



Protecting Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

photo: Joshua Asel



IMPACT REPORT

2024
2025

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Over the past two years, Global Conservation has led the charge to protect our endangered national parks, indigenous territories, and marine ecosystems, combining Global Park Defense with Community Protection in twenty countries, establishing a strong model for national and regional governments and indigenous peoples to stop forest and wildlife habitat destruction.

As many countries face a 5-10% average loss of forest ecosystems every ten years, saving large endangered national parks and indigenous territories is one of our most critical solutions to the Climate Crisis facing our planet.

Global Conservation is the only international conservation group focused exclusively on protecting endangered national parks and indigenous territories in developing countries – both land and sea.

In Mirador National Park, Guatemala, we have stopped fires and illegal land clearing for 'Cartel Cattle' in over 1 million acres in Northern Guatemala, protected by one of the most capable enforcement teams in the Americas – Genesys. Despite raging fires across most of the Maya Biosphere, Mirador is a shining example of how real protection can save the largest tropical forest north of the Amazon.



In the Derawan Archipelago in East Kalimantan, Indonesia, considered to be second only to Raja Ampat for marine biodiversity, Global Conservation's marine protection program integrated 5 local communities, the Air & Sea Police, the Navy, and Provincial Marine Protection into a powerful force against illegal bomb and cyanide fishing, while improving livelihoods for local people through sustainable tourism.

Each GC Project is highly-focused on protecting large intact forests and marine ecosystems by working with national park authorities, law enforcement, and local communities—together. While many national parks in developing countries languish without real protection in a free-for-all 'crisis of the commons,' Global Conservation brings the funding, systems, training, and focus on protection to enable governments and indigenous peoples to fight back and protect their lands and marine ecosystems.

Global Conservation's effective model combining Global Park Defense with Community Protection can be replicated across all protected areas—given the resources. Our OpEd in Newsweek this year with Minister Juan Carlos Navarro of Panama –The Panama Solution—is a roadmap for how we can successfully protect our planet.

Thank you for your support and interest in our critical work. Protecting our existing protected areas—our Last Lands, 5% of the earth—is critical. Only with the proven model, experience, and our global network can we successfully achieve '30x30' in the coming years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Morgan".

Jeff Morgan

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Derawan Archipelago, Indonesia, Protecting One of the Most Biodiverse Marine Ecosystems in the World	17	 A photograph of Bob Woodruff wearing a flight helmet and communication equipment, looking towards the camera from inside a helicopter. The ABC News Live logo is in the bottom right corner of the image.	
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IN THE MEDIA

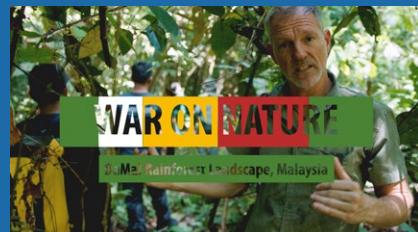


Elephant Tusk Burn from the premiere episode of the YouTube series "War on Nature - Uganda" by Paul Hilton for Global Conservation

OVER
4,000,000
VIEWS ON

YouTube

See Paul Hilton in War on Nature:



Over the past two years, the work of Global Conservation has caught the attention of the national media. In September of 2024, ABC News launched a new series that spotlights this critical work on the ground by Global Conservation. Legendary reporter Bob Woodruff travels all over the planet to document this work being supported by Global Conservation. Jeff Morgan joins Woodruff in endangered national parks and indigenous territories as they work with activists, government agencies and ranger teams.



See Last Lands episodes here:

[PANAMA](#)

[GUATEMALA](#)

[INDONESIA](#)

[ECUADOR](#)

[CAMBODIA](#)

[CAMEROON & GABON](#)



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NEWS & INSPIRATION FROM NATURE'S FRONTLINE

The Guardian

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Forbes

NATIONAL PARKS TRAVELER

South China Morning Post

Published July 25, 2025 at 05:00 AM EDT

Saving the World's Rainforests Isn't Rocket Science. Here's How to Do It | Opinion

As diplomats and activists scramble to secure hotel rooms in Belém, Brazil for the next U.N. COP30 in the Brazilian Amazon, one of the biggest problems our planet faces is how to protect the world's last remaining rainforests—nature's most powerful climate solution.

Despite the 29 previous COPs, attended by thousands of scientists, politicians, and activists, forests are still being destroyed at an ever-increasing rate, lost to massive cattle ranching, palm oil, illegal logging, mining, land-grabs, and man-made fires, which are ravaging the Amazon, Congo, and everywhere in-between.

Tropical rainforests are the cradle of life on Earth—and the world's lungs. By converting carbon dioxide to oxygen on a massive scale, rainforest conservation should be at the forefront of action to save our planet from climate change and ecological collapse. While international conservation groups can play a supporting role, it is national governments who must take responsibility for protecting our last pristine forests and marine ecosystems.

Fancy billion-dollar carbon capture machines, or “breakthrough” technologies for climate mitigation, or reforestation with billions of young trees, will never come close to the power of old-growth tropical rainforests to protect biodiversity and simultaneously provide the oxygen the planet and humans need to survive.

The destruction of the Amazon and Congo, this year at its highest level in decades, and the rapid loss of Southeast Asia's rainforests, is pushing the limits of our planet's ability to survive in the face of rising oceans, global



A rainforest in Darien province, Panama is pictured. | Eric Lafforgue/Art in All of Us



By Juan Carlos Navarro - Minister of Environment of Panama and Jeff Morgan - Executive Director of Global Conservation



warming, catastrophic extinction events, desertification, and unsustainable urban development and land use.

Very few developing countries are fighting back successfully, and showing us that we can indeed save our rainforests. Despite supposedly unstoppable global forces—such as demand for hamburgers or chocolate spread—a few nations have stopped the burning, protected their rainforests, and are now busy increasing their size. One small but proud nation, Panama, shows how it can be done. It starts, inevitably, with political will. In Panama's case, this is the recently elected government of President José Raúl Mulino. Since being elected into office last year, (cont.)

(cont.) Panama's government has undertaken unprecedented steps to protect the country's rainforests, wildlife, and marine ecosystems.

Steps taken by Panama in the past year include enacting a province-wide illegal logging moratorium in Darien to stop anarchic cutting and clearing of tropical rainforests until a new permitting system is deployed, while hiring, equipping, and training 240 new national park rangers with the trucks, boats, and equipment they need—with an additional 50 rangers on the way.

Panama has also made use of new technologies like satellite monitoring, marine radars, cellular trail cameras, and systems like EarthRanger and Skylight, to increase the effectiveness in terrestrial and marine reserve protection.

A large effort is underway to support Indigenous communities like the Naso Kingdom to protect their 400,000-hectare Comarca. Also, nature and ecotourism are now a leading strategy for the country's sustainable development.

Another critical policy response focuses on the government itself. Panama has restructured the Environment Ministry to remove non-effective officials and return to the field and build awareness to motivate Panamanians to protect their natural treasures.

In addition to rainforest protection, Panama is protecting the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor (CMAR), one of the world's largest marine reserves. By using satellites to monitor this vast area, 16 illegal fishing boats were interdicted last month in the Cordillera de Coiba Marine Protected Area, the largest bust in the country's history.

Unlike other governments dependent on international aid from the U.S. and Europe, Panama is leading by financing nature protection from its own government budget. Outside help comes as critical co-investment, not handouts creating more dependency.

Global Conservation is assisting Panama by supporting advanced protection systems and training for the country's largest national parks—Darien, La Amistad, and Coiba—and the Naso indigenous territory, some of the most important forests and marine ecosystems in Mesoamerica.

This year, Global Conservation assisted Darien National Park to train 25 new rangers and helped 28 rangers at Coiba National Marine Park to inaugurate and deploy a powerful Marine Radar system, installed to identify and interdict illegal fishing within the marine reserve.

While Panama still faces tremendous conservation challenges, it's well on its way to meeting these challenges head-on, and solving them.

Taking concrete steps to protect the forest and securing real budgets for enforcement is something akin to a revolution in nature protection. In most developing countries in which Global Conservation works, the typical story involves a handful of rangers, with little more than a broken-down truck or boat, struggling heroically but in vain to protect the parks from unscrupulous logging syndicates and thousands of miners, without any training, zero political support, and no resources.

As diplomats and officials prepare to travel to Belém and spend two weeks arguing over climate, making, as is typical of COPs, progress at glacial speed, other nations must show how to get things done now.

The Panama Solution is an example of the way forward for immediate, effective, and much needed rainforest and marine protection by a small developing nation, which is replicable in almost any country in the world. The time is now to be bold and to protect our forests and seas—our greatest nature-based solution to solve the climate crisis.

OUR METHODOLOGY

THE FOUR STAGES OF GLOBAL PARK DEFENSE:

1. Planning

Threat assessment, security, and surveillance design, ranger deployment strategy. Before we can begin a Global Park Defense program, it is critical to have a thorough understanding of the threats. Our first step is to conduct a threat assessment as well as scientific baseline surveys of wildlife populations, which help us to track our progress. We then put together a detailed security and surveillance plan, as well as a strategy for ranger deployment.

2. Partnerships

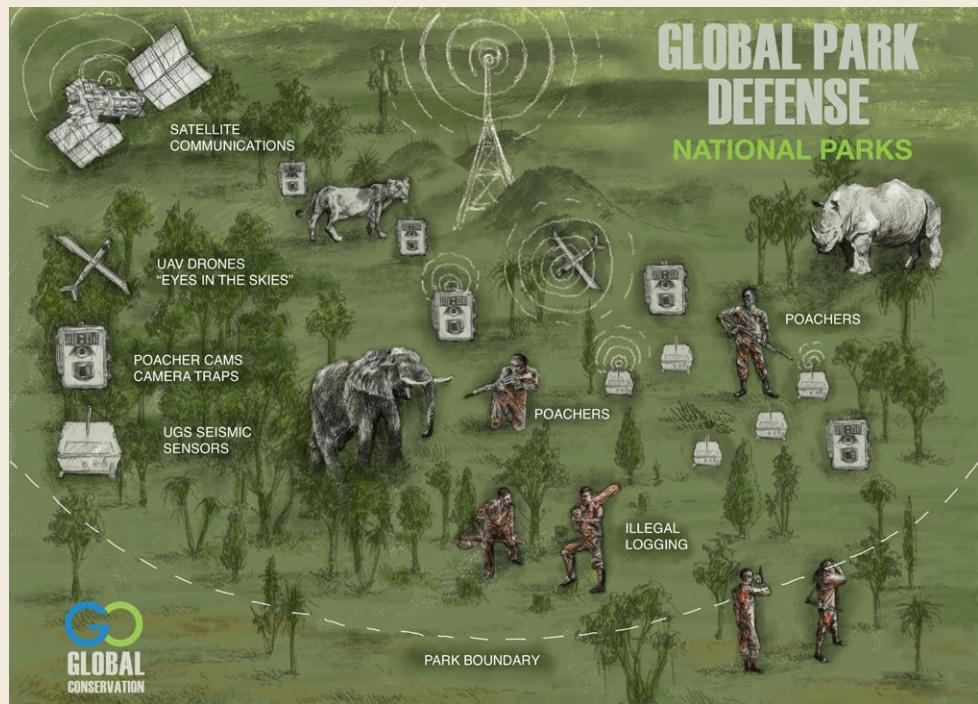
Wildlife and forestry, government, telecommunications, and co-funding. Global Conservation brings critically important co-funders, government and private investment, and strategic partners to assist in conservation finance, park infrastructure, communications, scientific research, and community-led tourism.

3. Protection

Community involvement, law enforcement, and military support. Armed with Global Park Defense, rangers are spotting and apprehending more wildlife and timber poachers in the world's most endangered parks. Under GPD, government rangers, community Eco-Guards, and sometimes military and police join forces on park protection. These collaborative teams use state-of-the-art tools, like EarthRanger of Aiz, SMART patrolling systems, and drones to intercept criminal activity and stop poaching and logging before it becomes severe.

4. Sustainability

Governmental budgeting, tourism revenues, and park financing. Global Conservation assists in securing long-term financing to fund park and wildlife protection after our multi-year Global Park Defense projects end. Each Global Park Defense deployment requires US\$400-500,000 over 5 years for training, equipment, and communications systems. Global Conservation requires national governments to increase the number of salaried park rangers and pay all salaries, benefits, and insurance. Meanwhile, we bring together critically important co-funders, government and private investment, strategic partners, and carbon offset financing to assist in long-term conservation finance, park infrastructure and staff, communications, scientific research, & community-led tourism.



WHERE WE WORK - ASIA

- 20. Bardiya-Banke National Parks, Nepal
- 21. Mouling National Park, India
- 22. Cardamoms National Park, Cambodia
- 23. Cat Tien National Park, Vietnam
- 24. Thap Lan National Park, Thailand
- 25. Thung Yai-Huai Kha Khaeng World Heritage, Thailand
- 26. DaMal Rainforest Complex, Sabah Borneo, Malaysia
- 27. Leuser Ecosystem, Sumatra, Indonesia *
- 28. Komodo National Park, Indonesia *
- 29. Derawan Archipelago Marine Park, Indonesia *



Land Parks

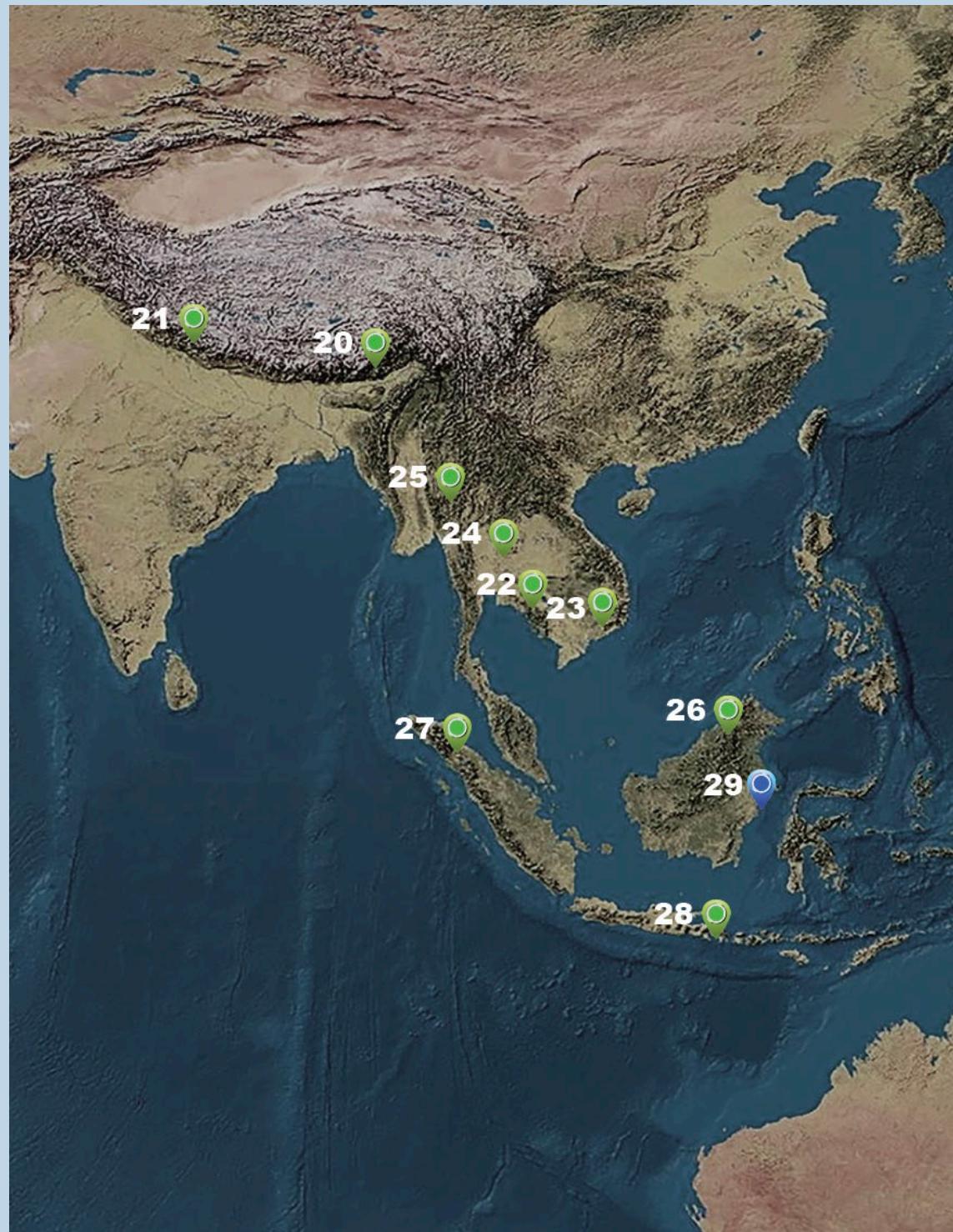


Marine Parks

* featured in this report



The DaMal Rainforest Complex, Sabah Borneo, Indonesia



Saving The Last Place on Earth for Sumatran Rhino, Tiger, Elephants and Orangutan

The Leuser Ecosystem of Aceh, Indonesia, is one of Global Conservation's most important National Park and Community Protection programs. Focused on the Bengkung Trumon Megafauna Sanctuary (BTMS), we are protecting over 1 million hectares of pristine tropical rainforests – the Last Place on Earth where tigers, rhinos, elephants, and orangutans coexist in the wild.

