### ANNUAL REPORT





FAUNA & FLORA INTERNATIONAL

## Halcyon Land & Sea

2019

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## **Executive Summary**



### HALCYON LAND & SEA KEY STATISTICS



 Portfolio includes 55<sup>1</sup> projects across 26 countries



 Supported an additional 38 sites through the Rapid Response Facility



 Actively secured around 9.4 million hectares of critical habitat



• Directly contributed to the conservation of 61.6 million hectares (larger than Ukraine)

This report provides an update on all Halcyon Land & Sea projects supported since 1998, with a focus on activity in 2019.

Fauna & Flora International (FFI) is extremely grateful to Arcadia for the opportunity to undertake such strategic and long-term conservation. FFI are very grateful for Arcadia's support to Halcyon Land & Sea, and for the opportunity that this presents to increase FFI's conservation impact. We also appreciate Arcadia's investment into an external review of FFI's work in 2016, which provided an incredibly valuable opportunity to reflect on the progress, achievements, and approaches used in Halcyon Land & Sea and across FFI more widely. This opportunity for self-examination and reflection helped us to refine FFI's approach and focus. and as a result we have prioritised project consolidation, development of sustainability and improved dissemination of FFI's work. We continue to apply the learning we gained from this process to the operation of Halcyon Land & Sea.

Halcyon Land & Sea supported three new initiatives in 2019, but overwhelmingly focused on consolidating work at sites where we are already active.

### HIGHLIGHTS AND KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2019 INCLUDE:

- Three new projects received funding for the first time in 2019. These included a new initiative to secure a globally important karst cave system in Indonesia, support to a reserve in south-western Mozambique renowned for its high plant diversity, and a feasibility study investigating options for reestablishing landscape connectivity around Nairobi National Park in Kenya.
- In Mozambique we were successful (subject to final negotiations) in being awarded the concession adjacent to Chuilexi
   Conservancy; this will allow us to bring an additional 157,000 hectares under conservation management and will help to secure the northern border of Niassa. In addition, no elephants were poached at Chuilexi this year, demonstrating the success of the anti-poaching efforts that are now in place.



- Key milestones were achieved in the process of gazetting Tung Vai in Vietnam, whilst the longawaited gazettement of Imawbum National Park appears to be imminent in Myanmar.
- In South Sudan we were able to start reestablishing protection at a second game reserve, and are positioned to restart work in Southern National Park in 2020, now that the security situation has improved.
- A contract has been agreed to secure a key turtle nesting beach at Punta Venecia in Nicaragua, and in Kenya a draft easement has been developed and is being tested as a basis for securing priority conservation landscapes long term through this mechanism.
- Numbers of saiga antelope in the Ustyurt region of Kazakhstan rose again this year, with nearly 6,000 animals recorded, indicating that intensive protection efforts in this landscape are having an impact.
- Work at OI Pejeta Conservancy has expanded into a neighbouring ranch, and there is already evidence that lions are now re-establishing in this area. OI Pejeta Conservancy was also included in a global list of protected areas that show management excellence, and its Wildlife Conservation Technology Lab was formally launched in May 2019.

 The appointment of an expert in enterprise development to work alongside Halcyon Land & Sea projects has enabled us to step up the focus on sustainable financing in a number of FFI's projects this year.

#### SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES IN 2019 INCLUDE:

- The political unrest in Nicaragua continued to undermine efforts to protect the country's turtle nesting beaches. We did manage to actively protect the neighbouring leatherback turtle nesting beach, but no turtles returned to breed this year, which is a worrying sign regarding the health of the eastern Pacific population of this species.
- The decision of the Romanian government to take direct control of all Natura 2000 sites means that association Zarand lost the management rights to the Zarandul de Est site where we have been working since 2014.



### 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:

- 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 possible;
- 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 9.4 million hectares of critical habitat, and has directly contributed to the conservation of over 61.6 million hectares<sup>2</sup>, an area larger than Ukraine.

Halcyon Land & Sea sites are not only important in terms of the wildlife they protect – they also protect important stores of carbon that, if released, could contribute to global warming. Initial calculations made in 2007 indicated that the habitats and soils within the sites at that time had secured around 260 million tonnes of carbon. If key sites had been destroyed or degraded, up to 204 million tonnes of carbon dioxide could have been released – equivalent to 37% of the UK's annual CO2 emissions that year.

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



### **BUILDING CAPACITY**

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

### **EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES**

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

### 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.

### **2019 REPORT**

This year we have grouped projects by their stage of implementation, including:

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

Within each category, project reports are organised by the date of the most recent Halcyon funding. Projects are categorised by type (Main Grant for land acquisition or management, Strategic Initiative or Strategic Small Grant), and by habitat type, with a standard icon for easy reference. A general location map is also included for each site.

For each project, progress during 2019 is included under a separate heading, to ensure this is readily identifiable.

## New Projects

During 2019 Halcyon Land & Sea supported three new projects, in Indonesia, Mozambique and Kenya.



### Protecting the Maros karst system, Indonesia

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

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

We envisage a substantial investment from Halcyon Land & Sea into this landscape over the next two years, with the opportunity for substantial leveraged funds, to ensure that this area can be secured under legal protection and benefit from effective long-term management.

#### HABITAT



#### LOCATION



### AREA

AREA TO BE SECURED: 19,203 hectares

POTENTIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION IMPACT: 139,438 hectares



### Securing the protection of Chimanimani, Mozambique

The Chimanimani National Reserve in Mozambique borders Zimbabwe and is part of a wider transfrontier conservation area. The area includes a montane massif rising to nearly 2,500 metres (Mount Binga), with rugged scenery and diverse habitats, including montane forests and grasslands. Chimanimani has long been known by biologists as an area of exceptional biodiversity, with high levels of plant endemism including many species used in traditional herbal medicine. Over 1,000 plant species have been recorded, including heathers, aloes, euphorbias, ferns and orchids. It supports Mozambique's highest recorded bird diversity along with a range of mammals, including leopard, klipspringer, duikers, and elephants. A biodiversity survey conducted by FFI in 2018 confirmed the global value of the Chimanimani National Reserve.

Chimanimani faces threats from ongoing land use change (agriculture and mining) and erosion of the buffer zone for small-scale subsistence agriculture, which is supporting a growing local population due to people returning to the area after Mozambique's civil war. The completion of a new road has recently opened up this area for development. Expansion of agricultural and forest plantations have increased the use of natural forest areas by local populations, thereby increasing deforestation rates also within the reserve's boundaries. There have also been increases in poaching and uncontrolled wildfires, in part caused by people using fire to flush out wildlife. Widespread goldpanning conducted in the reserve is resulting in destruction of stream banks and stream beds, and heavy metal pollution - mercury is used in the gold extraction process. Invasive plant species also pose a problem across portions of the reserve, requiring active habitat management. There is an urgent need for active conservation action to avoid the permanent loss and degradation of this site and its rare and globally important biodiversity.

The site has been identified as a priority for World Bank support, but their funding is conditional on the involvement of an international co-management partner to provide technical assistance. FFI has been asked to play this role, and thus FFI's engagement in this project will secure substantial leveraged funding by releasing this World Bank investment.

As a first step, FFI will be supporting the development of a high-quality, participatory and inclusive management plan for Chimanimani to guide further management efforts, along with introducing effective monitoring of wildlife and of the reserve's impact on local people. In addition, FFI will support a re-designation process to convert Chimanimani to National Park status (as the National Reserve designation is being discontinued in Mozambique).

### HABITAT



#### LOCATION



### AREA

AREA TO BE SECURED: 66,000 hectares

POTENTIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION IMPACT: 409,100 hectares



### Securing Swara Plains and wildlife dispersal areas for Nairobi National Park, Kenya

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. It was also home to the second largest wildlife migration in the region.

Much of the wider dispersal area has been lost to settlement, agriculture, urbanisation and industrial development, and the wildlife populations of Nairobi National Park are much depleted. However, pockets of natural habitat remain outside the park, including a privately owned ranch -Swara Plains. The owner of this ranch is keen to secure it under long-term conservation management by creating a conservancy. Building on this opportunity, there is a wider vision to bring Swara Plains and several neighbouring ranches under conservation management and to create a corridor to re-establish seasonal movement of wildlife between Nairobi National Park and wider areas, potentially linking through to Amboseli National Park.

Funding from Halcyon Land & Sea supported a scoping project to assess the viability of this opportunity and to support the owner of Swara Plains in developing his ideas for a wildlife conservancy. This showed that the establishment of a conservancy at Swara Plains would be relatively straightforward and that a level of migration meant animals were still reaching these lands from Nairobi National Park. The study also found that a number of adjoining properties could be managed in ways that would be conducive for wildlife; however, it concluded that recent land changes made it extremely unlikely that any viable larger scale landscape corridor could be established.

### HABITAT



### LOCATION



### AREA

AREA TO BE SECURED: 6,475 hectares

POTENTIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION IMPACT: 36,000 hectares

# Active Projects

These are projects that received ongoing or consolidation finance from Halcyon Land & Sea in 2019.



### Securing key karst forests in northern Vietnam

#### MAIN GRANT (LAND ACQUISITION AND/OR MANAGEMENT)

### BACKGROUND

The Khau Ca Species and Habitat Conservation Area and the proposed Tung Vai Watershed Protection Forest cover some 5,000 hectares of high biodiversity limestone karst forest 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 snubnosed money. The forests had limited active management prior to this project, and were affected by logging, hunting and unchecked expansion of cardamom cultivation. The project will put in place effective management for the existing protected area, will bring an additional site under formal protection and will improve connectivity in the landscape. Sustainable livelihoods will also be developed for local people, including more sustainable approaches to cardamom production.

