to local organisations working on the ground to protect habitats and species, recognising that they are the ones best placed to achieve demonstrable change. To further amplify the voices of FFI and our partners and collaborators we called upon the general public to demand better protection for *Our One Home*. A petition enabled supporters worldwide to add their names to this call. By the end of 2020 some 80,000 people from over 80 countries had added their names and voices to this campaign. FFI will build on the *Our One Home* campaign as a platform to call for the necessary large-scale changes needed to ensure effective biodiversity conservation.



Mount Nimba, Guinea. Credit: Jeremy Holden/FFI

CAMBRIDGE CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

Working with other organisations provides an important means to convene engagement with decision-makers. The Cambridge Conservation Initiative (CCI) is a unique collaboration between the University of Cambridge and nine leading, internationally focused, biodiversity conservation organisations. Chair of CCI's Council rotates among members, with FFI chairing from July 2020. CCI's new strategy was developed during 2020 and highlights the opportunity for CCI to work across boundaries, harness the collective convening power and apply collective influence of its member organisations in order to ensure that nature features as the core of decision-making, particularly on the part of businesses and governments. The opportunity that this provides was highlighted in 2020 with CCI hosting engagement with the UK government's Dasgupta Review, among other important policy processes.

OTHER CONVERSATIONS

With experience of delivering biodiversity conservation in a number of geographies, FFI is uniquely positioned to provide insight and information that ensures decisions of others can be made with integrity. We work to find the right opportunities to share this insight as well as being increasingly sought out to engage in such conversations. Examples of our work include:

- During 2020 FFI continued to participate as a steering group member of the People and Nature campaign. This cross-party parliamentary campaign urges the UK government to address the threat posed by biodiversity loss to sustainable development and poverty-reduction goals, highlighting the critical link between poverty, climate change and biodiversity and the need to approach these issues with greater coherence. The campaign is supported by over 30 MPs from five parliamentary parties and is specifically asking the UK government to:
 - a) **Ensure all UK aid is nature-positive and climate-smart**, supporting more integrated interventions that improve people's lives and enhance the natural environment.
 - b) **Stop harmful investments** that hurt people and destroy nature and contribute to climate change, such as investing in fossil fuels, deforestation or conversion and exploitation of carbon- and nature-rich ecosystems.
 - c) **Negotiate an ambitious deal for people and nature at the upcoming Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15) meeting**, that is integrated with the 2030 sustainable development agenda and UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) ambitions.
- Sitting on the steering committee of the Natural Climate Solutions (NCS) Alliance. This group brings together NGOs and the corporate sector to find ways to ensure high-quality, nature-based carbon credits reach appropriate markets (either new or existing) and that the funding from this flows back into conservation efforts. With an understanding that a growing number of global businesses have committed to ambitious targets for removing carbon from their business models, 2020 has seen a vital focus on designing NCS-type initiatives to ensure climate mitigation efforts incorporate natural carbon sequestration. Designing pathways to achieve these ambitious targets is particularly challenging for the oil and gas sector, and the NCS Alliance has been a good example of an opportunity to shape how this sector engages in discussions around nature-based solutions to climate challenges.
- Working on boards and steering committees of various cross-organisational initiatives for different raw material commodities and engaging with the full supply chain from mine to customer for a number of materials. We are involved in engaging with and providing technical expertise to standards development, lender safeguards and government regulation around environmental and social governance. We are also working to ensure companies and their markets develop responsible practices and decision-making, resulting in positive outcomes for biodiversity.