The ecosystem services provided by the Leuser Ecosystem, which include 1.6 billion tons of carbon storage and the provision of water to 4 million people, are valued at over \$600 million annually.

GC has supported Forum Konservasi Leuser (FKL) for the past six years with eight FKL Wildlife Protection Teams who, in 2024-25, conducted 150+ patrol missions, covering 11,600 km over 2,680 days of patrolling dense, mountainous forests critical for the survival of the last Sumatran tigers (less than 400), rhinos (less than 80), elephants, and orangutans.

We made significant progress in safeguarding the biodiversity of the Bengkung Trumon Megafauna Sanctuary (BTMS), and in the past year, we encountered evidence 1,896 times of orangutans, 844 of Sumatran tigers, 1,182 of Malayan bears, and 221 of Sumatran elephants. These efforts also dismantled many snares and documented 35 wildlife poaching cases in 2024.

These combined efforts underline FKL's commitment to protecting the Leuser Ecosystem's biodiversity while promoting sustainable community practices. (cont.)



The Rawa Singkil Wildlife Reserve sits just south of Gunung Leuser National Park on the west coast of Sumatra, Indonesia.



The Leuser Ecosystem is the last place on earth where the elephant, tiger, orangutan and rhino coexist in the wild.

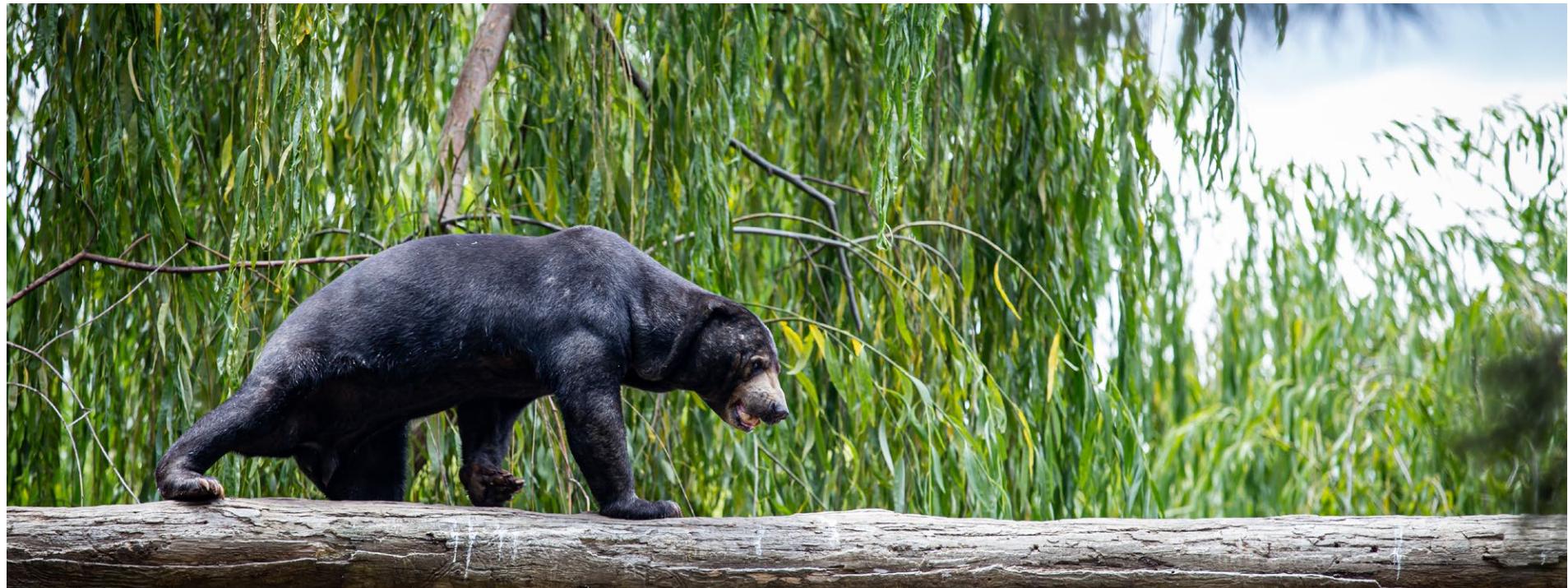
SPOTLIGHT: ACEH PROVINCE - SUMATRA, INDONESIA

(cont.) In 2024-25, GC supported Wildlife Protection Teams which completed 168 patrol missions over a span of 2,468 days, covering 10,804 kilometers. Our GC Partner in Conservation, Rainforest Trust, purchased the Upper Kluet River valley in the heart of critical wildlife habitat for tigers, rhino and elephants, and GC funded patrol teams which completed 20 patrol missions over 285 days, covering 1,208 kilometers and supported construction of a new science and monitoring center at the headwaters of the Kluet River.

Compared to 2023, the number of illegal logging cases doubled in 2024, while forest encroachment cases increased 20%, while wildlife poaching cases decreased by 60%, a potentially positive signal.

Through the support of Global Conservation, FKL drone teams have completed a number of missions to map illegal logging camps and forest encroachment to share with local community leaders and law enforcement authorities, as well as oversee progress of our Kemuning (Aceh Timur) and Kaloy (Aceh Tamiang) restoration areas. The data acquired from these drone missions will be instrumental in assessing the progress and effectiveness of our restoration efforts. By providing a detailed snapshot of the restoration areas, this data will serve as invaluable comparative information, enabling us to monitor changes over time and evaluate the progress of each restoration site.

[The success of these initiatives are highlighted by the recent return of Malayan Sun Bears and other megafauna to the restored zones.](#)



SPOTLIGHT: ACEH PROVINCE - SUMATRA, INDONESIA

Sumatran Tiger Rescue

Early in the year, a Sumatran tiger was rescued and FKL constructed tiger-proof enclosures (TPE) aimed at preventing tigers from preying on the pets and livestock of the local residents.

A joint operation was launched to capture the tiger, involving the placement of box traps in strategic locations to ensure the safety of both the tiger and the residents while providing an opportunity for the rescue team to assess the tiger's health and monitor its condition before releasing it back into the wild.

After being deemed fit for release, the captured tiger made a journey to the release location requiring a 2-hour road trip followed by an additional 3 hours on a motorized boat and was successfully released into Gunung Leuser National Park.



Restoring The Suaq Riverfront

Thanks to the support of Global Conservation, FKL continued reforestation of the Suaq forest block area in partnership with the local community. We have deployed five members dedicated to restoration activities, including managing the nursery post, distributing saplings, and patrolling the reforested area. Over 5,600 saplings are being nursed, consisting of 10 types of native trees.

Involving local communities in environmental protection is crucial for the sustainability of our conservation efforts. With GC support, the Suaq Community Patrol Team, consisting of eight local members, has continued its operations. During these patrols, they discovered wildlife and monitored forestry crimes.



Saving Rawa Singkil Wildlife Reserve in Leuser

In October 2025, Global Conservation received an exceptionally generous grant of \$1.35 million to protect the endangered Rawa Singkil Wildlife Reserve in the Leuser Ecosystem, one of the world's last intact Peat Swamp Ecosystems, highest in carbon and biodiversity value—with some of the last Sumatran tigers remaining in the wild and over 5,000 endangered Sumatran orangutans.

After five years watching Singkil Wildlife Reserve lose over 5% of its rich peat forests as other NGOs looked the other way, GC partnered with Forum Konservasi Leuser (FKL) and HAkA to assist the Indonesian Wildlife Authority to remove illegal land clearing in the protected wildlife reserve against the national constitution.

Global Conservation has worked in the Benkung Trumon Megafauna Sanctuary (BTMS) of the Leuser Ecosystem for over six years, virtually stopping illegal logging and deforestation and helping return entire valleys to their natural state. By combining the efforts of GC, FKL, and HAkA, we can stop illegal deforestation and establish Rawa Singkil Wildlife Reserve as a shining model in Asia for protecting any endangered national park or wildlife reserve. This can be achieved by uniting effective NGOs with local communities and government Multi-Jurisdictional Teams (MJs) to combat large-scale illegal invasions and corrupt land speculation.

In a major new campaign over the next five years, Global Conservation will fund protection and tourism in Rawa Singkil Wildlife Reserve with four new ranger stations, hire 28 wildlife and forest protectors, and begin community dialogues to reduce illegal activities.



The urgency of habitat loss, biodiversity destruction, and subsequent ecosystem failure of the Rawa Singkil Wildlife Reserve of the Leuser Ecosystem is already critical.

Singkil's protection will be a model example of how any developing country can stop illegal deforestation in their national parks and wildlife reserves using Multi-Jurisdictional Teams (MJs) and a concerted Global Park Defense and Community Protection program.



Protecting the Last Sanctuary for the Endangered Komodo Dragon

Global Conservation is working with the Komodo Survival Program (KSP) to invest in critical protection initiatives to save the last remaining Komodo Dragons, which are facing loss of prey in the national park due to intensive poaching. Hunters are coming from surrounding islands into the national park, as other islands are now devoid of deer, the dragon's primary prey, due to overhunting. In order to remove these serious threats to the Komodo Dragon, Global Conservation is investing in a multi-year Global Park Defense and Community Protection program, including:

- Renovation of West Komodo Ranger Station and dormitories for police and law enforcement rotations.
- Purchase of a Rapid Sea Patrol Vessel to be stationed full-time on the West Coast of Komodo Island.
- Deployment of Marine Monitor radar to detect illegal vessels, especially at night, for rapid interdiction.

Enhancing Infrastructure and Capacity to Safeguard Komodo National Park

GC funded the radical transformation of the former ranger station and dormitories into a fresh and superior campus that's ready to adapt for more rangers and conduct better surveillance and was completed in June of 2025.

Now fully operational, this marks a major improvement in field infrastructure supporting protection and monitoring activities within Komodo National Park. The two integrated buildings consist of seven ranger cabins that can accommodate up to 14 rangers, providing adequate living space for personnel assigned to long-term patrol and surveillance duties. In addition, the ranger station includes a meeting room, a control and surveillance office, a kitchen, storage, and utility areas designed for efficient daily operations. (cont.)

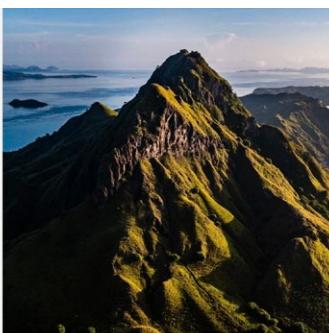
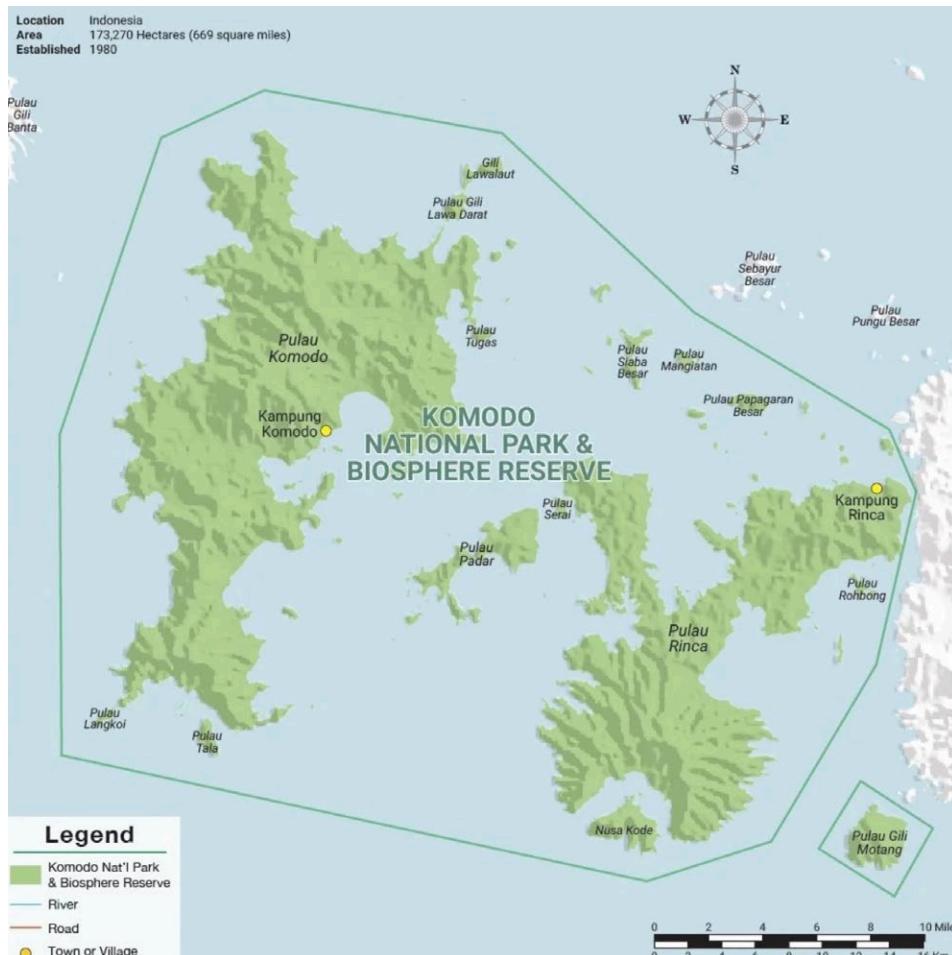


A Komodo National Park patrol team



Construction of the new West Komodo Ranger Station

SPOTLIGHT: KOMODO NATIONAL PARK - INDONESIA



(cont.) The upgraded facility now serves as a strategic operations center for ranger teams conducting joint patrols, wildlife monitoring, and rapid response activities along the west coast of Komodo Island. A total of twenty online and offline camera traps have been installed at strategic locations identified as high-risk zones for anthropogenic threats within Komodo National Park. In addition, a long-range CCTV unit was installed on Loh Boko Hill, allowing rangers to monitor Loh Boko Valley, an area known to be a major hunting ground for poachers. (cont.)



SPOTLIGHT: KOMODO NATIONAL PARK - INDONESIA

(cont.) There are now fewer than 4,000 Komodo Dragons left in the world, over half on the Island of Komodo, due to human-caused habitat loss, illegal hunting of prey, and climate change. Despite doubled efforts to protect the national park, the dragons are still under threat and Global Conservation is ramping up patrolling in high-threat areas. Recently, a boat with over ninety deer carcasses was captured by the police.

In 2024, the Komodo National Park rangers, with support of GC, covered a total of 22,370 km across land and sea, covering an area of 75,000 hectares. In addition to anti-poaching missions, the patrols interdicted illegal fishing and tourism operators entering the national park without permits.

During a 2024 court hearing, the Komodo Survival Program provided expert testimony for four suspects that were captured in an attempt to smuggle Komodo dragons out of the area. They all received prison sentences ranging from two to four years.



[CLICK HERE TO SEE SAVING THE LAST KOMODO DRAGONS](#)

Improving Protection and Monitoring in Komodo National Park

A new long-range UAV Drone will enable detection of illegal poachers coming into the national park and combined with a Marine Monitor (M2) radar, most boats will be detected early, approaching day or night, and rangers can easily interdict. The drone has a coverage range of 40 kilometers, and video images from both the drone and radar can be seen on the screen in the ranger station, allowing Komodo National Park rangers to observe the situation in real time.

Another key surveillance system installed on the west coast of Komodo Island is a camera and internet repeater tower capable of monitoring activities within the Loh Boko Valley—an area identified as high-risk for human threats. The camera system enhances situational awareness and provides critical visual data to support proactive conservation efforts and law enforcement activities.

There are now fewer than 4,000 Komodo Dragons left in the world

The new GC-funded Command Center now supports all ranger teams conducting joint patrols, wildlife monitoring, and rapid response activities along the west coast of Komodo Island. A total of twenty online and offline camera traps have been installed at strategic locations identified as high-risk zones.