### **2019 UPDATE**

Work continued to protect and secure the core forests of Khau Ca Species and Habitat Conservation Area, working with the protected area authority and involving community-based forest patrolling and monitoring (using SMART -Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool technology). As a result, there is evidence that illegal logging reduced over the last year. In parallel, the project has focused on a "corridor" between the core forest and the neighbouring Du Gia Nature Reserve which was under threat from conversion for agriculture and human settlement. The threats in this area have now been managed, and by working closely with local communities, a plan has been outlined for future land use and zoning, which will maintain forest connectivity without negatively affecting local livelihoods. Populations of Tonkin snub-nosed monkey at the site increased to c. 150 individuals (a 24% increase from the 2016 baseline).

### HABITAT



### LOCATION



### AREA

AREA SECURED: 5,000 hectares

AREA OF CONSERVATION IMPACT: 25,000 hectares

Significant progress has been made in the gazettement process for Tung Vai, with baseline surveys and community consultations now completed. Site management and on-ground protection has also been improved with the construction of two new ranger stations, which will support patrols by community conservation teams. No hunting of key species was recorded and no new areas were cleared for cardamom cultivation this year, however extensive existing cultivation remains a key threat at this site. Strategies are being tested to make cardamom growing more sustainable, including testing of new fuel-efficient ovens for cardamom drying, which would reduce wood use by 50-60%, a key driver of local deforestation. Baseline biodiversity surveys have revealed the presence of over 100 bird species,

42 mammal species (including threatened slender and pygmy lorises and a population of 20 to 40 Tonkin snub-nosed monkeys), endemic reptiles and amphibians and many rare plants (including critically endangered trees such as Magnolia grandis). Only 250 individuals of this tree are thought to survive, and work is underway to reinforce this population through planting seedlings grown in local nurseries.

The project is already considering routes to financial sustainability. The Forest Protection Department has now agreed to contribute around 25% of the costs of community patrols and the project is exploring future eco-tourism opportunities.



### MAIN GRANT (LAND ACQUISITION AND/OR MANAGEMENT)

### BACKGROUND

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

### ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

Forest connectivity within this landscape has been maintained through strategic land purchase and managed restoration of habitats at key 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.
Working with a local partner – Association Zarand – 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.

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 (a key underpinning of the mosaic landscape and high biodiversity values), strengthening cultural heritage, diversifying local livelihoods, and reducing human-wildlife conflict (for example through the erection of fences and provision of sheepdogs to prevent crop raiding and livestock killing). 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.

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

### HABITAT



### LOCATION



### AREA

AREA SECURED: 547 hectares<sup>3</sup>

AREA OF CONSERVATION IMPACT: 734,935 hectares

### **2019 UPDATE**

The combination of purchasing and restoring land, facilitating coexistence between large carnivores and people, anti-poaching patrols, training and raising awareness of landscape-scale conservation have continued to improve connectivity across the Zarand landscape. The lands purchased for conservation remain under active management. According to recent spatial analysis, habitat restoration of abandoned farmland in the corridor bottleneck, including removal of non-native species and tree planting, is improving ecological connectivity. A recent business plan looking at the financial sustainability of these areas has recommended the development of willow coppicing for biofuel. A new management plan for the Vorta forest will prevent intensive timber extraction and will enable the project to apply for subsidies as a long-term income source. The project also promoted harmonisation of conservation outcomes within forestry management plans and contributed to best practice management guidelines, with the Ministry of Environment committing to promote conservation harmonisation in future.

Work by rangers and the Gendarmerie to facilitate coexistence between people and carnivores continues to reduce carnivore-related damage and subsequent retaliatory poaching. The use of electric fences and sheepdogs have 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.

A significant challenge for the project this year was the decision of the Romanian government to assume direct control of all Natura 2000 sites. This meant that Association Zarand lost its management role for Zarandul de Est. It is not clear whether this change will undermine the conservation status of the site, which has been maintained effectively by the project over the last five years. The project produced a management plan and a monitoring baseline for the site, which will support its future management. An additional threat this year has been the development of a road improvement scheme that poses threats to connectivity in the North Eastern section of the Corridor. This will be challenged through the implementation of Regional Species Action Plans for bear and wolf recently finalised by the project.

Association Zarand and its partnership with FFI have faced a number of challenges over recent years, including a significant reduction in its staff base. A partnership review late in 2018 confirmed an ongoing role for FFI support, with Association Zarand continuing to lead the community development and sustainable livelihoods components of the project.





# Protecting Chuilexi Conservancy and securing the neighbouring concession (R5), Mozambique

MAIN GRANT (LAND ACQUISITION AND/OR MANAGEMENT)

### BACKGROUND

Niassa National Reserve (see page 53) is a significant biodiversity priority; a wilderness for wildlife that is also under immense threat. Following ten years of support up until 2012, Halcyon Land & Sea funding was deployed towards a new strategy of developing a highly protected 'core zone' for wildlife within the reserve. By targeting a core area with the highest wildlife densities and taking over direct management of the concessions in this area, we are able to put in place much stronger controls than are feasible across the whole reserve. This approach acts as a backstop for, and complements, the wider reserve management policies, as well as providing a refuge for key species during the recent upsurge in poaching.

Chuilexi Conservancy has been built from scratch since then. The area now covered by Chuilexi Conservancy experienced widespread biodiversity decline prior to 2013, including extensive elephant poaching, snaring, and illegal logging. Since then, and in under four years, Chuilexi had reversed this trend, by establishing the infrastructure, effective logistics, good equipment and personnel on the ground that are needed for strong conservation management. In addition, in contrast to some other concessions, staff are present all-year round and its leadership is skilled and experienced. By late 2018, Chuilexi was employing 124 staff, including 62 rangers, had purchased vehicles and an aircraft, and had established an effective infrastructural base, including a well-equipped headquarters, six outposts, water sources, communications, nine airstrips, and 855km of permanent and seasonal roads such as bridges over key rivers.

### ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

Three adjoining concessions within Niassa were secured in 2013 as the newly established Chuilexi Conservancy, covering 586,800 hectares (14% of Niassa Reserve).

### HABITAT



### LOCATION



### AREA

AREA SECURED: 586,800 ha

AREA TO BE SECURED: 157,000 ha

AREA OF CONSERVATION IMPACT: 586,800 ha

ANTICIPATED TOTAL AREA OF CONSERVATION IMPACT: 733,800 ha

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 antipoaching efforts have been improved. Work with local communities (for which Chuilexi is a significant employer) is also paying off.

A survey in 2018 showed strong support for Chuilexi among local populations (76% of those consulted supported Chuilexi and conservation initiatives, 70% of households reported increased food security following fencing, and 22% reported an increase in income or product values within the last year). This local support will be key for Chuilexi's long term success.

In 2018 work started to secure a key but vacant concession (R5) adjacent to Chuilexi in order to secure the northern border into Tanzania (a key route for international poachers to cross into Niassa and Chuilexi). This would bring a further 1,570km2 of key wildlife habitat (supporting elephant, lion, wild dog and ground pangolin) under effective management. The plan was for management of this site to be integrated into Chuilexi, which would create an important buffer for Chuilexi from external poaching threats.

### **2019 UPDATE**

The contract for the neighbouring concession (R5) has been secured, subject to final negotiations. This will help to secure the northern edge of the conservancy, where the Rovuma River borders Tanzania and will bring an additional 1,570km2 under conservation management.

Continued and effective anti-poaching efforts have seen security maintained at Chuilexi, with limited numbers of incursions and no elephants poached

during 2019. In parallel, high-level support to increase security across Niassa (see page 53) has reinforced the efforts of Chuilexi's ranger force. Adoption of technology to "live track" vehicles and patrol teams from Chuilexi and neighbouring concessions has enabled effective coordination of responses to any illegal activities encountered. This is particularly important for Chuilexi, as it faces high threats of incursions due to the difficulties of protecting the river border with Tanzania. Patrols have focused more intensely on this area over the last three years. Work is now underway to improve monitoring protocols to strengthen evidence of the impact that management of the area is having on wildlife and the condition of the environment over time.

Collaboration with neighbouring concessions remains strong, with daily contact between them maintained and co-ordinated engagement with the Niassa Reserve Administration. Chuilexi maintains robust communications with the Reserve Administration (run jointly by the National Administration for Conservation Areas (ANAC) and the Wildlife Conservation Society), and has engaged in the development of a proposed joint programme of work on community engagement. In addition, Chuilexi has been engaged in wider discussions about a Niassa-Selous wildlife corridor, to link conservation across a wide area of southern Tanzania and northern Mozambigue. With the expansion into R5, Chuilexi will have the greatest responsibility for protecting the international border of Niassa, and thus work with partners in Tanzania and further along the Rovuma River in Mozambique will become ever more important.

This year significant focus was given to developing options for future sustainable financing of the conservancy. These include the development of commercial honey production, which financial modelling suggests could be a significant contributor to operational costs within six years. There was further work to define the 'tourism product' that Chuilexi could offer, and potential donor and/or investor finance is being explored based on a 'professional guiding' model whereby established guides attract their client base to destinations. In addition, work is underway to test whether improved fire management of miombo woodlands in Chuilexi could be used to generate carbon credits in future.



