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FAUNA & FLORA INTERNATIONAL

# Halycon Land & Sea

**2021**

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# Executive Summary



**This report provides an update on all Halcyon Land & Sea projects supported since 1998, with a focus on activity in 2021.** Fauna & Flora International (FFI) continues to be incredibly grateful to Arcadia for their long-term support.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, Halcyon funding has continued to be deployed strategically to support a series of projects, and these have continued to progress towards their conservation outcomes. During 2021, an additional 264,000 hectares was brought under conservation management (bringing the cumulative total to nearly 9.8 million hectares) and we

also influenced a cumulative total of over 64.2 million hectares.

We have also continued to increase our focus on the long term sustainability of Halcyon projects, including through innovative financing arrangements, and on better capturing and sharing our learning from the Halcyon Land & Sea portfolio, in line with the recommendations of the 2016 External Review.

Halcyon funding supported 16 projects this year, including 12 active and 4 new projects which were brought into the portfolio.

## NEW PROJECTS

- FFI has initiated work to secure a threatened river catchment in Georgia that is home to a range of endemic reptile species.
- Support was provided to strengthen legal protection for an area of rainforest in the Democratic Republic of Congo, which will create a network of connected protected areas in this highly biodiverse and carbon-rich landscape.
- Work is underway to survey and secure a protected area in west Cambodia, as part of a wider transboundary forest landscape.
- Support is being provided to strengthen efforts to protect vulnerable swamp forests in West Kalimantan, home to an array of keystone species.

**The Covid-19 pandemic** has continued to impact on our operations this year, with ongoing restrictions on movement and gatherings varying across countries and affecting our activities. As in 2020, sites that are reliant on tourism for income to support conservation

management and local livelihoods have been particularly badly affected and, in some cases, we continue to see an increase in natural resource use due to economic disruption.





## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2021

- The purchase of Boden Creek was completed to secure the site for conservation management and local sustainable use, and improve connectivity within the biodiverse Maya Golden Landscape.
- In Vietnam, a key area of forest in Kon Plong was brought under formal protection and, as a result of government engagement, the construction of two hydropower dams was delayed.
- Three new areas of Renosterveld habitat in South Africa were put under conservation easements.
- The importance of the landscape protected through Northern Rangelands Trust conservancies in Kenya was confirmed through a government-led wildlife census, which showed that it supports nationally significant populations of key species (such as elephants, buffalo and Grevy's zebra).
- The boundaries of a second game reserve in South Sudan (Bangangai) have now been physically demarcated and submitted to national government for formal legal recognition.
- In Walker Bay, South Africa, targeted species re-introductions were used to improve and recover an extremely rare habitat type called Elim fynbos, which has been reduced to just 5% of its original cover.
- A high-level rapid assessment of carbon stored in all FFI's sites (built on methodology developed in a 2008 Halcyon project) showed our areas protect around 1 billion tonnes of carbon.



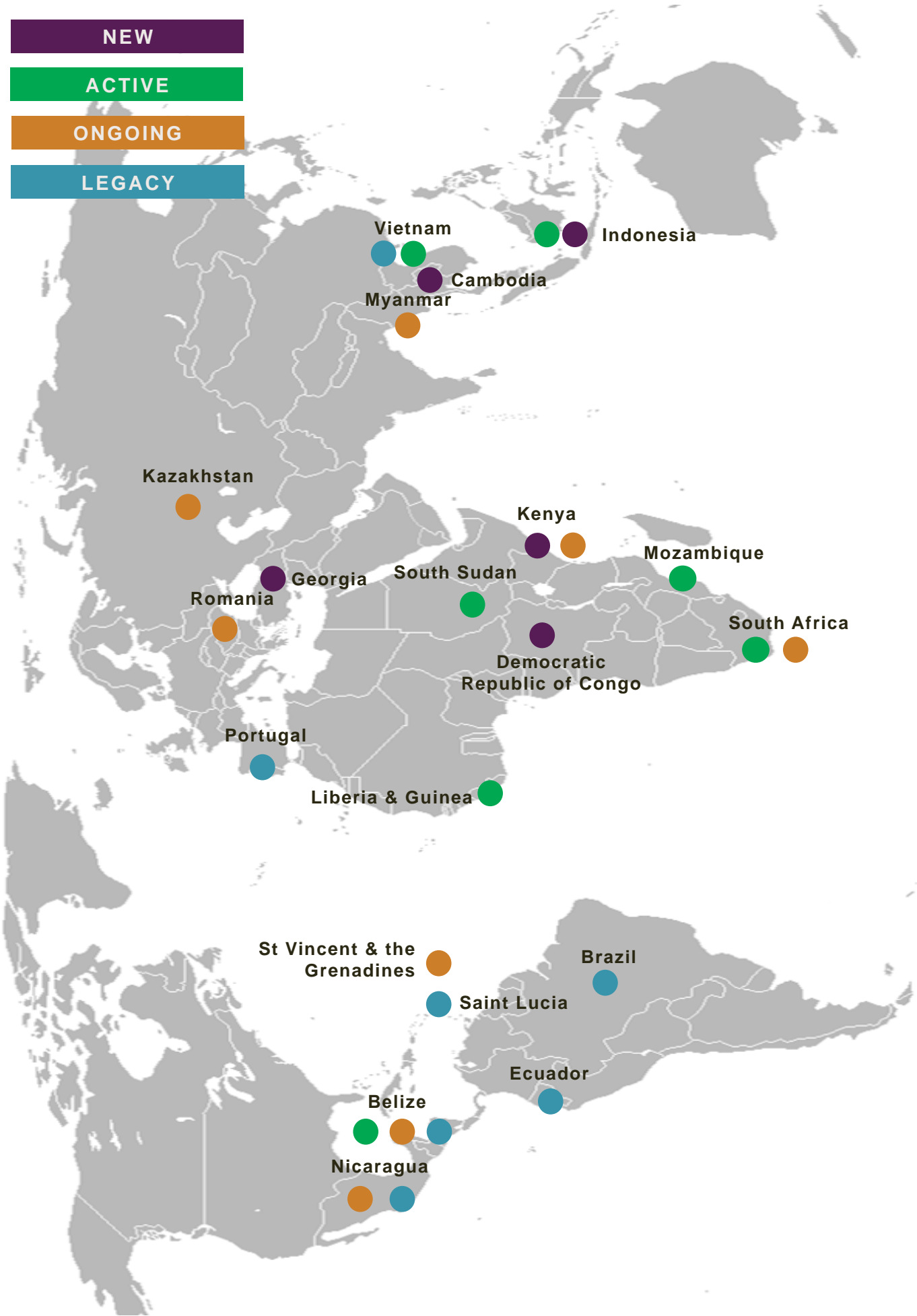
# Programme Overview



Credit: Jeremy Holden/FFI



# FOCAL GEOGRAPHIES



# HALCYON LAND & SEA STATISTICS



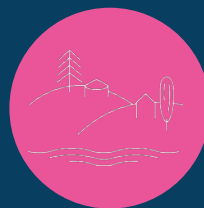
Portfolio includes 65 projects across 29 countries



Supported an additional 43 sites through the Rapid Response Facility



Actively secured around 9.8 million hectares of critical habitat



Directly contributed to the conservation of over 64.2 million hectares (larger than France)



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

## HALCYON LAND & SEA BACKGROUND

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

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

### PROTECTING LAND

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

These include:

- purchasing or leasing sites,

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

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

Halcyon Land & Sea is extremely selective in its identification of sites for intervention. It acts strategically by securing key habitats, creating wildlife corridors, and bridging essential gaps in site ownership. To date, Halcyon Land & Sea has actively secured almost 9.8 million hectares of critical habitat, and has directly contributed to the conservation of over 64.2 million hectares, an area larger than France.

Halcyon Land & Sea sites are not only important in terms of the wildlife they protect – they also safeguard important stores of carbon that, if released, could contribute to global warming. Initial calculations made in 2007 were updated in 2021, and indicated that the habitats and soils within the Halcyon portfolio store some 295 million tonnes of carbon (roughly equivalent to the carbon content of 2.5 billion barrels of crude oil – or 7 years' worth of UK crude oil production).

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



## BUILDING CAPACITY

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

## EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

Halcyon Land & Sea projects also work to ensure equitable benefits to local communities through an improvement in the standard of living and through their inclusion in land planning decisions. Where appropriate, the sustainable use of biodiversity and the development of innovative community-based enterprise schemes are encouraged.

## SEEKING SUSTAINABILITY

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





## 2021 REVIEW AND HIGHLIGHTS

Despite the ongoing challenges from the Covid-19 pandemic (see page 2), we were able to initiate four new projects during 2021. New projects that were supported in 2021:

- A project to bring a forested river catchment in Georgia with high levels of endemism under conservation management;
- A project to provide legal protection for an area of highly diverse rainforest in the Democratic Republic of Congo, creating a network of connected protected areas in the landscape;
- An initiative to maintain and develop connectivity across a transboundary forest landscape through protection of a highly biodiverse protected area in west Cambodia;
- Critical support to improve enforcement and protection for a protected area in West Kalimantan, Indonesia, dominated by vulnerable swamp forests that provide habitat for numerous keystone species.

Funding was also used in 2021 to continue support to 12 sites of exceptional biodiversity value, and to co-finance the Rapid Response Facility (RRF), which provides emergency grants to natural World Heritage Sites facing sudden, unforeseen crises. Key achievements in these ongoing projects in 2021 include:

- With key support from Halcyon leveraging significant additional funds, the purchase of Boden Creek was completed on behalf of Ya'axche and 5,178 ha of highly biodiverse, threatened land is now secured for conservation management and sustainable livelihoods in perpetuity. The purchase maintains and expands habitat connectivity across the Maya Golden Landscape of Belize, a major component of one of Central America's five great forests.
- Following a detailed biodiversity assessment conducted by FFI, the Kon Tum government in Vietnam gazetted 29,600 hectares of forest in Kon Plong and postponed the construction of two hydropower dams. 2021 saw a 23% reduction in forest/wildlife violations, a 71% reduction in the volume of illegally harvested timber and an 86% reduction in the area of forest encroachment at Kon Plong.
- The boundaries of Bangangai Game Reserve in South Sudan were physically demarcated on the ground and documentation of these, together with the recently-marked boundaries of Bire Kpatuos Game Reserve, were submitted to national government for formal recognition in law.
- Regular patrolling and an associated reduction in poaching pressure on the Ustyurt plateau in Kazakhstan appears to be bearing fruit, with an aerial survey in May confirming that the Ustyurt saiga population has now increased to 12,000 individuals, from an estimated 1,700 when the project began in 2017.





- Further areas of renosterveld habitat in South Africa were secured through three new conservation easements in 2021, connecting previous easement areas and bringing the total area under these management agreements to 4,050 hectares.
  - Work was undertaken to restore priority Elim fynbos (a very rare habitat type reduced to just 5% of its original extent), within the Walker Bay Protected Environment in South Africa, and the first two biodiversity stewardship projects were initiated on sites with existing conservation easements, providing training and local employment opportunities.
  - Investment in security at our sites in Guinea has ensured zero recorded elephant killings once again this year (though poaching pressure may have been displaced elsewhere).
  - The Rapid Response Facility provided grants to maintain protection in the Protected Areas in the Gulf of California World Heritage Site (home to one of the world's most threatened mammals, the vaquita), and fight fires threatening a forested World Heritage Site in Brazil.
- As many of the outcomes and ultimate impacts of Halcyon investments are seen after the end of direct grant support, we also track achievements from projects funded in previous years. Some examples of the updates and achievements from these projects include:
- The success of the Northern Rangeland Trust conservancies was illustrated by the results of a national wildlife census this year, which showed that they support over 29% of Kenya's elephant population, 15% of buffalo and 27% of grevy's zebra population, and also provide important habitat for lion, cheetah and wild dog.
  - A management plan for the Greater Niassa reserve in Mozambique was drafted for the first time, providing a coherent approach that should greatly enhance success; the plan is currently under consultation with all co-managers.
  - The effectiveness of management at Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya was evidenced by the fourth consecutive year (since October 2017) of no reported poaching activities at the site.
  - In Myanmar, communities in the Imawbum area where FFI has been working lobbied the Kachin state government to stop a new mining project, demonstrating their increased awareness of the negative impacts of unsustainable natural resource use.
  - Building on the initial assessment in 2008, a revised high-level rapid assessment of the carbon value of the terrestrial sites protected through the Halcyon portfolio showed that there is an estimated 295 million tonnes of carbon locked up in the vegetation and soil, roughly equivalent to the carbon content of 2.5 billion barrels of crude oil – or 7 years' worth of UK crude oil production. FFI's wider portfolio of 97 terrestrial sites supports one billion tonnes (roughly equivalent to the carbon content of 8 billion barrels of crude oil – or 23 years' worth of UK crude oil production). These estimations have helped us to highlight the contribution that securing sites for conservation makes in the many discussions around nature-based solutions to climate change.





## CHALLENGES DURING 2021

The Covid-19 pandemic continued to have a significant impact on our work throughout 2021. Restrictions on movement and gatherings, often introduced at very short notice, affected many planned project activities. Impacts also continued to be felt at the site-level, with economic disruption and hardship experienced by many local communities, potentially increasing pressure on natural resources. Areas heavily reliant on tourism have been particularly badly affected, both in terms of the decreased income to support site management activities, and the collapse in community livelihoods that were linked to tourist visits. Conservancies within the Northern Rangelands Trust in Kenya, for example, have seen their income drop by half, and the economic impact of reduced tourism has been felt across hundreds of households in the area. The pandemic has underlined the need for diverse income streams to increase organisational resilience in the face of disruption, and some projects and partners have adapted their plans to meet this increased challenge. In a few cases, some positive

impacts have been observed, such as an absence of hunting and illegal wildlife trade in Kon Plong, Vietnam, which was attributed in part to the inability of people to travel to the area (alongside increased protection and enforcement measures at the site).

Political instability has also been a constraint in some areas, with ongoing security concerns affecting South Sudan, and the political coup at the start of the year impacting work in Myanmar, although most activities were able to resume by mid-year. Elections in Guinea and associated unrest affected some government collaboration there.

The new Partner Resilience Fund, generously supported by Arcadia, will provide vital support to the post-pandemic recovery and future sustainability of some key Halcyon project partners. The Halcyon team works closely with those managing the Partner Resilience Fund to ensure the funding will be directed to priority partners, and to avoid any duplication between the two grants.

**FFI is extremely grateful to Arcadia for the opportunity to undertake such strategic and long-term conservation through Halcyon Land & Sea, which enables us to significantly increase our conservation impact.**



# RESPONDING TO THE 2016 REVIEW

FFI remains extremely grateful to Arcadia for their generous and timely investment into an external review of Halcyon Land & Sea and our Marine Programme in 2016, to which the current grant responds. We continue to apply the lessons learnt from this process to the operation of Halcyon Land & Sea, and have adapted our operations to respond to specific recommendations – in part facilitated by dedicated funding within the current grant. Priority

recommendations to which funding is enabling us to respond include the need for sustainable financing, improving risk management and better dissemination of learning from our work. Here we wanted to provide an update on the key areas of improvement within the current grant period.

## BUILDING PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

The recommendations in the external review commissioned by Arcadia in 2016 highlighted the need to increase and redouble our efforts to establish sustainable financing pathways for our projects. We have taken this advice to heart and, through specific budget lines agreed within the current Halcyon and marine grant, we have put in place dedicated technical resources to support projects to develop sustainable financing plans. Our stated aim is to have sustainable financing options identified, explored and/or plans put in place for all relevant Halcyon sites by 2023. The Covid-19 pandemic and accompanying collapse in tourism have also required a rapid diversification of opportunities beyond international tourism for many sites.

By investing in specific sustainable finance skills within FFI, the impacts have been felt within individual

Halcyon projects and beyond. At Halcyon sites, new innovative sources of finance are being tested (e.g. carbon finance), partners and communities are being supported to develop nature-friendly income generation that will finance future conservation efforts (e.g. coffee cultivation in Myanmar, educational experiences in Belize), and communities are being helped to add value to their livelihoods so there is less incentive to convert wild forests or overgraze grasslands (e.g. honey and sustainable willow biomass production in Romania, cocoa production in Guinea and Liberia). In addition, these in-house skills have broad benefits to a wider range of FFI projects who also access them, and to the wider conservation community, where we are actively sharing our learning (through collaboration with the Judge Business School, the Cambridge Conservation Initiative and the Endangered Landscapes Programme in 2021).

## LEARNING FROM OUR WORK

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

This year, support was provided to projects to develop or review monitoring plans, with additional projects

receiving input as part of a specific monitoring and evaluation project leveraged by Halcyon funding. Internal learning documents have been produced detailing the histories, challenges and key achievements to date of three Halcyon projects (Kon Plong, South Sudan and Zarand), and a paper that reviews lessons learnt from land purchases across the Halcyon portfolio (as specifically recommended in the external review) is ready for submission to an open access, peer-reviewed journal. The paper provides a framework that can be used by conservationists to guide future land purchases. This adds to the eleven learning outputs of various types already produced in earlier years of the grant.

# REPORT STRUCTURE

This report provides an update on all Halcyon Land & Sea projects supported since 1998, with a focus on activity in 2021 (which is noted separately within each project report).

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

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

Within each category, project reports are organised by the date of the most recent Halcyon funding. Projects are categorised by type and by habitat type, with a standard icon for easy reference.

MAIN GRANT FOR SECURING  
OR MANAGING LAND

STRATEGIC SMALL GRANT

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

A general location map is also included for each site.

For each project, progress in 2021 is included under a separate heading, to ensure this is readily identifiable.

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

## PROJECT ICONS KEY



FOREST



GRASSLAND



MIXED



RIVERINE



DESERT



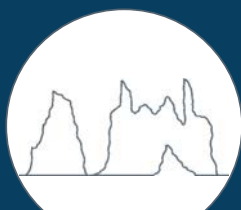
HEATH



MOUNTAIN



COASTAL



CAVE/KARST



MARINE



# New Projects

In 2021, Halcyon Land & Sea supported four new projects in Georgia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Cambodia and Indonesia.

Credit: Jeremy Holden/FFI



# PROTECTING CHARNALI GORGE FROM TOURISM DEVELOPMENT, GEORGIA

The Caucasus is one of the world's biodiversity hotspots. Situated at a crossroads between Asia and Europe, the Caucasus hosts a wide range of climates, ecosystems and endemic species. Many of these endemics are associated with rainy, humid microclimates that provided refuges during the last ice age and retain distinct, highly biodiverse ecosystems, which differ from the steppe and semi-deserts that characterise eastern Georgia.

One such refuge is the Charnali Gorge. With a subtropical climate and covering an area of 1,500 hectares, this diverse, broadleaf riparian forest holds the headwaters of the Charnali river and associated tributaries. The gorge is known for an abundance of reptiles, including many endemics such as the critically endangered Charnali lizard, an endangered viper and the Caucasian salamander (considered to be vulnerable). It is expected that the stable climate of the gorge will increase its importance as a refuge for species under future climate scenarios, in contrast to the more climate-affected steppe areas of Georgia.

However, the Charnali Gorge is located in Georgia's main tourism region at the Black Sea coast and, due to its picturesque views, is increasingly under pressure for tourism development, including hotels, restaurants and associated infrastructure. The gorge currently has no legal protection and several restaurants have already been built on the lower banks of the Charnali river, encroaching on the site. Without urgent intervention, further construction is likely to lead to loss of habitat, river damming and the introduction of invasive species, which in turn will impact on the high number of threatened endemics at this site.