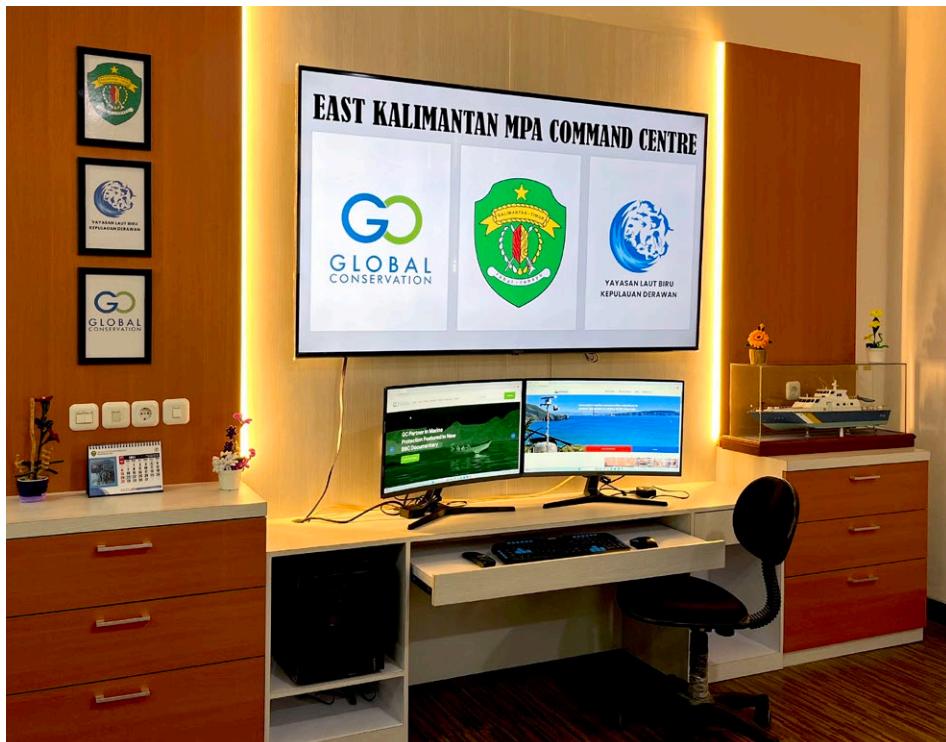
In the coming years, Global Conservation and the Komodo Survival Program will work to ensure the national park rangers are fully equipped and trained to protect against this increased pressure, as other islands are now devoid of deer due to overhunting.

Protecting One of the Most Biodiverse Marine Ecosystems in the World

Stretching over 160 kilometers along the coast of East Kalimantan, Indonesia, the Derawan Archipelago is among the most biologically rich and intact marine ecosystems in all of Indonesia and the world.

Global Conservation's marine protection initiatives in the Derawan Archipelago combine Global Park Defense, Community Protection, and the Blue Campaign working in tandem to safeguard community fisheries and marine biodiversity while promoting sustainable fishing and tourism practices.

The New Command Center in the Derawan Archipelago



We are fighting the illegal collection of sea turtle eggs in Bilang-Bilangan.

Under the leadership of the East Kalimantan Governor, we are safeguarding the Derawan Archipelago from IUU fishing and turtle poaching. A new EK Fisheries Director, with the support of GC, is now collaborating closely with Air & Sea Police, The Navy, and local communities to deploy marine radars combined with rapid response and marine patrols, backed by legal prosecutions and outreach and education for fisher communities.

With our assistance over the past 2 years, Global Conservation joint patrol teams are fully equipped with SMART Patrolling tools to carry out their mission effectively with better planning and reporting on marine enforcement.

During patrols, GC-supported Marine Enforcement Teams have uncovered many incidents of illegal fishing and wildlife poaching activities, including shark poaching in the Muaras Reefs and Ujung Reefs and the illegal collection of turtle eggs in Bilang-Bilangan. In Tanjung Batu, we are making arrests and boat confiscations against unregulated fishing practices and the use of potassium and fish bombing, as well as locating the Marine Monitor (M2) radar system for surveillance of the entire coast of the Derawan Archipelago. (cont.)

SPOTLIGHT: DERAWAN ARCHIPELAGO - INDONESIA

(cont.) Engaging local fisher communities, GC is providing education on the boundaries of 'No Take' zones and encouraging fishermen to relocate their activities to other areas to ensure the preservation of critically endangered marine resources, as well as replacing illegal fishing (potassium cyanide, compressors, and bomb fishing) with more sustainable fishing gear to achieve the same (or better) results without the use of poison or reef-destroying bombing.

GC-supported joint patrolling has resulted in significant enforcement successes, arresting six individuals involved in illegal fish bombing in two different locations who are now sentenced to years in jail and fined IDR 5,500,000, and others who are now on trial.

Joint patrols are disrupting shark fin poaching operations, and one interdiction apprehended criminals with hundreds of shark fins being prepared for shipment to Surabaya. This operation highlighted the persistent threat posed by the illegal wildlife trade in the region.

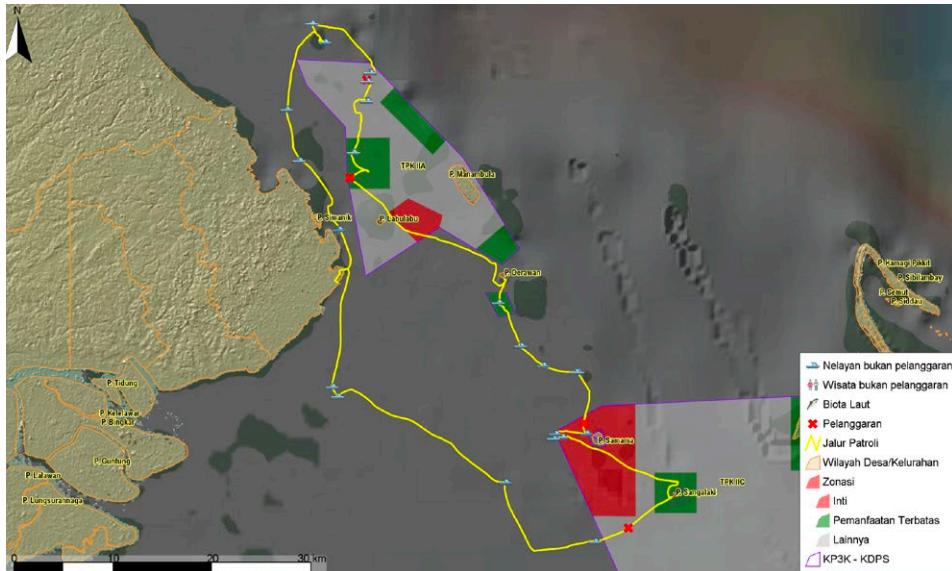


GC-supported joint patrolling resulted in the arrest of six individuals involved in illegal fish bombing

Local Community Watch groups, supported by GC, like PokMasWas Bina Lestari and Forum Peduli Lingkungan, are crucial in protecting endangered species such as green and hawksbill turtles, manta rays, and saltwater crocodiles in Sigending, which is on the southern coast of the Derawan Archipelago.

The Berau Marine Protected Area (MPA) Task Force initiated the SMART Ocean Patrol, integrating efforts from water and air police, the navy, fisheries supervisors, the provincial Blue Economy team, and turtle protection rangers. This joint patrol discovered ongoing wildlife poaching, including sharks around Bilang-Bilangan Island. Importantly, the team engaged with local fishermen to educate them about the boundaries of no-take zones and encourage them to relocate their fishing activities. Continuous investigations into turtle egg smuggling yielded vital information regarding recurring illegal activities at previously identified smuggling points.

SPOTLIGHT: DERAWAN ARCHIPELAGO - INDONESIA



SMART Marine Joint Patrols protect the Derawan Archipelago.

Global Conservation Signs Agreement for Joint Collaboration with the Governor of East Kalimantan

This year, Yayasan Laut Biru Kepulauan Derawan (YLBKD), our established NGO in Indonesia, officially signed an agreement with the East Kalimantan Govt. This agreement focuses on key areas under 50-50 cost sharing:

1. Joint Patrolling Support
2. Marine Radar Deployments
3. New Command Centers in Derawan and Samarinda (the capital)
4. Patrol Boat and Fuel Support
5. Multi-Sector Collaboration between agencies and local communities

Under this joint agreement, the Department of Fisheries and Marine Affairs (DKP) will lead the protection of this UNESCO World Heritage-nominated site, working closely with Air & Sea Police and Navy officers to safeguard Derawan from illegal activities. As well, the Indonesian government is supporting our joint collaboration at the highest level, providing duty-free import of marine radars, boat motors, and other critical enforcement equipment.

Global Conservation's current mission in Derawan closely aligns with the Indonesian President's mission to advance the national blue economy agenda—particularly through securing and safeguarding Indonesia's marine resources as the foundation for sustainable ocean-based growth.

By accelerating joint Marine Enforcement between DKP and the Air & Sea Police, they recently apprehended four different illegal fishing operations involving fish bombing and using prohibited fishing nets. Air & Sea Police, together with the Berau Natural Resources Conservation Agency, arrested two perpetrators who were stealing turtle eggs in the waters of the Batu Putih Sea. (cont.)



SPOTLIGHT: DERAWAN ARCHIPELAGO - INDONESIA

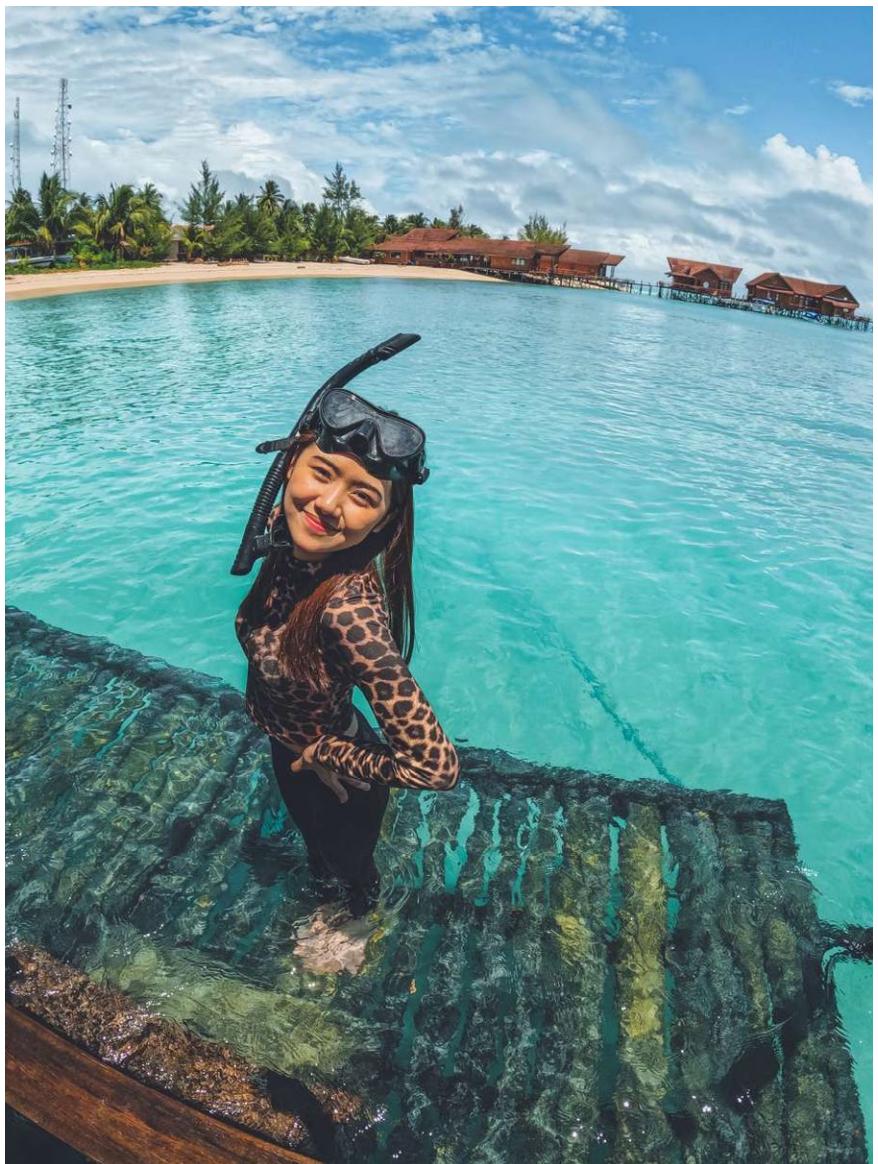
(cont.) In the past year, eight vessels involved in illegal fishing activities were seized across the waters of the Derawan Archipelago using prohibited fishing gear, such as trawling and operating without proper fishing permits. Two fishing vessels from Tarakan were seized operating within four nautical miles of Berau's coastline without proper authorization, confiscating six sets of longline fishing gear and 6,000 hooks.

In a pivotal case, the Tanjung Redeb District Court sentenced a 39-year-old fisherman to two years in prison and fined him IDR 10 million for fish bombing in Maratua waters. The court ruling is a strong indication of Derawan's new strict enforcement against illegal fishing, which aims to deter similar activities, marking significant progress in preserving the Derawan Archipelago's marine biodiversity.

Shark fins confiscated by the Air & Sea Police



CLICK HERE TO SEE WAR ON NATURE - DERAWAN



Biodiversity attracts eco-tourism which can save endangered ecosystems.

WHERE WE WORK - AMERICAS

1. Calakmul Biosphere Reserve, Mexico
2. Mirador National Park, Guatemala *
3. Greater Belize Maya Forest, Belize
4. La Amistad World Heritage, Costa Rica & Panama
5. Corcovado National Park, Costa Rica
6. Darien National Park, Panama
7. Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta National Park, Colombia
8. Yasuni National Park, Ecuador
9. Sierra Del Divisor National Park, Peru
10. Otishi National Park, Peru *
11. Manu National Park, Peru *
12. Baja Sur National Marine Park, Mexico
13. Islas Marias National Marine Park, Mexico
14. Turneffe Atoll Marine Reserve, Belize
15. Jardines de la Reina National Marine Park, Cuba
16. Coiba National Marine Park, Panama *
17. Tayrona National Marine Park, Colombia
18. Machalilla National Marine Park, Ecuador
19. Paracas National Marine Park, Peru



Land Parks



Marine Parks

* featured in this report



Corcovado National Park, Costa Rica



SPOTLIGHT: COIBA NATIONAL MARINE PARK - PANAMA

Deploying Marine Radars and Rapid Response for 24/7 Marine Protection

Coiba National Marine Park, off the southwest coast of Panama, protects Coiba Island, 38 smaller islands, and the surrounding marine areas in the Gulf of Chiriquí. They are all part of the UNESCO World Heritage Coiba National Park and Special Zone of Marine Protection. Coiba's Pacific tropical rainforest maintains exceptionally high levels of endemism of mammals, birds, and plants due to the ongoing evolution of new species.

The M2 radar installation resulted in illegal fishing arrests in its first month of operation

Coiba is the last refuge for a number of threatened animals, such as the crested eagle. The property is an outstanding natural laboratory for scientific research and provides a key ecological link to the Tropical Eastern Pacific for the transit and survival of pelagic fish and marine mammals. (cont.)



SPOTLIGHT: COIBA NATIONAL MARINE PARK - PANAMA

(cont.) We inaugurated our Coiba Marine Protection program in 2024 and deployed our first Marine Radar and SMART Patrol Rapid Response Teams in 2025, already arresting and confiscating six illegal fishing boats directly inside the 'No Take' areas. Since the new President of Panama, José Raúl Mulino, came into office with Minister of Environment Juan Carlos Navarro, the country has hired 280 new national park rangers, over half now employed in GC Projects – Darien National Park, La Amistad National Park and Coiba—over 2 million hectares of intact tropical rainforests and marine ecosystems.

In his weekly national address on television, President José Raúl Mulino expounded on Global Conservation's Marine Protection program in Coiba National Marine Park, detailing the support, equipment, training, and new Marine Monitor radar installation, which resulted in multiple illegal fishing arrests in its first month of operations.



President of Panama José Raúl Mulino Applauded Global Conservation and MiAmbiente Deploying World-Class Marine Protection and Radar Technology.



The new M2 Marine Monitor Radar System is always on patrol.

With GC's support, the National System of Protected Areas (SINAP) of Panama has been able to adopt the EarthRanger management and monitoring tool across its three largest protected areas.

And with co-investment from Panama's MiAmbiente, Coiba will soon have a new Command Center and fast boats and motors for the now 40+ rangers in Coiba protecting the precious marine ecosystem decimated for decades by poor or no enforcement.

In May of 2025, we inaugurated Global Conservation's Marine Monitor Radar combined with EarthRanger to empower the frontline park rangers and strengthen marine enforcement in World Heritage Sites across the globe.

In addition to the Marine Monitor radar system, park rangers were also given 25 smartphones, computers, and Starlink systems—to ensure reliable connectivity between park rangers and protected area administrations, which will implement the EarthRanger park protection real-time platform and integrate all patrolling with the marine radar to generate real-time alerts. The GC Marine Protection system was developed by the Protected Seas and EarthRanger organizations. (cont.)

SPOTLIGHT: COIBA NATIONAL MARINE PARK - PANAMA

[CLICK HERE TO SEE MARINE PROTECTION VIDEO](#)

(cont.) Global Conservation completed high-impact field trainings and technology deployment missions in Panama's Coiba National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Over the course of four days, 18 park rangers received advanced marine protection training from international law enforcement experts, reinforcing Panama's efforts to combat illegal fishing and safeguard one of the most biodiverse marine ecosystems in the Eastern Pacific.

In 2025, nine fishing vessels were interdicted that were engaging in illegal fishing in and around Coiba National Marine Park. The new patrol boat, along with the new M2 Radar and critical training and equipment, makes these achievements possible.

GC is also funding Scientific Monitoring of key fish species needed for local communities and tourism, working to find a delicate balance between consumption and conservation. With the support of Global Conservation, through the Global Park Defense program, these technology and human co-investments with Panama significantly strengthens control and surveillance efforts, a model for Panama, Central America, and the world.