### Southern National Park and adjoining game reserves, South Sudan

MAIN GRANT (LAND ACQUISITION AND/OR MANAGEMENT)

### BACKGROUND

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

### ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

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

### HABITAT



### LOCATION



### AREA

AREA SECURED: 43,000 hectares

POTENTIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION IMPACT: 743,000 hectares<sup>4</sup>

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 outbreak of conflict in December 2013, the subsequent civil war in parts of South Sudan, and the ongoing deterioration of security across the country limited options for effective engagement on the ground, which resulted in a refocus of the project's operations.

The maintenance of FFI's programme of work in Western Equatoria (albeit at reduced levels) demonstrated a commitment to the area at a time when other programmes and government activities were reduced or no longer functioning, which has further strengthened FFI's credibility with FFI's partners in-country.

Since 2017, operations focused on improved management and protection of Bire Kpatuos Game Reserve, the one project site that remained safely accessible. The boundary of this site has been properly demarcated for the first time since its gazettement in the 1920s, and the ranger point has been relocated to a more strategic position. Standard operating protocols are in place for patrolling and management, and work is underway to strengthen data collection and ranger-led monitoring. On the ground reserve management has been strengthened through training and resource provision. A better relationship between the park and local populations has also been achieved through the establishment of a team of Community Wildlife Ambassadors who patrol the reserve with the Wildlife Service Rangers. This collaborative model remains unique in South Sudan and creates an unusual example of government-civilian cooperation alongside a general national context of mistrust. Although evidence of the current habitat and biodiversity status of the forest is not yet available, protected area regulations are now well respected by local communities and the presence of rangers deters poachers from further afield from targeting Bire Kpatuos. Without ongoing patrolling, it is likely that these forest habitats and their wildlife would have been significantly degraded and denuded.

### **2019 UPDATE**

Building on the successful engagement at Bire Kpatuos Game Reserve, this year the team were able to offer similar support to the Bangangai Game Reserve. The project team has started a process of community-led boundary establishment, and has successfully established regular patrolling of the reserve by both Wildlife Service Rangers and 14 newly recruited Community Wildlife Ambassadors. Work continues to improve data collection as a basis for future monitoring of wildlife and to establish how the project is delivering better protection for the sites. The FFI team continues to provide significant investment into training for the formal and community rangers, with a wide range of topics covered to support effective wildlife protection. The generic training was adapted to ensure that rangers could implement context-specific laws, such as how to support displaced people passing through the area and how to mitigate the spread of Ebola.

The project aim is to ensure full community support for the game reserves. Work this year focused on understanding more about the local population (through focused surveys) and developing relevant livelihood opportunities for these remote communities. These have included agricultural extension support, development of a fishpond, and provision of equipment to allow new livelihoods to be developed. Due to the dire financial situation in South Sudan, both Game Reserves are fully dependent on FFI support for their continued operation. FFI is now expanding its support back to Southern National Park.



### Sera Wildlife Conservancy, Kenya

#### MAIN GRANT (LAND ACQUISITION AND/OR MANAGEMENT)

### 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 NRT and the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy to establish the Sera Community Conservancy and secure 51,000 ha of the Sera wildlands (33,000 ha of core area plus a buffer zone of 18,000 ha).

### ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

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

During 2014, Kenya's first ever communitymanaged 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 15 black rhino and is also being used to secure populations of other key species including beisa oryx.

Tourism operations and other enterprises (see page 37) have started to deliver income streams for both conservancy operations and communities.

### **2019 UPDATE**

The Sera rhino sanctuary helps to secure 16 rhinos, along with a range of other wildlife species, and is being used as a site to release hand-raised elephant calves, allowing them to be re-integrated into wild herds. Security at Sera was maintained in 2019 with no poaching incidents, and income from tourism continued to support both conservancy operations and community development. Work started in 2019 on a new ten-year Sanctuary Management and Development Strategy. A further Halcyon award to Sera Conservancy in 2019 provided support to better understand impacts of the conservancy on the local community with the aim of ensuring they benefit fairly from its operation and maintain their support for the conservation work. This will inform the development of a framework for the conservancy's sustainability.

### HABITAT



### LOCATION



### AREA

AREA SECURED: 339,336 hectares

AREA OF CONSERVATION IMPACT: 339,336 hectares



### **Rapid Response Facility**

### STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

### BACKGROUND

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

### ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

The fund remains unique in its speed of response: decisions are made within eight days, meaning that funds can be made available within a couple of weeks from the receipt of an application. A legacy report looking at the impact of the fund was produced in 2014. Since 2005 the facility has provided 46 grants, which have supported efforts to protect 39 sites.

### HABITAT



LOCATION GLOBAL

### AREA

AREA OF CONSERVATION IMPACT: 30,934,891 hectares

### **2019 UPDATE**

Two grants were awarded in 2019:

- Mount Kenya National Park, Kenya emergency support to tackle fires. Fires on Mount Kenya are a regular (biannual) occurrence, but the size, number, and severity varies from year to year depending on weather conditions, and changes in global climate are making these more severe. In March 2019 over 100 forest fires were reported, destroying over 20,000 hectares of habitat. The Rapid Response Facility was approached for funding when more fires were igniting in various regions around the mountain and rain was not expected for several weeks. Funding supported daily checks and the use of helicopters and planes to release water in order to contain the fires. Over 400 people worked to try to prevent the spread of the fires, and the much-needed air support was vital at this critical time. The park management are now planning to follow up with construction of a large-scale fire break and development of an elite firefighting team
- Bale Mountains National Park, Ethiopia development of effective fire-fighting and fire prevention capacity. Bale Mountains is a centre for biodiversity and endemism and is home to the largest global populations of Endangered Ethiopian wolves. In recent years, hotter extended dry seasons and changes in land use have resulted in larger and more damaging wildfires. The 2019 dry season fires burned significant areas of critical habitats, including in the Harenna forest - the largest natural forest in Ethiopia. A grant in July 2019 supported the development of a more rapid, effective and safe fire response for the park, including training for key personnel from Bale National Park, and awareness raising for communities to reduce their use of fire and to build their capacity in fire management through development of local fire committees.

In addition, efforts were made with UNESCO during 2019 to secure other donors to maintain and increase the scope of the Rapid Response Facility going forward.



## **Ongoing Projects**

These are projects that FFI is still actively supporting and engaged with, but without additional funding from Halcyon Land & Sea in 2019.

### Punta Venecia, Nicaragua

### STRATEGIC SMALL GRANT

### BACKGROUND

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

### ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

The rights to the land in question are held by a local businessman who allows 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. Legal advice commissioned by the project identified three

potential avenues for securing Punta Venecia, including (i) a 25 to 90 year extension of the existing rent-free loan arrangement; (ii) a multiparty covenant over the land, making explicit the municipal authority's commitment to securing the site for turtle conservation; and (iii) a legal document transferring the rights and fiscal obligations for the land from the landowner to FFI, or another environmental institution.

### **2019 UPDATE**

A series of meetings between the different parties involved during 2019 resulted in the development of a bilateral "usufruct" contract between the landowner and FFI, which legally gives FFI the right to use and decide how to use the land (which will be restricted to conservation and research). The contract has undergone full legal review is now ready for signing.

In the interim, the land at Punta Venecia has still been managed for conservation under a short-term agreement between FFI and the landowner whereby the property is used for FFI's turtle conservation project. Hawksbill turtle monitoring and protection activities continued throughout the 2019 nesting season (April – November). FFI's long-term monitoring data provides evidence that more than 90% of hawksbill turtles and their nests are now protected at this site, where otherwise nearly 100% of eggs would be poached.

### HABITAT



### LOCATION



### AREA

AREA SECURED: 28 hectares

AREA OF CONSERVATION IMPACT: 9,200 hectares



### Golden Stream Corridor Preserve, Southern Belize

#### MAIN GRANT (LAND ACQUISITION AND/OR MANAGEMENT)

### BACKGROUND

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

### ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

Between 1998 and 2004, Halcyon Land & Sea purchased 6,057 ha at Golden Stream, a strategic intervention which has effectively protected the entire Golden Stream Watershed (from the Mayan mountains to the coast). Coordinated management and strategic planning now contribute to the conservation of a landscape area of over 113,000 ha. Monitoring of forest cover and biodiversity within Golden Stream has demonstrated that indicators of forest health, and species abundance and diversity, are higher within the protected lands than in surrounding areas. Golden Stream still supports all five of Belize's wild cat species, along with a recovering population of howler monkeys.

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

Ya'axché also operates a sustainable livelihood programme for local communities, which has involved horticulture, beekeeping and cacao production projects. The Ya'axché Protected Areas Management Programme has run courses and training for rangers to continue to professionalise and integrate new techniques for protected areas. A commercial arm of Ya'axché (the Ya'axche Institute for Conservation and Education) was established in 2015 and plans for its ecotourism programme were developed 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.

### HABITAT



### LOCATION



### AREA

AREA SECURED: 6,057 hectares

AREA OF CONSERVATION IMPACT: 113,237 hectares

### **2019 UPDATE**

Ya'axché continued to actively manage the three protected areas for which they are responsible, with nearly 1,500 patrols conducted across Golden Stream, Bladen and Maya Mountain North ensuring consistent and effective protection. Rangers received ongoing training and biodiversity surveys continued across the reserves, including extensive camera trapping in Maya Mountain North. A number of research projects were undertaken, for example, to study native bee diversity, understand sustainable limits to offtake for leaves used in traditional thatching, and assess the status and recovery potential for rosewood in the reserves. Ya'axché continued to promote community livelihood activities, to ensure local people receive benefits from the reserves, including agroforestry and beekeeping.

FFI has continued ongoing mentoring of Ya'axché by developing effective monitoring and evaluation approaches and a new financial strategy. Mentoring has also supported business plan development for the Ya'axché Institute for Conservation and Education, including suggesting ways to improve its contribution to the organisation's financial sustainability.