## Area to be Secured

1,500 ha

## Expected Area of Conservation Impact

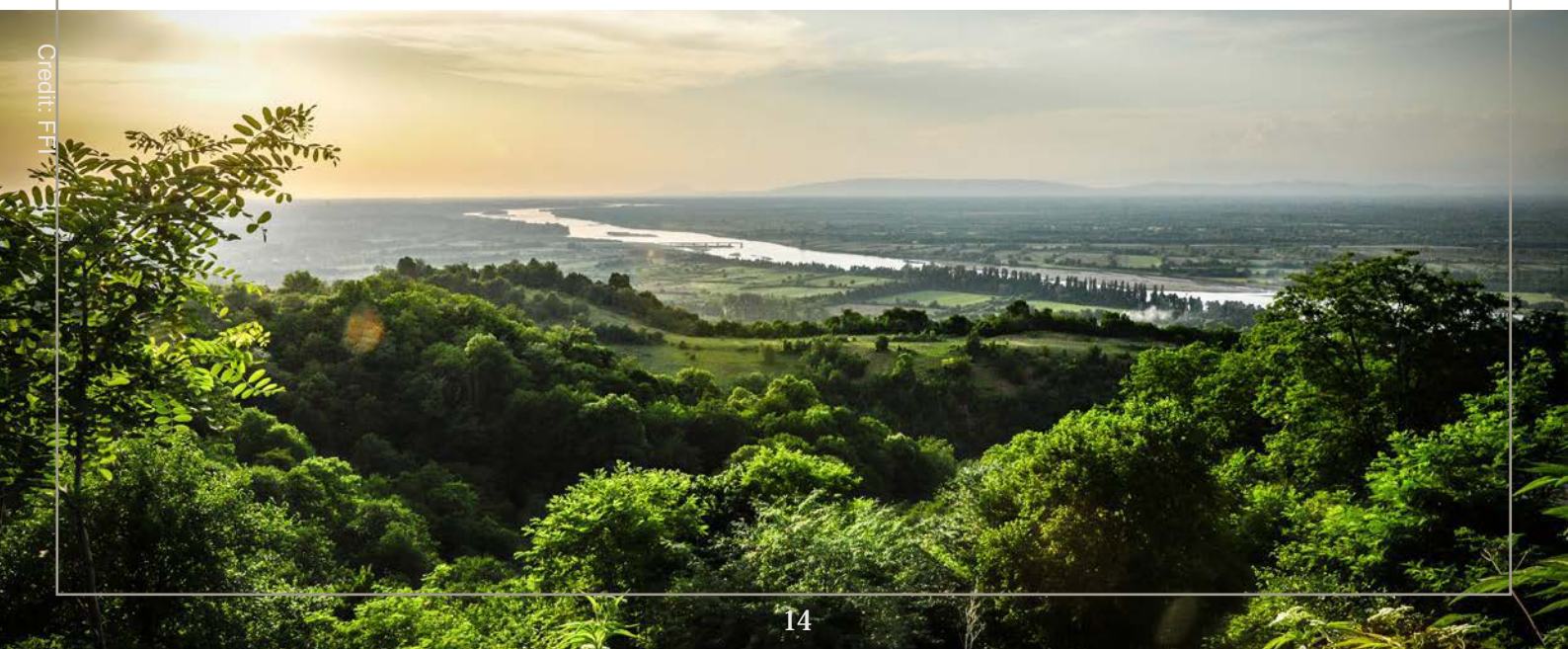
1,500 ha



STRATEGIC SMALL GRANT

This project aims to work alongside local communities to provide Charnali Gorge with full legal protection, ensuring the landscape is safeguarded against further regional economic development.

FFI has been in discussions with the relevant government agencies to secure their support for this work, and has undertaken initial surveys to better understand the range of fish species present in the river.





# PROTECTING AND PROMOTING CONNECTIVITY OF THE SAMLOUT AREA, CAMBODIA

Samlout is a 60,000 hectare protected area (designated as a Multiple Use Area) on the Cambodia-Thailand border. It is a refuge for rapidly disappearing forest habitat in western Cambodia and provides a key link between adjacent protected areas in the Cardamom Mountains and over the border in Thailand, maintaining landscape-level connectivity for wildlife. This wider landscape is known to be inhabited by threatened species, including Asian elephant, gaur, banteng, sun bear, Asiatic black bear, clouded leopard, dhole and Siamese crocodile. However, deforestation, poaching and limited enforcement capacity threaten the area's rich biodiversity. This is further compounded by conversion of land to agriculture and other uses, which is being driven by short-term economic development priorities and a lack of clear, government-sanctioned management objectives.

Together with key NGO and government partners, FFI has identified an opportunity to use recently published guidelines for the zoning of protected areas in Cambodia to strengthen the legal basis for the site's protection and management. Funds from Halcyon Land & Sea will facilitate this process, including conducting key surveys that are required to fully demonstrate and secure the valuable forests and wildlife of Samlout. Initial work will include a series of biological and community surveys around the site, to inform future zonation of the Samlout Multiple Use Area; these will also involve local rangers who will be trained in relevant data collection approaches.



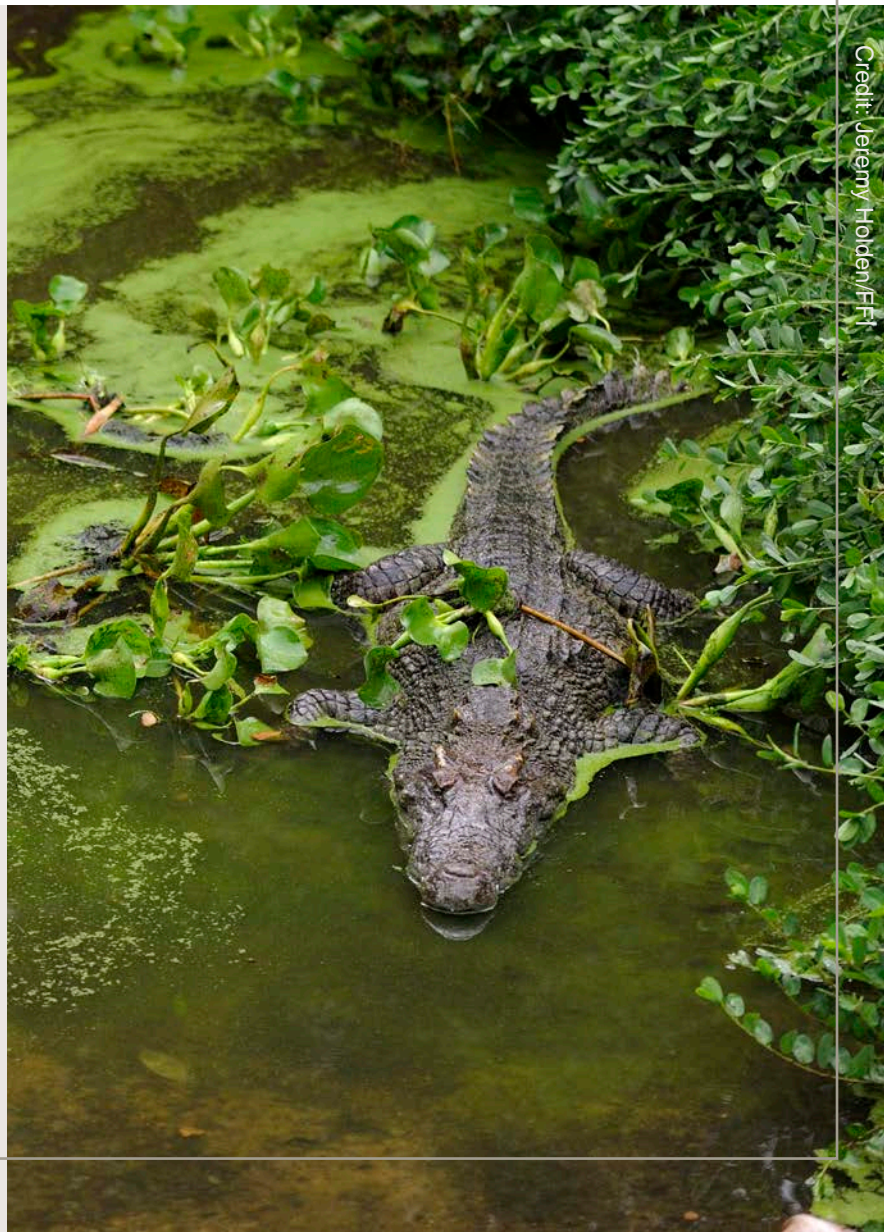
## Area to be Secured

60,000 ha

## Expected Area of Conservation Impact

250,000 ha

STRATEGIC SMALL GRANT



Credit: Jeremy Holden/FFI



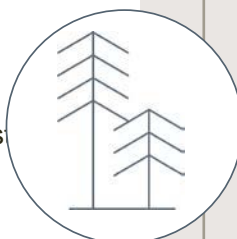
# DEVELOPING COMMUNITY-MANAGED FOREST CONCESSIONS NEAR MAIKO NATIONAL PARK, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) contains over half of the Congo basin rainforest - the second largest rainforest on Earth. These forests contain an astonishing diversity of wildlife, and the DRC as a whole has more bird and mammal species recorded than any other country in Africa.

Maiko National Park lies in the northeast of the DRC, close to the border with Uganda, in one of the remotest areas of the country. This region hosts dense tropical rainforest which still retain remarkable wildlife such as Grauers gorilla, chimpanzee, slender-snouted crocodile, giant and white-bellied pangolin, and is one of the last strongholds for okapi.

The forests in this area have been ravaged by war, agricultural conversion and increasingly, by small scale mining enterprises, resulting in the fragmentation and erosion of forest areas and the removal of key species as a result of commercial and bushmeat hunting.

The project will focus on three globally important, but increasingly threatened, forest areas in the vicinity of Maiko National Park, bringing them under formal protection and management by local communities. This will create a continuous block of well-managed forest, providing much needed connectivity in this landscape. By developing strategic land use management plans, and helping communities to move towards sustainable resource use and environmentally friendly livelihoods, the project will alleviate key threats to this high biodiversity landscape.



## Area to be Secured

148,686 ha

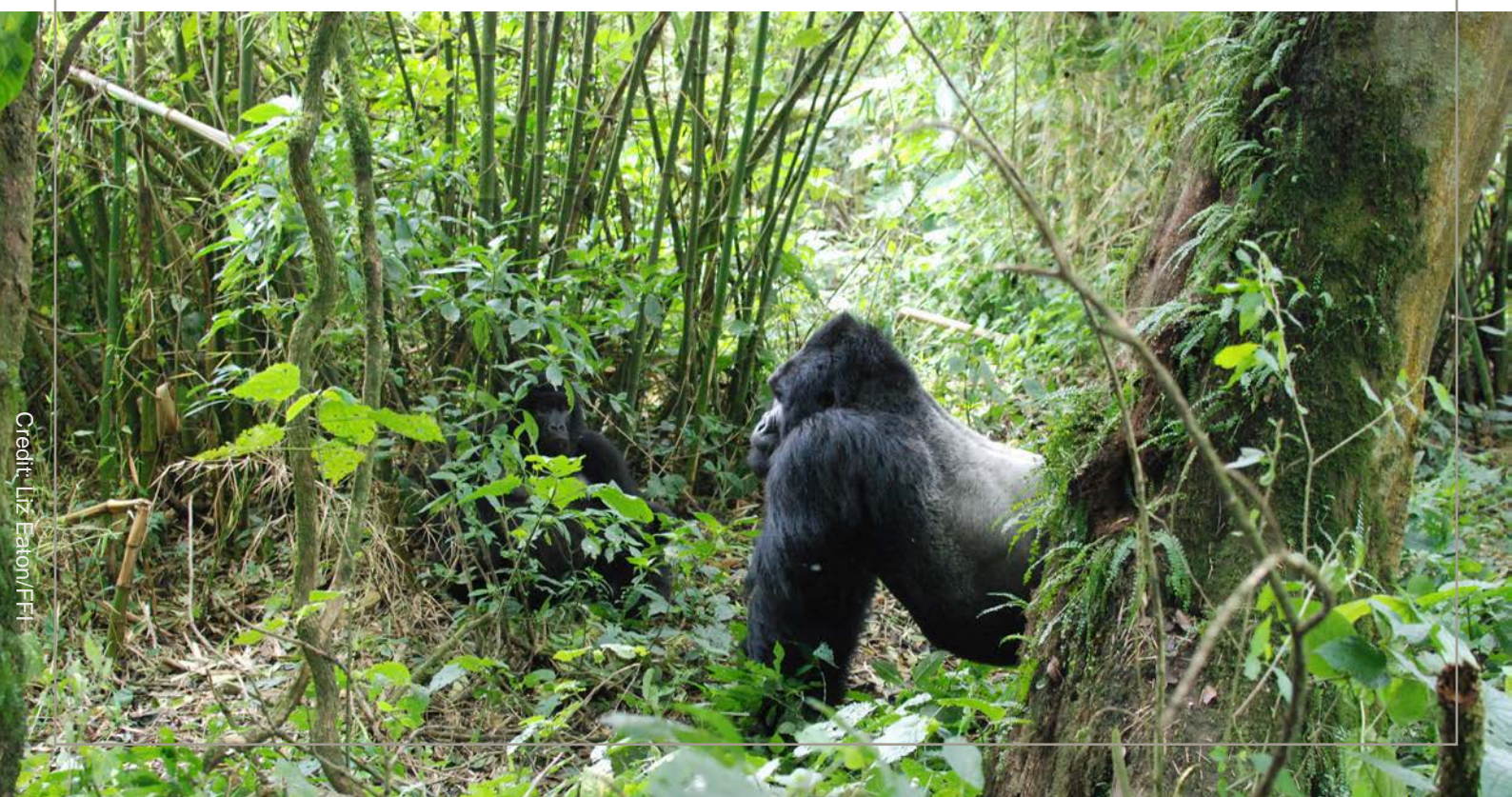


## Expected Area of Conservation Impact

400,700 ha

**MAIN GRANT FOR SECURING  
OR MANAGING LAND**

16





# IMPLEMENTING SWAMP FOREST MANAGEMENT IN WEST KALIMANTAN, INDONESIA

Muara Kendawangan Nature Reserve is one of the largest reserves in West Kalimantan Province, Indonesia, and is dominated by peat and fresh water swamp forests. West Kalimantan's forests have been decimated by conversion to oil palm and as a result, peat swamp forest – known to store high volumes of carbon and a preferred habitat for the orangutan – is now particularly rare.

Muara Kendawangan hosts key threatened mammals, including the Bornean orangutan, Bornean gibbon, proboscis monkey, sun bear, sambar deer and mouse deer. However, the reserve is under severe threat from forest fires and an estimated 1,400 hectares of forest has been lost each year for a decade. One key cause of these fires is illegal hunters burning the landscape to eventually lure foraging deer to the regenerating plants and facilitate hunting. Additional clearing occurs as a result of illegal logging and encroachment for agriculture.

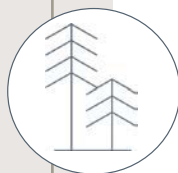
To secure the remarkable biodiversity in and around the reserve, this project will support local government in actively managing the site, and engage with local communities and the private sector to develop a collaborative approach towards protection, preservation and sustainable use. Patrol capacity will be increased, joint patrols of the area will be established, and robust planning and recording systems implemented to combat damaging illegal activities.

## Area to be Secured

149,000 ha

## Expected Area of Conservation Impact

149,000 ha



**MAIN GRANT FOR SECURING  
OR MANAGING LAND**



Credit: Flickr

# Active Projects

These are projects that received ongoing or consolidation finance from Halcyon Land & Sea in 2021.



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

### BACKGROUND

In southern Belize, the Maya Golden Landscape is one of the most important remaining areas of forest, internationally recognised for its high biodiversity value and a major component of one of Central America's five great forests that stretch from Mexico to Panama. Within this landscape, Boden Creek is an area of forest adjoining Golden Stream (which was purchased through Halcyon Land & Sea in 1998) and given to a local Mayan NGO, Ya'axché). It is home to a range of wildlife, including jaguar, puma, ocelot, black howler monkey, Central American spider monkey and Baird's tapir; along with 51 of Belize's 78 species of bat and nearly 250 bird species, of which 18 are considered to be of conservation concern. The site contributes to maintaining a continuous forest corridor between the mountainous highlands and the coastal lowlands.

\* Refers to the same area as on page 52.



### Area to be Secured

5,178 ha

### Expected Area of Conservation Impact

300,000 ha\*

**MAIN GRANT FOR SECURING OR MANAGING LAND**

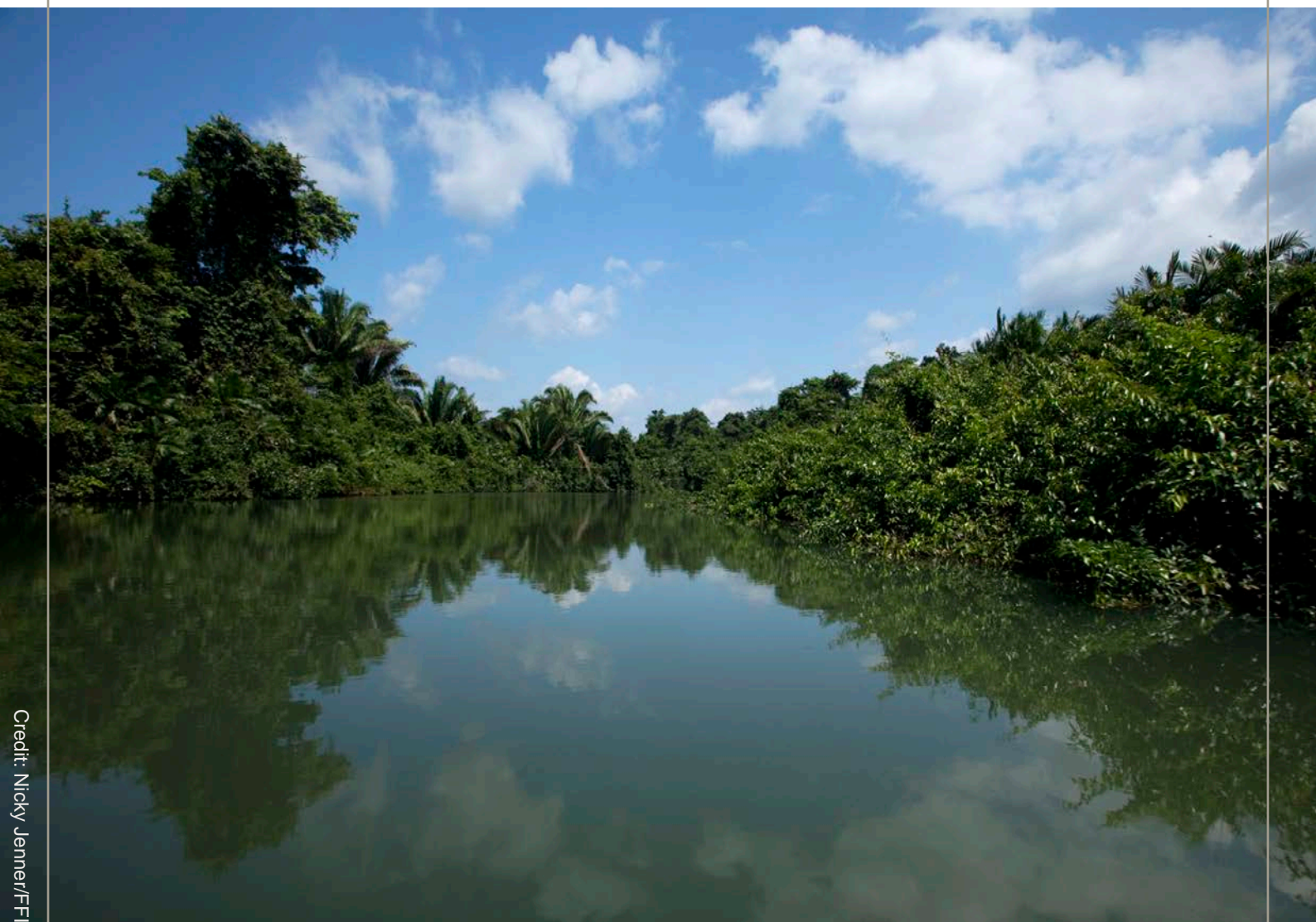


Boden Creek has suffered from significant disturbance from ranching, agriculture and logging since the 1960s, as well as hurricane damage in 2001. The area was then managed as a private reserve for conservation and ecotourism and showed significant signs of recovery. However, in 2012 it was abandoned and active management ceased, and without intervention, the biodiversity value of the site will continue to erode. Ya'axché felt it was important to secure this site given its position within the wider Mayan corridor. In 2020, the owner of Boden Creek finally decided to put the property on the market, with other buyers seeking to secure the land for wholesale conversion to fruit plantations and/or other agriculture.

Funding from Halcyon Land & Sea has enabled FFI (working closely with Ya'axché Conservation Trust, as the owner and manager of Golden Stream) to negotiate purchase of the site, to be managed in perpetuity for conservation and local sustainable livelihoods by Ya'axché. Halcyon funding underwrote an initial deposit towards purchase, giving us time to successfully secure the remaining purchase costs. The ownership of the site will initially sit with FFI, allowing time to develop Private Protected Area status (which will then reduce tax liabilities upon future transfer to Ya'axché).

## PROGRESS IN 2021

In 2021, an election in Belize resulted in a change of government and a shift in priorities, marginally delaying the purchase of Boden Creek. However, the purchase has now been completed and ownership has been transferred to FFI, and plans are in place to ensure that the land is entrusted and managed locally, by Ya'axché, and can be used to promote sustainable livelihoods on behalf of the wider community. We are also exploring how we can pass existing village land over to the community. Halcyon support has been key in enabling engagement of expert legal advice in the UK and Belize, as we have sought to understand a complex legal situation in-country. This secures a key parcel of threatened forest for conservation management in perpetuity and builds on habitat connectivity across the wider Maya Golden Landscape. In partnership with Ya'axché, a management plan for Boden Creek is under development, to ensure local community support to reduce pressures on the site, and protect its biodiversity and wider forest connectivity.