AMBITION 5

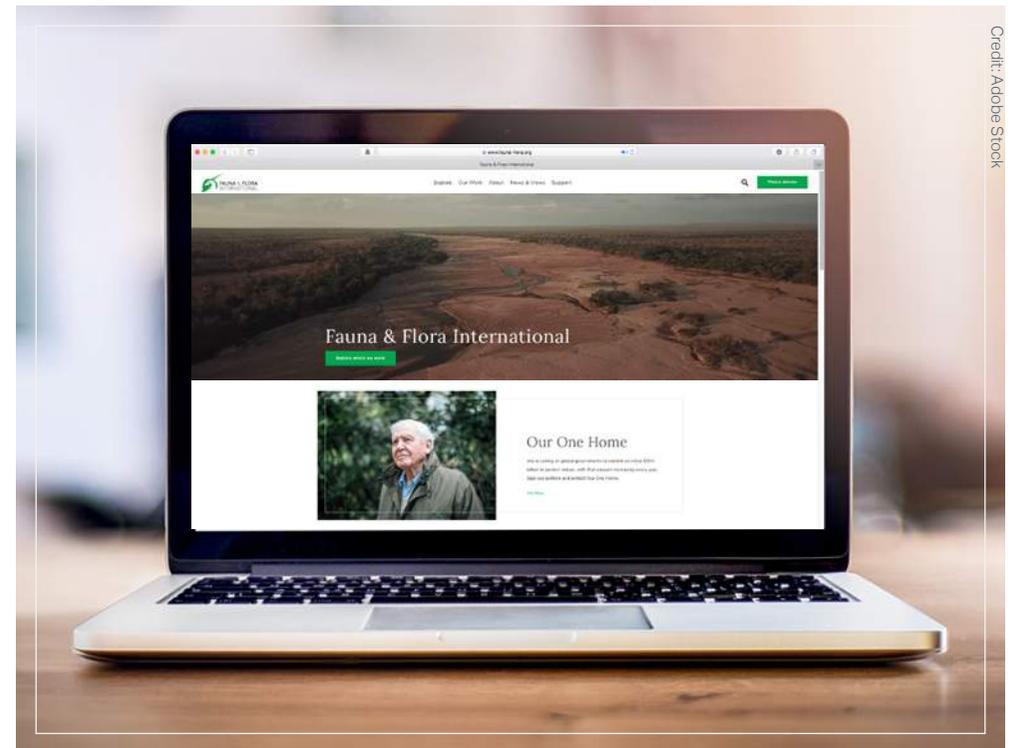
Increasing visibility

Our current five-year strategy places an increased emphasis on raising FFI's public profile in order to grow our influence, impact and income. This is a delicate balancing act, which involves being bolder in our messaging and less self-effacing about FFI's achievements while still supporting and showcasing the work of our local partners.

In 2020 we further strengthened our communications team, including the recruitment of a digital communications specialist, made improvements in our website to enhance user experience and invested time in understanding our audiences to provide tailored content and increase engagement. We also engaged the services of a PR agency, and devised and launched the most ambitious campaign in FFI's recent history (see page 48).

As a result of these interventions:

- Visitor numbers for FFI's website rose to more than 1.1 million, an increase of 63% on the previous year.
- We reached over seven million people across FFI's social media channels, more than double the previous year. Our reach on Facebook tripled, Twitter impressions increased by over one million and our Instagram following rose by 250%.
- We achieved significant media coverage around key FFI campaigns, programme activities and news stories, including national and international newspaper articles, online publications, radio broadcasts and TV interviews. Specific examples include:
 - Sir David Attenborough helping to launch FFI's report on deep-seabed mining through an interview on *Sky News* and follow-up coverage in publications including the *Guardian*, the *Times* and the *Daily Mail*.
 - FFI's *Our One Home* campaign secured over 230 pieces of coverage across 32 countries, reaching an audience of over 930 million.
- The number of people subscribed to receive email updates on FFI's work almost doubled during 2020, with over 189,000 on our mailing list by the end of the year.
- Our profile among donors, especially trusts and foundations, appears to be increasing; a number of trusts and foundations that had not previously worked with FFI initiated discussions during 2020, including trusts that had not previously gifted funds in the conservation sector.



Credit: Adobe Stock

AMBITION 6

Investing in our people

FFI's employees are the lifeblood of the organisation, and our 2019-2023 strategy has the clear ambition of investing in our people, to ensure a motivated, talented, committed and secure workforce who are collectively achieving even greater conservation impact.

In 2020, our primary concern was the health, safety and well-being of FFI people across the globe, and we made it an absolute priority to support them in overcoming the personal and professional challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite the challenging nature of 2020 to our workforce, our annual staff survey¹⁵ undertaken late in the year revealed that 93% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they enjoy working for FFI and 87% would wholeheartedly recommend FFI as a place to work.

Key actions undertaken in 2020 included:

- We actively engaged with our people to understand their needs, priorities and perspectives in the context of Covid-19 and shaped our work and policies accordingly. We provided flexibility in working patterns, including the opportunity to furlough for UK staff with caring responsibilities.
- The current situation has significantly challenged people's perceptions of flexible and remote working and we will continue to review our practices and embed the benefits of new ways of working, including hybrid arrangements.
- Following a successful pilot that introduced the mindfulness concept to leaders within FFI, we secured an 18-month grant to continue this work across FFI globally. The programme will be introduced within the context of our global values to support our people in cultivating habits and behaviours that improve focus, resilience, compassion and creativity.
- One beneficial aspect of FFI's professional development programme moving online due to the pandemic was that a higher proportion of regionally based people were able to engage in training. Over 200 FFI employees received targeted training in areas identified as priorities for their continued development through at least 40 different training opportunities.
- We established an Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Working Group to help identify, develop and implement initiatives to improve diversity and inclusion at FFI. The aim is to give voice to, and learn from, those with insight and experience on diversity and inclusion within FFI. Almost 20% of UK employees are directly engaged in this work, and are actively taking forward identified priorities.



AMBITION 7

Securing the resources we need

Ensuring diverse and resilient income streams to support our ambitious growth plans is central to FFI's success and the sudden advent of a global pandemic in 2020 highlighted the utmost importance of this aspect of our work.

Our initial response to Covid-19 was to ensure prudent financial management and excellent donor relationship management. Worst-case financial scenarios involving six months of income loss due to programme lockdown were planned for and all restricted donors within the 2020 budget were contacted with requests for flexibility and understanding.

We also continued to proactively work across a diverse array of income streams. As well as our continued work with individuals, trusts and foundations and statutory sources, digital sources of income were a particular area of focus in 2020 especially direct response television and digital marketing.