### Applying conservation easements in Laikipia, Kenya

#### STRATEGIC SMALL GRANT

### BACKGROUND

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

### **2019 UPDATE**

The main output so far has been a draft easement, reviewed by Kenyan lawyers, which has been used as a basis for important discussions with land owners about potential conservation easements under the new Kenyan Wildlife Act. FFI is now working closely with several landholders to explore using this tool as precedent in the Kenyan wildlife sector. This now offers a mechanism for securing long-term conservation management, however such mechanisms require time for negotiation, financial arrangements (including to manage the potential liability created for the easement holder) and legal processes. The work is also being supported by significant in-kind contributions from Kenyan lawyers. If and when this easement option is applied, large areas of land could be involved and thus the conservation impact could be huge.

#### HABITAT



### LOCATION





### Belize protected area legislation

STRATEGIC SMALL GRANT

### 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), and 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 well-being 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.

### **2019 UPDATE**

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. In support of this work, FFI's in-house lawyer reviewed the National Protected Areas System legislation and provided advice. Recommendations included the need to align proposed private protected area commitments with those already in-place for co-management when NGOs take on management of State-owned protected areas.

### HABITAT



### LOCATION



### AREA

POTENTIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION IMPACT: 1,150,000 hectares



### Târnava Mare grasslands, Romania

#### MAIN GRANT (LAND ACQUISITION AND/OR MANAGEMENT)

### BACKGROUND

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

purchasing these sites. The project aims to secure these highly biodiverse sites to prevent their inappropriate management or destruction.

### ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

Key areas of grassland biodiversity, including several movile sites, have been purchased and given to a local partner NGO (ADEPT) to own and manage in perpetuity. Purchasing the land has protected it from being ploughed, intensively grazed, burned, or exposed to substrate extraction. The sites are actively managed through appropriate grazing and mowing regimes to maintain their biodiversity value. Initial assessments by a botanist have already demonstrated encouraging signs of grassland recovery as a result of ongoing improvements in management regimes. In addition, these sites are eligible for EU subsidies and have started to generate income. It is anticipated that once all planned purchases are made, this will generate sufficient funding to cover 50% of ADEPT's running costs.

### HABITAT



### LOCATION



### AREA

AREA SECURED: 239 hectares

AREA OF CONSERVATION IMPACT: 1,500,000 hectares Given the risk posed by land abandonment to the biodiversity of the wider landscape, which is dependent on active management, ADEPT works with members of local communities to create jobs and livelihoods that will keep local smallholdings under traditional management. These include enterprises that add value to local produce (such as a range of local produce marketed under the Târnava Mare brand) and the promotion of tourism enterprises and ventures (such as a mountain biking route and associated race) to bring new tourists to this region. In 2017 <u>ADEPT's initiative</u> won a European Cultural Tourism Network award.

### **2019 UPDATE**

A further land purchase was completed in 2019 (a site called Saes). The purchase and management of the land has secured important high nature value areas and prevented them from being agriculturally intensified or destroyed. The risk that these valuable areas would otherwise face was exemplified this year, when a neighbouring site was ploughed and seeded with maize. Land

management on the secured sites has been changed to reduce hard grazing of meadows and pastures by sheep, by instead introducing rotational grazing with cattle. The status of grassland habitat condition and species mix is measurably improving under this new management regime. Income from agricultural subsidy and calf sales in 2019 is estimated at around half of ADEPT's running costs. The abandoned school at Angofa farm has been developed as an education and tourist centre and hosted its first group of students this year. It is expected to start contributing an income stream in future years.

The support given over the last ten years to build ADEPT's capacity has also been fundamental to their receipt of recent core funding (from the Sigrid Rausing Trust). This, along with the subsidy and production income, will cover ADEPT's core financial needs in 2019 and 2020. This enables the organisation to continue delivering its robust conservation and community programme, which is essential for the conservation of this important cultural landscape and the globally important grassland habitats within it.



### MAIN GRANT (LAND ACQUISITION AND/OR MANAGEMENT)

### BACKGROUND

Renosterveld represents a specific type of speciesrich fynbos heathland only found in the South African Cape. Botanical surveys have revealed additional rare and new plant species in these botanically-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 as a result of 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 declared 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 some 550 plant and 125 bird species, including some plant species new to science. Active management of the site has been initiated, including controlled burning, which is an important aspect of fynbos ecology, releasing a spectacular flowering across a wide range of characteristic renosterveld plant species. A management plan has been developed and adopted for the site, along with a business plan outlining how the site might generate sustainable conservation finance through tourism.

Innovative conservation easements have secured two key areas of renosterveld, together covering some 928 hectares that represent important examples for encouraging other conservation easements for fynbos habitats in the region. Plans to create a "fynbos corridor" to link this area to conservation areas in the wider Agulhas National Park continue to be developed through targeted easements.

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

### **2019 UPDATE**

Further conservation easements are being targeted for protection, under a landscape conservation plan, to develop interlinked clusters and corridors of renosterveld and other fynbos vegetation. Ongoing management ensures continued threats to these sites are avoided and has led to maintenance and improvement of the condition of the habitats and species, as demonstrated by ongoing conservation research.

### HABITAT



### LOCATION



### AREA

AREA SECURED: 2,130 hectares

AREA OF CONSERVATION IMPACT: 2,130 hectares



### Implementing carbon finance for Aceh's forests, Indonesia

### STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

### BACKGROUND

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.

### ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

In 2007, FFI started working with the Government of Aceh to develop a pilot REDD project for the forests of Ulu Masen, and subsequently the project refocused 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.

### HABITAT



### LOCATION



### AREA

AREA SECURED: 11,281 hectares

AREA OF CONSERVATION IMPACT: 738,000 hectares Community tenure and management rights were secured for over 10,000 ha of forest, and illegal logging was tackled around the Ulu Masen ecosystem (738,000 ha) and at a wider provincial level (3.5 million ha). 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 ha 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.

### **2019 UPDATE**

Four village forests now receive local government funding to maintain community ranger patrols, community forest enterprise and wildlife conflict mitigation (one more village than last year), and work is underway to develop village forest management plans for an additional four sites. This year three of the village forests worked with police to address illegal gold mining in their areas. 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.



### Awacachi Corridor, Ecuador

#### MAIN GRANT (LAND ACQUISITION AND/OR MANAGEMENT)

### BACKGROUND

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

### ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

Around 11,500 ha of highly threatened Chocó forest were purchased to create a biological corridor between two existing reserves, preventing its conversion to oil palm plantations and maintaining connectivity over a landscape of 354,000 ha. 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 ha 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. Further grants in 2013 and 2014 addressed the emerging threat of gold mining and focused on the future sustainability of the corridor. The local managing partner (Fundación Sirua) was able to overturn the claims of a governmentbacked mining group for rights to mine within the corridor, while alternative, long-term management opportunities for the Awacachi Corridor were explored. In

2018, Awacachi received formal designation as part of a Municipal Watershed reserve. Despite ongoing threats, Awacachi remains an area of global biological value, as one of the last remnants of Chocó forest at the southern end of its distribution in Ecuador, and it continues to provide connectivity between the Cotacachi Cayapas and Awá reserves. However, the ongoing security challenges mean that the status of biodiversity in the corridor is not currently known.

### **2019 UPDATE**

The Awacachi corridor is now formally included in a newly declared Municipal Area for Conservation and Sustainable Use (for the local town of San Lorenzo). However, ongoing weaknesses in Fundacion Sirua's institutional capacity mean that its management of the corridor is very limited, and its future is increasingly uncertain. Discussions are underway with another local organisation (Jocotoco) that may take on the management of the corridor. Three rangers are still active in patrolling the reserve. However, this limited manpower - combined with Fundacion Sirua's institutional weaknesses - leave the corridor verv open to infractions as the rangers struggle to impose sanctions on illegal activities. As a result, there is a high risk of degradation of forests and biodiversity within the corridor. There is no current information on the status of the corridor, but it is hoped that aerial surveys can be undertaken in the near future to establish the extent of any land clearance or degradation. However, overall the corridor does still persist at a landscape level, and thus it is hoped that it continues to play a key role in maintaining ecological connectivity.

### HABITAT



#### LOCATION



### AREA

AREA SECURED: 12,489 hectares

AREA OF CONSERVATION IMPACT: 354,000 hectares


### Northern Rangelands Trust, Kenya

MAIN GRANT (LAND ACQUISITION AND/OR MANAGEMENT)

#### 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 reestablished a wildlife landscape of approximately 4.2 million ha from Mount Kenya to the Mathews Range and beyond. Within these conservancies. communities have autonomy of management and apply their own norms and rules, retaining ownership of conservation. The conservancies also provide a way for the communities to address wider issues, such as rangeland and livestock management and inter-clan conflict resolution, and to develop new income streams from tourism and other nature-based enterprises. In addition, with support from Halcyon Land & Sea and FFI, NRT itself has developed into a functional and fully independent organisation.

#### ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

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

#### HABITAT



#### LOCATION



#### AREA

AREA SECURED: 3,859,080 hectares<sup>6</sup>

AREA OF CONSERVATION IMPACT: 3,859,080 hectares<sup>8</sup> Over 750 community rangers, working with Kenya Wildlife Service, county governments, and Kenya Police, have effectively increased security in NRT areas, playing a vital role in protecting wildlife, people and property. Results from NRT's Conservancy Management Monitoring System have shown improved conservation and protection of species and habitats, with individual conservancies reporting increased incidence of wild dog, giraffe, elephant and lions, and the return of species such as eland to areas from which they had previously disappeared. In addition, records of illegal killing of elephants in NRT conservancies have dropped since 2012.