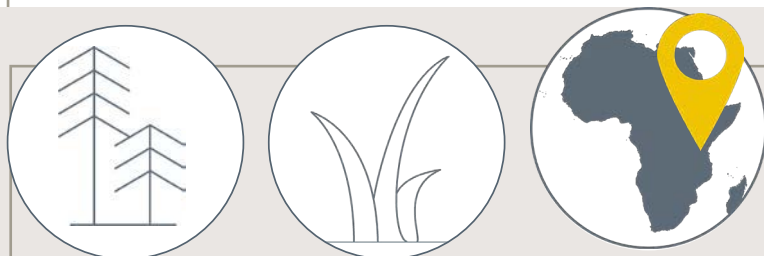




# ESTABLISHING AND SUPPORTING MANAGEMENT FOR MUKUTAN CONSERVANCY, KENYA

## BACKGROUND

Mukutan Conservancy covers over 36,000 hectares of natural forest and savanna on the Western Laikipia plateau, overlooking the Great Rift Valley. Mukutan plays a key role in maintaining connectivity across the wider landscape, and is recognised for its floristic diversity, including over 200 indigenous plant species (such as Kenya's last remaining stands of native cedar forests and a recently described species of aloe). It also supports abundant fauna, with around 4,800 recorded bird species and healthy populations of elephant and lion. However, the conservancy has faced a range of challenges over the last ten years, sitting within a complex social landscape, and has seen a subsequent loss of flagship species such as black rhino. One of the underlying challenges has been the lack of effective engagement with the communities who use the surrounding rangelands, resulting in significant levels of conflict and distrust. The owners approached FFI to provide technical support in developing new plans for the conservancy to ensure its long-term integrity, including establishing collaborations with local communities, and a diversified and sustainable income base.



### Area to be Secured

36,000 ha

### Expected Area of Conservation Impact

36,000 ha

MAIN GRANT FOR SECURING  
OR MANAGING LAND



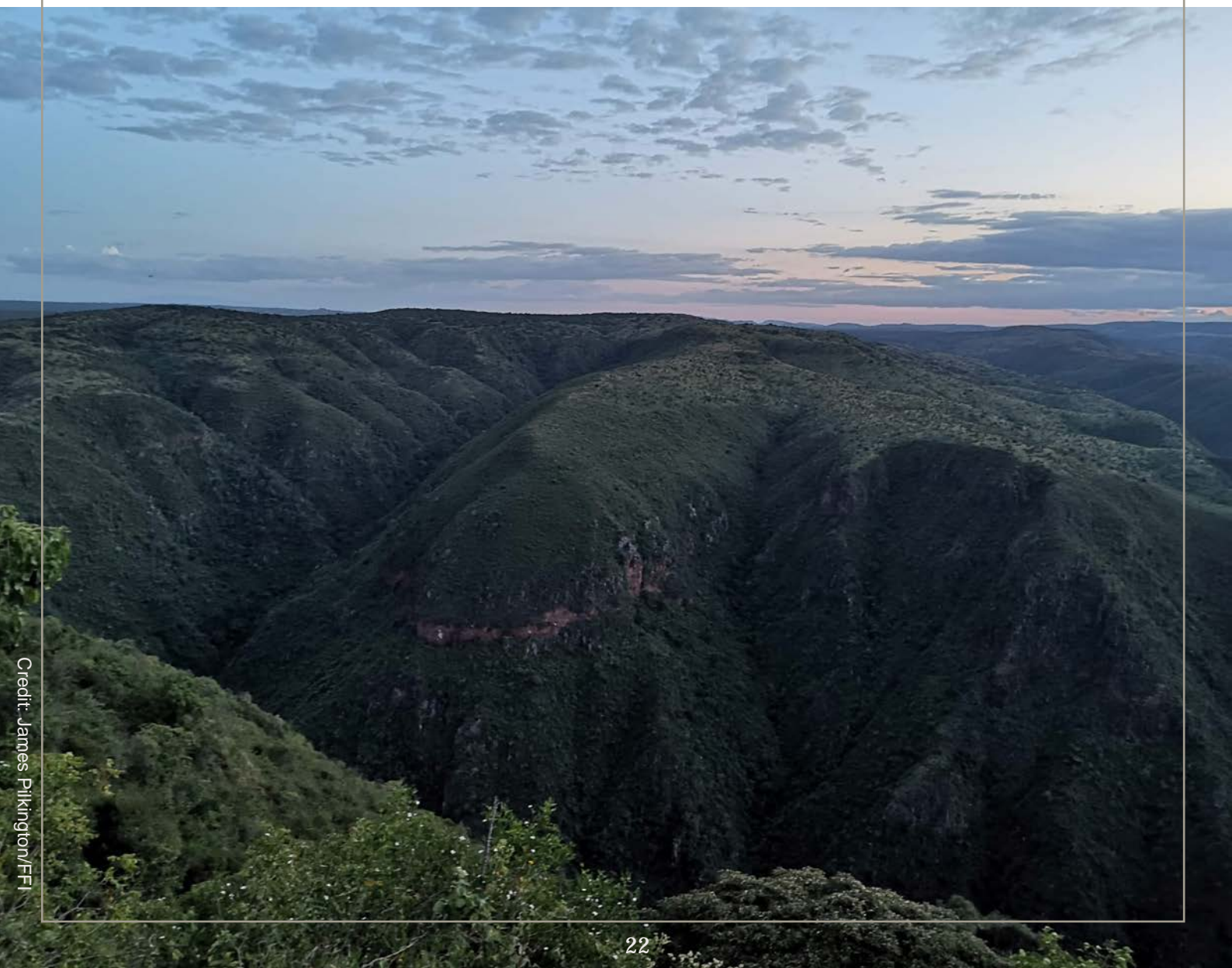
Changed relationships and wider partnerships with surrounding communities will be key to the conservancy's legitimacy and security, and thus to the protection of its habitats and wildlife. In addition, the project aims to work across the broader landscape (in which Mukutan has a strategic location) to promote connectivity and sustainability across a range of conservancies through enabling the effective development of the newly formed Laikipia Conservancy Association.

## ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

In 2020, a Situational Analysis was completed to determine the social dynamics between the conservancy and the surrounding communities, and to identify mechanisms for better engagement and participation. A range of potential business development opportunities for Mukutan were identified (including sale of avocados and botanical products), and a series of impact investors were approached with these conservation business models in mind.

## PROGRESS IN 2021

Progress has been hampered by insecurity in the area since March 2021, and the conservancy was invaded by herders who remained in the property for over two months as a result of a regional drought. Despite ongoing staffing challenges for the conservancy following the outbreak of Covid-19, an improved understanding of past and present community livelihood and land ownership arrangements, and of current community engagement and natural resource management challenges, has been developed. FFI staff have helped support the conservancy with ongoing recruitment challenges, and a community engagement officer is currently being appointed, whilst a consultant has been working with the conservancy to increase its profile as a basis for future fundraising efforts. Work towards developing sustainable income streams for the conservancy (and diversifying away from tourism) has progressed through the development of the "Wild Avocado Company", a commercial-scale conservation enterprise being led by Mukutan.







Credit: Rebecca Foges/FFI

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

## BACKGROUND

The transboundary Wologizi-Wonegizi-Ziama forest landscape is an area of over 315,000 hectares spanning the border of Guinea and Liberia. It holds large, intact remnant forests and is considered a global biodiversity hotspot, being home to key African mammal species such as the critically endangered western chimpanzee, pygmy hippopotamus, forest elephant and three species of pangolin. The forests are at the heart of a wider continuous landscape stretching from Sierra Leone to Guinea, and provide vital habitat connectivity. However, without formal protection and improved management the current connectivity in these systems will be lost.

Ziama (in Guinea) is an established protected area, designated as a Man and Biosphere Reserve, and Wonegizi and Wologizi (in Liberia) are proposed protected areas, but the forests between them are not currently under active protection or management. These forests face significant threat from subsistence farming, commercial agriculture, infrastructural expansion and mining, and in addition, individual species (such as elephants) are affected by poaching and retaliation resulting from human-wildlife conflict.



## Area Secured

315,872 ha

## Area of Conservation Impact

315,872 ha

MAIN GRANT FOR SECURING  
OR MANAGING LAND





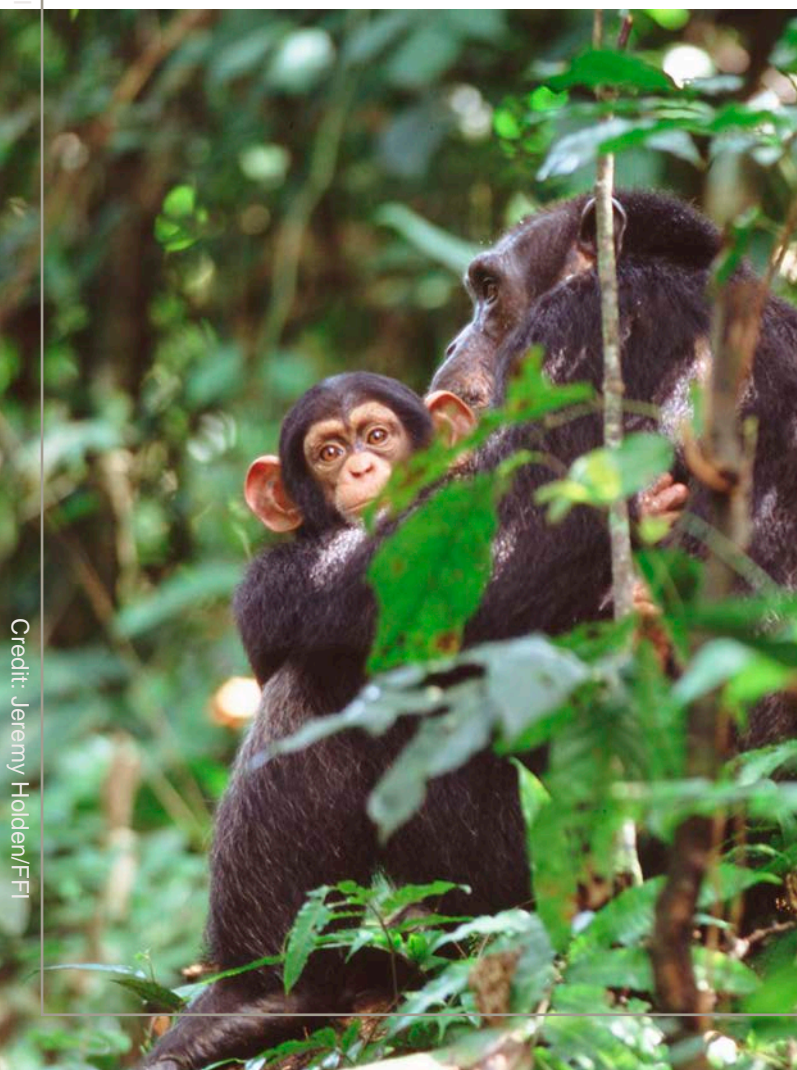
## ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

The Liberian Government is currently gazetting Wonegizi and Wologizi. FFI has been working to ensure effective community consultation mechanisms and to train protected area staff in patrolling and monitoring. In 2020, FFI enabled regular enforcement patrols in Wonegizi and facilitated a first meeting of rangers from Guinea and Liberia to plan joint cross-border activities. FFI also works with communities to address local drivers of land conversion and poaching through awareness raising and livelihood initiatives, including farmer field-schools to promote new, conservation-friendly farming techniques, increase yields and thus reduce the need to convert new areas of forest.

## PROGRESS IN 2021

Ongoing patrols and monitoring were maintained during 2021. A slight decrease in damaging human activity was recorded in Wonegizi, while biomonitoring has indicated wildlife populations have remained stable in both countries. Unfortunately, due to land border closures resulting from Covid-19 and Ebola outbreaks, transboundary operations were postponed in 2021. A formal process to clarify land ownership amongst communities, and between communities and the government, was initiated in Wonegizi. This key process of formalising customary rights is new for Liberia, and will act as a significant building block for securing the land under protection.

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





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

## BACKGROUND

The Annamite Mountains on the border between Vietnam and Laos are a recognised global biodiversity hotspot, with very high rates of endemism. They are home to a range of unique species, including the saola, Annamite striped rabbit, large antlered muntjac, grey-shanked douc langur and Owston's civet. The Annamite forests are still largely connected, and several protected areas already exist, but large swathes remain unprotected and fragmentation and degradation are worsening, threatening the integrity of this vast ecosystem. These forests lie at one of the highest altitudes in Vietnam, supporting a range of montane habitat types (predominantly broad-leaved evergreen forest mixed with conifers).

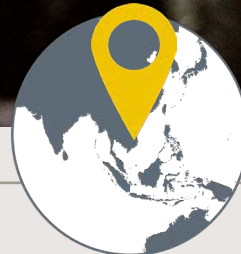
Kon Plong forms the critical, central area that is essential to maintaining connectivity within the Southern Annamites and is regarded as Vietnam's most biologically important forest area, one of the largest outside the protected area system. However, threats to Kon Plong's forests are numerous and have been growing, especially over the last decade, with pressure from commercial and subsistence agriculture, extensive infrastructure development, hunting, and, at some sites, complete forest clearance (following ad hoc forest allocation to local authorities). This is leading to rapid forest fragmentation and loss of biodiversity. The project aims to develop a sustainable landscape with functioning large-scale corridors, and to bring significant forest areas under conservation management as nature reserves with effective management in place.

## ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

Initial community work was successful in agreeing a model for local community conservation teams and the signing of a conservation agreement between villages and the site managers (the local forestry agency).



Credit: Nguyen Van Truong/FEI



### Area Secured

30,000 ha

### Area of Conservation Impact

65,077 ha

MAIN GRANT FOR SECURING  
OR MANAGING LAND



## PROGRESS IN 2021

A detailed biodiversity assessment report was developed to demonstrate the biodiversity value of Kon Plong's forests, based on extensive scientific surveys. The report convinced the Kon Tum government to gazette 29,600 hectares of forest and to postpone the construction of two hydropower dams. Consultations with communities, and subsequent amendments of proposed reserve boundaries, resulted in local support for the protected area.

Two Sustainable Forest Management Plans for privately owned forest areas included biodiversity

protection measures for the first time, and were successfully approved by government. Due to their approval, Kon Plong Forestry Enterprise was able to recruit more rangers to conduct intensive patrols in the 9,000 hectares of highest biodiversity value forest. As a result of actions under the management plans, the surrendering of some 30 firearms from the community, and Covid-19 restrictions, there were no cases of hunting, wildlife crime or illegal wildlife trade in the privately-owned forests this year.





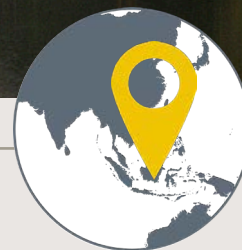
# PROTECTING THE MAROS KARST SYSTEM, INDONESIA

## BACKGROUND

The Maros–Pangkep Karst Landscape in South Sulawesi has been identified as one of Indonesia's most important areas for biodiversity conservation, and is thought to be one of the world's most biodiverse karst areas. This extensive karst complex supports at least 30 endemic invertebrates, many of which are considered highly endangered, as well as a range of globally threatened mammals and birds, such as the endangered moor macaque and two species of hornbills. The site is threatened as a result of limestone quarrying for the cement industry, with two major cement companies already operating in the area, and additional companies requesting licenses. The project is working to establish legal protection for the area through its designation as an Essential Ecosystem Area (a new designation under Indonesian law) and international recognition as a UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserve. To support effective long-term management, the project will promote responsible cave tourism and sustainable agricultural practices.

## ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

The Maros-Pangkep karst landscape was formally established as an Essential Ecosystem Area by the Provincial Government of South Sulawesi in 2020. This is a designation outside statutory protected areas, which provides legal protection of key biodiversity areas within a larger landscape under a multi-stakeholder arrangement, to ensure both conservation and economic benefits.

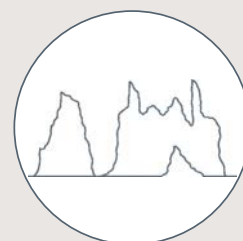


### Area Secured

24,413 ha

### Area of Conservation Impact

139,438 ha



MAIN GRANT FOR SECURING  
OR MANAGING LAND



FFI has conducted extensive biodiversity surveys to help inform the UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserve nomination. A demonstration plot for organic farming methods has been established and local farmers engaged in sustainable use of bat guano to reduce reliance on chemical fertiliser and pesticides. Options for new crops (such as coffee) have been explored and advice has been provided to cave ecotourism sites to minimise impacts on cave biodiversity.

## 2021 UPDATE

The impact of Covid-19 in Indonesia has been severe during 2021, and strict social restrictions have delayed delivery of some project activities. Key stakeholders required to develop the nomination for Man and Biosphere Reserve status were unable to

travel to the region, and focus group discussions on management could not proceed (although they have started to take place as restrictions ease). As the team could not travel, the biodiversity monitoring activities were adapted so they could be undertaken by students and local communities - which had a positive benefit of building local capacity. Work with eleven communities engaged in ecotourism focused on sustainable cave tourism practices and developing options for alternative ecotourism offers such as birdwatching. FFI also supported surveys that further exemplified the link between the cave systems and the local water supply, which could help convince key stakeholders of the need to preserve them and undertake practices that ensure water quality. Concerns about the threats to key biodiversity were also used to inform the District Government's revised regional spatial plan.







Credit: Derek de la Harpe

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

### BACKGROUND

Nairobi National Park, a haven for wildlife on the edge of one of Africa's largest and fastest-growing cities, was once part of a wider ecosystem. Until the beginning of the last century, these wider plains supported one of the most spectacular concentrations of wildlife in East Africa, with over a quarter of a million animals including wildebeest, zebra, hartebeest, gazelles and impalas. Much of the wider dispersal area has been lost to settlement, agriculture, urbanisation and industrial development, and the wildlife populations of Nairobi National Park are currently in decline. However, pockets of natural habitat remain outside the park, including a privately owned ranch - Swara Plains.



### Area Secured

19,020 ha

### Area of Conservation Impact

19,020 ha

MAIN GRANT FOR SECURING  
OR MANAGING LAND



The owner of this ranch is keen to secure it under long-term conservation management by creating a conservancy. Building on this opportunity, there is a wider vision to bring Swara Plains and several neighbouring ranches under conservation management and to create a corridor to re-establish seasonal movement of wildlife between Nairobi National Park and wider areas, potentially linking through to Amboseli National Park.

## ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

In 2019 Halcyon Land & Sea funded a feasibility study which supported the registering of both Swara Plains (6,070 hectares) and a neighbouring property (ILRI-Kapiti Plains ranch, 12,950 hectares) as wildlife conservancies in September 2020, with backing from the Ministry of Tourism & Wildlife. The study also explored potential for a larger-scale landscape level

corridor. The Government of Kenya subsequently established a new taskforce (chaired by FFI's Africa Ambassador Helen Gichohi) to further investigate options for re-establishing links between the sites and Nairobi National Park.

## 2021 UPDATE

The taskforce, with support from FFI, undertook aerial surveys which confirmed significant wildlife presence across the wider landscape and identified potential corridors to re-establish connectivity between Swara Plains and Nairobi National Park. Consultations with government agencies and private landowners revealed interest in supporting conservation and a willingness to develop conservancies; engagement is ongoing to secure the connectivity of the landscape to enable ecologically viable wildlife dispersal.



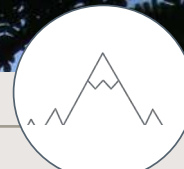




## SECURING THE PROTECTION OF CHIMANIMANI NATIONAL PARK, MOZAMBIQUE

### BACKGROUND

The Chimanimani National Reserve in Mozambique, bordering Zimbabwe, is part of a wider trans-frontier conservation area. This area includes a montane massif rising to nearly 2,500 metres, with rugged scenery and diverse habitats, and has long been known for its exceptional biodiversity, especially the high level of plant diversity and endemism (over 1,000 plant species have been recorded, including heathers, aloes, euphorbias, ferns and orchids). It also supports Mozambique's highest recorded bird diversity along with a range of mammals, including leopard, klipspringer, duiker and elephant.



### Area Secured

66,000 ha

### Area of Conservation Impact

409,100 ha

**MAIN GRANT FOR SECURING OR MANAGING LAND**



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

Halcyon funding is enabling FFI to support the development of a high-quality, participatory and inclusive plan for Chimanimani to guide focused management efforts, along with introducing effective monitoring of wildlife, and developing a clear understanding of potential negative impacts of the reserve on local people. FFI's engagement in this project is helping to leverage substantial funding from the World Bank to support management of this important site.

## ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

Despite challenges in 2020 due to Covid-19, a draft management plan for Chimanimani was completed and key equipment put in place. Chimanimani was

successfully up-graded from a National Reserve to a National Park, the strictest category of protection.

## PROGRESS IN 2021

Progress has been made this year towards developing a formal co-management arrangement for Chimanimani, with the signing of an MoU between FFI and ANAC (the National Administration for Conservation Areas). FFI will be a key convenor in the landscape and is leading a planning and design process to review the draft management plan (so it can be finalised and adopted), to agree responsibilities between different partners working at the site, and to strengthen collaboration at a landscape level. A biodiversity survey this year revealed diversity to be higher than previously thought, with 1,289 species of plants and animals identified in 2021 compared to the 1,233 in 2020. Biodiversity data is being ground-truthed and a monitoring framework for the park is now under development.