As a result of these efforts:

- Total income exceeded £26.5 m (a 15% increase on 2019) and the proportion of unrestricted funds rose to nearly 24% (£6.2 m), well ahead of the 20% target.
- The new channels launched to develop a more diverse set of income streams exceeded their targets and gave us flexibility to invest further in fundraising and emerging restricted opportunities.
- We received cash donations from over 31,000 donors (up from 10,500 in 2019). Regular donors (including members) totalled just below 9,000 (compared with under 3,000 in 2019).
- Direct response television and digital marketing (mainly social media advertising) enabled us to reach a growing number of people spending more time at home. Our digital marketing programme reached the significant milestone of £1 m income – one year ahead of target. We recruited over 2,000 new regular donors via direct response television, trialled as a means to diversify our supporter recruitment programme.
- We channelled over £1 million in emergency support to our key partners across the globe through the rapidly established Partner Crisis Support Fund, helping them to survive Covid-induced financial setbacks.
- Despite lockdown constraints hampering our plans to develop new networks and pipelines of high-value donors, we secured significant donations from new donors and grew funding from existing ones.
- Funding from government and multilateral sources exceeded £9 million, and the pipeline for 2021 is already strong, a significant success given the impact of Covid-19.



Soft coral and schooling fish. Credit: Matt GierFFI

From research into practice

We take every opportunity to learn from the work that we undertake within our projects, underpinning conservation decision-making with the best information available, whether generated through our own work or that of others. Where appropriate, we disseminate this information more widely, to allow others to benefit from our experiences.

In 2020:

- At least 370 surveys or other studies were carried out across 95 different projects.

We aim to share the results and learning from our work to inform the work of ourselves and others, and we also enable others to share the findings from conservation research and/or projects:

- As a result of our research, 33 articles were published in peer-reviewed journals and 89 in grey literature.
- At least 57 projects were able to describe how their research had been used to influence wider policy and decision-making processes and 54 projects reported how they had used such information to refine their conservation planning.

Through our scientific journal *Oryx*:

- We have helped to disseminate research through 103 peer-reviewed articles published in volume 54 of 2020 (a nearly 20% increase from 2019). There were over 360,650 full-text downloads of *Oryx* articles, an increase of 5% compared to 2019, and more than 752,750 views of abstracts online.
- During 2020 we put in place plans for the journal to become open access from the start of 2021.
- *Oryx*'s freely available Writing for Conservation guide, which helps authors to improve their scientific writing, present their data and produce publication-quality figures, had over 11,000 page views.
- We increased the journal's outreach, with our social media following increasing by 5% and 22 % on Facebook and Twitter respectively. Our blog received over 17,000 page views.



Macroalgae survey, Turkey. Credit: Akdeniz Koruma Derneği

Lessons learned and looking forward

This report summarises the breadth of conservation action we have taken in 2020, based on annual project reports sent through by our dedicated and skilled project leaders across our regional and cross-cutting teams. Although space does not allow us to delve into every story from our projects, each report we receive provides an insight into what makes our projects work, but also the realities and challenges of conservation.

LESSONS FROM OUR COLLEAGUES

We asked our project managers why they felt their projects had been successful over the last year. Over 100 projects responded, often citing multiple reasons. However, common themes¹⁶ underpinning success from across our portfolio include:



While many of these factors are reported each year, it is interesting to note that in 2020 flexibility and adaptability were cited as significant factors underpinning our success, having not been mentioned in recent years, perhaps reflecting the way that projects have adapted to the pandemic.

16. This analysis is undertaken each year based on the data provided by FFI project teams, i.e. the underlying data in the reports allows themes to be identified each year; these tend to be relatively consistent year to year. All themes reported from five or more projects are included.

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

In 2020 the ongoing challenges of undertaking conservation were reframed by Covid-19, which affected all our work and projects, albeit to different extents. We asked our project managers what challenges they had faced while delivering their work and received over 100 responses.

80% of projects reported the impacts of Covid-19 as a key challenge of 2020. Covid-19 and associated lockdowns resulted in: disruptions such as cessation of project operations; significant re-planning of activities to align with local restrictions; changes in funding including withdrawal of some types of donor funding, loss of income based on tourism and issues with cash availability in banks; and challenges in maintaining relationships – from providing continued support to communities and partners to keeping in touch with government counterparts.

Projects reported that actions including our ability to quickly flex, adapt and reprioritise activities and work plans, to communicate and collaborate well and specifically to move many parts of our work online helped to moderate or mitigate the effects that would have otherwise been felt. Many projects identified teamwork and dedication as important parts of FFI's pandemic response.

Beyond Covid-19, a number of other challenges were cited by projects, with significant variability in the types and severity of problems encountered and often the issues were highly specific to the local situation. Issues external to FFI and internal factors both featured. The themes most often mentioned included (unforeseen in each case):

- Issues with policy environments, government engagements or political instability.
- Complicated relationships with partners or project stakeholders.
- Complexities in ensuring operations could proceed according to local regulations (such as setting up organisations or burdensome bureaucratic processes).

Other factors mentioned included challenges with the management of donor requirements, climate-related issues (including extreme weather events), new or emerging threats that the project was not expecting (such as disease) and complications in other project relationships including with communities.

Internal FFI issues were cited as a challenge in around 35% of projects that reported problems in delivery. Internal factors were less varied, with two main issues reported:

- Funding and resource constraints
- Changes to staff

These challenges have been consistently noted by FFI projects for a number of years, and reflect what we know to be common for most others in the sector. Unfortunately, these are not easily resolved. There is a huge body of conservation work to be done, and the availability of funds inevitably places a constraint on the scale of work we would want to deliver. Also, given the skills and expertise of our staff base, the loss of a key team member will always cause disruption, however much we plan for it.

Other factors mentioned within responses included the need to adjust or improve project strategies and the constraints of internal FFI systems and processes.