Fishing pressures exist in both the Coiba National Park and the Special Zone of Marine Protection.



Supporting the Asháninka People to Defend their Indigenous Territories

Focused on protecting 400,000 hectares of communal reserve forests around Otishi National Park in Peru, Global Conservation helps the Asháninka People deploy Global Park Defense and Community Protection to protect against the violent conflict from invaders and illegal loggers clearing the forests for illicit crops and for the installation of illegal infrastructure (clandestine airstrips).

The Director General of SERNANP Peru asked Global Conservation to collaborate with Otishi National Park to strengthen the surveillance of the Park and the Asháninka and Matsiguenga Communal Reserves, and the Joint Command of the Armed Forces (VRAEM Special Command) can provide security in the Park's Buffer Zone to the Asháninka Community Ecoguards, who patrol large areas to stop invaders, illegal loggers, and illicit coca producers in their indigenous territories.

GC's Asháninka Community Protection program, in partnership with ECO Asháninka, uses advanced communications using satellite and surveillance technologies, combined with ancestral knowledge, to strengthen the management of their communal territories.

Otishi National Park was established relatively recently in 2003, in the high jungle areas of the Vilcabamba Range. Otishi protects the deep, rich river basins of the Ene, Tambo, and Urubamba rivers, with 99% of its surface still in an almost intact natural state due to its steep mountain geology and impenetrable forests.

Unfortunately, the surrounding Communal Reserves of the Asháninka Peoples are in the river basins and are being cut or fragmented with heavy clearing for agriculture and coca cultivation, with multiple clandestine airstrips. (cont.)



Otishi Park protects the basins of the Ene, Tambo, and Urubamba rivers.

SPOTLIGHT: OTISHI NATIONAL PARK - PERU

(cont.) For over a century, there has been encroachment onto Asháninka land by loggers, Maoist guerrillas, drug traffickers, colonists from other regions, and oil companies. The stated aim of Otishi National Park is to protect the outstanding natural beauty of the area and the cultural integrity of its two indigenous peoples: the Asháninka and the Machiguenga.

The Asháninka are the largest indigenous group in Peru's Amazon and inhabit a large area adjacent to Otishi National Park. The Asháninka Communal Reserve is recognized as a protected area category in Peru, where its indigenous and other communities should benefit and share responsibility for protection and management.

Global Conservation - Critical Support at a Critical Time

GC led the creation of the Asháninka Protection Force for Otishi National Park and the Asháninka Communal Reserves, combined with continual close support from National Park Rangers and the Peruvian Armed Forces.

Deploying Global Park Defense in close cooperation across the Asháninka Indigenous communities, SERNAP, the Peruvian Air Force, and the VRAEM's Joint Command of the Armed Forces enables critical expansion of protection across over 400 kilometers and 400,000 hectares focused on two primary areas with ten indigenous communities.

This integrated model, which Global Conservation Peru first created over the course of five years in Sierra del Divisor National Park, is currently being scaled to include the combined five million hectares of both Otishi and the adjacent Manu National Park and their Indigenous Territories.

Setting a new model for Peru's National Parks to work closely with Indigenous communities in a multi-agency, all-government approach, Global Conservation is integrating and amplifying combined resources in partnership with communities to stop environmental damage to their ancestral lands.

Peru has a proud history of establishing National Parks and Indigenous Territories protected under the Constitution. We now need to work harder together in order to protect them.

Five Year Implementation of Global Park Advocacy and Community Protection

- **Satellite and Aerial Forest Monitoring**
- **Equipped and Trained 30+ Community Ecoguards from 10 Communities**
- **Hired an Enforcement Manager**
- **Supported SMART and EarthRanger Patrol Operations for 10,000+ kilometers**
- **Coordinated Arrests and Relocations of illegal land invaders with National Park Authorities (SERNNP) and Law Enforcement**
- **Intensive patrolling by foot, truck, and boat in two highly endangered Communal Reserve sectors**



SPOTLIGHT: OTISHI NATIONAL PARK - PERU

[CLICK HERE TO SEE WAR ON NATURE - AMAZON](#)

Equipping the Asháninka

Community Ecoguards have been equipped and trained to patrol with drones and GPS to identify threats in their Communal Reserve and respond with an integrated force of National Park Rangers, law enforcement, and military support.

GC deployed GPD, patrolling over 1,000 kilometers and covering 400,000 hectares, focused on two primary high-threat areas in cooperation with ten indigenous communities.

By responding rapidly to threats, illegal settlements and coca growers are discouraged from entering and destroying communal forests and the associated killing of wildlife to feed their crews. By increasing the fear of interdiction and arrest, we have greatly discouraged illegal activities, especially against critical access routes.



Mapping Deforestation for Rapid Response

Using satellites to identify deforestation in the National Park and surrounding Communal Reserves, which are supported by high-resolution aerial overflights to clearly identify specific areas for targeted combined interdictions, enables the Park Authority to prioritize scarce resources by deciding where and when to patrol, when to secure backup from law enforcement, and where to better locate ranger stations to stop deforestation and illegal activities.

Due to rapidly changing weather and extensive cloud cover in the Amazon, getting clear photography and sensor information can be quite tricky. In order to have concise information for on-the-ground patrols, we use a combination of four critical layers; Satellite, Airplane, Drone & Intelligence.

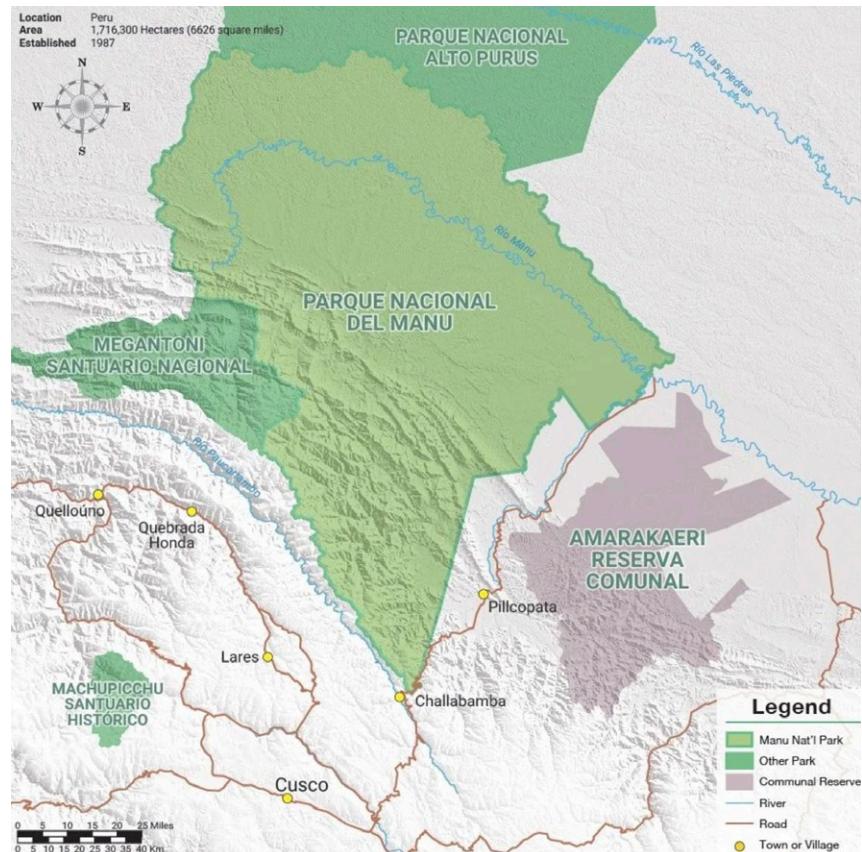
Fighting Land Invasions, Illegal Logging and Coca with the Machiguenga People

Global Conservation has deployed Global Park Defense to protect the borders of Manu National Park, spanning over 1,700,000 hectares from the Andes to the Amazon.

The protection of Manu National Park is one of the highest priorities of Peru. The new highway from Salvacion to Boca Manu has already been built, and the existing highway to Cuzco has been greatly improved. A planned highway connecting Boca Manu to the “wild west” mining city of Puerto Colorado threatens to open Manu National Park to massive, rapid development and potential destruction of forests and wildlife in border areas.

Now is the time to protect Manu National Park by deploying Global Park Defense—systems, equipment, and training—to increase the effectiveness of patrolling and law enforcement and remove illegal activities from the National Park area.

We have built new cooperation between the Indigenous Communities surrounding the national parks with the National Parks Authority (SERNANP), law enforcement, and the military when needed to better protect their Indigenous Territories, especially against coca cultivation. (cont.)



SPOTLIGHT: MANU NATIONAL PARK - PERU



Indigenous people used to eat primates like this Colombian Red Howler Monkey.

(cont.) Combining SMART and EarthRanger protection systems, as well as deploying next-generation satellite trail cameras along all elephant poacher paths, will allow for speedy interdiction of unlawful invasions into Gabon and Cameroon forests—before they kill.

The Machiguenga are an indigenous people who live in Manu National Park and the adjoining areas. Their main crops grown are manioc, maize, and bananas, but today commercial crops such as coffee and cacao are increasingly important. Their main source of protein used to be peccaries and monkeys, but today fish have become more important as game animals have become increasingly scarce as a consequence of the encroachment of highland immigrants into the area.

In 2002, part of their ancestral territory was recognized as a natural protected area called the Amarakaeri Communal Reserve. Since 2006, the reserve has been co-managed by ten Indigenous communities and the National Service of

Protected Areas (SERNANP), with the support of two Indigenous organizations (FENAMAD and COHARYIMA).

Supported by satellite and aerial monitoring, deforestation events are rapidly responded to before they become out of control. Invasions can occur swiftly, especially in nearby Indigenous Territories and community areas, where there is no National Park designation to provide protection, no budget for protection, and no formalized law enforcement collaboration.

Global Park Defense integrates local communities into park and wildlife protection and increases collaboration with law enforcement to rapidly remove illegal invaders and illicit crops being grown on their lands before things get out of control.

In the past 10 years, previously untouched areas have been assaulted by a combination of coca cultivation, agricultural expansion, cattle ranching & urban growth

By setting up strong and effective defenses through coordinated patrolling involving multiple sectors – Communities, National Parks, Military, and Law Enforcement – we help National Parks protect their forests and wildlife. The primary goal of Community Protection is to work with SERNANP and Global Conservation to deploy Global Park Defense in their territories for forest monitoring and initiate rapid response efforts to deforestation from coca cultivation and illegal logging while in close coordination with law enforcement and the military when needed.

Another vital goal is to increase on-the-ground patrolling in the entire area from Patria/Tono and Boca Manu/Linona in order to increase Community Protection from nearly ground zero to over 10,000 kilometers of patrolling a year in the next two years. (cont.)

SPOTLIGHT: MANU NATIONAL PARK - PERU

(cont.) Up until the more recent introduction of a genetically altered coca plant that thrives in the Amazon's lowlands, the coca plant used to make cocaine was only grown in isolated locations at high elevations. This has caused a catastrophe, clearing hundreds of thousands of hectares of intact tropical Amazon forests. Now, even the farthest reaches of the Amazon in National Parks and Indigenous Reserves are facing land clearing for coca cultivation, and local communities and park rangers are in serious danger.

Deploying Global Park Defense (GPD) in partnership with the Machiguenga Indigenous Communities, SERNANP, and law enforcement will deliver a critical expansion of protection across nearly 200 kilometers and 120,000 hectares.

Never before have Peru's National Parks worked so closely with all key governmental organizations and their combined resources in partnership with local communities to stop the environmental damage of its National Parks. Due to Peru's long history of establishing National Parks and Indigenous Territories, we now need to work harder together in order to protect them.

Global Conservation was invited to attend the celebration of Manu National Park's 50th Anniversary attended by the Minister of Environment and Director General of SERNANP, along with regional and indigenous leaders.



Integrated Protection for National Parks and Indigenous Territories

- **Satellite and Aerial Monitoring**
- **Park-Wide Communications**
- **Rapid Response Teams**
- **Supported SMART and EarthRanger Patrol Operations for 10,000+ kilometers**
- **Border Demarcation**
- **Biodiversity Recovery**

Mapping Deforestation for Rapid Response

Using satellites to identify deforestation in the National Park and surrounding Communal Reserves, which are supported by high-resolution aerial overflights to clearly identify specific areas for targeted combined interdictions, enables the Park Authority to prioritize scarce resources by deciding where and when to patrol, when to secure backup from law enforcement, and where to better locate ranger stations to stop deforestation and illegal activities.





photo: Mongabay

These brilliant Scarlet Macaw Parrots are sought after by illegal pet traders. Even with protections offered by the National Park, their numbers are decreasing.

Biodiversity Recovery is just as important as Forest Protection as the populations of most species have declined to dangerous levels due to commercial poaching and hunting.

Global Conservation supports the development of a 30-person Manu Community Protection Force deploying Global Park Defense over the next 2 years with the primary goals:

- **Equip & train 30 Community Ecoguards from 10 Communities**
- **Hire an Enforcement Manager living in the Region**

- **Logistics for 10,000+ kms of Patrolling per Year**
- **Deployment of the SMART System and the EarthRanger System for Protection and Biodiversity**
- **Coordination of detentions and relocations with the Park Authorities & Competent Authorities (Prosecutor's Offices)**
- **Satellite and Aerial Forest Monitoring**
- **Coordination with SERNANP and Law Enforcement**

SPOTLIGHT: MIRADOR NATIONAL PARK - GUATEMALA

Defending the Heart of the Maya Biosphere

Global Conservation is working to secure permanent protection for Mirador National Park in Petén, Guatemala—the Heart of the Maya Biosphere and the Cradle of Maya Civilization.

Mirador National Park and the Mirador Wilderness Area comprise the largest intact tropical forest north of the Amazon. Since 2018, Global Conservation has been fighting to protect Mirador National Park in collaboration with FundaEco and other GC Partners, utilizing a dedicated [Mirador Genesis Team](#), one of the best in Latin America, which patrols over 30,000 kilometers each year and makes hundreds of interdictions and arrests for illegal logging, hunting, and forest clearing.

Mirador National Park boasts over 40 major ancient Maya cities, immense temples and pyramids, and hundreds of miles of interconnected Mayan causeways, all in an area larger than Yellowstone.

Mirador is a critical site not only for the conservation of biodiversity but also for cultural heritage. The archaeological importance of this site was emphasized in 2021 when a 3D LiDAR survey led by Dr. Richard Hansen revealed thousands of ancient structures in 25 major cities across the landscape.

Unfortunately, deforestation continues to threaten the Maya Biosphere Reserve, and its archaeological sites are threatened by looting and development. With Global Conservation's support and matching funding from Rainforest Trust, the private nonprofit FundaEco has been working hard to stop illegal activities in Parque Nacional Mirador-Rio Azul (Mirador-Rio Azul National Park) and surrounding areas.

right: Mirador Genesis Team patrolling thousands of kilometers from Mirador Guatemala to the South of Calakmul at the Mexican Border protecting against illegal logging and land clearing with their Mexican Counterparts. Patrols funded by Global Conservation.

"Thanks to Global Conservation's reliable financial support over these two years, we have maximized the combined efforts of our field staff, Genesys rangers, and technical team working with local communities and government organizations (CONAP and CECON) to achieve the critical park and wildlife protection goals we had proposed for 2024-25."

Francisco Asturias, Director of Mirador, FundaEco

Francisco Asturias, Director of FundaEco Petén, and the [Mirador Genesis Team](#) are leading these efforts. These elite-trained rangers are a combined team of government police and military, NGO-trained rangers, and community Ecoguards working together to stop wildlife poaching, looting of archaeological sites, illegal logging, and land clearing for cattle ranching.

This land clearing is especially contentious because it supports narcotrafficking by providing a medium for money laundering, drug smuggling, and territory control.



SPOTLIGHT: MIRADOR NATIONAL PARK - GUATEMALA

GC Protection Objectives – Mirador National Park

- Establish permanent legal protection for the nature, wildlife, and archaeological heritage of Mirador.
- Assist the Guatemalan government in securing UNESCO World Heritage designation.
- Engage in negotiations with stakeholders to decide which lands to incorporate into the expanded national park.
- Secure larger international support for park setup after initial five-year startup operations.
- Achieve an economically sustainable protected area within the next ten years, i.e., tourism revenues exceed park operating expenses.



Key Achievements of 2024-25

In the past two years, the Mirador Protection program achieved excellent results:

Mirador Patrols: Over 58,400 km traveled across 1,687 patrols in 2024-25.

International Collaboration: In collaboration with Mexican authorities, Mirador Rangers and Community Ecoguards patrolled with the Guatemalan Army and Police, closing down a major illegal logging syndicate working inside Mirador National Park. Mirador Rangers also collaborated with the Guatemalan army, Guatemalan park rangers, firefighters from Calakmul, Mexico, and volunteers to construct a firebreak along the border between Mexico and Mirador.

Arrests and Citations: The team has identified 48 crimes and made arrests in 34 cases. We captured twenty-two loggers and seized their equipment and a truck.

New Vehicles: GC funded the purchase of a truck, two motorcycles, a trailer, and five ATVs for patrolling. We also funded tires, repairs, and maintenance on six ATVs.