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

NRT's capacity in delivering biodiversity management has continued to strengthen over the period of FFI's support, resulting in improving rangelands, increasing wildlife population trends, and successful species recovery projects. NRT has continued to develop its organisational and technical capacity and is largely independent, forging partnerships with donors, government, international organisations, and NGOs without support. NRT has since raised significant funding independently. 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.

#### 2019 UPDATE

Community-led protection was maintained across all 39 NRT conservancies, with regular patrols by community rangers in collaboration with wildlife service staff. Anti-poaching operations, conservation awareness, wildlife monitoring and endangered species recovery programmes are all having an impact in terms of stabilising key species populations. Surveys across NRT conservancies show that most key wildlife species have either been stable or increasing over the last five years, and importantly the populations of key predators (lions, cheetahs and wild dogs) have stabilised. Security across the conservancies remains high, with reduced wildlife poaching and inter-clan conflict, such as banditry. During 2019, FFI continued to provide NRT with technical support and strategic and governance guidance through FFI's place on the NRT board.



# Halcyon Climate Change Initiative

#### STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

#### BACKGROUND

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

#### ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

Halcyon Land & Sea supported work that (i) developed a methodology to assess carbon stored within Halcyon Land & Sea sites, and to estimate avoided emissions as a result of this protection (this learning was then applied to assess the carbon stored in other land holdings); (ii) assessed the potential for Reduced Emissions from avoided 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 (nonforest) carbon markets, including markets based around grassland carbon, and so-called 'blue carbon' in marine habitats; and (iv) developed tools to undertake climate risk assessment and climate foresight planning for Halcyon Land & Sea

and other FFI sites, which resulted in a project that undertook climate adaptation planning for sites in agricultural landscapes with a publicly disseminated tool and case studies. Bespoke 'climate foresight planning' has now been conducted for a range of FFI projects, particularly those identified as being within high risk regions for climate change, such as Central Asia, Central America and South East Asia. Work to increase climate resilience in one site in Nicaragua showed that the farms we had been supporting suffered less impacts 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.

#### **2019 UPDATE**

Building on the initial investment made by Halcyon, FFI continues to build climate change considerations into projects across its portfolio wherever possible. An internal workshop in 2019 enabled us to develop a clearer strategy to take this forward, which resulted in the development of plans for a dedicated Climate Change Officer for the organisation. FFI also reviewed ocean and climate change inter-relationships this year, and fed into two government workshops on this issue, and shared experiences with colleagues in CCI on FFI's work on climate adaptation, through a CCI Collaborative Fund project. We also fed climate information into planning for a number of internal projects.

#### HABITAT





# Kachin Highlands, Myanmar

#### STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

#### BACKGROUND

The highly biodiverse forests of north-east Kachin State, which lies on Myanmar's Himalayan border with China, support a wide range of biodiversity, including a newly discovered primate species, the Myanmar snub-nosed monkey, considered to be critically endangered due to its small population size and limited distribution. Surveys revealed a number of immediate threats to the region's forests, including destructive logging by Chinese timber companies, leading to severe habitat degradation. Species within these forests were subject to hunting both for local use and for the wildlife trade to China. One of the greatest threats to these forests was the proposed development of hydro-power projects that would result in the inmigration 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 snubnosed 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.





AREA SECURED: 156,300 hectares

AREA OF CONSERVATION IMPACT: 400,000 hectares As a result of a high-level forest sector reform workshop in Myanmar (organised in response to the data the project had collected on illegal logging), the government announced a log export ban, starting in 2014, which has helped to prevent further Chinese logging in the Kachin highlands. In parallel, the FFI team developed a Community Protected Area with local villages within the proposed core zone of the new national park, and a series of 36 village conservation groups were established, along with two community patrol groups. By 2017, surveys showed reduced human disturbance to these forests following the cessation of illegal logging. The protection of the forest has been maintained through the action of the village patrol groups, and FFI has continued to invest in the operation of these groups through the provision of training, raising awareness, supporting village meetings, and the provision of grants to support livelihood activities.

The final processes to enable gazettement of Imawbum National Park have been concluded, including a biodiversity report of the Imawbum area and a full public consultation.

#### **2019 UPDATE**

A change in the law during 2018 saw the need for further high-level approvals prior to cabinet approval of the park, which we are still awaiting, although we have recently heard that approval may be received before the end of 2019. The Ministry of Agriculture requested some further evidencing of the park boundaries, which confirmed no overlap with agricultural areas. In parallel, the project team has maintained engagement with local communities and monitoring of the forests with camera traps to provide data on species presence and levels of disturbance. Plus, a tree survey was conducted during 2019 and confirmed the presence of a number of threatened species.





### Emergency response for saiga antelopes, Kazakhstan

STRATEGIC SMALL GRANT

#### BACKGROUND

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

#### 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 animalfriendly gaps, thus enabling the continued crossborder migration of saiga and other wildlife. The project also put in place eight sniffer dogs that patrol key points along the Kazakhstan border in order to reduce illegal wildlife trade in saiga horn. Anti-poaching operations have resulted in the detention of poachers, and aerial surveys have shown year-on year increases in saiga numbers, with the population increasing from 2,700 to 3,700 individuals between 2017 and 2018.

#### HABITAT



#### LOCATION



#### AREA

AREA OF CONSERVATION IMPACT: 6,394,800 hectares The initial funding from Halcyon was crucial to improve protection of this site, as it provided FFI and FFI's partner with the resources to effectively build 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.

#### **2019 UPDATE**

The rangers continued regular monitoring of the area (over 99,000km2 – larger than the area of Scotland) over the course of 2019 and received training to help further improve their skills, in particular their use of technology. Relationships with local communities also strengthened over the year, with evidence of communities

increasingly sharing key information. FFI continued to support work both on the ground and with relevant government agencies to ensure their ongoing support for activities that reduce the illegal trade in saiga and other species, such as supporting a dedicated dog unit to detect smuggled horns. Aerial surveys showed that the saiga population increased again in 2019 to 5,900 individuals, up 60% from last year. While evidence of cause and effect is not conclusive, there is a strong likelihood that the introduction of the NGOmanaged ranger team in 2017 is acting as an effective deterrent to poachers and is contributing to an increase in saiga numbers in the project site. Regular monitoring and patrolling of the habitat also help avert wider threats, including fire and infrastructure development.





### Chacocente Wildlife Refuge, Nicaragua

#### MAIN GRANT (LAND ACQUISITION AND/OR MANAGEMENT)

#### BACKGROUND

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

#### ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

In 2001, Halcyon Land & Sea bought 8 ha 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 comanagement by the community and other stakeholders at this site. This then helped to leverage a project from the Global Environment Facility, to support effective management of the area by both private (landowners) and public (local community) stakeholders.

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

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

#### HABITAT



#### LOCATION



#### AREA

AREA SECURED: 8 hectares

AREA OF CONSERVATION IMPACT: 4,800 hectares<sup>7</sup>

#### **2019 UPDATE**

As a result of the wider political situation, it has proved increasingly challenging to support the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources to manage the Rio Escalante-Chacocente Wildlife Refuge over the past year, and the Chacocente collaborative management committee, which brought the park staff and community members together, remains suspended due to government restrictions on any public meetings. The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources no longer accepts financial or technical support from FFI for their ranger teams operating during the mass nesting season (July to January), and nesting data for the last two seasons at this site have not been published so we are unable to ascertain the impact on turtle nesting at this site. FFI staff were able to maintain protection activities at the neighbouring 'Veracruz de Acayo' beach, a leatherback nesting site. Nightly patrols were conducted, and a hatchery was built, however zero nesting activity was recorded during the season (November 2018-April 2019), a worrying indication of the continuing decline of the Eastern Pacific leatherback population.





# Ol Pejeta Conservancy, Kenya

#### MAIN GRANT (LAND ACQUISITION AND/OR MANAGEMENT)

#### 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 secure and protect the conservancy's wildlife, provide a sanctuary for great apes, and generate income through wildlife tourism, to be reinvested in conservation and community development. The project is a joint programme between Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, FFI, and the Arcus Foundation.

#### ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

OI Pejeta was purchased and transferred to a Kenyan non-profit entity (OI Pejeta Conservancy) under a long-term management agreement. OI Pejeta Conservancy also manages two neighbouring ranches that provide connectivity to the wider Laikipia landscape, covering an additional 32,388 ha. In 2006, 27 eastern black rhinos were translocated to OI 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 OI Pejeta in the hope that natural conditions would encourage them to breed.

#### HABITAT



#### LOCATION



#### AREA

AREA SECURED: 37,000 hectares

AREA OF CONSERVATION IMPACT: 150,000 hectares 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 breeding.

Security at OI 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, OI Pejeta now hosts East Africa's largest population of endangered black rhinos, which makes up 16% of Kenya's population. OI Pejeta rangers have also increased security for surrounding villages, created a solid network of intelligence sources, and built strong relations with surrounding communities.

Ol Pejeta is one of the only conservancies in Kenya able to meet all its own operating costs through sustainable, commercially generated revenues, primarily tourism and agriculture. More than 100,000 tourists visited in 2019, of which 50% were Kenyans. Given its earnings, Ol Pejeta also has the capacity to also provide financial assistance to support people living within the neighbouring communities and is also positioning itself as an engine for sustainable conservation and economic development at a landscape scale.