Project staff identified ways to mitigate both external and internal project difficulties in future and suggested how these might be more embedded into existing project plans. In some cases, teams also explained how they had adapted their project (and in some instances their underpinning project logic) to account for better understanding of threats to biodiversity. Responses of this nature also included how financial planning would also be a part of this process. Encouragingly of the 111 projects that described specific challenges, 65 included ideas on how they, or other projects, could adapt to avoid these problems in the future. Indeed, a number of projects noted that the flexible approach taken during the pandemic could be useful to help projects adapt in future years. Despite the many challenges in 2020, more than 70% of projects reported fulfilling all or part of their short-term goals for the year, a significant achievement during a global pandemic.

Lessons learned and looking forward

LEARNING FROM OUR WORK

These quotes, taken from project reports, provide an insight into the lessons we learn in the course of our work and, where applicable, how we respond to – and learn from – the challenges we face in our projects:



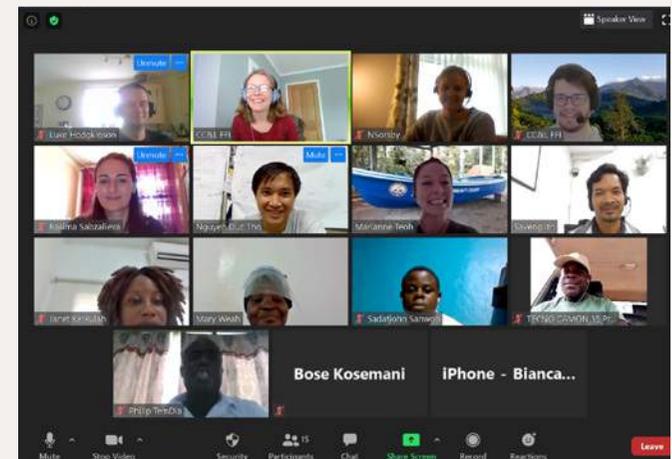
Credit: Juan Pablo Moreiras/FFI

Flexibility helps to maintain conservation gains for gorillas

The most significant achievement of the project in 2020 was the effective, efficient and flexible approach to responding to Covid-19 – leading collaboration amongst other actors for contingency planning and provision of support to park authorities to enable vital day-to-day operations such as patrols and gorilla monitoring to take place throughout the pandemic, with necessary PPE to protect both rangers and mountain gorillas from potential spread of the virus. So far this has been successful, with no recorded cases of SARS-CoV-2 in wild gorilla populations in 2020.

Adaptation drives new ways to be successful

Prior to this year, the majority of FFI's internal training was delivered in person, face to face. Not unrelated to this, we had struggled to engage regional staff. In March 2020



Credit: Chloe Hodgkinson/FFI

we were forced to adapt, taking the programme wholly online and the level of engagement shot from 11% of regional staff to 48%. While the pandemic has been terrible, it has forced us to make changes that have really opened up the programme and helped drive it forward and learning just how well-received online in-person training can be was really rewarding.

As an organisation I think we all learned valuable lessons about how much can be achieved online, rather than travelling to places in person. I don't doubt that this will change the whole training approach for good.



A word of thanks

Even under normal circumstances, achieving the level of conservation impact recorded in this report would be an impressive feat. Given the constraints under which FFI and our partners have been forced to operate throughout most of 2020, it is nothing short of remarkable.

The very act of collating, submitting and synthesising the eye-watering volumes of data that go into the bucket of evidence required to compile these reports is a mammoth undertaking in its own right, made all the more difficult this year by the limitations imposed by lockdown. And the sheer range of conservation programmes that we have delivered – in the teeth of a global pandemic – is testament to the skills, resilience and resourcefulness of our teams throughout the world.

I am enormously grateful to all our staff – from our project teams and partners on the ground to those beavering away behind the scenes – for their commitment to getting the job done, even in the face of the huge operational, economic and personal challenges that Covid-19 has presented.

We have learned a great deal about ourselves during this turbulent year, and one of the most valuable lessons that 2020 has taught is the importance of flexibility and adaptability, which have always been notable hallmarks of FFI's approach to conservation.

Those qualities will continue to be vital as we negotiate the uncertainties ahead and strive for the deeper and wider conservation impact that will be essential to achieving planetary sustainability.

If you would like more details about any of the information presented in this report, please contact **Katie Lee-Brooks** (katie.lee-brooks@fauna-flora.org) or **Jess Betts** (jess.betts@fauna-flora.org)