Jaguar and Wildlife Studies: FundaEco deployed trailcam networks for estimation of predator and prey populations.

Ranger Training: Both on-the-job and classroom training were conducted. Further, two Mirador rangers attended a two-week park management training at Colorado State University.

SMART Patrol Trainings: With GC's support, 72 Guatemalan rangers were taught to use the SMART system.

Infrastructure: With GC's support, FundaEco constructed the Selva Maya Command Center, a bungalow, kitchen, and trail system at Dos Lagunas, and a dormitory for rangers.

Law Enforcement: Training of special ranger teams to carry out patrols with the Army (Ministerio de la Defensa Nacional) and the police, as well as permanently patrolling the entire Mirador area using the SMART patrol system.

SPOTLIGHT: MIRADOR NATIONAL PARK - GUATEMALA

Establishing the Mirador Park Authority

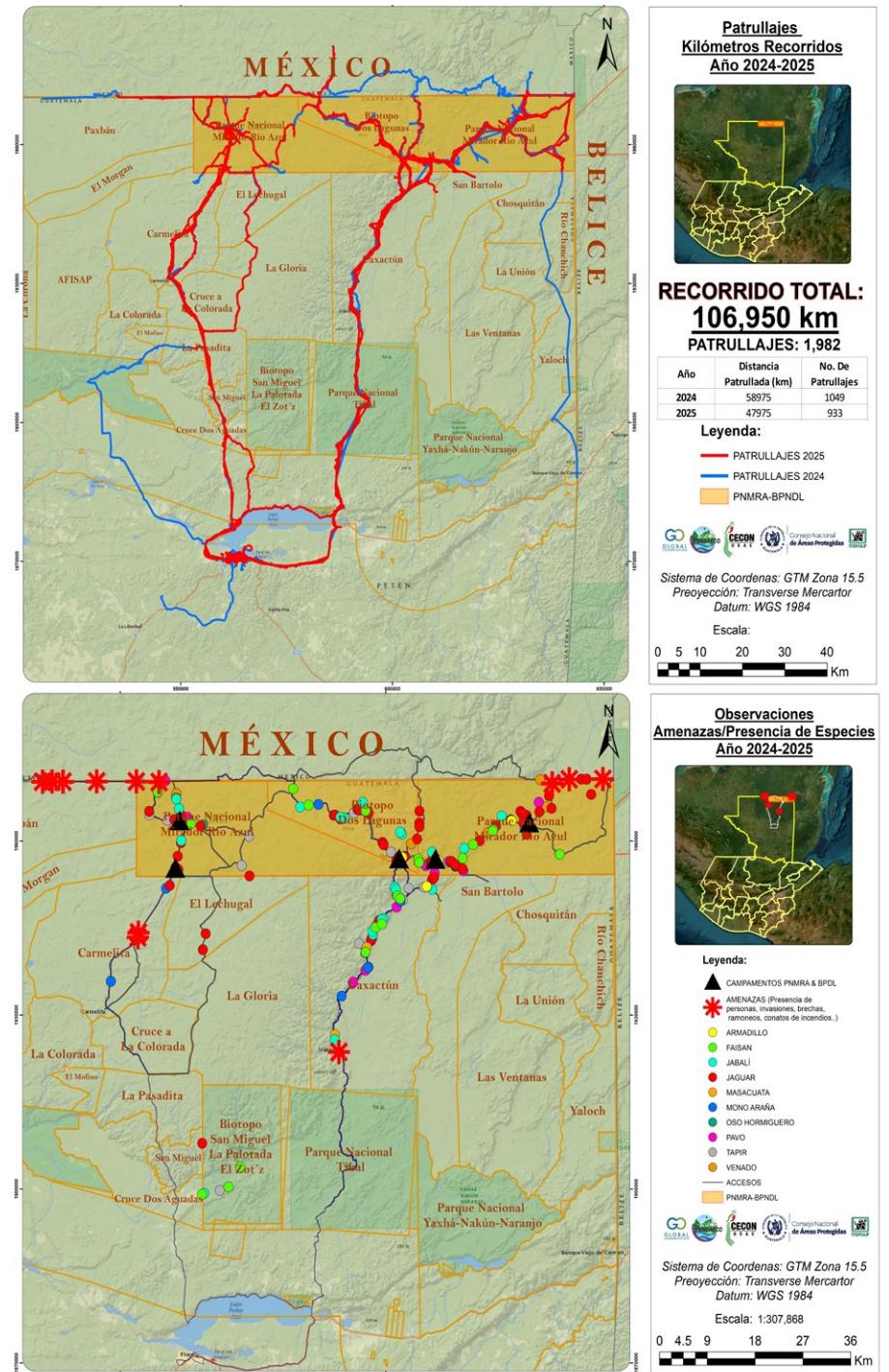
We have organized a professional ranger force and park management by closely collaborating with the Guatemalan government's Consejo Nacional de Áreas Protegidas (CONAP), the Instituto Guatemalteco de Turismo (INGUAT), and local communities. The Mirador Park Authority integrates existing guards.

Stopping Land Invasions in Calakmul Biosphere Reserve, Mexico

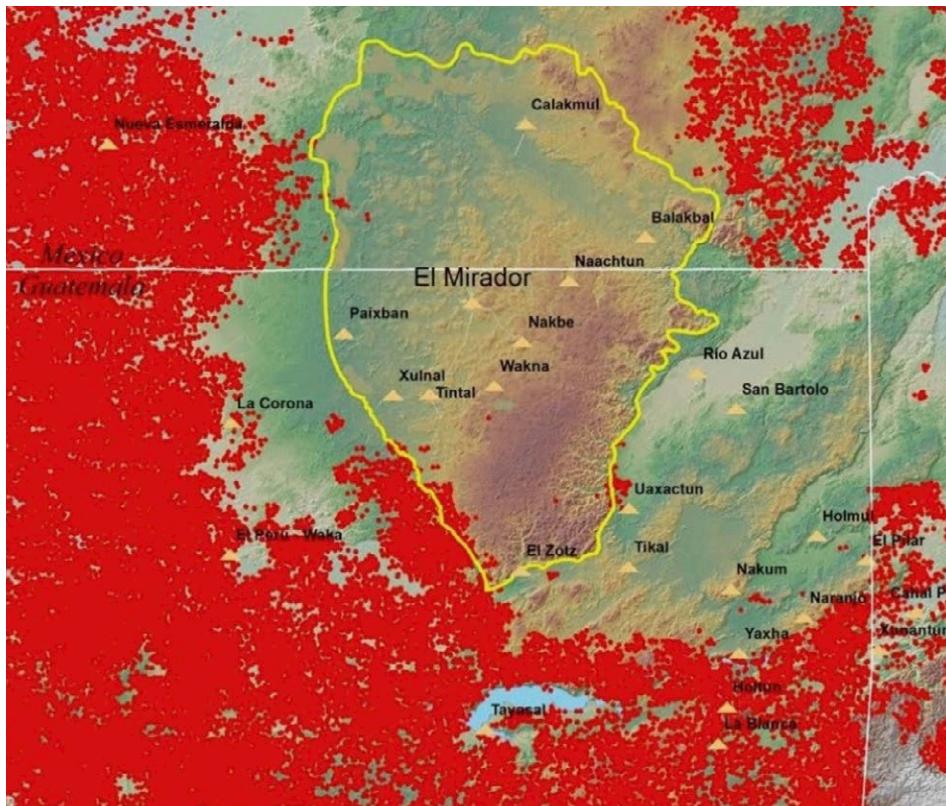
During 2025, key actions were consolidated for the protection and monitoring of the Mirador-Río Azul National Park (PNMRA) and the Naachtún-Dos Lagunas Biotope (BPDL), located in the heart of the Maya Forest. This work was led by the technical team of FUNDAECO, CECON, and CONAP, with operational support from the elite [Mirador Genesis Team](#), known for its high tactical capacity and experience in remote and hard-to-reach areas.

The activities followed a comprehensive protection approach, including high-impact patrols, biological monitoring, threat control, and trinational cooperation, which prioritizes extensive foot and vehicle patrols, as well as inspections in border areas with Mexico and Belize. Thanks to the strategic deployment of field teams, continuous institutional presence was maintained at the camps, strengthening response capacity against illegal hunting, wildlife trafficking, forest fires, and illegal land occupations.

The GC-sponsored [Mirador Genesis Team](#), with its high tactical capacity, rapid response, and experience in difficult-to-access areas, played a key role in containing threats in border areas, supporting judicial patrols, dismantling illegal structures, providing support to international missions, and strengthening institutional presence along the border with Mexico and Belize. (cont.)



SPOTLIGHT: MIRADOR NATIONAL PARK - GUATEMALA



Outside of Mirador National Park, the jungles are being lost to fires set by humans.



(cont.) The [Mirador Genesis Team](#) worked with other park ranger teams to keep up constant patrols. This helped keep threats from invasions, wildlife trafficking, illegal logging, and forest fires under control, which made the Maya Forest's biodiversity even safer. They also played a key role through trinational patrol commissions, maintenance and installation of camera traps, verification of water bodies, as well as the identification and destruction of improvised structures indicating invasion attempts.

Global Conservation supports their fleet of eight ATVs, three trucks and mobilization for up to sixty rangers and military across thousands of kilometers of endangered national park and forest.

GC also provides strategic and technological support for information gathering and decision-making in the management of the Mirador Río Azul National Park and the Naachtún-Dos Lagunas Biotope, reaffirming its commitment to the effective protection of the area.

Thanks to GC's intensive support, extensive patrols were prioritized in critical areas, including border inspections and monitoring of water bodies and wildlife, as well as infrastructure maintenance and logistical support for other operational brigades.

SPOTLIGHT: MIRADOR NATIONAL PARK - GUATEMALA

Illegal Hunting Endangers Jaguars and Their Prey

Massive habitat loss across Mesoamerica is pressuring jaguars into continuously smaller areas. Over 80% of the Maya Biosphere Reserve has been lost in just twenty years. Combined with hunting and wildlife poaching for profits, such loss is putting major pressure on the jaguar's survival. This multi-year scientific study has already created reliable and comparable density estimates, which are key to monitoring wildlife populations across space and time. For the first time in Guatemala and the Maya Biosphere, we obtained the data needed to accurately detect jaguar population declines, estimate threats, and implement the appropriate conservation interventions.

2026 will be our eighth year of the Global Park Defense and Community Protection program in Mirador National Park. Our long-term goal in Mirador is to achieve "No Cut, No Kill" protection while increasing tourism revenues to benefit local communities. We also aim to achieve UNESCO World Heritage Designation for Mirador and to expand the area of the park by purchasing neighboring forestry concessions.



Dr. Ceballos letting the jaguar-tracking hounds know they're appreciated.

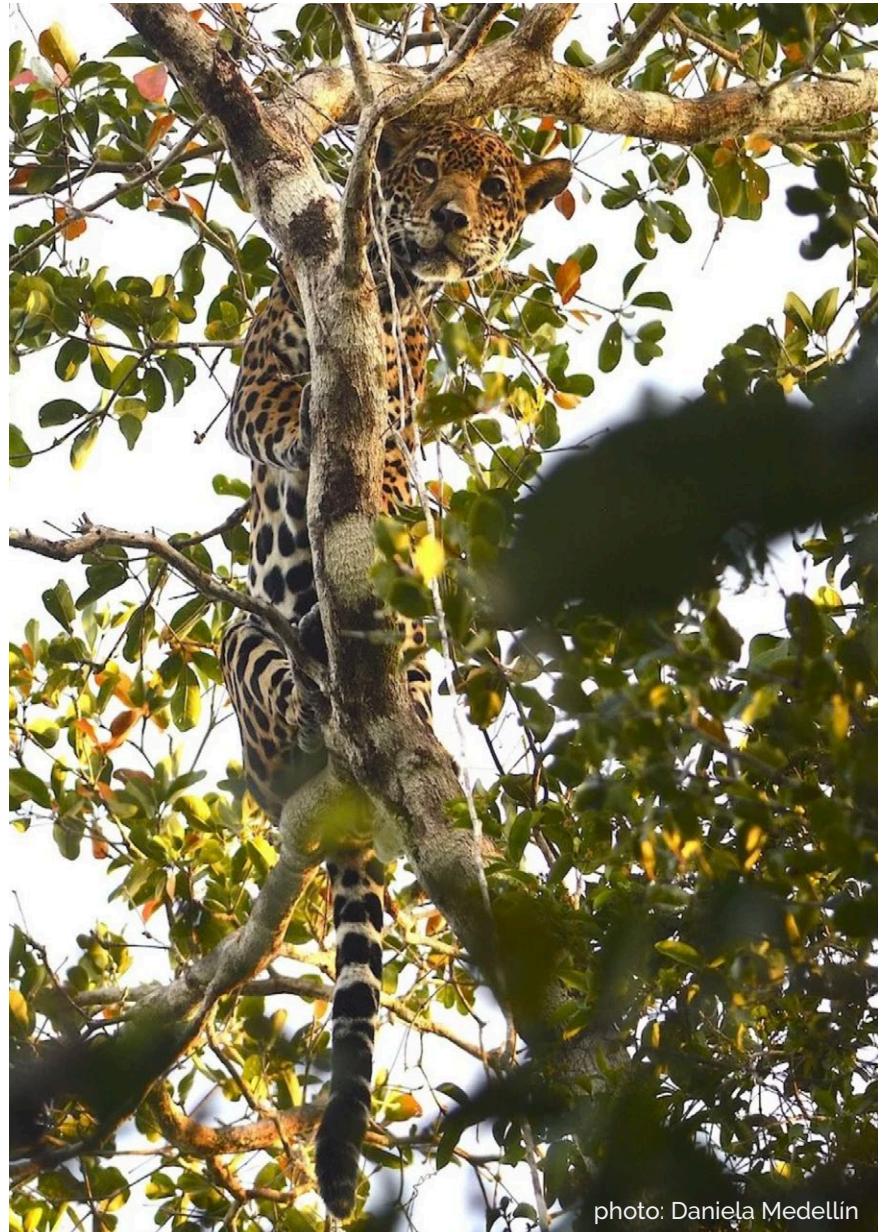


photo: Daniela Medellín

An elusive jaguar that was spotted during a 2024 survey in Calakmul.

SPOTLIGHT: MIRADOR NATIONAL PARK - GUATEMALA

Removing Immediate Threats to Rainforest Destruction

In 2025, GC supported bi-national patrols in the Balam-Ku area of the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve to combat land invasions, resulting in the removal of hundreds of Mexican and Guatemalan poachers who were illegally destroying one of Mexico's last intact tropical rainforests.

Illegal logging of hardwoods on the Mexican-Guatemalan border has been a persistent problem. FundaEco is collaborating with Calakmul Biosphere Reserve authorities, just across the border in Mexico, to address this issue and other transboundary concerns. Collaboration between Guatemala and Mexico is crucial for protecting the Selva Maya, a transboundary ecosystem that, of course, does not stop at a national border.

Fortunately, an international partnership between Mexico and Guatemala has allowed for joint patrols in recent years, bolstering efforts to halt cross-border crimes like illegal logging and narcotrafficking. In 2025, rangers closed down a major illegal logging syndicate, arresting 22 illegal loggers and seizing illegal logging equipment and a truck.

"Without a doubt, the greatest achievement in Control and Protection is that from 2024-25. Illegal loggers have not entered Guatemala from Mexico to cut more trees. This is thanks to the actions of the Mirador Genesis Team and the constant patrols carried out by the park rangers. In Mexico they are still cutting to date."

Francisco Asturias, Director of FundaEco - Petén



GC Supports Tri-National Patrolling Across the Maya Biosphere

Multiple international tours were carried out in 2024-25 along the borderlines of Mexico, Belize, and Guatemala, where more than thirty park rangers from the following protected natural areas participated: Parque Mirador Rio Azul (CONAP, FUNDAE-CO, CECOM), Calakmul, Balamku, PROFEPA, and Rio Bravo in Belize.

The park rangers have carried out 80 surveillance tours in the core area of the Reserve of the Calakmul Biosphere. In total, they have traveled approximately 6,500 kilometers. Additionally, it's been reported that the rangers' presence alone while patrolling is scattering poachers and making them run.

GC supported many coordinated patrolling operations in the core area of the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve in collaboration with Mirador's Genesys Rangers and Mexican security authorities (ProfEPA, National Guard, SEDENA, FGR, and State Police), which carry out 80+ patrols in the core area of the reserve, traveling 8-10,000 kilometers annually.

We must stop these illicit activities of encroachment and biodiversity destruction within Protected Areas immediately, before it's too late. As of summer 2025, new invasions in southern Balam Ku have alarmingly advanced due to deforestation for corn crops and, subsequently, for livestock. We cannot rule out the possibility that, at some point, drug traffickers will take advantage of this situation and use these areas for their illegal operations.

We continue to make an urgent call to the authorities of Mexico, Guatemala, and Belize, as well as the non-governmental organizations, media outlets, and social networks, so that they act immediately and stop this serious problem before it gets out of control.