#### **2019 UPDATE**

This year the rhino population grew further to reach 132 individuals (from 86 in 2011), and there have been no poaching incidents for two years. The annual census shows a stable wildlife system, with growing populations of prey species and recovery of wild canids, which have previously been affected by disease. OI Pejeta Conservancy has been listed on the IUCN Green List of Protected Areas Management Excellence for demonstrating long-term positive impact. A range of new technologies are now being employed to support effective rhino surveillance and monitoring, creating a single, integrated, real-time, visualized operational platform, and OI Pejeta's Wildlife Conservation Technology Lab was formally launched in May 2019. Super-fast broadband and innovative SMS technologies are all being employed to deliver effective conservation and community engagement.

The neighbouring 8,000 ha Mutara Conservation Area, just to the north of OI Pejeta, is now also being actively managed for wildlife conservation. Since the rhino population has now exceeded OI Pejeta's carrying capacity for the species, a further dispersal area is now needed. Co-finance has supported work to secure this habitat for rhino and other endangered wildlife, and to improve water resource and rangeland management. As a result of action to reduce illegal grazing at Mutara, there has been significant grassland recovery. whilst management of water and rangeland and the introduction of conservation agriculture are securing both wildlife habitat and local livelihoods. Lions have already taken up residence in the area, which is a good indicator that the area provides potential habitat for wildlife dispersal.

In addition, efforts to secure the future of the northern white rhino have been given new hope, with successful in-vitro fertilisation resulting in two embryos being successfully matured and fertilised.



# 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.

# Strengthening Forest Management in Saint Lucia

STRATEGIC SMALL GRANT

#### BACKGROUND

Saint Lucia is noted for its extraordinarily high levels of endemicity 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 ha, or more than one third of Saint Lucia's land area, and these 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.

#### 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. The plan has helped the Forestry Department to develop and plan a series of new conservation projects, which will leverage at least US \$5million of conservation funding over the next four to five years. Subsequently, delivery of the new strategy has led to improvements in the management of Saint Lucia's protected area and its biodiversity. Additional areas have been brought under conservation management, especially the dry forests (a highly threatened forest type that was previously barely represented in the Forest Reserve network) for which a new 5,000 ha reserve is now planned.

#### HABITAT



#### LOCATION



#### AREA

AREA OF CONSERVATION IMPACT: 30,000 hectares The plan also boosted performance and staff morale, convinced the wider government and other stakeholders that the Forestry Department (and the forests it manages) plays a significant role for the wellbeing and economic development of the whole country, as well as enabled the department to clearly articulate its priorities when funding opportunities arise. Lessons learned from the project were published (<u>open access</u>) in Parks the journal of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas.

#### **2019 UPDATE**

The Saint Lucia Forestry Department is continuing to implement its new Management Plan nationwide, and leveraged funding is flowing into new forestry and biodiversity initiatives as a result, for example the Government recently secured funding from the Global Environment Facility to safeguard dry forests in south-eastern Saint Lucia as a direct outcome of the Management Plan and priorities identified therein. The concession scheme, established as a result of the Halcyon project, has proved successful in both freeing up Forestry staff time and in enabling local communities to benefit from tourism revenue, by allowing private sector partners to manage tourism activities, such as forest trails. FFI supported the Forestry Department to develop a new in-house training programme for its staff in 2019, and continued to provide technical support to several priority, species-focused projects, including on endemic trees and reptiles, and are jointly developing plans for a "mainland island" (a predator and pest-proof reserve). FFI has also been asked by the St Vincent & the Grenadines Forestry Department to develop a similar strategic plan, replicating the innovative methods used by the Halcyon project in Saint Lucia.





### Pamir Mountains Initiative, Tajikistan

#### MAIN GRANT (LAND ACQUISITION AND/OR MANAGEMENT)

#### BACKGROUND

Zorkul Lake Reserve represents an area of 87,700 ha of high montane habitat (4,000 - 6,000m) 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.

#### ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

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 provided fuel and maintenance for the patrol vehicles and ensured that reserve staff could access the reserve regularly, whereas in 2010 (and previously) they were unable to visit the reserve at all. The ranger station at the reserve's western entrance was renovated and refurnished, and boundary signs were erected. The presence of a functioning ranger station has provided a key deterrent for potential poachers who might previously have hunted in the reserve. 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.

#### **2019 UPDATE**

The Reserve continues to operate, although with limited government funding, and continues to collect monitoring data on key species. A new and dynamic reserve director was appointed in 2019.

#### HABITAT



#### LOCATION



#### AREA

AREA SECURED: 87,700 hectares

AREA OF CONSERVATION IMPACT: 457,700 hectares



### Increasing Security for Borana Conservancy, Kenya

STRATEGIC SMALL GRANT

#### BACKGROUND

Borana Conservancy extends over 12,950 ha 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. The aim was to create a much larger wildlife area by removing the fence separating the adjoining Lewa Wildlife Conservancy once the rhinos became established. Funding was requested from Halcyon Land & Sea to increase infrastructure and protection at Borana Conservancy before the rhino introduction could proceed.

#### ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

In 2012, Halcyon Land & Sea provided a Strategic Small Grant to help Borana Conservancy increase its security operations, to enable the conservancy to monitor and protect the introduced black rhino against the backdrop of escalating rhino poaching across East Africa. Specifically, digital radios with GPS capability were purchased and extensive training in anti-poaching techniques was provided for scouts by an external security firm, including advanced military-style techniques, enabling the creation of a dedicated anti-poaching team. 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 ha 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.

#### **2019 UPDATE**

Daily monitoring and surveillance of rhinos, based on individual identification by the rangers, continued during 2019. Between four and six ranger teams were deployed every night throughout the year, with a standby team based at headquarters. The rhino population at the Conservancy continued to grow, although we do not yet have a final figure of births during 2019.

#### HABITAT



#### LOCATION



#### AREA

POTENTIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION IMPACT: 37,600 hectares



### Greater Niassa Reserve, Mozambique

#### MAIN GRANT (LAND ACQUISITION AND/OR MANAGEMENT)

#### BACKGROUND

The Niassa Reserve, a pristine wilderness of 4.2million ha (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. 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, and subsequently the Wildlife Conservation Society have worked with the government to co-manage the reserve, building on and consolidating FFI's previous support and planning.

#### ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

Biannual aerial surveys showed that over the decade of FFI support (2002-2012), populations of most wildlife species stabilised and grew.

#### HABITAT



#### LOCATION



#### AREA

AREA SECURED: 3,613,200 hectares<sup>8</sup> AREA OF CONSERVATION IMPACT: 3,613,200 hectares Although poaching pressures increased in and around the reserve since 2012, resulting in worrying declines in some key species, the fact that Niassa remains protected 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 and following conversations with different members of the Mozambique government, 60 members of the Mozambican Special Forces were deployed across Niassa to make up the shortfall in reserve rangers. Their presence has had a significant impact on poaching levels across the Reserve, with a 73% reduction in poaching against the same period in 2017.

#### **2019 UPDATE**

The high-level (Presidential) commitment to Niassa that was garnered in 2018 has helped maintain strong security in the reserve. Work has continued to establish an integrated management and governance structure for the reserve (led by the Mozambique government and with the Wildlife Conservation Society), which FFI has fed into. FFI also worked with the Wildlife Conservation Society and other concessions to develop collaborative fundraising proposals and maintained a strong relationship with the National Administration for Conservation Areas (ANAC). The run up to elections has slowed progress in agreeing a longterm governance structure for Niassa but work on this will resume in 2020.



# Support to BLUE Marine Foundation

#### STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

#### BACKGROUND

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.

#### ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

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 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 ha area as a no-take zone. During BLUE's initial vear, 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.

"Halcyon Land & Sea provided Blue Marine Foundation (BLUE) with seed funding in 2011; this funding was crucial to BLUE in its nascent stage and helped establish the foundation for everything BLUE has achieved to date."

#### **2019 UPDATE**

In the last year, BLUE has made strong progress towards its mission of improving the health of marine ecosystems by creating marine reserves, establishing models of sustainable fishing and restoring marine habitats. BLUE has challenged the UK Government to increase its ambition for ocean protection and to secure marine protected areas in the UK Overseas Territories, including the protection of all of the waters around Ascension Island. BLUE is also developing a model of sustainable inshore fisheries at Lyme Bay resulting in evidence of biodiversity enhancement, seeding oyster bed recovery, promoting the development of marine National Parks in the UK with an initial focus off the coast of Plymouth, and supporting the effective protection of the marine protected area declared around St Helena in 2016.

#### HABITAT





#### AREA

AREA OF CONSERVATION IMPACT: 54,896,250 hectares<sup>10</sup>



# Iberian Lynx Programme, Southern Portugal

#### MAIN GRANT (LAND ACQUISITION AND/OR MANAGEMENT)

#### 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.

#### HABITAT



#### LOCATION



#### AREA

AREA SECURED: 18,154 hectares

AREA OF CONSERVATION IMPACT: 20,050 hectares

#### 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 for strategically positioned areas of lynx habitat, which were then managed for the recovery of rabbit populations. In January 2010, a lynx was formally recorded in one of the target areas, the first verified evidence of lynx in Portugal since 2001. The lynx programme enabled LPN to actively campaign for the government to promote lynx reintroduction. The work also 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. By 2015, captive-bred lynx were being released within Portugal (37 have been released to date), re-emphasising the importance of the 'lynx habitat corridor' that this project worked to create. Portugal now has a population of around 60 adult lynx and more than 45 lynx cubs have since been born in the wild.