Joanna Elliott,
Senior Conservation
Director, Cross-
cutting Programmes

Annex 1: Priority Species 2020

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	IUCN STATUS	COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	IUCN STATUS
MAMMALS			BIRDS		
Grey wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>	LC	Yellow-naped parrot	<i>Amazona auropalliata</i>	EN
White rhinoceros	<i>Ceratotherium simum</i>	NT	Saker falcon	<i>Falco cherrug</i>	EN
Pygmy hippopotamus	<i>Choeropsis liberiensis</i>	EN	Príncipe thrush	<i>Turdus xanthorhynchus</i>	CR
Black rhinoceros	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>	CR	INVERTEBRATES		
Asian elephant	<i>Elephas maximus</i>	EN	Obô snail	<i>Archachatina bicarinata</i>	VU
Sumatran elephant	<i>Elephas maximus sumatranus</i>	CR	FISH		
Mountain gorilla	<i>Gorilla beringei beringei</i>	EN	Russian sturgeon	<i>Acipenser gueldenstaedtii</i>	CR
Grauer's gorilla	<i>Gorilla beringei graueri</i>	CR	Ship sturgeon	<i>Acipenser nudiiventris</i>	CR
Western hoolock ibbon	<i>Hoolock hoolock</i>	EN	Colchic sturgeon	<i>Acipenser persicus colchicus</i>	CR
African savannah elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	EN	Stellate sturgeon	<i>Acipenser stellatus</i>	CR
African forest elephant	<i>Loxodonta cyclotis</i>	CR	European sturgeon	<i>Acipenser sturio</i>	CR
Sunda pangolin	<i>Manis javanica</i>	CR	Beluga	<i>Huso huso</i>	CR
Northern yellow-cheeked gibbon	<i>Nomascus annamensis</i>	EN	Ilish	<i>Tenulosa ilisha</i>	LC
Western black crested gibbon	<i>Nomascus concolor</i>	CR	REPTILES		
Northern white-cheeked gibbon	<i>Nomascus leucogenys</i>	CR	Antiguan racer	<i>Alsophis antiguae</i>	CR
Cao vit gibbon	<i>Nomascus nasutus</i>	CR	Anguilla Bank racer	<i>Alsophis rijgersmaei</i>	CR
Eastern chimpanzee	<i>Pan troglodytes schweinfurthii</i>	EN	Saint Lucia whiptail	<i>Cnemidophorus vanzoi</i>	CR
Western chimpanzee	<i>Pan troglodytes verus</i>	CR	Siamese crocodile	<i>Crocodylus siamensis</i>	CR
Indochinese tiger	<i>Panthera tigris corbetti</i>	EN	Leatherback turtle	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	VU
Sumatran tiger	<i>Panthera tigris sumatrae</i>	CR	Hawksbill turtle	<i>Eretmochelys imbricate</i>	CR
Southwest Bornean orang-utan	<i>Pongo pygmaeus wurmbii</i>	CR	Saint Lucia racer	<i>Erythrolamprus ornatus</i>	CR
Grey-shanked douc langur	<i>Pygathrix cinerea</i>	CR	Union Island gecko	<i>Gonatodes daudini</i>	CR
Tonkin snub-nosed monkey	<i>Rhinopithecus avunculus</i>	CR	Lesser Antillean iguana	<i>Iguana delicatissima</i>	CR
Myanmar snub-nosed monkey	<i>Rhinopithecus strykeri</i>	CR	Grenadines pink rhino iguana	<i>Iguana insularis insularis</i>	NE
Saiga antelope	<i>Saiga tatarica</i>	CR	Saint Lucia iguana	<i>Iguana insularis sanctaluciaae</i>	NE
Delacour's langur	<i>Trachypithecus delacouri</i>	CR	Little Scrub ground lizard	<i>Pholidoscelis corax</i>	CR
Cat Ba langur	<i>Trachypithecus poliocephalus poliocephalus</i>	CR	Sombrero ground lizard	<i>Pholidoscelis corvinus</i>	EN
Brown bear	<i>Ursus arctos</i>	LC	Barbados leaf-toed gecko	<i>Phyllodactylus pulcher</i>	CR

Annex 1: Priority Species 2020

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	IUCN STATUS
Anguilla Bank skink	<i>Spondylurus powelli</i>	EN
Steppe tortoise	<i>Testudo horsfieldii</i>	VU
PLANTS		
Grandidier's baobab	<i>Adansonia grandidieri</i>	EN
Perrier's baobab	<i>Adansonia perrieri</i>	CR
Diego's baobab	<i>Adansonia suarezensis</i>	EN
Persian onion	<i>Allium rosenbachianum</i>	NE
Persian shallot	<i>Allium stipitatum</i>	NE
-	<i>Allium trautvetterianum</i>	NE
-	<i>Alstonia beatricis</i>	VU
-	<i>Anisoptera costata</i>	EN
-	<i>Aquilaria filaria</i>	VU
-	<i>Aquilaria malaccensis</i>	CR
-	<i>Burretiodendron hsienu</i>	VU
-	<i>Castanopsis argentea</i>	EN
Knorring's hawthorn	<i>Crataegus knorringiana</i>	CR
-	<i>Dacrydium pectinatum</i>	EN
Honduran rosewood	<i>Dalbergia stevensonii</i>	NE
-	<i>Dipterocarpus cinereus</i>	CR
-	<i>Dipterocarpus cornutus</i>	CR
-	<i>Dipterocarpus littoralis</i>	CR
Dragon tree	<i>Dracaena draco caboverdeana</i>	CR
Bornean ironwood	<i>Eusyderoxylon zwageri</i>	VU
-	<i>Gonystylus bancanus</i>	CR
Lignum vitae	<i>Guaiacum officinale</i>	EN
-	<i>Guioa waigeoensis</i>	VU
-	<i>Intsia bijuga</i>	NT
Pencil cedar	<i>Juniperus barbadensis var barbadensis</i>	CR
-	<i>Magnolia citrata</i>	LC