Ecotourism investment is likely to be a key part of Chimanimani's financing in the future, and work has begun to increase awareness of the importance of the park, including the development of a brochure. International media interest in Chimanimani has increased since it was up-graded to a National Park and tourist numbers have increased from 20 in 2020 to 238 in 2021.







Credit: Nguyen Van Trung



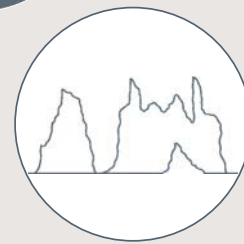
## SECURING KEY FORESTS IN NORTHERN VIETNAM

### BACKGROUND

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

### ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

Improved patrolling at Khau Ca Species and Habitat Conservation Area has reduced incidents of illegal logging, and populations of Tonkin snub-nosed monkey have increased by 24% since the 2016 baseline, to c. 150 individuals today. The development of a functional corridor between these core forests and the neighbouring Du Gia Nature Reserve is underway.



#### Area Secured

5,000 ha

#### Area of Conservation Impact

25,000 ha

MAIN GRANT FOR SECURING OR MANAGING LAND





Gazettement of Tung Vai forest is progressing, with improved site management and on-the-ground protection, including new infrastructure to support ranger patrols. The effectiveness of protection is evidenced by zero records of hunting of key species and no clearance of new areas for cardamom cultivation. Baseline biodiversity surveys have documented over 100 bird species, 42 mammal species (including threatened slender and pygmy lorises, and a population of 20 - 40 Tonkin snub-nosed monkeys), endemic reptiles and amphibians, and many rare plants (including the critically endangered tree *Magnolia grandis*). At both sites, Management Advisory Committees have been established to act as pioneering collaborative management institutions, giving a voice to the local people in how the forest and protected areas are managed. In 2020, Community Conservation Teams, which patrol regularly, reported that the area of cardamom cultivation reduced slightly, with previously cultivated areas abandoned and now naturally regenerating to forest. The Forest Protection Department has now agreed to contribute around 25% of the costs of Community Conservation Teams, which will contribute towards future project sustainability

## PROGRESS IN 2021

Protection of the Khau Ca forest has been maintained, with monthly patrols taking place jointly with the local police, and no evidence of illegal wildlife hunting or timber logging recorded for another year. Over the last 12 months, 7,000 native trees have been planted to restore degraded sites within the protected area, and local authorities and local households have taken direct responsibility for the protection of 100 hectares of forest within the planned habitat corridor between Khau Ca and the neighbouring Du Gia Nature Reserve.

At Tung Vai, the forest has been patrolled by community members, local rangers and border police and patrol data shows that no major damaging incidents occurred in the last 12 months. The official designation of the site has been delayed, as the staff and finances necessary to manage the area are not yet in place. In order to reduce logging driven by fuelwood collection, the project is providing communities with fuel-efficient stoves, which require 50% less fuelwood than traditional models; 300 stoves have been purchased or constructed this year alone.







Credit: Gemfields

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

### BACKGROUND

Niassa National Reserve – renamed as Niassa Special Reserve in 2020 – is a significant biodiversity priority; a wilderness for wildlife that is also under immense threat. After supporting the zonation of the Reserve (see page 93) FFI subsequently embarked on a new strategy to develop a highly protected ‘core zone’ for wildlife within the reserve. By targeting a core area with the highest wildlife densities and taking over direct management of the concessions in this area, we are able to put in place much stronger controls than are feasible across the whole reserve. This approach acts as a backstop for, and complement to, the wider reserve management policies, as well as providing a refuge for key species during the recent upsurge in poaching.



### Area Secured

733,800 ha

### Area of Conservation Impact

733,800 ha

**MAIN GRANT FOR SECURING  
OR MANAGING LAND**



## ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

Three adjoining concessions within Niassa were secured in 2013 as Chuilexi Conservancy, covering 586,800 hectares, representing 14% of Niassa Reserve. This area experienced widespread biodiversity decline prior to 2013, including extensive elephant poaching, snaring, and illegal logging.

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

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

In 2019, a neighbouring concession (R5) was secured in order to safeguard the northern border into Tanzania, a key route for international poachers to cross into Niassa and Chuilexi. This brings a further 1,570km<sup>2</sup> of critical wildlife habitat under Chuilexi's management, thus supporting elephant, lion, wild dog and ground pangolin to name a few.



## PROGRESS IN 2021

The State of Emergency declared in Mozambique in 2020 due to Covid-19 continued until September 2021, resulting in operational challenges and travel restrictions. However, block R5 has now been ratified and planning is underway for the expansion of the Chuilexi model into this new area. Patrols commenced in R5 this year, whilst infrastructure is planned for development in 2022. Patrol intensity at Chuilexi has continued to be strong, ensuring effective site protection and employment for local community members.

Due to travel and bureaucratic restrictions it was not possible to conduct aerial surveys this year, thus restricting monitoring to ground and river patrols. An in-depth aerial survey is planned for 2022. Nevertheless, ground and river patrol data show positive trends in wildlife populations, especially elephant and lion, which is encouraging given the devastating years of poaching that Niassa Reserve has experienced. Advances have been made to how data is captured and analysed this year, with 100% of patrol data now recorded through SMART (compared to only 80% in 2020) and enhanced mapping of environmental metrics used to visualise trends.

Planning and development of sustainable financing mechanisms has continued, particularly for tourism, with efforts to recruit dedicated tourism personnel

to lead the final design, planning and preparation processes. However, insecurity due to the current insurgency in neighbouring Cabo Delgado has led to some tourism activities being postponed until the situation is more stable. Interest has been shown by potential partners in the Chuilexi honey enterprise, with seed funding being explored. Furthermore, negotiations are ongoing for Chuilexi to have an active role in a Reserve-level REDD+ initiative that involves carbon finance opportunities linked to fire management in the landscape.

In late November the temporary presence of a group of insurgents in the Reserve resulted in the emergency removal of all non-essential staff from Chuilexi; the area is being bolstered by government reinforcements and staff will be redeployed once the situation has been normalised.

FFI continued to work actively with the Mozambique parks authority (ANAC) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) with regard to supporting the wider management of the Niassa Reserve, ensuring that past experiences are built on, technical issues are tackled and partner relations remain strong. FFI also works closely with a range of other concessions to ensure collaborative responses and fundraising for this landscape.







## Area Secured

46,090 ha

## Potential Area of Conservation Impact

746,090 ha

**MAIN GRANT FOR SECURING  
OR MANAGING LAND**

# SOUTHERN NATIONAL PARK AND ADJOINING GAME RESERVES, SOUTH SUDAN

## BACKGROUND

The civil wars of recent decades decimated the once abundant wildlife populations of South Sudan, and its protected areas had no active management for 30-40 years. South Sudan's oldest and largest national park is Southern National Park (SNP) in former Western Equatoria. This 1.6 million hectare park was historically known for its large numbers of elephant, buffalo, giant eland, roan antelope and northern white rhino. The park and its neighbouring game reserves were subject to severe poaching during the civil wars. However, reports in 2010 indicated that key wildlife populations still persisted but were under continued threat from poaching. This project's long-term aim is to re-establish effective wildlife protection across West Equatoria, building on models of good practice and effective habitat and wildlife protection within key protected areas, specifically SNP and extending to game reserves in the same region.

## ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

Previous grants from Halcyon Land & Sea (2011-2014) enabled FFI to begin the process of re-establishing conservation management at SNP and to establish capacity for wildlife protection within the new government, including inputting to relevant legislation. By the end of 2013, basic infrastructure, sustained management and a strong anti-poaching presence were re-established within the Park, and a quarter of Western Equatoria's operational Wildlife Service personnel had been trained. Surveys at the neighbouring game reserves (Bangangai and Bire Kpatuos), which encompass the only dense rainforest habitat within South Sudan, provided new data on the presence of a range of species, some of which had not formerly been reported in the country, including three bat species previously unknown to science. An innovative web-based citizen science platform has been set up to analyse the huge number of images from camera traps placed in these areas.





The subsequent outbreak of conflict and civil war in parts of South Sudan, and the ongoing deterioration of security across the country, limited options for effective engagement on the ground, which resulted in a refocus of the project. From 2017 to 2019, operations focused on improved management and protection of Bire Kpatuos Game Reserve, the one project site that remained safely accessible. The boundary was formally demarcated for the first time since its gazettement in the 1920s, staff were trained, patrol infrastructure (such as ranger posts) was rebuilt, and standardised operating procedures were established for patrolling, management and data collection. A stronger relationship between the reserve and local populations has also been achieved through the establishment of a team of Community Wildlife Ambassadors, who patrol with the Wildlife Service Rangers. This collaborative model remains unique in South Sudan and creates an unusual example of government-civilian cooperation in an overall national context of mistrust. Protected area regulations are now well respected by local communities and the presence of rangers deters external poachers. Without ongoing patrolling, it is likely that these forest habitats and their wildlife would be significantly degraded.

In 2019, operations also restarted at Bangangai Game Reserve, and both game reserves are now consistently patrolled by Wildlife Service Rangers and Community Wildlife Ambassadors at all times, with ranger posts remaining operational. In 2020, operations recommenced in SNP; excitingly, initial surveys here have already recorded wild dog well outside its known or historical range.

## PROGRESS IN 2021

The boundaries of Bangangai Game Reserve have been physically demarcated on the ground with documentation submitted to national government for formal recognition in law. Following engagement with communities, there is widespread support for the establishment of Community Conservation Areas around each of the two game reserves. This year, the proposed boundaries of these areas were ground-truthed by Community Wildlife Ambassadors during their patrols. The Community Conservation Areas will provide buffer zones around the game reserves, and will continue to develop stronger relationships between the communities and the Wildlife Service, by providing a mechanism for increased community engagement in conservation management. The Community Wildlife Ambassador model is also being replicated in SNP, building community engagement and support for conservation there.

On-going security concerns, Covid-19 impacts and changes in key personnel in the Ministry of Wildlife and Tourism continue to pose real challenges to delivery in this landscape. Covid-19 restrictions limited the delivery of specific training courses, but on-the-job training was provided to Wildlife Service rangers, with their improved capacity evidenced by their increased ability to independently plan and implement patrols, and address incidents in the reserves. Ongoing camera trap surveys continue to provide data that underlines the importance of this area for wildlife, with a rare red colobus monkey recently identified in the area.







## RAPID RESPONSE FACILITY

### BACKGROUND

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

### ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

The fund remains unique in its speed of response: decisions are made within eight days, meaning that funds can be made available within a couple of weeks from the receipt of an application. Since 2005, the facility has provided 56 grants, which have supported efforts to protect 43 sites<sup>1</sup>. Recognition of the value of this emergency grant facility and the level of threat to World Heritage Sites, led to new donors supporting the fund in 2020, increasing the RRF's capacity to respond to unpredicted crises.

### PROGRESS IN 2021

Two grants were awarded in 2021 to the following World Heritage Sites:

- Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California World Heritage Site, Mexico, an important marine reserve which is also home to

one of the world's most threatened mammals, the vaquita, considered to be on the very edge of extinction. The grant supported the removal of illegal fishing nets (which can trap vaquita and other species as by-catch).

- Cerrado Protected Areas World Heritage Site (Chapada dos Veadeiros and Emas National Parks), Brazil to support efforts to fight fires threatening the National Parks.



### Area of Conservation Impact

32,290,995 ha

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

<sup>1</sup>Including Bladen Nature Reserve, which is also protected under the Golden Stream Corridor project in Belize.





Credit: FFI

## FLOWER VALLEY AND WALKER BAY, SOUTH AFRICA

### BACKGROUND

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

### ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

FFI and its local partner, the Flower Valley Conservation Trust (FVCT), created a project linking biodiversity conservation with community development. For the first time, wild fynbos flowers could be harvested sustainably under a new code of practice that ensured effective habitat regeneration. Sales of fynbos products to local and international supermarket outlets proved successful, and local people were offered year-round employment under ethical conditions. This success made the project a model for other farms in the Cape Floristic region. Between 2000 and 2002, Halcyon Land & Sea also helped to purchase Witkrans and Witvoetskloof (two areas of lowland fynbos neighbouring Flower Valley), saving them from agricultural conversion.



### Area Secured

4,912 ha

### Area of Conservation Impact

270,000 ha

**MAIN GRANT FOR SECURING  
OR MANAGING LAND**





These lands were used to test new South African legislation enabling conservation easements, where a legal deed on the property restricts its future use, so it is protected for conservation in perpetuity. This was the first ever transaction in the country to use a conservation easement (see page 56). Witvoetskloof has now been incorporated into the neighbouring Grootbos Nature Reserve and is used as a joint tourism venture between FVCT and Grootbos. A 'Fynbos Trail' was established in 2012 as a three-day walking experience through Witvoetskloof, Grootbos, and the Flower Valley farm, providing overnight stops at each site, and creating a regular income stream for FVCT.

Extra funding in 2020 led to the development of a new landscape-level initiative to create the Walker Bay Protected Environment, which will provide statutory legal protection across a number of key privately owned lands and nature reserves, including the three sites previously purchased through Halcyon Land & Sea (Flower Valley, Witvoetskloof and Witkrans).

## PROGRESS IN 2021

Significant progress has been made in establishing the new Protected Environment (PE) area this year, with nine private landowners committing their land to be part of the initiative. Although nature reserves cannot be included within a Protected Environment designation, they have gone through a separate regularisation process, and together the PE and nature reserves will form a Greater Walker Bay Protected Area Network of just over 15,000 hectares. The development of the required Landowners Association for the PE proved more complicated and time consuming than originally predicted, but it brought a number of critical issues to the fore, and resolving these through a process of dialogue and engagement has built firm foundations for long-term conservation management in the region. The Landowners Association constitution was finalised in November and the Walker Bay Protected Environment Landowner Association has been launched, together with a draft management plan. A conservation easement for Flower Valley has also been finalised, which will ensure its legal status as a conservation estate in perpetuity.

The first two biodiversity stewardship projects within the Walker Bay Protected Environment were initiated on sites with existing conservation easements this year, providing local training and employment opportunities. Work has also been undertaken to restore priority Elim fynbos (a very rare habitat type reduced to just 5% of its original extent), including active reintroduction of two endemic species of conebrush (one of the iconic fynbos plants, which are often collected for the flower trade).

Tourism income to conservation partners in the area has been badly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic but there are signs tourism is recovering, and partners are actively fundraising to support ongoing conservation management and community development activities.







# Ongoing Projects

These are projects that FFI is still actively supporting and engaged with but without additional funding from Halcyon Land & Sea in 2021.



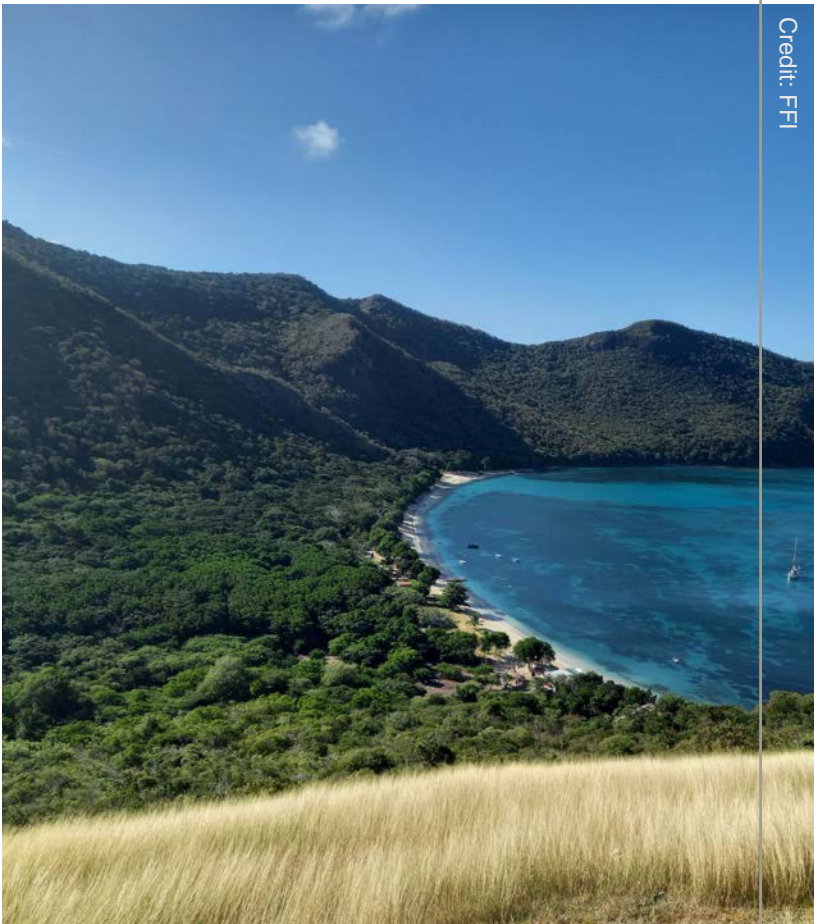
# BRINGING CHATHAM BAY UNDER PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT, UNION BAY, ST VINCENT & THE GRENADINES

## BACKGROUND

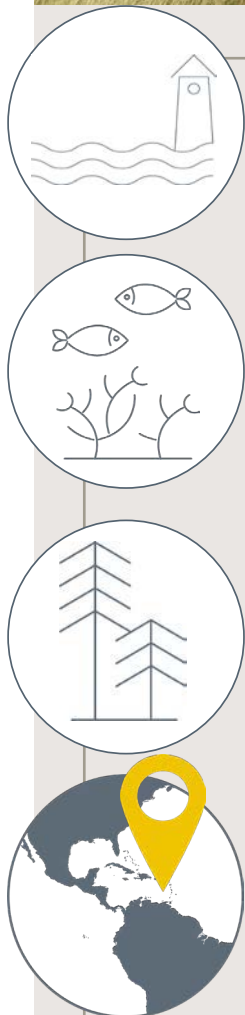
Chatham Bay Key Biodiversity Area, on Union Island (part of St. Vincent & the Grenadines) in the Eastern Caribbean, contains an exceptionally intact and species-rich Caribbean dry forest adjoining offshore coral reefs and seagrass beds. This landscape and adjoining seascape support an unusually high concentration of endemic and globally threatened flora and fauna, including the only known population of the critically endangered Union Island gecko, 135 plant species, and nesting sites for three globally threatened turtle species. However, legal protection is currently limited. Although a series of ‘Forest Reserves’ were proposed in the early twentieth century, they were never fully gazetted, and these and key estates around Chatham Bay are at risk of sale for tourism developments. The site is also under significant threat from wildlife trade (for the international pet trade and bushmeat), poorly managed livestock grazing, wildfires, waste pollution and eutrophication. The national Forestry Department and a local NGO have requested FFI’s assistance to secure the protection of the site and sustainable development by establishing protected area legislation and community co-management agreements to permanently safeguard Chatham Bay’s ecosystems.

## PROGRESS IN 2021

The area has been actively protected by newly trained wardens, who undertake camera trap monitoring and whose presence deters illegal activity. There was no evidence of illegal logging or rock removal as would otherwise be expected during a period of significant economic hardship caused by Covid-19, suggesting patrols are providing an effective deterrent to extraction. In addition, it seems the wardens have also deterred illegal collection of Union Island Geckos this year, as no new adverts for this species were recorded on the international online market. Planned legislative reforms were delayed by the eruption of the La Soufriere Volcano on mainland St Vincent and by impacts relating to Covid-19. However, FFI continued to support a local NGO (the Union Island Environmental Defenders) to deliver on-site protection, build community support and develop alternative livelihoods to reduce threats to Chatham Bay and secure its unique biodiversity.



Credit: FFI



### Area to be Secured

350 ha

### Area of Conservation Impact

1,400 ha

MAIN GRANT FOR SECURING OR MANAGING LAND



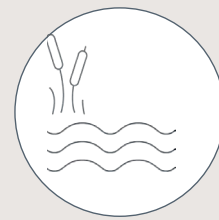
# SECURING RIPARIAN AND RIVERINE HABITATS WITHIN THE CARPATHIAN ARC, ROMANIA

## BACKGROUND

The Mures and the Olt are two of Romania's most significant river systems, each longer than 600km. They flow through a wide range of alpine and lowland habitat types and support important freshwater and riparian systems, including priority plant and animal species of European importance. These rivers and associated riparian habitats provide vital corridors through the wider landscape. However, changing land use is placing increasing pressure on freshwater habitats in this region, and riparian habitats are affected by agricultural conversion and inappropriate river management, including infrastructure development associated with hydroelectric schemes.

## PROGRESS IN 2021

A detailed assessment has now established what would be required to secure and restore riparian and wetland habitats at three focal sites, with a range of observational and quantitative assessments confirming the urgent need for direct intervention. Working with a multi-national consortium, FFI is seeking large scale EU finance to take these plans forward, however current government instability in Romania is delaying this process.