SPOTLIGHT: MIRADOR NATIONAL PARK - GUATEMALA

The Mirador Genesis Team Received an Award of Honor from the President of the Congress of Guatemala and Congressman César Fion.

On October 31st, 2025 the President of the Congress of Guatemala and Congressman César Fion gave a formal recognition to the Genesis Elite Ranger Team and Francisco Asturias inside the Congress in Guatemala City.

During the ceremony, the President of the Congress and Congressman Fion both committed to begin the process so that the Park can receive an annual budget allocation from the Government of Guatemala. The idea is that these funds could be managed through FUNDAECO.



[CLICK HERE TO SEE ABC NEWS LAST LANDS - GUATEMALA](#)



Francisco Asturias and Bob Woodruff in "Last Lands - Guatemala"

WHERE WE WORK - AFRICA

- 31. Dja Rainforest Complex, Cameroon *
- 32. Kidepo Valley National Park, Uganda
- 33. Mana Pools World Heritage, Zimbabwe *
- 34. Murchison Falls National Park, Uganda *
- 35. Ngorongoro National Park, Tanzania *

EURASIA

- 37. Borjomi National Park, Republic of Georgia
- 38. Carpathians National Park, Ukraine
- 39. Racha National Park, Republic of Georgia
- 40. Shar Mountains National Park, Macedonia



Land Parks

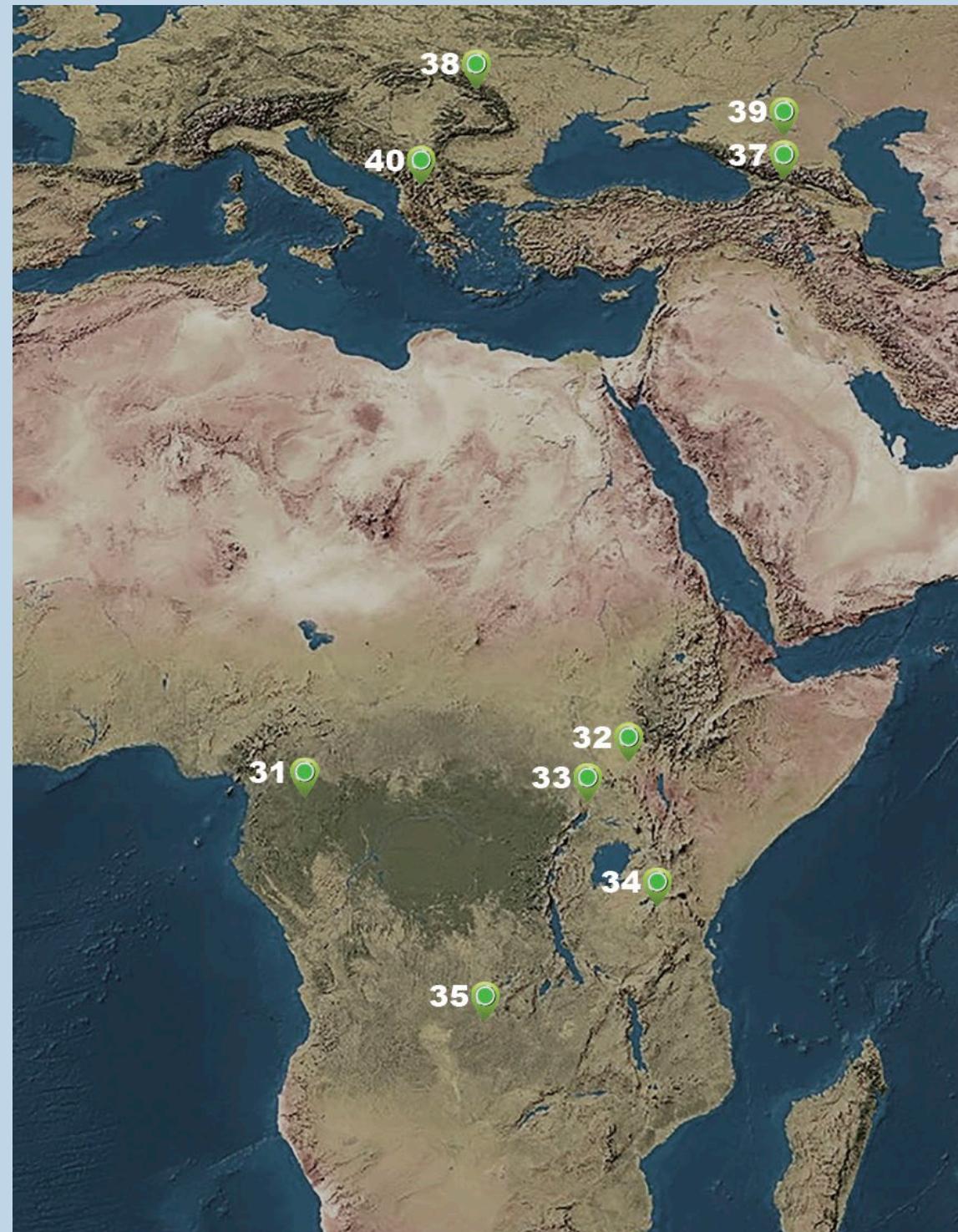


Marine Parks

* featured in this report



African elephants in Murchison Falls National Park, Uganda



Protecting the Congo's Last Refuge for Elephants and Great Apes

In 2024, we received approximately \$1.2 million in program support from the UK Defra International Wildlife Trafficking (IWT) and European Union (EU) Nature+ programs, which leveraged our support with nearly 4:1 matching funding.

The Dja Rainforest Complex protects about 2 million hectares of largely intact tropical rainforests, including Cameroon's last known populations of African Forest Elephants and Great Apes. Global Conservation's preservation strategy for the Dja Rainforest Complex, which includes the Dja Faunal Reserve (DFR), Nki and Ngoryla National Parks in Cameroon, and Minkebe National Park in Gabon, incorporates community forests and logging concessions within the landscape conservation approach.



We are saving the last Great Apes in the Dja Rainforest Complex.

Protecting the Dja Rainforest Complex from professional elephant poaching syndicates is critical to the survival of Africa's only remaining forest elephant populations. Satellite trail camera surveillance networks, paired with Rapid Response teams, will be utilized to safeguard national parks and community forest concessions against professional poachers.

By conserving Cameroon's key national parks and forestry concessions, we will also be defending against poachers who cross from Cameroon into Gabon. Cameroon has already lost 95% of its African Forest Elephants, leaving less than 2,000 to survive in the deep intact woods where we study, alongside the last big apes (gorillas and chimps) and other vital species.

Djoum-based poaching syndicates in Cameroon carry out frequent elephant poaching trips into Gabon, killing thousands of African Forest Elephants each year. Over 216 ivory tusks were recently confiscated in Djoum in a military vehicle, and Colonel Ango Ango was jailed, and his family's travel prohibited to the United States and Europe.

GC Cameroon has been conserving the Dja-Ngoyla-Nki-Minkebe Landscape (DNNM) since 2021 and is one of the Dja Forest Complex's only active non-governmental organizations (NGOs). GC Cameroon, led by Oliver Fankem, GC Director of Central Africa, obtained significant financing from the EU and the UK Defra for forest and wildlife preservation, totaling approximately 2 million hectares of protected area and forestry.

GC Cameroon works directly with National Park Rangers and Community Ecoguards to deliver Global Park Defense and Community Protection, which includes SMART Patrolling, Trailcam Surveillance, Satellite Monitoring, Area-wide Communications, Rapid Response Teams, and Community Involvement. (cont.)

SPOTLIGHT: DJA RAINFOREST - CAMEROON



(cont.) Combining SMART and EarthRanger protection systems, as well as deploying next-generation satellite trail cameras along all elephant poacher paths, will allow for speedy interdiction of unlawful invasions into Gabon and Cameroon forests—before they kill.

We are improving park and wildlife protection systems in Dja Faunal Reserve, Ngoryla and Nki National Parks in Cameroon, and Minkebe National Park in Gabon, as well as scaling Community Protection around the park's southeast and delivering training and equipment to provide real protection across a massive area of deep forests and jungles home to elephants, great apes, and many other endangered species.

In 2024-25, Global Conservation facilitated almost 15,000 km of ranger patrolling, including multiple interdictions, confiscations, and seizures, while also significantly enhancing National Park Ranger and Community Ecoguard morale.

Without the regular presence and active surveillance of Park Rangers and Community Ecoguards, national parks will be gradually destroyed, denuded, and depleted of their remaining animals for sale as parts, ivory, or meat.

Progress in 2024 - 2025

In the last two years, we have strengthened three national park protection activities. Over 15,000 kilometers were patrolled, largely on foot, with long-range vehicle patrols.

Several interdictions and seizures of bushmeat, ammunition cartridges, motorcycles, firearms, and chainsaws.

The Lomie and Ngoryla National Park Command Centers have been newly renovated and now include internet, solar, and generators, as well as dorms for 20 rangers.

Deployed 16 networks of 20-30 Trail Cameras in Dja-Nki-Ngoryla, resulting in reliable biodiversity estimations and patrol targeting to prevent poaching. (cont.)



A trail camera is set up in Cameroon. These cameras have proven to be essential for the prevention of poaching and estimating biodiversity.

(cont.) Cameroon now has a strong protection model for all of its protected areas thanks to our donors, the government, foundations, and families, and our work will now focus on assisting Gabon's Minkebe National Park in stopping elephant poaching from Cameroonian syndicates entering Gabon, where the last forest elephants are struggling to survive.

We have been working for the past three years to strengthen national park patrols in Southeast Cameroon across nearly one million hectares, supporting SMART patrolling, equipment, training, and community ecoguards to reduce illegal wildlife poaching, particularly of Class A wildlife such as elephants, gorillas, chimps, and pangolins, which face ten-fold penalties and stiff prison sentences under a new Cameroon Wildlife Law.

Professional poachers and game meat hunters are less likely to assault national parks if constant patrolling and presence are reinforced, and MINFOR Rangers and Community Ecoguards are supported. This is because of the high penalties and confiscation of motorcycles and weapons, as well as the risk of jail time and fines, particularly for Class A wildlife.

We are building a new Command Center to support patrolling in both Ngoyla Faunal Reserve and Nki National Park, as well as expanding animal monitoring and protection through two huge forest concessions totaling approximately 1.2 million hectares.

Frontline Ranger Training at Dja and Ngoyla Reserves

Rangers from the Dja and Ngoyla Reserves received comprehensive five-day training at Lomie. These seminars aimed to improve the operational and strategic capacities of frontline workers working in anti-poaching and animal conservation initiatives.

This advanced training covered key aspects, including:

- **Human Rights Protection**
- **Current regional and worldwide trends in illegal wildlife trade**
- **Intelligence collection, analysis, and dissemination**
- **Planning patrols and ensuring safety in the field**
- **De-escalating conflicts and conducting suspect searches**
- **Crime scene management and basic first aid**
- **Proper use of field notebooks and documentation strategies**



Confiscated ivory in Cameroon. By enforcing tougher wildlife laws we are slowing down the destruction of African Forest Elephants.

SPOTLIGHT: MANA POOLS NATIONAL PARK - ZIMBABWE

Conservation Victory: No Elephants Poached In Mana Pools National Park for SIX Years

Mana Pools National Park has become a final stronghold for wildlife. The site has suffered fewer losses compared to surrounding reserves due to its position at the center of this wilderness area, but its defenses are being strengthened in order to ensure its continued survival as wildlife numbers dwindle elsewhere. Rangers are tasked with patrolling this vast wilderness and are now supported by Global Conservation's Global Park Defense Program.

With our support, the Bushlife Conservancy has been working tirelessly to curb poaching in Mana Pools National Park and the surrounding Zambezi Valley, Zimbabwe. Thanks to this hard work, they recently announced that Mana Pools National Park has been free of any elephant poaching incidents for six years.

The 220,000-hectare Mana Pools National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, lies in the Lower Zambezi Valley of Zimbabwe.

Mana Pools National Park and World Heritage Site is one of Africa's most renowned game-viewing destinations. It's here that the floodplain of the Lower Zambezi River turns into a broad expanse of water after each rainy season, attracting myriad wildlife as the flood recedes. This is the last national park in Africa where visitors can still walk unescorted among big game. Approximately 7,000 tourists visit Mana Pools World Heritage Park and the Lower Zambezi Valley each year, generating over \$2 million in revenues.

However, the Zambezi Valley has historically been plagued by rampant elephant poaching. Twelve thousand elephants have been poached in this area over the past ten years, and by 2014, elephant numbers had decreased 40% from 18,000 to 11,500.



SPOTLIGHT: MANA POOLS NATIONAL PARK - ZIMBABWE



Reduction in Elephant Poaching to Zero

Thanks to Global Conservation and our Partners in Protection – BSU, Akashinga, and the Crocodiles – and the efforts of park rangers and investigation teams, elephant poaching in the Lower Zambezi has declined every year since 2016.

2016: 70+ (5.8 per month)

2017: 28 (60% decrease from 2016)

2018: 18 (36% decrease from 2017 and 76% from 2016)

2019: 7 (Down 90% from 2016)

2020 - 2025 YTD: 0

Summary of Patrolling Results: 2024 - 2025

- Bushlife has now 8 working vehicles up and running to reach our remote bases throughout the National Park and surrounding sectors
- Vehicle deployments have continued on a daily basis
- On average a vehicle drives 3000km/month, using 300 liters diesel
- 75 National Park Rangers are deployed in the bush on patrol per month per vehicle
- A full-time mechanic is employed for working on these vehicles along with a runner in Harare procuring spares

SPOTLIGHT: MANA POOLS NATIONAL PARK - ZIMBABWE

[CLICK HERE TO SEE OUR WORK IN SAVING THE NEW WILD](#)

Community Engagement and Conservation Efforts

We worked closely with the Hurungwe Rural District Council, organizing meetings with village headmen and chiefs and working on methods to mitigate wildlife conflict. Encroachment into former community conservancy land has displaced wildlife, increasing conflict. The challenge is in balancing human interests with conservation efforts. Our job is to present the case for biodiversity, advocating for the wildlife and its habitat.

Illegal Gold Mining and Habitat Destruction

Illegal gold mining persists in wildlife areas where riverbeds are excavated in search of gold. This has led to significant habitat destruction and wildlife displacement. We worked with the Community Council Scouts to remove gold panners and were successful after two months of constant policing. Opposition arose from community members who blamed conservation efforts for disrupting their gold-related income.

Conservation Education Program

Our school conservation awareness program was highly successful. Our schoolteacher and community liaison, Sophia Maseba, taught 1,000 students across 24 schools, visiting each school six times throughout the year. We organized and funded a year-end wildlife quiz contest to celebrate student achievements. Parents, teachers, and hundreds of students attended, and prizes such as backpacks, t-shirts, and school supplies were awarded.



Mineral extraction does some of the most severe damage to the Mana Pools ecosystem

The Challenges Ahead

The challenges are severe. Only 3000 elephants are left in Mana Pools, and the park has seen a 35% decrease in numbers over 12 years. We know that a poacher may get very little in compensation for an average pair of elephant tusks, only \$200 to \$300 USD but sell for a wholesale price to black market retailers (more often than not in China) for as much as \$2100 per kilo. The penalty for poaching is an automatic 9 years and prison and poachers can legally be shot on sight (Law of Zimbabwe). Yet poaching continues to be prevalent, due to the financial hardship of those who live in the Zambezi Valley.

SPOTLIGHT: MURCHISON FALLS NATIONAL PARK - UGANDA

Enabling the Recovery of Murchison Falls National Park, Uganda The Jewel of the Nile in Africa

Since 2018, Global Conservation has been supporting the work of the Uganda Conservation Foundation (UCF) and the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) to restore wildlife, develop effective park management, and drive up tourism numbers in Murchison Falls National Park, Uganda.