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	IUCN STATUS
-	<i>Magnolia grandis</i>	CR
Niedzwetzky's apple	<i>Malus niedzwetzkyana</i>	EN
Phoenix fig tree	<i>Phoenix atlantica</i>	EN
Bukharan pear	<i>Pyrus korshinskyi</i>	CR
Tajik pear	<i>Pyrus tadshikistanica</i>	CR
Turkmen pear	<i>Pyrus turcomanica</i>	EN
-	<i>Rhododendron cornu-bovis</i>	NE
Anguilla bush	<i>Rondeletia anguillensis</i>	CR
-	<i>Shorea albida</i>	VU
-	<i>Shorea balangeran</i>	VU
-	<i>Shorea palembanica</i>	CR
-	<i>Shorea pinanga</i>	LC
-	<i>Shorea platycarpa</i>	CR
Iron tree	<i>Sideroxylon marginata</i>	EN
-	<i>Vatica javanica subsp. javanica</i>	CR
-	<i>Wallaceodoxa raja-ampat</i>	NE

KEY DEFINITIONS

A species is considered to be a **priority species** if a key focus of the project it is found in involves maintaining a population of this species (i.e. there are **specific activities** to ensure its conservation and monitoring is in place to understand the impact of these). This can be for a particular population of the species or, in some cases, for the entire global population. A **secondary species** is one that indirectly benefits from our conservation efforts and is monitored as an indicator of project success or as part of wider bio-monitoring efforts to determine background trends rather than project impact. Many additional species benefit from our efforts to protect natural habitats, but we do not attempt to include them all here.

IUCN Red List classifications



For more information visit www.iucnredlist.org

Annex 2: Project report quotes

AMBITION 1: THRIVING SPECIES

REDUCING THE THREATS TO GRAUER'S GORILLA IN DRC

Securing threatened species populations

The continuity of bio-monitoring and law enforcement patrols in two community reserves is contributing significantly towards conservation efforts particularly as it is undertaken by local communities themselves. In 2020, a total of 138 patrols were carried out. These patrols tracked and monitored approximately 21 gorilla families across the two reserves and helped to counter threats to them (and many other species) including the removal of almost 800 snares.



Credit: Mike Davison/flickr



Credit: Adobe Stock

EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY PROTECTION FOR KENYA'S BLACK RHINOS

Securing threatened species populations

Threats to black rhinos in the Sera Wildlife Conservancy have been managed and zero poaching has been maintained for six years. The sanctuary's rhino population has increased steadily to 18 at the end of 2020 following the birth of two additional calves in 2020. The Sera Rhino Sanctuary was established from a founder population of ten rhinos in 2015 and Sera is East Africa's first community conservancy to operate a sanctuary dedicated to the conservation of this critically endangered species.

SAFEGUARDING SEA TURTLES IN CAMBODIA

Securing threatened species populations

The project has worked on a number of activities to secure sea turtle populations including capacity-building workshops for Community Fisheries and Fisheries Administration departments focusing on sea turtle handling, safe release practices for turtles accidentally caught in fishing nets, awareness raising related to legislation around sea turtles, and the value of these species, a number of surveys, workshops and materials related to turtles in wildlife trade and patrols of sea turtle habitat to prevent illegal and/or destructive fishing practices, particularly trawling, which carries high risk of turtle bycatch. Between September 2019 and September 2020, 22 turtles caught in bycatch were reported and safely released. This indicates that behaviours related to sea turtles are becoming more conservation positive.



Credit: Evan Bowen-Jones

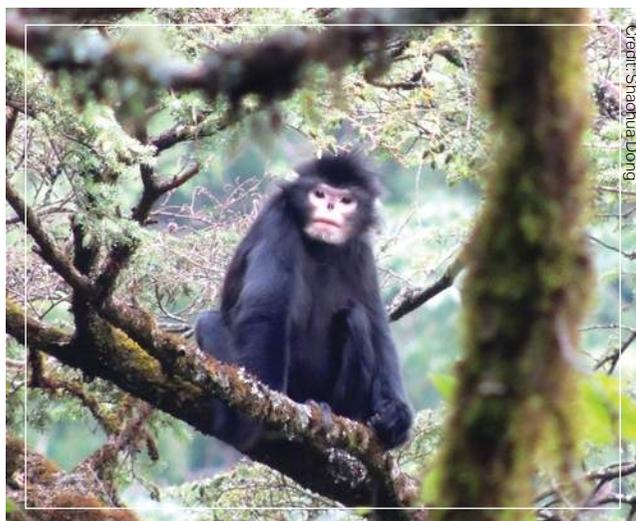
Annex 2: Project report quotes

AMBITION 2: RESILIENT ECOSYSTEMS

NEW PROTECTED AREA FOR MYANMAR

Conserving threatened habitats

During 2020, the only known habitat of the critically endangered Myanmar snub-nosed monkey – which an FFI-led team discovered in 2010 – was designated as a protected area by the Myanmar government. The designation is the culmination of more than four years’ work with local communities to inform and agree on appropriate management for the area. Fewer than 330 Myanmar snub-nosed monkeys are known to exist globally and as well as protecting this species the park will also safeguard other species of conservation importance such as the endangered red panda, rare orchids and pheasants.