### Area to be Secured

50 ha

### Expected Area of Conservation Impact

38,203 ha

STRATEGIC SMALL GRANT



# PROTECTING KEY FOREST LANDSCAPES IN ZARAND, ROMANIA

## BACKGROUND

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



### Area Secured

547 ha

### Area of Conservation Impact

734,935 ha

**MAIN GRANT FOR SECURING  
OR MANAGING LAND**



## ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

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

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

The project has brought together 19 different state institutions to work collaboratively across the landscape – a novel model for Romania. The project also includes a strong emphasis on maintaining traditional land use, which underpins this mosaic landscape and its high biodiversity values, by strengthening cultural heritage, diversifying local livelihoods, and reducing human-wildlife conflict, for example through the erection of fences and provision of sheepdogs. The project's ranger team works

directly with the local gendarmerie to tackle wildlife crime across the corridor, and these efforts have now extended to an adjoining landscape. The use of electric fences and sheepdogs has proved highly efficient at reducing damage to crops and predation of livestock. Livelihood diversification work, including developing a premium brand for local products (e.g. honey) and an increased base for tourism, has increased income for local people, and has helped them to value their traditional and biodiversity-friendly ways of life.

There is already evidence that some key threats have reduced as a result of project activities. For example, there has been a marked decline in illegal timber movements in the area, and a survey of local farmers showed a clear perception that the team's interventions are reducing predation of livestock and damage to crops by wildlife. A survey in 2017 identified eight bear dens in the corridor, while camera traps confirmed the presence of a breeding wolf pack. Modelling of habitat suitability and landscape permeability across the corridor has confirmed that it remains functional for wildlife movements; at a more granular level ecological connectivity has improved at the key pinch point in the corridor as a result of active restoration efforts. A business plan has been developed looking at the financial sustainability of the project, and has made a number of recommendations such as the development of willow coppicing for biofuel within restored areas. The human-wildlife conflict team have become a regional, national and international hub of expertise, and shared learning on human-wildlife conflict with both European and south-east Asian organisations.



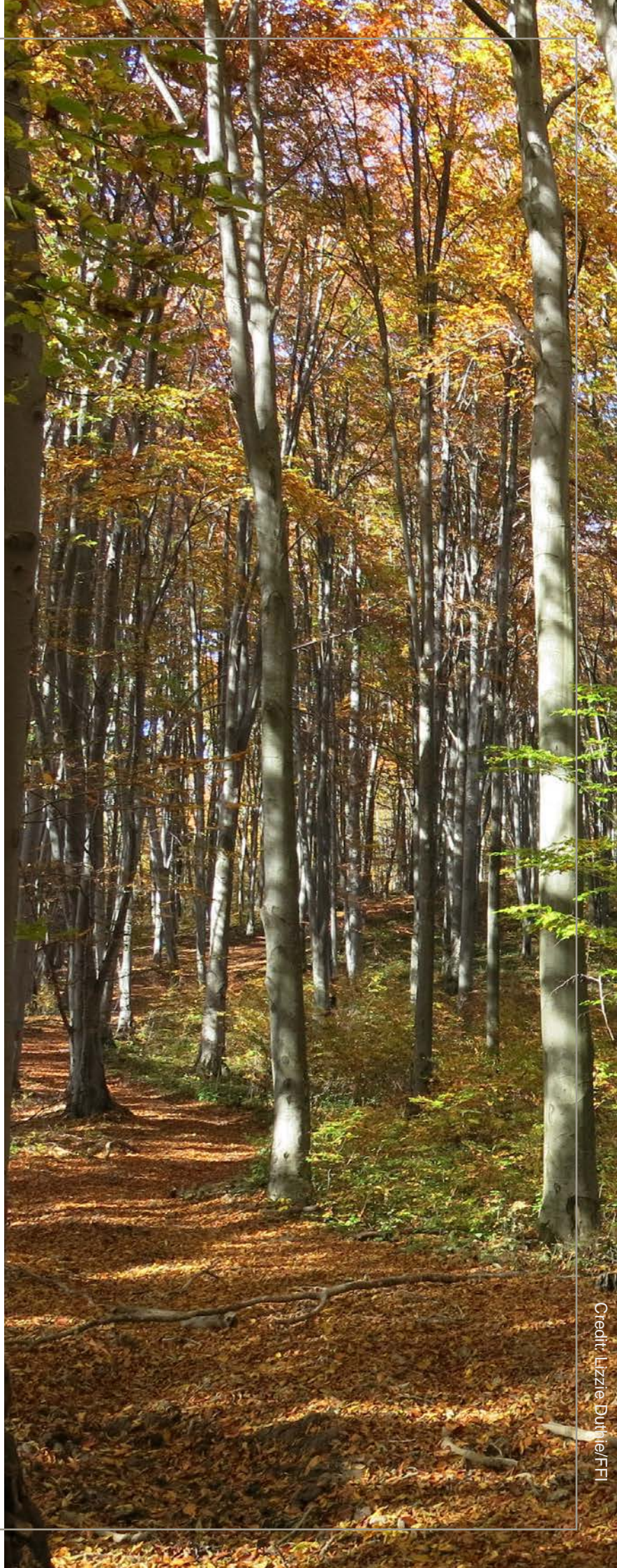
Credit: Zarand Association



## 2021 UPDATE

Plans for further strategic land purchase within the corridor, targeting some 45 hectares, have been developed and it is hoped that the first parcel of land will be secured by December 2021. Habitat management has continued to improve the condition of land already secured and new income streams are now being used to help fund conservation activities. For example, in line with the agreed management plan for Vorta forest, over €12,000 income was generated this year from the sale of sustainably harvested timber. In parallel, livelihood support, such as the sale of locally produced honey, has also boosted the financial sustainability of communities, enabling them to maintain traditional management of high conservation value farmlands. The project will also participate in the development of a tourism strategy for the area, which would help to boost visitor numbers and associated income to traditional and wildlife-friendly enterprises.

Further electric fencing has been provided to farmers to prevent damage from wolves and bears, with almost 250 households now benefiting from the project's conflict prevention interventions. Some farmers have also invested in equipment themselves, indicating their confidence in its success in preventing loss of livestock. A dedicated human-wildlife conflict team continues to respond to incidents and support compensation claims within both the Zarand corridor and the adjacent Southern Carpathians corridor, and farmers and county-level authorities are also now developing compensation claims themselves, demonstrating an increased capacity and confidence in addressing the issue. FFI has continued to support the development of our Romanian partner organisations, providing financial sustainability training to three organisations this year. The project's achievements and experiences are increasingly being recognised, and team members have been invited to participate in local and regional processes on large carnivore management, human-wildlife conflict and illegal wildlife trade, allowing learning to be shared with others working on similar issues and with authorities seeking to develop policy and initiatives on wildlife management.





# SERA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY, KENYA

## BACKGROUND

Lying approximately 250km north-east of Mount Kenya, Sera is a vast and remote semi-arid wilderness. With a remarkable system of permanent springs, it supports a diverse range of wildlife, including elephant, wild dog, gerenuk, beisa oryx, buffalo and Grevy's zebra, and is an important dispersal area for migrant species during the rains. However, the location of Sera in the northern Kenya borderlands means that it has been affected by the impacts of civil disturbance in neighbouring Somalia. Incursions of Somali bandits, cattle rustlers and organised gangs of poachers into the area remain a key threat to wildlife, particularly to the remaining elephant population. Since 2004, FFI has worked with the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) and the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy to establish the Sera Community Conservancy and secure 339,540 hectares of the Sera wildlands.

## ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

The Sera Wildlife Conservancy was successfully demarcated, a controlled grazing regime was implemented and daily patrols by community rangers

were put in place. A formal management structure was established and resourced with key equipment, and a Management and Development Strategy was agreed with the support of local communities in 2020. In an area that was once prone to banditry and poaching, Sera has become an increasingly stable area where security has been restored, and there is clear evidence of both poaching and cattle rustling being greatly reduced. Evidence over the last few years has shown that trends for most wildlife populations are positive, and that elephant poaching has been reduced in contrast to the trends in non-conservancy areas. Elephants have now taken up residence throughout the year, and Sera Conservancy has been transformed from a former poaching hotspot to a safe haven for this species.

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



### Area Secured

339,540 ha

### Area of Conservation Impact

339,540 ha

MAIN GRANT FOR SECURING  
OR MANAGING LAND



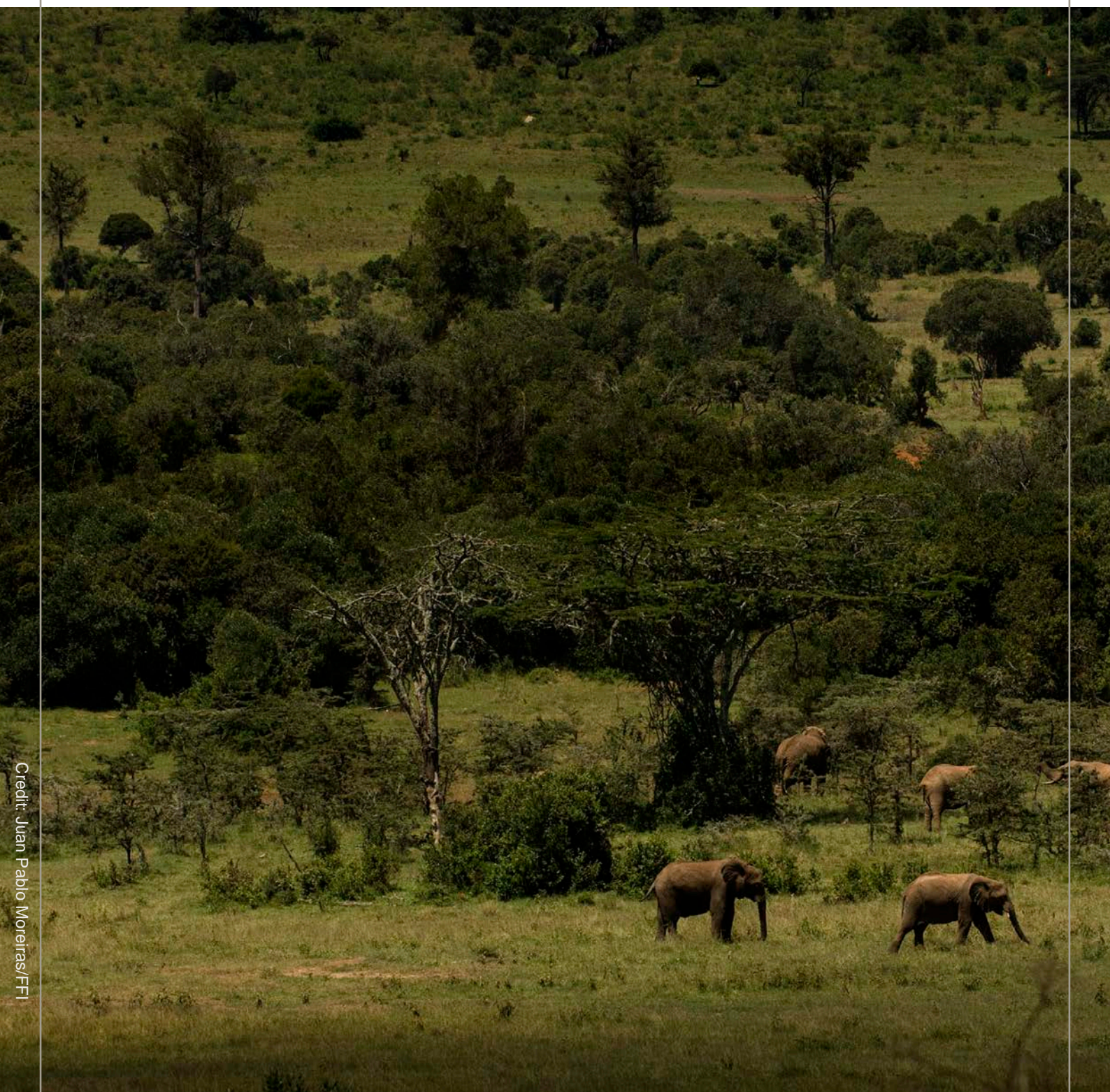
Tourism operations and other enterprises (see page 57) have started to deliver income streams for both conservancy operations and communities.

In 2020, to support both wildlife and people, FFI funded the Sera Wildlife Conservancy to address the pressing issue of water management via the installation of water harvesting infrastructure and basic water footprint monitoring equipment.

as the value for conservation, the rhinos provide an economic asset by attracting tourists. This year FFI is supporting Sera Wildlife Conservancy to increase its capacity to run projects independently, and has recently secured funding to hire a research and monitoring officer to reduce dependence on the NRT research and monitoring team.

## 2021 UPDATE

The rhino population at Sera Wildlife Conservancy rose again from 18 in 2020 to 20 in 2021. As well







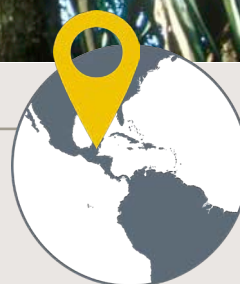
## GOLDEN STREAM CORRIDOR PRESERVE, SOUTHERN BELIZE

### BACKGROUND

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

### ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

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



#### Area Secured

6,057 ha

#### Area of Conservation Impact

300,000 ha

**MAIN GRANT FOR SECURING  
OR MANAGING LAND**



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

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

## 2021 UPDATE

Ya'axché has continued to provide strong management for Golden Stream and the other reserves for which it has responsibility, with regular patrols, ongoing training of rangers and work to ensure effective demarcation of Bladen Nature Reserve. Community livelihood programmes based around agroforestry, cacao production and beekeeping were maintained, with a range of demonstration farms established, ongoing training for community members, and targeted business plan development. Detailed biodiversity monitoring was maintained within the protected areas, while specific surveys coupled with a series of training courses helped to improve skills for identification and conservation of trees among the rangers. FFI provides arm's length capacity support to Ya'axché, which is increasingly self-sufficient, continuing to offer advice and support as required (and maintaining a seat on the Board). FFI has been more engaged on specific areas of common interest – including the ongoing purchase of Boden Creek (see page 20), as well as through the provision of emergency Partner Crisis Fund support to address new threats of wildfires arising as a consequence of the pandemic.



Credit: Juan Pablo Moreiras/FFI



# TÂRNAVA MARE GRASSLANDS, ROMANIA

## BACKGROUND

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

## ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

Key areas of grassland biodiversity, including several mobile sites, have been purchased and given to the local partner NGO ADEPT to own and manage in perpetuity. These were complimented with a series of land swaps to consolidate protection for the core biodiversity area. Purchasing the land has protected it from being ploughed, intensively grazed, burned, or exposed to substrate extraction. The sites are actively managed through appropriate grazing and mowing regimes to maintain their biodiversity value, including rotational grazing by cattle ([See Oryx, 2020, 54\(1\), 9–15](#)). Initial assessments by a botanist demonstrated encouraging signs of grassland recovery as a result of ongoing improvements in management regimes, with measurable improvements in habitat condition and species mix. In addition, these sites are eligible for EU subsidies and through 2019 and 2020 were generating sufficient funding to cover a significant proportion of ADEPT's running costs.

### Area Secured

242 ha

### Area of Conservation Impact

1,500,000 ha

MAIN GRANT FOR SECURING  
OR MANAGING LAND



Credit: FFI





Credit: FFI

Given the risk posed to biodiversity by land abandonment, ADEPT works with members of local communities to create jobs and livelihoods that will keep smallholdings under traditional management. These include enterprises that add value to local produce (such as a range of produce marketed under the Târnava Mare brand) and the promotion of tourism enterprises and ventures (such as a mountain biking route and associated race) to bring new tourists to this region. In 2017, ADEPT's initiative won a European Cultural Tourism Network award. An abandoned school on one of the sites has been converted into Angofa Wildlife Centre and has been leased to Operation Wallacea under an agreement that will see them develop its activities while paying a fee to ADEPT for its use. ADEPT have stated that FFI's previous and ongoing capacity training has been instrumental in ensuring they receive critical ongoing core support from the Sigrid Rausing Trust and in leveraging new EU LIFE+ funding.

## 2021 UPDATE

One further land purchase (2 hectares) was completed by ADEPT and they continued to negotiate the purchase of a further four sites (26 hectares). In addition, 11 hectares of farmland was swapped for high conservation value land. Habitat condition and species diversity at managed sites has measurably improved as a result of more appropriate management measures (rotational grazing and hay meadow management). ADEPT's financial situation is increasingly robust with year-on-year increases in income from subsidies, cattle sales and other financial mechanisms, which has also boosted the financial sustainability of communities.



# SECURING AREAS OF RENOSTERVELD, SOUTH AFRICA

## BACKGROUND

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

## ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

In 2014, Haarwegskloof Farm, a 500 hectare property with some of the largest areas of intact renosterveld, was purchased. This was established as a formal nature reserve under WWF ownership, Cape Nature stewardship and management by the Overberg Renosterveld Conservation Trust (a local organisation devoted to conservation and sustainable management of renosterveld habitats) under a 30-year management agreement. Surveys of the site have shown that it supports 550 plant and 125 bird species, including some plant species new to science. Active management of the site has been initiated, including controlled burning, which is an important aspect of fynbos ecology, releasing a spectacular flowering across a wide range of characteristic renosterveld plant species. A management plan has been developed and adopted for the site, along with a business plan outlining how the site might generate sustainable conservation finance through tourism. Ongoing research shows that management at Haarwegskloof has resulted in maintained or improved condition of habitats and species.

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

The Overberg Renosterveld Conservation Trust (ORCT) is now a well-established, dynamic organisation, with the capacity, human resources, planning, relationships and partnerships in place to underpin its future sustainability. It has already proved successful in raising its own funds, and has

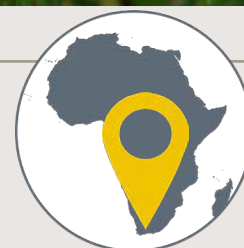
established a Renosterveld Research and Visitor Centre, including a guest house, which generates income.

## 2021 UPDATE

Three further conservation easements were completed this year to secure further areas of renosterveld habitat and provide critical connections between existing easement areas.



Credit: FFI



### Area Secured

518 ha

### Area of Conservation Impact

4,050 ha

MAIN GRANT FOR SECURING  
OR MANAGING LAND





Credit: NRT

## NORTHERN RANGELANDS TRUST, KENYA

### BACKGROUND

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



### Area Secured

3,859,080 ha

### Area of Conservation Impact

3,859,080 ha

MAIN GRANT FOR SECURING OR MANAGING LAND



## ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

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

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

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

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

## 2021 UPDATE

As well as maintaining support to the existing 39 community conservancies, NRT is now developing four new conservancies. Wildlife monitoring this year shows that biodiversity across the NRT landscape remains stable for most species, and the significant wildlife populations in the NRT landscape were confirmed by a national wildlife census. This showed that NRT landscapes are of national importance for elephant, buffalo, Grevy's zebra, lion, cheetah and wild dog. Although data is not yet available for 2021, there has been a long-term reduction in elephant ivory poaching in NRT conservancies from 103 in 2012 to zero in 2020 (although some elephants are still lost to human-wildlife conflict).

Travel restrictions associated with the Covid-19 pandemic have devastated the tourism industry, with income dropping by 50% in conservancies. The economic impact of this has been felt across hundreds of households and NRT is working with partners to diversify income sources. FFI is working with NRT to support individual conservancies to develop their independence. This year NRT launched a collaborative project alongside Native Soils for the Future and the Nature Conservancy to improve grazing for pastoralists and generate carbon revenue for 14 community conservancies, further increasing the financial viability of conservation and benefits to the community.