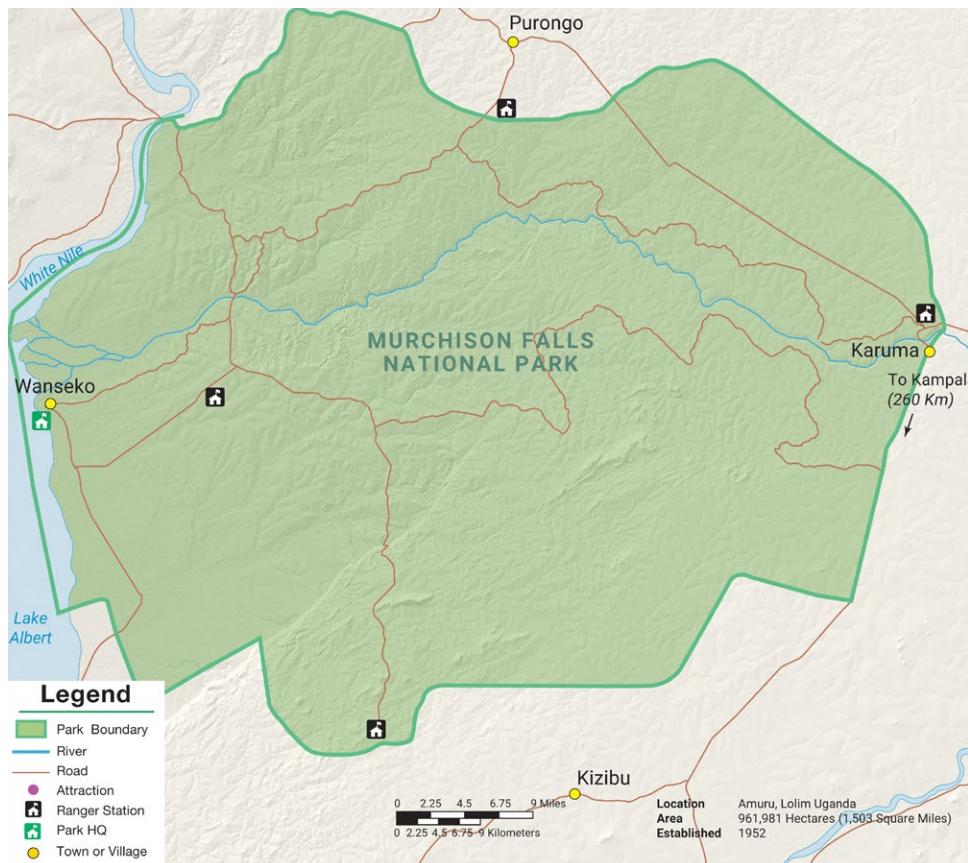
Murchison Falls National Park was once considered the Jewel of Africa, with hundreds of thousands of visitors, before the region fell to civil war, which decimated nearly 90% of the park's biodiversity—elephants, hippos, lions, and hundreds of other species. These animals were killed both for food and to sell poached goods in order to fund war. While the war stopped in 1986, the recovery of the area is slow going and remains a top priority in the face of continued poaching.

Uganda's largest and oldest national park is over 500,000 hectares and was once the most visited park in Africa and home to the highest megaherbivore biomass on the continent. From the late 1970s to the year 2000, the park suffered extreme poaching, with elephant numbers tragically dropping from over 16,000 to under 500. The impact of poaching on other herbivores and the carnivores was just as dramatic—a complete collapse.

Since the turn of the millennium, the core tourism area of MFNP (3%) has stabilized, resulting in a steady recovery in tourist numbers. Outside of the core area, though, poaching has remained extreme, especially in the 97% of the national park outside the tourism area. Vast areas remain vulnerable to poaching blocking wildlife growth and ability to distribute across the landscape.



SPOTLIGHT: MURCHISON FALLS NATIONAL PARK - UGANDA



Deploying Global Park Defense

Over the past five years, UCF and UWA, with Global Conservation support, have built out critical new infrastructure and professional park management and protection systems, deploying Global Park Defense across nearly 85% of the national park. The Global Park Defense program has achieved critical outcomes toward park and wildlife protection to stop wildlife poaching and enable biodiversity recovery.

Park-wide Communications

Five new digital radio towers now enable communications to all vehicles, 18 ranger stations, and patrol team handsets.

Community Protection

80 Community Scouts provide support to UWA, including rotations to support ranger stations and patrols. The program employs youth from the north of the park who are selected to undertake vocational college courses in hydraform brick making, industrial painting, tractor operations, installation of water tanks and guttering, fencing, tree nursery set-up, and tree management.

In addition, the Community Scout assists with patrolling and surveillance. This is especially significant given that they come from communities that tend to have negative perspectives toward UWA and the national park. Their attitudes have now changed, and they are now trusted park ambassadors within their communities.

New Joint Operations Command Center (JOCC)

For the first time, the national park has a complete command center with Operations Center, Intelligence, (cont.)



SPOTLIGHT: MURCHISON FALLS NATIONAL PARK - UGANDA

(cont.) Police Station, Jail, Armory, Confiscations Warehouse and independent Solar Power and Generator.

EarthRanger Real-Time Protection System

EarthRanger provides a real-time protected area management solution that aids protected area managers, ecologists, and wildlife biologists in making more informed operational decisions for wildlife conservation. EarthRanger collects, integrates, and displays all historical and real-time data available from a protected area—including wildlife, ranger patrols, spatial data, and observed threats.

EarthRanger is a proven 'Force Multiplier' for security operations with a visualization capability that allows managers to gain a real-time, in-depth understanding of activities related to poaching and other threats. EarthRanger informs patrol planning and increases patrol effectiveness as well as enabling analysis and deeper insight into meaningful trends, such as poaching interdictions, animal behavior, and the national park's responses.

Expanded Patrol Operations

Especially during Covid, when park revenues collapsed, Global Conservation's ongoing support enabled continued Ranger patrolling in all nine sectors of the national park and replenishment of rations and water, as well as fuel and vehicle maintenance.

[Traditional elephant surveys relied on human spotters at ground level.](#)



Professional Training and Equipment

With major upgrades to Ranger Kits and Ranger Stations, including solar power and kitchens, beds, and baths. All Murchison Falls Rangers received Junior Leadership training, which included human rights and medical education, as a foundation before undergoing Special Skills training.

Aerial Wildlife Surveys

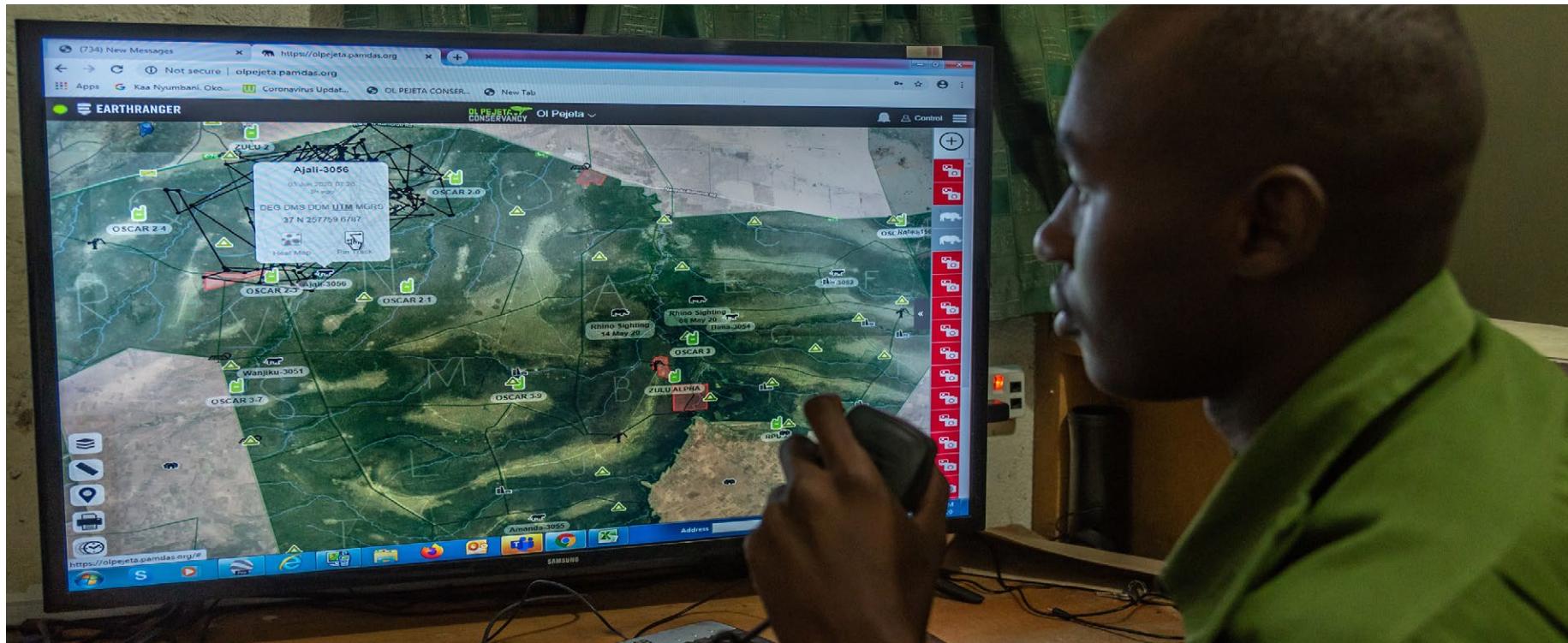
For the first time in Africa, led by Dr. Richard Lamprey and sponsored by Global Conservation, an aerial survey used imaging and artificial intelligence to provide an estimated population count for a major national park, giving an accurate count of elephants, hippos, buffalos, and other herbivores.

Traditional aerial elephant surveys rely on human spotters counting elephants one by one while looking out the window. With the latest airborne imaging systems, baseline wildlife population surveys and detailed land use and deforestation maps can be automatically generated for park and wildlife management, community development, and wildlife corridor planning.

Ranger patrols in the park must be replenished with rations and supplies.



SPOTLIGHT: MURCHISON FALLS NATIONAL PARK - UGANDA



EarthRanger is helping park authorities to have situational awareness across large swaths of protected areas.

Establishing and Leveraging the Foundations of Protected Area Management

UCF has focused on rebuilding the essential systems of protected area management, many of which were lost or outdated due to decades of unrest from the 1970s to the early 2000s. The focus has now shifted from rebuilding to operationalizing these foundations for stronger conservation management.

The three Law Enforcement and Operations Centers serve the Queen Elizabeth, Murchison Falls, and Kidepo Valley Conservation Areas. Each includes a Joint Operations Command Centre housing the Operations Room, Intelligence, Investigation, and Prosecution departments, and UWA leadership offices.

The Operations Rooms use EarthRanger, integrating digital radio and phone systems to provide real-time communication and visual situational awareness across the protected areas. This enables coordination of over 100 ranger posts (30 built by UCF), the Marine Ranger Unit, Veterinary Response Units, and community conservation and problem animal control teams.

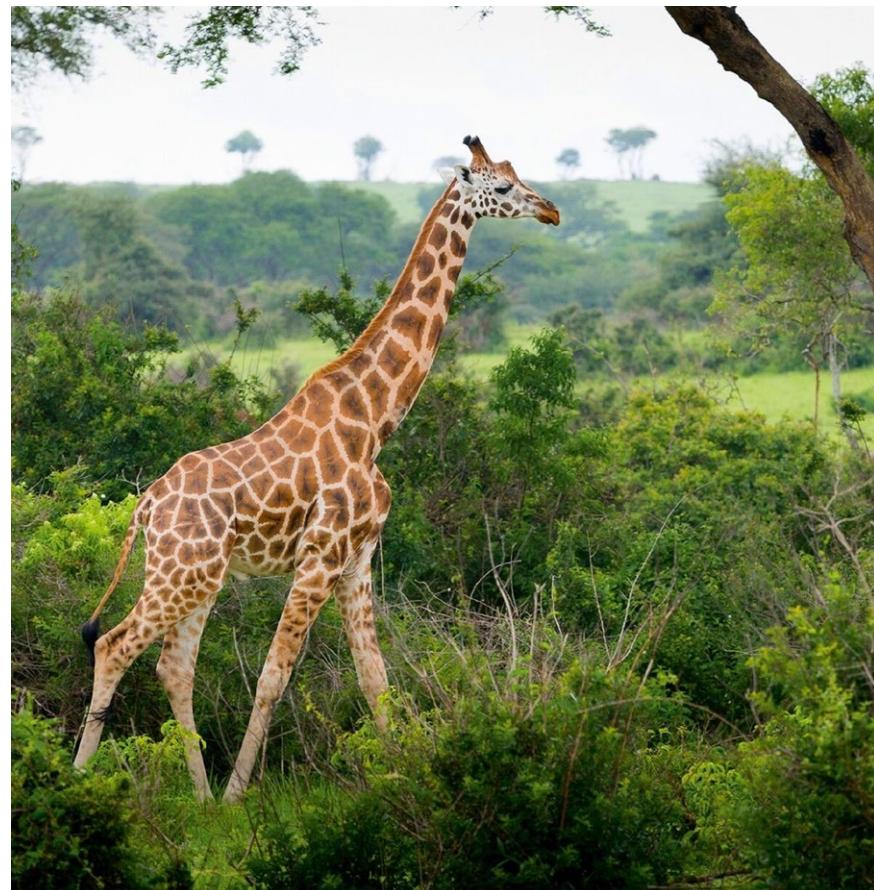
Through these efforts and from the support of Global Conservation, UCF and UWA have expanded management coverage from limited tourism zones in Queen Elizabeth and Murchison Falls to over 80% of the parks.

SPOTLIGHT: MURCHISON FALLS NATIONAL PARK - UGANDA

Critical Outcomes of Murchison Falls Recovery

As part of a broader initiative to enhance operational capacity and wildlife protection across MFCA, significant investments were made in the recovery and development of ranger infrastructure. This strategic effort focused on expanding ranger presence and reinforcing law enforcement capabilities in the park.

Key achievements include:



Murchison's Rothschild's giraffes are one of the most endangered giraffe subspecies.

Construction of 11 Ranger Posts and QRF Accommodation

New ranger posts were constructed at Punu Rii, Bugungu, Rabongo, Got Labwor, Mupina, Bulaya, Sengenege, Waiga, Kololo, Atil Camp, and Ayago 3. Two QRF blocks were also constructed at the Mubako Headquarters to support rapid deployment and tactical operations.

Establishment of 5 Marine Ranger Stations in the Delta Area

To counter illegal activities along the Nile, marine stations were constructed at Paraa, Semanya, Delta, Buligi, and Kabim. Each station was equipped with jetties, boats, and communication tools to support marine operations.

Ranger Academy Upgraded

The Ranger Academy received new furniture, fittings, and a solar power system with backup generators and is now fully operational and being utilized for UWA refresher training of the rangers in various disciplines like QRF, first aid, and Human rights.

These developments mark a transformative step in MFCA's conservation strategy, reinforcing ranger capacity, improving response times, and safeguarding Uganda's natural heritage against poaching and illegal wildlife trade.

Unified Command and Control for all park sectors, enabling effective planning and targeted patrolling against wildlife poaching.

Collaboration for Park and Wildlife Protection now allows multiple team members and teams from neighboring protected areas to collaborate and share data about poaching and wildlife tracking to activate joint patrol missions and responses to illegal activities.

A completed Joint Operations Command Centre (JOCC) was built to combine resources and capabilities together (cont.)

SPOTLIGHT: MURCHISON FALLS NATIONAL PARK - UGANDA

(cont.) into a coordinated and well-managed system with an armory, police station and cell block, guard room, storage facilities, radio and internet towers, solar power and generator, and operational assets and supplies. Intensive Patrolling Covering tens of thousands of miles and hundreds of operations annually, Understaffed Ranger teams arrested 460 poachers in 2022 and removed eight tons of traps and snares.

New Marine Teams and Boats now support five ranger stations on the shorelines where the majority of wildlife poachers enter the park. In the Delta, the core tourism area, threats to the park come from the Nile River and Lake Albert, where poachers disguised as fishermen would wait for patrols to pass and enter the park to lay thousands of snares. Forty rangers were trained in boat operations, safety and rescue techniques and patrol operations from the waterways. Since 2018, 34 metric tons of wire snares have been removed from the Delta.

Reduced Wildlife Poaching to less than 5% of species killed annually, despite thousands of highly skilled poachers taking lion, elephant, hippo, and buffalo, as well as other game meat species, with guns, traps, snares, and spears.

We have successfully reduced Human-Wildlife Conflict by implementing proactive mitigation strategies such as timely, automated alerts and seamless incident recording. This approach enables managers to effectively reduce conflict and promote the peaceful coexistence of communities and wildlife.

Snare Mountain: The Symbol of Murchison Falls' Recovery

GC Photographer Paul Hilton travelled to Murchison Falls National Park to document and film the Recovery of Murchison Falls Program, creating an image that captured both the enormity of the challenges faced and the determination of those working to overcome them—particularly the teams from UWA and UCF.

The result was Snare Mountain: an immense pile of snares and wheel traps removed from the park over the course of a single year. Each of these devices will have killed at least one animal, a stark reminder of the industrial scale and sustained nature of poaching that has afflicted Murchison Falls for decades. Kulu Haruna, Warden in Charge of Law Enforcement and Operations, estimated that since the start of the recovery program, at least twelve such mountains had been collected—each now buried beneath the foundations of the new Joint Operations Command Center and Armory.

The striking image of Snare Mountain gained global recognition, featuring in more than 400 international publications, including The Guardian and CNN, drawing worldwide attention to the relentless efforts to combat wildlife crime and restore Murchison Falls National Park.

Massive Snare Removal: Over 12,000 kilos are removed each year, which is particularly important across the entire park because these snares indiscriminately kill all species, both large and small. The rare Rothschild giraffe, lions, and elephants were being caught in very high numbers and were suffering agonizing deaths and injuries. One third of the elephants in the area received snare injuries, including some tragically having their trunks severed off.

Wildlife Monitoring using satellite collars on lions and elephants is registered on the EarthRanger system so they can always be monitored to see how they are using the habitat. As elephants roam outside the park, communities can be alerted in advance to discourage them from crop raiding. If the collar stays static for a while, an alert will be made to deploy to see what has happened to the lion.

Global Conservation is extremely proud and pleased with our investment in deploying Global Park Defense to aid the recovery of Murchison Falls National Park. We thank Michael Keigwin, the Director of UCF, for his critical leadership in making this possible, as well as the UCF team and UWA.