Credit: Shaohua Dong



Credit: Ely Susanto/FFI

COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT REDUCES FOREST LOSS IN SUMATRA

Conserving threatened habitats

Since 2010 FFI has supported villages on the buffer zone of Kerinci Seblat National Park to gain secure forest tenure in the form of village and customary forest licences. Up to December 2020, the project has facilitated forest protection and sustainable forest management in 70 villages covering almost 100,000 hectares. There is evidence this management model is working in villages including Durian Rambun, Pengasi Baru and Padang Limau Sundai, where deforestation averaged 1.99% per year before conservation interventions, but has reduced to less than 0.5% annually since 2015.

TRANSFORMING ECOSYSTEMS ON REDONDA ISLAND

Conserving threatened habitats

Since the island was cleared of invasive species in 2017 Redonda has dramatically transformed; for example, there has been more than a 20-fold increase in vegetation cover and biomass, including hundreds of healthy new tree saplings – the first new trees to have grown on Redonda in many decades. Even at the height of the dry season, the area of substrate covered by vegetation has increased from barely 1% to more than 50% and the number of plant species has increased from 17 to 88. Where there are trees, a layer of leaf litter is now forming, creating important microhabitats for invertebrates and the rare Redonda pygmy gecko (*Sphaerodactylus sp. nov.*). Annual soil monitoring data shows soils in these areas are rapidly changing in structure and chemistry and retaining more moisture. Populations of species groups including lizards and invertebrates have increased several fold and the number of bird species on the island has increased from nine to more than 20.



Credit: Jan Davis/FAO/ICP

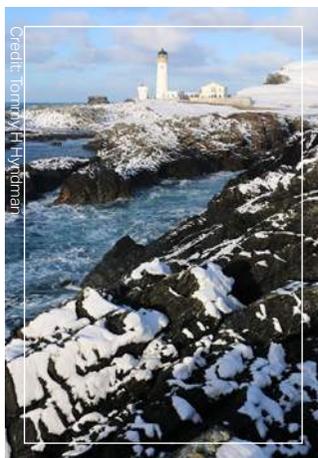
Annex 2: Project report quotes

AMBITION 2: RESILIENT ECOSYSTEMS

COMMUNITY-LED BIODIVERSITY RECOVERY IN SCOTLAND

Protecting marine and coastal ecosystems

With enhanced management in place within a number of sites across Scotland's inshore – South Arran MPA, Wester Ross MPA, Loch Sunart to the Sound of Jura MPA, Firth of Lorn SAC – the evidence is starting to become stronger for biodiversity recovery. While significant time is needed to fully evidence this recovery, individual organisations such as COAST are leading the way in demonstrating this through citizen science and supporting students who study in the South Arran MPA waters. While 2020 saw the Scottish government criticised for management of marine environments, the community groups supported by this project have seen better localised management for their respective MPA sites, for example the complete ban on scallop dredging within Wester Ross and South Arran, the increased closures to scallop dredging within the Loch Sunart to the Sound of Jura MPA and the increased closures to trawl-fishing grounds within all three of the aforementioned MPAs.



Credit: Tommy Hyndman

REDUCING THREATS AND EXPANDING SUPPORT FOR MARINE CONSERVATION IN MYANMAR

Protecting marine and coastal ecosystems

It is now three years since the project helped to establish Myanmar's first Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs) and there is much anecdotal evidence from LMMA communities that the implementation of protected no-take areas has led to increased fish abundance and that destructive fishing practices are being significantly reduced (particularly dynamite fishing, trawling and light-boat incursions). Biological monitoring and fish catch data collection programmes are in place to demonstrate this in the longer term. The perceived effectiveness of the existing LMMAs has also helped garner much interest from other villages and areas in the Myeik Archipelago with several communities coming forward to express their interest in potentially becoming a part of the LMMA network.



Credit: Hazel Alister



Credit: Zafit Kazikaya

CONSERVATION MILESTONES FOR CAPE VERDE

Protecting marine and coastal ecosystems

The island of Maio in the remote archipelago of Cape Verde achieved two significant conservation milestones in 2020 thanks to the combined efforts of FFI and local partner Fundação Maio Biodiversidade (FMB). Maio has been officially designated as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, and the Protected Areas Management Plan for Maio – the first for the country – was finally approved by the council of ministers. Data collected by FMB over the last six years was instrumental in both of these achievements. In combination the designation and management plan will help to ensure the long-term conservation of key populations of lemon and nurse sharks, loggerhead turtles and numerous migratory birds.

Annex 2: Project report quotes

AMBITION 3: LOCALLY LED CONSERVATION

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR CONSERVATION ON UNION ISLAND, ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

Building in-country conservation capacity

Since 2017 FFI has supported local NGO the Union Island Environmental Attackers as they work to achieve their ambitions for their unique and biodiverse island. FFI has supported with training (including biodiversity identification and basic monitoring, first aid and self-defence, national wildlife law) that has equipped the group, particularly their wardens, to conduct patrols and build skills in species identification. Thanks to these efforts there has been an apparent decrease in human disturbance and a sharp drop in signs of reptile poachers in the Chatham Bay forests. In addition the group is now applying for larger (and more complicated) grants independently in order to meet their objectives.



Credit: Jeremy Holden/FFI



Credit: Jenny Dainty/FFI/IRP

INCREASING PARTNER INDEPENDENCE IN ANGUILLA

Building in-country conservation capacity

Our partner the Anguilla National Trust shows many signs of increasing independence and effectiveness. Examples of this include the fact that their staff and an intern successfully conducted most of the fieldwork during 2020 including biosecurity and biodiversity monitoring, using methods previously taught by FFI. Their increased knowledge of target species was flawlessly transferred into their public education programme.