Credit: Mwangi Kirubi/TNC

## HALCYON CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVE

### BACKGROUND

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



STRATEGIC INITIATIVE



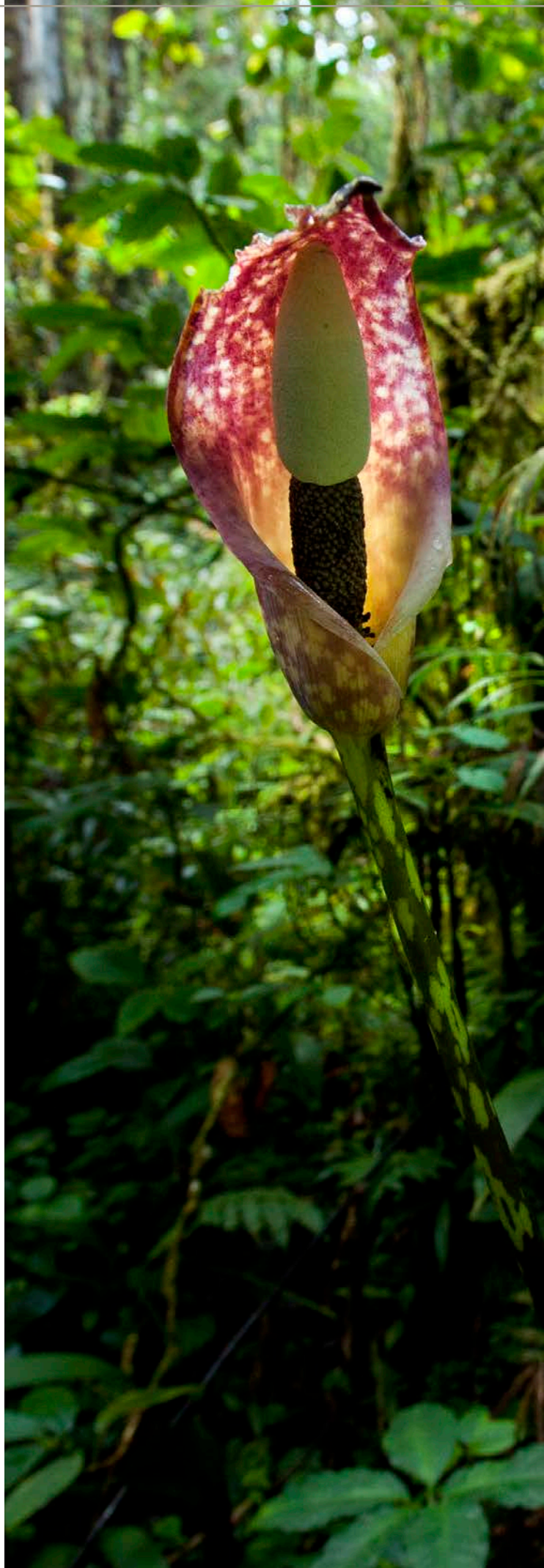
## ACHIVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

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

FFI developed a follow-up climate action plan as part of our new organisational strategy in 2019. A dedicated climate change specialist was recruited and has built on the work initiated under the Halcyon carbon assessment conducted in 2008. This has increased uptake of the bespoke 'climate foresight planning tool' to support project-level development of climate mitigation plans, particularly in regions identified as being in high-risk regions for climate change. Work to increase climate resilience in one site in Nicaragua showed that the farms we had been supporting suffered less impact from severe storms than other surrounding areas, perhaps as a result of the use of agroforestry, crop diversification, staggered planting, and adopting more appropriate crop varieties.

## 2021 UPDATE

During 2021, the integration of climate work across the organisation has been strengthened, including a greater focus on addressing climate risk at our project sites. Building on the methodology used to calculate carbon stored in Halcyon sites, a full assessment of carbon storage across 97 sites protected by FFI showed that they stored some 1 billion tonnes of carbon (roughly equivalent to the carbon content of 8 billion barrels of crude oil – or 23 years' worth of UK crude oil production). Of this, some 295 million tonnes are held in Halcyon-supported sites (roughly equivalent to the carbon content of 2.5 billion barrels of crude oil – or 7 years' worth of UK crude oil production). This carbon estimate is helping us to highlight the importance of securing sites for conservation in the discussions around nature-based solutions to climate change.



Credit: Jeremy Holden/FFI



# KACHIN HIGHLANDS, MYANMAR

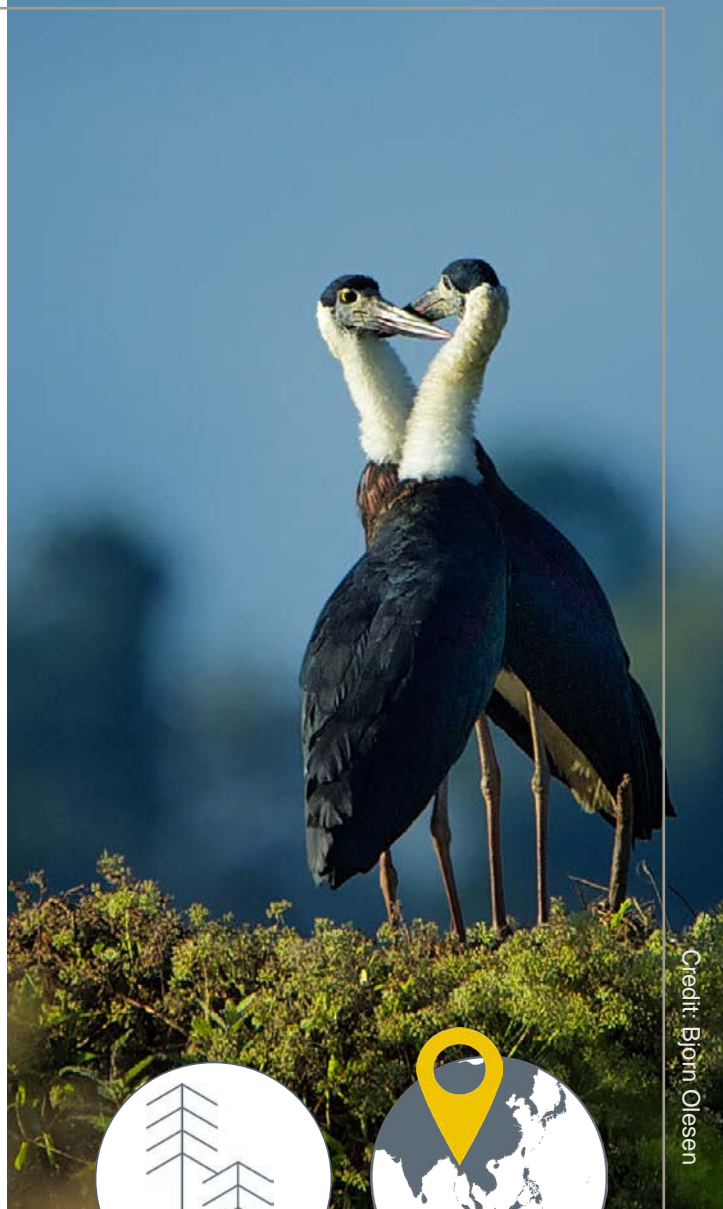
## BACKGROUND

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

## ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

FFI's original surveys provided the understanding and rationale to develop a proposed protected area to safeguard the range of the Myanmar snub-nosed monkey, covering important forest areas that also support a host of other threatened species. The proposed Imawbum National Park would secure over 150,000 hectares of forest under conservation management and protect the watershed of the main tributary of the Ayeyarwaddy River, the biggest and longest river in Myanmar. This proposal was approved in principle by the Ministry of Forestry and Environmental Conservation in 2013. A proposal to develop mining projects within the area was rejected by the government in 2019 due to the site's status as a proposed protected area.

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



Credit: Björn Olesen



### Area Secured

156,280 ha

### Area of Conservation Impact

400,000 ha

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE



The protection of the forest has been maintained through the action of the village patrol groups, and FFI has continued to invest in the operation of these groups through training, raising awareness, supporting village meetings, and the provision of grants to support livelihood activities.

Over several years a range of processes was completed to enable gazettelement of the site, including a biodiversity report of the Imawbum area and a full public consultation. This led to the official designation of Imawbum National Park in March 2020.

## 2021 UPDATES

The coup in early 2021 and accompanying security concerns, together with on-going Covid-19 restrictions,

have caused significant disruption and delays to work this year. However, support has continued to enable village conservation groups to protect and restore the forest and its key species, and two Community Wildlife Monitoring and Patrol teams were trained and started to patrol the Park. A new ranger station was completed this year, but unfortunately preparation of a new management plan for the park had to be delayed. Local communities themselves lobbied the Kachin State Government to stop a new mining project in the Imawbum area, demonstrating their increased awareness of the negative impacts of unsustainable natural resource use.





# EMERGENCY RESPONSE FOR SAIGA ANTELOPE, KAZAKHSTAN

## BACKGROUND

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

## ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

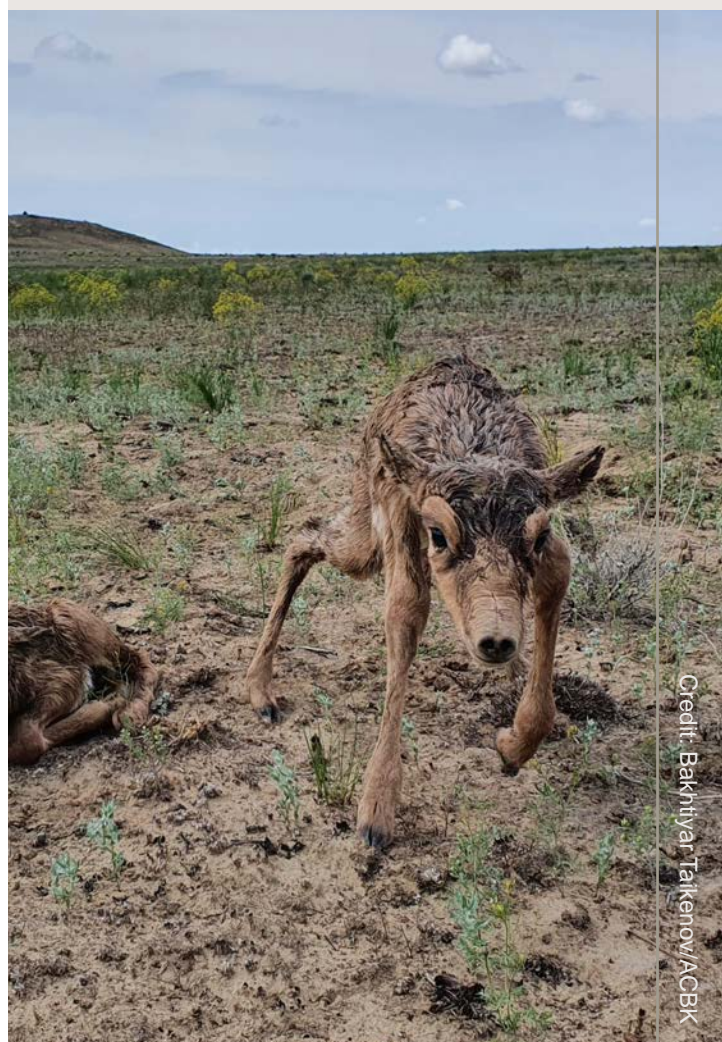
Funding from Halcyon Land & Sea has strengthened law enforcement capacity through the provision of vital equipment and training, including vehicles enabling rangers to access this vast area, alongside Kazakh Government investment into the Ustyurt ranger force. FFI and partners have trained rangers from across the saiga range states, and successfully lobbied for the 150km border fence between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan to be modified to include 125 animal-friendly gaps, thus enabling the continued cross-border migration of saiga and other wildlife. The project also put in place sniffer dogs that patrol key points along the Kazakhstan border in order to reduce illegal wildlife trade in saiga horn. Rangers now conduct regular monitoring of the area (over 99,000km<sup>2</sup> – larger than the area of Scotland).



### Area of Conservation Impact

6,394,800 ha

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE



Credit: Bakhtiyar Talkenov/ACBk





Anti-poaching operations have resulted in the detention of poachers, whilst aerial surveys have shown year-on-year increases in saiga numbers, with the population increasing from 2,700 to 5,900 individuals between 2017 and 2019 (an increase of nearly 120%). The initial funding from Halcyon Land & Sea was crucial to improve protection of this site, as it provided FFI and FFI's partner with the resources to build effective local relationships, lobby for the introduction of a ranger team and get the team up and running at a crucial time when the Government were considering withdrawing support to their own rangers.

## 2021 UPDATE

Monthly ranger patrols and saiga monitoring have been able to continue during 2020 and 2021 despite Covid-19 restrictions, as the ranger team has been granted special permission to continue their work. An aerial survey in May confirmed that the Ustyurt saiga population has now increased to 12,000 individuals; there is a strong likelihood that this is linked to a reduction in poaching pressure since the introduction of the NGO-managed ranger team in 2017. Since water is believed to be a critical factor influencing wildlife in the landscape, the project has supported a hydrologist to assess the status of degraded or dis-used wells and springs across the Ustyurt plateau, with a view to their future restoration.





## CHACOCENTE WILDLIFE REFUGE, NICARAGUA

### BACKGROUND

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

### ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

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



#### Area Secured

8 ha

#### Area of Conservation Impact

4,800 ha

**MAIN GRANT FOR SECURING OR MANAGING LAND**





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

Management effectiveness at Chacocente improved year-on-year since work started in 2001. An operational management plan was established, along with a trained park ranger team, improved infrastructure, better management and coordination with other agencies (such as naval patrols), as well as the annual protection of the turtle nesting beaches. Over the 19 years of the project, nesting numbers of olive ridley turtles saw a progressive positive trend, despite occasional dips, and around 750,000 nests have been recorded and/or protected. In parallel, a total of 3,230 leatherback nests have been protected resulting in the release of 5,161 hatchlings to sea.

## PROGRESS IN 2021

Community-led protection and monitoring patrols resumed for the 2020/2021 leatherback nesting season. This year five leatherback nests were recorded and protected, resulting in the successful release of 166 hatchlings to the sea. This represents better nesting data than the past two seasons; however, the longer-term trend indicates the continuing decline of the Eastern Pacific leatherback population. Government ranger teams, supported by military personnel, continue to protect the mass nesting beach for olive ridley turtles at Chacocente, although data from these patrols is not publicly available. During 2021, pressures intensified around Chacocente, with increased natural resource extraction due to the impact on rural livelihoods and food security of political and economic instability, two category 5 hurricanes, and Covid-19. FFI has continued to support sustainable livelihood initiatives including local honey production and better market access for local weavers as a means to reduce pressure to resume the collection of turtle eggs.

In 2021 FFI produced a guidance manual for the construction, operation and evaluation of turtle hatcheries in Nicaragua. The process involved stakeholders from NGOs, academia, tourism enterprises, the Ministry of Environment and protected area authorities.





# OL PEJETA CONSERVANCY, KENYA

## BACKGROUND

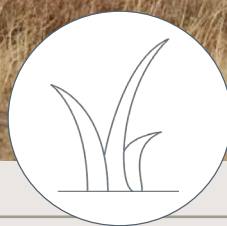
Ol Pejeta Conservancy is a vital part of the Laikipia ecosystem in northern Kenya, protecting critical migration corridors and diverse wildlife, including black rhinos and Grevy's zebra. In 2004, the Arcus Foundation gave vital investment to provide a sanctuary for great apes, and generate income through wildlife tourism, to be reinvested in conservation and community development.

## ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

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

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

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



### Area Secured

37,000 ha

### Area of Conservation Impact

150,000 ha

MAIN GRANT FOR SECURING  
OR MANAGING LAND



## PROGRESS IN 2021

Despite the financial and operational challenges of Covid-19, OI Pejeta Conservancy continued to deliver its conservation mission throughout 2021. The Conservation Lab, launched at OI Pejeta Conservancy in 2019, is continuing to provide a platform for collaboration, learning and knowledge-sharing and has advanced remote sensing in monitoring. In 2021, OI Pejeta digitised data collection and management and this has increased monitoring effectiveness and response speed to incidents. Diversifying income streams is important to OI Pejeta Conservancy, and in 2020/2021 they achieved record cattle sales, buffering the conservancy at a time when tourism revenue drastically declined. The Sirima embryo lab reopened in November 2020 after eight years of closure due to

international export restrictions and in 2021 OI Pejeta resumed the sale of Boran and Ankole embryos to South Africa. They are now exploring markets internationally to expand the trade.

The black rhino population continues to increase year on year in the conservancy, with 12 live births in 2021. The security and management of the site is evidenced by the fact that no cases of poaching have been reported since 2017. The conservancy is in the process of securing neighbouring land to provide additional dispersal area for the increased wildlife numbers and to provide connectivity to other conservation areas.





A photograph of a chimpanzee sitting on a tree branch in a forest. The chimpanzee is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The background is a dense forest with many green leaves and brown branches.

# Legacy Projects

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



# APPLYING CONSERVATION EASEMENTS IN LAIKIPIA, KENYA

## BACKGROUND

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

## ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

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

## 2021 UPDATE

Although no easement has yet been put in place, we are actively exploring application of the new mechanism for a number of reserves and building understanding of how conservation easements could form part of the long-term solution to keep land under conservation management in perpetuity.



Credit: Carlos Drews/WWF



STRATEGIC SMALL GRANT



# PUNTA VENECIA, NICARAGUA

## BACKGROUND

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

## ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

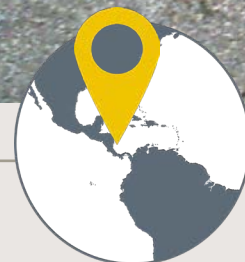
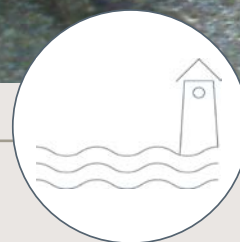
The rights to the land were held by a local businessman who allowed FFI and its partners to run the turtle hatchery and associated field station in his buildings. FFI assessed a range of possible legal mechanisms to secure the land for long-term conservation, including options for a “conservation easement”,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

## 2021 UPDATE

The bilateral usufruct contract drafted last year was signed in 2021. This contract restricts the use of the site to conservation and research for the next 10 years. As well as securing the land, FFI has supported community patrols to protect 12km of hawksbill nesting beach throughout the nesting season, with 108 hawksbill nests protected (>99% of all nests laid) and 6,044 hawksbill hatchlings reaching the sea. An incentive scheme that rewards people for notifying the project team about turtle nests being laid - instead of poaching the eggs - involved 40 ex-poachers in 2021.



Credit: FFI



### Area Secured

39 ha

### Area of Conservation Impact

9,200 ha

STRATEGIC SMALL GRANT





Credit: Jenny Dairty/FFI

## STRENGTHENING FOREST MANAGEMENT IN SAINT LUCIA

### BACKGROUND

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



### Area of Conservation Impact

30,000 ha

STRATEGIC SMALL GRANT



## ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

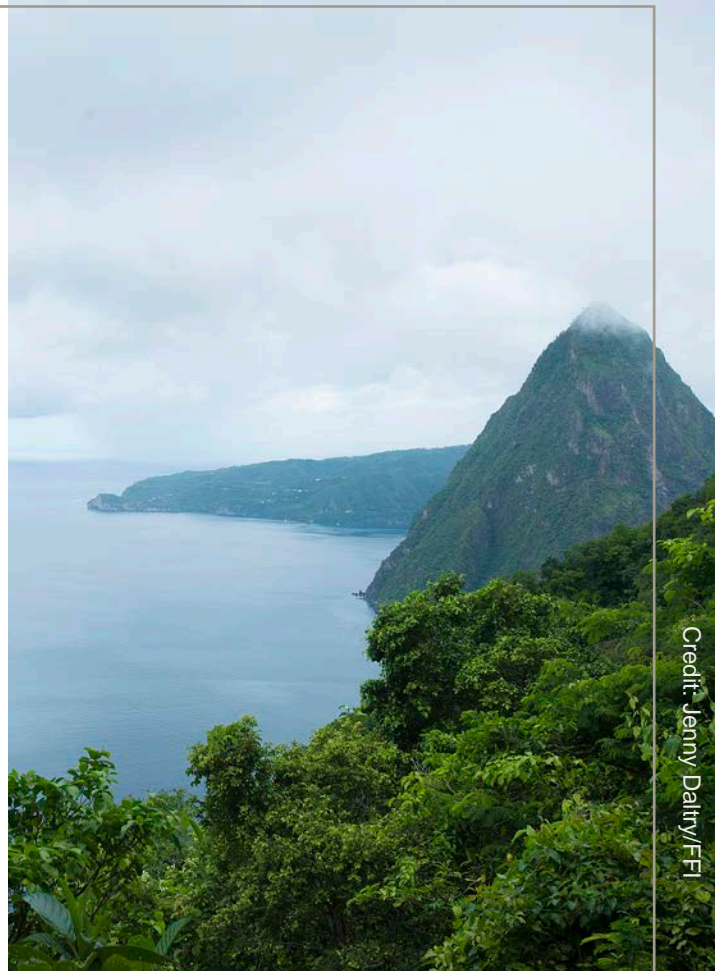
A Strategic Small Grant from Halcyon Land & Sea underpinned the development of a new strategy and National Forest Management Plan for the Forestry Department. This resulted in more efficient forest management, for example, as a result of the plan, private sector partners were engaged to manage key tourist areas, freeing up the time of the Forestry Department staff to focus on conservation and enabling local communities to benefit from the existence of the forest parks. The plan helped the Forestry Department to develop and implement a series of new conservation projects, which will leverage conservation funding over the next four to five years.

Subsequently, delivery of the new strategy has led to improvements in the management of Saint Lucia's protected area and its biodiversity. Additional areas have been brought under conservation management, especially the dry forests (a highly threatened forest type that was previously barely represented in the Forest Reserve network) for which a new 5,000 hectare reserve is now planned. The plan also boosted performance and staff morale, convinced the wider government and other stakeholders that the Forestry Department and the forests it manages play a significant role in the wellbeing and economic development of the whole country, as well as enabled the department to clearly articulate its priorities when funding opportunities arise. FFI also provided a series of targeted training sessions to the Forestry Department related to the implementation of the plan. Lessons learned from the project were published ([open access](#)) in *Parks* — the journal of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas.