#### **2019 UPDATE**

LPN continue to engage in lynx work across the project area, including conducting ongoing monitoring activities, although camera traps placed at potential lynx den sites have now been removed after a number of thefts. Some further rabbit translocation work has been planned and will be implemented in 2020. Monitoring has showed that natural vegetation within the corridor areas is generally recovering with differences evident in habitats within and outside the corridors. Aerial drone footage clearly shows the role of the corridors within the surrounding landscape. Thirteen management agreements are still active, and relationships have been being maintained with most of the landowners that the programme has previously worked with. LPN received an Endangered Landscapes Programme Project Planning Grant in 2019, which will design a new large-scale landscape project for the lynx region.



# Using REDD to Protect Forests, Vietnam

#### STRATEGIC SMALL GRANT

#### BACKGROUND

The biodiversity of Vietnam is exceptional, most of which is associated with the country's 12.9 million ha 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, vellow-cheeked gibbon and the endemic chestnuteared 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 avoided 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.

#### 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 project in the forests of Kon Tum Province. As a result of this work, the Hieu Commune REDD

project was established to create a direct link between healthy forests and improved well-being 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 communityled forest management. The project expanded in 2017, following the discovery of the world's second largest population of grey-shanked douc langurs in a nearby area, which supports 30-50% of the global population of this endemic and critically endangered primate. FFI began work to establish a new protected area to protect the langurs, taking a landscape approach that links the forests of Hieu Commune (underpinned by carbon payments), and surrounding village forests (whose watershed values could release other Payments for Ecosystem Services) around a core zone that supports the langurs and other important biodiversity.

The entire programme of work in Kon Tum Province can be traced directly back to the initial support from Halcyon in 2010. This is now one of FFI Vietnam's most important sites, in which we have the vision and finance for a landscape-level intervention that includes a new protected area at its core, which will protect one of the most important and strategic forests outside of Vietnam's current protected areas network.

#### HABITAT



#### LOCATION



#### AREA

AREA SECURED: 1,238 hectares

AREA OF CONSERVATION IMPACT: 65,000 hectares

#### **2019 UPDATE**

The final stages of completing the REDD development project were completed in 2019, including submission of the final project document for verification of carbon credits, tenure agreements and monitoring plans. Carbon credits are expected to produce revenues for the communities in 2020. The project has already demonstrated a measurable decline in forest degradation from the initial project development phase. The overall security of the site, and its biodiversity, remain largely the same, although species monitoring results are limited at present. An innovative, collaborative model has been developed for integrated monitoring of REDD and other similar forest finance and conservation schemes and can be adapted for national and international use (this was co-financed by the EU REDD Facility and the European Forestry Institute).





### **Tongwe Forest Protection, Tanzania**

#### STRATEGIC SMALL GRANT

#### BACKGROUND

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 are planned in the region, including on a large strip of land running through the Tongwe tribal area.

#### ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

In 2009, Halcyon Land & Sea provided a grant to help the Tongwe Trust (now renamed as the Tongwe Foundation) to establish the Ntakata Village Land Forest Reserve, thus securing the largest and most intact forest in Tongweland. To achieve this, 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 (with snare numbers reduced to around 5% of those in 2013). Sightings of flagship wildlife species, including chimpanzees, buffalos and monkeys, have increased.

#### **2019 UPDATE**

The forest reserve remains secure under active conservation management. Tourism is starting to provide a small income stream and 12 community members retain employment as a result of the project. However, the financial sustainability of the Tongwe Foundation causes ongoing concern as it depends heavily on donors and partners for both financial and technical support and has a limited financial support base. In addition, whilst wildlife in the forest is secure, it faces increasing threats because neighbouring forest blocks are not under active conservation.

#### HABITAT



#### LOCATION



#### AREA

AREA SECURED: 18,300 hectares

AREA OF CONSERVATION IMPACT: 300,000 hectares



### Ishaqbini Community Conservancy, Kenya

#### STRATEGIC SMALL GRANT

#### BACKGROUND

The Ishagbini Community Conservancy was established to protect savannah grasslands alongside the Tana River in north-eastern Kenya and supports one of the most important populations of the critically endangered hirola antelope (up to 62% of its global population). This species had seen severe declines over recent decades as a result of over-hunting, disease, drought, habitat loss, and competition with livestock. Ishaqbini also supports populations of African wild dog, reticulated giraffe, lesser kudu, gerenuk, lion, leopard and desert warthog. 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. The complex land tenure in this region undermined the ability of the community to prevent encroachment into the conservancy, undertake anti-poaching activities and develop proposed ecotourism operations.

to successful conflict resolution with the neighbouring agriculturist community over future conservation management. By dealing with these inter-clan conflicts, security was improved, and anti-poaching operations were strengthened. Scouts from the two conservancies work collaboratively, and plans are underway for a joint venture tourism operation to benefit both communities. In 2012, the 2,300 ha hirola sanctuary was established by the Ishaqbini community, 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.

#### **2019 UPDATE**

The number of hirola in the sanctuary had increased to 137 by mid-2019. Work continued to improve the quality of grassland within the sanctuary, including active clearance of invasive scrub, whilst a clear management plan and active patrolling maintained the security of both the sanctuary and the wider conservancy.

#### ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

Support from Halcyon Land & Sea in 2008 enabled a review of tenure rights and legal options and led

#### HABITAT



#### LOCATION



#### AREA

AREA OF CONSERVATION IMPACT: 68,174 hectares

# Cristalino State Park, Brazil

#### MAIN GRANT (LAND ACQUISITION AND/OR MANAGEMENT)

#### BACKGROUND

The highly biodiverse forests of north-east 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 whitewhiskered 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 ha 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 ha of buffer zone forest and created two private nature reserves which are manged 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.

#### HABITAT



#### LOCATION



#### AREA

AREA SECURED: 6,476 hectares

AREA OF CONSERVATION IMPACT: 184,000 hectares 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.

#### **2019 UPDATE**

The sites remained under active protection in 2019, and no incursions or wildfires occurred, despite the wider risks of fires across the Amazon this year. There were year-round patrols and a ranger remains permanently based in the northern section of the reserve where there is no regular tourism presence. Tourism levels have been maintained at the reserves, despite the challenging market context this year. Work continues to complete the registration of one final plot of land.





# Flower Valley, South Africa

#### MAIN GRANT (LAND ACQUISITION AND/OR MANAGEMENT)

#### BACKGROUND

The Cape Floristic region is one of the world's six botanical kingdoms and is the most botanically 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 ha of nearpristine fynbos flower-rich heathland on the Agulhas Plain of South Africa. This site was otherwise threatened with conversion into a vineyard.

#### ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

FFI and its local partner, the Flower Valley Conservation Trust (FVCT), created a project linking biodiversity conservation with community development. For the first time, wild fynbos flowers could be harvested sustainably under a new code of practice that ensured effective habitat regeneration. Sales of fynbos products to local and international supermarket outlets proved successful, and local people were offered year-round employment under ethical conditions. This success made the project a model for other farms in the Cape Floristic region. Between 2000 and 2002, Halcyon Land & Sea also helped to purchase Witkrans and Witvoetskloof (two areas of lowland fynbos neighbouring Flower Valley), saving them from agricultural conversion. 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. Witvoetskloof has now been incorporated into the neighbouring Grootbos Nature Reserve and is used as in joint tourism venture between FVCT and Grootbos. A 'Fynbos Trail' was established in 2012 as a three-day walking experience through Witvoetskloof, Grootbos, and the Flower Valley farm, providing overnight stops at each site, creating a regular income stream for FVCT.

#### HABITAT



#### LOCATION



AREA

AREA SECURED: 3,607 hectares

AREA OF CONSERVATION IMPACT: 270,000 hectares

#### **2019 UPDATE**

The sites purchased through this project remain under long-term conservation management (some also under conservation easements) and are managed by local agencies. Active land management includes ongoing clearance of invasive species to allow large-scale recovery of this habitat. A new initiative has been developed to put some associated areas under Protected Environment status to ensure long-term conservation management is legally enshrined, even if ownership or governance changes in future. To consolidate the areas secured over the past 15 years, there are plans to create a fynbos landscape corridor between the Agulhas National Park and the Walker Bay Conservancy. Over the past two years, FVCT has continued to experience chronic cash flow constraints, in part as a result of uncertainty over the timing of large government grants, but changes in organisational management have helped improve the financial planning for the organisation. FFI has continued to provide institutional and technical support, primarily through membership on the board of trustees.





### Montado Do Areeiro, Madeira

#### MAIN GRANT (LAND ACQUISITION AND/OR MANAGEMENT)

#### BACKGROUND

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.

#### ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

In 2004, Halcyon Land & Sea secured 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. Wardens regularly collect data on Zino's petrel during the breeding season; rats and cats continue to be managed using targeted poison and traps, 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.

#### **2019 UPDATE**

Surveys have found 30 chicks so far this nesting season, an increase on previous years, which suggests slow but steady population recovery. However, threats have also increased this year following changes to government policy which resulted in a decline in the control of invasive cats, and the consequent loss of at least seven adult birds during the critical nesting period.

The Instituto das Florestas e Conservação da Natureza (the park management authority) continue their efforts to control invasive rats and clear invasive broom from breeding ledges – a time consuming exercise that requires experienced climbers to abseil down the mountainsides. Research into the petrels continues, including work to track the movements of seven birds with GPS loggers.

#### HABITAT



# LOCATION



#### AREA

AREA SECURED: 310 hectares

AREA OF CONSERVATION IMPACT: 310 hectares



### Nkuringo, Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda

#### MAIN GRANT (LAND ACQUISITION AND/OR MANAGEMENT)

#### BACKGROUND

Bwindi Impenetrable National Park in Uganda is home to the critically endangered mountain gorilla. In 2003, Halcyon Land & Sea helped to buy a 12kilometre 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.

#### ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

Following community agreement, over 230 landowners were individually paid for parcels of land. A 200m strip (240 ha) of the land purchased, just next to the park boundary, was added to the park. The remainder (180 ha) is managed as a buffer zone and held by the Nkuringo Community Conservation Development Foundation. This organisation 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 gorillafriendly livelihood options to be developed, such as growing fodder for cattle to reduce the extent of grazing lands required and using various techniques to prevent 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, uses local produce, and the profits of which are accrued directly by the community. The buffer zone has been effective in both reducing human-wildlife conflict by reducing crop-raiding, and in creating novel livelihoods such as tea plantations. Attitudes towards gorillas have improved significantly and the persecution of gorillas and loss of livelihoods through cropraiding are no longer significant issues. The establishment of the Nkuringo buffer zone is being looked at as a model for similar initiatives. 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.

#### HABITAT



#### LOCATION



#### AREA

AREA SECURED: 420 hectares

AREA OF CONSERVATION IMPACT: 620 hectares

#### **2019 UPDATE**

Surveys have been conducted to better understand the potential for conservation to negatively impact livelihoods and wellbeing, and to identify potential remedial actions to maintain strong community relationships and ensure human-gorilla conflict remains low. Further training in human-gorilla conflict management was provided, and mobilebased technology has been developed to support these efforts in the field. Samples obtained during the recent mountain gorilla census are being used to map the genetic relationships within the population. Wider survey data collected over recent years is also being used to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of protection efforts. The latest biodiversity data demonstrates that the site remains secure for a range of key species.



# In Summary

# HALCYON LAND & SEA 2018-2023

Under the current Arcadia grant, FFI is working to ensure that key areas of threatened, biodiverse natural habitat are brought under effective longterm management in ways that are sustainable for the site and associated human communities. The following outcomes are anticipated:

- Key areas of critical habitat that would otherwise be lost or degraded are protected by securing, managing and ensuring local support for these sites. We aim to provide and/or maintain support to at least 12 sites (including existing areas) and grow the portfolio by 15-20%.
- These areas are supported to achieve effective and sustainable management systems (as evidenced by indicators of reduced threats, and in time biodiversity stabilisation and/or recovery) alongside evidence of long-term investment in human resources, capacity and infrastructure, and the development of long-term funding streams.
- In-country partner organisations are effective and sustainable as a basis for long-term conservation delivery, with evidence demonstrating their working increasingly independently, and in time sourcing their own income streams.

- Communities that are local to project sites are engaged, bought-in and take ownership for the projects, based on approaches that respect local people's rights and identify how conservation projects can benefit biodiversity, human needs and economic returns. The evidence of success will be seen in terms of conflict reduction, increased local support and/or improvements to local wellbeing as a result of projects.
- A clear sustainability plan is identified for each Halcyon site, be it market-based, state or philanthropic support, recognising that different sites will have different needs and require unique solutions, and that business-based models are not always likely to succeed.
- Greater attention on the assessment of the learning gained through Halcyon over the last 19 years and this information is disseminated effectively both internally and externally, with an average of around two learning documents produced each year (at least 12 in total).
- FFI has the necessary core and financial underpinnings, with adequate internal support systems, technical support and risk management, to allow it to absorb and effective apply larger scales of funding.





# CONCLUSION

The substantial and continued support provided by Arcadia since 1998 toward FFI's Halcyon Land & Sea fund has underpinned all of the significant achievements that the fund has made to date, as detailed in this report, and explored in more detail in the recent review commissioned by Arcadia. We are tremendously grateful to the Donor Board and Advisors of Arcadia for this opportunity to carry out long-term conservation. Thank you.

# 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

#### STRATEGIC SMALL GRANT

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 ha 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 ha. 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. 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

# Namibia scoping, Namibia

#### STRATEGIC SMALL GRANT

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, but failed to proceed. Other project ideas in Namibia continue to be explored but have been put on hold due to the illness of a key FFI staff member. 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.

Area to be secured: 18,000 hectares Potential area of conservation impact: 56,000 hectares
# Protecting the 'Google Forest' of Mount Mabu, Mozambique

#### STRATEGIC SMALL GRANT

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 ha 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.

#### Potential area of conservation impact:

7,900 hectares

## Shark Aggregation Sites, Australia

#### STRATEGIC SMALL GRANT

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.



# Soils for the Future, Kenya

### STRATEGIC SMALL GRANT

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.

## Halcyon Land & Sea Learning Grant

#### STRATEGIC SMALL 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.

# Developing a New Approach to Conserving Rangelands, Australia

#### STRATEGIC SMALL GRANT

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.

Potential area of conservation impact: 7,244,634 hectares

## Yasquel Cloud Forest, Ecuador

#### STRATEGIC SMALL GRANT

Yasquel is an area of 4,000 ha 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 Pichinchectares 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.

Potential area of conservation impact: 4,000 hectares

# Valuing the Ustyurt Steppe, Uzbekistan

### STRATEGIC SMALL GRANT

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 potentially 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 ha) 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.

## Kwakuchinja, Tanzania

#### MAIN GRANT (LAND ACQUISITION AND/OR MANAGEMENT)

The 2,500 ha 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 ha. Of the nine wildlife routes historically emanating from Tarangire, four have 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.

#### Potential area of conservation impact:

15,800 hectares

# Sankuru Reserve, Democratic Republic Of Congo

### STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

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.

# Cardamom Mountains, Cambodia

### STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

The 570,000 ha 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 ha 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.

Area Secured: 441,000 hectares Potential area of conservation impact: 570,000 hectares

# Estancia La Querencia, Patagonia

#### MAIN GRANT (LAND ACQUISITION AND/OR MANAGEMENT)

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.

#### Area Secured: 85,000 hectares

Area of conservation impact: 85,000 hectares

### Lekurruki Wildlife Conservancy, Kenya

#### MAIN GRANT (LAND ACQUISITION AND/OR MANAGEMENT)

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.

Area Secured: 1,584 hectares Area of conservation impact: 11,950 hectares

## Burnett Mary Region, Australia

### STRATEGIC SMALL GRANT

The Burnett Mary region covers approximately 5.6 million ha of land, around four 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 ha per year, resulting in fragmentation and loss of remnant habitats. It was also threatened by alien species, fires and increased salinity. In 2009, Halcvon Land & Sea funding supported the successful nomination of the Great Sandy Biosphere (1.24 million ha) 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.

Area Secured: 9,000,000 hectares

### Cape Private Nature Reserves, South Africa

#### STRATEGIC SMALL GRANT

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 64).





### **Conservation Incentives, South Africa**

### STRATEGIC SMALL GRANT

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.

## **Biodiversity Conservation Programme, Philippines**

### STRATEGIC SMALL GRANT

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.

# HALCYON LAND & SEA - PARTNERS

#### ACRE

ADEPT

African Wildlife Foundation

Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan (ACBK)

Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association, Myanmar

Borana Conservancy

**BLUE Marine Foundation** 

Burnett Mary Regional Group

Department of Environment & Resource Management,

Queensland

Department of Forestry, Government of Vietnam

Cristalino Ecological Foundation

Flower Valley Conservation Trust

Forest Department, Government of Myanmar

Forest Protection Department, Vietnam

Fundación Sirua

Government of Aceh

Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI)

Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature

Ishaqbini Community Conservancy

Justiça Ambiental (JA!)

Lekerruki Community Conservancy

Lewa Wildlife Conservancy

Liga Para A Protecção Da Natureza

MARENA

Ministry of Environment, Cambodia

Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries and Sustainable Development, Belize

Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism, South Sudan

National Administration for Conservation Areas (ANAC), Mozambique

Nkuringo Conservation Development Foundation

Northern Rangelands Trust

OI Pejeta Conservancy

**Overberg Lowlands Conservation Trust** 

Parque Natural da Madeira

Regional Natural Resources Conservation Agency (BBKSDA) – South Sulawesi

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Saint Lucia Forestry Department

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** 

Uganda Wildlife Authority

UNESCO

University of Queensland

WWF-South Africa

Ya'axché Conservation Trust

Zarand Association

Zorkul Zapovednik Management Authority

# FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Another donor to Halcyon Land & Sea chose to support four additional marine projects, but these are also listed as part of the Arcadia Marine Programme. They are not reported here, but are instead reported as part of the Arcadia Marine Report. The finance from Halcyon Land & Sea has not been included in any report of co- financing for these projects.

<sup>2</sup> This does not include the Chagos marine reserve; Halcyon Land & Sea funding provided to BLUE Foundation helped to secure this area, covering some 54.5 million hectares.

<sup>3</sup>This has reduced by 20,315 hectares due to loss of management of the Zarandul de Est Natura 2000 site.

<sup>4</sup>Anticipated area of impact once activities reestablished at Southern National Park

<sup>5</sup>Excludes area of conservancies reported elsewhere.

<sup>6</sup>Excludes area of conservancies reported elsewhere.

<sup>7</sup>The project also acts to protect some 11,100 hectares of important marine habitat, but this is reported separately in the Arcadia marine initiative report.

<sup>8</sup>Does not include area of Chuilexi Conservancy, as this is reported elsewhere.

<sup>9</sup>Does not include any of the funding leveraged for Turneffe Atoll which is instead reported in the Arcadia Marine Programme report.

<sup>10</sup>Not included in Halcyon Land & Sea area calculations



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

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