Annex 2: Project report quotes

AMBITION 3: LOCALLY LED CONSERVATION

PARTICIPATORY MARINE MANAGEMENT IN HONDURAS

Putting communities at the heart of conservation

Integral to our work in Honduras are the aims of social connectivity and participatory governance and management of marine resources for the 18 communities across the Atlántida seascape. The project works to embed these principles through regular meetings between local NGO partners and fishing communities, as well as through consistent involvement of fisher representatives in the Seascope Committee, Seascope Forum and Fishers' Roundtable, three platforms specifically created to enable participatory planning between crucial actors across the seascape.

During 2020, fishing community involvement in conservation activities, individually as well as through these platforms, has remained high despite Covid-19 throwing livelihood priorities into sharp relief. Individual fishers have also highlighted their newfound appreciation for the importance of measures implemented, such as no-take zones, once they have seen their benefits.



Credit: Dan Steadman/FH

LI JIA – CAMBRIDGE MPhil IN CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP NICK MILLS SCHOLAR 2011-2012

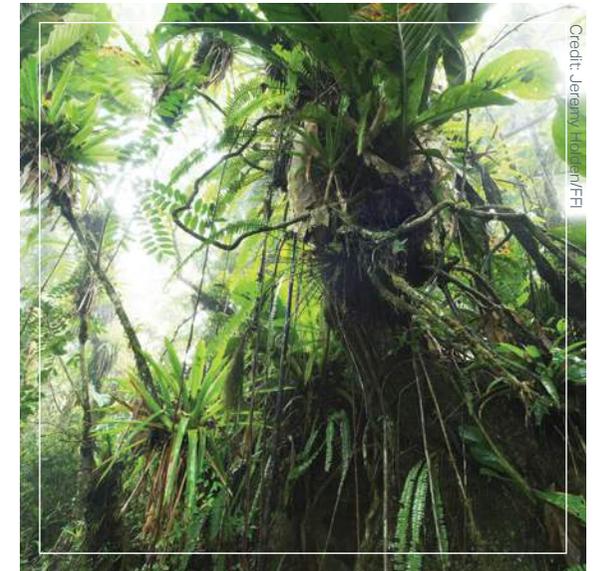
Developing conservation leaders

Over the last four years, Li has been working for the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) at its Asia regional headquarters, while also studying a part-time PhD from the University of Hong Kong.

During Li's time at IUCN her main achievements included facilitating the growing interests from Asian nations in forest landscape restoration, which provided an injection of fresh energy to maintaining forest cover without compromising local communities' livelihoods. This has resulted in the interest in forest landscape restoration taking off and they are now covering up to 10 countries in building networks and commitments to slowing deforestation and promoting landscape restoration.

Li cites the conservation science aspects of the MPhil course as a key aspect she uses today, particularly the insights into the political ecology of applying conservation science into work.

"The MPhil course helped me to build a network of conservationists in the region and this will continue to support my work in the future."



Credit: Jeremy Li/FH

Annex 2: Project report quotes

AMBITION 3: LOCALLY LED CONSERVATION

GREY-BREASTED PARAKEETS RESCUED FROM THE BRINK IN BRAZIL

Developing conservation leaders

Thanks to the efforts of a team of CLP alumni working with NGO AQUASIS, the grey-breasted parakeet is now facing a much brighter future in Brazil. Eight years ago, a CLP-funded project revealed the parrot had declined to perilously low numbers due to deforestation and illegal poaching for the wildlife trade. Fábio Nunes and his team at AQUASIS installed artificial nest boxes to boost breeding success and recruited local communities in surveillance efforts to deter poachers, among other activities. After just three fledglings were recorded in 2010, the team counted a cumulative total of 1,165 fledglings in 2020. Based on the growing population trend, the IUCN Red List reclassified grey-breasted parakeets from Critically Endangered to Endangered in 2017.



Credit: Fábio Nunes

MIALY ANDRIAMAHEFAZAFY – CAMBRIDGE MPHIL IN CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP NICK MILLS SCHOLAR 2013-2014

Developing conservation leaders

Since completing her masters, Mialy has gone on to accomplish several key achievements. These include improving socio-ecological and political knowledge on ocean governance in the Indian Ocean through her PhD, advising NGOs on the geopolitics of fisheries management during her time at the International Pole and Line Foundation and assisting the government of Madagascar in the management of tuna fisheries in her current position. As part of her PhD Mialy published three papers, a book chapter and a magazine article. Mialy has also worked as a Marine Social Scientist for the Institute of Geography and Sustainability at the University of Lausanne, researching ocean governance with a political ecology lens.



Credit: Mialy Andriamahafazy

"I use political ecology as my theoretical anchoring and way of practising conservation. I discovered the field during the Masters course. I am still convinced that it is an approach that can provide practitioners a different way of looking at environmental problems (by addressing political economy and ecology aspects)."



“This 2020 Conservation Report covers one of the most extraordinary – and turbulent – years in our organisation’s history. The fact that we have achieved so much, despite the unprecedented disruption to our regional and cross-cutting programmes caused by the global pandemic, is a tribute to the durability and resilience of Fauna & Flora International (FFI) and its people.”

MARK ROSE, FFI CEO





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