In 2019, the St Lucian Government secured funds from the Global Environment Facility, as well as additional support from the Green Climate Fund to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from forestry and land use whilst increasing resilience of communities and ecosystems. Both of these were a direct outcome of the Management Plan and priorities identified therein.

## 2021 UPDATE

Primary forest cover has remained stable over the last six years, as reported in the Global Forest Assessment 2020 for Saint Lucia, and this, together with the sustained reduction in forest-related offences in protected areas, indicates that Saint Lucia's forests are experiencing reduced threats. The effectiveness of management measures and processes is further illustrated by the biosecurity of the Maria Islands and the rapid response to a rat infestation on Rat Island. FFI continues to provide support to fully implement the national system for adaptive forest management and evidence-based decision-making in biodiversity conservation. Several countries in the Caribbean region, including Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Dominica, have made requests to FFI to support them to develop a national forest strategy similar to the Saint Lucia plan, reflecting the success in forest management that this strategy is bringing.



Credit: Jenny Daitly/FFI



Credit: Jenny Daitly/FFI



# BELIZE PROTECTED AREA LEGISLATION

## BACKGROUND

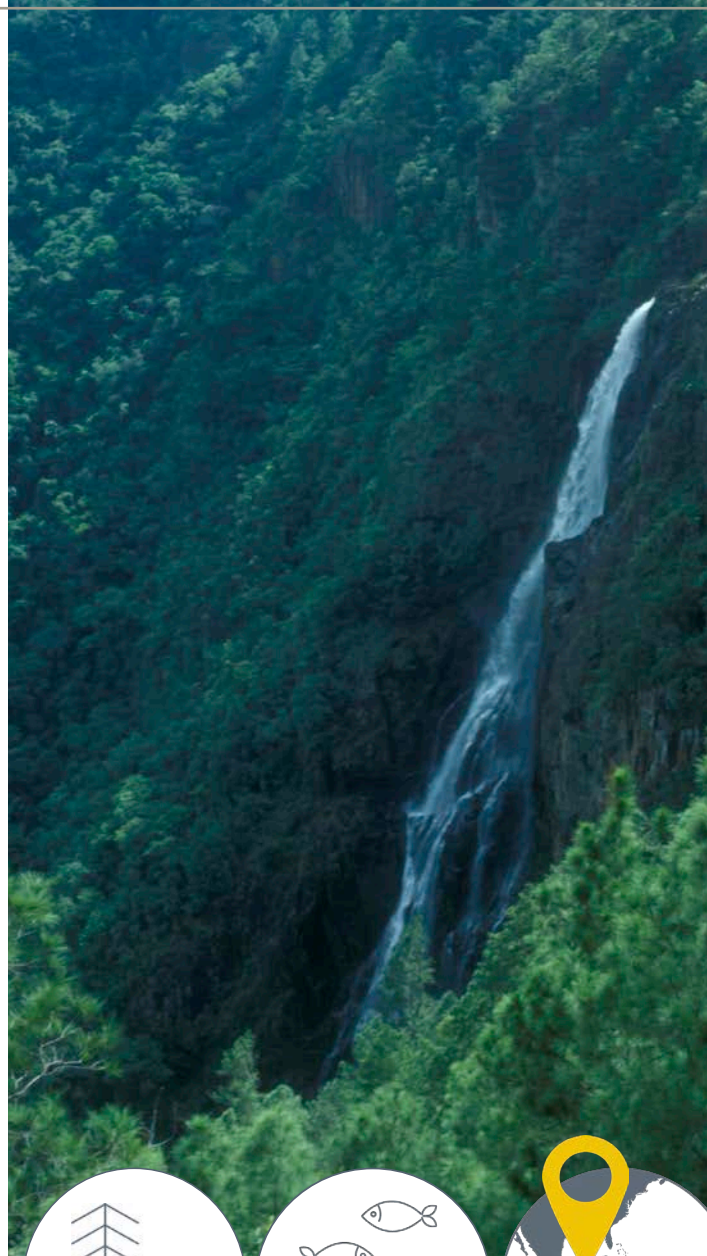
The protected areas of Belize support significant biodiversity, encompassing large areas of tropical forest as well as the Belize barrier reef. There are currently 103 protected areas in Belize, including national parks, nature reserves, wildlife refuges and private protected areas. However, outdated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

## ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

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

## 2021 UPDATE

Discussions with the Government about the establishment of a new legal basis for the co-management of state protected areas, including aligned financial arrangements, suffered a setback in 2021 after governmental changes resulting from the November 2021 election. FFI plans to re-engage in these discussions when there is appropriate political will.

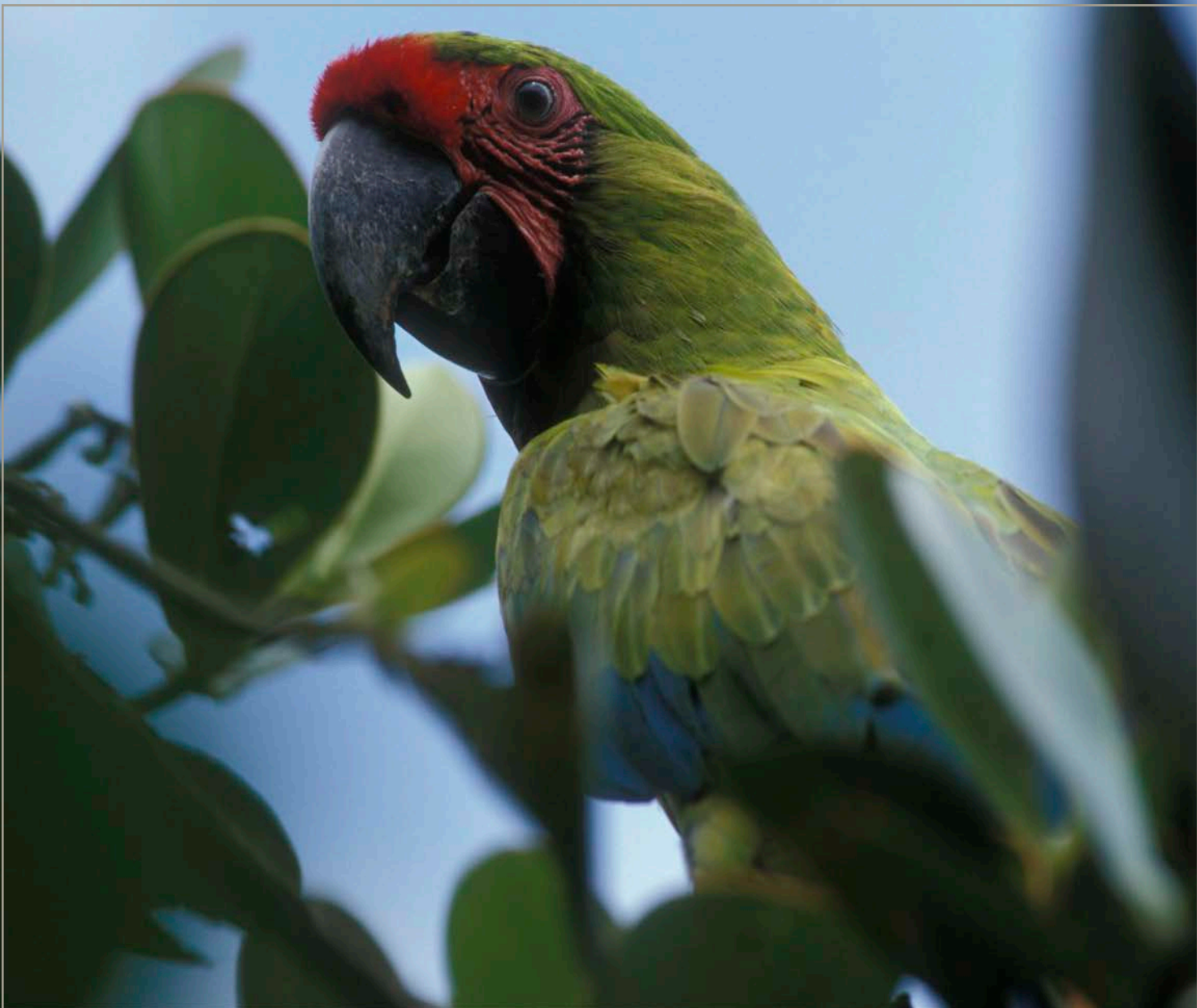


Credit: Juan Pablo Moreiras/FFI



STRATEGIC SMALL GRANT





# AWACACHI CORRIDOR, ECUADOR

## BACKGROUND

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



### Area Secured

12,489 ha

### Area of Conservation Impact

354,000 ha

MAIN GRANT FOR SECURING  
OR MANAGING LAND



## ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

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

A further 2,230 hectares area of Chocó rainforest (the Endesa concession) was purchased in 2010

to strengthen the narrowest part of the Awacachi Corridor. Without intervention, this area would have been clear felled, and was likely to have been converted to oil palm plantations, a development that could have threatened the integrity of the corridor.

## 2021 UPDATE

FFI has continued to provide organisational support to Fundación Sirua as the owner and manager of the corridor, including with a revision of their institutional registration. FFI continues to explore new ownership models for the corridor, although promising dialogue with another national NGO in this regard failed to proceed.





# IBERIAN LYNX PROGRAMME, SOUTHERN PORTUGAL

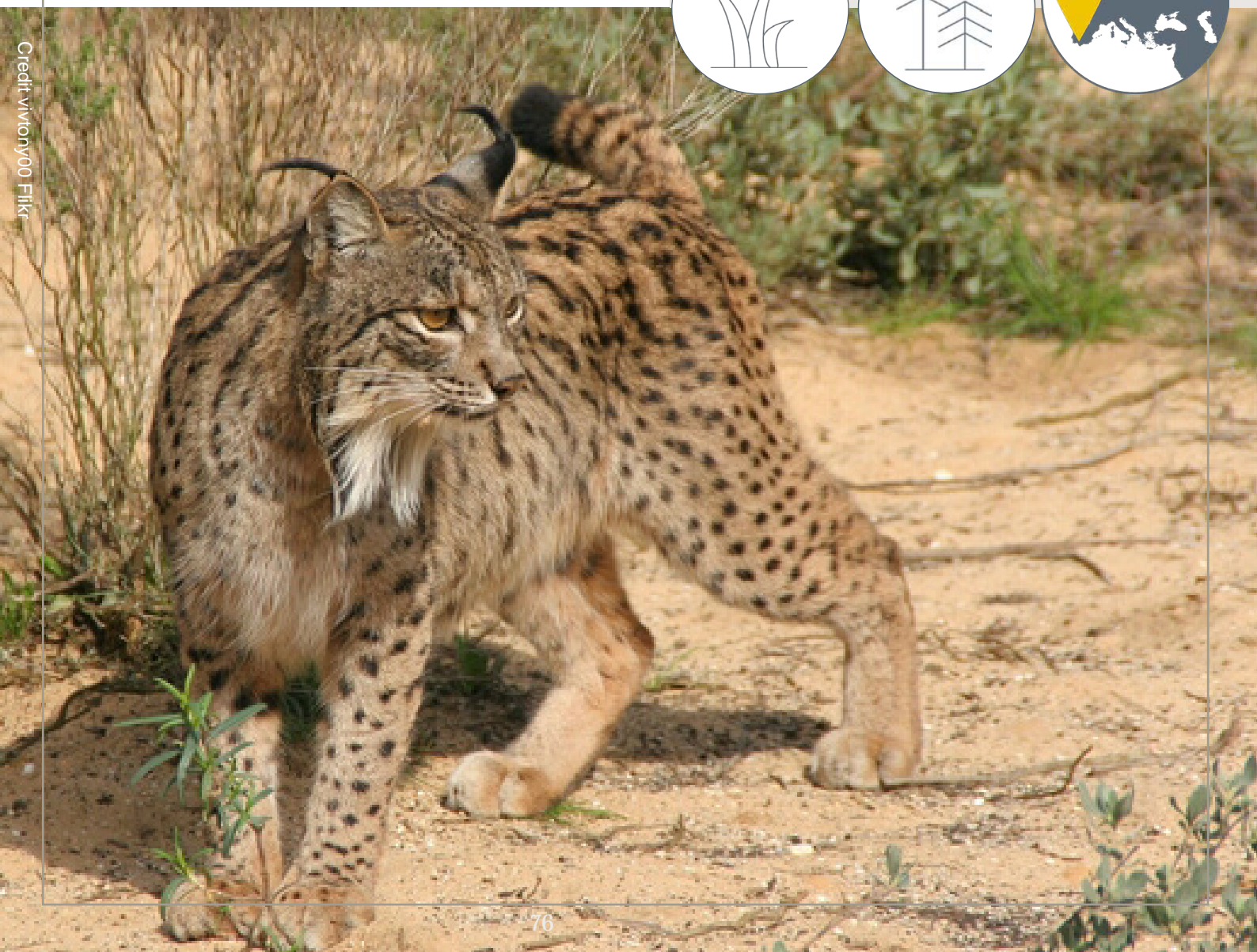
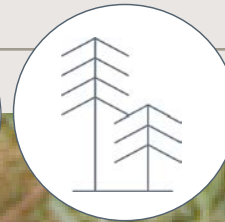
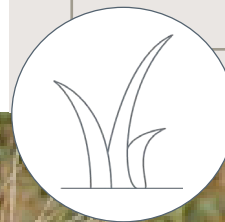
## BACKGROUND

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

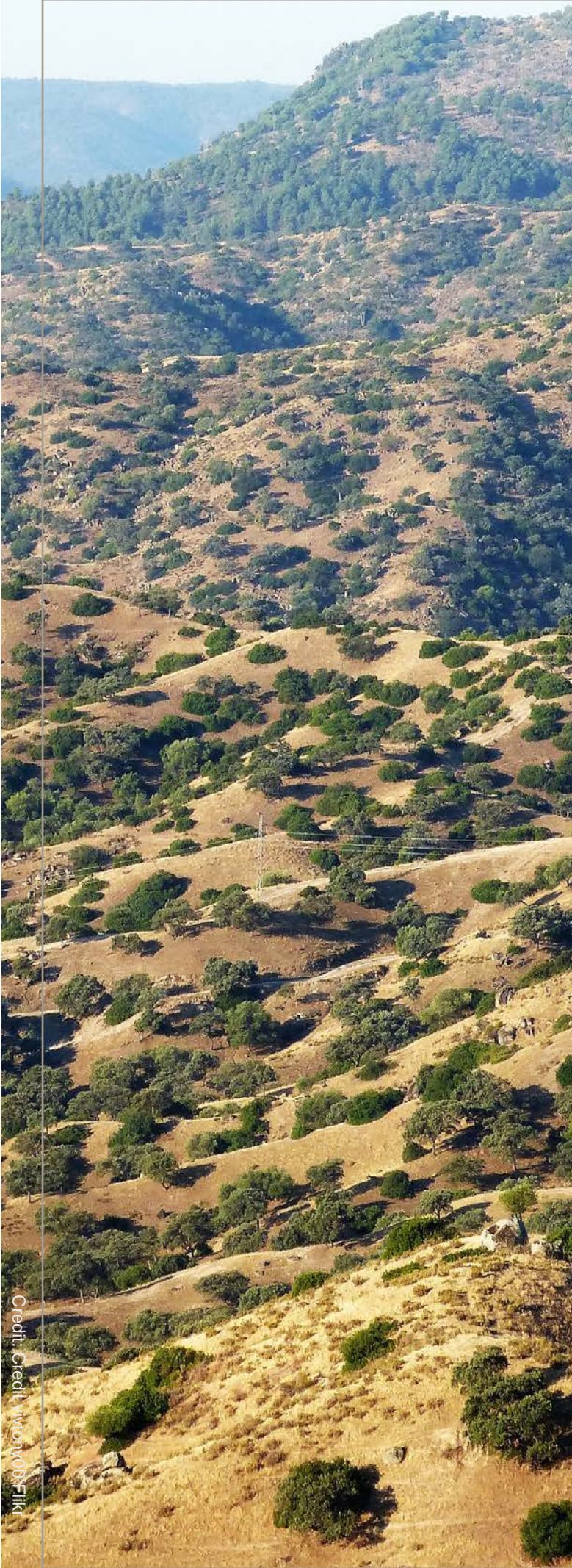
## Area of Conservation Impact

20,050 ha

MAIN GRANT FOR SECURING  
OR MANAGING LAND







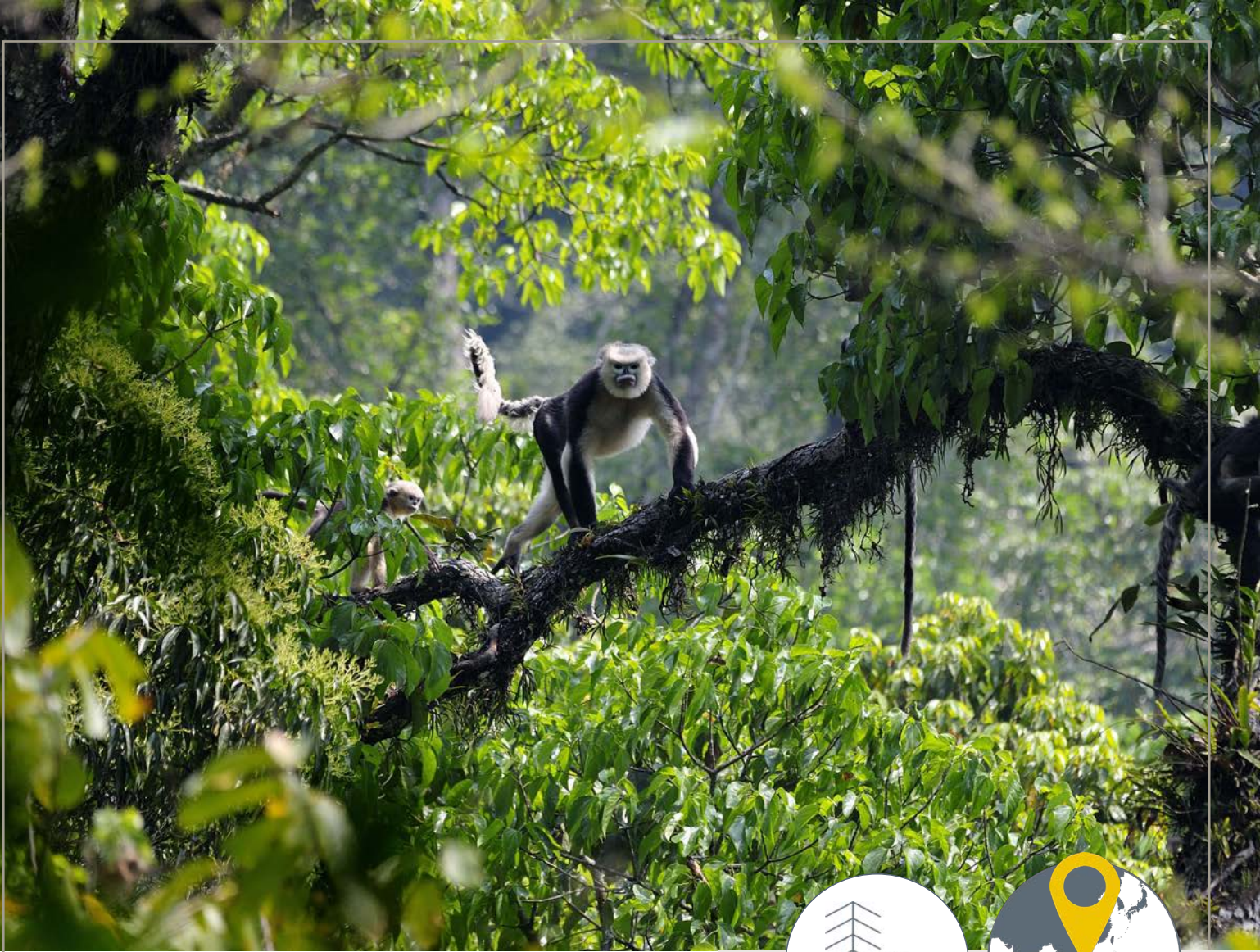
## ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

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

## 2021 UPDATE

Data suggests that there are now over 140 Iberian lynx living wild in Portugal across a range of 500 km<sup>2</sup> and that the population has higher breeding success than the species average, indicating an abundance of food and suitable habitats; the population is being further reinforced by ongoing captive breeding and release. LPN continues to undertake activities to improve habitat suitability for lynx, primarily through maintenance of artificial dens. The management agreements initiated under Halcyon funding have now finished, though LPN maintains regular contact with land owners to encourage ongoing conservation management. In accordance with FFI's aim to step back from work in Portugal and consolidate its portfolio, FFI has reduced support over the last three years. However, as part of this process, building on the initial planning grant to LPN from the Endangered Landscapes Programme (ELP) in 2019, FFI supported LPN to develop a restoration plan for the Eastern Guadiana region, and LPN are now actively seeking funding for this work, including from ELP.