SPOTLIGHT: MURCHISON FALLS NATIONAL PARK - UGANDA

[CLICK HERE TO SEE WAR ON NATURE - UGANDA](#)

This striking image titled "Snare Mountain" was taken by Global Conservation photographer Paul Hilton in 2023. The image has since become ubiquitous.



SPOTLIGHT: NGORONGORO NATIONAL PARK - TANZANIA



A farmer attempts to dissuade wildlife from destroying his crops.

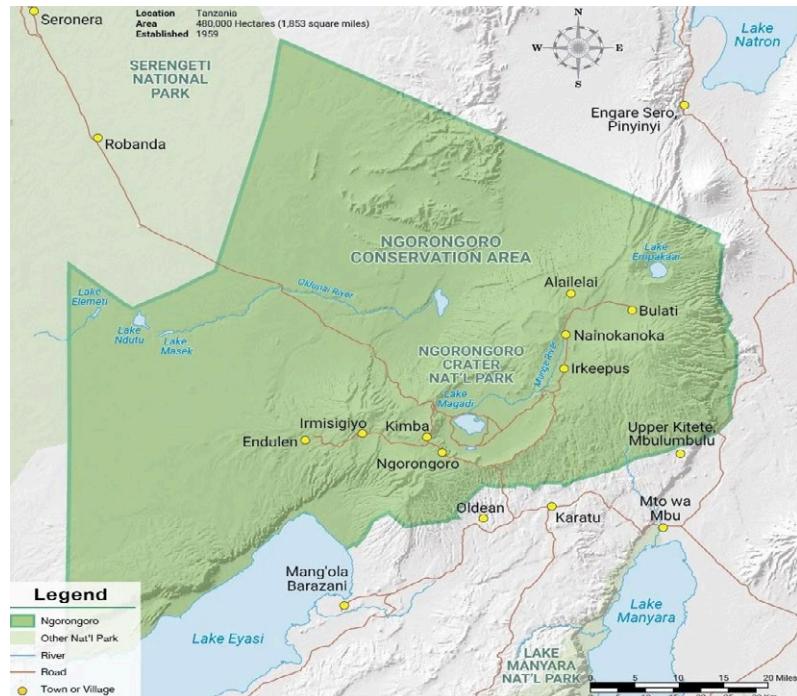
African People and Wildlife

Global Conservation supports two conservation partners for the Ngorongoro World Heritage Site in Tanzania: African People and Wildlife (APW) and KopeLion. Regarding APW, we provide support to human-wildlife conflict mitigation officers, with a primary focus on elephants, while KopeLion focuses on developing a sustainable model for lion-livestock coexistence.

These complementary NGOs work together with the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) and local communities to reduce human-wildlife conflict in an increasingly challenged landscape.

Funding APW to Promote Coexistence

Global Conservation's support of this important project is an investment in one of the world's most diverse and ecologically important places, ensuring the continued development and conservation best practices that marry strong community engagement and wildlife protection with technology-based solutions. (cont.)



Our work with African People & Wildlife is primarily focused on elephants.

SPOTLIGHT: NGORONGORO NATIONAL PARK - TANZANIA

(cont.) Our support to African People & Wildlife and its partners, including the NCAA, and local communities, fosters communication and collaboration between trained, rapid response anti-poaching teams managed by the protected area and a specialized network of community Human-Wildlife Coexistence Officers—creating an enabling bridge between local communities and wildlife authorities.

APW was awarded a grant from Global Conservation for the project “Supporting rapid response anti-poaching teams and human-wildlife conflict mitigation officers in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area.” This project is essential to the success of our community-driven conservation programs in Tanzania, and undertook three main activities:



photo: Marcus Westberg

A significant part of our Community Protection program is integrating with locals and informing them about the importance of our work.

1) HEC Officer Refresher Training

In August, the APW Human-Wildlife Coexistence and Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning, and Adaptation teams conducted a two day refresher training for the Program Assistant and Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC) Officers in Karatu District. The training took place in Karatu and included the following refresher training topics:

- **Review of human-elephant conflict data collected in and around the Ngorongoro Conservation Area**
- **Human-elephant conflict mitigation methods and tools**
- **Review & revision of crop raiding data collection protocols**
- **Review & revision of human injury data collection protocols**
- **Software updates & troubleshooting tips for mobile phones and Survey123 forms**
- **Action planning and next steps for HEC Officers**

During the training, the officers also had the opportunity to meet several NCAA representatives, Karatu District officials, and observers from APW's concurrent ACTIVE Community Engagement Practitioners' Workshop. This fostered a collaborative environment for community members, the NCAA, government, and APW.

2) Human-Elephant Conflict & Elephant Observations Data Collection

The HEC officers in all four villages responded to 97 reports of crop raiding. The HEC officers are also tasked with reporting observations of elephants in their area. During this reporting period, the officers reported 2,618 observations of elephants with an average group size of 3.2 individuals per observation.

The majority of observations were evidenced by dung (69%), with 28% identified by tracks and 3% by visual sightings. (cont.)

SPOTLIGHT: NGORONGORO NATIONAL PARK - TANZANIA

(cont.) Note that these figures do not represent the number of individuals, nor can APW estimate population size based on these data. While most observances can be verified from photos upon request, due to the large number of observances, HEC officer reports of elephants are not routinely verified by APW.

3) HEC program demonstrations in APW's ACTIVE Community Engagement Practitioners' Workshops

APW led two ACTIVE Community Engagement Practitioners' Workshops and chose the HEC program in Karatu as the location for a field visit.

Participants from Projecto Lisima of the Okavango Eternal project in Angola visited the HEC assistant and officers in Oldeani village in August. The assistant and officers described the program at a village government meeting and then escorted the workshop participants to a farm where they demonstrated the data collection protocols and smoke techniques for conflict mitigation.

HEC Assistant and Officers demonstrated their newest pilot mitigation technique: chili smoke bricks. Elephant dung and chili peppers combine to create these bricks. Elephant dung causes the brick to smoke when lit on fire, and the chili-infused smoke serves as a deterrent to elephants.

HEC officers in the project landscape responded to 97 reports of crop raiding. Elephants were responsible for 70% of these conflicts, with buffalo responsible for another 28%. Reports also identified baboons as a crop-raiding species.

This report analyzes a total of 68 reports of elephant crop-raiding. This number represents a significant decrease in crop-raiding incidents since April, due to the end of the harvest season and lack of palatable crops available. The data show that incidents peaked in May then declined steadily until August. From August - November, only 21 crop-raiding incidents were reported, many of which were related to property damage rather than crop damage. The completion of most harvesting by August coincides with the agricultural calendar. In January, incident reports increased, again in line with the agricultural calendar.



A farmer hurls a chili smoke brick at crops being ravaged by elephants.

SPOTLIGHT: NGORONGORO NATIONAL PARK - TANZANIA



Flashlights are commonly used as elephant deterrents.

Mitigation Methods

Noise-making techniques, farm guards, and fires were the most reported mitigation methods used by farm owners during this reporting period. Flashlights were also commonly mentioned as deterrents.

Less than 20% of farm owners reported using methods that require training and/or material support, such as tobacco lines and chili bombs.

In 63% of incidents with elephants, the officers reported that the elephants dispersed because people chased them away, either with noise, fire, or light deterrents. In 23% of incidents, the farm owners reported that the elephants seemed to only be passing through and dispersed quickly.

Community-Based Conservation Success

Building on this infrastructure, the Warriors for Wildlife program has emerged as a model of effective community-led conservation. These trained Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC) Officers, members of their own communities, managed nearly 500 incidents in 2024, bringing local knowledge and technical expertise. Through regular, hands-on training sessions in participating villages, APW has equipped these officers and community members with toolkits for elephant deterrence, including chili smoke bricks, air horns, and Roman candles. This combination of tools, training, and local leadership has created a sustainable and locally led approach to conflict management.

The program's impact also extends beyond direct conflict resolution. Thanks to Global Conservation, a community soccer tournament reached over 120 in-person participants and thousands over local radio, combining a love of sports, lessons about elephant coexistence, and a celebration of community pride.

Measurable Progress Through Data

The numbers reflect the effectiveness of these combined initiatives. Despite maintaining consistent elephant populations in the area, crop-raiding incidents during peak conflict months showed a remarkable 52% decrease compared to 2023. Response times now average just 30 minutes—a critical improvement that minimizes damage and reduces risk to both wildlife and communities. The systematic recording of over 3,200 elephant observations throughout the year has created a valuable database that informs strategy refinement and helps predict potential conflict zones.

Expanding Impact

Building on these successes, GC's support for an upcoming Conservation Technology Center marks another milestone in APW's commitment to data-driven conservation (cont.)

SPOTLIGHT: NGORONGORO NATIONAL PARK - TANZANIA

(cont.) solutions. While final renovations at NCAA headquarters are underway, state-of-the-art monitoring equipment stands ready to enhance our understanding of elephant movement patterns and community interaction zones.

The success of programs in Ngorongoro is now shaping conservation strategies in other critical landscapes. In the Lake Natron area, 20 newly trained HEC Officers are putting these proven approaches into action with help from APW, demonstrating how targeted interventions can create ripples of change across ecosystems. APW is planning to increase HEC monitoring and mitigation efforts into the Mkomazi-Tsavo corridor, which is further to the east. This will help people and wildlife live together more comfortably in yet another important area.

Reflecting on 2024 and 2025, our partnership with African People & Wildlife has driven meaningful innovations in wildlife protection and community resilience. The impact of GC's support now stretches far beyond Ngorongoro, helping scale conservation solutions across Tanzania. As we look ahead, the lessons learned and successes achieved here are a blueprint for balancing the needs of wildlife and rural communities—an approach that is more critical than ever in today's conservation landscape.



KopeLion Strategic Framework

In a world of diminishing space, lions' future is increasingly tied to shared landscapes. Ngorongoro, a unique protected area in the Greater Serengeti ecosystem, serves as a significant site for studying and developing a sustainable coexistence model, which ultimately ensures metapopulation connectivity. Working together with long-standing culture and traditions in challenging landscapes, KopeLion bases its efforts on three areas of action: to cut costs, realize the value, and apply the knowledge.

Global Conservation provides support across all strategic themes by funding the essential core costs of the project.



Reducing Human-Lion Conflict

The Ilchokuti Program, central to KopeLion, helps people in Ngorongoro live with lions. Their 30 Ilchokuti on the ground play a critical role in reducing human-lion conflict by warning herders and the community about collared lions in pastures and near settlements. By tracking collared lions daily, Ilchokuti help keep people, livestock, and lions safe. (cont.)

SPOTLIGHT: NGORONGORO NATIONAL PARK - TANZANIA

(cont.) Furthermore, Ilchokuti have treated many injured livestock, most of which recovered. Their communities appreciate this support, which boosts their tolerance for lions that attack their livestock. Ilchokuti also help find and return lost livestock and reinforce weak bomas that are vulnerable to lion attacks at night.

- **Number of bomas reinforced - 79**
- **Number of animals treated for predator wounds - 529**
- **Number of livestock found when lost - 1165 (99% found)**
- **Value of livestock found - \$113,695**
- **Number of lion observations by Ilchokuti - 692**

Conservation Incentive Payment Program

In 2023, KopeLion finalized their Conservation Incentive Payment trial program by conducting a household survey, and in 2024, they took a final step by holding a large stakeholder workshop to present the survey's findings. The workshop involved a wide range of important stakeholders in conservation, including community members from the NCAA Tour operators, and representatives from government organizations.

The findings from the household survey indicate that people are generally more tolerant of lions when they receive tangible benefits from them. It was also a chance to insist on a call to action for the government and other stakeholders to take lessons from the trial and use this model in NCA and other areas with potential human and wildlife conflicts.

Education Project

KopeLion successfully launched their education project in 2024 by establishing clubs in eight primary schools throughout Ngorongoro Conservation Area, training the teachers who will

[CLICK HERE TO SEE SAVING NGORONGORO WILDLIFE](#)

oversee these clubs, and creating a year's worth of lesson plans to instruct students in clubs about conservation and coexistence-related issues.

Boma Construction Scheme

As part of KopeLion's initiative to reduce attacks at the homestead level, KP's team have managed to construct five fortified bomas in areas with high levels of conflict. They've established a monthly monitoring plan to visit and collect information about attacks as a way to measure the impact of constructing predator-proof bomas.



Using radio telemetry to track collared lions in Ngorongoro.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Your support over the last two years has enabled all the progress you are reading about in this 2024-2025 Impact Report, and so much more. Global Conservation is protecting our planet for people and wildlife in and around the world's most iconic and biodiverse national parks – both land and marine.

Revenues

In 2025, revenues increased nearly 20% to \$4.75 million. We are fortunate to be supported by a diverse portfolio of donors, and weathered the closure of USAID in January 2025, with only \$1.5M lost for our work in Vietnam. Our funders include foundations, families, the European Union and United Kingdom, and generous individuals. This balanced and broad funding helps ensure resilience in turbulent financial times and shifting global priorities of governments.

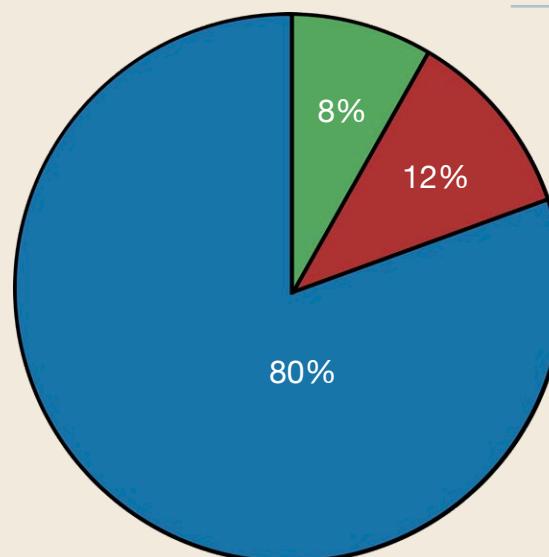
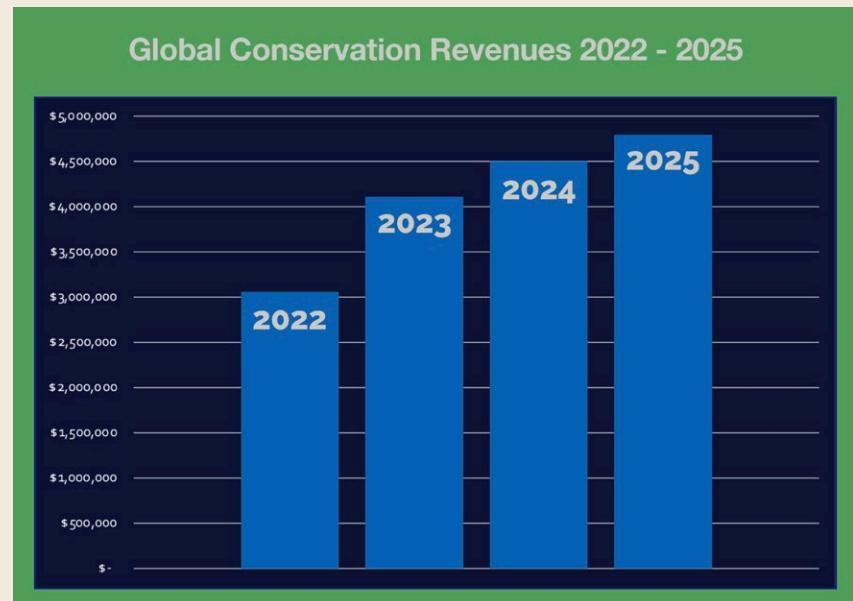
Expenses

GC Project funding comprises the majority of our expenses (80%), with effective direct funding to GC projects in the field across 22 countries. Our marine protection teams increased the number of MPAs under protection to 12, nearly doubling in the past two years.

To maximize our protection impact, we directly channel most GC funding to the forest, wildlife and marine protection projects with the most success and potential, and are highly flexible and can quickly shut down programs which are not producing results, while focusing funding more where progress can be accelerated.

100% of GC Development and Operations are funded by GC Board of Directors.

For GC Financials and GC Audits 2020 – 2024, please request from the Executive Director, Jeff Morgan, jmorgan@globalconservation.org



EFFECTIVE USE OF PROCEEDS:

GC Project Funding - 80%

GC Project Management and Assessments - 12%

Development and Operations - 8%

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Advisory Board member Dr. Gerardo Ceballos presents at Stanford University for the Global Conservation Saving the New Wild Summit



Advisory Board member Dr. Suwanna Gauntlett (center) and members of Wildlife Alliance take Jeff Morgan for a helicopter tour of the Cardamoms

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If you are interested in supporting our critical mission, please contact our Executive Director. 100% of donations go directly to global park protection. We take pride in our lean organization, project effectiveness, prudent use of funding, and scalability of our model. Join us and see what is possible with direct funding using a proven model for park protection in developing countries.

See our website for Global Conservation financials or email the Executive Director at jmorgan@globalconservation.org.

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These people in Eastern Dja have joined our work
by assisting with data collection in their community

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