## USING REDD TO PROTECT FORESTS, VIETNAM

### BACKGROUND

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



### Area Secured

1,238 ha

### Area of Conservation Impact

65,000 ha

STRATEGIC SMALL GRANT



## ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

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

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

## 2021 UPDATE

The Kon Tum REDD+ project has now received full approval from the Government. It is featured on the Plan Vivo website as a fully certified project and credits are available on the Markit Registry website. This means that REDD+ is fully operational and certified at the site, the first such site in Vietnam.



# CRISTALINO STATE PARK, BRAZIL

## BACKGROUND

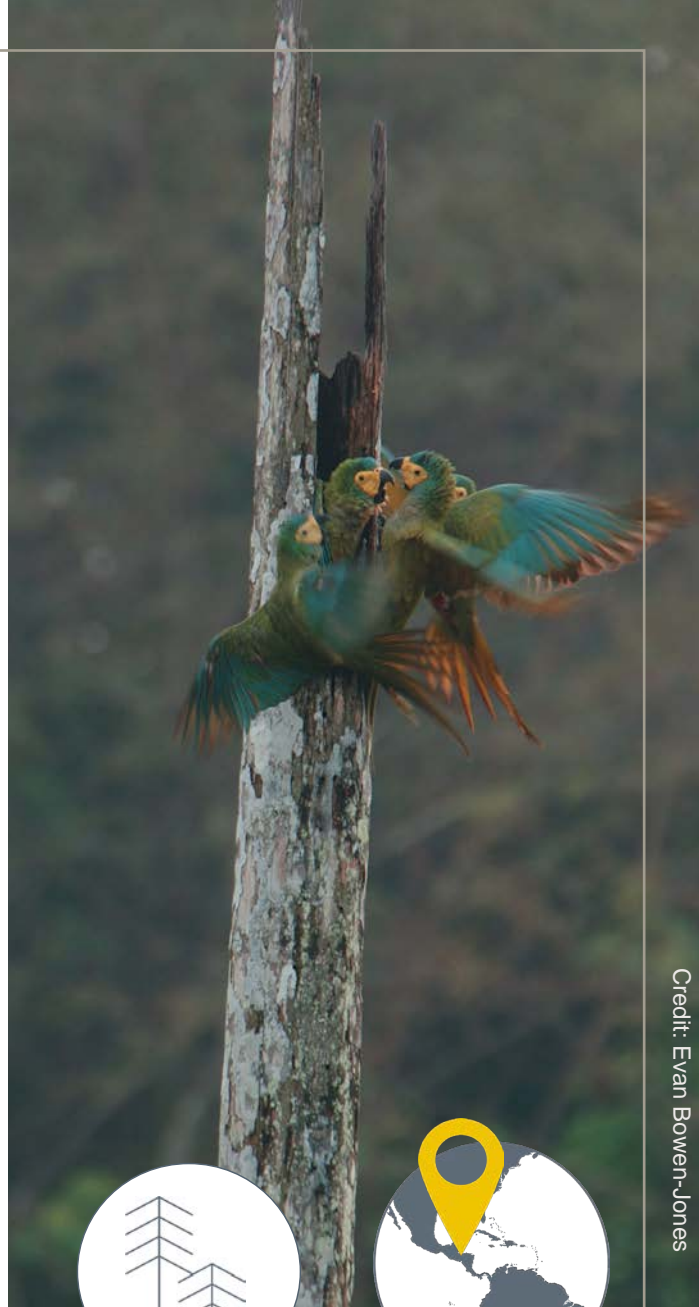
Cristalino State Park is the most biodiverse reserve in the Brazilian Amazon and a key gateway to the southern Amazon. It has the second highest recorded diversity of bird species in the world and is home to the endangered white-whiskered spider monkey. Cristalino acts as a barricade between undisturbed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

## ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

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

## 2021 UPDATE

Cristalino Lodge has adapted its activities in response to Covid-19 affecting the income for the project over the last two years, and following its temporary closure has refocused on domestic tourists. This provided sufficient funds to maintain presence and enforcement activities in the area and no illegal incidents were detected.



Credit: Evan Bowen-Jones



### Area Secured

6,476 ha

### Potential Area of Conservation Impact

184,000 ha

MAIN GRANT FOR SECURING  
OR MANAGING LAND



# Halcyon Land & Sea Co-Financers

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

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



German Ministry for the Environment  
Global Environment Fund  
Global Conservation Fund  
Global Trees Campaign  
Grassvalley Trust  
Helmsley Charitable Trust  
HSBC  
Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund  
Imperial Tobacco  
International Elephant Foundation  
International Fund for Animal Welfare  
IUCN (The World Conservation Union)  
James Kirby Foundation  
Jet Tours  
John Aspinall Foundation  
Kilverstone Wildlife Charitable Trust  
Lee & Gund Foundation  
Liz Claiborne Art Ortenburg Foundation  
Lotex Foundation  
Lucille Foundation  
Luxembourg Government  
The MacArthur Foundation  
McKnight Foundation  
Maitri Trust  
MAN Group Charitable Trust  
Marcela Trust  
Margot Marsh Biodiversity Foundation  
Marisla Foundation  
Matsarol Foundation  
Maurice Laing Foundation  
Millichope Foundation  
Mohamed bin Zayed Conservation Fund  
The Nando Peretti Foundation

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
The Nature Conservancy  
Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Pictet Group Charitable Foundation  
The Newman Foundation  
The Oak Foundation  
Oklahoma Zoo  
Open Gate  
Oren Taylor  
Organisation of American States  
Origins  
Pacsafe Turtle Fund  
Panthera  
Prince Bernhard Fund for Nature  
Project Kenya Sister Schools  
Rainforest Concern  
Rainforest Trust  
Regina Bauer Frankenberg Foundation  
Rhododendron Trust  
Rio Tinto  
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds  
The Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation  
Ruth Smart Foundation  
St Louis Zoo  
San Diego Zoo  
Safaricom  
Sea World Busch Gardens  
Shell  
Sigrid Rausing Trust  
Size of Wales  
Sociedade Environmento do Metapiri  
South African National Parks  
Stiftung Artenschutz



Table Mountain Fund	The Walker Trust
Taurus Foundation	Wildcat Foundation
Teach Green Charitable Foundation	WildInvest
3W Foundation	Wildlife Alliance
Tusk Trust	The Wildlife Land Trust
USAID	William Haddon Charitable Trust
United Nations Foundation	World Bank/Development Marketplace
United States Fish and Wildlife Service	Yorkshire Wildlife Park Foundation Zoos South Australia
United States State Department	Zurich Zoo
Valentine Trust	
Victoria Zoo	
Vodafone	

## Halcyon Land & Sea Partners

ACRE	Flower Valley Conservation Trust
ADEPT	Forest Department, Government of Myanmar
African Wildlife Foundation	Forest Protection Department, Vietnam
Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan (ACBK)	Forestry Development Authority, Liberia Fundación Sirua
Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association, Myanmar	GreenViet, Vietnam
Borana Conservancy	Government of Aceh
BLUE Marine Foundation	Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI)
Burnett Mary Regional Group	Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature
Centre Forestier N'Zérékoré, Guinea	Ishaqbini Community Conservancy
Cristalino Ecological Foundation	Justiça Ambiental (JA!)
Department of Environment & Resource Management, Queensland	Lekerruki Community Conservancy
Department of Forestry, Government of Vietnam	Lewa Wildlife Conservancy
	Liga Para A Protecção Da Natureza



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



# Annex 1. Historical Projects

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

## Securing Omkyk and Swaartmodder, Namibia

In 2018, FFI was invited to develop a new conservancy in south-central Namibia to protect rare and unique habitats and species associated with the southern Namib Desert and central plateau. These areas were threatened by overgrazing, land degradation and illegal poaching. A Strategic Small Grant supported a feasibility study for a new 56,000 hectare wildlife conservancy adjoining the Namib-Naukluft National Park, with the potential to then create a corridor to secure a conservation landscape of over 300,000 hectares. Funds were used to undertake the necessary baseline biodiversity surveys, determine a new conservancy structure, develop business and financial sustainability plans, and determine the legal process to secure two farms (Omkyk and Swaartmodder) as core areas of the conservancy. A coalition of other co-financing investors was identified, together willing to invest some US \$1.8 million into land purchase and management. However, the negotiations between the proposed partners in the venture broke down close to completion, following the withdrawal of a core partner from the original agreement for this collectively financed and managed 'conservancy' model. Subsequently another local land owner came forward to purchase at least one of the farms specifically for conservation management, based on the knowledge, data and plans generated during the preparation phase (and these documents were specifically requested by this investor as a basis for buying the land), providing an alternative route to secure this site under conservation management.

**Strategic Small Grant**

## Namibia Scoping, Namibia

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

**Strategic Small Grant**

## Protecting the 'Google Forest' of Mount Mabu, Mozambique

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



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

#### **Strategic Small Grant**

## **Implementing Carbon Finance for Aceh's forests, Indonesia**

The forests of Ulu Masen cover some 738,000 hectares and contain some of the highest levels of biodiversity in the world, with 329 bird species and 87 amphibian and reptile species recorded (including 15 endemics and 11 species that may be new to science), along with globally important populations of the Sumatran tiger, Sumatran orangutan and Sumatran elephant, all three of which are critically endangered. The forests of Ulu Masen are under ongoing threat from large-scale logging and conversion into agricultural land and have been cleared at a rate of 1% per year. The project aimed to develop economic benefits from intact forest, rather than from damaging exploitation such as logging and conversion to oil palm. Carbon finance linked to Reduced Emissions from avoided Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) provided a mechanism to change the economic drivers of forests from destruction to favouring protection. In 2007, FFI started working with the Government of Aceh to develop a pilot REDD+ project for the forests of Ulu Masen, and this project developed to ensure that local communities could benefit from local carbon finance projects, thus ensuring their engagement in sustainable forest management. In 2012, the project helped to draft Aceh's first land tenure policy in collaboration with the Legal Aid Institute, which specifically aims to resolve conflicts over land and natural resources. In 2014, the project secured a substantial European Union Climate Change grant. Community tenure and management rights were secured for over 10,000 hectares of forest, and illegal logging was tackled around the Ulu Masen ecosystem (738,000 hectares) and at a wider provincial level (3.5 million hectares). Specifically, FFI supported the development of village forests, a new approach to forest protection that included both community and biodiversity targets. Five village forests ('hutan desa') were developed by the project, covering 11,281 hectares of forest and benefiting 5,000 community members. Management plans have been put in place

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

#### **Strategic Initiative**

## **Shark Aggregation Sites, Australia**

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

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

#### **Strategic Small Grant**



## Pamir Mountains, Tajikistan

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

### Main Grant for Securing or Managing Land

Area Secured: **87,700 ha**

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

## Soils for the future, Kenya

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

been applied successfully in northern Kenya, with first carbon credits due to be available late in 2019, as well as at a site in Mozambique.

### Strategic Small Grant

## Halcyon Land & Sea Learning Grant

Under the 2013-2017 Arcadia grant agreement we proposed to ring-fence one Strategic Small Grant per year, which could be applied to build capacity of either partners or FFI's own staff, in line with the aims of the fund. In 2013, an award was made towards the costs of developing a legal skills base within FFI's team. One of the technical specialists within FFI's REDD team was given the opportunity to complete legal training, partly supported by a Halcyon Learning Grant. Having this legal expertise in-house would have enabled FFI to be in a much stronger position with regard to framing FFI's legal engagement on both REDD+ forest protection initiatives and land purchase. Unfortunately, the recipient of these skills subsequently left FFI. The learning grant facility has since been discontinued.

### Strategic Small Grant



## Increasing Security for Borana Conservancy, Kenya

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

### Strategic Small Grant

**Area of Conservation Impact: 37,600 ha**

## Developing a New Approach to Conserving Rangelands, Australia

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

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

### Strategic Small Grant

## Greater Niassa Reserve, Mozambique

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

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



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

#### **Main Grant for Securing or Managing Land**

**Area Secured: 3,613,200 ha**

**Area of Conservation Impact: 3,613,200 ha**

## **Support to Blue Marine Foundation**

The Blue Marine Foundation (BLUE) was formed by the team behind the film 'The End of the Line' with the aim of becoming a new and innovative force for marine conservation with an agenda to develop large-scale marine protected areas. Halcyon Land & Sea provided two core grants to help establish the foundation, provide fundraising capacity and to underwrite the continued engagement of key staff. FFI also seconded a marine expert to assist in the strategic development of new and existing projects. The initial investment helped to leverage a US \$5 million grant from a private donor towards the management of the Chagos Marine Reserve. Without this investment it would not have been possible for the government to have finalised the declaration of this 54.5 million hectare area as a no-take zone. During BLUE's initial year, this grant also provided critical funds enabling the organisation to firmly establish itself and underpinning the operation of Fish2Fork, an innovative website that reviewed restaurants based on their approach to using sustainable seafood in order to bring about changes regarding the fish they serve and their sourcing and labelling policies. Fish2Fork now continues to operate effectively in partnership with the Marine Conservation Society's Good Fish Guide. BLUE reported that the seed funding provided by Halcyon was crucial in its nascent stage and helped establish the foundation for everything BLUE has achieved to date.

#### **Strategic Initiative**

**Area of Conservation Impact: 54,896,250 ha**

## **Yasquel Cloud Forest, Ecuador**

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

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

#### **Main Grant for Securing or Managing Land**

## **Valuing the Ustyurt Steppe, Uzbekistan**

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



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

### **Strategic Small Grant**

## **Kwakuchinja, Tanzania**

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

### **Main Grant for Securing or Managing Land**

## **Tongwe Forest Protection, Tanzania**

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

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

### **Strategic Small Grant**

**Area Secured: 18,300 ha**

**Area of Conservation Impact: 300,000 ha**

## **Ishaqbini Community Conservancy, Kenya**

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



This species has seen severe declines over recent decades as a result of over-hunting, disease, drought, habitat loss, and competition with livestock. The Ishaqbini Community Conservancy was established with customary and ancestral land rights but faced threats from local land rights disputes with incoming agriculturalist communities who were keen to convert land for shifting agriculture. Support from Halcyon Land & Sea in 2008 enabled a review of tenure rights and legal options and led to successful conflict resolution with the neighbouring agriculturalist community over future conservation management. By dealing with these inter-clan conflicts, security was improved, and anti-poaching operations were strengthened. In 2012, a 2,300 hectare hirola sanctuary was established by the Ishaqbini community and this now supports a significant number of these animals. Effective management, underpinned by strong community support, has enabled the hirola population in the sanctuary to grow at an average of 15-20% per year, and had reached 155 by 2020 (up from 48 in 2012); plans are now underway to extend the sanctuary.

#### **Strategic Small Grant**

**Area of Conservation Impact: 68,174 ha**

## **Sankuru Reserve, Democratic Republic of Congo**

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

#### **Strategic Initiative**

## **Cardamom Mountains, Cambodia**

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

#### **Strategic Initiative**

**Area Secured: 441,000 ha**

**Area of Conservation Impact: 570,000 ha**



## Estancia La Querencia, Patagonia

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

### Main Grant for Securing or Managing Land

Area Secured: **85,000 ha**

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

## Lekurruki Wildlife Conservancy, Kenya

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

### Main Grant for Securing or Managing Land

Area Secured: **1,584 ha**

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

## Burnett Mary Region, Australia

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

### Strategic Small Grant

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



## Cape Private Nature Reserves, South Africa

In 2006, a grant from Halcyon Land & Sea was used to test the feasibility of establishing a revolving fund for acquisition and conservation of private land in South Africa, as a basis for the strategic development of private nature reserves in South Africa. The resultant report outlined options for securing land under sustainable land management and for establishing a permanent covenant ensuring conservation use. Once secure, these conservation lands could again be sold, thus returning proceeds to the fund. The report has been widely circulated with conservation partners in the Western and Eastern Cape. Opportunities to promote conservation restrictions and easements to secure key areas are currently being applied through the Renosterveld project (see page 56).

### Strategic Small Grant

## Montado Do Areeiro, Madeira

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

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

### Main Grant for Securing or Managing Land

Area Secured: **310 ha**

Area of Conservation Impact: **310 ha**

## Nkuringo, Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda

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

### Main Grant for Securing or Managing Land

Area Secured: **420 ha**

Area of Conservation Impact: **620 ha**



## Conservation Incentives, South Africa

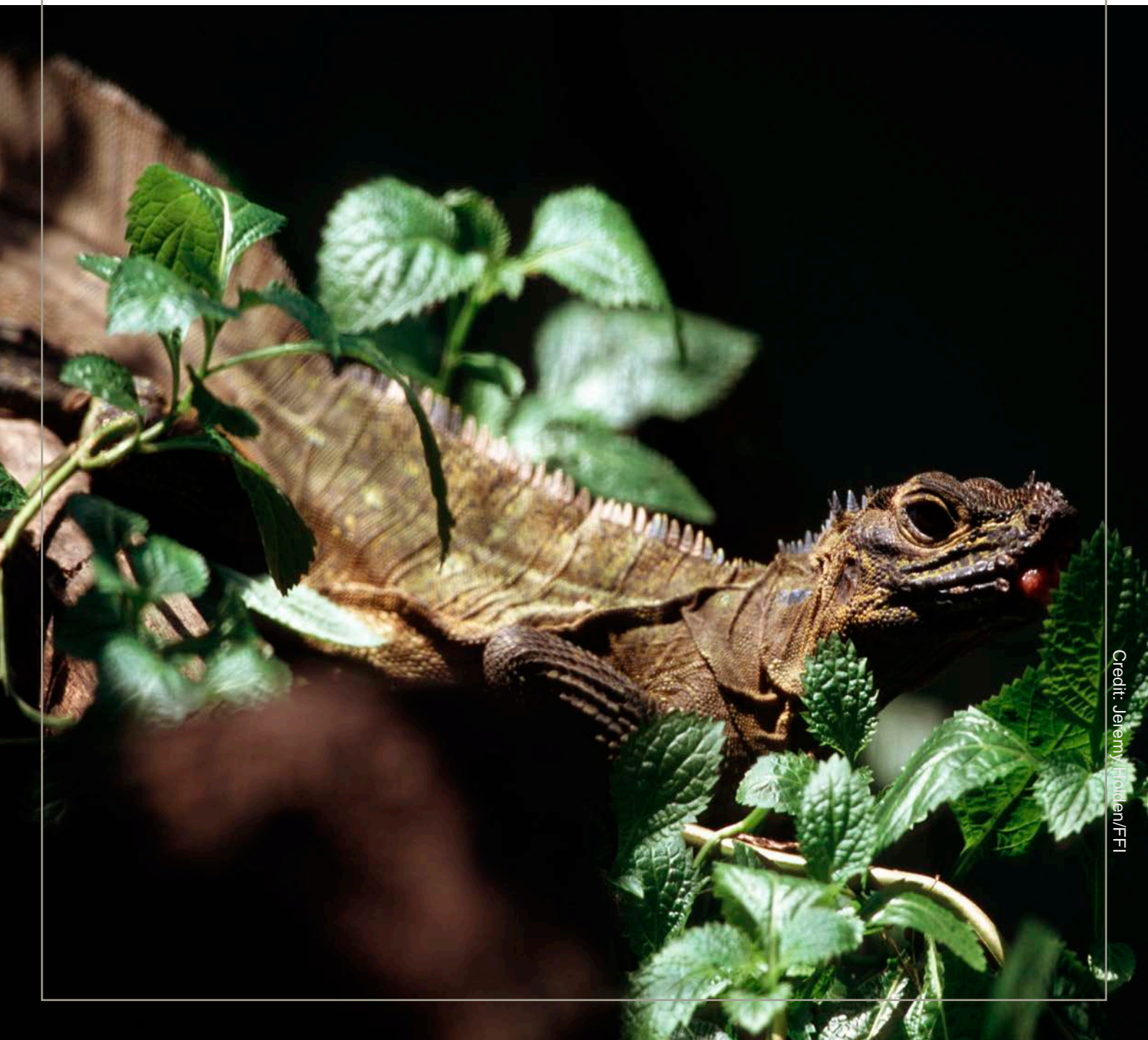
In 2006, prior to this project, the tax laws in South Africa encouraged the destruction of nature and led to the loss of priority fynbos land. A grant from Halcyon Land & Sea enabled a legal team to review laws influencing land use. As a result, legislation was changed and landowners now have greater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

### Strategic Small Grant

## Biodiversity Conservation Programme, Philippines

The Philippines has more endangered and critically endangered endemic species than anywhere else in the world, and the fragments of natural forest that support these unique species are under imminent threat. In 2003, Halcyon Land & Sea helped to create a plan to conserve some of these key areas. It proposed developing the institutional capacity of local NGOs to prepare, finance, implement and sustain their long-term conservation programmes.

### Strategic Small Grant





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

**Joey Cary-Elwes**  
Philanthropy Adviser

E: [joanna.cary-elwes@fauna-flora.org](mailto:joanna.cary-elwes@fauna-flora.org)



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

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